

GARPNet News

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Phase three: progress and plans

With the May 2017 deadline approaching, many GARP working groups are working toward completing national action plans (NAPs) in collaboration with government leaders. GARP working groups in Kenya, Nepal, Mozambique, Uganda and Tanzania have all been closely involved in the NAP drafting process and plan to release final plans in the coming months.

While the NAP publications are an antimicrobial resistance (AMR) milestone, GARP is focusing on developing detailed implementation plans to support these broad national strategies. Implementation plans include detailed activities, the organizations responsible for carrying them out, timelines and costs. CDDEP consultant Kim Faure is developing a toolkit for implementation plans that will eventually be available on the CDDEP website.

In newer GARP countries, NAPs are being developed alongside GARP situation analyses. Working groups in Bangladesh, Lao PDR, Nigeria, Pakistan, and Zimbabwe are all participating in developing locally driven AMR policy.

Meet Vilada Chansamouth, GARP-Lao PDR coordinator

We are happy to welcome Dr. Vilada Chansamouth to the GARP family. Dr. Chansamouth is a research physician in the Microbiology Laboratory at Mahosot Hospital and the Lao-Oxford-Mahosot Hospital-Wellcome Trust Research Unit (LOMWRU) in Vientiane, secretariat of the GARP-Lao PDR working group.

Dr. Chansamouth brings a strong background in infectious disease research to the GARP team. She received her Master of Science in Epidemiology from the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine in 2012, and also holds a Master of Science in Tropical Medicine and International Health from the Institute de la Francophonie pour la Médecine Tropicale in Vientiane, as well as a medical degree from the University of Health Sciences, Vientiane. Fever, particularly in pregnant women, and Japanese encephalitis virus vaccine introduction have been some of her recent areas of research. She has worked in microbiology laboratories and on the infectious disease consult service at Mahosot Hospital, in addition to her research activities.

When asked what brought her to the world of antibiotic resistance, Dr. Chansamouth told GARP Research Associate Molly Miller-Petrie:

“I’ve seen resistant infections come up in all my past work – from seeing resistant infections in pregnant women, to finding resistant cases in the lab and reporting them to the infection prevention and control committee at the hospital. But antibiotic resistance is not well known in Lao – very few people are aware of this issue.”

GARP-Lao PDR, which has just recently been organized, hopes to change that. Professor Paul Newton, Director of LOMWRU, is the principal investigator of the working group. In October, the Minister of Health, His Excellency Assoc. Prof.

“It is a challenge to unite all the sectors – animals, food and drug, and microbiology in hospitals. But I believe that our research unit has the ability to link these sectors together and facilitate cooperation.”



Vilada Chansamouth, GARP-Lao PDR Coordinator

Dr. Bounkong Syhavong, signed a letter proposing the establishment of GARP-Lao PDR, and the group will report directly to the Ministry. The leaders of GARP-Vietnam are supporting the working group as mentors.

“The working group is currently in the stage of gathering information,” Dr. Chansamouth informed Ms. Miller-Petrie. “It is a challenge to unite all the sectors – animals, food and drug, and microbiology in hospitals. But I believe that our research unit has the ability to link these sectors together and facilitate cooperation.

“The Microbiology Laboratory at Mahosot Hospital is working to improve infectious disease diagnoses, and has initiated surveillance of antibiotic resistance for *Neisseria gonorrhoeae*, ESBL-producing bacteria (especially *Escherichia coli* and *Klebsiella pneumoniae*), *Streptococcus pneumoniae*, *Salmonella Typhi* and methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA). The laboratories send a monthly report on resistance rates to the hospital, the National Center for Laboratory and Epidemiology (NCLE), the World Health Organization (WHO) and the Ministry of Health. I also work on a project tracking the epidemiology of fever in Laos that tracks resistance in all participating hospitals.”

Dr. Chansamouth’s first GARP task is putting together a comprehensive article on antibiotic resistance in Lao PDR. She will also plan and lead an AMR and antimicrobial use point prevalence survey in three provinces later in 2017. The group is also interested in finding out more about resistance in pathogens in animals. LOMWRU currently conducts research on infections in animals sold at markets in Lao PDR, but not on resistance. Data on antibiotic use for humans in pharmacies and hospitals is also available, and antibiotic quality is now being monitored by the medicine quality departments in the government and LOMWRU.

Please join us in welcoming Dr. Chansamouth and GARP-Lao PDR to the GARP network.

