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Operationalizing the One Health approach in countries to improve preparedness for **zoonotic diseases**



World Health
Organization

EPI•WIN

EPIDEMIC
& PANDEMIC
**PREPAREDNESS
& PREVENTION**

What is the One Health approach?

"One Health is an integrated, unifying approach that aims to sustainably balance and optimize the health of people, animals and ecosystems.

It recognizes the health of humans, domestic and wild animals, plants, and the wider environment (including ecosystems) are closely linked and inter-dependent."



Source: <https://www.who.int/news/item/01-12-2021-tripartite-and-unep-support-ohhlep-s-definition-of-one-health>



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



World Health
Organization



World Organisation
for Animal Health
Founded as OIE

The Quadripartite organizations (FAO, WOA, UNEP WHO) work together to support countries and provide best practices and tools to improve preparedness at the human-animal-environment interface

Overview: One Health in countries to improve preparedness for zoonotic diseases

- Over 75% of emerging infectious diseases have an animal origin.
- Taking a One Health approach is necessary to address:
 - Emerging health threats at the human-animal-environment interface, such as zoonotic influenza, viral haemorrhagic fevers and diseases caused by coronaviruses including MERS and COVID-19;
 - Endemic and often neglected diseases such as rabies which have major impacts on health, livelihoods, and economies.

Operationalization of One Health for zoonotic diseases at country level:

Begins with assessment of the collaboration and planning of a joint roadmap via the National Bridging Workshops (NBW)



Country implements the NBW Roadmap with help of Tripartite (NBW Catalysts, NBW Follow-up)



Tripartite proposes specific Tripartite Zoonosis Guide (TZG) operational tools:

- Joint Risk Assessment Operational Tool (JRA OT)
- Multisectoral Coordination Mechanism Operation Tool (MCM OT)
- Surveillance and Information Sharing Operation Tool (SIS OT)
- Response and preparedness training (REPREP)

Framework for operationalizing One Health in 5 steps

(5) Improved compliance with IHR (2005) and Terrestrial and Aquatic Animal Health Codes

Improved capacity for collaborative benchmarks in IHR-MEF and in PVS Pathway

(4) Countries adopt principles and best practices for zoonotic disease preparedness and response

To operationalize principles from the Tripartite Zoonosis Guide, countries can use Operational Tools to build capacity for specific needs, such as setting-up coordination mechanisms, conducting joint risk assessment or establishing coordinated surveillance



Pathway to improved health security at the human-animal interface

(3) NBW Program implemented

The NBW program places One Health mentors and catalysts at regional and national levels to support implementation of NBW roadmaps, as well as provide iterative feedback and promote the use of operational tools and approaches



(1) Assessment of capacities for IHR (2005) and Terrestrial and Aquatic Animal Health Codes

WHO IHR capacities are assessed in the State Party Annual Reporting (SPAR) and the Joint External Evaluation (JEE). The OIE Performance of Veterinary Services (PVS) evaluation are assessed in the PVS Pathway Assessment. FAO evaluation tools including the Epidemiology Mapping Tool (EMT) and Surveillance Evaluation Tool (SET).



(2) Development of joint roadmaps for improved collaboration

In National Bridging Workshops (NBWs), stakeholders from the different sectors evaluate their collaboration, share and use data from PVS, JEE and SPAR and develop together a joint NBW Roadmap to improve their collaboration.



National Bridging Workshops (NBW) for One Health



- 3-day national events bringing together human health, animal health and environment actors.
- Robust and highly interactive and participatory process to:
 - Discuss current One Health collaboration through scenario exercises
 - Evaluate strengths and weaknesses in the collaboration for 15 technical areas
 - Develop a joint **NBW Roadmap** to improve One Health collaboration
- Makes use of existing assessment tools:
 - SPAR (State Party Self-Assessment Annual Reporting),
 - JEE (Joint External Evaluation)
 - PVS (Performance of Veterinary Services)
- The Tripartite supports the implementation of the NBW Roadmap via the recruitment of **NBW Catalysts** (nationally recruited experts), technical and financial support and bi-yearly NBW Follow-up meetings.

