



What can the COVID-19 Pandemic teach us when tackling AMR, a pandemic in the shadows?

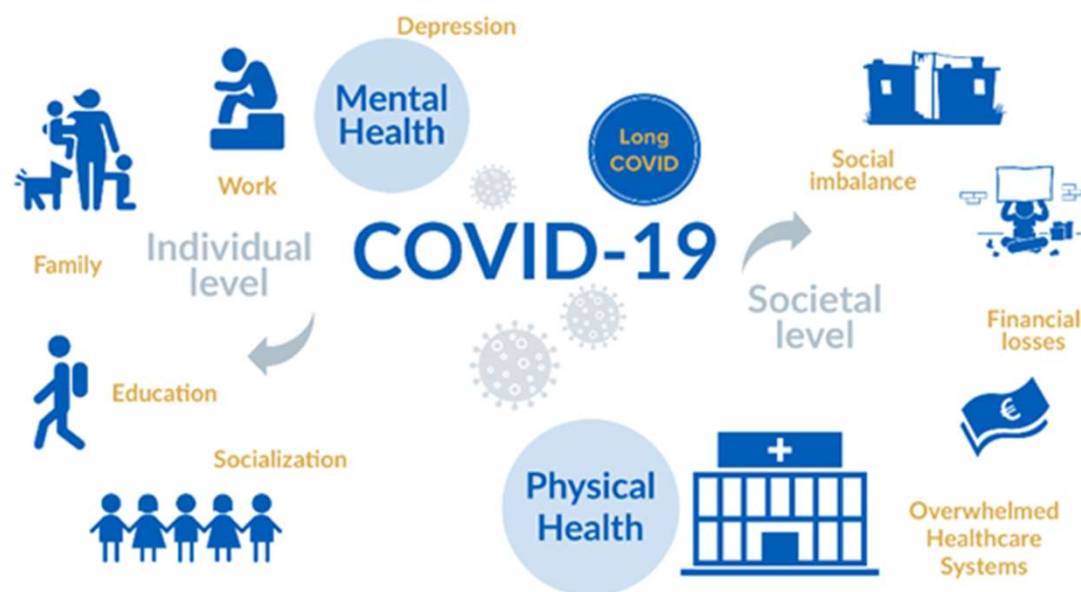
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