

Support the implementation of the AMR-NAP through a One Health approach in Morocco (ID:00124432)

Duration: 24 months (16th December 2020 to 16th December 2022)

The project sets out to improve the country's governance capacities, strengthen surveillance and information systems, support systems for biosecurity and IPC as well as increase awareness-raising and behaviour change among key stakeholders and the public. All activities included in the MPTF project are anchored in the country's AMR NAP, 2019-2021 and the results of the project will provide a basis for the development of the next NAP, intended for 2022.

The project will be carried out by the country Tripartite organizations (WHO, FAO, OIE) in close collaboration with the Ministry of Health and Social Protection, Ministry of Agriculture, Marine Fisheries, Rural Development and Water and Forests, and the Ministry of Energetic Transition and Sustainable Development. Implementation of the project's activities is scheduled to start in January 2021 and activities are set to conclude by December 2022.

Highlights of project so far

The project was officially launched on 18th March 2021 with a public commitment to fight AMR and when the environment department joined as a new institutional partner. During this launch workshop, national and international project partners established a technical coordination committee, validated its terms of reference and agreed the project's work plan. Since then, six meetings of the technical coordination committee have been held by video conference to discuss progress, to coordinate and to plan activities of the project.

The public commitment to the fight of AMR resulted in the signing in October 2021 of a convention on AMR between the Ministry of Agriculture and public and private professional partners and organizations operating in livestock sector and in the food chain (ONSSA, IAV, ONV, FISA, ML, FIMAP, ANPV, FIVAR, AMIP-Vet).

A national workshop on Progressive Management of AMR (PMP-AMR) was organized in June 2021 to assess the level of implementation of the NAP in the country. Stakeholders were identified and mapped and there was agreement on actions to be taken to escalate AMR management to the next level. Subsequently, technical committees to set up AMR integrated surveillance systems were established within the MoH, MoA and MoE (ONSSA).

With the support of the project's international partners, Decree No. 2-82-541 taken for the application of the law n ° 21-80 relating to the private practice of veterinary medicine, surgery and pharmacy was revised. Along with the consultation on AMR legal frameworks scheduled in the project, this revision will update existing legislation and regulation in the human and animal health and the environment to specifically include AMR. This will result in designing and implementing AMR plans and programs.

A national Health AMR surveillance meeting was organized by the MoH, and the AMR surveillance system protocol validated. The self-evaluation of sentinel laboratory was launched and the road map for implementing this AMR surveillance developed.

In parallel, regularly collected data on AMU and AMC in the veterinary sector was shared and data on 2019 and 2020 human AMR for bacterial pathogens was shared in GLASS for the first time by Morocco.

A national HAI prevalence study is being implemented. The study protocol including its sampling which was finalized through several meeting involving WHO, MoH and the national consultant, was finalized. Data collection and analysis is scheduled for May 2022 after the training of the investigators and the finalization of the computer application.

Preparing the celebration of the WAAW 2021, a concept note for a national joint communication plan for AMR awareness was finalized and a private communication agency was contracted to develop the AMR/AMU awareness materials. During WAAW, a professional webinar for environmental, human and animal health professionals was organized, a raising awareness campaign using different media was conducted and a good media coverage on AMR at the national level was achieved.

In preparation for implementing project activities, ToRs for several consultations were drafted and/or validated and calls for expression of interest for some were published on websites of concerned international partner organizations. Some of these include consultancies on: analysis of legal frameworks for human and veterinary and environmental systems, including laboratories, establishment of an AMR governance mechanism, joint assessment and analysis of human, veterinary and environmental laboratory capacities, analysis of the national quality management systems specific to AMR at the level of public health and veterinary institutions; and development and implementation of norms, standards and good practice guidelines on biosecurity and IPC for the dairy, poultry and aquaculture sectors.

Main challenges, impacts and solutions

The COVID-19 pandemic resulted in many restrictions (e.g., international travel, restrictions on in-person meetings) and caused a shift in government priorities (particularly Ministry of Health, Ministry of Agriculture). It also restricted the opportunities to engage international consultants, internal movements and face-to-face workshops.

There are still low levels of knowledge and capacity on AMR among environment department staff.