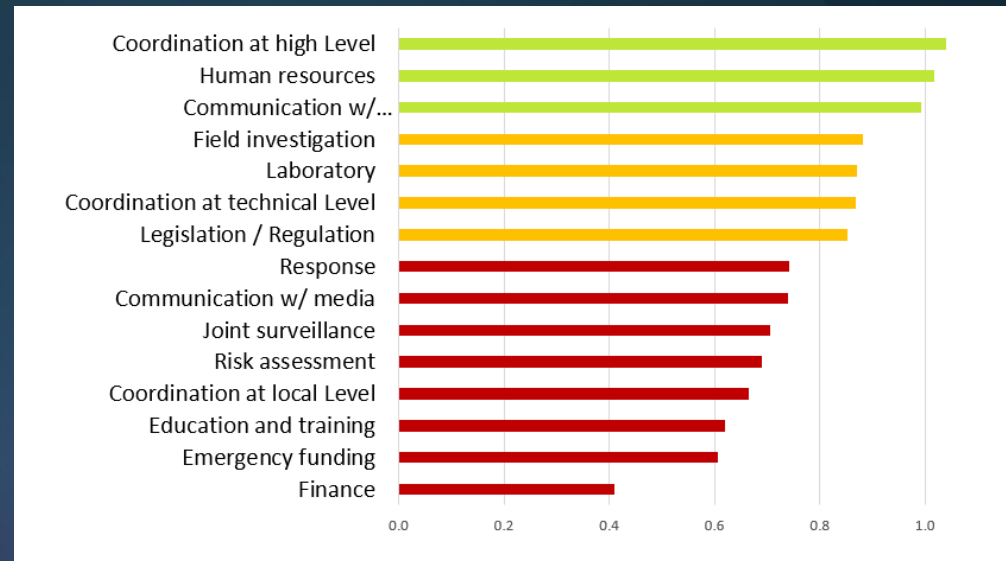
Conducted
by
48
Countries

Video: [Tanzania](#)
(link to Google Drive)

Identifying challenge areas for countries: National Bridging Workshop (NBW) roadmaps

More guidance welcomed by countries to strengthen coordination, notably for:

1. A functional government One Health mechanism (sometimes called platform or task force)
2. Joint risk assessment
3. Coordinated surveillance
4. Investigation and response
5. Risk communication



Average score of collaboration
between sectors
(Data from 21 NBWs)

Tripartite Zoonosis Guide (TZG)



- Countries can refer to the principles and best practices highlighted in the TZG to implement the NBW roadmap activities
 - To be used in countries to address zoonotic diseases and other One Health threats (Published Feb 2019)
-
- Framework for **COLLABORATION** For **ZOONOSES** and other health threats at the human-animal-environment interface (e.g. AMR, Food Safety)
 - To be used by **COUNTRIES**
 - Addressing all the relevant **SECTORS**
 - Best practices for **IMPLEMENTATION** included
 - Based on the **EXPERIENCES** of countries

The TZG provides guidance and operational tools to build national capacities in 7 key technical areas:



Multisectoral, One
Health Coordination
Mechanism



Planning and
Preparedness



Surveillance and
Information Sharing



Investigation and
Response



Joint Risk
Assessment



Risk
Communication



Workforce
Development

How do we operationalize a One Health approach in countries?

Operational tools in the Tripartite Zoonoses Guide provide detailed technical guidance and step-by-step instructions to operationalize collaboration across sectors for better health outcomes



JRA OT

The Joint Risk Assessment (JRA) OT was developed by the Tripartite organizations and technical experts, to provide guidance on how to set up a joint, cross-sectoral qualitative risk assessment process at the national and subnational levels. In this training, participants will explore the step-by-step process for setting up the JRA, conducting the technical risk assessment, and translating results to risk management options and communication needs. The JRA OT allows decision-makers to build and implement science-based risk management measures that are aligned between sectors and implemented jointly.



MCM OT (coming soon)

A Multisectoral, One Health, Coordination Mechanism (MCM) acts to strengthen or develop collaboration, communication, and coordination across the sectors responsible for addressing zoonotic diseases and other One Health challenges at a national or subnational level. Many governments establish One Health Mechanisms to coordinate activities for zoonoses across relevant ministries and partners.



SIS OT (in development)

Because zoonotic diseases can be transmitted between people and animals, including vectors, or via the environment they share, coordinated surveillance must address all pathways. There are many tools available to support surveillance and information sharing (SIS). Some countries may already have a system in place, while other countries may plan to build a new system. SIS OT principles and examples cover both scenarios.

