

World Food Safety Day June 7th



Benefits of safe food for the **economy**:

- Higher productivity
- Flourishing food markets
- Stable food exports and trade
- Lower medical expenses







Food and Agriculture Organization of the United National Organization

FOR A HEALTHY TOMORROW

Food safety is everyone's business

SAFE FOOD NOW

World Food Safety Day













Agenda

- Introduction
- Food Security
- Food Safety
- Relationship Food Safety Food Security
- Workshop



Key Facts

- Around 600 million people worldwide, or approximately 1 in 10, get sick after eating contaminated food, and 420 000 people pass away every year.
- Each year, low- and middle-income nations lose US\$ 110 billion in productivity and medical costs as a result of hazardous food.
- Children under the age of five account for 40% of the foodborne disease burden, with 125 000 deaths per year.
- Foodborne infections hinder socioeconomic progress by depleting health-care systems and wreaking on national economies, tourism, and trade.

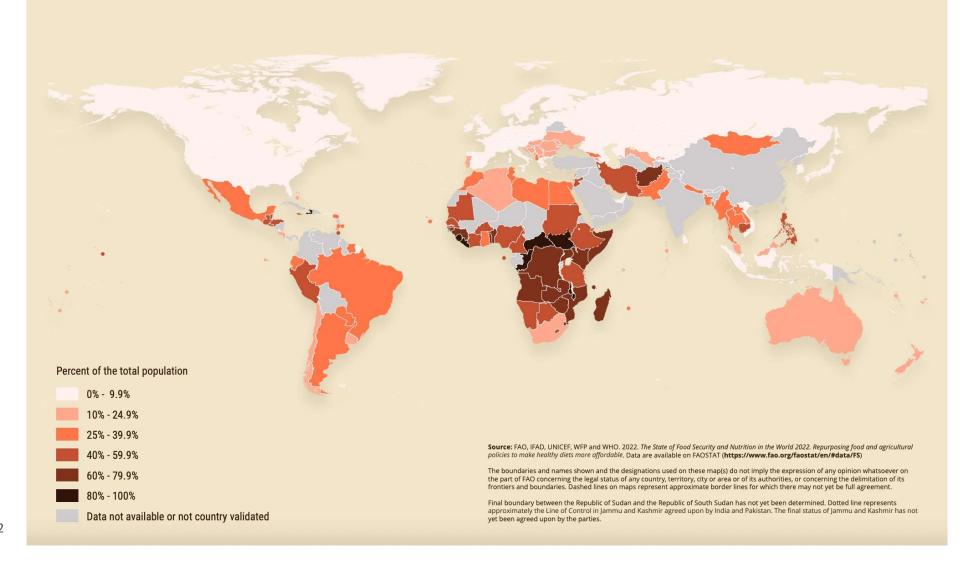


FAO FOOD INSECURITY MAP





Prevalence of Moderate or Severe Food Insecurity 2019-2021 SDG Indicator 2.1.2







Introduction

- There is no food security without food safety.
- Contaminated food leads to deaths as well as costs.
- Safe, sufficient, and nutritious foods are relevant to the SDGs.
- Food security, food safety, and proper nutrition are essential features of food systems.
- Food security has been prioritized over food safety, and food safety over healthy nutrition.
- Food safety compliance is a challenge in developing countries.
- Access to nutritious, safe, and healthful food is a fundamental human right. To defend this right, governments must ensure that food sold on the market complies with safety requirements.

The interplay between food safety and food security is important and emphasizes a call for action to boost food safety.





Food Security

"exists when **all people**, at **all times**, have **physical** and **economic access** to **sufficient, safe**, and **nutritious food** that meets their **dietary needs** and **food preferences** for an active and healthy life." (World Food Summit, 1996)



Food Security Pillars

Stability of the other three dimensions

The three pillars (availability, access, and utilization) must be stable over time

Availability STABILITY Food Security Utilization Access

Physical availability of food

Refers to the supply side, food produced, the amount of food stored, and traded

Economic and physical access to food

Low diet quality is associated with economic food poverty. The physical access refers to the capacity to get and prepare food.

Most studies have focused on economic food poverty, ignoring the effects of physical barriers to food access

Food utilization

Frequently defined as the process through which the body extracts the most nutrients from the diet

through feeding practices such as proper food preparation, a varied diet, and intrahousehold food distribution

FAO,2022; Vaudin et al., 2022





Food Safety

"the **assurance** that food will **not cause harm** to the **consumer** when it is prepared and/or eaten according to its intended use." (CAC, 2003)



Food Safety

- Every year one million people fall ill due to food poisoning. These are the cases reported to the doctor, in reality there are many more.
- The symptoms can range from a stomach infection or diarrhoea to severe food poisoning that can lead to death.
- To ensure that food is safe, food business operators (FBO) must have a **quality system that defines what hazards** exist within the company and how these hazards are prevented or controlled.
- There are 3 types of hazards:
 - Contamination of food with (micro)organisms (bacteria)
 - Contamination with chemicals (cleaning agent etc)
 - Physical contamination (plastic, glass, wood)
- Food safety is a shared responsibility, and every stakeholder in the food supply chain a role.



