



**UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA
MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY AND TRADE**



TANZANIA BUREAU OF STANDARDS (TBS)



**NATIONAL FOOD SAFETY
EMERGENCY RESPONSE PLAN**

June 2025

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The development of this National Food Safety Emergency Response Plan (NFSERP) was made possible through the leadership and guidance of Directorate of Quality Management through Food Risk Assessment Section of Tanzania Bureau of Standards. I would like to convey my gratitude to all stakeholders who collaboratively supported technically the Tanzania Bureau of Standards in developing this Plan.

Sincere appreciation is extended to the unique contribution of the President's Office Regional Administration and Local Government Authority, Prime Minister's Office, Ministry of Industry and Trade, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Health and Ministry of Livestock & Fisheries for their contribution towards development of this Plan.

Special thanks also go to all those who reviewed and made comments during the drafting of the NFSERP as well as those who participated in the review workshop and validation of the document.

Last but not least, great appreciation is extended to the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania for the financial support, which has immensely contributed to the development of this document. This plan will guide all the relevant stakeholders during the food safety emergency response.

A blue ink signature of Dr. Ashura A. Katunzi is positioned above his name.

Dr. Ashura A. Katunzi
Director General (TBS)

FOREWORD

Food safety emergencies are increasingly becoming a challenge within countries as well as globally both by virtue of its public health impact and economic implications. As such, limiting the public health impact of Food Safety events, Tanzania needs a strong National Food Safety System which has the ability to detect, assess, and manage Food Safety incidents.

The Ministry of Industry and Trade (MIT) through the Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS) in collaboration with relevant Ministries, Departments, Agencies (MDAs), and other partners has prepared this National Food Safety Emergency Response Plan (NFSERP) for Tanzania with the ultimate aim of providing a coordinated and consistent inter-agency approach to prepare for, respond to, and recover from food safety emergencies.

To this end, the Tanzania Bureau of Standards with technical support from key stakeholders organized a workshop to develop this Plan, which will enable strengthening collaboration among all relevant institutions along the food chain during food safety emergencies. The development of the National Food Safety Emergency Response Plan is critical to the setting up and operationalization of the National Food Safety Alert and Response System.

The National Food Safety Emergency Response Plan is within the context of the International Health Regulations 2005 under the technical area of food safety for public health and will be activated when emergencies occur along the food chain.

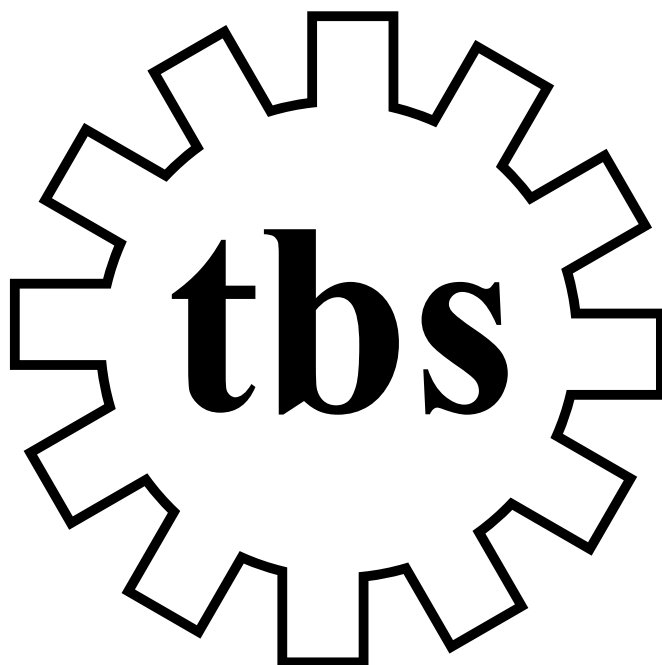
The adoption and implementation of this Plan is expected to enhance Tanzania's ability to detect, assess, and manage food safety emergencies and thus reduce the public health impact of these emergencies. The National Food Safety Emergency Response Plan will also provide a basis for the establishment of

National, Regional, and District Rapid Response Teams to manage and control these emergencies along the food chain.

Through the adoption and promulgation of this Plan, the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania reaffirms its commitment to fulfilling the constitutional obligation of protecting the lives and health of its population.

A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink.

