

1 **One Health Assessment of an Urban Temporary Settlement Reveals**
2 **Gut Microbiome Serving as Antimicrobial Resistance Gene**
3 **Reservoir**

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36 **Abstract**

37

38 Antimicrobial resistance (AMR) is an emerging and growing global health challenge that could result in
39 10.2 million deaths annually by 2050. The unrestricted and haphazard use of antibiotics is contributing to
40 the rapid emergence and spread of AMR, and the problem is exacerbated by release of untreated waste
41 water from high-risk sources like hospitals into rivers. Bacteria often develop resistance through
42 horizontal gene transfer mechanism and gut flora can act as a source for new Antimicrobial Resistance
43 Genes (ARG). Upcoming methods like metagenomics can identify the resistance profile (AMR) of gut
44 microbiome, and detect bacterial infections that otherwise go unnoticed. Our study focused on
45 understanding the presence of AMR mutations and gene transfer dynamics in human, animal and
46 environmental samples collected in one of the temporary settlements of Kathmandu (Nepal) using One
47 Health approach. Current AMR reporting based on clinical cases is limited and does not provide
48 information on specific pathogen and associated AMR genes- our study is an effort to contribute
49 information to fulfill this gap.

50 Twenty-one samples were collected from a temporary settlement in Thapathali (Kathmandu), which
51 included fecal samples from birds (n=3) and humans (n=14), and environmental samples (n=4).
52 Microbiological assessment was carried out based on 16S sequence metagenomic analysis using MiSeq
53 (Illumina, USA). Taxonomic classification on obtained 16S sequences were determined by using
54 Metaphlan 2 and Qiime 2 bioinformatics tools. ShortBRED was used to classify ARG and virulence
55 factors, and WAFFLE was used for horizontal gene transfer event prediction. The network analysis was
56 carried out using Gephi v0.9 and the ResistoXplorer web tool to identify ARG in the collected samples.

57 *Prevotella spp.* was the dominant gut microbiome in humans. We detected diverse phages and viruses,
58 including Stx-2 converting phages. 72 virulence factors and 53 ARG subtypes were detected, with poultry
59 samples having the highest number of subtypes. The cluster and network analysis showed a strong
60 association between gut microbiome and ARG, which was also supported by Horizontal Gene Transfer
61 (HGT) analysis. One-Health interface showed ARG dynamics and revealed gut microbiomes of humans
62 and animals serving as a reservoir for the circulating ARG.

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64 Keywords: AMR, ARG, gut-microbiome, HGT, One-health

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66 Introduction

67

68 Antimicrobial resistance (AMR) is an emerging global health challenge (Aarestrup, 2015). The World
69 Health Organization (WHO) has endorsed a global action plan on AMR surveillance and strategies for
70 mitigation (WHO, 2015). To date, drug-resistant infections are responsible for over 5 million deaths
71 annually as per a report published in 2022 (Murray et al., 2022a) and if the looming crisis is not averted,
72 we might see 100% drug-resistant (superbug) infections, resulting in 10.2 million deaths of working-age
73 population by 2050 (Anderson et al., 2019; Murray et al., 2022b). Haphazard and unrestrained use of
74 antibiotics in agricultural and health sectors have caused an emergence of new bacterial populations
75 carrying and transferring multitude of antibiotic resistant genes (ARG) (Xu et al., 2015; Guo et al., 2017).
76 One of the emerging sources of AMR has been non-treated or minimally treated hospital wastewater
77 which gets released into rivers (Fouz et al., 2020), such is the case with the majority of the hospitals in
78 Kathmandu (Nepal) (Thakali et al., 2021a). Many of the temporary settlements (slums), including our
79 study site, have been exposed to such untreated wastewater from nearby hospitals.

80 Bacteria often develop AMR resistance through Horizontal Gene Transfer (HGT) and ARG are acquired
81 from related or distant species. Mobile genetic elements (MGEs) within bacterial cells like plasmids,
82 integrons and transposons are enhanced by recombination mechanisms like conjugation, transduction and
83 transformation (Murray et al., 2022b). Reservoirs of ARG found in microbial communities in humans,
84 animals and environment are crucial in propagation of AMR (Forsberg et al., 2014). Gut flora is
85 responsible for overall health of mammalian species, including its important role in boosting host immune
86 system and enhancing nutrition acquisition (Anthony et al., 2021). Antibiotics create a disharmony in gut
87 ecosystems by altering their functional and taxonomic composition, enabling colonization by
88 opportunistic pathogens (Sorbara and Pamer, 2019).

89 Metagenomics has become an important tool to profile AMR of gut microbiome (Hendriksen et al., 2019)
90 and to identify various environmental niche that may be source of dissemination of AMR bacteria and
91 resistance mechanism (Fitzpatrick and Walsh, 2016). Using next generation sequencing (NGS) data of
92 short targeted biomarker reads, metagenomics techniques enable quantification of large number of
93 transmissible resistance genes (Miller et al., 2013). Metagenomics is a relatively new and emerging
94 method, and since its first published application in 2010, more cost effective NGS platforms have been
95 developed and are now commercially available. With this technique, we can detect microorganisms
96 without any presupposition, especially for those infections that are difficult to detect using conventional
97 diagnostic tools (Miller et al., 2013; Schlaberg et al., 2017; d'Humières et al., 2021). This technique is
98 particularly useful in early detection and surveillance of highly infectious zoonotic diseases (Newell et
99 al., 2010).

100 Disease surveillance, including AMR, is mostly based on reports submitted by clinical or laboratory
101 outlets (Gibbons et al., 2014). Covid-19 pandemic has highlighted the importance of a broad but accurate
102 surveillance of communicable diseases (Assefa et al., 2022; Basseal et al., 2022). Detection and
103 monitoring of virulence factors can be particularly useful in understanding public health risks of potential
104 infections as virulence factors are often associated with the ability of bacteria or virus to adhere, colonize,
105 invade and sequester nutrients from hosts (Sharma et al., 2017) and increase their pathogenicity (Miller et
106 al., 2013). HGT is a mechanism through which bacteria evolve by transferring genetic information such
107 as AMR, virulence and functional genes between cells (Burmeister, 2015). In this study, we have
108 analyzed samples collected from humans, animals and environment in a high risk urban site located in
109 Kathmandu; and detected AMR genes in bacteria, determined their virulence factors and HGT.

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113 Material and methods

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115 Study site

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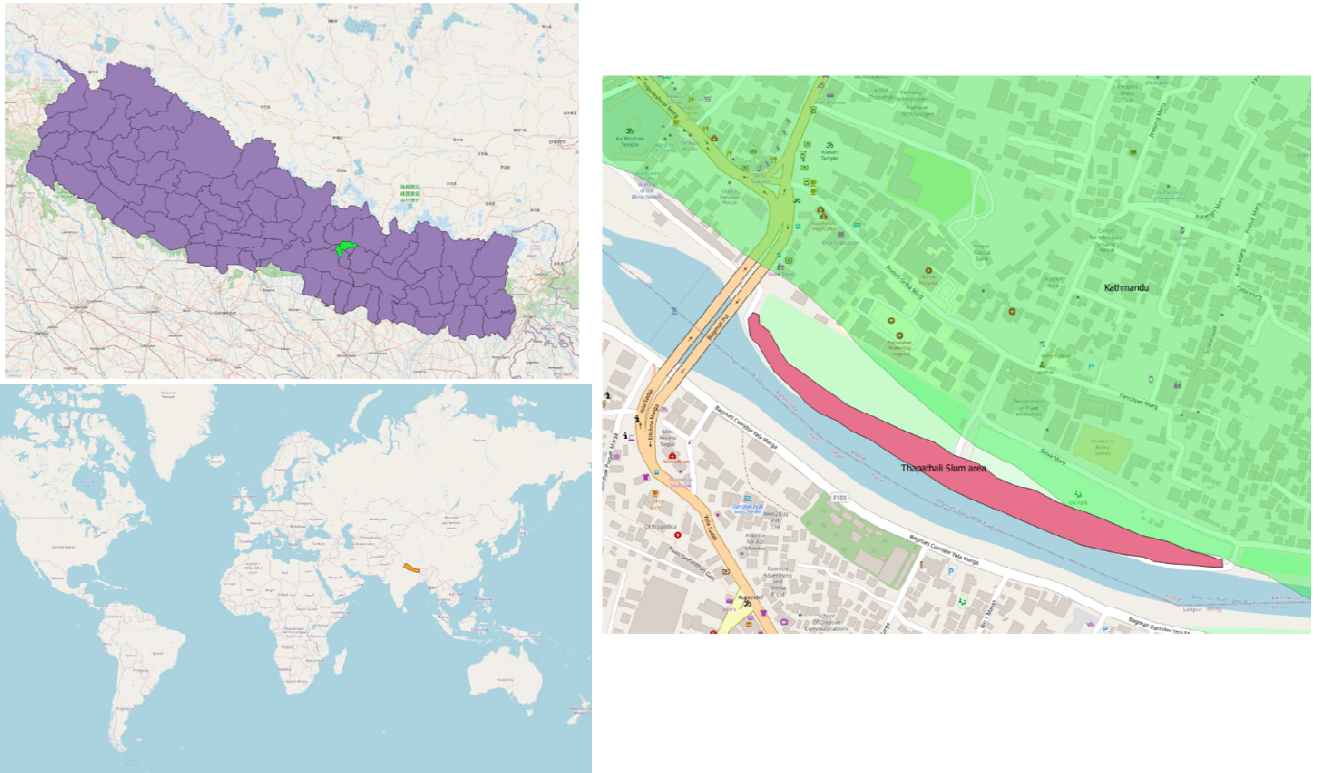
117 This study site is a temporary settlement located in Thapathali, Kathmandu (Figure). With an estimated
118 population of 661, this settlement is situated in the banks of the Bagmati River and located in the middle
119 of a highly dense and urbanized part of the Kathmandu valley. Two large hospitals, the Paropakar
120 Maternity and Women's Hospital and Norvic Hospital, are situated within 200 meters of the sampling
121 site. Untreated wastewater from the hospitals are discharged into the nearby Bagmati river.
122

