

AMR surveillance Sectoral Working Group (Human health) and its first meeting

Sectoral Working Group (SWG) is the apex coordination body for the coordination of AMR surveillance activities according to “[The National Antimicrobial Resistance \(AMR\) Surveillance Strategy of Bangladesh 2020-2025](#)”. Recently the 31-member sectoral working group is approved by Director, DGHS.

The group comprises of Microbiologists and laboratory experts, epidemiologists, pharmacologists, infectious disease specialist, WHO and one health representative and representative from CDC, DGHS. The committee is chaired by the Director IEDCR Prof. Dr. Tahmina Shirin PhD while Dr. Zakir Hossain Habib, Principal Scientific Officer and Head, Department of Microbiology of IEDCR is the member secretary of this prestigious technical expert committee.

According to [The National Antimicrobial Resistance \(AMR\) Surveillance Strategy of Bangladesh 2020-2025-](#)

- Each Sectoral Working Group (SWG) will work as a forum of the surveillance sites, laboratory networks, and reference laboratories within the sector
- Work experiences, surveillance findings, and issues will be shared within the SWG to facilitate joint learning and problem-solving.
- The SWG will report on progress and challenges faced to the core working group (CWG) and the National Technical Committee (NTC)
- The SWG, along with the appropriate NRL of the sector, will ensure high safety and quality standards through established protocols for laboratory quality and participation in a National Quality Assurance Programme
- SWG members will participate in supportive supervisory visits to the sentinel sites
- SWG will convene monthly meetings and prepare quarterly progress reports for submission to Core working group (CWG)/National Technical Committee (NTC)
- Membership of each SWG will be decided by NTC with a recommendation from CWG.

First Consultative meeting of Sectoral Working Group (Human Sector) of Antimicrobial Resistance Surveillance was held on 14 June, 2021 at the Conference Room (IEDCR New Building).

Chief Guest of the program was **Prof. Dr. Md. Nazmul Islam**, Director Disease Control, Line Director CDC, DGHS.

Special guests were-

1. Prof Nitish Debnath, DVM, PhD

Team Lead, Fleming Fund Country Grant to Bangladesh, DAI

2. Dr. Khaleda Islam

Surveillance Lead, Fleming Fund Country Grant, Bangladesh

3. Zobaidul Haque Khan MD, MPH

Deputy Team Lead, Fleming Fund Country Grant to Bangladesh, DAI

Prof. Tahmina Shirin PhD, Director of IEDCR presided over the meeting.

Director IEDCR welcome all of them at the meeting. Then the meeting started by the introduction of the members of the committee present at the venue and at their office through online conferencing. The members were given a questionnaire sheet regarding their expertise, passion, their expectation from SWG and NLR and some other issues. Then four presentations were delivered by Dr. Saima-binte-Golam Rasul, AMR Surveillance consultant (AMR surveillance in Bangladesh (2016-20210- achievements and challenges), Dr. Zakir Hossain Habib, (AMR surveillance in Bangladesh- Way forward, role of sectoral working group member) Member secretary, SWG, Dr. Aninda Rahman, DPM, AMR, CDC (AMR containment-Government's initiatives and plans) and Dr. Nitish Debnath, Team lead, Fleming Fund Country Grant (AMR surveillance- Role of Fleming fund Bangladesh).

There was a lively interactive session of all the participants regarding – challenge of AMR containment in Bangladesh- How should we proceed and the role that has to be played by SWG at the end of the session.

Director IEDCR concluded the session by giving the closing remarks.







