Antibiotic resistance – when bacteria change and cause antibiotics to fail – is happening RIGHT NOW, across the world.

The full impact is unknown. There is no system in place to track antibiotic resistance globally.

Without urgent action, many modern medicines could become obsolete, turning even common infections into deadly threats.

A GROWING CRISIS WORLDWIDE

In the EUROPEAN UNION, antibiotic resistance causes 25,000+ deaths per year and 2.5m extra hospital days.

In INDIA, over 58,000 babies died in one year as a result of infection with resistant bacteria usually passed on from their mothers.

In THAILAND, antibiotic resistance causes 38,000+ deaths per year and 3.3m hospital days.

In the UNITED STATES, antibiotic resistance causes 23,000+ deaths per year and 3.2m extra hospital days.

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CAUSES OF ANTIBIOTIC RESISTANCE

1. Over-prescribing of antibiotics
2. Patients not taking antibiotics as prescribed
3. Unnecessary antibiotics used in agriculture
4. Poor hygiene and sanitation practices
5. Poor infection control in hospitals and clinics
6. Lack of rapid laboratory tests

HOW CAN WE STOP IT?

1. Improve labs: Countries need medical labs to identify bacteria and choose the right drugs to treat them.
2. Collect and share data: Countries need systems to track cases and report results globally to make better policy decisions.
3. Use antibiotics wisely: To ensure antibiotics are here when we need them, they must be prescribed and taken correctly now.
4. Take measures to prevent infections: Especially in healthcare settings, good infection control practices are critical to stopping spread of resistant germs.

Learn More
http://www.cdc.gov/getsmart
http://www.cdc.gov/drugresistance