123 We collected samples from birds [n=3, fecal; chicken, *Gallus gallus domesticus*, n=1, common quails,
124 *Coturnix coturnix*, n=2], humans (n=14, fecal), and environmental samples [n=4; water (n=2), soil (n=1),
125 and river bed sediments (n=1)].
126

127 Ethical approval for the study was obtained from the Nepal Health Research Council (Reg. No.
128 792/2018).
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133 **Figure 1: The study site- Thapathali temporary settlement, located in the Kathmandu metropolitan**
134 **city.** The map was created using QGIS (an open-source GIS platform) using base maps from
OpenStreetMap contributors (25) and shape files from OpendataNepal.com (26)

135

136 **Sample Collection and DNA extraction**

137

138 River water samples were collected in May (2019) using electric auto-sampler (Biobot Analytics Inc,
139 USA). Five hundred milliliter (ml) gab and sediment sample were collected in zip lock bags using sterile
140 plastic spatula. Written consent were obtained from the participating residents and structured
141 questionnaires were used for survey. The humans and domestic animals (chicken and quails) fecal
142 samples were collected in sterile plastic stool containers. The fecal samples were then transferred into two
143 individual vials containing 5ml RNAlater (Thermo Fisher Scientific, USA) and Glycerol respectively and
144 were homogenized uniformly. From 5ml of homogenized solution, 1 ml solution was transferred to each
145 five 2ml cryovials. 1L of ground water was collected in a sterile screw capped bottle, and soil samples
146 were collected in zip lock bags avoiding surface debris. The samples were labeled with unique identity
147 code and GPS of site and sample collected were recorded. The samples were transported immediately to
148 the laboratory in cold chain box maintaining temperature between 2-8° Celsius.

149

150 DNA was extracted from fecal samples using the QIAamp Fast DNA Stool Mini Kit (Qiagen, Germany)
151 following manufacturer's instructions. For environmental samples, DNA was extracted using the
152 PowerSoil DNA isolation kit (MO BIO Laboratories Inc., USA). DNA concentration was measured using
153 a Qubit™ 3 Fluorometer (Invitrogen, USA). The integrity and size of the extracted DNA were examined
154 with electrophoresis in 0.8% agarose gel.

155

156 **16S rRNA sequencing**

157

158 16S rRNA gene was amplified using archaeal and bacterial primers (515F and 806R), targeting V3 and
159 V4 regions (Caporaso et al., 2011). The PCR products were quantified using Qubit™ 3 Fluorometer,
160 multiplexed at even concentration and sequenced on 600 bp (2 x 300bp) pair-end using Illumina MiSeq
161 platform (Illumina, Inc., USA) (EMP 16S Illumina Amplicon Protocol, n.d.).

162

163 **Metagenomic library preparation and sequencing**

164

165 1 ng of genomic DNA from each sample was used with Illumina MiSeq Nextera XT DNA Library
166 Preparation Kit (Illumina, Inc., USA), the paired-end library was constructed with an insert (500 bp) for
167 all 21 samples. DNA was cleaned by AMPure XP beads (Agentcourt, USA) and tagmented and indexed
168 using Nextera XT Index Kit (Illumina, Inc., USA). Clean DNA was again quantified and evaluated using
169 Qubit (Invitrogen, USA) and Agilent bioanalyzer DNA 1000 kit (Agilent Technologies, UK). Finally, all
170 samples were pooled at 4 nm concentration and paired-end [300bp (2 x 151bp)] sequenced in MiSeq
171 platform (Illumina, USA).

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174 **Data analysis**

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176 **16s rRNA bacterial taxonomic profiling**

177

178 Data were analyzed using the QIIME version 2.0 pipeline. Raw sequences were de-multiplexed and then
179 quality-filtered using DADA2 in QIIME. Sequences were then clustered into Operational Taxonomic
180 Units (OTUs, 99% similarity) with USEARCH using the open reference clustering protocol (Amplicon
181 analysis with QIIME2 - VL microbiome project, n.d.). The Silva_132_release database was used to assign
182 taxonomy and resulting OTU table was then rarefied based on alpha rarefaction of 21,383 reads per
183 sample.

184

185 **Metagenomic taxonomic profiling**

186 The metagenomic phylogenetic analysis was done using tool- MetaPhlAn V 3.0
187 (<https://github.com/biobakery/MetaPhlAn>). The analysis was performed as described in the manual of
188 MetaPhlAn V 3.0 to run an analysis (<https://github.com/biobakery/MetaPhlAn/wiki/MetaPhlAn-3.0>)
189 (MetaPhlAn 3.0 · biobakery/MetaPhlAn Wiki · GitHub, n.d.).

190

191 **Virulence factor and antimicrobial resistance gene (ARG) analysis**

192 The shotgun sequence data was used to analyze AMR and Virulence factor (VF) gene using tool
193 ShortBRED (Kaminski et al., 2015). Antibiotic Resistance Database (ARDB) markers and Virulence
194 Factors Database (VFDB) markers were used in the analysis, which is the default database present in
195 ShortBRED tools. Similar to the MetaPhlAn, manual of ShortBRED was used to perform the analysis
196 (<https://github.com/biobakery/shortbred>) (GitHub - biobakery/shortbred: ShortBRED is a pipeline to take
197 a set of protein sequences, reduce them to a set of unique identifying strings (“markers”), and then search
198 for these markers in metagenomic data and determine the presence and abundance of the, n.d.).
199 Antimicrobial abundance data were visualized using ResistoXplorer web platform (Dhariwal et al., 2021).

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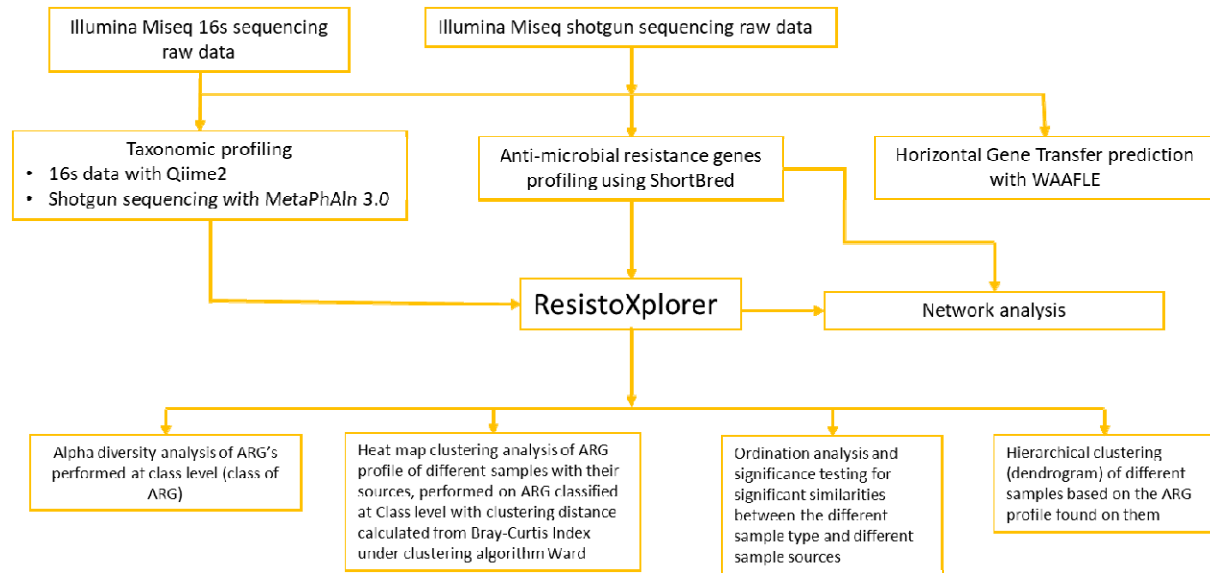
201 **Horizontal gene transfer (HGT) Analysis**

202 The horizontal gene transfer event was predicted using the tool WAAFLE [43] in default taxonomy
203 database and following the prescribed manual (<https://github.com/biobakery/waafle>) (GitHub -
204 biobakery/waafle: WAAFLE (a Workflow to Annotate Assemblies and Find LGT Events) is a method for
205 finding novel LGT (Lateral Gene Transfer) events in assembled metagenomes, including those from
206 human microbiomes., n.d.).

207

208 **Network analysis**

209 Network analysis was performed on AMR relative abundance data obtained through ShortBRED and
210 loaded to Gephi V 0.92- association between detected ARG in various assessed samples were then
211 visualized. Additionally, Association Network analysis was obtained using integration analysis of AMR
212 and taxonomic data on the ResistoXplorer Web platform. The analysis was carried out under sequence
213 abundance cutoff=10%, correlation co-efficient cutoff=0.6, adjusted P=0.05 and 1000 permutations.



214

215 **Figure 1:** Bioinformatics data analysis workflow used in this study to determine bacterial taxonomic
216 profiles, virulence factors, Antimicrobial Resistance Genes (ARG), Horizontal Gene Transfer (HGT) and
217 AMR associated network analysis.

