

**Fortifying institutional resilience against biological threats (FIRABioT)  
project meeting**  
Nairobi, Kenya 14 – 16 March 2023

**BIOSAFETY AND BIOSECURITY  
INITIATIVE  
2021-2025 STRATEGIC PLAN**

# Biosafety and Biosecurity Initiative

To strengthen the biosafety and biosecurity systems of African Union Member States to comply with international regulations including the International Health Regulations (IHR 2005), Biological Weapons Convention (BWC), and United Nations Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1540 and the GHSA action packages (APP3)

# Summary of the Situation Analysis

## Strengths

- Convening power of Africa CDC as the technical
- Awareness of the existence and work done by Africa CDC and Regional Collaboration Centers
- Partner support (financial, technical) for biosafety and biosecurity
- Existence of regional and global treaties, regulations on biosafety and biosecurity
- Internationally accepted targets for a whole-of-government, national biosafety and biosecurity system

## Opportunities

- Increased awareness for biosafety and biosecurity due to pandemics
- Expanding partner base specifically supporting BBI
- Existence of Regional BSBS TWG and RCC
- Multiple completed gap analyses MS BSBS capabilities (JEE reports, GHS Index, etc.)
- Legal mapping to support implementation of country-specific whole-of-government, national biosafety and biosecurity legal instruments

## Weaknesses

- Inadequate staffing and expertise dedicated to the rapidly expanding
- Slow approval and procurement processes at AU and AU MS
- Limited legal instruments
- Weak systems for enforcing implementation and sustainment of BSBS at national and facility level
- Weak health systems in AU MS
- Lack of coordination among donors and sectors

## Threats

- Limited funding to implement biosafety and biosecurity requirements
- Inadequate national and international financing of sustainable biosafety and biosecurity capacity
- Political and social unrest
- Emerging and re-emerging biological threats

# Africa CDC Biosafety and Biosecurity Initiative

## Regional Priorities Report

<https://africacdc.org/download/africa-cdc-biosafety-and-biosecurity-initiative-report-on-the-consultative-process-to-identify-priorities-for-strengthening-biosafety-and-biosecurity/>

African Union



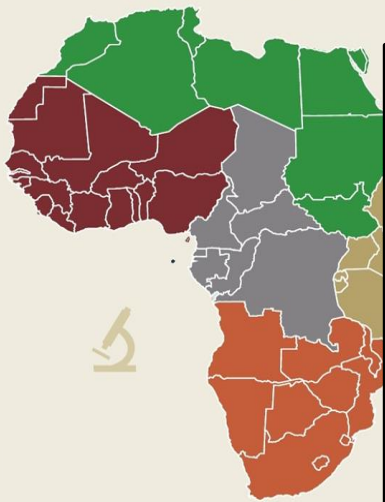
AFRICA CDC  
Centres for Disease Control and Prevention  
Strengthening African Health

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Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC)

Africa CDC Biosafety and Biosecurity Initiative  
Report on the Consultative Process to  
Identify Priorities for Strengthening  
Biosafety and Biosecurity

May 2021



African Union



AFRICA CDC  
Centres for Disease Control and Prevention  
Strengthening African Health

The Africa Centres for Disease  
Control and Prevention

Biosafety and  
Biosecurity Initiative



2021 - 2025 Strategic Plan

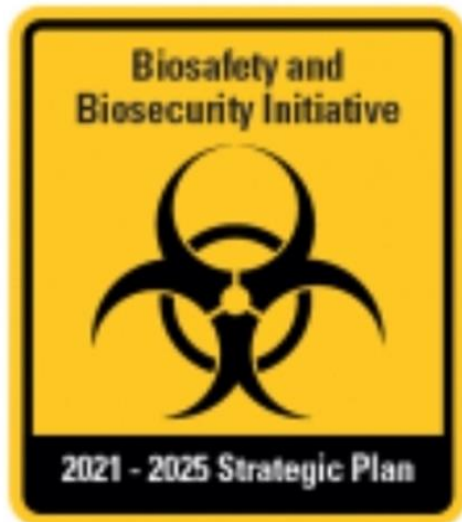
## Africa CDC Biosafety and Biosecurity 5-Year Strategic Plan