At the start of the project, some difficulties were encountered in developing a common vision between the three national departments (MoH, MoA and the environment department) regarding some activities.

As a result of these challenges, especially those relating to the pandemic, implementation of some project activities was delayed by six months and it proved difficult to recruit international consultants.

The Tripartite overcame these challenges through meetings and discussions using virtual means, using qualified national consultants and the organization of consultation and harmonization meetings to reach a common vision between the three departments.

Review of progress against log frame

Log frame outcomes

MPTF Outcome	Indicators	Assumptions – any revisions/comments?
Risks and benefits of AMR reflected in national budgets and in development/multi-lateral partner sector wide investments.		
Evidence base/representative data on AMR/AMU improved for policy makers and sectors implementing AMU practices		
Use of antimicrobials optimized in critical sectors.		

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, investment plans and programmes	Join Expert Technical Advisory Committee on Antimicrobial Resistance established	National PMP-AMR workshop was held to assess the level of implementation of the AMR NAP and stakeholders agreed on ways to escalate AMR management to a higher level. Consultation related to the establishment of an AMR governance mechanism was	51-75%

		carried out and ToRs for a consultation on the establishment of a robust and effective governance mechanism to steer and support the AMR policy has been finalized and a consultant has been identified.	
	The AMR related legal framework is reviewed and amendments proposed	The Decree No. 2-82-541 taken for the application of the law n ° 21-80 relating to the private practice of veterinary medicine, surgery and pharmacy was revised with the support of FAO and OIE. ToR prepared for: - formulating recommendations for legal frameworks for human, veterinary and environmental systems, including laboratories. Call for expression of interest launched by OIE. - analyzing the national quality management system specific to AMR at the level of different institutions of public health and veterinary facilities. A national expert has been identified.	26-50%
Systems for generating, analyzing and interpreting data on resistance and consumption/use patterns developed or strengthened	National AMR and AMU surveillance networks designed and established	ToR for a joint assessment and analysis of human, veterinary and environmental laboratory capacities have been drafted. A technical committee to set up an AMR surveillance system was established in MoH. The national human health AMR surveillance system protocol was finalized and validated by the technical committee members and the surveillance system was officially launched. A functional technical committee for AMR surveillance in the veterinary sector was established within the ONSSA (MoA);	26-50%
	Data on AMR and AMC/AMU is regularly collected and shared	Data on AMU and AMC in the veterinary sector has been regularly collected and shared since 2015. Data on AMR of <i>M.tuberculosis</i> has been regularly collected. Partial data on AMR of some human or veterinary bacterial pathogens is available.	26-50%
Systems for biosecurity and IPC strengthened	Proportion of farms implementing biosecurity measures	A convention on AMR between the MoA and professional s partners operating in the livestock sector and the food chain (ONSSA, IAV, ONV, FISA, ML, FIMAP, ANPV, FIVIAR, AMIP-Vet) was signed. ToR to develop and implement norms, standards and good practice guidelines on biosecurity and IPC have been drafted for the dairy, poultry and aquaculture sectors.	26-50%
	Update of the national strategy for the prevention of	ToR for updating the national strategy for the prevention of HAI has been drafted.	26-50%

	healthcare-associated infections	ToR for support to the national survey of the prevalence of HAI has been finalized and a consultant recruited.	
Improved capacity to design awareness raising, behavior change and educational activities	Number of beneficiaries from awareness program	A professional webinar in celebration of WAAW 2021 was organized with 85 professionals participating. Good media coverage on AMR WAAW at the national level was achieved.	26-50%
	Number of communication tools developed	A concept note on AMR communication was finalized. A private communication agency has been contracted to develop AMR/AMU awareness materials (leaflets, posters, social media, capsules) and several communication materials (press release, circular, roll up) have been developed.	51-75%

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	Contextual	Delay in start of the project activities on the ground	High	High	-Convert some activities to virtual -Launching, national consultations etc.	Tripartite
Uncertainty in recruiting qualified international consultants	Contextual	Delay in implementation of activities	High	High	Consultation with stakeholders to engage national qualified consultants or design office	Tripartite
Delay in preparation of evaluation tools by the Tripartite	Programmatic	Delay in the implementation of activities and priorities	Medium	Medium	Invite relevant stakeholder(s) to honour their engagement	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