

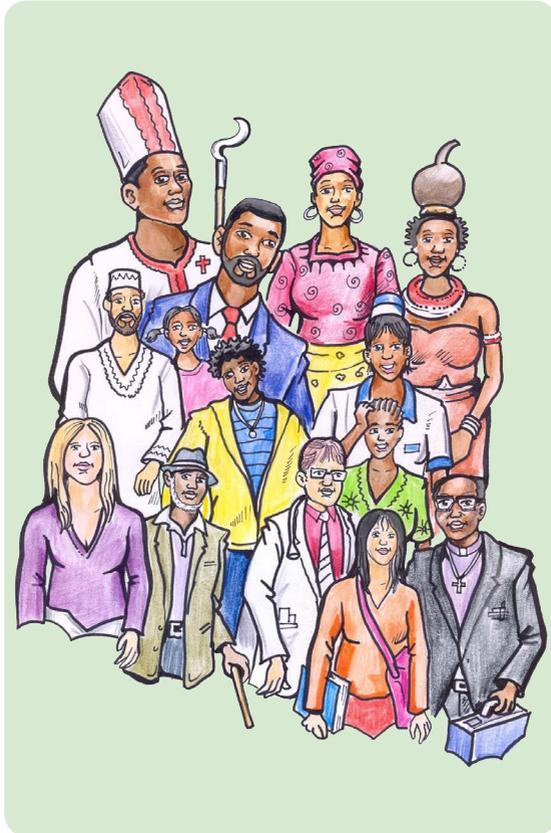
TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR YOUR HEALTH

Messages
for the
community

*Tackling antimicrobial resistance
a story of a community playing its part*

Volume 1

YOU TOO ... CAN TAKE ACTION!



The spread of antimicrobial resistance is a global problem with particularly dire consequences for Africa which is grappling with high levels of infection in the face of limited resources.

Poor quality medicines, inappropriate use of medicines, as well as poor hygiene and waste management, all facilitate the development of resistance. This means treatments with antimicrobials such as antibiotics, antifungals and antivirals are no longer effective.

The containment of antimicrobial resistance requires an increased awareness by all actors in health, including the public, as well as collective action.

These comic strips were developed by EPN to provide information to the general public, through graphic art. This material is also available in French and Kiswahili.

Antimicrobial treatment is a major lifesaving intervention for infectious diseases but Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) is rapidly reducing the effectiveness of antimicrobials. As a result, many first line treatments for diseases such as malaria, TB and opportunistic infections of AIDS are no longer effective and the cost of care is inevitably increased.

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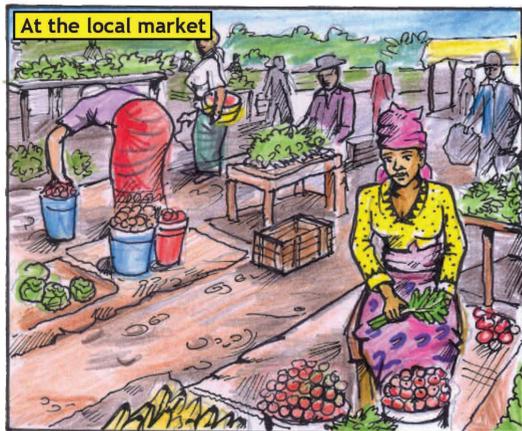


EPN wishes to thank its partners for supporting the development of these strips.

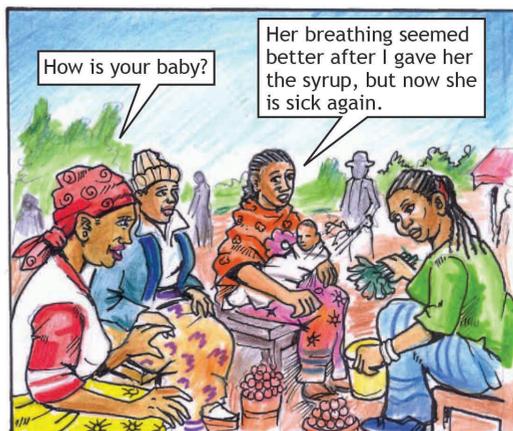


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At the local market

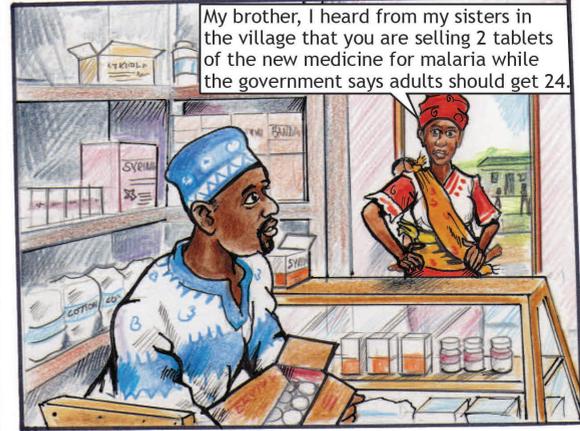


How is your baby?

Her breathing seemed better after I gave her the syrup, but now she is sick again.



Obi's drug shop at the busy trading centre



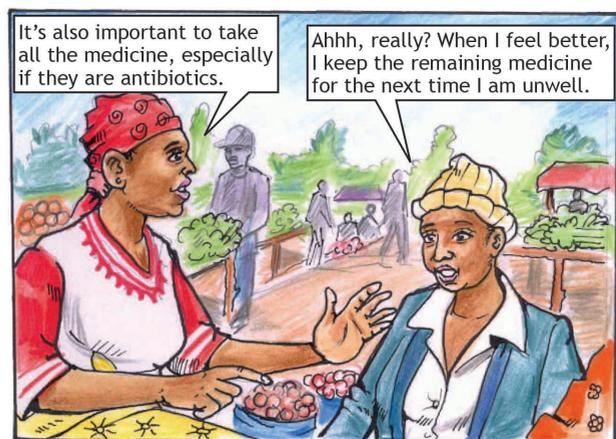
My brother, I heard from my sisters in the village that you are selling 2 tablets of the new medicine for malaria while the government says adults should get 24.



