

I 6. The EBRD's approach

Following the political declaration of the first UNGA-HLM on AMR in 2016, the EBRD has engaged holistically on AMR and formally integrated AMR into its environmental and sustainability risk management. It has incorporated AMR risk management into its environmental and social due diligence and AMR actions into environmental and social action plans. It has adapted its transition impact on AMR and undertaken technical cooperation programmes with hospital, pharmaceutical and agribusiness clients. It has explored wastewater-based epidemiological surveillance, undertaken internal capacity building through information dissemination and workshops for EBRD staff, and embarked on collaborations and engagement with stakeholders.

The Bank is committed to promoting strong safeguards and high standards in its projects, as well as supporting the attainment of the SDGs in the regions where it operates. The EBRD recognises the public health, economic and sustainability implications of AMR in its regions. It learns lessons and draws on experience from its climate change and biodiversity strategies. The Bank consistently addresses AMR from the policy level to the project level with a view to creating an impact: identifying and managing AMR risks and opportunities for improvement through sector-specific entry points in the healthcare, pharmaceutical, agribusiness and water sectors. It identifies AMR risks and opportunities during environmental and social due diligence and proposes corresponding actions to be agreed by clients. Such actions are incorporated into environmental and social action plans as part of legal agreements and monitored for progress.

Transition impact on AMR

Transition impact is one of the key principles governing the Bank's operations. The measurement of transition impact is the Bank's assessment mechanism, with its projects incorporating "competitive", "well governed", "green", "inclusive", "resilient" and "integrated" elements to promote open-market economies and entrepreneurship in the regions where it operates. The EBRD recently adopted transition impact AMR scoring for projects in the healthcare and livestock sectors. Transition impact scoring of AMR can be conducted in the "well governed" category if the project aims to go beyond national standards or practices and move towards good international practice (GIP) on AMR. This encourages the project to factor GIP mitigation measures into project-specific environmental and social action plans.

The EBRD's Environmental and Social Policy

The Bank's Environmental and Social Policy recognises the sustainability challenges imposed by AMR and provides a solid base from which clients can improve the sustainability of their business operations in the economies where the Bank operates. The G20 ministerial declaration of 2019⁵¹ praised the EBRD's leadership as the first MDB to incorporate specific references to AMR into its Environmental and Social Policy. The new Environmental and Social Policy for 2024-29⁵² addresses the environmental dimension of AMR in Environmental and Social Requirement (ESR) 3, the prevention and mitigation of AMR in human health in ESR 4, and the accountable use of antibiotics in livestock production in ESR 6:

⁵¹ See G20 (2019).

⁵² See EBRD (2024a).



ESR 3: Resource efficiency and pollution prevention and control

Safe use and management of hazardous substances and materials

To prevent and minimise environmental impacts and contamination with microorganisms and chemicals with antimicrobial properties, the client will apply GIP wastewater treatment and livestock faecal waste treatment.



ESR 4: Health, safety and security

Health and safety risks in community services

Where the project involves the provision of health services and/or the production, distribution and use of antimicrobials, the client will incorporate antimicrobial stewardship to minimise antimicrobial resistance.



ESR 6: Biodiversity conservation and sustainable management of living natural resources

Sustainable management of living natural resources

To avoid and minimise antimicrobial resistance (AMR), the client will only use antimicrobials on food-producing animals, in accordance with EU substantive environmental standards.