



# The adoption of a WHA resolution on food safety and beyond

*Francesco Branca, MD PhD  
Dept. of Nutrition and Food Safety (NFS)  
World Health Organization*

# 2019 International Food Safety Conference - Addis Ababa

- The burden of Foodborne disease and the benefits for investment in safe food
- Safe and sustainable food systems with the accelerated climate change
- Science, innovation and digital transformation at the service of food safety
- Empowering consumers to make healthy choices and support sustainable food system



# 2019 International Food Safety Conference - Geneva

- The use of new technologies in food safety and trade
- How trade in the safe food can be facilitated at the borders
- Multi-stakeholder coordination and the role of partnerships
- Harmonization of the food safety regulation







## WHA 73.5 Strengthening efforts on food safety'

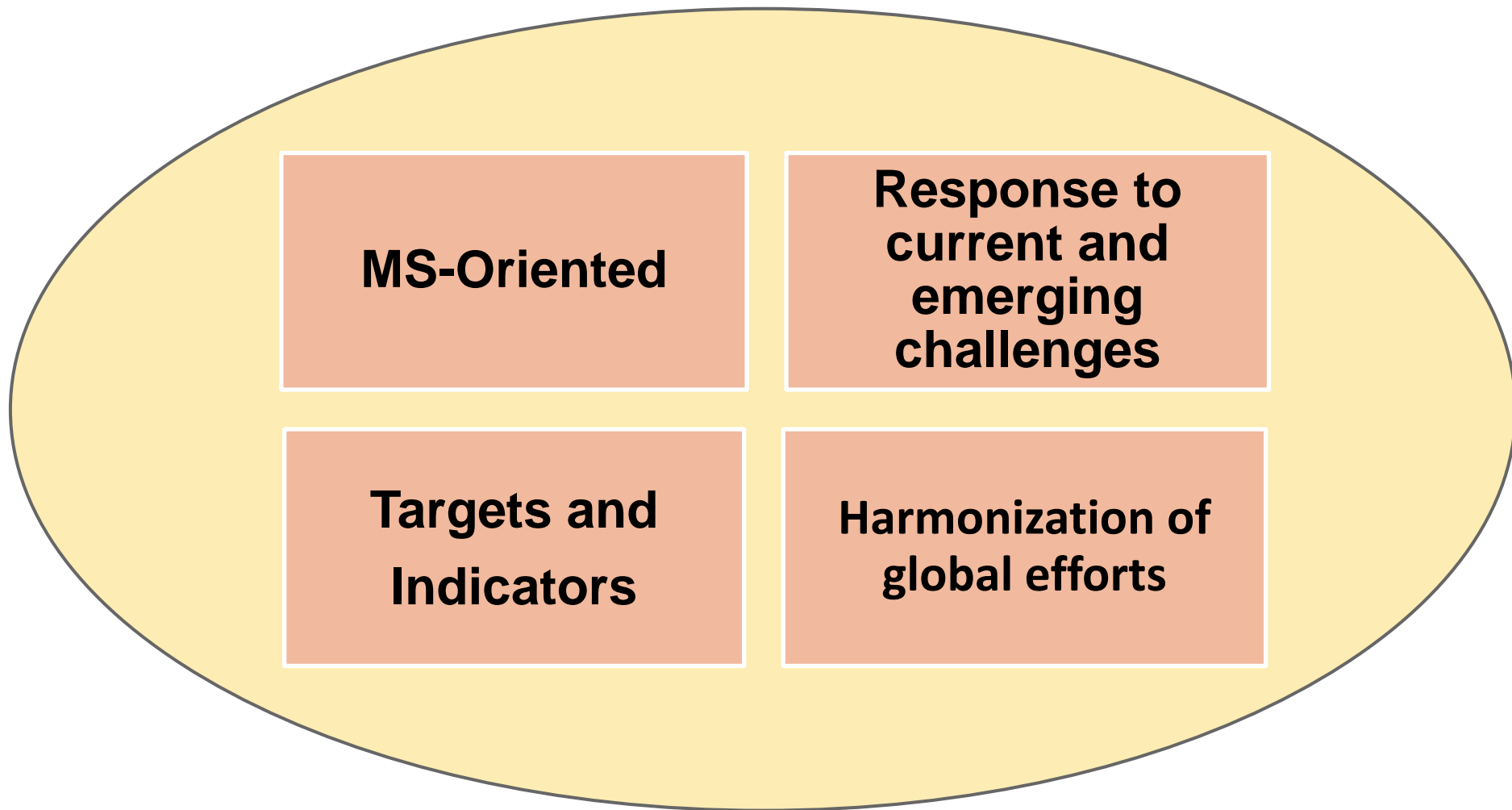
- Update the **WHO global strategy for food safety** in coordination with FAO, and in consultation with Member States and OIE, eventually report back to WHA75;
- Have a proposed coordination mechanism for FAO's and WHO's strategic efforts on food safety, eventually report back to WHA75;
- Update the global burden of foodborne diseases and zoonoses report by 2025; and
- Continuously fulfilling WHO's leadership and partnership with FAO regarding Codex Alimentarius, INFOSAN, the development of food safety infrastructures, new technologies and emerging risks along the food chain.

