



6th expert meeting
of the Foodborne Disease Burden Epidemiology Reference Group (FERG) for 2021-2025
Proposed draft agenda

Draft version as of 5 December 2023

Meeting mode: Virtual zoom meeting

Planned date and time: 5 and 7 December 2023, 21:00 – 23:00 CET (2 hours)

Invitees:

- Official members of the FERG
- External commissioned experts who are currently engaged in the efforts to collect data required to estimate the burden of foodborne diseases
- Relevant WHO staff

Introduction

In order to prepare the updated estimates of the global, regional and national burden of foodborne diseases by 2025 as it was so mandated by the World Health Assembly resolution (WHA73.5), WHO is undertaking a process to collect required data. Based on the advices received from the FERG, it was decided that systematic reviews and other required literature reviews will be commissioned to primarily collect required data to generate the next estimates. The general methodology was developed (See [Concept Note](#)) and various study groups have been commissioned as below.

Background

To date, the following teams have been or will be soon commissioned under the Agreement for Performance of Work (APW) to collect data on specific hazard and/or health outcomes

Systematic review teams	Country	Scope of work
Australian National University	Australia	<i>Clostridium botulinum</i>
Technical University of Denmark	Denmark	Dioxin, Peanut allergy
Hokkaido University	Japan	<i>Mycobacterium bovis</i>
Michigan State University	United States of America	Aflatoxins M1 and B1 (Link)
National Institute for Public Health and the Environment (RIVM, WHO Collaborating Centre for Risk Assessment of Pathogens in Food and Water)	Netherlands	<i>Fasciola</i> spp.
Ghent University	Belgium	Acute aflatoxicosis, growth impairment caused by aflatoxins (Link)

Sciensano	Belgium	<i>Listeria monocytogenes</i> , <i>Clonorchis sinensis</i> , Intestinal flukes, <i>Opisthorchis</i> spp., <i>Paragonimus</i> spp., <i>Trichinella</i> spp.
University of Melbourne / Babol University of Medical Sciences	Australia/Iran	<i>Ascaris</i>
University of Montreal	Canada	<i>Taenia solium</i> (Link)
University of Virginia	United States of America	Diarrhoeal diseases and deaths caused by 14 pathogens commonly transmitted by food (<i>Campylobacter</i> , <i>Cryptosporidium</i> , EPEC, ETEC, <i>Entamoeba histolytica</i> , <i>Giardia</i> , <i>Salmonella enterica</i> , <i>Shigella</i> , norovirus, STEC, <i>vibrio cholerae</i> , <i>Cyclospora</i> , enteroaggregative <i>E. coli</i> , rotavirus) (Link)
University of Waterloo	Canada	Haemolytic uraemic syndrome, End-stage renal disease caused by STEC
University of Zurich	Switzerland	<i>Echinococcus granulosus</i> , <i>Echinococcus multilocularis</i> , <i>Toxoplasma gondii</i>
University of Otago	New Zealand	<i>Non-typhoidal salmonella enterica</i> (invasive salmonellosis)
Murdoch University	Australia	<i>Brucella</i>
China National Center for Food Safety Risk Assessment	China	Cadmium (Link)
Shahid Beheshti University of Medical Sciences and others	Iran	Methylmercury (Link)
Gibb & O'Leary Epidemiology Consulting	United States of America	Inorganic Arsenic, Lead (Link)
Other commissioned team		
Delft University of Technology	Netherlands	Global expert elicitation for attribution of burden of disease to foodborne transmission and to specific foods (Link)

https://cdn.who.int/media/docs/default-source/foodborne-diseases/ferg/call-for-expressions-of-interest-ferg-concept-note.pdf?sfvrsn=e01eebbc_6

Objectives

1. Overall implementation of the WHO initiative to estimate the burden of foodborne diseases
2. Share progress updates on data collection processes
 - a. An overview from Sciensano team
 - b. Selected systematic review groups to present their review progress
3. Share progress updates on source attribution expert elicitation study
4. Discuss data inputs from IHME
5. Understand planned computational methodology
6. Discuss and identify prioritized agenda items for 7th expert meeting of the FERG planned in February 2024

Proposed agenda

Day 1 – 120 min, 5 December 2023, Tuesday

21:00 – 23:00 CET (7-9h Sydney time / 9-11h Christchurch time / 15h-17h EST)

Time (CET)	Agenda	Speakers
21:00 – 21:05	Opening	FERG chair
21:05 – 21:10	Overview of WHO activities to estimate the burden of foodborne diseases, particularly around data collection	WHO secretariat
21:10 – 21:20	The current overall status of data collection work to generate the next WHO burden estimates of foodborne diseases	Commissioned team at Sciensano
21:20 – 22:00	Data collection status on diarrhoeal diseases caused by 14 pathogens commonly transmitted by food • <10 min presentation by the team • 30+ min plenary discussion	Commissioned team led by University of Virginia
22:00 – 22:20	Data collection status on <i>Taenia solium</i> • <10 min presentation • 10+ min discussion	Commissioned team led by University of Montreal
22:20 – 22:35	IHME data – status of data sharing, required data format, etc. • Enteric diseases • Parasitic diseases • Chemicals and toxins	FERG chair to moderate EDTF chairs PDTF chair CTTF chairs
22:35 – 23:00	Discussions	FERG chair

Day 2 - 120 min, 7 December 2023, Thursday

21:00 – 23:00 CET (7-9h Sydney time / 9-11h Christchurch time / 15h-17h EST)

Time (CET)	Agenda	Speakers
21:00 – 21:25	An overall progress on expert elicitation study • 5 min presentation • 10 min discussion	SATF and commissioned team at TU Delft
21:25 – 21:40	Data collection status on <i>Trichinella</i> / fish-born trematodes • <5 min presentation • 10+ min discussion	Commissioned team at Sciensano
21:40 – 21:55	Data collection status on Aflatoxin • <5 min presentation • 10+ min discussion	Commissioned team led by Ghent University
21:55 – 22:10	Data collection status on <i>Toxoplasma</i> • <10 min presentation • 10+ min discussion	Commissioned team at University of Zurich

22:10 – 22:30	Planned computational methodology	Computational taskforce / Dr Brecht Devleesschauwer
22:30 – 22:50	Preparatory discussion about the 7 th FERG meeting planned in February 2024, to inform and concretize the meeting agenda - Discuss priorities for taskforces - Discussion	FERG chair
22:50 – 23:00	Wrap up and next steps	FERG chair