



Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations



World Health Organization

World Food Safety Day 7 June 2020

Food safety, everyone's business



EUROPEAN UNION



MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF DENMARK
Danida

Why the world must pay increased attention to food safety

Message from the Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Health



Hon. Mutahi Kagwe, EGH

Safe and nutritious food in adequate amounts is required for the sustenance of life and the promotion of good health. Unsafe food is responsible for creating a vicious cycle of disease

and malnutrition affecting consumers. Foodborne illnesses are a burden on public health and contribute significantly to the cost of health care. They impede socio-economic development by straining health care systems and harm national economy, tourism and trade.

Everyone can contribute to making food safe, but the primary responsibility lies with the Food Business Operators (FBOs). The Ministry of Health regards food safety as a public health priority and is currently conducting risk categorisation of FBOs into high, medium and low risk to inform the frequency of inspection. This will go a long way in protecting the consumer.

During this period when the Ministry of Health is fighting the Covid-19 pandemic, safeguarding the health of the consumer is paramount. Food preparation outlets have been shown to have the potential risk for spreading Covid-19. Therefore, it is important for all workers handling foods along the food supply chains, including markets, to adhere to hygiene measures.

Word from the Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries and Co-Operatives

On December 20, 2018, the United Nations General Assembly adopted a resolution proclaiming a World Food Safety Day (WFSD) to be commemorated annually on June 7. It is my pleasure to join Kenyans and the world in celebrating the Second World Food Safety Day.

It is noteworthy that our food trade, in particular the horticulture industry, earned the country Ksh104 billion last year. Therefore, there is a lot at stake towards protecting consumers' health and ensuring fair practices in the food trade.

In keeping with this year's theme, "Food Safety, Everyone's Business", the government of Kenya is committed to ensure that everyone has the right to safe, nutritious and sufficient food.

This year, Covid-19 has brought about the



Hon. Peter Munya, MGH

global challenge of threatening food security due to its impact on the global food supply chains. Governments must collaborate to keep

global agriculture and food trade open and well-functioning within the necessary safety standards.

The importance of the global food trade and its contribution to food security puts an obligation on all counties to establish systems to effectively protect human, animal and plant health while facilitating trade.

The issue of paperless trading is increasingly important, and thanks to our KENTRADE Platform, we are able to digitally certify and clear agricultural products.

The call for action this year is for food producers and manufacturers to adopt practices that ensure sufficient supply of safe food while at the same time minimising environmental impacts.

Message from FAO Representative in Kenya

Protecting the health of citizens of a country is one of the fundamental roles of a government and is closely linked to the achievement of several Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), in particular SDGs Two and Three on Zero Hunger, and Good Health and Wellbeing, respectively.

With an estimated 600 million cases of foodborne illnesses annually, unsafe food is a threat to human health and economies globally. Conversely, safe food reduces the disease burden from everyone and therefore "food safety is everyone's business".



Dr. Takavarasha Tobias

Effective food safety and quality control systems are key to safeguarding the health and well-being of people as well as fostering economic de-

velopment and improving livelihoods by promoting access to domestic, regional and international markets, hence FAO's support under technical assistance and partnerships.

Availability and access to safe and nutritious foods is a powerful weapon to fighting the Covid-19. FAO supports an integrated and multi-disciplinary approach to food safety management through an inclusive process from producers to consumers – from the farm to fork.

- Farmers' organisations have a responsibility to adopt good agricultural practices to produce safe food for a healthy and productive

population.

- Processors must guarantee safe and quality food products.
- Retailers must adopt hygiene practices and ensure safe disposal of waste and waste products.
- We urge the government to consider increasing investment in food safety agenda in the spirit of the Maputo Declaration to strengthen compliance.

FAO is ready to partner with relevant stakeholders – from farmers all the way to consumers – on the food safety agenda, for this is a business for everyone.

Message from WHO Kenya Representative

WHO estimates that more than 200 diseases are spread through food. One in 10 people fall ill every year from eating contaminated food, and 420,000 people die each year as a result.

Children under five years of age are at particularly high risk, with some 125,000 young children dying from foodborne diseases every year.



