

**CORDS****Connecting Organisations for  
Regional Disease Surveillance****February 2020 | News**

Welcome...

to our CORDS February 2020 newsletter. CORDS is a program of Ending Pandemics, comprised of six regional networks, working to reduce and prevent the spread of diseases by exchanging information and best practice. Our vision is a world united against infectious diseases. Early detection of outbreaks helps keep disease transmission to its area of origin, which, in our increasingly mobile world, is vital to stopping life threatening diseases such as Zika, Ebola and Yellow Fever. The collective expertise of the CORDS networks and their close relationships with local communities facilitate timely detection and response to outbreaks.

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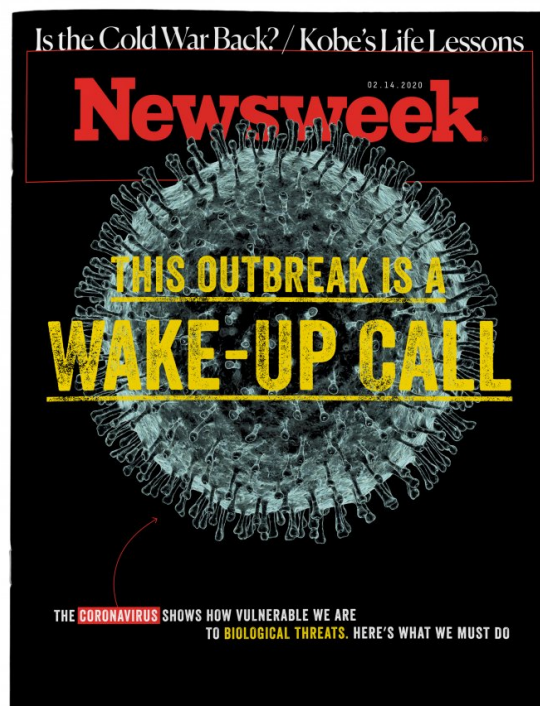
SAVE THE DATE - CORDS webinar series continues

-MECIDS led webinar 2 April 2020

'Challenges facing the COVID-19 Pandemic Threat'

More details to follow shortly

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**CORDS statement on the Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV) outbreak**

*"Ending pandemics is in our future. We are far from realizing the full power of collaborative forces necessary to prevent the global spread of a new virus..."* [Newsweek](#), 2 February 2020

*...CORDS, and its member networks, give us hope that we are building toward this power."*

**Mark Smolinski, MD, MPH, President of Ending Pandemics**

As of 30 January 2020, the World Health Organization (WHO) has declared the Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV) outbreak a Public Health Emergency of International Concern.

WHO has acknowledged that the speed at which Chinese scientists identified the virus and shared its sequence has helped other countries around the world prepare themselves to lessen transmission. Connecting Organizations for Regional Disease Surveillance, CORDS, a program of Ending Pandemics, strongly believes that early disease detection is the key to controlling the spread of infectious diseases and helping save lives. The six member networks have been coordinating their response to the outbreak across their 28 countries globally, by sharing technologies and resources to protect their local communities. CORDS activities include working with partners across borders to identify potential hotspots for transmission such as areas where a large number of the population regularly travel to and from China. The networks are also sharing with each other measures such as containment interventions and other actions to prevent spread.



CORDS AMR Expert Convening, Bangkok, December 2019

**CORDS AMR Expert Convening 16-18 December 2019**

The network members of CORDS (APEIR, EAIDSNet, MBDS, MECIDS, SACIDS and SECID), along with trusted partners from the Pak One Health Alliance (POHA), the South Asia One Health Network (SAOH-Net) and the Eastern Mediterranean Public Health Network (EMPHNET), convened in Bangkok in

December 2019 to strategize implementation of the Fleming Fund CORDS Antimicrobial resistance (AMR) Regional Grant. These networks are well positioned to successfully establish and sustain regional mechanisms for AMR surveillance in Asia and Africa; countries set to bear the highest burden of resistant infections. Clearly, the Fleming Fund recognized the cross sectoral and cross boundary strengths of CORDS, its Networks, and partners, to apply a coordinated, One Health approach to AMR surveillance.

