



JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME

CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION

Forty-sixth Session

FAO AND WHO CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES

(Prepared by FAO and WHO)

1. Introduction

1.1 This paper has been prepared by FAO and WHO to provide information on key activities supporting countries to build food safety and nutrition related capacities (implemented by respective headquarters or offices at regional and country level).

1.2 The paper is primarily for information purposes; however, feedback is welcome on food safety or nutrition issues, including member country needs, that should be considered by FAO and WHO when planning programmes of work.

1.3 This document focuses on main initiatives and activities implemented since the 45th Session of the CAC. In comparison to previous years, this document has been simplified for ease of reading; FAO and WHO would like to note that all country or region-specific capacity development projects will be reported through the FAO/WHO Regional Coordinating Committees.

1.4 FAO and WHO are the main specialised UN agencies with a mandate to address food safety and quality/nutrition issues. Through their complementary mandates, FAO and WHO cover a range of issues to support global food safety and protect consumer's health, typically with WHO having a particular competence and strong relationship with the public health sector and FAO being in a position to deploy a range of strategies to address issues related to food safety along the food chain. Certain activities are implemented jointly at country and regional levels or through global joint programmes (e.g. Scientific Advice, INFOSAN, Codex Trust Fund etc.), while both organizations also implement work independently in partnerships with government authorities, food industry and primary producers, and other relevant national and international stakeholders.

1.5 FAO and WHO capacity development work supports and promotes the work of Codex by: i) working with countries to strengthen their national food control and feed safety systems; ii) providing support to developing capacities and technical skills to more effectively participate in Codex standard setting; iii) developing a range of guidance tools based on relevant Codex texts which effectively "elucidate" these texts and enable countries to better understand and use Codex texts in their context; iv) facilitating policy and technical dialogue between governmental authorities and private sector (farmers and agri-business), and iv) supporting data generation and information-sharing activities which facilitate a greater pool of data from an increased number of countries as a basis for decision-making.

1.6 In order to achieve sustainable results at country level and ensure that efforts lead to lasting changes, experience has shown it is important that capacity development activities are tailor-made taking into account the wider national or regional context (e.g. priorities of the relevant stakeholders, including competent authorities, the policy environment, available technical and financial resources, etc.).

Communicating with us

More information on FAO and WHO publications, tools and project activities are available at:

FAO: <https://www.fao.org/food/food-safety-quality/en/>

WHO: <https://www.who.int/teams/nutrition-and-food-safety>

2. FAO/WHO Food Control System Assessment Tool

2.1 The FAO/WHO Food Control System Assessment Tool allows Member Countries to assess, in a structured and transparent way, the performance of their food control system throughout the entire food chain, identify priority areas for capacity development, and measure and evaluate progress over time.

2.2 This tool, consisting of five volumes, has been published in English, French, Spanish, Russian and Arabic language. The tool is available at:

- FAO <http://www.fao.org/documents/card/en/c/ca5334en/>
- WHO <http://www.who.int/activities/strengthening-national-food-control-systems>

2.3 To facilitate widespread use of the FAO/WHO Food Control System Assessment Tool, dissemination packages including global launch, production of an introductory booklet¹ have been developed jointly by FAO and WHO. A video has also been developed and is available at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A_zdUp2yKY.

2.4 FAO and WHO are continuing to assist Member countries in utilizing the tool to assess their national food control systems.

2.5 FAO has successfully concluded assessments in Malawi, Sudan and Tunisia in 2019, and in the Emirate of Abu Dhabi (UAE) in 2021, in the Bahamas and Guyana in 2022, ensuring quality results as well as a meaningful and fair process. FAO facilitates ongoing assessments in Belarus and Azerbaijan that are planned to be completed in 2023. The assessment in Georgia started in June 2023 with FAO facilitation and the goal is to complete in 2024. Under the funding of a European Union project, October 2022 saw the initiation of assessments in Comoros, Eswatini, Kenya, Mauritius, Rwanda, the Seychelles, Uganda and Zimbabwe. Discussions are ongoing to further expand this project to other countries should funding be made available. These assessments will feed into the African Union SPS investment programme. Other assessments will be facilitated by FAO in Burkina Faso, Niger and Senegal under a project funded by the African Development Bank, and discussions are ongoing to involve other countries in Africa as well. Regular updates are also posted on <https://www.fao.org/food-safety/news/en/>. Chile and Barbados will benefit from support from FAO in 2023 and 2024.

2.6 WHO has been supporting national assessments conducted in Panama and Cameroon in 2022, and is currently supporting the assessment in Tajikistan and Cabo Verde.

3. Support to countries and regional organisations to strengthen their food safety legislation

3.1 The Development Law Service of the FAO Legal Office (LEGN) provides assistance to countries to review and revise their food safety and quality legislation. This support is provided in close collaboration with the food safety and quality team in HQ and the regional food safety and quality officers, and with the assistance of national legal experts. In the past year, LEGN has supported the revision of food safety legislation in Sri Lanka and Mauritius and supported the strengthening of food control and governance in Egypt, Eswatini, Djibouti, Kenya, Mauritius, Madagascar, Rwanda, Seychelles, Zimbabwe, as well as the development of street food regulatory framework in Cambodia. LEGN has also supported the development of a tool to assess compliance of national legislation and food control systems with the Codex standards relevant to antimicrobial resistance (AMR), and supported the implementation of the tool in Bolivia, Cambodia, Colombia, Mongolia, Nepal and Pakistan. In Kyrgyzstan, the Tool is being used to assess the level of implementation of the Codex Alimentarius texts on foodborne antimicrobial resistance with FAO support. Finally, food safety legislation has also been analysed in the context of a Quadripartite (FAO, UNEP, WHO and WOA) global project for the development of a One Health Legislative Assessment Tool for AMR piloted in Cambodia, Morocco and Zimbabwe.

4. Quadripartite (FAO/UNEP/WHO/WOAH) work on Antimicrobial Resistance

4.1 The Quadripartite Joint Secretariat (QJS) on AMR, continues to implement its *Strategic Framework for Collaboration on AMR* signed in April 2022. This Framework reflects the joint work of the four organizations to advance a One Health response to AMR at the global, regional and country level. The framework is underpinned by a Theory of Change that broadly supports the implementation of the five pillars of the Global Action Plan on AMR, as well as strengthening global AMR governance. The framework is operationalized through a biennial workplan, initially for 2022-23.

4.2 *Integrated surveillance*

4.2.1 The QJS on AMR has established the Quadripartite Technical Group on Antimicrobial Resistance and

¹ <https://www.fao.org/documents/card/en/c/cb4964en/> and <https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789240028371>

Use Integrated Surveillance (QTG-AIS). The QTG-AIS has developed and agreed on an action plan for 2022-2024 and developed a list of priority outputs to be included in the Quadripartite Guide on Integrated Surveillance. These include: Purpose-led definition of One Health integrated surveillance of AMR and AMU; Priority measures and indicators for One Health integrated surveillance of AMR and AMU; Resources and requirements for the different purposes One Health integrated surveillance of AMR and AMU; Harmonized framework for the establishment of integrated surveillance systems.

4.3 Global Human and Veterinary Medicines Regulatory Authorities Summit and Forum

4.3.1 One the priorities of the QJS on the AMR workplan for 2022-2023 includes developing and updating standards and technical advice on global practices. This work comprises providing support to human and animal medicines regulatory authorities by convening a global regulatory summit and producing a workplan to support countries in using regulations, enforcement and smart solutions to preserve efficacy of antimicrobials. The 1st Global Joint Summit of Human and Veterinary Medicines Regulatory Authorities to Preserve Antimicrobials was held on 4 – 5 May 2023 in Geneva, Switzerland. The theme of the summit was “Phasing out over-the-counter sales of antibiotics”. The summit brought together heads of regulatory authorities for human and animal medicines or their designates, from all geographical regions, in order to emphasize the importance of regulation for AMR globally, engage human and animal regulatory authorities on the issues of AMR to optimise use of existing legislation and enforcement measures, and come up with novel, non-regulatory “Smart” solutions to address over-the-counter sale of antibiotics. It united regulators and stakeholders from different sectors, regions and countries to manage AMR jointly.

4.4 Economic case for AMR

4.4.1 To respond to recurrent inadequate financial support for implementing AMR national action plans, the Quadripartite prioritized building an investment case for AMR in their 2022-23 workplan. The main objective is determining the global cost of inaction, the global resource needs for the AMR response and the return on investment of a package of integrated interventions across different sectors. This will help to inform global, regional and country prioritization and resource mobilization. A model toolbox will be developed, including an integrated interventions prioritization guide, costing and impact estimation tools, and exemplars of country investment case and resource mobilization strategy and training module. This will help countries to plan and mobilize domestic and external resources. This work has been recommended by the G7 and the Global Leaders Group. To coordinate this work, the Quadripartite established an internal Core Group of experts and economists from the Quadripartite organizations and the World Bank. The group is supported externally by a group of 20 technical experts from across the relevant sectors (Quadripartite Technical Group on the Economics of AMR), as well as by additional modellers from KnowlEdge SA, Triangulate Health Ltd and the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD). Considerable progress has been made in estimating the cost of business as usual, particularly in bringing a One Health lens to the economic challenges created by AMR. The One Health AMR Systems Map brings together the many known causative and flow factors affecting AMR emergence and spread and their economic consequences. The Quadripartite commitment is to finalize this work before the Member States’ negotiation process for the political declaration of the UNGA High-Level Meeting on AMR in 2024, to underpin requests for more specific commitments from countries and donors.

4.5 Global Leaders’ Group on AMR

4.5.1 The Global Leaders Group (GLG) on AMR was formed following the recommendation of the Interagency Coordination Group on AMR (IACG).² Since September 2022, the GLG has published a Pocket Guide for Ministers Across Sectors with key advocacy messages, an information note on animal health and welfare, and an update to its action plan. The GLG held its first in-person meeting in Barbados in February 2023, hosted by GLG Chair H.E. Prime Minister Mottley of Barbados. GLG Task Forces on Integrated Surveillance and on Financing were established to expedite these priority areas, particularly to address the antibiotic pipeline and access crisis. The GLG held high-level political side events at the European Congress for Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases, during the 76th World Health Assembly, and at the UN Food Systems Summit Stocktaking Moment. Other priority areas of ongoing work include advocating for inclusion of AMR in the Intergovernmental Negotiating Body instrument (WHO convention, agreement or other international instrument on pandemic prevention, preparedness and response), engagement with G7 and G20 and engaging with youth.