# Strengthening efforts on food safety

- Apply **One Health Approach** to promote the sustainability of, and access to, safe, sufficient and nutritious food for all
- Participate actively in **CAC** (Scientific advice and standards) and **INFOSAN** (Emergency response and data sharing)
- Promote coherent action to tackle **foodborne AMR**
- Provide **investment** in building and strengthening national food safety systems to prevent food safety risks, including **food fraud**
- Systematic **monitoring** of foodborne hazards and **surveillance** of foodborne disease outbreak
- Encourage **private sectors** investment in **safe and sustainable supply chain**
- Enhance **public awareness** and increase public confidence in food safety, including **consumers education**
- Promote **innovation** and cost-effective food safety systems, including enhanced traceability

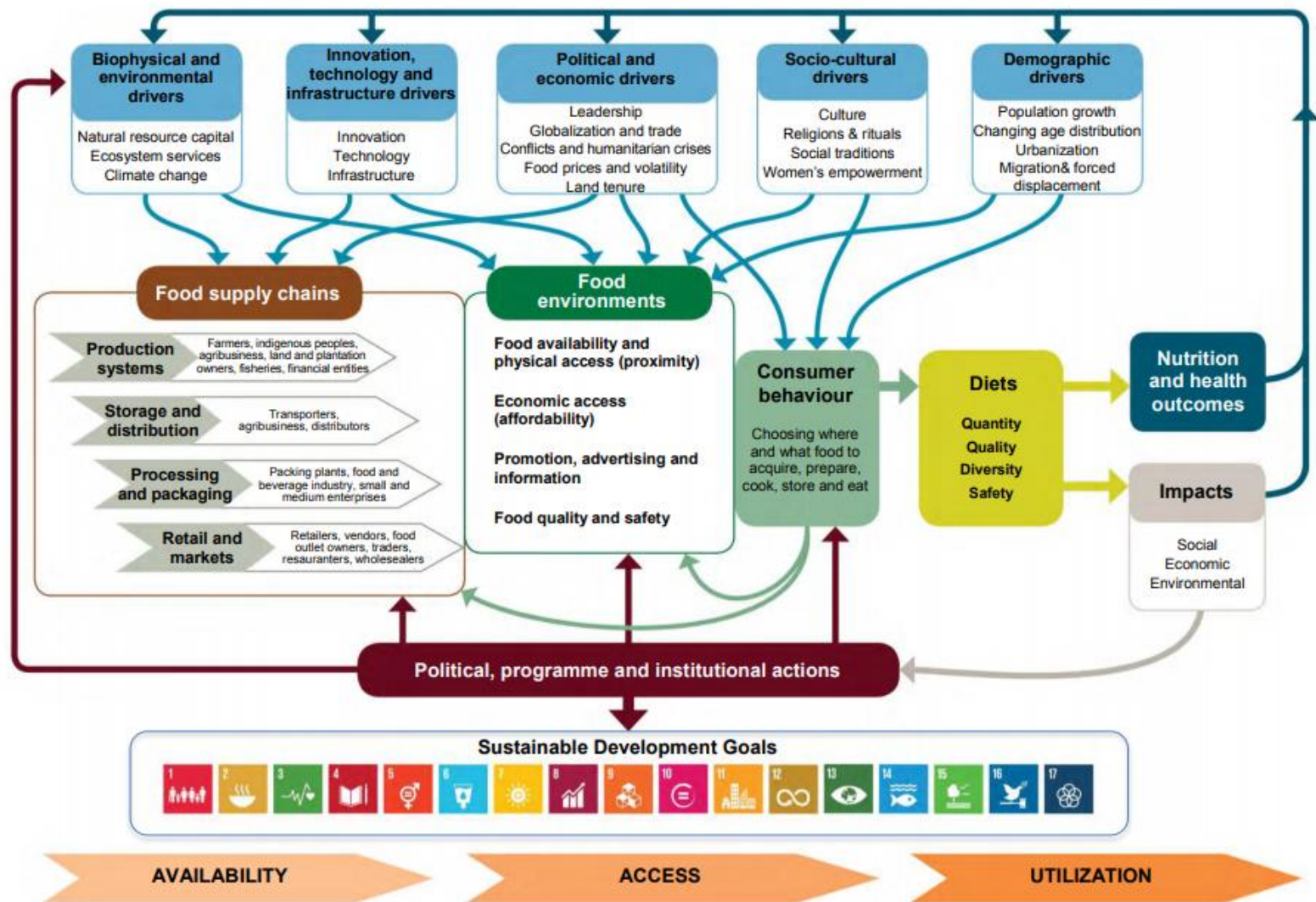


# Expectation for the new strategy





# Food System Approach: from “Farm to Fork”

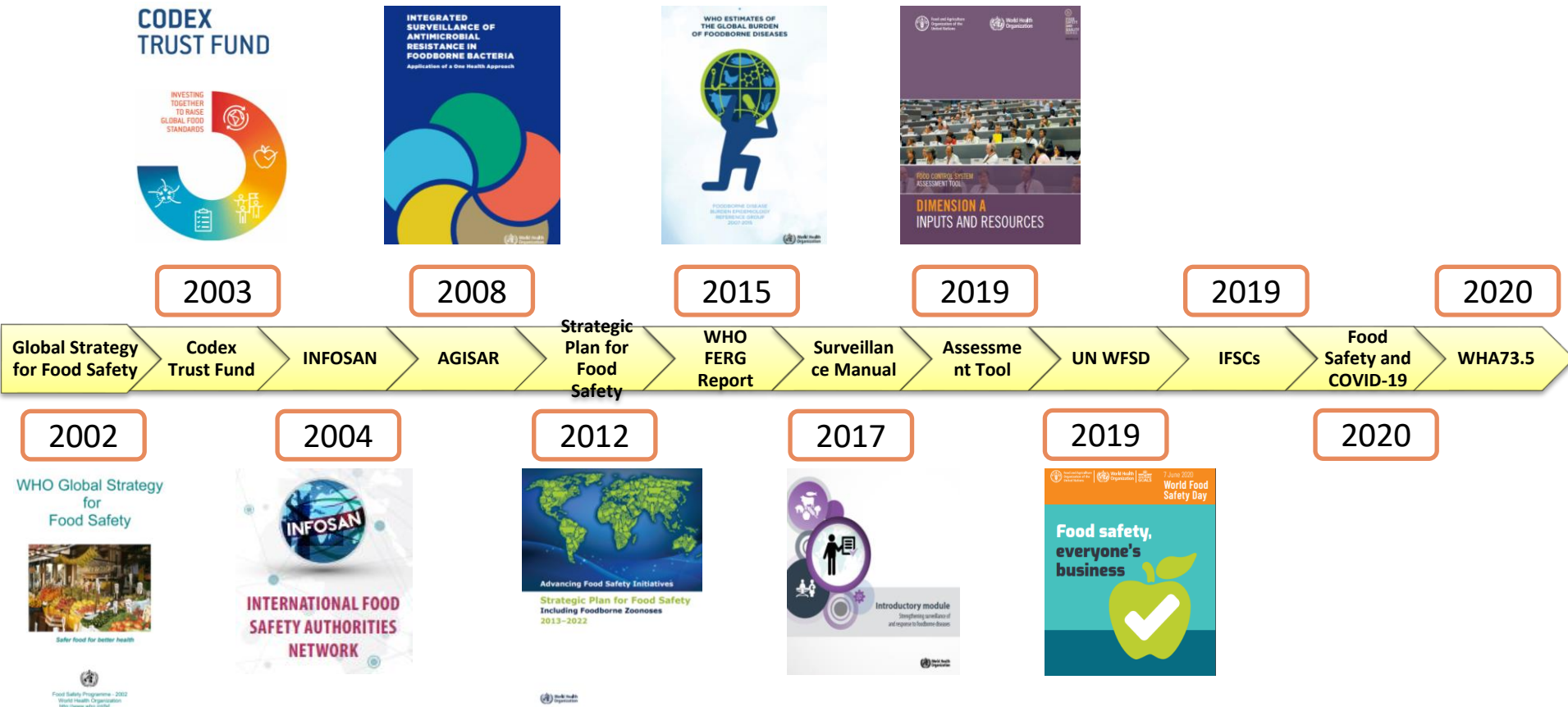


# Food Safety requires a One Health Approach

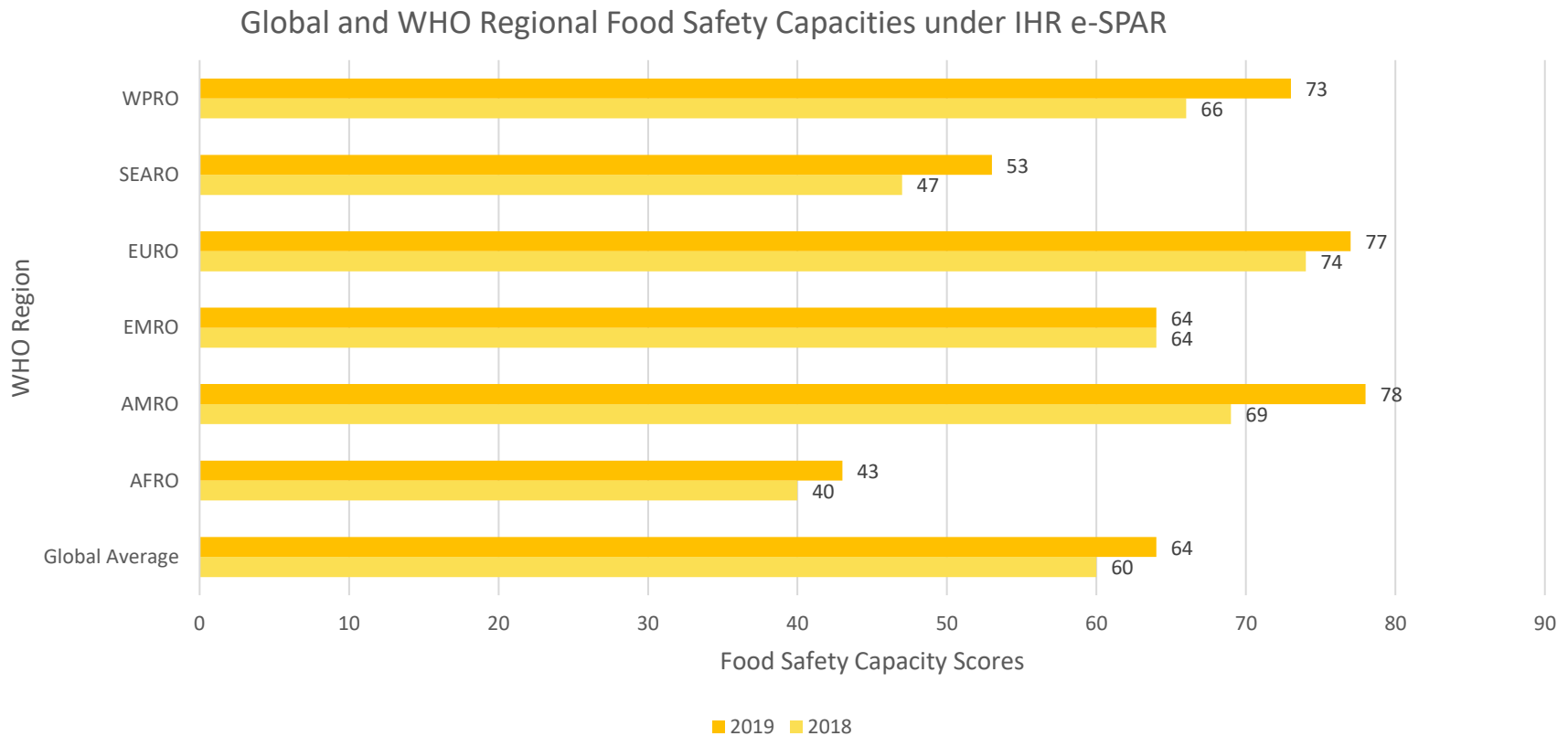




# Progress in last two decades



# Countries are improving their self reported capacity (IHR-eSPAR)

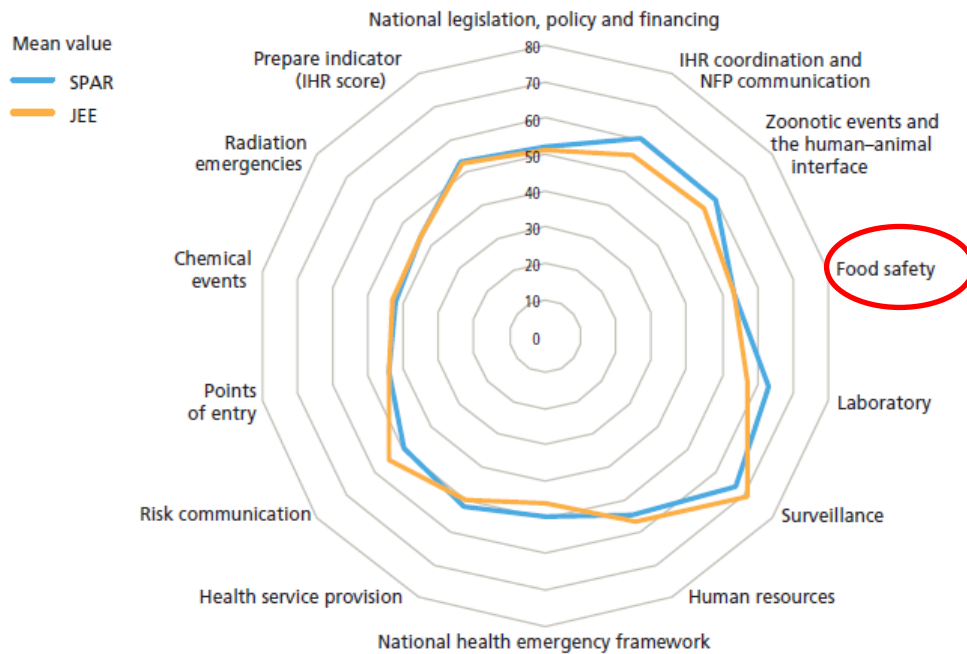


- Total number of reporting for 2019: 173
- Total number of reporting for 2018: 183

Data Source: WHO Electronic State Parties Self-Assessment Annual Reporting Tool

# Food safety capacity gaps

Comparison of SPAR and joint external evaluation (JEE) scores by IHR capacity, 2018



Source: Kandel et al., 2019

- The Global Average Capacities for Food Safety under IHR Preparedness is between 50-60
- Large Gap between each region

Main shortages identified in JEE reports:

Laboratory

Multisectoral coordination and collaboration

Capacity development

Inspection and quality control

Rapid/timely information sharing mechanism

Surveillance

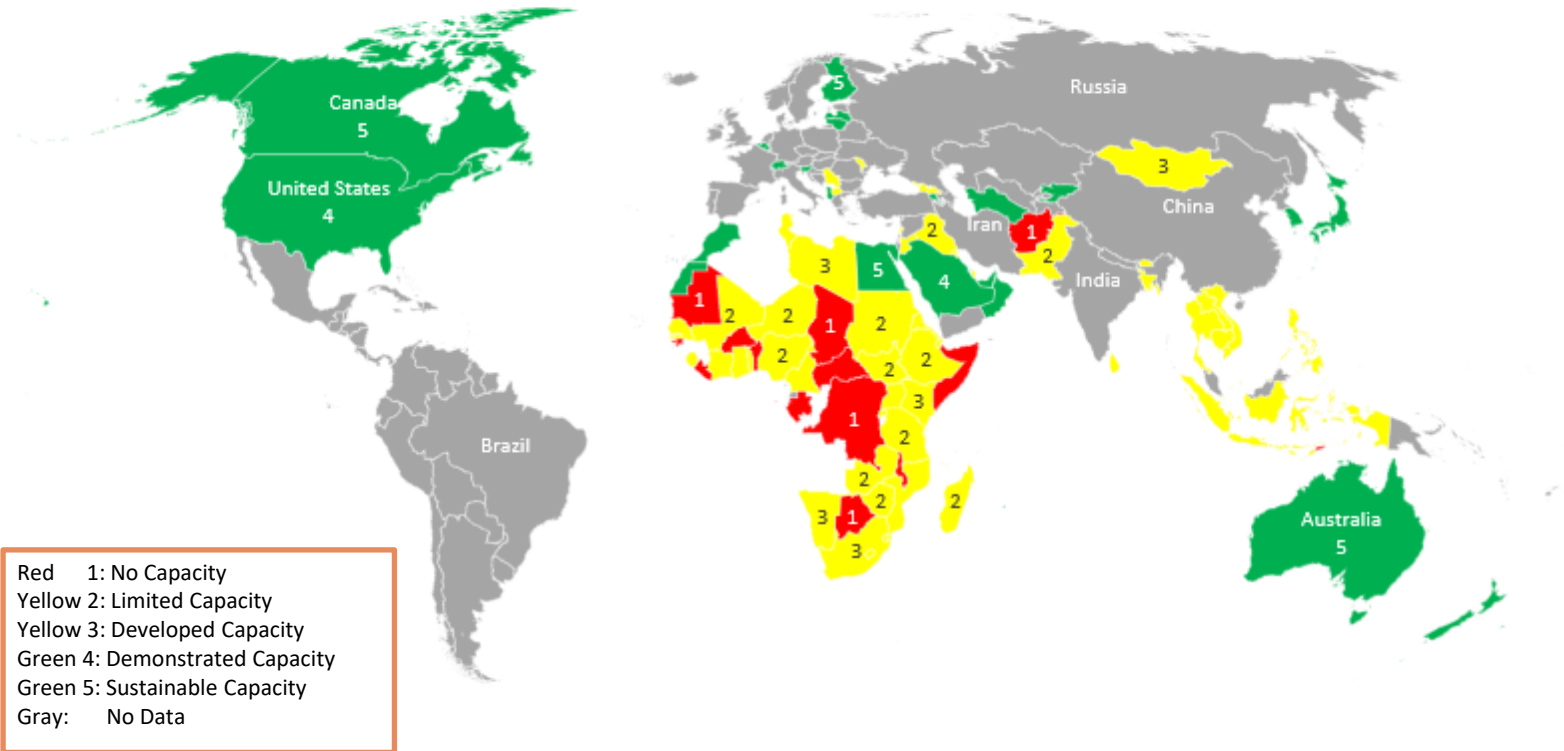
Emergency preparedness and response

Laws/regulations/legislation



# Food Safety Capacity Worldwide

## Joint External Evaluation Scorings for Food Safety Indicator globally



Powered by Bing  
© GeoNames, Microsoft, TomTom

57 out of 101 countries (56.4%) have  
either no or limited capacity

1 2 3 4 5

# Proposed 5 strategic priorities



Strengthen national food control systems



Identify and respond to new risks and opportunities from food systems



Enhance data, science, update-to-date food safety information



Strengthen stakeholders engagement and risk communication



Facilitate domestic and international safe food trade

# Process and timeline

## Phase 1: Approval and Establishment

(2nd half 2020)

