

Facilitating Safer Food Systems in Low-Income Countries

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Committee on Stronger Food and Drug Regulatory Systems Abroad

The National Academy of Sciences, Washington, D.C.

Dr. Kelley Cormier, Division Chief

Bureau for Food Security, U.S. Agency for International Development



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The U.S. Government's Global Hunger & Food Security Initiative

What Motivates USAID to Support Strong Food Regulatory Systems Abroad?

Food systems and diets are changing, presenting challenges and opportunities

The trend: Food is becoming more

- **Purchased:** 50% in SSA, 70% in Asia
- **Perishable:** 50-70% of dietary costs are related to meats, dairy, fruit & vegetables
- **Processed:** More than 50%



The challenge:

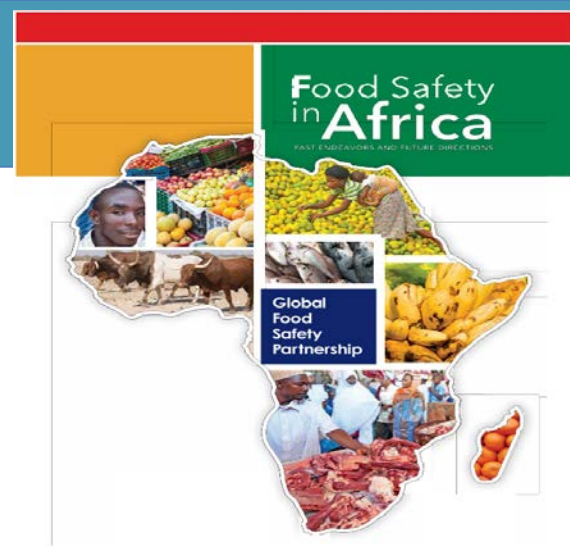
- Globally, 3 billion people have low quality diets
- Nearly half of all countries are experiencing simultaneous problems of undernutrition, overweight and obesity
- Perishable foods tied to food safety concerns

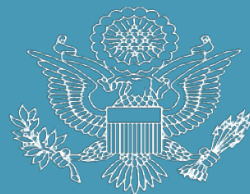
The opportunity:

- Harness agriculture and food systems to improve diet quality through greater availability and accessibility of high-quality foods
- Promote agribusiness and entrepreneurship opportunities beyond the farm to increase incomes, improve consumers' ability to afford healthy diets, and provide food options that support health

New Evidence!

- Huge (and understated) **health burden** of foodborne disease
- Huge (and understated) **economic burden** of foodborne disease
- **Foodborne disease and food safety affect nutrition** through multiple pathways
- Little attention to food safety in **domestic markets**
- **Rising consumption of riskier foods** -- nutritious animal source foods (including seafood) and fruits and vegetables
- **Rising consumer demand** for food safety





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