Antimicrobial resistance and sustainable development

Globally, 5.7 million people die each year from treatable infectious diseases due to lack of access to antibiotics.

½ million people developed multidrug-resistant TB in 2014 with an estimated death toll of 210,000.

Up to 50% of pathogens causing surgical site infections are resistant to standard prophylactic antibiotics in the US.

Deaths from drug-resistant infections are projected to increase from currently 700,000 to 10 million annually with cost estimates as high as US$100 trillion worldwide by 2050.

214,000 neonatal sepsis deaths annually are directly attributable to drug-resistant pathogens.

Universal provision of antibiotics could avert an estimated 445,000 community-acquired pneumonia deaths in children under five.

Over the last 15 years global mortality rates from infectious diseases have fallen from 23% to 17% of total deaths. Drug-resistant pathogens could reverse this trend.


All facts come from ‘Antimicrobial resistance – a threat to the world’s sustainable development’ by Dušan Jasovský, Jasper Littmann, Anna Zorzet & Otto Cars, published in *Upsala Journal of Medical Sciences*. 