

**Professor Dame Sally Davies GCB DBE FRS FMedSci**  
**UK's Special Envoy on Antimicrobial Resistance**

**Antimicrobial resistance (AMR)** is a significant development challenge. It refers to the ability of infective bacteria/microbes to grow even in the presence of medicines designed to kill them (i.e. antibiotics). It has a substantial health and economic impact on developing countries and poses a threat to global health security. The impact on poverty reduction, food security, health, and well-being, and inequality reduction will be disproportionately felt by low and middle-income countries. Unaddressed, AMR is expected to cause 10 million deaths per year by 2050 (Wellcome Trust, 2016; Wellcome Trust, 2020). In 2017, the World Bank (WB) estimated that left unaddressed, by 2050, the impact of AMR could account for as much as 3.8 percent of annual gross domestic product (GDP) (World Bank, 2017), with much of the burden of this impact falling on low- and middle-income countries (LMICs).

In September 2024 the UN is due to host a [High-Level Meeting on AMR](#) in order to address this important issue. The meeting will focus on the theme of *“Investing in the present and securing our future together: Accelerating multi-sectoral global, regional and national actions to address Anti-microbial Resistance”*. In anticipation of this meeting, Dame Sally Davies will be visiting the World Bank in March and we hope that you might be able to join us for a short session to listen to her assessment of the challenges on AMR and what is needed to address this urgent issue, including how the World Bank is engaging and what this should mean for us on the Board.



**Dame Sally comes with a long history of engagement and expertise on AMR including as a former Chief Medical Officer to the UK Government.** She advocates globally on AMR and is a leading figure in global health, having served as a member of the World Health Organisation (WHO) Executive Board 2014-2016, and as co-convenor of the United Nations Inter-Agency Co-ordination Group (IACG) on AMR, which reported to the United Nations Secretary General in 2019.

Additional information from **her bio** can be found [here](#).

Please see below the pdf presentation to the World Bank Board:

# **The Antibiotic Emergency**

By

**Professor Dame Sally Davies, UK Special Envoy on Antimicrobial Resistance**