<https://africacdc.org/download/biosafety-and-biosecurity-initiative-2021-2025-strategic-plan/>

# Africa CDC Biosafety and Biosecurity Initiative



## The Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention



**GOAL: To strengthen the biosecurity and biosafety systems of African Union Member States to comply with international regulations including the International Health Regulations (IHR 2005), Biological Weapons Convention (BWC), and United Nations Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1540 and the GHSA action packages (APP3)**

### Priority Area 1

Develop a Biosafety and Biosecurity Legal Framework for the Africa Region

### Priority Areas 2

Establish Regional and Continental Biosafety and Biosecurity TWG to coordinate and monitor implementation

### Priority Area 3

Establish a Regional Training and Certification Program for Biosafety and Biosecurity Experts

### Priority Area 4

Establish a regulatory and certification framework for institutions handling high risk pathogens

### Priority Area 5

Strengthen NPHI and NRL capacities to prevent, detect and respond to Events of public health concern in each MS

**Priority Area 1:** Develop a Biosafety and Biosecurity  
Legal Framework for the Africa Region

# Objective 1: Develop a Biosafety and Biosecurity Legal Framework for the Africa Region

Output	Verifiable Outputs	Progress	Comment
A Biosafety and Biosecurity Legal Framework for the Africa Region	Draft Framework submitted to STC - Health & Legal Affairs	Submitted	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• STC- Health: Ministerial Meeting 14<sup>th</sup> June (Virtual) – <b>Draft Approved</b></li> <li>• Executive Council: July 2022 Summit – <b>Draft approved</b></li> <li>• STC Legal Affairs: December 2022 - <b>Received recommendations</b></li> </ul>
	22 Bilateral Advocacy and communication meetings with Member States	12/22 (55%)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Malawi, Uganda, S Africa, Egypt, Chad, DRC, Nigeria, Cabo-Verde, Mali, Cameroon, CAR , Niger</li> </ul>
	Development & implementation of BSBS Legal Framework roadmap	1/15 (7%)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conducted Legal Mapping and Developed Roadmap for domestication for Zambia</li> <li>• To conduct in 2 more countries and develop regional strategy for domestication</li> </ul>
	Conduct training on legal mapping, drafting & review of legal Instruments	0/15 (0%)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pending Review and approval process</li> </ul>

## **Priority 2**

Establish Regional and Continental Biosafety and Biosecurity TWG to coordinate and monitor implementation



## Continental Biosafety and Biosecurity Working Group

**Regional Biosafety and Biosecurity TWG Central**

Burundi  
Cameroon  
CAR  
Chad  
Congo  
DRC  
Guinea  
Gabon  
São Tomé

**Regional Biosafety and Biosecurity TWG East**

Comoros  
Djibouti  
Eritrea  
Ethiopia  
Kenya  
Madagascar  
Mauritius  
Seychelles  
Somalia  
Sudan  
Rwanda  
South Sudan  
Tanzania  
Uganda

**Regional Biosafety and Biosecurity TWG North**

Algeria  
Egypt  
Libya  
Mauritania  
Morocco  
Sahrawi  
Tunisia

**Regional Biosafety and Biosecurity TWG South**

Angola  
Botswana  
eSwatini  
Lesotho  
Malawi  
Mozambique  
Namibia  
South Africa  
Zambia  
Zimbabwe