Hon. Dr. Selemani S. Jafo (MP)
MINISTER OF INDUSTRY AND TRADE



“USE TBS CERTIFIED PRODUCTS”

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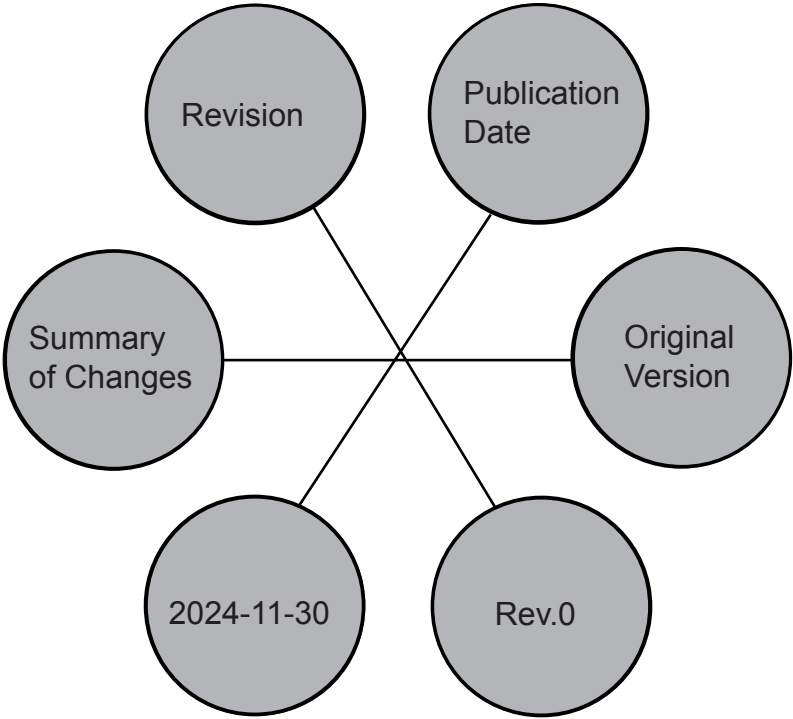
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RECORD OF CHANGES

DOCUMENT CHANGE HISTORY

Revision	Publication Date	Summary of Changes
Rev. 0	2024-11-30	Original Version



TERMS AND DEFINITIONS:

The following terms and definitions apply to this document:

Contamination: means the introduction or occurrence of contaminant, including a food safety hazard in a product or processing environment.

Contaminated food: means food that contains any substance not intentionally added to food, which is present in such food as a result of the production.

Emergency: An unforeseen occurrence or a combination of circumstances along the food chain that poses a significant risk to public health and may include, but is not limited to, the safety of food.

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

Foodborne diseases: means any disease of infectious or toxic nature caused or thought to be caused by consuming contaminated food.

Foodborne outbreak: when the observed number of cases of a particular illness that may be foodborne exceeds the expected number, or the occurrence of two or more cases of a similar foodborne illness resulting from the ingestion of a common food and epidemiologic analysis implicates the food as the source of the illness.

Food safety alerts: Alarm that warns risk managers about an impending, unusual, or potentially adverse food safety threat or

event at any stage of the food chain, from farm to consumer.

Food Safety Emergencies: 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. This does not involve the emergencies covered under the disaster management, as defined in the Tanzania Emergency Preparedness and Response Plan (TEPRP) and the Disaster Management Act No.6, 2022

Food Safety Emergency Response: a process of assessing the risk, making risk management decisions, and communicating risks in the face of time constraints, and possible incomplete data and knowledge.

Food Safety Incidents: any situation within the food supply chain where there is a risk, potential risk or perceived risk of illness or confirmed illness associated with the consumption of a food or foods.

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

National Food Safety Emergency Contact Point (NFSECP): a national food safety management institution responsible for coordination of implementation of national food safety emergency response plan.

National Food Safety Emergency Focal Points (NFSEFP): Ministries and Government institutions responsible to collaborate with the national food safety emergency contact point in the implementation of national food safety emergence response plan.

Rapid Response Team: means a multi-agency, multi-disciplinary team(s) formed to respond to food safety emergency.

Stakeholders: means a person, government or private institution with a vested interest, or stake in ensuring food safety.

Strategic Partners: are government ministries or institutions which have role to play on matters relating to food safety.

RELATED DOCUMENTS

The following lists of legislation and guidance documents are relevant to the National Food Safety Emergency Response Plan:

- a) The Standards Act Cap 130
- b) Disaster Management Act No.6, 2022
- c) Public Health Act, 2009
- d) International Health Regulations (IHR), 2005
- e) The National Disaster Preparedness and Response Plan, 2022
- f) Food Safety Risk Analysis Manual, 2024
- g) Guideline for Foodborne Diseases Surveillance and Outbreak Control in Tanzania
- h) Animal Disease Act No. 17, 2003
- i) Disaster Management Strategic Plan 2022-2027
- j) The National One Health Strategic Plan 2022-2027
- k) Integrated Disease Surveillance and Response Guidelines 3rd Edition, 2020
- l) The Plant Health Act No.4, 2020
- m) The Fisheries Act No. 22, 2003

LIST OF ACRONYMS

FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
GAPs	Good Agricultural Practices
IDSR	Integrated Disease Surveillance and Response
IHR	International Health Regulations (2005)
INFOSAN	International Food Safety Authorities Network
NFSECP	National Food Safety Emergency Contact Point
NFSEFP	National Food Safety Emergency Focal Point
NFSERP	National Food Safety Emergency Response Plan
NIMR	National Institute for Medical Research
RASFF	Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed
SPS	Sanitary and Phytosanitary
TAFIRI	Tanzania Fisheries Research Institute
TARI	Tanzania Agricultural Research Institute
WHO	World Health Organization
WOAH	World Organization for Animal Health
WTO	World Trade Organization

