

**Project: Enhancing governance and coordination mechanisms to reduce AMR in Cambodia (ID:00124430)**

Duration: 24 months (19<sup>th</sup> October 2020 to 19<sup>th</sup> October 2022)

The project focuses on strengthening governance and coordination between and within ministries, regulating antimicrobial use (AMU) in the human and animal health sectors and increasing public awareness and advocacy. Its key activities include:

- supporting the establishment of an Inter-Ministerial Coordination Committee on AMR (IMCC-AMR);
- developing a national M&E framework for the Multi-Sectoral Action Plan on AMR (MSAP);
- supporting the review of existing national tools and frameworks, including legislation, for regulating antimicrobial use in humans, animals, plants, and environment;
- rolling out national AMS guidelines in healthcare facilities;
- developing responsible and prudent AMU guidelines in animals and a road map for implementation;
- developing national multisectoral AMR communication strategies and materials.

**Highlights of project so far**

On 23 December 2019, the Royal Government of Cambodia launched the Multi-Sectoral Action Plan on AMR 2019-2023 (MSAP) reflecting a One Health approach to collaborative interventions to address the AMR threat. The MSAP was jointly prepared by the Ministry of Health (MoH), Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF), and Ministry of Environment (MoE) and encompasses seven strategic areas to address AMR in human health, agriculture and environment. These strategic areas include enhanced governance and coordination to reduce AMR, strengthened evidence through improved AMR surveillance, promoted prudent use of antimicrobials, raised awareness about AMR among public and professionals, improved IPC through good practices in healthcare settings and animal farms, capacity building of professional staff through training, and strengthened research and innovations.

The AMR MPTF enables Cambodia to jointly implement the MSAP. Cambodia is delivering on three outputs and progress is summarized below.

**Improved countries capacities for designing and implementing AMR-related policy frameworks, investments plans and programs**

Terms of Reference for IMCC-AMR were developed with the support of the Tripartite and endorsed by the Technical Working Groups on AMR (AMR TWG) from the three ministries. AMR TWG in each ministry will identify membership from each ministry for official nomination to the IMCC-AMR.

A National Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Framework for the MSAP has been developed by the Tripartite in collaboration with key national stakeholders official approval from the three ministries is awaited.

MOH has drafted a Law on the Management of Health Products and AMR-related articles have been included. The draft law is under review by the Department of Drug, Food and Cosmetics of the MOH.

The AMR TWG from the three ministries meets regularly to discuss MSAP implementation progress and the MPTF project. A national workshop, planned for Q2 2022, will review progress. Representatives from human, animal and environment health sectors and Tripartite organizations will attend the workshop.

**Systems for optimized use strengthened in critical sectors**

AMS policy, pre- and in-service MSA training curricula, and national guidelines on AMC monitoring have all been drafted. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, rollout of AMS activities in hospitals was delayed as hospitals prioritized COVID-19 issues. DHS/MOH was able to conduct one point prevalence survey (PPS) in a provincial hospital in 2021 due to COVID-19. DHS plans to finalize the key documents drafted last year by mid-2022. DHS/MOH plans to roll out AMS activities in a few secondary and tertiary hospitals and to complete PPPs in another 16 hospitals in 2022.

An integrated review on AMU in the animal health sector and AMS good practices has begun with:

- Literature review of KAP surveys, studies, reports and publications related to AMU and AMR in Cambodia;
- Review of existing guidelines for responsible use of antimicrobials to provide recommendations for AMU guideline development and AMR surveillance in the animal health sector.

This review will result in recommendations for developing guidelines for responsible and prudent use in the animal sector in Cambodia.

### **Improved capacity to design awareness raising, behavior change and educational activities**

A consultative workshop was held from 10-12 November 2021 in Kampong Cham to draft an outline and contents of AMR communication strategies. Thirty participants from the Tripartite, ministries of agriculture, health, and environment, and other key stakeholders working on AMR in Cambodia attended the workshop. A draft outline of the national AMR Communication Strategy being developed and will be finalized in 2022.

IEC materials, including animated videos, leaflets, posters, and social media infographics on AMR/AMU, are being developed. WAAW 2021 was led by the General Directorate of Animal Health and Production (GDAHP), MAFF and co-organized with MOH and MOE and supported by the Tripartite. One national and 3 sub-national awareness events were organised. The WAAW events focused on policy makers, professional groups, farmers and private sectors representing the human, animal and environmental sectors. WAAW events were broadcast via two TV channels and shared on several social media platforms.

### **Main challenges**

Community outbreaks and increasing cases of COVID-19 caused the country to go into lockdown, which prevented physical meetings and restricted travel locally and internationally. Government priorities (particularly MoH) shifted to COVID-19 and AMR focal points in CDC/MOH also focused on COVID-19 response.

COVID-19 has also restricted the opportunities to engage potential service providers for activities as they were either working on COVID assignments, sick or in quarantine.

Though virtual means were used for discussing the project implementation, project teams had difficulties to collect feedback from the participants due to poor internet quality and electricity problems.

Lack of awareness and limited capacity among ministries and healthcare professionals on AMR, AMS, AMC and AMU limit their full engagement and support.

### **Impact of challenges on project delivery**

Increasing cases of COVID-19 and travel restrictions led to changes in the modality of implementation of activities (for example OIE delegated some of the activities to GDAHP, MAFF).

