



# IMPLEMENTATION OF THE GLOBAL ACTION PLAN ON ANTIMICROBIAL RESISTANCE



## *Health care without avoidable infections: The critical role of infection prevention and control. WHO 2016 publication*

No one should get sick seeking care. Yet globally, hundreds of millions of people are affected every year by health care-associated infections, many of which are completely avoidable. Preventing health care-associated infections has never been more important: they significantly impact the ability of health systems to adapt, respond and manage infection risk alongside the ongoing clinical care of patients. This new publication illustrates how infection prevention and control is a practical, evidence-based approach preventing patients and health workers from being harmed by avoidable infection. To access the booklet click [here](#).

## **ReAct Toolbox for taking action on antibiotic resistance**

The [Toolbox](#) is built on what has been done in the past in a variety of settings and is aligned with ongoing and current initiatives. Throughout, a narrative text guides the user on how to work with the problem, combining practical advice with examples from the field, and with links to external resources.

## **Multidrug-resistant tuberculosis crisis continues**

The 2016 "[Global Tuberculosis Report](#)" highlights "dismal progress" towards ending the global epidemic of TB amid a "crisis" in resistance to drugs used to treat the disease. Reflecting new surveillance and survey data from India, the TB epidemic is larger than previously estimated. Multidrug-resistant TB (MDR-TB) remains a public health crisis. In 2015, there were an estimated 480 000 new cases of MDR-TB and an additional



100 000 people with rifampicin-resistant TB (RR-TB) who were also newly eligible for MDR-TB treatment. India, China and the

Russian Federation accounted for 45% of the combined total of 580 000 cases. Detection and treatment gaps continue to plague the MDR-TB response. In 2015, only 1 in 5 of the people newly eligible for second-line treatment were able to access it. Cure rates continue to remain low globally at 52%. Cure rates for extensively drug-resistant TB (XDR-TB) are even lower at 28%. "The world is finally waking up to the threat of antimicrobial resistance – now is the time to accelerate the MDR-TB response" said Dr Mario Raviglione, Director of the WHO Global TB Programme.



In 2016, **four new diagnostic tests** have been reviewed and recommended by WHO: one for TB and three for MDR-TB. A next-generation cartridge called **Xpert Ultra** and a new diagnostic platform called GeneXpert **Omni** are in development. Assessment of both by WHO is expected in 2017. **Nine new or repurposed anti-TB drugs** are in advanced phases of clinical development. **Thirteen vaccine candidates** are in clinical trials, including candidates for prevention of TB infection and candidates for prevention of TB disease in people with latent TB infection. **Useful links:** [Global TB Report 2016 facts](#); [Q&A on MDR-TB](#); [Extensively drug-resistant TB FAQ](#)

## Sales of veterinary antibiotics continue to decline in most European countries

The European Medicines Agency has published its [6th report](#) on the sales of veterinary antibiotics in Europe, highlighting a continuing downward trend between 2011 and 2014. 28 countries from the European Union and the European Economic Area plus Switzerland have reported data to the European Surveillance of Veterinary Antimicrobial Consumption (ESVAC) for the year 2014, three more than in the previous year. In addition, the overall quality of sales data has improved throughout the years. The trends indicate that Member States continue to adopt a more responsible attitude towards the use of antibiotics in animals. The report covers the period between 2011 and 2014 and a total of 25 countries provided data for the entire timespan. A decrease of 2.4% in total sales of antimicrobial veterinary products was observed between those years.

## Report ties antibiotic manufacturing residue to higher AMR levels

“Changing Markets” has released a [report](#) showing high levels of drug resistant bacteria in three Indian cities that host major antibiotic manufacturing facilities. The report attributes the elevated levels of resistant bacteria to the dumping of antibiotic manufacturing residue. Drugs from affected facilities are being sold to companies and hospitals in Europe and the U.S., the report finds. Changing Markets campaign manager, Natasha Hurley, calls on those purchasers to 'blacklist suppliers that are contributing to the spread of AMR'.

## Antibiotics: Handle with care

This year, World Antibiotic Awareness Week (WAAW) will be marked 14-20 November. Led by WHO, but bringing together many organizations, WAAW is a global campaign to increase awareness of antibiotic resistance and the actions individuals, policymakers, health workers, veterinarians, and the agriculture sector can take to address it.

The campaign theme, ‘Antibiotics: Handle with Care’, reflects the overarching message that antibiotics are a precious, life-saving resource that must only be used when necessary, so they remain effective for as long as possible. WHO encourages all governments, human and animal health professionals, students, and the public to join this campaign to help raise awareness of antibiotic resistance and what we can all do to address it. For more information, visit the [campaign website](#) or email [waaw@who.int](mailto:waaw@who.int)

#AntibioticResistance

## More fast-food restaurants in U.S. serving “no antibiotic” meat but number is still too few



A new report “Chain Reactor II: How top restaurants rate on reducing use of antibiotics in their meat supply”, grades the top 25 U.S. fast-food and fast-casual restaurant chains on their antibiotic policies. It found some improvement since last year’s report: 9 (up from 5) of the 25 fast-food restaurants have made commitments to adopt policies that prohibit routine antibiotic use for growth promotion or disease prevention across all the meats they serve. “It’s encouraging to see progress, but the majority of the top 25 still have not done anything, and we really think that they need to step up to the plate and take action,” says Jean Halloran, director of food policy initiatives at Consumers Union. “Fast food restaurants should help protect public health by moving away from serving meat and poultry from suppliers who misuse these vital drugs.” The full report can be read [here](#). If you would like to help encourage fast food restaurants to take antibiotics off the menu, sign [Consumer Union’s petition](#).