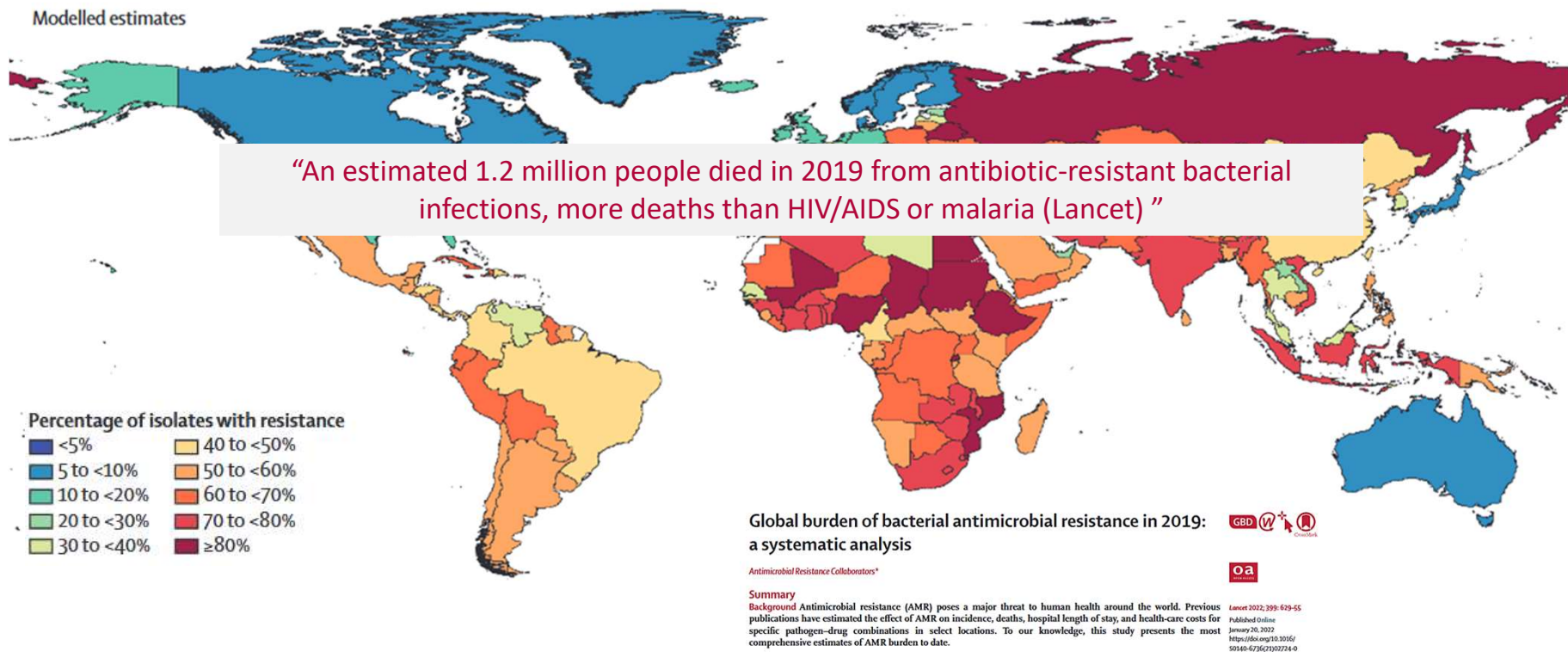
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The impact of COVID-19: parallels with AMR

