

WHO comments for STDF Working Group Meeting on 21 and 22 June, 2024

5. OTHER BUSINESS_ WHO's SPS-related activities and capacity development

WHO Alliance for Food Safety

On 6-8 May 2024, the WHO Nutrition and Food Safety department hosted the inception meeting for the WHO Alliance for Food Safety. This hybrid meeting, organized in collaboration with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) of the United States of America, brought together WHO Collaborating Centers and other institutions to support the implementation of the WHO Global Strategy for Food Safety 2022-2030 in foodborne disease surveillance. The Strategy sets global targets to be reached by 2030, including a progress indicator on surveillance of foodborne diseases and contamination. Currently, there is no sufficient global mechanism in place to align efforts in this area and provide support to countries in a coordinated way. To address this gap, WHO launched the Alliance for Food Safety to provide support for the implementation of the Strategy, in particular, for foodborne disease surveillance target. For more information about the WHO Global Strategy for Food Safety 2022-2030: <https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789240057685>.

WHO/IFC assessment tool for the WHO Global Strategy for Food Safety

WHO and the International Finance Corporation / World Bank (IFC) are collaborating on a user-friendly tool to monitor the implementation of the WHO Global Strategy for Food Safety 2022-2030. The tool was prepared with the support of IFC, WHO HQ and RO, and members of the technical advisory group that supported the development of the strategy. The strategy proposes, for the first time, indicators for member states to measure progress in strengthening their national food safety systems. These indicators are based on IHR Joint External Evaluation (JEE) and State Party Self-Assessment Annual Reporting Tool (SPAR). Unlike existing tools like JEE and SPAR that don't measure the complete food safety system, the new WHO/IFC assessment tool offers a comprehensive approach and will support Member States in creating national roadmaps for strategy implementation. After the validation process, a web-based dashboard reflecting key indicators and relevant information (such as JEE, SPAR, INFOSAN and Codex) is expected to be launched in 2025.

World Food Safety Day 2024 (WFSD24)

WHO and FAO jointly coordinated the World Food Safety Day campaign, launched on 7 March with the theme "Food safety: prepare for the unexpected", to underly the importance of being prepared for food safety incidents and to present an opportunity to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the FAO/WHO International Food Safety Authorities Network (INFOSAN). Events included [Ask WHO Live Q&A](#) inviting the online audience to ask the FAO and WHO experts questions on maintaining food safety during unexpected events and a WHO and FAO joint [press briefing](#) at the United Nations Information Service in Geneva. The World Food Safety Day [website](#), hosted by Codex, features information about many of the events and initiatives that took place around the world.