



Gender and Equity in AMR

Key achievements from the GEAR up consortium



What do we do?

Gender and Equity within Antimicrobial Resistance (GEAR up) is funded by a regional grant from the Fleming Fund. GEAR up seeks to catalyse action on gender and equity within work on Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) by supporting Fleming Fund country grantees to mainstream gender and equity within routine AMR surveillance systems and structures. We aim to increase awareness and action on the structural inequities driving and shaping the AMR response.

Left: Minister of Health Uganda, Hon. Jane Aceng

GEAR up is a consortium of partners:
BRAC James P Grant School of Public Health (Bangladesh), University of Health and Allied Sciences (Ghana), LVCT Health (Kenya), HERD international (Nepal), Centre for Sexual Health and HIV/AIDS Research (Zimbabwe), Pamoja Communications Ltd (UK). It is led by the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine (UK).

Key achievements:

1 Policy impact

GEAR up successfully mainstreamed gender and equity through Uganda's Second National Action Plan (NAP) on AMR 2024/25-2028/29, and Bangladesh's revised National AMR surveillance strategy 2025-2030. Ongoing work to mainstream gender and equity through revised NAPs is happening in Kenya, Ghana, Nepal and Zimbabwe.

2 Surveillance

In Ghana, Lao PDR, Tanzania and Uganda we worked together with country grantees to identify patterns of inequity warranting further exploration. We subsequently developed an informative webinar and 'how to guide' for countries to take forward their own equity analyses.



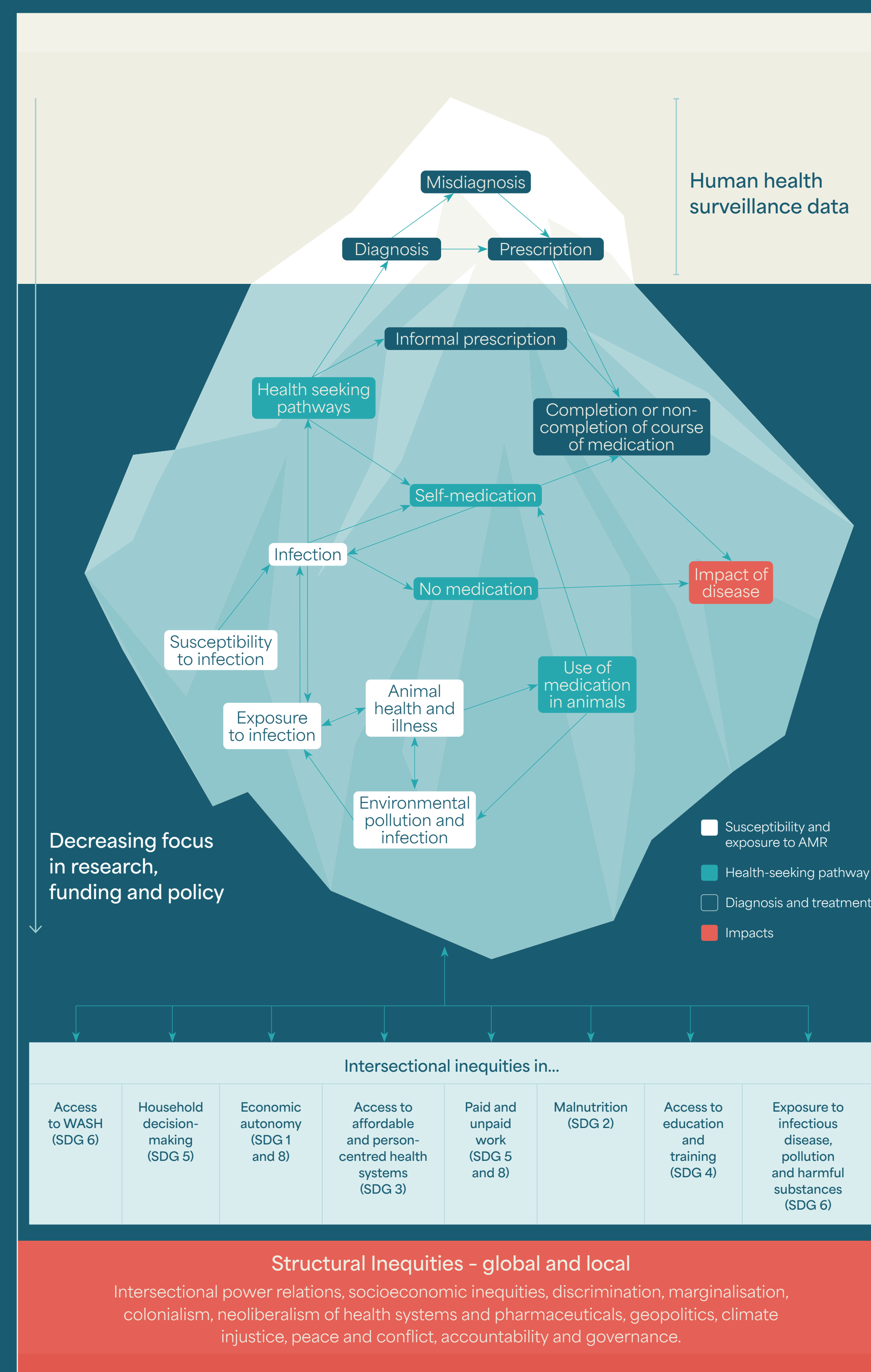
The Ghana team meeting with the Sierra Leone WHO Country Grantee to discuss equity in surveillance