Did they do a test to find out what she was suffering from?

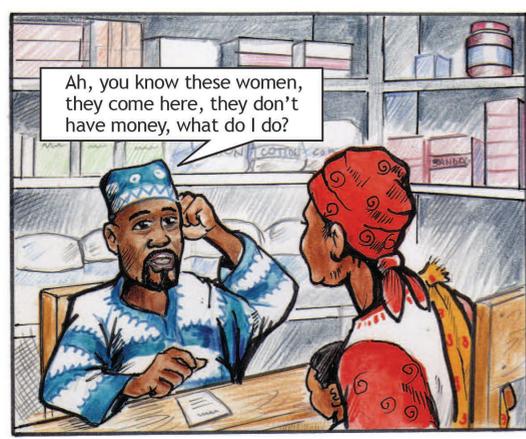
For such serious conditions it's important to find out the cause. Then you can be given the correct medicine.

No... why?

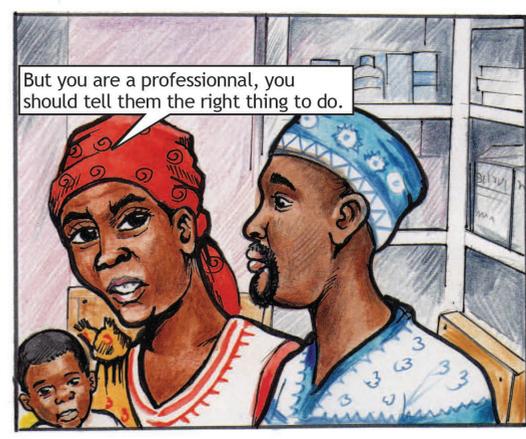


It's also important to take all the medicine, especially if they are antibiotics.

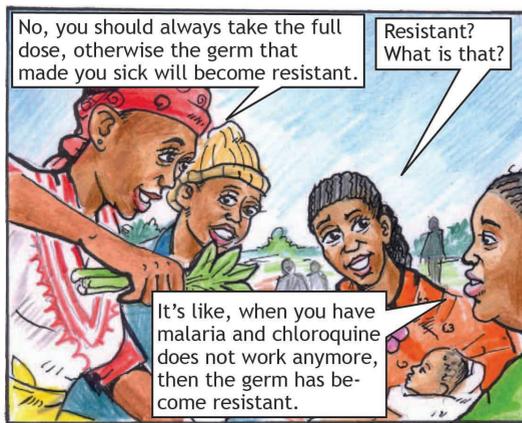
Ahhh, really? When I feel better, I keep the remaining medicine for the next time I am unwell.



Ah, you know these women, they come here, they don't have money, what do I do?



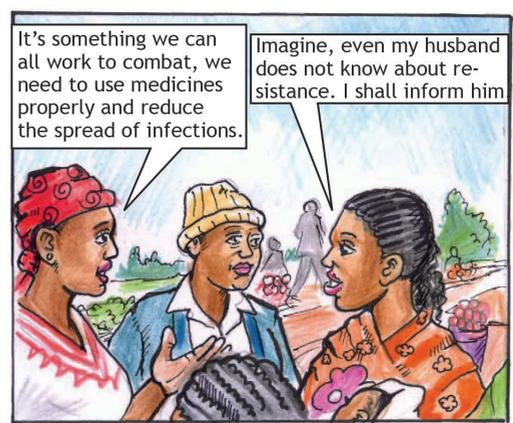
But you are a professional, you should tell them the right thing to do.



No, you should always take the full dose, otherwise the germ that made you sick will become resistant.

Resistant? What is that?

It's like, when you have malaria and chloroquine does not work anymore, then the germ has become resistant.

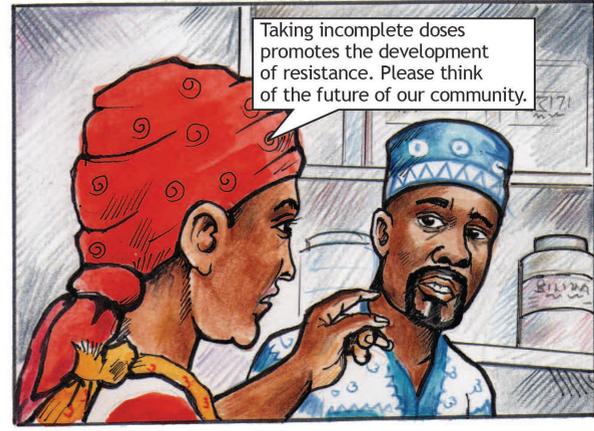


It's something we can all work to combat, we need to use medicines properly and reduce the spread of infections.

