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SUSTAINABLE  
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GOALS



# World Food Safety Day 2021

Overview of festivity and creativity

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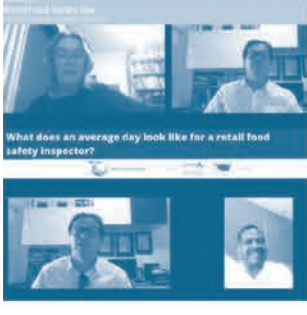
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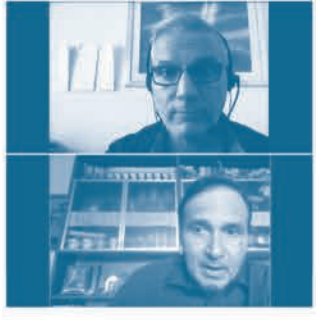
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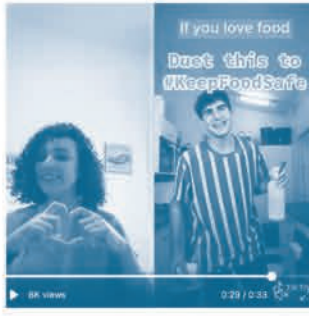
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Overview of festivity and creativity

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**Cover photograph:** METRO supermarkets in Pakistan incorporated training of food handling as part of their World Food Safety Day celebration and efforts to build a strong food safety culture.  
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# THE WORLD NEEDS SAFE FOOD

**Markus Lipp, Senior Food Safety Officer**  
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

The motto of World Food Safety Day is: "Food safety is everyone's business." And by everyone, we truly mean everyone; from those involved in growing, harvesting, transporting, processing, packaging and preparing our food, including us as consumers; and, of course, all people providing the laws, regulations, institutions, inspections and oversight that are geared towards ensuring that our food systems produce sufficient safe and nutritious food for all.

After air and water, food is the third most basic and most urgent human need. Every single person on this earth needs their food to be safe. And to ensure that our food is safe, every single person needs to do their part every day. Food safety is where aqua- and agriculture meet public health. Hence, FAO and WHO have taken the lead to celebrate World Food Safety Day every year since its establishment three years ago by the United Nations General Assembly.

And thousands of individuals and organizations around the globe took up the baton realizing that where food is not safe, hunger will persist; where food is not safe, people - especially children - will never reach their full potential as health and well-being will remain out of reach; where food is not safe, farmers and food producers cannot sell their goods on international markets.

But food is even more, it is part of culture, society and deeply interwoven in almost all aspects of our life. We feed it to our loved ones to help them grow, we use it to express affection; food is life and food is the language of love.

Food safety really is THAT important. Thank you for having celebrated World Food Safety Day with us.



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# BUILDING A SAFER, HEALTHIER TOMORROW

## Luz Maria De-Regil, Unit Head, Multisectoral Action in Food Systems, World Health Organization (WHO)

Safe food is essential to human health and well-being. It contributes to a healthy life, a healthy economy, a healthy planet and a healthy future. Globally, 1 in 10 people are affected by foodborne diseases annually. The magnitude of the public health burden due to foodborne diseases is comparable to that of malaria or HIV AIDS. We can and must do better.

The third World Food Safety Day, facilitated with our sister agency FAO, resulted in global action to advance work on food safety. This year's celebrations were held predominantly online due to the COVID-19 pandemic. But this, instead of being a limitation, sparked creativity and connectivity. It was inspiring to see hundreds of events from governments, international organizations, academia, private sector and civil society, and the reach on social media. Each of us plays an active role in keeping food safe.

The health of humans, animals and the environment is inextricably linked and, thus, many of the events emphasized the One Health approach to food safety. We must apply lessons learned from the pandemic and, together with Member States and partners, strengthen efforts across the food value chain to provide safe food for all.

When food safety is improved, hunger and malnutrition decrease. When food is safe, children get the nutrients needed for healthy growth and development. When foodborne diseases are prevented, children and adults miss fewer days at school and work, improving their present and future earning potential. Safe food is needed today for a healthy tomorrow.

This report is an opportunity to express our deep gratitude to each and every person for their participation in World Food Safety Day 2021. The actions you took at the local, regional or national level help shape food safety for the future. Together, we can build a safer, healthier world.



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