



# Antimicrobial Resistance: Inclusive Training Awareness among Animal and Human Health Professionals in Cambodia

## Introduction

Rising levels of antimicrobial resistance (AMR) are threatening key areas of global health, food security, economic growth and development. If no action is taken, AMR will impact human and animal health with excess deaths and suffering (Murray et al., 2022). It is estimated that approximately 10 million people will die annually due to infections related to AMR by 2050 (O'Neill, 2016). One of the strategic objectives of the Cambodian multi-sectoral action plan on AMR 2019 – 2023 is to strengthen communication for public education and awareness on AMR including midwives, nurses, agricultural officers, village health support group, village animal health workers that they all can educate their clients and constituents. However, some recent studies conducted indicated that the knowledge and practices of animal and human health practitioners on AMU and AMR appeared to be moderately, but low for animal health practitioners appeared to be low on AMU and AMR. In order to increase the AMR awareness, AMR stewardship and capacity to educate the clients, the project aims to design a suitable training model with various training materials to increase the AMR awareness and AMR stewardship for animal and human health professionals, and the local communities in Takeo province, Cambodia.

### Goal

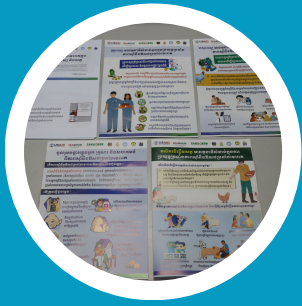
- ✓ To promote AMR awareness and AMR stewardship to prevent its spread in the communities.

### Objectives

- ✓ To increase the AMR awareness and AMR stewardships of animal and human health professionals through applying good practices and spreading the awareness.



# Highlights



Six research teams and 6 students coming from the General Directorate of Animal Health and Production (GDAHP), Royal University of Agriculture (RUA), University of Health Sciences (UHS), and National Institute of Public Health (NIPH) has met for 2 days to discuss and design the suitable and applicable training materials. As a result, 1 training module, 4 posters, and 1 role play scenario have been developed to use for the AMR training and AMR awareness at the communities in Takeo province.

Research teams, students, and government representatives from GDAHP - MAFF and CDC - MOH have been working collaboratively to provide AMR and AMR stewardship training to animal and human health practitioners. As a result, 28 (7 females) of animal and human health practitioners have been educated and show significant increased in knowledge from 5.18 to 7.78 scores ( $P < 0.000$ ).



A part of the training agenda, student role play has been introduced to participants to get more insights about responsible use of antimicrobials and provide the key message on **“Preventing AMR together”** as the theme of the World Antimicrobial Resistance Awareness Week (WAAW) celebration.

A group of research teams, students, government representatives, and trainees went to 6 villages of 2 districts in Takeo province, from home to home, providing AMR awareness via posters that include mainly for practical recommendation for animal owner, general people, animal and human health practitioner in using antimicrobial responsibility. As a result, 302 (182 females) communities have been raised the awareness. About 600 posters were distributed to provincial health hospital, health centers, district vet departments, and university/institution.



All participants who joint the training and AMR awareness activities have received a certificate for future use for their professions. A collaboration among government agencies, research universities, provincial authorities, local authorities, and communities have produced the good working environment and building trust for promoting AMR and AMR stewardship.



*"This training is very good. I have gained knowledge very clear on responsible use of antimicrobials and impact of antimicrobial resistance. Furthermore, I am confident in promoting the responsible use of antimicrobials and impact of antimicrobial resistance to my communities as well". Mr. Sin Sarat, village animal health worker, Tram Kok District, Takeo province.*

*"This is the first training that I have opportunity to learn with veterinary practitioners and the training is good and differ from other trainings that I participated which include the student role play and raise the awareness at communities. I learned much more about the impact of antimicrobial resistance to not only human health, but also to animal and environmental health. Furthermore, I can promote this knowledge to my communities and my working place (health center) to be aware of and act to prevent the spread of antimicrobial resistance". Ms. Chhouk Manith, midwife, Roka Khnong Health Center, Operational District Dounkeo, Takeo Province.*



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