



# Antimicrobial Resistance in the Western Pacific Region

A Review of Surveillance and Health Systems Response



World Health  
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# Abbreviations

AGISAR	Advisory Group on Integrated Surveillance of Antimicrobial Resistance
AMR	antimicrobial resistance
APEC	Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation
ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
AST	antibiotic susceptibility testing
ATC	Anatomical, Therapeutic and Chemical (classification system)
AVWG	WHO Expert Working Group on Influenza Viral Susceptibility
CLSI	Clinical and Laboratory Standards Institute
CSA	country situation analysis
DDD	defined daily dose
EaP	Eastern Partnership
EARS-Net	European Antimicrobial Resistance Surveillance Network
ECDC	European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control
EQAS	External quality assurance system
ESAC-Net	European Surveillance of Antimicrobial Consumption Network
EU	European Union
EUCAST	European Committee on Antimicrobial Susceptibility Testing
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
GASP	Gonococcal Antimicrobial Surveillance Programme
GFN	Global Foodborne Infections Network
GISRS	Global Influenza Surveillance and Response System
GMP	good manufacturing practices
GPP	good pharmacy practice
GPRIM	Global Plan for Insecticide Resistance Management in Malaria Vectors
GPSC	Global Patient Safety Challenge (of WHO)
HAI	health-care-associated infection
HCF	health-care facility
IPC	infection prevention and control
MDR	multidrug-resistant
MIC	minimum inhibitory concentration
MRSA	methicillin-resistant <i>Staphylococcus aureus</i>
NPS	National Prescribing Service
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
OIE	World Organisation for Animal Health
OTC	over the counter
POLHN	Pacific Open Learning Health Net
PPTC	Pacific Paramedical Training Centre
REQAP	Regional External Quality Assurance Programme
RCPA	Royal College of Pathologists of Australasia
RCPAQAS	Royal College of Pathologists of Australasia Quality Assurance Programmes
ReLAVR	Latin American Network for Antimicrobial Resistance Surveillance
STGs	standard treatment guidelines
TB	tuberculosis
UK NEQAS	United Kingdom National External Quality Assessment Service
TWG	technical working group
VINARES	Viet Nam Resistance (project)
VRE	vancomycin-resistant enterococci
WePARS	Western Pacific Antimicrobial Resistance Surveillance (network)
WHO	World Health Organization
XDR	extensively drug-resistant

# Introduction

Antimicrobial resistance (AMR) is a global public health threat of high concern in the Western Pacific Region. The 2014 World Health Assembly resolution WHA67.25 stresses the need for urgent action to combat AMR. In the Western Pacific Region, priority actions to contain AMR were identified by the World Health Organization (WHO) in consultation with Member States. These actions are outlined in the *Action Agenda for Antimicrobial Resistance in the Western Pacific Region* which was endorsed by the sixty-fifth session of the Regional Committee for the Western Pacific. The action agenda provides a background to AMR in the Region and highlights challenges in addressing this public health threat.

*Antimicrobial Resistance in the Western Pacific Region: A review of Surveillance and Health Systems Response* provides an in-depth situational review and technical discussion in three main areas for the containment of AMR in the Region:

- (1) Surveillance of AMR in the Western Pacific Region.
- (2) Monitoring of antimicrobial use in the Western Pacific Region.
- (3) Health systems response to support containment of AMR in the Western Pacific Region.

Part 1 describes the progress in the Region on surveillance of AMR and the gaps in laboratory capacity and methodologies. Part two highlights the need to monitor antimicrobial use through common methodologies and indicators, in addition to surveillance of AMR, to inform important policy changes to contain AMR. The health systems response to AMR also varies across the Region. Part three highlights the urgent need to strengthen regulation of pharmaceutical systems, antimicrobial stewardship and infection prevention and control (IPC) to contain AMR in the Region.

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