"We have seen patients requesting antibiotics for fever and sometimes health workers accede to these requests and do not advise patients on the correct use of antibiotics," highlighted Professor Gil Fernando, Emeritus Professor of Pharmacology, University of Sri Jayewardenepura. Self-medication (taking antibiotics without a prescription) is a common practice that promotes the development of Antimicrobial Resistance.

One key pillar of Sri Lanka’s National Strategic Plan for Combating Antimicrobial Resistance is the focus on educating both health care workers and the community on appropriate antibiotic use.

For more information: [https://goo.gl/4C80Bs](https://goo.gl/4C80Bs)

"Resistant infections will be detrimental towards providing cost effective health care," Dr Rajitha Senaratne, Minister of Health.

"Presently, 13% of the Government’s health budget is spent on antimicrobial medicines. Resistant infections will mean further increased costs and would be detrimental towards providing cost effective health care," highlighted Dr Rajitha Senaratne, Minister of Health, Nutrition and Indigenous Medicine at the launch of Sri Lanka’s National Strategic Plan for Combating Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR).

The strategic plan presents a road map for tackling AMR in Sri Lanka and is an important step forward in accelerating progress on AMR.

For more information: [https://goo.gl/4C80Bs](https://goo.gl/4C80Bs) — in Colombo, Sri Lanka.
Inappropriate use of medicines worsens drug resistance.

Always follow these rules:

✓ Use antibiotics only when prescribed by a health professional
✓ Complete the full prescription, even if you feel better
✓ Never share antibiotics with others or use leftover prescriptions

Vaccines serve as a frontline defence against antimicrobial resistance.

Vaccines can help limit the spread of antibiotic resistance. The global increase in disease caused by drug-resistant bacteria, due to overuse and misuse of antibiotics, is a major public health concern. Vaccinating humans and animals is a very effective way to stop them from getting infected and thereby preventing the need for antibiotics. Making better use of existing vaccines and developing new vaccines are important ways to tackle antibiotic resistance and reduce preventable illness and deaths.

Antibiotic resistance happens when bacteria change and become resistant to the antibiotics used to treat the infections they cause.

Causes of #AntibioticResistance include:
- Over-prescribing of antibiotics
- Patients not finishing their treatment
- Over-use of antibiotics in livestock and fish farming
- Poor infection control in hospitals and clinics
- Lack of hygiene and poor sanitation
- Lack of new antibiotics being developed
**Antibiotic Resistance**

What you can do

Antibiotic resistance happens when bacteria change and become resistant to the antibiotics used to treat the infections they cause.

- Only use antibiotics when prescribed by a trusted health professional.
- Always take the full prescription, even if you feel better.
- Never use leftover antibiotics.
- Never share antibiotics with others.
- Prevent infections by regularly washing your hands, avoiding close contact with sick people, practicing safer sex, and keeping vaccinations up to date.

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**Use antibiotics responsibly**

- Take antibiotics only when prescribed by your doctor.
- Make sure you complete your treatment.
- Do not share your antibiotics with family, friends and colleagues.

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**Adopt multi-sectoral approach**

- Regulate use of antibiotics in food, animal and agriculture sectors.

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Antibiotic resistance is one of the biggest threats to global health, food security, and development. It can affect anyone, of any age, in any country.

Here is what you can do to prevent the spread of antibiotic resistance:

- Only use antibiotics when prescribed by a trusted health professional.
- Never demand antibiotics if your health worker says you don't need them.
- Always follow your health worker's advice when using antibiotics.
- Always take the full prescription, even if you feel better.
- Never share or use leftover antibiotics.
- Prevent infections by regularly washing your hands, preparing food hygienically, avoiding close contact with sick people, practicing safer sex, and keeping vaccinations up to date.

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Here is how you can use antibiotics responsibly.

