AFSA
FOOD SAFETY AGENCY OF THE REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN

The One Health Approach: Azerbaijan's Experience with Antimicrobial Resistance

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ONE HEALTH JOINT ACTION PLAN

Action track 1: Enhancing One Health capacities to strengthen health systems

Action track 6: Integrating the Environment into One Health

Action track 2: Reducing the risks from emerging and re-emerging zoonotic epidemics and pandemics

Action track 5: Curbing the silent pandemic of Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR)

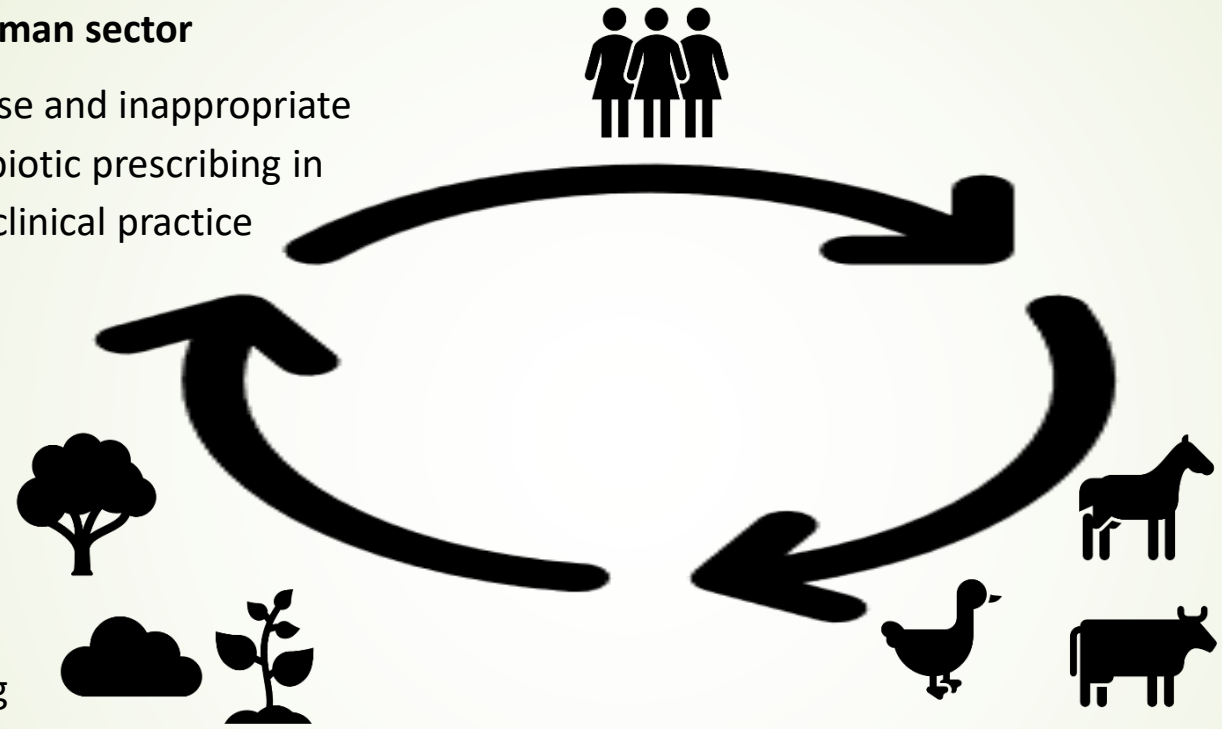
Action track 3: Controlling and eliminating zoonotic, neglected tropical and vector-borne diseases

Action track 4: Strengthening the assessment, management and communication of food safety risks

