The assessment tool on the WHO Global Strategy for Food Safety

A collaboration between IFC and WHO

Introduction of the tool

- The **WHO Global Strategy for Food Safety (GSFS)** 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 (FBDs)** by continuously **strengthening food safety systems** and promoting global cooperation.

- The International Finance Corporation (IFC) Global Food Safety Advisory, WHO Secretariat, and the Technical Advisory Group (TAG) on Food Safety have worked together on **designing an assessment tool** to assist Member countries in **assessing their baseline status and developing their own roadmaps** for fully implementing the WHO Global Strategy for Food Safety.
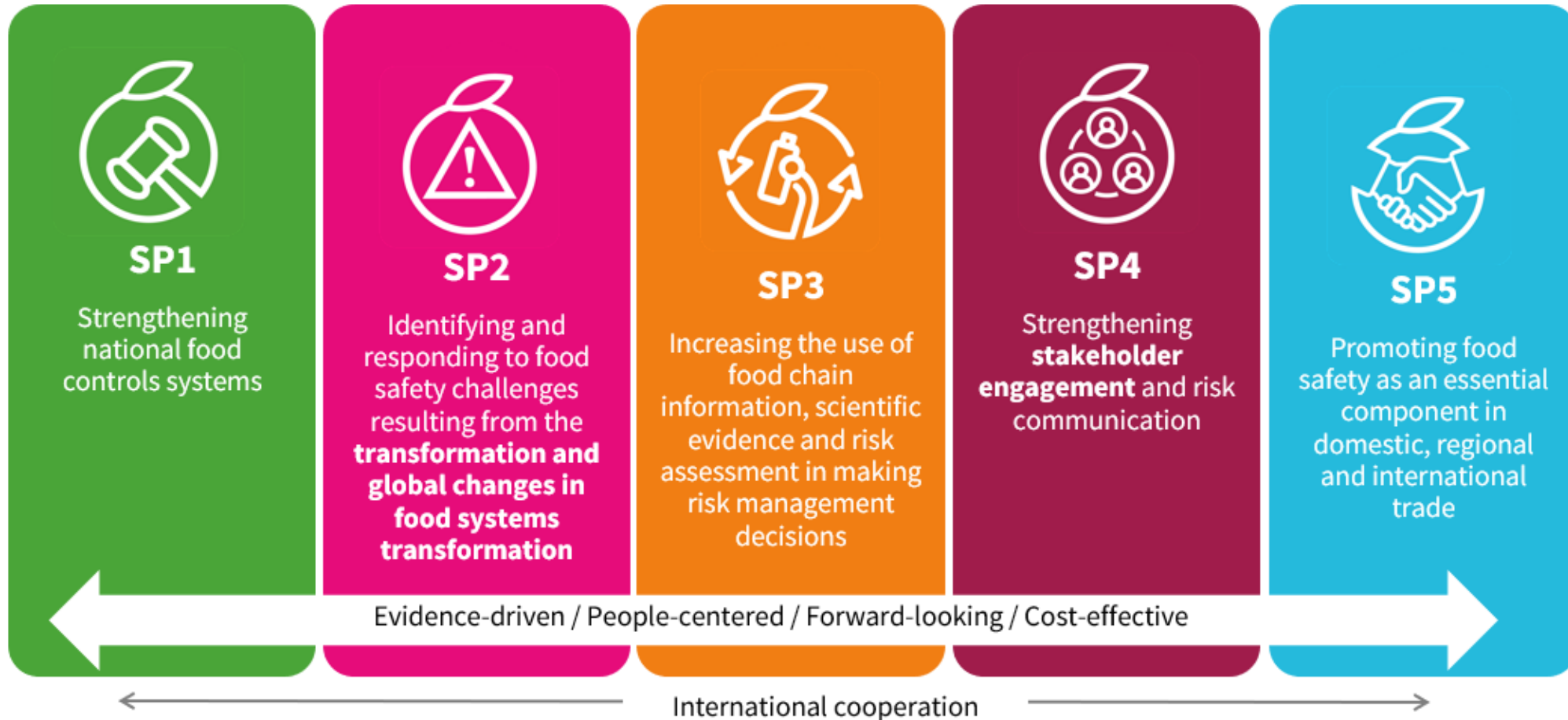
- **Vision**: To ensure that **all people, everywhere**, consume safe and healthy food.