Act now, use #antibiotics responsibly.
Act NOW to stop antimicrobial resistance

- Develop and implement multi-sectoral national action plans
- Enforce rational use of antibiotics
- Ensure stewardship for antibiotic use in healthcare facilities
- Integrate AMR prevention in professional education

Here is what governments can do for anti-microbial resistance:

Use antibiotics responsibly

- Take antibiotics only when prescribed by your doctor
- Make sure you complete your treatment
- Do not share your antibiotics with family, friends and colleagues

Here is how you can use antibiotics responsibly

This week is World Antibiotic Awareness Week!

Antibiotic resistance is one of the biggest threats to global health, food security, and development today. It occurs when bacteria change in response to the use of antibiotics. Although it occurs naturally, misuse of antibiotics in humans and animals is accelerating antibiotic resistance.

Find out how #AntibioticResistance spreads:

Antibiotic Resistance is a global health security risk that needs to receive more attention.

What can you do?
- Only use antibiotics when prescribed by a certified health professional
- Always take the full prescription, even if you feel better
- Never use left over antibiotics
- Never share antibiotics with others
- Prevent infections by regularly washing your hands, avoiding contact with sick people and keeping your vaccinations up to date

Antibiotic resistance happens when bacteria change and become resistant to the antibiotics used to treat the infections they cause.

Causes of #AntibioticResistance include:
- Over-prescribing of antibiotics
- Patients not finishing their treatment... See more — with Ckrysteen Payoyo Ramos and Krishna Narayan.
Adopt multi-sectoral approach:
- Regulate use of antibiotics in food, animal and agriculture sectors — with Sadiq Abdulrahman.

"Ensuring access to the benefits of antimicrobials, while at the same time preserving their efficacy, can best be achieved by pursuing Universal Health Coverage. The progressive realization of Universal Health Coverage also ensures that efforts to combat antimicrobial resistance are sustainable, and can outlive the threat we face."

Dr Poonam Khetrapal Singh, Regional Director WHO South-East Asia — with Sadiq Abdulrahman.
"Antimicrobial resistance is a threat to global security and economic stability. It is a potential major health and economic crisis that requires both global and local solutions. Since drug resistant genes can travel, countries with higher levels of economic and social organization have a stake in the success of measures taken by less developed countries. In the fight against antimicrobial resistance we are only as strong as the weakest link."

Dr Poonam Khetrapal Singh, Regional Director, WHO South-East Asia — with Sadiq Abdulrahman.

Use antibiotics responsibly:
- Take antibiotics only when prescribed by your doctor
- Make sure you complete your treatment
- Do not share your antibiotics with family, friends and colleagues — with Sadiq Abdulrahman.

Act NOW to stop antimicrobial resistance:
- Develop and implement multi-sectoral national action plans
- Enforce rational use of antibiotics
- Ensure stewardship for antibiotic use in healthcare facilities
- Integrate AMR prevention in professional education

Prevent over-the-counter sale of antibiotics

- Make prescriptions for antibiotics mandatory
- Ensure strict enforcement
Act NOW to stop antimicrobial resistance:
- Develop and implement multi-sectoral national action plans
- Enforce rational use of antibiotics
- Ensure stewardship for antibiotic use in healthcare facilities
- Integrate AMR prevention in professional education


Adopt multi-sectoral approach
- Regulate use of antibiotics in food, animal and agriculture sectors


Interview with Beth P. Bell, Director, National Center for Emerging and Zoonotic Infectious Diseases, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (the interview took place during the "Combating Antimicrobial Resistance: Public Health Challenge and Priority" meeting in New Delhi, India.)

