



Third meeting of the WHO Foodborne disease burden epidemiology reference group 2021-2024 (FERG2)

Concept note and agenda

1. Background

Foodborne diseases are a major cause of human morbidity and mortality. According to the first-ever global estimates^{1,2} produced by the WHO Foodborne Disease Burden Epidemiology Reference Group (WHO FERG)³, foodborne diseases caused 600 million illnesses, 420 000 deaths, and 33 million Disability-Adjusted Life Years (DALYs) in 2010.

In 2021, 26 new members of the FERG were appointed with the specific terms of reference.⁴ The first two virtual meetings were held in July and October 2021, respectively. These two meetings situated FERG's work in the context of related WHO's work in food safety, including the Global Burden of Disease (GBD), global food safety strategy development and its monitoring and evaluation, its country support. FERG agreed on the governance and task force structures, roles and functions. Specific objectives, the scope of work and a workplan has been also discussed.

This third meeting is organized to reach an agreement on the concrete plan of actions towards 2025 reporting on the updated global estimates of the burden of foodborne diseases, and to advance a plan for country support activities as well as the development on the impact measurement framework.

2. Aim of the meeting

Finalize the 3-year strategic workplan for the FERG 2021-2024 on the following activities: 1) global estimation of the burden of foodborne diseases, 2) development and validation of global food safety indicators and targets, and 3) country support for estimating the national burden of foodborne diseases.

Specific objectives are to:

1. Share a progress update from all FERG taskforces and WHO
2. Agree on the overall workplan and budgetary needs/priorities for the above-mentioned activities, including:
 - a. Final roadmap towards 2025 reporting on the updated global burden of foodborne diseases

¹ WHO estimates of the global burden of foodborne diseases: foodborne diseases burden epidemiology reference group 2007-2015: <https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789241565165>

² PLOS ONE collection, special issues on WHO estimates of the global burden of foodborne disease: <https://collections.plos.org/collection/ferg2015/>

³ WHO FERG Group page: [https://www.who.int/groups/foodborne-disease-burden-epidemiology-reference-group-\(ferg\)](https://www.who.int/groups/foodborne-disease-burden-epidemiology-reference-group-(ferg))

⁴ WHO FERG 2021-2024 Terms of Reference: https://cdn.who.int/media/docs/default-source/food-safety/call-for-experts/tor-for-reference-ferg-31aug2020.pdf?sfvrsn=b0a3d1f_8

- b. Advance the publication plan and journal options to work on the collection
 - c. Agreement on the plan commissioning systematic reviews
 - d. Advanced roadmap for country support
 - e. Advance roadmap for developing the impact measurement framework
 - f. Discuss required internal and external collaborations
3. Understand WHO's publication policy

3. Expected outcomes

- FERG workplan agreed
 - Better understanding on specific needs for collaborations shared
 - Country support activities discussed and advanced
 - Impact measurement activities discussed and advanced
- Roadmap towards 2025 reporting agreed
- Advanced plan for publications agreed
- Budgetary needs and priorities agreed
- Plan for commissioning systematic reviews discussed and developed

4. Date/Time (CEST)

The next FERG meeting will be held over 26, 28 April and 3, 5 May 2022.

Date	Time
Tuesday 26 April	11h00 – 14h00 CET (3hrs)
Thursday 28 April	11h00 – 14h00 CET (3hrs)
Tuesday 3 May	05:00 – 08:00 CET (3hrs)
Thursday 5 May	05:00 – 08:00 CET (3hrs)

5. Nature of the meeting and participants

This is a closed session and participation in this meeting is restricted mainly to FERG members and relevant WHO staff. Other resource advisory experts will participate based on WHO's invitation.

6. Language and the mode of connection

The meeting will be conducted in English through the zoom connection (to be provided separately).

7. Meeting report

WHO will summarize the discussion and incorporate the meeting report into the annual activity report. In the meantime, the meeting summary (interim report) will be published on the WHO website.

8. Final meeting agenda (meeting time is expressed as CET)

26 April 2021, Tuesday – Day 1 (11h00 – 14h00 CET)		
11:00 – 11:05	Opening remarks from the Unit Head, Monitoring Nutritional status and Foodsafety events (MNF) Unit, Department of Nutrition and Food Safety, WHO	Dr Elaine Borghi

11:05 – 11:10	Agenda and objectives of the meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Housekeeping 2. Adoption of the agenda 3. Declaration of interests 	Chair Ms Charlee Law
11:10 – 12:00	WHO update, including <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation of the current workplan, roadmap • Presentation of the current plan for publications, budgetary needs • Process and requirements for commissioning work Q and A	Ms Yuki Minato
12:00 – 12:20	20 min break	
12:20 – 13:30	Reflections on the activities to date since the last FERG meeting November 2021	Chair/TF chairs
13:30 – 14:00	WHO publication policy and QA	Dr Ian Coltard
14:00	End of Day 1	
28 April 2021, Thursday – Day 2 (11h00 – 14h00 CET)		
11:00 – 11:05	Housekeeping, Recap of Day 1 and objective of the day	Chair
11:05 – 11:55	Reflections on the activities to date since the last FERG meeting November 2021	Chair/TF chairs
11:55 – 12:40	Plenary discussion on the workplan	Chair
12:40 – 13:00	20 min break	
13:00 – 14:00	Plenary discussion on the plan for commissioning works <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What commissioned tasks can be scoped now? • Discussion towards common understanding about the time/cost of systematic reviews and other pieces of work 	Chair
14:00	End of Day 2	
3 May 2021, Tuesday – Day 3 (05:00 – 08:00 CET)		
05:00 – 05:10	Housekeeping, Recap of Day 2 and objective of the day	Chair
05:10 – 06:10	Continued discussion on the plan for commissioning works <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are there commissioned pieces of work that cut across multiple TFs that can be aggregated? 	Chair
06:10 – 06:40	Plenary discussion on the budgetary needs and priorities	Chair
06:40 – 07:00	20 min break	
07:00 – 08:00	Plenary discussion on the publication plan	Chair
08:00	End of Day 3	
5 May 2021, Thursday – Day 4 (05:00 – 08:00 CET)		
05:00 – 05:10	Housekeeping, Recap of Day 3 and objective of the day	Chair
05:10 – 06:00	Forming the consensus	Chair
06:00 – 06:10	10 min break	

06:10 – 07:50	Continued plenary discussion	Chair
07:50 – 08:00	Closing remarks from the Director, Department of Nutrition and Food Safety, WHO	Dr Francesco Branca
08:00	Meeting adjourns	