



Food Safety Strategic Framework

2026-2030



The Food Safety Strategic Framework (2026-2030) responds to these urgent challenges. It provides a coordinated, multisectoral, and One Health-oriented roadmap for Member States to strengthen national food control systems, integrate foodborne disease surveillance, and build resilient public health institutions. The Strategic Framework aligns with the Food Safety Strategy for Africa to provide a clear vision and strategic direction to address food safety priorities within the AU Member States.



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ONE HEALTH, SURVEILLANCE AND DISEASE INTELLIGENCE



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Africa CDC is a continental autonomous health agency of the African Union established to support public health initiatives of Member States and strengthen the capacity of their public health institutions to detect, prevent, control and respond quickly and effectively to disease threats.

Safeguarding Africa's Health

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FOREWORD

Food safety is a key pillar of public health, nutrition security, and sustainable economic growth. In Africa, where informal food markets account for over 70% of food sales and street food alone constitutes nearly half of urban diets, ensuring the food consumed daily is safe is not just a priority but a socio-economic imperative. However, the burden of health challenges due to unsafe food remains disproportionately high on the continent. The World Health Organization (WHO) estimates that 91 million Africans fall ill each year due to foodborne diseases (FBDs), with 137,000 deaths annually representing nearly one-third of the global FBDs death toll. Children under five years of age bear the heaviest burden, accounting for 40% of global foodborne disease deaths, or an estimated 125,000 preventable deaths annually.

The burden has a significant economic impact on the population. A 2019 World Bank study estimated that unsafe food costs low- and middle-income countries USD 110 billion annually in productivity losses and healthcare expenditures, much of which directly affects Sub-Saharan Africa. Despite this, international investments in food safety average only USD 55 million annually across Africa far below the scale of need.

Africa's food safety surveillance is often fragmented and weakly linked to a broader public health system. Laboratory capacities are limited, particularly outside urban centers. National legal frameworks and regulatory enforcement are uneven, with coordination spread across multiple ministries and agencies. In addition, the wider use of chemicals to control pests, fertilizers, genetic engineering, and contamination by heavy metals due to both small- and large-scale farming has been a concern. Emerging threats such as antimicrobial resistance and climate change-induced food contamination further compound these vulnerabilities.

The Africa CDC Food Safety Strategic Framework (2026-2030) responds to these urgent challenges. It provides a coordinated, multisectoral, and One Health-oriented roadmap for Member States to strengthen national food control systems, integrate foodborne disease surveillance, and build resilient public health institutions. The Strategic Framework aligns with the Food Safety Strategy for Africa to provide a clear vision and strategic direction to address food safety priorities within the AU Member States.

Success will depend on sustained political will, investment, and collective action. The cost of inaction is too great; the opportunity for impact is transformative.

H.E Dr Jean Kaseya,
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ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

Africa CDC	Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention
AFSA	Africa Food Safety Agency
AfCFTA	African Continental Free Trade Area
AMR	Antimicrobial Resistance
ARSO	African Organization for Standardization
AU	African Union
AU MS	African Union Member States
AUC	African Union Commission
AUC-DARBE	Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Blue Economy and Sustainable
AU-IBAR	African Union-Inter-African Bureau for Animal Resources
AU-NEPAD	African Union-New Partnership for Africa's Development
AU-PANVAC	African Union Pan-African Veterinary Vaccine Centre
AVoHC	African Health Volunteers Corps
CAADP	Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Program
CSRS	Centre Suisse de Recherches Scientifiques en Côte d'Ivoire
EAC	East African Community
EBS	Event-based surveillance
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FBDs	Foodborne Diseases
FBOs	Food Business Operators
FELT	Field Epidemiology & Laboratory Training
FS	Food Safety
IAPSC	Inter-African Phytosanitary Council
IBS	Indicator-based surveillance
IDSR	Integrated Disease Surveillance and Response
IEC	Information, Education and Communication
IHR	International Health Regulations
ILRI	International Livestock Research Institute
INFOSAN	International Food Safety Authorities Network
JEE	Joint External Evaluation
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MEAL	Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability and Learning
MS	Member State
NGOs	Non-Governmental Organizations
PPP	Public Private Partnership
RCC	Regional Coordinating Centres
RCCE	Risk Communication and Community Engagement
RECs	Regional Economic Communities
SPAR	State Party Annual Report
TDS	Total Diet Study
TWG	Technical Working Group
UN	United Nations
UNEP	United Nations Environment Program
vTPAs	Voluntary Third-Party Assurance
WHO	World Health Organization
WB	World Bank
WOAH	World Organization for Animal Health
WGS	Whole Genome Sequencing

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Foodborne illnesses affect 1 in 10 people globally each year - 600 million fall ill and 420,000 die annually - World Health Organization (WHO) estimates. Foodborne diseases cause 33 million healthy life-years lost and unsafe food hampers development, strains health systems, and burdens economies.

Roughly 70% of urban households and rural populations depend on the informal food sector, including street vending for their food. Street food alone accounts for nearly 50% of urban diets. However, these markets often lack basic infrastructure such as clean water, sanitation, drainage, and waste disposal, thus increasing the risk of foodborne diseases. National policies are often outdated, poorly coordinated, or skewed toward export markets, leaving domestic food safety largely under-regulated. While some member states have made progress by establishing food safety authorities or coordination mechanisms, most still prioritize export markets over domestic food safety.

Additionally, national food control systems are under-resourced, lacking effective alert, response, and recall capabilities. Surveillance of foodborne diseases is limited, and laboratory capacity is often inadequate or concentrated in urban areas. Data on food hazards is sparse and fragmented with limited cross-sector collaboration and infrequent risk-based food inspection and data capture undermining policy reform. Emerging threats like adulteration, bioterrorism, antimicrobial resistance and climate change further complicate food safety, while issues like food fraud and new production systems demand innovative, integrated approaches across the value chain.

Food safety is essential to Africa's agricultural growth and food security goals under Agenda 2063 and the Kampala Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) Strategy 2026-2035. The AU has launched key initiatives, including the Food Safety Strategy for Africa (2022-2036) and the Africa Food Safety Agency (AFSA), to harmonize regulations and strengthen capacity. Africa CDC supports this effort through its Food Safety Program, under the One Health Unit to contribute to reducing the burden of foodborne diseases.

The Africa CDC Food Safety Strategic Framework (2026-2030) provides a clear roadmap for reducing the burden of FBDs and emphasizing a One Health approach, cross-sectoral collaboration, and evidence-based interventions. The framework will focus on the following key areas to reduce the burden of foodborne diseases.

- To support the strengthening of food safety policies, legal and institutional frameworks in Member States
- To support initiatives for the reduction of food safety hazards and risks in the food supply chain
- To improve integrated foodborne diseases surveillance and response at regional and national level
- To strengthen national, regional, and international cooperation
- To support advocacy, consumer awareness, and education on food safety

1. INTRODUCTION

Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC) is an autonomous health agency of the African Union (AU) established to support public health initiatives of Africa Union Member States (AU MS) and to strengthen the capacity of their public health institutions to prevent, detect, respond to and control quickly and effectively to disease threats. To deliver on this mandate, Africa CDC operates through a decentralized model anchored in Regional Coordinating Centres (RCCs), which serve as hubs for surveillance, preparedness, and emergency response, enabling coordinated action across Member States and contributing to an “Africa CDC without walls”..