## Editor's Picks

### Is the Antibiotic Apocalypse Nigh? Explore Antibiotic Resistance with the Surgeon X Team

Surgeon X is the debut comic by writer and filmmaker Sara Kenney, published by Image Comics but funded by an arts grant from medical research charity the Wellcome Trust. It is set in the near future, where antibiotics have become next to useless in the face of resistant bacteria. As society crumbles, a surgeon named Rosa Scott decides to use her medical skills to save the people who really deserve to be saved....More [here](#)

### "Drug-Resistant Infections: A Threat to Our Economic Future"

The Kennedy School (at Harvard University) has listed this [report](#) by the World Bank, September 2016, as an academic study worth reading.

## One Health Day November 3

The One Health Day campaign, organized by the One Health Commission, is designed to engage as many individuals as possible from as many arenas as possible in One Health education and awareness events, and to generate an inspiring array of projects worldwide. "The 'One Health' approach is the most efficient and effective way to understand AMR threats and mitigate AMR risks at key intervention points" says Dr Awa Aidara-Kane, lead of the WHO Advisory Group on Integrated Surveillance of Antimicrobial Resistance (AGISAR). More information [here](#).

## CDC Foundation side event at UNGA: Key actions for TB, malaria and vaccines to mitigate and prevent AMR

In a side event at UNGA in September, the CDC Foundation hosted a timely conversation about the threat of AMR. Many key global leaders and representatives from academia and the vaccine industry were present. The need for collaboration in the fight against AMR was stressed and the session highlighted in particular the danger drug resistance places on global programmes fighting malaria and tuberculosis. Discussion centred around the need for multifaceted approaches to drug resistance e.g. the urgent need to scale up work to find new and better vaccines to address these and other diseases. Prevention ensures that antibiotics will be needed less and less. A key message from the session was the need for a concerted effort between the public and private sector, academia and civil society to address AMR with a commitment to share knowledge and resources. No one group can tackle this issue alone.

## 'Superbugs & the threat to antibiotics' UNGA side event

The topic of 'Superbugs and the threat to antibiotics', was discussed in an UNGA side event at The Social Good Summit in New York, 18 September. Taking part in the discussion were Dr. Keiji Fukuda, WHO Special Representative for Antimicrobial Resistance, Dr. Seth Berkley, CEO of Gavi and James Chau, Special Contributor, CCTV News. Dr Berkley highlighted the role of vaccines in reducing drug resistant infections: With the over-prescription of antibiotics and other drugs driving the spread of drug resistant bacteria, the increased use of vaccines will help by preventing infections in the first place. This saves lives by preventing illness, but will also immediately reduce the selective pressure that causes bugs to develop resistance.



From left, James Chau, Special Contributor, CCTV News, Dr. Seth Berkley, CEO Gavi and Dr. Keiji Fukuda, WHO Special Representative for AMR, at The Social Good Summit, New York, 18 Sept 2016. (Photo: Stuart Ramson/AP Images)

## Resources

- Antimicrobial resistance: aide-memoire. Click [here](#)
- Antimicrobial resistance for policy makers. Click [here](#)
- Antimicrobial resistance: A manual for developing national action plans and supporting documents and tools. Click [here](#).
- Antimicrobial resistance: updated fact sheet. Click [here](#).
- Global Antimicrobial Resistance Surveillance System (GLASS). For information on criteria and procedures for enrolment in GLASS and for the GLASS manual, click [here](#).
- For information on infection prevention and control, click [here](#).

## UPCOMING MEETINGS/EVENTS

Oct 29-Nov 4	EMRO workshop: Integrated surveillance of foodborne diseases and AMR	Tehran, Iran
Nov 2-3	Strategic & Technical Advisory Group meeting	WHO HQ, Geneva
Nov 3	One Health Day. For information, click <a href="#">here</a>	Globally
Nov 8-11	One Health Technical & Ministerial meetings to Address Zoonotic Diseases & Related Public Health Threats.	Dakar, Senegal
Nov 14-20	<a href="#">World Antibiotic Awareness Week</a>	Globally
Dec 12-13	WHO Technical Coordination Group meeting	WHO HQ, Geneva
Dec 13-14	Meeting of WHO Collaborating Centres to support GLASS	WHO HQ, Geneva
Dec 14-15	GLASS Collaborative Platform meeting	WHO HQ, Geneva
Dec 15-17	WHO IPC Global Unit international expert meeting on "Infection prevention and control (IPC) priorities for field implementation in low-resource settings"	WHO HQ, Geneva

Please let us know of your upcoming events for inclusion in the newsletter. We also welcome your suggestions and comments. For all communications, and if you would like to **subscribe to the newsletter**, please contact the Secretariat at [whoamrsecretariat@who.int](mailto:whoamrsecretariat@who.int). Responsibility for newsletter contents rests with the AMR Secretariat Director: Marc Sprenger.

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