Response to the Open Consultation on Proposals Received for the 2020 Comprehensive Review of the Global Indicator Framework

Sustainable Development Goal 3: Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages

Target 3.d: Strengthen the capacity of all countries, in particular developing countries, for early warning, risk reduction and management of national and global health risks

Indicator 3.d.1: International Health Regulations (IHR) capacity and health emergency preparedness

Additional Indicator Proposal: "Reduce the percentage of bloodstream infections due to selected antimicrobial resistant organisms"

The Wellcome Trust strongly supports the inclusion of the proposed additional indicator – *"Reduce the percentage of bloodstream infections due to selected antimicrobial resistant organisms"* – within the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Antimicrobial resistance (AMR) presents a major challenge to global healthcare and wider development both now and in the future. We welcome the opportunity to better anchor the global surveillance of AMR, as well as progress in efforts to reduce incidence and spread of resistance, through embedding this indicator in the SDG framework.

AMR is referenced as a health issue of concern in UN Declaration on Sustainable Development Goals [1]. However, there is currently no specific mention of AMR in the SDGs and related indicators. We believe this is a major oversight as sustainable development and AMR are highly interlinked [2,3,4]. Work reviewing AMR indicators and their relevance to the global indicator framework for the SDGs has found 12 out of the 17 SDGs to be sensitive to AMR, i.e. affecting or affected by rising rates of drug-resistant infections. Of particular importance, AMR threatens progress against health (SDG 3), food security (SDG 2), access to clean water and sanitation (SDG 6), responsible consumption and production (SDG 12), and poverty (SDG 1). Therefore, we cannot expect to achieve sustainable development if we do not tackle AMR.

The global health community has made progress on this issue over the last few years. Though as made plain in the report submitted to UN Secretary-General by the IACG on AMR in 2019[5], there is still far greater action needed if we are to secure the future from drug-resistant infections. We know that simple and clear targets and metrics can help drive progress on complex global challenges, and so inclusion of an AMR-specific indicator within the SDGs has scope to further galvanise global communities in their work to tackle AMR and elevate it alongside other sustainable development themes.

On a global basis, the proposed indicator of reduction in percentage of resistant bloodstream infections is a relevant and helpful starting point for inclusion of AMR in the SDGs. We also

welcome the reinforcement of systematic data collection via the selected methodology, and the opportunity this presents to encourage and support collection of data that feeds into global surveillance efforts, such as the WHO Global AMR Surveillance System (GLASS).

While we agree that the priority should be to include an indicator that measures resistance levels in humans, it should be noted that AMR is a complex 'One Health' issue and touches on sustainable development in ways which will continue to be unrepresented in the SDG framework. Other opportunities exist to more explicitly represent the importance and complexity of AMR within existing indicators, the major critical blind spots being across surveillance of disease, food safety, biosecurity, monitoring of antimicrobial use and stewardship. For example, resistance is an important problem in all SDG-mentioned communicable diseases (including TB, Malaria, HIV and Hepatitis B) and so there is opportunity to adapt existing indicators for these diseases to disaggregate resistant cases in communicable diseases (% of resistant cases).

We welcome the opportunity the inclusion of this indicator will present to endorse and spur on action on AMR at both national and global levels, and given the vital importance of AMR within many of the Sustainable Development Goals we strongly advocate for the inclusion of this indicator within the SDGs.

References

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