- **Focus**: Strengthen **multisectoral collaboration** and **innovative** public health approaches.

- **Implementation**: WHO will work with Member States and partners to modify, redesign or strengthen their national food safety systems in **five strategic priority areas.**

Structure of the strategy

SP1
Strengthening national food controls systems

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

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

SP4
Strengthening **stakeholder engagement** and risk communication

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

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

International cooperation

World Health Organization

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WHO GLOBAL STRATEGY FOR FOOD SAFETY

What we want to achieve with the strategy in 2030

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

2030

2022

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WHO Global Strategy for Food Safety (GSFS) assessment tool

- The tool is based on the **WHO Global Strategy for Food Safety 2022-2030** and the **IFC Scan Guide**.

- It was developed by the **WHO Secretariat**, members of the **WHO Technical Advisory Group (TAG)** on Food Safety: Safer Food for Better Health, and the **IFC Global Food Safety Advisory team**.

- Its scope ties directly to the **strategy's vision** that all people, everywhere, consume safe and healthy food to reduce the burden of foodborne diseases (FBDs).

IFC Scan Guide: Section II

I. Assessment of the policy and regulatory framework
II. Institutional framework
III. Assessment of food safety control arrangements
IV. Assessment of the capacity-building framework

Checklist 1. Food Safety Policy
Checklist 2. The Food Safety Regulatory Framework
Checklist 3. Analysis of the Stakeholder in Food Safety
Checklist 4. Institutional Framework
Checklist 5. Food safety control arrangements: general questions
...
Table 1. Stakeholders through the Food Chain
Table 2. Criteria for the Analysis of Stakeholders in the Stakeholder Profile
Table 3. The Stakeholder Inventory

GSFS assessment tool: focus

The primary focus is an **analysis of the baseline functionality** of the food safety system activities related to **the Strategy's strategic priorities** and **associated strategic objectives**.

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GSFS assessment tool: objectives

The main objective of the tool is to propose a **harmonized**, **objective**, and **consensual basis** to analyze Member State's **implementation of the WHO Global Strategy for Food Safety**, and more specifically:

- to offer an opportunity for developing a common understanding and vision among competent authorities and other associated stakeholders (private sector, consumers, academia) (1) of the current status of Strategy implementation activities, and (2) of the priorities for progress;

- to enable, guide, and measure the improvement process that would be developed and implemented by the various competent authorities, supported by a clear baseline;

- to potentially support a dialogue with stakeholders.

GSFS assessment tool: structure

- The tool is divided into sections for each of the five **Strategic Priorities**, then further divided into sections for each of the **Strategic Objectives**.

- Each section for a **Strategic Objective** contains **questions** that are designed to assess their level of implementation.

- The tool consists of a total of **124 questions**.

GSFS assessment tool: structure

WHO Global Strategy for Food Safety 2022-2030

Assessment Tool jointly developed by IFC/WB and WHO

Country:
Date of assessment:

Strategic Priority	Strategic Objective	Strategic Objective Questions	Response	Justify your response
Strategic Priority 1 **Strengthening national food control systems**	**Strategic Objective 1.1** **Establish a modern, harmonized and evidence-based framework of food legislation**	1. Is there a national framework of food safety legislation that includes responsibilities, goals, objectives, and expected outcomes for strengthening national food controls?		
		2. Is there a national food safety policy with clear goals?		
		3. Is the food safety legislation harmonized at the national level between all competent authorities?		
		4. Does the national food safety legislation include all the food chain components from farm to consumption?		
		5. Do the national food safety legislation and standards reflect, to the extent possible, the Codex Alimentarius standards, guidelines, and recommendations?		
		6. Is national food safety legislation based on the principles of the World Trade Organization (WTO) agreements on sanitary and phytosanitary measures and on the technical barriers to trade?		
		7. Is the national food safety legislation evidence-based?		
		8. Does the national food safety legislation framework combine traditional final product testing and product-specific regulations with an evidence-based risk management approach?		
		9. Does the national food safety legislation include provisions for risk-based food inspections carried out by competent authorities?		
		10. Are the obligations of Food Business Operators (FBOs), who bear the primary responsibility for producing safe food and developing and implementing evidence-based food safety risk management systems, clearly defined in the legislation?		
		11. Is there a systematic process in place to review and update the food safety legislation framework at the national level?		