218

219 Results

220 Only 11 samples (8 humans and 3 birds fecal samples) yielded 16s rRNA sequencing data. Our Shotgun
221 metagenomics approach generated 29,000 to 2.1 million reads per sample. However, one sample only had
222 few hundred reads (water sample-EW70) and was considered a sequencing failure. All raw data was
223 submitted to the NCBI under Bio-project PRJNA881338.

224

225 16s rRNA bacterial and metagenomic taxonomic profiling

226

227 We identified various genera of bacteria (Supplementary table 1) and phages (

228 Table 1). Taxonomic classification of bacterial phylum rank showed dominance of phylum *Firmicutes*
 229 and *Bacteroidetes* in human samples, *Firmicutes* and *Proteobacteria* in fowl samples and *Bacteroidetes*
 230 and *Proteobacteria* in the environmental samples (Supplementary Table 2).

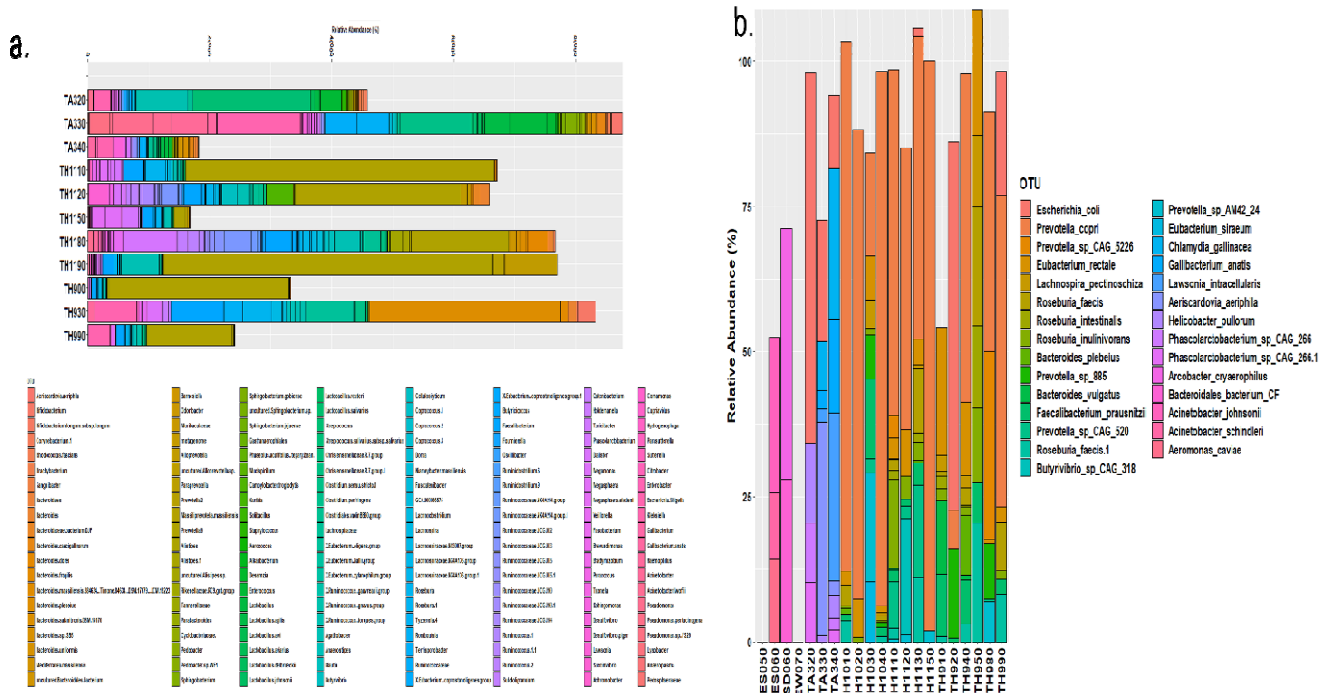
231

232 **Bacteria profile in various samples**

233

234 Genus *Prevotella* and *Escherichia* were the most prevalent bacteria found in the human samples. Other
 235 bacterial species present belonged to genus *Lachnospira*, *Roseburia*, *Eubacterium*, *Faecalibacterium*,
 236 *Bacteroides* and *Butyrivibrio* (Supplementary Table 1). 16s data revealed genus *Agathobacter*,
 237 *Bacteroides*, *Prevotella*, *Escherichia*, *Clostridium*, *Streptococcus*, *Blautia*, *Lachnospira*,
 238 *Faecalibacterium*, *Dorea* and *Roseburia* were abundant, along with presence of more than 50 other
 239 bacteria genera in the human samples (Supplementary Table 2). According to both 16s and shotgun
 240 sequencing data, bacterial population showed more variance in human samples than birds and
 241 environmental samples. Bird samples were dominated by genus *Lawsonia*, *Escherichia*, *Gallibacterium*,
 242 *Helicobacter* and *Chlamydia*, in addition to the presence of other genera (Supplementary: Table 1 and 2).
 243 Environmental samples were dominated by presence of some well characterized environmental bacterial
 244 genus such as *Pseudomonas*, *Aeromonas*, *Acinetobacter*, and *Acrobacter* (Figure 2).

245 Besides these gut microbiomes, bacteria associated with human health such as *E. coli*, *Campylobacter*,
 246 *Shigella* and *Haemophilus* were also detected. Poultry pathogens- *Chlamydia gallinacea*, *Gallibacterium*
 247 *anatis* and *Helicobacter pullorum* were found in poultry samples. Aside from pathogenic organisms,
 248 known probiotic organisms such as *Lactobacillus johnsonii*, *Lactobacillus agilis*, *Lactobacillus reuteri*
 249 and *Lactobacillus salivarius* were also found in the bird samples.



250 **Figure 2:** Detected bacterial phylum in various samples based on- A) 16s rRNA sequencing and B)
 251 Shotgun sequencing obtained from MetaPhlan V2.0. The plots were generated using ggplot2 in R studio
 252 2022.07.1 Build 554

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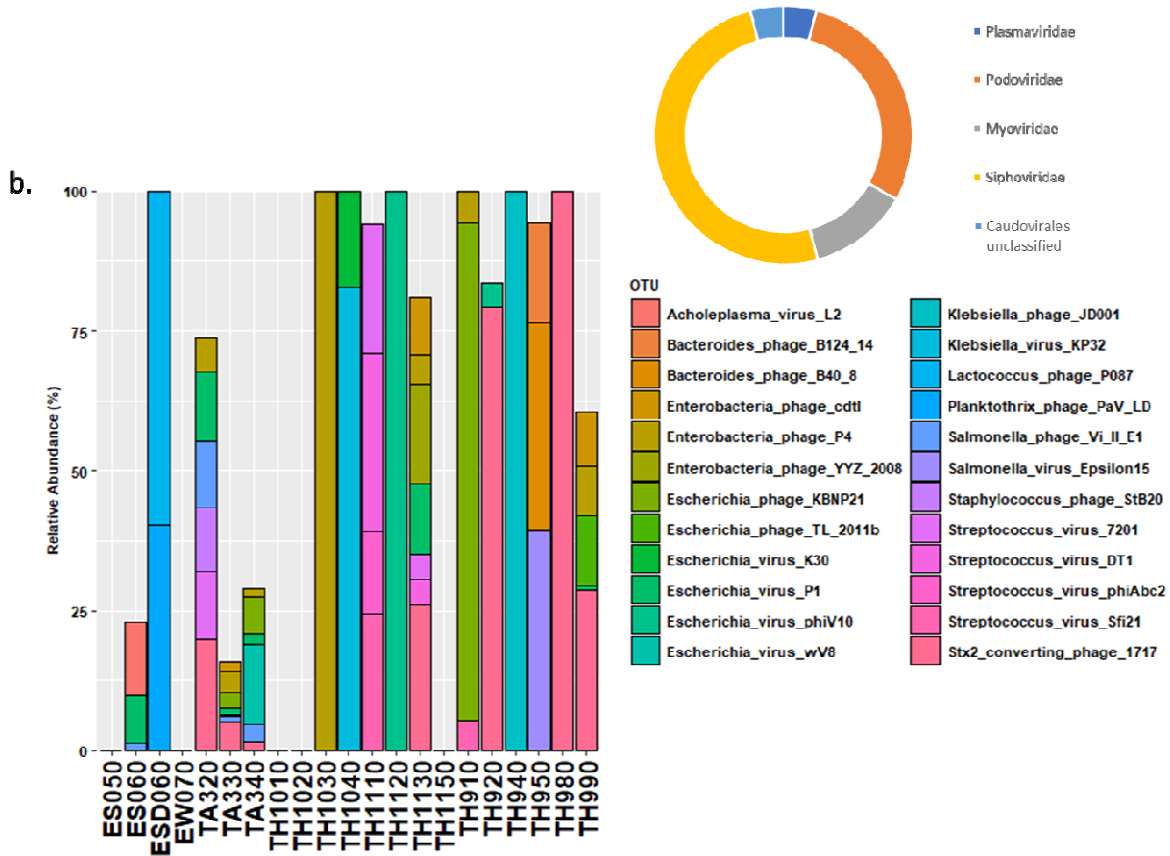
255 **Taxonomic profile of Virus (Phages)**

256

257 Taxonomic classification of virus family revealed the dominance of family *Siphoviridae*, followed by
258 *Podoviridae* (Figure 3), both belonging to the order *Caudovirales*. Majority of the viruses were various
259 phages of *Enterobacteriaceae* family- *Escherichia phage*, *Salmonella phage*, and *Klebsiella phage* (

260 Table 1). Phage diversity were highest in the human samples compared to poultry and environmental
261 samples. In birds and humans, *Escherichia* phage along with Stx-2 converting phage that carries shiga
262 toxin genes were found in greater numbers compared to the environmental samples. In environmental
263 samples, *Planktothrix* phage PaV LD, *Lactococcus* phage P087 and *Achloplasma* virus L2 that infect
264 environmental bacteria were abundant. Furthermore, in human samples, as expected phages of gut
265 microbiome and gut pathogen were abundantly detected (

266 Table 1).



267
 268 **Figure 3:** Prevalence of virus family in the samples obtained from metagenomic sequencing data. A) Family wise distribution of viruses (phage) detected B) Various phages detected in different samples; The
 269 Bar plot was generated using ggplot2 in R studio 2022.07.1 Build 554 with R version 4.2.0.
 270

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272

273 **Table 1:** Taxonomic profile of viruses (phage) and their relative abundance of ≥ 10 in samples obtained
 274 through metagenomic sequencing.

