

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 January and February, and upcoming dates to watch for. For more information, please click on the related links.

Publications

Policies and interventions to create healthy school food environments: WHO guideline

1 in 10 school-aged children globally—188 million—are living with obesity, surpassing for the first time the number of underweight children, and around 466 million children receive school meals worldwide.

This new [WHO guideline](#) provides evidence-based recommendations and implementation considerations on policies to improve school food environments. It covers direct food provision in schools, nutrition standards or rules for foods and beverages served or sold at school, and nudging interventions that modify the school food environment to promote healthier choices.

The recording of the guideline launch webinar, held on 27 January 2026, is available [here](#).



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2025 Global Breastfeeding Scorecard

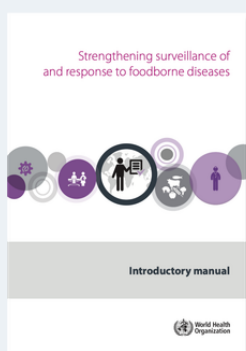
WHO and UNICEF published the 2025 edition of the [Global Breastfeeding Scorecard](#). The scorecard presents data on national progress in improving breastfeeding rates and in implementing the policies and programmes that protect and support it. In the last five years, the global rate of continued breastfeeding for two years has increased by 12%, and the rate of exclusive breastfeeding the first six months increased by 8%.



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Updated WHO manuals on strengthening surveillance of and response to foodborne diseases

WHO published updated editions of its [set of manuals](#) on strengthening surveillance of and response to foodborne diseases, providing countries with a practical and structured framework to build, assess, and advance national systems. Organized around a three-stage approach, the manuals guide countries from establishing core detection and outbreak response capacities to integrating surveillance data across the food chain.



[Read more](#)

Microbiological risk assessment of viruses in foods: prevention and intervention measures

At the request of the Codex Committee on Food Hygiene, the Joint FAO/WHO Expert Meeting on Microbiological Risk Assessment (JEMRA) held two expert meetings to assess the risk of viruses in foods. Part 2 expert [meeting report](#), published on 2 February 2026, focuses on prevention and intervention measures. It presents recent scientific developments, data and evidence on foodborne viruses. Part 1 addressed food attribution, analytical methods and indicators, with published results available [here](#).

A video on viruses in food is available [here](#).



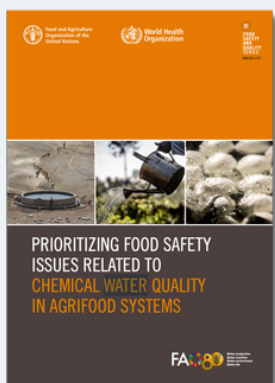
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Summary report of the 2025 Joint FAO/WHO Meeting on Pesticide Residues

This [summary report](#) contains key extracts from the JMPR meeting held on 20–22 January 2026. The meeting evaluated 38 pesticides, estimating maximum residue levels, which it recommended for use by the Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues. It also estimated levels of supervised trials median residue and highest residue as a basis for estimation of the dietary intake of pesticide residues.

Prioritizing food safety issues related to chemical water quality in agrifood systems

The report of the ad hoc FAO/WHO Expert Meeting on water quality in agrifood systems and food safety implications, with focus on chemical contaminants, outlines approaches for assessing and managing waterborne chemical hazards. It addresses gaps in food safety risk management and offers guidance on many of these contaminants.



Download

WHO reference protocol for measuring fatty acids in foods

WHO published an updated edition of the WHO reference laboratory protocol for measuring trans fats in foods, with emphasis on monitoring trans-fatty acids originating from partial hydrogenation of edible oils. This updated protocol is a compendium of validated procedures for conducting Fatty Acid Methyl Ester (FAME) analysis, allowing laboratories to choose a suitable procedure for their specific analytical needs.



Download

The use of nutrition administrative data to generate population-level child malnutrition estimates

This technical note provides evidence-based recommendations in the collection, quality assessment and analysis of individual-level anthropometric data for pre-school aged children using administrative health information systems to derive national and subnational malnutrition estimates, a first but important step towards the establishment of a standard analytical framework.



Safety evaluation of certain food additives

The Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives (JECFA) has released the results of its 100th meeting, which evaluated the safety of nine food additives and seven flavouring agents, with WHO roster of experts responsible for the toxicological part of the risk assessments. Since 1956, JECFA has evaluated more than 2,600 additives, helping ensure consumer protection and fair trade.



New WHO Collaborating Centre established to support work on food safety and healthy diet

WHO welcomes the Research Group for Risk Benefit at the Technical University of Denmark (DTU) National Food Institute based in Kongens Lyngby, Denmark, as the new WHO Collaborating Centre for Risk and Benefits of Foods and Diets. The group will support WHO's efforts to estimate the burden of foodborne diseases and to develop integrated risk-benefit approaches for healthier and safer food.

