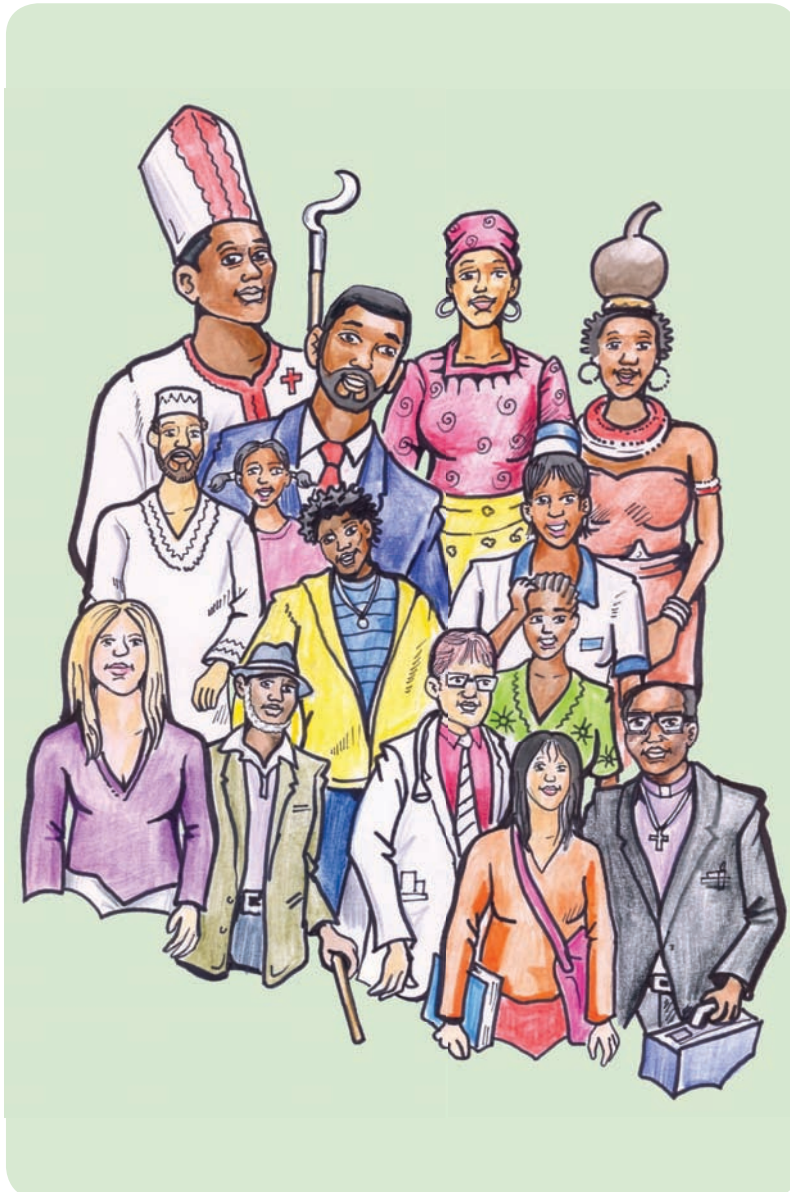


TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR YOUR HEALTH

*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.