4.5.2 As a joint Quadripartite effort, the One Health Priority Research Agenda for AMR was launched on 28 June 2023. This research agenda identified research areas and questions on AMR at the interface of the One Health sectors (human, animal, plant and the environment) to better prevent, control, and respond to AMR, and it focuses on five pillars: 1) transmission; 2) integrated surveillance; 3) interventions; 4) behavioral insights and change; and 5) policy and economics.

² https://www.amrleaders.org/#tab=tab_1

4.5.3 The World Antimicrobial Awareness Week (WAAW) takes place annually from 18 - 24 November and was re-branded as World AMR Awareness Week after Quadripartite global consultations with stakeholders in May 2023.³

4.5.4 The Ad hoc Codex Intergovernmental Task Force on AMR (TFAMR) has completed its work that resulted in the publication of the new *Codex Guidelines on Integrated Monitoring and Surveillance of Foodborne Antimicrobial Resistance* (CXG 94-2021) and the update of the *Codex Code of Practice to Minimize and Contain Foodborne Antimicrobial Resistance* (CXC 61-2005).

4.5.5 The AMR-Multi-Partner Trust Fund (MPTF) is a strategic, inter-sectoral, multi-stakeholder initiative inviting partnership and financing to leverage the Quadripartite convening and coordinating power as well as mandates and technical expertise to mitigate the risk of AMR by supporting the implementation of One Health AMR NAPs. It is financially supported by Germany, Netherlands, Sweden, the United Kingdom and the European Commission (DG Sante), in a total of over USD 26 million. The Fund currently support projects in eleven countries (Morocco, Kenya, Zimbabwe, Senegal, Ghana, Cambodia, Indonesia, Ethiopia, Peru, Tajikistan and Mongolia) and six countries have been developing new proposals.

4.5.6 In addition, four global projects are being implemented with the financial support of the AMR MPTF:

- Global Quadripartite System on Integrated Surveillance of AMR and AMU
- Monitoring & Evaluation: Global-level monitoring and aggregation of indicator data at sectoral level
- Legal framework: Development of a One Health assessment tool for AMR-relevant legislation
- Environment: Strategic global-level governance advocacy initiatives on AMR in the environment

4.6 **FAO Work on AMR**

FAO is implementing its Action plan on AMR 2021-2025 that composes of five objectives, through various AMR projects that deliver different AMR activities at global, regional and country level, as follows:

4.6.1 Increasing stakeholders' awareness and engagement.

In July 2021, the FAO communications division organized a knowledge-sharing session on the impact of storytelling. These stories are being used to demonstrate FAO's expertise on its different channels such as the website, social media, publications, and podcasts. A mission took place in Ghana in early November 2021, entitled "Proof of concept: Refining and Implementing Evidence-based Solutions Developed by the AMR Behaviour Change Community of Practice."

The World Antimicrobial Awareness Week (WAAW) took place in November 2021, under the theme "Spread Awareness. Stop Resistance". The FAO Action Plan on AMR 2021-2025 was launched during the WAAW 2021.

FAO also organized a virtual "Expert consultation on the sustainable management of parasites in livestock challenged by the global emergence of resistance". The Consultation advised FAO to develop guidelines for the strategic control and management of acaricide and trypanocidal drug resistance and called for strengthened advocacy, awareness and resource mobilization to curb the problem.

FAO has signed a letter of agreement with Johns Hopkins University/ ReACT for Seeding and Scaling One Health Awareness and Action on AMR, to support communication activities that are currently ongoing to foster policy dialogue and youth engagement in Africa, Asia and Latin America.

FAO started a webinar series entitled "Knowledge Dissemination Dialogues on AMR". This is a series of data-rich monthly webinars that takes place on the 2nd Thursday of each month, 12.30-13.30 CET, to bring participants up to date on specific scientific and technical topics related to antimicrobial resistance (AMR) and how to contain it. This may include, among others, microbiology, epidemiology, environmental or behavioral science, plant and animal production and health, striving to cover a variety of topics/disciplines related to AMR in food and agriculture presented by professionals from diverse geographic areas and backgrounds.

FAO signed a letter of agreement with The College of Wooster, to conduct one experimental valuation auction to elicit Willingness To Pay (WTP) premia for products that carry a microbial food safety certification label designed.

4.6.2 Strengthening surveillance, laboratory and research capacities.

FAO contributed to the development of the Codex Alimentarius Guidelines on integrated monitoring and surveillance of foodborne AMR. As a follow-up, FAO is now leading a project (named ACT, Antimicrobial Codex

³ <https://www.who.int/news-room/events/detail/2023/11/18/default-calendar/world-amr-awareness-week-2023#:~:text=WAAW%20is%20celebrated%20from%2018,it%20affects%20us%20all>

Texts, project), funded by the Republic of Korea, that focuses on the practical implementation of these guidelines (together with the revised Code of Practice to Minimize and Contain Foodborne AMR), at a global level and focusing on six countries as a proof of concept (Bolivia, Cambodia, Colombia, Mongolia, Nepal and Pakistan). Following the FAO Action Plan on AMR 2021-2025, the compliance with and application of Codex general principles and recommendations for integrated surveillance is also being mainstreamed through the implementation of all currently active AMR projects developing practical guidelines and national strategies for monitoring and surveillance of AMR and AMU in food and agriculture. For instance, FAO Regional Office in Asia and the Pacific has developed guidelines that follow WOH and Codex Standards for AMR monitoring and surveillance in healthy animals and food (published), in bacterial pathogens from terrestrial and aquatic animals, and guidelines for the monitoring of AMU at the farm level together with WOH (the later ones in the publication pipeline). In Eastern Africa, the AMR/AMU Technical Advisory Group was established, and the AMR monitoring and surveillance guideline for bacteria from healthy food-producing animals is under finalization.

After the approval of the FAO Action Plan on AMR 2021-2025 by the 166th session of the FAO Council, the Organization committed to developing the building blocks that will catalyze national efforts to regularly generate, share and analyze reliable and comparable AMR data in food and agriculture and AMU data in plants and crops. Substantial progress has been made in this regard. During the second half of 2021, FAO completed a requirements analysis to inform the development of an IT solution for the International FAO AMR Monitoring (InFARM) data platform. Since early 2022, FAO is developing a prototype of the InFARM data platform and countries are being invited to participate in the pilot testing using their own data until the end of the year. The initial scope of InFARM will be to host AMR data in priority bacterial species of interest for public health, animal health and indicator bacteria from animals and food, according to international standards and recommendations of the Codex Alimentarius and the WOH. This data platform will support national, regional and global surveillance efforts, providing countries with a mechanism to host and analyze AMR data from terrestrial and aquatic animals and food, and will complement the integration of data from other sectors under a global platform, initially called the Tripartite Integrated System for Surveillance of AMR and AMU - TISSA) that will be launched before the end of 2022.

The Quadripartite Joint Secretariat (QJS) has established a technical group to support and coordinate integrated surveillance activities across organizations. In June 2021, QJS opened a call for experts to establish the Quadripartite Technical Group on Antimicrobial Resistance and Use Integrated Surveillance (QTG-AIS) for global guidance to Global Leaders Group on AMR and direct support to countries on this topic.

Missions using the FAO Assessment Tool for Laboratories and AMR Surveillance Systems (FAO-ATLASS) both as external or self-assessment tool for the overall national AMR surveillance system for food and agriculture and/or only for laboratories have been conducted in 26 countries during 2021-2022 with the support from different projects (ACT project, EU-funded project in Latin America, Fleming Fund, Russian Federation, and USAID). In May 2021, within the Tripartite collaborative regional project "Working Together to Fight Antimicrobial Resistance", six virtual training sessions on the FAO-ATLASS laboratory module were conducted in Latin America. In June 2022, under the umbrella of the same project, a follow up meeting to the virtual trainings on the FAO-ATLASS laboratory module was conducted to discuss lessons from the implementation of the tool, results, and way forward in identifying gaps to address through capacity building. The UISDC-SENASICA, Mexico (FAO Reference Center for AMR) presented initiatives to support the region in this task.

In Europe and Central Asia, FAO work on One Health is coordinated with the Quadripartite partners (WHO, WOH, UNEP and FAO) through the Regional One Health Coordination Mechanism established in April 2021. FAO will deliver an online, tutored course on Introduction to One Health, through the regional FAO Virtual Learning Centre (VLC)⁴, in coordination with WOH and WHO. On the occasion of the World Food Safety Day 2023, FAO and WHO-EURO organized a regional webinar⁵ on One Health and food safety.

Through a regional project, FAO supports Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan in their efforts to control AMR, including reducing antimicrobial use (AMU), strengthening laboratory diagnosis and surveillance systems, hands-on trainings and external quality assurance schemes, establishing AMR baselines in the livestock sector, and supporting the development of national AMR action plans. FAO established a regional network for antimicrobial resistance (AMR) laboratories in Central Asia, Eastern Europe and the Caucasus. Support has been provided and it is ongoing to facilitate the participation of laboratories to external quality assurance/proficiency testing for improving laboratory capacities to isolate and identify bacterial species relevant for AMR surveillance along the value chain of food products of animal origin and for antimicrobial susceptibility testing in Asia and in Africa through the FAO Reference Centres for AMR in Denmark, Thailand, and United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

As a joint Quadripartite effort, FAO is contributing to develop the One Health priority research agenda on AMR.

⁴ <https://virtual-learning-center.fao.org/>

⁵ <https://www.fao.org/europe/events/detail/world-food-safety-day-webinar--one-health-and-food-safety/en>

More specifically the project aims to identify research questions on AMR at the interface of the One Health sectors (human, animal, plant and the environment) to better prevent, control, and respond to AMR, and it focuses on five pillars: 1) transmission; 2) integrated surveillance; 3) interventions; 4) behavioral insights and change; and 5) policy and economics.

4.6.3 Enabling good practices

In collaboration with FAO Reference Centre in the United Kingdom, FAO has developed an introductory module of AMR e-learning courses with five lessons. In August 2021, FAO deployed a six-week course titled "Poultry farmer field school refresher course for facilitators and master trainers with a focus on antimicrobial resistance". It was the first online course delivered through the Farmer Field School, and two countries from Southern Africa (Zambia and Zimbabwe) participated.

