

**Issue 13/2024**

# **WHO Public Health Report**

**Bosnia and Herzegovina**

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## GLOBAL LEADERS SET FIRST TARGETS TO CONTROL ANTIMICROBIAL RESISTANCE CRISIS



World leaders agreed on the first global targets to control the antimicrobial resistance (AMR) crisis at the second High-level Meeting on Antimicrobial Resistance of the United Nations General Assembly. Countries committed to reducing the number of deaths globally associated with bacterial AMR by 10% by 2030 against the 2019 baseline of 4.95 million deaths.

AMR is the third leading cause of mortality in the world. Globally, over 1 million deaths are directly linked to bacterial AMR, and 5 million deaths indirectly. It is projected that AMR will cause 39 million deaths worldwide over the next 25 years, equivalent to over 3 deaths every minute.

*“Today’s political declaration shows the global commitment to collective action to control AMR,”* said Dr Hans Henri P. Kluge, WHO Regional Director for Europe. *“With this clear target and commitments made, we can accelerate progress and make sure less people die and suffer from its consequences. The political declaration gives us the opportunity to strengthen investment in AMR control and partnerships, as well as increase solidarity between countries and mutual accountability.”*

The High-level Meeting built on the first one held in 2016, signalling a major global effort to address the looming threat that AMR poses to global health, food security and achieving the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals.

Read what the heads of states and governments committed to on: <https://www.who.int/europe/news/item/27-09-2024-global-leaders-set-first-targets-to-control-antimicrobial-resistance-crisis>

## IMPROVING INFECTION PREVENTION AND CONTROL TO PREVENT THE SPREAD OF ANTIMICROBIAL RESISTANCE



WHO supports countries to reduce antimicrobial resistance (AMR) through the strengthening of infection prevention and control (IPC) measures, such as effective sanitation and hygiene in all settings providing health care.

IPC is essential to fight the development and spread of AMR. Every infection prevented reduces the need for and use of antimicrobials, such as antibiotics.

AMR occurs when bacteria, parasites, viruses and fungi become resistant to antimicrobial medicines that are used to treat the infections they cause. As a result of AMR, antibiotics and other antimicrobial medicines become ineffective and infections increasingly difficult – or even impossible – to treat.

IPC is a practical, evidence-based approach to prevent avoidable infections, including those caused by AMR pathogens. In the WHO European Region, health care-associated infections (HAIs) are among the most frequent adverse events

occurring in the context of health service delivery. No country is free of HAIs. They are an ongoing problem and are of particular concern in the context of the global burden of AMR.

Read more here: [Improving infection prevention and control to prevent the spread of antimicrobial resistance \(who.int\)](#)

## NEW WHO REPORT INDICATES NEED FOR HEALTHIER ONLINE HABITS AMONG ADOLESCENTS



New data from the WHO Regional Office for Europe reveals a sharp rise in problematic social media use among adolescents, with rates increasing from 7% in 2018 to 11% in 2022. This, coupled with findings that 12% of adolescents are at risk of problematic gaming, raises urgent concerns about the impact of digital technology on the mental health and well-being of young people. These findings come from the Health Behaviour in School-aged Children (HBSC) study, which surveyed almost 280 000

young people aged 11, 13 and 15 across 44 countries and regions in Europe, central Asia and Canada in 2022.

Key findings include:

- More than 1 in 10 adolescents (11%) showed signs of problematic social media behaviour, struggling to control their use and experiencing negative consequences. Girls reported higher levels of problematic social media use than boys (13% vs 9%).
- Over a third (36%) of young people reported constant contact with friends online, with the highest rates among 15-year-old girls (44%).
- A third (34%) of adolescents played digital games daily, with more than 1 in 5 (22%) playing for at least 4 hours on days when they engage in gaming.
- 12% of adolescents are at risk of problematic gaming, with boys more likely than girls to show signs of problematic gaming (16% vs 7%).

The report defines problematic social media use as a pattern of behaviour characterized by addiction-like symptoms. These include an inability to control social media usage, experiencing withdrawal when not using it, neglecting other activities in favour of social media, and facing negative consequences in daily life due to excessive use.