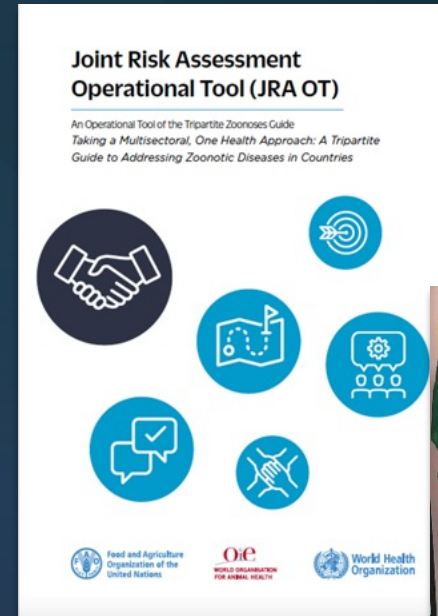
1. Joint Risk Assessment?

- Many sector-specific risk assessment methodologies exist
- However when technical staff are separated by sector they will generally estimate risk differently when asked the same question
 - For example: likelihood of zoonotic influenza infecting a person and infecting an animal

**Animal health
sector assessment:**



**Human health
sector assessment:**



Outputs from the JRA workshop is a **final report including:**

1. A detailed technical assessment of the risk for each selected hazard
2. Risk management and communication options
3. A plan to reconvene participants for additional follow-up and risk assessment

Likelihood	High				
	Moderate				
	Low				
	Negligible				
		Negligible	Minor	Moderate	Severe
		Impact			



2. Multisectoral Coordination Mechanism Operation Tool (MCM OT)

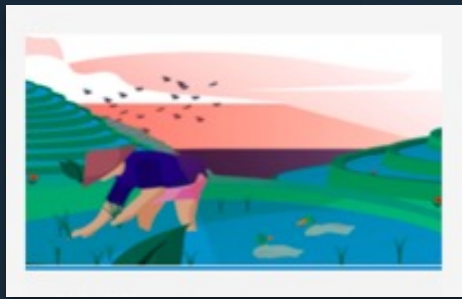
MCM workshops involved networks of strategic partners, including ministerial-level organizations, often supported by a secretariat & steering committee:

- Typically includes a minimum of human, animal and environmental health sectors
- Often expanded to include (formally or informally) donors, intergovernmental organisations, national and subnational ministries in education, wildlife, human welfare and development, and university networks.

Outputs from the MCM workshop

1. A defined role/ mission in the OH mechanism
2. An action plan that addresses prioritized technical elements
3. A final report for detailed communication with partners
4. Next steps for implementation with specified roles and responsibilities





3. Surveillance and Information Sharing Operation Tool (SIS OT)

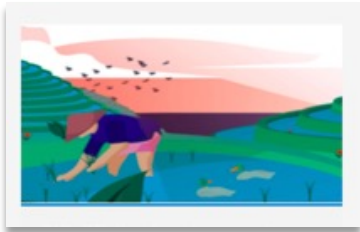
SIS OT guides a stepwise process for countries to establish or strengthen their capacity for coordinated, multisectoral surveillance for zoonotic diseases.

Outputs from the SIS OT:

1. A detailed assessment of existing capacity levels for coordinated surveillance of zoonotic diseases and information sharing
2. A prioritized list of activities, action plan and timeline to advance development
3. Agreement on responsibilities and commitments to implement each activity
4. Suitable, most “fit for purpose” tools and resources to support accomplishing the prioritized list



REPREP (Response & Preparedness):