As we heard from many speakers here, Antimicrobial Resistance is a global problem that we are not going to solve without having all areas of the world and all countries focusing on that problem and working together. A meeting like this is particularly important in that regard. India, being such a large and important country in the world, is a pivotal part in solving this problem. There is now a broad recognition of the seriousness of this problem and countries are coming together in the region to work on various aspects. A lot of very good ideas, a lot of concrete suggestions, a lot of emphasis on areas that are likely to achieve the highest impact in terms of infection control, healthcare associated infections, the importance of surveillance, the importance of laboratories, of having consistent definitions of quality assurance, assurance of quality of antibiotics, the importance of considering the animal and human health sector. These are all critical and important themes and we got a lot of good information on these during the meeting.

http://bit.ly/1TNPQ2

Photo: WHO / Oewen — with Sadiq Abdulrahman.
Ensure stewardship for antibiotic use in healthcare facilities:
- Strengthen infection prevention and hygiene practices
- Set up systems for rational use of antibiotics
- Detect and prevent hospital acquired infections


Act now to stop Antimicrobial resistance

What is antimicrobial resistance?
Antimicrobial resistance is the ability of a microorganism (like bacteria, viruses, and some parasites) to stop an antimicrobial (such as antibiotics, antivirals and antimalarials) from working against it. As a result, standard treatments become ineffective, infections persist and may spread to others.


The roadmap presented at this meeting gives us clear steps to align the implementation on a national level with the global action plan on combating antimicrobial resistance.

Harry Parathon
Chief, AMR Control - Programme Committee, Indonesia

http://bit.ly/1vYipuc

Photo: WHO / Owens — with Sadiq Abdulrahman.
This meeting is important both on a regional and global level. By organizing it the South-East Asia Region has shown that it has intensified its' attention to antimicrobial resistance. This will push other regions and countries to also raise their efforts in combating antimicrobial resistance. We are now at the stage when we need to operationalize and implement. Dr. Kei Fukuda, Assistant Director General, WHO said during the meeting on ‘Combating Antimicrobial Resistance: Public Health Challenge and Priority’, in New Delhi.

http://bit.ly/1OzGgIv

Photo: WHO / Owens — with Sadiq Abdulrahman.

Use antibiotics responsibly:
- Take antibiotics only when prescribed by your doctor
- Make sure you complete your treatment
- Do not share your antibiotics with family, friends and colleagues

The red vertical line indicates that you should take this medication ONLY if prescribed by a doctor. The Ministry of Health & Family Welfare of India has launched this awareness campaign to combat Antimicrobial Resistance.

"AMR has emerged as the number one public health challenge faced by the world today. This challenge confronts all countries, small or big, rich or poor, developed or developing. Understandably, therefore, combating AMR needs collaborative and synergistic action by all of us.

JP Nadda, Health Minister of India


Photo: WHO / Owens — with Sadiq Abdulrahaman.

"We must guard our health security and fight Antimicrobial Resistance... We now live in a world where the efficacy of antibiotics is under threat. Inappropriate use of antibiotics has led to resistance, resulting in approximately 700,000 people dying each year from conditions that were once straightforward to manage," Dr Poonam Khetrapal Singh, Regional Director for WHO South-East Asia Region, said at the three-day meeting on "Combating Antimicrobial Resistance: Public Health Challenge and Priority" in New Delhi.


Photo: WHO / Owens — with Sadiq Abdulrahaman.
Twitter

Followers – 8,083

WHO South-East Asia @WHOSEARO · May 18
Replying to @WHOSEARO
bit.ly/2D2Erp

"Our work against Antimicrobial Resistance does not stop now. WHO stands behind the Government in implementing the National Strategic Plan for Combating AMR across multiple sectors."
Dr Belinda Loring, Medical Officer
WHO Sri Lanka

WHO South-East Asia @WHOSEARO · May 18
Replying to @WHOSEARO
Self-medication (taking antibiotics without a prescription) is a common practice that promotes the development of Antimicrobial Resistance

WHO Missions, WHO Thailand, UN in Sri Lanka and CDC India
Resistant infections will be detrimental towards providing cost effective health care. Dr Rajitha Senaratne, Minister of Health.

Sri Lanka launches National Strategic Plan for Combating Antimicrobial Resistance

Using antibiotics correctly will help reduce Antibiotic Resistance.
Health workers: Clean your hands and stop the spread of drug resistant germs, it's in your hands!

