

Joint Risk Assessment Operational Tool (JRA OT)

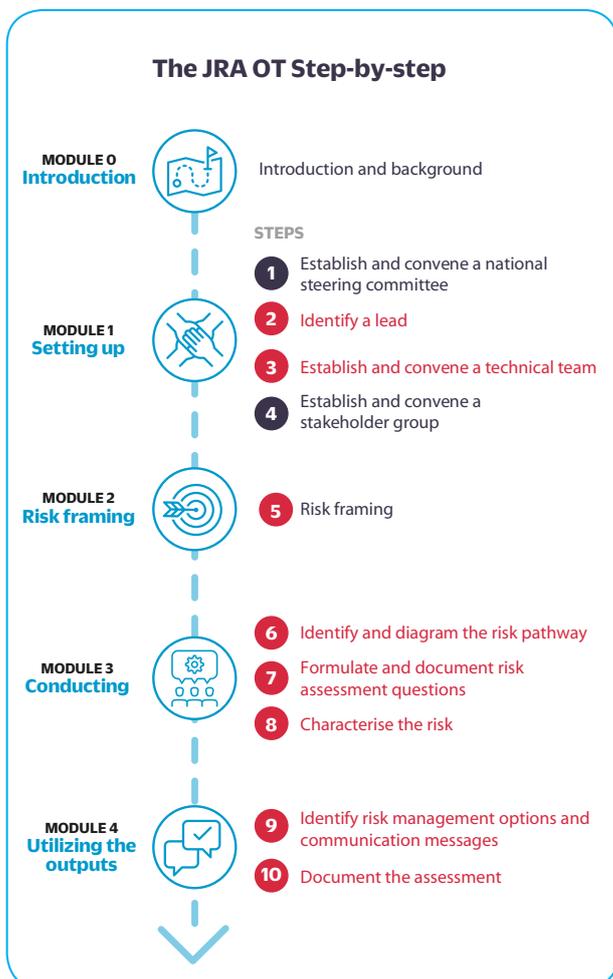
An Operational Tool of the Tripartite Zoonoses Guide

Assessing risk at the Human-Animal-Environmental Interface

Zoonotic diseases pose risks to both animals and people. Effectively identifying, assessing, managing, and reducing risks from these diseases requires coordination and collaboration between ministries and agencies responsible for human, animal, and environmental health. To fully understand and manage shared risks at the animal-human-environment interface, information and expertise from all relevant sectors must be brought together and assessed jointly. The Tripartite organisations (FAO, OIE and WHO) convened a technical working group to develop the 10 steps of the Joint Risk Assessment Operational Tool (JRA OT).

Risk communication and management options that meet the needs of all sectors

Routine JRA supports international guidelines, such as International Health Regulations (IHR, 2005) and the Performance of Veterinary Service (PVS), by providing a mechanism to share and jointly assess information from different sectors. By conducting risk assessments jointly, risk communication and management options are more likely to be relevant and acceptable to all ministries, and results can align new and ongoing efforts across sectors for effective One Health approaches to zoonotic diseases.



The JRA Operational Tool provides guidance in:

- Setting up the JRA system and processes in a country
- Leading and managing the JRA Process
- Conducting the technical risk assessment
- Handling specific technical challenges such as:
 - developing risk assessment questions
 - linking the risk framing with the risk assessment questions and management options.
- Operationalizing the risk assessment outcomes

The JRA Operational Tool includes:

- Online and self-guided facilitator training course
- Model Terms of reference for the committees and teams
- Step by step guidance for conducting a joint qualitative risk assessment
- Risk assessment report template
- Examples of information needed and data sources



Benefits of the JRA Operational Tool:

- **Adaptable:** Can be organised through existing national coordination mechanisms, platforms, or task forces, or used by local authorities for emerging health threats.
- **Flexible:** Applied to jointly assess any zoonosis or health concern at the human-animal-environment interface.
- **Inclusive:** Incorporates all relevant ministries and stakeholders at the human-animal-environment interface, and builds on existing data from sector-specific risk assessments.
- **Rapid:** A step-by-step qualitative risk assessment that can be conducted rapidly and without the need for validated quantitative data or specialized mathematical skills.
- **Specific:** Used for a single zoonotic disease or health event. If several zoonotic diseases or health events need to be assessed, then a JRA will be conducted for each of them.

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