Microbiological

Food infections and food poisoning are caused by microorganisms. Microorganisms are the bacteria, fungi, yeasts, germs and viruses. For all micro-organisms, they are so small (micro=very small) that they cannot be seen by the naked eye. Which is also where the greatest danger lies.

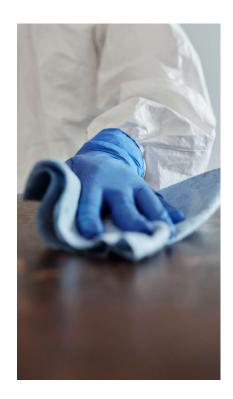




Chemical contamination

Dangerous chemicals can get into the food product. Some examples of contamination:

- Cleaning agents
- Disinfectant
- Chlorine
- Lubricating oil for machines etc.





Physical contamination

The last possible contamination is physical contamination.

Physical contamination includes:

- Glass
- Plastic
- Wood
- Nuts
- Screws
- Pieces
- Broken parts of a machinery





HACCP

- Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points
- 'For everyone who works with food'
- Food safety system, based on a risk analysis of raw materials and processes.
- The quality department should carry out the HACCP study to determine the hazards and risks as well as the control measures.







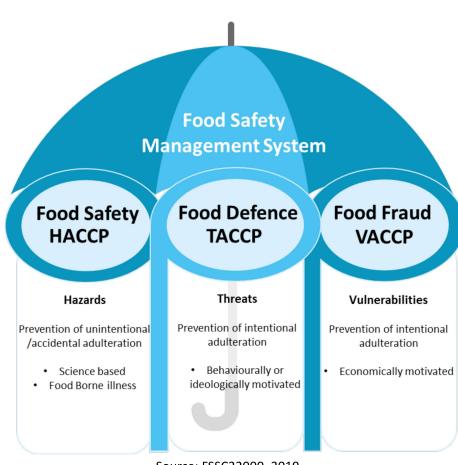




Food Safety

- Food safety is a shared responsibility
 - food authorities: establish and enforce regulations
 - food producers and food business operators (FBOs): adopt good food safety practices and adhere to legislation
 - consumers: apply safe food handling methods
- Food businesses: food safety management system (FSMS) is required to guarantee the safety of the foods and mitigate any hazards that can cause harm or injury to consumers.

"A FSMS is a holistic system
of prevention, preparedness, and self-check activities to manage food
safety and hygiene in a
food business"



Source: FSSC22000, 2019





Food Safety and the SDGs

Food Safety is part of the Sustainable Development Goals and it is vital in achieving the following goals:

- Ending poverty
- Ending hunger
- Promoting good health and well-being

and also it contributes indirectly to:

- Gender equality
- Clean water and sanitation
- Decent work and economic growth
- Sustainable cities and communities
- Safe food is required to meet nutritional diet needs.
- Unsafe food inhibits the nutrients uptake and thus makes it unsuitable for human consumption.







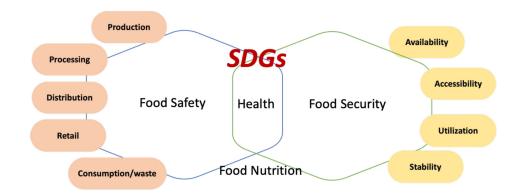
Food Loss and Waste

- 14 % of food is lost from harvest up to, but not including retail.
- Over 17 % of food is wasted globally at the retail and consumer levels → 10 % of greenhouse gas emissions.
- 931 million metric tons of food are wasted each year in the food service industry, retail stores, and households.
- In less developed food systems, up to 30% of food losses occur at the production, postharvest, and processing levels.
- Food insecurity is exacerbated by food waste and losses caused by unsafe food, which further put a strain on waste management systems.



Relationship Food Safety Food Security

- Based on a qualitative study that investigated and sought to understand the intersection of food security and food safety in East African emerging nations at both the farmer and food business operator levels (MSc thesis Mierlut, A.).
- In less developed countries, due to a lack of investments in agriculture and food systems, up to 30% of food losses occur at the production, postharvest, and processing levels.
- In low- and middle-income countries, the effect of unsafe food results in annual output losses.
- Foodborne illnesses can raise the risk of malnutrition.