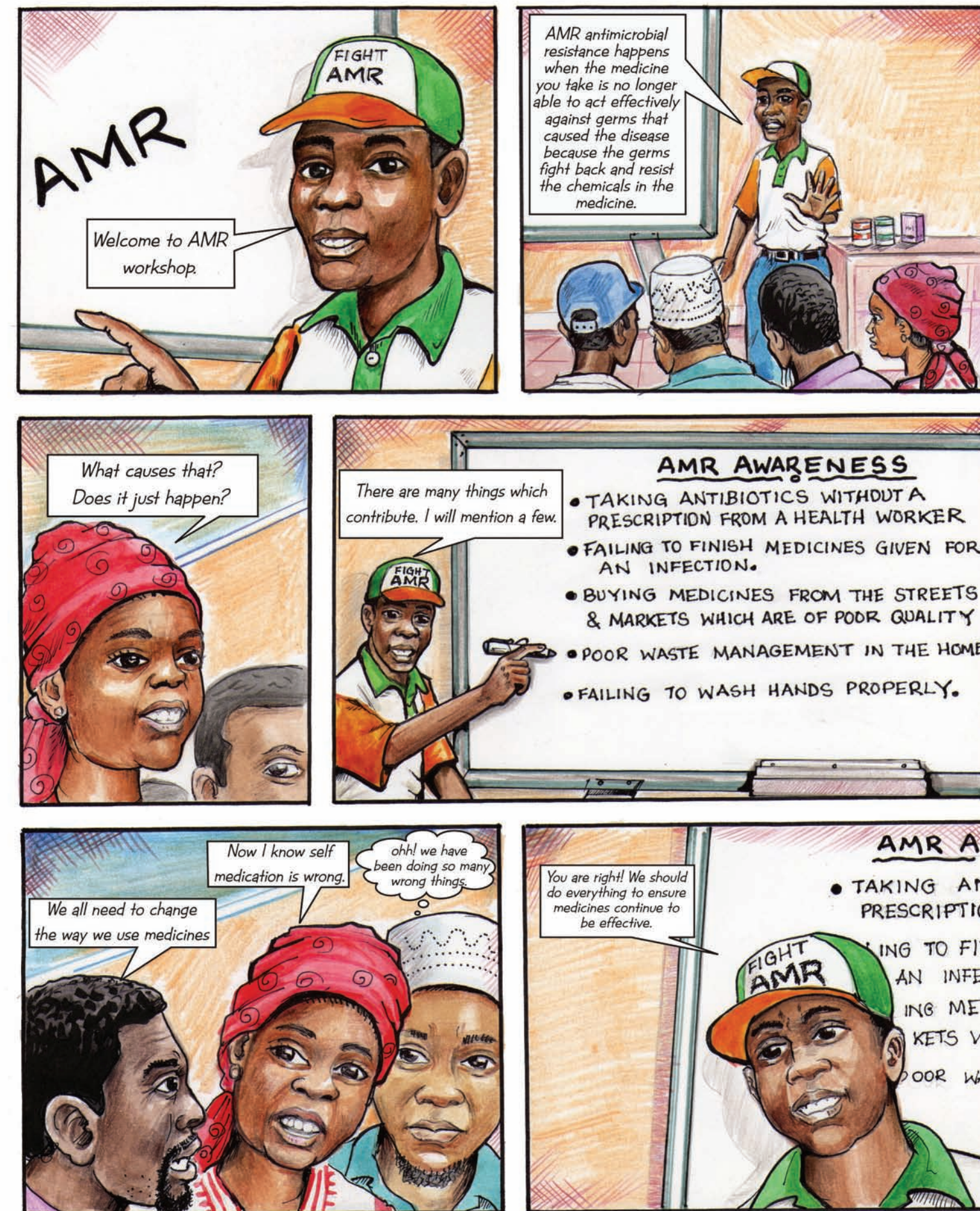
Storylines: Donna Kusemererwa, Gelliann Omondi, Elisabeth Goffin, Anke Meiburg
Design and layout: Elisabeth Goffin
Illustrations: David Radoli

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



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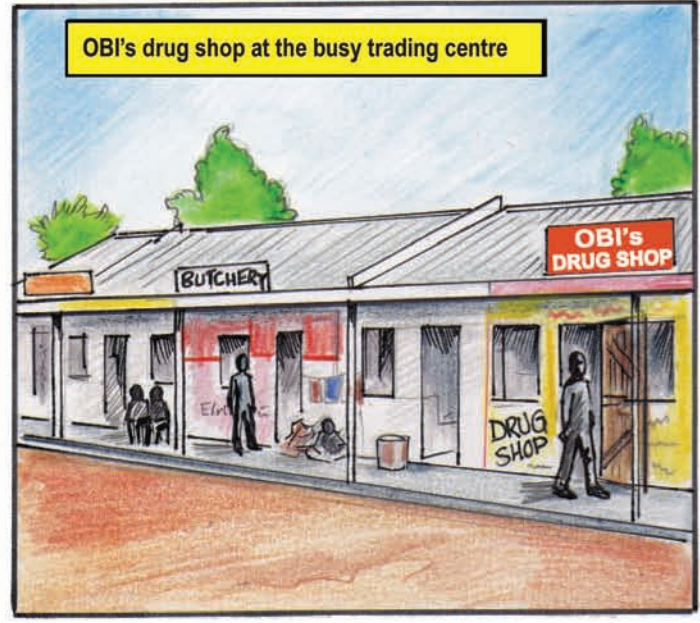


