

THE EVOLUTION OF THE GLOBAL ANTIBIOTIC RESISTANCE PARTNERSHIP

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The article provides an update on the work the Global Antibiotic Resistance Partnership established by the Center for Disease Dynamics, Economics & Policy and its increasing involvement in developing national antimicrobial resistance plans globally.

The Global Antibiotic Resistance Partnership (GARP), a successful initiative of the Center for Disease Dynamics, Economics & Policy (CDDEP) to help low- and middle-income countries (LMICs) develop country-led responses to antimicrobial resistance (AMR), was profiled in *AMR Control 2015*. The significant uptake in global action on AMR has brought changes in emphasis to GARP, while GARP's basic strategy and structure has proven strong and adaptable in the eight current partner countries.

The most significant development affecting GARP was the World Health Organization's (WHO's) call for national AMR action plans from every country by May 2017. This directive has sharpened the focus of all GARP partner countries very positively to achieve this goal. CDDEP has taken the initiative to add development of national implementation plans, with realistic cost projections to the GARP agenda in every country.

One characteristic that sets GARP apart from many other support efforts is building local capacity to address AMR in the long term by creating multidisciplinary, multisectoral working groups that become national "brain trusts," with involvement in a wide range of activities. One of the keys to GARP's staying power is that the working group secretariats are lodged outside of government, while working groups include government members and the group works in service to the country.

GARP working groups are increasingly recognized by the global community as leaders in AMR planning and control, and are among a small cadre of invited participants and featured speakers in high-level international forums, including:

- ➔ the International Congress on Infectious Diseases, Hyderabad, India (March 2016);
- ➔ the Drive-AB Consortium 2016 conference, "Stimulating innovation, sustainable use and global access to antibiotics," Amsterdam (June 2016);



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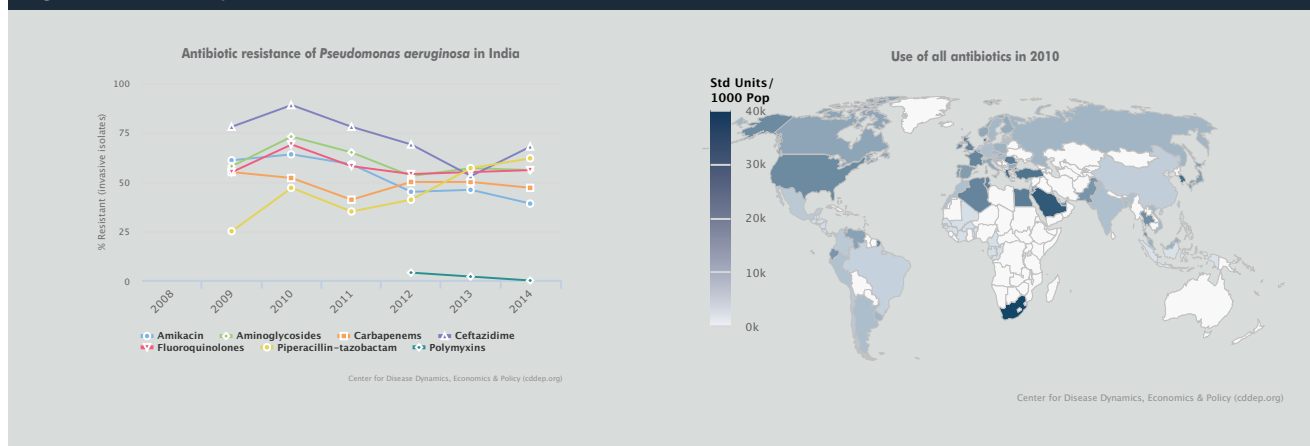


- ➔ the Wellcome Trust Summit on "Integrating science and policy for decisive action on antimicrobial resistance," London (April 2016);
- ➔ a roundtable, "A One Health approach to building antimicrobial resistance national action plans in middle- and low-income countries" supported by the United Kingdom's Foreign and Commonwealth Office and Department for International Development, Wilton Park (June–July 2016).

Major accomplishments in 2016 include:

- ➔ GARP-Kenya coordinator becomes AMR focal point in the Ministry of Health, and leads development of national action plan and the national AMR surveillance system.
- ➔ In Tanzania, Mozambique, Nepal and Uganda – all four GARP-phase 2 countries that started work in 2012–2013 – the situation analyses have been central to development of national action plans and in all four countries, the GARP working groups are key members of government advisory groups.
- ➔ Established GARP working groups begin mentoring new

Figure 1: ResistanceMap



partners, in a new path to sustainability: GARP-Nepal for Bangladesh and Pakistan; Vietnam for Laos; South Africa for Zimbabwe and Zambia.

ResistanceMap

Alongside GARP, CDDEP has continued to build the most comprehensive publicly available global database of antibiotic resistance and antibiotic use data in existence: ResistanceMap (www.resistancemap.org). The major improvement in the last year is the addition of significant amounts of data from the first low- and middle income countries to be included in this type of database. ■

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