Africa CDC recognizes that zoonotic diseases, food safety, climate change, and antimicrobial resistance are the four (4) areas in greatest need of a collaborative One Health approach across African nations. To address these, Africa CDC aims to empower Member States (MS) and Regional Economic Communities (RECs) to prevent, detect, respond to, and control public health events on the continent. This contributes to the achievement of Agenda 2063: the Africa We Want and the Africa Health Strategy 2016-2030, utilizing a One Health approach.

The burden of foodborne diseases (FBDs) on public health, nutrition and economies has often been underestimated due to underreporting and difficulty in establishing causal relationships between food contamination and the resulting poor nutritional outcomes, diseases, or deaths [1]. Children under 5 years of age bear 40% of the global foodborne diseases burden, with 125,000 deaths every year. The production and consumption of safe and nutritious food have immediate and long-term benefits for people, the planet, and the economy. Safe and nutritious food is essential to human health and well-being [2].

Unsafe food has huge public health and economic impacts for Africa [3]. According to the WHO estimates, 91 million Africans fall ill each year due to FBDs and 137,000 of them die of the same cause, representing one third of the global death toll for FBDs [4]. A World Bank (WB) report published in 2019 estimated that unsafe food cost low- and middle-income economies, mainly those countries in Sub-Saharan and Southeast Asia economies, the equivalent of \$110 billion in lost productivity and medical expenses alone each year [5]. Yet investment in food safety remains minimal, with international partners channeling about USD 55 million annually into food safety projects across the continent [6].

Africa CDC Food Safety Program priorities are aimed at improving the safety and quality of food supply in Africa, reducing the incidence of foodborne diseases and death, and promoting regional and international cooperation on food safety for the benefit of consumers.

The program aims to contribute to providing MS with one of the safest food systems in Africa. However, demographic changes, new food production systems, new food sources, malnutrition, and the rise of non-communicable diseases will require new approaches and investments in food safety. Additionally, emerging and re-emerging issues, climate change and the depletion of natural resources (including biodiversity) will also require urgent attention which the African continent must prepare for.

The implementation of the Africa CDC Food Safety Strategic Framework will be based on the concept of shared responsibilities in the management of food safety risks by the following three key players:

- a. Government with its oversight and enforcement functions;
- b. The food business sector which has the primary responsibility for ensuring the safety of food;
- c. The consumers who must make informed decisions at their level as provided for in the Food Safety Strategy for Africa (2022 - 2036).

In addition, the following approaches will be utilized to ensure targeted investment for amplified impact:

- i. Evidence-based food safety assessment to identify and prioritize food safety capacity building needs for Member States.

- ii. Risk-based approach to food safety grounded in a functional separation between independent scientific risk assessment and policy-driven risk management.
- iii. Inclusivity with emphasis on supporting the vulnerable (women, youth, elders and persons with disability (PWD)).
- iv. One Health Approach that will guide coordinated National Food Safety Control Systems.

Objectives of the Food Safety Program

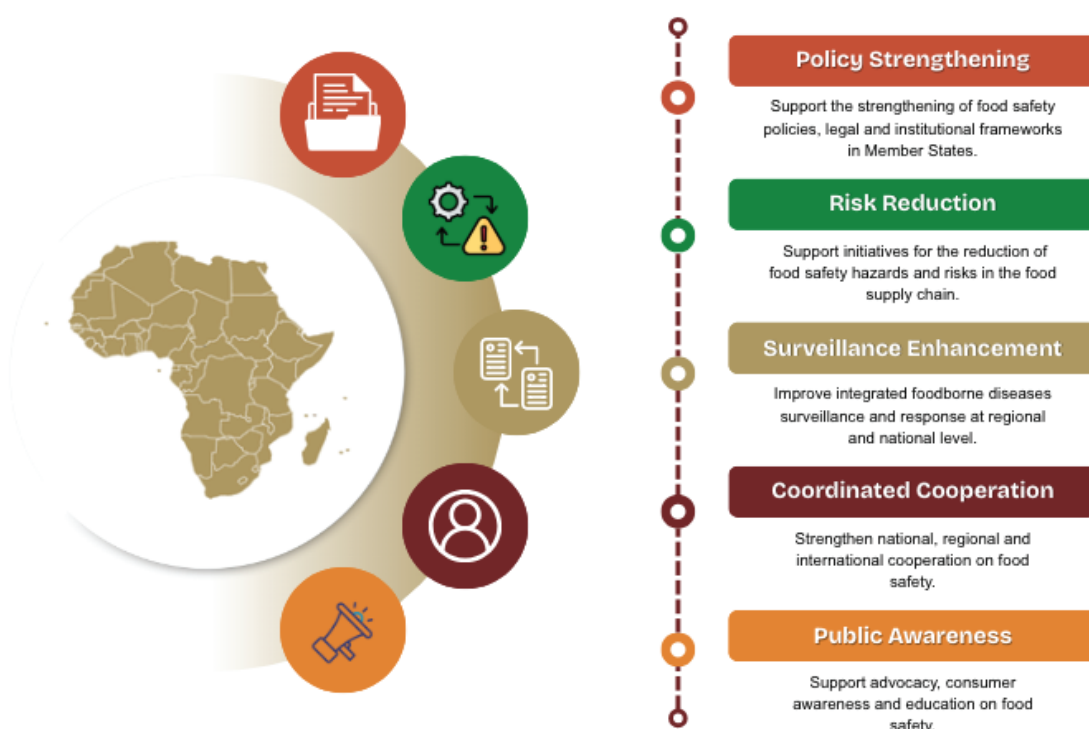
Broad objective

To reduce the burden of foodborne diseases on the African continent by strengthening targeted prevention, response, and control efforts.

Specific objectives

1. To support the strengthening of food safety policies, legal and institutional frameworks in Member States.
2. To support initiatives for the reduction of food safety hazards and risks in the food supply chain.
3. To improve integrated foodborne diseases detection capacities, surveillance and response at regional and national level.
4. To strengthen national, regional, and international cooperation on food safety through a coordinated One Health approach
5. To support advocacy, consumer awareness, and education on food safety.

Figure 1: Five strategic objectives of the food safety framework



2. FOOD SAFETY SITUATION ANALYSIS IN AFRICA

Most of Africa's food systems are unique in their reliance on informal food sectors. Roughly 70% of urban households depend on informal food sectors including street vending for their food [7]. Street food alone accounts for nearly 50% of urban diets [8]. However, these markets often lack basic infrastructure such as clean water, sanitation, drainage, and waste disposal. Where live animals are sold, the risks of zoonotic and emerging foodborne diseases are particularly acute. Despite their centrality to food access, food control measures are inadequate or non-existent as compared to the formal sectors. Food safety interventions in Africa must be deliberately designed to operate within a political economy characterized by high informality, constrained fiscal space, competing development priorities, and fragmented governance structures. Unlike high-income settings where food safety regulation is largely compliance-driven, African food systems require adaptive, incentive-based and risk-proportionate approaches that safeguard public health while protecting livelihoods and food access, particularly in urban and peri-urban informal markets.

