



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



World Health
Organization



7 June
2026

World Food Safety Day

From burden
to solutions
safe food everywhere



#WorldFoodSafetyDay



Communication toolkit



About World Food Safety Day

Progress in food safety is possible when we use the best available evidence to guide clear, targeted action. Foodborne diseases are a significant global burden, causing at least 200 different illnesses and affecting health, livelihoods, education and economies. Yet, they are largely preventable. When we work together to build the right knowledge—identifying, prioritizing, and applying effective solutions—we can ensure that our food is and remains safe. Collective action helps prevent the consumption of food contaminated by pathogenic bacteria, viruses, parasites, or harmful chemicals.

This World Food Safety Day, we recognize that data on illness, its burden and lost lives can empower us to move from its burden to more focused and cost-effective solutions. By identifying the highest risks and applying evidence-based measures, we can ensure safer food for everyone, everywhere.



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Data release!

Watch out for the WHO foodborne disease estimates data release in the week leading up to 7 June which will provide a powerful new evidence base for action.



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World Food Safety Day theme

From burden to solutions - safe food everywhere

Foodborne diseases may affect everyone everywhere, and understanding the extent of the burden allows national authorities and business owners to take targeted action. Reliable data on the health burden of unsafe food is the foundation for evidence-based policies, coordinated multisectoral action, and informed consumer choices.

Everyone in the food chain—from farmers and producers, to transporters, retailers, food inspectors, cooks and consumers—benefits from science and clear guidance on how to prevent contamination and illness. Governments can translate data into cost-effective policies and interventions, food businesses can improve practices, and individuals can make evidence-based decisions. This World Food Safety Day we emphasize that health data is power: understanding the magnitude, distribution and impact of risks in food allows us to make food as safe as possible.

Sustained commitment, supported by robust data and science, can help address the burden of foodborne disease through practical solutions, ensuring that food is safe for everyone, everywhere and appropriate health services are provided to those affected.





The first steps in ensuring food safety is to identify who the most affected are, where they are, and why they are getting sick. Measuring the public health impact of unsafe food and ranking them by causative agents helps identify priorities for action. The burden data helps national stakeholders develop specific interventions and allocate resources. Risk managers can use this information to identify the global food safety standards that will work most effectively for their situation.



WHO foodborne disease estimates

In 2026, WHO will release the most comprehensive global, regional, and first-ever national **estimates** of the foodborne disease burden (2000-2021). These estimates highlight where the burden is greater by ranking harmful agents in food, helping governments prioritize risk management measures and resource allocation for consumer protection. The 2026 edition will provide the first such national-level estimates. This will fill a huge data gap and empower countries to strengthen national food control systems and reduce future burden. The report will also include the economic burden estimates of foodborne diseases.

Codex Alimentarius

Substantial knowledge on solutions has been developed through the **Codex Alimentarius**. This “Food Code” is a collection of standards, guidelines and codes of practice adopted by the Codex Alimentarius Commission. When implemented, Codex standards and related texts protect consumer health and facilitate fair practices in the food trade - objectives they have advanced for over six decades. Each year, the ‘food code’ grows – new standards are introduced and existing standards are updated as new data become available.



Key messages

Foodborne diseases are preventable

Reliable data on foodborne diseases assists governments, food businesses and individuals to make informed decisions. Knowing where the high risks are allows us to focus on cost-effective interventions and protect public health.

Patterns of foodborne diseases continue to evolve

Foodborne disease data, such as cases or deaths, should be collected regularly to guide prevention actions. The epidemiology of foodborne diseases evolves over time due to factors such as climate change, seasonality, or the success of implemented interventions.

Targeted actions reap results

When clear and achievable strategic actions are designed based on sound data, the results can be significant, impactful and fast.

Foodborne diseases impact the economy

Foodborne diseases impact the economy through factors such as medical expenses, time lost due to illness, and lower productivity. Unsafe foods are placing a heavy burden on public health systems, disrupting markets, limiting trade, and costing nations billions today.

Risk ranking guides action

Measuring the impact of foodborne hazards nationally allows countries to identify and prioritize food safety risks, allocating resources more effectively and helping them target interventions where they matter most, saving lives and resources.

Multisectoral collaboration strengthens food safety

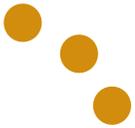
Food safety cannot be achieved in isolation. Health, agriculture, trade, environment, and consumer protection sectors must work together. Coordinated policies and joint action protect everyone - including the most vulnerable - and ensure maximum impact.

Science and evidence on impact inform decisions and build trust

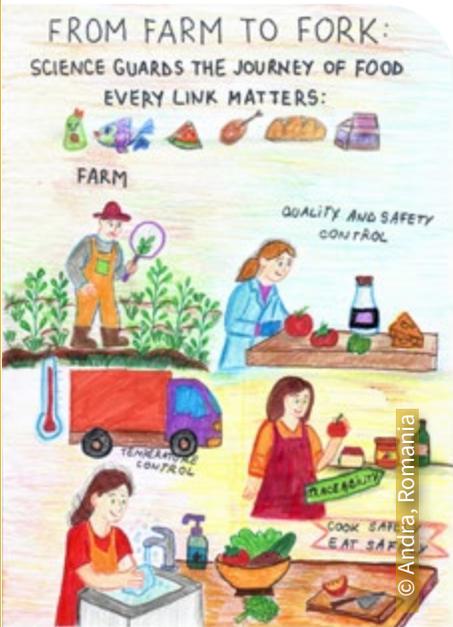
Scientific research, surveillance data, and standardized assessments underpin informed decisions. Evidence-based approaches strengthen national food control systems and public confidence.

Burden is not equally distributed

The burden is not distributed evenly across populations: some communities are affected far more than others, and children often suffer the greatest health consequences.



