

# GARPNet News

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## Bangladesh and Pakistan join the GARP Network

Bangladesh and Pakistan officially joined the GARP network at an inaugural meeting hosted by GARP-Nepal in Kathmandu, July 14 and 15. The two-day workshop was opened by



*The Honorable Minister of Health of Nepal, Mr. Ram Janam Chaudhari, opens the meeting*

Nepal's Minister of Health, Mr. Ram Janam Chaudhari, alongside Dr. Pushpa Chaudhary, Director General, Department of Health Services; Dr. Buddha Basnyat, Chair, GARP-Nepal; Dr. Mahesh K. Maskey, Chairman, Nepal Public Health Foundation; and Professor Ramanan Laxminarayan, Director, CDDEP.

The afternoon featured a session on learning from the GARP experience, including informative talks by GARP-Nepal and



*Komal Fizza, Division of Pharmacy, Shifa International Hospital, Islamabad, Pakistan, shares her perspective during the meeting*

GARP-Vietnam representatives, and a session introducing the new members and learning about the status of their national antibiotic resistance control efforts and related topics. Major General Md. Mustafizur Rahman, Director General, Directorate General of Drug Administration, Dhaka, Bangladesh, introduced GARP-Bangladesh, while Dr. Ejaz Khan, Infectious Diseases Consultant, Shifa International Hospital, spoke about the national action plan that has been drafted in Pakistan.

Day two put the new GARP members to work planning their working group structures and discussing the work needed to complete situation analyses, national action plans and implementation plans. Dr. Md. Mostafa Musa, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Bangladesh, discussed the national plan that is being developed in Bangladesh, and Dr. Sadia Shakoor, Assistant Professor, Aga Khan University, gave an overview of current resistance patterns in Pakistani hospitals.

During the working session, the groups sat with members of GARP-Nepal and GARP-Vietnam and discussed how to best operationalize GARP given the current status of AMR policy development. During the report back to the main group, both countries presented strong plans to move the GARP agenda forward on their return home. Both groups are tentatively planning their first major meetings in their home countries in November, at which time significant progress is expected.

## GARP well represented at Wilton Park roundtable

Global leaders in antimicrobial resistance (AMR) policy and country-level progress in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs) gathered at Wilton Park, the U.K. Foreign Office's historic conference venue, to discuss progress in developing National AMR Action Plans. CDDEP Director Ramanan Laxminarayan set the stage for the 3-day roundtable meeting (29 June to 1 July), refocusing attention on access to effective antibiotics—the flip side of antibiotic resistance.

The force behind the meeting was Dame Sally Davies, England's Chief Medical Officer, who is responsible for raising the profile of AMR to the highest global levels, including the upcoming U.N. General Assembly session (see “Preparing for the United Nations General Assembly” in this issue of GARP-Net News).

Hellen Gelband, CDDEP Associate Director for Policy, spoke about the success of GARP in spurring countries to begin development of action plans even before the World Health Assembly resolution calling for them, in May 2015. Of note is that six GARP countries were represented at the meeting. Kenya, Tanzania, India, South Africa, Mozambique and Vietnam are GARP success stories among relatively few other LMICs that have made as much progress.

Evelyn Wesangula, GARP coordinator and AMR focal point in the Ministry of Health in Kenya, updated the group on their progress and the challenges they face in implementing their plan. Jane Lwoyero, Senior Veterinary Officer and the AMR focal point in the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, and Fisheries, provided perspective from the veterinary viewpoint.

The meeting provided the opportunity for many small group discussions, particularly to share experiences on the most challenging aspects of developing and implementing plans, including the ever-present theme of a lack of financial and human resources, and the difficulty of changing behavior. In every instance, success stories as well as a lack of progress were reported. Lessons both for and from GARP were learned.

The meeting started and finished in the One Health mode. The “tripartite collaboration” of the World Health Organization (WHO), the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) reported on their progress in a number of countries and their commitment to continue providing technical and material support to an expanded set of countries.



*Ambassador Camacho (screen) welcomes civil society panelists to the meeting*

## Preparing for the United Nations General Assembly high-level meeting on antimicrobial resistance

This September, the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) will feature a high-level meeting with heads of state from around the world to discuss antibiotic resistance. This is only the third health issue ever to be discussed at this level at the UNGA – following HIV/AIDS in 2001 and non-communicable diseases in 2011.

