



# AMR action fund

Bridging the gap between science and patients

## FACT SHEET

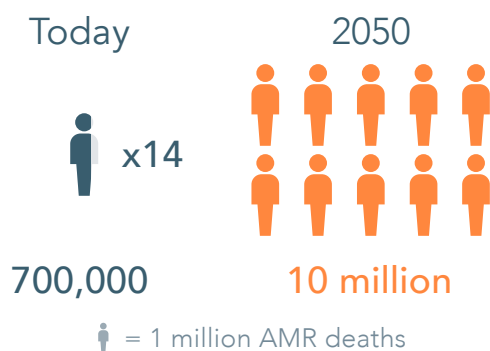
### The Threat of AMR

The world is losing its most powerful tool in healthcare: antibiotics. The reason is rapidly rising antibiotic-resistant infections – also called antimicrobial resistance, or AMR.

**Superbugs resistant to antibiotics not only threaten lives, they undermine every aspect of modern medicine.**

- Today, antimicrobial resistance kills at least 700,000 globally. In some of the most alarming scenarios, it is estimated that by 2050 AMR could claim as many as 10 million lives per year.
- This is a universal issue. Bacteria resistant to existing antibiotics can affect anyone, of any age, in any country.
- Superbugs could set medicine back to the 19th century, before the discovery of penicillin, when simple infections could kill. Soon, procedures from routine surgeries to cancer chemotherapy may not be possible due to risk of life-threatening drug resistant infections.

### Projected AMR deaths by 2050



COVID-19 has demonstrated the huge health and economic impacts of a lack of preparedness. But unlike COVID-19, AMR is a predictable and preventable crisis. We have a critical opportunity to tackle AMR, and we must not waste it.



*AMR threatens to undo a century of medical progress – action is needed now.*

**Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus**  
Director-General of the World Health Organization

### The Broken Pipeline

**Despite the huge societal costs of AMR, there is no viable market for new antibiotics.**

New antibiotics are used sparingly to preserve effectiveness, so in recent years a number of antibiotic-focused biotechs (many of which received significant public funding) have declared bankruptcy or exited this space due to the lack of commercial sustainability, resulting in a loss of valuable expertise and resources. The result is a huge public health need for new antibiotics, but a lack of funding for antibiotic R&D, particularly the later stages of clinical research. This “valley of death” puts many antibiotics in the pipeline in danger of never reaching patients.

There is broad agreement that market-based policy reforms are needed to create market conditions that enable sustainable investment in antibiotic R&D. A number of different solutions have been discussed, including reimbursement reform, market entry rewards, subscription models, and other novel incentives. These have the potential to better recognize the value of novel antibiotics, improve patient access, and drive additional R&D investment. We call on governments around the world to develop and implement these new approaches. There isn't a single solution that will work everywhere around the world.

**Decisive government action is needed to revitalize the antibiotics market to ensure the antibiotic pipeline meets the needs of patients.**

# AMR Action Fund aims to bring 2-4 new antibiotics to patients by 2030

To bridge the “valley of death” funding gap between antibiotic discovery and patients, over 20 leading pharmaceutical companies have launched a ground-breaking partnership to invest nearly US\$1 billion through a new AMR Action Fund that aims to bring two to four new antibiotics to market by 2030.

The AMR Action Fund:

1

**Bolsters and accelerates the research and development** of antibiotics through investment and provision of industry resources and knowledge with biotechnology companies.

2

**Creates a unique, collaborative platform led by the pharmaceutical industry**, with support from multilateral development banks, philanthropic funders, other impact funds and strategic partners, to **facilitate the necessary policy reforms** to create an environment that encourages long-term investment into antibiotic R&D.

- Focus on investment in assets centred around the WHO/ CDC priority lists of pathogens, with the goal to address major unmet needs and maximize public health impact.
- Prioritize novel antibacterial treatments with significant and differentiated clinical utility that reduce patient mortality.
- Invest in clinical development to bridge current gaps in funding.



*We know more than 700,000 people die across the world because of resistance to the treatments they are given, so clearly this cost to people's happiness and to the health system is immense. The pharmaceutical industry is in a unique position to step up and make a difference – and that's what they're doing.*

**Professor Dame Sally Davies,**  
UK Special Envoy on AMR and  
Master of Trinity College, Cambridge

## Scope of the AMR Action Fund's investment

The AMR Action Fund will invest in smaller biotech companies focused on developing novel antibiotics that address the highest priority public health needs, make a significant difference in clinical practice, and save lives. Our investments will be guided by an independent Scientific Advisory Board comprised of world-class experts. The Fund will:

The pharmaceutical industry is stepping up to bridge the funding gap between biotech developing antibiotics and clinical development financing, and in collaboration with other partners, has formed the largest collective venture ever set up to address AMR. The AMR Action Fund is committed to helping advance innovative and novel antibiotics in the preclinical pipeline so that they reach patients. However, policymakers' action is needed as well.

**Together, we must act now to safeguard our future from this global threat.**

## Our investors



\*Active in antibiotic R&D

The concept of the AMR Action Fund was developed by the IFPMA and its member biopharmaceutical companies, in collaboration with the World Health Organization, the European Investment Bank, and the Wellcome Trust.