

# INFOSAN: learning from the past and looking to the future

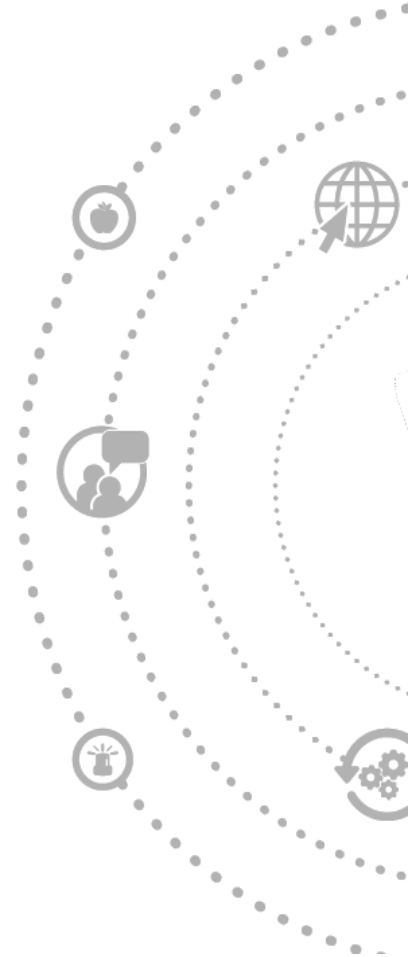
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# Presentation Outline

1. Intro to INFOSAN
2. Highlight Commission Decision (EU) 2019/300 Article 21
3. Highlight of incident involving RASFF
4. 2019 Global Meeting
5. New Strategic Plan
6. New Members Guide (coming soon)
7. New INFOSAN Community Website (coming soon)





# (A brief) History of INFOSAN



**2000 → 53.15:** call for improved communication among WHO and its Member States on matters of food safety





# (A brief) History of INFOSAN



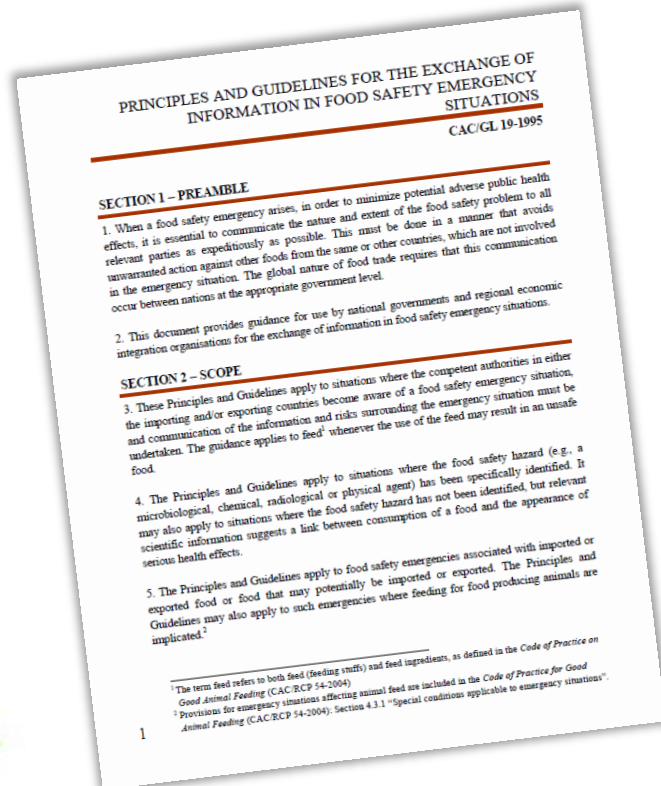
**2002 → 55.16:** serious concerns about health emergencies caused by natural, accidental or intentional contamination of food and requested WHO to provide tools and support to Member States to increase their capacity to respond to such emergencies





# (A brief) History of INFOSAN

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**2004 → CAC/GL 19-1995:** MS recommended to designate official points of contact to exchange information during international food safety emergencies; Requested WHO to maintain list of food safety emergency contact points as a mechanism to ensure rapid exchange of information during such incidents





# (A brief) History of INFOSAN

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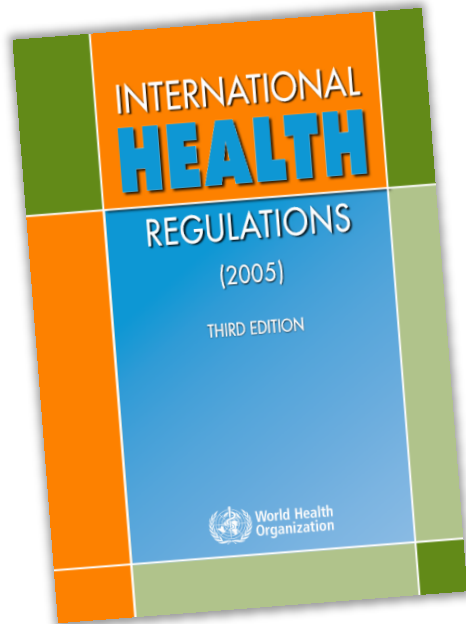


