

SIERRA LEONE



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

Sierra Leone developed its first National Strategic Plan for combating AMR (NASP) in 2017 to cover 2018-2022. The NASP was produced through the collective efforts of the Ministry of Health and Sanitation (MoHS), the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food Security, and the Environmental Protection Agency of Sierra Leone. The plan was guided by the One Health approach and the National One Health Platform, which was formed after the 2014-2016 Ebola Virus Disease outbreak.

In 2022, the National AMR Technical Working Group (TWG) began reviewing the achievements of the first NASP and developing a new version for 2025-30.

The Sierra Leone Country Grants in phase 2 aims to build on and maximise the impact of investments made-to-date. This involves consolidating surveillance toward an integrated One Health system to produce data-driven decisions and policymaking.



Phase 2 Country Grant – Expected Results



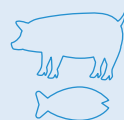
Review human health (HH) AMR and antimicrobial use (AMU) surveillance strategies.



Develop, validate, and pilot antimicrobial stewardship (AMS) strategy and guidelines.



HH and AH antibiograms are to be produced annually.



Develop, validate, and implement animal Health (AH), aquaculture, and environmental AMR and AMU surveillance strategies.



Information management systems (SILAB and WHONET) are interoperable and functional at supported sites.



Validation and endorsement of essential medicines list and treatment guidelines for AH.



Biosecurity guidelines piloted and distributed.



Procure appropriate reagents, consumables, and equipment to support data generation.

Phase 2



Country Grant

Country Grant 1

Grantee: World Health Organisation

Value: £1,200,000

Duration: Jul 2024 - Dec 2025

Country Grant 2

Grantee: Food and Agriculture Organisation

Value: £650,000

Duration: Oct 2024 - Dec 2025

Country Grant 3

Grantee: American Society for Microbiology

Value: £350,000

Duration: Oct 2024 - Dec 2025

Fellowships

No. of Fellows: 10

Host Institute: University of Liverpool

Total value: £1,309,012 (across multiple countries, including Sierra Leone)

Total duration: Feb 2024 - Dec 2025

Regional Grants

(Across multiple countries, including Sierra Leone)

African Society for Laboratory Medicine

Mapping Antimicrobial Resistance and Antimicrobial Use Partnership (MAAP)

Value: £2,997,523

Duration: Dec 2023 - Dec 2025

African Society for Laboratory Medicine

External Quality Assessment of Laboratory Data Africa (EQuAfrica)

Value: £2,458,558

Duration: Oct 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

Technical University of Denmark

Whole Genome Sequencing and Bioinformatics Capacity Building in Africa (SeqAfrica)

Value: £3,595,802

Duration: Oct 2023 - Dec 2025

Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine

Gender, Equity and Antimicrobial Resistance Mainstreaming (GEAR up)

Value: £2,199,925

Duration: Feb 2024 - Dec 2025

Fondation Merieux

Technical Assistance for Clinical Engagement Africa (TACE Africa)

Value: £1,822,408

Duration: Feb 2024 - Dec 2025

International Livestock Research Institute

AMR and One Health West Africa (AMROH WA)

Value: £1,500,000

Duration: Feb 2024 - 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

Strategic Alignment Grants

(Across multiple countries, including Sierra Leone)

Brigham and Women's Hospital

WHONET: Management and Analysis of Microbiology Laboratory Data

Value: £453,328

Duration: Mar 2024 - Dec 2025

Commonwealth Pharmacists Association

Surveillance and Prescribing Support for Antimicrobial Stewardship Resource Capacity Building (SPARC)

Value: £806,742

Duration: Mar 2024 - Dec 2025

Phase 1



Country Grants

Country Grant 1

Grantee: World Health Organisation

Value: £2,318,289

Duration: Oct 2020 - Mar 2024

Country Grant 2

Grantee: Food and Agriculture Organisation

Value: £919,758

Duration: Nov 2020 - Mar 2024

Country Grant 3

Grantee: International Procurement Agency

Value: £870,609

Duration: Mar 2022 - Dec 2023

Regional Grants

(Across multiple countries, including Sierra Leone)

African Society for Laboratory Medicine

Mapping Antimicrobial Resistance and Antimicrobial Use Partnership (MAAP)

Value: £7,054,881

Duration: Nov 2018 - Nov 2023

African Society for Laboratory Medicine

External Quality Assessment of Laboratory Data Africa (EQuAfrica)

Value: £4,364,227

Duration: Oct 2019 – Sep 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

Technical University of Denmark

Whole Genome Sequencing and Bioinformatics Capacity Building in Africa (SeqAfrica)

Value: £6,743,701

Duration: May 2019 - Sep 2023

International Vaccine Institute

Regional Antimicrobial Resistance Data Analysis for Advocacy, Response and Policy (RADAR)

Value: £2,715,217

Duration: Sep 2019 - Nov 2023

Strategic Alignment Grants

(Across multiple countries, including Sierra Leone)

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



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Undertook renovations at the Ola During Children's Hospital, Connaught Hospital, and Makeni; provided equipment for six laboratories including a MALDI TOF system, Antimicrobial Susceptibility Testing platforms, and blood culture systems.



Established and developed governance structures for AMR including the One Health Secretariat within the MoHS, and national technical working groups.



Developed and validated an AMC/AMU Surveillance Strategic Plan (2021-2025) and costed implementation plan.



Laboratory Quality Management System baseline assessments were carried out, and improvement plans were developed and approved by the MoHS.



Biosafety audits were conducted in 20 laboratories and continuous technical support was provided to develop documentation and guidance on biosafety and a quality improvement plan.

54

54 key personnel trained on WHO Point Prevalence Survey methodology and data collected from 1,237 patients.



Assessed the capacity of the Central Veterinary Laboratory (CVL) to identify priority gaps in infrastructure and human resources. CVL staff were supported in testing field samples for the first time in the poultry sector.



AMR Surveillance Strategy Operational Plan and protocol for AMR surveillance in the piggery sub-sector developed.



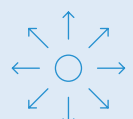
EQuAfrica supported the development of national laboratory quality standards, policies, proficiency testing panels, and national External Quality Assessments.

24

24 phlebotomists were trained to serve as AMR champions ensuring timely, safe, and quality specimen collection for AMR testing.



National AMR Surveillance Strategy for AH developed, validated, and costed.



Developed situational analysis of AMR/AMU in the AH, food, and agriculture sectors and shared data with key One Health stakeholders from the public and private sectors.



Development of national laboratory quality standards, policies, Proficiency Testing (PT) panels and national EQA. All sites completed EQA PT programme and responded to identified issues.



The
Fleming Fund