CDDEP was invited by Ambassador Gomez Camacho, Permanent Representative to the U.N. from Mexico, to speak to the U.N. Member States as a part of a civil society panel on June 29. Research Associate Molly Miller-Petrie joined speakers from Consumer Reports, the Wellcome Trust, The Pew Memorial Trusts, ReAct, the Infectious Diseases Society of America, Earthjustice and Doctors without Borders in providing an overview of the actions the U.N. should take on AMR, and answering questions from Member State representatives. Following this meeting, CDDEP was invited to address the Group of 77 Member States plus China, a group of 134 low- and middle-income countries within the U.N., to provide potential solutions geared towards low-resource settings.

A *Lancet* commentary authored by Ramanan Laxminarayan and colleagues was released on July 15 (see publications), outlining a path forward from the UNGA that could lead to suc-

cessful AMR control. The primary desired outcome is the establishment of a coordinating mechanism for AMR that would raise global awareness, monitor and report on set targets for AMR control, and ensure adequate financing for the establishment and implementation of national action plans, in addition to awareness raising and monitoring.

GARP working groups have been actively supporting CDDEP's efforts to gather momentum and backing for the U.N. General Assembly resolution by sending letters to their permanent representatives. Keep an eye on the CDDEP website for more information as we count down to the meeting.



Image courtesy of sanjitbakshi (CC BY-SA 2.0)

## New Publications and Media

Laxminarayan R., et al. 2016. UN High-Level Meeting on antimicrobials—what do we need? *Lancet* 388(10041): 218-20. [http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736\(16\)31079-0/fulltext](http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736(16)31079-0/fulltext)

Gandra S., Merchant A., and Laxminarayan R. 2016. A role for private sector laboratories in public health surveillance of antimicrobial resistance. *Future Microbiology* 11:709-12. [http://cddep.org/publications/role\\_private\\_sector\\_laboratories\\_public\\_health\\_surveillance\\_antimicrobial\\_resistance#sthash.Xa2CdPhx.dpuf](http://cddep.org/publications/role_private_sector_laboratories_public_health_surveillance_antimicrobial_resistance#sthash.Xa2CdPhx.dpuf)

## Country Highlights

### GARP-Kenya

GARP-Kenya is getting an increasing number of press requests for interviews following AMR media training in June, and developing a roster of interviewees and writers to respond. Professor Sam Kariuki, GARP-Kenya chair, has been interviewed many times, including this July news clip: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tH5vFTYcyYE>

### GARP-Mozambique

GARP-Mozambique held its second national action plan workshop the week of June 16. Participants included members of the Ministries of Agriculture, Fisheries and Health; representatives from medicines regulation, procurement and inspection; academics, clinicians and pharmacists from the public and private sector. Stakeholders offered their views on AMR priorities and reflected on the role of their institutions. Areas of duplication and with the potential for future collaboration were identified. The stakeholders also discussed what inputs they would like to see in the final national action plan, which is currently in draft form. CDDEP consultant Dr. Kim Faure, from South Africa, has been guiding the Mozambique team through the development process.

### GARP-Nepal

A major Nepali media outlet released a feature story on antibiotic resistance in Nepal and around the world the week of July 4. The article was informed by two GARP-working group members, Chair Professor Buddha Basnyat and Principal Investigator Sameer Dixit, who were interviewed for the story.

<https://himalkhabar.atavist.com/post-antibiotic-era>

## GARP Activities on the CDDEP Blog

United Nations prepares to tackle antibiotic resistance (July 26) [http://cddep.org/blog/posts/united\\_nations\\_prepares\\_tackle\\_antibiotic\\_resistance#sthash.WsjJ5ZnQ.dpuf](http://cddep.org/blog/posts/united_nations_prepares_tackle_antibiotic_resistance#sthash.WsjJ5ZnQ.dpuf)

Bacterial co-infection and the flu – just how common is it? (June 20) [http://cddep.org/blog/posts/bacterial\\_co\\_infection\\_and\\_flu\\_%E2%80%93\\_just\\_how\\_common\\_it#sthash.5TTzuwll.dpuf](http://cddep.org/blog/posts/bacterial_co_infection_and_flu_%E2%80%93_just_how_common_it#sthash.5TTzuwll.dpuf)

Living with Resistance: Using a Social-Ecological Systems Framework for Governance of Resistance Evolution (May 20) [http://cddep.org/blog/posts/living\\_resistance\\_using\\_social\\_ecological\\_systems\\_framework\\_governance\\_resistance#sthash.XDSj8VwC.dpuf](http://cddep.org/blog/posts/living_resistance_using_social_ecological_systems_framework_governance_resistance#sthash.XDSj8VwC.dpuf)

# GARP Network

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