

A photograph of a woman with dark hair in a bun, wearing a pink and white plaid shirt, smiling as she feeds a young child with a spoon. The child is wearing a blue and white plaid shirt and is looking towards the camera. The background is a simple indoor setting with a white wall and a potted plant.

WHO Global Strategy for Food Safety (2022-2030)

25 March 2022
Member States briefing



World Health
Organization

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



WHO Global Strategy for Food Safety



Safer food for better health

Food Safety Programme - 2002
World Health Organization
<http://www.who.int/fsf>



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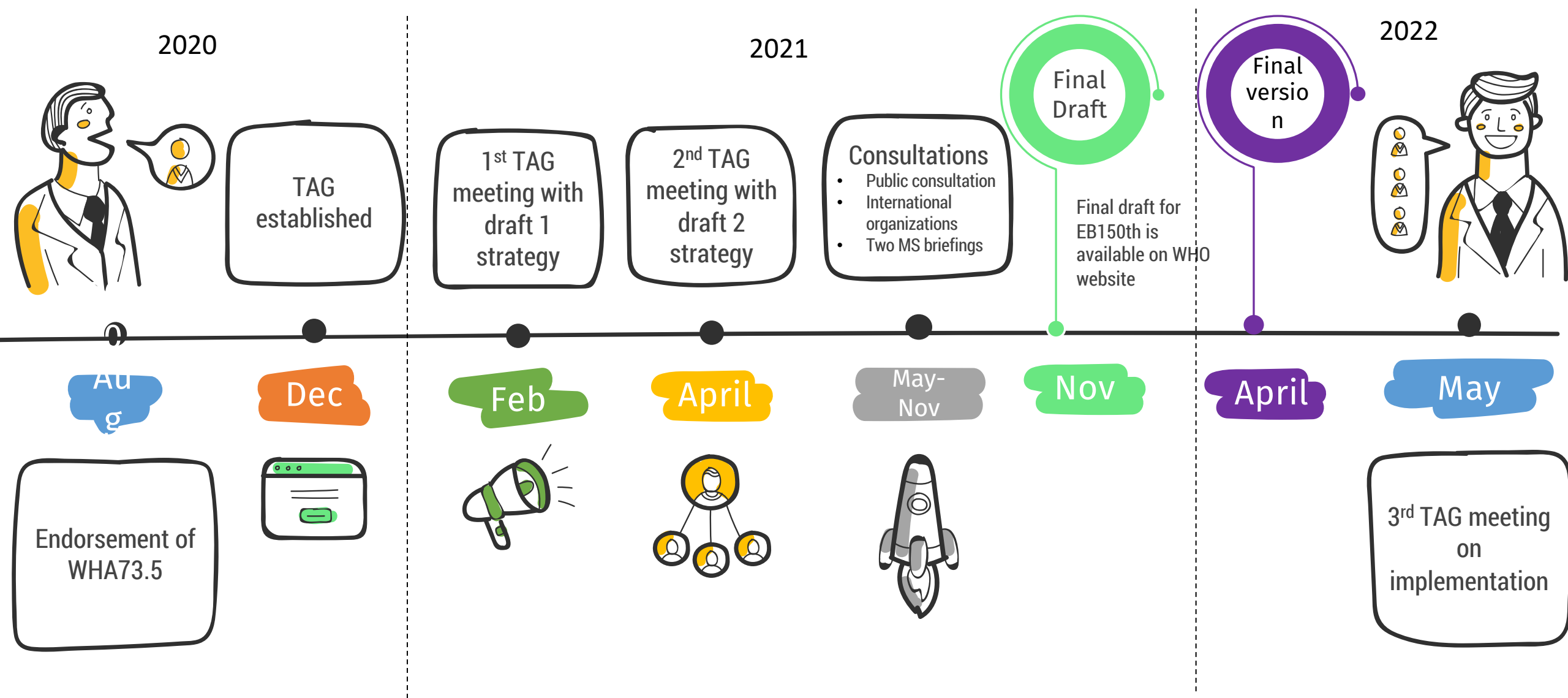
SEVENTY-THIRD WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY
Agenda item 15.3
WHA73.5
3 August 2020

Strengthening efforts on food safety

The Seventy-third World Health Assembly,
Having adopted the written silence procedure through decision WHA73(7) (2020);¹
Recalling resolutions WHA53.15 (2000) on food safety and WHA63.3 (2010) on advancing food safety initiatives, and acknowledging that the challenges outlined in these resolutions continue as the safety systems of many Member States are under development and need significant improvements in their key components, such as regulatory infrastructure, enforcement, surveillance, inspection, laboratory capacity and capability, coordination mechanisms, emergency response and food safety education and training;
Recalling also the international conferences in 2019 on food safety convened by WHO, FAO, and WTO and the African Union in Addis Ababa and Geneva, which identified key actions and strategies to tackle current and future challenges to food safety globally;
Noting that food safety plays a critical role in the achievement of many of the Sustainable Development Goals and contributes to relevant areas of WHO's Thirteenth General Programme of Work, 2019-2023 and efforts to address universal health coverage;
Considering that WHO published estimates on the global burden of foodborne diseases for the first time in 2015, in which it estimated that more than 600 million cases of foodborne illnesses and 420 000 deaths could occur in a year;² and that the burden of foodborne diseases falls disproportionately on groups in vulnerable situations and especially on children under 5 years of age, with the highest burden in developing countries;
Recalling the World Bank study, *The safe food imperative: accelerating progress in low- and middle-income countries*,³ which called upon national governments to increase investments in their food safety infrastructure, and which noted that foodborne diseases resulting from the consumption of unsafe foods cost low- and middle-income countries at least US\$ 110 billion in lost productivity and medical expenses annually;

¹ See also document A73/4.
² WHO estimates of the global burden of foodborne diseases: Foodborne diseases burden group 2007-2015. Geneva: World Health Organization, 2015.
³ *The safe food imperative: accelerating progress in low- and middle-income countries*. accessed 4 February 2020.