A tool to assess the implementation of Infection Prevention and Control (Agri-IPC), including water, hygiene, sanitation, and wastewater management (Agri-WASH), was developed.

Through the 2020 poultry housing design competition, the FAO-FAVA (Federation of Asian Veterinary Association) collaboration also generated several small-scale poultry housing designs that highlighted the importance of farm biosecurity and reinforced good animal husbandry practices. In 2021, on the second round of this collaboration, a pig housing design contest with consideration for biosecurity was carried out. FAO is working closely with feed sector stakeholders (e.g. feed industry and regulators) to promote the animal nutrition practices that reduce AMU identified in the FAO publication *Animal nutrition strategies and options to reduce the use of antimicrobials in animal productions*.

4.6.4 Promoting responsible use of antimicrobials.

FAO has developed several initiatives for AMU at global and regional levels, including the following activities:

- A set of surveys on the Knowledge, Attitude, and Practices (KAP) associated with AMU patterns was conducted in Africa, Asia and the Pacific, and Europe and Central Asia regions. The outputs of a KAP survey in the Lao People's Democratic Republic was published, resulting in a better understanding of drivers and motivations of using antibiotics in the country's livestock industry. Results also contributed to shaping the country's AMR communication and advocacy campaign.
- A guideline on AMU monitoring at farm level in collaboration with WOAHA is under development.
- Surveys assessing the state of adherence of pig farms to recommended practices on prudent use of antimicrobials were conducted in Cambodia, Indonesia, and Viet Nam.
- FAO is working towards strengthened engagement from the animal feed industry in the fight against AMR in Latin America and the Caribbean through an AMR project funded by the European Union (EU). In July 2022, FAO convened a roundtable discussion entitled "*Policy guidelines for the containment of AMR in the production and use of medicated feed - Moving towards decision-making*", between public and private sectors at the Regional FeedLatina Meeting, in Mexico City, Mexico.

In September 2023, a regional workshop

- Support is being provided to India, Indonesia, and Viet Nam in the mitigation of AMR risk associated with aquaculture, through improved understanding of related AMR/AMU problems.
- FAO will launch a global movement for reducing the need for antimicrobials in agrifood systems is under preparation, which aims to reduce the use of antimicrobials in agriculture by 30-50 percent in 10 years. Regional stakeholders consultation has been organized in Asia and Africa separately.
- FAO is collaborating with Healthy Livestock (network funded by EU) to promote good practices at the farm production level to reduce the need for antimicrobials and prudent use.

4.6.5 Strengthening governance and allocating resources sustainably.

FAO has continued working on the implementation of its methodology to revise and update the relevant legislation for AMR/AMU in food and agriculture sectors in more than 25 countries of Africa, Asia, Europe and Latin America. Furthermore, with the financial support of the AMR Multi-Partner Trust Fund (AMR MPTF), in collaboration with WHO and WOAHA and with inputs from UNEP, FAO is leading the work to upgrade its methodology and develop a "One Health Legislative Assessment Tool for Antimicrobial Resistance" that will cover all sectors, including human health.

In Peru, under the AMR MPTF project, FAO, PAHO and WOAHA, will develop a mechanism to identify Budget lines for Results (Presupuesto por resultados) to assist the Ministries involved (Health, Agriculture and Production) in obtaining funds for AMR (through target allocations by the Peruvian Treasury).

With the financial support of Norway, the Organization prepared a legal report that analysed the national legal frameworks of Bolivia, Ecuador, Peru and Uruguay, as well as the Andean Community. Reports on AMR institutional coordination, including aspects of policy and legislation, were developed for Argentina, Chile, Colombia, Paraguay, Peru and Uruguay.

The countries in the Southern African Development Community (SADC) were supported in reviewing their regional model regulation on veterinary medicines and in assessing its implementation at national levels.

Other countries such as Armenia, Azerbaijan, Mozambique, Tanzania, and Zimbabwe, initiated or completed national analysis of AMR-relevant legislation.

A virtual regional workshop on legislation to address AMR and AMU in Africa for 300 participants, including AMR/AMU experts and legal experts from different sectors to identify the legal areas and instruments relevant for AMR/AMU, as well as to discuss potential options for addressing AMR through national and regional regulatory frameworks.

FAO has also been working to strengthen laws and regulations governing AMU in aquaculture in Asia. The Organization has also provided capacity building on good management practices for farmers to implement them in animal health management and biosecurity control for prudent and effective AMU associated with aquaculture in India, Indonesia, and Viet Nam.

Hybrid workshops of the FAO Progressive Management Pathway for AMR (FAO-PMP-AMR) to support countries in implementing their AMR National Action Plans (NAPs) in food and agriculture activities were conducted in Lao PDR, Morocco, Nigeria, Senegal, Mongolia and Sierra Leone.

The One Health Multi-Lateral Funding programme (MUL) was developed to support FAO's One Health activities, with four major outcomes built on the seven thematic components of the "One Health" Programme Priority Area (One Health PPA), in which AMR risk management is one of them. The One Health MUL will be implemented at global, regional and national levels.

4.6.6 Action to Support Implementation of Codex AMR Text (ACT) project⁶

To facilitate the adoption of Codex texts on Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) by various countries, FAO is currently engaged in the active implementation of the Action to Support Implementation of Codex AMR Texts (ACT) project, supported by the Republic of Korea across six countries: Bolivia, Cambodia, Colombia, Mongolia, Nepal, and Pakistan.

FAO tools such as FAO Progressive Management Pathway for Antimicrobial Resistance (FAO-PMP-AMR), FAO Assessment Tool for Laboratories and AMR Surveillance Systems (FAO-ATLASS) and ACT tool had been used in evaluating the extent of a country's level of AMR work including awareness, lab capacity building, good practice, and the legal basis. With this initiative, three primary areas of focus have been identified and are currently being actively pursued; raise awareness on foodborne AMR among farmers, veterinarians and government officials: Improve the national AMR surveillance systems through the international FAO Antimicrobial Resistance Monitoring (InFARM): Strengthen the regulatory framework to phase out the use of AMs for growth promoter purposes.

Through these concerted efforts, FAO works collaboratively with the relevant stakeholders in the selected countries that contribute to the global fight against the growing threat of foodborne antimicrobial resistance.

4.6.7 Other activities

- FAO has published a policy brief on the economic importance of foodborne AMR.⁷
- FAO authors have published a review of the importance of antimicrobial use in horticulture.
- FAO authors have complete situational analyses for AMR in multiple countries.
- Findings have been published here for Ethiopia,⁸ and challenges for antimicrobial stewardship, more generally here.⁹

4.7 WHO activities on AMR

4.7.1 WHO developed and published in March 2021 the Extended-spectrum beta-lactamase (ESBL) *Escherichia coli* (Ec) Tricycle protocol as an initiative to support countries with the implementation of an Integrated Multisectoral Surveillance System on AMR with a One Health approach. The ESBL Ec Tricycle

⁶ <https://www.fao.org/antimicrobial-resistance/projects/ongoing/project-10/en/>

⁷ <https://www.fao.org/3/cc6014en/cc6014en.pdf>

⁸ <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S2352771423000472>

⁹ <https://doi.org/10.3390/microorganisms10081599>

protocol is based in one indicator the ESBL producing *E. coli* in three main sectors, human, food animals and environment. The protocol is being implemented in in four WHO Regions, the African (Burkina Faso, Ghana and Madagascar, Nigeria, Senegal and Zimbabwe), Eastern Mediterranean (Pakistan and Jordan), South East Asian (Indonesia, Nepal and India) and Western Pacific Regions (Malaysia). In 2023, the protocol will be implemented in Zambia, Cameroon, Morocco, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Sudan and Bhutan.

4.7.2 WHO established in October 2021, the Advisory Group on Critically Important Antimicrobial for Human Medicine. This advisory group is developing the 7th Revision of the WHO Medically Important Antimicrobial List (WHO MIA), which is planned to be published in the Codex Alimentarius Commission CAC46 session in November 2023.

4.7.3 WHO developed and published the WHO AWaRe (Access, Watch, Reserve) antibiotic book, which provides guidance on the choice of antibiotic, dose, route of administration and duration of treatment for common infectious syndromes in alignment with the recommendations for antibiotics included on the WHO Model List of Essential Medicines and the WHO AWaRe (Access-Watch-Reserve) classification of antibiotics.

5. Early warning/alert, preparedness and response to food safety incidents (INFOSAN)

5.1 Introductory sessions on INFOSAN were held with Democratic Republic of Congo, Egypt, Iraq and Peru. Joint sessions were also facilitated for Member States in the Pacific Islands and Central America. The sessions enlighten Member States on how to actively participate in the Network and promote a rapid exchange of information during food safety emergencies. The sessions encouraged the update of INFOSAN membership in sub-regions and countries.

5.2 National workshops were conducted in Cote d'Ivoire, Burkina Faso, Liberia, Jordan, Ireland, Mali, Namibia and the United Kingdom. The workshops aimed to enhance multisectoral collaboration at the national level and improve the information exchange during food safety emergencies. Simulation exercises enriched participants' practical experience in managing international food safety crises.

5.3 A subregional workshop for Member States in Central Asia was co-facilitated by the WHO European Regional Office, FAO Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia, and INFOSAN Secretariat. The primary focus was on strengthening information exchange during food safety emergencies through the One Health approach. This workshop encouraged the active engagement of Central Asian countries and underscored the importance of enhanced participation in INFOSAN.

5.4 Regional meetings held in Asia-Pacific and the Americas were organized to discuss regional efforts to strengthen collaboration and response to food safety emergencies using INFOSAN. The meetings provided updates on INFOSAN's activities, covered technical topics and allowed for participants to identify obstacles and actions to strengthen food safety emergency response.

5.5 Additional information about capacity building activities organized by the INFOSAN Secretariat is available on the INFOSAN Quarterly Summaries: 2022-3,¹⁰ 2022-4¹¹ and 2023-1.¹²

5.6 INFOSAN has been a platform to promote and encourage the celebration of World Food Safety Day (WFSD) in 2021, 2022 and 2023. Different activities and communication products have been prepared by the INFOSAN Secretariat to commemorate the date. Such activities included the dissemination of guidelines and materials, follow-up on national activities carried out to celebrate WFSD, the organisation of webinars (with the support of the Chilean authorities), the participation of the INFOSAN Secretariat in various national events and the organisation of a Health Talk to discuss how we can improve the international response to food safety emergencies. A webinar dedicated to Codex guidelines on food safety emergencies and INFOSAN has been held within WFSD on 6 June 2022.

