



JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME
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AND CERTIFICATION SYSTEMS (CCFICS)

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INFORMATION ON ACTIVITIES OF FAO AND WHO AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS
RELEVANT TO THE WORK OF CCFICS

(Information from FAO and WHO)

The present document is a report on the tools produced by FAO and WHO and made available to Member States and the relevant activities carried out by FAO and WHO since the 25th Session of the Codex Committee on Food Import and Export and Inspection and Certification Systems (CCFICS25).

A. ACTIVITIES OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS (FAO) and WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION (WHO)

FAO/WHO Food Control System Assessment Tool

1. The FAO/WHO food control system assessment tool allows Member Countries to assess, in a structured and transparent way, the performance of their national food control systems (NFCS) throughout the entire food chain, identify priority areas for capacity development, and measure and evaluate progress over time.
2. This tool consists 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>
3. To facilitate widespread use of the FAO/WHO Assessment Tool, dissemination packages including global launch, and an introductory booklet (available at: <https://www.fao.org/documents/card/en/c/cb4964en/> and <https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789240028371>) have been developed jointly by FAO and WHO. A video is also been developed and is available at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A_zdUp2yKY.
4. FAO and WHO are continuing to assist Member countries in utilizing the tool to assess their national food control systems (NFCS).
5. FAO successfully conducted assessments in Malawi, Sudan and Tunisia in 2019, in the Emirate of Abu Dhabi (UAE) in 2021, and in The Bahamas and Guyana in 2022, ensuring quality results as well as a meaningful and fair process. FAO currently facilitates assessments in Belarus, Azerbaijan and Georgia. Under the funding of a European Union project, October 2022 saw the initiation of assessments in Comoros, Egypt, Eswatini, Kenya, Mauritius, Rwanda, and the Seychelles, and discussions are ongoing with one other country to confirm its interest for such assessments under this initiative. 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/>.
6. WHO has been supporting national assessments conducted in Panama and Cameroon in 2022, and is currently initiating the process in Tajikistan and Cape Verde.

Antimicrobial resistance (AMR)

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

7. At its annual executive meeting in March 2022, the Tripartite partnership for One Health, consisting of FAO, WHO and WOA, formally became the Quadripartite as they signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP). The four organizations have been working together

for long time, but in the recent years they have strongly supported the establishment of One Health AMR global governance structures through the implementation of a number of joint initiatives.

8. The Quadripartite Joint Secretariat (QJS) on AMR, which was set up in 2019, published its *Strategic Framework for Collaboration on AMR* 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. It 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.

Integrated surveillance

9. The QJS on AMR has established a technical group to support and coordinate integrated surveillance activities across the organizations. In June 2022, the QJS opened a call for experts to establish the Quadripartite Technical Group on Antimicrobial Resistance and Use Integrated Surveillance (QTG-AIS). The QTG-AIS will provide advice and guidance on the development of global and context-appropriate regional and country-level systems for integrated surveillance and the establishment of effective capacities.

Global Human and Veterinary Medicines Regulatory Authorities Summit and Forum

10. 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 preparations for the Summit are currently underway with the Summit taking place as a hybrid event in Geneva from 4-5 May 2023. The objectives of the summit will be (1) to enhance regulation for promoting appropriate and prudent use of antibiotics by phasing out over-the-counter sale of antibiotics in human and animal health sectors; (2) to discuss mechanism to enforce the phasing out of sales of antibiotics without prescription; and (3) to develop and share alternative smart solutions to discourage over-the-counter sale of antibiotics. After the Summit, a forum will be created to foster on-going communication and collaboration among human and animal medicines regulatory authorities to address AMR using regulations, enforcement and smart solutions until the next Summit will take place in two years. In addition, the Quadripartite will select the technical support needs expressed by human and animal medicines regulatory authorities to develop a workplan for technical capacity building, particularly for low middle-income countries.

Economic case for AMR

11. 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. Initial activities have already been started, including selecting experts to constitute the Advisory Group to provide independent strategic advice and inputs on this work.