- Establishment of a new food safety advisory group and appointment of members
- Draft timeline and CN
- Preparation for the 1st TAG meeting

## Phase 2: Analysis and Drafting

(1st half 2021)

- TAG meetings
- Web-based consultations
- MS consultations
- Mission Briefing
- Draft strategy

## Phase 3: Refinement and Endorsement

(2nd half 2021 to May 2022)

- 6 WHO RCs
- EB 2022
- WHA75



## Responding to food safety emergencies (INFOSAN)

An increasingly interconnected global food supply means that risks posed by unsafe food have the potential to rapidly evolve from a local problem to an international emergency. Ensuring food safety is an essential component for achieving global health security and national food safety authorities must be able to share information quickly and efficiently worldwide.

Since its creation in 2004, the FAO/WHO International Food Safety Authorities Network (INFOSAN) has facilitated the rapid exchange of information across borders and between members, during hundreds of food safety events.

As a member-driven, global network, INFOSAN is a practical, effective and efficient tool for information exchange, allowing for the implementation of risk management measures to prevent foodborne illness and save lives.

All INFOSAN Members are encouraged to:

- Report urgent food safety events of potential international significance to the INFOSAN Secretariat;
- Respond to information requests from the INFOSAN Secretariat during the verification and assessment of events by providing all necessary information;
- Request international assistance through the INFOSAN Secretariat to respond to food safety events as necessary;
- Take action on INFOSAN Alerts and disseminate information accordingly;
- Collaborate with their respective National IHR Focal Point on food safety events; and
- Share experiences and best practices related to food safety emergency management, so that all members can learn from one another.

## WHO's work towards safer food trade

## CODEX ALIMENTARIUS

NORMES ALIMENTAIRES INTERNATIONALES



Organisation des Nations Unies  
pour l'alimentation  
et l'agriculture



Organisation mondiale de la Santé

À propos du Codex ▾ Textes du Codex ▾ Thèmes ▾ Comités ▾ Réunions ▾ Ressources ▾ Publications ▾ Actualités et événements ▾ Login



Webinar - 5 February 12:00 CET / Good practices for the feed sector matter

protéger la santé, faciliter le commerce

# Codex Trust Fund

## Building Codex Globally



EN FR ES

du stdf financement projets thèmes sources d'information bibliothèque

**STDF**

ent du commerce (STDF) est un partenariat mondial destiné à faciliter un commerce sûr  
réduction de la pauvreté et à la sécurité alimentaire. Il encourage le renforcement des  
alimentaires, de santé des animaux et de préservation des végétaux dans les pays en


TE POUR PRÉSENTER DES DEMANDES DE FINANCEMENT: 23 JUILLET 2021

DERNIÈRES ACTIVITÉS

# One Health High Level Expert Council

- provide advice on the analysis of scientific evidence on the links between human, animal and ecosystem health, and contribute to foresight on emerging threats to health;
- develop advice on better understanding of the impacts of food systems (including agriculture, livestock farming and trade, wildlife hunting and trade, aquaculture, animal products processing, handling, distribution and consumer practices) and ecological and environmental factors that may be contributing to zoonotic disease emergence/re-emergence and spillover events;
- contribute to the One Health research agenda setting and propose, advise on and review approaches and specific studies relevant to the development of a global approach to reduce risk of zoonotic pandemics
- provide advice on One Health policy response in countries
- provide recommendations and develop reports on specific issues requested by the Executives of the expanded Tripartite Collaboration, in the areas of highest concern for attention and action, and future directions, in One Health



A portrait of Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Director-General of the World Health Organization. He is a middle-aged man with grey hair, a mustache, and glasses, wearing a grey suit, white shirt, and dark tie. He is standing in front of a background of many colorful national flags hanging vertically.

Food safety is everyone's business, every day.

Scroll for details