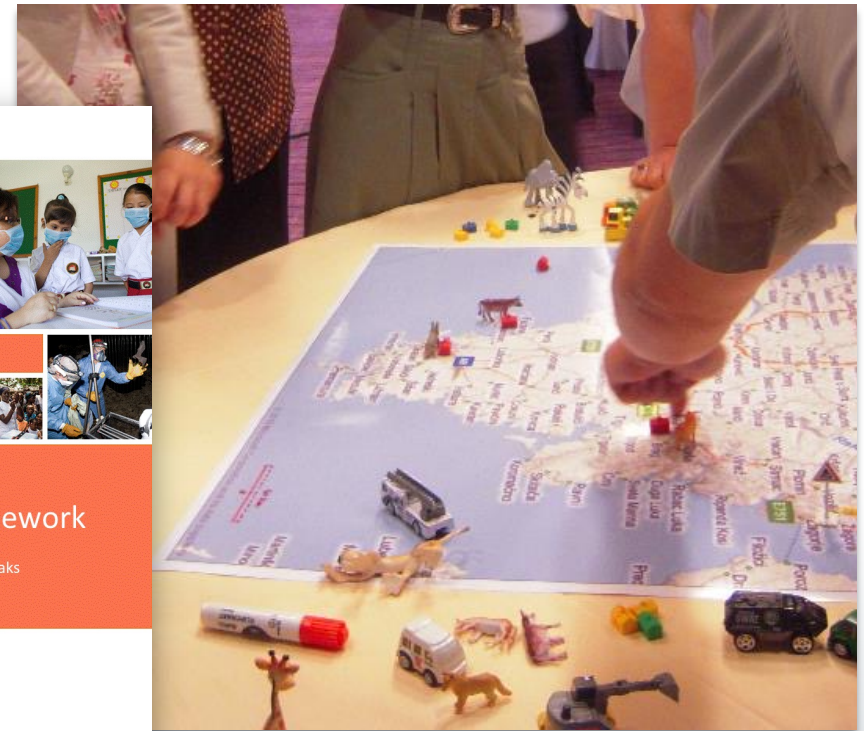
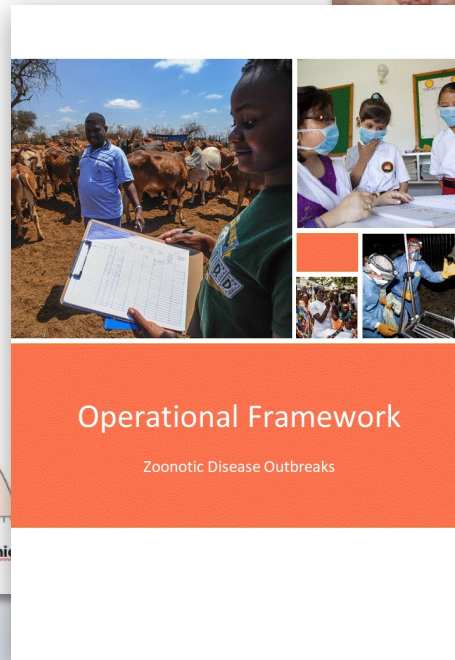
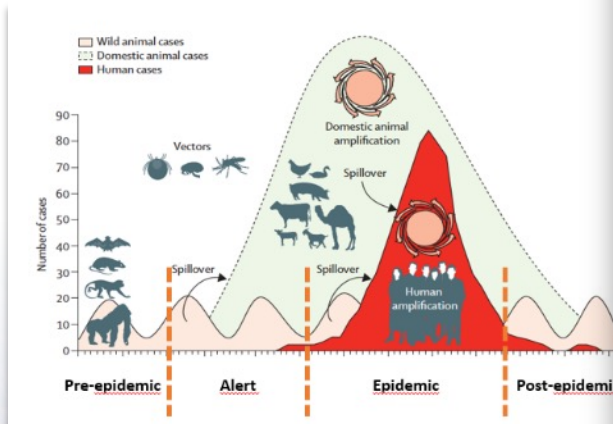


Developed with
the support of



REPREP helps to define the roles and responsibilities of various actors during the different phases of a zoonotic disease outbreak

1. Online introduction
2. Face to face workshop
3. Post-workshop



Way forward for operationalizing One Health in countries



- **Strong desire from country-level stakeholders to engage in concrete and operational activities**, to coordinate between sectors and mitigate major threats at the human-animal environment interface.
- Most countries ask where to begin? The National Bridging Workshop (NBW) as first step provides the opportunity to the sectors to discuss and evaluate their collaboration, and develop a joint NBW Roadmap.
- Countries can access the **operational tools and best practices** in the Tripartite Zoonoses Guide (TZG).
- **Collaboration between agencies and countries** can serve as a catalyst for shared strategic directions and to **increase joint activities and integration into regional and global preparedness plans and activities**.

Way forward for operationalizing One Health in countries (contd.)



- Current barriers to collaboration across sectors, in countries:
 - **Strengthening partnerships** at country level before outbreaks and emergencies happen.
 - The profusion of One Health initiatives, tools and resources is a source of confusion for countries. Communication and advocacy material is currently being developed to give a **clearer understanding of the landscape** for countries to improve implementation of One Health.
- WHO has recently updated its IHR assessment instruments including those relevant for the human-animal-environment interface, and is currently working on an online platform.
 - The components of the NBW roadmap will be directly accessible to users of the platform, and then easily integrated in National Action Plans for Health Security (NAPHS).



Useful links

- Human-Animal Interface team in WHO: <https://www.who.int/activities/strengthening-global-health-security-at-the-human-animal-interface>
- One Health online training platform: <https://openwho.org/channels/onehealth>
- Further EPI-WIN webinars and XXs on One Health will follow in 2023 as part of the EPI-WIN series on Emerging zoonotic diseases and the One Health approach: <https://www.who.int/teams/epi-win>