



Regional Workshop on Advancing WOAH AMR Standards in Veterinary Practice

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Kenya's Experience with AMR Governance and Stewardship

Advancing a One Health Approach

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Presentation Overview

This presentation outlines Kenya's national response to antimicrobial resistance – from the scale of the challenge to the governance structures, stewardship programmes, and lessons that are shaping the way forward.

01

AMR Context in Kenya

Understanding the national burden and key drivers

03

Governance Structures

Institutional architecture and coordination mechanisms

05

Achievements, Challenges & Lessons

Progress made and gaps that remain

02

One Health Framework

Multi-sectoral principles guiding Kenya's response

04

Stewardship Interventions

National programmes across human, animal, and environment sectors

06

Way Forward

Priorities for deepening integration and sustainability



AMR in Kenya - Why It Matters

Antimicrobial resistance poses a compounding threat to Kenya's livestock productivity, public health systems, and food safety standards – with consequences that reach far beyond clinical settings into livelihoods and trade.

Sectors Under Threat

- Livestock productivity and food security
- Public health and human medicine
- Food safety, export standards, and trade competitiveness

Key Drivers of Resistance

- Misuse and overuse of antimicrobials in human and animal sectors
- Limited access to reliable diagnostic services
- Weak regulatory enforcement at point of sale and use
- Knowledge gaps among farmers, retailers, and prescribers



Kenya's AMR Response Architecture

01

National Policy and NAP

Kenya developed a comprehensive National Action Plan on AMR aligned with the Global Action Plan, establishing strategic objectives and priority interventions.

02

One Health Coordination

A multi-sectoral coordination mechanism brings together health, agriculture, environment, and other stakeholders to align efforts across sectors.

03

County Implementation

Under Kenya's devolved system, counties are responsible for implementing AMR interventions in health facilities, veterinary services, and local environments.



NATIONAL ACTION PLAN ON PREVENTION AND CONTAINMENT OF

ANTIMICROBIAL RESISTANCE



2023-2027

Kenya's One Health Approach

"Coordinated action across human, animal, and environmental health for optimal outcomes – no single sector can address AMR alone."

Kenya adopted the One Health framework as the conceptual and operational foundation of its AMR response.

This recognises that resistance emerges at the intersection of human medicine, veterinary practice, agriculture, and ecosystems – and that sustainable solutions must be designed and delivered across all three domains simultaneously.



Human Health

Rational prescribing, hospital stewardship, public awareness, and human AMR surveillance networks



Animal Health

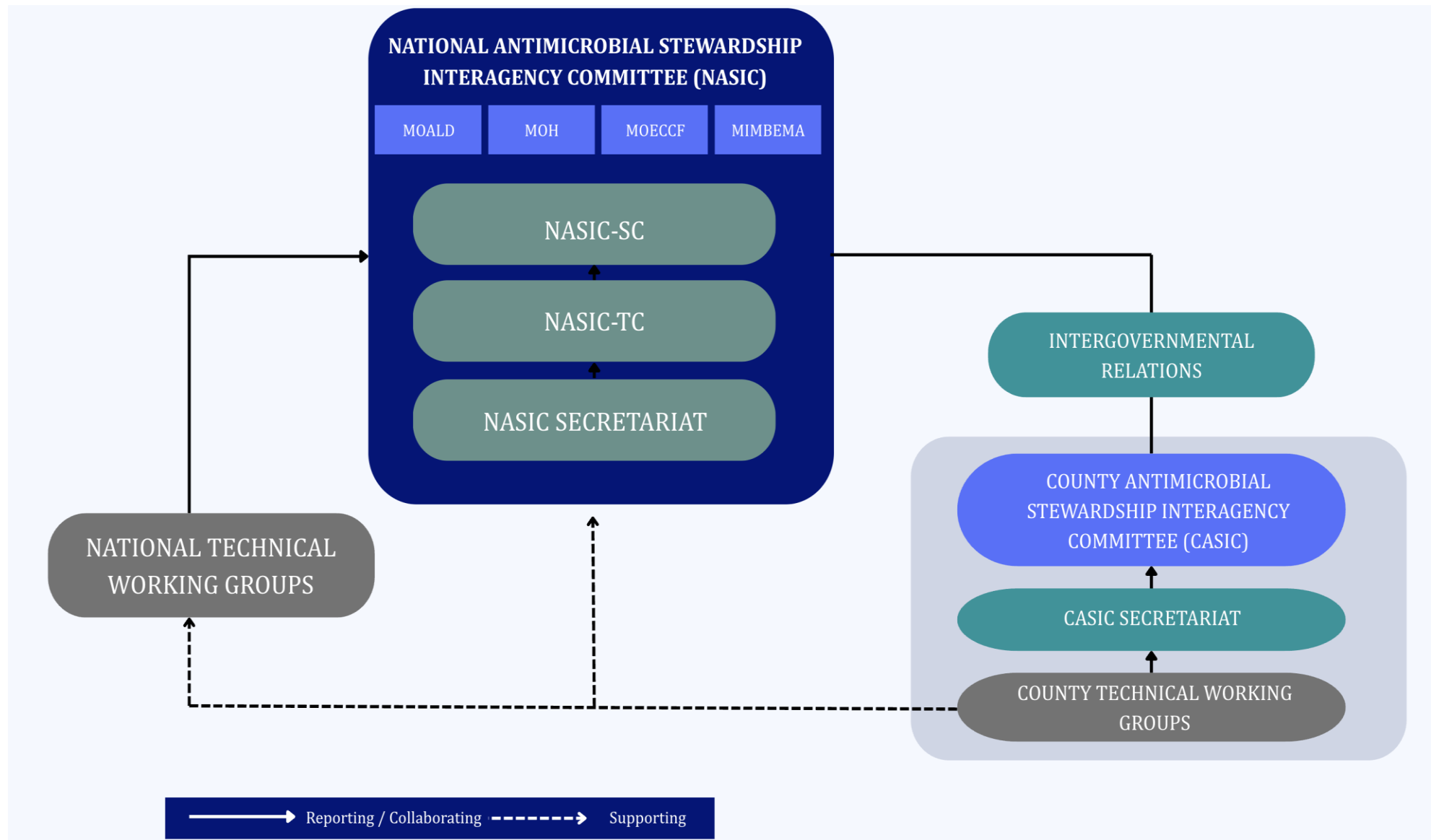
Veterinary AMS guidelines, agroveter regulation, farmer training, and veterinary laboratory capacity



