

USAID MEDICINES, TECHNOLOGIES, AND PHARMACEUTICAL SERVICES (MTaPS) PROGRAM

Improved Access. Improved Services. Better Health Outcomes.

MTAPS' SUPPORT TO THE GLOBAL HEALTH SECURITY AGENDA CONTAINING THE RISE OF ANTIMICROBIAL RESISTANCE

ANTIMICROBIAL RESISTANCE: A RAPIDLY GROWING GLOBAL HEALTH EMERGENCY

In 2017, around 600,000 cases of TB were resistant to rifampicin—the most effective first-line drug. The disease kills 1.6 million every year.

Source: Ten threats to global health in 2019, WHO

The rising incidence of antimicrobial resistance (AMR) is rated by the World Health Organization (WHO) as one of the top 10 global public health challenges.

The alarming spread of drug-resistant germs is causing infections that are hard, and sometimes even impossible, to treat with the existing spectrum of antimicrobial medicines such as antibiotics—a situation that not only significantly increases the burden on countries' health expenditures but also deters their development goals.

The Role of MTaPS

As part of the US Global Health Security Strategy, the US Agency for International Development (USAID) invests in combating the global threat of AMR through the Global Health Security Agenda (GHSA), an initiative established in 2014 to bring together countries, international organizations, nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), and the private sector to collectively achieve the vision of a world safe and secure from global health threats posed by infectious diseases. The USAID Medicines, Technologies, and Pharmaceutical Services (MTaPS) program serves as a key implementer in driving this global vision forward. With a mandate to support the GHSA, MTaPS is **working in 11 low- and middle-income countries**

(LMICs) to help them sustainably build their capacities and achieve measurable targets in containing AMR.

Up to 50% of all antibiotic prescriptions are unnecessary.

50% of patients take their medicines incorrectly.

Source: The World Medicines Situation 2011, WHO

Of every 100 hospitalized patients at any given time, 10 in developing countries will acquire at least one health care-associated infection.

Source: Health care-associated infections factsheet, WHO

MTaPS' Strategy and Approach

Controlling the global hazard of AMR relies on robust pharmaceutical systems worldwide that address both the appropriate use of and access to medicines, which is the core mission of MTaPS. Misuse and overuse of antimicrobials is one of the leading causes of AMR.¹ Weak regulations, standards, systems, and governance in LMICs exacerbate these factors. MTaPS' strategy to contain AMR is grounded in a systems strengthening approach in three technical areas pivotal to containing AMR:



Infection Prevention and Control (IPC): Strong IPC measures at hospitals and other health care facilities mean fewer infections, and every infection prevented is an antibiotic avoided. MTaPS uses a robust action plan of IPC assessments, tailored IPC programs, trainings, and continuous measurement and improvement across the national and health care facility levels.



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¹ WHO. Joint External Evaluation Tool: Second Edition January 2018. extranet.who.int/sph/joint-external-evaluation-tool-2nd-edition



Antimicrobial Stewardship (AMS): Effective AMS programs at the national and health care facility levels are critically needed to optimize the use of antimicrobial medicines and curtail their indiscriminate use. The quality and availability of antimicrobials is also a challenge in LMICs. MTaPS supports AMS programs to optimize both access to and use of antimicrobials for better patient outcomes while containing AMR.



Multisectoral Coordination (MSC) on AMR: Given the synergistic relationship among human, animal, and environmental health and their microbial populations, AMR cannot be conquered without coordinated action across multiple sectors. MTaPS applies the One Health approach with MSC at its core, which enables the infrastructure and mechanisms needed to holistically build capacities of countries for interventions such as IPC and AMS programs.

Collectively, these elements of the MTaPS approach are supporting countries to achieve sustainable gains in IPC and AMS, which supports their journey toward self-reliance. The activities are also improving patient safety and quality of health care delivery, which is central to achieving universal health coverage.