**2004 → INFOSAN  
officially launched**





# (A brief) History of INFOSAN



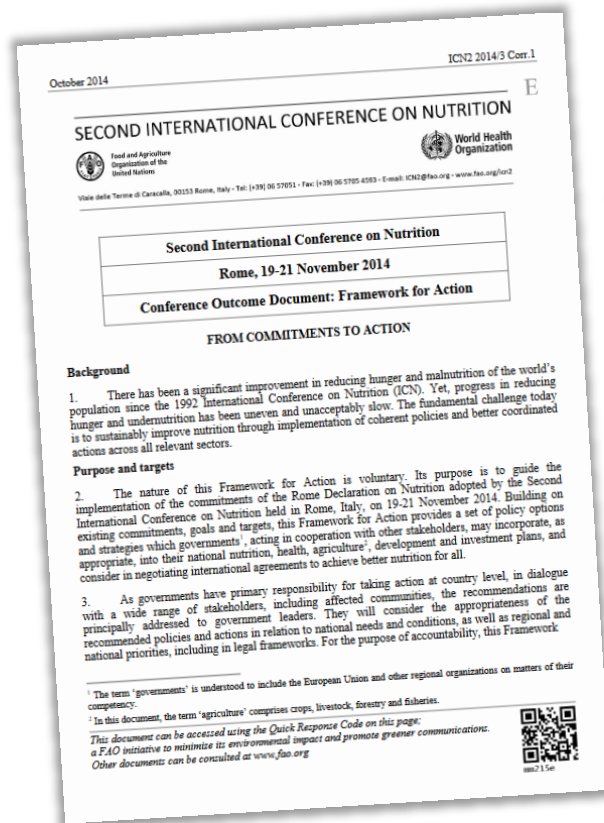
## 2007 → IHR (2005):

recognizes INFOSAN as the tool to use for international communication during food safety emergencies; INFOSAN is also used to assist countries to develop their core capacities required for food safety emergency preparedness and response as required under the IHR

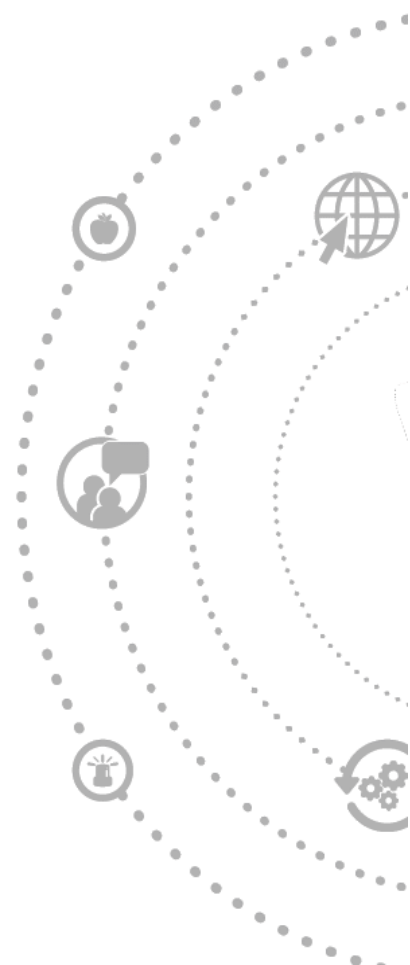




# (A brief) History of INFOSAN



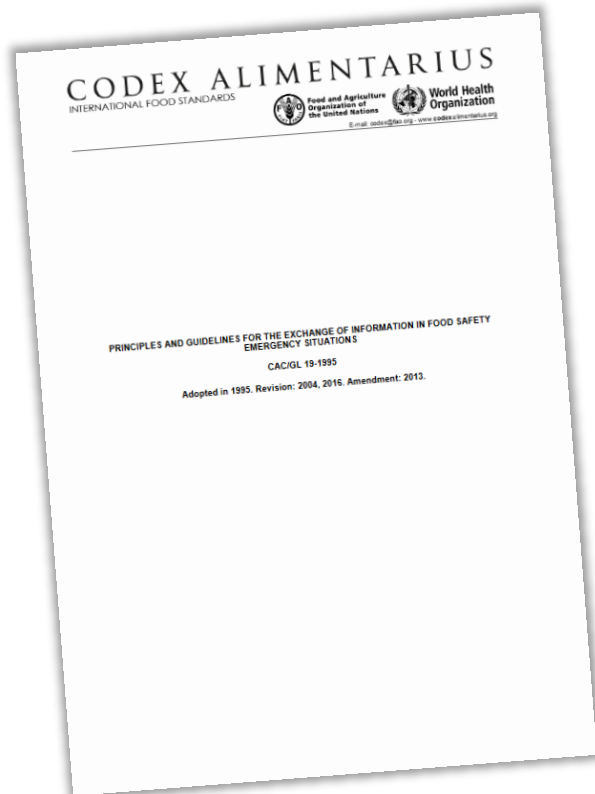
**2014 → ICN2:  
Framework For  
Action:** Participate in  
and contribute to  
international networks  
to exchange food  
safety information,  
including for  
managing  
emergencies  
[INFOSAN]







