ADAPT
African One Health Network for Disease Prevention

Short description of the network project:
Though African institutions have demonstrated the capacity to identify and control outbreaks of communicable diseases, communicable disease prevention and management – particularly with regard to antimicrobial resistance (AMR, a predominant global health threat) and neglected tropical diseases (NTDs), as well as to NTD co-infections and drug-resistant bacteria – remain a significant challenge across sub-Saharan Africa (the region with the highest AMR burden in the world). To best understand and address AMR, it is necessary to trace the linkages and transmission among humans, animals, and the environment via a One Health approach. The mission of this project is to build capacity across seven countries of sub-Saharan Africa in order to improve the management of AMR and NTDs and the stewardship of antimicrobials using a One Health approach in partnership with state, local, and regional stakeholders.

Challenge, approach and impact:
This project will carry out six comprehensive tasks that will develop the capacity for antimicrobial stewardship (AMS) in sub-Saharan Africa: 1) screening for AMR in humans, livestock, and poultry by employing surveillance and genetic mapping of circulating AMR strains; 2) investigating relationships between helminthic infections and drug-resistant bacteria to better understand co-infection between pathogens; 3) developing capacities for point-of-need diagnostics on AMR and NTDs using mobile tests for field use; 4) identifying any changes in antimicrobial use and AMR incidence during the COVID-19 pandemic in sub-Saharan African contexts; 5) controlling communicable disease transmission (particularly in connection with AMR) by identifying and improving existing hygienic practices at the human-animal-environment interface; and 6) building capacity for sustainable leadership in AMS.

With its focus on AMR/AMS interventions that are pertinent, timely, context-specific, and directly based on evidence from mixed-method research, as well as its emphasis on capacity-building, sustainability, and both digital and mobile health (mhealth), this project proposes unique solutions for AMR/AMS through the development of both knowledge and technological infrastructure by a large, diverse, multidisciplinary team. To maintain context-specific sustainability, the ADAPT project will seek to involve and collaborate with local health organisations, institutions, and other pertinent local stakeholders (including policy makers) in partner countries from the planning phase all the way to the project’s completion.

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