5.7 The Joint FAO/IAEA Centre completed a project entitled "Enhancing Capacity in Member States for Rapid Response to Food Safety Incidents and Emergencies" in October 2022. The objective of the project, funded under the IAEA "Peaceful Uses Initiative" an extrabudgetary funding mechanism, was to strengthen cooperation and capabilities in food safety laboratory networks for rapid response to food safety incidents and emergencies affecting humans, animals and trade. The main components of the project included the development of rapid, cost-effective analytical methods for the detection and control of food contaminants, food authenticity and verification of origin and transfer of the methodology to member countries through training courses and publications. Over the three-year duration of the project, 482 analysts were trained in eight training courses. Training topics included the detection and control of organic contaminants in food,

¹⁰ <https://www.who.int/news/item/18-11-2022-infosan-quarterly-summary-2022-3>

¹¹ <https://www.who.int/news/item/10-02-2023-infosan-quarterly-summary-2022-4>

¹² <https://www.who.int/news/item/31-05-2023-infosan-quarterly-summary-2023-1>

profiling/fingerprinting and stable isotope techniques to determine food origin and verify food authenticity. Extrabudgetary funding is being sought for a follow-up project.

5.8 The Joint FAO/IAEA Centre provided wide-ranging capacity building support to over 60 Member States through 45 food safety technical cooperation projects relevant to Codex. These included six regional projects in Africa, Asia and Pacific as well as Latin America and the Caribbean. In one of the projects in Africa, data generated from training scientists on supervised field trials for pesticide residues in okra was submitted to the JMPR and CCPR. This information was well received and there are efforts to implement more of such activities in future, funds permitting.

5.9 FAO, in partnership with Wageningen Food Safety Research, has implemented a series of activities in 2022 aiming to enhance awareness and understanding of the early warning tools and systems for emerging issues in food safety and support developing capacities to use the predictive early warning methods for identifying the imminent and emerging food safety issues across the regions that would contribute to preventing food safety incidents. A survey on gap analysis and two online workshops have raised awareness on food safety early warning tools and systems, identified user needs and barriers for uptake the tools for food safety early warning and emerging risk identification.

6. FAO Work on biotechnologies and FAO GM Foods Platform

6.1 FAO to provide capacity development tools and trainings for countries to conduct science-based safety assessment of foods derived from modern biotechnology, including Genetically Modified (GM) foods. Through the international data-sharing mechanism of safety assessment results submitted by Members on the FAO GM Foods Platform (<https://www.fao.org/gm-platform/>), FAO maintains the community of practices with the officially nominated focal points of the Codex Members. Contact GM-Platform@fao.org for questions.

7. FAO/WHO Work on Whole Genome Sequencing

7.1 FAO facilitates an informal technical network to share information, knowledge and experience in using whole genome sequencing technology for food safety management. Participating countries include: Bangladesh, Bhutan, Botswana, China, Egypt, Ghana, India, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Kenya, Mauritius, Mongolia, Mozambique, Namibia, Philippines, Sudan, Singapore, Tanzania, Thailand, and Viet Nam. Contact WGS@fao.org to join the network. FAO also supports non-profit technical initiatives working on WGS and food safety to ensure all countries, including low- and middle-income countries, will benefit from this potentially powerful technology that is applicable to food safety management. The latest information about food safety related activities with WGS can be found at <https://www.fao.org/food-safety/scientific-advice/crosscutting-and-emerging-issues/wgs/>.

7.2 In May of 2023, a hands-on technical workshop¹³ was held in Accra, Ghana, to provide 21 participants from nine African countries practical skills in DNA sequencing and bioinformation analysis.

8. Activities with Standards and Trade Development Facility (STDF)

8.1 FAO and WHO contribute technical expertise and policy advice to STDF. FAO and WHO review project proposals, information and inputs for coordinating capacity development support among development agencies, discuss innovative practices on selected thematic topics that cut across SPS areas and trade, including public-private partnerships (PPPs), electronic SPS certification, use of evidence-based approaches to prioritize SPS investments (P-IMA) and good regulatory practices. Regional offices of FAO and WHO are actively involved in implementing various STDF-funded projects in their regions including standard development in smoke fish and shellfish value chains in Mali and Senegal, respectively. FAO facilitates the implementation of the STDF funded project in Kyrgyz Republic to improve the implementation of food safety management systems along the fruit and vegetable sector, working with the food safety authorities, farmers, food processors and trainers.

8.2 At the STDF Working Group meeting held in June, 2022, WHO noted that some countries face obstacles in applying for STDF funding because applications are only accepted in English, French, and Spanish. It suggested, supported by Codex and FAO, that the STDF should explore the opportunity of receiving applications in Arabic and Russian to balance the opportunities across regions. The FAO highlighted the importance of making the rules for application better known and providing better guidance to applicants on how to produce good applications.

8.3 The STDF Policy Committee held online on 6 April 2023 raised the proposal that along with the core work on building capacity to apply SPS standards (Codex, IPPC and WOH), other standards, such as sustainability or environmental standards are brought into STDF work.

8.4 The STDF Working Group meeting held in June 2023 have approved a cross-cutting assessment of

¹³ <https://www.fao.org/food-safety/news/news-details/en/c/1640637/>

STDF work related to the environment, including biodiversity and climate change and how to insert in a more systematic manner in STDF-funded projects. Artificial intelligence and SPS capacity draw keen interest of STDF members as a new thematic area, in particular how machine learning tools could be used for SPS risk profiling and risk management purposes. Deepening knowledge in this area could represent support opportunities for developing countries under certain criteria and conditions.

9. FAO/WHO Global Individual Food consumption data Tool (FAO/WHO GIFT)

9.1 FAO/WHO GIFT is an innovative online platform which shares individual level, quantitative dietary survey data in easy-to-understand age and sex-disaggregated infographics. These infographics, focused on food consumption, nutrition, and dietary diversity, are tailored for non-expert users. An infographic on food safety displays acute food consumption: the percentage of consumers and portion size in gram and in gram per kilogram of body weight among consumers. The platform is a growing data repository; in 2018, FAO/WHO GIFT received a grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation to transform the platform into a robust global tool that currently contains 44 datasets in August 2023, The studies from the FAO/WHO GIFT platform which have at least two days of consumption by subject are automatically compiled into the FAO/WHO Chronic Individual Food Consumption summary statistics (CIFOCoss) which are currently used by JECFA and JMPR for risk assessment in combination with the content of potentially harmful chemical substances in foods. The GIFT platform also disseminates full microdata for more advanced users who wish to analyse the data themselves. The platform is accessible online at <http://www.fao.org/gift-individual-food-consumption/en/> and the CIFOCoss data at <https://apps.who.int/foscollab/Download/DownloadConso>.

9.2 Individual level quantitative dietary survey data are essential in the area of food safety and one of the key end-users of dietary data shared through the FAO/WHO GIFT platform are food safety specialists, who need this type of data to perform refined dietary exposure assessments. In particular, harmonized quantitative dietary data are needed to improve the consistency and reliability of dietary exposure assessments, a critical step in establishing suitably protective limits for microbiological or chemical agents in food. A session on dietary surveys was also delivered for the Training Course on Total Diet Studies organised by the German Federal Institute for Risk Assessment (BfR) which took place in October 2022. The objective of these presentations and training activities is to present the possible use of quantitative dietary data using the FAO/WHO GIFT for food safety analysis; describe the risk assessment process and how quantitative dietary data supports dietary exposure assessment to chemical hazards; discuss the potential of quantitative dietary data and identify opportunities for countries and regions for food safety-based lessons learned using such data. The role of quantitative dietary data for food safety was highlighted in the publication *Safe food for everyone*¹⁴ - FAO's work on food safety: science, standards, and good practices.

10. Nutrition related capacity development activities at global level

10.1 The Vision and Strategy for FAO's work in nutrition includes five action areas, one of which is building capacity to achieve healthy diets. A priority for FAO is to strengthen the capacity of actors across agrifood systems who can help achieve FAO's vision for nutrition of a world where all people are eating healthy diets and the realization of FAO's ambition for Better Nutrition as reflected in FAO's Strategic Framework 2022-2031.

10.2 FAO provides training and tools to governments, consumers, farmers, the food industry, institutions, and international organizations to improve to build fit-for-purpose agrifood systems that enable healthy for all.

10.3 In 2022, FAO country offices reported FAO provided policy and technical assistance for capacity strengthening to 106 governments to work on enabling healthy diets including support in developing, revising, or implementing national food-based dietary guidelines¹⁵ and implementing school food and nutrition programmes.¹⁶

10.4 FAO also continued to support the provision of global public goods in support of capacity strengthening such as designing a mentoring and coaching programme to support SMEs to integrate nutrition into their business plans and enhance capacities to across a variety of skills needed enable their contribution to nutritious food access. Training included food safety and quality management; the impact of processing technology on nutrition; marketing and branding; nutrition labelling; reducing food loss and waste; and business planning. This was accompanied by the launch of a publicly available e-learning series targeting SME trainers, representatives and policy makers working on SME development, sustainable food systems and nutrition.

10.5 Building on its expertise in developing normative guidance in a range of technical areas around school food and nutrition, in June 2022, following close consultation with sister UN agencies and other technical experts, FAO, in partnership with WFP and supported by the German Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture launched the school food global hub (Accessible at: <https://www.fao.org/platforms/school-food/en>). The school

¹⁴ <https://www.fao.org/3/cc4347en/online/cc4347en.html>

¹⁵ <https://www.fao.org/nutrition/education/food-based-dietary-guidelines>

¹⁶ <https://www.fao.org/in-action/fsn-caucasus-asia/areas-of-work/school-food-and-nutrition/fr/>

food global hub provides experts and professionals with technical resources and guidance from various UN agencies to support the design and implementation of school food and nutrition policies and interventions. Most importantly, the hub hosts country profiles with process-based information on the development and implementation of nutrition standards for school meals and on how they integrate food and nutrition contents into their school systems.