Environment

Emerging environmental surveillance, water and soil monitoring, and containment of agricultural runoff

AMR Coordination & Governance in Kenya



NASIC

- *NASIC-SC*; Policy, Resource mobilization
- *NASIC-TC*; Develop & evaluate AMR NAP implementation
- *AMR Secretariat*; multi-sectorial coordination

CASICs

- AMR NAP Implementation,
- Resource mobilization
- 24 CASICs established

National Action Plan on AMR

- ✓ Kenya's NAP - AMR is guided by One Health principles and aligned with the Global Action Plan
- ✓ Provides a structured, time-bound roadmap for coordinated action across all sectors, translating policy commitment into measurable objectives

- To establish and strengthen governance and coordination mechanisms at national and county levels

SO1-
GOVERNANCE



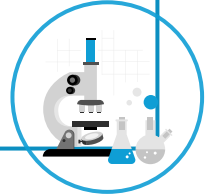
- Improve awareness and understanding of AMR through effective communication, education and training

SO2 -
AWARENESS



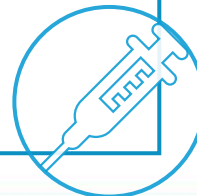
- Strengthen the knowledge and evidence base on AMR through surveillance and research

SO3 -
SURVEILLANCE



- Reduce the incidence of infection through effective sanitation, hygiene and IPC.

SO4 - IPC



- Optimize the use of antimicrobials in human, animal and plant health.

SO5 – PRUDENT
USE



- To support sustainable investment and increase investment in new medicines, diagnostic tools, vaccines and other interventions.

SO6 - RESERACH



One Health in AMR Surveillance

Effective surveillance is the backbone of an evidence-based AMR response. Kenya is advancing towards integrated, cross-sectoral surveillance that links human, animal, and environmental data streams – enabling a more complete picture of resistance patterns and trends.

Human Health Laboratories

Hospital-based AMR surveillance through national reference labs, tracking resistance in priority pathogens across clinical settings

Veterinary Laboratories

AMR and AMU monitoring in livestock, poultry, and aquaculture – informing veterinary prescribing and policy

Environmental Monitoring

Emerging capability to track resistance genes in water, soil, and food production environments – a critical gap being addressed

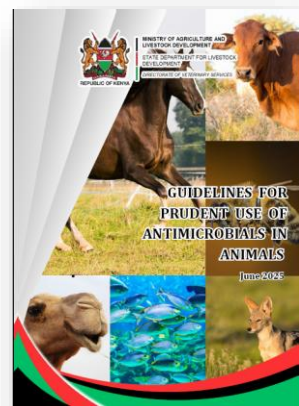
Cross-Sectoral Data Sharing

Integrated surveillance model is structured data sharing across sectors.

Harmonized reporting formats and shared platforms allow human, veterinary, and environmental surveillance teams to identify cross-sectoral resistance trends and respond collectively – moving beyond siloed monitoring towards genuine OH intelligence.