Where are we for the strategy



Overview of the Strategic Priorities (SP)



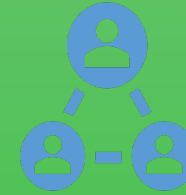
SP1. Strengthening national food controls systems



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 mng decisions
- Consistent and transparent risk mng 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

← International Cooperation →

Public Consultation Report for Draft WHO Global Strategy for Food Safety

Summary report

3 October 2021 | Technical document



[Download \(295.8 kB\)](#)

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

13 May 2021 | Call for consultation

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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Related Highlight

Download

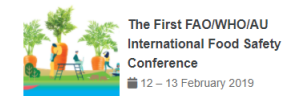
[Draft of WHO Global Strategy for Food Safety](#) >

[WHA73.5 Strengthening efforts on food safety](#) >

Online questionnaire

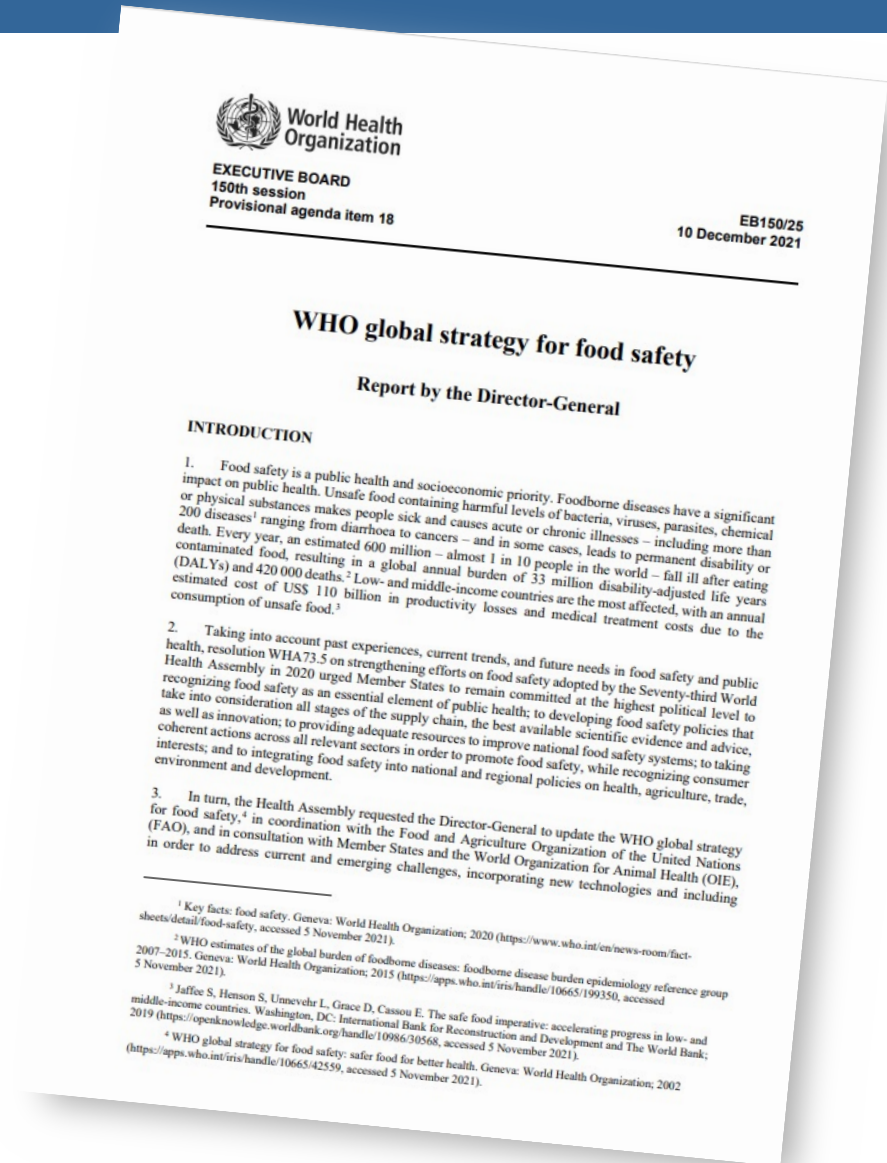
<https://extranet.who.int/dataformv3/index.php/452373?lang=en>

Related events



Topics emerged from the consultation process	WHO Secretariat evaluation
Lack of visibility for food safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 top support the implementation of the strategy
Coordination with FAO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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



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)



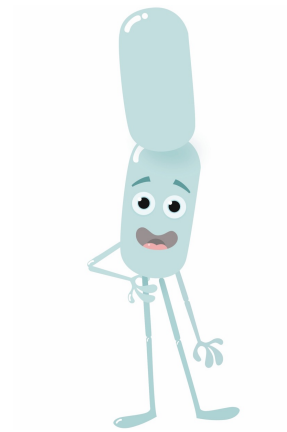
Multisectoral collaboration mechanism for food safety events (progress indicator)



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



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