10.6 FAO has also utilized modern technologies and greater comfort with on-line learning to advance capacity strengthening tools for concepts in nutrition and food systems. In collaboration with Agreenium (the French training and research alliance for agriculture, food, environment and global health) FAO developed a Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) entitled *Nutrition and Food Systems: Pathways to sustainable and healthy diets*. The MOOC was offered twice, in both English and French, with 2 630 registrants on the first round and 4 651 on the second. FAO is supporting continued use of the MOOC for self-paced instruction at the FAO e-learning Academy and through various Universities of Sub-Saharan Africa to adapt and utilize materials in their specific contexts.

10.7 More information on capacity development can be found on the FAO Food and Nutrition Division website <http://www.fao.org/nutrition/capacity-development/en/>.

11. Strengthening regulatory and fiscal capacities to address unhealthy diets and physical inactivity

11.1 Since 2019 WHO has been providing support to build national capacity for the development and implementation of regulatory and fiscal measures to address the NCD risk factors of unhealthy diets and physical inactivity, as part of the Global RECAP Project, jointly implemented in collaboration with the International Development Law Organization (IDLO) and the International Development Research Centre (IDRC), with support from the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) and OPEC Fund for International Development (OFID). Global RECAP has focused on participating countries in the African and South East Asian regions (Bangladesh, Kenya, Sri Lanka, Tanzania and Uganda), and focused on five policy domains: fiscal policies to promote healthy diets, including SSB tax; restrictions on marketing of unhealthy foods; strengthening nutrition labelling including alignment with relevant Codex standards and guidelines and implementing front-of-pack labelling (FOPL); product reformulation and promotion of physical activity.

11.2 The project has three pillars, with WHO leading capacity-building activities, IDLO leading a social mobilisation and academic collaboration component and IDRC running a parallel program of research to support policy reforms. In each participating country WHO has undertaken an assessment of relevant policy and regulatory frameworks, identified, interviewed and delivered capacity-building training to a network of key stakeholders across government, regulators, civil society and academia in multi-country and national workshops, developed a pool of experts to assist in capacity building and policy reform, developed technical products (including contribution to systematic reviews in the nutrition policy domains) and delivered substantial technical support to assist policy progress. Technical support has included development and update of supportive policies, development of nutrient profile models to underpin measures to implement FOPL and marketing restrictions, input to legislative reviews, and support for policy processes and drafting of new and amended regulations, standards and legislation. The work in each country was undertaken through the Ministry of Health as the lead government agency, working in close collaboration with Bureau of Standards and other concerned ministries and agencies, as well as other key country stakeholders including civil society organisations and academics working in nutrition, physical activity and NCD prevention.

11.3 A second phase of the project started in July 2022 following the successful completion of the phase I and will continue at present until June 2025 with the same implementing partners and ongoing support from SDC. Negotiations with a second donor are underway, which would allow expansion of the project to five additional focus countries in the same regions for a further 3 years. WHO provides the same or similar capacity-building and technical support to countries outside the project and across all WHO regions, including by using and building on tools and materials developed under Global RECAP.

12. Regulatory capacity building work for eliminating industrially produced *trans*-fatty acids and reducing sodium intake

12.1 Over the past year WHO has been undertaking a series of capacity-building workshops to strengthen countries' regulatory capacities for implementing and enforcing policy measures related to trans-fat elimination and sodium reduction. These included a capacity-building workshop held in August 2023 for countries in the Americas region. A webinar and a workshop are scheduled later this year for countries in the African region as well.

12.2 Assessing and monitoring TFA content in the food supply is one of the key action areas for countries in order to eliminate TFA and has been identified as a challenge in several countries working towards TFA elimination. WHO has been providing technical advice to support countries' efforts in strengthening their laboratory capacities. Later this year, WHO is organizing laboratory capacity-building workshops in China and the Philippines.

13. Estimated public health burden of foodborne diseases

13.1 As part of the resolution under the Strengthening efforts on food safety (WHA73.5),¹⁷ WHO will update the global burden of foodborne diseases estimates, and report incidence, mortality and burden in terms of disability-adjusted life years (DALYs) at national, regional and international level.

13.2 Following WHO's policy for data publication and prior to the official release of the final estimates planned in 2025, WHO will consult with its Member States to provide opportunity for review and input on (i) national primary data sources where available, and (ii) individual country estimates derived from the statistical model applied to the national primary data from all countries. The work is underway to establish a country-specific space under the WHO's Country Portal¹⁸ dedicated to this technical area of work where designated focal points from each Member States will have access to relevant technical materials and information about the process, including documents on methodology, decision-making processes, and country-specific data. In June 2023, WHO requested Member States to designate focal points for sharing relevant information and consolidating feedback.

14. New Codex E-Learning Courses

14.1 A series of eLearning courses¹⁹ has been developed to improve the understanding of Codex Alimentarius and develop sustainable national capacities to engage in and benefit from Codex work. The course series consists of four courses comprising two to five lessons each. The first course introduces Codex, explains what it is and why it is important. It will be useful to anyone who wishes to gain a general understanding of Codex. The second course aims to provide a clear understanding of how to engage in Codex. The lessons guide the learner in making a national Codex programme function efficiently and explain how to engage effectively in Codex at international level. It will be particularly relevant to national Codex officials. Course 3 provides insight into the scientific basis and the application of risk analysis in Codex, and explains the provision of scientific advice by FAO and WHO to Codex work. The fourth course gives an overview of the FAO/WHO coordinating committees, explains their importance, the role of regional coordinators, and how to engage in Codex work at regional level. Upon successful completion of a test at the end of each course, the learner receives a digital badge certificate from the FAO eLearning academy.

15. FAO's work on bivalve mollusc sanitation

15.1 FAO in collaboration with its Reference Centre for Bivalve Mollusc Sanitation, the Centre for Environment, Fisheries, and Aquaculture Science (Cefas), delivered a number of capacity building activities for the provision of guidance on relevant laboratory protocols, accreditation and use of methods for bivalve mollusc testing. Further information about this collaboration can be found in the following link: <https://www.cefas.co.uk/icoe/seafood-safety/designations/fao-reference-centre/>.

15.2 The second edition of the Technical guidance for the development of the growing area aspects of Bivalve Mollusc Sanitation Programmes²⁰ served as the basis for developing an e-learning course on bivalve sanitation, focusing on policymakers, development practitioners and programme managers, sectoral specialists and researchers, bivalve farmers, trainers, and extension agents. The course is being translated into French and Spanish, and the French version's first module is already available.²¹ The last two modules are under development.

15.3 These materials are also used as guidance materials for the implementation of a Project focused on the establishment of a bivalve sanitation programme in Senegal titled "Renforcement de la filière coquillage au Sénégal à travers la mise aux normes Sanitaires et Phytosanitaires (SPS) afin de promouvoir la sécurité sanitaire des coquillages et leur accès aux marchés régional et international".

16. FAO's work on ciguatera poisoning

16.1 FAO is working on ciguatera management through a TCP project titled Seafood risk management and awareness raising on practices to minimize risk of ciguatera poisoning in Fiji, Samoa and Tonga. This regional project aims at strengthening national capacities to identify and address the risk of ciguatera poisoning by i) providing capacities to Government staff on ciguatera poisoning surveillance and monitoring, ii) building or improving platforms and public awareness on ciguatera poisoning.

17. Codex Trust Fund projects

¹⁷ https://apps.who.int/gb/ebwha/pdf_files/WHA73/A73_R5-en.pdf

¹⁸ <https://data.who.int/about/data/whdh/country-portal>

¹⁹ <https://elearning.fao.org/course/view.php?name=codex-series>

²⁰ <https://www.fao.org/documents/card/en/c/cb5072en/>

²¹ <https://elearning.fao.org/course/view.php?lang=en&id=481>

17.1 The Codex Trust Fund (CTF2) is a joint FAO/WHO programme providing support to developing and transition economy countries to build strong and sustainable capacity to engage in Codex work. Since 2016, the CTF2 calls for individual and group applications from low- and middle- income countries. To date, the CTF2 has funded 42 projects in 50 countries. Nine additional projects are awaiting implementation.

17.2 2023 is the eighth year of operation of the second phase of the Codex Trust Fund (CTF2). In 2023 the CTF2 has seen countries continue catching up on their project work plans, following the disruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 and 2021.

17.3 In October 2022, the CTF2 carried out a successful pilot capacity building workshop on good Codex practices that was organized jointly with the Ministry of Food and Drug Safety (MFDS) of the Republic of Korea. Participants from five CTF2 beneficiary countries benefitted from the training. Building on the experience from the pilot, the CTF2 will continue offering training through this workshop format.

17.4 The CTF2 mid-term evaluation concluded in 2023. The evaluation confirmed the continued relevance of the CTF2 and produced recommendations to further enhance the effectiveness of the trust fund, which are under consideration for implementation.

17.5 The 2022 call for application for Round 7 of CTF support resulted in 10 applications. Out of these applications, proposals submitted by Botswana, Cook Islands, Kiribati, Lesotho, Solomon Islands, Tajikistan and Vanuatu have received approval for funding support. In addition, conditionally approved projects from earlier application rounds in Comoros, Fiji, Niger, the Syrian Arab Republic and Uzbekistan have been approved for funding as well.

17.6 Further details can be found in CX/CAC 23/46 INF 3

18. Developing capacity in Latin American on food safety risk assessment of residues of veterinary drugs in food

18.1 This project (funded by France) developed capacity among officials in some countries of the Latin America and the Caribbean region on food safety risk assessment of residues of veterinary drugs in food. A series of fifteen training webinars was conducted over an 18-month period (January 2021 – June 2022). The webinars covered an extensive technical programme divided in various modules, each dedicated to critical concepts in veterinary drug residue risk assessment. The project concluded with a final workshop held from 15-17 November 2022 in Santiago, Chile, which was attended by 17 participants from seven countries from the Latin American and Caribbean region. Participants carried out interactive exercises to understand how residues of veterinary drugs are assessed by JECFA and how these assessments contribute to setting of maximum residue levels (MRLs) for Codex standards. By the end of the training, they had gained an understanding of how to select the compounds that are important for their production systems and have a reasonable chance to go through evaluation by JECFA. This will enhance their ability to contribute to relevant standards development in Codex.

