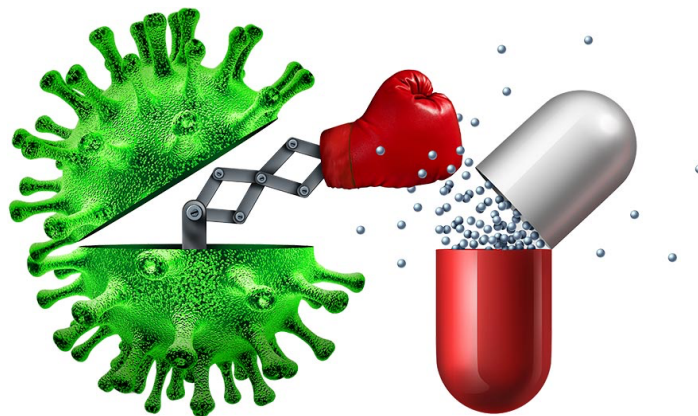




Policy Brief Webinar: Concept Note

Strengthening Antimicrobial Stewardship: Policy Insights from COVID-19 and Future Pandemic Preparedness



- **14 April 2024**
- **Virtual event**
- **Time:** 12:00 PM – 1:00 PM CEST | 6:00 AM – 7:00 AM EDT | 3:30 PM – 4:30 PM IST.



OVERVIEW:

The South Centre will organize a webinar to discuss the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on antimicrobial stewardship (AMS) and the growing challenge of antimicrobial resistance (AMR). This 60-minute session, consisting of a 30-minute presentation and a 30-minute panel discussion, will translate key lessons from the policy brief into actionable policy recommendations for sustainable AMS during pandemics.

The discussion will cover critical challenges, including antibiotic misuse, AMS program disruptions, and the role of diagnostics and surveillance, while offering strategies to incorporate AMS frameworks into pandemic preparedness plans. The webinar aims to provide practical insights and evidence-based recommendations to support policymakers, healthcare leaders, and health professionals, particularly in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs).

The objective is to explore how the COVID-19 experience can inform future AMS policies, ensuring health systems are prepared to tackle AMR and respond to future pandemics. The session will conclude with a call to action for coordinated global efforts to strengthen AMS implementation, enhance pandemic preparedness, and safeguard public health.

This webinar will leverage insights from the policy brief to drive meaningful discussions and concrete strategies for advancing AMS beyond the pandemic era.

OBJECTIVE:

- Explore how lessons from COVID-19 can shape future AMS policies to build resilient health systems.
- Ensure health systems are prepared to tackle AMR while strengthening pandemic preparedness.
- Promote global collaboration for sustainable AMS implementation and effective AMR management.
- Conclude with a call to action for coordinated efforts to safeguard public health.



WEBINAR STRUCTURE:

- **Presentation (30 minutes):**

Delivered via the attached presentation, this segment will cover:

- The dual pandemics: How COVID-19 exacerbated AMR through antibiotic misuse and weakened stewardship.
- Key lessons: The importance of resilient AMS, enhanced surveillance, diagnostics, and a One Health approach.
- Policy priorities and recommendations: Sustainable access to antimicrobials, regulatory enforcement, and global collaboration.
- Focus on LMICs: Addressing equity gaps and resource challenges in AMS implementation.

- **Panel Discussion (30 minutes):**

A diverse panel of experts will discuss the following questions, providing practical insights and real-world perspectives on post-pandemic AMS implementation:

PROGRAM:

Time (CEST)	Session	Speakers
12:00 – 12:05 pm	Opening	Dr Viviana Muñoz Tellez
12:05 – 12:30 pm	Leveraging Lessons from COVID-19 to Strengthen Antimicrobial Stewardship and Combat AMR	Dr Rasha Abdelsalam Elshenawy
12:30 – 01:00 pm	Panel Discussion	Dr Kamini Walia Dr. Nusrat Shafiq



SPEAKER:

Dr. Rasha Abdelsalam Elshenawy

Dr. Rasha Abdelsalam Elshenawy is a consultant in antimicrobial resistance (AMR) at the South Centre, Geneva, Switzerland. Since 2018, she has served as the Director of the FADIC Antimicrobial Stewardship School in the UK. She is also affiliated with the University of Hertfordshire, Department of Medicine. With over 20 years of experience in clinical pharmacy practice, Dr. Elshenawy collaborates globally to advance antimicrobial stewardship strategies. Her primary research focuses on the impact of COVID-19 on antimicrobial resistance and stewardship and public health. She has authored over 150 publications and conference presentations, demonstrating her commitment to addressing the global AMR crisis.





