



Developing Iraqi Cohorts of IFBA Certified Professionals in Biorisk Management and Biosecurity

Project Information

- ◆ Department: Public Health Programs
- ◆ Unit: Disease Control and Prevention

OBJECTIVES

This project aims to strengthen national and subnational public and private laboratories' biosafety and biosecurity practices in the region. The specific objective is to prevent illicit access and misuse of weaponizable biological material and sensitive analytic equipment in bioscience laboratories in Iraq by supporting qualified candidates from Iraq's academic, health, and agricultural sectors to sit for the International Federation of Biosafety Associations (IFBA) Professional Certification Exams in biorisk management (BRM) and biosecurity (BS).

REGIONS OF WORK

This project will be implemented in Federated Government of Iraq (GOI) and Kurdistan Region of Iraq (IKR).

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

GHD, in partnership with CTR and HSP, will engage different stakeholders from five ministries in GOI and IKR. The project will be implemented across four phases:

- 1) Selection of IFBA BRM participants representing Ministries of Health, Agriculture, and Higher Education and Scientific Research from GOI and IKR.
- 2) Conducting a one-day virtual project kickoff meeting for Iraqi participants to introduce the project and IFBA BRM and BS certifications, provide timeline, discuss the level of engagement and effort required of all participants, and set an action plan of next steps.
- 3) Conducting a virtual BRM preparatory course for the selected participants to provide them with necessary knowledge about BRM principles, in preparation for the review course and the exam followed by IFBA BRM Review Course to review the key concepts. Then, the participants will be submitted to take the IFBA BRM certification exam to become certified in IFBA BRM.

BENEFICIARIES

The main beneficiaries of this project are personnel from bioscience laboratories who work at different ministries, including the GOI Ministries of Agriculture and Health, and the IKR Ministries of Agriculture, Health, and Higher Education and Scientific Research

PROJECT PHASES

This project involves four phases:

Phase I – Select IFBA BRM Participants (50 primary and 10 alternate).

Phase II – Conduct virtual project kickoff meeting.

Phase III – Conduct virtual BRM preparatory course, review session, and in-person IFBA BRM Certification Exam.

Phase IV – Virtual BS preparatory course and in-

- 4) Conducting a virtual BS preparatory course for the same participants to equip them with the knowledge and skills necessary to be prepared to pass the IFBA BS certification exam. Followed up by in-person review course to review key concepts from the virtual material and sit for the IFBA BS certification exam to create a cohort of IFBA BS certified professionals in Iraq.

Project Start and End Date	December 01, 2023 – December 31, 2024
Partner Organizations	Health Security Partners (HSP), GOI Ministries of Health and Agriculture and IKR Ministries of Health, Agriculture, and Higher Education and Scientific Research
Funded by	U.S. Department of State (DOS), Bureau of International Security and Nonproliferation, Office of Cooperative Threat Reduction’s (ISN/CTR), including the Biosecurity Engagement Program Non-State (BEP-NS) and Iraq Program (Iraq)

Currently . . .

GHD and HSP will work together to prevent misuse of weaponizable biological material in Iraqi labs. GHD will support candidates from academic, health, and agricultural sectors to sit for the IFBA Professional Certification Exams in biorisk management (BRM) and Biosecurity (BS). Through training and certification, they aim to boost biosecurity across these sectors, empowering individuals to implement best practices in their institutions.

What’s next . . .

This project provides intensive technical training and supports attainment of IFBA professional certifications for a cohort of Iraqi champions across the GOI and IKR. By the end of this program, a cohort of Iraqi champions across the health, agriculture, and higher education sectors will be equipped with the knowledge and technical competencies to systematically implement biorisk management (BRM) and biosecurity (BS) best practices at their respective institutions.

GHD|EMPHNET Information: Global Health Development (GHD) Eastern Mediterranean Public Health Network (EMPHNET) works at achieving its mission by responding to public health needs with deliberate efforts that allow for health promotion and disease prevention.

- ◆ Abdallah Ben Abbas St, Building No. 42, Amman, Jordan
- ◆ Email: comm@emphnet.net

- ◆ Tel: +962-6-5519962
- ◆ Fax: +962-6-5519963
- ◆ www.emphnet.net