

## **2021 AMR Preparedness Index Questions & Answers**

### ***What is the 2021 AMR Preparedness Index?***

The 2021 AMR Preparedness Index examines how well countries are meeting their commitments to address the growing global crisis in antimicrobial resistance (AMR). A partnership project between Global Coalition on Aging (GCOA) and the Infectious Diseases Society of America (IDSA), and funded by the International Federation of Pharmaceutical Manufacturers and Associations (IFPMA), the Index evaluates the governments of the 11 largest economies in the world and their actions to prepare for and successfully address rising drug resistance that threatens the future of modern healthcare and the promise of human longevity.

### ***Why AMR? Why now?***

The global COVID-19 pandemic has made abundantly clear the devastation – both human and economic – of infectious disease when we don't have the tools in place to prevent, control, and treat it. It has also laid bare the particular risk infectious disease poses to older adults and those with compromised immune systems. AMR has been with us and will continue to grow without substantial action and collaboration among governments, industry, researchers, and community organizations. We are approaching a tipping point in this global health crisis, which threatens the very foundation of modern medicine and human longevity. And with attention to AMR growing within a few countries and at the global level, lessons emerging from COVID-19, and the global momentum from the UN/WHO Decade of Health Ageing, the time is now to make clear the stakes of inaction on AMR and set priorities and benchmarks to avert a global health catastrophe.

### ***Why did you evaluate these countries? How did you select them?***

Infectious disease is a borderless threat and AMR is a global problem that will impact individuals around the world, demanding worldwide action. However, the G7 and G20 countries included in this report, in particular, have publicly committed to action on AMR. These countries collectively and individually possess substantial capability and influence in the factors that matter most for successfully addressing AMR, including leadership, surveillance, stewardship, and innovation.

### ***How are countries scored? What was the methodology?***

The Index evaluates countries' preparedness to address AMR based on their performance across six categories: National Strategy, Awareness & Prevention, Innovation, Access, Appropriate & Responsible

Use, AMR & the Environment, and Collaborative Engagement. Each category comprises several qualitative and quantitative indicators, and each category's score is derived from the scores assigned to those indicators. Scoring is based on multiple third-party data sources as well as the insights and observations of national and global experts.

***Which countries are doing the best and why?***

Rated on a 100-point scale, the UK was the top-performing country (76), with the US coming in second (68), followed closely by Germany (64) and France (61). No country came close to achieving a top score in any category, but the UK and the US were able to differentiate themselves in particular through their performance in National Strategy and Innovation, which set them apart from the other countries in the Index. However, across all of the categories, countries scored the lowest overall in Innovation.

***What are the report's key findings? What are opportunities for action?***

The Index found that, overall, countries are neglecting to follow through on previously made commitments on AMR and that serious work is needed to implement measures (some of which have already been outlined in national plans) to avoid a full-blown public health crisis. Countries have not committed the necessary resources across any of the seven categories: National Strategy, Awareness & Prevention, Innovation, Access, Appropriate & Responsible Use, AMR & the Environment, and Collaborative Engagement, to effectively mitigate the growing threat of AMR.

While in some countries there are extremely foundational needs to ramp up efforts against AMR, such as more robust sanitation infrastructure, those in position to lead the fight through innovation are mostly falling short. One bright spot is the UK's pilot subscription model for antimicrobial development, which demonstrates a step in the right direction towards fulfilling previous commitments by G7 and G20 governments to ensure that there are novel antimicrobials to defend against resistant infections that threaten populations worldwide. Likewise, the PASTEUR Act in the US, should it pass, would represent a commitment to the fight against AMR not yet seen through the effective incentivization of new antimicrobial development.

This being said, all countries are ill-positioned to effectively combat the growing threat. Not only is there a lack of funding for much-needed initiatives, such as stewardship and surveillance programs, but there is also a severe fragmentation of efforts. This fragmentation and chronic underfunding preclude the ability of countries to actively implement the required One Health approach to combat AMR.

**Other main findings include:**

- **Commitments have not engendered requisite action.** Despite the scale of the global threat, commitments made have rarely been acted on, leaving key AMR initiatives unimplemented and the threat unabated.
- **Inappropriate usage needs to be combatted with awareness, interventions, and stewardship,** yet these efforts – where present – are siloed, inhibiting a coherent and sustainable curbing of overuse and misuse.
- **The One Health approach is given lip service, but not much more.** Many facets of the One Health approach, such as the relationship between AMR and the environment, remain under-researched, preventing the implementation of meaningful policy.
- **Surveillance infrastructure quality is variable.** International and national efforts to monitor the AMR threat remain underfunded, thereby weakening evidence-based decision-making.
- **We know the market for new antimicrobials is broken, yet none of the recommended solutions have been fully implemented.** Though all experts agree that the marketplace for new antimicrobials is untenable, policy action to rectify this and protect societies from new infections is scarce.
- **Global threats need global solutions.** Without collaborative and concerted efforts by all governments, the borderless and indiscriminate threat of AMR will wreak havoc globally. However, much like the fragmentation of national-level cross-sectoral challenges, the international community has been unable to implement programs to slow AMR.
- **It is not too late.** We are at a critical juncture, with AMR threatening to undo 20<sup>th</sup> century gains in human lifespan, but as much as more research is needed, equally much is known about what solutions, many of which are outlined in the Index, can be effective against AMR if prioritized and implemented now.

To read the full report, click [here](#).