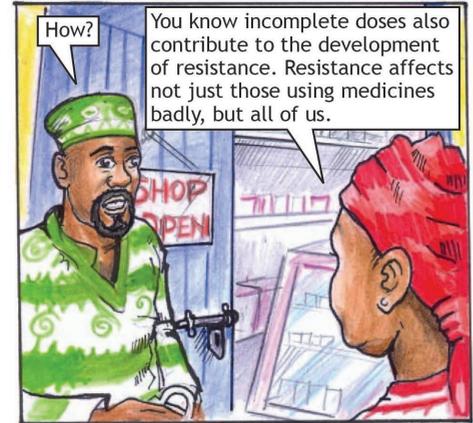
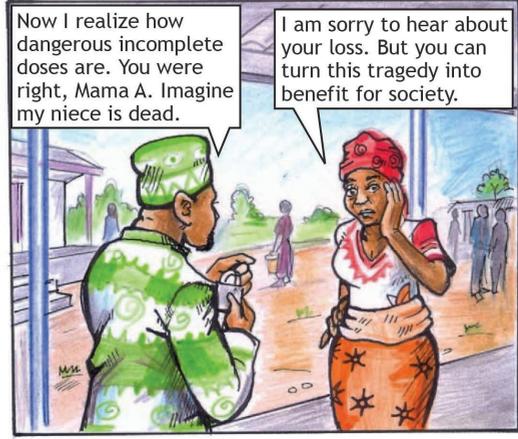
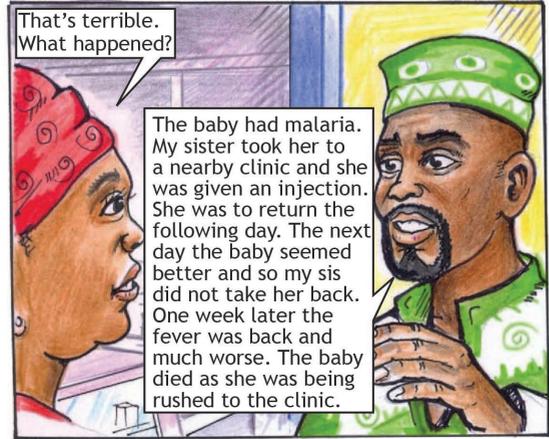
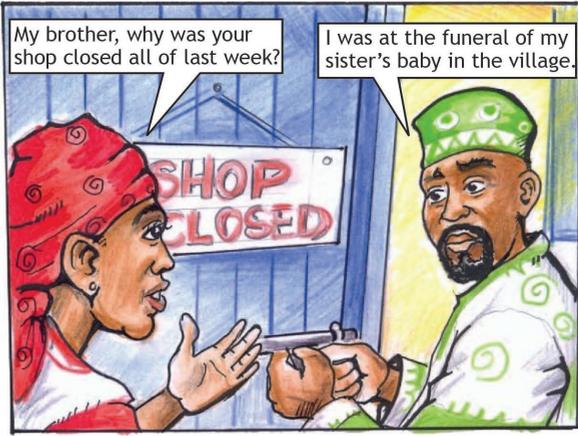
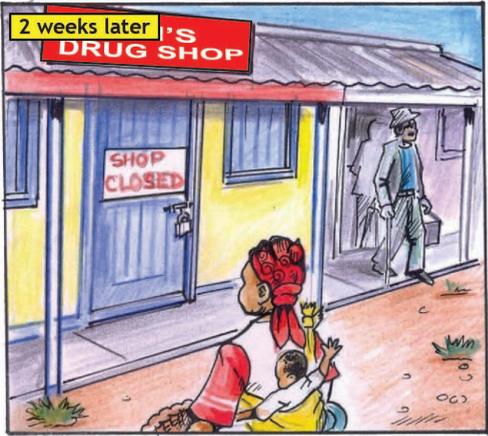
Imagine, even my husband does not know about resistance. I shall inform him



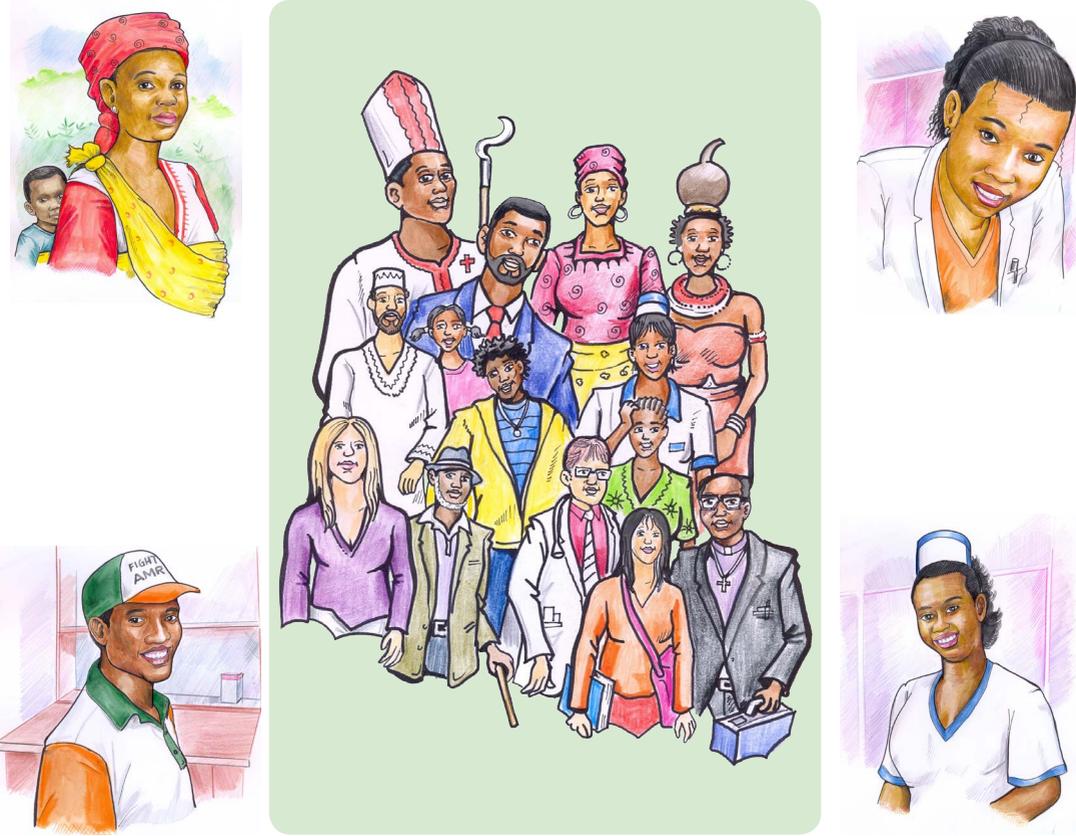
I could but it will mean no sales. Is a man to go hungry?