Dr. Rudi Eggers

Proper food preparation can prevent most foodborne diseases. In addition, foodborne diseases affect vulnerable people harder than other groups. For infants, pregnant women, the sick and the elderly, the consequences of foodborne disease are usually more severe and may be fatal.

Word from the WFP Kenya Country Director

Many people know the World Food Programme (WFP) as the provider of food assistance in emergencies. But as the Government of Kenya increasingly takes the lead in emergency responses, WFP are offering skills and experience in food procurement, transport and storage in support of government to ensure Kenya's food systems are safe and efficient; enabling children, women and men to consume high quality and nutritious food.

As a member of the National Food Safety Coordination Committee (NFSCC), and in close partnership with the ministries of health, education, agriculture and others, WFP is supporting the development of food safety strategies and policies at national and county levels; establishing a national food safety surveillance and incident reporting system; and integrating food safety standards into training programmes for farmers, processors, retailers and school management committees.

To date, WFP has donated and equipped 13 mini-laboratories in three counties and trained 230 public health officers in 10 counties to test and analyse food for the presence of dangerous toxins such as aflatoxin and fumonisin, which are harmful to health when eaten by people or livestock.

In light of the Covid-19 pandemic, WFP has intensified outreach on food safety and quality issues to the benefit of retailers and consumers who can now access crucial information and guidance through SMS messaging, smartphone applications, radio talk shows and online.

On behalf of the United Nations World Food Programme, we wish all Kenyans a safe and healthy World Food Safety Day.



Annalisa Conte

Message from the CEO, Micro Enterprise Support Programme Trust (MESPT)



Ms. Rebecca Amukhoye

Food safety is everyone's business. It is about taking collaborative approaches to build working and sustainable systems along the food chain and ensuring everyone is accessing safe food.

MESPT is currently implementing the AgriFI food safety programme, a game-changing initiative that aims to strengthen the capacities of food value chain players in both private and public sectors. The programme also partners with key institutions and county governments on surveillance regarding food safety measures.

We envisage good health and wellbeing of the populace as well as increased competitiveness of Agriculture value chains.

Message from the Agriculture Sector Leader for Kenya and Burundi at SNV-Netherlands Development Organisation



John Otini Masinde

Food safety affects everyone, every day; and has huge implications on almost all development issues, including health, productivity, tourism, and, of course, food security.

To address these issues, the Voice for Change Partnership programme at SNV represents a movement towards the improvement of food safety in Kenya for domestic markets by facilitating honest conversations addressing food safety to understand what the issues are and then working collaboratively to arrive at solutions for all concerned sectors.

Message from the Chief Technical Advisor, UNIDO-MARKUP

The food industry can never be ignored, especially in a country like Kenya, whose economy is highly dependent on agriculture. However, this industry can only thrive if food safety is well observed, from production, throughout the value chain, right to consumption.

With funding from the European Union (EU), Market Access Upgrade Programme (MARKUP) Kenya has been actively advocating for food safety through a campaign that has reached out to different players along the food value chain.

MARKUP is implemented by the United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO) in partnership with the Ministry of Agriculture and State Department of Trade.

Today, MARKUP Kenya is proud to join the rest of the world in marking the second World Food Safety Day (WFSD) and in calling for collective responsibility towards food safety.

Every day, almost everyone interacts with food at different levels – from production to transportation, trading and consumption. But, of greater concern is not just food, but SAFE food.

The significance of food safety has become of more interest due the current outbreak of Covid-19 across the world. In this light, MARKUP Kenya has been carrying out a two-month food safety campaign. The campaign has gone beyond just concentrating on the current status, to advocating for a lasting food safety culture.

The last one week has been the peak of MARKUP's food safety campaign, which has so far reached over 2.4 million people through digital platforms, mainstream media and posters. The posters were distributed in 15 counties, including Nairobi and Mombasa, which have been worst hit by Covid-19. The messages are targeted to reach over 204,000 persons. They are in both English and Kiswahili to widen the demographic reach.

Together, let us all play our part in ensuring food safety for all, every time, everywhere.



Stefano Sedola