Surveillance infrastructure is essential to address antimicrobial resistance in the Americas

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In their insightful response, Pallet et al.[1] underscore the significance of international surveillance networks, specifically the Global Antimicrobial Resistance and Use Surveillance System (GLASS), in guiding national action plans to monitor, prevent, and manage antimicrobial resistance (AMR). Launched as a collaborative effort by the World Health Organization (WHO) in 2015, GLASS aims to foster and standardize the surveillance of AMR and antimicrobial consumption worldwide. As of October 2023, 132 countries and territories participate in GLASS and 27 provide data on antimicrobial consumption.[2] However, there are significant gaps in comprehending the local, regional, and global extent, distribution, and evolution of AMR, especially in low- and middle-income countries in the region. For instance, within the WHO region of the Americas only seven countries submit AMR data and three report antibiotic consumption.

Moreover, monitoring the quality of data collection efforts is essential. Considerable disparities exist in testing and data collection capacities between countries,[3] with many nations exhibiting limited surveillance systems and fragmented, underfunded health systems. Also, reporting frequently originates from a limited number of more complex hospitals, potentially biasing AMR estimates when available; and social, economic, and political factors introduce further uncertainty, particularly in low- and middle-income countries.

Pallet et al.[1] rightly highlight the lack of connection between most National Action Plans against AMR and GLASS, with few countries declaring to utilize regional or global data to help inform AMR policy.[4] We wholeheartedly agree that accurately quantifying the local and regional impact of AMR is crucial to inform policy decisions, secure funding, set research priorities, and enhance national action plans. A more explicit commitment from countries in the region and international collaboration to bolster the development of essential surveillance infrastructure is pivotal in addressing AMR.

Contributors
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