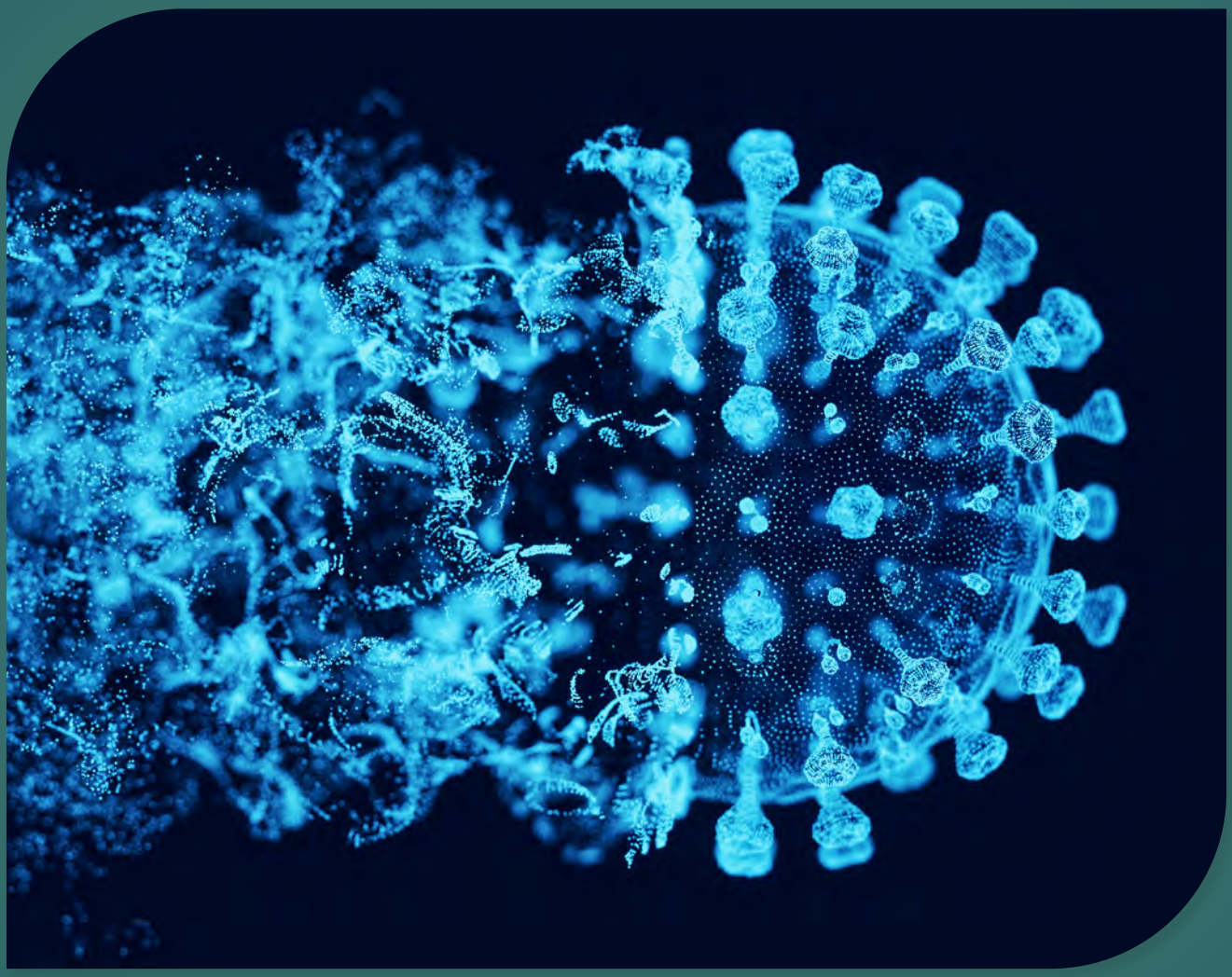

EBRD engagement in global efforts
to curb antimicrobial resistance (AMR)

