As a majority of endemic and emerging infectious diseases are of zoonotic nature, the need to adopt a One Health approach for their prevention and control, both in countries and at the global level, cannot be understated. The implementation of this approach requests agile collaboration between the various actors and sectors and contributes to improve health security at the human-animal-environment interface.

Working with its Quadripartite partners, WHO supports countries in strengthening their One Health, multisectoral collaboration for health security and proposes the stepwise approach depicted below, using tools presented in the following.

1. **ASSESS** the current multisectoral collaboration, identify strengths and weaknesses, and areas where improvements in this collaboration are necessary.

2. **PLAN** and develop a consensual and actionable roadmap that the sectors pledge to implement during National Bridging Workshops (NBW) for strengthening the collaboration.

3. **IMPLEMENT** the NBW Roadmap, following the principles of the Tripartite Zoonosis Guide (TZG).

4. **OPTIMIZE** multisectoral coordination with tailored technical support making use of TZG Operational Tools.

The implementation of this pathway contributes to the Quadripartite One Health Joint Plan of Action.
The initial steps suggested to countries are to assess current collaboration between animal health, human health, and environment sectors across a wide spectrum of areas critical for health security, and to jointly plan for improvement of this collaboration. The National Bridging Workshops support these steps.

**IHR-PVS National Bridging Workshops (NBW)**

A NBW serves as a pivotal gathering that unites 60-90 key stakeholders encompassing animal health, human health, and environmental services at the national, regional, and local levels. Its objective is to create a conducive environment for the critical review and discussion of the current strengths, weaknesses and opportunities in the One Health collaboration. The NBW charts a course for the development of a joint operational roadmap geared towards improvement.

The NBW bridges sector-specific assessments (e.g., WOAH's Performance of Veterinary Services (PVS) pathway and WHO’s IHR Monitoring and Evaluation Framework), propose actions for improved compliance with international standards and regulations and empowers these stakeholders to harness their collective ability, enhancing One Health collaboration.

- **GOAL:** to evaluate and strengthen the collaboration between sectors at the human-animal-environment interface.
- **PROCESS:** three-day event built around group exercises, simulation scenarios, discussions, and innovative facilitation tools to make it as participatory and interactive as possible.
- **OUTPUT:** a diagnostic of current strengths and weaknesses in the collaboration between the three sectors for key technical areas; a consensual, realistic and actionable roadmap of activities that the sectors jointly develop and agree to implement to improve their One Health collaboration.

The content of the NBW Roadmap can be integrated in the National Action Plan for Health Security (NAPHS), elaborated using the results of the IHR State Parties Annual Reporting (SPAR) and/or the WHO Joint External Evaluation (JEE). The human-animal-environment interface components are well considered in the JEE and SPAR, and together with the NBW, ensure an appropriate consideration of the One Health in the NAPHS.


**A 5-minute video explaining the concept of NBWs is available at www.bit.ly/NBWVideo.**

**What are the key outputs of an NBW?**

- **Q1.** Technical and when possible Financial support NBW Follow-up Meetings.
- **Q2.** Tools are also proposed to address specific needs.
- **Q3.** The establishment of a Community of Practice.

**What should I do?**

Please officially contact your WHO country office, FAO country office, or OIE regional representation to express your interest. The three Contact points are:

- **WHO HQ**
- **FAO HQ**
- **OIE HQ**

Guillaume BELOT – belotg@who.int

**www.bit.ly/NBWProgram** 30-minute overview of the whole program

**www.bit.ly/NBWMethod** 4-minute video on the NBW method describing the 7 sessions


A short video illustrating the concept of NBWs is available at [www.bit.ly/NBWin1min](http://www.bit.ly/NBWin1min)

**What comes after an NBW?**

- **NBW Follow-up Meetings**
- **IHR-PVS National Bridging Workshop Program**

**A short video illustrating the concept of NBWs is available at [www.bit.ly/NBWin1min](http://www.bit.ly/NBWin1min).**

**My country wishes to embark in the NBW Program.**

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Implementation of the NBW Roadmap

The implementation of the NBW Roadmap is facilitated by technical references summarized in the Tripartite (FAO, WHO, WOAH) Zoonosis Guide (TZG) and by a network of national experts who provide access to supplementary tools and monitor progresses.