Facts and figures



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- Many foodborne diseases can be prevented through well-established measures such as washing, peeling, cooking, pasteurizing, safe food handling, improved irrigation and effective official controls. However, sustained commitment is needed to translate these measures into actions, reduce the burden and prevent illness.
- The relative contributions to the burden from the various foodborne disease agents differ geographically and entail different risks for different populations. There is no “one size fits all” solution. This is why targeted interventions, for specific age and gender groups and adapted for the national situation are needed.
- Some hazards transmitted in food can make people sick right away (their effect is often acute), while others can cause chronic health problems such as heart disease and certain types of cancer and mental illness.
- The Codex Alimentarius includes 238 standards, 91 guidelines, 58 codes of practice, and over 10 000 quantitative standards covering maximum levels for contaminants in food and food additives, and maximum residue limits for pesticides and veterinary drugs in food. When implemented, these standards help keep food safe.
- Climate change is a factor in evolving food safety risks. It can make it easier for some harmful bacteria, viruses and toxins to grow and spread in food, soil and water.



Call to action. What can you do?



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Governments can:

- Ensure food safety remains a continuous priority, integrating policies and programmes into long-term planning.
- Rank risks and prioritize preventive actions using available burden estimates and other data, directing resources to where they are needed most.
- Strengthen data collection through foodborne disease surveillance and food monitoring, using evidence to guide effective risk management measures and track progress.

Food businesses can:

- Strengthen employee training and education on the latest food safety practices and emerging risks, and ensure a thorough use of food safety programmes, such as good practices, including Codex codes of practice.
- Use, where applicable, Good Hygiene Practices (GHP) and Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point (HACCP) to identify and control hazards and manage food safety risks from production to consumption.
- Implement evidence-based food safety programmes using data within the business to monitor food safety risks and track improvements.

Health professionals can:

- Strengthen detection by improving diagnostics, clinical management and control programmes of foodborne diseases to better identify areas with higher burden.
- Collaborate with multisectoral partners to promote integrated disease surveillance across sectors.

Consumers can:

- Practice safe food handling at home by following **WHO's Five Keys to Safer Food**.
- Stay informed and act on evidence by checking updates from reliable sources on food recalls, outbreaks and safe food practices.
- Report and respond to risks by knowing how to alert authorities about unsafe food and taking practical steps to prevent illness in the household.



Get involved

● Host a multi-sectoral event

Bring together experts from the agricultural, health and environmental sectors to discuss ways to improve the national food safety situation; use data on national foodborne disease burden and national food control systems as guidance, as well as routine monitoring and surveillance data.



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● Organize a food safety exhibition

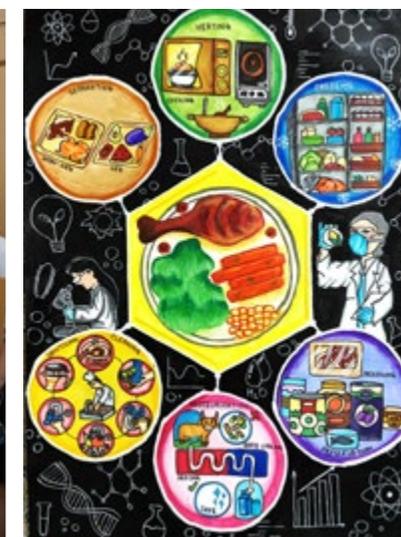
Create interactive displays and demonstrations for schools, universities or communities, demonstrating safe food handling and contamination prevention.

● Launch a social media campaign

Share videos, posters or tips on safe food practices using #WorldFoodSafetyDay and encourage others to take action.



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● Run a food safety quiz

Engage students, employees or the public with a quiz about foodborne hazards (or otherwise foodborne disease risk) and practical solutions to reduce these risks.

● Hold a community walk or run

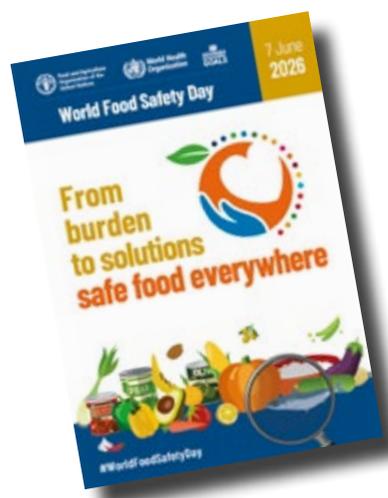
Promote food safety awareness while engaging the community in a fun activity, with educational stops sharing tips on safe food handling.



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Communication tools



Digital media hub

Posters, promotional materials and other assets useful for events are available in all six UN languages (Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish).

Download [here](#).



World Food Safety Day website

Find links [here](#) to this year's World Food Safety Day news and events, as well as all other information and materials.



Visual identity

The World Food Safety Day visual identity is available for use, without modification, in all World Food Safety Day activities. Please feel free to download it [here](#). However, requests for use of the FAO and WHO logos for any reason whatsoever must be addressed to both organizations in advance. For more information, please refer to the FAO and WHO websites.



About World Food Safety Day

Every year on 7 June, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the World Health Organization (WHO), together with national authorities, civil society, academia and other participants around the world, mark World Food Safety Day. The Day highlights food safety as a shared right and responsibility, and serves as a powerful opportunity for collective action.

About the toolkit

This toolkit was developed by FAO and WHO to help food safety advocates around the world take part in the eighth World Food Safety Day on (or around) 7 June 2026.

Tell us about your event

Get in touch and let us know what you plan for the Day. Make sure to document your activities so we can include them on the World Food Safety Day website. Share details of your events, photos and video links with us.

Contact us

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