- **Public health crisis** at the local, national and global level; at an individual, political and social level
- Marginalised groups at a disadvantage (**social inequalities**)
- Burden of disease
- Data for **evidence-based** policy and decision-making
- Driver of the pandemic: **Human behaviour** (Behaviour is driven by trust, education, social status and living circumstances)



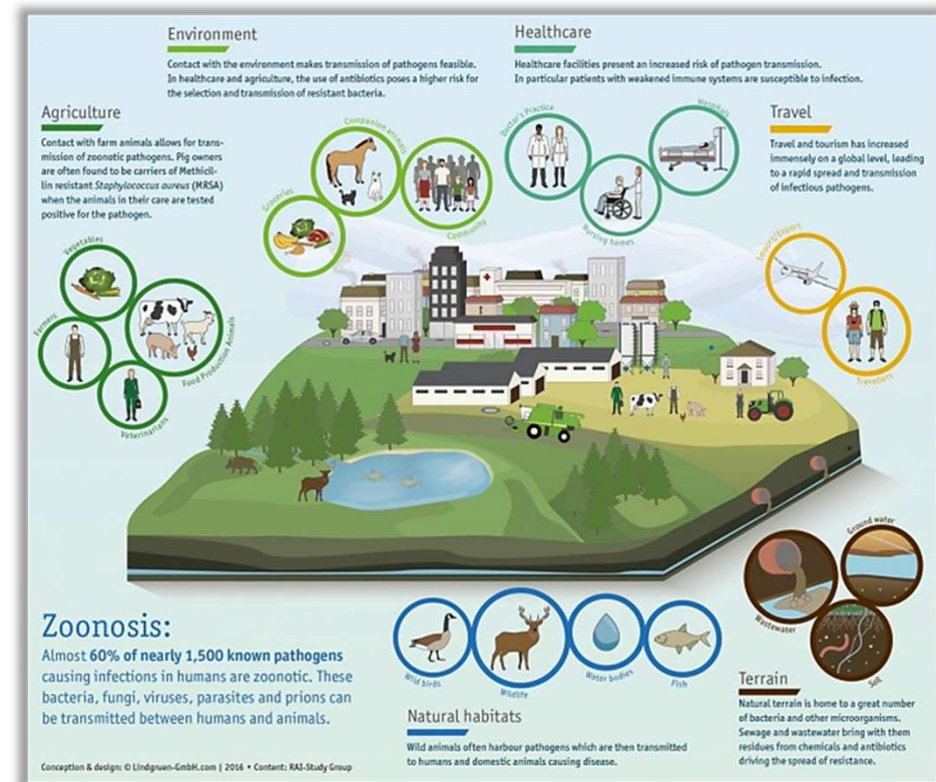
Antimicrobial resistance: Global burden



AMR as a one health challenge

The One Health definition developed by the **One Health High Level Expert Panel** (OHHLEP) states:

One Health is **an integrated, unifying approach that aims to sustainably balance and optimize the health of people, animals and ecosystems....**



Tackling AMR globally

4 strategic priorities of WHO:

- **Stepping up leadership for the AMR response (e.g. Global Leaders Group for AMR):** Stakeholders need a common vision, alignment of purpose and shared accountability
- **Driving public health impact in every country to address AMR:** Effective antimicrobials and access to health services help to mitigate the impact of AMR on lives and livelihoods
- **Research and development for better access to quality AMR prevention and care:** National action plans must be patient-centred and evidence-based
- **Monitoring the AMR burden and global AMR response:** Data is key to understand the AMR burden and evaluate the response

