

EMPOWERED COMMUNITIES

TO TACKLE ANTIMICROBIAL RESISTANCE IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

SOUTH CENTRE

ReAct LATINOAMÉRICA

EMPOWERED COMMUNITIES TO TACKLE ANTIMICROBIAL RESISTANCE

Overview of the Initiative

In the context of the Empowered Communities to tackle Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) Initiative, being “empowered” means

“promoting participation, knowledge exchange, collective will, and creativity in decision-making and actions taken to counter AMR, adopting strategies that combine community values and wisdom with scientific evidence and innovation, under the One Health approach.”

Antimicrobial resistance (AMR) is a serious problem that affects human, animal, and environmental health, and is a threat to the health gains made in recent decades. However, stopping AMR cannot be solely the responsibility of health professionals and scientists: it must be a shared task involving all of society. We therefore invite you to join the **Empowered Communities to tackle AMR Initiative**, which aims to involve communities in the response to AMR.





Who we are

A developing network that unites people from Latin America and the Caribbean, including organized communities, universities, governments, and international organizations supported by PAHO, ReAct Latin America, and South Centre.



What we want to achieve:

OUR VISION

To make Latin America and the Caribbean a region where communities are at the heart of the design, implementation, and evaluation of actions and public policies to tackle AMR, with a One Health approach.

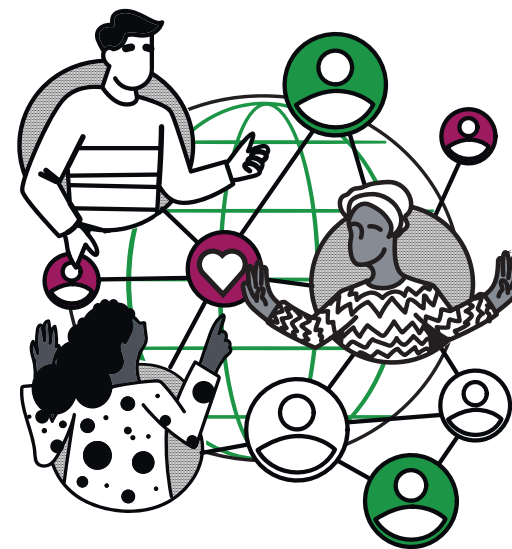


How we are going to accomplish this:

OUR MISSION

To promote the participation and empowerment of organized communities in the development of agreed strategies at the local level that are in line with the national action plan on AMR, from a One Health perspective.

Strategies and objectives



Strategy

1. Create innovative spaces that facilitate open dialogue and multisectoral exchange between organized communities, civil society organizations, governments, and international agencies, where community knowledge converges with scientific evidence to mitigate AMR, with a One Health approach.
2. Advocate with government agencies to facilitate the inclusion of organized communities in the design, implementation, and evaluation of actions and public policies on AMR, with a One Health approach.

3. Facilitate the organization of an autonomous network of empowered communities with participation in strategic decision-making on AMR at the local, regional, and national levels.

4. Raise awareness through arts, sports, education, and innovative approaches. Identify, document and disseminate good practices and examples of community-level interventions.

5. "Let's make history by telling our stories"

Hold the biennial call for stories from the community on infections, infection prevention and control, and appropriate use of antimicrobials. Select, publish and disseminate best stories.

Objectives

- Strengthen effective community participation in local AMR action plans, considering the contributions, needs, and proposals of empowered communities.
- Foster the power of organized communities to make informed and responsible decisions on the use of antimicrobials and their impact on human, animal, and environmental health.

- Promote dialogue and cooperation between community networks, academic sectors, artistic collectives, government agencies, and international organizations, for the exchange of knowledge, initiatives, practices, and other actions to combat AMR.
- Amplify voices so that communities can influence public policies at the local, regional, and national levels.

- Promote the exchange of AMR-related best practices and lessons learned in other communities.

- Facilitate community access to information, knowledge, and tools related to AMR and the One Health approach.
- Support the systematization and dissemination of good practices and lessons learned through the Initiative.

- Harness the power of community storytelling, both fiction and non-fiction, to spotlight the dangers of AMR and inspire collective action to mitigate AMR towards effective countermeasures.

"The community, civil society, and every individual are essential to identify the factors and behaviors that lead to antimicrobial resistance (AMR), as well as to define and implement actions to contain it. Their voices and mobilization, stemming from their concern over the impact of AMR on the health of people, animals, plants, and the environment, are the drivers of the political commitment of leaders. Collective action, including that of communities across the Americas, is what will preserve the future of antimicrobials."

Dr. Pilar Ramon-Pardo, Chief, AMR Special Program, Pan American Health Organization.