# (A brief) History of INFOSAN

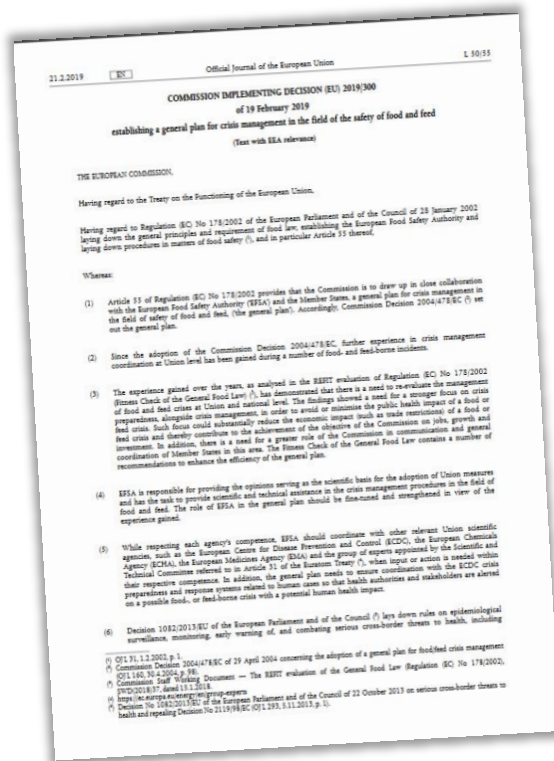


**2016 → Revised CAC/GL 19-1995:** includes appropriate references to INFOSAN, underlining its increasingly important role





# (A brief) History of INFOSAN



## 2019 → Commission Decision (EU) 2019/300

**Article 21:** INFOSAN shall be used when trade from or to third countries is affected by the hazard involved without prejudice to the need for additional bilateral exchange of information with trade partners and competent authorities in third countries



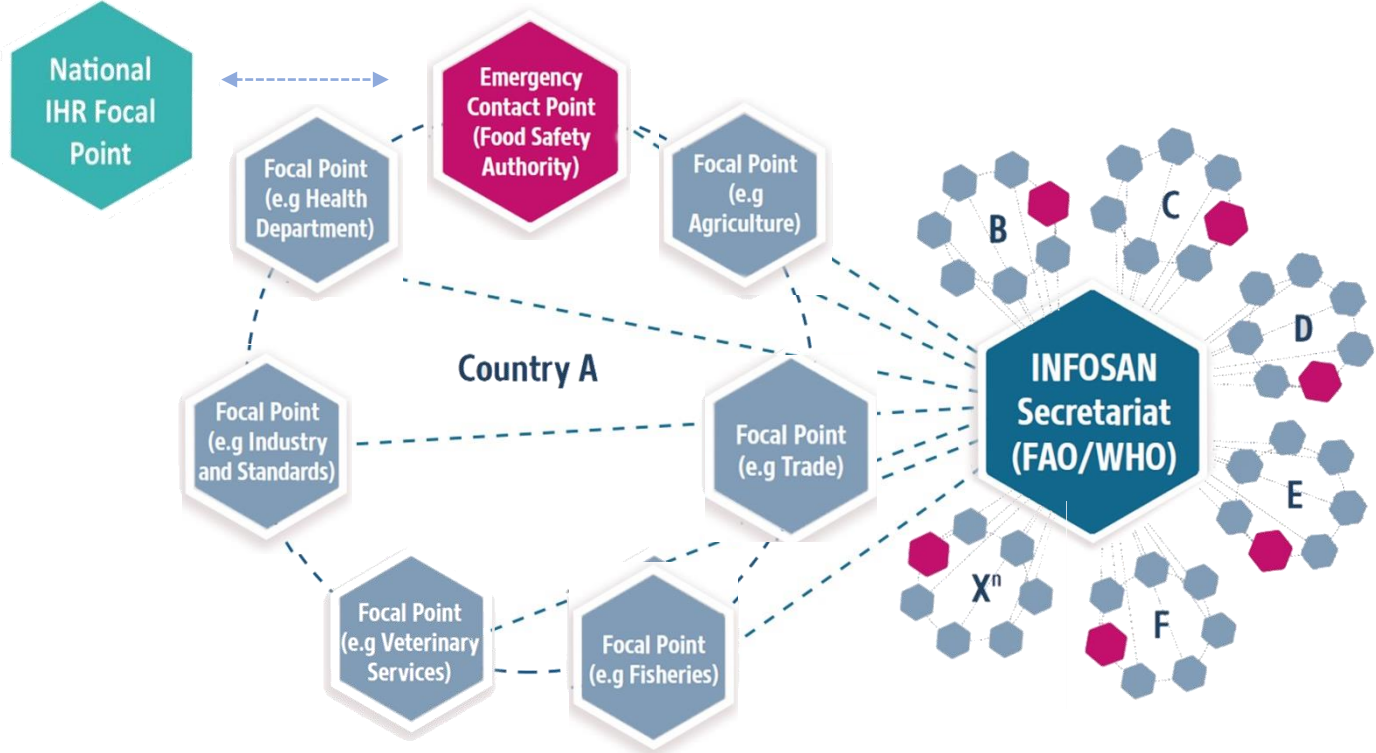


# International Food Safety Authorities Network

**Voluntary network of national authorities involved in food safety from around the world managed jointly by FAO and WHO**