NBW Follow-up Meeting

The NBW Follow-up Meeting is a 1-day event, conducted 1 year after the NBW, involving selected number of participants from each sector. The objectives are to (1) evaluate the level of implementation of the NBW Roadmap, (2) identify bottlenecks and areas where further support is needed, (3) update the NBW Roadmap and (4) refresh the commitment of the sectors in the operationalization of the One Health approach.

NBW Catalysts & Community of Practice

An NBW Catalyst is a One Health expert, recruited nationally after an NBW, who provides technical support for the follow-up and the implementation of the NBW Roadmap activities. The Catalyst’s tasks include (1) to keep the positive momentum created by the NBW between the sectors, (2) to promote and provide technical support for the implementation of the NBW Roadmap, (3) to conduct monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of the NBW Roadmap and (4) to support the use of Tripartite Operational Tools in the country.

NBW Catalysts also form a Community of Practice, which meets regularly (frequent virtual reunions and annual physical reunions) to share experience and lessons learned, discuss challenges and find solutions. It has been shown that the implementation of the Roadmap is greatly enhanced in countries where a Catalyst has been designated.

Tripartite Zoonosis Guide (TZG)

The TZG is available at: www.bit.ly/TZGuide
and a training for advocates and implementers is available at: www.bit.ly/TZGTraining

The goal of the TZG is to provide countries with standardized guidance to collaboratively address zoonotic diseases and other health threats at the human-animal-environmental interface. The TZG is accompanied by operational tools (see further below) providing step-by-step guidance for countries to address some of its technical chapters, such as joint risk assessment, surveillance and information sharing, multisectoral coordination mechanism, investigation and response and more. The guide also contains over 100 country vignettes, which present, for each relevant area of concern, concrete cases studies from all over the globe, that can be used as inspiration or adapted to other contexts.
Optimization & Tailored Support

The strengthening of some technical areas may require specific focus and tailored tools. FAO, WHO, and WOAH have together developed a kit of operational tools (others in development) accompanying the TZG.

Joint Risk Assessment Operational Tool (JRA OT)

The JRA OT proposes a facilitated approach guiding the various actors toward a comprehensive and consensual risk assessment for zoonotic diseases and other threats at the human-animal-environment interface.

- **GOAL:** to institutionalize a multisectoral qualitative process for joint risk assessment and ensure that resulting risk management and communication options allow for coordinated response for hazards arising at the human-animal-environment interface.
- **PROCESS:** includes a 10-step guidance and a 3-day workshop.
- **OUTPUTS:** JRA process and governance structures are institutionalized and available to support risk assessment as needed; personnel from relevant sectors are trained in the JRA process.

Surveillance and Information Sharing Operational Tool (SIS OT)

The SIS OT assists countries to establish or strengthen coordinated surveillance and information sharing capacities across relevant sectors and disciplines.

- **GOAL:** to assess and strengthen the capacity for coordinated, multisectoral surveillance and information sharing for zoonotic diseases and other One Health.
- **PROCESS:** includes a 9-step guidance and a 3-day workshop.
- **OUTPUTS:** a roadmap and a workplan for the country to establish or strengthen their approach to coordinated surveillance and information sharing system.

Multisectoral Coordination Mechanisms Operational Tool (MCM OT)

The MCM OT supports the development of country’s collaborative platform allowing agencies to interact on a regular basis to share information, leverage resources, and coordinate decisions and actions.

- **GOAL:** to establish or strengthen a government-led multisectoral coordination mechanism for zoonotic diseases and other One Health Challenges.
- **PROCESS:** includes a 10-step process and a 3-day workshop.
- **OUTPUTS:** an agreement on the objectives of the OH mechanism, a government-validated action plan, and a final workshop report.

Response Preparedness Workshop (REPREP)

REPREP helps countries in developing an operational joint outbreak response framework facilitating a collaborative approach to zoonotic disease outbreaks, with a clear distribution of roles and responsibilities.

- **GOAL:** to support countries in developing an operational framework to jointly respond to outbreaks.
- **PROCESS:** a 3-day workshop that guides participants though a zoonotic outbreak scenario, enabling open discussions on an operational way to work together.
- **OUTPUT:** an operational framework on how to coordinate joint response to a zoonotic outbreak, a validated action plan, and a final workshop report.