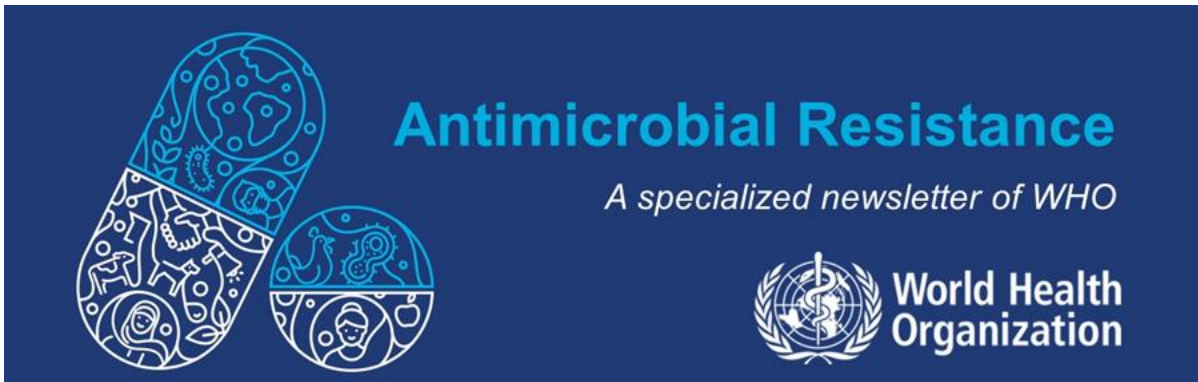


John Rex

From: WHO AMR Division <HQAMR@campaign.who.int>
Sent: Friday, October 4, 2024 6:55 AM
To: John Rex
Subject: WHO Antimicrobial Resistance: Autumn 2024

WHO Antimicrobial Resistance Autumn 2024

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September 2024

Welcome to the 14th Issue of the WHO Antimicrobial Resistance Newsletter



Assistant Director-General a.i., AMR Division, WHO

I would like to congratulate you all, on The [Political declaration](#) on AMR which was [approved](#) at the [2024 UNGA High-Level Meeting \(HLM\) on AMR](#) held on 26 September 2024, in New York. It was a resounding success, marked by high-level participation, robust discussions, and significant commitments, with bold targets and commitments aimed at accelerating global multisectoral efforts to tackle AMR.

I also extend my gratitude to the Quadripartite Joint Secretariat for their essential support to the UNGA and the President of the General Assembly's office, including organizing two key panels that facilitated meaningful discussions and commitments. On September 25, the [Quadripartite Joint Secretariat](#) on AMR and ICARS also hosted another side event at the UNGA High-Level Meeting in New

York, focusing on incorporating the perspectives of low- and middle-income countries into the global AMR dialogue.

During the UNGA High Level Meeting, Global Leaders Group (GLG) chair Prime Minister Mia Amor Mottley advocated for urgent global action against AMR during her [remarks](#) at the opening session of the High-Level meeting on AMR and her [address](#) at the General Assembly debate. GLG member Hon. Minister Beatrice Atim Odwong Anywar also delivered closing remarks at the HLM on AMR on behalf of the GLG calling for and translating the commitments into concrete actions. In addition, GLG members continued their advocacy at multiple high-level fora, notably during the ongoing G20 Health Working Group discussions and the [G20 Agriculture Ministers declaration](#).

Our focus is now on preparing for the pivotal [4th Ministerial Meeting in Saudi Arabia in November 2024](#), under the theme “From Declaration to Implementation - Accelerating Actions Through Multisectoral Partnerships for the Containment of AMR”.

WHO is supporting member states to develop and implement their NAPs, recently collaborated with Indonesia, Thailand, Kazakhstan, and Sweden to develop best practices for integrating AMR interventions into primary healthcare. This initiative is guided by [WHO people-centred approach](#) and [AWaRe antibiotic book](#) and supported by the Asia-Europe Foundation and Japan. Recently, WHO and its partners published a report [Addressing gender inequalities in national action plans \(NAPs\) on AMR](#), offering 20 recommendations for policymakers.