Across the continent, food safety governance is fragmented and uneven. Most MS lack updated food safety laws and effective implementation mechanisms, particularly in domestic food markets. Regulatory focus has historically favored export markets, even though 96% of marketed farm output is consumed locally [9]. In addition, food safety responsibilities are spread across multiple Ministries and Agencies with often overlapping mandates and weak coordination. To address the overlaps, some MS have developed food safety policies with coordination mechanisms and clear institutional mandates whilst others have established Food Safety Authorities/Agencies entrusted with the overall food safety regulatory and/or response mandate [10]. In addition, increasing regional integration, informal cross-border trade, pastoral mobility and the expansion of intra-African food markets under the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) amplify the risk of multi-country foodborne disease outbreaks and contamination events. These dynamics necessitate regional surveillance, shared alert systems and coordinated response mechanisms anchored within Africa CDC's Regional Coordinating Centres in collaboration with Regional Economic Communities

Most national food control systems are characterized by ineffective or non-existent food safety alert, response and recall systems, due to inadequate regulatory systems and funding mechanisms or skewed food safety emphasis. Food control systems place emphasis on trade rather than health and developmental objectives. WHO flagged "weak food monitoring and surveillance, limited capacity of food testing laboratories, and weak food inspection capacities" as recurring challenges [11]. There is a need to develop innovative approaches moving beyond traditional approaches to address food safety risks across the food value chain and especially in the informal food sector. These approaches include awareness creation on foodborne diseases, strengthening food safety culture, hygiene capacity, and promoting behavior change of food vendors and consumers.

Many African countries lack policies, robust systems for routine monitoring of foodborne pathogens, toxins, or residues as well as surveillance for foodborne diseases. Laboratory facilities are often poorly equipped, or concentrated in urban centres, and face significant limitations in the implementation of laboratory quality management systems, making contamination or outbreak detection nonexistent or slow, and response inadequate. Data on hazards, food contamination or FBDs is sparse, underreported, and fragmented across sectors, undermining evidence-based risk assessment and policy-making, or policy reform and food control system responsiveness [7]. There are also ineffective linkages and coordination amongst food safety competent Authorities and the public health systems resulting in inability to link FBDs occurrence with food contamination and monitoring data to influence the establishment or updating of national risk-based food control policy and control measures.

Additionally, antimicrobial resistance (AMR) and climate change are emerging threats that are compounding Africa's food safety challenges. AMR, driven by misuse of antimicrobials in livestock, plants and human health, is giving rise to drug-resistant foodborne pathogens such as Salmonella and E. coli, increasing food safety risks and nutritional insecurity [12]. Climate change is also threatening food safety, with rising temperatures and shifting weather patterns boosting fungal toxin production in staple crops such as maize and peanuts while extreme weather events like floods and droughts increase contamination risks, complicating food control efforts [5]. Additionally, food fraud, adulteration, bioterrorism, and emerging food sources and new production systems add additional considerations and hazards that need to be considered in the Food Control System.

3. AFRICAN UNION RESPONSE TO FOOD SAFETY CHALLENGES

Food safety, as a prerequisite for food security, is central to Africa's agricultural transformation and the achievement of the goals and objectives of Agenda 2063 including commitments under the Kampala Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Program (CAADP) Strategy and Action Plan (2026-2035) [13] which focus on agricultural-led growth, ending hunger, and tripling intra-African trade [14].

At the continental level, the AU Commission's Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Blue Economy and Sustainable Environment (AUC-DARBE) has developed key initiatives and flagship strategies to improve Africa's agri-food systems. In 2024, the AU adopted the Food Safety Strategy for Africa (2022–2036) and endorsed the creation of the Africa Food Safety Agency (AFSA), an AU technical institution mandated to coordinate (AUC-DARBE) has developed a number of important initiatives and flagship strategies to improve the state of Africa's agri-food systems. In 2024 AU adopted the AU Food Safety Strategy for Africa 2022-2036 and endorsed the creation of the Africa Food Safety Agency (AFSA) an AU technical institution that mandated to coordinate and harmonize food safety regulations across member states, provide a food safety data hub and data platform, and facilitate capacity building.

Across the continent, a wide range of institutions work on food safety, including AU agencies working across animal, human, plant and environmental health. However, coordination has historically been insufficient to balance and optimise the use of limited resources, strengthening the case for a One Health approach in food safety. Recognizing this importance, the Africa CDC established the Food Safety Program under the One Health unit to contribute to reducing the burden of foodborne diseases by strengthening targeted prevention, detection, response and control efforts across the continent.

Africa CDC's Unique Value Proposition in Food Safety

In the context of the evolving African Union food safety architecture, Africa CDC's mandate and comparative advantage lie in public health intelligence, preparedness and emergency response rather than routine regulatory enforcement. Accordingly, Africa CDC focuses on:

- Foodborne disease surveillance and epidemic intelligence, including integration with IDSR, event-based surveillance, building laboratory detection capacity and genomic platforms;
- Preparedness, early warning and coordinated response to food safety emergencies and outbreaks under the IHR (2005);
- Cross-border and regional coordination of food safety events through the RCCs.
- Integration of food safety with AMR, zoonotic diseases, climate and health security platforms under a One Health approach;
- Workforce development and surge deployment through mechanisms such as the African Volunteers Health Corps (AVoHC).

Africa CDC recognizes that zoonotic diseases, food safety, climate change, and antimicrobial resistance are the four areas in greatest need of a collaborative One Health approach across MS¹. Moreover, the risk of emergence of infectious agents capable of jumping the species barrier from animals to humans is increasing, with the ability of novel infectious agents to spread rapidly around the globe and cause devastating pandemics due to increased travel and trade. The food pathway for such pandemics cannot be overlooked. Hence, the adoption of a One Health

¹ Please see <http://www.africacdc.org/> for more information on the African Union Framework for Antimicrobial Resistance Control 2020–2025 and related activities.

approach and the integration of food monitoring systems with public health surveillance systems for foodborne diseases will help to prevent, detect risks early, and respond to emerging diseases [15].

FBDs are under-prioritised within indicator- and event-based surveillance, with limited active surveillance of a few FBDs such as cholera, diarrhea with dehydration and typhoid in some MS. Few MS have a list of prioritized FBDs.

To address the existing gaps and emerging threats in food safety and particularly the response to foodborne diseases, Africa CDC has been supporting member states in conducting assessments and strengthening food safety governance. This Strategic Framework will enhance Africa CDC's activities in alignment with the Food Safety Strategy for Africa (2022-2036) by leveraging its regional assets. These include disease surveillance networks (e.g., RISLNET), laboratory networks through its RCCs, emergency response, digital surveillance platforms, pathogen genomics networks, and workforce development (Africa Epidemic Intelligence Corps). Additionally, the Africa CDC will leverage its convening power, partnerships and other networks including International Food Safety Authorities Network (INFOSAN) and WHO Global Foodborne Infections network to promote complementarity and synergy while reducing duplication of efforts.

4. PURPOSE SCOPE AND STRATEGIC ALIGNMENT OF THE FRAMEWORK

The WHO global Food Safety Strategy and FAO strategic priorities recognize food safety as a primary determinant of human health and a shared responsibility among multiple stakeholders. In the same way, the AU through its Food Safety Strategy for Africa, acknowledges food safety as an integral part of food security and a significant public health issue in its own right. However, continued unintended consumption of unsafe food by African citizens leads to high public health, economic costs and under-development, and these costs are expected to grow enormously in the coming years if no remedial actions are taken to reverse the course [15].

Therefore, this Strategic Framework aims to contribute to safeguarding public health, protecting consumers, and strengthening Africa's food systems by reducing the burden of FBDs and ensuring safe and quality food across the continent. The Strategic Framework will support MS in collaboration with RECs, and other continental institutions in building coordinated, and sustainable food safety systems that are responsive to traditional and emerging risks. It also contributes to Africa's broader goals of agricultural transformation, trade expansion, and improved health outcomes in line with Agenda 2063, the Kampala CAADP Strategy and the strategic objectives of the Food Safety Strategy for Africa 2022-2036 [15].