The CORDS AMR project is governed by a Steering Committee (SC) and a Technical Working Group (TWG). We are pleased to announce that Professor Mark Rweyemamu (SACIDS) has accepted the role of Chair of the SC that provides project leadership. One of the key AMR challenges is to monitor the evolution of AMR in humans, animals, and the environment levels. CORDS members and partners apply One Health approaches on a daily basis to help prevent and control the spread of infectious diseases, including AMR, in humans, animals, food and agricultural sectors, within their own countries and across borders. Fleming Fund representatives and colleagues from the Network of Aquaculture Centres in Asia Pacific (NACA), WorldFish, the Tripartite (FAO, OIE, WHO) worked side by side with the Networks and partners during the AMR Expert Convening in Bangkok to share perspectives on existing global AMR strategies, including surveillance and monitoring tools.

Over the next three months, the Networks and partners will conduct a mapping and gap analysis to document the needs, practices, and opportunities for common surveillance protocols of twenty countries in the four Fleming Fund priority regions: South Asia, Southeast Asia, West Africa and East Africa. The Networks facilitate exchanges between AMR stakeholders at the local, regional and national levels with a goal of developing common AMR surveillance guidelines and protocols. Above all, CORDS Networks are building upon their confidence to communicate situational awareness and share information among trusted colleagues to strengthen global health.

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### **CORDS Webinar on Global Action to Address Antimicrobial Resistance**

It is estimated that deaths due to Antimicrobial resistance (AMR) will reach 10,000,000 per year by 2050<sup>1</sup> and the threat of AMR as a compounding factor in pandemic infection<sup>2</sup> led the Asia Partnership for Emerging Diseases Research (APEIR), one of CORDS member networks to initiate a virtual event designed to facilitate discussion among countries and stakeholders. The aim of the webinar was to discuss the implementation of the AMR National Action Plans (NAP) and featured current approaches, best practices, and challenges in AMR NAP implementation.

APEIR invited a range of AMR experts to take part including Regina Berba, Chair of the Philippines National Antimicrobial Stewardship Program, Dr. Harry Parathon, Head of the Indonesia National AMR Control Committee, Dr. James McGrane, Team Leader of the FAO Emergency Centre for Transboundary Animal Disease Indonesia, Dr. Tikiri Wijayathilaka, AMR Technical Officer, OIE Southeast Asia, Dr. Adityo Susilo, from the Antimicrobial Stewardship Program of Cipto Mangunkusumo National Hospital, Dr. Adela Maghear, Senior Advisor, Public Advice International Foundation, Dr. Marlo Libel, Senior Advisor, Ending Pandemics, Prof. Amin Soebandrio, part of the APEIR Steering Committee and Prof. Wiku Adisasmito,

APEIR Coordinator.

Through collaboration with CORDS, Ending Pandemics, the University of San Francisco, the Indonesia One Health University Network, the Indonesian Clinical Training and Education Centre, Cipto Mangunkusumo Hospital and the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Indonesia, over 200 participants from 21 countries and four continents were able to take part.

The discussion during the webinar highlighted that agricultural and environmental sectors also face significant AMR problems. At a global level, Dr McGrane, FAO Indonesia and Dr. Wijayathilaka, OIE Southeast Asia, said that FAO, WHO, and OIE have tried to approach the United Nations to establish a collaboration with the UN environmental agencies to address the issue. The importance of multi-sectoral collaboration in addressing AMR was also raised. In some countries such as Indonesia, such unity is lacking because there is no specific system for working with the environmental sector in relation to AMR. The conclusion was that in order to begin the process of developing, implementing and monitoring a strategy, the global effort of multiple countries and stakeholders is required. The webinar ended with the hope that the discussion will act as a catalyst to initiate global collaboration to combat AMR.

