



WHO chemical risk assessment network

A GLOBAL COLLABORATIVE APPROACH TO
HUMAN HEALTH RISK ASSESSMENT



MARCH 2021

Network Goals

The World Health Organization (WHO) Chemical Risk Assessment Network is a voluntary collaborative initiative whose overall goal is to **improve chemical risk assessment globally through facilitating sustainable interaction between institutions on chemical risk assessment issues and activities.**

The Network has been established to enhance global efforts to assess risks to human health from exposure to chemicals.

The activities of the Network promote the objectives of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM).

Network Objectives

In the field of chemical risk assessment:

- Provide a forum for scientific and technical exchange
- Facilitate and contribute to capacity building
- Promote best practices and the harmonization of methodologies
- Assist in the identification of research needs and promote the application of new science in risk assessment practice
- Assist in the identification of emerging risks to human health from chemicals
- Share information about work programmes to avoid duplication of effort
- Upon request, assist WHO in the development of training and other materials in support of the above

Nature of Network

- Global, encompassing all WHO regions and economic strata
- Focus on risks to human health associated with exposure to chemicals through all pathways and routes of exposure, including in environmental media (air, water, soil) and food, through use of consumer products, in occupational settings, etc
- Project oriented; projects can be international, regional, multilateral or bilateral in scope
- Network products can be reports, guidance documentation, training sessions or materials, tools, databases, etc

Network Structure

- Network Participants are institutions undertaking work towards the Network objectives
- A Network Coordinating Group provides a mechanism for discussion of issues common to different projects and for reviewing and monitoring progress of activities
- A Network meeting will be held approximately once every two years to present and review the work of the Network, to share information and experiences from Participants, to evaluate progress on projects and to plan future actions

What it means to be a Network Participant

Network Participants engage in, and contribute to, Network activities. They identify a focal point for Network communications, share Network information within their organizations and help identify new Network Participants.

The terms of reference for the Network are available on the Network web site: <https://www.who.int/groups/chemical-risk-assessment-network>.

Invitation to Become a Network Participant

The Network invites contributions from the following entities interested in undertaking work towards the Network objectives:

- Government and public health Institutions
- Intergovernmental organizations
- Professional societies
- WHO Collaborating Centres
- Nongovernmental organizations in official relations with WHO
- Other non-profit entities with relevant expertise

Interested organizations are invited to complete the application form which can be found at: <https://www.who.int/groups/chemical-risk-assessment-network>



Current Activities

Examples of activities underway include:

- Regular webinars on topics relating to chemical risk assessment
- Framework for systematic review in chemical risk assessment
- Task group to coordinate activities relating to identification of emerging risks to human health from chemicals
- The IOMC Toolbox for Decision Making in Chemicals Management (iomctoolbox.org). An online toolbox to guide users to identify simple cost effective solutions to national chemicals management issues, using tools from international organizations
- Prioritization of chemicals for risk assessment. Compiling tools and approaches to assist countries to identify priority chemicals for assessment
- Community of Trainers for human health risk assessment, to share experience and lessons learned from providing training in chemical risk assessment and to inspire and support new trainers
- Guidance on the chemical risk assessment methodology developed by WHO and the interrelationships between methodologies
- The WHO Human Health Risk Assessment Toolkit: Chemical Hazards. Published guidance on how to conduct a human health risk assessment, with links to international resources

Resourcing

Contributions to the resources needed to support the Network are welcome. These may be in the form of in-kind contributions, such as information and technical expertise, or financial support. Please contact WHO for further information.



**World Health
Organization**

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