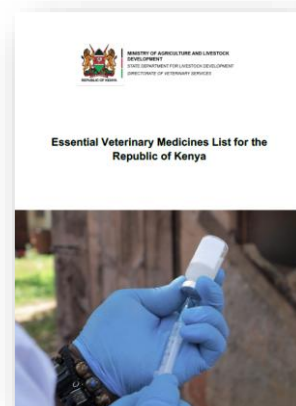
Pillars of Antimicrobial Stewardship

Kenya's stewardship framework rests on interconnected pillars: responsible prescribing, rational medicines selection, and robust farm biosecurity. Together, these strategies ensure antimicrobials remain effective for both human and animal health.



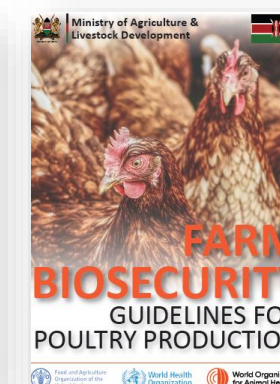
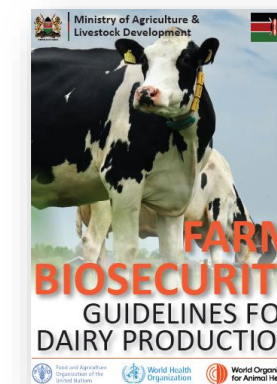
Prudent Use Guidelines

- Evidence-based antimicrobial prescribing across clinical settings
- Use only when clinically justified by confirmed diagnosis
- Prioritise diagnostics and culture testing before initiating treatment
- Avoid routine prophylactic use to prevent resistance build-up



Essential Veterinary Medicines List

- Prioritises access to quality, effective, and affordable medicines
- Guides rational selection of AMs for common conditions
- Promotes use of first-line treatments before escalating to reserves
- Supports regulatory oversight & supply chain integrity



Farm Biosecurity Guidelines

- Infection prevention as the first and primary line of defence
- Controlled farm access, disinfection, and hygiene protocols
- Vaccination programmes and structured herd health management
- Significantly reduces the need for therapeutic antimicrobial use

Disease Control Strategies Supporting Stewardship

Key Disease Control Strategies

- **Vaccination Programmes** — Systematic immunisation reducing infectious disease burden in livestock and communities
- **Early Detection & Reporting** — Rapid identification of outbreaks enabling targeted, limited antimicrobial intervention
- **Improved Animal Husbandry** — Better nutrition, housing, and herd management reducing susceptibility to infection
- **Zoonotic Disease Control** — Integrated One Health approach addressing diseases at the human–animal–environment interface

Stewardship Outcomes

Reduced Disease Incidence

Fewer infections mean fewer prescriptions, directly curbing unnecessary antimicrobial use across the livestock sector.

Improved Productivity

Healthier animals deliver better yields, supporting food security and farmer livelihoods without increased drug dependency.

Lower AMR Risk

Reduced antimicrobial use decreases selective pressure on pathogens, slowing the emergence and spread of resistant strains.

Veterinary Sector Contributions to Stewardship

Veterinarians and paraveterinary professionals are frontline actors in Kenya's AMR stewardship efforts. Strengthening veterinary services at the grassroots level is essential to translating national policy into responsible on-farm antimicrobial use.



Strengthened Veterinary Services

Expanding access to qualified veterinary professionals in rural and peri-urban areas to ensure advice-driven antimicrobial use rather than self-medication or guesswork



Farmer Engagement & Training

Structured training programmes targeting livestock farmers on withdrawal periods, prescription requirements, and the risks of antibiotic misuse and resistance development



Agrovet Outlet Oversight

Engaging agrovet retailers – a primary point of antimicrobial access for many farmers – through training, licensing compliance, and promotion of prescription-only dispensing standards

Education and Workforce Development

Building a long-term, sustainable AMR response requires equipping the next generation of health and veterinary professionals with competencies in stewardship, resistance science, and One Health thinking. Kenya is actively involved in reforming educational pathways to embed AMR across curricula

Why Education Is Central

Policies and guidelines are only as effective as the professionals who implement them.

Without AMR literacy embedded in training, stewardship remains a top-down directive rather than a professional value.

Education is the most durable investment Kenya can make in its long-term AMR response.