19. FAO support to COMESA Trade Facilitation programme

19.1 Since 2019, FAO has supported the ongoing COMESA Trade Facilitation Programme (funded by the European Union) by providing technical assistance to its SPS component. More specifically FAO has engaged with champion countries of the COMESA regional Economic Community in the following areas:

19.2 Support to risk-based food safety decision making (regulatory and non-regulatory measures), with a view to facilitate regional harmonization of food control measures. This is implemented through a regional trade flow analysis, identification of priority hazard/commodity pairs, regional training courses on chemical and microbiological risk assessment, as a basis for food safety regulation making, and preparation of policy note on regional harmonization. Champion countries for this are Kenya, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe, although other countries (such as Eswatini, Malawi, Mauritius Rwanda Seychelles) also benefitted from the regional trainings. Champion countries were assisted in identification of associated regulatory and non-regulatory food controls with regard to their priority hazard/commodity pairs in order to facilitate a regional consultation and the subsequent development of a framework for harmonization.

19.3 Support to the development of risk based imported food controls (with Comoros, Djibouti, Egypt, Madagascar, Sudan and Tunisia as champion countries): , Step one of this project entailed the elaboration of national country situation analysis, delivery of regional training courses on risk based imported food control, preparation of Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for import inspection and Good Importing Practices (GIPs) tailored to each country specific situation, and a draft regional document on information exchange among countries as a support to trade flows within COMESA member countries (based on CXG 89-2016, *Principles and guidelines for the exchange of information between importing and exporting countries to support the trade in food*, and CXG 25-1997, *Guidelines for the Exchange of Information between Countries on Rejections of Imported Foods*). The second step of this project builds on these activities to strengthen their

sustainability and focuses on the introduction of risk-based inspection planning and practices (risk profiles for imported food, importers and exporting countries; use of risk categorization for imported food inspection; Identification and use risk-based management options for food imports: including pre-border, border and post-border operations).

19.4 Strengthen national Plant Protection Organizations and creation of a networking platform for sharing information on risks to plant health (under the technical guidance of the International Plant Protection Convention). The project will close in May 2024.

20. FAO and WHO publications and tools published since CAC45

FAO. 2023. The impact of pesticide residues on the gut microbiome and human health – A food safety perspective. Rome. <https://www.fao.org/documents/card/en/c/cc5306en>

FAO. 2023. The impact of veterinary drug residues on the gut microbiome and human health – A food safety perspective. Rome. <https://www.fao.org/documents/card/en/c/cc5301en>

FAO. 2023. The impact of microplastics on the gut microbiome and health – A food safety perspective. Rome. <https://www.fao.org/documents/card/en/c/cc5294en>

FAO. 2023. Good Hygiene Practices (GHP) and HACCP Toolbox for Food Safety. <https://www.fao.org/good-hygiene-practices-haccp-toolbox/en>

FAO. 2023. Foodborne antimicrobial resistance (AMR): an economic concern. Rome. <https://www.fao.org/documents/card/en/c/cc6014en>

FAO. 2023. ACT now. Action to support implementation of Codex AMR Texts (ACT) ACT now. Rome. <https://www.fao.org/documents/card/en/c/cc6242en>

FAO. 2023. Safe food for everyone - FAO's work on food safety: science, standards and good practices, Rome. <https://www.fao.org/documents/card/en/c/cc4347en>

FAO. 2023. Celebrating World Food Safety Day in Europe and Central Asia. Rome. <https://www.fao.org/3/cc6266en/cc6266en.pdf>

FAO. 2023. A guide to World Food Safety Day 2023. Rome. <https://www.fao.org/documents/card/en/c/cc3926en>

FAO. 2023. World Food Safety Day 2022 in pictures and numbers. Rome. <https://www.fao.org/publications/card/en/CC0798EN>

WHO. 2022. WHO global strategy for food safety 2022–2030: towards stronger food safety systems and global cooperation: executive summary. Geneva. <https://apps.who.int/iris/handle/10665/364638>

WHO. 2022. Strategic framework for collaboration on antimicrobial resistance. Together for One Health. Geneva. <https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789240045408>

Quadrupartite FAO, UNEP, WHO, WOA. 2023. One Health Priority Research Agenda for AMR. <https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789240075924>

21. Regional and national activities

Africa

21.1 In Africa, FAO implemented a number of project and activities in the following domains:

21.2 **Assessing and strengthening national food control systems:** Technical cooperation projects (TCPs) on strengthening national food control system were implemented in Ghana, Liberia, Malawi, and Sierra Leone. These included series of trainings on Good Manufacturing Practices (GMPs), Good Hygienic Practices (GHPs) HACCP, and risk analysis. Through an European Commission funded project (Strengthening food control and phytosanitary governance), FAO provided facilitated assessments, using the FAO/WHO food control systems assessment tool, with a view to costed action plan for improved food control which will fit in the global action carried out by the African Union Commission under its programme SPS for Africa.

21.3 **Legal and policy work for food safety:** The FAO work on legal and food safety policy included the development of a national food safety in Malawi. In Ghana, support was provided to the competent authority to implement the new Meat Inspection Regulations (LI2405).

21.4 **Support to risk-based inspection activities:** Making use of the guidelines such the “Principles for risk-based meat inspection”, the “Risk categorization of food businesses as the basis for improved inspection planning”, and the “Risk based fish inspection”, FAO continued to promote risk-based decision-making. Capacity development training have been delivered on the principles of risk-based meat inspection in Ghana and Liberia. Activities have been undertaken in Ghana on the use of remote food inspection in support of official food controls. Through the Standards and Trade Development Facility (STDF) a national laboratory in Mali has been supported to assess laboratory equipment and develop official methods for the analysis of aromatic polycyclic hydrocarbons (APH) and pesticide in smoked fish. WHO WPRO developed a manual “Risk-Based Food Inspection System: Practical Guidance for National Authorities” to guide member states in implementing a risk-based approach and decision-making, soon to be published.

21.5 Integration and use of the risk analysis paradigm into food control activities: Series of capacity development training have been development at the regional (under project Support from FAO to the CoMESA Trade facilitated programme, funded by the European Commission) and national level (Ghana, Liberia, Malawi, Mali) on risk analysis, microbial and chemical risk assessment, and the implementation of the food safety risk management framework. Training on food safety risk profiling and multi-factorial decision-making has been delivered in Niger (TCP/NER/3805).

21.6 Support to Codex Alimentarius national processes: Nigeria, Cape Verde, Gambia, Mali, Burundi, Kenya, South-Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda, Comoros, Eritrea, and Guinea Bissau are supported by FAO to build their capacity to participate in the activities of Codex Alimentarius through the Codex Trust Fund (CTF). The support included understanding of the Codex Alimentarius structure and functioning as well as the risk analysis principles as the foundation of the process of standard development, and awareness creation and sensitization. Trainings have been delivered for REC (COMESA, EAC, ECOWAS, and SADC) on electronic working group (EWG) and online commenting system (OCS). FAO, and collaboration with WHO and WFP have jointly organized virtual conference to celebrate the 2021 and 2022 World Food Safety Day with a call on the public to contribute to making foods safer for better health.

21.7 WHO continues to support in the African region four countries (Burkina Faso, Ghana, Nigeria, Senegal) implement integrated Extended Spectrum Beta-Lactamase *E. coli* surveillance concurrently in the food chain, humans and the environment with ongoing efforts to initiate in two additional countries (Cote d'Ivoire and Togo). Capacity of national codex structures and effective participation in the work of the Codex Alimentarius Commission continue to be enhanced through the Codex Trust Fund in eight countries (Benin, Burkina Faso, Cote d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, Guinea, Malawi, Mauritius and Zambia) resulting in among others the elaboration of procedural manuals to guide effective management of codex at national level, elaboration of codex aligned national food standards and promotion of increased uptake of codex standards. An evaluation of the CTF project in Senegal organized in 2023 noted remarkable progress in strengthening capacity for Codex work and identified further priority actions for future work. A costed- action plan is being finalized. Capacity to establish and/or strengthen multisectoral collaboration mechanisms for food safety events in countries were enhanced through the INFOSAN platform with implementation of national roadmaps in Benin, Cameroon, Cote d'Ivoire, Guinea, Sierra Leone and Senegal with trainings held for Liberia, Mali and Namibia. In the efforts to strengthen national food control systems, Cape Verde is being supported to undertake assessment of their national food control system and focal persons in Member States trained on the use of the FAO/WHO Food Control Assessment tool. Cameroon is being supported to introduce the healthy food market initiative in two pilot markets in Douala A continental webinar was held by the African Union Commission) and the WHO in collaboration with the FAO, WFP and CCAFRICA on the heels of the African Union Year of Nutrition, 2022 which served as a forum to bridge the information gap on the inextricable links between food safety and nutrition to achieve optimal health and well-being in the continent.

Asia-Pacific

21.8 In the Asia-Pacific region, FAO continues to provide technical assistance to countries to strengthen multiple building blocks of food control systems. Capacity strengthening of competent authorities in Bangladesh, Cambodia and Mongolia included renewal of legislation, rules and policies for SPS measures, harmonization of national standards with Codex and street food safety. In Sri Lanka, FAO and UNIDO are jointly reinforcing controls from farm to fork in partnership with the Government, private sector and consumer organizations and funding from the European Union. A roadmap for reform of the food safety system is being drawn up. Fresh market improvement, a crucial activity in the aftermath of the pandemic, was initiated in Bangladesh, Lao PDR and Nepal. Projects that incorporate codes of practice and standards in the spice value chain in India (funded by the STDF) and in livestock value chains in Mongolia to increase farmer incomes are ongoing. Another STDF project on strengthening microbiological analysis capacity in the national public health laboratory of the Solomon Islands concluded successfully after uniquely delivering a large part of its activities virtually due to long running pandemic restrictions.

21.9 The FAO regional office developed a series of multilingual e-learning courses on Codex accessible free of charge online and in downloadable format, in collaboration with the Secretariat in Rome and funding from the Japan-supported Codex project for ASEAN countries. These courses cover the fundamentals of Codex, its committees, scientific bodies, role and set-up at country level, the role of science and risk analysis, the Joint FAO/WHO Scientific Advice Programme and RCCs. The project itself continued to build scientific and technical capacity in ASEAN countries, in particular on national pesticide residue monitoring programmes. Food safety indicators were shortlisted in Bangladesh with a plan to narrow down to a small set in two years. World Food Safety Day 2022 was observed through a One Health Quadripartite webinar (including WFP) on the theme of multi-sectoral actions and linking the outcomes of the UN Food Systems Summit to the importance of improving hygiene and sanitation in traditional food markets in the region for supply of safe, fresh, affordable and healthy food; and understanding better the roles and responsibilities of various stakeholders in promoting safe food.