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1. Background

Food safety continues to be a major concern worldwide. Moreover, food safety emergencies whether accidental or intentional, have the potential to cause adverse health and safety effects for human and animal populations. As per the World Health Organization (WHO) report 2015, it is estimated that unsafe food led to 600 million illnesses and 420,000 deaths in the world each year, of which 30% of the deaths occur among children under 5 years of age. The burden is perceived to be more in the developing countries, with an estimate of 91 million annual foodborne illnesses and 137,000 deaths in African region. In addition to the public health effect, unsafe food has enormous economic impact. According to the 2018 World Bank report on the economic burden of foodborne diseases, the total productivity loss associated with foodborne diseases in low- and middle-income countries costs up to US\$ 95.2 billion per year and the annual cost of treating foodborne illnesses is estimated at US\$ 15 billion.

In Tanzania, a number of foodborne outbreaks have been evidenced, resulting into a number of hospitalization and deaths. For instance, from 2016 to 2018, there had been outbreaks of aflatoxicosis in Dodoma and Manyara regions which resulted into 68 people affected and 20 deaths. Moreover, according to the Integrated Disease Surveillance and Response (IDSR) statistics, from 2019 to 2023, the number of cholera cases were 2,088 with 39 deaths and the number of anthrax cases were 406 with seven (7) deaths. In order to mitigate the consequences of such incidents, The WHO International Health Regulations (IHR) 2005 requires all States Parties to develop certain core public health capacities; to detect, assess, notify and report events and to respond promptly and effectively to public health risks and public health emergencies of

international concern. One of the requirements of implementation of IHR is for the member state to have National Food Safety Emergency Response Plan.

In view of this, it is important to strengthen the structures and mechanisms for preparedness and response to food safety emergencies and thus Ministry of Industry and Trade through Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS) in collaboration with other relevant Ministries, Departments and Agencies has developed this National Food Safety Emergency Response Plan.

1.2. Purpose

The purpose of this NFSERP is to provide for a coordinated and consistent inter-agency approach to prepare for, prevent, protect against, mitigate, respond to, and recover from food safety emergencies. To accomplish this, the NFSERP shall:

- i. Serve as the single, overarching national operational plan to address the full spectrum of natural and technological hazards along the food chain into which all relevant agency emergency plans, procedural documents, and other guidance integrate;
- ii. Define the food emergency operating structure and assign essential tasks to all organizations/agencies involved in prevention, protection, mitigation, response, and recovery efforts;
- iii. Provide mechanisms for vertical and horizontal command, control, coordination, and communications;
- iv. Categorise food incidents for management;
- v. Provide instruction for communicating food incident details to, and between food businesses as well as Government agencies;
- vi. Detail the arrangements for categorising, issuing, communicating and activating District, Regional and National

Food Alerts; and

- vii. Detail the arrangements for investigating food complaints involving food produced locally, imported or for export.

This plan will guide in setting out the arrangements for managing of food safety emergencies in the country as identified by:

- i. Health facilities;
- ii. Food business operators;
- iii. Government authorities; and
- iv. International agencies/networks like International Food Safety Authorities Network (INFOSAN), International Health Regulation (IHR) focal point, World Organization for Animal Health (WOAH), European Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed (EU-RASFF) and World Trade Organization-Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (WTO-SPS).

1.3. Scope

This NFSERP applies to all food safety emergencies in Tanzania and will provide a guide in response to those emergencies related to the following: -

- i. Availability of information related to the presence of contaminated food of public health concern.
- ii. Adverse events related to consumption of contaminated food and food products that present a threat of serious health consequences to humans;
- iii. Foodborne illness outbreaks; and
- iv. Accidents that cause hazardous materials to be released into food

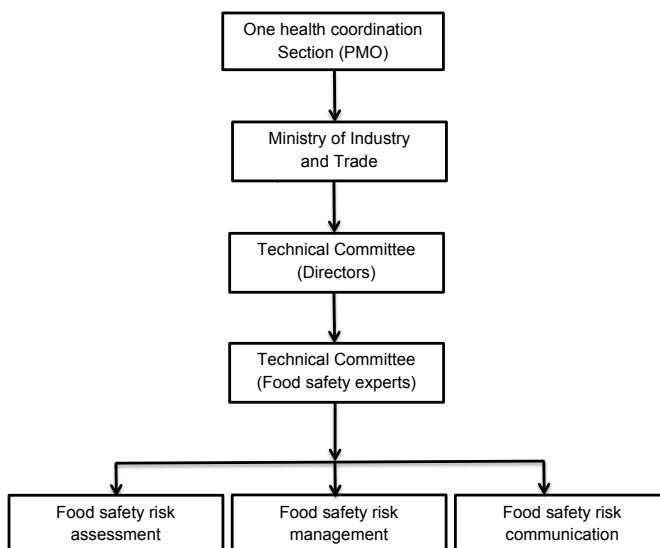
This plan compliments emergencies coordinated under the Prime Minister's Office (Department of Disaster Management), or as defined in the Disaster Management Act No.6, 2022 and The National Disaster Preparedness and Response Plan, 2022.