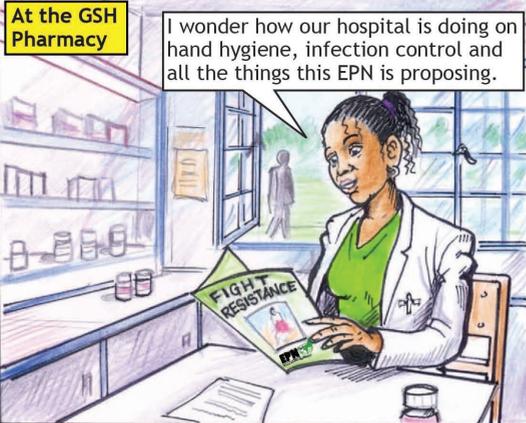
Taking incomplete doses promotes the development of resistance. Please think of the future of our community.



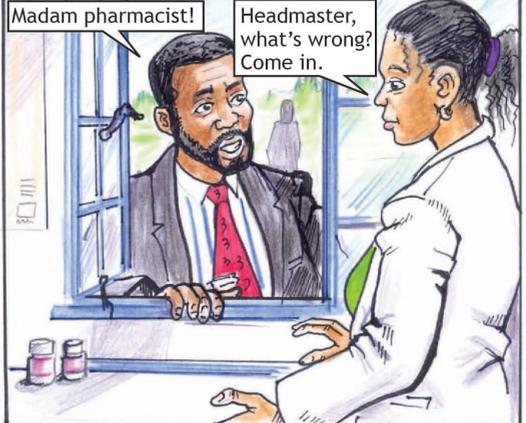
YOU TOO ... CAN TAKE ACTION!



At the GSH Pharmacy

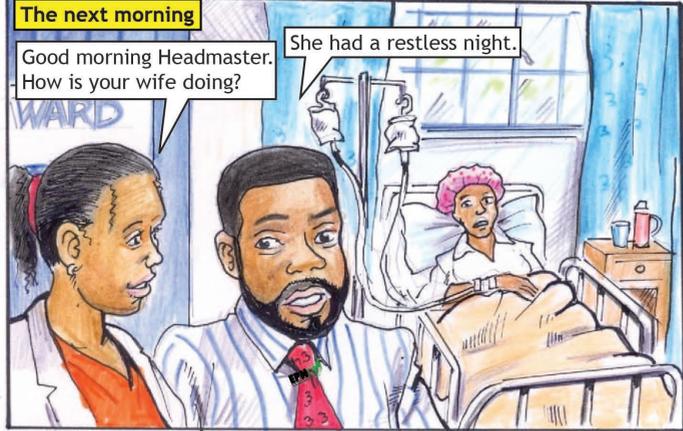


I wonder how our hospital is doing on hand hygiene, infection control and all the things this EPN is proposing.



Madam pharmacist! Headmaster, what's wrong? Come in.

The next morning

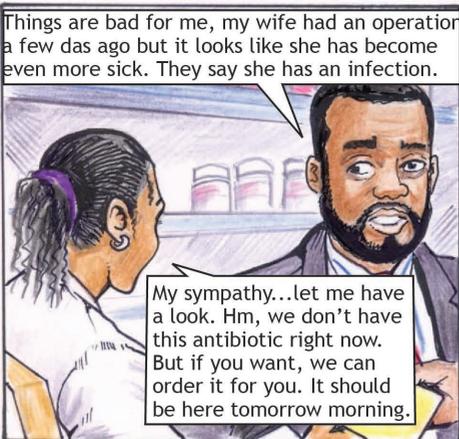


Good morning Headmaster. How is your wife doing? She had a restless night.



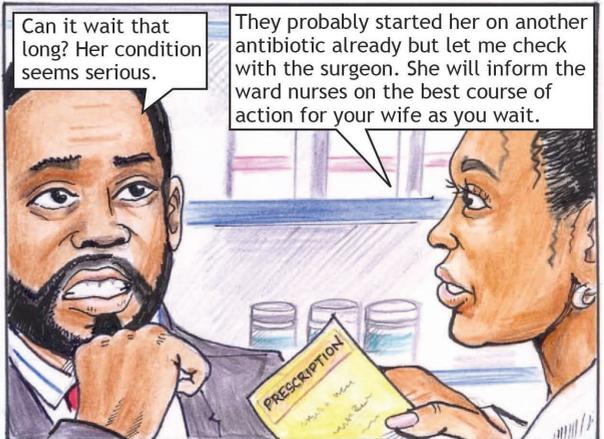
Sorry to hear that. Mama Sara, how are you this morning?

Not good. My wound is very painful and I had a fever that persisted all night long.



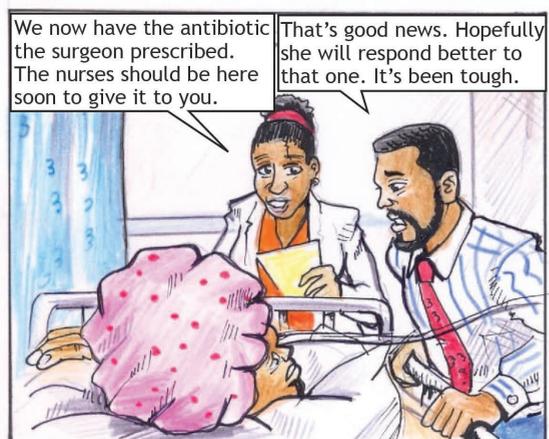
Things are bad for me, my wife had an operation a few days ago but it looks like she has become even more sick. They say she has an infection.

My sympathy...let me have a look. Hm, we don't have this antibiotic right now. But if you want, we can order it for you. It should be here tomorrow morning.