Phage name	Family	Order	Sample	Occurrence in sample (no.)
Acholeplasma_virus_L2	Plasmpviridae	Caudovirales	Environment	1
Bacteroides_phage_B124_14	Siphoviridae	Caudovirales	Human	1
Bacteroides_phage_B40_8	Siphoviridae	Caudovirales	Human	1
Enterobacteria_phage_cdtI	Siphoviridae	Caudovirales	Human	1
Enterobacteria_phage_P4	Caudovirales unclassified	Caudovirales	Human	1
Enterobacteria_phage_YYZ_2008	Siphoviridae	Caudovirales	Human	1
Escherichia_phage_KBNP21	Podoviridae	Caudovirales	Human	1
Escherichia_phage_TL_2011b	Podoviridae	Caudovirales	Human	1
Escherichia_virus_K30	Podoviridae	Caudovirales	Human	1
Escherichia_virus_P1	Myoviridae	Caudovirales	Human & Poultry	2
Escherichia_virus_phiV10	Podoviridae	Caudovirales	Human	1
Escherichia_virus_wV8	Myoviridae	Caudovirales	Poultry	1
Klebsiella_phage_JD001	Myoviridae	Caudovirales	Human	1
Klebsiella_virus_KP32	Podoviridae	Caudovirales	Human	1
Lactococcus_phage_P087	Siphoviridae	Caudovirales	Human	1
Planktothrix_phage_PaV_LD	Podoviridae	Caudovirales	Environment	1
Salmonella_phage_Vi_II_E1	Siphoviridae	Caudovirales	Environment	1
Salmonella_virus_Epsilon15	Podoviridae	Caudovirales	Human	1
Staphylococcus_phage_StB20	Siphoviridae	Caudovirales	Poultry	1
Streptococcus_virus_7201	Siphoviridae	Caudovirales	Human & Poultry	2
Streptococcus_virus_DT1	Siphoviridae	Caudovirales	Human	1
Streptococcus_virus_phiAbc2	Siphoviridae	Caudovirales	Human	1
Streptococcus_virus_Sfi21	Siphoviridae	Caudovirales	Human	1
Stx2_converting_phage_1717	Siphoviridae	Caudovirales	Human & Poultry	5

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277 Virulence factors profiling

278 Overall, a total of 72 genes that code for virulence factor were detected by shotgun metagenomics
279 (threshold of 99 % identity and relative abundance of ≥ 10). Genes coding for toxins, type I to VI secretion
280 systems, regulatory proteins, adhering proteins, siderophores as well as polysaccharides that compose the
281 capsules and exhibit anti-phagocytic properties were detected. Virulence factors were detected
282 predominantly from human samples, followed by poultry samples. *pilT* gene of *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*
283 was the only gene recovered from the environmental sample (Supplementary 4). Most of the virulence
284 genes belonged to *Escherichia coli* followed by *Shigella dysenteriae*, *Yersinia pestis* and *Salmonella*
285 *enterica*. Very unique and specific genes were detected in some bacterial species- *Shigella flexneri*,
286 *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*, *Legionella pneumophila* and *Yersinia enterocolitica*.

287
288 We detected genes associated with the toxigenic *E. coli* and *Shigella flexneri* exclusively in the human
289 samples. These genes include *sat1*, *ltb*, *lta*, *astA* and *senB* which code for accreted auto transporter toxin
290 of *Enterobacteriaceae*, enterotoxin of *Enterotoxigenic Escherichia coli* (ETEC), heat stable enterotoxin
291 of *Enteroaggregative E. coli*, and enterotoxin 2 of *Shigella flexneri* respectively (
292 Table 2).
293

294 Table 2: Detected toxin coding genes associated with bacteria as obtained through ShortBRED tool.

VFDB database gene identifier	Virulence genes	Occurrence in sample	Bacterial species source (according to VFDB)	Description
VFG0902	<i>sat</i>	Human	<i>Enterobacteriaceae</i>	Accreted auto transporter toxin; diarrhea (Liu et al., 2020; Vieira et al., 2020)
VFG1827	<i>senB</i>	Human	<i>Shigella flexneri</i>	<i>Shigella</i> enterotoxin 2; shigellosis (Liu et al., 2020)
VFG2038 & VFG2037	<i>ltb</i> and <i>lta</i>	Human	<i>E. coli</i>	Enterotoxin of Enterotoxigenic <i>Escherichia coli</i> ; diarrhoea
VFG0863	<i>astA</i>	Human	<i>E. coli</i>	Enterotoxigenic <i>E. coli</i> heat stable enterotoxin (EAST1); diarrhea (Maluta et al., 2017)

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298 **Antibiotic resistance determinants**

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300 A total of 25 various classes of AMG and 53 ARG subtypes were detected in the 21 samples. Among
301 these, two of the genes- *tetQ* and *ermF* were present in 14 out of 21 samples- mainly in the human and
302 bird samples. Except *tetQ* and *ermF*, *tet(W)* (13/21), *cfxA* (11/21), *tet(40)* (10/21), *tet(0)*(10/21) and *tet32*
303 (8/21) all other ARG were abundantly present. The bird samples (n=37) had the highest number of ARG,
304 followed by the human samples (n=27) and the environmental samples (n=16).

305
306 Human, bird and environmental samples all had mobile genetic element- *intl1*. Genes responsible for
307 resistance to antimicrobial agent such as fluoroquinolone (*qnrB6*, *qnrS1*, *QRDR*), sulfonamide (*sul1*, *sul2*,
308 *sul3*), macrolide (*mphK*, *macB*, *macA_3*, *ereA2*, *ermCd*, *ermQ*, *ermG*, *ermF*, *ermGT*, *ermB*), lincosamide
309 (*inuB*), kasugamycin (*ksgA*), vancomycin (*vanR*), undecaprenyl pyrophosphate (*bacA*), trimethoprim
310 (*dfrA*, *dfrXV*, *dfrA14*), chloramphenicol (*catA*, *catQ*, *floR*), polymyxin (*arnA*), aminoglycosides [*aacC3*,
311 *aac(60)-Ie-aph(200)-Ia*, *aadA*, *aph6*, *ant(3'')*, *ant(4)*, *ant(6)*, *aadB*, *aadE*, *aph(3')-IIIa*, *aph(3')-Ib*],
312 tetracycline (*tetC*, *tet39*, *tetQ*, *tet32*, *tetW*, *tetM*, *tet40*, *tetA*, *tetL*, *tetB*) and betalactam (*cepA*, *cfxA*, *bla_{TEM}*,
313 *bla_{VEB-1}*, *bla_{CTX-M}*, *bla_{EC}*) antibiotics were detected.

314
315 Among all the ARG subtypes, genes resistant to aminoglycosides, tetracycline, and beta-lactams were
316 predominant. In human samples, the dominant ARG belonged to tetracycline resistance genes (*tetQ*,
317 *tet32*, *tetW*, *tetM*, *tetO*), followed by beta-lactam resistance genes (*cepA*, *cfxA*, *bla_{CTX-M}*, *bla_{EC}*) and
318 aminoglycoside resistance genes (*aadE*, *aph(3')-Ib*, *aph6*). In bird samples, the dominant ARG were
319 aminoglycoside resistance genes [*aacC3*, *aac(60)-Ie-aph(200)-Ia*, *aadA*, *ant(3'')*, *ant(6)*, *aadB*, *aadE*,
320 *aph(3')- IIIa*, *aph(3')-Ib*], followed by tetracycline resistance genes (*tetQ*, *tet32*, *tetW*, *tetM*, *tet40*, *tetA*,
321 *tetL*, *tetB*), and erythromycin resistance genes (*ermB*, *ermF*, *ermG*). The environmental samples had high
322 presence of sulphonamides (*sul1*, *sul2*, *sul3*) and tetracycline [*tetM*, *tetA(39)*, *tetC*]. Despite having the
323 least number of samples, bird (poultry) samples had the highest number of ARG, while the environmental
324 samples had the least number of ARG present. (