Global Leaders' Group on AMR

12. The Global Leaders Group (GLG) on AMR was formed following the recommendation of the Interagency Coordination Group on AMR (IACG). Since July 2021, the GLG has published its action plan, three information notes on surveillance, financing and the climate crisis and released two calls to action on discharges to environment and on reducing the use of antimicrobials in food systems. The GLG also released a statement contributing to the adoption of the new *Codex Guidelines on Integrated Monitoring and Surveillance of Foodborne Antimicrobial Resistance* (CXG 94-2021) and *Codex Code of Practice to Minimize and Contain Foodborne Antimicrobial Resistance* (CXC 61-2005). The GLG held two high-level political side events on antimicrobial resistance in 2022, at the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in Kigali, Rwanda, and at the United Nations General Assembly in New York, USA. The GLG was called upon by the UN General Assembly (UNGA) in its resolution to support the UNGA High-level Meeting on AMR in 2024. Other priority areas of ongoing work include advocacy for defined key asks related to AMR for G7 and G20, advocating for inclusion of AMR in the Intergovernmental Negotiating Body instrument (WHO convention, agreement or other international instrument on pandemic prevention, preparedness and response), and advocating for integrated One Health surveillance of antimicrobial

resistance and use with emphasis on high level political advocacy, including collaboration with the QTG-AIS.

13. As a joint Quadripartite effort, FAO is contributing to develop the One Health priority research agenda on AMR. 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. A tool to assess the implementation of Infection Prevention and Control (Agri-IPC), including water, hygiene, sanitation, and wastewater management (Agri-WASH), was developed.
14. The World Antimicrobial Awareness Week (WAAW) is now taking place annually from 18 - 24 November.
15. 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). FAO is leading the implementation of these two documents, in six countries (Bolivia, Cambodia, Colombia, Mongolia, Nepal and Pakistan) via the ACT (Action to support implementation of Codex AMR Texts) project. This project is funded by the Republic of Korea (ROK), during a time span of five years (2021-2026) with an overall budget of 10 million dollars.
16. 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 26 million USD. 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.
17. 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

WHO activities on AMR

18. 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 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.
19. 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 will be published in May 2023.
20. 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.

Early warning/alert and response to food safety emergencies

21. The Secretariat of the joint FAO/WHO International Food Safety Authorities Network (INFOSAN) continues to develop and strengthen the Network and develop capacity for preparedness and response to food safety incidents. During 2022, the INFOSAN Secretariat was involved in 195 international food safety incidents involving 156 Member States from all regions. The INFOSAN Secretariat maintained close engagement with INFOSAN Emergency Contact Points in concerned Member States by providing rapid information, thereby allowing a prompt response to such incidents.

22. A major INFOSAN Global Alert was issued to the attention of all INFOSAN members in April 2022. The alert concerned a multi-country outbreak of *Salmonella* Typhimurium monophasic linked to chocolate products, distributed internationally to over 113 Member States and territories. Continuous notifications and updates to the Global Alert were provided to all INFOSAN Members as information became available, allowing Member States of FAO and WHO to initiate investigations to identify and recall implicated products, as well as identify possible cases of illness related to the consumption of implicated products. Over 52 Member States reported to the INFOSAN Secretariat initiating a recall or a national investigation in response to the Global Alert. Updates on national response were summarized and shared in a dedicated webpage within the INFOSAN Community Website created for the alert.
23. In 2021 and 2022, activities to strengthen the Network and food safety emergency response capacity were carried out in several sub-regions. Especially in 2022, the INFOSAN Secretariat participated in a two-day workshop convened by the WHO Health Emergencies Western Balkan Hub in Belgrade, Serbia. During the workshop, a simulation exercise was also facilitated, covering topics such as risk communication and to examine the processes and procedures of INFOSAN. The INFOSAN Secretariat has also participated and supported the development of four editions of the European Commission's Better Training for Safer Food on food safety crisis preparedness, where trainees got an understanding of the role of INFOSAN and IHR during international food safety emergencies and participated in various simulation exercises on food safety emergency response.
24. In 2021, national workshops to strengthen national capacity to respond to food safety emergencies were held with food safety competent authorities of Senegal, Cameroon and Morocco. Over 2022, national workshops have been held with Guatemala, Mexico, Nicaragua, Sierra Leone, Cambodia, Cote d'Ivoire, Benin, Ireland, United Kingdom, Guinea. Cambodia also hosted a workshop for sub-national levels. During the workshops, national authorities with a stake in food safety emergency response had the opportunity to learn more about the Network and understand their roles and responsibilities as INFOSAN members during food safety emergencies. The workshops also allowed national authorities to deepen their understanding on the link between INFOSAN and IHR in the context of food safety emergency response. The INFOSAN Secretariat also supported a US Center for Diseases Control (CDC) training co-organized with the WHO Eastern Mediterranean Regional Office on foodborne diseases surveillance and response with Sudan, Syria, Saudi Arabia and Qatar. The INFOSAN Secretariat organized and delivered two Regional Meetings for members in the Region of the Americas and in the Asia-Pacific (2021 and 2022) Regions, that allowed INFOSAN members to identify gaps and areas for improvements when communicating during food safety emergencies. The Regional meetings were organized with the support of FAO and WHO Regional Offices and Food Safety Advisors, and the host countries of Brazil and the Republic of Korea.
25. In the context of the celebration of the World Food Safety Day 2022, WHO organized the "Health talks on food safety", on June 7-9. A special Health Talk was organized to discuss how to improve emergency response in global food safety, with the participation of a number of INFOSAN members, a member of the INFOSAN Advisory Group and the INFOSAN Secretariat. The panel discussion focused on national perspectives about global efforts that are in place to assist countries to respond to international food safety emergencies, to strengthen their food safety systems and to contribute to improved coordination and information exchange on food safety events. Common challenges and ideas on how to address them were discussed by the panelists, using recent real-life food safety emergencies as a starting point for the analysis.

