

Elevating Global South Voices

in the Fight Against

Antimicrobial Resistance

Impact & Lessons Learned | 2018 – 2025

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The AMR Challenge & South Centre's Mandate

Why LMIC voices matter in global AMR governance

1.91M

Deaths attributed to AMR by 2050

8.22M

Deaths associated with AMR by 2050

\$1.97T

Global GDP decline by 2050 if untreated

\$30K+

Extra cost per patient per hospital episode (HIC data)

Why the South Centre? - Addressing Structural Inequities in Global AMR Governance

- LMIC perspectives historically under-represented in global AMR priority-setting
- Weak surveillance, underfunded NAPs & limited civil society participation in developing nations
- Deep epistemic asymmetries limit LMIC influence on research funding & governance reforms
- South Centre's mandate: support developing countries to navigate global policy processes

• Naghavi M, et al. Global burden of bacterial antimicrobial resistance 1990–2021: a systematic analysis with forecasts to 2050. *Lancet*. 2024;404(10459):1199-1226

• Poudel AN, Zhu S, Cooper N, Little P, Tarrant C, Hickman M, Yao G. The economic burden of antibiotic resistance: a systematic review and meta-analysis. *PLoS One*. 2023 May 8;18(5):e0285170. doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0285170.

• Naylor NR, Hasso-Agopsowicz M, Kim C, Ma Y, Frost I, Abbas K, et al. The global economic burden of antibiotic-resistant infections and the potential impact of bacterial vaccines: a modelling study. *BMJ Glob Health*. 2025;10:e016249. doi:10.1136/bmjgh-2024-016249.

Programme Overview: 7 Years of Strategic Engagement



CSO Grants (WAAW)

77 small grants
(up to \$2,500)
across 12+ countries
2020 - 2025

Regional Conferences

Annual AMR
Conference
with ReAct Africa
Grew to 150+
participants

Policy Advocacy

MSPP, UNGA,
WHA statements,
G77 convenings,
FAO dialogues

Publications & Knowledge

64 outputs:
9 research papers
7 policy briefs
36 news articles

Capacity Building

Webinars, workshops,
AMS GUIDE tool
regional dialogues

Intervention Countries: Ghana · India · Indonesia · Pakistan · Malawi · Nigeria · Sri Lanka · Sierra Leone · Tanzania · Vietnam · Uganda · Zimbabwe

Overarching Objective: Strengthen LMIC influence in global AMR governance | Support evidence-based national decision-making | Build advocacy capacities for effective NAP implementation

Reach, Impact & Evidence

Catalyzed stronger LMIC and Global South influence in High level AMR policy forums through strategic convenings, policy analysis and sustained multi lateral engagement.



Criteria

- Relevance in addressing AMR priorities in LMICs
- Effectiveness in strengthening LMIC engagement in global AMR governance
- Coherence with broader AMR initiatives