[Read more](#)

Meetings

29th session of the Codex Committee on Fats and Oils

At the 29th session of the Codex Committee on Fats and Oils held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, on 9-13 February, 2026, WHO supported the Committee's work on revising existing Codex standards on fats and oils with the objective of advancing the global elimination of industrially produced trans fats from the food supply.



[Read more](#)

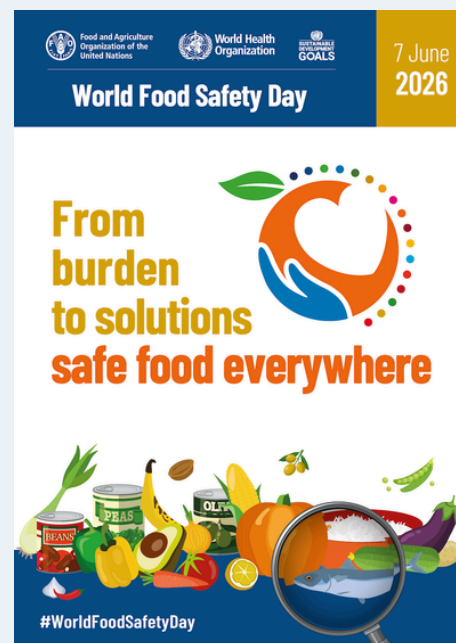
[Read more here](#)

World Food Safety Day

WHO and Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) announced the theme for the World Food Safety Day 2026, **From burden to solutions – safe food everywhere**. The theme highlights how data on illness, its burden and lost lives can guide action towards focused and cost-effective solutions.

Observed annually on 7 June, the campaign aims to raise awareness of the importance of food safety and inspire action. The communication toolkit, soon available in all six UN languages, was prepared to assist food safety advocates around the world in preparing their World Food Safety Day events.

Watch out for the WHO foodborne disease estimates data release in the week leading up to 7 June which will provide a powerful new evidence base for action.



[Learn more](#)

Open Calls

Call for experts on Dietary Exposure Assessment of Pesticides Residues in Foods

Joint FAO/WHO Meeting on Pesticide Residues (JMPR) is looking for experts for an ad hoc expert meeting on developments in dietary exposure methodologies to define the exposure durations to be modelled to address less-than-lifetime toxicological effects. Deadline for application: 30 March 2026.

[Learn more](#)

Call for experts and data on microbiological risk assessment on powdered formulae for infants and young children

In response to mounting global concern over the safety of powdered infant formulae, WHO and FAO are looking for experts and data on microbiological risk assessment of powdered formulae for infants and young children to contribute to the work of the Joint FAO/WHO Expert Meeting on Microbiological Risk Assessment (JEMRA).

The assessment of applicants will start on: 15 March 2026.

Deadline for data submissions: 15 May 2026.

[Learn more](#)

Public call for data on fatty acid composition of bovine milk

WHO issued a public call for data on fatty acid composition of bovine milk samples, with a focus on butyric acid and trans fat. The data will inform WHO's work on improving guidance for assessing trans fat in foods. The full call for data, including detailed analytical requirements and reporting templates, is available [here](#). Deadline: 15 July 2026.

[Learn more](#)

World Obesity Day

World Obesity Day was observed on 4 March 2026 under the theme, 8 Billion Reasons to Act on Obesity. The Global Obesity Coalition: World Obesity Federation, World Health Organization and UNICEF hosted an online event. Read about WHO work to address obesity across the life cycle [here](#).



[Read here](#)

Regional news

WHO African Region workshop on accelerating the reduction of anaemia

Technical experts from 21 countries and development partners gathered in Saly, Senegal, on 2-4 December 2025, for a regional workshop on accelerating the reduction of anaemia among children and women of reproductive age. This meeting brought together experts to transform commitments on anaemia reduction into concrete strategies, aligned with global frameworks.

[Learn more](#)

Meeting report of third meeting of the WHO European Region Sugar and Calorie Reduction Network

This report, published on 3 February 2026, presents the meeting of the WHO Sugar and Calorie Reduction Network, co-hosted by the WHO Regional Office for Europe and the Government of the United Kingdom on 26–27 March 2025 with the participation of 36 Member States. It covered issues related to sugar and calorie reduction: commercial determinants of health, nutrient profiles and front-of-pack labelling, fiscal levers, advertising and monitoring.



Databases

WHO Micronutrients Database

The Vitamin and Mineral Nutrition Information System (VMNIS) was established in 1991 following a request by the World Health Assembly to strengthen surveillance of micronutrient deficiencies at the global level.



[Learn more](#)

WHO Global Database on Child Growth and Malnutrition

Established in 1986, this global database compiles, standardizes, and disseminates child anthropometric data of nutrition surveys conducted globally based in the WHO Child Growth Standards. It includes population-based surveys that fulfil a set of minimum data quality criteria.

[Access here](#)

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