Food Fraud

26. FAO was active in publishing a number of documents in relation to food fraud, to raise awareness and address needs of Member countries with regard of approaches and tools for governments' toolboxes, in order to help them counter food fraud and increase their consumers' trust in their food systems:
 - FAO Background Paper: "*International and national regulatory strategies to counter food fraud*" (available at : <https://www.fao.org/3/cb9035en/cb9035en.pdf>), in partnership with the Resnick Center for Food Law and Policy of the University of California. This publication follows the concept of food fraud described to occur when a fraudster intentionally deceives a customer about the quality and/or contents of the foods they wish to purchase, and such act is done to obtain an undue advantage, most often economic, for the fraudster. The vastness and complexity of food fraud, and the versatility in regulatory approaches can challenge national governments in their attempts to develop a coherent, focused approach to food fraud. To respond to this challenge, this publication introduces the available international regulatory guidance and the potential legal strategies at the national and regional level. It identifies and analyses some of the regulatory approaches to food fraud that countries have chosen and pays attention to the role of the private sector in food fraud regulation.

- “Food fraud – Intention, detection and management - Food safety technical toolkit for Asia and the Pacific” available at: <https://www.fao.org/documents/card/ar/c/cb2863en/> . This publication is intended as a technical guide to support regulators understanding potential regulatory strategies to tackle food fraud.
- “Thinking about the future of food safety” (available at: <https://www.fao.org/documents/card/en/c/cb8667en>) provides an overview of the major global drivers and trends by describing their implications for food safety in particular and for agrifood systems by extrapolation. A chapter is dedicated to Food Fraud.

27. The Joint FAO/IAEA Centre on analytical methodology to help combat food fraud published “Accessible Technologies for the Verification of Origin of Dairy Products as an Example Control System to Enhance Global Trade and Food Safety” (IAEA-TECDOC-2002 | 978-92-0-124822-0). This is the final report of a 5-year coordinated research project. Dairy commodities are of high priority for improved traceability and authenticity control due to their relatively simple processing procedures, high level of trade and frequent use as an ingredient in products destined for vulnerable consumer groups such as infant formula for young children. The methodology presented is intended to act as a template that can be transferred to other food commodities as required. More information at: <https://www.iaea.org/publications/14892/accessible-technologies-for-the-verification-of-origin-of-dairy-products-as-an-example-control-system-to-enhance-global-trade-and-food-safety>

