

Ideas on antimicrobial resistance (AMR) – highlights from the Call to Action 2018



How can we strengthen national and global action against drug-resistant infections? That question brought more than 300 delegates to the Call to Action event in Ghana in November, from governments, civil society, healthcare, agriculture, environment, academia and the private sector.

Here are the top five ideas that stood out to Wellcome from the event:

- 1. We all learn more from open and inclusive conversations.** This year's event had greater participation from the global south and wider AMR stakeholders. The result was an engaging discussion highlighting the wide-range of actors working to address AMR across all geographies. We need this varied discussion to be replicated by the UN and member states to ensure they are bringing in a diverse range of voices to inform strong global governance on AMR.
- 2. Emotions, not just facts, drive decision-making.** The session on behaviour change made clear that improving understanding and awareness is not enough. If we want to inspire people to act in ways that can reduce AMR, we must rethink our tactics. Creative approaches such as comic books and dance can make a powerful impact.
- 3. Civil society and the private sector are willing and able to do more.** Representatives from both these groups were candid about how they could contribute their wealth of experience to the fight against AMR. We now look to national and global leaders to engage them in the development of policies and strategies.
- 4. Local successes must be identified, celebrated and nurtured.** Pioneering grassroots projects are using innovative approaches to create big impacts on AMR. We need to develop better ways to identify these pioneers and enable the expansion and facilitate the sharing of their methods across borders, linking them to National Action Plans and adding to the global pool of expertise.
- 5. The UN Interagency Coordination Group will push AMR up the global agenda in 2019.** Representatives from the IACG were keen to share their progress, exploring the key challenges and bottlenecks they are looking at, and to seek insights and feedback from others. The publication of their draft report at the beginning of next year will provide further opportunities for everyone working in the field to engage and push AMR up the global agenda.