



International Federation of  
Biosafety Associations

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## Multisectoral & Multidisciplinary Approach to Strengthening Health Security: *A Key Role for Civil Society Biosafety Associations*

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October 25, 2022

## A Multisectoral & Multidisciplinary Approach to Strengthening Health Security

It is widely recognized that a holistic, multisectoral and multidisciplinary approach is needed for addressing gaps and strengthening public health security. Challenges are complex and cannot be effectively addressed by one sector alone. Efforts must include all relevant stakeholders including public and private, **civil society**, international partners and donors. This approach has been endorsed by the G7 Health Ministers, World Health Organization, Global Health Security Agenda and many others.



*“ We, the G7 Health Ministers, met in Germany, on 19-20 May 2022, at an extraordinary time of multiple, acute crises. Participatory processes, including a whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach, **in strong cooperation with civil society**, are central to our work and to delivering improved health outcomes for all.”*

The World Health Organization’s Report of the *Global Consultative Meeting on National Action Plans for Health Security (NAPHS)*, held in Geneva, 5-6 July 2022, concluded the following:

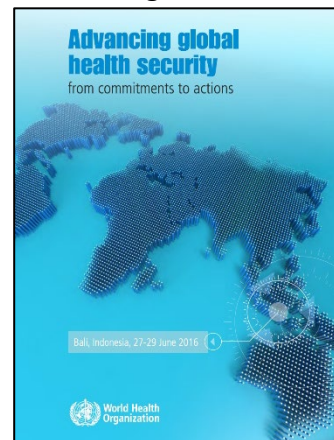


- Comprehensive multi-sectoral planning and resource mapping should engage all relevant stakeholders, **including civil society organizations**, multi-lateral organizations, and the private sector.
- Good practices for the development of the NAPHS include multisectoral participation and **with a high political commitment for a “whole-of-government” and “whole-of-society” approach.**
- An inclusive and efficient participation of NAPHS stakeholders in the planning process is recommended across sectors and society, **including ministries, technical partners, private sector, civil societies and academia.**

The *High-level Meeting on Advancing Global Health Security: From Commitments to Actions* brought together 250 participants and observers from 52 countries and 28 organizations with the goal of using current momentum and recent commitments to drive sustained actions for global health security.

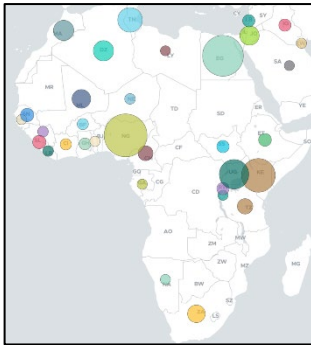
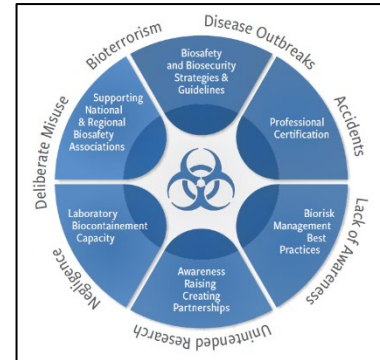
Recommendations from the meeting included:

- A multisectoral commitment is required and all health stakeholders—public and private, government **and civil society**—**have important roles to play.**
- **National and international civil society can play an important role in operationalizing action plans.**
- **NGOs and national and international civil society should be included in the full cycle** of planning, assessment, implementation, and monitoring and evaluation.



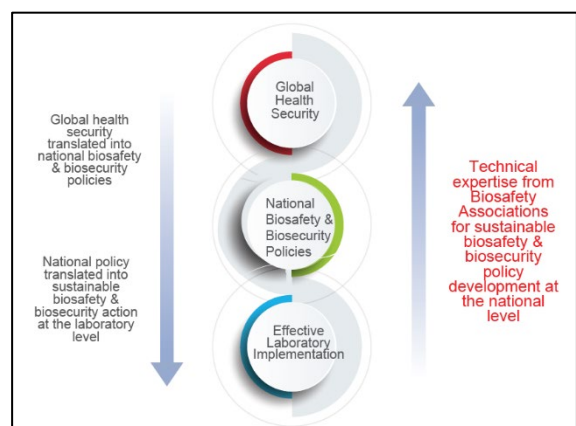
## Civil Society Role of Biosafety & Biosecurity Associations

The International Federation of Biosafety Associations (IFBA), a civil society organization, and its network of 47 national and regional Biosafety Associations are assisting national authorities to integrate biosafety and biosecurity into national policies, to improve sustainable laboratory infrastructure, and to increase biorisk management competencies among those working with infectious diseases. National Biosafety Associations are structured in accordance with each country's local regulatory requirements for registering as a civil society organization. Strong collaboration and coordination with government is a key component of their work and takes a "whole of government" (e.g., human, animal, environment, and security). Activities are anchored in key international instruments, treaties, standards and guidelines that control and inform the management of biologicals at all stages where biological agents may present a risk. Each Association's locally driven approaches are based on each country's needs, are practical, cost-effective and sustainable over the long term.