In August 2024, WHO-HQ, PAHO, and the Ministry of Health of Belize co-organized a workshop to train the national multisectoral sub-committee on AMR, focusing on the [updated WHO costing and budgeting tool for NAPs on AMR](#).

Additionally, WHO HQ and AFRO, in collaboration with WOA and FAO, organized a multi-country workshop to enhance multisectoral coordination skills [implementing AMR NAPs](#). WHO also released an [introductory e-learning course](#) to support the development of AMR NAPs and published a [Council Insight paper](#) highlighting financial and economic strategies for effectively funding and executing AMR NAPs.

WHO continues to play a crucial role in shaping global R&D. Recently, WHO released the first-ever [Guidance on wastewater and solid waste management for manufacturing of antibiotics](#), highlighting best practices for risk management, including audits and public transparency. Additionally, WHO introduced a new OpenWHO course, [Antimicrobial Resistance in the environment: key concepts and interventions](#), emphasizing the crucial need to tackle AMR in the environment and providing essential strategies for national-level prevention and control

WHO recently released the updated [GLASS dashboard](#), offering a comprehensive visual summary of AMR and AMU data from 2016 to 2022, ahead of the United Nations General Assembly. The 2024 TrACSS results are now available on the newly updated [Global Database for TrACSS](#) website, allows users to analyze data over multiple years, compare country data, and print country reports.

Additionally, the [World AMR Awareness Week 2024 campaign](#), and the [AMR is invisible. I am not](#) campaign is now available in multiple languages, shares survivors' stories and aims to galvanize global action. The joint quadripartite [campaign guide](#) also provides essential information and ideas for participating in the commemoration of WAAW.

As we enter the final quarter of the year, we reflect with gratitude on our significant accomplishments. Our focus now shifts to maximizing our impact on the [Political declaration](#) and transitioning from commitment to action. Strategically, we aim to secure robust global commitments, strengthen partnerships, and ensure access to essential antibiotics and diagnostics for proper use. I extend heartfelt thanks to all our partners for their steadfast support and look forward to our continued collaboration.

National Action Plans on AMR

WHO and partners are working with 4 countries

– Indonesia Thailand, [Kazakhstan](#), and Sweden - to identify challenges and best practices when mainstreaming antimicrobial resistance interventions into primary health care.

The project is guided by the [WHO people-centred approach and core package of interventions](#) and will result into a practical guidance, including a compilation of best practices. The project focuses on the explicit inclusion of AMR into PHC through awareness & education, community engagement, IPC, WASH, immunization, point-of-care AMR diagnostics, appropriate use of antibiotics and [AWaRe antibiotic book](#), and regulations on OTC sales of antibiotics. This initiative was primarily supported by the Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF) and the Government of Japan.



National action plans on AMR often overlook the critical intersection of gender, despite evidence that exposure, susceptibility to infection, health-seeking behaviours, and antimicrobial prescribing and use patterns are all influenced by gender. The recently published [WHO report on addressing gender inequalities in national action plans \(NAPs\) on AMR](#) provides a summary of the evidence on AMR and gender and proposes 20 recommendations for policy-makers to consider. The report was developed in collaboration with the Global Strategy Lab – a WHO Collaborating Centre, with a WHO informal expert advisory group on AMR and gender, and with technical guidance from the Gender, Rights, Equity and Diversity Department. This initiative was supported through the Fleming



Fund of the United Kingdom Department of Health and Social Care using UK Aid.

WHO-HQ, PAHO and the Ministry of Health of Belize co-organized a workshop from 5-9 August 2024 to train the national multisectoral sub-committee on AMR. The training focused on using the recently [updated WHO costing and budgeting tool for National Action Plans on AMR](#). Eighteen national representatives from Ministry of Health, Ministry of Education, Culture, Science and Technology, Ministry of Agriculture, the Belize Agricultural Health Authority (BAHA), University of Belize, and Ministry of the Environment authority successfully generated a costed plan for Belize's revised AMR national strategy.



