
31 January 2025

Open Letter: Appreciation for the AMR Dashboard

To Whom It May Concern,

As a stakeholder deeply involved in antimicrobial resistance (AMR) surveillance and response efforts in Africa, I am writing to express my strong support for the development and implementation of the AMR dashboard under review. This tool addresses critical gaps in data management and visualization, which are essential for effective AMR interventions in our region.

The challenges we face in managing AMR data in Africa are significant. Many of us rely on Excel spreadsheets, which, while widely accessible, are ill-suited for handling the large and complex datasets generated by AMR surveillance in countries and across regions. The limitations in the number of rows and columns, for example, as well as the lack of advanced analytical and visualization capabilities, hinder our ability to derive meaningful insights from the data using only Excel spreadsheets.

Furthermore, the high cost of alternative proprietary software such as Tableau and Esri places these tools out of reach for many institutions and researchers in Africa. This financial barrier exacerbates the existing challenges in AMR data management, leaving few viable options for analyzing and presenting data in a way that supports real-time decision-making.

The AMR dashboard that has been developed, particularly its use of free and open-source software like R Shiny, is a game-changer. It provides a cost-effective, scalable, and user-friendly solution that is tailored to the needs of African stakeholders. The dashboard's ability to handle large datasets, generate real-time visualizations, and facilitate interactive exploration of data has already proven invaluable in our research work.

What also sets this dashboard apart is its responsiveness to the needs of stakeholders like myself. The developers have engaged extensively with African healthcare professionals, researchers, and policymakers to ensure that the tool is not only technically robust but also practical and relevant to our context. This collaborative approach has resulted in a dashboard that supports efforts to combat AMR through transforming data into informative visualizations and also support more research questions to be formulated as the data is queried in many different ways.

In conclusion, I wholeheartedly endorse the AMR dashboard and urge its continued development and adoption across Africa. It is a vital tool that addresses the unique challenges we face in AMR data management and empowers us to make data-driven decisions that save lives.

Thank you to the developers for your innovation and commitment to supporting AMR efforts in Africa. Your work is making a tangible difference, and I look forward to seeing the impact of this dashboard grow in the years to come.

Sincerely,



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