The One Health Approach to Antimicrobial Resistance

Human sector

Overuse and inappropriate antibiotic prescribing in clinical practice



Animal & Agriculture

Prophylactic use of antibiotics in livestock and farming systems

Environmental Impact

Resistant pathogens spreading through water, soil, and ecosystems

The threat of antimicrobial resistance

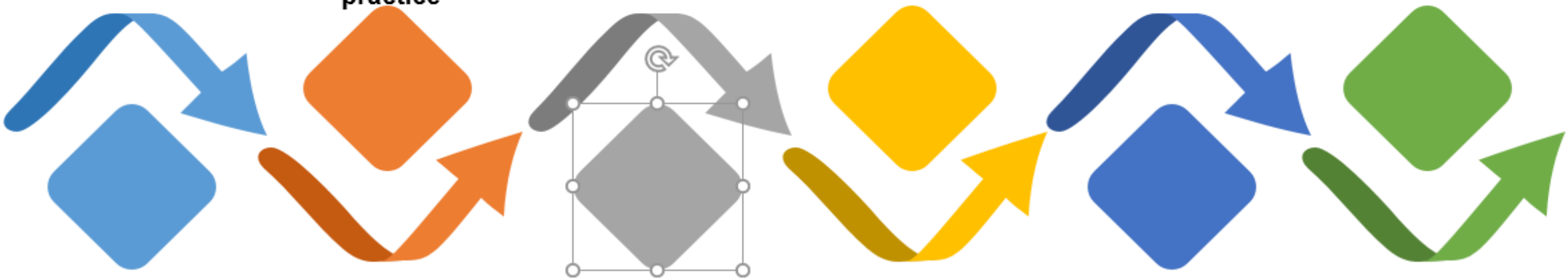
The threat of antimicrobial resistance is high on a global level, the same danger is felt in the Republic of Azerbaijan. Thus, cases such as the weak control over the circulation of antibiotics and the possibility of their sale without a prescription, the lack of systematic measures to ensure that veterinarians treating animal diseases have adequate experience, and the widespread use of antibiotics in the treatment of animals make it necessary to pay special attention to this area.

Main challenges for the National Strategy

systematically conducting scientific research in the biology, ecology and epidemiology of various pathogens and creating a mechanism for applying research results in daily practice

solution of the antimicrobial resistance problems

increasing the country preparedness to the zoonotic pandemics



importance of the building an integrated and multifunctional electronic database and information system to be used for advanced epidemiology and ecology investigation

implementation of unified approach in the context of ``humans - animals – environment`` for the control of zoonosis

increasing the risk based food safety control to the food products in all steps of the food chain

Goals and objectives of the National Strategy: 4th objective is AMR control

- Establishment of an administrative system for the early detection of zoonotic diseases and the creation of flexible administrative system
- Development of legislative framework and implementation procedures for the multisectoral activities of relevant institutions
- Provide the sustainable technical procedure for the preparedness and financial support to the implementation of specialized activities like laboratory diagnostics, preventive and emergency measures, etc. in the country
- Establishing a permanent surveillance system of zoonotic diseases and AMR control, creating a unity platform for information exchange
- Raising the knowledge of the country's population on zoonotic diseases and forming a system of periodically increasing of public awareness

Azerbaijan's National Strategy on Zoonotic Diseases & AMR

Strategic Framework

Azerbaijan has developed a comprehensive National Strategy 2025-2030 grounded in One Health principles. This framework integrates human, animal, and environmental health sectors to create a unified approach to preventing and controlling zoonotic diseases and AMR.

Key Components

- Early detection systems across all sectors
- Crisis management and flexible response protocols
- Cross-sector data integration and coordination
- COP29 and One Health Conference endorsement

Powers of the Food Safety Agency of the Republic of Azerbaijan (AFSA)

- Regulation, coordination and control of antibiotic residues in food products
- State registration of veterinary drugs and control over their use
- Improvement of the material and technical base of laboratories ;
- Conducting research work.