5. VISION, MISSION, AND CORE VALUES

Vision

A safer, healthier and prosperous Africa, in which Member States are prepared to prevent, detect and respond to food safety threats, foodborne diseases (FBDs) and outbreaks in a timely and effective manner.

Mission

To strengthen Africa's public health institutions and systems' capacities, capabilities and partnerships to prevent, detect and respond to food safety threats, FBDs and outbreaks in a timely and effective manner, through evidence-based policies, programmes and interventions.

Core Values

The Strategic Framework will be grounded in a set of core values that provide guidance and direction in the implementation of the activities by Africa CDC and key stakeholders in the AU MS, RECs and among partners.

1. Protection of consumers' health
2. One Health approach
3. Evidence-based decision making
4. Inclusiveness and equity
5. Multisectoral collaboration and coordination
6. Risk based approach

6. STRATEGIES AND INTERVENTIONS

To achieve the vision and goals of the Africa CDC Food Safety Strategic Framework, AU Member States, the RECs and Africa CDC will work collectively to address the major challenges in the priority areas of the strategic framework. This would be supported by the five (5) identified strategic objectives and the respective strategic actions elaborated below.

1. Strategic Objective One: Support the strengthening of food safety governance, policies, legal and institutional framework in MS

Despite notable progress, many African countries lack regulatory and institutional frameworks and capacity to effectively manage food safety risks. Strengthening food safety governance is critical to improving food safety and public health on the continent. This includes supporting the development and review of policies, food safety regulations and standards, establishing effective monitoring and surveillance systems, and building the capacity of regulatory agencies.

Strategic actions

- a. Support MS to conduct national situational analyses of policies, legal and institutional frameworks to identify strengths and weaknesses in national food control systems².
- b. Strengthen the National Food Control System by addressing identified gaps and support the implementation of prioritized actions.
- c. Promote institutional coordination mechanisms linking food safety, public health, animal health, and environmental sectors.

Implementors/beneficiaries

Policy makers and public institutions managing food safety.

2. Strategic Objective Two: Support initiatives for the reduction of food safety hazards and risks in the food supply chain

Foodborne diseases arise from hazards that originate in the food supply chain or through improper handling by consumers. These hazards include biological, chemical, and physical agents. Contributing to reducing these hazards includes supporting a holistic risk analysis approach that involves all stakeholders in the food supply chain, including producers, processors, distributors, retailers, and consumers.

Strategic actions

- a. Support development and implementation of risk management actions to address priority food safety risks in MS
 - Conduct situation analysis to identify hazards and risks in the food supply chain.
 - Conduct risk profiles, risk ranking and risk prioritization.
 - Set targets for hazard reduction through risk assessment in relation to public health goals.
 - Develop and implement monitoring/ surveillance plans for reducing/control of hazards in food value chain.
- b. Strengthen laboratory capacities for reliable analysis of food safety hazards.
- c. support MS to set up a harmonized and integrated system for collecting and managing food safety data.
- d. Support MS to conduct total diet study to determine exposure to food safety hazards.
- e. Support food value chain actors to apply best practices on food handling and management to reduce hazards.
- f. Strengthen national scientific advisory mechanisms to support independent risk assessment and evidence-informed decision-making.

Implementors/beneficiaries

Public institutions managing food safety and FBOs in formal and informal supply chains.

² This can be done using standardized tools such as WHO/ FAO evaluation tools.

3. Strategic Objective Three: Improve integrated foodborne disease surveillance and response at national and regional level.

Effective foodborne disease surveillance and response systems are critical for detecting and responding to food safety incidents in a timely manner. This includes establishing early warning systems, improving laboratory capacity for food safety testing, and building the capacity of public health and other relevant authorities to respond to food safety incidents. Food Safety is a core capacity of IHR (2005) focusing on surveillance (IBS, EBS), emergency plans, International Food Safety Authorities Network (INFOSAN) and response capacities for foodborne diseases and contamination risks or events with communication and coordination needs among stakeholders responsible for food safety.

Strategic actions

- a. Strengthen existing public health surveillance and response (e.g., IDSR) and integrate foodborne disease surveillance (both passive and active) in MS.
 - Develop and implement food safety emergency response plan.
 - Conduct regular simulation exercises and after-action reviews.
 - Support implementation of programs on risk-based food inspections, to generate food safety data.
 - Support development of FBD surveillance systems.
 - Integrate food safety within one health surveillance platform (e.g., AMR, Zoonotic, human, climate change).
- b. Strengthen INFOSAN activities in MS.
- c. Support laboratory analysis to detect and assign an etiology for foodborne diseases and investigate hazards in foods linked to cases, outbreaks or events.
- d. Integrate food safety emergency response plan into the African Volunteers Health Corp (AVoHC)
- e. Support development of data recording, analyzing and sharing systems for detection and monitoring of foodborne diseases and food contamination using digital tools, at the regional and national/ sub-national levels.
- f. Support development of food safety notification platforms including food safety alert systems in MS.

Implementors/beneficiaries

Public institutions managing food safety and public health institutions.

4. Strategic Objective Four: Strengthen national, regional and international cooperation on food safety

Food safety is a global issue, and cooperation among countries is essential for effectively managing food safety risks. The Africa CDC will work with its MS to strengthen regional and international cooperation, by building institutional and technical capacity to support regional and national One Health coordination mechanisms and manage partnerships. This includes sharing information on food safety risks and incidents, in line with the IHR (2005) and collaborating on capacity-building programs.

Strategic actions

- a. Strengthen platforms for data collection, management and sharing of information at regional and continental level.
 - Support member states to create integrated food safety data hub.

- b. Enhance collaboration and harmonization of food safety measures at continental and international levels.
 - Establish data sharing agreements between MS, RECs and Africa CDC.
 - Coordinate with regional and international partners to support FBDs surveillance and food safety issues.

Implementors/beneficiaries

Public institutions managing food safety and public health institutions.

5. Strategic Objective Five: Support advocacy, consumer awareness and education on food safety

High-level advocacy is key to securing political support and investment in food safety. Additionally, consumers play a critical role in ensuring food safety and increasing their awareness and education on safe food handling practices is essential to reducing the incidence of foodborne diseases on the continent. This includes educating consumers on the risks of foodborne disease, promoting good hygiene practices, and promoting Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE) during food safety emergencies.

Strategic actions

- a. Support the development and implementation of awareness programs to create food safety culture through dissemination of information, education and communication (IEC) materials.
 - Support MS to conduct periodic knowledge, attitude and practices analysis on food safety.
 - Support MS to develop social behavior change communication tools for prioritized food safety events.
 - Support MS to domesticate educational material to local languages.
 - Support the development and harmonisation of curricula on food safety for educational institutions in Member States, including FELTP programmes in MS.
- b. Promote food safety culture in MS.
- c. Support utilization of technology and innovation in food safety awareness campaigns.
- d. Support capacity of media personnel in MS to report on food safety.
- e. Promote the formation of gender-responsive, women- and youth-led organisations for food safety awareness campaigns.
- f. Establish a youth education and advocacy program on food safety as a component of AVoHC.
- g. Support high level advocacy activities in MS on food safety.

Implementor/Beneficiaries

Public institutions managing food safety, public health institutions, consumer organizations, Media, educational institutions, NGOs, women and youth organizations.

7. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF KEY STAKEHOLDERS IN THIS FOOD SAFETY STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK

Achieving a safe and resilient food system in AU MS requires the active participation and coordinated action of relevant stakeholders across multiple levels in the food value chain. This section outlines the specific roles and responsibilities of key actors involved in the implementation of this Africa CDC Food Safety Strategic Framework. From AU technical agencies, development partners and regional economic communities to national governments, research and academic institutions, the private sector, CSO, NGO, Media, Non-State actors and consumers, each stakeholder has a unique and complementary role in promoting food safety, preventing foodborne diseases, and ensuring harmonized standards and systems. This clarity reflects the principle of subsidiarity and the respective comparative advantages of each actor.

Table one: Key Stakeholders/Roles and Responsibilities

Stakeholders	Responsibilities
Africa CDC	• Lead efforts to promote the adoption of this Strategic Framework in Member States. • Raise awareness of this strategic framework. • Monitor, evaluate and report on the implementation of the strategies in this strategic framework. • Strengthen FBD surveillance and response systems within Member States. • Support laboratory and testing infrastructure for food safety. • Support resource mobilization for food safety and public health programs. • Promote harmonization and integration of food safety data generation and reporting within the one health approach at MS level. • Support development and review of food safety legislations in MS. • Support the development of IECs and create consumer awareness on food safety. • In collaboration with AFSA, provide leadership during regional food safety emergencies and outbreaks.
Other AU technical agencies and departments	• Support the development and harmonization of food safety policies, regulatory frameworks and strengthen national food control systems across Africa. • Support programs to reduce food safety hazards and risks, strengthen laboratories, and promote risk-based decisions. • Contribute to coordinating and strengthening integrated surveillance, rapid alert and response systems. • Facilitate regional and international coordination to ensure Africa's active voice in global standard setting and collaboration on broader food safety issues. • Lead high-level advocacy to enhance political will and investments, and facilitate partnerships and resource mobilization to sustain food safety programs.

Stakeholders	Responsibilities
RECs and all other Regional Food Safety Actors	- Promote the development and harmonization of food safety and quality standard and regulatory measures for regional and international trade. - Facilitate adaptation of this Strategic Framework to regional context. - Facilitate the development and implementation of regional policies on food safety. - Support capacity building programs for MS. - Support resource mobilization for implementation of the various activities in this strategic framework. - Coordinate and develop linkages between national, continental, and international standards setting bodies. - Facilitate exchange and sharing of best practices and success stories on food safety within MS.
Member States	- Lead the implementation of the strategic actions in this Strategic Framework at country level. - Promote the use of relevant local adopted preventive measures and adoption of international standards and their domestication in national policies. - Lead policy development and implementation relating to food safety and this Strategic Framework at country level. - Provide oversight of regulatory compliance by FBOs. - Create enabling and incentivizing policies for domestic research and advocacy on food safety. - Create strong advocacy for funding and implementation of the different interventions outlined in this strategic framework. - Share best practices and success stories on food safety with other MS. - Develop an M&E plan for the implementation of policies and programs. - Establish a harmonized integrated framework for food safety data generation and reporting within the one health approach for sharing internally and externally.
National, regional and International Research Centres (Academia and Research Institutions)	- Conduct research on food safety in domestic food particularly in the informal food sectors for the development of risk management decisions for the sector. - Ensure sharing of information and knowledge related to food safety including up scaling technologies. - Enhance food safety awareness through scientific publications and platforms. - Develop and test technologies and best practices to transition from informal to formal food sectors. - Strengthen partnership with public health laboratories on food safety. - Support workforce development on food safety in line with emerging threats. - Contribute and share food safety data to inform policy and regulatory reforms. - Conduct education and training on food safety. - Conduct risk assessment to inform policy decisions.

Stakeholders	Responsibilities
Civil Society, and NGOs	• Educate and raise public awareness on food safety using social and behavioral change communication strategies. • Promote food safety technology uptake and exchange. • Provide necessary information to food business operators and consumers. • Support and contribute towards functioning laboratory infrastructure in the food safety area. • Support high level advocacy on food safety. • Contribute to effective RCCE during food safety emergencies. • Support in the development and dissemination of IEC on food safety situations in the MS. • Support M&E plan for the implementation of policies and programs within MS by providing feedback for improvement.
Private sector	Support advocacy and participation in food safety education. • Establish partnerships and collaboration with competent authorities for the development and adoption of best practices for managing food safety risks. • Ensure compliance throughout the food chain with existing and adopted food risk preventive measures and food safety regulations and conformity standards. • Participate in Voluntary Third-Party Assurance (vTPAs) and other PPP models. • Ensure effective traceability and recall mechanism of food products throughout the food chain. • Support improvement of laboratories within the member states. • Contribute and participate in the establishment and implementation of food safety and public health regulations. • Support and contribute towards research in the food safety area. • Provide data for risk assessment to inform policy decision.
Consumers and consumer associations	• Participate in the promotion and the demand of safe and nutritious food. • Advocate for effective training in safe food handling. • Provide feedback on government and private sector initiatives on food safety. • Report any food safety concern and any suspected foodborne disease to local health authorities or food safety authorities. • Take responsibility for handling, storage, and preparation in a hygienic manner.
Media	• Facilitate awareness creation on FS issues. • Support Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE) during food safety emergencies. • Establish a network of media practitioners to support FS and public health communication. • Train media practitioners on Food Safety Reporting.
Development Partners, International Funding Agencies and International Technical Agencies	• Coordinate development of food safety and quality standards. • Support capacity development initiatives on FBD surveillance response and management. • Provide technical assistance and scientific advice. • Provide financial assistance to improve infrastructure for food safety and public health. • Provide high level advocacy for policy attention on food safety issues. • Facilitate knowledge exchange and alignment with international standards. • Support capacity building in risk assessment and regulatory science. • Provide independent scientific advice and technical collaboration.

8. IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

The Implementation plan outlines the roadmap for translating the strategic objectives of the Africa CDC Food Safety Strategic Framework into coordinated and time-bound actions at continental, regional, and Member State levels. It provides a structured approach to operationalize the strategy through clearly defined strategic actions, timelines, and estimated budgets over a five-year period. The plan also prioritizes multisectoral collaboration, regional harmonization, and the integration of food safety actions into broader public health, trade, and One Health frameworks.

Table Two: Implementation plan

Strategic Objective	Strategic Action	Timeline (5 years)	Resource Allocation	Budget Considerations (for 1 year)
Support the strengthening of food safety policies, legal and institutional framework	Conduct national situational analysis of policies, legal and institutional frameworks of countries to identify strengths and weaknesses in the food control system	Year 1 (at least 5 countries) Target at end – 25 countries	• Technical assistance • Financial assistance	\$300,000.00 (\$60,000.00 per country)
	Strengthen the National Food Control System by addressing identified gaps and support implementing prioritized actions.	Year 1 (at least 5 countries) Target at end – 25 countries	• Technical assistance • Financial assistance • In-country contribution	\$300,000.00 (\$60,000.00 per country) An average of 10% of total budget
Support initiatives for the reduction of food safety hazards and risks in the food supply chain	Support development and implementation of risk management actions to address priority food safety risks in MS	Year 1 – 5 For 5 MS per year Target – 25 MS	• Technical assistance • Financial assistance	\$500,000.00 (\$100,000.00 per MS)
	i. Conduct situation analysis to identify hazards and risks in the food supply chain. ii. Conduct risk profiles, risk ranking and risk prioritization. iii. Set targets for hazard reduction through risk assessment in relation to public health goals. iv. Develop and implement monitoring/ surveillance plans for reducing/control of hazards in the food value chain.		• In-country contribution	An average of 10% of total budget