@WHO | AntibioticResistance

This is how:

WHO | Thailand and WHO Malaysia

It's HandHygiene Day!
Dear health workers:
Clean your hands at the right times and help fight #AntibioticResistance

#HandHygiene | #AntibioticResistance

FIGHT ANTIBIOTIC RESISTANCE
IT'S IN YOUR HANDS

Health workers: Clean your hands at the right times and stop the spread of antibiotic resistance

WHO | Western Pacific, WHO South-East Asia, WHO EMRO and 4 others
WHO South-East Asia @WHOSEA · May 4

Replying to @WHOSEA

Health workers: Clean your hands at the right times & help fight
#AntibioticResistance

It's in your hands!

442K Retweets 1,699K Likes

WHO South-East Asia @WHOSEA · May 4

It's #HandHygiene Day! 2017

Hand hygiene is a crucialinha in spreading diseases & combating
#AntimicrobialResistance

#InfectionPrevention

WHO South-East Asia @WHOSEA · May 3

Q: Do you know what #AntimicrobialResistance is?
A: google's results

74% Yes

18% No

8% Not sure

6,107 votes · Final results
By changing how we prescribe and use antibiotics we can keep them working for longer.

#AntimicrobialResistance

The over-use of antibiotics is contributing to antibiotic resistance.

#AntimicrobialResistance

Antimicrobial resistance can affect anyone, at any age, in any country.

#AntimicrobialResistance
WHO publishes list of bacteria for which new antibiotics are urgently needed.

WHO today published its first ever list of antibiotic-resistant “priority pathogens”—a catalogue of 12 families of bacteria that pose the greatest threat to human health.

Antibiotic resistance occurs when bacteria change & become resistant to antibiotics

What can pharmacists do?

- Do you only dispense antibiotics when they are needed, according to current guidelines (e.g., does the patient have a valid prescription, is it for the right drug/dose/duration?)
- When patients are seeking treatment for cold or flu, do you explain that antibiotics are not needed?
- Do you talk to patients about how to take antibiotics correctly, antibiotic resistance & the dangers of misuse?
- Do you remind patients to contact their health professional if symptoms persist?
- Do you remind patients about preventing infections (e.g., vaccinations, hand washing, safer sex, covering nose & mouth when sneezing)?

Act NOW to stop antimicrobial resistance

- Develop and implement multi-sectoral national action plans
- Enforce rational use of antibiotics
- Ensure stewardship for antibiotic use in healthcare facilities
- Integrate AMR prevention in professional education
Use antibiotics responsibly

- Take antibiotics only when prescribed by your doctor
- Make sure you complete your treatment
- Do not share your antibiotics with family, friends and colleagues
SRI LANKA RECEIVES FUNDING BOOST TO TACKLE AMR

ANTIBIOTIC RESISTANCE
WHAT CAN PHARMACISTS DO?

1. Do you only dispense antibiotics when they are needed, according to current antimicrobial guidelines?
2. Do you ensure that antibiotics are not used as an alternative to poor hygiene practices?
3. When patients are taking treatment for mild or minor illnesses, do you explain that antibiotics are not needed?
4. Do you talk to patients about how to take antibiotics correctly, providing practical tips on how to do this?
5. Do you monitor patients to ensure that antibiotics are taken as prescribed?
6. Do you talk to patients about preventing antibiotic resistance, e.g., by promoting good hygiene practices and regular hand washing?

World Health Organization

Adopt a multi-sectoral approach

Regulate use of antibiotics in food, animal and agricultural sectors
Prevent over-the-counter sale of antibiotics

- Make prescriptions for antibiotics mandatory
- Ensure strict enforcement

Use antibiotics responsibly

- Take antibiotics only when prescribed by your doctor
- Make sure you complete your treatment
- Do not share your antibiotics with family, friends and colleagues
The over-use of antibiotics is contributing to antibiotic resistance

#AntimicrobialResistance

World Health Organization

By changing how we prescribe and use antibiotics we can keep them working for longer

#AntimicrobialResistance

World Health Organization
Securing Health in South-East Asia

Adopting the One Health Approach to address antimicrobial resistance

Antibiotic resistance happens when bacteria change and become resistant to the antibiotics used to treat the infections they cause:

- Only use antibiotics when prescribed by a certified health professional.
- Always take the full prescription, even if you feel better.
- Never use left over antibiotics.
- Never share antibiotics with others.
- Prevent infections by regularly washing your hands, avoiding contact with sick people and keeping your vaccinations up to date.