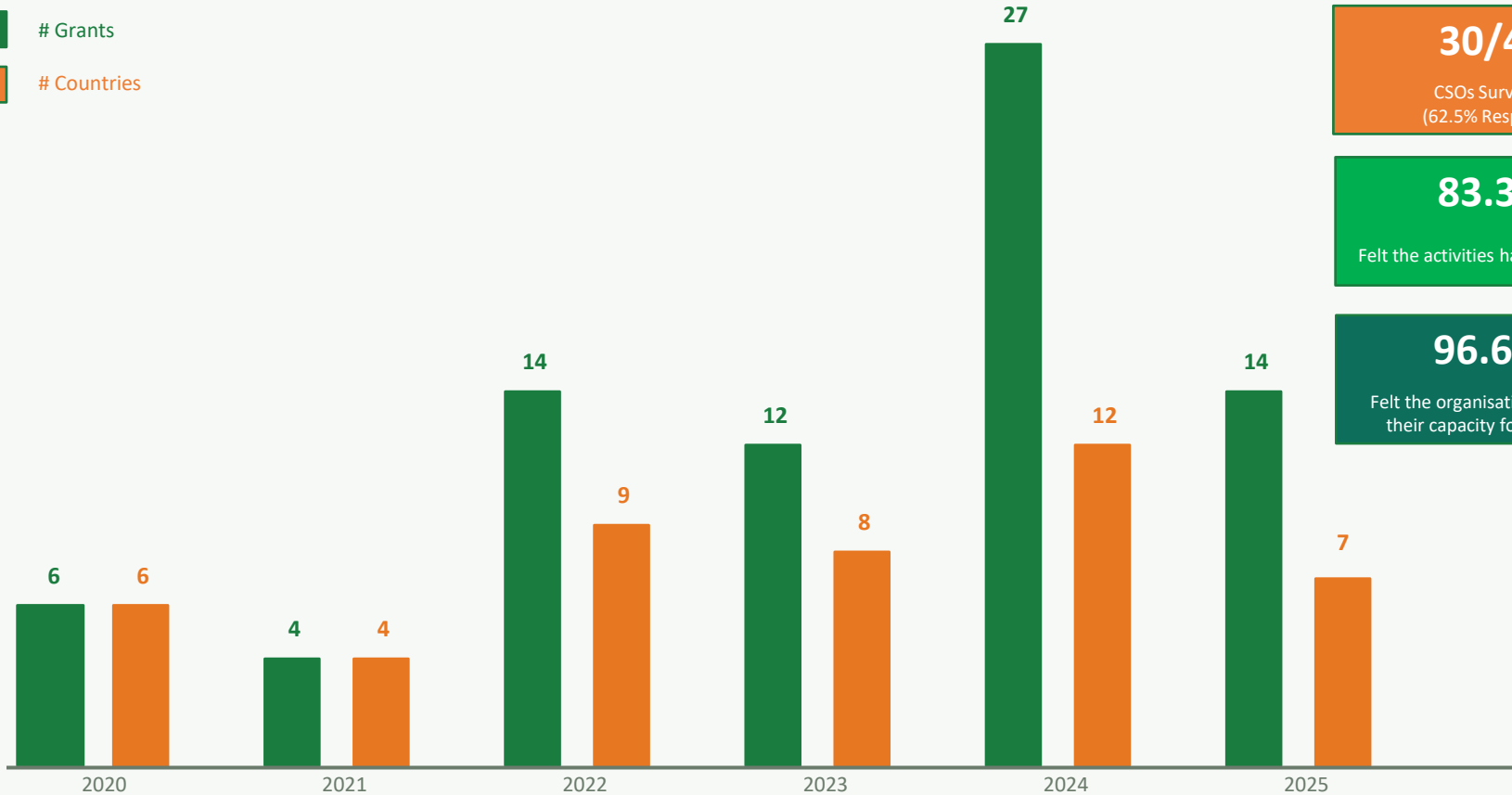


Methods

- Survey - WAAW recipients
- Key Informant interviews – Partners/opinion leaders
- Desk review - AMR related publications by South Centre

Intended audience: policy makers, member states, potential donors, CSOs, international organizations, academicians, researchers

WAAW CSO Grants: Scale (2020 - 2025)



30/48

CSOs Surveyed
(62.5% Response)

83.3%

Felt the activities had high impact

96.6 %

Felt the organisation increased
their capacity for advocacy



Key effects

- Increased their visibility and credibility: positioned as trusted AMR stakeholders
- Resource mobilization: catalytic effects, opened doors for new resources.
- Organizations extended to new geographic areas; doubled direct beneficiaries
- Institutional capacity gains (international toolkits etc.)
- Supported youth engagement and leadership
- Institutionalization of activities