Strategic Objective	Strategic Action	Timeline (5 years)	Resource Allocation	Budget Considerations (for 1 year)
	Strengthen laboratories capacities for reliable analyses of food safety hazards i. Conduct needs assessment ii. Procurement of lab reagents and equipment iii. Training of Analyst	Year 1 – 5 For 5 MS per year Target – 25 MS	• Technical assistance • Financial assistance • In-country contribution	\$1,500,000.00 (\$300,000.00 per MS) An average of 10% of total budget
	Support MS to set up a harmonized and integrated system for collecting and managing food safety data	Year 1 – 5 For 5 MS per year Target – 25 MS	• Technical assistance • Financial assistance • in-country contribution	\$300,000.00 (\$60,000.00 per MS) An average of 10% of total budget
	Support MS to conduct total diet study to determine exposure to food safety hazards	Year 1 – 5 (managed at regional (REC) level 1 multi-country studies per region (4-5 Country) Target – 5 multi-country studies	• Technical assistance • Financial assistance • in-country contribution	\$2,000,000.00 (\$2,000,000.00 per region) An average of 10% of total budget
	Support food value chain actors to apply best practices on food handling and management to reduce hazards.	Year 1 – 5 For 5 MS per year Target – 25 MS	• Technical assistance • Financial assistance • in-country contribution	\$750,000.00 (\$150,000.00 per MS) An average of 10% of total budget
Improve integrated foodborne disease surveillance and response at national and regional level	Strengthen existing public health surveillance and response (e.g., IDSR) and integrate foodborne disease surveillance (both passive and active) in MS. i. Develop and implement food safety emergency response plan. ii. Conduct regular simulation exercises and after-action reviews iii.	Year 1 – 5 For 5 MS per year Target – 25 MS	• Technical assistance • Financial assistance • In-country contribution	\$1,000,000.00 (\$200,000.00 per MS) An average of 10% of total budget

Strategic Objective	Strategic Action	Timeline (5 years)	Resource Allocation	Budget Considerations (for 1 year)
	Support implementation of programs on risk-based food inspections, to generate food safety data. iv. Support development of FBD surveillance systems. v. Integrate food safety with one health surveillance platform (e.g., AMR, Zoonotic, human, climate change).		•	
	Strengthen INFOSAN activities in MS.	All MS	• Technical assistance • In-country contribution	\$10,000
	Support laboratory analysis to detect and assign an etiology for foodborne diseases and investigate hazards in foods linked to cases, outbreaks or events.	Year 1 – 5 For 5 MS per year Target – 25 MS	• Technical assistance • Financial assistance	\$2,500,000.00 (\$500,000.00 per MS)
			• In-country contribution	An average of 10% of total budget
	Integrate food safety emergency response plan into the African Volunteers Health Corp (AVoHC).	Year 1 For 2 MS per year Target – 10 MS	• Technical assistance	\$100,000.00 (\$50,000.00 per MS)
	Support development of data recording, analyzing and sharing systems for detection and monitoring of foodborne diseases and food contamination using digital tools, at the regional and national/ sub-national levels.	Year 2 For 5 MS per year Target – 25 MS	• Technical assistance • Financial assistance • In-country contribution	\$500,000.00 (\$100,000.00 per MS) An average of 10% of total budget
Strengthen national, regional and international cooperation on food safety	Support development of food safety notification platforms including food safety alert systems in MS.			
	Strengthening platforms for data collection, management and sharing of information at regional and continental level. i. Support member states to create integrated food safety data hub.	Year 2 For 5 MS per year Target – 25 MS	• Technical assistance • Financial assistance • In-country contribution	\$500,000.00 (\$100,000.00 per MS) An average of 10% of total budget
	Enhance collaboration and harmonization of food safety measures at continental and international levels. i. Establish data sharing agreements between MS, RECs and Africa CDC.	Year 3 All REC	• Financial assistance	\$100,000.00

Strategic Objective	Strategic Action	Timeline (5 years)	Resource Allocation	Budget Considerations (for 1 year)
	ii.Coordinate with regional and international partners to support foodborne disease surveillance and food safety issues.		•	
Support advocacy, consumer awareness and education on food safety	a.Support the development and implementation of awareness programs to create food safety culture through dissemination of information, education and communication (IEC) materials. i.Support MS to conduct knowledge, attitude and practices on food safety. ii.Support MS to develop social behavior change communication tools for prioritized food safety events. iii.Support MS to domesticate educational material to local languages. iv.Support development and harmonization curriculum on food safety for school education e.g FELTP and all other learning institutions in MS. b.Promote food safety culture in MS. c.Support utilization of technology and innovation in food safety awareness campaigns. d.Support capacity of media personnel in MS to report on food safety. e.Promote gender especially women and youth-based organizations formation for food safety awareness campaigns. f.Establish a youth education and advocacy programme on food safety as a component of AVoHC. g.Support high level advocacy activities in MS on food safety.	Year 2 - 5 All MS	• Financial assistance	\$1,000,000.00

9. MONITORING, EVALUATION, ACCOUNTABILITY AND LEARNING

The monitoring, evaluation, accountability and learning (MEAL) plan of this Strategic Framework provides a structured approach to track progress, and measure outcomes in implementing the strategic objectives at continental, regional, and MS levels. The MEAL framework outlines indicators, baselines, targets, means of verification, and reporting frequencies developed to guide the MEAL process, and ensure strategic actions are on track to achieve the planned objectives of strengthening food control systems on the continent.

The MEAL system will be implemented in collaboration with MS, RCCs, RECs, and relevant partners for a harmonized, One Health-oriented approach to food safety interventions.

Evaluations will provide a periodic assessment of how well the AU and partners have been supporting Food Safety activities at regional levels and in MS attaining the outcomes, outputs, and activities defined in the monitoring and evaluation framework. The mid-term evaluation will inform any necessary changes to keep implementation on track, while the end-term evaluation will document lessons learned from the implementation of the strategic plan to guide future steps.

The MEAL system will involve collaboration with Member State government authorities and other stakeholders in conducting MEAL activities to ensure efficiency and maximization of resources for evidence generation and reviews.

The table below outlines the logical framework for the M&E of the implementation of the Africa CDC Food Safety Strategic Framework. To ensure accountability, the needs and concerns of all stakeholders, including donors, partners, and especially the people the project serves will be considered. It will involve establishing feedback mechanisms to hold organizations responsible for their actions using the data and insights gained from monitoring, evaluation, and accountability to reflect, adapt, and improve programming through lessons learnt.

Theory of Change

The Africa CDC Food Safety Strategic Framework theory of change is presented in table three below. The long-term goal is a sustained reduction in the burden of FBDs, reflected in decreased morbidity and mortality, strengthened public health security, and a resilient food system that support economic growth and trade. The short-term goal is to strengthen Member States' capacity to prevent, detect, and respond to food safety threats through functional governance frameworks, surveillance systems, improved laboratory capacity, effective emergency response mechanisms, and enhanced regional cooperation under a One Health approach.

Table three: Theory of Change

Inputs/Activities	Outputs	Outcomes	Impact
Policy and legal framework assessments	Updated food safety policies and coordination mechanisms	Improved national food control systems	Reduced morbidity and mortality from foodborne diseases
Hazard profiling, risk prioritization, and Total Diet Studies	Functional food safety data and surveillance systems	Timely detection and response to foodborne outbreaks	Safer food systems supporting nutrition, trade, and economic growth
Laboratory strengthening and WGS deployment	Strengthened laboratory and outbreak investigation capacity	Reduced exposure to priority food safety hazards	Improved health security under a One Health framework
Integration of FBD surveillance into IDSR/EBS		Increased consumer adoption of safe food practices	
RCC-led regional coordination and data platforms	Trained public health, laboratory, media, and community actors	Strengthened regional and cross-border food safety coordination	
Advocacy, IEC, RCCE, and workforce development	Operational regional and international data-sharing mechanisms		

Key Assumptions and External Factors that may influence results.