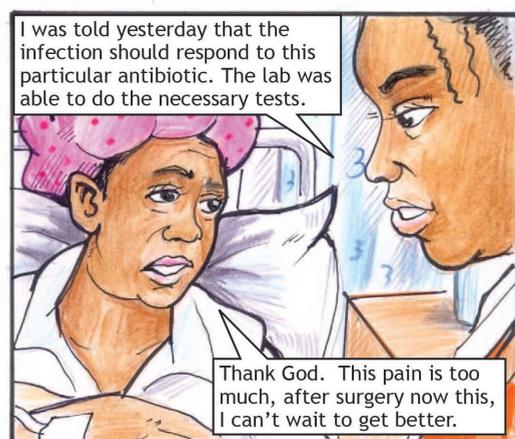
Can it wait that long? Her condition seems serious.

They probably started her on another antibiotic already but let me check with the surgeon. She will inform the ward nurses on the best course of action for your wife as you wait.



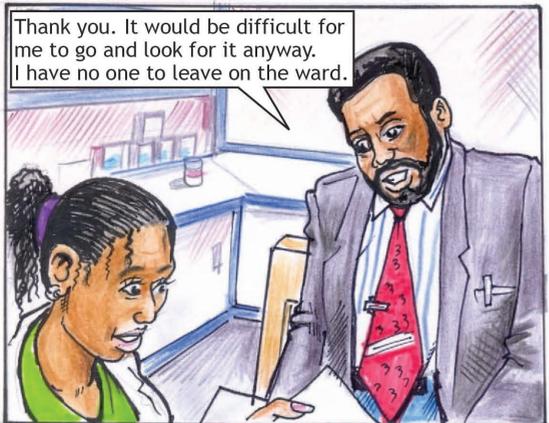
We now have the antibiotic the surgeon prescribed. The nurses should be here soon to give it to you.

That's good news. Hopefully she will respond better to that one. It's been tough.



I was told yesterday that the infection should respond to this particular antibiotic. The lab was able to do the necessary tests.

Thank God. This pain is too much, after surgery now this, I can't wait to get better.



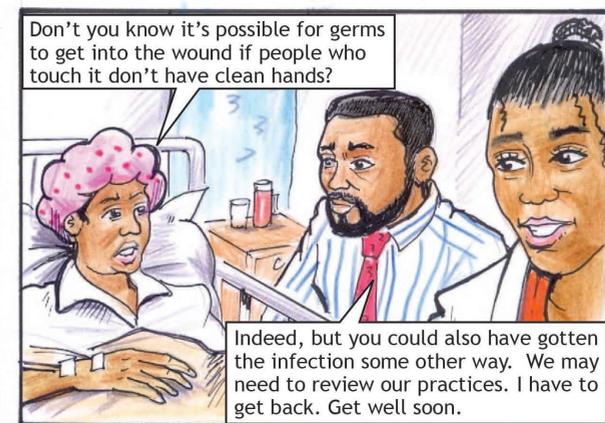
Thank you. It would be difficult for me to go and look for it anyway. I have no one to leave on the ward.



Imagine, here is an apparently clear case of a hospital acquired infection. Looks like our infection control measures may be wanting... I need to inform the director.

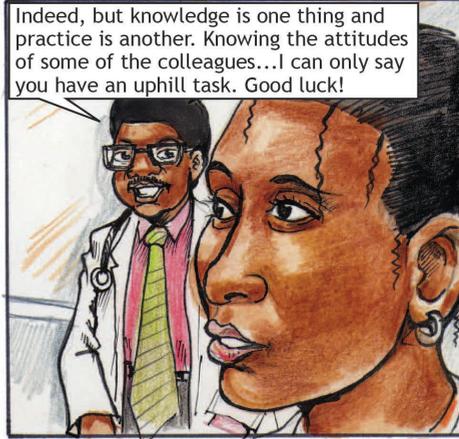
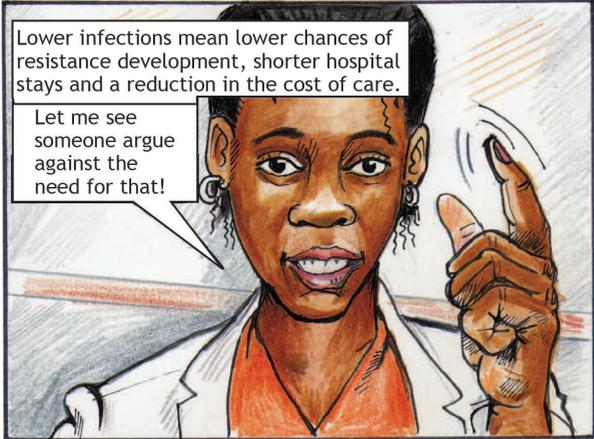
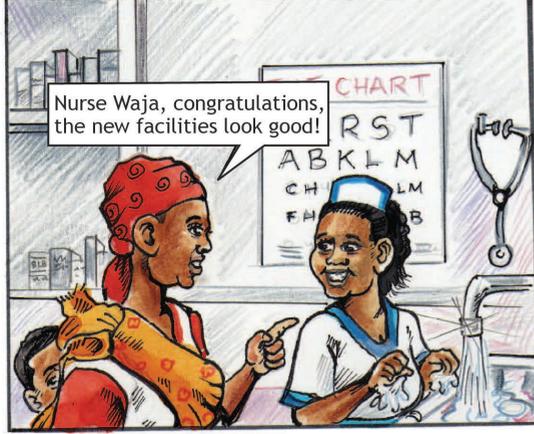
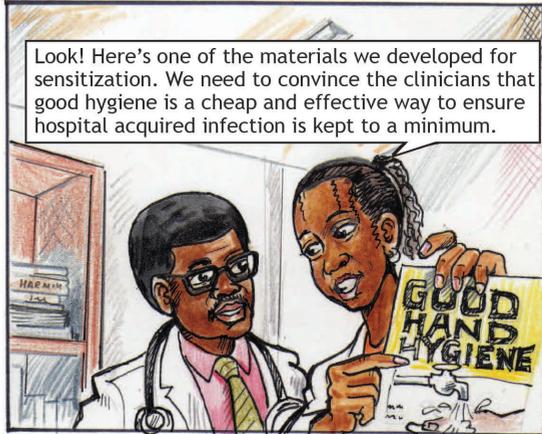
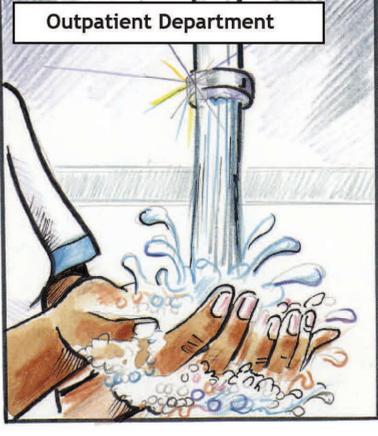
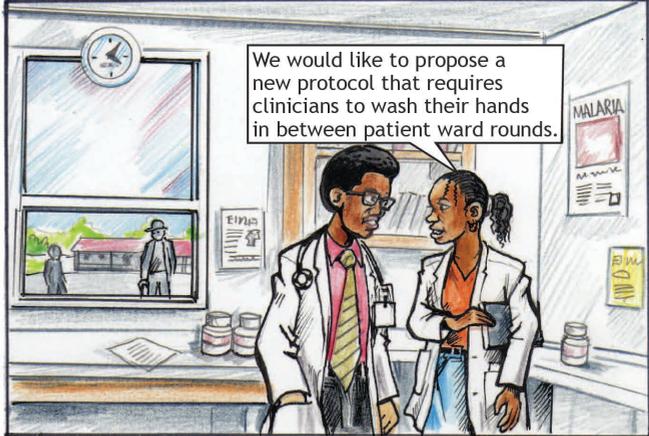
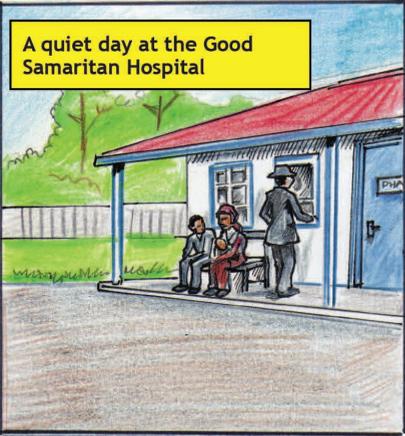