#HealthSecurity
**Antibiotic Resistance: What You Can Do**

Antibiotic resistance happens when bacteria change and become resistant to the antibiotics used to treat the infections they cause.

- Only use antibiotics when prescribed by a trained health professional.
- Always take the full prescription, even if you feel better.
- Never share antibiotics with others.
- Prevent infections by regularly washing your hands, avoiding contact with sick people and keeping your vaccinations up to date.

**Antibiotic Resistance: How It Spreads**

Antibiotic resistance happens when bacteria change and become resistant to the antibiotics used to treat the infections they cause.

- Patient passes on bacteria to other patients.
- Drug-resistant bacteria spread to other animals.
- Antibiotics are used in the treatment of animals.

**Causes of Antibiotic Resistance**

Antibiotic resistance happens when bacteria change and become resistant to the antibiotics used to treat the infections they cause.

- Poor infection control in hospitals and clinics.
- Lack of hygiene and poor sanitation.
- Overuse of antibiotics in livestock and fish farming.
- Lack of new antibiotics being developed.
The Combating #AntimicrobialResistance meeting was a success
bit.ly/1M4IEwr

Act NOW to stop #AntimicrobialResistance
bit.ly/1GnNwR

Act NOW to stop antimicrobial resistance
- Develop and implement multi-sectoral national action plans
- Enforce rational use of antibiotics
- Ensure stewardship for antibiotic use in healthcare facilities
- Integrate AMR prevention in professional education

Regulate use of #antibiotics in food, animal and agriculture sectors
bit.ly/18GxZi

Adopt multi-sectoral approach
- Regulate use of antibiotics in food, animal and agriculture sectors
There is a broad recognition of the seriousness of #AntimicrobialResistance. 
Beth Bell, Centers for Disease Control

Ensure stewardship for antibiotic use in healthcare facilities
#AntibioticResistance

The over-use of antibiotics is contributing 2 antibiotic resistance
#AntimicrobialResistance
bit.ly/150mth
The roadmap gives us implementation steps on a national level. Mr Parothon, AMR Control-Prog. Committee, Indonesia

This #AntimicrobialResistance meeting is important on a regional & global level. Dr Fukuda, Assistant Dir.-Gen. WHO

WHO South-East Asia @WHOSEARO - 26 Feb 2016
#AntibioticResistance: Make sure you complete your treatment bit.ly/1VykupT

WHO South-East Asia @WHOSEARO - 25 Feb 2016
#AntibioticResistance. Do NOT share your antibiotics with family, friends and colleagues bit.ly/1Vy03MT
Stop #AntimicrobialResistance: use antibiotics responsibly. bit.ly/1Q4q0DZ

Use antibiotics responsibly

- Take antibiotics only when prescribed by your doctor
- Make sure you complete your treatment
- Do not share your antibiotics with family, friends and colleagues

By changing how we prescribe and use antibiotics we can keep them working for longer
#AntimicrobialResistance

#Medicine with a red line should never be consumed without a doctor’s prescription
#antibioticresistance
*#AMR has serious social & economic consequences.*

Dorpo Tandin Wangchuk, Bhutan Health Minister

WHO South-East Asia @WHOSEARO · 24 Feb 2016

#AntibioticResistance: Take antibiotics ONLY when prescribed by your doctor bit.ly/1VjLjFy

#AMR has emerged as the number 1 health challenge faced by the world

JP Nadda, Health Minister of India

We must guard our health security & fight
#AntimicrobialResistance

Dr Pronam Khetrapal Singh, WHO Regional Director