WHO HQ and AFRO in collaboration with WOH and FAO organized a multi-country workshop in June 2024, to enhance multisectoral coordination skills for [implementing AMR NAPs](#). Thirty participants from various ministries and sectors from Cameroon, Republic of Congo, the Democratic Republic of Congo attended. Similar workshops are scheduled for September 2024 in Senegal and one in Namibia for October 2024 for participants from Botswana, Namibia, Malawi, and Zambia. These workshops are led by the Bridgeway Group.



To support the development of comprehensive AMR NAPs, in 2023, WHO published a people-centred approach and a core package of 13 interventions. An [introductory e-learning course](#) is now also available covering the key concepts of the guidance document. The course is aimed at national and subnational policy-makers responsible for prioritizing and leading AMR interventions in the human health sector. Health care workers, communities, students, civil society groups, professional organizations and the private sector involved in development, implementation and monitoring of NAPs on AMR are also encouraged to enroll in the course.

WHO Council on the Economics of Health for All, on 2 September 2024, released a [Council Insight paper](#) on financing and implementing national action plans (NAPs) for antimicrobial resistance (AMR). The paper highlights financial and economic strategies, such as outcome-based budgeting, delegated and earmarked financing, and joint budgeting, to ensure the effective funding and execution of AMR NAPs. These approaches aim to tackle AMR comprehensively from a whole-of-society perspective.

TrACSS has been monitoring how countries implement their AMR national action plans for the past 8 years. This year, thanks to support from Country and Regional Offices, a record 186 countries (96%) responded across all WHO regions. The 2024 TrACSS results are now available on the newly updated [Global Database for TrACSS website](#). The updated platform allows users to analyze data over multiple years, compare country data, and print country reports. A Quadripartite webinar was held

on 10 September 2024 to highlight key results from TrACSS 2024 and trends from previous years. Recordings and presentations from the webinar are available online [here](#).

AMR Multi-Partner Trust Fund

The [AMR Multi-Partner Trust Fund \(MPTF\)](#) Secretariat under the [Quadripartite Joint Secretariat](#) (QJS) organized a co-branded event “Tackling Antimicrobial Resistance Across Sectors: The Value of the Antimicrobial Resistance Multi-Partner Trust Fund” at the Fourth Meeting of the G20 Health Working Group on 02 September 2024 at Natal, Brazil. The event [highlighted](#) the catalytic role of the AMR MPTF in supporting countries to prevent and respond to AMR.

Higher government officials from MPTF supported countries, AMR Survivor representative and AMR MPTF Resource Partners shared experiences and lesson learnt and advocated for sustainable financing through AMR MPTF funding mechanism.

UNGA 2024

The 2024 UNGA High-Level Meeting (HLM) on AMR held on 26 September 2024 was a resounding success, marked by high-level participation, robust discussions, and significant commitments. The [Political declaration](#) on AMR was [approved](#) with bold targets and commitments aimed at accelerating global multisectoral efforts to tackle AMR.

The Quadripartite Joint Secretariat (QJS) played a crucial role supporting the UNGA and the President of the General Assembly's office throughout the whole process including convening two key panels that facilitated meaningful discussions and garnered strong commitments during the meeting.

Additionally, during the morning of the HLM, [Media briefing](#) was convened with PM Mia Mottley and the Quadripartite principals to explain the significance of the High-Level Meeting (HLM) on AMR and to raise awareness and disseminate information about the commitments and discussions on the political declaration with the reporters. The Quadripartite Principals [welcomed](#) the UNGA HLM Political Declaration on AMR and called for its effective implementation.

On 25 September, [Quadripartite Joint Secretariat](#) (QJS) on AMR and International Centre for Antimicrobial Resistance Solutions (ICARS) organized a side-event “UNGA 2024 High-level Meeting on AMR and beyond: Bringing the voices and perspectives of the Low-and middle-income countries into the global dialogue” at the UNGA HLM in New York.