I am so sorry, these infections do happen. But why? The wards look quite clean and I always thought theatres are sterile.



Don't you know it's possible for germs to get into the wound if people who touch it don't have clean hands?

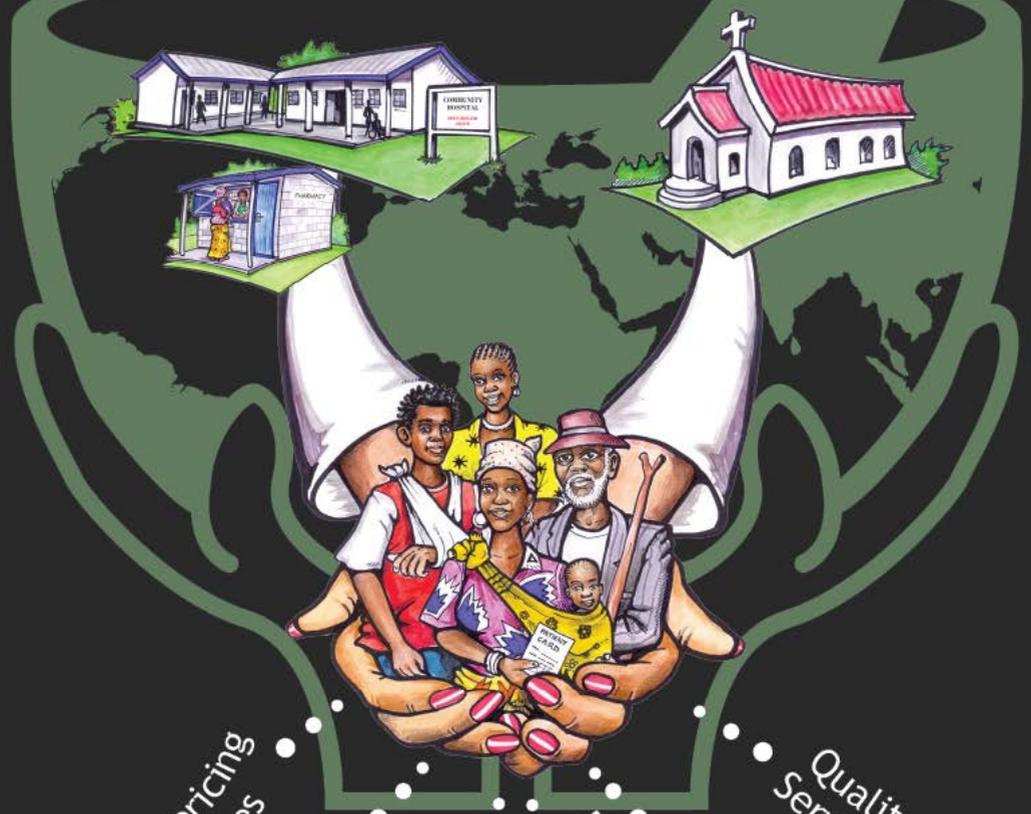
Indeed, but you could also have gotten the infection some other way. We may need to review our practices. I have to get back. Get well soon.