To listen to the webinar visit:

<https://zoom.us/rec/play/v8Utl-2sqDI3GNSd5gSDBaMoW47pL66s0HlbrvsMzBy3V3RSMVShYeAXauZr7PwozzMS7c0iMfQsONnj>

To find out more about the work of APEIR visit:

[www.apeir.net](http://www.apeir.net)

[1] Jim O'Neil. *Antimicrobial Resistance: Tackling crisis for the health and wealth of nations* (HM Government: Review on Antimicrobial Resistance, 2014). P5

2. MacIntyre, C. R., & Bui, C. M. (2017). Pandemics, public health emergencies and antimicrobial resistance-putting the threat in an epidemiologic and risk analysis context. *Archives of Public Health*, 75(1), 54.

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### **MBDS Regional Risk Assessment Workshop for Cross Border Coordinators**

The Ministry of Health and Sports, Myanmar, together with CORDS member network the Mekong Basin Disease Surveillance Consortium (MBDS) organised a two day workshop 'MBDS Regional Risk Assessment Workshop for Cross Border Coordinators' on the 10 and 11 December 2019. The event held in Yangon, Myanmar, was supported by Canada's Global Partnership Program. The workshop was attended by participants from five of the MBDS countries: Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam as well as members of the MBDS Secretariat, representatives from WHO, Myanmar and officials from public health departments and ministries from Myanmar and other countries in the region.

The objectives of the workshop were:

- to share the previous experiences of the MBDS member countries health risk assessment process at a national and cross border level
- to identify the priority health hazards, threats and risks in cross border areas of MBDS countries
- to develop standard operation procedures (SOP) for the risk assessment process for cross border areas which can be implemented and sustained by cross border health authorities.

During the meeting, a SOP for risk assessment processes at cross border areas in MBDS countries to be used as standardized methods for risk assessment of hazards in communicable diseases, zoonosis, environmental issues and other public health events, was drafted. The SOP was drafted by officials from the Ministry of Health and Sports, Myanmar, together with National and Sub-National level health officials from Cambodia, Lao P.D.R, Thailand and Vietnam.

Pilot testing of this Public Health Risk Assessment SOP will be conducted in the golden triangle area (the border between Lao P.D.R, Myanmar and Thailand) during the fourth quarter of this year.

To find out more about the work of MBDS visit:

<http://www.mbdnet.org>

## Latest WHO statement on Ebola in the Democratic Republic of the Congo

The WHO Emergency Committee met to review the current Ebola virus disease outbreak in the Democratic Republic of the Congo on Wednesday, 12 February 2020. As of 10 February 2020, there were a total of 3431 cases, of which 3308 were confirmed and 123 were probable. 2253 people have died. It was the unanimous view of the Committee that this event still constitutes a public health emergency of international concern (PHEIC) under the IHR (2005).

To read the statement in full click here:

[https://www.who.int/news-room/detail/12-02-2020-statement-on-the-meeting-of-the-international-health-regulations-\(2005\)-emergency-committee-for-ebola-virus-disease-in-the-democratic-republic-of-the-congo-on-12-february-2020](https://www.who.int/news-room/detail/12-02-2020-statement-on-the-meeting-of-the-international-health-regulations-(2005)-emergency-committee-for-ebola-virus-disease-in-the-democratic-republic-of-the-congo-on-12-february-2020)

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## Co-Impact Announces \$80 Million in Grants Aimed at Improving the Lives of 9 Million People in Africa, South Asia, and Latin America

Co-Impact has announced its first round of grants to improve education, health, and economic opportunity for an estimated 9 million people over the next five years across Africa, South Asia, and Latin America. The grants total more than US \$80 million. This is the first set of grants delivered by Co-Impact, a collaborative partnership founded in late 2017 by Olivia Leland, founding director of The Giving Pledge, and partners including Richard Chandler, Bill and Melinda Gates, Jeff Skoll, The Rockefeller Foundation, and Rohini and Nandan Nilekani.

To find out more visit:

<https://www.rockefellerfoundation.org/about-us/news-media/co-impact-announces-80-million-grants-aimed-improving-lives-9-million-people-africa-south-asia-latin-america/>

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