

DRAFT Collaboration framework 2019-2021

Purpose

To achieve its vision, the Global AMR R&D Hub will need to consult, cooperate and collaborate with different partners globally, including international organisations, existing research and development (R&D) initiatives, industry, researchers, non-governmental organisations and governments. Consultation will both increase antimicrobial resistance (AMR) R&D collaboration globally and help the Global AMR R&D Hub to achieve its vision as outlined in its [terms of reference](#).

Objective

The Collaboration Framework (the Framework) has two objectives, to provide:

1. an outline on how the Global AMR R&D Hub will increase collaboration and improve coordination of AMR R&D globally, and
2. high-level guidance on formal collaboration between the Global AMR R&D Hub and relevant parties for specific projects.

The Framework is made public to ensure relevant stakeholders are aware that the Global AMR R&D Hub is interested in collaboration. The goal of the Framework is to:

- foster a culture of collaboration globally between relevant stakeholders
- improve and guide global coordination of AMR R&D
- foster linkages and relationships between stakeholders and the Global AMR R&D Hub
- leverage and acknowledge the expertise of a variety of stakeholders, and
- link with and build on work already completed or underway rather than duplicate or operate in silos.

The formal collaboration component of the Framework will not outline how the Global AMR R&D Hub will consult and cooperate with relevant stakeholders which will continue to be fluid and conducted on an as needed basis following the guidance provided in the Rules of Procedures. The Framework will also not cover the interactions between the Hub and the Stakeholder Group or Expert Advisory Groups.

All formal collaborations between the Global AMR R&D Hub and external partners will be published on the Global AMR R&D Hub's website to ensure openness and transparency.

Legal and procurement obligations

The Framework or any collaboration or data provision agreement, unless explicitly specified to the contrary in an agreement, do not create and are not intended to create legally binding obligations between the parties.

The Global AMR R&D Hub, which from an administrative point of view is part of the German Centre for Infection Research (DZIF), follows standard rules for public procurement.

Overview

To increase collaboration and improve coordination of AMR R&D globally the Global AMR R&D Hub will work towards:

- increasing information sharing among key stakeholders
- collecting and presenting information about past, present and planned investments
- engaging a broad range of stakeholders to build a consensus on gaps and opportunities in AMR R&D, and
- creating mechanisms to linkage funders, researchers and developers.

In addition to these key areas for collaboration, the Global AMR R&D Hub will need to develop a way to engage and develop meaningful relationships with governments, relevant organisations, initiatives, companies and individuals, regardless of affiliation or size. This will ensure the relevance of the Global AMR R&D Hub, and its activities, into the future.

The objectives of collaborations within each of these areas are outlined below and are based on numerous documents including the Interagency Coordination Group on AMR (IACG) report to the Secretary-General of the United Nations, relevant WHO documents and published articles [1-7]. The mechanism by which these objectives will be achieved will be outlined in an appendix and will be developed via public consultation and work with key stakeholders and the Global AMR R&D Hub's Board of Members. It is anticipated the mechanisms needed to improve collaboration will be a mix of passive and active coordination. Lessons learnt and successful strategies implemented to improve collaboration and coordination in other areas, such as emerging infectious diseases, neglected diseases, tuberculosis, malaria and HIV, should be identified and incorporated where possible throughout.

Increasing information sharing among key stakeholders

Promoting openness and transparency in data from all research, monitoring and surveillance sources is one of the key recommendations from the IACG. Improving information sharing amongst AMR R&D initiatives, researchers, developers, industry and funders will help minimize the likelihood of gaps and duplications both in research and funding and will help support efficient (and well informed) allocation of resources. Effective information sharing will require the identification of the best ways to incentivize and reassure funders, developers, industry and researchers to share information about R&D activities, results, decisions, experiences, best practices, policy and use of resources. Information sharing includes improving access to the findings of completed and ongoing research, both successes and failures, and identification of lessons learnt. Sharing this information in close to real time will enable progress against AMR R&D priorities to be tracked, and for decisions on funding and projects to be informed with the most up-to-date information.

While the dynamic dashboard will fulfill a component of this by providing a platform to inform coordination of global AMR R&D investments and activities, it will be essential for the Global AMR R&D Hub to link to and promote other initiatives that also play an important role in the AMR R&D landscape. This could result in establishing formal information sharing and collaboration agreements with existing R&D platforms, wherever possible, to ensure there is no duplication of effort. Working together to improve the sharing of information and promoting work in the AMR field will foster a culture of collaboration and will promote and enhance interdisciplinary approaches to addressing AMR.