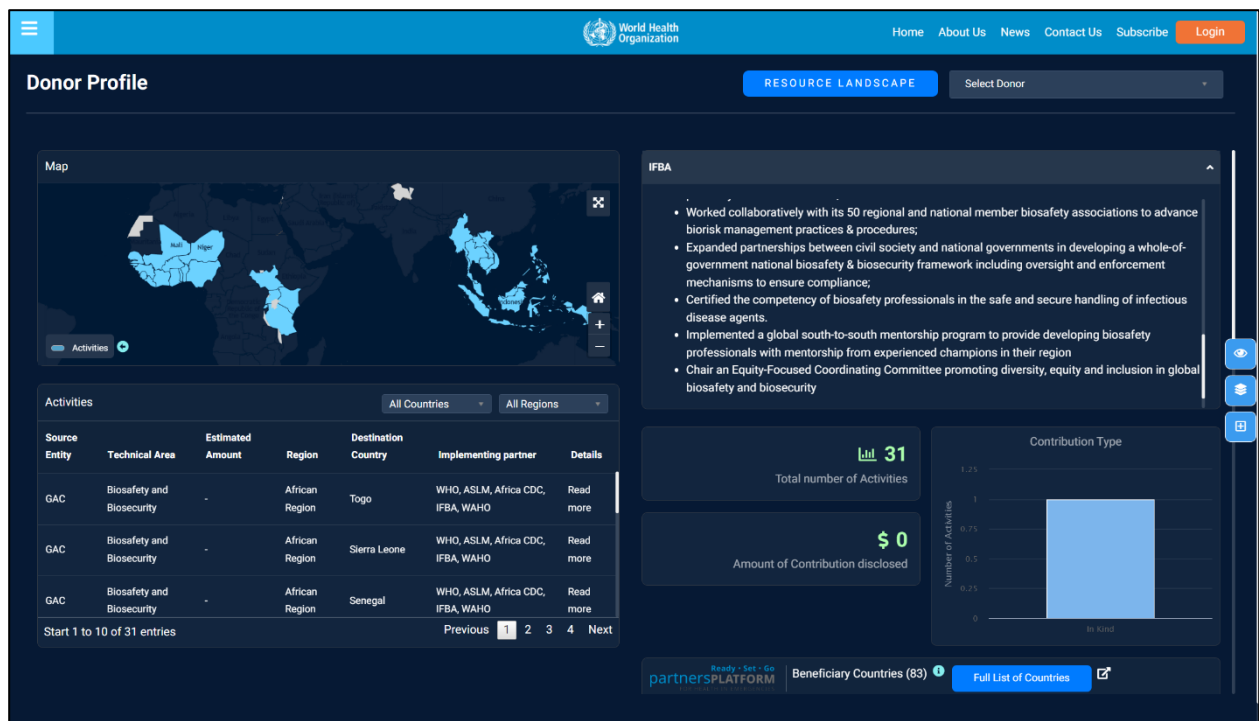


Tapping into the technical expertise of Biosafety Associations has demonstrated results with a strong correlation between the number of IFBA certified professionals in a country with a national Biosafety Association. For example, of the 404 certified individuals to date in Africa, 81% of them reside in countries with local Biosafety Associations. The passing rates for IFBA's exams in other countries are often much lower with individuals not having regular access to biosafety & biosecurity training and mentorship opportunities.

Turning national strategies and policies into sustainable practice is highly dependent on local context and an understanding what happens on, or close to, the front lines. Local Biosafety Associations are participating in the policymaking process to develop strategies that will be successfully implemented in laboratories on the front-lines, sustainable over the long term and avoid the "policy implementation" gap (i.e., policy remains on paper only and cannot be practically implemented). A common goal is to "think globally, act locally" by ensuring global health security initiatives are translated into national biosafety and biosecurity policies and result in sustainable local action on the front lines.



In conclusion, acknowledging the important role of civil society, the IFBA is an invited member of the WHO Global Strategic Preparedness Network (GSPN), a partnership to support countries in implementing their NAPHS. The IFBA and its network national and regional Biosafety Associations are recognized to offer technical expertise in the areas of biosafety, biosecurity and biorisk management to member countries and are listed on the WHO Strategic Partnership Portal.

**Donor Profile** | RESOURCE LANDSCAPE | Select Donor

**Map**

**Activities** | All Countries | All Regions

Source Entity	Technical Area	Estimated Amount	Region	Destination Country	Implementing partner	Details
GAC	Biosafety and Biosecurity	-	African Region	Togo	WHO, ASLM, Africa CDC, IFBA, WAHO	Read more
GAC	Biosafety and Biosecurity	-	African Region	Sierra Leone	WHO, ASLM, Africa CDC, IFBA, WAHO	Read more
GAC	Biosafety and Biosecurity	-	African Region	Senegal	WHO, ASLM, Africa CDC, IFBA, WAHO	Read more

Start 1 to 10 of 31 entries | Previous 1 2 3 4 Next

**IFBA**

- Worked collaboratively with its 50 regional and national member biosafety associations to advance biorisk management practices & procedures;
- Expanded partnerships between civil society and national governments in developing a whole-of-government national biosafety & biosecurity framework including oversight and enforcement mechanisms to ensure compliance;
- Certified the competency of biosafety professionals in the safe and secure handling of infectious disease agents.
- Implemented a global south-to-south mentorship program to provide developing biosafety professionals with mentorship from experienced champions in their region
- Chair an Equity-Focused Coordinating Committee promoting diversity, equity and inclusion in global biosafety and biosecurity

**Total number of Activities: 31**

**Amount of Contribution disclosed: \$ 0**

**Contribution Type**

Number of Activities: 31

partnersPLATFORM | Beneficiary Countries (83) | Full List of Countries