CHAPTER TWO

STRUCTURAL COMPONENTS

2.0 Organization structure

The national food safety emergency response plan will work under the structure as detailed in the figure below:



2.1 Coordination Structure

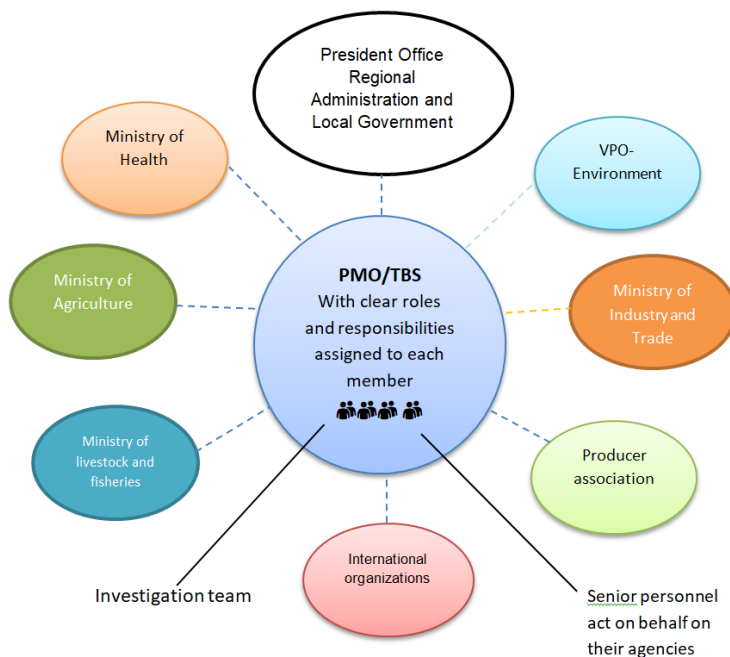
The implementation of food safety emergency response plan requires all relevant stakeholders that are involved in food safety assurance in various sectors. In the implementation of this Plan, stakeholders shall possess the resources and capabilities necessary to prevent, prepare for, protect against, and rapidly and effectively respond to and recover from all food safety emergencies. In the recognition of the above a planned and coordinated approach that involve the use of One Health approach is required.

The coordinated approach of this plan involves Ministries, Government Departments and Agencies responsible for Regional

Administration and Local Government, Environment, Industry and Trade, Health, Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries, Home Affairs and international organizations. Some agencies/organizations which are key stakeholders in NFSERP are;

- i. Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS);
- ii. Fair Competition Commission (FCC);
- iii. National Environment Management Council (NEMC);
- iv. Tanzania Veterinary Laboratory Agency (TVLA);
- v. Government Chemist Laboratory Authority (GCLA);
- vi. Tanzania Plant Health and Pesticides Authority (TPHPA);
- vii. Tanzania Medicines and Medical Devices Authority (TMDA);
- viii. Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA);
- ix. Tanzania Atomic Energy Commission (TAEC);
- x. Higher Learning and Research Institutions such as, TARI, NIMR, TAFIRI;
- xi. Agricultural and Animal Food Product Boards;
- xii. Regional Secretariat and Local Government;
- xiii. National Public Health Laboratory;
- xiv. National Fish Quality Control Laboratory;
- xv. Consumer associations;
- xvi. National Food Reserve Agency (NFRA);
- xvii. Tanzania Food and Nutrition Centre (TFNC);
- xviii. Producers Associations; and
- xix. International organizations such as WHO, FAO, WOA.

MULTI AGENCY COORDINATION STRUCTURE



All relevant Government institutions are required to implement the National Food Safety Emergency Response plan. In this regard, food safety emergencies and their mitigations should be immediately reported to TBS by respective institutions.

2.2 Key Stakeholders Roles and Responsibilities

The National Food Safety Emergency Response Plan (NFSERP) is a multi-sectoral document which encompasses National Food Safety Emergency Contact Point and other Food Safety Emergency Focal Points which are responsible for food safety management in the country.

2.2.1 Ministry Responsible for Industry and Trade

The Ministry of Industry and Trade is responsible for policies formulation with regard to industry and trade and oversees implementation of NFSERP through TBS.