- Sustained political commitment and financing at MS level.
- Effective coordination among AU institutions and partners.
- Stability of public health systems and governance contexts.
- Climate and conflict shocks may affect implementation pace.

Logical Framework

Table four: Simplified Logical Framework

	Description	Indicators	Baseline (2026)	Target (2031)	Means of Verification	Key Assumptions
Goal / Impact	Reduced foodborne disease burden and improved food safety systems in Africa	Reduced FBD incidence per 100,000 population. Reduced FBD-related mortality among children under 5.		Measurable reduction across ≥25 MS	WHO/FBD reports, IDSR, MS surveillance data	Sustained political commitment and surveillance functionality
Outcomes	Strengthened national food safety systems	% MS achieving JEE/SPAR ≥ Level 3 (FS)	<10 MS	≥25 MS	JEE, SPAR reports	MS implement reforms
	Improved outbreak detection & response	% priority outbreaks responded to within 72 hrs	Limited	≥80% in supported MS	IDSR, outbreak reports	Functional surveillance
	Reduced exposure to priority hazards	# MS implementing risk-based hazard reduction	Nil	≥25 MS	MS technical reports, TDS	Lab & data capacity
	Improved food safety practices	% MS implementing FS awareness programs	Limited	≥25 MS	Surveys, IEC reports	Community engagement
	Strengthened regional cooperation	# RCCs/RECs sharing FS data with Africa CDC	Ad hoc	All 5 RCCs	RCC/REC reports	Data-sharing agreements

Key Performance Indicators

The implementation of the Strategic Priorities, or of parts thereof, will be planned in accordance with priorities, timelines, capacities, and resources developed between Africa CDC, MS and its partners. Risks concerning Africa CDC's ability to deliver the proposed Strategic Outcomes within the set timelines will be identified throughout the process and, where possible, mitigation measures will be put in place. Such risks may result from the very nature of working with multiple partners and having to depend on external conditions for outcomes and underlying actions to advance accordingly. As part of the planning process, indicators for the delivery of Strategic outcomes and activities will be established. These indicators will include the definition of baselines, targets and metrics, and will be developed to be consistent with the Framework's objectives.

Table Five: Non-Exhaustive List of Impact, Outcome and Output Indicators

Impact Indicators	Reduction in reported foodborne disease incidence per 100,000 population. Reduction in FBD-related mortality among children under 5.
Outcome Indicators	% of MS achieving JEE/SPAR level ≥ 3 for food safety. % of priority foodborne outbreaks detected and responded to within 72 hours. # MS implementing risk-based hazard reduction % of MS with integrated food safety–IDSR surveillance. # RCCs/RECs sharing FS data with Africa CDC
Output Indicators	Number of MS with updated food safety legal frameworks. Number of accredited food safety laboratories. Number of MS conducting Total Diet Studies. Number of MS with functional food safety data platforms.

Data Collection and Management

The Africa CDC will use existing data collection and management systems to support implementation of the Food Safety Strategic Framework (2026–2030). The system will primarily rely on data generated and reported by MS and RECs, as aligned with existing public health reporting mechanisms and tools such as Joint External Evaluations (JEE), and State Party Annual Reports (SPAR) will be utilized annually to verify progress. Collection of the data will be on a quarterly or annual basis depending on the indicator. Data quality will be ensured through completeness checks, and feedback loops to reporting entities.

Performance Evaluation

The Evaluation Plan will establish the approach to assess the performance, effectiveness, and sustainability over the life of the strategy. It will involve a baseline survey when appropriate before the Strategy implementation commences to allow a better assessment of improvements and progress made, mid-term evaluation to assess progress, identify implementation bottlenecks, and recommend course correction and a final end-line evaluation to measure achievement of intended outcomes and document lessons learned. Evaluations will be conducted in collaboration with Member States, RCCs, and partners, with independent external evaluators engaged to ensure objectivity.

Monitoring and Evaluation Framework

Strategic objectives	Strategies and interventions	Indicator			Means of Verification	Reporting frequency
		Description	Baseline (2026)	Target MS (2031)		
Support the strengthening of food safety policies, legal and institutional framework in MS	Support MS to conduct national situational analysis of policies, legal and institutional frameworks of countries to identify strengths and weaknesses in the national food control system.	Number of Member State published reports on strengths and weaknesses in food control systems.	nil	25	MS reports, JEE reports	Annually
	Strengthen the National Food Control System by addressing identified gaps and support implementing prioritized actions.	Number of MS with identified gaps addressed to strengthen Food Control System	nil	25	Technical reports	Annually
Support initiatives for the reduction of food safety hazards and risks in the food supply chain	Support development and implementation of risk management actions to address priority food safety risks in MS	Number of MS reports on results of monitoring and surveillance program for food safety hazards and risks	nil	25	MS reports	Biennially
	Strengthen laboratories capacities for reliable analyses of food safety hazards	Number of accredited laboratories for food safety within MS	nil	25	Lab accreditation certificate for food safety	annually
		Number of MS with capacity to test for prioritised food safety hazards and risks with public health importance.	nil	25	Test specific accreditation certificate	Annually
	Support development and implementation of risk management actions to address priority food safety risks in MS					

Strategic objectives	Strategies and interventions	Indicator			Means of Verification	Reporting frequency
		Description	Baseline (2026)	Target MS (2031)		
	Strengthen laboratories capacities for reliable analyses of food safety hazards					
	Support MS to set up a harmonized and integrated system for collecting and managing food safety data.	Number of MS with functional multisectoral TWG or committees on food safety.	nil	25	MS reports/minutes/Communique/newsletter of functional multisectoral TWG or committees	Annually
	Support MS to conduct total diet study to determine exposure to food safety hazards.	Number of MS supported to conduct TDS.	nil	15	Published TDS reports	Biennially
		Number of REC with published TDS	nil	5 ¹	Published TDS reports	Biennially
	Support food value chain actors to apply best practices on food handling and management to reduce hazards.	Number of MS supported	nil	25	Published Reports	Annually
Improve integrated foodborne disease surveillance and response at national and regional level	Strengthen existing public health surveillance and response (e.g., IDSR) and integrate foodborne disease surveillance (both passive and active) in MS.	Number of MS supported to move to level 3 on JEE and state party annual reporting (SPAR)	nil	25	JEE, SPAR report	Biennially
	Strengthen INFOSAN activities in MS	Number of MS with functional emergency contact point and focal points across different sectors	nil	55	INFOSAN report, JEE report, State Party annual report (SPAR)	Annually

¹ Number of RECs

Strategic objectives	Strategies and interventions	Indicator			Means of Verification	Reporting frequency
		Description	Baseline (2026)	Target MS (2031)		
	Support laboratory analysis to detect and assign an etiology for foodborne diseases and investigate hazards in foods linked to cases, outbreaks or events.	Number of MS supported to conduct WGS laboratory analysis	nil	25	Reports on outbreak investigation	Annually
	Integrate the food safety emergency response plan into the African Volunteers Health Corps (AVoHC)	Number of MS supported to conduct FBD surveillance and response training for experts to be enrolled and recruited in the AVoHC program	nil	10	AVoHC database	Annually
	Support development of data recording, analyzing and sharing systems for detection and monitoring of foodborne diseases and food contamination using digital tools, at the regional and national/sub-national levels.	Number of MS with functional digital food safety harmonization tools	nil	25	MS report	Annually
	Support development of food safety notification platforms including food safety alert systems in MS.	Number of MS with functional emergency contact point and focal points across different sectors	nil	55	INFOSAN report, JEE report, State Party annual report (SPAR)	Annually
Strengthen national, regional and international cooperation on food safety	Strengthening platforms for data collection, management and sharing of information at regional and continental level	Number of RCCs, and RECs sharing FS data with Africa CDC.	nil	5 ²	RCC, RECs reports	Annually
	Enhance collaboration and harmonization of food safety measures at continental and international levels.	Number of harmonized policies, regulations, standards among partners on FS matters.	nil	TBD	Reports, minutes	Annually

² Number of RCCs, and RECs.