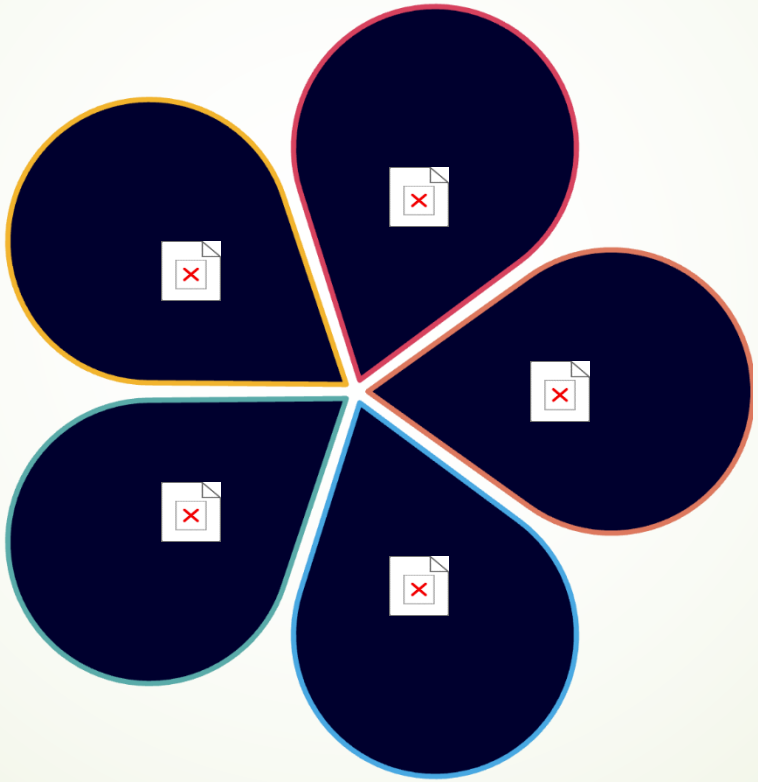
Multisectoral Partnerships Driving Progress

Food Safety Agency

Central coordination hub connecting all sectors

WHO & WOHA&FAO& UNEP

Technical expertise and awareness campaigns



Ministry of Health

Human health surveillance and clinical guidelines

Ministry of Agriculture

Veterinary and livestock AMR monitoring

Environmental Bodies

Environmental contamination and ecosystem health

The legislative framework

- Rules for examination, testing , production, import, storage, transportation, sale , use , state registration and state register of veterinary drugs (Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Azerbaijan for No. 66 dated **April 16, 2007)**
- Sanitary norms and rules for the residual amount of pharmacologically active substances according to the classification of veterinary drugs in food products of animal origin (Decision of the ASBA Board No. 20 dated **12/18/2020)**
- National Action Plan to Combat Antimicrobial Resistance in the Republic of Azerbaijan **(in progress)**

The legislative framework

With WHO support, Azerbaijan has made significant progress in strengthening country health emergency preparedness and implementing the International Health

Regulations (IHR) (2005):

- **In May 2023, the Republic of Azerbaijan conducted its first Joint External Evaluation (JEE).**
- **National Multisectoral IHR Committee was established in March 2025, along with technical groups within each ministry and agency. One of the key responsibilities of this committee and technical groups is the development of key strategic documents, plans, guidelines, and their implementation.**
- **A National Action Plan for Health Security (NAPHS), which also includes a section on antimicrobial resistance, is currently being developed with technical support from WHO.**
- **There are also plans to develop a National Action Plan on AMR, which will be discussed at a WHO-organised roundtable dedicated to WAAW week on 21 November 2025.**

The results of the study were presented at the first national conference on infection prevention and control (IPC), the ONE HEALTH and AMR programs aimed at working together to prevent antimicrobial resistance in Baku, Azerbaijan, on 21–23 November 2023. The conference was attended by representatives from other countries (Georgia, Kazakhstan), as well as WHO headquarters/regional/country offices.

The first WHO-supported point prevalence survey (PPS) to estimate the prevalence and burden of healthcare-associated infections (HAI) and antimicrobial use (AMU) in inpatient departments of Azerbaijan was conducted in 2023.

National Reference Laboratory

- Food Products
- Safety Indicators
- Quality Indicators
- Biological Investigations
- Toxicological Investigations
- Physico-chemical

DAkkS

❖ **Operates as required ISO 17025:2017**

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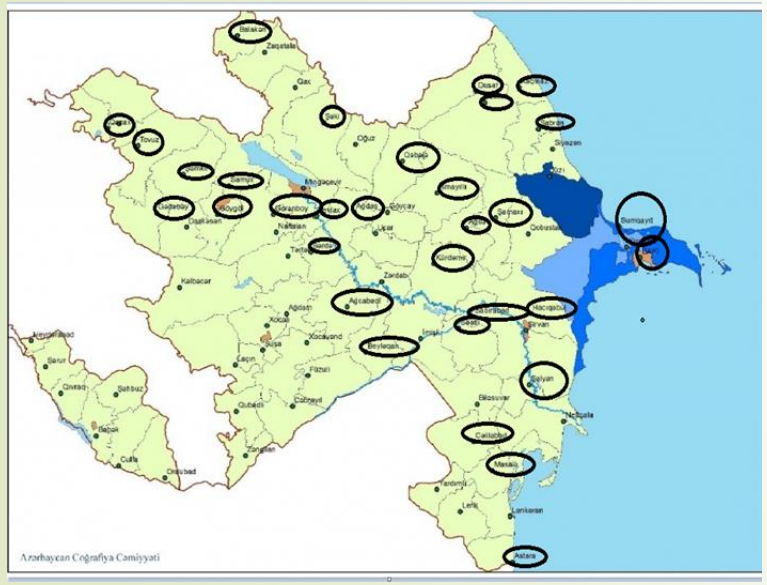
MEDMON Study

