Thematic Session 1

The Burden of Foodborne Diseases and the Benefits of Investing in Safe Food

The public health burden of unsafe foods
A need for global commitment
Foodborne diseases are a global public health problem

FERG 2015 - 31 hazards quantified

- 600 million illnesses – 91 million in Africa
- 420,000 deaths – 140,000 in Africa
- 33 million DALYs – 10 million in Africa
- Burden similar to AIDS/HIV, TB, malaria

FERG 2019 - 4 metals quantified

- 9 million DALYs – 2 million in Africa

Enteric (foodborne) infections are increasingly associated with stunting, affecting 155 million children globally

Many more hazards and outcomes are potentially important, but not currently quantifiable
Foodborne diseases are unequally distributed

Children under five years of age …
… make up 9% of the world population
… suffer from 38% of all foodborne illnesses
… succumb to 30% of foodborne deaths
… bear 40% of global foodborne DALYs

People living in the poorest areas of the world …
… make up 41% of the world population
… suffer from 53% of all foodborne illnesses
… succumb to 75% of foodborne deaths
… bear 72% of global foodborne DALYs
Priorities need to be reconsidered

Different priorities in different regions

Burden of foodborne diseases in Africa:
- 10 million DALYs

Overwhelming share by enteric pathogenic bacteria:
- 7 million DALYs

Taenia solium: 1.5 million

[Lead: 1 million]

Aflatoxin: 0.1 million

Key enteropathogens in Africa

- non-typhoidal *Salmonella enterica*: 2.2 million DALYs
- enteropathogenic *Escherichia coli*: 1.2 million DALYs
- enterotoxigenic *Escherichia coli*: 0.9 million DALYs
- *Vibrio cholerae*: 1.0 million DALYs
- *Campylobacter* spp.: 0.7 million DALYs
Foodborne diseases can and must be avoided

Burden of disease in high-income countries is 10x lower than the global average

Ability to invest in safe foods increases with income

How to implement successful intervention strategies in a culturally and economically appropriate way?

Multi-sectorial approaches – One Health strategy needed

Key to achieving Sustainable Development Goals: poverty reduction, food security, healthy lives