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.

IFBA PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATION: MEASURING IMPACT GLOBALLY

SURVEY RESPONDENTS BY COUNTRY
Said they would recommend IFBA Certification to their colleagues

99.5%
Believe the certification is relevant to their country and region

TYPE OF ORGANIZATION

32.99% Academia
21.65% Agriculture/Veterinary
20.10% Healthcare Facilities/Biomedical Science
19.07% Health Sciences/Public Health/Epidemiology
12.89% Non-Profit Organization/Non-Governmental Organization
1.55% Police/Military/Defense
21.65% Private Laboratory
4.64% Public Lab or Government Authority
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

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
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?

- **85.5%** English
- **11.9%** French
- **2.1%** Spanish
- **0.5%** Russian
- **3.6%** Arabic
- **0.5%** Turkish

### 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