# INFOSAN Structure



**+600 Members worldwide across sectors in 190 Member States**



# International Food Safety Authorities Network

## INFOSAN Aims:



**Promote the rapid exchange of information during food safety incidents**



**Share information on important food safety related issues of global interest**



**Promote partnerships and collaboration between countries, and between networks**



**Help countries strengthen their capacity to manage food safety incidents**



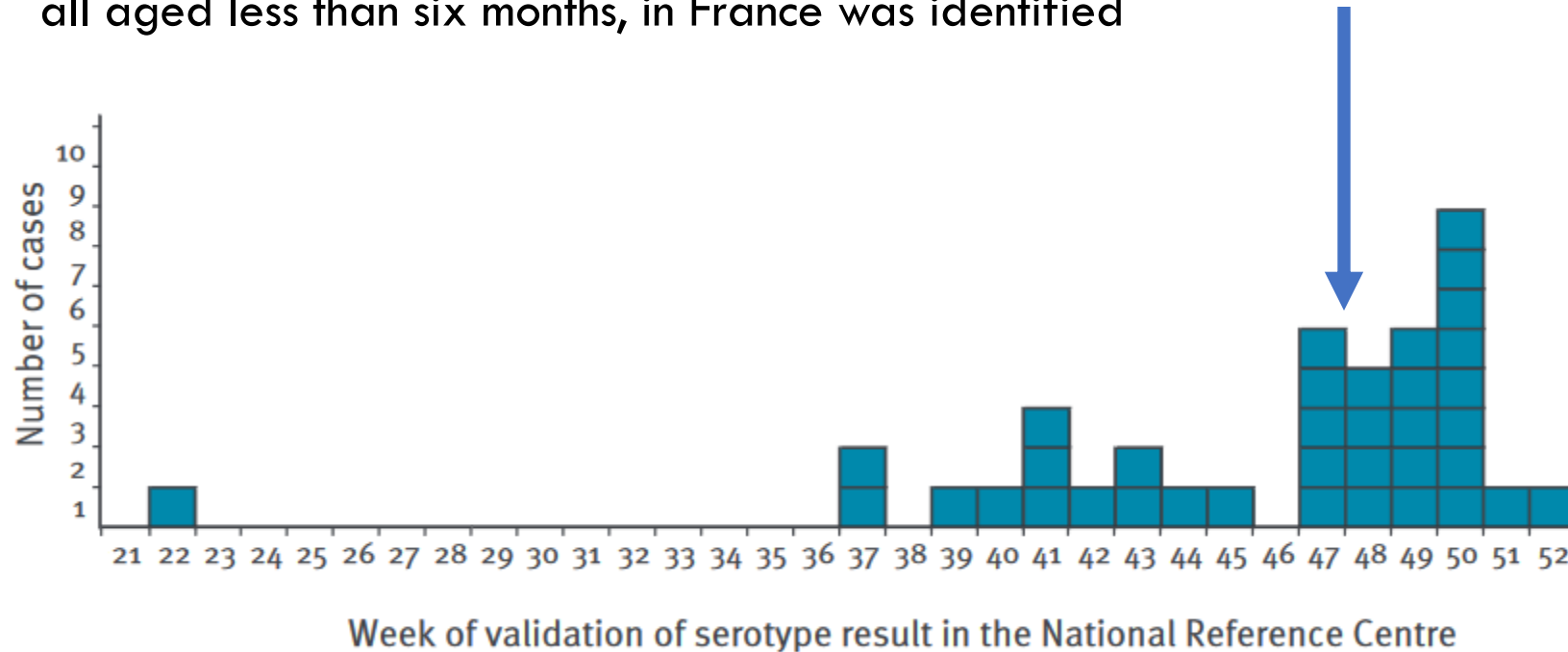
# Example



**Outbreak of Salmonellosis in France linked to internationally distributed infant formula, 2017/2018**

## Outbreak of *S. Agona* in France linked to domestically produced powdered infant formula, 2017/18

- In early December 2017, an outbreak of *Salmonella* Agona among infants, all aged less than six months, in France was identified



**37 cases in France (among infants <6months)**

# Outbreak of *S. Agona* in France linked to domestically produced powdered infant formula, 2017/18

- Investigations linked several **Lactalis** brand powdered infant formula products produced between July and November at the Lactalis Craon factory in France to the outbreak
- **2 December 2017:** First withdrawal/recall of 12 batches of three infant formulas placed on the market from July at the Craon production plant; products recalled from 9 Member States + several overseas French territories





# Outbreak of *S. Agona* in France linked to domestically produced powdered infant formula, 2017/18

- **9 December 2017:** Withdrawal/recall of 620 batches of infant foods manufactured in the Craon Plant since 15 February 2017 ordered by the Minister of the Economy and Finance; recall included products manufactured since 15 February 2017; products recalled from **38** Member States + several overseas French territories

## Lactalis baby milk in global recall over salmonella fears

© 11 December 2017

f     Share



The global recall affects consumers in several countries including Britain, China and Sudan.

