

# National Action for Global Change on Antimicrobial Resistance





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**World Health  
Organization**  
Western Pacific Region

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# **Antimicrobial resistance: the rising tide of a global health security threat**

# Antimicrobial resistance: the rising tide of a global health security threat

Antimicrobial resistance is a global problem. Infections and the emergence of resistance to the drugs used to prevent and treat them have readily spread across geographical borders, threatening global health security. Rapid transport of infectious agents and their resistant genes has been facilitated by increasing global connectivity, obliging countries of all income levels to take responsibility to contain the spread.

In the absence of safe and effective treatment for bacterial infections, the practice of modern medicine is compromised, limiting our ability to treat common infections and carry out lifesaving procedures, including surgeries and cancer chemotherapy. Antimicrobial resistance also has the potential to impede the achievement of the Sustainable

Although antimicrobial resistance is not a new problem, commitment to and coordination of actions to contain it remain inadequate. The growing problem of antimicrobial resistance requires an immediate cross-sectoral response to ensure future generations have access to effective antimicrobial medicines.

## Vulnerabilities in the Western Pacific Region

The Western Pacific Region is one of the most diverse of all the World Health Organization (WHO) regions, as it includes some of the world's least developed countries as well as highly developed and emerging economies. As the Region is also the most disaster-prone region in the world, countries may be even more susceptible to

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