**Regional Biosafety and Biosecurity TWG West**

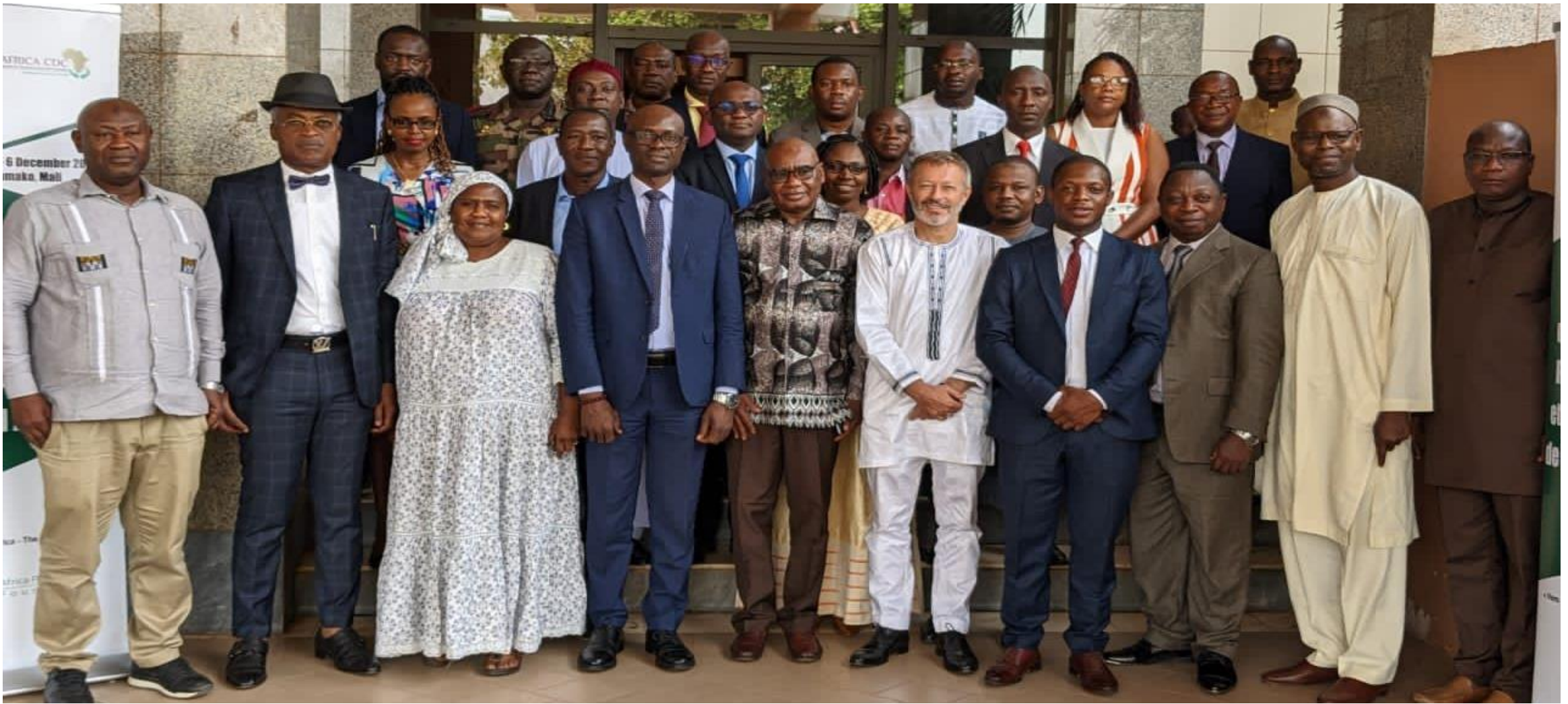
Benin  
Burkina Faso  
Cabo Verde  
Côte d'Ivoire  
Gambia  
Ghana  
Guinea  
Guinea-Bissau  
Liberia  
Mali  
Niger  
Nigeria  
Senegal  
Sierra Leone  
Togo

## Objective 2: Establish Regional and Continental Biosafety and Biosecurity TWG to coordinate and monitor implementation

Output	Verifiable Outputs	Progress	Comments
5 Regional Biosafety and Biosecurity TWGs	5 RBB-TWGS established and operationalized	5 TWGs operational (100%)	
	9 x Virtual Meetings/year	18/45 (40%)	
	3 x Physical meetings/year	5/15 (33%)	• West/Central and East and Southern Combined

TWGs have been instrumental in developed and approval of

- Training & Certification Program
- Legislative Framework
- Regulatory Framework for High Containment facilities
- Establishment of Centres of Excellence
- Approval of new projects



**Meeting of the TWG-RBB in December 2022**  
**Mali: West & Central Africa TWG**

## **Priority 3**

Establish a Regional Training and Certification Program for Biosafety and Biosecurity Experts