At the local market

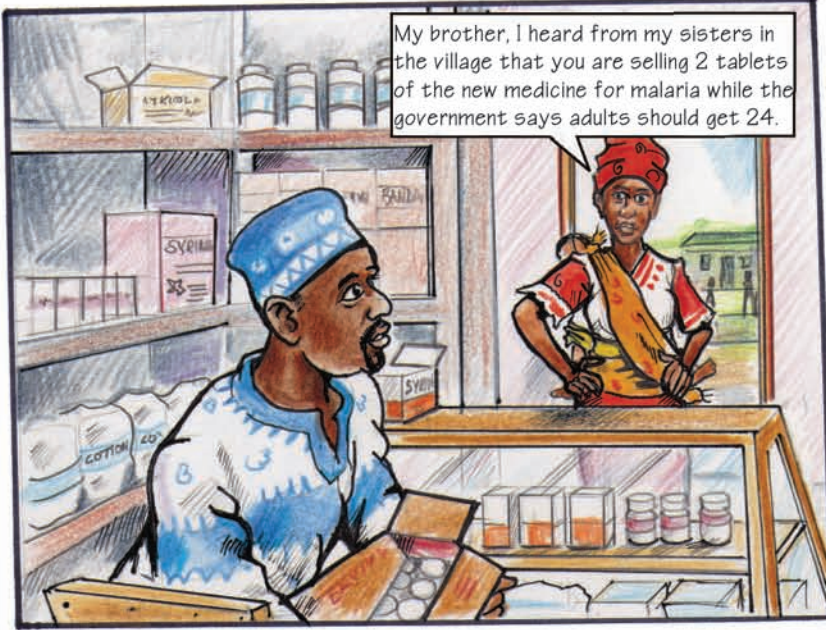


How is your baby?

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?

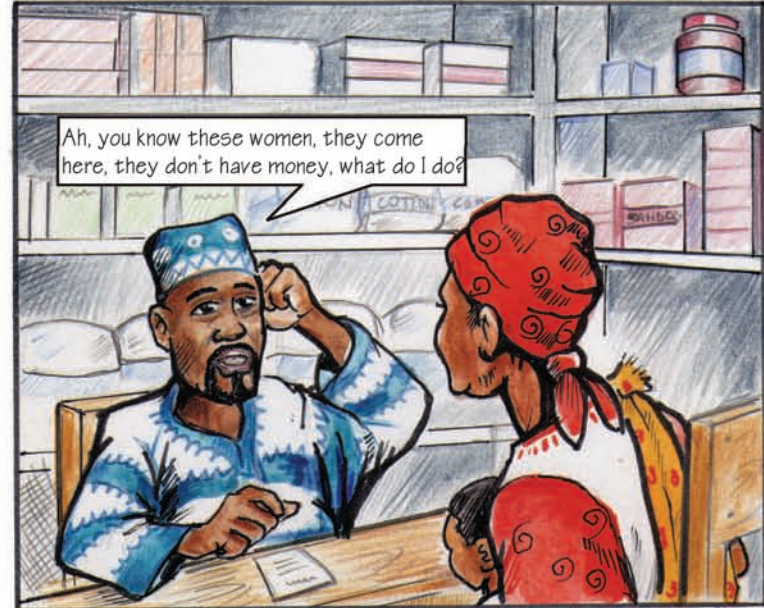
For such serious conditions it's important to find out the cause. Then you can be given the correct medicine.

No... why?