Read more here: [Teens, screens and mental health \(who.int\)](#)

## WHO GLOBAL BREAST CANCER INITIATIVE: BREAST CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

Theme: **“No one should face breast cancer alone”**

Breast cancer is the most common cancer globally with around 2.3 million new cases every year. It represents one in eight cancer cases in both sexes and a quarter of all cancers in women with 70% mortality occurring in resource-constrained settings. Health system barriers and patient level factors with low levels of awareness and knowledge are contributing to low uptake of early detection services, with resultant late-stage diagnoses and poor outcomes. In many resource-constrained settings, breast cancer affects a relatively younger population significantly contributing to premature mortality and maternal orphans.

The World Health Organization (WHO) launched the Global Breast Cancer Initiative (GBCI) in 2021 to reduce mortality rates by 2.5% per year by 2040 to save 2.5 million lives through three key pillars of action on health promotion for early detection, timely diagnosis; and comprehensive breast cancer management. The breast cancer awareness month is celebrated globally every October to create awareness about breast cancer. This October we will highlight the importance of early detection, timely diagnosis, comprehensive treatment and the need to provide support for persons with lived experience including through patient navigation. It also provides an opportunity for all stakeholders to review progress, reflect and renew commitments in tackling the disease and to build momentum to address the existing disparities and challenges in access to breast cancer care.

Objectives:

- ✓ Raise awareness and drive behaviour change
- ✓ Facilitate knowledge sharing and partnerships
- ✓ Support adoption by countries of WHO's Global Breast Cancer Initiative (GBCI)
- ✓ Promote patient support and address disparities

Read more here: [WHO Global Breast Cancer Initiative: Breast cancer awareness month](#)

## SOLIDARITY AND PARTNERSHIP TO SAVE LIVES: HOW WHO/EUROPE WORKED WITH THE EUROPEAN UNION TO RESPOND TO COVID-19

Statement by the WHO Regional Director for Europe, Dr Hans Henri P. Kluge

Copenhagen, 22 August 2024

“Partnerships in health are essential at the best of times, but absolutely critical during crises such as the COVID-19 pandemic.

With the pandemic seemingly fading from memory – including that of WHO Member States across Europe and central Asia – we must remember that partnerships and collaboration are more crucial than ever. They help us to address the health emergencies we are





facing now, and to better prepare for those that lie ahead, arriving faster than ever before.

A standout example of such collaboration is the trusted and reliable partnership between WHO/Europe and the European Union (EU), driven by our shared commitment to protecting the health and well-being of all people in this region.

This is a partnership that deserves to be recognized for saving lives during one of the biggest health emergencies in generations. It extends beyond emergencies, however, to encompass a range of public health priorities, strengthening health systems as a whole.

Our continuing joint efforts span numerous health initiatives, from harnessing digital technologies and innovation to reducing the harms caused by alcohol consumption.

This partnership has grown stronger with each collaborative endeavour, exemplified by our impactful support for the deployment of COVID-19 vaccines and vaccination in Eastern Partnership countries – a project that closes this month after four years. This initiative is a prime example of our effective cooperation throughout past and ongoing EU-funded projects.

Our immediate response to the COVID-19 pandemic in the Eastern Partnership countries (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine) was made possible through the EU-funded Solidarity for Health project, a joint initiative that addressed urgent needs such as securing personal protective equipment and training health-care workers and frontline responders in COVID-19 infection prevention.

This crucial initial step laid the groundwork for the complex task of vaccine deployment once COVID-19 vaccines became available.

In 2021, as countries battled the devastating second and third waves of the COVID-19 pandemic, the hope for relief rested on the prospect of vaccination. Immunization programmes in the Eastern Partnership countries faced significant challenges during the pandemic in maintaining high coverage with routine vaccinations and introducing COVID-19 vaccines.”

Read the rest of the statement here: [Statement – Solidarity and partnership to save lives: how WHO/Europe worked with the European Union to respond to COVID-19](#)

## **MPOX: TEST FOR GLOBAL EQUITY AND CALL FOR ELIMINATION IN THE EUROPEAN REGION**



**Statement by WHO Regional Director for Europe, Dr Hans Henri P. Kluge**

Geneva, 20 August 2024

“As we tackle mpox as a public health emergency of international concern for the second time in two years, I want to convey three basic messages today on behalf of WHO/Europe.

Message 1: mpox is not the “new COVID”.