325 Table 3 and
326
327 Figure 4).
328
329

330 Table 3: Antimicrobial resistance Genes found in human, bird (poultry) and environmental samples.

Antimicrobial resistance gene (ARG)	Human	Poultry	Environmental	Antimicrobial resistance gene (ARG)	Human	Poultry	Environmental
<i>sul1</i>	□	+	+	<i>aph6-5</i>	+	□	+
<i>sul2</i>	+	□	+	<i>aph(3'')-Ib</i>	+	+	+
<i>sul3</i>	□	+	+	<i>aph(3')-IIIa</i>	□	+	□
<i>qnrS6</i>	+	□	□	<i>aacC3</i>	□	+	□
<i>qnrS1</i>	+	+	□	<i>aac(6')-Ie/aph(2'')-Ia</i>	□	+	□
<i>QRDR</i>	+	+	□	<i>ant3</i>	□	+	□
<i>macA_3</i>	+	+	+	<i>ant6</i>	□	+	□
<i>macB</i>	+	+	□	<i>aadA</i>	□	+	□
<i>vanR</i>	□	□	+	<i>aadB</i>	□	+	□
<i>mphK</i>	+	□	□	<i>aadE</i>	+	+	□
<i>inuB</i>	□	+	□	<i>tet(C)</i>	□	□	+
<i>ksgA</i>	+	+	□	<i>tetA(39)</i>	□	+	+
<i>ermB</i>	□	+	□	<i>tet(40)</i>	+	+	□
<i>ermF</i>	+	+	□	<i>tet(L)</i>	□	+	□
<i>ermGT</i>	+	□	□	<i>tet(B)</i>	□	+	□
<i>ermG</i>	□	+	□	<i>tetQ</i>	+	+	□
<i>ereA2</i>	□	□	+	<i>tetM_like</i>	+	+	□
<i>dfrXV</i>	□	+	+	<i>tet(32)</i>	+	+	□
<i>dfrA</i>	+	+	□	<i>tet(W)</i>	+	+	□
<i>dfrA14</i>	+	□	□	<i>tet(O)</i>	+	□	□
<i>floR</i>	□	□	+	<i>tet(M)</i>	+	+	+
<i>catA</i>	+	+	□	<i>cepA</i>	+	□	□
<i>catQ</i>	□	□	+	<i>bla_{CTX-M-1}</i>	+	□	□
<i>arnA</i>	□	+	□	<i>cfxA</i>	+	□	□
<i>bacA</i>	+	+	+	<i>bla_{VEB-1}</i>	□	□	+
<i>bla_{TEM-137}</i>	□	+	□	<i>bla_{EC}</i>	+	+	□
<i>classD_beta lactamase</i>	□	+	□	<i>bla_{CTXM-83}</i>	+	□	□

331 + Presence of ARG

332 – Absence of ARG

333

334

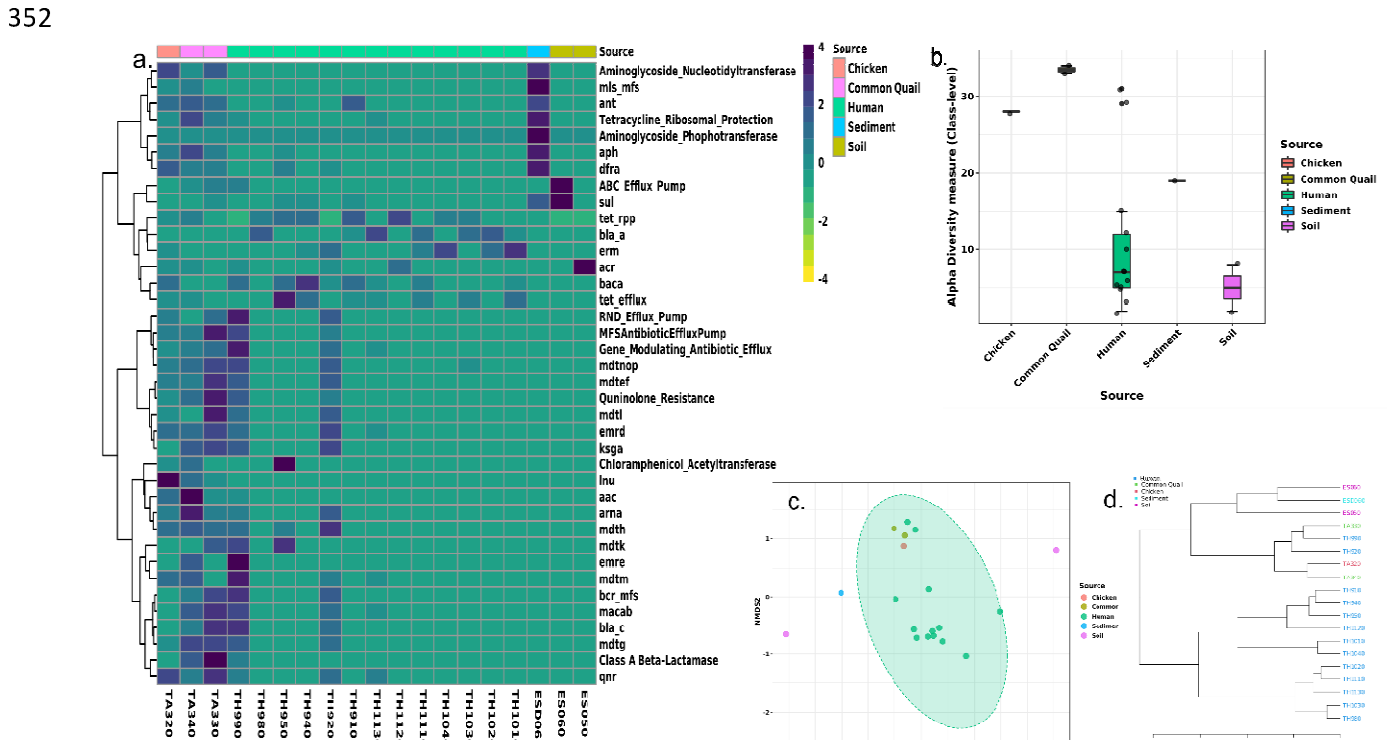
335 The most abundant ARG in some samples (TA340, TA330, TH990, and TH920) are visualized in the
 336 generated heat-map (

337
 338 Figure 4a). The highest diversity was observed in TA340 and TA330. As seen in hierarchical clustering
 339 (dendrogram) (

340
 341 Figure 4d), the ARG were confined to four main clusters: two clusters were entirely from human samples,
 342 one from environmental samples and one had ARG common in the human and bird (poultry) samples.
 343 ARG found in human samples had positive association/correlation except for TH990 and TH920.

344
 345 Association of ARG in birds and humans were significant as seen in the fourth cluster (F-value=2.187, R-
 346 squared=0.38456 and P-value=<0.003) (Figure 5c). ARG from the environmental samples, on the other
 347 hand, appear to be clustering within themselves without any correlation with other samples. The most
 348 diverse ARG were seen in common quail samples, while soil samples had the least number of ARG
 349 (Figure 5b). The highest variability of ARG were detected in the human samples (

350
 351 Figure 4b).



353
 354

355

356 **Figure 4:** Visualization of ARG profile of various samples obtained from shot-gun sequencing processed
 357 in SHORTBred pipeline. a) Heat map obtained through cluster analysis of ARG profile of various
 358 samples and their sources, performed in ARG classified at Class level with clustering distance calculated
 359 from Bray-Curtis Index under clustering algorithm Ward. b) Alpha diversity analysis of ARG at class
 360 level, measuring diversity with Shannon. The ARG diversity is significant (P-value= 0.019166) tested
 361 using ANOVA. c) Ordination analysis and significance testing for significant similarities between the
 362 different sample types and sources. Non-metric multidimensional scaling (NMDS) ordination method was
 363 used with Bray-Curtis Index and statistically tested with Permutation MANOVA (PERMANOVA) (F-

364 value=2.187, R-squared=0.38456 and P-value=<0.003). Samples with statistically significant ARG
365 association are highlighted with light green shade. d) Hierarchical clustering (dendrogram) of various
366 samples based on the ARG profile. The clustering was performed with algorithm Ward and Bray-Curtis
367 Index as a distance measure algorithm.

368 **Horizontal gene transfer (HGT) events**

369 Environmental bacteria exhibited transference of genes that code for translational enzymes and RNA-
370 directed DNA polymerase, including genes such as copper resistance proteins B that help in survival on
371 harsh environmental conditions. Furthermore, genes that code for enzymes such as integrase and
372 transposase of IS elements of family (*IS3/IS911* and *IS1595*) that might help them in lysogenic
373 transformation (Antimicrobial resistance, n.d.; Davies and Davies, 2010) were also found along with
374 genes that code for antimicrobial resistance, transcription regulation, DNA methyltransferase, and
375 ATPases (Hamner et al., 2019).

376 HGT were also detected in the bird samples- especially with genes that code for proteins of replication
377 and translation, as well as genes associated with enzymes of various pathways (mannonate dehydratase,
378 oxidoreductase, peptidyl-prolyl cis/trans isomerases and NADH-azoreductase). In bird (poultry) samples,
379 integrases and transposons of the *IS66* and *IS21* families that help in AMR transference (Hjelmsø et al.,
380 2019) were detected. Clindamycin resistance transfer factor BtgB (Supplementary table 3 and Table 5),
381 which is required for conjugal transfer of the clindamycin resistance gene in *Bacteroides* species (Das et
382 al., 2020) were also detected.

383 In human samples, most of the commensal bacterial species HGT were detected that code for proteins of
384 replication, transcription, translation, ion transportation, enzyme regulation, enzymes for various
385 constitutive and inducive pathways, and enzymes required for bacterial quotidian functions
386 (Supplementary Table 3). Various genes that code for AMR mechanisms such as ABC multidrug
387 transport system, multidrug resistance protein (MATE family), VanY domain containing protein,
388 penicillin binding protein (PBP) 1A, aminoglycoside phosphotransferase, *tetR* protein, and
389 metalloβ-lactamase domain protein (Table 4) were detected circulating in gut microbiome.
390 Additionally, ARG that facilitate movement and insertion of these genes were also detected. Genes
391 associated with integrase and transposase of *IS116/IS110/IS902*, *IS30*, *IS605*, *IS200*, and *IS4* families
392 were found in the gut commensals (Supplementary table 3 and

393 Table).

394

395

396 **Table 4:** Various antimicrobial resistance proteins, virulence protein, transposase and integrase that
 397 translated from genes transferred via HGT between organisms.