French baby milk formula maker Lactalis has ordered a global product recall over fears of salmonella contamination.



# Outbreak of *S. Agona* in France linked to domestically produced powdered infant formula, 2017/18

- **21 December 2017:**  
Withdrawal/recall of all infant and nutritional products manufactured or packaged in the Craon Plant since 15 February 2017 (720 batches).
- More than 12 000 tonnes of infant foods recalled from **61** Member States + several overseas French territories

## UPDATE 1-Lactalis extends baby product recall after finding contamination source

Reuters Staff

2 MIN READ



\* Further 720 batches being recalled

\* Concerns products made at Craon factory (Adds detail)

PARIS, Dec 21 (Reuters) - Dairy giant Lactalis announced on Thursday a further recall of baby food products after establishing a source of contamination at a French factory which has been linked to cases of salmonella bacteria.



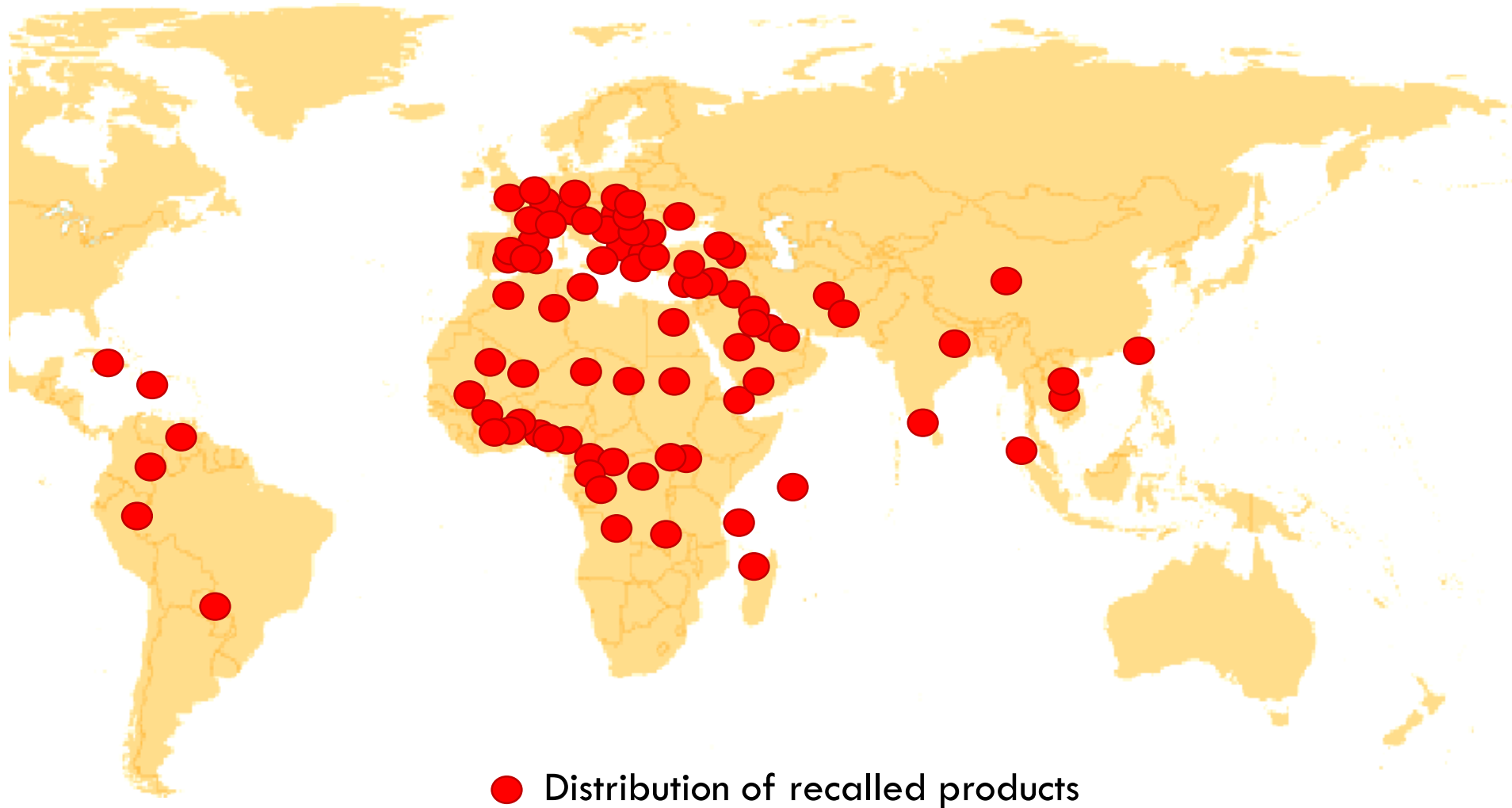
# Outbreak of *S. Agona* in France linked to domestically produced powdered infant formula, 2017/18

