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World Health Organization
WHO

Topic B: Strengthening International Response to Antimicrobial Resistance

Antimicrobial resistance (AMR) is one of the greatest global health challenges of the 21st century. It occurs when microorganisms evolve to resist antimicrobials —medicines used to treat bacterial and viral infections— due to their misuse or overuse. As a result, common infections become increasingly difficult or, in some cases, impossible to treat, leading to the spread of disease, debility, and death. Over the years, AMR has contributed to approximately 4.95 million deaths worldwide.

The World Health Organization has promoted a coordinated One Health approach to address AMR through global action plans, surveillance systems, and high-level political commitments. Nevertheless, meaningful progress requires stronger implementation, sustainable funding, innovation, and enhanced international cooperation to prevent a post-antibiotic era. The overuse of antibiotics in both human and food production has accelerated resistance and reduced the effectiveness of existing treatments. Strengthening global collaboration and investment in research is crucial to safeguarding modern medicine and global health security.