

Results from PAHO Foundation's Meta-Analysis on Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR)/Antimicrobial Stewardship (AMS) in Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC)

Goal of Analysis: To identify where additional information should be sought to address AMR, initial challenges, and potential components of a plan of action to seek additional detailed information.



AMR Data Collection & AMS

- Only 3 countries currently have in place a national AMR Plan, and only 13 of the 47 countries in LAC have reported data on AMR/AMS on a regular basis.
- All countries report to various regional data collection programs, but data is not consistent or up to date and is limited to select sites within countries.

- Only 10 countries have developed AMS guidelines and have launched public awareness campaigns to address AMR/AMS.
- The countries in the English Caribbean are currently the only area in LAC looking at implementing the One Health approach. (The Foundation participated in the design and preliminary strategic planning. Final production is expected for later this year, and the Foundation has been invited to participate.)



Access to Health Care & Delivery Systems

- Most countries limit access by requiring prescriptions for antibiotics, but this does not limit private pharmacies from selling antibiotics when customers demand them.
- There is need to clarify the relationships between primary care delivery sources and questionable antibiotic management and stewardship practices.

Globally, an estimated 700k deaths result from drug-resistant infections each year (Review on AMR).



Financial & Capacity Resources

- Budgets and capacity resources for health care delivery varied significantly across the urban to rural spectrum, which causes gaps to exist in capacity and capability in medical and allied fields.
- In total, the training, quantity of doctors and allied health workers per population, and staffing of hospitals and other health care settings work to undermine effective AMS.