28. In addition, the following events were organized:

- an international conference "Artificial Intelligence (AI) for detecting food fraud" was held on 13 September 2022 in Nur-Sultan, Kazakhstan, organized by the FAO/WHO Coordinating Committee for Europe (CCEURO) of the Codex Alimentarius, the European Center for Peace and Development of the United Nations University for Peace (ECPD), and the International Food Standards Certification Organization (IFSCO), with the support of the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Kazakhstan. The conference, attended by 1680 participants from Europe and Asia adopted a resolution outlining measures to promote international Codex standards through AI. More information available at: <https://www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/news-and-events/news-details/en/c/1605050/>
- FAO/IAEA workshop to strengthen Food safety network in Africa: Supporting initiatives to enhance food safety across the continent was the focus of an African Food Safety Workshop jointly held by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations and the National Metrology Institute of South Africa (NMISA). Participants shared experiences on several topics, such as preventing food fraud, monitoring of radionuclides, use of radio receptor assays and stable isotopic techniques for veterinary drug and pesticides residues, as well as mycotoxins, toxic metals and biotoxins. More information is available at: <https://www.iaea.org/newscenter/news/iaea-fao-workshop-strengthens-food-safety-network-across-africa>
- a virtual training course on the use of profiling/fingerprinting techniques to determine food origin and verify food authenticity was held from 22 August to 2 September 2022 by the Joint FAO/IAEA Centre of Nuclear Techniques in Food and Agriculture. The objective was to enhance the capabilities of laboratory personnel in the application of rapid, untargeted screening methods, enabling member nations to respond to food safety-related incidents and emergencies and to improve their food control systems. The course was attended by 111 scientists from institutes in 33 countries: Bangladesh, Belarus, Côte D'Ivoire, Ecuador, Egypt, Greece, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Malaysia, Mauritius, Mongolia, Morocco, Myanmar, Oman, Pakistan, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Tajikistan, Tanzania, Togo, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates, Uganda, Uruguay, Viet Nam and Zimbabwe. Further information is available at: <https://www.iaea.org/publications/15312/food-safety-and-control-newsletter-vol-02-no-1-january-2023>

High-level advocacy activities for food safety

World Health Assembly Resolution and the Update of WHO Global Strategy for Food Safety

29. The WHO Global Strategy for Food Safety 2022-2030 was adopted by the WHO World Health Assembly 75 in May 2022 (WHA 75(22)) and launched in November 2022. It updates the last strategy in order to address current and emerging challenges, incorporate new technologies, and include innovative approaches for strengthening national food safety systems. This request was made by Member States in recognition that food safety remains a public health priority with a critical role in the achievement of the 2030 agenda for sustainable development.

30. In developing this strategy, WHO has had the support from the Technical Advisory Group on Food Safety: Safer Food for Better Health, consulted widely with scientific experts, with WHO Regional Advisors for food safety, international partners such as FAO and WOA, Member States and public consultation. Existing regional food safety frameworks and food safety strategies were also considered, as well as the recommendations and guidelines of the Codex Alimentarius and the FAO food safety priorities.
31. The WHO Global Strategy for Food Safety has been developed to guide and support Member States in their efforts to prioritize, plan, implement, monitor and regularly evaluate actions towards the reduction of the burden of foodborne diseases by continuously strengthening food safety systems and promoting global cooperation.

FAO Strategic Priorities for Food Safety within the FAO Strategic Framework 2022-31

32. The FAO Committee on Agriculture (COAG) emphasized at its 27th Session the connection between food safety and food security, as well as the role food safety plays in FAO's support in achieving more efficient, inclusive, resilient and sustainable agrifood systems. COAG 27 requested that FAO develop a new Food Safety Strategy to contribute to the 2030 Agenda. Further to the World Health Assembly (WHA) resolution 73.5 to strengthen efforts on food safety, COAG 27 requested that FAO collaborate with the World Health Organization (WHO) to ensure that their respective food safety strategies are aligned and mutually supportive.
33. Following the Committee's request, and taking into account the global strategic context, FAO developed a set of Strategic Priorities for its work on food safety, while maintaining its vision to provide "Safe food for all people at all times" and the mission "To support Members in continuing to improve food safety at all levels by providing scientific advice and strengthening their food safety capacities for efficient, inclusive, resilient and sustainable agrifood systems." These Strategic Priorities are articulated around four Strategic Outcomes that result from an iterative consultative process led by FAO with its Members and international partner organizations, including, notably WHO.
34. Further to their endorsement by the 28th session of the Committee for Agriculture, the FAO council has finally approved the FAO Food Safety Priorities at its 171st session in December 2022.
35. FAO expects the Strategic Priorities for Food Safety to act as an instrument that will spur investments and secure adequate human and financial resources for FAO to successfully implement its food safety programme and to provide international guidance, policy and advocacy for policymakers.
36. These Strategic Priorities encourage a more consistent integration of food safety in the development of sustainable and inclusive agrifood systems, food security and nutrition policies, and agriculture development strategies. In developing the FAO Strategic Framework 2022-31, the Organization outlined Programme Priority Areas (PPAs), a number of which are centered around or include important food safety activities [in particular, but not limited to, PPA better nutrition "Safe food for everyone" (BN3), PPA better nutrition "Transparent markets and trade" (BN5), and PPA better production "One Health" (BP3)].
37. During the development of the FAO Strategic Priorities for Food Safety and the WHO Global Food Safety Strategy, FAO and WHO maintained a standing and rigorous information sharing and discussion mechanism. Both organizations have committed to plan the development of a joint framework for implementation, following the endorsement of the respective strategic directions