2.2.2 Tanzania Bureau of Standards

The Tanzania Bureau of Standards is a National Food Safety Emergency Contact Point (NFSECP), responsible for coordination of implementation of this plan. During food safety emergencies TBS will have the following responsibilities;

- i. Receive and review food safety emergency incident/alert from various sources;
- ii. Determine food safety emergency concern and assess the potential risks;
- iii. Establish the type of food safety hazards;
- iv. Manage food safety emergency in liaison with relevant stakeholders/focal points;
- v. Determine whether there's a need for public health alert and inform Ministry of Health through Ministry of Industry and Trade accordingly;
- vi. Provide secretarial support and convene stakeholders' meetings, when required;
- vii. Collect data or information on food safety alerts from both domestic and international sources;
- viii. Conduct laboratory analysis to identify food contaminants or hazardous substances in food;
- ix. Conduct rapid risk assessment on food safety incident in collaboration with relevant stakeholders;

- x. Maintain the database on food safety emergencies and actions taken thereon;
- xi. Recommend the planned measures to respective authorities in implementing control and monitoring actions;
- xii. Maintain the list of food safety emergency focal points and food analysis laboratories;
- xiii. Identify need and promote capacity building and awareness on food safety emergencies;
- xiv. Coordinate stakeholders on investigation and response to food safety emergencies;
- xv. Report food safety incidents of potential international significance to the INFOSAN Secretariat upon consent of the Ministry of Health through Ministry of Industry and Trade;
- xvi. Conduct post-incident review and evaluation;
- xvii. Recommend to the Minister responsible for Industry and Trade for policy making, management and control of food safety emergency situation from time to time; and
- xviii. Conduct surveillance on food safety issues.

In addition, TBS will design and conduct simulation exercise for food safety emergency preparedness.

2.2.3 Ministry Responsible for Health

The Ministry Responsible for Health will coordinate and implement all matters related to human health including prevention and treatment of food borne illness. During food safety emergencies Ministry Responsible for Health will have the following responsibilities;

- i. Share information on food safety emergencies or any other related alerts with NFSECP and other focal points;
- ii. Collaborate with other stakeholders during food safety

- incidents/emergencies through Public Health Emergency Operation Centre (PHEOC);
- iii. Engage in foodborne disease surveillance in accordance with scope of its legal mandate;
 - iv. Provide health education on matter related to foodborne diseases and food safety emergencies;
 - v. Issue public health alert on food safety emergencies and
 - vi. Provide laboratory diagnostic confirmation on foodborne illness.

2.2.4 Ministry Responsible for Agriculture,

The ministry responsible for Agriculture will coordinate and implement all matters related to plant health and plant products including production, transportation, processing, storage, and consumption. During food safety emergencies Ministry Responsible for Agriculture will have the following responsibilities;

- i. Monitor Good Agricultural Practices (GAPs) during farming or cultivation;
- ii. Share information on food safety emergencies or any other related alerts with NFSECP and other focal points with regard to food products of plant origin;
- iii. Liaise with other stakeholders in controlling hazards emanating from food products of plant origin that may affect human health;
- iv. Collaborate with other stakeholders during food safety emergencies and surveillance;
- v. Provide health education to the public regarding respective food hazards; and
- vi. Enhance inspections of plant produce for import and export at port of entries/exits during food safety emergencies.

2.2.5 Ministry Responsible for Livestock and Fisheries

The ministry responsible for Livestock and Fisheries will coordinate and implement all matters related to animal health and fisheries. During food safety emergencies Ministry Responsible for Livestock and Fisheries will have the following responsibilities;

- i. Monitor production and inspection of food processing establishment of animal and fishery products;
- ii. Share information on food safety emergencies or any other related alerts with NFSECP and other focal points with regard to livestock and fisheries;
- iii. Liaise with other stakeholders in controlling hazards emanating from animal and fishery products that may affect human health;
- iv. Collaborate with other stakeholders during food safety emergencies and surveillance;
- v. Provide health education to the public regarding respective food hazards of animal and fishery products;
- vi. Enhance inspections of animal and fishery products for import and export at port of entry/exits during food safety emergencies; and
- vii. Provide laboratory investigation for confirmation hazard related to public health emergency threat.

2.2.6 President's Office, Regional Administration and Local Governments

President's Office, Regional Administration and Local Governments (PORALG) coordinate and oversee the implementation of all policies, strategies, standards and operating procedures related to food safety at the subnational levels (Regional, Districts, Councils, Ward, Village/street, Hamlets and household levels). During food safety emergencies PORALG will have the following responsibilities;

- i. Facilitate translation into action of the national policies and guidelines related to National Food Safety Emergency Response at the Regional and Council levels;
- ii. Coordinate the implementation of the National Food Safety Emergency Response Plan at the subnational levels;
- iii. Coordinate and monitor the level of compliance to national policies and guidelines related to the National Food Safety Emergency Response at subnational level;
- iv. Coordinate and update the National Food Safety Emergency Response statistics in the Regional and Council levels for national level aggregation;
- v. Coordinate and advocate Regions and Councils to support and mobilize community participation and ownership of Food Safety Emergency Response activities;
- vi. Coordinate and monitor hygiene and environmental sanitation services at the subnational levels;
- vii. Facilitate and coordinate implementation research aimed at improving Food Safety at the subnational levels;
- viii. Stimulate innovation of Food safety services at the Subnational levels;
- ix. Share information on food safety emergency or any other related alerts with NFSECP and other focal points with regard to food safety emergencies;
- x. Provide health education to the public regarding respective food safety emergency;
- xi. Collaborate with other stakeholders during food safety emergencies and surveillance; and
- xii. Conduct inspection of food processing establishment.