AMR & AMS Integration in Curricula

Ongoing reforms across medical, nursing, pharmacy, and veterinary tertiary college programmes to embed stewardship competencies

Veterinary Education Partnerships

Collaboration with Veterinary Education Establishments to harmonise AMR content and align with WOA and WHO guidance

Continuing Professional Development

CPD programmes for practising veterinarians, clinicians, and pharmacists ensuring skills remain current as the evidence base evolves - *WAAW Week, World Veterinary Day, World Poultry Day*



Regulatory Framework for AMU

- ✓ Regulation is a prerequisite for controlling antimicrobial distribution and use
- ✓ Strengthening regulation & governance of vet medicines – from market authorization to retail oversight – to close the gaps that enable misuse and unrestricted access

Veterinary Medicines Regulation

Strengthened frameworks for market authorisation, pharmacovigilance, and post-market surveillance of vet AM products



Licensing and Oversight

Mandatory licensing requirements for importers, distributors, and retailers – with enforcement mechanisms to deter non-compliance

Veterinary Statutory Bodies

Statutory bodies - KVB - play a critical role in professional registration, conduct standards, and enforcement of prescribing regulations



MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND LIVESTOCK DEVELOPMENT



The Fleming Fund

Key Achievements

Kenya has made meaningful, tangible progress across the pillars of its AMR National Action Plan – establishing the coordination infrastructure, policy instruments, and awareness platforms necessary for a sustained One Health response.

Functional One Health Coordination

The National AMR Interagency Committee and Technical Working Groups are operational, meeting regularly and guiding cross-sectoral implementation

Costed National Action Plan Operational

Kenya's NAP is active, with defined objectives, assigned responsibilities, and alignment to the WHO Global Action Plan framework

Improved AMR Awareness

Public and professional awareness campaigns have expanded reach, particularly through World AMR Awareness Week activities and sector-specific training

Surveillance System Progress

Advances in human and veterinary AMR surveillance networks, with growing data reporting to global platforms and improved inter-lab coordination

Challenges Ahead

Despite the progress achieved, Kenya faces substantial implementation challenges that constrain the effectiveness of its AMR policies – particularly at the sub-national and grassroots levels where antimicrobials are actually used.

Weak Grassroots Implementation

National policies and guidelines have yet to be fully translated into consistent practice at the county, community, and farm level – creating an implementation gap between policy intent and on-the-ground reality

Limited Diagnostic Capacity

Insufficient access to affordable, reliable diagnostics – especially in rural and peri-urban settings – drives empiric antimicrobial use and undermines stewardship efforts

Education and Training Gaps

AMR competencies are still insufficiently integrated into pre-service training for veterinarians, clinicians, and community health workers, limiting long-term behaviour change

Resource Constraints

Financial and human resource limitations constrain laboratory capacity, enforcement operations, surveillance systems, and the scale of awareness activities

Lessons Learned



Multi-Sector Engagement Is Non-Negotiable

Sustained buy-in from human health, animal health, and environment sectors must be institutionalised – not dependent on individual champions



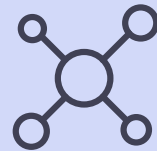
Education Drives Long-Term Change

Curricula reform and workforce development are the most durable investments – behaviour change among professionals takes time but is self-sustaining



Policies Must Be Matched with Implementation

Strong national frameworks lose impact without commensurate investment in enforcement, monitoring, and sub-national capacity



One Health Coordination Is Critical

Formal coordination structures with clear mandates and regular mechanisms are essential to prevent siloed responses and ensure coherent national action

Way Forward



Strengthen One Health Surveillance

Expand integrated AMR/AMU monitoring – particularly environmental – and improve cross-sectoral data linkage and reporting



Enhance AMR in Education

Accelerate curricula integration across all health and veterinary training institutions and scale CPD programmes nationally



Improve Regulatory Enforcement

Strengthen inspection, licensing compliance, and sanctions for non-prescription antimicrobial dispensing in both human and veterinary channels



Expand Stewardship Programmes

Scale AMS initiatives in healthcare facilities, veterinary practices, and farming communities – with particular focus on reaching underserved rural areas



Promote Regional Collaboration

Strengthen engagement with AU-IBAR, EAC regional bodies, WOA, and WHO to harmonise standards and share AMR intelligence across East Africa

Conclusion

A National and Global Priority

AMR demands urgent, sustained action. Kenya recognises that the consequences of inaction – for public health, food security, and economic stability – far outweigh the investment required to address resistance now

One Health Is Central

The One Health framework is not merely a guiding principle – it is the operational architecture through which Kenya coordinates governance, surveillance, stewardship, and education across sectors

Collaboration Is Essential

Kenya remains committed to deepening domestic multi-sector coordination and to contributing to regional and global partnerships that advance the shared goal of preserving antimicrobial effectiveness



Thank You

Questions and Discussion Welcome

Kenya remains committed to sharing its experience, learning from partners, and advancing collective action on AMR governance through the One Health lens. We look forward to an open exchange of perspectives and lessons from across the region and beyond.

WOAH Delegate - Kenya

Representing Kenya's veterinary and One Health AMR governance community

National AMR Interagency Committee

Multi-sectoral coordination body guiding Kenya's AMR National Action Plan