## Objective 3: Establish a Regional Training and Certification Program for Biosafety and Biosecurity Experts

Output	Verifiable Outputs	Progress	Comment
Regional Certification Program for Biosafety and Biosecurity Professionals	Develop Regional Training and certification program	Program Developed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Officially launched 12<sup>th</sup> April 2022</li> <li>• 15 Member ECC set.</li> </ul>
	3 RCoEBB established	1 Established for Southern Africa (33%)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• RDDC at NICD approved in July 2022</li> <li>• Officially handed over 9 Dec 2022</li> <li>• Evaluations of Potential CoE (Tanzania, Kenya, Uganda, Cameroon, Burundi, Nigeria, Senegal) ongoing</li> </ul>
	Conduct 4 trainings at RCoEBB/year	2/16 Trainings Conducted (13%)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Level 1 Training for Biorisk (16) and Biological Waste Management (19) conducted</li> </ul>



# Certificate of Recognition

This is to certify that

Regional Diagnostics and Demonstration Centre at the  
National Institute for Communicable Disease, South Africa

has been certified as a

**Regional Centre of Excellence for Biosafety and Biosecurity (RCoEBB)**  
for the Regional Training and Certification Program for Biosafety and  
Biosecurity Program on the 15th of July 2022



**Dr Ahmed E. Ogwel Ouma**  
Acting Director  
Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention

Certificate Number: RCoEBB 01/2022

Valid until: 14th July 2027



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## Dr Joe Phaahla opens Africa's first Regional Diagnostic Demonstration Centre

The centre, which has its headquarters in Johannesburg, Gauteng, will boost laboratory capabilities all over Africa, advancing the objective of a safe and secure Africa.



# RCoEBB Applications & Assessments



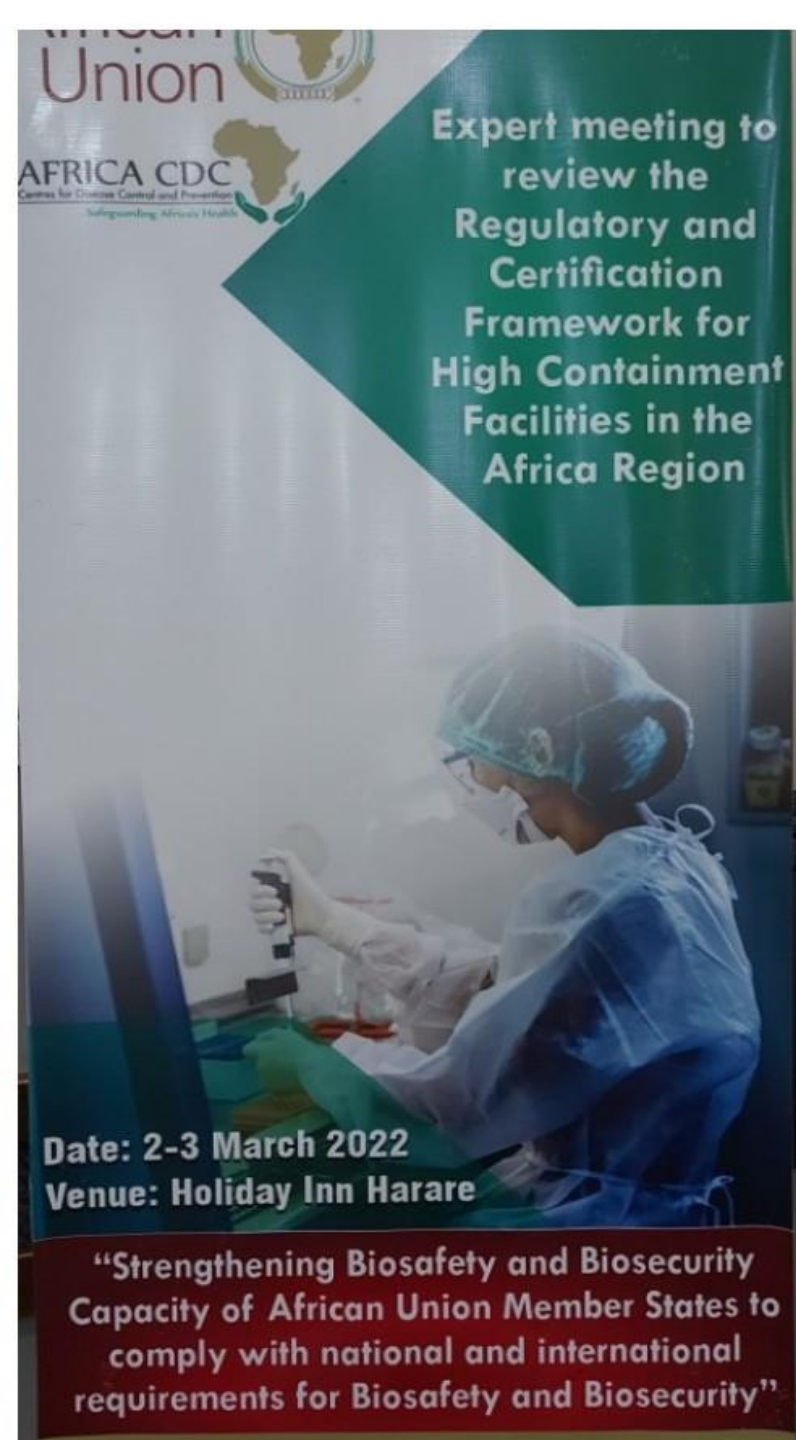
Output	Verifiable Outputs	Progress
5 Regional Biosafety and Biosecurity TWGs	Southern Africa	<a href="#">South Africa</a> operationalized (100%)
	East Africa	Kenya, <a href="#">Tanzania</a> , Uganda (100%)
	Central Africa	Burundi, Cameroon (100%)
	West Africa	Nigeria, Senegal (100%)
	North Africa	Morocco, ... (0%)



