

NUTRITION AND FOOD SAFETY

Dear subscribers

Welcome to our Nutrition and Food Safety Newsletter. In this issue, we present new publications, notable meetings, events and key campaigns in the field of nutrition and food safety that took place in September and October, and upcoming dates to watch for. For more information, please click on the related links.

Publications

Global Nutrition Targets 2030 information briefs

WHO and United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) have developed six thematic briefs on stunting, anaemia, low birth weight, childhood overweight, breastfeeding and child wasting, each addressing a respective target and outlining the nutrition interventions required to achieve it. During the 78th World Health Assembly in 2025, WHO Member States passed a resolution to extend the 2025 global nutrition targets to 2030.

Learn more about the current status and the rationale for the extension of the targets [here](#).



[Read more](#)

THE PUSH TO ELIMINATE TRANS FAT



THE DRIVE TO RID THE GLOBAL FOOD SUPPLY OF INDUSTRIAL TRANS FAT – A CHARGE RESPONSIBLE FOR OVER 270 MILLION DEATHS EACH YEAR – IS A CLEAR CASE OF GOVERNMENT COMMITMENT AND ACTION BEING SUCCESSION IN PROMOTING HEALTH AND SAVING LIVES.

(3 SEPTEMBER 2025)

Trans fat elimination opinion piece

Before the United Nations General Assembly high-level meeting on noncommunicable diseases in September, Ministers of Health from Austria, Norway, Oman and Singapore, together with the WHO Director-General Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, published [an opinion piece](#) calling for urgent, decisive action to eliminate industrially produced trans fats worldwide. Available also in [Arabic](#), [Chinese](#) and [Spanish](#).

[Read more](#)

Codex Trust Fund country story: Burkina Faso

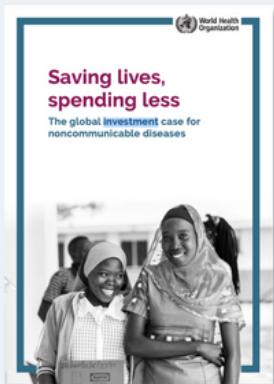
Codex Trust Fund Burkina Faso [country story](#), published in September 2025, reveals significant impact from the Trust Fund project started in 2019. Also available in [French](#).



Other WHO publications

Global investment case for noncommunicable diseases

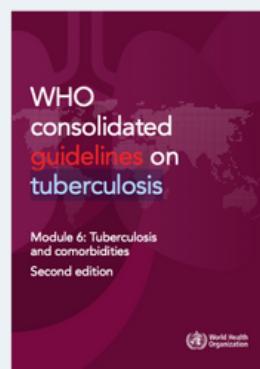
WHO has released the updated investment case for prevention and control of NCDs: [Saving lives, spending less](#). It shows that policies to reduce unhealthy diets offer the highest return, with a 14:1 ratio.



[Read more](#)

WHO guidelines on tuberculosis and undernutrition

WHO published [new guidelines on tuberculosis \(TB\) and undernutrition](#), as part of the WHO consolidated guidelines on tuberculosis. Undernutrition remains one of the most significant drivers of the TB epidemic globally.



[Read more](#)

WHO Academy launches a new Behavioural Counselling course

The WHO Academy has launched a new free [Behavioural Counselling course](#), available in English, designed for health care providers worldwide. This course helps support patients in improving their physical and mental health by helping them to: eat a healthier diet; increase physical activity; stop using tobacco and quit or drink less alcohol.

[Enroll here](#)

Events

Awards to recognize country action on obesity crisis

[Twelve countries and seven non-State actors](#) pioneering innovative, multisectoral action on obesity were recognized by the United Nations Inter-Agency Task Force on the Prevention and Control of Noncommunicable Diseases (UNIATF) during an event on 25 September in New York. Actions include bold fiscal policies such as taxes for sugar-sweetened beverages and cutting-edge digital tools, demonstrating how diverse strategies can create lasting impact.