Regardless of whether it's mpox clade I, behind the ongoing outbreak in east-central Africa, or mpox clade II, behind the 2022 outbreak that initially impacted Europe – and has continued to circulate in Europe since.

We know quite a lot about clade II already. We still have to learn more about clade I.

Based on what we do know, mpox primarily transmits through skin-to-skin contact with mpox lesions, including during sex.

This leads me to message 2: we know how to control mpox, and – in the European Region – the steps needed to eliminate its transmission altogether.

Two years ago, we controlled mpox in Europe thanks to the direct engagement with the most affected communities of men who have sex with men.

We put in place robust surveillance, we thoroughly investigated new case contacts and we provided sound public health advice.

Behaviour change, non-discriminatory public health action and mpox vaccination contributed to controlling the outbreak.

Learning from our success, we urged governments and health authorities to sustain those measures – to help eliminate mpox from Europe.

In sum, even as we strengthen vigilance against mpox clade I, we can – and should – strive to eliminate clade II in Europe for once and for all.

And this brings me to message 3: the need for a coordinated response is now greatest in the African Region.”

Read the rest of the statement here: [Statement – Mpox: test for global equity and call for elimination in the European Region \(who.int\)](#)

## WHO MARKS WORLD HEART DAY: OUR GOAL IS TO STOP THE WORLD'S BIGGEST KILLER



Cardiovascular disease (CVD) is the world's number one killer. Combined, conditions affecting the heart or blood vessels – such as heart attack, stroke and heart failure – kill more than 20.5 million every year. The majority of these deaths happen in low- and middle-income countries.

We want to bring this number down – way down. And there's hope: 80% of premature deaths from CVD are preventable. By making small changes to our lifestyle – what we eat and drink, how much we exercise, and how we manage stress – we can better manage our heart health and beat CVD.

Spanning six continents, our hundreds of World Heart Federation (WHF) member organizations, the countless schools, universities, sports clubs and the vibrant cardiology community make World Heart Day a truly global celebration.

Every year these groups and individuals bring their local flair, favour and colours to festivities, marking the day by sharing heart healthy regional specialties, leading a dance to get the whole community moving, and sharing life-saving lessons far and wide.

Sign the petition to send a powerful message to leaders that a heart action plan is necessary to prevent cardiovascular disease and protect communities from the world's biggest killer.

Petition: [World Heart Day Petition | World Heart Day \(world-heart-federation.org\)](#)

## HONOURING THE HEALTH HUMANITARIANS WORKING TO CREATE A SAFER WORLD



On World Humanitarian Day, 19 August, we honour the dedication of individuals and organizations working tirelessly to alleviate suffering and save lives in the face of crises often overlapping and arriving faster than before. Attacks on humanitarian workers and humanitarian assets must stop, as must attacks on civilians and civilian infrastructure, in any and all contexts. Health emergency and humanitarian response should be actively protected, as per international humanitarian law. On this World Humanitarian Day, we demand an end to these violations and the impunity with which they are committed.

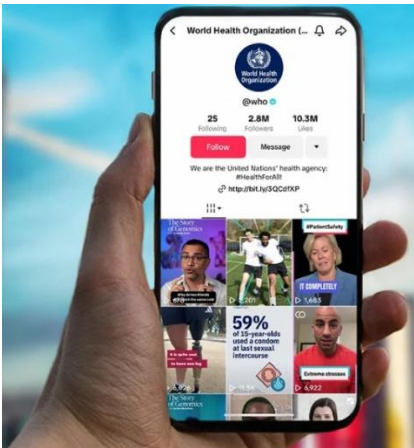
Across WHO and our numerous partners on the ground, humanitarians work on the front lines of emergency preparedness, readiness, response and resilience, not only responding to crises but mitigating their frequency and impact. While the immediate response to conflicts and disasters often captures headlines, the work to prepare for future emergencies is an equally vital aspect. As climate change, political instability and socioeconomic inequality continue to increase the risk of disasters, the importance of these preventive actions grows ever more critical. On this World Humanitarian Day, we not only celebrate the immediate acts of bravery and compassion but also recognize the strategic foresight and relentless commitment of humanitarians working to create a safer, more resilient world for all.

Rising to the challenges of the future means investing in collaboration, coordination and strengthened multisectoral capacities and community partnerships at the intersection of health security, primary health care and health promotion. Because, in our connected world, we need to be prepared across all of government and society to face any health threat.