Gender and equity workshop with FHI360 country grantee Nepal



Presenting results at the 70th Anniversary Celebration of the Lao PDR Women's Union



3 Research

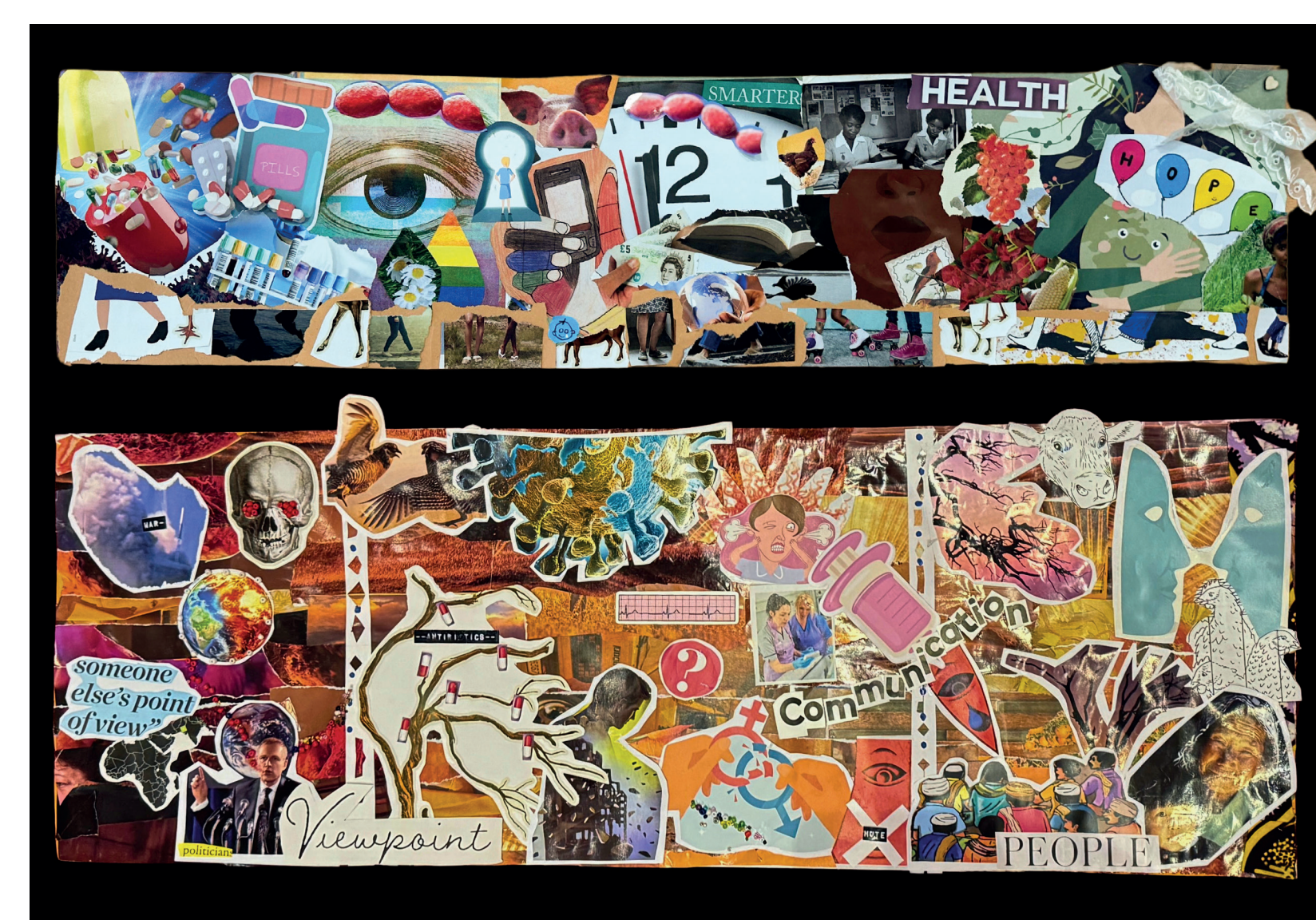
GEAR up completed a global review of the literature using a critical interpretive synthesis methodology to bring together broad and disparate evidence on the social and structural inequities that drive AMR. We presented a novel conceptual framework highlighting gaps within existing surveillance systems that are critical to address to advance equity.