21.10 In collaboration with the Ministry of Food and Drug Safety of the Republic of Korea, in 2022 the Codex Trust Fund organized a pilot training workshop on good Codex practices which was attended by 15 participants from Bhutan, Maldives, Mauritius, Nepal and The Gambia.

21.11 In the WHO South-East Asia Region, Bhutan, India and Nepal continues to implement group CTF activities and Maldives and Timor-Leste started implementation of CTF project. Codex mock-drill exercise was organized for meaningful engagement of food safety officials in Nepal under a Codex Trust Funds (CTF) project and Bhutan food safety officials participated virtually due to 21-days quarantine rule. It was a good practice and hands-on training on participation in Codex meetings has been organized in Timor-Leste and experts from WHO South-East Asia region are facilitating Codex mock-drill exercise in Mauritius. Similarly high-level Codex advocacy workshops were supported in Bhutan and Nepal. A hybrid meeting of CTF project coordinators from Bhutan, India and Nepal was organized in Kathmandu to facilitate discussion on draft Codex standards on spices. FAO and WHO supported inception workshop in 2022. Food safety risk analysis is one of the areas for capacity building raised during Codex meetings by Member States and chemical contamination of food is an emerging challenge and barrier to international trade. WHO worked with Better Training for Safer Food (BTSF) team and EU delegation in India to ensure participation of countries like Bhutan, Maldives in risk assessment training held at International Training Center under Food Safety and Standard Authority of India in 2022. An assessment of National Food Control System was carried out in Timor-Leste in 2022. A terminal review meeting of CTF group project was organized in Thimphu in 2023 which also identified Codex activities to be carried out in future. A documentary film is under preparation to document as a good practice of submitting group application and implementation of group and individual country activities under CTF. WHO SEARO and WPRO are working together to develop guidance documents for mitigation of public health risks emerging in traditional food markets in the Asia-Pacific region and an advocacy meeting of food safety officials have been organized in 2022 and it will be organized in 2023. Similarly both regional offices have initiated new work on systematic analysis of chemical contaminants in food in collaboration with WHO Collaborating Centers on food safety risk assessment in Beijing, Hongkong and Singapore which will be continued in 2024-25. FAO and WHO organized a webinar on World Food Safety Day on 1 June 2023.

21.12 In the Western Pacific region, WHO and FAO provided support to build robust applications to the Codex Trust Fund round 7 to: Papua New Guinea, Kiribati, Vanuatu, Solomon Islands, Cook Islands and Mongolia. Two Codex coordinating committees were supported in the region.

21.13 **Codex Coordinating Committee for Asia (CCASIA):** the 22nd session of FAO/WHO Coordinating Committee for Asia (CCASIA22) took place virtually from 12, 13, 14, 17 and 18 October 2022. Seven Member States from the Western Pacific attended the meeting (China, Japan, Malaysia, the Philippines, Republic of Korea, Singapore and Viet Nam). The meeting discussed the emerging issues on food safety in the region caused by the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic in the food chain. Three regional draft standards were discussed: soybean products fermented with *Bacillus* species, quick frozen dumpling and cooked rice wrapped in plant leaves. A new proposal was discussed on the development of a regional standard for traditional sweets.

21.14 **Codex Coordinating Committee for North America and South West Pacific (CCNASWP):** The 16th Session of FAO/WHO Codex Alimentarius Coordinating Committee for North America And The South West Pacific (CCNASWP16) took place in Denarau/Nadi, Fiji, in January 2023. It was the first meeting of CCNASWP since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic and the first Codex Alimentarius meeting of the year marking the 60th Codex Alimentarius Anniversary. A total of 12 out of 14 CCNASWP Member States were able to attend the meeting in-person while two connected virtually. Lessons from the COVID-19 pandemic for improving food safety were thematic of the keynote address. The meeting discussed the regional draft standard for Fermented Noni juice. A new work proposal on breadfruit flour, Galip nut, and fish and fishery products were introduced as possible topics for regional standards development. Member states (Fiji, Kiribati, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands and Tonga) emphasized the need for capacity building in food safety and technical support, including analytical support to food analysis laboratories. A side event was jointly organized by WHO and FAO in order to review the global and regional food safety frameworks and strategies and provided a room for Member States to state their food safety priorities in the Pacific region. This was built as a follow up on the Virtual Round table meeting held in 2021. Strengthening the work of Codex in the Pacific region is essential to harmonize food safety legal frameworks taking into consideration scientific-based evidence for decision making and its alignment with the Regional Framework for Action on Food Safety.

Europe and Central Asia

21.15 In Europe and Central Asia region, the FAO and WHO Regional offices worked on enhancing technical capacities of national food control authorities and food businesses on risk-based approaches with national and regional activities:

21.16 A regional FAO project is supporting Azerbaijan, Republic of Moldova, Türkiye, Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan to strengthen official food controls and risk communication including effective food safety emergency response systems. The project supports strengthening the risk-based inspection capacities. Technical capacities on being prepared for food safety emergencies were enhanced in Azerbaijan, Republic of Moldova and Türkiye. Countries are establishing their multiagency coordination groups responsible for crisis management, including a food safety emergency response plan that clearly articulates the steps to be taken in times of a crisis. At regular times or emergencies, food safety risk communication is integral to the entire risk analysis process. A regional workshop for food safety authorities of the beneficiary countries in Istanbul in March, 2023 (within the regional Turkish funded FTTP project), included technical sessions on food safety risk communication. Previous contribution and support to Azerbaijan on the draft food law, bore good results when the draft food law was adopted and passed in Parliament in mid-2022.

21.17 In Georgia, as part of the ENPARD IV programme, support to the food safety and SPS sector is ongoing, including improvement of operational and technical capacities among relevant agencies and ministries for the implementation of food safety and SPS reforms, support to producers and SMEs through matching grant support packages combining food safety training and equipment purchase to improve food safety compliance capabilities, and support to facilitate the export of Georgian agricultural products. Through a separate project, female cheesemakers in Georgia have been supported to improve cheese production, hygiene and food safety practices in a broader framework of economic empowerment, and a second phase is being formulated with the Swiss donor.

21.18 FAO facilitates the implementation of the FAO/WHO Food Control System Assessment Tool in Azerbaijan, Belarus and Georgia. WHO supported Tajikistan to assess the capacity of its national food control system.

21.19 FAO continues to support Kyrgyzstan to build capacities of fruit and vegetable producers and build capability of the inspection officers on food safety management systems in the fruit and vegetable sector. A group of Master trainers were trained on good agriculture practices and food safety management systems. Training was conducted for producers and processing companies in the regions of Kyrgyzstan. Complementary knowledge and skills of the main food safety competent authorities focused on risk-based inspection, and inspection capacities is also addressed through the project.

21.20 FAO continues to support implementation of CTF funded projects in Azerbaijan and North Macedonia to strengthen the countries' participation in Codex Alimentarius. Both projects build in twinning and mentoring activities, a range of programmatic national level improvements, and consolidation through participation in priority Codex sessions. A regional event "Advancing Food Standards and Codex participation in Europe and Central Asia" will be held in Baku, Azerbaijan, 14-15 September 2023 to facilitate experience sharing among countries benefitting from CTF-funded projects, and discussion on One Health.

21.21 Within the framework of One Health in the region, FAO produced a report was published (Regional Legal Report on results of analysis of legislation relevant to antimicrobial use (AMU) and antimicrobial resistance (AMR) in the food and agriculture sector in Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Tajikistan) (<https://www.fao.org/documents/card/en/c/CC5249EN>). It summarizes the results from the analysis of legislation relevant to antimicrobial use (AMU) and antimicrobial resistance (AMR) in the food and agriculture sector in Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Tajikistan, including relevant food safety law and regulations. Implementation of the new Codex AMR Tool in Kyrgyzstan was initiated.

21.22 FAO and WHO regional offices are currently working on a technical brief for policy makers on how the One Health approach links to food safety issues and management.

21.23 WHO continues to support implementation of CTF funded projects in Kazakhstan and Turkmenistan to strengthen the countries' participation in Codex Alimentarius.

21.24 WHO also support Uzbekistan and Tajikistan to submit a successful application to the Codex Trust Fund. Implementation of the project in Uzbekistan started in August 2023 and the project in Tajikistan is scheduled to start in early 2024.

21.25 In celebration of world Food Safety Day 2023, FAO and WHO jointly organized a webinar on One Health and Food safety. The webinar took place on 28 June 2023.

21.26 To support rapid exchange of information during food safety emergencies in Central Asia, WHO and FAO organized a sub-regional workshop for countries in Central Asia. The workshop focused on strengthening countries' participation in INFOSAN and facilitating exchange of food safety information across borders.

21.27 In support of operationalizing the One Health approach, WHO organized a sub-regional workshop on One Health to address foodborne and zoonotic diseases in the Western Balkans. The workshop identified enabling and constraining factors for operationalizing One Health and countries/area identified priority actions to facilitate implementation of the One Health approach.

Latin America and Caribbean

21.28 In Latin America, a number of activities were implemented by FAO over 2022:

21.29 During May and June 2022, FAO organized two virtual events with the authorities and national delegations in charge of regulating and supervising animal feed policies in seven South American countries partners of the project (Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Chile, Peru, Uruguay and Paraguay), to socialize and consolidate a joint work agenda for the years 2022 and 2023.

21.30 In order to move forward with effective actions, the First FAO AMR Roundtable was held in Mexico City in July 2022, within the framework of the regional event organized by FEEDLATINA entitled "Latin American Workshop on Animal Nutrition Regulatory Issues", a space of joint and collaborative work that brings together the public-private sector linked to the governance of animal feed policies in the region. The adhesion and commitment of the private sector is a determining factor for the success of AMR policies defined for the animal feed sector.