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

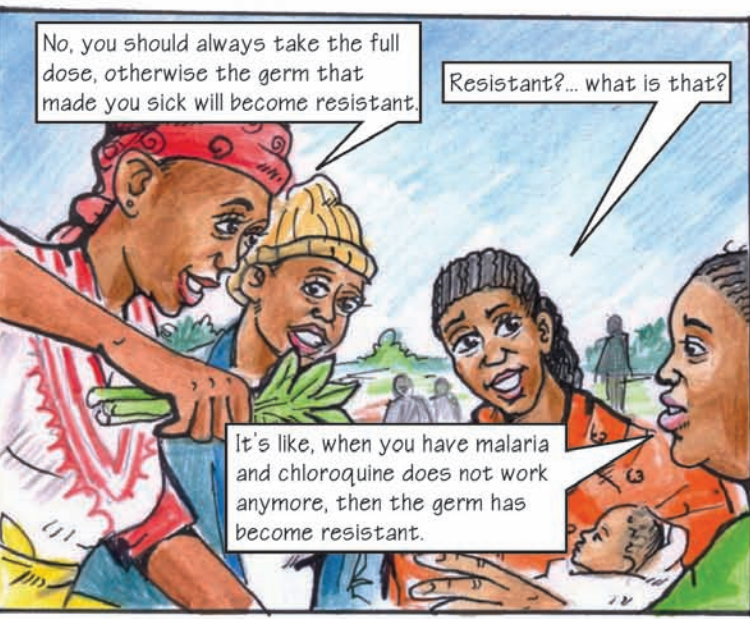
Ahhh, really? When I feel better, I keep the remaining medicine for the next time I am unwell.



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.

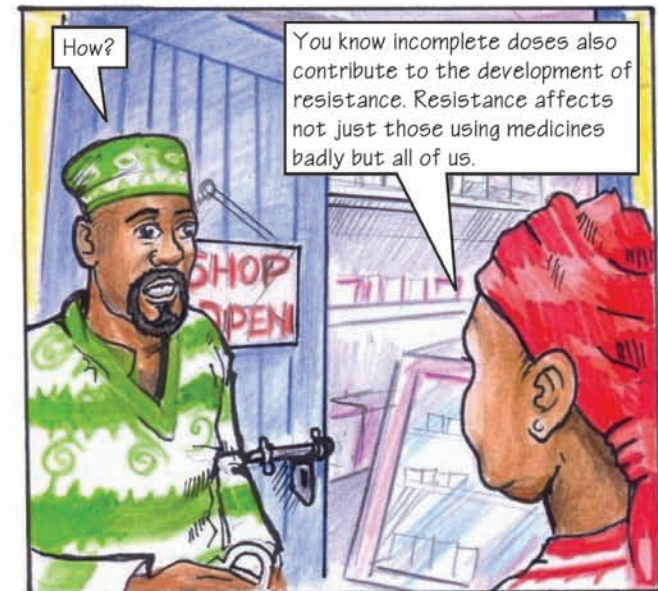
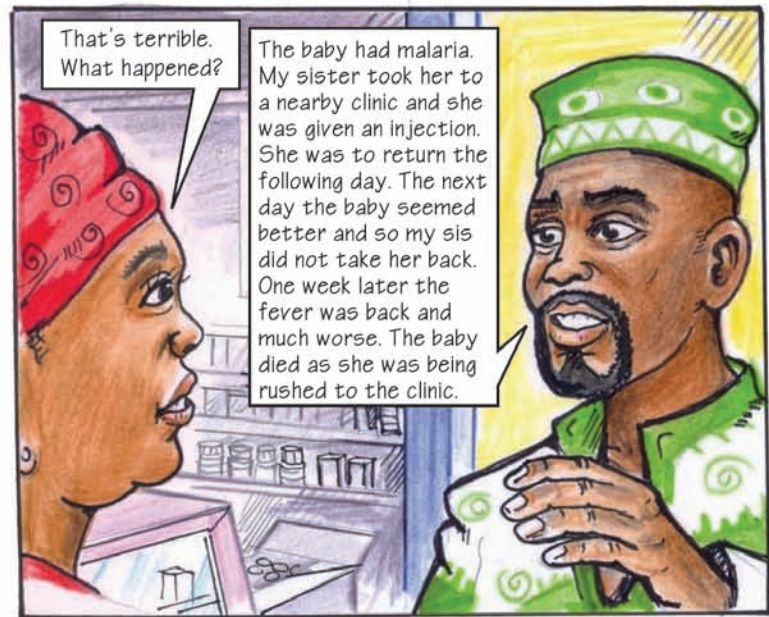
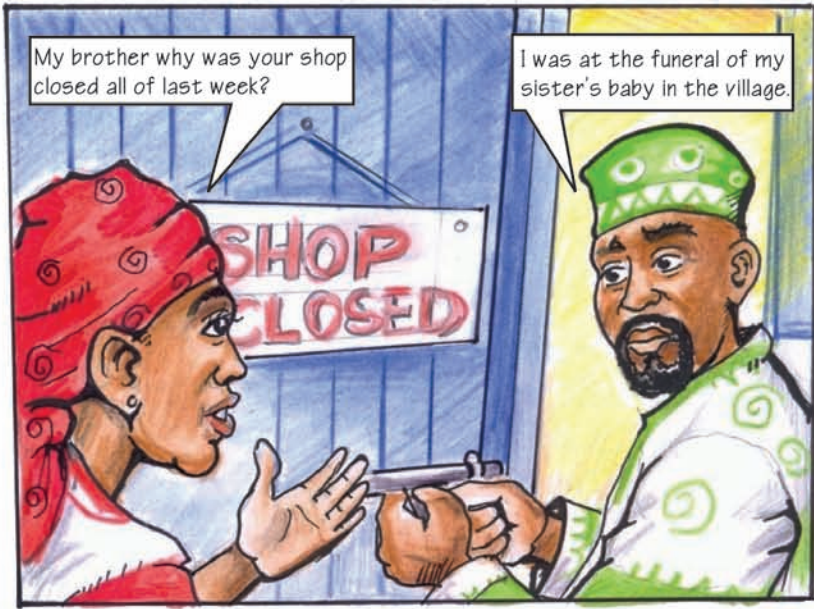
Imagine, even my husband does not know about resistance. I shall inform him.