[Read more here](#)

Country voices on trans fat elimination: Policies in action

On 16 October 2025, the WHO Nutrition and Food Systems Community of Practice hosted an Expert Hour on trans fat elimination, [Country voices on trans fat elimination: Policies in action](#). Saudi Arabia, Singapore and Thailand shared their practical experiences in implementing, monitoring and enforcing trans fat elimination policies.

[Watch here](#)

Want to learn more about NFS at the 80th Session of the UN General Assembly and Climate Week NYC?

[Click here](#)

Innovations in foodborne disease surveillance and food contamination monitoring

On the occasion of the annual general meeting (AGM), WHO Alliance for Food Safety hosted a public webinar on 28 October 2025 showcasing innovations shaping the future of foodborne disease surveillance and food contamination monitoring. Experts from Canada, the United Kingdom and Oman shared their experience in applying advances in laboratory science, digital technologies such as artificial intelligence and research to strengthen surveillance and improve food safety outcomes. The recording passcode: +Tx1iXwf



[Watch here](#)

Meetings

The 56th session of the Codex Committee on Pesticides Residues

The Committee held its meeting in Santiago, Chile on 8-13 September 2025. It has completed the work begun in 2021 on the development of comprehensive, harmonized guidance for laboratories on monitoring the stability and purity of the pesticide reference materials for their possible use beyond expiry dates.



Annual meeting: International Liaison Group on Methods for Risk Assessment of Chemicals in Food and Feed

ILMERAC, a network of around 30 governmental and intergovernmental organisations, held its meeting on the future of risk assessment on 1 October 2025 in Geneva, Switzerland, co-organised by the WHO and the German Federal Institute for Risk Assessment (BfR). A session on New Approach Methodologies (NAMs) highlighted different approaches taken worldwide to advance the regulatory acceptance.



[Read more](#)

Annual general meeting of the WHO Alliance for Food Safety

The 2025 annual general meeting (AGM) of the [Alliance](#), a network of WHO Collaborating Centres and other partners, was hosted by the Food Safety and Quality Centre (FSQC) of Oman on 28–30 October 2025. Members reviewed progress and shared updates from working groups and reflected on lessons from the first year of implementation and country experiences. The meeting also set priorities and next steps for 2026–2027, promoting opportunities for collaboration.



[About the Alliance](#)

A meeting with future food and nutrition actors

WHO welcomed a group of Master's students in food, nutrition and health from the Bern University of Applied Sciences. The meeting showcased WHO work on ethical marketing practices, product reformulation and sodium reduction. It also highlighted global nutrition monitoring efforts, nutrition and food safety databases, analytical tools and reporting mechanisms, demonstrating how data translates into impactful policy and action.



101st Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives

On 15–21 October 2025, WHO hosted the Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives (JECFA) bringing together global experts to reassess the safety of arsenic as a food contaminant. Arsenic is one of WHO's 10 chemicals of major public health concern, and is highly toxic in its inorganic form. Results will be published before the end of the year.



Meeting of the Technical Advisory Group on Risk-Benefit Assessment on optimal intake of animal-source foods

The first meeting of the TAG-RBA took place on 5 September 2025 to provide expert advice for WHO's framework addressing the dietary, biological and chemical risks and benefits of animal- and plant-sourced foods, while incorporating sustainability considerations. WHO is developing a guideline on the optimal intake of animal-source foods, led by the [Guideline Development Group \(GDG\)](#). The comprehensive framework will support the implementation of the GDG's recommendations.

FAO/WHO International Food Safety Authorities Network strategic plan

WHO, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the Ministry of Food and Drug Safety (MFDS) of the Republic of Korea will host a workshop in Seoul on 26–27 November 2025 to discuss INFOSAN priorities and activities for the next five years and define the vision for the next phase. The meeting will also mark the launch of the new WHO Collaborating Centre for INFOSAN, which will support future work on food safety emergencies. Current INFOSAN Strategic Plan (2020–2025) is available [here](#).

About INFOSAN

Launch of WHO guideline on fortification of edible oils and fats with vitamins A and D for public health

WHO has prepared a new guideline on fortification of edible oils and fats with vitamins A and D for public health. The guideline provides locally adaptable, clear, evidence-informed global recommendations on the fortification of edible oils and fats with vitamins A and D as a strategy to improve the vitamin A and D and health status of populations. A virtual launch event will be held on 17 November 2025 at 13:00–14:00 CET to share recommendations and implementation considerations.