Executive summary

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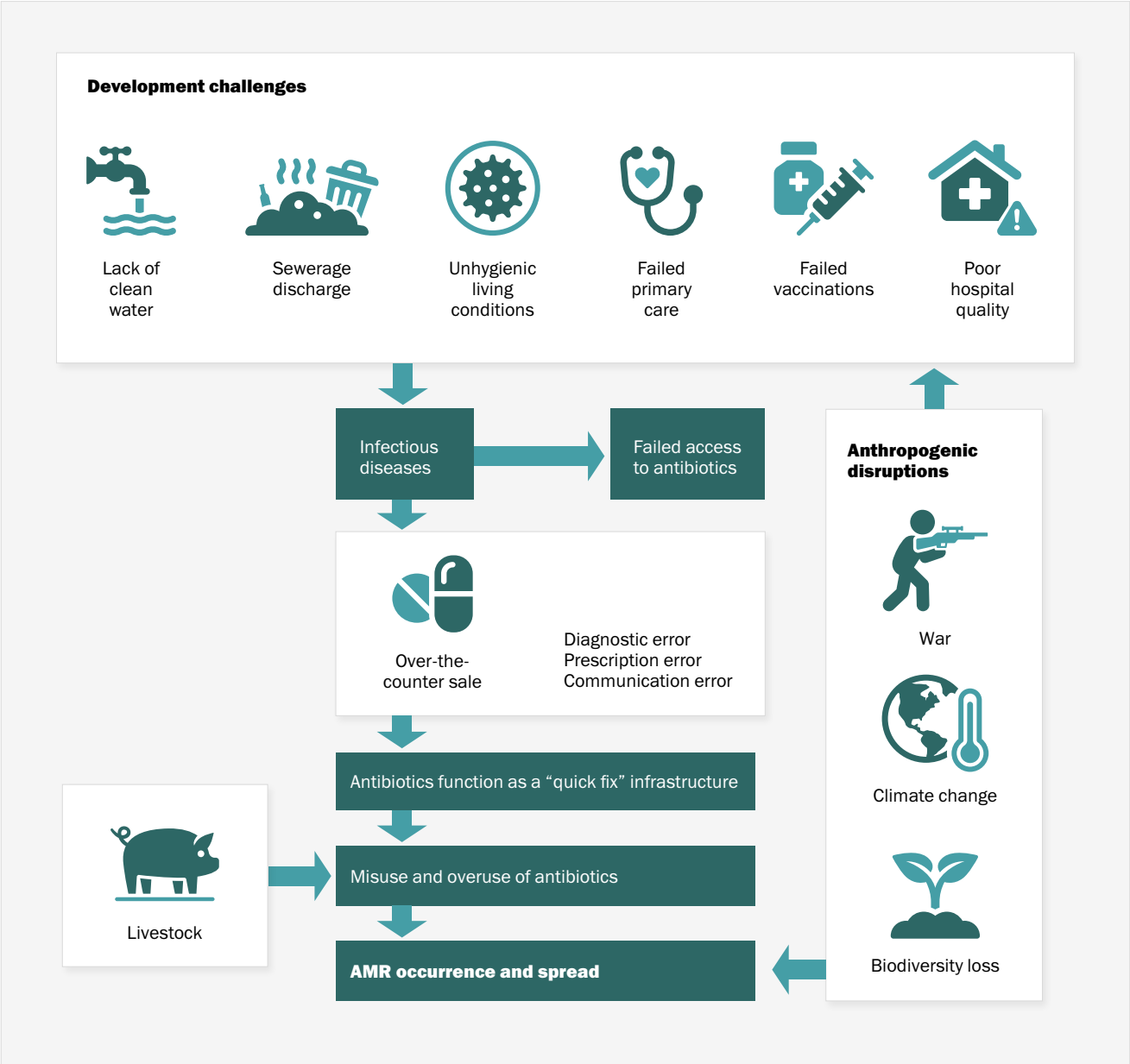
This report takes stock of what the EBRD, as a multilateral development bank (MDB), has done to address AMR. It also outlines proposals to scale up the Bank's AMR engagement with stakeholders and the regions in which the EBRD operates and invests. The occurrence and spread of AMR are primarily accelerated by the misuse and overuse of antimicrobials, as well as by development challenges and anthropological disruptions. AMR is already having a significant impact on human, animal, plant and ecosystem health. It is incurring economic costs in the form of increased healthcare spending, lost productivity and a deterioration in food safety and security. In the same way that Covid-19 spread rapidly around the globe, the global connectivity of travel and trade exposes the whole world to the risk of AMR. Furthermore, the impact of AMR is disproportionately borne by low- and middle-income countries (LMICs) and war-torn territories. AMR was directly responsible for killing 1.3 million people in 2019,[3] and it is estimated that almost 38 million people could die from drug-resistant bacterial infections between now and 2050.[4] AMR is an existential threat to humanity, together with climate change, biodiversity loss and environmental pollution.

The Bank recognises AMR as a significant challenge for the regions in which it operates, both in terms of addressing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and countering environmental and sustainability risks to its investments. In accordance with its Environmental and Social Policy, which includes AMR risk management provisions, the Bank has been working to tackle AMR. It has also explored related opportunities in sectors such as healthcare, PPP hospital infrastructure, agribusiness and water. International and national efforts are under way to prevent AMR and its proliferation. MDBs, such as the EBRD, can play a key role in this sphere by using their investment capacity, as well as their experience, knowledge and networks with industry, governments and civil society, to respond to the urgency of the AMR challenge. To this end, the Bank is keen to further facilitate cooperation and collaboration with stakeholders for a systematic One Health approach to mitigating AMR risk and building resilient sustainable economies.

[3] See Antimicrobial Resistance Collaborators (2022).
[4] See GBD 2021 Antimicrobial Resistance Collaborators (2024).

Figure 1. The AMR burden is disproportionately heavy in LMICs



Source: Alina Almakky, University of Bath.