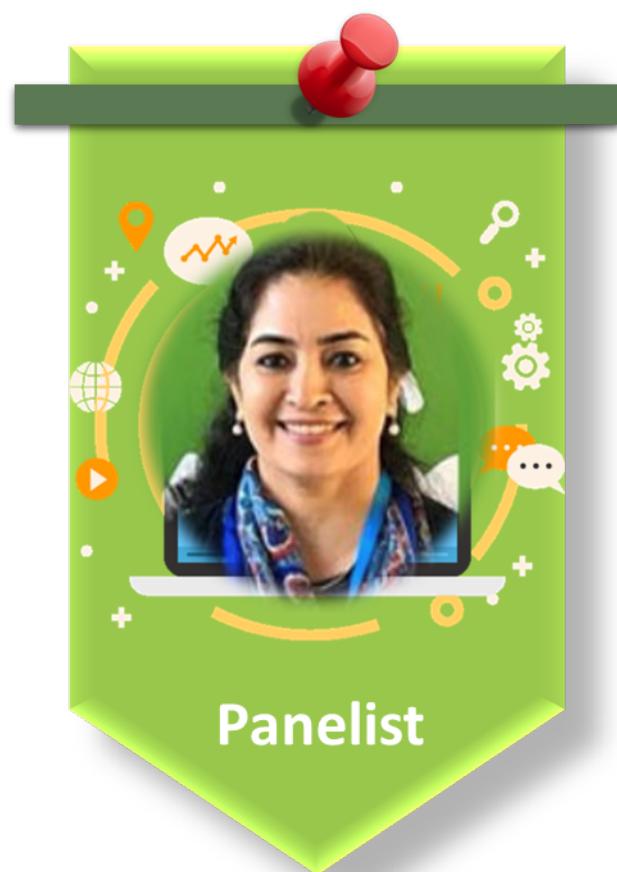
PANELLISTS

Dr Kamini Walia

Dr Kamini Walia is a senior scientist at the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), leading its Antimicrobial Resistance Initiative. She specialises in AMR surveillance, antimicrobial stewardship, and One Health. With over 20 years of public health experience, she has led key projects in infectious diseases and diagnostics. She previously served as Director of Research and Development at PATH and was a WHO expert on essential diagnostics.

Panel Questions for Dr Kamini:

1. General Commentary on the Policy Brief: What are the key antimicrobial stewardship lessons learned from the COVID-19 pandemic?
2. What actions should governments prioritise to strengthen AMS?
3. What strategies can be implemented to sustain AMS efforts in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs)?





Dr. Nusrat Shafiq

Dr Nusrat Shafiq is a Professor at the Clinical Pharmacology Unit, Postgraduate Institute of Medical Education and Research (PGIMER), Chandigarh, India, and a former President of the Society for Antimicrobial Stewardship Practices in India. She currently serves as the Principal Investigator for the India Hub of the Consortium of Antimicrobial Optimization Network, supported by the Wellcome Trust.



Panel Questions for Dr. Nusrat Shafiq

1. General Commentary on the Policy Brief: What are the key antimicrobial stewardship lessons learned from the COVID-19 pandemic?
2. What are the key challenges in implementing effective antimicrobial stewardship practices in LMICs
3. What strategies do you recommend for optimising antimicrobial stewardship practices in health emergencies such as COVID-19?



FINAL CLOSING QUESTION:

What is the most critical takeaway from this discussion for policymakers and healthcare leaders?

