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## **World Food Safety Day, 7 June 2026**

The Directors-General of the World Health Organization (WHO) and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) present their compliments to Member States and Associate members and have the honour to inform that World Food Safety Day, adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in December 2018, will be celebrated on 7 June 2026, coinciding with the global release of new estimates on the burden of foodborne diseases.

During the week leading up to World Food Safety Day, WHO will release the global, regional and first-ever national estimates of the burden of foodborne diseases covering the period 2000–2021. These estimates will provide updated evidence to inform global, regional and national food safety programmes. The report will also include new estimates of the economic impact of foodborne diseases. Reliable data on health and economic burden will provide the foundation for evidence-based policies and coordinated multisectoral action.

Measuring the national impact of foodborne hazards allows to identify and rank priority risks, allocate resources more effectively and target interventions where they will have the greatest impact. Addressing these challenges requires collaboration across sectors. Food safety depends on coordinated action by health, agriculture, trade, environment and consumer protection authorities.

Substantial knowledge on solutions already exists. The Codex Alimentarius, the international food code developed by FAO and WHO, provides standards, guidelines and codes of practice that protect consumer health and facilitate fair practices in the food trade. These standards—continuously updated as new evidence becomes available—offer practical guidance for managing food safety risks. Other solutions include stronger national food control systems, practical guidance for safe food handling and healthy diets, risk-based regulatory interventions, science-based regulatory approaches, audience-appropriate food safety risk communication, multi-stakeholder engagement, interministerial coordination and more.

The global release of the new estimates on the burden of foodborne disease, on the occasion of World Food Safety Day will therefore provide both a better understanding of the challenge and a powerful impetus for action. Together, data and solutions can guide countries in prioritizing risks, strengthening food safety systems and protecting the health of their populations.

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WHO and FAO encourage Members to mark World Food Safety Day 2026 and to make use of the forthcoming data to support national food safety actions and policies.

The Directors-General of the World Health Organization and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations take this opportunity to renew to Member States and Associate Members the assurance of their highest consideration.

GENEVA, 2 June 2026