

# Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR)

## A major public threat

### INFECTION PREVENTION AND CONTROL (IPC) IS ESSENTIAL IN CURBING AMR

Antimicrobial resistance is a global crisis that threatens a century of progress in health and achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and achieving Universal Health Coverage.

Alarming levels of resistance have been reported in countries of all income levels, with the result that common diseases are becoming untreatable, and lifesaving medical procedures riskier to perform.

Recently, experts have warned about carbapenem-resistant Enterobacteriaceae (CRE) - an emerging 'superbug' resistant to the carbapenem class of antibiotics, often considered the drugs of last resort for many infections. Moreover, the remaining options can be very toxic.

**In European countries the number of deaths due to AMR has doubled between 2007 and 2015.  
The increase was:**

**4x**

DUE TO CRE

**6x**

DUE TO CARBAPENEM-RESISTANT  
KLEBSIELLA PNEUMONIA



#### THE FACE OF ANTIBIOTIC RESISTANCE :

Vanessa Carter was 25 in 2004 when she had a car accident; as a result, she lost her right eye and suffered many other complications due to an antibiotic-resistant healthcare-associated infection.

"Seven years down the line of failing surgeries I ended with an infection; on top of that, the infection was antibiotic-resistant and I lost huge portions of my face.

Doctors kept on prescribing antibiotics without consulting each other and there was no central record of treatment.

We should be teaching patients why IPC, including cleaning hands, plays a role towards fighting bacterial infections both in and out of hospital.

Antibiotic resistance should be common knowledge, but communication is lacking at every point in the system."



# Healthcare-associated infections (HAIs), including those caused by AMR, lead to avoidable deaths and hamper the delivery of basic quality of care and modern medicine!

In Europe, HAIs carry the highest burden compared to all other infectious diseases including HIV, tuberculosis and influenza.

## FACT



**1 IN 10 PATIENTS** WORLDWIDE IS AFFECTED BY A HAI

## ECONOMIC BURDEN: Paying a heavy price

**1.1**  
Billion  
euros

UP TO **1.1 BILLION EUROS** ARE EXPECTED TO BE SPENT YEARLY BETWEEN 2015 AND 2050 DUE TO AMR ACROSS EUROPEAN COUNTRIES

**+25%**

BY 2050, AMR WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR A **25% INCREASE** IN HEALTH EXPENDITURE IN LOW-INCOME COUNTRIES

Strong IPC is the most effective approach to controlling the spread of AMR. Robust IPC measures are cost-saving because AMR can thrive in healthcare facilities.

**The most effective intervention is to improve hygiene in healthcare facilities, including promotion of hand hygiene and better hospital hygiene.**

Safer hospitals mean fewer infections and every infection prevented is an antibiotic avoided.

Improving IPC helps achieve **quality care for all** and is one of the five objectives in the AMR Global Action Plan.



**PROPER HAND HYGIENE PREVENTS INFECTIONS AND SLOWS THE SPREAD OF ANTIBIOTIC RESISTANCE**

# Return on Investment: Effective IPC saves money!

When IPC and hand hygiene are implemented in combination with antibiotic stewardship programmes

**2/3**  
**Reduction**  
IN FREQUENCY OF AMR  
INFECTIONS

**27,000**  
**Deaths avoided**  
IN EUROPE

**85%**  
**Reduction**  
IN HEALTH BURDEN

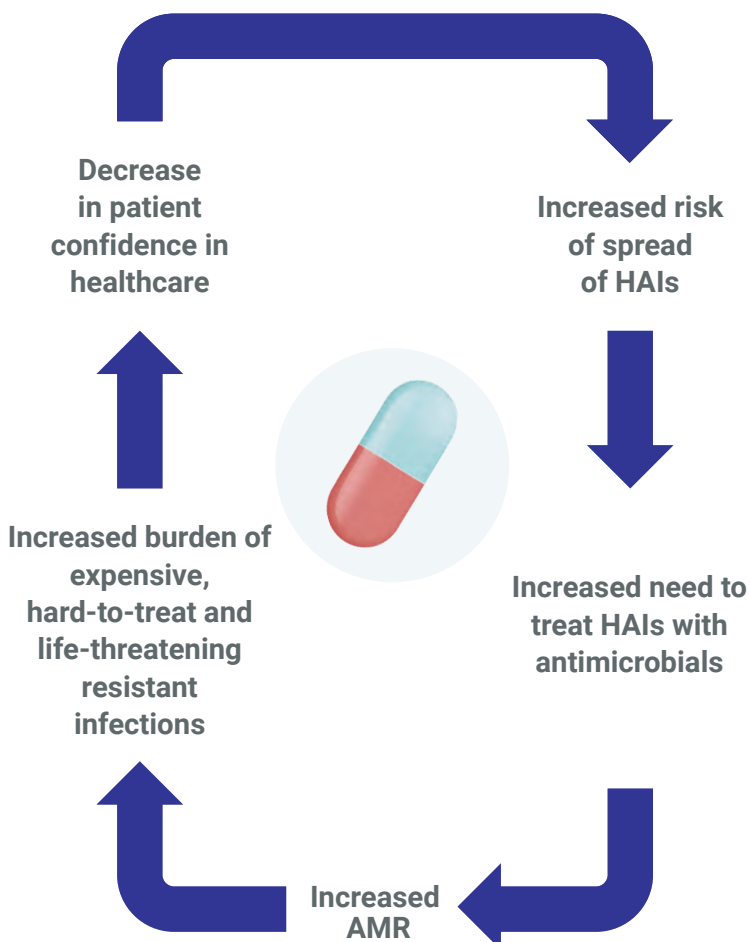
**3€**  
**Per capita**  
SAVED EVERY YEAR

## FACT

GLOBALLY, JUST OVER A QUARTER OF COUNTRIES HAVE A DEDICATED BUDGET FOR IPC AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL.