The [event](#) focused on amplifying the voices of low- and middle-income countries and vulnerable communities most affected by AMR during and beyond the High-level meeting in implementing AMR National Action Plans and highlighted the experiences in implementing multisectoral National Action Plans through a One Health approach.

The event featured distinguished speakers from LMICs, and Development Partners such as Canada, Denmark, European Union, Saudi Arabia and World Bank. The event also included keynote remarks from AMR Survivor, Youth representatives, Barbados and Malta.

Global Leaders Group (GLG) on AMR

GLG Chair Prime Minister Mottley spoke at an event on Antimicrobial Resistance entitled “AMR Awareness in the Caribbean, How do we weather this storm?” on 11 September 2024.

The Centre for Science and Environment, India, published a report on the priorities of LMICs to inform the UNGA HLM on AMR, based on proceedings of an international workshop for LMICs in April 2024. This report was launched during a webinar event on 16 July 2024 convened by a GLG member.

A GLG member spoke at the launch event of Africa CDC's [Continental Landmark Report on AMR](#), on 14 August 2024. The African Union (AU) Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) Landmark Report is the culmination of a collaborative effort involving the Africa Center for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC), the AU Inter-African Bureau for Animal Resources (AUIBAR), Member States, and key stakeholders across the One Health domain.

The UNGA79 [High-level Meeting on Antimicrobial Resistance](#) was convened by the President of the General Assembly on 26 September 2024 with the Theme: “Investing in the present and securing our future together: accelerating multisectoral global, regional and national actions to address antimicrobial resistance.” The plenary session featured remarks from four Heads of State/Government, one Deputy Prime Minister, approximately 65 Ministers, numerous Vice-Ministers/Ambassadors, and representatives from international organizations/agencies. The approved [political declaration](#) outlines ambitious commitments and targets that will drive progress in the AMR response across all sectors and levels in the coming years.

Her Excellency Prime Minister Mia Amor Mottley and the Quadripartite Principals held a [press conference](#) on the morning of the HLM on AMR regarding the significance of the High-Level Meeting on AMR and its outcomes. The GLG chair strongly advocated for urgent global action against AMR during various events including her [remarks](#) at the opening session of the High-Level meeting on AMR, her [address](#) at the General Assembly debate and her intervention at the [fireside chat](#) during the event entitled “Ensuring Sustainable Access to Effective Antibiotics: The Path from UNGA to Impact”.

The GLG, in collaboration with WHO and the Brazilian Ministry of Health, hosted an AMR side event at the 4th meeting of the G20 Health Working Group on 1 September 2024. GLG members significantly contributed to the [G20 Agriculture Ministers declaration](#) that resulted from the meeting.

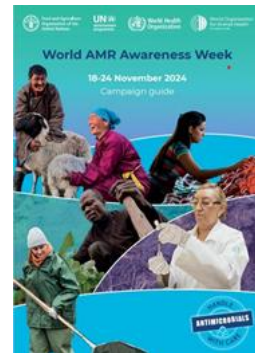
AMR & AMU Surveillance and Diagnostics

WHO released the updated [GLASS dashboard](#), which provides a visual comprehensive representation summary of the 2016-2022 antimicrobial resistance (AMR) and antimicrobial use (AMU) data from countries contributing surveillance information to the [WHO Global Antimicrobial Resistance and Use Surveillance System \(GLASS\)](#). The dashboard was launched on the 19 September 2024 ahead of the United Nations General Assembly. As of December 2023, 92 countries, territories, and areas (CTAs) provided 2022 AMR data, and 74 provided AMU data. For more details, please [see the information note here](#).



