

Combatting the rising global threat of AMR through a One Health Approach in Zimbabwe (ID:00127114)

Duration: 24 months (31st June 2021 to 31st June 2023)

The MPTF project focuses on strengthening biosecurity and IPC, optimizing use of antimicrobials and improved capacity to design awareness raising, behaviour change and educational activities and materials. Its key activities include:

- promoting use of vaccines as an alternative to irrational use of antibiotics on Theileriosis in cattle and Typhoid in humans;
- upscaling the Farmer Field Schools (FFS) in the broiler value chain to promote the adoption of good husbandry practices;
- revising National IPC Policy and Strategic Plan, the National IPC guidelines and training program to strengthen evidence-based practices to address AMR transmission;
- strengthening the National IPC programme by supporting a pilot surveillance system of HAI in selected health facilities;
- conducting spot checks on Falsified, Substandard (FS) and illegal drugs at ports of entry especially the Northern Border Posts; and
- developing and piloting behaviour change Community of Practice

Highlights of the project so far

To strengthen the AMR Secretariat, the Tripartite (FAO, OIE and WHO) country and Regional Offices worked collectively to recruit an AMR Project Coordinator. He started in December 2021 and is seconded to, and housed in, the Ministry of Health & Child Care and is now providing technical support to the One Health AMR Secretariat.

The AMR-MPTF project in Zimbabwe was launched on 15 December 2021.

120 people attended the launch in person, and 60 joined virtually. The event was attended by the Deputy Minister of Health, Minister of Harare Province, UK Ambassador Rep, Sweden Ambassador Rep, WHO Country Rep, OIE Rep, FAO Rep, Ministry of Environment Rep and Ministry of Agriculture Rep.

AMR was included in the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (2021-2026) under Strategic Priority 1: People-centered - inclusive, equitable human development and wellbeing and associated Outcome 1: By 2026, all people in Zimbabwe, especially women and girls and those in the most vulnerable and marginalized communities, benefit from equitable and quality social services and protection.

The Department of Veterinary Services, with support from OIE, developed a Theileriosis vaccine production implementation plan which was adopted by the Tripartite. Laboratory supplies. Testing kits to enable production were procured and the vaccine production process started in October 2021. The first batch of vaccine vials will be available in September 2022.

As part of the upscale of the FFS in the broiler value chain to promote adoption of good husbandry practices, training was conducted for 10 farmer field school facilitators from five districts and a pilot on the collection of AMU data and economic data on broiler value chains was initiated

(<https://www.fao.org/africa/news/detail-news/en/c/1477302/>)

Main challenges, impacts and solutions

The COVID-19 pandemic disrupted the start of AMR MPTF project implementation due to lockdowns and restricted opportunities to engage service providers for activities since most were assigned to work on COVID-19 pandemic response. Reassignments also contributed to the delay in recruiting an MPTF coordinator. Implementation was delayed by about six months. The full-time AMR MPTF project coordinator has started and this will accelerate implementation of planned activities. The COVID-19 situation in Southern Africa is currently stable with lowering of lockdown levels to facilitate accelerated implementation of planned activities.

Review of progress against log frame

Log frame outcomes

Zimbabwe MPTF Outcome	Indicators	Assumptions – any revisions/comments?
Use of antimicrobials optimized in critical sectors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • % reduction in Theileriosis in pilot intervention herds as compared to control herd • % reduction in typhoid infection among the vaccinated population • Number of districts covered by FFS • Updated IPC Policy, Strategy and Guidelines • Number of facilities conducting HAI surveillance • Supply chain mapping conducted • Economic data collected (FAO piloting AMU data collection on selected broiler farms) 	
Improved understanding of AMR risks and response options by targeted groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • KAP studies in selected sectors conducted • behaviour change COP integrated into the development of interventions. • NAP for Zimbabwe revised. 	

Log frame outputs and associated indicators

MPTF Output	Indicators	Progress description (activities started/completed)	Indicator % met
Systems for biosecurity and IPC strengthened in targeted areas	% decrease in the number of human infections with typhoid as a proxy to reduced AMU	Fourteen typhoid sentinel sites identified in Harare	1-25%
	% decrease in the number of cattle infections with Theileriosis in intervention herds as compared to control herds as a proxy to reduced AMU (A.2)	Finalized and adopted the Theileriosis Vaccine Production implementation plan Purchased laboratory supplies and testing kits	1-25%
	National IPC programme supported in line with IPC core components (A.3)	Starting in 2022	0%
	Amount of Theileriosis vaccine produced (A.4)	Starting in 2022	0%
	% increase in number of farmers trained in good husbandry and biosecurity measures in broiler value chain (A.5)	Five districts have been identified and facilitators have been trained while the collection of economic data has been initiated.	1-25%
	% reduction in use of antimicrobials at farm level	Starting in 2022	0%

	Updated and government endorsed IPC Policy, Strategy and Guidelines	Starting in 2022	0%
	% reduction in proportion of HAI among hospital patients to methicillin-resistant	Reported cases of HAI in two central hospitals of Sally Mugabe and Pari Hosp.	1-25%
Systems for optimized use strengthened in critical sectors	% of total sales/imports that are classified by the WHO/OIE as Highest Priority Critically Important Antimicrobial Agents for human or animal use	Starting in 2022	0%
	Total amount of pesticide (active substance) intended for the purpose of repelling, destroying, or controlling bacterial or fungal diseases in plants	Starting in 2022	0%
	% of the above total composed of each the following antimicrobial classes:	Starting in 2022	0%
	Number of spot checks conducted	Starting in 2022	0%
	Number of port officials able to systematically conduct spot checks	Starting in 2022	0%
	Technical and economic impact of tailor-made interventions, aimed at reducing antimicrobial use in broiler production	Starting in 2022	0%
Improved capacity to design awareness raising, behaviour change and educational activities/ materials	Number and list of intervention developed, or implemented to support improved capability for communication and behaviour change initiatives on AMR	Activity to be initiated once KAP results are in place however behaviour nudges developed by FAO on broiler value chains will be piloted on the onset of FFS	0%
	Knowledge attitude and practices study on AMR conducted among health care professionals in human and animal health sectors as well as in dairy value chain	KAP studies were identified and a call for proposals to universities to be sent so the project partners with them to generate the KAP data.	1-25%
	Nationwide, government-supported AMR interventions targeting priority stakeholder groups in the following sectors: a: human health b: animal health c: plant health d: food production e: food safety f: environment	Starting in 2022	0%

Risk matrix

Risk description	Risk Category: Contextual Programmatic Institutional	Worst case consequence for the project	Risk Score		Mitigating action	Action owner
			Impact	Likelihood		
COVID-19 situation	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	Medium	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