- **12 January 2018:**  
All products manufactured at the Craon Plant withdrawn/recalled by Lactalis – Expanded recall now affects **82** WHO member States + several overseas territories





## Outbreak of *S. Agona* in France linked to domestically produced powdered infant formula, 2017/18



# INFOSAN members kept informed with updates posted on the INFOSAN Community Website

## Updates included:

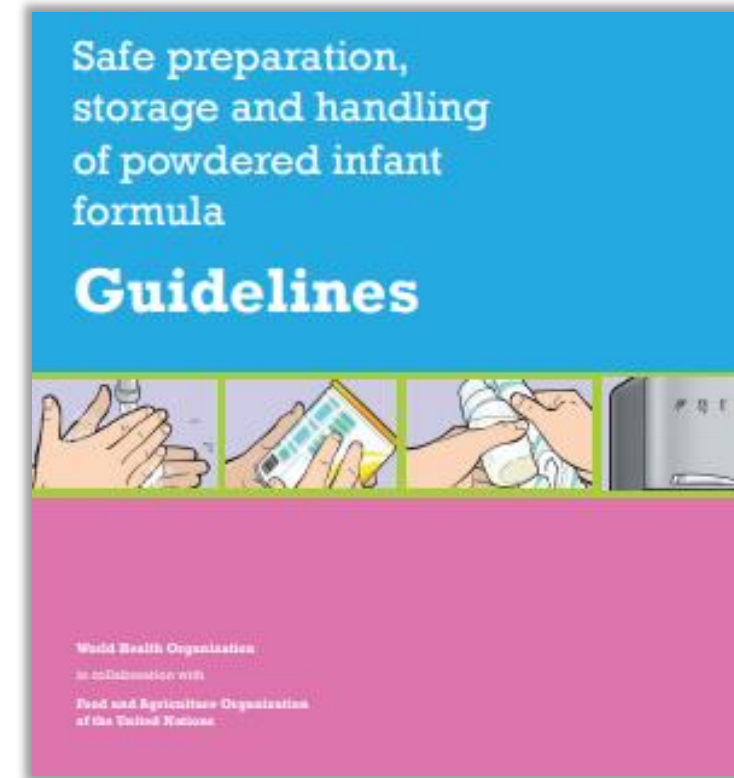
- ✓ Affected countries and regions
- ✓ Hazard
- ✓ Product details
- ✓ Summary of the situation
- ✓ Public health response
- ✓ Technical and informative reference documents



The screenshot displays the INFOSAN Community Website interface. At the top, there are logos for INFOSAN, the World Health Organization, and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. A navigation menu includes Home, My Page, INFOSAN Secretariat, Find Members, Discussion forums, and Groups. The main content area features a news article titled "Outbreak of Salmonella Agona infections linked to internationally distributed infant formula" dated December 4, 2017. The article includes an "Event introduction" section with two updates: one from February 7, 2018, regarding a retrospective analysis of genomic sequencing, and another from January 17, 2018, regarding expanded product recalls by Lactalis Group.