Participate in the Global Point Prevalence Survey (Global-PPS) of hospital antimicrobial use and resistance

The University of Antwerp, supported by bioMérieux, is conducting their second annual Global Point Prevalence Survey this year. The Global-PPS is a one-day cross-sectional survey conducted between January and June 2017 in hospitals worldwide. Feedback and quality improvement advice are provided to all participating hospitals. The survey is web-based and details, including the full protocol, are available here: www.global-pps.com. You can also contact the team directly at: global-pps@uantwerpen.be.

Developing national action plans at the WHO Africa Region meeting

Contributed by Dr. Kim Faure, GARP/CDDEP consultant, who helped guide the participants through the NAP process.

More than 100 delegates traveled to Harare, Zimbabwe for the 2nd WHO Regional Office for Africa AMR workshop, on 25-27 January. The purpose of the workshop was to support countries in developing NAPs on AMR by taking participants through the process of stakeholder identification and management; situation analysis and strategic and operational planning; and governance structures and implementation. Five to eight experts from each country attended, representing animal health and livestock, the environment, water and sanitation services, veterinarians and human health experts such as clinicians, public health experts and infection prevention and control practitioners. Countries were encouraged to discuss all aspects of their NAPs using a One Health approach, which led to some lively and passionate debates. It was encouraging to see how much synergy and collaboration was generated between the sectors by the end of the process. All 13 countries present - Botswana, Eritrea, Lesotho, Liberia, Malawi, Mauritius, Namibia, Nigeria, Rwanda, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, South Sudan and Swaziland - committed to completing their situation analyses and NAPs by the end of April 2017, and participants personally pledged “to be a champion for AMR in their own community and at home and ensure that nothing they do will unwillingly create AMR.”

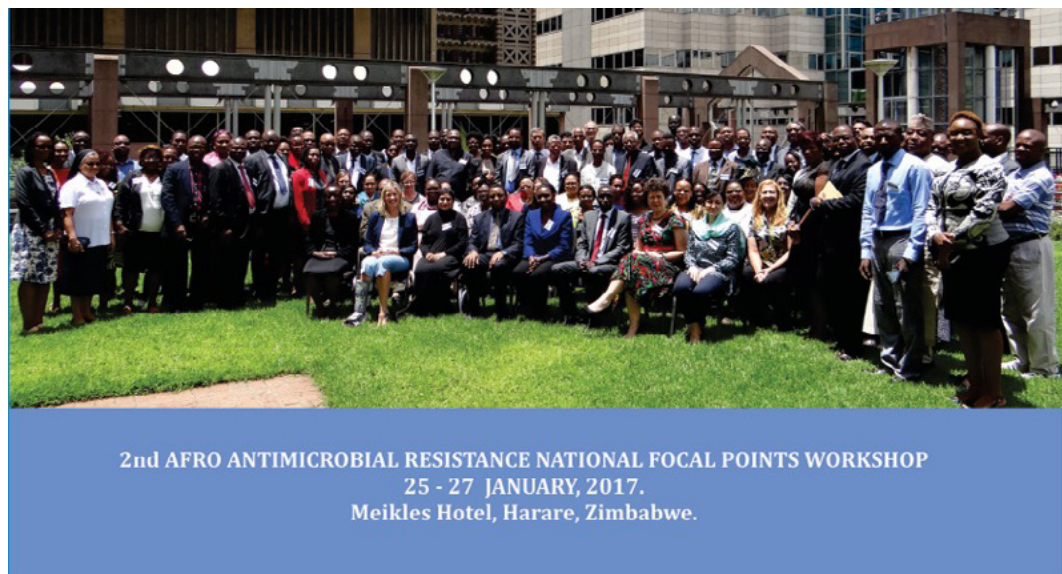


Photo courtesy of WHO

Launching GARP-Nigeria

GARP's newest working group has now formed in Nigeria. The chair and principal investigator of the working group, Dr. Iruka Okeke, is a global expert on AMR and a professor of pharmaceutical microbiology at the University of Ibadan, Nigeria. Dr. Joshua Obasanya, Director, Preventive and Programs Coordination, Nigeria Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) is the deputy chair, and Estelle Onyekachi Mbadiwe, pharmacist and director of Ducit Blue Solutions Ltd, is the coordinator. The full working group is currently being constituted.

