

# Putting People, Animals, and the Planet First in Policy Decisions

## What is a Just One Health Impact Assessment Tool?

A Just One Health Impact Assessment Tool provides a structured, evidence-based process for considering how a proposal or measure will affect a defined group of individuals, communities, and ecosystems. Policy makers, professionals, and communities can use the assessment to gauge the intended and unintended impact of proposed or existing policies, industries, infrastructure developments, and practices on the interdependent rights, health, and wellbeing of humans, animals, and our shared environments.

Ideally, this assessment, which includes a brief series of questions, is initiated prior to implementing a decision or action. The process is meant to be continuous, from assessing anticipated impact, to suggesting ways to avoid or mitigate any negative impacts, to reviewing and evaluating actual impact. The tool emphasizes the importance of the precautionary principle, which generally aims to minimize the risk for harm in conditions of uncertainty.

The Just One Health Impact Assessment Tool is modeled after other effective impact assessment tools, such as child impact assessment tools, which enable stakeholders to identify and assess the impact of a proposed policy or intervention on the rights, health, and wellbeing of children.

## Why a Just One Health impact assessment?

There is an indelible connection between the rights, health, and wellbeing of humans, animals, and our shared environments. These connections are clear in the crises we face: from violence, disease risk, and hunger and malnutrition, to the climate emergency and pollution. The evidence is clear that for humans to thrive, other animals and the rest of the natural world must also thrive. A Just One Health impact assessment can help ensure that proposed and existing projects center these connections.

This assessment is founded on a Just One Health framework, which builds on the internationally recognized and implemented One Health approach that acknowledges the interconnected health and wellbeing of humans, other animals, and ecosystems. A Just One Health approach enables a more effective and impactful realization of One Health's potential by also recognizing the connections between rights, health, and justice.

## What questions does a Just One Health Impact Assessment Tool answer?

The Just One Health Impact Assessment Tool answers questions such as

- What are the goals of the proposed policy or program?
- Is the proposed policy or program likely to have a positive or negative impact on the rights, health, and wellbeing of people, animals, and the environment?
- Does the proposal have a disproportionate impact on vulnerable individuals or populations?
- How could the proposal be modified to improve positive outcomes for people, animals, their environments, and ecosystems?
- How will the proposed policy or program be assessed over time?

## Who should conduct a Just One Health impact assessment?

A Just One Health impact assessment can be invaluable for policy makers, professionals, communities, corporations, organizations, and advocates to determine the impact of proposed or existing policies, projects, and industries on people, animals, and the planet.

The assessment tool is relevant for local, regional, national, and even international applications.

## What policies are best suited for a Just One Health impact assessment?

The Just One Health Impact Assessment Tool is useful where the rights, health, and wellbeing of people, animals, and the planet are likely to be directly or indirectly affected, and where the potential exists to influence a change in policies, legislation, budgets, services, and practice or planning decisions.

This impact assessment can be used to inform global, national, regional, and local policies, practices, and budgets. It also could be useful for incorporation into international treaties and intergovernmental organization reports and strategies.

The tool can be especially helpful in determining

- How can we adequately measure advancements in rights, health, and wellbeing?
- What are the best ways to determine if municipalities, states, nations, and regions are meeting the needs of their residents?