

## Rwanda's 2025-2029 National Action Plan on Antimicrobial Resistance enters into force

**Kigali, 12 May 2025** - Rwanda's Second National Action Plan on Antimicrobial Resistance (NAP-AMR 2025-2029) has officially entered into force, following its formal endorsement and signature by key line ministries and public institutions. Originally launched in December 2024 during the National World Antimicrobial Awareness Week (WAAW), the plan sets the tone for intensified, coordinated action in the fight against antimicrobial resistance (AMR).

Ministers of Health, Agriculture, and environment have formally endorsed the plan—marking a major milestone in Rwanda's sustained commitment to tackling AMR through a multisectoral approach. This endorsement signals the start of full-scale implementation and enforcement across all relevant sectors.

Prof. Claude M. Muvunyi, Director General of the Rwanda Biomedical Centre (RBC), stated: *"This marks another important step in our journey to safeguard the effectiveness of life-saving medicines for future generations. With a coordinated national effort, we are now better positioned to deliver on the commitments outlined in this action plan."*

Antimicrobial resistance (AMR) is a growing global health threat that undermines the effectiveness of antibiotics, antivirals, antifungals, and antiparasitics—placing human, animal, and environmental health at risk. Left unchecked, AMR could reverse decades of medical progress, jeopardize food security, and strain health systems.

Building on the achievements of the first plan (2020-2024), the 2025-2029 NAP-AMR reaffirms Rwanda's commitment to addressing AMR through a One Health approach—integrating efforts across human health, animal health, agriculture, and the environment. The plan aligns with national development goals and international commitments, including Sustainable Development Goal 3 (Good Health and Wellbeing) and Rwanda's Vision 2050.

The development of NAP 2.0 was led by RBC in collaboration with key national stakeholders and technical institutions. It benefited from the support of international partners including the World Health Organization (WHO), Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), ReAct Africa, Partners In Health (PIH), Jhpiego, and the Clinton Health Access Initiative (CHAI). The action plan reflects broad consensus achieved through multisectoral technical working groups involving representatives from government agencies, NGOs, academia, civil society, and development partners.

## Strategic focus areas

The 2025-2029 NAP is built around six strategic objectives designed to reduce the burden of AMR and preserve the effectiveness of antimicrobial medicines:

- **Raise awareness and understanding** of AMR among healthcare professionals, policymakers, and the public.
- **Strengthen AMR and antimicrobial use (AMU)** surveillance across human, animal, and environmental sectors.
- **Reduce infection rates** through improved sanitation, hygiene, and infection prevention and control (IPC) practices.
- **Promote responsible antimicrobial use** in healthcare, veterinary, and agricultural settings.
- **Mobilize sustainable investments** in AMR innovations, including diagnostics, vaccines, and new medicines.
- **Enhance governance and accountability** to coordinate AMR responses and enforce policies across all sectors.

Strategic interventions were prioritized using the Smart Choice Process, making Rwanda the first African country to apply this evidence-based approach for AMR planning. The five-year plan is fully costed using the WHO Costing and Budgeting Tool, with an estimated total implementation cost of RWF 40.1 billion (approximately USD 29.6 million).

Through this action plan, Rwanda aims to strengthen its national response to AMR, protect public health, and contribute meaningfully to global efforts to preserve the efficacy of antimicrobial medicines. With strong political leadership, sectoral coordination, and sustained international partnerships, the country is well-positioned to make measurable progress in mitigating AMR's threat to human, animal, and environmental health.

*Read the full NAP-AMR (2025-2029) document at: [www.rbc.gov.rw/publications/strategic-plan](http://www.rbc.gov.rw/publications/strategic-plan)*

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