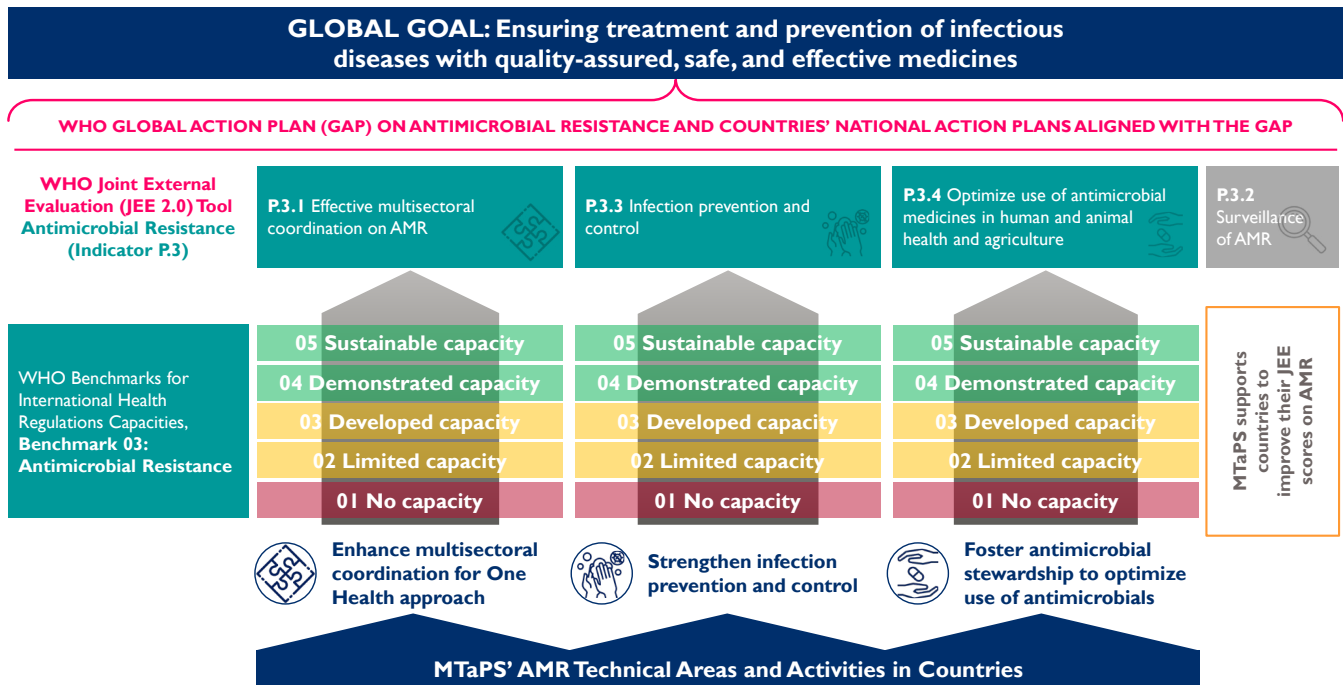
Delivering on Global and National AMR Goals

Under its GHSA-AMR mandate, MTaPS' support plans in 11 countries are aligned with WHO's Joint External Evaluation (JEE 2.0) tool² and the WHO Benchmarks for International Health Regulations Capacities,³ a framework used by the GHSA for making standardized assessments and measuring progress in countries' capacities in 19 technical areas, including AMR. MTaPS' strategically designed activities are helping countries to sustainably improve their JEE scores in MSC, IPC, and AMS (see figure) while supporting the implementation of their national action plans on AMR, which contributes to the objectives laid out in the Global Action Plan on Antimicrobial Resistance.⁴

MTaPS' partnerships for GHSA work include national stakeholders in human and animal sectors, including professional associations, civil society, NGOs, academia, and the private sector, and on the global front, donors and implementing partners such as WHO, Food and Agriculture Organization, World Organization for Animal Health, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

MTAPS' RESPONSE TO COVID-19

MTaPS, with its GHSA mandate, leveraged its IPC work in countries to support USAID's global response to the pandemic, assisting 13 countries with rapid and sustainable approaches to strengthen their IPC capacity.

USAID MTaPS Alignment with Global and National AMR Goals

² WHO. Joint External Evaluation Tool: Second Edition January 2018. extranet.who.int/sph/joint-external-evaluation-tool-2nd-edition

³ WHO Benchmarks for International Health Regulations Capacities. February 2019. www.who.int/ihr/publications/9789241515429/en/

⁴ WHO. Global Action Plan on Antimicrobial Resistance. www.who.int/antimicrobial-resistance/global-action-plan/en/

The USAID Medicines, Technologies, and Pharmaceutical Services (MTaPS) Program enables low- and middle-income countries to strengthen their pharmaceutical systems, which is pivotal to better health outcomes and higher-performing health systems. The program is implemented by a consortium of global and local partners, led by Management Sciences for Health (MSH), a global health nonprofit. www.mtapsprogram.org.

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