Collecting and presenting information about past, present and planned investments

The Global AMR R&D Hub's Dynamic Dashboard will capture, close-to-real-time information on AMR R&D investments and activities across all One Health sectors. The Dynamic Dashboard and the resulting analysis will support priority setting and decision making and lead to more efficient use of international resources through the identification of gaps, overlaps and potential for cross-sectoral collaboration. The global mapping of R&D activities, which will be captured in the Dynamic Dashboard, will also be used to assess whether or not the AMR R&D activities align with established priorities. The information collected will not just be limited to R&D efforts for new antimicrobials for human infections, but will span all One Health sectors and capture other R&D such as diagnostics, vaccines, waste management tools, alternatives to antimicrobials, and implementation and operational research.

Success of the Dynamic Dashboard will rely on establishing effective networks and supporting AMR R&D initiatives, researchers, developers, industry, funders and countries to contribute information in the easiest possible way and that they benefit from the information collected and presented. The process of seeking support and then facilitating and obtaining information for the Dynamic Dashboard must be collaborative and will hopefully build a sense of ownership by stakeholders of the information presented.

Engaging a broad range of stakeholders to build a consensus on gaps and opportunities in AMR R&D

When identifying and prioritising gaps and opportunities in AMR R&D activities a transparent, inclusive and collaborative process, engaging a broad range of stakeholders, will be essential to help build consensus and encourage ownership. This process must:

- engage countries, especially low- and middle-income countries, to ensure that priorities respond to country needs, barriers and opportunities for innovation
- bring together work already completed and underway to reduce duplication of effort
- consider both global and regional needs, and
- take a One Health approach to prevent fragmentation of resources and maximise investments that may have cross-disease and cross-sectoral benefits.

This process, both how it will be done initially and how it will be regularly reviewed, will form a large component on how the Global AMR R&D Hub will increase collaboration and improve coordination of AMR R&D globally.

Creating mechanisms to link funders, researchers and developers.

The Global AMR R&D Hub will aim to create mechanisms to facilitate partnerships or networks between funders, researchers and/or developers. Promoting synergies and providing opportunities for collaboration amongst funders and researchers and developers, may help to progress promising projects that address the priorities set and may also encourage new funders to enter the AMR R&D space.

Overview

One of the key objectives for the Global AMR R&D Hub is to foster international research collaboration globally. In addition, the importance of building on existing global initiatives and recommendations, to avoid duplication of existing efforts, is highlighted as a key parameter for the work of the Hub. More formal collaboration with some stakeholders has been requested for specific areas which will outline interactions, recognise and acknowledge the value and contribution of all collaborators.

The Framework provides information on where the Global AMR R&D Hub may need formal collaboration to achieve specific objectives (focus areas see Figure 1) and outlines the principles by which any formal collaborations will be guided. When required, individual collaboration agreements for specific projects and data provision agreements with identified parties will sit under this Framework. Individual collaboration agreements may also be used to formalise cooperation with existing funding and implementing initiatives to ensure the work of the Global AMR R&D Hub builds on and complements existing efforts, rather than duplicating.

Any collaboration must be guided by a shared vision and purpose that builds trusts and will benefit all parties. If well established, this common understanding will lead to improved coordination of policies, programs, data sharing and research.

