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.

In Europe, 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

“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.”

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.

**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.
Improving IPC helps achieve quality care for all and is crucial to containing 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.

IPC is everyone’s responsibility. Without effective IPC it is impossible to achieve quality care and good quality care is a human right. Healthcare-associated infections (HAIs), including those caused by AMR, lead to avoidable deaths and modern medicine and healthcare associated infections (HAIs) harm patients and healthcare providers. "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, Director General WHO

Fact

- 1.1 Billion euros are expected to be spent yearly between 2015 and 2050 due to AMR across European countries
- By 2050, AMR will be responsible for a 25% increase in health expenditure in low-income countries
- In Europe, HAIs carry the highest burden compared to all other infectious diseases including HIV, tuberculosis and influenza
- Improving IPC helps achieve quality care for all and is one of the five objectives in the AMR Global Action Plan
- Without effective IPC, it is impossible to achieve quality care and the capacity to respond to outbreaks is severely compromised
- 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
- They are one of the most common causes of death worldwide. Without effective IPC it is impossible to achieve quality care
- IPC saves money! Return on investment: Effective IPC saves money!