Sample	HGT between organisms		Proteins that translated from genes transferred from HGT
TA330	<i>Bacteroides_coprophilus</i>	<i>Bacteroides_xylanisolvens</i>	IS66 family element & transposase
TA340	<i>Prevotella</i>	<i>Bacteroides</i>	Clindamycin resistance transfer factor BtgB
TH950	<i>Eubacterium_eligens</i>	<i>Clostridium_sp_L2_50</i>	Transposase, IS200 family
TH950	<i>Roseburia_intestinalis</i>	<i>Roseburia_inulinivorans</i>	Transposase IS116/IS110/IS902 family
TH910	<i>Faecalibacterium_prausnitzii</i>	<i>Subdoligranulum_sp_4_3_54</i> A2FAA	ABC-type multidrug transport system
TH950	<i>Oribacterium_sp_oral_taxon_078</i>	<i>Roseburia_intestinalis</i>	Antitoxin; DUF2185 domain-containing protein
TH1010	<i>Roseburia_inulinivorans</i>	<i>Eubacterium_rectale</i>	Multidrug resistance protein, MATE family
TH1010	<i>Bacteroides</i>	<i>Prevotella_stercorea</i>	Transposase, IS116/IS110/IS902 family
TH1020	<i>Megamonas_rupellensis</i>	<i>Megamonas_funiformis</i>	IS605 OrfB family transposase
TH1120	<i>Ruminococcus_bromii</i>	<i>Butyrivibrio_crossotus</i>	Penicillin-binding protein 1A
TH1120	<i>Butyrivibrio_crossotus</i>	<i>Prevotella_copri</i>	Aminoglycoside phosphotransferase
TH1130	<i>Anaerostipes_hadrus</i>	<i>Clostridiales</i>	ABC-type multidrug transport system
TH1130	<i>Ruminococcus</i>	<i>Clostridiales</i>	VanY domain-containing protein, ABC-type multidrug transport system
TH1110	<i>Veillonella_sp_HPA0037</i>	<i>Megasphaera_elsdenii</i>	Transposase IS200-family protein; TetR protein
ES060	<i>Pseudoxanthomonas_sp_GW2</i>	<i>Alcanivorax_pacificus</i>	Copper resistance protein B
ESD060	<i>Thauera_sp_27</i>	<i>Dechloromonas_aromatica</i>	Integrase, & Transposase IS3/IS911
ESD060	<i>Cupriavidus_sp_HMR_1</i>	<i>Gammaproteobacteria</i>	DDE_Tnp_IS1595 domain-containing protein
TH910	<i>Ruminococcus_sp_5_I_39BFAA</i>	<i>Eubacterium_eligens</i>	Multidrug resistance protein MATE family
TH950	<i>Roseburia_intestinalis</i>	<i>Eubacterium_ramulus</i>	Transposase IS4 family protein
TH950	<i>Roseburia_inulinivorans</i>	<i>Eubacterium_rectale</i>	Transposase IS116/IS110/IS902 family./Transposase
TH980	<i>Catenibacterium_mitsuokai</i>	<i>Clostridiales</i>	Transposase, IS605 family
TH1030	<i>Clostridium_sp_ATCC_BAA_442</i>	<i>Ruminococcus_sp_JC304</i>	Metallo-beta-lactamase domain protein

399 ARG Network Analysis

400 Association of ARG types in samples based on relative abundance of genes

401 The association network analysis of ARG in samples (Figure 6) showed strong relationship between the
402 environmental samples (ES050, ES060, and ESD060) and aminoglycoside phosphotransferase,
403 aminoglycoside nucleotidyltransferase, sul gene, dfrA gene, acr gene, and ABC efflux pump. In contrast,
404 bird (poultry) samples (TA340, TA330, and TA320) showed a strong association with the tetracycline
405 resistance gene (*tet*). Tetracycline resistance gene and tetracycline efflux had the highest association with
406 most samples. Human samples had strong associations with *bacA*, *erm*, *acr*, *tet*, *tet* efflux, and class A
407 betalactamase. Samples TA340, TA330, TA320, TH950, and TH920 had the highest number of ARG
408 genes, as seen in Figure 6.

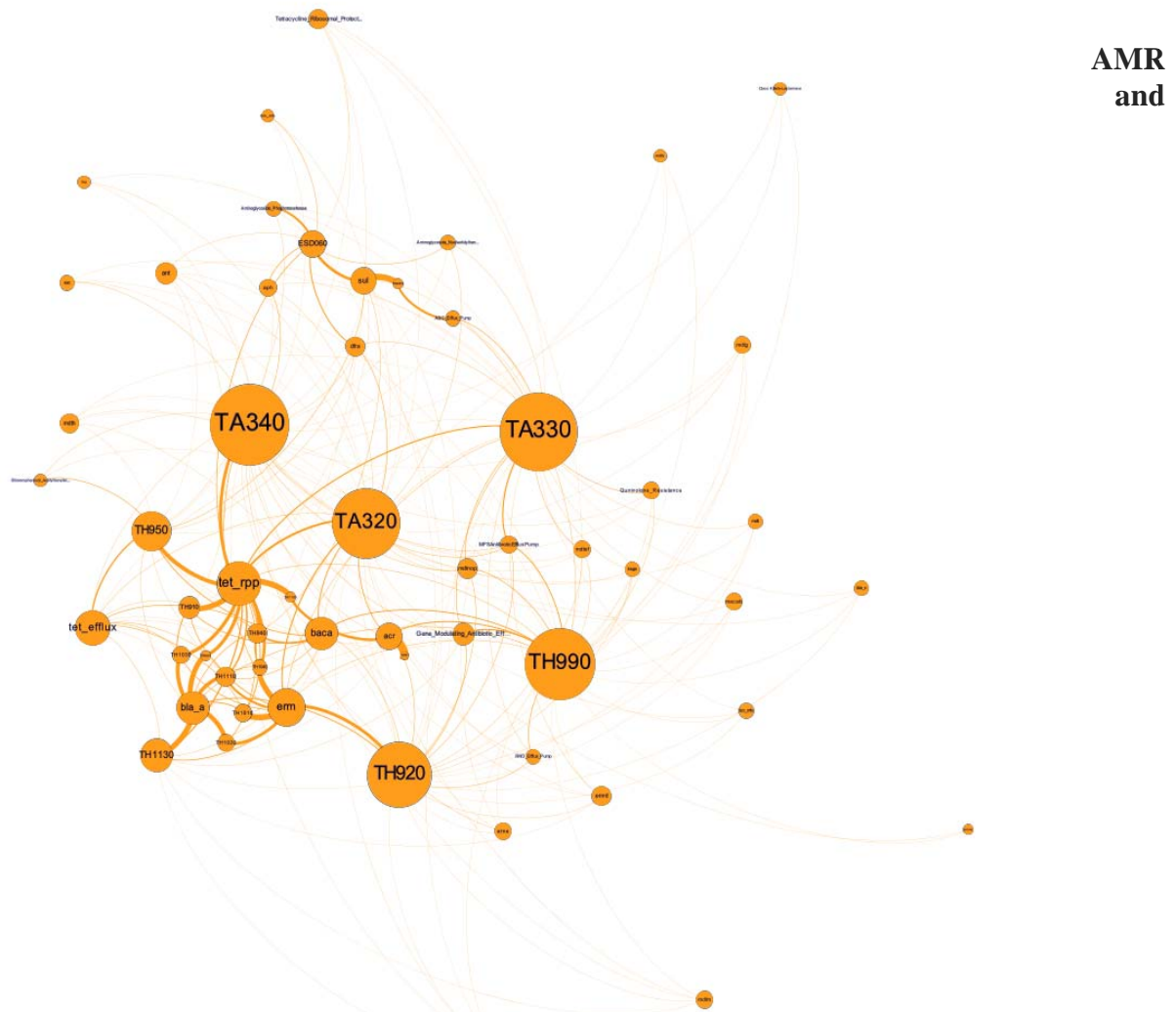
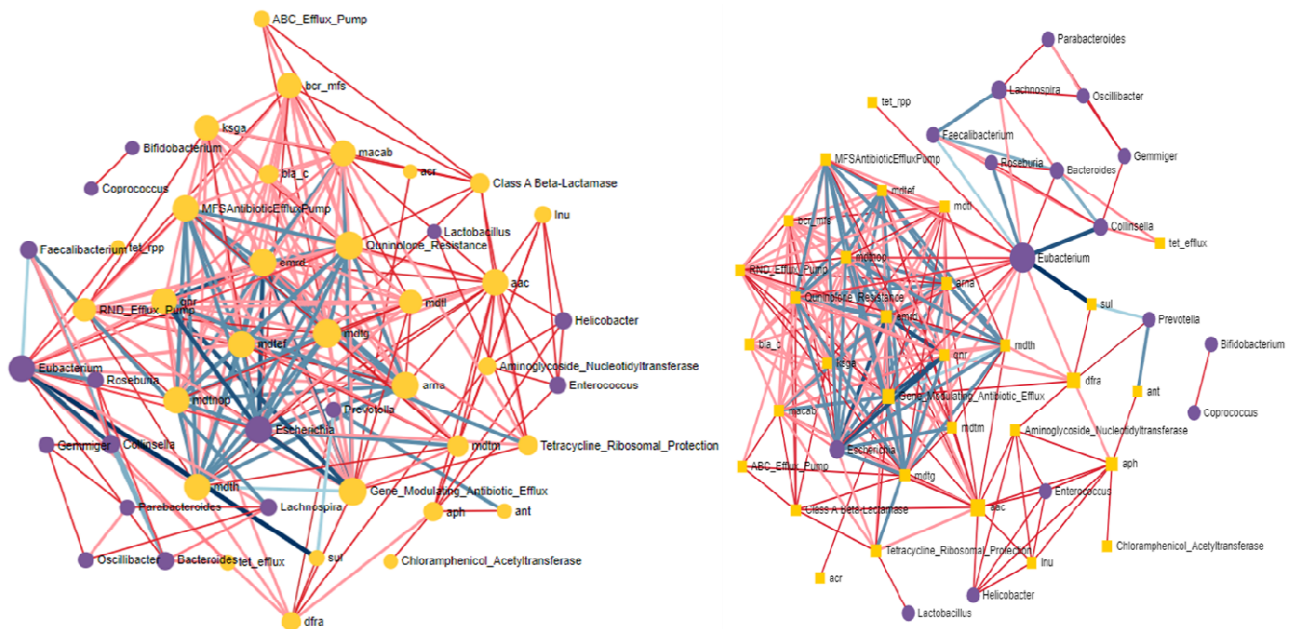


