

Nutrition and Food Safety Newsletter

2 April 2024

Dear Subscribers

Welcome to our Nutrition and Food Safety newsletter. In this issue, we present new publications, key meetings, and notable events in relation to nutrition and food safety from January to March 2024. For further details, please click on the related hyperlinks:

New Publications

Nutrition and Food Safety Achievements 2023

WHO leadership, norm-setting, policy guidance, country support actions, monitoring, and surveillance have brought another good year of progress towards universal access to safe and sufficient nutritious food and effective nutrition and food safety actions.

This brochure of our [main 2023 achievements](#) highlights the value of global health leadership in setting objectives, aligning partners, and driving change which would not be possible without the passionate engagement of colleagues in all WHO offices – country, regional and headquarters.



Trans fat elimination: communications toolkit

This [toolkit](#) published on 26 January was developed to support communications and advocacy activities to accelerate the adoption of trans fat elimination policies. The materials can be customized to suit various audiences and contexts.



WFSD24 communication toolkit

This [communication toolkit](#) was developed by WHO and FAO to present information about the sixth World Food Safety Day (WFSD), and to share ideas on how to take part in the celebrations on (or around) 7 June 2024.



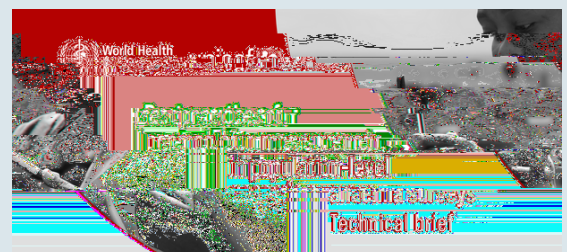
Guideline on haemoglobin cutoffs to define anaemia

The [Guideline on haemoglobin cutoffs to define anaemia in individuals and populations](#) was released on 5 March. Appropriate guidelines for measuring haemoglobin and defining anaemia are crucial for both clinical and public health medicine but require consideration of a range of complexities across different populations.



New release of a technical brief on haemoglobin measurement

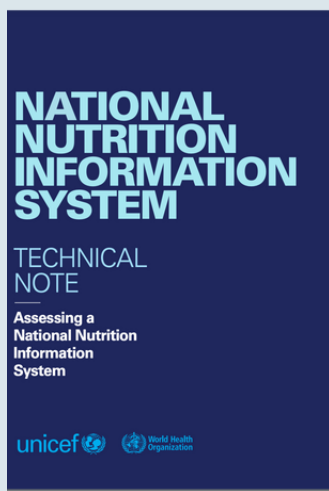
The [Best practices for measurement in population-level anaemia surveys: technical brief](#) describes the current best practices for haemoglobin measurement. It guides people who are planning or implementing field surveys that will assess anaemia prevalence at a population level.



6 Technical notes on national nutrition information systems are now available on the WHO website

This series of [technical notes](#) is produced on different topics of national nutrition information systems and is the first-ever global guidance on these crucial topics. These include:

- [Costing a national nutrition information system](#)
- [Designing effective data](#)
- [Nutrition data value chain](#)
- [The power of nutrition dashboards, scorecards and profiles](#)
- [Building a strong core team](#)
- [Assessing a national nutrition information system](#)



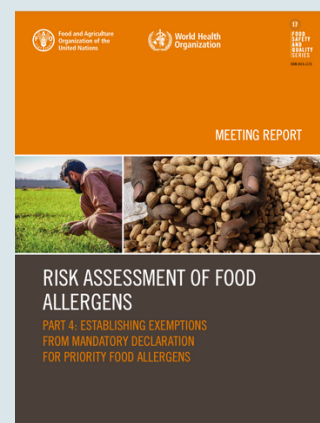
The HDMI Call to Action

[The Healthy Diets Monitoring Initiative](#) invites all stakeholders to join in this global effort to improve the health and wellbeing of people and the planet. [Register here.](#)



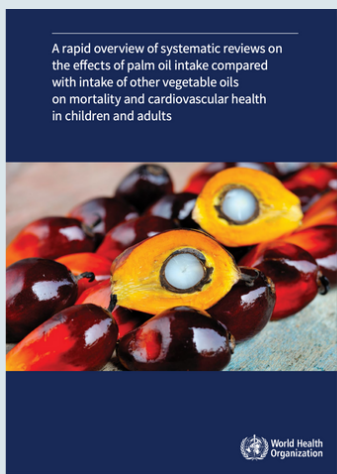
Risk assessment of food allergens: part 4

The [meeting report](#) explains the framework for evaluating exemptions for food allergens in response to the request by the Codex Committee on Food Labelling (CCFL).



[A rapid overview of systematic reviews on the effects of palm oil intake](#)

The objective of this new review published on 27 February is to rapidly identify and summarize existing evidence from published systematic reviews on the relationships between palm oil intake and mortality or cardiovascular health in children and adults.