## FAO/WHO Guidelines on the safe preparation, storage and handling of powdered infant formula

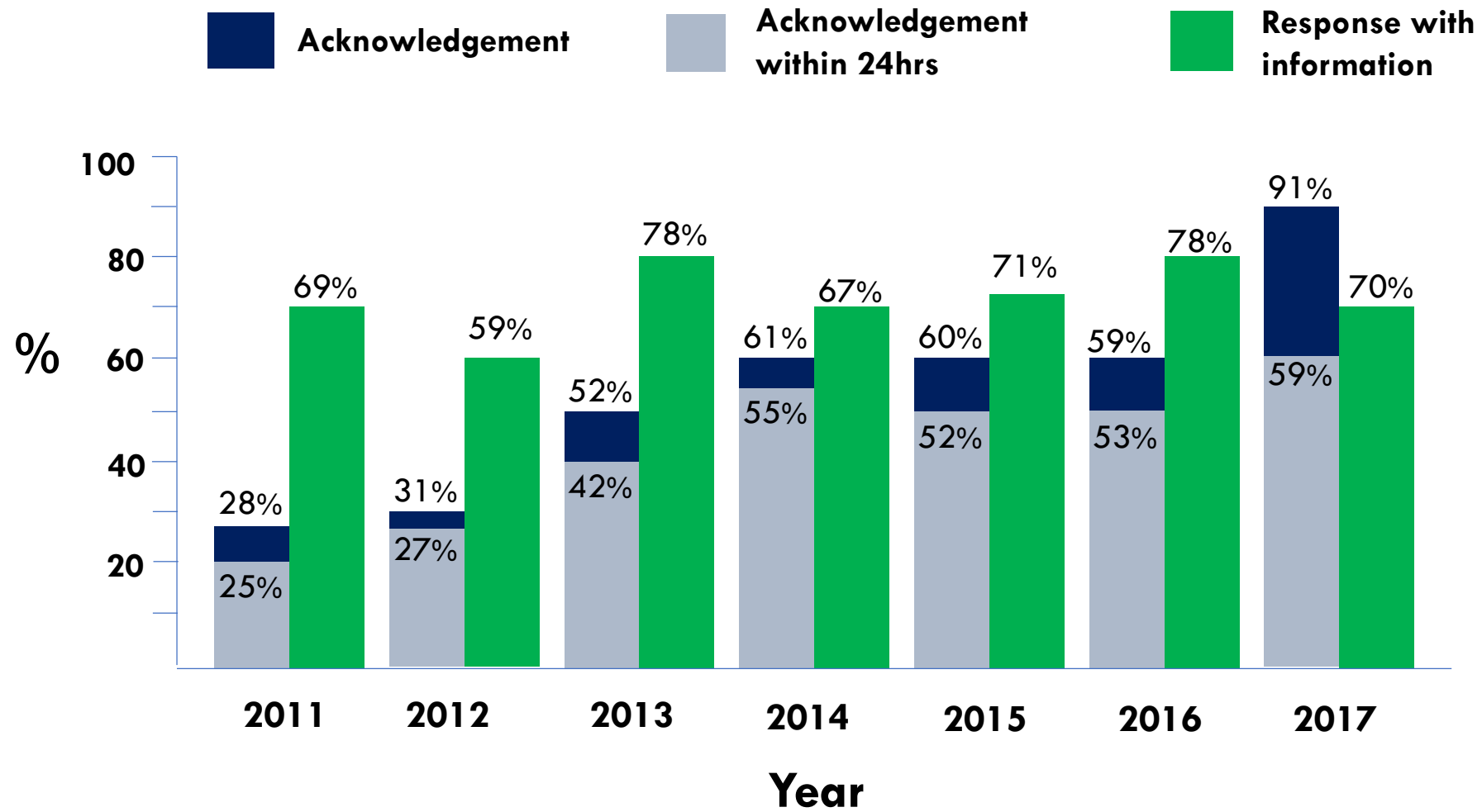
- Codex Code of Hygienic Practice for Foods for Infants and Children (CAC/RCP 21-1979)
- FAO/WHO Risk Assessment at request of Codex
- FAO/WHO Guidelines on the safe preparation, storage and handling of powdered infant formula (2007) were disseminated to INFOSAN members during the outbreak
- Codex Code of Hygienic Practice for Foods for Infants and Children (CAC/RCP 66 – 2008)





## Main Messages

1. Serious salmonellosis outbreak affecting a vulnerable population involving products with complex global distribution (80+ countries)
2. INFOSAN instrumental in disseminating information about contaminated products to other countries, allowing for risk management measures to be implemented + identification of non-formal and secondary distribution channels
3. Reminder to implement Codex code of hygienic practice for powdered formula for infants and young children
4. Great example of collaboration with RASFF





# Results

## Acknowledgements

Overall improvements from a low in 2011 to a high in 2017

## Responses with Information

Has remained relatively steady over the years → average 70%

**What about the other 30%?**



# The Second Global Meeting of the International Food Safety Authorities Network (INFOSAN)

**9-11 December 2019**

**Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates**



Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations



World Health  
Organization



# INFOSAN Secretariat Strategic Plan 2020-2025



*New INFOSAN  
Strategic Plan just  
published*





# INFOSAN Secretariat Strategic Plan 2020-2025

## Vision of INFOSAN



*“A global community of practice working together for safer food around the world”*





# INFOSAN Secretariat Strategic Plan 2020-2025

## Mission of INFOSAN



*“Halt the international spread of contaminated food, prevent foodborne disease outbreaks, and strengthen food safety systems globally to reduce the burden of foodborne diseases”*