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.



MISSION FOR ESSENTIAL DRUGS AND SUPPLIES

YOUR RELIABLE PHARMACEUTICAL & MEDICAL SUPPLY CHAIN FOR OVER 25 YEARS



- ☺ Wide distribution network to over **1600** health institutions in Kenya and other African countries
- ☺ About **1000** pharmaceutical and medical products of affordable prices stocked at a professionally run state of the art modern warehouse
- ☺ **Quality** assurance of products throughout supply chain complimented by World Health Organisation pre-qualified Quality Control Laboratory
- ☺ Capacity building and strengthening of health care institutions through training, information sharing and field support
- ☺ **Partnerships** with governments, World Health Organisation, donor institutions, relief agencies and international health institutions

MEDS is proud to have been associated with EPN for over 25 years



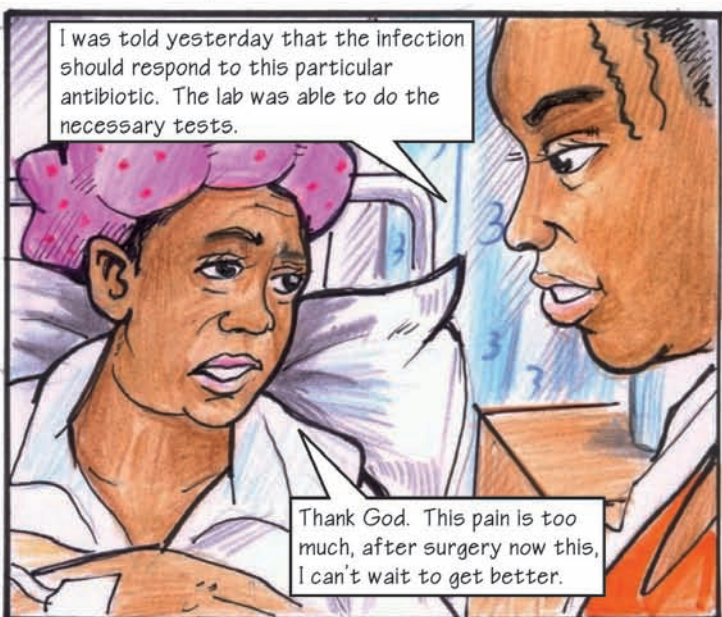
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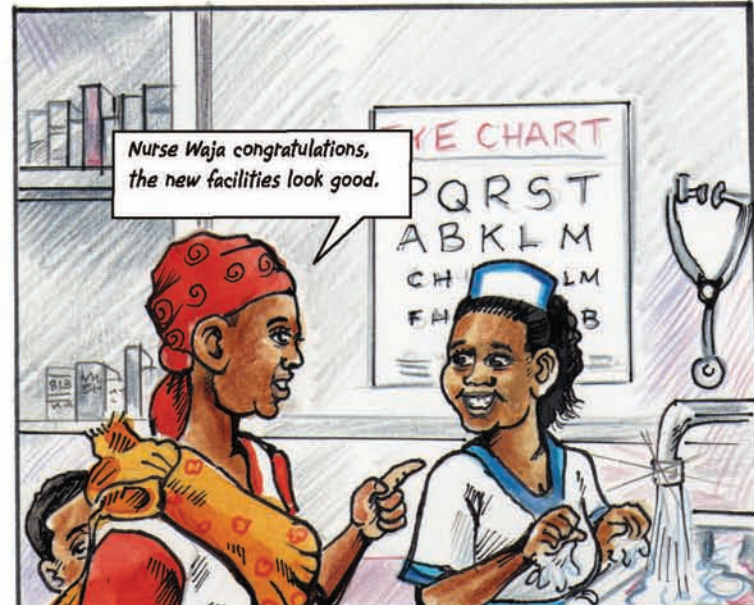
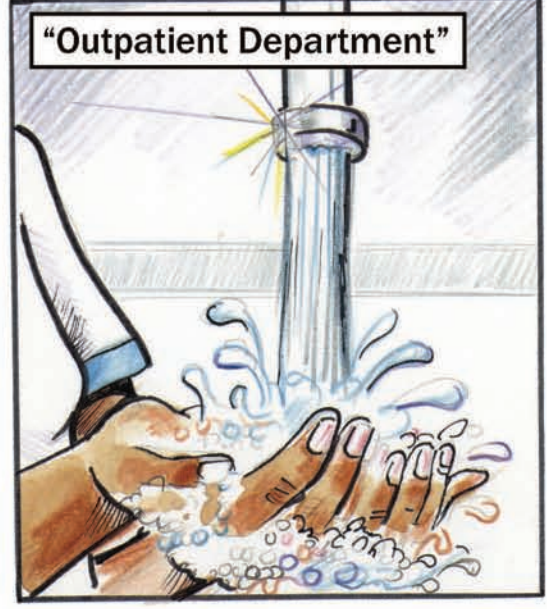
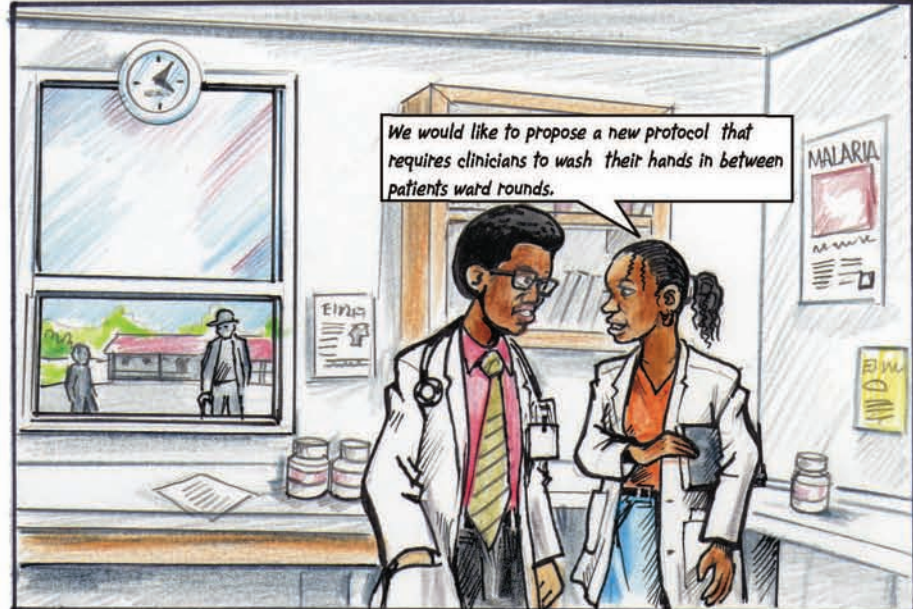
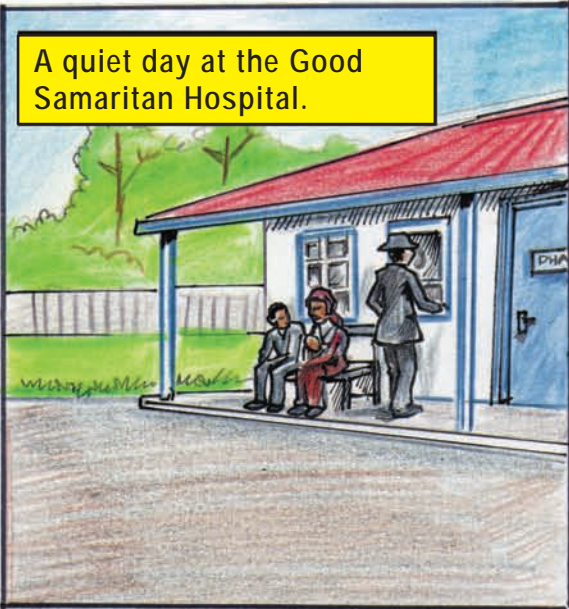
A Trust of Kenya Episcopal Conference (KEC) and Christian Health Association of Kenya (CHAK)

