Introduction

The social and economic costs of inaction on implementing effective policies to combat antimicrobial resistance (AMR) are huge: the predicted cost in terms of lost global production is US$100 trillion by 2050. Effective policy responses to combat AMR require a better understanding of how policymakers and wider stakeholders who influence the policy process at national levels make decisions, including better understanding of factors motivating their selection of specific policy options. The aim of this project is to address this gap in knowledge by studying the drivers of policy actor behaviour in Pakistan, a high-risk AMR country.

Objectives

1. Examine the motivation, social constructions, contextual drivers and power relations of policy actors’ behaviour and decision making vis-à-vis AMR, specifically in relation to appropriate use of antimicrobials (AMs).
2. Identify policy actors determining policies for responsible use of AMs in LMICs and their networks, including where they are based (e.g., which institution).
3. Develop strategies and tools for working with policymakers in LMICs to effectively implement policies for responsible use of AMs.
4. Identify policy lessons and practices to use the findings for AMR policy advocacy at regional, national and global levels.

Methods

- Comprehensively map the range of policy actors involved in policy processes relating to appropriate use of AMs, across the One Health spectrum and including both private and public sector actors.
- Using the list of actors generated by this exercise, purposively select ~40 policy actors for in-depth interviews.
- Ask questions to explore actors’ perceptions of AMR and AM use.
- During the interview, actors will rank five policy options while talking through their rationale using an innovative ‘thinking aloud’ methodological approach.

Impact

Our outputs will include:
- Short policy briefs
- Literature on policy development in LMICs and on AMR policy responses
- Operationalisation of policy design theory in the health field
- Stakeholder analysis for One Health issues and designing appropriate AM use interventions

Stakeholder analysis findings will be presented as a tool, allowing the mapping of key actors for planning policy responses to AMR; this will be made available on an open source web interface.

How do policymaker perceptions of antimicrobial resistance drive behaviour and policies for appropriate antimicrobial use? A case study of Pakistan

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Project collaborators

The research will be conducted by an interdisciplinary team of social and animal scientists from LSHTM, AKU in Pakistan, the National University of Singapore and the RVC in London. Research will also benefit from the advice and oversight of an academic and an impact advisory panel to ensure maximum impact on policy and future research on AMR.


Fig. 1 Operationalising the Social Construction Framework

Fig. 2 Buying antibiotics in Karachi, Pakistan

References