



The Pandemic Fund

FOR A RESILIENT WORLD

THE PANDEMIC FUND AND ANTIMICROBIAL RESISTANCE (AMR)

Antimicrobial resistance (AMR) – a pandemic of drug-resistant infections – has been referred to as ‘silent’ – but its devastating impact on global health is already all too clear. AMR caused at least 1.27 million deaths globally in 2019, exceeding deaths from HIV and malaria, with low and middle-income countries disproportionately affected. Children in sub-Saharan Africa are estimated to be 58 times more likely to die from AMR than those in high-income countries. The economic costs of treating resistant infections are also vast: at \$412 billion annually.

AMR and other pandemics are not theoretical future risks. They are an immediate health threat which we cannot ignore.

The Pandemic Fund is a first-of-its-kind multilateral financing platform dedicated to investing in critical pandemic prevention, preparedness, and response (PPR) capacities in low- and middle-income countries. A commitment to tackling AMR, notably through One Health approaches to pandemic PPR, runs through the Pandemic Fund’s work, which addresses the interconnectedness of human, animal, and environmental health. As the WHO highlights, a One Health approach is important for AMR as ‘resistant organisms

can spread quickly through health-care facilities, animals, food and the environment’. This can make it difficult to treat certain infections in people and animals – thereby increasing the risk that diseases spread.

The Pandemic Fund invested US\$338 million in grants across 19 projects in its first funding round. These grants have supported more than 21 countries with stronger AMR surveillance. One Health approaches have been integrated into 80% of projects financed, while over 95% of projects address AMR, most commonly by strengthening surveillance and laboratory systems.

ETHIOPIA

In Ethiopia, the Pandemic Fund-supported projects are investing in lab infrastructure, as a result of which the country will establish three full-response molecular labs, 15 AMR sentinel sites, and will strengthen referral capacities of 218 veterinary laboratories, among other lab capacity building activities.



YEMEN

In Yemen, the Pandemic Fund’s support for the Pandemic Preparedness and Response Project involves strengthening community-based surveillance, in part by engaging female livestock farmers to improve their understanding of zoonotic transmission, food safety, and AMR prevention and control.



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CENTRAL ASIA

Another example is the **Central Asia One Health** project, which supports five countries – **Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan** – that face similar health, economic, and environmental challenges, including AMR due to widespread use of antimicrobial drugs in human health and agriculture. The Pandemic Fund’s investment will promote regional collaboration for more effective disease surveillance, control systems, and response strategies that can transcend the capabilities of individual nations, ensuring a more unified defense against potential pandemics and food security threats.



As global leaders gather for the second ever High-Level Meeting on AMR, hosted by the UN General Assembly, it is important to acknowledge the progress made since the first such High-Level Meeting in 2016. Eight years ago, UN member states agreed on a coordinated approach to tackle AMR across human health, animal health, and agriculture. Since then, 178 countries have developed national action plans, although many of those plans lack funding or have not been implemented. Renewed focus on and commitment to defeating AMR is therefore urgently needed.

The Pandemic Fund is eager and ready to increase its role in supporting countries, regions, and the world to be better prepared to prevent, detect, contain, and rapidly respond to emerging threats, including AMR.

Together, we can build a safer and healthier future for all.

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