GSFS assessment tool: how to respond to the questions?

- For each assessment question, the team shall decide the "**level of achievement**" appropriate for the response that represents the consensus of all the Competent Authority(ies) involved in that specific aspect.

- The "**percentage of achievement**" is also included to assist the assessment team in assigning an appropriate response category.

Level of Achievement	Percentage of Achievement
Formative	0-20%
Developing	21-40%
Acceptable	41-60%
Advanced	61-80%
Leading Practice	81-99%
Fully Implemented	100%

GSFS assessment tool: how to respond to the questions?

Select one of the options:

Formative: 0-20%
Developing: 21-40%
Acceptable: 41-60%
Advanced: 61-80%
Leading Practice: 81-99%
Full implemented: 100%

WHO Global Stra

Assessment Tool

Country:
Date of assessment:

Strategic Priority	Strategic Objective	Strategic Objective Questions	Response	Justify your response
Strategic Priority 1 — Strengthening national food control systems	Strategic Objective 1.1 — Establish a modern, harmonized and evidence-based framework of food legislation	1. Is there a national framework of food safety legislation that includes responsibilities, goals, objectives, and expected outcomes for strengthening national food controls?		
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		3. Is the food safety legislation harmonized at the national level between all competent authorities?		
		4. Does the national food safety legislation include all the food chain components from farm to consumption?		
		5. Do the national food safety legislation and standards reflect to the extent possible, the Codex Alimentarius standards, guidelines, and recommendations?		
		6. Is national food safety legislation based on the principles of the World Trade Organization (WTO) agreements on sanitary and phytosanitary measures and on the technical barriers to trade?		
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		10. Are the obligations of Food Business Operators (FBOs), who bear the primary responsibility for producing safe food and developing and implementing evidence-based food safety risk management systems, clearly defined in the legislation?		
		11. Is there a systematic process in place to review and update the food safety legislation framework at the national level?		

GSFS assessment tool: results of the assessment

- The **assessment results** are expressed in three levels of achievement:
    - **Level of GSFS Achievement**
    - **Level of Achievement per Strategic Priority**
    - **Level of Achievement per Strategic Objective**

- The tool offers two views of the assessment results: **table** and **graphic** formats.

- The "**Level of Achievement per Strategic Objective**" is also color-coded to help interpret results.

GSFS assessment tool: results of the assessment

Example:

Summary of the assessment results

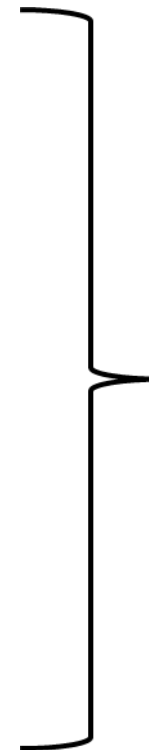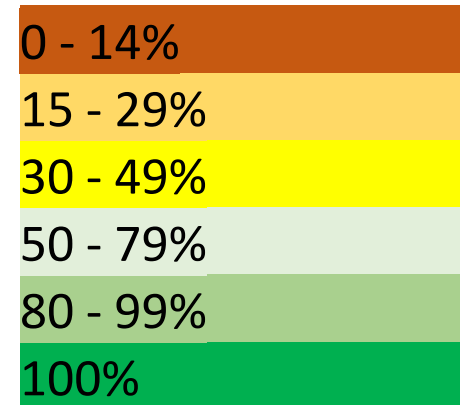| Strategic Priorities	Strategic Objectives	Level of Achievement per Strategic Objective	Level of Achievement per Strategic Priority	Level of GSFS Achievement
Strategic Priority 1	Strategic Objective 1.1	68,6%	72,9%	61,5%
	Strategic Objective 1.2	65,0%		
	Strategic Objective 1.3	88,0%		
	Strategic Objective 1.4	45,8%		
	Strategic Objective 1.5	83,9%		
	Strategic Objective 1.6	100,0%		
Strategic Priority 2	Strategic Objective 2.1	43,6%	30,2%	
	Strategic Objective 2.2	10,0%		
Strategic Priority 3	Strategic Objective 3.1	30,0%	55,5%	
	Strategic Objective 3.2	100,0%		
	Strategic Objective 3.3	50,0%		
	Strategic Objective 3.4	52,0%		
Strategic Priority 4	Strategic Objective 4.1	30,0%	51,5%	
	Strategic Objective 4.2	100,0%		
	Strategic Objective 4.3	100,0%		
	Strategic Objective 4.4	56,5%		
	Strategic Objective 4.5	30,0%		
Strategic Priority 5	Strategic Objective 5.1	30,0%	60,4%	
	Strategic Objective 5.2	45,0%		
	Strategic Objective 5.3	90,0%		
	Strategic Objective 5.4	82,2%		