Challenges

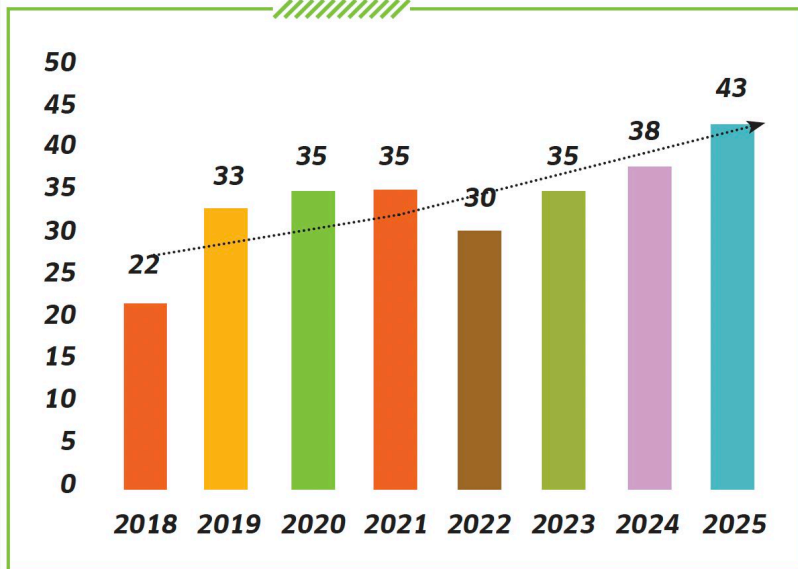
- Small grant amount
- Delays in fund transfer due to technical issues affect or shorten the implementation period
- WAAW activity itself (logistics - rural/transportation/ weather/informal settlements etc.



Suggestions

- Embedding sustainability – long term funding is better off than one of funding
- Mechanisms to recognize CSO contributions (showcase their work/AMR awards etc.)
- Support for participation in policy dialogues and international platforms

Number of countries participated over the years



Key Achievements

- Grew from <40 to 150+ participants
- Themes evolved: awareness → implementation readiness, financing, accountability
- Consistent inclusion: CSOs, youth, faith-based actors
- Aligned with WHA, UNGA, pandemic preparedness debates
- Translated One Health from concept to practice

- Became a part of continuum of policy engagement initiatives including mission level advocacy
- Demonstrated how targeted support to convening platforms can amplify LMIC perspectives, inform global debates, and enhance coherence between regional realities and global AMR policy processes.



Key Advocacy Outcomes

MSPG Governance Reform:

Along with partners such as ARC worked together to remove pharma-aligned recommendations such as 'opt-out' endorsement approach

UNGA Side Event (Sept 2024):

G77 + South Centre convening; linked LMIC concerns to global negotiations

WHA Statements:

Consistently advocated for AMR as cross-cutting WHO priority; called for Global Action Plan update

IPEA Input:

Provided inputs that help shape design of Independent Panel on Evidence for Action against AMR

FAO Dialogue (July 2025):

High-level session on industry accountability and agrifood sector AMR challenges



*The South Centre is **unique as an intergovernmental think tank that works closely with civil society.** Together through the Antibiotic Resistance Coalition, we have been able to give voice to shared concerns of low- and middle-income countries (LMICs), helping to guide and shape global discussions. This demonstrates how **civil society priorities and LMIC government concerns can move in tandem** - a powerful and effective combination. The South Centre's **broad mandate across LMIC issues also allows it to strategically integrate antimicrobial resistance (AMR) into related policy areas, such as access to medicines and pandemic preparedness.** The South Centre also has a clear value-added role in convening LMIC governments, as there **are very few spaces where such discussions can take place in such a trusted and strategic setting.***

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Key Informants

Opinion leaders • Technical experts
• CSO partners

- **Influencing landscape** - 2 way engagement, bridge between global governance and country level actors
- **Unique value**- Intergovernmental status + credibility enables access to policy spaces otherwise closed to CSOs; Links AMR to development, trade, equity - a comparative advantage.
- **Relevant contributions** - policy briefs on access, financing, surveillance viewed as timely & strategically framed. Strong at global level; some scope to deepen regional/national.
- **Facilitative partnerships**- Constructive, respectful, flexible partnership, often described as 'facilitative rather than directive'.
- **Challenges**- Webinar and products often donot reach intended audience; HIC influencing the agenda; Financial and logistics constraints for LMICs



*Ms. Lebogang Lebese
Minister (Health), Permanent
Mission of South Africa,
Geneva,
Switzerland*

*South Africa has positioned AMR as a national priority, informed by direct experience of AMR-related morbidity and mortality. In a constrained global health financing environment, AMR risks being deprioritised, making **the South Centre's work critically important in raising awareness among governments.** Through technical briefs, research outputs, and policy analyses, the South Centre **translates a highly complex issue into accessible, policy-relevant evidence- especially for ambassadors and diplomats without a health background.** Its work documenting AMR's impact in developing countries, grounded in a strong Global South perspective, is particularly powerful. The South Centre's consistent engagement through briefings, accessible resources, and direct collaboration with countries **helps strengthen the link between international engagement and domestic policy.***

