CBRN Centres of Excellence
A Global Initiative of the European Union

EU GLOBAL THREATS PROGRAMME

BIOCAP - ECA

Strengthening Biosafety and Biosecurity capabilities in East and Central Africa

Project 99 of the EU CBRN CoE

IN BRIEF

BUDGET

€ 4,5 million (European Commission's Foreign Policy Instruments)

DURATION

54 months (extended)
January 2023 - June 2027

IMPLEMENTING CONSORTIUM

Expertise France (main implementer) University of Liège, National Institute for Public Health and the Environment (RIVM), Sustainable Criminal Justice Solutions Europe (SCJS Europe), International Security and Emergency Management Institute (ISEMI)

CONTEXT

Partner countries in the **Eastern and Central African (ECA)** region have put in place measures to mitigate the risks brought about by biological agents. In some countries, legislation and/or regulations have been developed, biosafety committees or frameworks are in place and they are members of regional associations.

However, the **legal framework, infrastructure, and resources** may be insufficient to keep up with biological sciences' advancements. There is a greater focus on biosafety than biosecurity while coordination between animal, human, and environmental factors is lacking. **Regulations** in areas like high-containment facilities, agent detection, material transfer, dual use of research and waste management are inadequate and stakeholder inclusion is limited. Lack of collaboration between the animal and human health sectors under the **'One Health' approach**, remains a major challenge.

In response, the **EU Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear (CBRN) Risk Mitigation Centres of Excellence (CoE) Initiative** tendered Project 99 (BIOCAP-ECA) to support 11 countries to improve their capacities on the detection of and mitigation against risks related to CBRN materials/agents and risks related to installations or sites.

OBJECTIVE

BIOCAP-ECA seeks to contribute to **improved detection of and mitigation** against risks related to **biological materials or agents and risks** related to installations or sites through the EU CBRN CoE Initiative and associated actions.

The project aims at increasing **national and regional capacity** of partner countries in protecting humans, animals and environment from accidental or intentional release of pathogens based on a **One-Health approach** and enhanced **regional and international cooperation**.

PARTNER COUNTRIES

- Burundi
- Dem. Rep. Congo
- Ethiopia
- Ghana
- Kenya
- Malawi
- Rwanda
- Seychelles
- Tanzania
- Uganda
- Zambia



Funded by the European Union

EXPERTISE FRANCE GROUPE AFD · LIÈGE université · SCJS EUROPE SUSTAINABLE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SOLUTIONS · National Institute for Public Health and the Environment Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sport · ISEM INSTITUTE INTERNATIONAL SECURITY AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT INSTITUTE · unicri United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute

Extended to June 2027, BIOCAP-ECA is now consolidating results and deepening national ownership, through further legislative assistance, supporting the cascading delivery of training on risk assessment and biological waste management at national levels, continued support towards ISO 35001 certification, development of new regional online training resources, strengthening networks and a new focus on cyberbiosecurity for biological facilities.

WORK PACKAGES

Demand-driven, the project is structured around 6 complementary work packages promoting a **collaborative, flexible and country-tailored approach**. The project fosters collaboration with other organisations operating in the field of biosafety and biosecurity.

1 Establish Biosafety and Biosecurity roadmaps

An inventory of existing capabilities in human, animal health and environment will be conducted, in order to establish partner countries' status in biosafety and biosecurity.

2 Review legislative framework in biosafety and biosecurity

Countries' compliance with international requirements and regulations such as the Biological Weapons Convention, UNSCR 1540, global health regulations will be supported.

3 Undertake national biological Risk Assessment

Partner countries will work on identifying and assessing potential biological materials' adverse effects on human/animal health or the environment through the establishment of a risk assessment method.

4 Establish a Biorisk Management System

Countries will assess labs for ISO 35001 compliance, implement select principles, develop policies, and train personnel in biosafety, biosecurity, and risk mitigation to raise awareness and ensure compliance.

5 Develop a framework for Dual Use Research of Concern

Countries will learn to monitor dual-use biomaterials, equipment and transport safety/security. They will establish procedures on access to toxic biomaterials and border control, as well as address emerging cyberbiosecurity risks.

6 Laboratory Healthcare Waste Management

Systems for improved Biological Waste Management will be developed through updated methodologies, regulations and SOPs. Work will be done to raise awareness of personnel and the general public on waste management.

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EXPECTED RESULTS

- The legislative framework in the partner countries is strengthened in compliance with international requirements and regulations.
- Risk assessments methods for biosafety and biosecurity are elaborated and put into practice in partner countries.
- Biological risks in laboratories/facilities are reduced, at national and regional levels through establishing a Biorisk Management System.
- The proliferation risks are reduced through the creation of a framework for Dual Use Research of Concern.
- Public health risks are reduced through enhanced management of biological waste.


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Learn more about BIOCAP-ECA

Learn more about the CBRN CoE Initiative

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