





# **Regional Framework for Action on Food Safety in the Western Pacific**

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## ABBREVIATIONS

<b>AMR</b>	antimicrobial resistance
<b>APEC</b>	Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation
<b>APSED</b>	Asia Pacific Strategy for Emerging Diseases
<b>APSED III</b>	Asia Pacific Strategy for Emerging Diseases and Public Health Emergencies
<b>ARAC</b>	ASEAN Risk Assessment Centre for Food Safety
<b>ASEAN</b>	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
<b>CCASIA</b>	FAO/WHO Coordinating Committee for Asia
<b>CCNASWP</b>	FAO/WHO Coordinating Committee for North America and the South West Pacific
<b>DRM-H</b>	disaster risk management for health
<b>FAO</b>	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
<b>FSCWG</b>	Food Safety Cooperation Working Group
<b>IHR (2005)</b>	International Health Regulations (2005)
<b>IHR MEF</b>	IHR (2005) Monitoring and Evaluation Framework
<b>INFOSAN</b>	International Food Safety Authorities Network
<b>JEE</b>	Joint External Evaluation
<b>NCD</b>	noncommunicable disease
<b>NTD</b>	neglected tropical disease
<b>OIE</b>	World Organisation for Animal Health
<b>POLHN</b>	Pacific Open Learning Health Network
<b>SDG</b>	Sustainable Development Goal
<b>UHC</b>	universal health coverage
<b>WHO</b>	World Health Organization
<b>WTO</b>	World Trade Organization

# FOREWORD

The impact of foodborne diseases on public health is staggering. More than 50 000 people die every year in the Western Pacific Region from consuming unsafe food. Another 125 million fall ill from unsafe food in the Region. Food safety concerns go beyond health; they impact trade and economic development.

Food safety risks cannot be eliminated. They can only be reduced. As such, food safety risk management must focus on the process of providing safe food: identify where food safety risks are highest and implement control measures. This approach helps to prevent foodborne diseases and to build trust and confidence in the food supply.

The context of food safety in the Western Pacific Region has changed in recent years. Technological advances, demographic changes and socioeconomic development have made food safety risk management and response to food safety incidents and emergencies more complex. In addition, public demand for safer food is increasing, and the requirements for documentation of food control procedures, particularly on export markets, are becoming stricter. This changing context of food safety calls for a new approach to strengthen national food safety systems.

The *Regional Framework for Action on Food Safety in the Western Pacific* was endorsed by the World Health Organization (WHO) Regional Committee for the Western Pacific in 2017. The new framework builds on achievements and lessons learnt from the *Western Pacific Regional Food Safety Strategy 2011–2015*. In addition, the new framework was based on months of comprehensive consultation with Member States, technical experts and partners. The process for developing the *Regional Framework for Action on Food Safety in the Western Pacific* is described in Annex 2.

The new framework provides guidance on strategic action and a stepwise approach to strengthen food safety systems. Member States are urged to use the framework to develop national action plans and to allocate adequate technical and financial resources for implementation.

At WHO, we acknowledge that better food safety is a joint responsibility. We stand ready to provide technical support to ensure that countries strengthen food safety systems. We also encourage Member States to learn from each other. Sharing experiences and best practices in the Region will help to continuously improve food safety systems.

Working together we can achieve the vision laid out in this framework: “Safer Food for All”.



Shin Young-soo, MD, Ph.D.

Regional Director

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

*Food safety is a fundamental element of good health and is essential for sustainable development. The Sustainable Development Goals call for actions to end hunger, improve nutrition, promote sustainable agriculture and achieve food security, all of which require that all people have access to safe, nutritious and sufficient food.*

The *Western Pacific Regional Food Safety Strategy 2011–2015* has contributed to good progress in food safety across the Western Pacific Region. However, more than 125 million people fall ill and more than 50 000 die annually from unsafe food in the Region.

Food safety is a highly complex health issue involving multiple domestic and international stakeholders. Over recent years, new developments including the introduction of new technologies, increasing internationalization of the food chain and demographic changes have affected food safety in the Region. The changing context of food safety affects food safety risk management as well as trust in the safety of the food supply. Food safety trust is a multifaceted issue and an outcome of effective food safety systems. At the same time, it serves as an enabler for strengthening food safety systems to manage food safety risks and respond to food safety incidents and emergencies.

The *Regional Framework for Action on Food Safety in the Western Pacific* builds on the achievement and lessons learnt from the 2011–2015 Strategy. It acknowledges the changing context of food safety and revisits the approach for strengthening national food safety systems. This includes a stronger focus on building trust and confidence in food safety systems and implementing strategic actions that create leadership,

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