The Fleming Fund

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LAOS

The Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC)'s Fleming Fund is a UK aid programme that supports up to 25 countries across Africa and Asia to tackle antimicrobial resistance (AMR), a leading public health threat, globally. The Fleming Fund invests in strengthening surveillance systems through a portfolio of Country Grants, Regional Grants, and Fellowships managed by Mott MacDonald and Global Projects managed by DHSC partners.

Country Context

Laos has been receiving support from the Fleming Fund since 2019. At the start of Phase I, Laos had a NAP (National Action Plan) in place, developed by the Tripartite Alliance, but without a national AMR surveillance system. Some swine surveillance had been conducted during 2018-2019, but the implementation of the NAP had not progressed due to resource constraints.

At the end of phase I, the national AMR surveillance system in human health (HH) and animal health (AH) started to be implemented. The Laos Country Grant in phase 2 aims to build on and maximise the impact of investments made to date by supporting the multi-stakeholder revision of the NAP for AMR. This involves consolidating surveillance toward an integrated One Health system to produce data-driven decisions and policymaking and continue to decentralise the AMR response and planning.

Phase 2 Country Grant – Expected Results

- Expand AMR surveillance in food animals to include aquaculture. A new national AMR surveillance strategy for aquaculture will be developed.
- In HH, support the National Center for Laboratory and Epidemiology and eleven HH sites; and in AH, the National Animal Health Laboratory (NAHL), National Aquaculture Laboratory (NAL), and two AH sites to produce quality data and strengthen bacteriological diagnostic techniques and bioinformatics.
- Establish an antimicrobial usage (AMU) surveillance system at the Department of Livestock and Fisheries (DLF), with the aim of collecting and analysing data on the drugs used in AH.
- **11** Deliver clinical training at 11 sites, to improve the quality of data produced by laboratories.
- Undertake laboratory assessments at surveillance sites as per demand from National Centre of Laboratory and Epidemiology technical working group.
- Develop capacity improvement plans for surveillance sites.
- Conduct biosafety and biosecurity training and tailored microbiology training at all supported sites.
- Conduct Point Prevalence Surveys at all supported surveillance sites.

Phase 2

Country Grant

Grantee: Food and Agriculture Organisation
Value: £1,199,067
Duration: Apr 2024 - Dec 2025

Grantee: Fondation Mérieux
Sub grantees: Lao-Oxford-Mahosot Hospital-Wellcome Trust Research Unit
Value: £1,600,000
Duration: Jan 2024 - Dec 2025

Fellowships

No. of Fellows: 10
Host Institute: Fondation Mérieux
Total value: £661,209 (Across multiple countries, including Laos)
Total duration: Nov 2023 - Dec 2025

Regional Grants

(Across multiple countries, including Laos)

University of Melbourne
The Asia Pacific Centre for Animal Health AMR and One Health South East Asia (AMROH SEA)
Value: £1,374,992
Duration: Jan 2024 - Dec 2025

International Vaccine Institute
Capturing Data on Antimicrobial Resistance Patterns and Trends in Use in Regions of Asia (CAPTURA)
Value: £3,186,597

Technical University of Denmark
External Quality Assessment of Laboratory Data Asia (EQAsia)
Value: £2,497,995
Duration: Nov 2023 - Dec 2025

International Vaccine Institute
Regional Antimicrobial Resistance Data Analysis for Advocacy, Response and Policy (RADAAR)
Value: £1,999,956
Duration: Dec 2023 - Dec 2025

International Vaccine Institute
Technical Assistance for Clinical Engagement Asia (TACE Asia)
Value: £1,882,436
Duration: Feb 2024 - Dec 2025

International Vaccine Institute
Technical Assistance for Data and Evidence Use Asia (TADEU Asia)
Value: £1,687,091
Duration: Dec 2023 - Dec 2025

African Society for Laboratory Medicine
Qualifying the Workforce for AMR Surveillance in Africa and Asia (QWArS)
Value: £2,200,050
Duration: May 2023 - Dec 2025

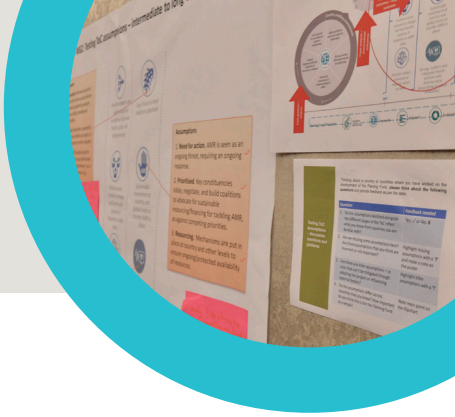
Strategic Alignment Grants

(Across multiple countries, including Laos)

Brigham and Women's Hospital
WHONET: Management and Analysis of Microbiology Laboratory Data
Value: £453,328
Duration: Mar 2024 - Dec 2025