GSFS assessment tool: results of the assessment

Example:

Summary of the assessment results

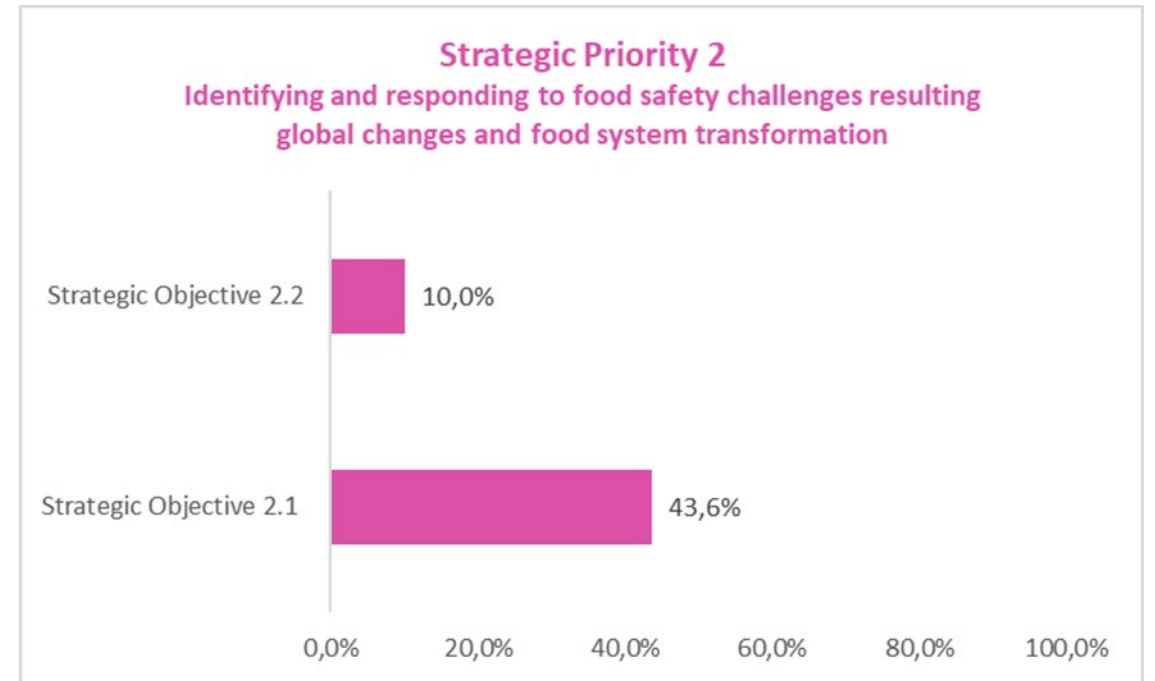| Strategic Priorities	Strategic Objectives	Level of Achievement per Strategic Objective
Strategic Priority 1	Strategic Objective 1.1	68,6%
	Strategic Objective 1.2	65,0%
	Strategic Objective 1.3	88,0%
	Strategic Objective 1.4	45,8%
	Strategic Objective 1.5	83,9%
	Strategic Objective 1.6	100,0%
Strategic Priority 2	Strategic Objective 2.1	43,6%
	Strategic Objective 2.2	10,0%
Strategic Priority 3	Strategic Objective 3.1	30,0%
	Strategic Objective 3.2	100,0%
	Strategic Objective 3.3	50,0%
	Strategic Objective 3.4	52,0%
Strategic Priority 4	Strategic Objective 4.1	30,0%
	Strategic Objective 4.2	100,0%
	Strategic Objective 4.3	100,0%
	Strategic Objective 4.4	56,5%
	Strategic Objective 4.5	30,0%
Strategic Priority 5	Strategic Objective 5.1	30,0%
	Strategic Objective 5.2	45,0%
	Strategic Objective 5.3	90,0%
	Strategic Objective 5.4	82,2%