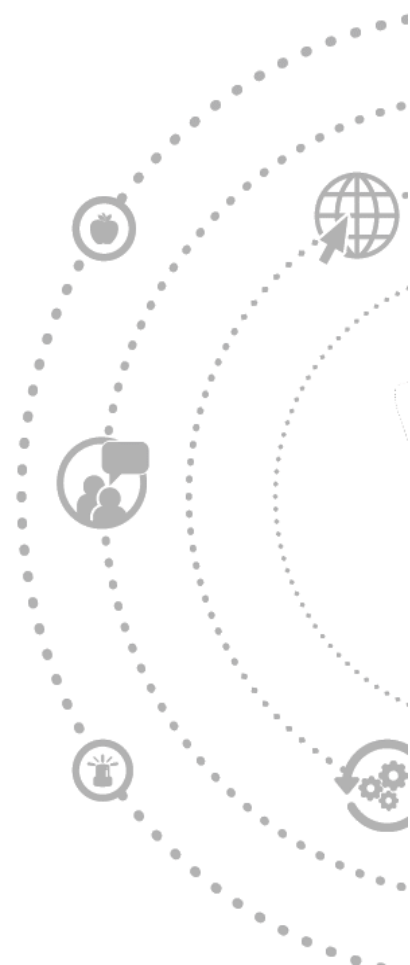


# INFOSAN Secretariat Strategic Plan 2020-2025

## Values of the INFOSAN Secretariat

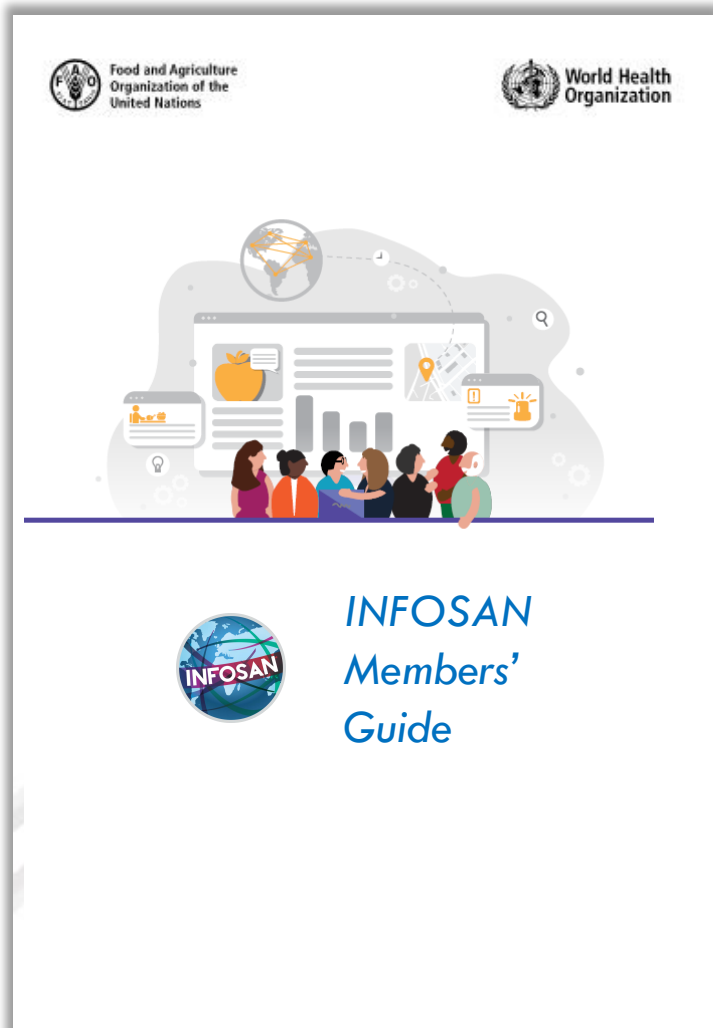


- Reliability**
- Efficiency**
- Confidentiality**
- Flexibility**
- Community**
- Transparency**





# New INFOSAN Members' Guide – Coming Soon!

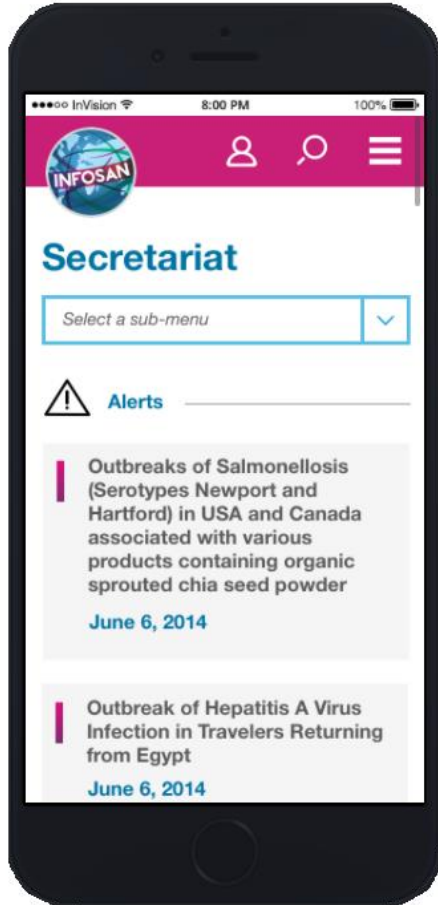


*New INFOSAN  
Members Guide to be  
published in 2020*





# New INFOSAN Community Website— Coming Soon!



Objective is to relaunch the ICW as a state-of-the-art knowledge exchange portal that encourages increased engagement of INFOSAN members and a higher volume of active participants contributing to the ICW on a regular basis







## Future Outlook



Expand the range of partners,  
participating in and advocating  
for INFOSAN activities  
worldwide to raise profile and  
increase visibility





## Future Outlook

- Utilize the network as vehicle for targeted training to improve capacity building related to outbreak investigation for cross-border threats

**“PRACTICE IS THE BEST OF ALL  
INSTRUCTORS.”**





## Future Outlook



- Continue to encourage and support regional and sub-regional initiatives to strengthen INFOSAN
- Empowering INFOSAN members to lead by example





## Future Outlook

- Continued strong collaboration with RASFF





# Thank you

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