



International Federation of  
Biosafety Associations



## IFBA PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATION: MEASURING IMPACT GLOBALLY

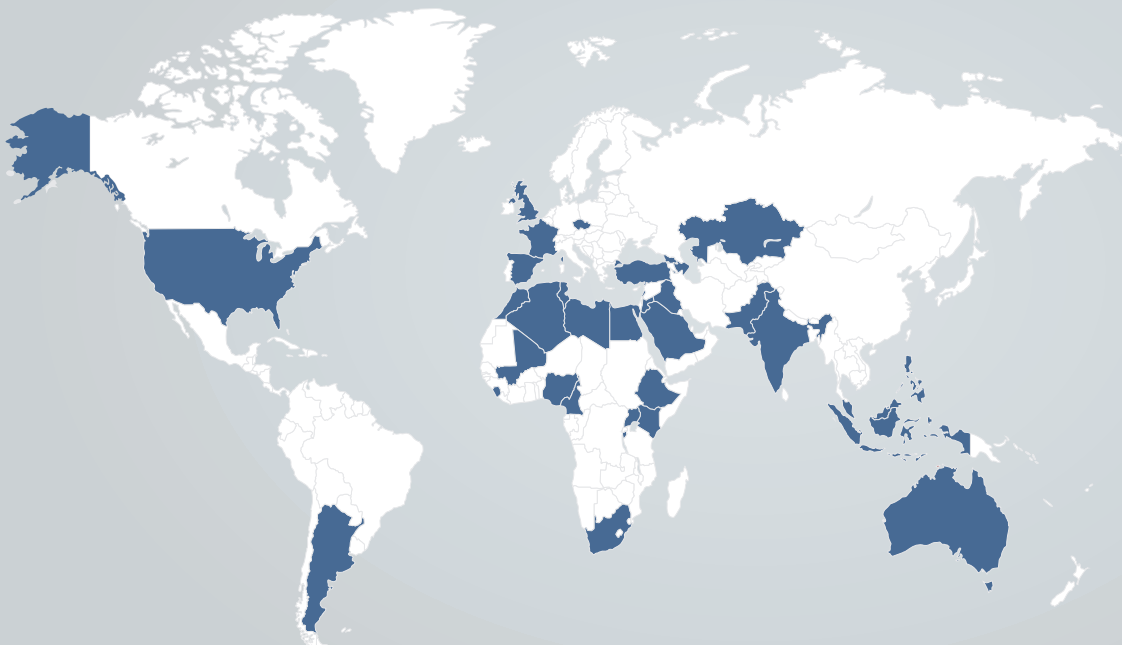
A not-for-profit non-governmental organization, the International Federation of Biosafety Associations (IFBA) manages global biological risks through a standardized measurement of competency and certification of professionals in biosafety and biosecurity.

In 2019, the IFBA collected feedback from certified professionals in the Southeast Asian region to measure

the program's impact and progress towards goals. Key results are presented at <https://bit.ly/3ihwtyY>

The IFBA has now expanded the survey to our network of certified professionals in other regions across the globe including Africa, Middle East, South & Central Asia, Oceania, Europe, and the Americas; key results from these regions are presented here.

### SURVEY RESPONDENTS BY COUNTRY



194

Total number  
of responses

104

male  
respondents

90

female  
respondents

Algeria  
Argentina  
Australia  
Azerbaijan  
Burundi  
Cameroon  
Czech Republic  
Egypt  
Ethiopia  
France  
Georgia  
India  
Indonesia  
Iraq  
Jordan  
Kazakhstan  
Kenya  
Lebanon

Libya  
Malaysia  
Mali  
Morocco  
Nigeria  
Pakistan  
Philippines  
Rwanda  
Saudi Arabia  
Sierra Leone  
Singapore  
South Africa  
Spain  
Tunisia  
Turkey  
Uganda  
United Kingdom  
United States