Hazards Growing population COVID-19 Waste
Consumer preferences Climate change War
Urbanization Resource depletion Price increase

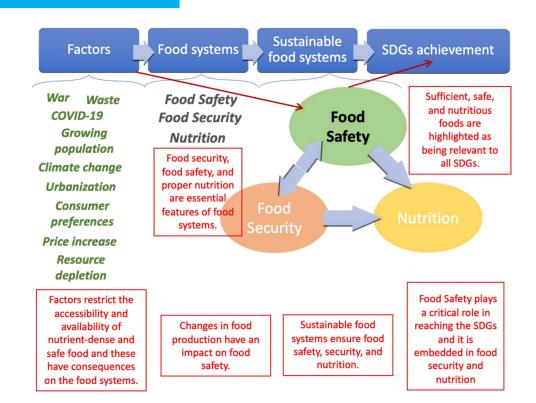
Mierlut, A. 2023 (MSc thesis project) Adapted from Sobal et al., 1998 and Barakat 2017



Relationship Food Safety Food Security

- Eradicating hunger is not only about supplying food.
- Enough food is produced to feed everyone.
- Many factors impact the accessibility and availability of nutrient-dense and safe food.

Sufficient, safe, and nutritious foods are highlighted as being relevant to SDGs.



Mierlut, A. 2023 (MSc thesis project) Sources: FAO 2019, 2022; WHO, 2022



Sociology of Food

- Correlation between income and compliance with hygiene regulations. The higher the income, education level, and social
 class, the greater the likelihood of adhering to and complying with regulations and hygiene rules.
- Discourses on food safety seem to win over concerns about food waste, so the need to prevent the consumption of hazardous foods is a sufficient justification for throwing away and wasting food in developed countries.
- In developing countries, food waste is perceived differently and is directly linked to hunger and food insecurity. Food loss and waste is seen as a result of a lack of food safety practices, which negatively impacts food security.
- By reducing food waste and facilitating market access and productivity, sustainable food production contributes to poverty
 reduction, particularly in developing rural areas.

East Africa

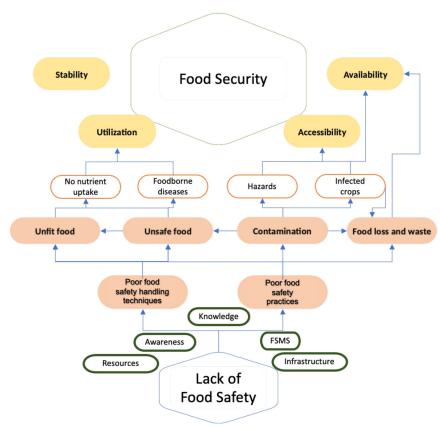
- 250 million food-insecure individuals in East Africa (2019).
- Food hazards were responsible for 1,200 disability-adjusted life years (DALYs) per 100,000 inhabitants in 20 nations in Eastern and Southern Africa.
- There is a challenging food safety situation.
- Interventions on food safety, yet it is not uniform due to fragmentated governance.
- Attempts to harmonize food safety standards, yet not put in practice.





Food safety impacts Food Security

- Qualitative study to investigate and understand the intersection of food security and food safety in East African emerging nations at both the farmer and food business operator levels (MSc thesis).
 - A lack of food safety in East African countries leads to poor food safety practices and inadequate food safety handling procedures
 - Contamination, food loss, and waste, consumption of dangerous and inappropriate food → physical barriers to food access, availability and utilization
 - The food security pillars are affected.

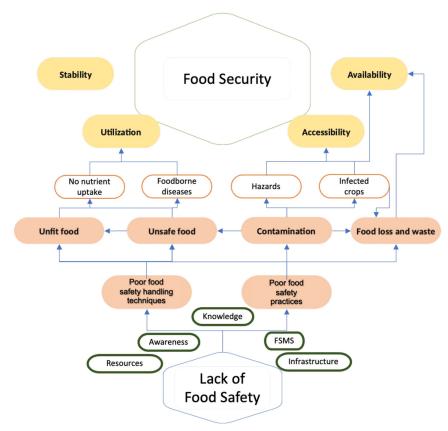


Mierlut, A. 2023 (MSc thesis project)



Food safety to Food Security

- Enhanced food safety:
 - ∘ reduces unsafe food → a decrease in foodborne diseases
 - mitigates food safety hazards → to less food loss and waste, resource loss → increased availability and access to food
- Boosting food safety can lead to improved food security



Mierlut, A. 2023 (MSc thesis project)



Food safety to Food Security

- Food safety is a crucial component of a food system because it is an integral part of every stage of the food supply chain.
- Food security and food safety, together with appropriate nutrition, are fundamental aspects of sustainable food systems that have substantial effects on individuals' health.
- Food safety is part of the SDGs and plays a critical part in attaining them.
- Therefore, one could argue that when food safety is improved, food security is enhanced, and thus the food system will benefit.
- FSMS can improve food safety:
 - helps prevent food safety hazards
 - mitigates food loss and waste along the supply chain (especially at the beginning steps: production, post harvesting)