World Food Safety Day

38. In 2022, WHO and FAO, the parent organizations of the Codex Alimentarius Commission, jointly facilitated the observance of the World Food Safety Day inviting governments, food businesses, non-profit organizations, academia, schools, universities and consumers around the world to come together on 7 June to draw attention and inspire action to help prevent, detect and manage foodborne risks. The campaign started on 7 March 2022 with the launch of the theme "Safer food, better health". Over 450 initiatives took place in 109 countries including conferences, webinars, training sessions, workshops, sporting events and video campaigns. After two years of World Food Safety Day events taking place predominantly online, many organizers held hybrid or in-person events. WHO and FAO Directors-General opened the global webinar with a video message, hosted at WHO HQ in Geneva by WHO, FAO and the Codex Secretariat on June 7.
39. In 2023, FAO and WHO will lead a campaign centered on the theme of "Food standards save lives," presenting an opportunity to show the difference Codex standards are making, now in the Commission's 60th year. An event is planned for 7 June to which all Codex Members and Observers are cordially invited. The World Food Safety Day website, hosted by that of the Codex, will continue to feature event announcements and news pieces, summarizing activities from around the world. More information is available at: <https://www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/world-food-safety-day/wfsd-homepage/en/>.

FAO guidance on risk-based inspection

40. At global level FAO has continued to work on the use of risk categorization to develop risk based inspection programmes, improving the targeting of food business and/or sectors based on scientific data and evidence, and focus efforts and public investments towards the greater risks. This work will result in a new guidance will be published in 2023, and will be supported by a digital tool to facilitate the use of multicriteria decision making processes. This digital tool will be piloted in 2023. Being active partners in the piloting of this guidance, Malawi and Zimbabwe developed their national risk categorization manuals.
41. This risk categorization approach has also been used with a specific focus on import controls in a number of projects, notably under the project “FAO support to the COMESA trade facilitation project”, funded by the 11th EDF of the EC. Comoros, Egypt, Madagascar, Sudan and Tunisia are working alongside through virtual means at subregional level, and with national activities to improve the targeting of the import controls using the risk categorization approach.

Regional and national activities

Africa

42. In Africa, FAO implemented a number of project and activities in the following domains:
43. **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 (see paragraph 2 for more details).
44. **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).
45. **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.
46. **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).
47. **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.
48. WHO is supporting in the African region five countries (Burkina Faso, Ghana, Nigeria, Senegal, Zimbabwe) implement integrated Extended Spectrum Beta-Lactamase *E. coli* surveillance concurrently in the food chain, humans and the environment with efforts underway to initiate in two countries (Cote d’Ivoire and Togo). Capacity of national codex structures and effective participation in the work of the Codex Alimentarius Commission are being enhanced through the Codex Trust Fund in seven countries (Benin, Burkina Faso, Cote d’Ivoire, Ethiopia, Guinea, Malawi and Mauritius). This has resulted in among others

advocacy, 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. 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, Cote d'Ivoire, Guinea, Sierra Leone and Senegal. Burkina Faso on the other hand was supported to draft a protocol for the management of foodborne alerts. In the efforts to strengthen national food control systems, Cameroon was further supported to undertake assessment of the national food control system as a basis of elaborating a costed action plan to improve its system. Capacity development training on risk assessment has been conducted in Algeria and Guinea. Efforts at improving the conditions of food markets have continued in Senegal.

Asia- Pacific

49. 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.
50. 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.'
51. 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.
52. In the WHO South-East Asia Region, in-country training for capacity building on standard setting procedures and process was conducted to review and provide feedback on specific subject of Food Import and Export Inspection and Certification Systems in Bhutan and Nepal under a Codex Trust Funds (CTF) project. Similarly high level Codex advocacy workshop and Codex mock drill exercise were supported in Bhutan and Nepal during 2021-2022. A hybrid meeting of CTF project coordinators from Butan, India and Nepal was organized in Kathmandu to facilitate discussion on draft Codex standards on spices. WHO supported Maldives and Timor-Leste to submit a robust application to the Codex Trust Fund in 2021 and 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.
53. 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.