93.9%

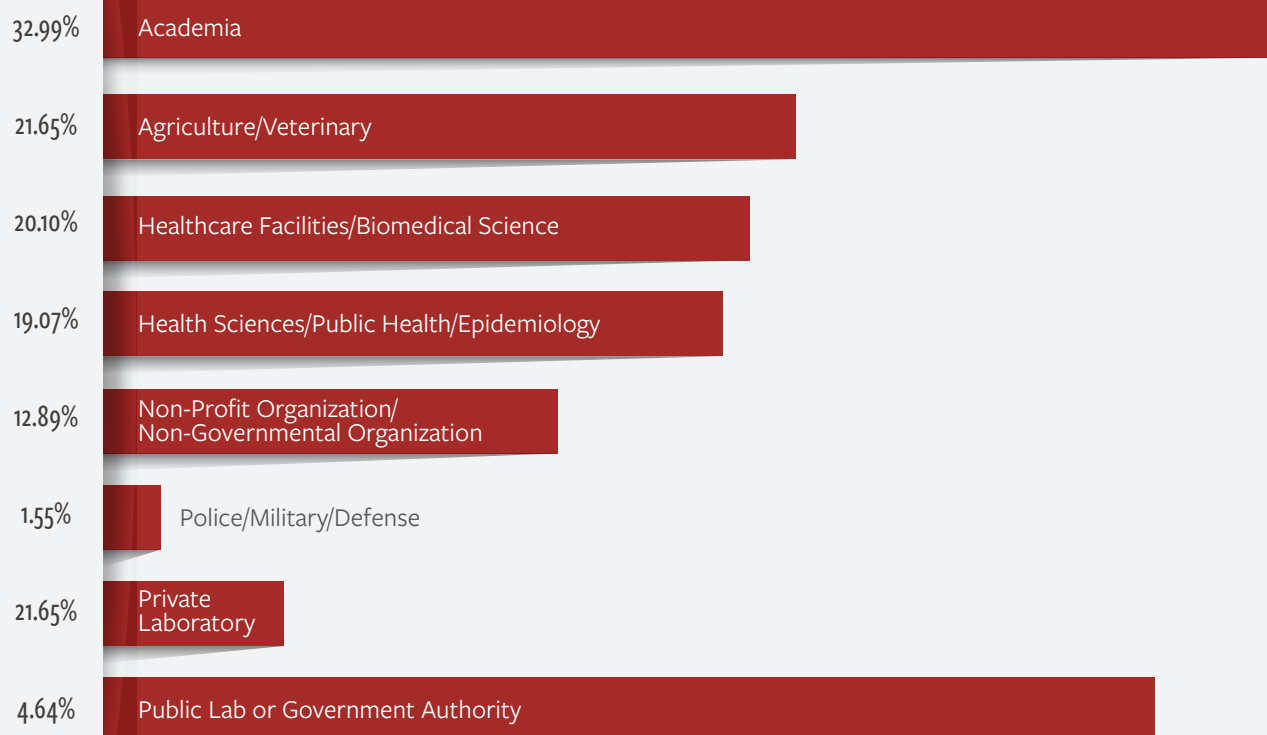
Believe the certification is relevant to their country and region



