

Identifying Gaps & Opportunities in National Action Plans for Antimicrobial Resistance



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Charani E, Mendelson M, Pallett SJC, et al. An analysis of existing national action plans for antimicrobial resistance-gaps and opportunities in strategies optimising antibiotic use in human populations. *Lancet Glob Health*. 2023;S2214-109X(23)00019-0. doi:10.1016/S2214-109X(23)00019-0

A recent systematic analysis aimed to globally assess national action plan (NAP) objectives targeting antimicrobial use in human populations to identify gaps and opportunities that will strengthen strategies for optimizing antibiotic use in human populations.

Methods

An evidence synthesis of existing NAPs was performed using six domains previously identified to assist in optimizing antimicrobial use.

108 national action plans were included: 42 high-income countries, 50 low-income and middle-income countries, 16 least-developed countries.

Results

The systematic analysis found marked gaps and variability in maturity of NAP development and implementation across the following six domains:

1. Policy and strategic planning
2. Medicines management and prescribing systems
3. Technology and diagnostics for optimized antimicrobial prescribing
4. Context, culture and behaviors
5. Operational delivery and monitoring
6. Patient and public engagement

Based on these identified gaps, the publication also lists **key strategic opportunities** that countries can consider in their efforts to manage the threat of AMR (**Table 3** in paper).

In conclusion, the gaps identified in this analysis highlight **opportunities to facilitate sustainable delivery and operationalization of NAPs**, which can be used at country, regional, and global levels to identify AMR-related priorities relevant to infrastructure needs and contexts. These goals require **long-term vision and investment** in health systems resources, research, and infrastructure capacity



“The political determination to commit to NAPs and the availability of robust governance structures to assure sustainable translation of the identified NAP objectives from policy to practice remain major barriers to progress,” wrote the study authors.