Why do we need a new Global Strategy for Food Safety?

Drivers of change impacting food safety systems

- Global food safety threats
- Environmental challenges
- Rise of new technologies and digital transformation
- Interests and demands for food safety
- Demographic changes
- Global changes and their impacts on the food supply chain
- Society: changing expectations and behaviour around food
Endorsement of WHA73.5

2020
- TAG established
- 1st TAG meeting with draft 1 strategy

2021
- 2nd TAG meeting with draft 2 strategy
- Consultations: Public consultation, International organizations, Two MS briefings

2022
- Final Draft
- Final version
- Final draft for EB150th is available on WHO website
- 3rd TAG meeting on implementation
Overview of the Strategic Priorities (SP)

**SP1. Strengthening national food controls systems**

**SP2. Identifying and responding to food safety challenges resulting from the transformation and global changes in food systems transformation**

**SP3. Increasing the use of food chain information, scientific evidence and risk assessment in making risk management decisions**

**SP4: Strengthening stakeholder engagement and risk communication**

**SP5: Promoting food safety as an essential component in domestic, regional and international trade**

Evidence-driven / People-centered / Forward-looking / Cost-effective

International cooperation
Overview of all 5 Strategic Priorities (SP) and respective Strategic Objectives

**SP1. Strengthening national food controls systems**
- Food legislation framework
- Institutional framework for multisectoral coordination
- Fit-for-purpose standards & guidelines
- Compliance, verification & enforcement
- Monitoring/Surveillance programmes
- Incident and emergency response systems

**SP2. Identifying and responding to food safety challenges resulting from global changes in food systems transformation**
- Food safety impacts arising from global changes
- Risk management options to emerging risks

**SP3: Improving the use of food chain information, scientific evidence and risk assessment in making risk management decisions**
- Generation and usage of scientific data for food control
- Data collection to support risk management decisions
- Source food safety inform and risk analysis experiences to strengthen risk mgm decisions
- Consistent and transparent risk mgm decisions for food control measures

**SP4. Strengthening stakeholder engagement and risk communication**
- Platform for consultation on food safety agenda
- Non-regulatory schemes assessment
- Capacity building & engagement of FBO
- Communication & education of consumers

**SP5. Promoting food safety as an essential component in domestic, regional and international food trade**
- Domestic food markets (including traditional food markets)
- National liaison and coordination on food trade
- Alignment with Codex standards
- Engagement of national and stakeholders for safety standards and guidelines
Public Consultation Report for Draft WHO Global Strategy for Food Safety

Overview

In 2020, a resolution titled “Strengthening efforts on food safety” was adopted by the Seventy-third World Health Assembly. In the resolution, Member States requested WHO to update the WHO Global Strategy for Food Safety to address current and emerging challenges, incorporate new technologies and include innovative approaches for strengthening food safety systems. There was a recognition that the food safety systems of many Member States are under challenge and need significant improvements in their key components, such as regulatory infrastructure, enforcement, surveillance, inspection and laboratory capacity and capability, coordination mechanisms, emergency response and food safety education and training. Member States also recognized the need to integrate food safety into national and regional policies on health, agriculture, trade, environment and development and a One Health approach should be applied to ensure food safety.

In response to this request, WHO Secretariat has prepared a draft WHO Global Strategy for Food Safety with the advice of the Technical Advisory Group (TAG) on Food Safety. Safer food for better health. Two technical meetings were held virtually in February and April 2021 with the TAG experts to inform this first draft.

The draft strategy shall serve as a blueprint and guidance for Member States to strengthen their national food safety systems and promote regional and global cooperation. In the meantime, acknowledging food safety is a shared responsibility, the targeted audience of the strategy should also include consumers, food business operators, academia and researchers, civil societies, and other international organizations.

