

Nutrition and Food Safety Newsletter

July-August 2025

Dear Subscribers

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

Publications

The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World (SOFI) report

This year's [The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World report](#) was published on 28 July 2025 by five United Nations specialized agencies, with a focus on causes and consequences of recent food inflation. In 2024, an estimated 8.2 percent of the global population, or about 673 million people, experienced hunger, down from 8.5 percent in 2023 and 8.7 percent in 2022. However, while global hunger declined, there was a steady rise in hunger across Africa and western Asia. In low-income countries, 544.7 million people—that's 72% of the population—couldn't afford a healthy diet in 2024.

Between 2021 and 2023, food prices rose substantially, impacting households that spend a large part of income on food. Low-income countries saw food price inflation rates as high as 30%. Rising food inflation likely worsened acute malnutrition, risking the health of millions of vulnerable children. The report was launched in the context of the Second UN Food Systems Summit Stocktake (UNFSS+4) in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Read more [here](#).



WHO global anaemia estimates: key findings, 2025

Anaemia in women remains a global health challenge, affecting 1 in 3 women aged 15–49. The [new brief on key findings from the 2025 edition of the WHO anaemia estimates](#) provides a snapshot of the current status of anaemia at the country, regional and global levels, highlighting the need of progress toward achieving the global target of reducing anaemia by 50% by 2030, in alignment with the Sustainable Development Goals.

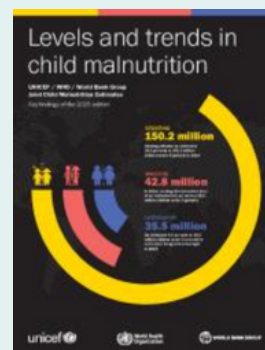


Towards a stronger evidence base on wasting and nutritional oedema in infants and children

WHO published a new supplement in the British Medical Journal (BMJ) Global Health, "[Towards a stronger evidence base on wasting and nutritional oedema in infants and children](#)." The papers share key insights from experts and the developers of the 2023 [WHO guideline on the prevention and management of wasting and nutritional oedema](#), highlighting evidence gaps, research priorities and ways to strengthen future work and inspire innovation.

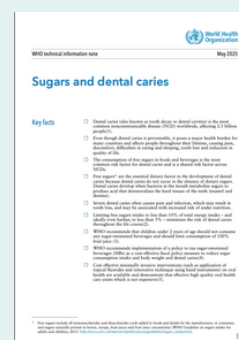
UNICEF/WHO/World Bank Group joint child malnutrition estimates

The [brochure with the key findings](#) of the 2025 edition of “Levels and trends in child malnutrition: UNICEF/WHO/World Bank Group joint child malnutrition estimates,” published on 21 July 2025, includes global, regional and country trends for stunting, overweight and wasting.



Sugars and dental caries: WHO technical note

The Department of Nutrition and Food Safety collaborated with the WHO Oral Health team to publish a [technical information note on sugars and dental caries](#), which includes key facts and prevention and control measures. The Global database on the Implementation of Food and Nutrition Action (GIFNA) [Sugars Country Score Card](#) tracks country progress towards adopting and implementing policies towards reducing sugars intake. For more information, refer to the updated [sugars and dental caries fact sheet](#).



Quantitative risk assessment of *Listeria monocytogenes* in foods

A quantitative risk assessment model for *Listeria monocytogenes* in ready-to-eat cantaloupe was published in *Foods*, a peer-reviewed journal on food science, adding to the special issue on quantitative risk assessment of *Listeria monocytogenes*.

Ad hoc joint FAO/WHO expert consultation on risk assessment of food allergens

This meeting report summarizes the conclusions of the expert consultation convened by WHO and FAO on 16– 20 June 2025.

Other publications

WHO decision-making tool

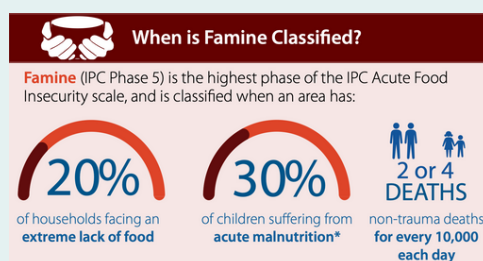
WHO's Global Coordination Mechanism on NCDs (GCM/NCD) developed a tool, Supporting Member States in reaching informed decision-making on engaging with private sector entities for NCD prevention and control: A practical tool, now available in French, Spanish and Portuguese, in addition to English. The tool provides health authorities and governments with a systematic methodology to make informed decisions on engaging the private sector to support the public sector efforts in the prevention and control of NCDs.



Gaza

Famine has been confirmed for the first time in Gaza. WHO has been consistently engaged in the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) analysis for Gaza. IPC is a multi-stakeholder global initiative aimed at enhancing food security and nutrition analysis to inform decisions. NFS provided support to partners to enhance the understanding of health challenges and the interplay between food insecurity, acute malnutrition and public health, contributing to the evidence informed IPC analysis released on 22 August, supported by the latest evidence, to draw urgent attention to the humanitarian situation in Gaza.

In July alone, more than 12,000 children were identified as acutely malnourished, a six-fold increase since the start of the year. Recent data shows that over 40% of pregnant and breastfeeding women are severely malnourished.



Campaigns

World Breastfeeding Week

To mark World Breastfeeding Week 2025 (1-7 August), WHO, UNICEF and the Global Breastfeeding Collective hosted a webinar, [Building healthcare systems that truly support breastfeeding: New tools for sustainable change](#). The session introduced three tools that countries could use to enhance the quality of breastfeeding support across all levels of healthcare systems. Watch the recording [here](#).



World Food Safety Day poster competition winners

Submissions of creative artwork for the World Food Safety Day 2025 poster competition were received from children as young as 5 years old through to university students, illustrating “What makes food safe?” in line with this year’s campaign theme, “Food safety: science in action.” A judging panel of FAO and WHO experts selected five winning posters representing different Codex regions. See the winning posters [here](#).



Food safety talk show

On 7 July 2025, to conclude the World Food Safety Day campaign, FAO and WHO took part in a social media talk show on food safety and the importance of verifying the accuracy of food safety information shared on social media. Watch the recording [here](#).



Events

UN Food Systems Summit+4 Stocktake

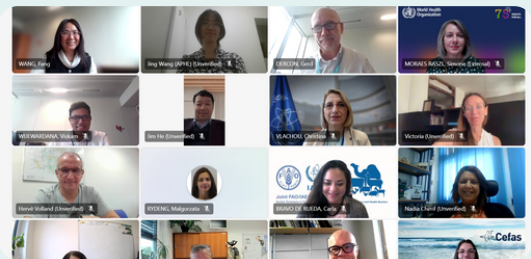
The UNFSS+4 Stocktake, co-hosted by the governments of Ethiopia and Italy, was held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on 27–29 July 2025, four years after the 2021 UN Food Systems Summit. The event provided a platform to reflect on progress and unlock investments for food systems transformation. WHO co-led a high-level panel on healthy diets, which featured a video message from the WHO Director-General Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, and contributed to an in-person side event on nutrition and climate. The Call to Action by the UN Secretary-General, released at the close of the Summit to accelerate efforts to transform food systems, identifies six areas where urgent investment and collaboration are needed.



Meetings

Opportunities for use of nuclear techniques to build evidence on food safety and nutrition inter-linkages

International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), FAO and WHO convened over 26 experts from 14 countries on 8-10 July, to discuss the use of nuclear techniques in nutrition and food safety in the context of complex food systems. The meeting explored how foodborne hazards such as mycotoxins, heavy metals, pesticide residues and microplastics impact food safety and affect human health and nutrition outcomes. Read more [here](#).



INFOSAN regional meeting in Africa

On 9 July 2025, INFOSAN held a virtual regional meeting with representatives from 45 African countries to discuss improving food safety emergency preparedness and response, while highlighting country experiences. Participants agreed on priority actions to strengthen the African network, including regular capacity building activities, simulation exercises and high-level advocacy on food safety.

WHO welcomes a delegation of Consumers International

On 8 July, the NFS team met with a delegation from Consumers International, a membership organization in official relations with WHO for consumer groups around the world. The informal meeting focused on opportunities to work together on shared priorities for safer and healthier food environments, in particular in low- and middle-income countries.



Training of trainers on the management of acute malnutrition

NFS collaborated with the Eastern Mediterranean Regional Office (EMRO) and the WHO Collaborating Centre—National Nutrition Institute (NNI), Egypt, to conduct a training of trainers (ToT) on the inpatient management of severe acute malnutrition, held on 24-28 August 2025. The hybrid training, based on the WHO guidelines, targeted 13 countries and was attended by over 40 participants.



From our partners

International Congress of Nutrition

The 23rd International Congress of Nutrition (ICN) took place in Paris on 24–29 August 2025, organized by the International Union of Nutritional Sciences (IUNS). WHO hosted four symposia and contributed to several other sessions, covering anaemia reduction, wasting, food fortification, complementary feeding and nutrition monitoring. The congress gathered global experts to advance dialogue on sustainable food for global health. More information about the WHO participation is available [here](#).



Systematic review on digital health and management of obesity

A new WHO-commissioned systematic review on digital health and the management of obesity in children and adolescents has been published in the Cochrane Library. The review, [Digital health, technology-driven or technology-assisted interventions for the management of obesity in children and adolescents](#), contributes to the development of the WHO childhood obesity management guidelines.

Coming up

Fostering momentum and commitment for nutrition: accelerating action towards 2030 and beyond

An informal dialogue session with WHO participation will take place during the 53rd Plenary Session of the Committee on World Food Security (20-24 October 2025) at the FAO Headquarters in Rome, Italy. The session will look at progress and opportunities to strengthen commitment to nutrition, including implementation of the UN Decade of Action on Nutrition, follow-up to the Second International Conference on Nutrition and outcomes of the Nutrition for Growth Summit. Links to live streaming will be shared [here](#).

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