Delays in the implementation of PPS in hospitals and rollout of AMS guidelines to hospitals as hospital staff shifted their tasks to take care of COVID-19 patients while some of them were also sick or in quarantine.

Delays in the implementation of the review of AMU/AMR in the animal health sector as it was difficult to hire suitable potential service providers and virtual communication was difficult. Besides COVID-19, there were other disease outbreaks in animals (e.g African Swine Fever in pigs and Lumpy Skin Disease in cattle) which were priorities for GDAHP (MAFF) and required an urgent response from the ECTAD country office of FAO.

### **Overcoming the challenges**

COVID-19 did not stop the project team from making progress. Virtual discussions helped. As COVID-19 vaccination coverage increased, COVID-19 cases dropped and the project team started to organize physical meetings to collect final inputs into the draft versions of documents discussed virtually (e.g TOR for IMCC-AMR and M&E Framework for the MSAP). The additional use of consultants sponsored and managed by AMR MPTF project was effective. OIE delegated some of the activities to GDAHP, MAFF through an LOA and this arrangement is working well as we could implement two big activities in 2021.

### **Learning Innovation**

Existing Tripartite collaboration at the country level and cross-sectorial coordination through the AMR-TWGs is a crucial mechanism to support activities that require participation from other sectors.

## Review of progress against log frame

### Log frame outcomes

MPTF Outcome	Indicators	Assumptions – any revisions/comments?
Increased comprehensiveness and quality of the policy dialogue and practice	Number of countries whose AMR Multisectoral Coordination mechanisms engage with a broad range of relevant partners	
Use of antimicrobials optimized in critical sectors	Number of countries that implemented one or more (additional) international instruments on AMR	

### Log frame outputs and associated indicators

MPTF Output	Indicators	Progress description (activities started/completed)	Indicator % met
Improved countries capacities for designing and implementing AMR related policy frameworks, investments plans and programmes	National coordination mechanism for AMR	Terms of reference (TOR) for IMCC-AMR were developed and endorsed by Technical Working Groups on AMR (AMR TWG) from the three ministries.  Consultative meeting was held with all key stakeholders to collect final input. The framework was completed and is awaiting official approval from the three ministries.	76-99%
	The National M&E Framework for the MSAP developed		
Systems for optimized use of antimicrobials strengthened in critical human and animal sectors	The regulatory framework has been reviewed in line with the related international guidance on responsible and prudent use of antimicrobial agents	Reviewed the Law on Management of Health Products and integrated AMR-related items into it. MAFF already has a Law on Animal Health and Production, so the laws need to be harmonized. As part of a Fleming Fund project, FAO completed a legal review on “Legislation relevant for AMU/AMR in Cambodia” (Sep 2020).	26-50%
	Antimicrobial stewardship program implemented in additional health care facilities	National University of Singapore and a local NGO (KHANA) helped Department of Health Services to draft AMS policy, pre- and in-service training curricula and guidelines on AMC monitoring	51-75%
Improved capacity to design awareness raising, behavior change	Guidelines for responsible and prudent use of antimicrobials based on international standards are developed or revised	Agricultural Research Centre for International Development started reviews of: - KAP surveys, studies, reports and publications related to AMU and AMR in Cambodia; and - existing guidelines for responsible AMU to inform development of AMU guidelines and AMR surveillance in the animal health sector.	1-25%
	Communications strategies developed	GDAH hosted a multi-sectoral workshop to draft an AMR communication strategy. Priorities were to establish a technical working group on AMR communication; harmonize existing communication materials; involve	50-75%

and educational activities		private sectors and development partners; enhance capacity on AMR communication; monitor and evaluate awareness activities; and develop a draft AMR communication strategy for Cambodia.	
	IEC materials developed and used for nationwide AMR campaigns	GDAH, MAFF, MOH, MOE, and the Tripartite hosted several national and sub-national events during WAAW 2021. In line with the global theme of “Spread Awareness, Stop Resistance”, the events gave a platform for further advocacy on AMR to policy makers from national and provincial governments as well as academia, private sector, research, NGOs and media. Events were well covered on national mainstream media (print, TV and social media).  Consultants started developing awareness materials on AMU/AMR for all sectors for policy makers, manufacturers, suppliers, animal producers, consumers and the public.	76-99%

## Risk matrix – no changes

Risk description	Risk Category: Contextual Programmatic Institutional	Worst case consequence for the project	Risk Score		Mitigating action	Action owner
			Impact	Likelihood		
COVID-19 situation (2022 Omicron)	Contextual	Delay in start of the project activities on the ground	High	High	Convert some activities to virtual such as launching, national consultations etc.	Tripartite
Inadequate coordination amongst the key stakeholders	Institutional	Delay in implementation of activities	High	Medium	Early consultation with key focal points and continued engagement	Tripartite
Political instability and changes in focal points	Institutional	Changes in the activities and priorities	High	Low	Involve all relevant stakeholders including policy technical and operational staff working on AMR/AMU to maintain continuity	Tripartite
Delay in fund release	Programmatic	Delayed implementation of the project activities	Medium	Low	Continuous follow up and identification of focal points at HQ/Regional/National tripartite offices.	Tripartite