More information

Technical Advisory Group on Food Safety: Safer Food for Better Health

Public consultation on the Draft WHO Global Strategy for Food Safety

Deadline for comments: 16 July 2021, 23:59, CEST

Background

In 2020, a resolution titled “Strengthening efforts on food safety” was adopted by the Seventy-third World Health Assembly. In the resolution, Member States requested WHO to update the WHO Global Strategy for Food Safety to address current and emerging challenges, incorporate new technologies and include innovative approaches for strengthening food safety systems. There was a recognition that the food safety systems of many Member States are under challenge and need significant improvements in their key components, such as regulatory infrastructure, enforcement, surveillance, inspection and laboratory capacity and capability, coordination mechanisms, emergency response and food safety education and training. Member States also recognized the need to integrate food safety into national and regional policies on health, agriculture, trade, environment and development and a One Health approach should be applied to ensure food safety.

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### Revision of the draft strategy resulting from the consultation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topics emerged from the consultation process</th>
<th>WHO Secretariat evaluation</th>
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| Lack of visibility for food safety          | • Ensured both chemical and microbiological risks are mentioned equally in the strategy  
  • Added a figure to specify food safety implications from different drivers |
| Too much trade focused Redundancy with Codex and WTO | • Modified texts within SP3 and SP5 to ensure trade components and socioeconomic benefits will only be realized when public health goal is achieved  
  • Consulted WTO, STDF, and Codex to ensure the alignment |
| One Health                                  | • Removed the examples such as MERS, Ebola, and H7N9 to avoid any misunderstanding  
  • Modified the texts to highlight foodborne pathogens and how they move between environment, animals, and humans. |
| AMR and Intensive agriculture               | • Modified some texts related to AMR and intensive agriculture to ensure the strategy presents the facts while not make any inappropriate and controversial statements |
| Risk-based vs evidence based                | • Changed risk-based to evidence-based to avoid the perception that food safety systems and decision making should be purely risk-based while ignoring other factors such as economic analysis, whether implementable, etc |
| WHO’s role and MS implementation            | • The revision highlighted a step wise approach at the implementation chapter and a more detailed roadmap will be developed by WHO to specify WHO activities to support the implementation of the strategy |
| Coordination with FAO                       | • WHO and FAO will develop a high-level coordination plan to harmonize strategic efforts in food safety. This plan will base on both strategies and will be published by early 2023 after FAO food safety strategy endorsed by FAO governing bodies in December 2022.  
  • The revision explains the relationship between WHO and FAO strategies |
(1) to adopt the WHO global strategy for food safety;
(2) to call on Member States to develop national implementation road maps and to make appropriate financial resources available to support such work; and
(3) to request the Director-General to report back on progress in the implementation of the WHO global strategy for food safety to the 77th WHA in 2024 and thereafter every two years until 2030.
Some stakeholders of the Global Strategy for Food Safety

- World Health Organization
- World Bank
- WTO
- Donors
- WHO-CC
- FBO
- STDF
- FAO
- Academia
- CTF
- INFOSAN
- Codex
- AMR-STAG
- TAG GSFS
- INFOSAN
- Regional partners
- FERG
- GFN
Next steps

March
- Finalization of the text
- Publication
- Development of roadmap of implementation (stepwise approach, timeline, milestones, monitoring)
- Identification of tools to be developed
- WHO Secretariat workplan

April-May
- 3rd meeting of Technical Advisory Group
- Mapping stakeholders (partners, donors, ongoing regional opportunities)
- Finalization of the roadmap
- Kick-off implementation

June-Dec
- Advocacy activities
- Development of tools
- Investment case
- Implementation activities
- WHO/FAO joint coordination plan
- 4th TAG meeting
- MS to develop implementation road maps and to make appropriate financial resources available to support such work
What we want to achieve with the strategy in 2030

- Foodborne diarrhoeal disease incidence estimated per 100,000 population (impact indicator)
- Multisectoral collaboration mechanism for food safety events (progress indicator)
- National surveillance systems in place for the detection and monitoring of foodborne disease and food contamination (progress indicator)
Global strategy for food safety: towards stronger food safety systems and global cooperation.
Thanks

gos-strategy@who.int