In collaboration with the country, WHO conducted a country survey using MedMon methodology on the availability and presence of diagnostic tools, personnel, and procedures for diagnostic of AMR in Azerbaijan in September-October 2024.

KAP (Knowledge, Attitudes and Practice) study on the use of antibiotics among livestock keepers and veterinary pharmacists



- project TCP/AZE/3706 developed and implemented by the local office of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)
- November-December 2021
- 36 (55%) out of 65 districts of the country
- 192 farms and 110 veterinary pharmacies
- Of which 105 (54.7%) household plots, 64 (33.3%) semi-industrial farms, 15 (7.8%) large commercial farms and 8 (4.2%) state farms

Coordinating AMR Surveillance & Response

Current Status & Ongoing Improvements

1. **AMR National Action Plan**

   Framework established with implementation and quality assurance mechanisms in active development

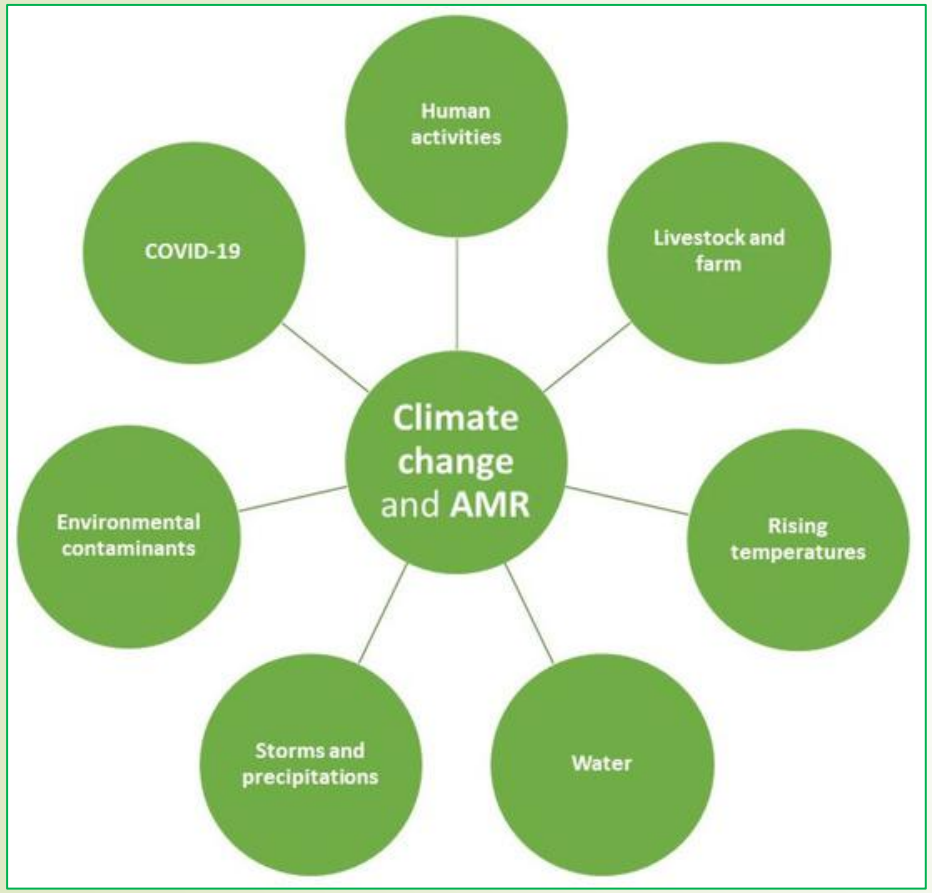
2. **Reference Laboratory Network**

   Laboratories operational; efforts underway to strengthen standardization and quality assessment

3. **International Alignment**

   Surveillance data being aligned with WHO networks and One Health reporting standards

Environmental & Climate Dimensions



Drivers of AMR

Environmental pollution and climate change accelerate infectious disease emergence and AMR spread. Water contamination, soil degradation, and changing ecosystems create conditions where resistant pathogens thrive and transmit more readily.