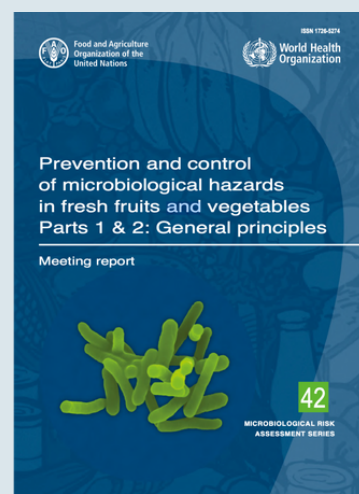
[A rapid overview of systematic reviews on the effects of coconut oil intake](#)

This review rapidly identifies and summarizes existing evidence from published systematic reviews on the relationships between coconut oil intake and mortality or cardiovascular health in children and adults, and to assess the methodological quality of these systematic reviews.



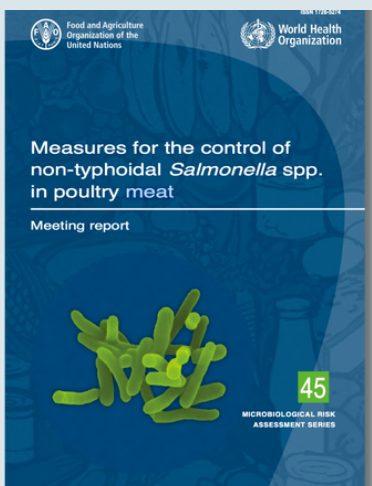
Prevention and control of microbiological hazards in fresh fruits and vegetables

The [meeting report](#) describes the output of the JEMRA meeting on measures to control microbiological hazards from primary production to point of sale in fresh, ready-to-eat (RTE) and minimally processed fruits and vegetables, including leafy vegetables.



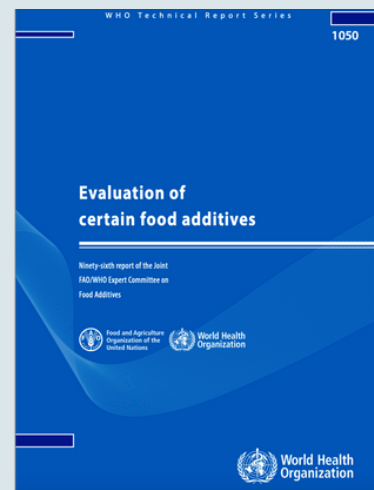
Measures for the control of non-typhoidal *Salmonella* spp. in poultry meat: meeting report

This [report](#) describes the output of the JEMRA meeting on measures for the control of non-typhoidal *Salmonella* spp. in poultry meat.



Evaluation of certain food additives

The [report of the Ninety-sixth meeting of the Joint Food and Agriculture Organization \(FAO\)/World Health Organization \(WHO\) Expert Committee on Food Additives \(JECFA\)](#) represents JECFA evaluations of technical, toxicological and epidemiological data, including the occurrence of and dietary exposure to the food additive aspartame.



Report 2023: [pesticide residues](#) in food: Joint FAO/WHO Meeting on Pesticide Residues

WHO reviewed toxicological and related data and for estimating acceptable daily intakes (ADIs) and acute reference doses (ARfDs) of the pesticides for humans. This report contains information on ADIs, ARfDs, maximum residue levels, and general principles for the evaluation of pesticides. The recommendations of the Joint Meeting, including further research and information, are proposed for use by Member governments of the respective agencies and other interested parties.



Key Events and Meetings

Information session on WHO Global Strategy for Food Safety 2022-2030

A [virtual information session on WHO Global Strategy for Food Safety 2022-2030](#) was held for Members States.



This information session provided an early overview of the implementation status and sought input and guidance on matters of interest to develop a more comprehensive report. Member States have been asked to share [foodborne outbreak data](#) by 10 May 2024

High-level event: Trans fat elimination validation award ceremony

On 29 January 2024, [NFS hosted a high-level ceremony](#) to recognize the first five countries that have demonstrated to have best-practice trans fat elimination policy and monitoring and enforcement mechanisms in place to eliminate trans fats from the food supply, with validation certificates awarded, for the first time, to Denmark, Lithuania, Poland, Saudi Arabia and Thailand.

The WHO Director-General handed out the award certificates and provided opening remarks. Please click [here](#) to watch the ceremony and click [here](#) for the Director General's remarks.



WHO and FAO announce the theme of the World Food Safety Day 2024

This year's food safety theme, **'Prepare for the unexpected'** on 7 June 2024 underlines the importance of being prepared to manage food safety incidents so that they don't become emergencies.

This is an important topic for WHO as approximately 5% of the global acute public health events have been due to unsafe food in the last twenty years on average.

The theme also allows us to start celebrating the 20th anniversary of INFOSAN, a multisectoral network of food safety authorities that keeps growing its membership and efficiency in addressing food safety events of potential international significance. INFOSAN saves lives by ensuring that countries rapidly receive botulism antitoxin when countries don't have it, by helping countries efficiently share information to recall contaminated food distributed internationally or where there are multi-country outbreaks related to the consumption of unsafe food.



Interested in contributing?

Call for experts

[Call for experts to develop WHO food-based dietary guidelines](#)

Deadline of submission: 28 April 2024

Call for data

[Food Contaminants: One hundred and first meeting - Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives \(JECFA\)](#)

Deadline of submission: 1 December 2024

[Department of Nutrition and Food Safety \(NFS\)](#)



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