2.2.7 Other Ministries, Institutions and Organizations

These are National authorities which have stake in food safety. These authorities will have the following responsibilities: -

- i. Share information on food safety emergencies or any other related alerts with NFSECP and other focal points;
- ii. Implement the National Food Safety Emergency Response Plan in their area of jurisdiction;
- iii. Collaborate with other stakeholders during food safety emergencies and surveillance; and
- iv. Provide health education to the public regarding respective food safety emergencies.

2.2.8 Local and International Organizations

These are local and international organizations including agencies under United Nations and other development international organization which have stake in managing food safety emergencies. During food safety emergencies these organizations will provide technical support on food safety emergencies and assist in resource mobilization.

CHAPTER THREE

EMERGENCY OPERATIONS PHASE

A country is considered to have mechanisms for addressing food safety issues prior and during emergencies if it has an emergency preparedness plan. These mechanisms prior to emergencies are put in place as a proactive method to ensure that food safety hazards are controlled in order to avoid food safety emergencies to occur. The mechanism during food safety emergencies provides for coordination among stakeholders for the purpose of containing the emergencies. Therefore, mechanism prior and during food safety emergencies constitute the country's emergency preparedness and operational procedures of national food safety emergency response.

3.1 Emergency Preparedness

Emergency preparedness involves resource mobilization that includes testing infrastructure, training staff on emergency procedures, and on how to conduct rapid risk assessment to identify potential hazards and simulation exercise. Other activities include putting in place those mechanisms necessary to avoid or stop a threat or actual food safety emergency. These mechanisms may include regulatory activities such as inspections, testing, risk assessment, surveillance, and awareness creation to relevant stakeholders in the food chain.

3.2 Operational Procedures

National food safety emergency operations include the following phases: Detection, Prevention, Protection, Mitigation, Response, and Recovery. Although emergency operations may involve each of these phases over the course of any incident, the nature and severity of an event and the organizational component(s) responding, will determine the specific order, actions and responsible parties required for each phase. In addition, some of the phases may be

implemented concurrently. The procedure is summarized in Appendix 1. These six operational phases are as detailed here below: -



3.2.1 Detection phase

This phase is characterized by active monitoring of food safety practices, detecting potential foodborne illness outbreaks or contamination issues, and promptly notifying relevant authorities and stakeholders. Events detected through national food control system will be assessed, for identifying whether an event is an emergency or not.

3.2.2 Prevention phase

This phase includes those mechanisms in place necessary to avoid or stop a threat or actual food safety emergency. These mechanisms may include regulatory activities such as inspections, testing, risk assessment, surveillance and awareness creation to relevant stakeholders in the food chain.

3.2.3 Protection phase

This phase includes measures to safeguard the food chain against man-made acts and natural disasters related to

food safety. It is focused on actions to protect public health and safety. These mechanisms may include extension services, good agricultural practices, post-harvest food handling, good manufacturing practices, good hygienic practices, good aquacultural practices and good animal husbandry including disease control programmes such as animal vaccination, control of parasites and biosecurity measures.

3.2.4 Mitigation phase

This phase includes those mechanisms necessary to reduce severity of outbreak, loss of life and livelihood burden by lessening the impact of food safety emergencies. This may include treatment and isolation of affected individuals, quarantine/confinement as applied in animal, plant and human health, recall, seizure, and disposal of contaminated food, closure of premises and health education and implementing corrective measures. It is focused on ensuring that individuals, private sector, communities and the nation as a whole are made more resilient when the consequences and impacts to respond and recover from adverse incidents are all reduced.

3.2.5 Response phase

This phase includes those immediate and sustained actions to ensure the safety of the food chain and to protect the public health throughout the duration of an incident as detailed in clause of steps of national food safety emergency response. This phase shall also include among others communication and activation of rapid response team across different stakeholders.

3.2.6 Recovery phase

This phase entails implementation of short and long-term actions to restore and ensure availability of safe food. At this phase the plan operations conclude, requests for more detailed assessments, technical assistance and longer-term coordination.

3.3 Steps of National Food Safety Emergency Response

National Food Safety Emergency Response involves four key steps which are incident identification, incident management, communication as well as post-incident review and evaluation. The details of these steps are explained below: -

3.3.1 Incident Identification

Food safety incidents are usually identified from various sources, such as food industry, trading partners, laboratory reports, public health surveillance, hospital admission reports, consumer complaints, international notification, through media monitoring, local government authorities, national food safety monitoring and surveillance programmes. Events detected through food control systems in the country will be assessed, for identifying whether an event is an emergency or not, considering criteria as mentioned in Appendix 1.

