

**WORKSHOP ON JOINT RISK ASSESSMENT FOR**

**ZOONOTIC DISEASES**

An Operational Tool of the Tripartite Zoonoses Guide

**Date of Workshop**

**City, Country**

*Concept note: date*

**Background & Justification**

Multidisciplinary and multisectoral collaboration in accordance with the “One Health” approach is necessary in order to effectively prepare for the detection, assessment and intervention with regard to emerging and endemic zoonoses and other health threats at the human-animal-environment interface, including antimicrobial resistance and food safety. Activities to identify, assess, manage and reduce risks from zoonotic diseases benefit from coordination and collaboration between the ministries and other agencies in a country that are responsible for various aspects of human health, animal health, and the environment.

Since 2017, FAO-OIE-WHO have worked with international experts to develop the [Joint Risk Assessment Operational Tool (JRA OT)](https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/joint-risk-assessment-operational-tool-%28-jra-ot%29)–one of three implementation tools associated with the [Tripartite Zoonoses Guide](https://www.who.int/initiatives/tripartite-zoonosis-guide). The JRA OT was designed to support countries in applying a consistent and harmonized approach to assessing risks posed by zoonotic disease hazards.

Between 2018 and 2020, the JRA OT was piloted in 19 countries in all six WHO regions, and this included two regional training of trainers in Senegal and Tunisia. Following iterative refinement and improvement, the JRA OT offers decision-makers and technical experts a 10-step approach to create a system for conducting joint qualitative risk assessments. The JRA OT was published by the Tripartite in December 2020. Results of the JRA OT process in country are used to support policy communication, risk mitigation, and improved planning and preparedness for zoonotic diseases, contributing to health security at the sub-national, national, regional, and global levels.

However, the concepts presented in the JRA OT go beyond risk assessment. The JRA OT includes discussion of risk management options and communication needs (often referred to all together as risk analysis) and provides recommendations, allowing decision-makers to build and implement science-based risk management measures and communication messages that are aligned between the sectors, or even implemented jointly.

The success of the JRA OT, and risk assessments in general, will depend on commitment and buy-in from national ministries and other stakeholders, who provide financial resources and institutional support to conduct and sustain them. Integration of risk assessment processes into existing institutional processes and infrastructure facilitates sustainability.

The JRA OT will be useful in Sierra Leone to establish and strengthen a system and a process for conducting the modules and steps of the JRA OT process. The Tripartite regional offices and headquarters staff will be available to support the technical implementation of the workshop.

**Objectives**

Participants in the 4-day JRA OT workshop will master and utilize the 10-step JRA process for priority zoonotic diseases in Country X, ultimately creating a system for conducting JRAs in the future, as well as arriving at targeted risk communication and management options that can be implemented at the human-animal-environmental interface for the selected zoonotic disease hazards.

***The direct objectives of this workshop are to:***

* Create a JRA steering committee and identify a JRA lead who will plan for the workshop, identify priority hazards, and conduct risk framing prior to the JRA OT workshop
* Train a sub-group of national participants to facilitate the 10-step JRA process (JRA Day 0/Workshop Day 1)
* Conduct the 10-step JRA process with national participants for the identified hazards, and report results to the JRA steering committee (JRA Day 1-3/Workshop Day 2-4)
* Establish next steps for use of the JRA OT in Country X.

***The indirect objectives of the workshop are to:***

* Enhance coordination and establish trust among all relevant sectors, including a minimum of the public health, animal health, and environment sectors.
* Facilitate formal and informal communication and information sharing among stakeholders.
* Identify shared opportunities and priorities for the continued use of the JRA OT in country

**Participants**

FAO and WHO country offices will work with \_\_\_\_\_ (usually One Health Platform and/or ministerial focal point) in country X to establish the JRA steering committee and identify the JRA technical lead. Working together, the JRA steering committee and the JRA technical lead will identify national facilitators (workshop Day 1) and participants (workshop Day 2-4) who will attend the JRA OT workshop. If possible, participants will ideally be identified from the ministries with responsibility for animal health, public health, environment (including wildlife), food safety, and other relevant sectors in the country.

**Logistics and financial arrangements**

* The dates, location, venue, meeting logistical details, and national participants will be identified and managed (including preparation of invitations) by the WHO and FAO country offices, with technical support from WHO, FAO, and OIE headquarters and its regional and sub-regional offices as appropriate.
* These activities will be funded through …
* Tripartite staff from regional offices and headquarters will be available to support facilitation of the 5-day JRA OT workshop.

**Place and date**

Dates will be established in coordination with the JRA steering committee and the JRA lead.