GLOBAL AMR R&D HUB

Summary of key findings on acceleration of antimicrobial development and access

- For consideration by the G20 Health Working Group

The COVID-19 pandemic has brought into focus the need to strengthen health-security so as to be better-prepared for health-related crises. A sustainable supply of antibacterials and diagnostics to meet the priority public health needs globally will be a central component in securing a resilient future. Responding to the call from G20 Leaders[1], the Global AMR R&D Hub[2] set out[3] to identify best models for supporting (push) and rewarding (pull) AMR R&D. Based on this work, the Global AMR R&D Hub puts forward the following key findings for consideration by the G20:

1. Action should be taken now to **strengthen the collective signal to developers** regarding the extent of rewards available for successful innovative development and supply of the most needed products.
2. Support and reward should be in **proportion to products' public health priority**, as current investment is weakest where unmet needs are greatest.
3. Existing health system tools can be used to **reward the most valuable antibiotics and diagnostics**. Pricing-based approaches may be more limited in this context. Reimbursement approaches offer more promise. This is especially the case when underpinned by health technology assessment methodologies that **capture value beyond the individual patient**.
4. **National coordination of contracting/procurement emerges as a promising step** to leverage countries' existing experience to further reward successful development and ensure access. Multiple challenges can be combined into a single policy solution. Additionally, these tools allow de-linkage (of unit sales from revenue), which is a powerful means to embed necessary stewardship.
5. Some countries may benefit from **more collaboration or collective alignment** of their national efforts. This can be achieved through agreeing evidence-backed implementation principles or voluntary collaboration. Aligned or coordinated implementation can decrease the administrative barriers for both payors and companies to make needed products available.
6. The higher burden of resistance, forecasted growth in access gaps and more limited policy tools to address the challenge in low- and middle-income countries **calls for global cooperation.**
7. Rapid diagnostics that cover a broad range of bacterial and resistance susceptibility identification can help to tackle many aspects of the AMR challenge. Lessons learned from the COVID-19 pandemic may be applied to **lessen barriers to uptake and use of AMR-relevant diagnostics.**
8. **Push support** especially regarding **late-stage development** of antibiotics and diagnostics remains limited in the face of the challenge. Ongoing efforts need to continue and be expanded.
9. **Antibiotic supply security is an issue with wide-ranging consequences** that needs to be addressed to preserve the efficacy of all antibiotics and ensure access globally. Again, COVID-19 presents an opportunity to strengthen global manufacturing and supply as an important component of a more sustainable antibiotic ecosystem.

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[1] G20 2019 Japan. Osaka Leaders' Declaration (accessed 16 February 2021).
[2] The Global AMR R&D Hub was established following a call from G20 Leaders https://globalamrhub.org/
[3] Årdal C, Lacotte Y, Ploy MC on behalf of EU-JAMRAI (2021). National facilitators and barriers to the implementation of incentives for antibiotic access and innovation. Forthcoming; Matthar, C; Baraldi, E on behalf of the Expert Advisory Group of the Global AMR R&D Hub (2021). Determining the global market potentials for 4 prioritised products relevant for addressing AMR. Forthcoming; Vogler, S; Habimana, K; Fischer S; Haasis A (2021): Novel policy options for reimbursement, pricing and procurement of AMR health technologies, Gesundheit Österreich: Vienna. Forthcoming.