Food safety incidents/emergencies may include cases of illness due to an outbreak of foodborne diseases, cases of food or food products contaminated by chemicals like metallic contaminations, residues of pesticides or drugs, biological or physical contaminants which poses potential risk to health.

Food safety emergency situation shall be confirmed by TBS after reviewing and analysing the information collected on a food safety incident in collaboration with relevant stakeholders. In case of foodborne illness or outbreak, the situation shall be declared by the Ministry responsible for Health. If incident is identified as emergency, then a response phase will be initiated.

There will be a national rapid response team activated to address the identified food safety emergency. The team will comprise of experts from relevant stakeholders depending on the nature of the food safety incident. The constituted team will be provided with approved terms of reference.

3.3.2 Activation of NFSERP

The full plan will be activated when determination has been made as per the NFSERP decision tree (Appendix 1). Sources of notification of food safety incidences can be from public or private stakeholders and other strategic partners.

3.3.3 Incident Management

The incident management of food safety emergency includes those immediate and sustained actions to ensure food safety in the food chain so as to protect the public health throughout the duration of an incident. The incident management will be implemented in three phases as follows:

i. Alert phase

Tanzania Bureau of Standards as the National Food Safety Emergency Contact Point will notify identified food safety incident to national authorities, organization, media and/or INFOSAN Secretariat if required. The kind and extent of alert will be decided by TBS in collaboration with other organizations/stakeholders after conducting assessment.

ii. Action phase

The NFSECP in collaboration with stakeholders, depending on the nature of the incident and their roles and responsibilities, will take immediate actions/safety measures in order to control food safety emergency situation. In case of foodborne illness outbreak, actions will be initiated by the Ministry responsible for Health as per the Guideline for Food borne disease surveillance and outbreak control in Tanzania.

The following measures may also be taken based on the need of the situation depending on jurisdiction of the roles and responsibilities of the respective organization:

- a) Investigation of the source of food contamination throughout the food supply chain, from production, import,

and distribution including those related to food or food products that may pose additional risk.

b) Enforcement of law; such as prohibit or stop the distribution, detention, control or recall in order to remove food or food products from markets place and other measures to protect the public from food hazards that may affect health.

c) Advise consumers on the extent of risk, measures taken by the Government, measures to be taken by the consumers or issuing other relevant advisories time to time via media (television, radio, social media, newspapers and short messages).

d) Monitor and evaluate continuously the situation and adjust the measures until the event is controlled.

iii. Stand down phase

If the risk is mitigated then advisory notice should be withdrawn and further advice to industry and consumers should be issued (if necessary). NFSECP will inform relevant stakeholders, the public and media that the event is solved and situation returned to normal. In case of food borne illness outbreak Ministry responsible for Health will inform the public that the outbreak is contained. The measures used in emergency management, lesson-learned and impact of the food safety event will be reviewed and evaluated to restore and prevent recurrence of the incident.

3.3.4 Communication

Effective communication is a crucial aspect of successful food safety emergency management. Communication to stakeholders and the public on the efficiency of the measures taken will be done through various means. Communication language during food safety emergency event will be in Swahili and/or English which will cover all groups of stakeholders including media, public and international organization.

Throughout the course of emergency response, relevant information

will be shared among the general public, the media, the people directly affected, authorities (Ministries/ institutions/International Organizations) and other professional groups as deemed necessary.

i. Communication with the public

In the event of food safety emergency, the public will be provided with accurate information about the food safety incidents/emergency; information on implicated food products and how they should be handled and advice on relevant measures including personal hygiene to reduce the risk of person-to-person spread. NFSECP should periodically issue mitigation measures through various means to the public. Depending on the nature of the incidence, relevant authorities will notify the public during food safety emergency.

ii. Communication with the media

The media play an important role during food safety emergency. Depending on the nature of the incidence, relevant authorities will notify the media during food safety emergency. It is important for all relevant ministries and institutions involved to be aware of the food safety emergency information before releasing it to the media.

3.3.5 Post-incident review and evaluation

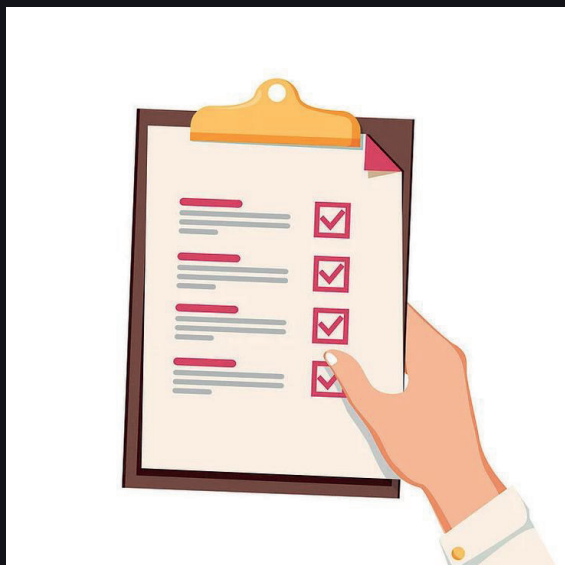
At the conclusion of an incident, a review is conducted to identify strengths and areas that could be improved to make the management of future incidents more effective. The review will involve evaluation of incident identification, incident management and communication to evaluate effectiveness of the food safety emergency response activities.

