Workstream 3 – Antimicrobial consumption surveillance

1. Discussion points:
   - Antimicrobial consumption methodologies and tools
   - Use of antimicrobial consumption data for policy and practice
   - WHO and partners support to countries on surveillance of antimicrobial use

2. Background
   In response to the absence of antimicrobial use data and standardized data collection methods in many countries, WHO has been using a two-level strategy to enable countries to generate and use such data. The WHO strategy recommends the establishment of a national routine surveillance system for antimicrobial consumption to obtain annual aggregated data on types and quantities of antimicrobials used at national and facility level. In parallel, countries should carry out complementary patient-level surveys to get a more in-depth understanding on how antimicrobials are used.

   GLASS methodology for surveillance of national antimicrobial consumption provides a common and standardized method for measuring and reporting the consumption of antimicrobial agents at national level. This standardization allows the monitoring of consumption trends over time, facilitates comparisons between countries when appropriate, and provides common metrics for reporting antimicrobial use at regional and global levels. To monitor the antimicrobial consumption in hospitals, WHO developed the GLASS hospital methodology, which is based largely on the national methodology but adapted to the context of facility-based surveillance.

   The overall aim of the surveillance of antimicrobial consumption is to provide data for measuring the use of antimicrobials, identifying problems of antimicrobial misuse and developing corrective actions that address the problems. It is of prime importance that surveillance data on the use of antimicrobials are shared with relevant stakeholders at all levels, from facility to national and global level including the public. To provide advice, the GLASS team currently works on the development of a guidance document on how to use the data on antimicrobial resistance and use as evidence base for action in policy and practice.

   To coordinate the efforts against AMR, WHO global surveillance of antimicrobial consumption was integrated in the GLASS framework in 2020. GLASS supports countries to establish their national antimicrobial consumption monitoring systems and enroll in the global surveillance as part of their national action plans on AMR. WHO expects that the first round of national data submission to GLASS will take place in 2021.

   Over time, an increasing number of international partners have been supporting countries to implement various initiatives to combat AMR. This new dynamic provides an opportunity to strengthen the global governance in the fight against AMR and to build coherence and synergies among national and global initiatives.
3. Questions for the workstream 3 breakout session

**Topic 1 Antimicrobial consumption methodologies and tools**
- What is the overall level of agreement on the strategy and methodologies developed by WHO to monitor antimicrobial consumption? Where can WHO improve the methodological approach?
- What are the main needs in terms of tools to facilitate the implementation of monitoring of antimicrobial consumption in hospitals?

**Topic 2 Use of antimicrobial consumption data for policy and practice**
- What are the priorities for use of the AMC surveillance data at the national and hospital level?
- How far the surveillance of AMC activities are integrated with other AMR NAP activities or other national programs (such as access to medicines, UHC...) in countries?

**Topic 3 WHO and partners support to countries on surveillance of antimicrobial use**
- What kind of support from WHO and other international partners countries need to ensure establishment of efficient and sustainable national programs for surveillance of antimicrobial consumption?
- What areas of surveillance of antimicrobial use would need priority support (training, infrastructure including IT,...)?