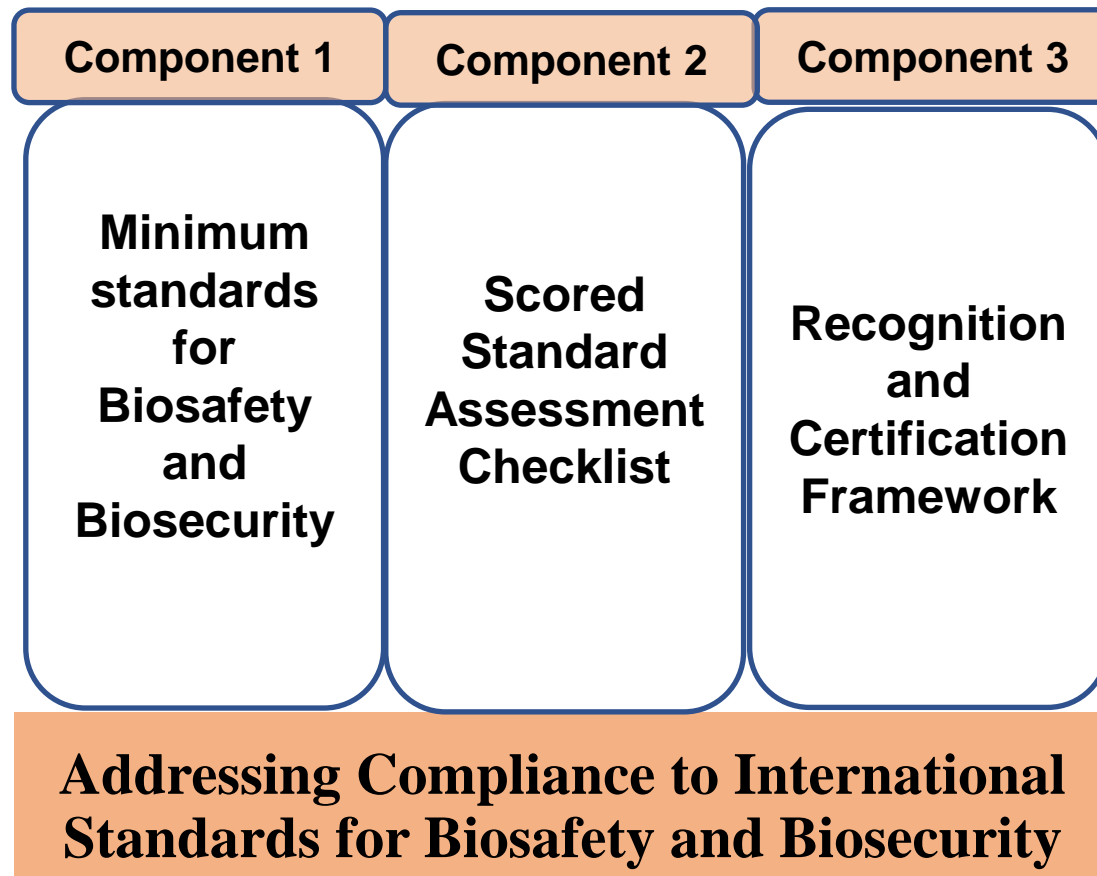


## **Priority 4**

Establish a regulatory and certification framework for institutions handling high risk pathogens



# Regulatory and Certification Framework for High Containment Facilities in the Africa Region



## Objective 4: Establish a Regulatory and Certification Framework for institutions handling high risk pathogens

Output	Verifiable Outputs	Progress	Comments
A Regulatory and Certification framework for institutions handling high consequence agents and toxins	Develop Regulatory and Certification Framework	Framework Developed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Officially launch 8<sup>th</sup> August 2022</li> </ul>
	3 Regional trainings on minimum standards	1/3 (33%)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1<sup>st</sup> Training conducted Sept 2022 (24 from 11 countries)</li> </ul>
	3 Regional trainings for assessors	1/3 (33%)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1<sup>st</sup> Training conducted August 2022 (16 from 8 countries)</li> <li>Francophone planned for March 2023</li> </ul>
	15 x Facility assessments for compliance to standards	0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Applications opened Dec 2022</li> </ul>

## **Priority 5**

Strengthen NPHI and NRL capacities to prevent, detect and respond to Events of public health concern in each MS

## Objective 5: Strengthen NPHI and NRL capacities to prevent, detect and respond to Events of public health concern in each MS

Output	Variable Outputs	Progress	Comment
