



2014



# Foreword

Antimicrobial resistance (AMR) within a wide range of infectious agents is a growing public health threat of broad concern to countries and multiple sectors. Increasingly, governments around the world are beginning to pay attention to a problem so serious that it threatens the achievements of modern medicine. A post-antibiotic era—in which common infections and minor injuries can kill—far from being an apocalyptic fantasy, is instead a very real possibility for the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

Determining the scope of the problem is essential for formulating and monitoring an effective response to AMR. This WHO report, produced in collaboration with Member States and other partners, provides as accurate a picture as is presently possible of the magnitude of AMR and the current state of surveillance globally.

The report focuses on antibacterial resistance (ABR) in common bacterial pathogens. Why? There is a major gap in knowledge about the magnitude of this problem and such information is needed to guide urgent public health actions. ABR is complex and multidimensional. It involves a range of resistance mechanisms affecting an ever-widening range of bacteria, most of which can cause a wide spectrum of diseases in humans and animals.

One important finding of the report, which will serve as a baseline to measure future progress, is that there are many gaps in information on pathogens of major public health importance. In addition, surveillance of ABR generally is neither coordinated nor harmonized, compromising the ability to assess and monitor the situation.

Nonetheless, the report makes a clear case that resistance to common bacteria has reached alarming levels in many parts of the world indicating that many of the available treatment options for common infections in some settings are becoming ineffective. Furthermore, systematic reviews of the scientific evidence show that ABR has a negative impact on outcomes for patients and health-care expenditures.

Generally, surveillance in TB, malaria and HIV to detect resistance, determine disease burden and monitor public health interventions is better established and experiences from these programmes are described in the report, so that lessons learnt can be applied to ABR and opportunities for collaboration identified.

WHO, along with partners across many sectors, is developing a global action plan to mitigate AMR. Strengthening global AMR surveillance will be a critical aspect of such planning as it is the basis for informing global strategies, monitoring the effectiveness of public health interventions and detecting new trends and threats.



COMUNICATO STAMPA

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## Conclusioni del Consiglio sulle prossime tappe dell'approccio "one health" di lotta alla resistenza agli antimicrobici

"Il Consiglio dell'Unione europea

21. INVITA GLI STATI MEMBRIA:

istituire prima della metà del 2017 un piano d'azione nazionale contro la resistenza agli antimicrobici, sulla base dell'approccio "one health" e in conformità con gli obiettivi del piano d'azione mondiale dell'OMS. Il piano d'azione nazionale, adattato alla situazione nazionale, dovrebbe:

# ANTIBIOTICI DIFENDI LA TUA DIFESA USALI CON CAUTELEA



Non usarli in caso di raffreddore o influenza, assumili solo dietro prescrizione medica, nei tempi e nelle dosi indicate, altrimenti rischi di rendere i batteri più resistenti alle difese e di neutralizzare la nostra arma preziosa.







Quali strategie adottare?