## THE IMPACT OF POOR IPC

Without effective IPC, it is impossible to achieve quality health care delivery and the capacity to respond to outbreaks is severely compromised.



## IMPACT OF GOOD IPC PRACTICES

**IPC is everyone's responsibility.**

"HAIs are one of the most common consequences of poor quality care. They cause avoidable harm to hundreds of millions of patients worldwide every year and fuel the flames of antibiotic-resistance."

Achieving Universal Health Coverage means quality care for everyone, everywhere. We all have a part to play in making care safe: policy-makers, make sure your country has strong IPC programmes!"

Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus and.



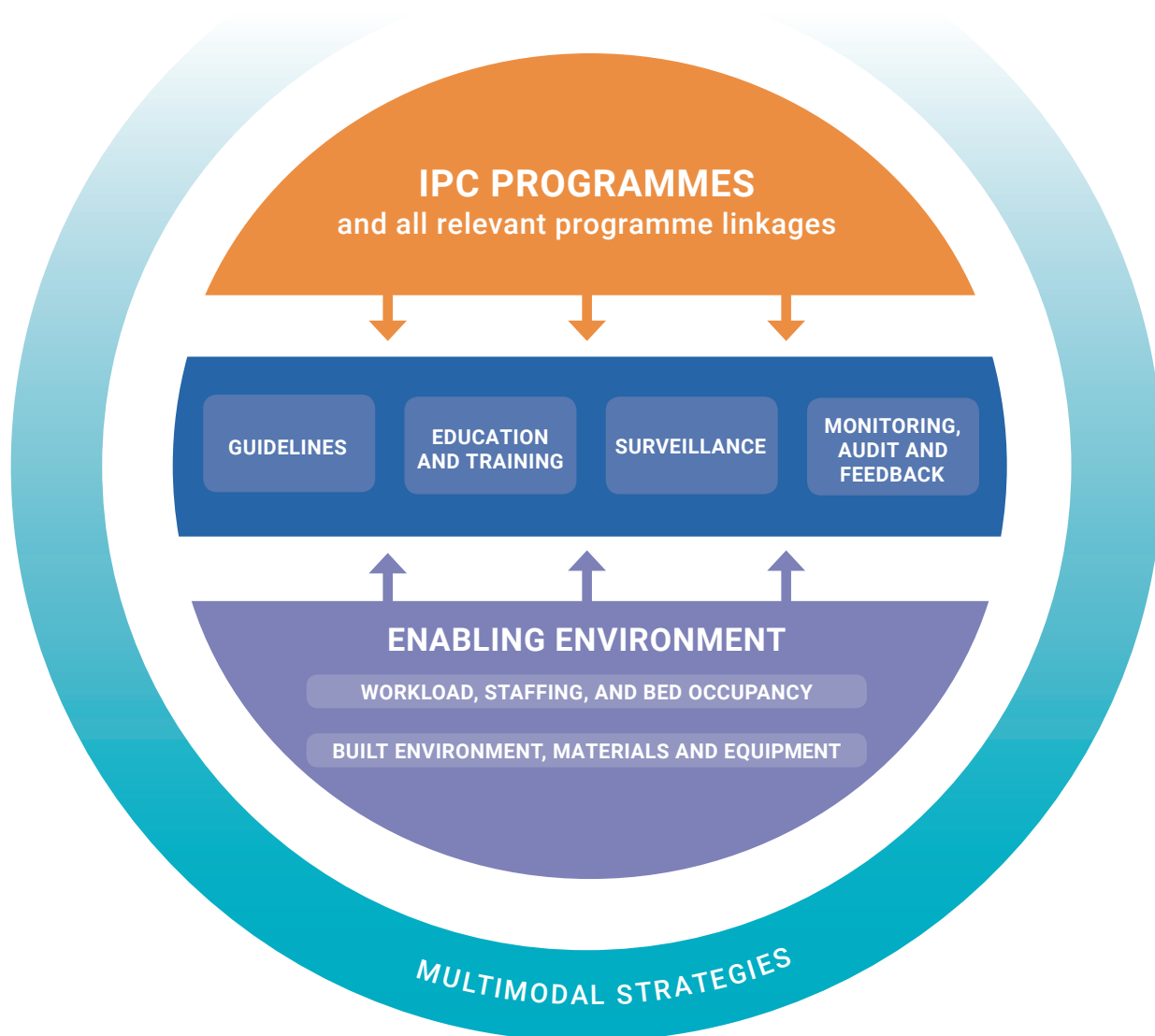
**"Strong IPC is vital for protecting health, stopping the spread of drug resistance bacteria and preparing for and responding to outbreaks."**

Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus and,  
Director General WHO



# What can you do to support IPC in your country?

Ensure the core components recommended by the World Health Organization for effective IPC are in place



## What you can do now:

### Policy makers – act now to:

- Ensure that IPC minimum requirements are in place.
- Make strong plans to move from minimum to fully implemented core components of IPC programmes.
- Ensure that a IPC programme is in place at national and health facility level.
- Be a champion for infection prevention and control

### IPC minimum requirements:

The journey to have the IPC core components in place in your country should start with the *minimum requirements*: those that should be in place at the national and facility level to provide minimum protection and safety to patients, health care workers and visitors.

 <https://www.who.int/infection-prevention/publications/core-components/en/>

 <http://www.who.int/servicedeliverysafety/areas/qhc/en/>