21.31 FAO held a virtual conference in September 2022, as part of the activities of the tripartite project "Working together to combat antimicrobial resistance", where experts from different disciplines and from various parts of the world shared their experiences and lessons learned in risk communication, awareness and behavior change in relation to AMR, with technical professionals and communicators from the public, private and academic sectors in Latin America and the Caribbean. The Webinar "Sharing knowledge and experiences on AMR awareness and risk communication" brought together more than 150 participants from 21 countries. It highlighted the importance of advancing national policies that make these global commitments effective.

21.32 FAO, under the funded Tripartite collaboration project organized a technical roundtable for the review of national policies related to AMR in the manufacture of medicated feed in Santiago, Chile from November 14 to 17, 2022. The event was attended by official animal feed delegates from six South American countries. Strengths and gaps in public and private medicated feed policies were identified by using a standardized reference point pattern designed by FAO. The work on medicated feed addresses a relevant gap in the epidemiological route for AMR, focusing on feed policies and the feed control system.

21.33 A regional workshop, "Antimicrobial Resistance Policies and Challenges for the Animal Feed Sector", organized by FAO in Buenos Aires, Argentina September 5-7, 2023, with the objective of visualizing AMR risk management from the animal feed sector, promoting its coding in the governance structures that lead the country's response, through open and interdisciplinary dialogue processes based on the governance contexts of seven South American countries.

21.34 The Law development Service of FAO in collaboration with the regional office of FAO in Latin America and the Caribbean, the Quadripartite Organizations (UNEP, WHO and WOA) in Latin America, and their legal teams in Geneva and Paris, conducted a regional workshop to present the "One Health Legislative Assessment Tool for Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR)", on November 22, 2022. The virtual activity took place as part of WAAW 2022 with the participation of over 116 experts from the LAC region.

21.35 In the framework of the AMR MPTF Peru, laboratory technicians from the National Agricultural Health Service (SENASA) of the Ministry of Agrarian Development and Irrigation, the National Fisheries Health Agency (SANIPES) of the Ministry of Production and the General Directorate of Environmental Health and Food Safety (DIGESA) of the Ministry of Health, participated in an internship at the AMR Reference Center for FAO, the UISDC-SENASICA in Mexico to strengthen AMR laboratory capacities (November 28 – December 2, 2022).

21.36 On December 7, 2022, under the ACT project, FAO organized the third session of the *Webinar Series for capacity building on Codex topics of interest for the Latin American and Caribbean region*. The Codex Secretariat addressed the meaning, use and development of Codex standards, guidelines and Codes of Practice. This is an ongoing activity for 2023 and brings together the intersection of food safety and AMR issues under the One Health umbrella. For the World Food Safety Day (WFSD) 2022, FAO collaborated with CCLAC and regional organizations (PAHO, OIRSA, IICA) for the organization of a Regional WSFD event. WFSD 2022 was led by OIRSA. WFSD 2023 will be led by IICA, with the support of FAO and others.

21.37 FAO supported Codex Cuba under the CTF2 project strengthening the work of the National Cuban Codex Committee.

21.38 The FAO Law Development service, supported by the regional office for Latin America and the Caribbean will assist Barbados in putting together a unified Food Safety Agency, through legal assistance, and a simulation exercise for a food safety emergency to test the new system for bottlenecks.

21.39 A regional workshop on food safety developing capacity in Latin American countries on food safety risk assessment of residues of veterinary drugs in food (GCP /RLA/228/FRA-F) took place in November 2022,

with the participation of seven countries in Santiago, Chile. This face-to-face workshop was the closing event for a 10-session training that was held over the 2020-2021 period.

21.40 In 2023 to date:

- Under the AMR MPTF project in Peru, FAO organized an International Forum on Surveillance of Antimicrobial Resistance under the One Health approach, 18-19 July, as part of the plan to strengthen capacities in microbiological diagnosis, analysis, and interpretation of information on AMR.
- For October 11-12, 2023, FAO is organizing, in collaboration with UNEP, a course on “A Multisectoral approach to tackle the impact of AMR on the Environment, aimed at providing a baseline understanding of the importance of the environment relative to AMR issues and the need for a coordinated approach under One Health to work toward multisectoral, interinstitutional solutions.
- From July to October 2023, FAO is working to include Caribbean countries in the Multistakeholder AMR Partnership Platform. To date several Caribbean countries have shown interest and applied for membership.
- From September to December 2023, the ACT project will support Colombia on the development of a Unit for the collection and analysis of data and communication of information generated from surveillance programs/plans/activities for AMR in the primary production of food of animal origin. This activity aims to strengthen country capacities for the management and epidemiological analysis of AMR/AMR data at the primary production level and reinforce the implementation of national surveillance plans for AMR.

21.41 Bolivia, El Salvador/Guatemala and Guyana are supported by PAHO/WHO to build their capacity to strength their national Codex Alimentarius Programs through the Codex Trust Fund (CTF). Bolivia, El Salvador, Guatemala and Guyana are currently implementing their Codex Alimentarius Strategic Plan improving the participation of national stakeholders in the standard development process and implementation. Countries have made significant efforts to increase awareness about Codex Alimentarius conducting face-to-face trainings on Codex Alimentarius and different standards. During this year, countries conducted GAP analysis, mentorship programs and benchmarking visits to learn from other experiences and make their Codex Contact Point fully operational.

21.42 PAHO/WHO delivered a food safety risk analysis training for El Salvador in January to improve their overall understanding on the use of food safety risk analysis principles within their food control system.

21.43 A regional training on Food Safety Risk Management on setting maximum levels of chemical contaminants in food was conducted in Ecuador in July. The training count on the participation of government officials from Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, Cuba, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Panamá, Paraguay, Perú y Uruguay.

21.44 In celebration of the World Food Safety Day 2023, PAHO/WHO, FAO, OIRSA, IICA, CCLAC and CAFHSA jointly organized two webinars on Food safety and Codex Alimentarius, the 5th and 6th of June.

21.45 PAHO/WHO in consultation with countries in LAC developed a guide on good practices in food traditional markets and a diagnostic tool to assess the capacity of this type of food businesses and categorize them by risk. PAHO/WHO conducted a pilot implementation in four markets in Colombia in June, and two cross border markets in Dominican Republic and Haiti is planned for September. An advocacy meeting on good practices in food traditional markets is scheduled for November.

21.46 The Inter-American Network of Food Analysis Laboratories (INFAL) conducted two technical virtual seminars in testing for *Campylobacter* in food and risk profile of resistant bacteria in foods for the laboratories of the network. Three professional capacity building programs on risk management at analytical laboratories, qualification of liquid chromatography and gas chromatography equipment and ISO 17025/2017 Lead Auditor will be conducted during September and October. The INFAL organized three regional proficiency schemes in the determination of pesticides in pineapple with the participation of 23 laboratories from Brazil, Belize, Colombia, Guatemala, Guyana, Paraguay and Uruguay and in the determination of *E. Coli* and *Salmonella* in meat that is scheduled for October.

21.47 PAHO/WHO signed an agreement with the Guyana Government to provide technical cooperation in One-Health- Food Safety that included the provision of technical orientations to Guyana’s authorities to use the State Party self-assessment Annual Reporting (SPAR) tool for the Food Safety Capacity hands-on trainings on the development of sampling plans of foodborne pathogens along the poultry value chain, testing of resistant foodborne pathogens by phenotypic and genotypic techniques as well as testing for chemical contaminants in food.

21.48 Under the framework of the EU funded project “Working together to combat antimicrobial resistance”, PAHO/WHO in collaboration with SENASICA-Mexico conducted a hands-on training in phenotypic and

genotypic methodologies applied to resistant pathogens of food safety importance, with the participation of government officials from food safety and veterinary services from Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Paraguay, Peru, Bolivia and Uruguay.

21.49 PAHO/WHO in collaboration with the Caribbean Public Health Agency conducted a series of surveys to assess the impact of climate change on food safety and are supporting technically Barbados and Trinidad and Tobago on the development of their national climate resilient food safety plans. Furthermore, a series of webinars were launched to increase awareness on Food Safety and Climate Change in the Caribbean.

21.50 PAHO jointly with FAO and University of Minnesota have been awarded a Standards and Trade Development Facility Project on “Improving capacity of Food Safety Risk Analysis in Latin America” that aims to conduct a baseline and endline surveys to assess in-country risk analysis capacity; develop an e-learning hybrid training program targeting food safety authorities; pilot risk-analysis case studies at the country level based on national priorities and use a south-south cooperation approach to improve food safety risk analysis capacities in a sustainable manner.

Near East

21.51 WHO and FAO supported the review and submission of the conditionally approved application of the Syrian Arab Republic to the Codex Trust Fund 2 Round 6. Which is now being considered for support pending final adaptations to the project.

21.52 Specific activities were delivered in the context of preparations for mass gathering events. In Egypt, a training of trainers was designed for food inspectors at the Ministry of Health and Population and the National Food Safety Authority in Egypt. Followed by a training of food handlers on the General principles of food hygiene. In Qatar, a tabletop exercise of a foodborne disease outbreak was designed and implemented to Rapid Response Teams to strengthen capacities in early detection and identification of food safety events, and timely reporting to national relevant authorities and the International Food Safety Authority Network.

21.53 WHO and FAO jointly delivered a virtual training on “Food safety controls the PoE” to food inspectors in Sudan. Nationally implemented controls within the local context considering the principles, guidelines, and objectives agreed by the international organization combined to implement a coherent set of import controls to best fit the needs of the country.

21.54 In Celebration of the World Food Safety Day 2023, WHO organized a hybrid training on “Improving emergency response to food safety events of international concern” to the Jordanian Ministry of Health and the Jordan Food and Drug Administration to strengthen their participation in INFOSAN and facilitate information exchange during food safety emergencies.

21.55 In collaboration with the US CDC and WHO collaborating centers in the region, WHO EMRO delivered a series of trainings on foodborne disease outbreak investigation to six countries in 2022. The training consisted of a case study following the Codex “Guidelines on the management of biological foodborne outbreaks”.

21.56 EM/RC69 issued a resolution and established a regional Quadripartite to enable countries to develop and implement community-centric and risk-based solutions for the control of emerging zoonotic diseases, endemic zoonoses, vector-borne and neglected tropical diseases, antimicrobial resistance, and food and water safety hazards using a One Health approach involving all relevant stakeholder, followed by the Regional Quadripartite meeting to accelerate the implementation of One Health in the Eastern Mediterranean Region.