Antimicrobial resistance happens when bacteria and other microorganisms change after being exposed to antimicrobial drugs. Antibiotics are among the most common antimicrobial drugs used in humans and animals. The overuse and misuse of antibiotics is speeding up the development of resistance and putting us all at risk.

Antibiotic resistance can affect anyone, of any age, in any country. It is a threat to human health, food security and sustainable development.

### WHAT GOVERNMENT CAN DO

Including policymakers, heads of ministries, regulatory authorities

1. **Stop overuse and misuse of antibiotics by:**
   - Supporting a multi-sectoral national action plan on antimicrobial resistance
   - Developing and enforcing regulations to stop overuse and misuse of antibiotics in humans and animals
   - Making information on how to stop overuse and misuse of antibiotics available to citizens

2. **Develop and enforce regulations to prevent the spread of infection through:**
   - Monitoring hospitals' and clinics' compliance with infection prevention and control standards
   - Enforcing good agriculture and food production practices
   - Ensuring communities have access to safe water and sanitation

---

**World Health Organization**

Western Pacific Region

[www.antibioticawarenessweek.org](http://www.antibioticawarenessweek.org)