

ISSUE 1

AMR READINESS AND RESPONSE

JAN 2026

WELCOME TO OUR
**Bi-Monthly
Newsletter**



In this newsletter:

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- Turning Lab Data into Action



Introducing our Newsletter!

Welcome to 'AMR Readiness and Response', a space dedicated to sharing the progress, partnerships and innovations shaping antimicrobial resistance (AMR) surveillance across the Caribbean.

From laboratory upgrades and new diagnostic systems to specialised training and regional collaboration, this newsletter reflects the collective effort behind building stronger and more resilient health systems.

With support from the UK Fleming Fund, countries are expanding diagnostic capacity and strengthening data that guides clinical and public health action. As we begin a new year, we look forward to deepening this work and celebrating the people, tools and stories driving continued progress.

Happy New Year — and enjoy!

PAHO AMR TEAM

This newsletter brings together stories and updates from Fleming Fund – supported projects working to build stronger, more resilient AMR surveillance systems across the Caribbean.



Looking Ahead: Carrying 2025's Spirit Into the New Year

As 2026 begins, the Caribbean is stepping forward with confidence, connection, and pride. Last year's achievements – new diagnostic tools, stronger laboratory networks, and a real sense of community – have laid a powerful foundation. The year ahead is about bringing these gains to life: using new capacities every day, sharing knowledge across islands, and producing the data that strengthens care for everyone. The region is ready to ride the next wave together.

Strengthening Caribbean Diagnostics: Frontline Voices on Fleming Fund Impact

Across the Caribbean, Fleming Fund support is making a real difference for the teams working every day to keep communities safe. In St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Haze John shared how the new BAC-T Alert and Vitek 2 systems are transforming care – providing faster, more accurate results so clinicians can treat patients sooner and more effectively.

In Dominica, Eric highlighted how new tools, reagents, and mentorship have

boosted the laboratory's ability to detect resistance and guide smarter antibiotic use.

Both teams say the improvements have strengthened confidence, improved daily workflows, and helped them act earlier to protect patients and support national AMR efforts.

[Read more →](#)



Equipment Delivery Update

Across the Caribbean, laboratories are stepping up their fight against drug-resistant infections. With support from the UK Fleming Fund, nine countries are now upgrading their diagnostic capacity in a major regional push.

Seventeen national labs are receiving powerful new tools like VITEK 2, BACT/ALERT, MALDI-TOF



and the IR Biotype – technology that delivers faster, clearer answers when patients need them most. Together, these upgrades will help clinicians make better decisions, strengthen AMR surveillance and keep communities safer from “superbug” threats across the region.

Spotlight on Jamaica

Meet our colleagues at Jamaica’s National Laboratory Services, Rudaine Francis and Christine Ehikhamenor, who support clinicians by identifying drug-resistant infections. Until recently, much of this work relied on manual testing, slowing diagnosis and limiting what the lab could confirm.

With support from the UK Fleming Fund, their team is preparing for key upgrades, including the MALDI Biotype and a workflow combining rapid phenotypic testing with genomic tools. These improvements will speed diagnostics, strengthen surveillance and support better treatment decisions.

As Jamaica advances toward a stronger national AMR framework, we congratulate Rudaine and Christine for their dedication to improving patient care and AMR surveillance across the Caribbean.

[Read more →](#)



Turning Lab Data into Action for the Caribbean

PAHO is partnering with Caribbean countries to collect essential hospital and laboratory data on antimicrobial resistance (AMR). This includes isolate-level results reported through WHONET and admission data that show how often resistant infections occur. Once analyzed in PAHO's AMR Platform, the information will help countries track dangerous pathogens, measure progress and guide national action plans.

Strong data also supports global goals calling for fair access to effective antibiotics. By sharing reliable evidence, Caribbean teams can protect patients and respond faster to emerging superbug threats. Together, we're building a clearer picture of AMR, and a stronger regional response!

[Read more →](#)

Making AMR Data Work Better for Everyone

The SEDRI-LIMS initiative is creating a free, open system that helps laboratories manage and share AMR data with ease. Tested in Argentina and now expanding to Suriname through the Fleming Fund, it will boost diagnosis and surveillance by giving labs faster access to reliable results.

[Read more →](#)

Training in the Caribbean

From fungi to fierce Gram-negative bacteria, PAHO's AMR webinars are helping lab teams sharpen diagnostics, improve surveillance and tackle multidrug resistance.

Join sessions on fungal testing, outbreak control, emerging mycoses and new data on cefiderocol – building stronger labs, one webinar at a time! [Read more →](#)