Trained and capacitated staff from National Public Health Institutes in areas of prevention, detection and responding to events of public health concern and threats of high risk pathogens	1 x Rapid assessment on NPHI and NRL BSBS gaps	Conducted	Incorporated into the Regional Priorities report
	10 x Regional trainings on BSBS	10 ToTs conducted (100%)	ToTs conducted for Kenya, Eswatini, Zimbabwe, Zambia, S/Sudan, Liberia, Uganda, Niger, Congo, DRC, Cameroon
Capacity building for NPHIs and NRLS in biosafety and Biosecurity	Infrastructure upgrades Biocontainment facilities	0	No funding yet secured for procurements
	Installation & maintenance of BSCs	0	

# Forged Strategic Partnerships

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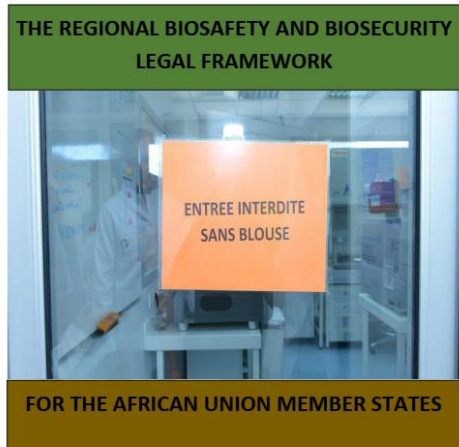
- **Co-chair 2 working groups of the G-7 Led Global Partnership Signature Initiative** to mitigate biological threats in Africa
- **Co-Chair with Uganda the Global Health Security Agenda (GHSA) Action Package on Prevention (APP3)** for the 2021/2022 year
- **Member of the GHSA Steering Committee**
- **Working with United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA)** in implementing the Biological Weapons Convention
  - Hosted side event at the BWC 9<sup>th</sup> Review meeting 6<sup>th</sup> December 2022

# How states can request or engage Africa CDC to receive support in implementing the BBI?

- Gold Standard: Set up a National TWG and express interest
- Legislative framework
  - Legal Mapping and Roadmap development
  - Training on Legal Mapping and law drafting
- Capacity Building
- TWG Meetings