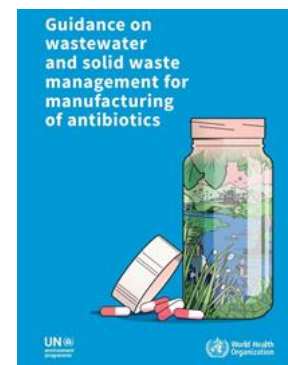
AMR Awareness

The [World AMR Awareness Week \(WAAW\)](#) is only two months away. The theme for WAAW 2024 is “Educate. Advocate. Act now.” calling on the global community to educate stakeholders on AMR, advocate for bold commitments and take concrete actions in response to AMR. The joint quadripartite [campaign guide](#) offers key information and ideas on how you can join and participate in the commemoration of WAAW. [Campaign materials are available](#) in the UN languages. Various multilingual communication materials from “[AMR is invisible. I am not.](#)” campaign is available for distribution during WAAW. We hope you will join us in mobilizing action for WAAW 2024.



Research and Development

High levels of antibiotics in water bodies downstream of manufacturing sites have been widely documented. To address this issue, the WHO has published its first-ever [Guidance on wastewater and solid waste management for manufacturing of antibiotics](#) presenting best practices for risk management, including internal and external audit and public transparency. Crucially, this guidance includes progressive implementation, and stepwise improvement when needed recognizing the need to protect and strengthen the global supply, and to ensure appropriate, affordable and equitable access to quality-assured antibiotics. Access here the launch [press release](#), [frequently asked questions](#) and [background document](#).



WHO launched a new OpenWHO course entitled “[Antimicrobial Resistance in the environment: key concepts and interventions](#)”.

This course underlines the critical importance of addressing antimicrobial resistance (AMR) in the environment and offers valuable insights into national-level actions to prevent and control AMR in the environment. AMR is a significant threat to human health, necessitating a comprehensive One Health approach that includes environmental considerations. The environmental dimensions of AMR are often neglected in national action plans and investments on AMR. This course follows the recent [WHO Guidance on wastewater and solid waste management for manufacturing of antibiotics](#), emphasizing the need for integrated strategies to tackle AMR effectively



WHO Regions and Countries

Regional Office for Africa

The WHO African Region (AFRO) recently released a report on the [Regional Training and Workshop on the WHO Costing and Budgeting Tool for Antimicrobial Resistance National Action Plans \(AMR NAPs\)](#), aimed at supporting six countries (Burundi, Central African Republic, Comoros, Equatorial Guinea, Sao Tome and Principe, and Rwanda) in implementing their Antimicrobial Resistance National Action Plans (AMR NAPs), surveillance and resource mobilization strategies. The workshop focused on enhancing the countries’ ability to prioritize and cost their plans using the WHO Costing and Budgeting Tool. Additionally, it aimed to create a pool of regional experts skilled in using the tool to expand multidisciplinary rosters on AMR.



AFRO concluded a virtual training on the new platform for the 2024 [Tracking AMR Country Self-Assessment Survey \(TrACSS\)](#), where all 47 AFRO Member States successfully submitted their responses. A milestone crucial for monitoring the implementation of AMR national action plans in the region. Effective collaboration between regional offices, headquarters, and country offices, along with targeted one-on-one support, contributed to this success.

AFRO has recently published/contributed to two scientific publications on surveillance of AMR in the region. The first publication on [Antimicrobial Resistance in the WHO African Region: A Systematic](#)

[Literature Review 2016–2020](#), presents the most recent in-depth review of the situation of the main AMR types in relation to the most commonly prescribed antibiotics in the WHO African Region, while the second publication focuses on [Surveillance of Antimicrobial Resistance in the ECOWAS Region](#) and highlights the status of AMR surveillance in ECOWAS countries using available WHO data from the TrACSS survey and GLASS (Global AMR/Use Surveillance System) enrollment.

AFRO urged policymakers to take urgent action against antimicrobial resistance (AMR), at the 74th Regional Committee meeting for Africa. They emphasized the need for African governments to lead in implementing AMR national action plans, focusing on collaboration across human, animal, plant, and environmental health sectors. Adding that strong partnerships and sustainable financing are crucial to integrate AMR strategies into broader health priorities, enhancing health system resilience and ensuring long-term sustainability.