Level of Achievement per Strategic Objective

Range
0 - 14%
15 - 29%
30 - 49%
50 - 79%
80 - 99%
100%

GSFS assessment tool: results of the assessment

Example:

WHO Global Strategy for Food Safety
- Level of achievement per Strategic Priority -

72,9%   30,2%   55,5%   51,5%   60,4%

Strategic Priorities

Example:

Strategic Priority 1
Strengthening national food control systems

Strategic Objective 1.6	100,0%
Strategic Objective 1.5	83,9%
Strategic Objective 1.4	45,8%
Strategic Objective 1.3	88,0%
Strategic Objective 1.2	65,0%
Strategic Objective 1.1	68,6%

Strategic Priority 2
Identifying and responding to food safety challenges resulting global changes and food system transformation

Strategic Objective 2.2	10,0%
Strategic Objective 2.1	43,6%

Example:
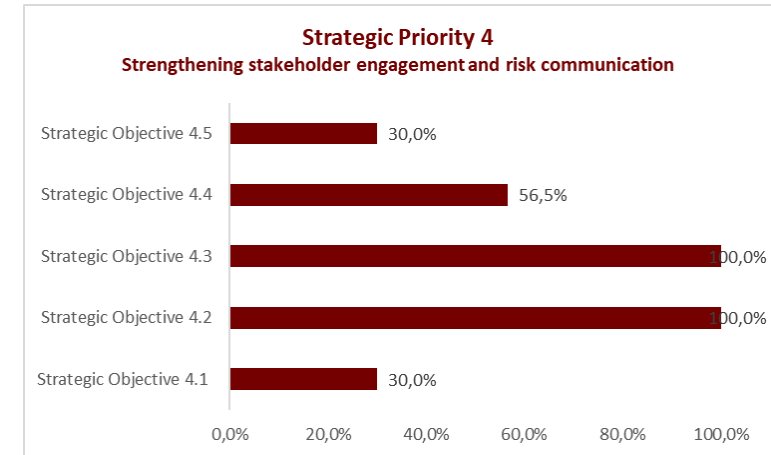
GSFS assessment tool: preparing a plan of action

Phase 1

SO 1.1. Establish a modern, harmonized and evidence-based framework of food legislation

SO 1.2. Establish an institutional framework to coordinate the work of different competent authorities that manage national food control systems

SO 1.4. Strengthen compliance, verification and enforcement

SO 1.5. Strengthen food monitoring and surveillance programmes

Phase 2

SO 1.3. Develop and implement fit-for-purpose standards and guidelines

SO 5.1. Strengthen food control systems and capacity development in regulatory systems for the domestic market.

SO 5.2. Strengthen interaction between national agencies responsible for food safety and those facilitating international fair-trading practices

SO 5.3. Ensure that national food safety systems are aligned with the standards of the Codex Alimentarius to protect public health and facilitate trade

Phase 3

SO 1.6. Establish food safety incident and emergency response systems.

SO 2.1. Identify and evaluate food safety impacts arising from global changes and food systems transformation and movement of food.

SO 3.1. Promote the use of scientific evidence and risk assessment when establishing and reviewing food control measures.

SO 4.1. Establish platforms for consultation on the national food safety agenda

SO. 5.4. Strengthen engagements of national competent authorities with international agencies and networks that establish standards and guidelines for food

Phase 4

SO 2.2. Adapt risk management options to emerging foodborne risks brought about by transformation and changes in global food systems and movement of food.

SO 3.2. Gather comprehensive information along and beyond food chain and utilize these data when making informed risk management decisions

SO 3.4. Consistent and transparent risk management decisions when establishing food control measures

SO 4.4. Facilitate communication and engagement with food business operators and foster a food safety culture.

SO 4.5. Facilitate communication, education, and engagement with consumers.