One Health Solutions

- Pollution management and waste control
- Food and water safety protocols
- Ecosystem health restoration
- Climate-informed health policies

Azerbaijan leverages COP29 platform to advocate for integrated health-environment policies that address AMR as a climate and ecosystem issue.

Building Capacity & Infrastructure

Strengthening Systems for Sustainable Impact

Joint Surveillance Systems

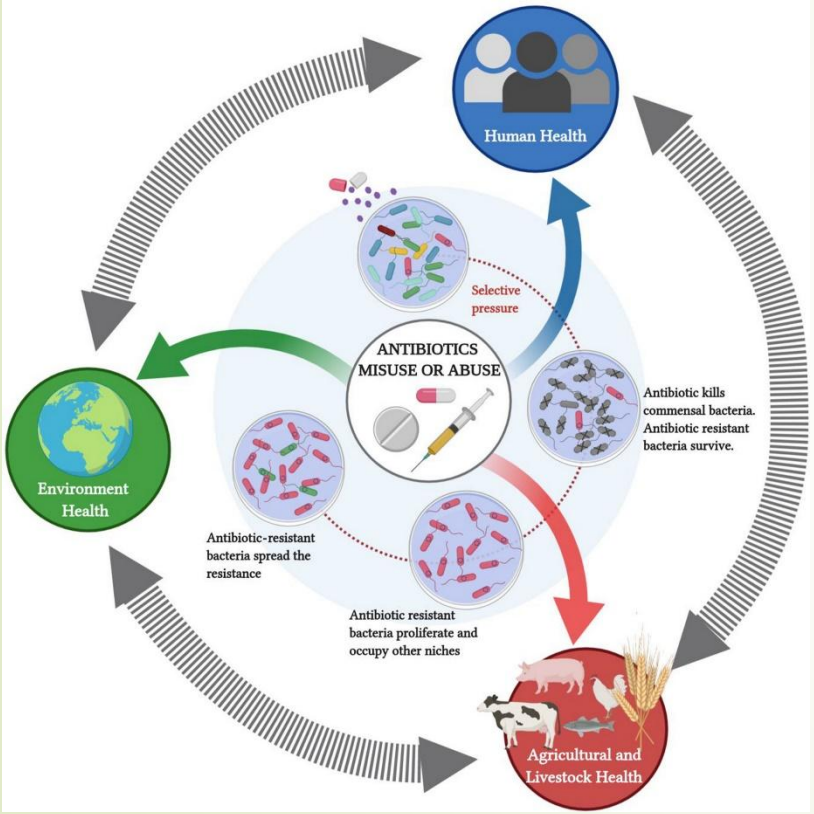
Developing integrated data platforms enabling real-time detection and coordinated response across sectors

Workforce Development

Training programs and knowledge exchange fostering skilled professionals across human, animal, and environmental health

Laboratory Networks

Strengthening diagnostic capabilities and standardized testing to support evidence-based interventions



Challenges & Opportunities Ahead

Operationalization

Implement National AMR Plan with clearly defined roles, adequate funding, and robust monitoring mechanisms

Quality Assurance

Enhance standardization and harmonization of AMR testing, reporting, and data validation across all sectors

Public Awareness

Expand campaigns promoting rational antimicrobial use in both human and animal health settings

Innovation Access

Leverage international partnerships to adopt best practices and cutting-edge solutions for AMR control

A Unified Front Against AMR

Azerbaijan's commitment to One Health principles demonstrates that integrated AMR control is achievable when human, animal, and environmental health sectors work as one.

Sustained Coordination

Maintain multisectoral collaboration through regular engagement and shared accountability

Political Will

Continue leadership commitment and secure resources for long-term implementation

Community Engagement

Empower citizens and stakeholders as active partners in safeguarding health

Shared Vision

Together, we advance resilience for human, animal, and environmental health

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTİON