

Foodborne Diseases Burden and WHO Strategy and Technical Guidance

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Abstract

The impact of foodborne diseases on public health is staggering. More than 50 000 people die every year in the Western Pacific Region from consuming unsafe food. Another 125 million fall ill from unsafe food in the Region. Food safety concerns go beyond health, they impact trade and economic development. To support the Member States to develop national action plans and to allocate adequate technical and financial resources for implementation, the WHO Western Pacific Region developed the *Regional Framework for Action on Food Safety in the Western Pacific*, the framework provides guidance on strategic action and a stepwise approach to strengthen food safety systems. In addition, the WHO HQ also issued the *Global Strategy for Food Safety 2022-2030* responds to the Member States' request by outlining five interlinked and mutually supportive strategic priorities that arise from a situational assessment and an extensive consultative process. The strategy's vision is that all people, everywhere, consume safe and healthy food so as to reduce the burden of FBDs. It also envisages more action towards building food safety systems that are forward-looking, evidence-based, people centred and cost-effective, with coordinated governance and adequate infrastructures. Guided by regional framework and global strategy, the WHO has been supporting food safety related initiatives in Viet Nam, such as support for the development of and review of the Food Safety Law, the development of the National Strategy on Food Safety for period of 2011 to 2020 and a vision towards 2030, and review of the food inspection system and development of the food inspection training manual.

Key words: *Food safety, Regional Framework, Global Strategy, National Strategy, Food inspection*

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