Phase 5

SO 3.3. Source food safety information and risk analysis experiences from beyond national borders to strengthen risk management decisions and technical capacity

SO 4.2. Assess the pertinence of using non-regulatory schemes for enhancing food safety across the food chain

SO 4.3. Establish frameworks for sharing verification of compliance with food safety regulatory requirements.

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GSFS assessment tool: preparing a plan of action

Example 1:

GSFS assessment tool: preparing a plan of action

Example 1:

Dashboard

Overview of the assessment

PHASE 1	PHASE 2	PHASE 3	PHASE 4	PHASE 5
SO 1.1. Establish a modern, harmonized and evidence-based framework of food legislation	**SO 1.3.** Develop and implement fit-for-purpose standards and guidelines	**SO 1.6.** Establish food safety incident and emergency response systems.	**SO 2.2.** Adapt risk management options to emerging foodborne risks brought about by transformation and changes in global food systems and movement of food.	**SO 3.3.** Source food safety information and risk analysis experiences from beyond national borders to strengthen risk management decisions and technical capacity
SO 1.2. Establish an institutional framework to coordinate the work of different competent authorities that manage national food control systems	**SO 5.1.** Strengthen food control systems and capacity development in regulatory systems for the domestic market.	**SO 2.1.** Identify and evaluate food safety impacts arising from global changes and food systems transformation and movement of food.	**SO 3.2.** Gather comprehensive information along and beyond food chain and utilize these data when making informed risk management decisions	**SO 4.2.** Assess the pertinence of using non-regulatory schemes for enhancing food safety across the food chain
SO 1.4. Strengthen compliance, verification and enforcement.	**SO 5.2.** Strengthen interaction between national agencies responsible for food safety and those facilitating international fair trading practices	**SO 3.1.** Promote the use of scientific evidence and risk assessment when establishing and reviewing food control measures.	**SO 3.4.** Consistent and transparent risk management decisions when establishing food control measures	**SO 4.3.** Establish frameworks for sharing verification of compliance with food safety regulatory requirements.
SO 1.5. Strengthen food monitoring and surveillance programmes	**SO 5.3.** Ensure that national food safety systems are aligned with the standards of the Codex Alimentarius to protect public health and facilitate trade	**SO 4.1.** Establish platforms for consultation on the national food safety agenda	**SO 4.4.** Facilitate communication and engagement with food business operators and foster a food safety culture.	
		SO. 5.4. Strengthen engagements of national competent authorities with international agencies and networks that establish standards and guidelines for food	**SO 4.5.** Facilitate communication, education, and engagement with consumers.	

Recommended sequence for the implementation of the GSFS Strategic Objectives

GSFS assessment tool: preparing a plan of action

Example 1:

Strategic priority	Strategic objective	Suggested phase of implementation	Level of Achievement per Strategic Objective (first assessment)	Quarter start	PLAN DURATION	2024				2025				2026				2027				2028				2029				2030			
						1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
Strategic Priority 2 Identifying and responding to food safety challenges resulting from global changes and food systems transformation	Strategic Objective 2.2 Adapt risk management options to emerging foodborne risks brought about by transformation and changes in global food systems and movement of food	4	10%	10	2																												
Strategic Priority 4 Strengthening stakeholder engagement and risk communication	Strategic Objective 4.5 Facilitate communication, education, and engagement with consumers	4	30%	11	2																												
Strategic Priority 3 Improving the use of food chain information, scientific evidence and risk assessment in making risk management decisions	Strategic Objective 3.1 Promote the use of scientific evidence and risk assessment when establishing and reviewing food control measures	3	10%	10	2																												
Strategic Priority 5 Promoting food safety as an essential component in domestic, regional and international food trade	Strategic Objective 5.1 Strengthen food control systems and capacity development in regulatory systems for the domestic market.	2	30%	12	6																												
Strategic Priority 4 Strengthening stakeholder engagement and risk communication	Strategic Objective 4.1 Establish platforms for consultation on the national food safety agenda	3	30%	16	6																												
Strategic Priority 2 Identifying and responding to food safety challenges resulting from global changes and	Strategic Objective 2.1 Identify and evaluate food safety impacts arising from global changes and food systems transformation and	3	44%	7	4																												

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Thank you

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