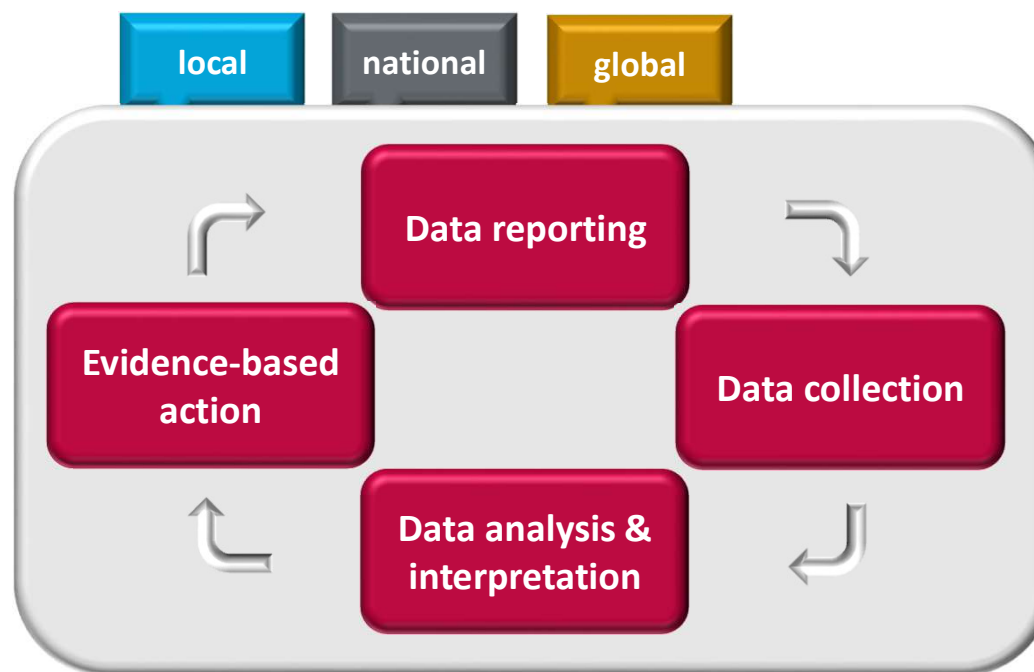


WHO Strategic Priorities on Antimicrobial Resistance

Preserving antimicrobials
for today and tomorrow



The need for integrated AMR surveillance

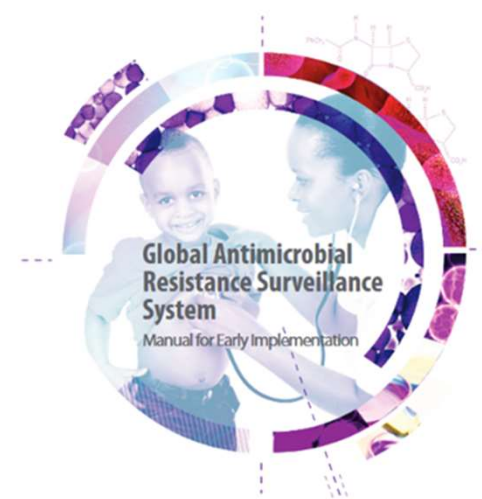


Surveillance is a baseline strategy to enhance prevention and control

Making sense out of data



Data collection on local/national levels essential to increase awareness and support data-driven decision and actions



“International standards on AMR surveillance and monitoring programmes exist for some aspects of animal health, however **standards across the medical, veterinary, agricultural and environmental sectors are not harmonized**, except for foodborne and zoonotic bacteria...”



WHO 2015

The importance of national public health institutes in tackling AMR like any other public health crisis

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VIEWPOINT

Bridging global health actors and agendas: the role of national public health institutes

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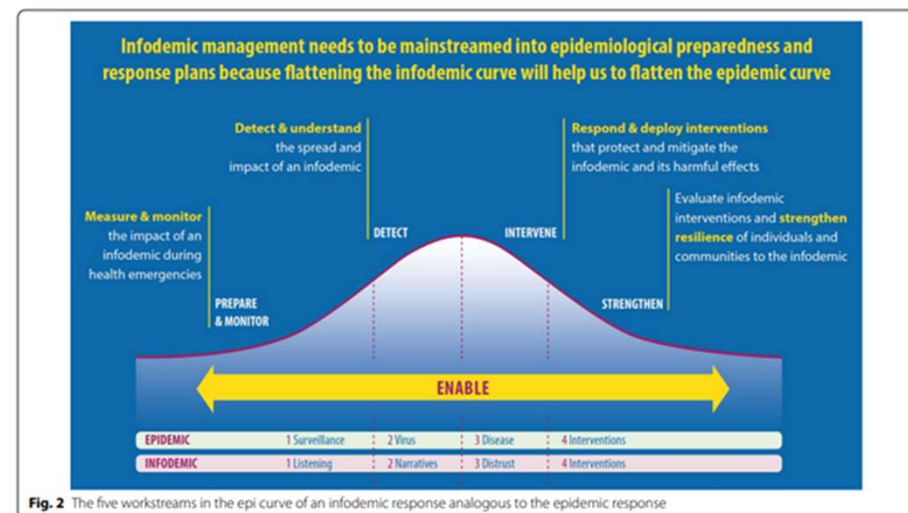


- Scientifically independent national public health institutes can serve an important role **by bridging agendas and unifying diverse actors** (“broker” role)
- National public health institutes should serve as **trusted scientific advisors**.
- A **legal foundation, scientific independence, political will, public trust, partnerships, and funding** can facilitate and ensure success.

