



Message from

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on the occasion of

World Antimicrobial Awareness Week

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World Antimicrobial Awareness Week is marked globally from 18 to 24 November to raise awareness of the global threat of antimicrobial resistance (AMR), and to encourage the adoption of best practices among policy-makers, health workers and the general public to prevent the emergence and spread of drug-resistant infections. The theme of this year's campaign is "Preventing antimicrobial resistance together".

During the pandemic, inappropriate use of antibiotics to treat COVID-19 patients, among other factors, has only fuelled this threat to global public health security. Despite its huge toll AMR is often called the silent pandemic. In WHO's Eastern Mediterranean Region, addressing the threat has often been overshadowed by other competing public health priorities, especially in emergency settings.

We are now at a crossroads. If we do not control and stop the misuse and overuse of antimicrobial medicines, it will become

increasingly difficult or impossible to treat simple infections in the future. We **MUST** act now.

To address antimicrobial resistance, WHO works closely with partner agencies dealing with animal and environmental health through the One Health approach, and our Region has achieved several important milestones in this regard. All countries have developed national AMR action plans and report data from surveillance of antimicrobial consumption to the WHO Global Antimicrobial Surveillance System. More than 70% of countries have also established national infection prevention and control programmes and these continue to be strengthened across the Region.

While these achievements are to be celebrated, we need to do much more. Let us work together in the spirit of our regional vision of Health for All by All to actively counter the growing deadly AMR threat to save our future generations.