Publications & Knowledge Products (2020–2025)



Core Thematic Areas

NAP
Implementation
& Financing

Civil Society
Leadership & AMR

Surveillance &
Data-to-Action

One Health:
Livestock,
Aquaculture

Pandemic Lessons
& AMS

Access, Innovation
& Equitable R&D

Key Contribution

Publications link global AMR policy with country-level LMIC realities — the niche South Centre constantly addresses.

Includes GUIDE Framework — a 5-step tool to optimise antibiotic prescribing in healthcare facilities.

Informs negotiators, diplomats and policymakers without public health background.



RELEVANCE

- Near-universal CSO agreement on high relevance.
- Addressed LMIC binding constraints: underfunded NAPs, weak surveillance-to-action, limited One Health coordination.



EFFECTIVENESS

- Outcomes were often indirect and catalytic rather than immediately measurable.
- Increased credibility and visibility and helped increasing institutional capacity
- Through multiple convening and engagements South Centre strengthened the visibility and legitimacy of Global South concerns related to equity, financing, access, and implementation feasibility.



COHERENCE

- Complemented quadripartite efforts by focusing on governance, policy translation, and equity dimensions in LMICs.
- Publications and dialogues consistently reinforced One Health principles; highlighted the practical and political challenges of implementation in LMIC contexts such as food system incentives, trade pressures, and fiscal constraints. leveraging its core strengths
- Worked with existing structures to increase inclusivity and accountability

EMERGING

Opportunities & Strategic Way Forward

Consolidating gains in a constrained global health financing environment

Opportunities for South Centre in the AMR space

Priorities and strategies to consolidate the achievements from the Fleming Fund grant

Policy intermediary for Global South

Linking community-level experiences with global policy spaces on AMR



Catalytic Support to CSOs

Enabling CSOs through funding, technical assistance, and networking opportunities



Strengthening capacity and South-South exchange

Capacity building and knowledge exchange, focusing on South Centre member states and CSOs



Focus on global AMR Governance

Help LMICs navigate persistent power asymmetries in global decision-making on AMR



Professor Dame Sally Davies UK Special Envoy on Antimicrobial Resistance



Antimicrobial resistance remains one of the defining global health and development challenges of our time, with its impacts falling heaviest on low- and middle-income countries (LMICs). Placing their priorities, development realities, and expertise at the heart of our efforts is essential to shaping an effective, sustainable response to AMR. This impact report demonstrates the South Centre's vital role in elevating those perspectives and ensuring that global commitments are grounded in real-world needs, equity, and feasibility. Their partnership with civil society, support for country-level action, and leadership in global policy forums have strengthened the foundation for a more inclusive and accountable AMR agenda. But this is no moment for complacency. We must build on what has been achieved to date and sustain long-term engagement with LMIC partners, ensuring that global governance structures reflect the priorities of the Global South. The Fleming Fund, a UK aid program, has partnered with the South Centre since 2018, and I applaud South Centre for its steadfast leadership. I urge all partners—governments, donors, and multilateral bodies—to step up with renewed commitment. Together, we can turn evidence into action and secure a healthier, fairer future for all.

The South Centre's comparative advantage: policy, governance & equity — not technical implementation or surveillance duplication

01

Strategic Consolidation

Sharpen value proposition
Avoid overextension
Protect comparative advantage

02

One-Off → Sustained Engagement

Long-term/phased models
Financial support + technical accompaniment

03

Deepen Regional Presence

Targeted capacity-building
Visibility among country-level implementers

04

Resource Mobilisation

Diversify donor base
Member state outreach
Clear value proposition

Priority Thematic Areas to Sustain:

Policy analysis & LMIC advocacy on access/innovation

Financing & implementation of National Action Plans

Surveillance-to-action pathways

Civil society participation & accountability

South-South knowledge exchange

AMR as a global development issue

Thank you