30 years of strengthening pharmaceutical services in church health systems

EPN

30 ans de renforcement des services pharmaceutiques dans les systèmes sanitaires confessionnels



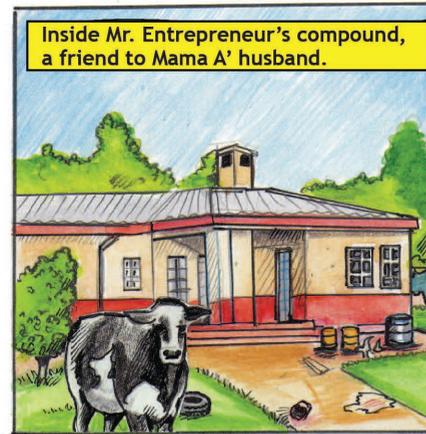
- Affordable pricing / Prix abordables
- Reliable supply systems / Systèmes de fourniture fiables
- Quality medicines / Médicaments de qualité
- Quality service / Service de qualité
- Skilled pharmaceutical staff / Personnel pharmaceutique qualifié
- Health information / Information de santé

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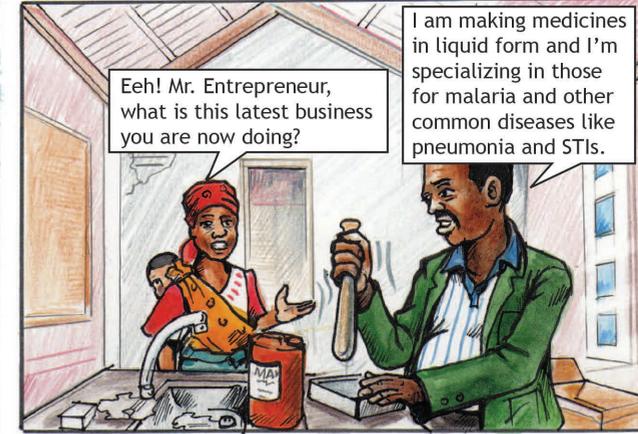
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Inside Mr. Entrepreneur's compound, a friend to Mama A' husband.

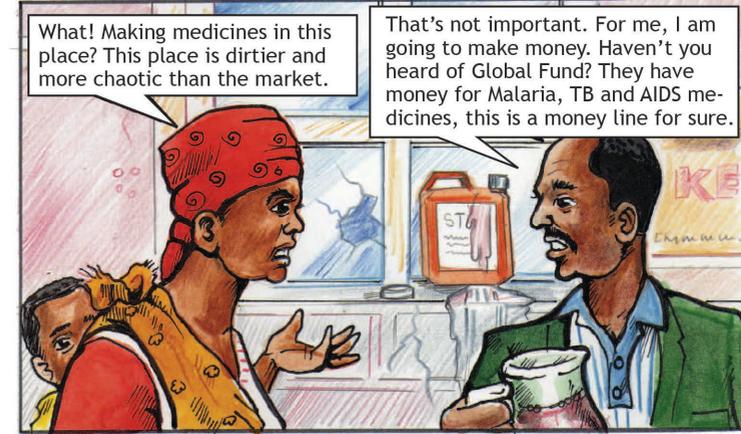


Eeh! Mr. Entrepreneur, what is this latest business you are now doing?

I am making medicines in liquid form and I'm specializing in those for malaria and other common diseases like pneumonia and STIs.



What! Making medicines in this place? This place is dirtier and more chaotic than the market.



That's not important. For me, I am going to make money. Haven't you heard of Global Fund? They have money for Malaria, TB and AIDS medicines, this is a money line for sure.

What you are doing is wrong. Good medicines can't be made in such a filthy place and medicines of poor quality do more harm than good, and moreover you plan to make antibiotics and malaria medicines. Oh my God, we are finished!

Mama AMR, you love drama, wat possible harm can come from my medicine? They contain all the right chemicals, I am importing them from India.



For sure the quality can't be right and when poor quality medicines are used for treatment of infections, the germs which cause the disease will quickly become resistant, the medicine does not work on them anymore. You will only be aiding the development of antimicrobial resistance.

You know what, just disappear and let me get on with my work.

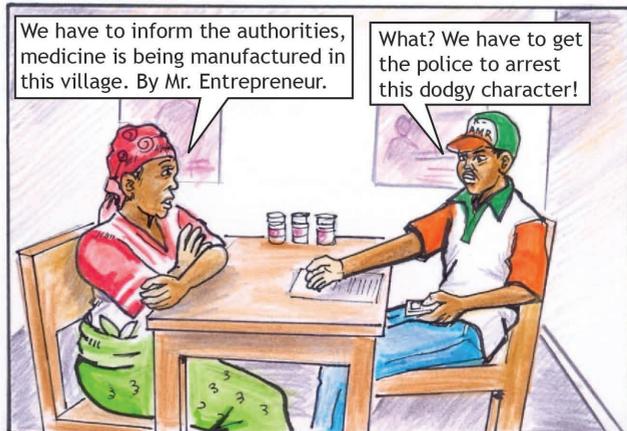


Then I will have no choice but to inform the authorities about your illegal activity. Good day.



Didn't you tell us that substandard medicines could lead to development of antimicrobial resistance?

Yes!



We have to inform the authorities, medicine is being manufactured in this village. By Mr. Entrepreneur.

What? We have to get the police to arrest this dodgy character!



Back at the GSH

Mama A you are back, good to see you.

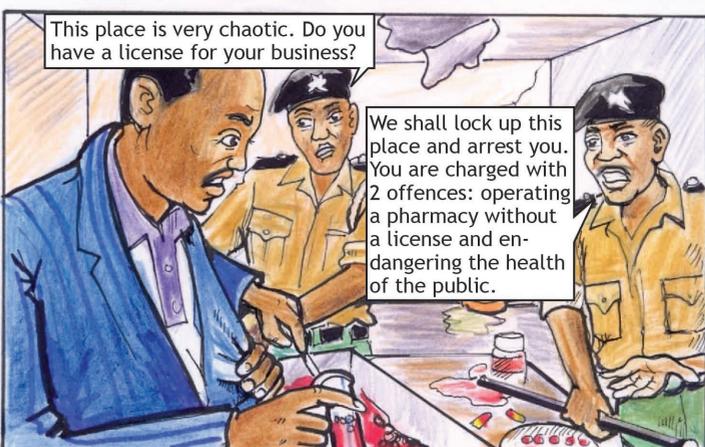
Hope you have some time, I am anxious to hear the efforts you are making to combat resistance.