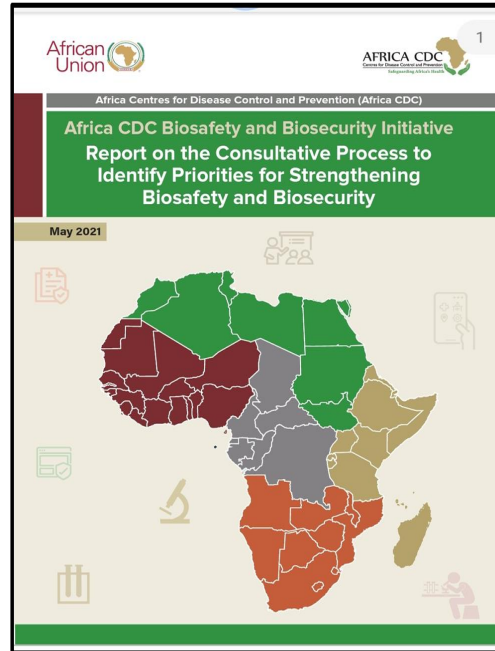
# Africa CDC Biosafety and Biosecurity Initiative

Biosafety and Biosecurity Legal Framework June 2022



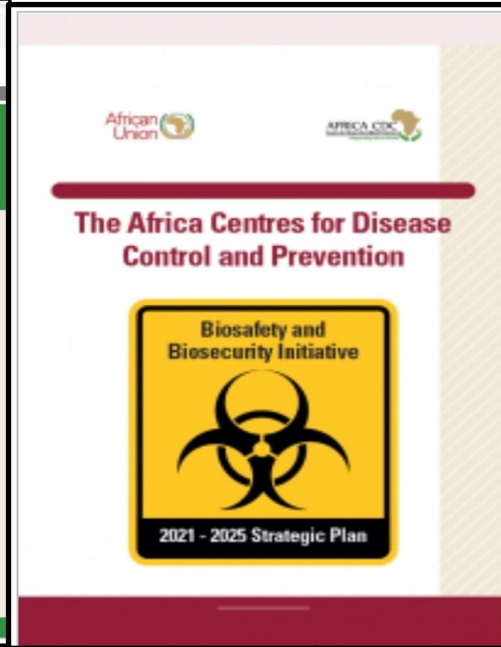
2022

THE REGIONAL BIOSAFETY AND BIOSECURITY LEGAL FRAMEWORK FOR THE AFRICAN UNION MEMBER STATES



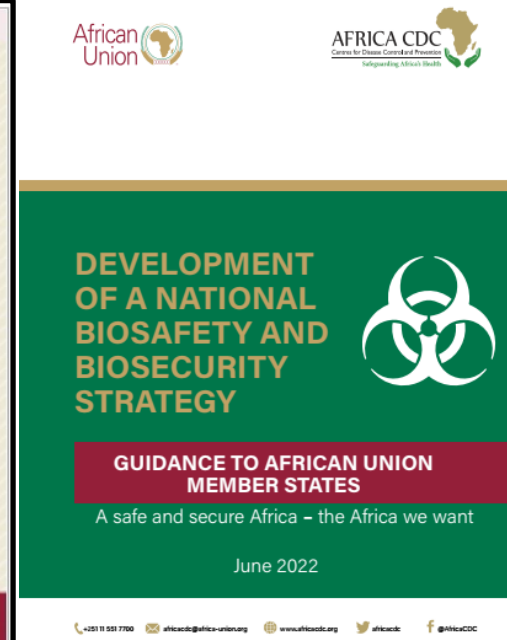
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## Africa CDC Biosafety and Biosecurity 5-Year Strategic Plan

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DEVELOPMENT OF A NATIONAL BIOSAFETY AND BIOSECURITY STRATEGY-GUIDANCE TO MEMBER STATES

<https://africacdc.org/download/development-of-a-national-biosafety-and-biosecurity-strategy/>



REGULATORY AND CERTIFICATION FRAMEWORK FOR INSTITUTIONS HANDLING HIGH RISK PATHOGENS



THANK YOU!  
MERCI  
ASANTE