AFRO launched regional webinars to capacitate member countries on how to package, effectively communicate AMR messages and share best practices. The webinars are part of AFRO’s ongoing efforts to raise awareness and understanding of AMR through effective communication, education, and training which is crucial to tackle this global health crisis. These webinars have trained representatives from at least 14 African countries and 2 other countries and facilitated discussions, shared innovative cost-effective initiatives, equipping participants with practical tools and strategies to better engage their communities and address AMR. This collaborative effort strengthens the collective response to AMR and reinforces the commitment to public health across the region. All these efforts were conducted to support member states in [accelerating the implementation of the regional strategy on AMR](#).

Regional Office for Americas

WHO Regional Office for the Americas (AMRO/PAHO) and ReAct Global launched the campaign “[From People to Leaders: Act on AMR Now](#),” building on the “[Empowered Communities to Tackle AMR](#)” initiative, in April 2024. This campaign aimed to amplify the voices of communities and civil societies worldwide ahead of the UN General Assembly High-Level Meeting on AMR. It culminated in a side event in New York on 24 September 2024, featuring powerful testimonies and discussions on community-driven efforts against AMR. The Call for Action, signed by 730 individuals and organizations from 85 countries, including 190 civil society organizations, was ceremonially handed over.



Regional Office for Eastern Mediterranean

WHO EMRO is developing a centre of excellence (hub and spoke network) model to strengthen antimicrobial stewardship (AMS) efforts across the countries. Therefore, the regional office is

developing an implementation guide to assist countries in undertaking this process. The guide is intended to support the ministry of health to identify, coach, and establish a central facility (hub) which will then support satellite facilities (spokes) to reflect best practices on AMS. Jordan is the first country to pilot this initiative in the region, followed by Tunisia, Pakistan, Iraq and Qatar.

In the Eastern Mediterranean Region, over half of the countries are suffering from conflict, humanitarian or natural disasters, and more than 56.2 million require humanitarian assistance. To better address AMR and IPC in such fragile, conflict-affected and vulnerable settings, WHO EMRO is developing a policy brief. At the UN General Assembly in New York City in late September, the WHO EMRO Regional Director, and former Assistant-Director General for AMR, Dr Hanan Balkhy also attended various side events on AMR where she [underscored](#) the extreme risk of the development and spread of AMR stemming from conflict zones and in countries where displaced populations have moved to.

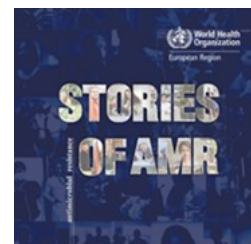
WHO EMRO is actively engaged in improving healthcare infrastructure in Gaza. During a three-week technical mission in August 2024, staff from the national health authority were trained on the IPC minimum requirements and IPC practices in main HCFs in the north and south of Gaza were assessed to identify the gaps and determine rooms for improvement and scale up, supply chain optimization, and capacity building. The latest [situation report](#) highlights that only 43% (57 out of 132) PHC facilities are functioning, and 47% (17 out of 36) hospitals are partially functioning in Gaza.

Regional Office for Europe

Dr. Hans Henri P. Kluge, the WHO Regional Director for Europe, recently published an op-ed in Euroviews titled “[To Safeguard Modern Medicine, We Must Tackle Antimicrobial Resistance Before It’s Too Late.](#)” In this piece, he outlines a comprehensive four-stage plan to combat antimicrobial resistance (AMR), which includes infection prevention and control measures, reducing the use of antibiotics in humans, animals, and agriculture, ensuring accountability through clear targets, and promoting partnerships among governments, the pharmaceutical, agricultural, and food industries, academia, and civil society. Additionally, Dr. Kluge introduced the WHO Europe’s AMR Accountability Index for Europe and Central Asia, a collaborative initiative with the London School of Economics.

EURO published a paper in *The Lancet* Journal entitled [Promoting sustainable national action to tackle antimicrobial resistance: a proposal to develop an antimicrobial resistance accountability index](#), ahead of the UNGA. The paper highlighting the global, economic impact of AMR and efforts made over the past decade.

