

WHO Alliance for Food Safety - Inception meeting




WHO Headquarters, Geneva, Switzerland

6-8 May 2024

In collaboration with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) | CDC Division of Foodborne Waterborne and Environmental Disease (DFWED)

Background

The WHO Global Strategy for Food Safety 2022-2030 (WHO FS Strategy) was adopted at the World Health Assembly 75 in May 2022. Member States committed themselves to advance food safety through five strategic priorities and, for the first time, adopted the following ambitious targets to guide action and track progress towards reducing foodborne diseases everywhere:

Indicator	Type	Source	Indicator as of 2022	Target by 2030
 Foodborne diarrhoeal disease incidence estimated per 100 000 population	Outcome indicator (impact)	WHO global estimates on foodborne disease burden informed by FERG	4 154*	40% reduction in the global average
 Multisectoral collaboration mechanism for food safety events	Capacity indicator (progress)	International Health Regulations (2005): State Party Self-Assessment Annual Reporting Tool	57% of countries with at least 80% capacity**	100% of countries with at least 80% capacity
 Surveillance of foodborne diseases and contamination		International Health Regulations (2005): Joint External Evaluation Tool	1.5	Global average capacity score 3.5

For indicator and target on Multisectoral collaboration mechanism for food safety events, the FAO/WHO International Food Safety Authorities Network (INFOSAN) is the natural platform to build capacity and ensure reporting. INFOSAN was created in 2004 and since then has facilitated the rapid exchange of information across borders and between members, during hundreds of food safety events. Currently, INFOSAN has more than 800 members from 187 Member States.

However, for the indicator on Surveillance of foodborne diseases and contamination, there is no similar mechanisms to align efforts so to support countries in a coordinated way. To address this, WHO followed two approaches: exploring the reactivation of the WHO's Global foodborne infections network (GFN) and tapping into its network of collaborating centers.

Between 2000¹ and 2015, GFN served as a capacity-building network consisting of institutions and individuals working in veterinary, food and public health disciplines committed to enhancing the capacity of countries to detect, control and prevent foodborne and other enteric infections. GFN promoted integrated, laboratory-based surveillance and outbreak detection and response, and fostered intersectoral collaboration and communication among microbiologists and epidemiologists in human health, veterinary, and food-related disciplines. Discussions with former members of the GFN steering committee and WHO staff who worked on this network highlighted the importance of linking GFN with the WHO Food Safety Strategy, with the Foodborne Disease Burden Epidemiology Reference Group (FERG)², INFOSAN³ and other programs supporting the reduction of foodborne diarrheal estimated incidence and of antimicrobial resistance as well as the need of strengthening the governance and regulations for stronger foodborne disease surveillance in countries.

In tandem, more than twenty WHO-CCs were identified having terms of reference related to the areas of the food safety strategy. An analysis of their workplans identified that it is necessary to better align their capacity building activities with the targets of the WHO Global Strategy for Food Safety.

Based on the above, WHO, in collaboration with the CDC Division of Foodborne Waterborne and Environmental Disease (DFWED), is convening a meeting to explore and define the creation of the WHO Food Safety Alliance, which aims to include WHO Collaborating Centers and other institutions with demonstrated leadership and technical competency to support the implementation of the strategy in area of foodborne disease surveillance.

The inception meeting has the following objectives:

1. Development of the Terms of Reference of the WHO Alliance for Food Safety identifying its value add in the area of foodborne diseases surveillance.
2. Development of a draft work plan 2023-2030 to help countries meet the WHO target of foodborne disease surveillance by 2030.

Venue

WHO Headquarters
Avenua Appia 20
Geneva, Switzerland

¹ Initially created as WHO Global Salmonella Surveillance and renamed as GFN in 2009.

² <https://www.foodbornediseaseburden.org/ferg>

³ <https://www.who.int/groups/fao-who-international-food-safety-authorities-network-infosan/about>

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Tentative Agenda

6 May 2024		
8h30	Registration	
9h-9h30	Session 1: Welcome session <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Opening words - Group photo - Introduction to the meeting, objectives, expected outcome 	WHO and CDC Dr Francesco Branca, WHO Luz Maria de Regil, WHO Simone M. Raszl, WHO
9h30-10h15	Session 2: Introduction and Management of Declaration of interests <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Introductions of participants - Management of declaration of interest for this meeting 	Luz Maria de Regil, WHO Simone M. Raszl, WHO Luz Maria de Regil, WHO
10h15-10h35	Coffee break	
10h35-11h	Session 3: Salmonella as food safety indicator	tbc
11h-12h30	Session 4: Presentation of WHO-CCs work and partners <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To be confirmed after all participants are confirmed 	WHO-CC representatives and partners
12h30-13h30	Lunch	
13h30-15h	Session 5: From Salm Survey to WHO Alliance for Food Safety <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - WHO GSFS - indicators - Background for the proposal of the WAFoS - Collaboration with other areas in WHO - Priorities (regions, areas of work) 	Simone M. Raszl, WHO Simone Moraes Raszl, WHO AMR, IPSN, Lyon Office Food Safety Regional Advisors – AFRO and EMRO
15h-15h20	Coffee break	
15h20-17h	Session 6: Terms of Reference <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Presentation of draft ToR - Group discussions 	Simone M. Raszl, WHO All participants
17h	Close of day 1	
7 May 2024		
9h-9h15	Recap day 1	
9h15-10h15	Cont Session 6: ToR final document <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Group discussions - Agreements - Presentation of draft ToR 	Simone M. Raszl, WHO All participants

10h15-10h30	Coffee break	
10h30-12h30	Session 7: Work plan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Group discussions - Identification of leaderships, activities, and strategic partners 	Simone M. Raszl, WHO All participants
12h30-13h30	Lunch	
13h30-15h	Cont. session 7: Work plan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Group discussions - Identification of leaderships, activities, and strategic partners 	Simone M. Raszl, WHO All participants
15h-15h20	Coffee break	
15h20-17h	Cont. session 7: Work plan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Group discussions - Identification of leaderships, activities, and strategic partners 	Simone M. Raszl, WHO All participants
17h	Close of day 1	
8 May 2024		
9h-9h15	Recap day 2	
9h15-10h	Session 7: M&E	Simone M. Raszl, WHO All participants
10h15-10h35	Coffee break	
10h35-11h30	Session 8: Next steps <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Advocacy activities - Strategic partnerships - Website - Next meetings 	Simone M. Raszl, WHO All participants
11h30-12h	Closing	Luz Maria de Regil, WHO

14 March 2024		
9h-9h15	Recap day 2	
9h15-10h	Session 7: Monitoring & Evaluation	Simone M. Raszl, WHO All participants
10h15-10h30	Coffee break	
10h30-11h30	Session 8: Next steps <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Advocacy activities - Strategic partnerships - Website - Next meetings 	Simone M. Raszl, WHO All participants
11h30-12h	Closing of the meeting	Luz Maria de Regil, WHO