Figure 5: Association network analysis of ARG in various samples. The analysis was carried out with abundance data with associated metadata file on Gephi V0.92. The size of the circle represents number and strength of association- larger circle means a greater number of ARGs in the sample and also has more association with ARGs and other samples. The thickness of connections indicates strength of the association.

412 taxonomic profile integrative association network analysis

413 Connection between all detected bacteria (at genus level) and ARG (at class level) were assessed using
414 the MIC (Maximal Information Coefficient) correlation coefficient. In network analysis (Figure 6), only
415 the strong connections between bacteria to bacteria, bacteria to ARG, and ARG to ARG were visualized.
416 The strong connections represented MIC values corresponding to pre-calculate p -values (with $p < 0.05$)
417 based on the total number of samples. Network analysis showed the strongest associating bacteria as
418 *Eubacterium* and demonstrated strong association between *Eubacterium* and *Faecalibacterium*,
419 *Eubacterium* and *Roseburia*, *Eubacterium* and *Collinsella*, *Faecalibacterium* and *Lachnospira*,
420 *Faecalibacterium* and *Bacteroides*. In ARG, the strongly associating ARG seem to be *qnr*, *ermD*, *arnA*,
421 and *aac*, among the different genera of bacteria. Furthermore, efflux pumps were also found to be present
422 in a high number and seemed to be strongly associated with *Escherichia*. *Escherichia* seems to be a hub
423 for most ARG and efflux pumps and almost all ARG are strongly related to genus *Escherichia* (Figure 6).



424

425 **Figure 6:** Integrative MIC analysis of ARG and Taxonomic profile of various samples using
426 ResistoXplorer web platform. The color and shape of nodes are based on the type of data or profile
427 (Resistome: yellow square; Microbiome: purple circle). In the network, the size of node represents the
428 network centrality-based measure (degree or betweenness). While the color and width of edges shows the
429 strength of correlation between them (MIC: varies from 0 to 1). A) Node size is based on Degree while B)
430 Node size based on betweenness.
431

432

433 Discussion

434

435 AMR has become one of the most pressing issues of public health concern of the 21st century (Prestinaci
436 et al., 2015). Rise of new pathogen (bacteria or viruses) that may lead to emerging and re-emerging
437 diseases, needs to be surveilled and understood properly (Kelly et al., 2020). Continuous misuse of
438 antibiotics can lead to multidrug-resistant bacteria or superbugs (Antimicrobial resistance, n.d.). AMR
439 often develop with same molecular mechanism as emergence of new bacteria (Davies and Davies, 2010;
440 Bartoli et al., 2016). Recently, utility of metagenomics tool in epidemiological and environmental studies
441 have been growing (Hamner et al., 2019; Hjelmsø et al., 2019; Das et al., 2020). We have used
442 metagenomics approach to investigate AMR presence and transfer dynamics in environmental samples
443 from One Health perspective.

444

445 Taxonomic profile obtained through shotgun sequencing revealed the genus *Prevotella* as most prevalent
446 bacteria, especially in the human samples (Supplementary Table 1 and Table 2). According to Wu et al.
447 2011, *Prevotella* spp. are SCFA (short chain fatty acids) producers and can be seen in healthy individuals
448 consuming high carbohydrate and simple sugars diets (Wu et al., 2011). Since, Nepalese diet is mainly
449 carbohydrate based, this might explain the dominance of *Prevotella* spp.

450

451 Pathogenic bacteria such as *Shigella*, *Campylobacter*, *Haemophilus* and *E. coli* were detected in various
452 samples. Virulence genes facilitate the organism to colonize, survive and cause diseases (Thomas and
453 Wigneshweraraj, 2014). Even a single gene can enhance the pathogenicity- for example, presence of
454 Shiga toxin coding gene in *E. coli* causes bloody diarrhea and hemolytic uremic syndrome (HUS)
455 (Sandhu and Gyles, 2002). Detection of virulence genes can often indicate the presence of certain
456 pathogens- such as *senB* gene for *Shigella flexneri*, *csgG* and *rpoS* genes for *Salmonella enterica* var
457 typhimurium and *fliR* gene for *Yersinia enterocolitica* (Supplementary table 4). Furthermore, detection of
458 various virulence genes of *E. coli* such as *astA*, *ltb*, and *lta* (Table 3) can explain the presence of
459 enterotoxigenic *E. coli* (ETEC) and enteroaggregative *E. coli* (EAEC). Detecting these genes through
460 metagenomics can indicate the presence of various pathogens which are often missed to be detected using
461 conventional diagnostic tools (Miller et al., 2019).

462 *Chlamydia gallinacea* which causes slow growth and reduced body mass in chickens was detected in two
463 poultry samples collected from the backyard farms. Infection with this organism is also known to cause
464 mild symptoms in humans as well (Salas and de Vega, 2008; Tariq et al., 2020). Additionally,
465 *Helicobacter pullorum* which causes enteritis in poultry and zoonotic colitis in humans was also detected,
466 along with *Gallibacterium anatis* that impacts egg production by triggering oophoritis, salpingitis and
467 peritonitis in hens (Narasinakuppe Krishnegowda et al., 2020; Crisci et al., 2021). These organisms have
468 yet to be reported in poultry in Nepal. These findings indicate many yet to be detected and identified
469 pathogens that are floating around in our environment.

470 The viral families detected in this study were mostly *Siphoviridae*, *Podoviridae* and *Myoviridae*. Since
471 enterobacteria such as *E. coli*, *Klebsiella*, *Shigella*, and gut bacteria like *Bacteroides*, *Prevotella*,
472 *Roseburia*, *Lachnospira* were mostly present in the samples, phages that infect those bacteria were also
473 found. Most of the phages that infects genera of *Enterobacteria*, *Prevotella* and *Bacteroides* fall into the
474 families of *Siphoviridae* (Tariq et al., 2020; Thakali et al., 2021a), *Podoviridae* (Manandhar et al., 2020)
475 and *Myoviridae* (Salas and de Vega, 2008; Crisci et al., 2021). The Stx-2 converting bacteriophage (Table
476 2) is phage of much importance. It induces Shiga toxin producing *E. coli* (STEC), which causes diarrhea
477 and hemolytic uremic syndrome (HUS) in children. STEC produces Shiga toxin and genes encoding this
478 Shiga toxin are located in the genomes of Stx-2 converting phages which are transferred by the lysogenic
479 cycle (Acharya et al., 2017; Joshi et al., 2017). This phage was identified in seven samples (human and
480 poultry). *E. coli* was detected in every sample, which implicates the probability of STEC production in

481 many of these samples (Miller et al., 2019). Interestingly, phages and bacterial diversity were very similar
482 in most of the samples, with human samples containing highest diversity (Table 1 and Supplementary
483 table 1 and 2). This indicates that presence of any bacteria in an ecosystem, most likely harbors associated
484 phages as well (Nayaju et al., 2021).