The WHO Regional Office for Europe (EURO) created “[The Stories of AMR](#)” photobook as part of an awareness campaign, using photography and storytelling to highlight the urgent issue of antimicrobial resistance (AMR). This photobook features candid stories and testimonies from inspiring individuals across all 53



Member States of the WHO European Region. The download is available [here](#).

EURO launched a survey across 14 Member States, titled [People’s Knowledge, Attitudes, and Behaviours Pertaining to Antimicrobial Resistance](#) which examines public awareness and understanding of antibiotic use and resistance across 14 Member States in the. The findings offer valuable insights into current public knowledge, attitudes, and behaviors regarding antimicrobial use and resistance at both the country and regional levels. This information is crucial for developing and evaluating people-centered interventions to combat antimicrobial resistance (AMR).



The [WHO Regional Office for Europe’s Antimicrobial Medicines Consumption \(AMC\) Network. AMC data 2022](#) report analyzes data from 15 non-European Union countries in the region. The analysis highlights key metrics of antibiotic consumption, including total use, the relative use of agents based on the WHO Access, Watch, and Reserve (AWaRe) classification, and adherence to WHO monitoring indicators for responsible antibiotic use. The report also examines the consumption of antifungal agents, particularly those used to treat invasive fungal diseases.



EURO has developed a series of advocacy briefs for Member States to illustrate how antimicrobial resistance (AMR) impacts health in various contexts and to call for cross-sectoral and societal action to mitigate its effects. These briefs highlight the multifaceted challenges posed by this global health threat, sharing both achievements and lessons learned. The policy briefs cover topics such as the need for a [One Health approach](#), the link between AMR and [noncommunicable diseases](#), ensuring [access to medicines](#), investing in [infection prevention and control](#), and [preserving the environment](#) in the fight against AMR.



Regional Office for South-East Asia

WHO South-East Asia Regional Office (SEARO), with support of the International Vaccine Institute (IVI), organized a workshop on “Landscaping AMR Burden and Sustainable Investment Strategies in Southeast Asia” from August 5-6, 2024, in Seoul, Republic of Korea. This event gathered experts and

stakeholders, including representatives from WHO Regional and Country Offices, the Regional Quadripartite, national AMR focal points, ICARS, The One Health Trust - India Office for the WHO Collaborating Centre, ReAct Asia Pacific, WHO CC Brigham Women's Hospital, and the IVI team. The workshop aimed to understand the burden of AMR, validate Phase I findings, prioritize actions, and develop sustainable strategies for member states. It also focused on building consensus on the report's outcomes, creating an implementation roadmap, and enhancing stakeholder engagement and collaboration frameworks.

WHO South-East Asia Regional Office (SEARO) supported the [Joint External Evaluation \(JEE\) mission in Bangladesh](#) from 6-11 July 2024, to assess the country's ability to prevent, detect, and respond to public health risks. This voluntary, collaborative, and multisectoral process involved national and international experts. The WHO SEARO Technical Officer for AMR led the antimicrobial resistance (AMR) area. The mission included technical presentations, discussions, and field visits, providing a comprehensive evaluation of Bangladesh's health security and emergency preparedness. A detailed report is being developed to guide the strengthening of Bangladesh's health system.

SEARO and the Indonesian Ministry of Health (Kemenkes) launched [the National Strategy for Controlling Antimicrobial Resistance \(2025-2029\)](#), to help prevent deaths due to antimicrobial resistance (AMR). This strategy follows the previous National Action Plan (2020-2024) outlined in Permenko PMK Number 07 of 2021. The launch was inaugurated by the Deputy Minister of Health, who emphasized that the launch was a crucial step to learn from past mistakes and commit to future efforts in preventing AMR.