Based on the review, lesson learnt from the food safety incidents or emergencies will identify gaps which need to be addressed to improve measures of the NFSECP. The gaps identified will be used to prepare resources and develop structure that can be implemented by the measures more efficiently.

During post-incident review, the following may be considered:

- a) Identification of the long-term and structural control measures, and plan their implementation;
- b) Assessment of the effectiveness of NFSERP and difficulties in its implementation;
- c) Assessment as to whether further scientific studies should be conducted;
- d) Clarification of resource needs, structural changes, or training needs to optimize future incident response;
- e) Identification of factors that compromised the investigations, and seek solutions;
- f) Identification of necessary changes to current investigation and control guidelines and development of new guidelines or protocols as required; and
- g) Discussion on any legal issues that may have arisen.

During post Incident Review



POST-INCIDENT REVIEW AND EVALUATION

REFERENCES

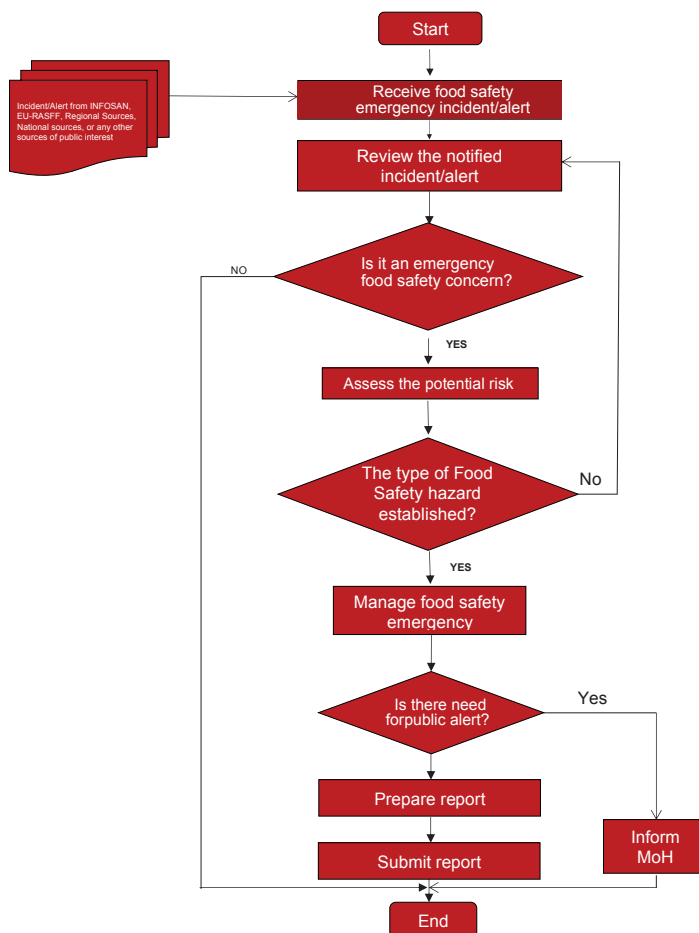
- 1.FAO/WHO Framework for Developing National Food Safety Emergency Response Plan
2. Food Safety Emergency Response Plan (FSERP) – Food and Drugs Authority, Ghana
3. Framework of Food Safety Emergency Response (FSER) System of India
- 4.FAO/WHO (2005), Food Safety Risk Analysis PART I – An Overview and Framework Manual
- 5.International Health Regulations (IHR) 2005
- 6.The International Food Safety Authorities Network (INFOSAN)
- 7.Progress Report 2004-2010 by FAO/WHO
- 8.Environmental Health, Hygiene and Sanitation Section: Annual Work Plan, 2024-2025

APPENDIX 1

INTERNATIONAL HEALTH REGULATION TECHNICAL AREAS

1. Legal instrument
2. Financing
3. IHR coordination, National IHR focal point, functions and advocacy
4. Antimicrobial resistant
5. Zoonotic diseases
6. Food safety
7. Biosafety and biosecurity
8. Immunization
9. National laboratory system
10. Surveillance
11. Human resources
12. Health emergency management
13. Linking public health and security authorities
14. Health services provision
15. Infection, prevention and control
16. Risk communication and community engagement
17. Points of entry and border health
18. Chemical events
19. Radiation events

APPENDIX 2 : FLOW CHART



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NATIONAL FOOD SAFETY EMERGENCY RESPONSE PLAN



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