Strategic objectives	Strategies and interventions	Indicator			Means of Verification	Reporting frequency
		Description	Baseline (2026)	Target MS (2031)		
Support advocacy, consumer awareness and education on food safety	Support the development and implementation of awareness programs to create food safety culture through dissemination of information, education and communication (IEC) materials.	Number of MS with IEC developed	nil	25	Availability of IEC materials in use	Annually
		Number of MS who have implemented awareness programs			Reports on awareness programs	
	Support utilization of technology and innovation in food safety awareness campaigns.	Number of MS observing World FS Day using technology and innovation	nil	25	Reports on World FS Day (indicating social media interactions)	Annually
	Support capacity of media personnel in MS to report on food safety.	Number of MS with trained media personnel on FS.	nil	25	Report of trainings	Annually
	Promote gender especially women and youth-based organizations for information for food safety awareness campaigns	Number of MS with functional programs for women and youth in food safety.	nil	25	Reports on gender and youth-based awareness program.	Annually
	Establish a youth education and advocacy program on food safety as a component of AvoHC.	Number of MS supported with FS advocacy education program as component of AVoHC.	nil	25	Report on submission from AVoHC	Annually
	Support high level advocacy activities in MS on food safety	Number of MS supported for high advocacy.	nil	25	Reports on high level advocacy activities	Annually

10. LIST OF EXISTING STRATEGIES AND FRAMEWORKS

1. African Union Agenda 2063.
2. Food Safety Strategy for Africa 2022-2036.
3. Inter-African Phytosanitary Council of the African Union (AU-IAPSC) Strategic Plan.
4. African Union framework for antimicrobial resistance control 2020–2025.
5. African Union One health zoonotic disease prevention and control strategy 2024-2029.
6. Continental Climate Change and Health strategy 2024-2029.
7. The Livestock Development Strategy for Africa 2015-2035.
8. Animal Health Strategy for Africa (AHSA) 2019-2035.
9. Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention Strategic Plan (2023-2027).
10. The Malabo Declaration on Accelerated Growth and Transformation.
11. The Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Program (CAADP) framework.
12. The Annex 7 of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) Agreement.
13. Africa Health Strategy 2016-2030.
14. The AU Continental SPS Framework.
15. Quadripartite One Health Joint Plan of Action (2022-2026) (FAO, UNEP, WOA, WHO).

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12. African Union: Framework for Antimicrobial Resistance Control 2020–2025.
13. African Union: CAADP Strategy and Action Plan: 2026-2035. In: Extraordinary Summit on the Post-Malabo CAADP Agenda. Ext./Assembly/2(XIX). Kampala, Uganda (2025).
14. Kareem, F.O., and G.T. Food Safety in Africa: Insights from the CAADP Biennial Review Data. Kigali (2024).
15. Africa Union: Food Safety Strategy for Africa 2021 Final. (2021).

12. GLOSSARY

Capacity: The combination of all the strengths, attributes and resources available within a community, society or organization that can be used to achieve agreed goals.

Codex Alimentarius: A collection of internationally recognized standards, codes of practice, guidelines and other recommendations relating to food, food production and food safety.

Competent authority: A government agency responsible for managing food safety risks including developing and enforcing food safety rules and regulations.

Farm-to-table/folk: Includes all steps involved in the production, storage, handling, distribution and preparation of a food product.

Food: Any substance, whether processed, semi-processed or raw, which is intended for human consumption, and includes drinks, chewing gum and any substance that has been used in the manufacture, preparation or treatment of “food”, but does not include cosmetics or tobacco or substances used only as drugs.

Food business operators: The owner of the business or the person in control of the food business including farmers, food producers, processors and distributors, and food service providers, retailers, wholesalers, as well as suppliers of equipment, technology and ingredients

Food control: A mandatory regulatory activity of enforcement by national or local authorities to provide consumer protection and ensure that all foods during production, handling, storage, processing and distribution are safe, wholesome and fit for human consumption; conform to quality and safety requirements; and are honestly and accurately labelled as prescribed by law.

Food control system: the integration of a mandatory regulatory approach with preventive and educational strategies that protect the whole food chain.

Food handler: Any person who directly handles packaged or unpackaged food, food equipment and utensils, or food contact surfaces and is therefore expected to comply with food hygiene requirements.

Food hygiene: All conditions and measures necessary to ensure the safety and suitability of food at all stages of the food chain.

Food inspection: The examination of food products or systems for the control of raw materials, processing and distribution. This includes in-process and finished product testing to verify that they conform to regulatory requirements.

Food monitoring: Monitoring is a statistically based, unbiased, random sampling, processing and analysis of samples to provide profile information on the occurrence and/or levels of food safety hazards in pre-defined, normal sample populations.

Food safety: assurance that food will not cause harm to the consumer when it is prepared and/or eaten according to its intended use.

Food Safety Culture: Within a food business, a food safety culture is a combination of shared values, attitudes and behaviors of all staff to ensure the food they produce, and market is safe.

Food safety emergency: A situation, whether accidental or intentional, that is identified by a competent authority as constituting a serious and as yet uncontrolled foodborne risk to public health that requires urgent action.

Food safety system: As a component of the food system, it is the combination of all stakeholders’ activities in the food and feed chain that contributes to safeguarding the health and well-being of people, animals, and the environment.

Food security: Food security exists when all people, at all times, have physical, social and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food to meet their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life.

Foodborne disease: Any disease of an infectious or toxic nature caused by the consumption of food.

Foodborne disease surveillance: The systematic collection, analysis, interpretation and dissemination of health data on an ongoing basis, to gain knowledge of the pattern of disease occurrence and potential in a community, in order to control and prevent disease in the community.

Informal food sector: A sector not subject to most types of government regulations, including in relation to food safety, self-regulating and self-driven in their operations.

Hazard: A biological, chemical or physical agent in, or condition of, food with the potential to cause an adverse health effect.

One Health approach: Collaborative multidisciplinary work at the local, national, and global levels to attain optimal health for humans, animals and the environment.

Risk: A function of the probability of adverse health effect and the severity of that effect, consequential to a hazard(s) in food.

Risk analysis: A process consisting of three components: risk assessment, risk management and risk communication.

Risk assessment: A scientifically based process consisting of the following steps: hazard identification; hazard characterization; exposure assessment; and risk characterization.

Risk communication: The exchange of information and opinions concerning risk and risk-related factors among risk assessors, risk managers, consumers and other interested parties.

Risk management: The process of weighing policy alternatives in consultation with all interested parties, considering risk assessment and other factors relevant for the health protection of consumers and for the promotion of fair-trade practices, and, if needed, selecting appropriate prevention and control options.

SPS Agreement: Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures of the World Trade Organization.

13. LIST OF CONTRIBUTORS

List of Reviewers and Contributors

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