Europe and Central Asia

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

55. 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 will also strengthen risk based inspection capacities. 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. 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 seen, 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.
56. Further specific country activities by FAO include support to Azerbaijan, Belarus and Georgia to assess the food control system using the FAO/WHO Food Control System Assessment Tool.
57. 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 are being trained on good agriculture practices and food safety management systems, to roll out training to producers and processing companies in the regions of Kyrgyzstan. Complementary knowledge and skills of the main food safety competent authorities focussed on risk-based inspection, and inspection capacities is also addressed through the project.
58. 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.
59. Within the framework of One Health in the region, FAO produced a report soon to be 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) that 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..
60. WHO is supporting Tajikistan to assess the capacity of the national food control system. WHO continues to support implementation of CTF funded projects in Kazakhstan and Turkmenistan to strengthen the countries' participation in Codex Alimentarius. WHO also support Uzbekistan to submit a successful application to the Codex Trust Fund. FAO and WHO regional offices jointly support the regional capacity development on Codex with activities including a virtual training delivered on effective use of the Codex diagnostic tool which will be followed by two more trainings on Codex in the pipeline this year.

Latin America and Caribbean

61. In Latin America, a number of activities were implemented by FAO over 2022:
62. The EU AMR 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. Work will be ongoing for 2023.
63. 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.
64. 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) .
65. 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.

66. FAO supported Codex Cuba under the CT2 project that strengthened the work of the National Cuban Codex Committee.
67. 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. 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 7 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.
68. In the PAHO/WHO Americas Region is supporting Honduras, Bolivia, El Salvador/Guatemala and Guyana to implement their Codex Trust Fund Projects. It is to highlight the successful development of Codex Alimentarius Strategic Plans in Honduras, Bolivia, El Salvador and Guatemala. Honduras successfully developed the national communication strategy and conducted a series of trainings on risk-communication. Additionally, Bolivia and Guyana conducted a series of country-wide communication campaigns and workshops to sensitize different stakeholders about Codex Alimentarius and Food Safety.
69. PAHO/WHO in collaboration with JIFSAN conducted a training on risk analysis for Bahamas and Guyana in 2022 aiming to strengthen their knowledge and experience in the area. Both countries are modernizing their risk-based food inspection systems and shared their experience in the implementation of a risk-based food inspection e-platform to improve efficiency.
70. PAHO/WHO in consultation with countries in the LAC region created the manual on "Risk-based food inspection for food establishments" to be published and launched this year.
71. 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.
72. PAHO/WHO support the provision of technical trainings in GHP and HACCP to El Salvador and Guatemala, SPS measures to El Salvador, Guatemala and Bolivia and Food Fraud to Panama. PAHO/WHO worked with the Better Training for Safer Food (BTSF) team and EU delegation to facilitate country participation in the "food crisis management training" held in Rio de Janeiro. During the training national authorities could learn about INFOSAN and the roles and responsibilities of national counterparts.
73. PAHO/WHO in collaboration with the National Institute for Health Quality Control - INCQS, of FioCruz, organized the 10th Assembly of the Inter-American Network of Food Analysis Laboratories held in August 2022 in Rio de Janeiro. The Assembly was also transmitted online and count on the participation of 170 laboratories from 18 countries. During this assembly, the INFAL Executive Committee was renewed and the network technical cooperation work plans for the 2022-2023 biennium were prepared. During 2022, the INFAL conducted 15 technical virtual seminars and three regional proficiency schemes in: Determination of pesticides in banana with the participation of 16 laboratories from Brazil, Honduras, Guatemala and Paraguay; determination of aflatoxin M1 in milk powder in 9 laboratories from Argentina, Brazil, Costa Rica and Uruguay and; determination of indicator microorganisms in milk powder with the participation of 25 laboratories from Argentina, Brazil, Bolivia, Chile, Cuba, Ecuador, El Salvador, Dominican Republic Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay and Venezuela. PAHO/WHO organized hands-on trainings on the phenotypic and genomic identification of resistant foodborne pathogens and their resistance mechanisms in Uruguay and Brasil, with the participation of government officials from food safety, veterinary and public health services from Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Paraguay, Peru and Uruguay under the project "Working together to combat antimicrobial resistance".
74. PAHO/WHO was elected as Chair of the Technical Working Group on Antimicrobial Resistance of the Caribbean Animal Health Network (Caribvet) whose aim is to increase awareness and knowledge on good practices to prevent AMR in the animal interphase through the organization of regular meetings and webinars in this topic.