Antimicrobial Resistance in Africa

- Global and regional recognition that AMR presents an urgent threat to health, security, and economic growth
- Limited resource, shared by humans for benefit of humans, animals, and environment
- Challenges
  - Complex to measure and monitor
  - Threat is distant
  - Actions incur cost
  - Benefit does accrue directly or immediately to the institutions taking the action and incurring cost
Antimicrobial Resistance in Africa

What we know

- Well-documented problem for big “3”: TB, malaria, HIV
- Gram-negative bacteria – in selected settings
- Drivers of resistance multifactorial: antimicrobial use in animals, environment, humans

What we do not know

- How widely distributed
- How rapidly is resistance emerging or worsening
- How best to delay emergence
- How severe are the human health consequences
- How best to mitigate harm
Developing an African Union Framework for AMR Control, 2020-2025

2017
- January: Africa CDC inaugurated
- March: Africa CDC convenes strategic planning meetings; AMR identified as high priority for action
- October: Africa CDC releases Framework for AMR Control

2018
- April: Africa CDC convenes Member States, regional economic communities, partners → strong recommendation to develop AU-wide Framework with One Health approach
- June: AU agencies endorse concept of AU AMR Task Force

2019
- April: Draft AU Framework developed and reviewed
- June-July: Framework under review by AU agencies, Member States and partners
African Union Framework for Antimicrobial Resistance, 2020-2025

▪ Primary goals
  ▪ Improve surveillance of AMR organisms among humans, animals, and plants
  ▪ Delay emergence
  ▪ Limit transmission
  ▪ Mitigate harm among patients infected with AMR organisms

▪ Critical underlying principles
  ▪ Act now
  ▪ Involve human, animal, environment agencies
  ▪ Improve monitoring of antimicrobial use, AMR prevalence
  ▪ Ensure strict adherence to guidelines for appropriate use
  ▪ Strengthen measures for limiting transmission among and between humans, animals, environment
African Union Framework for Antimicrobial Resistance, 2020-2025

- Framework focused on actions that AU agencies will perform
- With close consultation and support from Member States
- In close partnership with WHO, FAO, OIE, other UN agencies, and all other implementing agencies
Improve surveillance of AMR organisms among humans, animals, and plants

- Increase the number of tests performed on samples from humans, animals, and/or plants for AMR organisms
- Increase the proportion of clinical, veterinary, and plant diagnostic laboratories with quality assurance programs
- Increase the proportion of public health laboratories with quality assurance programs and international accreditation
- Increase the number of public health laboratories conducting surveillance for AMR using standardized protocols
- Increase the number of Member States that continuously collect, analyze, report, and disseminate data about AMR for high priority pathogens in their respective countries
Delay emergence of AMR

- Increase the proportion of physicians and other human health providers adhering to antimicrobial use guidelines
- Increase the proportion of veterinarians, veterinary para-professionals, and food producers adhering to prudent antimicrobial use guidelines
- Reduce availability and sales of sub-standard and counterfeit antimicrobials
Limit transmission of AMR

- Increase the proportion of healthcare facilities implementing infection control and prevention programs
- Strengthen biosecurity, husbandry, and vaccination on farms that raise animals for food
- Increase the availability and sales of products from animals raised with prudent antimicrobial use
- Reduce the use of antimicrobials in plant-derived food and feed, including the contamination of environment with antimicrobials
Mitigate harm among patients infected with AMR organisms

- Increase the number of healthcare facilities with quality diagnostic tests for infection and AMR
- Reduce the availability and use of substandard diagnostic tests and supplies
- Increase the proportion of physicians and veterinarians adhering to guidelines for treatment of susceptible and AMR infections
- Maintain access to essential antibiotics
Activities to Enable Implementation

- Advocate for policies and laws to enable long-term prevention and control
- Engage civil society
- Develop human resources for AMR surveillance and control
Next Steps

▪ August 2019: Present to Member States and partners at “Validation Workshop” in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
  ▪ Consult extensively with Member States and partners
▪ Present to AU Specialized Technical Committee in October for official AU endorsement
▪ Challenges
  ▪ Sustaining political commitment and interest
  ▪ Sustaining financing