485 In our study numerous ARG subtypes (n=53) were detected. Some of these genes have been previously
486 detected in Nepal while others like *inuB*, *catQ*, *ksgA*, *floR*, and *bla_{EC}* (Table 3) were detected for the first
487 time (Acharya et al., 2017; Joshi et al., 2017; Manandhar et al., 2020; Thakali et al., 2021a; Timsina et al.,
488 2021). *bla_{CTX-M}* and *bla_{TEM}* were formerly detected from hospital samples (Manandhar et al.,
489 2020)(Nayaju et al., 2021) as well as environmental samples (Thakali et al., 2020, 2021a). Similarly,
490 *qnrS*, *sull*, and *tetB* (Thakali et al., 2021a; Young et al., 2022) were detected in samples of animal and
491 environmental samples whereas *ermB* (Timsina et al., 2021) was detected from samples taken from
492 school children in Nepal. Other ARG that were mostly detected from clinical samples were *bla_{VEB-1}* (Tada
493 et al., 2017), *tetA* (Nelson et al., 2020), *qnrB*, *dfrA*, *catA* and *sullII* (Manandhar et al., 2022). In Nepal,
494 tetracycline, neomycin-doxycycline, levofloxacin, enrofloxacin, colistin, tylosin, ampicillin, amoxicillin,
495 ceftriaxone and gentamicin are most widely prescribed and/or inappropriately used antibiotics. Likewise,
496 chlortetracycline (CTC), bacitracin methylene disalicylate, tylosine tartarate, lincomycin, neomycin, and
497 doxycycline are extensively used as feed additives in poultry as growth promoters (Acharya and Wilson,
498 2019). Over prescription and mishandling of the aforementioned drugs could have led to high presence of
499 antibiotic resistant genes like *tetC*, *tet39*, *tetQ*, *tet32*, *tetW*, *tetM*, *tet40*, *tetA*, *tetB*, *aacC3*, *aadA*, *aph6*,
500 *ant(3'')*, *ant(4)*, *ant(6)*, *aadB*, *aadE*, *qnrB6*, *qnrS1*, *mphK*, *macB*, *macA_3*, *ereA2*, *ermCd*, *ermG*, *ermB*,
501 *cepA*, *cfxA*, *bla_{TEM}*, *bla_{VEB-1}*, *bla_{CTX-M}*, and *bla_{EC}* (Table 3, Figure 6). Among the samples, the highest
502 ARG subtypes (n=37) were found in poultry samples (n=3) (Table 3 and Figure 5, Figure 6), which could
503 be because of heavy antibiotics use in poultry farming in Nepal (Acharya and Wilson, 2019). A large
504 number of ARG subtypes (n=27) were also detected in human samples, perhaps caused by over
505 prescription, prolonged usage, self-medication practices and easy availability of antibiotics in Nepal
506 (Dahal and Chaudhary, 2018; Acharya and Wilson, 2019). We detected ARG subtypes *tetQ* and *ermF*
507 abundantly in human and poultry samples (Table 4 and Figure 5, Figure 6). These genes have been widely
508 detected in human gut microbiomes (*Bacteroides fragilis* group) and in normal flora of poultry cloacae;
509 and are found to be circulating among those microbiomes with high HRT activity (Arzese et al., 2000,
510 Yang et al., 2014).

511
512 Our network analysis showed some strongest association between certain bacteria- *Eubacterium* and
513 *Faecalibacterium*, *Eubacterium* and *Roseburia*, *Eubacterium* and *Collinesella*, *Faecalibacterium* and
514 *Lachnospira*, and *Faecalibacterium* and *Bacteroides*. Some strongly associated AMR genes among these
515 bacteria were *qnr*, *ermD*, *arnA*, and *aac* (Figure 7), with indication of active horizontal transfer dynamics
516 between human, animal and environmental samples. With two nearby hospitals discharging their
517 untreated waste into the river, our study might have picked up ARG originating from the hospitals.

518
519 Many of the ARG detected in our study are known to transcribe for the proteins that help in replication
520 and executive functioning of bacterial cell (Supplementary Table 4) (Ochman et al., 2000). Some of the
521 genes that code for ARG (*tetR*, *vanY*, *PBP 1A*, *BtgB*) were mostly associated with gut microbiome
522 (Penders et al., 2013). In poultry samples, integrases and transposase of *IS66* and *IS21* family that help in
523 AMR transference (Siguier et al., 2014) were also detected. Similarly, integrase and transposase of
524 *IS116/IS110/IS902*, *IS30*, *IS605*, *IS200* and *IS4* family were detected in human samples that might help
525 various bacteria to transport virulence factor, AMR genes and genes that causes overexpression of AMR
526 genes (Bruton and Chater, 1987; Leskiw et al., 1990; Lysnyansky et al., 2009; Mohammad et al., 2020).

527
528 Five commensal enteric bacteria were predominately found in healthy human gut of Indian population
529 (Bag et al., 2019). These bacteria were believed to act as ARG reservoir and could play a significant role
530 in spreading ARG in enteric pathogens. Various studies also suggest gut microbiome acting as reservoir

531 for AMR and their emergence (Forsberg et al., 2014)(Penders et al., 2013; Langelier et al., 2019;
532 Carvalho et al., 2022). This might be of enormous epidemiological significance since novel ARG are the
533 starting point of AMR emergence (Crofts et al., 2017). Metagenomics studies have helped us understand
534 resistome development in gut microbiome (Miller et al., 2013; Penders et al., 2013). Finding the sources
535 of ARG are probably the most important step in the fight against AMR.

536
537 However, working with metagenomic data is challenging and connecting each ARG to its host is still very
538 difficult (Chiu and Miller, 2019). Thus, clinical metagenomics approach has more accuracy and will be
539 more applicable in country like Nepal (d’Humières et al., 2021). Furthermore, sampling and preparation
540 of DNA greatly influence findings in metagenomics analysis; improper DNA prepping might lead to
541 insufficient genomic coverage of pathogen and ARG (Ruppé et al., 2017).

542
543 Contemporary AMR surveillance is primarily based on laboratory reporting- focusing on specific
544 pathogens isolated only from human clinical samples (Weston et al., 2017; Hay et al., 2018). This
545 conventional way is often lengthy, produces incomparable data and covers narrow pathogen spectrum. It
546 is also limited and excludes AMR genes present in the commensal flora of an individual (Hendriksen et
547 al., 2019). Increasing population density, haphazard use of antimicrobial agents, drastic changes in
548 wildlife habitats, and increasing international travel and trade have increased the threat of AMR related
549 infections to spread globally (Carroll et al., 2014). Deployment of active global surveillance systems for
550 early detection of spread of zoonotic and other infectious diseases can mitigate and control outbreaks
551 (Newell et al., 2010).

552

553 **Conclusion**

554
555 Monitoring and surveillance of infectious diseases using One Health based metagenomics approach can
556 provide important information on the emerging AMR burden. The ARG profile and antibiotic resistance
557 (AMR) dynamics, horizontal gene transfer (HGT) events within microbiota, and virulence factor
558 determination that indicate infection risks are some of the important information needed to truly
559 understand overall AMR burden. Our study revealed the gut microbiome of both humans and animals can
560 serve as a reservoir for ARG and through HGT can spillover to other environmental organisms.

561

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563
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819

820 **Figures**

821 Figure 7 Visualization of sampling site of this study i- Thapathali temporary settlement. The map was
822 created using QGIS (an open source GIS platform) using basemaps from OpenStreetMap (25) and shape
823 files from OpendataNepal.com (26)

824 Figure 8 Bioinformatics data analysis workflow used in this study.

825 Figure 9 Bar plot showing all Bacterial phylum classification in various samples according to a. 16s
826 rRNA sequencing and b. Shotgun sequencing which was obtained from MetaPhlan V2.0. The plots were
827 generated using ggplot2 in R studio 2022.07.1 Build 554

828 Figure 10 Prevalence of virus family in the samples obtained from Metagenomic sequencing data. a.
829 Family wise distribution of viruses (phage) detected b. Bar plot of all the different types of phages
830 detected in different samples, The bar plot was generated using ggplot2 in R studio 2022.07.1 Build 554
831 with R version 4.2.0.

832 Figure 11 Visualization of ARG profile of different samples obtained from shot-gun sequencing obtained
833 from SHORTBred pipeline. a) Heat map clustering analysis of ARG profile of different samples with
834 their sources, performed on ARG classified at Class level with clustering distance calculated from Bray-
835 Curtis Index under clustering algorithm Ward. b) Alpha diversity analysis of ARG's performed at class
836 level (class of ARG) while measuring diversity with Shannon. The ARG diversity is significant with P-
837 value of 0.019166 tested using ANOVA. c) Ordination analysis and significance testing for significant
838 similarities between the different sample type and different sample sources. Non-metric multidimensional
839 scaling (NMDS) ordination method was used with Bray-Curtis Index and statistically tested with
840 permutational MANOVA (PERMANOVA) (F-value=2.187, R-squared=0.38456 and P-value=<0.003).
841 Samples with statistically significant ARG association are highlighted with light green shade. d)
842 Hierarchical clustering (dendrogram) of different samples based on the ARG profile found on them. The
843 clustering was performed with algorithm Ward and Bray-Curtis Index as a distance measure algorithm.

844 Figure 12 Association network analysis of ARG with samples. The analysis was carried out with
845 abundance data with associated metadata file on Gephi V0.92. The size of the circle represents number
846 and strength of association- larger circle means a greater number of ARGs in the sample and also has
847 more association with ARGs and other samples. The thickness of connections indicates strength of the
848 association.

849 Figure 13 Integrative analysis of AMR gene and Taxonomic profile of different samples performed with
850 MIC analysis for association network analysis using ResistoXplorer web platform. The color and shape of
851 nodes are based on the type of data or profile (Resistome: yellow square; Microbiome: purple circle). In
852 the network, the size of node represents the network centrality-based measure (degree or betweenness).
853 While the color and width of edges shows the strength of correlation between them (MIC: varies from 0
854 to 1). A) Node size is based on Degree while B) Node size based on Betweenness

855

856 **Tables**

857 Table 1 Taxonomic profile of Viruses (phage) of different samples from metagenomic sequencing data
858 obtained with relative abundance of ≥ 10 .

859 Table 2 Toxin coding genes and their subsequent bacteria detected with ShortBRED tool.

860 Table 3 Antimicrobial resistance Genes found in human, poultry and environmental samples.

861 Table 4 Various antimicrobial resistance proteins, virulence protein, transposase and integrase that
862 translated from genes transferred via HGT between organisms.

863

864 Supplementary table caption

865 Supplementary Table 1: List of Bacterial species found in different samples via NGS sequencing

866 Supplementary Table 2: List of Bacteria found in different samples via 16s rRNA sequencing

867 Supplementary Table 3: Proteins transferred in HGT between two clades of bacteria

868 Supplementary Table 4: Virulence factors detected from Metagenomic sequencing data obtained from
869 ShortBRED with their function and source (sample type).

870 Supplementary Table 5: Samples and its detail that was collected from Thapathali temporary settlement
871 for this study.