



Coordination of WHO AMR Surveillance and Quality Assessment Collaborating Centres Network

WHO AMR CC Network

Duration

2019–2021

Budget/year

approx. 255,000 EUR

Partner countries

Global

Challenges addressed by the project

The WHO AMR Surveillance and Quality Assessment Collaborating Centres Network (AMR surveillance CC Network) aims to reduce drug-resistant infections, also known as Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR), through improved collection and reporting of AMR data worldwide.

AMR is a significant global threat. International cooperation, such as sharing of expertise and resources, is critical to building capacity to prevent and control AMR worldwide. As part of efforts to address this growing problem, the World Health Assembly agreed to pass resolution WHA68.7 and establish the Global Antimicrobial Resistance Surveillance System (GLASS). GLASS promotes a standardised approach to the collection, analysis and sharing of AMR data at a global level. A strengthened evidence base can be used to inform decision making on AMR-relevant policy and practice.

Members of the Network are called WHO CCs and they cooperate together with WHO to support the development and implementation of GLASS and thereby reduce AMR globally.

Objectives

- » Cooperate on activities to strengthen the laboratory, clinical and epidemiological capacities of countries to develop and implement AMR surveillance
- » Support the establishment of National Reference Laboratories for AMR and supranational laboratories to serve as a reference for testing unusual resistance and AMR quality programmes
- » Support the development of IT and epidemiological tools for global AMR surveillance
- » Assist in the coordination of epidemiological analyses and development of reports
- » Contribute to the development of special surveillance protocols, such as operational research, in low-resource settings, diagnostic stewardship, assessment of AMR disease burden in humans and the use of molecular tests for AMR surveillance

Overview of activities

The Robert Koch Institute is a member of the Network and also its current coordinator. The coordinating team at the Robert Koch Institute and other members of the AMR surveillance CCs Network collaborate and cooperate to support GLASS worldwide and work together with colleagues in primarily low-resource settings



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GLASS logo



Face-to-face network meeting in Cairo, Egypt,
in 2019

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to build capacity to develop and implement AMR surveillance. Members carry out a range of activities ranging from developing globally-relevant resources, such as manuals for developing surveillance systems; carrying out practical activities, such as supporting the development of National Reference Laboratories; to developing IT tools for improving AMR data collection.

The coordinating team at the Robert Koch Institute work closely with colleagues at World Health Organization (Geneva) to provide oversight of activities and discuss relevant strategic issues. The coordinating team ensures coherence and management of the Network's activities (Target Products) through regular communication with members of the Network and through use of a shared workplan. In 2020, the team received feedback from the activity leads on where changes can be made to the Network to make sure it is as collaborative and that engagement is as convenient as possible. The team has been liaising with WHO on the preparations for a revision of GLASS, which the Network members will continue to contribute towards until April 2021.

In addition to overall coordination, the RKI team also leads and contributes towards specific technical target products, including developing a protocol for an integrated AMR and healthcare associated infection (HAI) surveillance system.

Partner institutions

The full list of partner institutions is available on GLASS website:

www.who.int/initiatives/glass/network

Supporting institution in Germany/Contact

Robert Koch Institute

Unit 37 | Nosocomial Infections, Surveillance of Antimicrobial Resistance
and Consumption

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