Register here

Call for authors: Systematic reviews on dietary approaches apart from ready-to-use therapeutic food (RUTF) for managing severe wasting and nutritional oedema in infants and children

WHO is looking for authors for a systematic review to evaluate other dietary approaches apart from RUTF, which can include enhanced home diets, for management of severe wasting and nutritional oedema in infants and children. Currently there is a lack of guidance on dietary approaches in cases where RUTF is unavailable and in contexts where RUTF is not used. Deadline of submission: 15 November 2025.

Apply here

Open calls

Public notice and comment: Guideline development group for WHO guideline on consumption of ultra-processed food

WHO has brought together experts from all over the globe to serve in a guideline development group (GDG) that will develop a guideline on the consumption of ultra-processed foods. The names and brief biographies of the individuals selected to be part of the GDG are being published for public notice and comment. Deadline for comments: 30 November 2025.

Learn more

53rd session of the Committee on World Food Security

20–24 October 2025

Panel on food security and nutrition

Building on the State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World (SOFI) 2025 report, high-level speakers from India, Venezuela, the United Kingdom, Jordan and Kenya shared country experiences and best practices during a panel moderated by Dr Luz De Regil, Director of the Department of Nutrition and Food Safety. Watch the recording [here](#) (starting at 1h:41).

[Watch here](#)

Presentation on extended Decade of Action on Nutrition at CFS53

At CFS53 on 23 October 2025, WHO and FAO teamed up to spotlight the extended UN Decade of Action on Nutrition, inviting Member States and other CFS participants to share their ideas and provide suggestions on the way forward. WHO reaffirmed its commitment to multisectoral collaboration and health-promoting sustainable food systems.

[Watch here](#)

WHO statements at CFS53

WHO delivered [four statements](#) in CFS53 plenary sessions on the State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World (SOFI) 2025, food systems resilience, urban food environments, and nutrition in protracted crises. Photo: Lina Mahy, Cross-cutting Lead at NFS, delivers a statement on behalf of WHO.

[Read here](#)

WHO co-organized three side events on responsible investments for healthy diets, climate action, and equity in food systems, strengthening urban and peri-urban food systems and addressing power asymmetries in food systems. Recordings will be made available on the CFS53 [website](#).

Regional news

FAO/WHO Coordinating Committee for Asia meeting

WHO Western Pacific and WHO South-East Asia took part in the 23rd session of the FAO/WHO Coordinating Committee for Asia (CCASIA23) of the Codex Alimentarius in China on 22–26 September 2025. The meeting offered the opportunity to regional Members of discussing issues relevant to the region, as well as to progress standards-setting work.



[Read more](#)

Codex Trust Fund strengthens regional capacity in South Asia

The Codex Committee on Spices and Culinary Herbs (CCSCH) has approved forwarding the new standard for large cardamom for adoption, a major milestone in regional collaboration led by Bhutan, with Nepal and India as co-chairs. Supported by the Codex Trust Fund 2 project, India provided training and technical guidance to Bhutan and Nepal from 2019–2023, strengthening their Codex participation and promoting harmonized international food standards across South Asia.



[Read more](#)

Regional webinar series on strengthening policy action to transform food systems for health in Africa

WHO African Region, together with African Union, World Food Programme, UNICEF and FAO, organized a regional webinar series on food policy action to address all forms of malnutrition in Africa. Addressing all forms of malnutrition through the promotion of sustainable, safe and healthy diets. The series concluded on 14 October 2025 with a webinar on fortification, food safety and food diversification.

Databases

Global database on the Implementation of Food and Nutrition Action (GIFNA)

Did you know? WHO has a unique and comprehensive tool providing nutrition and food environment policy data for decision-making nutrition and covering all forms of malnutrition in all countries of the world.

- About 3/4 of the world's population lives in countries without mandatory measures towards sodium reduction.
- More than half of the world's population is currently covered by national level sugar-sweetened beverages (SSB) taxes.



[Learn more](#)

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