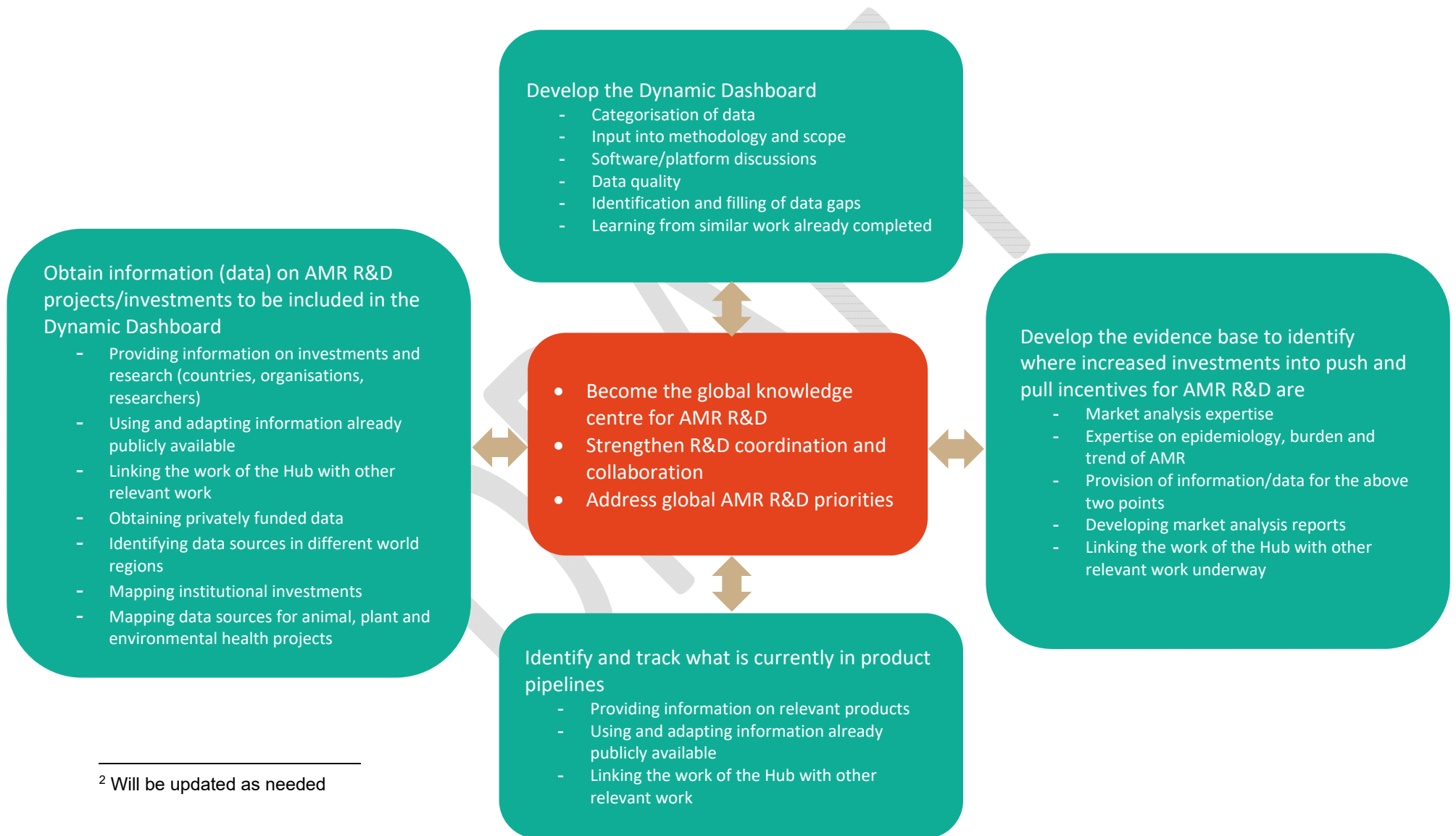
Principles for formal collaboration¹

Any collaboration with the Global AMR R&D Hub will be guided by the following principles:

1. All parties must share a common vision and an understanding of the scope of the work proposed, and for all joint work it is important that this vision is developed, documented and shared. A collective vision will help focus attention on what is important and will help minimize the impact of conflicting pressures and priorities.
2. Parties must demonstrate a willingness to make the collaboration succeed while respecting each party's independence and being sensitive to obligations placed upon each party by preexistent policy, legislative and administrative frameworks.
3. Collaboration arrangements must be collegial and sufficiently flexible to encourage participation regardless of affiliation or size.
4. Governance arrangements must be explicit, open, transparent and sustainable and include a clear definition of accountabilities, roles and responsibilities. This will support a clear understanding of the relationship between the collaborating parties (and other relevant stakeholders if required). Governance mechanisms must also be kept to the minimum needed to achieve the desired objectives so not to overwhelm the collaboration.
5. An analysis of all costs and benefits must underpin the initial decision to enter into and sustain the ongoing case for a collaboration agreement.
6. A collaboration agreement will be developed and signed by appropriate agents for each participant for specific projects.

¹ These principles are adapted from the Australian National Collaboration Framework 8

Figure 1 - Current focus areas for collaboration with the Global AMR R&D Hub²



² Will be updated as needed

Bibliography

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