At the GSH pharmacy



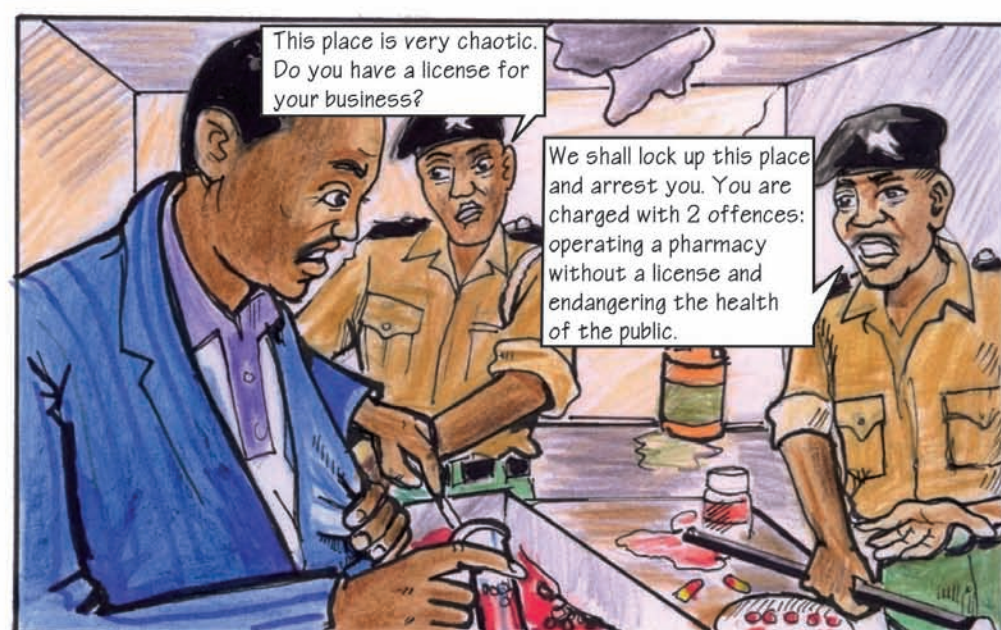
The next morning





EPN members in Kenya





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

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.



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.



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