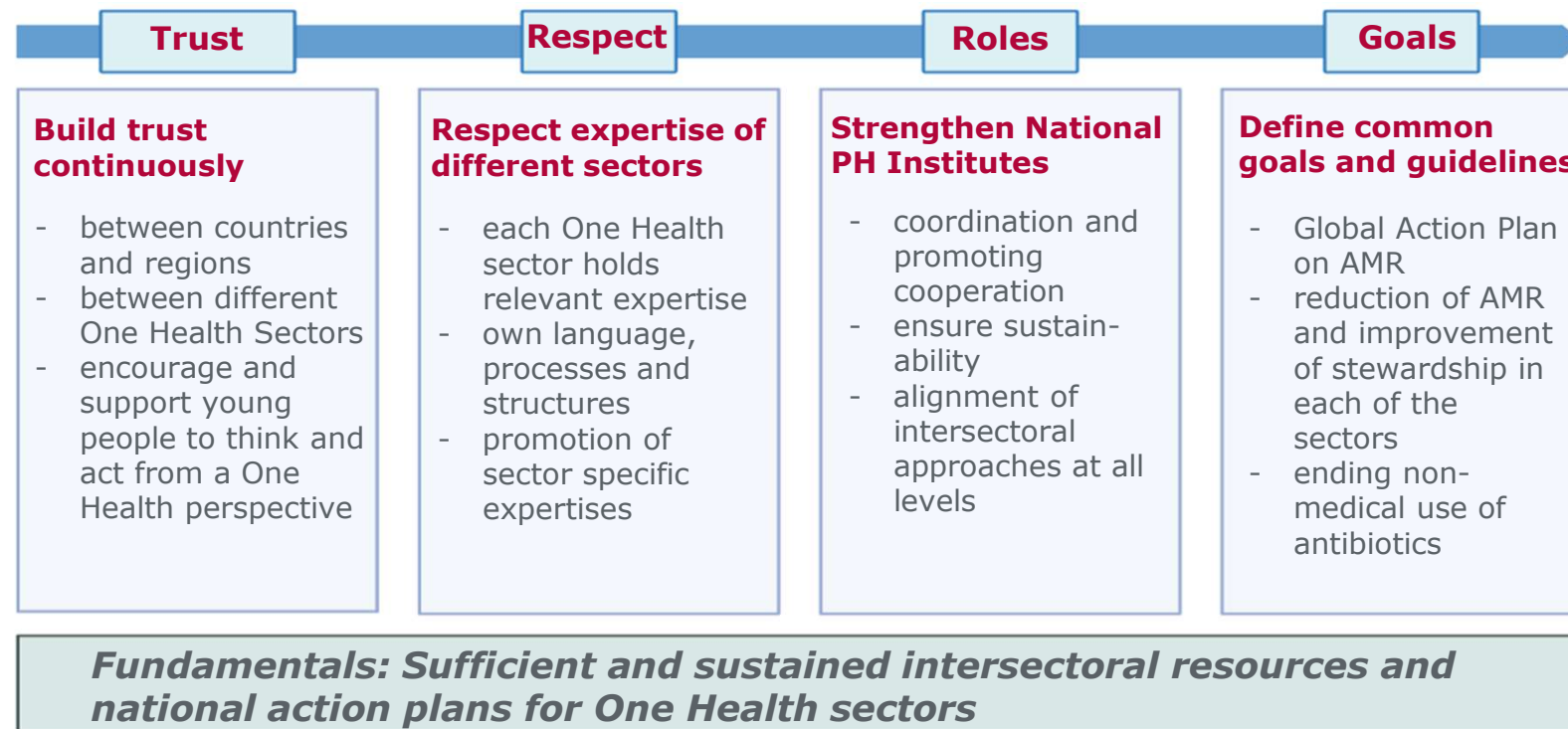


Managing infodemics as a means of reducing AMR

- COVID-19 is the first pandemic in history where various technologies and social media have been at the heart of communications simultaneously amplifying infodemics
- The term "infodemic" refers to the overabundance of information - including misinformation and false information.
- Infodemics i.e. can lead to vaccine hesitancy reducing vaccination uptake for preventable infectious disease
- In September 2021, WHO published a competency framework for infodemic management



Learning from COVID-19: effective collaboration and cooperation among different sectors is relevant to AMR



Take home message

1. AMR is a complex one health problem and as such a public health crisis. The time to act is now. Public health institutes have a crucial role to play.
2. Preventing infections in the first place reduces the use and consumption and ultimately the burden of AMR
3. Surveillance is a baseline strategy that enables prevention and control: there is an urgent need for integrated AMR surveillance that includes all one health sectors
4. Sound data on AMR, antimicrobial use and consumption are needed for evidence-based informed decision making
5. Key ingredients needed to catalyse effective collaboration among different sectors relevant to AMR: trust, respect, clear roles and goals



Thank you
for your attention!

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