Read more here: [Honouring the health humanitarians working to create a safer world \(who.int\)](#)



## WHO AND TIKTOK TO COLLABORATE ON MORE SCIENCE-BASED INFORMATION ON HEALTH AND WELL-BEING



On 26 September 2024, the World Health Organization (WHO) and TikTok, a platform for short-form mobile videos, announced a year-long collaboration aimed at providing people with reliable, science-based health information. This reflects WHO's commitment to leveraging multiple digital communication platforms to increase outreach to people globally, to promote health literacy, healthy behaviours and actions in an increasingly digitized world.

Social media platforms can be important sources of information that influence health-related behaviours and decisions. One in four young adults actively seeks news content on social media platforms, including TikTok. We also know that people are increasingly being targeted with misinformation and malinformation on these digital channels. The new collaboration between WHO and TikTok is to help addressing these challenges by promoting evidence-based content and encourage positive health dialogues.

*“This collaboration can prove to be an inflection point in how platforms can be more socially responsible. The intersection of health and technology presents an opportunity to reach people of all ages, where they are, when they want to access,”* said Dr Jeremy Farrar, WHO Chief Scientist. *“By working with TikTok and others, we are helping people access credible information and engage in scientific discourse that collectively helps shape a healthier future for all.”*

Read more here: [WHO and TikTok to collaborate on more science-based information on health and well-being](#)

## FIP WORLD PHARMACISTS DAY



World Pharmacists Day, 25 September, marks the anniversary of the founding of the International Pharmaceutical Federation (Fédération internationale pharmaceutique or FIP) in 1912. The day was adopted by the FIP Council in 2009. The World Pharmacists Day campaign is a way to acknowledge the contributions of pharmacists and an opportunity to highlight their role in improving global health.

The health challenges facing the world are becoming increasingly shared and multidimensional, and the importance of ensuring good health, strong and sustainable health systems in every country, and eliminating health inequalities was emphasized during the COVID-19 pandemic. As a result, more countries and organizations are developing new global health strategies to address urgent current and future challenges such as lack of access to healthcare, shortage of healthcare workers, antimicrobial resistance, climate change, air pollution, HIV, and emerging infectious diseases.

Some of the solutions arising from these strategies, aligned with the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals, include strengthening health systems, preventing health risks, and preparing for and responding to health crises.

Read more here: [World Pharmacists Day - FIP - International Pharmaceutical Federation](#)

## WHO EMERGENCIES

### Health emergencies list

The health emergencies list details the disease outbreaks, disasters and humanitarian crises where WHO plays an essential role in supporting countries to respond to and recover from emergencies with public health consequences.

[Mpox EURO \(who.int\)](#)

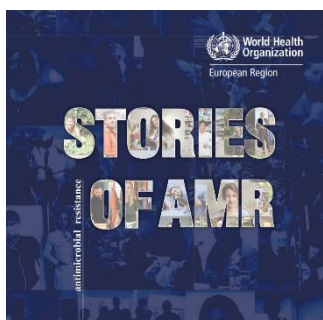
[Ukraine emergency \(who.int\)](#)

[Coronavirus disease \(COVID-19\) pandemic \(who.int\)](#)

[Conflict in Israel and the occupied Palestinian territory \(who.int\)](#)

## WHO PUBLICATIONS

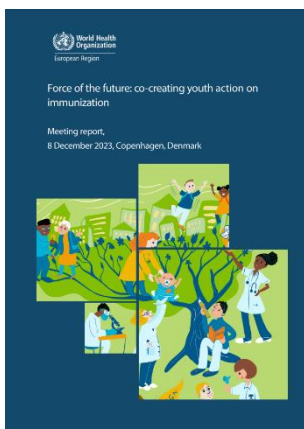
### Stories of AMR: antimicrobial resistance



The Stories of AMR photobook was developed by the WHO Regional Office for Europe as part of an awareness raising campaign that uses the power of photography and storytelling to illustrate the urgent reality of AMR. It showcases a collection of candid stories and testimonies from inspiring people from all 53 Member States of the WHO European Region. Together they are using their voice to raise awareness about the increasing and serious threat of AMR. Through their professional perspectives and personal experiences, they spotlight the dangers AMR poses to human, animal and environmental health. Their concerns, fears, hopes and actions converge on a single powerful message, which is the critical need to preserve antimicrobials – the cornerstone of modern medicine that has saved millions of lives. This is a collective call to action, urging everyone to play a part in using antimicrobials responsibly and increasing efforts to curb the emergence and spread of infections. Meet people who have a real story to share.