No problem, we can start here: we ensure water, soap and disinfectant are available for cleaning, and the staff have protective clothing and gloves to do their work well.



Officer, here is the place where the medicine is being made.



This place is very chaotic. Do you have a license for your business?

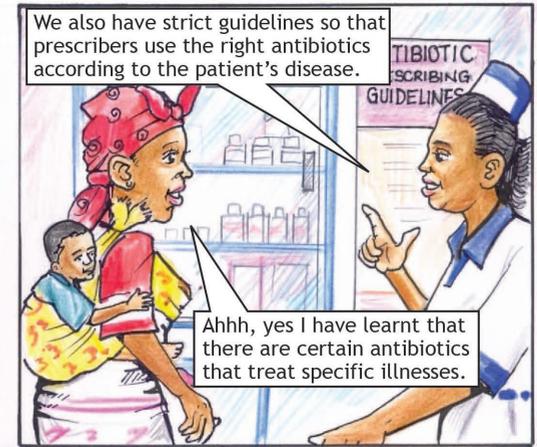
We shall lock up this place and arrest you. You are charged with 2 offences: operating a pharmacy without a license and endangering the health of the public.



And here is our pharmacy.

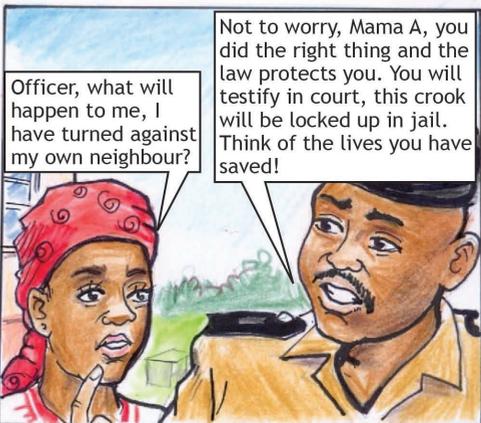
I see it is well stocked!

Yes, the pharmacist ensures that quality medicines are available.



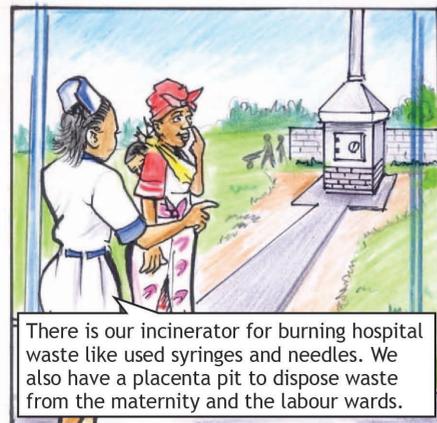
We also have strict guidelines so that prescribers use the right antibiotics according to the patient's disease.

Ahhh, yes I have learnt that there are certain antibiotics that treat specific illnesses.

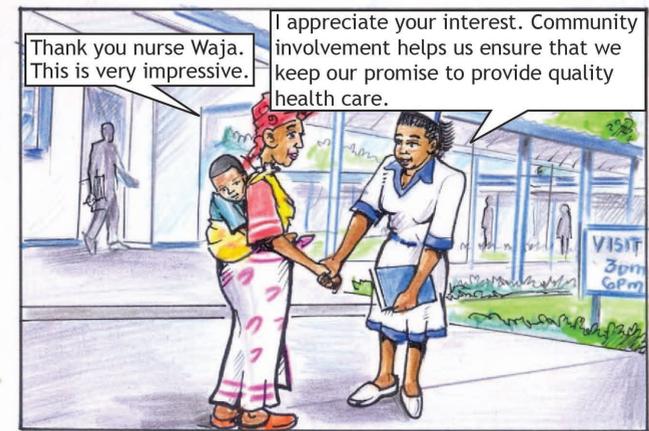


Officer, what will happen to me, I have turned against my own neighbour?

Not to worry, Mama A, you did the right thing and the law protects you. You will testify in court, this crook will be locked up in jail. Think of the lives you have saved!



There is our incinerator for burning hospital waste like used syringes and needles. We also have a placenta pit to dispose waste from the maternity and the labour wards.



Thank you nurse Waja. This is very impressive.

I appreciate your interest. Community involvement helps us ensure that we keep our promise to provide quality health care.

30 years of strengthening pharmaceutical services in church health systems



Professionalism and good governance

Institutional strengthening through capacity building and distribution of tools to impact governance

Training on pharmacy for health facility staff as well as provision of guidelines and standards to strengthen pharmacy practice

Access to medicines



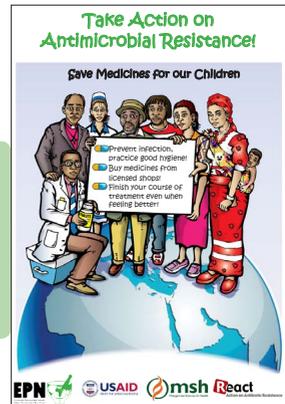
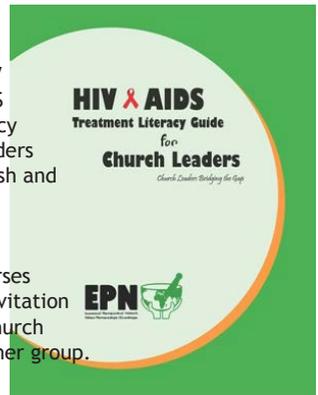
Addressing supply systems, medicine use, quality of medicines, pharmaceutical care and affordability.

Campaign against antimicrobial resistance

Activities on rational use of antibiotics and implementation of hospital-based infection control interventions reached more than 500 health professionals in 9 countries in 2010.

HIV and AIDS Treatment Literacy Guide for Church Leaders available in English and French.

EPN also offers Treatment Literacy Courses for Church Leaders on invitation from any church or other group.



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