WHO Geneva and SEARO attended the [ASEAN-U.S. Infection Prevention and Control \(IPC\) Task Force Meeting](#), as observers from 23-24 July 2024, in Jakarta. Representatives from nine ASEAN Member States, excluding Lao PDR, participated. The meeting focused on sharing national and facility-level IPC experiences in detecting, surveilling, and managing infections. Participants also discussed the WHO IPC Global Action Plan, emphasizing IPC's role in addressing healthcare-associated infections (HAIs) and antimicrobial resistance (AMR). The Task Force serves as a regional forum for sharing IPC experiences, fostering cooperation, and coordinating efforts to tackle emerging and re-emerging infectious disease threats, including AMR. One key activity in the work plan is understanding the capacity to detect, prevent, and respond to carbapenem-resistant organisms.

SEARO and WHO Geneva attended the ASEAN-U.S. IPC Task Force Meeting in Jakarta from July 23-24, 2024, with representatives from nine ASEAN Member States. The meeting focused on IPC experiences and the WHO IPC Global Action Plan. SEARO and the US CDC also convened a meeting in New Delhi on August 8, 2024, to advance AMR and IPC efforts in Southeast Asia. Additionally, SEARO, PAHO, the United Nations Foundation, Wellcome Trust, and several governments organized a Side Event on AMR at the 79th UN General Assembly on September 25, 2024, in New York, emphasizing commitments and investments in AMR actions for developing countries.

Regional Office for Western Pacific

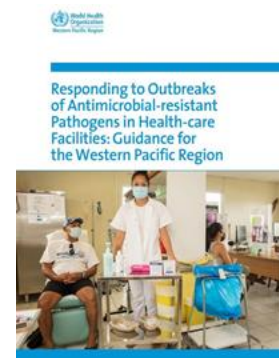
WHO Western Pacific (WPRO) hosted a regional webinar titled “Global and Regional Insights from the 2024 Tracking Antimicrobial Resistance Country Self-Assessment Survey (TrACSS).” The webinar presented data insights from the 2024 TrACSS survey, with representatives from the Fiji and Malaysia’s Ministry of Health sharing their experiences in developing and implementing AMR national action plans including their achievements and challenges. The [TrACSS survey tracks countries' progress in implementing national action plans on AMR](#) conducted annually since 2016 by FAO, WOA, WHO, and UNEP.. Over 70 key stakeholders from 23 Member States in the Western Pacific Region attended the webinar.

WPRO is supporting Samoa in addressing Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) as a top priority in the human health sector. Since establishing an AMR Committee in 2016, Samoa has developed National Antibiotic Guidelines and, in 2023, endorsed its first [National Action Plan on AMR, 2023-2028](#). In September 2024, WHO conducted a mission to Samoa to enhance AMR surveillance, improve antimicrobial stewardship, and review the national antibiotic guidelines by convening multisectoral meetings, conducting hospital visits, and organising a workshop on managing AMR outbreaks in healthcare facilities. WHO and Samoa continue to collaborate to ensure effective AMR management in healthcare settings.

WPRO was invited by the Government of Malaysia to the bi-annual [Malaysia Antimicrobial Resistance \(MyAMR\) Conference 2024](#). The conference, held from July 17 to July 18 2024 is co-hosted by the Malaysia Ministry of Health and the Malaysian Society of Infection Control and Infectious Diseases (MyICID). Dr. Takeshi Nishijima, Technical Officer (AMR) from WHO, delivered a plenary presentation on “Antimicrobial Resistance – What does the future entail?” In his presentation, he highlighted the importance of addressing AMR, discussed progress and gaps in the field, emphasized the significance of 2024 for the AMR agenda and outlined WHO’s efforts to support Member States in tackling AMR.



WPRO coordinated a three-day train-the-trainer workshop on AMR pathogen outbreak investigation and response in hospital settings from September 25 to 27, 2024, at the request of the Philippines Department of Health. Based on the 2022 regional guidance [Responding to outbreaks of antimicrobial-resistant pathogens in health-care facilities: guidance for the Western Pacific Region](#), the workshop convened multidisciplinary teams from eight healthcare facilities and representatives from national institutions. Led by national and international experts, participants engaged in realistic case scenarios to learn the steps needed to assess, investigate, and respond to AMR outbreaks in hospitals.



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