

I am writing to inform you about the **reactivation of a Technical Advisory Group on Foodborne Disease Burden Epidemiology Reference Group (FERG)** in WHO.

The first-ever [WHO estimates of the global burden of foodborne diseases](#) was published in 2015, resulting from the WHO initiative to estimate the burden of foodborne diseases and prepared by the WHO Foodborne Disease Burden Epidemiology Reference Group (FERG) 2007-2015. To date, this report, which was based on 2010 data, remains to be the most up-to-date estimates on the global burden of foodborne diseases at sub-regional, regional and global level.

The Seventy-third World Health Assembly adopted a resolution, [“Strengthening efforts on food safety” \(WHA73.5\)](#) in late July 2020. The resolution requests WHO to monitor regularly, and to report to Member States on, the global burden of foodborne diseases at national, regional and international levels, and in particular to prepare by 2025, a new report on the global burden of foodborne diseases with up-to-date estimates of global foodborne disease incidence, mortality and disease burden in terms of disability-adjusted life years (DALYs).

Based on this new mandate, high interests from scientific communities, and WHO’s new vision to show a measurable impact in countries, Department of Nutrition and Food Safety (NFS) plans to update the global burden of foodborne diseases, and aims to deliver a second global report by 2025. For this purpose, WHO reactivates the FERG that will be tasked to provide WHO with technical advice in these subjects.

You can find the Call for Experts, the Terms of Reference and online application details for FERG at <https://www.who.int/news-room/articles-detail/call-for-experts-who-initiative-estimate-global-burden-of-foodborne-diseases>.

Please note that the deadline for application is 31 October.

All WHO’s work in global public health is based on the latest science and evidence, this is the reason why, the reactivation of the FERG, will be a new milestone for the global food safety impact measurement framework. Please kindly disseminate the Call with your networks. We are very much looking forward to receiving applications around the globe.