

## The Partnership for Action for Safe Food for All

### The opportunity

The World Health Organization's (WHO) Foodborne Disease Epidemiology Reference Group (FERG) estimates that unsafe food causes over 600 million illnesses and 420 thousand deaths each year. Young and poor consumers, especially in low- and middle-income countries (LMIC), bear a disproportionate share of this burden.<sup>1</sup>

Food safety lies at the heart of the food system. Safe food reduces consumer illnesses and deaths (SDG 3), protects livelihoods (SDG 8), and mitigates hunger and malnutrition (SDG 2). If food isn't safe, it isn't food. Yet there are no SDG indicators to measure food safety improvements.

This Partnership will bring together governments and food system actors, such as farmers, companies, entrepreneurs, and citizens, to build an inclusive global network dedicated to **a vision of providing safe food for all people**. Through collective action of member states, food businesses, and consumers, we can achieve a safer food supply by promoting science-based food safety standards; enabling businesses, big or small, to meet those standards; supporting innovation and capacity building that benefit actors throughout the value chain; and enabling consumers to get safe and hygienic food.

### Why a Partnership for action?

A Partnership for food safety can amplify voices, align resources, and mobilise support for our collective purpose to address the global challenge of unsafe food. Partnership members can network to share experiences, expertise, and resources to achieve common goals and broaden support for tackling significant obstacles.

It is the goal of this Partnership to unite member states, food industry actors and consumer organizations around their common interest in developing the knowledge, tools, and innovations to build a food system where safe food is everyone's responsibility. During the lead up to the Food System Summit, safe food dialogs and active engagement among public and private sector representatives—40 and counting—have led to clusters of proposed solutions that will measurably strengthen domestic food systems.

### What will the Safe Food Partnership do?

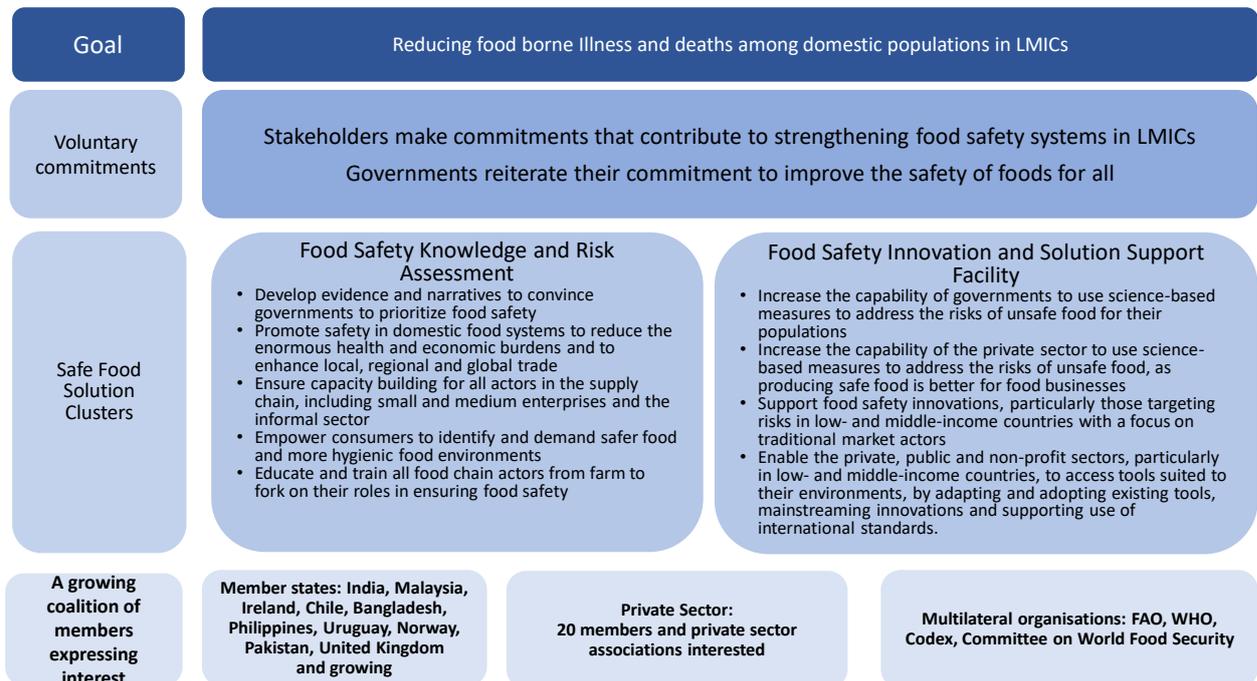
The Partnership will:

- **Enhance** government capacity to achieve **safe food for all** by strengthening their knowledge of the impact of unsafe foods and their tools for managing domestic food safety hazards.
- **Enable** and incentivize food businesses of all sizes across the supply chain to be engaged and responsible. Food safety can have a positive impact on business. Yet, while many good ideas and tools exist to help businesses pursue food safety, many have not been widely accessed, adapted, or adopted in LMIC.
- **Empower** consumers to demand and shape markets for safe food. No nation stands alone when faced with the challenge of protecting its citizens from foodborne illnesses. A robust

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<sup>1</sup> World Health Organization, *WHO estimates of the global burden of foodborne diseases: foodborne disease burden epidemiology reference group 2007-2015*. <https://apps.who.int/iris/handle/10665/199350>

food safety system backed by scientifically proven measures helps consumers make informed choices and drives markets to provide safe and health food.



Partnership members recognize that everyone has a role to play to ensure safe and healthy diets from sustainable food systems. They will support those efforts by cooperating and working to improve existing systems. Members commit to enhancing and energizing food safety efforts towards the common vision of **safe food for all** and other inextricably tied interests, including the reduction of food loss and waste and environmental sustainability.

## The Safe Food Partnership’s six guiding principles

The Partnership recognizes that:

1. The current paradigm that focuses food safety investment on foods for export must shift in favour of foods for domestic consumption and public health.
2. Governments need better data on the public health and the economic impacts of foodborne disease.
3. Without minimal regulatory structures and capabilities that address the needs of LMICs, domestic food safety will not improve.
4. LMIC need to dedicate additional resources to implement food safety programs.
5. Consumers empowered with knowledge and choices can help drive markets to provide safe food.
6. Approaches that include stakeholder participation, in addition to traditional regulatory approach, can drive faster adoption of essential food safety programs.

For more information, see the UN Food Systems Summit [Solution Clusters](#) related to food safety.

## Participants\* with an interest in the Partnership:

### Governments and international organizations\*

India
Uruguay
Chile
Philippines
Ministry of Food Bangladesh
Malaysia
Codex
Ireland
Norway
Pakistan
European Commission
CODEX
FAO
WHO
OIE
African Union
International Finance Corporation
APEC
AUDA-NEPAD
ARSO

### Private sector and non-governmental organizations\*

World Union of Wholesale Markets
Prakriti Farming
GAFTA (The Grain and Feed Trade Association)

International Dairy Federation
Self Employed Women's Association (SEWA)
Tetrapak
Swiss Decode
DNV
Food Safety Services TUV India Ltd
Okata Farms and Food Processing
United Fresh and the Produce Marketing Association
Private Sector Mechanism of the CFS
Pinduoduo Global
GFSI (Consumer Goods Forum)
Institute of Food Technologists
AGRA
Self Employed Women's Association (SEWA)
International Dairy Federation
Gates Foundation
IUoFST
Pepsico
Bayer
Waters
Danone
Unilever
Nestle
NAVSI

Academic and other participants\*

University of Guelph
University of Florida

ILRI
UN Global Compact
University of Maryland
CGIAR

\* Individuals from the named organizations, member states and academic organizations participated in planning meetings and expressed interest in continuing the partnership