We completed 170 interviews with national policy-makers, AMR experts and community antibiotic dispensers and users across Bangladesh, Ghana, Indonesia, Kenya, Nepal and Zimbabwe. These revealed that policy-makers are often unaware of gender and equity considerations and that NAPs have had limited input from gender and equity experts. In Nepal, policy-makers noted that surveillance data is not linked to hospital records limiting ability to conduct equity analysis.

Unique occupational risks within communities were also reported. In Bangladesh, a study conducted in partnership with DAI showed garment workers were at risk of Urinary Tract Infections (infections with high potential for resistance) because they were granted limited bathroom breaks. In Zimbabwe, sex workers at risk of drug-resistant gonorrhoea will be included in surveillance led by GEAR up together with WHO Zimbabwe, Food and Agricultural Organization Zimbabwe and the Ministry of Health and Child Care to understand levels of resistance among this vulnerable group.

4 Creative communications

GEAR up was a finalist for the ReAct Africa Art Prize for our collage work 'Picturing gender, equity and AMR in collage'. This explored themes of health, illness, antibiotic use, gender, communication, and the interconnectedness of people and health systems. The collages invite a deeper reflection on how we see, speak, and respond to health, gender and equity in complex, integrated social systems.



In Nepal, the team have developed an inspiring video to highlight the human impact of AMR and in Ghana, the team held a media briefing aiming to enhance media understanding of AMR.

5 Global Community of Practice

Gear up has led webinars on diverse topics, produced tools and resources and supported South-South exchange and learning through our global website and communities of practice. We have also written five journal articles. **Join our community of practice here:**



Call to action:

Action on gender and equity in AMR policy-making and practice should include:



An intentional focus on communities and vulnerable groups



Engagement of the social sciences and equity experts to support mainstreaming



Funding for cross-sectoral action to address structural and social inequities



READ MORE:
TOOLKIT - Intersectional indicators in surveillance of antimicrobial resistance and use. <https://gearupaction.org/tools-and-resources/intersectional-indicators-in-surveillance-of-antimicrobial-resistance-and-use/>
GUIDANCE - Gender, equity and antimicrobial use: Guidance on analysing bacteriology laboratory and antimicrobial use data. <https://gearupaction.org/tools-resources/>
NATURE PAPER - Antimicrobial resistance, equity and justice in low- and middle-income countries: an intersectional critical interpretive synthesis. <https://gearupaction.org/tools-resources/>
LANCET COMMENT - Integrating gender and equity commitments in the revised global action plan on antimicrobial resistance. <https://gearupaction.org/tools-and-resources/integrating-gender-and-equity-commitments-in-the-revised-global-action-plan-on-antimicrobial-resistance/>
WEBINAR - How gender-responsive approaches can help strengthen AMR solutions in animal health. <https://gearupaction.org/tools-and-resources/webinar-whats-gender-got-to-do-with-it/>
You can read more on our Resources pages <https://gearupaction.org/tools-resources/>

The Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC)'s Fleming Fund is a UK aid programme supporting up to 25 countries across Africa and Asia to tackle antimicrobial resistance (AMR), a leading contributor to deaths from infectious diseases worldwide. GEAR UP is funded by the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC)'s Fleming Fund using UK aid. The views expressed in this publication are those of the authors and not necessarily those of the UK DHSC or its Management Agent, Mott MacDonald.