99.5%

Said they would recommend IFBA Certification to their colleagues

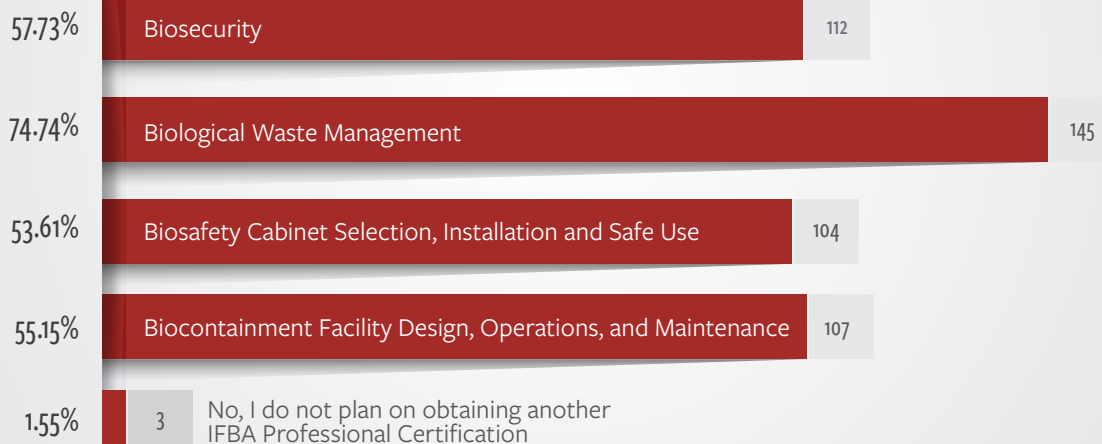
## TYPE OF ORGANIZATION



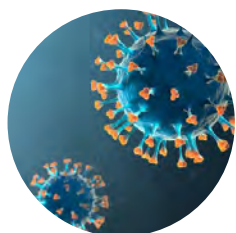
## DO YOU PLAN ON TAKING ANOTHER CERTIFICATION EXAM?

98.5%

of respondents said yes



# in box indicates number of respondents



## COMPETENCY, CREDIBILITY & CONFIDENCE IN RESPONSE TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Many respondents facing unprecedented challenges on the front lines of the COVID-19 pandemic said that IFBA Certification prepared them to respond to the crisis more effectively. The IFBA's exams test not only the knowledge of biosafety and biosecurity concepts but their practical application as well.

“ This certification helped me to systematically implement risk analysis in laboratories for the diagnosis of COVID-19.

ERIC | CAMEROON

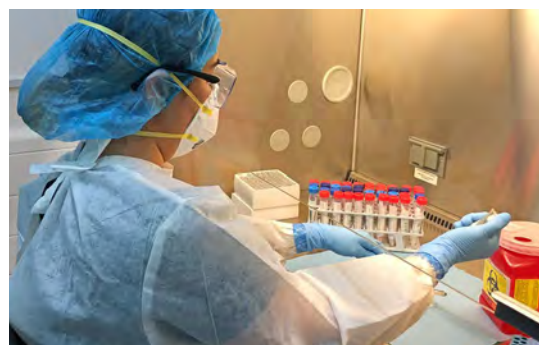
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“ In the current scenario of COVID-19, the knowledge gained made us well prepared and equipped to deal with the situation.

RUBEENA | PAKISTAN

”



“ In a situation of crisis, like the one we are living now with the Covid-19 pandemic, I can work better and have more confidence to make decisions as a certified professional.

HAMZA | ALGERIA

”

## THE POSITIVE IMPACT OF PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATION

We asked if individuals and organizations value certification as a sign of expertise and enhanced biosafety and biosecurity practices. The answer is yes, they do, in several different ways.



### More in-depth understanding and implementation of best practices

- identifying gaps and recognizing vulnerabilities
- conducting risk assessments and identifying appropriate mitigation measures
- awareness of the importance of biosecurity in addition to biosafety
- improving biosafety & biosecurity policies, procedures, equipment, and infrastructure



### Enhanced responsibility at the workplace

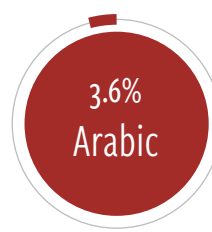
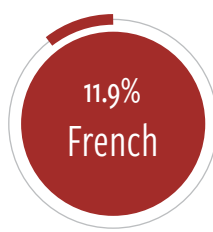
- appointed to the biosafety committee or as a biosafety officer
- providing advice and guidance to management
- delivering training programs and workshops
- collaboration and knowledge sharing with certified professionals in our country and region



### Greater confidence, credibility, and commitment to influence changes in behaviours and practices

- overall greater professional influence
- desire to uphold a high level of excellence
- sense of responsibility when working with infectious materials
- inspiring and mentoring colleagues for a safer working environment
- support and resources from senior management

## IN WHAT LANGUAGE DID YOU TAKE YOUR EXAM?



## LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

The future of IFBA professional certification is bright as long as the program continues to evolve to reflect the changing nature of global health security. When asked about room for improvement and other takeaways from our survey, several themes emerged:

- increased regular collaboration amongst IFBA's network of certified professionals through group chats, social media, videos, and other communication platforms
- continued delivery of paper-based exam sessions where internet services are unreliable
- desire for better advocacy at the government level to recognize the need and value of professional certification in biorisk management
- cost and time required to obtain certification is a challenge in low-resource countries