New publications and media

Al-Tawfiq, J.A., Laxminarayan, R., Mendelson, M., 2017. "How should we respond to the emergence of plasmid-mediated colistin resistance in humans and animals?" *International Journal of Infectious Diseases* 54 (2017): 77-84. [http://www.ijidonline.com/article/S1201-9712\(16\)31634-4/abstract](http://www.ijidonline.com/article/S1201-9712(16)31634-4/abstract)

GARP activities on the CDDEP blog

Time to Do the Right Thing: Building Action and Consensus for Antimicrobial Stewardship in the United States (Dec 2016)
http://cddep.org/blog/posts/time_do_right_thing_building_action_and_consensus_antimicrobial_stewardship_united_states#sthash.UCV89QhL.dpuf

Study: Trends in antibiotic resistance at large private lab network in India, 2008-2014 (Nov 2016)
http://cddep.org/blog/posts/study_trends_antibiotic_resistance_large_private_lab_network_india_2008_2014#sthash.RYiHkzUm.dpuf

Changing Perspectives on the Use of Antibiotics in Agriculture: Dr. Sam Kariuki, GARP-Kenya (Nov 2016)
http://cddep.org/blog/posts/changing_perspectives_use_antibiotics_agriculture_dr_sam_kariuki_garp_kenya#sthash.jx46dcsc.dpuf

Meeting on Multisectoral Action on Antimicrobial Resistance in Cambodia, Lao PDR and Vietnam

The World Health Organization Western Pacific Regional Office (WHO WPRO) convened government representatives from Cambodia, Lao PDR and Vietnam, along with advisors from the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the Organization for Animal Health (OIE), and a number of other advisors and observers from around the world in Hanoi on January 18-20. GARP global coordinator Hellen Gelband, Dr. Vilada Chansamouth from Lao PDR (see story above), and Dr. Nga Do Thuy, long-time GARP-Vietnam coordinator, were there to bring the GARP perspective to the meeting. All three countries have completed, or almost completed, national action plans, but little implementation has yet taken place. The proceedings were designed to guide that next phase, both in plenary and through group work by country.

WHO, FAO, and OIE—the tripartite group of U.N. agencies—work with Member State governments at the highest levels to lay the groundwork for action on AMR. What GARP brings to the table is an approach that includes the full range of national expertise from the academic, clinical and NGO sectors, as well as government. The need for collaboration to take advantage of the existing momentum and to avoid duplication of effort was clear to all at the meeting. Plans to follow up with specific strategies and activities are expected.

GARP in the news

CDDEP Associate Director Hellen Gelband: botanist turned policy guru in global health, was profiled in *The Lancet* issue released January 7, 2017. GARP-Vietnam coordinator Nga Do Thi Thuy took the accompanying photo in Vientiane during an organizational meeting for GARP-Lao PDR. [www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736\(16\)32602-2/abstract](http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736(16)32602-2/abstract)

GARP-Kenya Chair Dr. Samuel Kariuki was featured in an interview for The Conversation U.S., “Antibiotics in meat: why Kenya needs to do more.” <https://theconversation.com/antibiotics-in-meat-why-kenya-needs-to-do-more-71564>

Country Highlights

GARP-Bangladesh

GARP-Bangladesh held their first executive committee meeting on December 19th, 2016 with the Director General of Drug Administration and the Director General of Health Services. The committee is currently identifying members for the full working group. The Office of the Directorate General of Drug Administration asked the GARP committee to create communications materials on AMR to share at a Development Fair held by the District Commissioner of Dhaka from the 9th to the 11th of January 2017. The committee is also in the process of drafting their national situation analysis.

GARP-Pakistan

The Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine, Aga Khan University, Karachi, organized the symposium “Antimicrobial Resistance in Pakistan: Current Situation and Future Approaches” on December 7th and 8th, 2016 in collaboration with Health Security Partners, USA and the Infectious Disease Society of Pakistan. Members of GARP-Pakistan hosted and served as participating experts for the event, providing plenary discussions on combating antimicrobial resistance in Pakistan. The GARP-Pakistan working group also arranged a pre-symposium team meeting to discuss the current situation of antibiotic use in the community, applicable government regulations and the need for improvement, and trends of antibiotic consumption in poultry and cattle and its implication for the environment as a whole. Members of the GARP-Kenya working group presented at the Aga Khan symposium and provided key insights about putting together a realistic situation analysis at the pre-symposium.



Dr. Ejaz Khan, GARP-Pakistan Chair, speaking at the Aga Khan symposium

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