

## WHO, FAO, and OIE unite in the fight against Antimicrobial Resistance

### THE FACTS

Antimicrobial agents:

- **are essential to treat** human and animal diseases;
- **should thus be considered as a public good.**

Some microbes have demonstrated full or partial resistance to different antimicrobial agents. It is an inevitable consequence of antimicrobial use both in humans and animals.

This phenomenon called antimicrobial resistance, AMR, is an increasing global concern for human and animal health.

### The need for a 'One Health' approach

Addressing the rising threat of AMR requires a holistic and multisectoral ('One Health') approach because antimicrobials used to treat various infectious diseases in animals may be the same or be similar to those used in humans. Resistant bacteria arising either in humans, animals or the environment may spread from one to the other, and from one country to another. **AMR does not recognize geographic or human/animal borders.**

### A public good to protect

The discovery of antibiotics and their development to treat bacterial

infections in humans and animals was one of the most important achievements of the 20th Century. Since antimicrobials were first commercially produced, initially for use in human medicine and subsequently in veterinary medicine, their use has been associated with the risk of emergence of AMR.

At the same time as the world has observed accelerated emergence of resistance, the discovery and development of new antimicrobial drugs has slowed down. The effectiveness of the existing antimicrobials should therefore be preserved as much as possible.

**AMR does not recognize geographic or human/animal borders**

**AMR jeopardizes progress on health outcomes**



Food and Agriculture  
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WORLD ORGANISATION FOR ANIMAL HEALTH  
*Protecting animals, preserving our future*



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## A global concern

Globalisation has led to unprecedented increases in the movements of people, animals, and food commodities which provide opportunities for global spread of resistant organisms.

Combatting the rising threat of AMR therefore requires global concerted actions and commitment of everyone .

## GOALS TO ATTAIN

The World Health Organization (WHO), the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) speak with one voice and take collective action to minimize the emergence and spread of AMR. The aim is to:

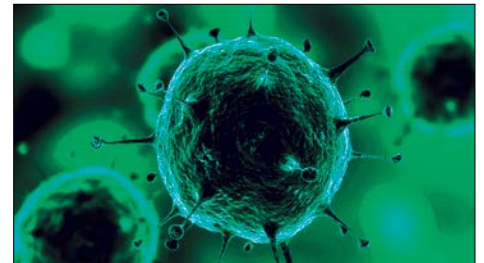
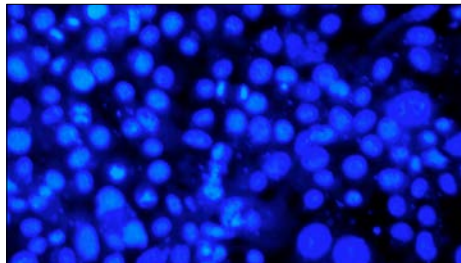
- **Ensure that antimicrobial agents continue to be effective and useful to cure diseases in humans and animals;**
- **Promote prudent and responsible use of antimicrobial agents;**
- **Ensure global access to medicines of good quality.**

## WHAT IS NEEDED?

- Political commitment, good governance, and relevant capacity across sectors to implement international standards and guidelines, and to establish appropriate national legislation;
- Human and animal health sectors working together nationally and globally to align policies, strategies and activities, in collaboration with other stakeholders in the private and public sectors.

## WHO/FAO/OIE will:

- **Raise awareness;**
- **Strengthen national capacities to address AMR;**
- **Support countries to establish appropriate policy, institutional and regulatory frameworks and networks;**
- **Support harmonized AMR surveillance and global monitoring of usage of antimicrobials;**
- **Promote research and development of new antimicrobial agents, diagnostics and vaccines and new approaches to AMR prevention and control;**
- **Support efforts to fight against circulation of poor quality or counterfeit products;**
- **Promote improved infection prevention and control measures, thereby progressively reduce usage of antimicrobial agents.**



## CONTACTS

[www.fao.org/food/food-safety-quality/a-z-index/antimicrobial/en/](http://www.fao.org/food/food-safety-quality/a-z-index/antimicrobial/en/)

[www.oie.int/en/our-scientific-expertise/veterinary-products/antimicrobials/](http://www.oie.int/en/our-scientific-expertise/veterinary-products/antimicrobials/)

[www.who.int/foodsafety/areas\\_work/antimicrobial-resistance/en/](http://www.who.int/foodsafety/areas_work/antimicrobial-resistance/en/)