More: [Stories of AMR: antimicrobial resistance \(who.int\)](#)

**Force of the future: co-creating youth action on immunization: meeting report**; 8 December 2023, Copenhagen, Denmark



The Force of the Future: Co-creating youth action on immunization meeting was held in Copenhagen, Denmark on 8 December 2023. The meeting was co-developed and co-led by the WHO Regional Office and youth participants and included sessions on vaccine misinformation, challenges to vaccine uptake, the role of health workers in improving vaccine uptake, vaccine communication, community engagement, vaccine advocacy via social media, opportunities for youth collaboration, and the role of youth in immunization advocacy and action.

More: [Force of the future: co-creating youth action on immunization: meeting report, 8 December 2023, Copenhagen, Denmark \(who.int\)](#)

## European Immunization Agenda 2030: technical progress report 2023



The European Immunization Agenda 2030 (EIA2030) is a vision and strategy, designed and crafted by the Member States, for achieving the full benefits of vaccination in the WHO European Region for the next decade. EIA2030 builds on the successes and lessons learned through implementation of the European Vaccine Action Plan 2015–2020. It also incorporates the lessons learned and best practices identified in responding to the COVID-19 pandemic and deploying COVID-19 vaccines, which have underlined the need to strengthen health service policies, delivery and practices, from the local to national levels. This Compendium of indicators serves as a technical annex to EIA2030. It provides information for each of the indicators in the M&E framework that was endorsed by Member States in 2021.

More: [European Immunization Agenda 2030: technical progress report 2023 \(who.int\)](https://www.who.int/europe/publications-detail/european-immunization-agenda-2030-technical-progress-report-2023)

## WHO EVENTS & COURSES

### Seventy-fourth session of the WHO Regional Committee of Europe

Health ministers and high-level delegates from the 53 Member States of the WHO European Region, as well as representatives of partner organizations and civil society, will meet in Copenhagen, Denmark, on 29-31 October 2024 for the 74<sup>th</sup> session of the WHO Regional Committee for Europe (RC74).

### WHO Mosaic toolkit to reduce stigma and discrimination in mental health

On 10 October 2024, WHO/Europe will launch a new toolkit to support evidence-based activities aimed at reducing stigma and discrimination in mental health.

Mental health related stigma and discrimination exist in every country and can be incredibly harmful to people's lives. In part because of stigma and discrimination, people living with mental health conditions are less likely to seek treatment for their condition, less likely to continue with treatment, and find it harder to hold down employment and form relationships. They also have a markedly shorter life expectancy. The stigmatization and discrimination of people with mental health conditions must end.

Register here: [Launch: WHO Mosaic toolkit to reduce stigma and discrimination in mental health](#)

### Using behavioural and cultural insights to address antimicrobial resistance

7 October 2024, 10:00-11:30 (CEST)

The escalating threat of antimicrobial resistance (AMR) presents a significant challenge to global health and will require innovative and tailored approaches to address it. Human behaviour, from clinicians' habits related to antibiotic prescribing and use, to other methods used for infection prevention and control, plays a key role in accelerating AMR. Given the slow pace at which new antibiotics are being developed, it is even more critical to focus urgently on modifying behaviours.

In addition to Member States, non-state actors, and partners, all interested stakeholders are invited to join. If you would like to join, please contact [euinsights@who.int](mailto:euinsights@who.int).

More information here: [Using behavioural and cultural insights to address antimicrobial resistance \(who.int\)](#)

## WHO VIDEOS

[\(World Health Organization \(WHO\) - YouTube\)](#)

## WHO PODCASTS

### Dimitrios Athanasiou: How rare are rare diseases?

How rare are rare diseases? We asked Dimitrios Athanasiou, a prominent rare diseases patient advocate, president of Rare Diseases Greece and founder of 95 Rare Alliance Greece, and member of the Patients and Consumers Working Party in the European Medicines Agency.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jCKo9arqJ2w>

## SOURCES

- <https://www.who.int/>
- <https://www.youtube.com/c/whoregionalofficeforeurope>

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