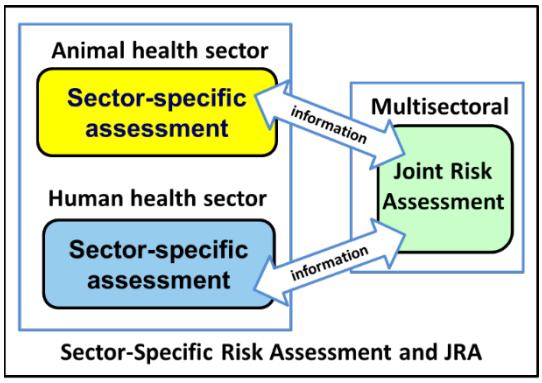
Conducting National Joint Risk Assessment
A Tripartite Operational Tool

Zoonotic diseases pose risks to both animals and people. Effectively identifying, assessing, managing, and reducing risks from these diseases require coordination and collaboration among the ministries and other agencies responsible for human health, animal health, and the environment.

Human and animal health sectors normally do their own, sector-specific risk assessments for priority zoonotic diseases and zoonotic disease events. However, to fully understand and manage zoonotic disease threats, information and expertise from all the relevant sectors must be brought together and these risks assessed jointly.

This Tripartite Operational Tool for conducting joint risk assessment (JRA) is intended for use by ministries and government agencies responsible for national control and management of zoonoses. It is an interim document that will be piloted in countries in 2018 and 2019 and finalised in 2019.



Objectives and outcomes

A JRA provides decision makers with scientifically sound advice that can be used to inform risk management and communication policies for effective response to a zoonotic disease threat. Routine JRA supports international regulations, such as International Health Regulations (IHR, 2005) and the OIE standards, by providing a mechanism to effectively address management decisions and communications based on a JRA. When done jointly and across the spectrum of different sectors they are more likely to be relevant and acceptable to all stakeholders, and therefore also more likely to be effective. They can be aligned across sectors for implementation by the different partners, or can be jointly implemented.

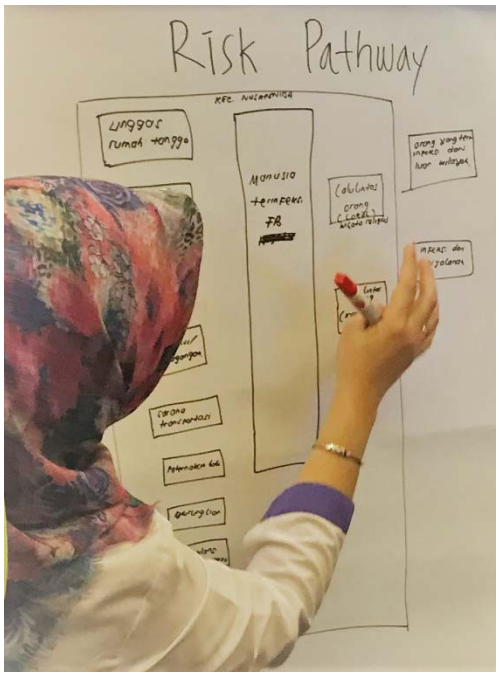
The JRA:

- ***Is adaptable to country and local needs:*** The elements of the JRA process should be adapted to fit the national or local context. The use of already existing mechanisms is encouraged, to enhance sustainability. For example:
    - Existing national multisectoral coordination mechanisms for sharing technical information on zoonotic diseases or coordinating across sectors could function as the JRA Steering group
    - Local authorities conducting JRAs for specific events may use only certain JRA components
- ***Is flexible***. It uses zoonotic influenza as a model, and could be applied equally to joint risk assessments for other zoonoses and health concerns at the human-animal-environment interface.

- ***Focuses on the human-animal-environment interface.*** As part of a functioning national health system, sector-specific risk assessments of health events are normally conducted separately by the animal health sector, the human health sector, and other sectors (e.g. wildlife). For zoonotic diseases and other health threats, a JRA focusing on the human-animal-environment interface is also conducted. The information from the sector-specific risk assessment(s) is brought into the JRA process, and vice versa.
- ***Is rapid:*** As a qualitative risk assessment, it can be conducted rapidly and without the need for validated quantitative data or specialized mathematical skills.
- ***Is specific to a single priority zoonotic diseases or zoonotic disease event.*** The steps described in the JRA Operational Tool are specific to a single priority zoonotic disease or health event. The technical assessment itself will also be event specific, with objectives and risk assessment questions differing among events.

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
- Operationalizing the risk assessment outcomes
- Specific technical challenges such as:
  - developing risk assessment questions
  - linking the risk framing with the risk assessment questions and management options.



The JRA Operational Tool also includes:

- Model Terms of reference for the committees and teams
- Risk Assessment report template
- Examples of information needed and data sources

Contacts:

Food and Agriculture Organization	Sophie von VonDobschuetz	Sophie.VonDobschuetz@fao.org
	Kachen Wongsathapornchai	Kachen.Wongsathapornchai@fao.org
World Health Organization	Liz Mumford	mumforde@who.int
World Organisation for Animal Health	Julie Sinclair	j.sinclair@OIE.int

WHO/WHE/CPI/CME/2018.44