Foundation for Innovative New Diagnostics
FIND: Enhance Laboratory Capabilities, Data Visualisation, and Digital Health Platforms
Value: £1,769,837
Duration: Mar 2024 - Dec 2025

Phase 1



Country Grants

Country Grant 1

Grantee: United Nations Office for Project Services
Value: £2,152,202
Duration: Apr 2019 - Jun 2023

Country Grant 2

Grantee: Foundation Mérieux
Value: £2,219,774
Duration: Mar 2021 - Mar 2024

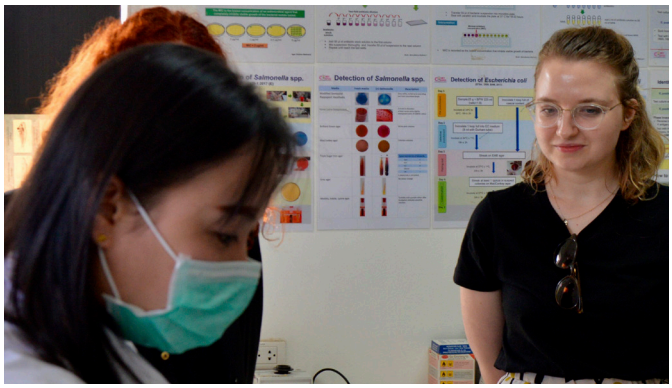
Fellowships

Number of Fellows: 11
Host Institution: Mahidol University, Faculty of Medicine Thailand and Foundation Mérieux
Value: £640,000
Duration: May 2019 - July 2023

Regional Grants

(Across multiple countries, including Laos)

International Vaccine Institute
Capturing Data on Antimicrobial Resistance Patterns and Trends in Use in Regions of Asia (CAPTURA)
Value: £2,070,980
Duration: Jan 2019 - Sep 2023



Technical University of Denmark
External Quality Assessment of Laboratory Data Asia (EQAsia)
Value: £4,247,345
Duration: Jan 2020 - Oct 2023

International Vaccine Institute
Regional Antimicrobial Resistance Data Analysis for Advocacy, Response and Policy (RADAAR)
Value: £2,715,217
Duration: Sep 2019 - Nov 2023

African Society for Laboratory Medicine
Qualifying the Workforce for AMR Surveillance in Africa and Asia (QWArS)
Value: £3,924,546
Duration: Oct 2019 - Apr 2023

Strategic Alignment Grants

(Across multiple countries, including Laos)

Brigham and Women's Hospital
WHONET: Management and Analysis of Microbiology Laboratory Data
Value: £889,044
Duration: Apr 2022 - Feb 2024

Commonwealth Pharmacists Association
Surveillance and Prescribing Support for Antimicrobial Stewardship Resource Capacity Building (SPARC)
Value: £1,152,946
Duration: Dec 2021 - Feb 2024

Foundation for Innovative New Diagnostics
FIND: Enhance Laboratory Capabilities, Data Visualisation, and Digital Health Platforms
Value: £2,586,227
Duration: Apr 2021 - Feb 2024

Phase 1 – Key Achievements

HH AMR surveillance network expanded from three to eight surveillance sites.

A biorepository system was established and a Standard Operating Procedures on bacterial storage were developed, enabling NAHL to perform passive AMR surveillance.

Antimicrobial usage (AMU) surveillance system developed, and hospital AMC data collected from three hospitals.

The private sector, including pig and poultry farmers and slaughterhouse owners, collaborated contributing to the development of AMR surveillance.

AMR surveillance data enhanced to align with WHO guidelines and a series of PPS conducted on antibiotic use in hospitals.

Three rounds of AMR surveillance were conducted in healthy pigs and poultry across five provinces, focused on four bacteria.

Bacterial identification and AMR testing at NAHL resulted in AMR data integrated into the WHONET system.

DLF was supported to collect data on imported drugs intended for use in animals from private sector.

NAHL performed identification of *Enterobacter* and *Campylobacter*, conducted Antimicrobial Susceptibility Testing (AST), participated in second round of EQAsia, and established functioning national AMR passive surveillance system.

Microbiology training course delivered for 10 staff from 8 supported HH surveillance sites, followed by monitoring visits from Chiang Mai University. Blood culture systems established at eight hospitals to increase the quantity of data reported.

Improvement of AMU data collection and of the reporting system at the Division of Veterinary Services. AMU surveillance on pig and poultry farms has been conducted in seven provinces.

Data collection and analysis of AMR/AMU/AMC surveillance were completed at national level.

GLASS AMR data collection was improved with data submitted to WHO. Results from collaborative research projects were shared with policymakers and provincial hospitals, WHO representatives and stakeholders in Laos.

Fleming Fellows played key roles in the National AMR Surveillance and Control Committee. They provided training, technical advocacy, capacity building to technical and laboratory staff and farmers at surveillance sites.

AMR and AMU questionnaires plus rapid laboratory quality assessment conducted to verify data availability and grade data.

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