

# Advancing Biosafety and Biosecurity in Animal Health in Africa

Ian Peter Busuulwa  
Project Officer – Biological Threat Reduction  
WOAH (Nairobi)

IFBA Global Voices Conference: Celebrating Diversity in Biosafety & Biosecurity  
24 January 2025  
Arusha, Tanzania



World  
Organisation  
for Animal  
Health

Organisation  
mondiale  
de la santé  
animale

Organización  
Mundial  
de Sanidad  
Animal



## Mission and Mandate of WOAH



- Founded in 1924, as the OIE
- Our mission is to improve animal health globally, thereby ensuring a better future for all

### World Organisation for Animal Health

**1**  
Headquarters

**13**  
Regional & Sub-regional  
Representations

**183**  
Members

**350**  
Reference Centres

**75**  
Partner organisations



# Biological Threat Reduction Strategy

## Biological Threat Reduction Strategy

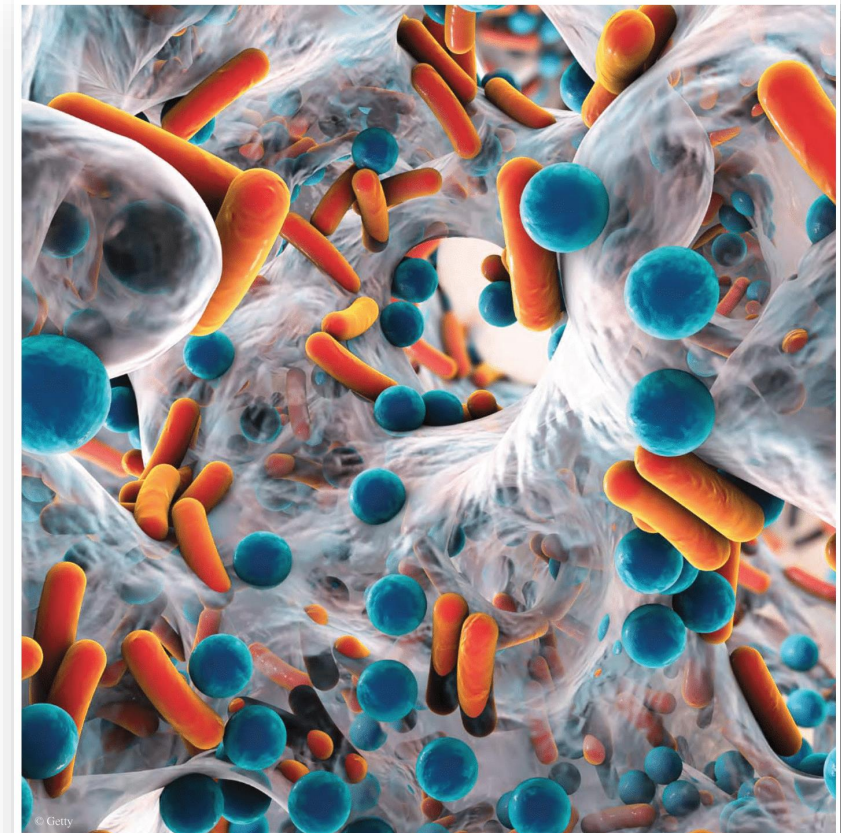
Maintaining scientific expertise and setting standards, and guidelines

Good governance, capacity-building and implementation of the One Health concept

Global disease intelligence and updates on the latest methods for disease prevention and control

International cooperation and solidarity between countries

Advocacy and communication



## Biological threat reduction strategy

Strengthening global biological security

## International Standards

Biological  
Threat  
Reduction  
Strategy

International  
Standards



**Biosafety and biosecurity: Standard for managing biological risk in the veterinary laboratory and animal facilities (version adopted in May 2015)**

# Guidelines

Biological  
Threat  
Reduction  
Strategy

International  
Standards

Guidelines



## Guidelines for investigation of suspicious biological events

For National Veterinary Services



World Organisation  
for Animal Health  
Founded in 1967

Biological threat reduction



## Guidelines for Simulation Exercises

A consistent set of good practices for preparing, delivering, and learning from animal health and welfare and veterinary public health simulation exercises for Veterinary Services



World Organisation  
for Animal Health  
Founded in 1967

Emergency Management



## Guidelines for responsible conduct in veterinary research

Identifying, assessing and managing dual use



World Organisation  
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Founded in 1967

Biological threat reduction



World Organisation  
for Animal Health  
Founded in 1967



FAO

Emergency Management



# Performance of Veterinary Services



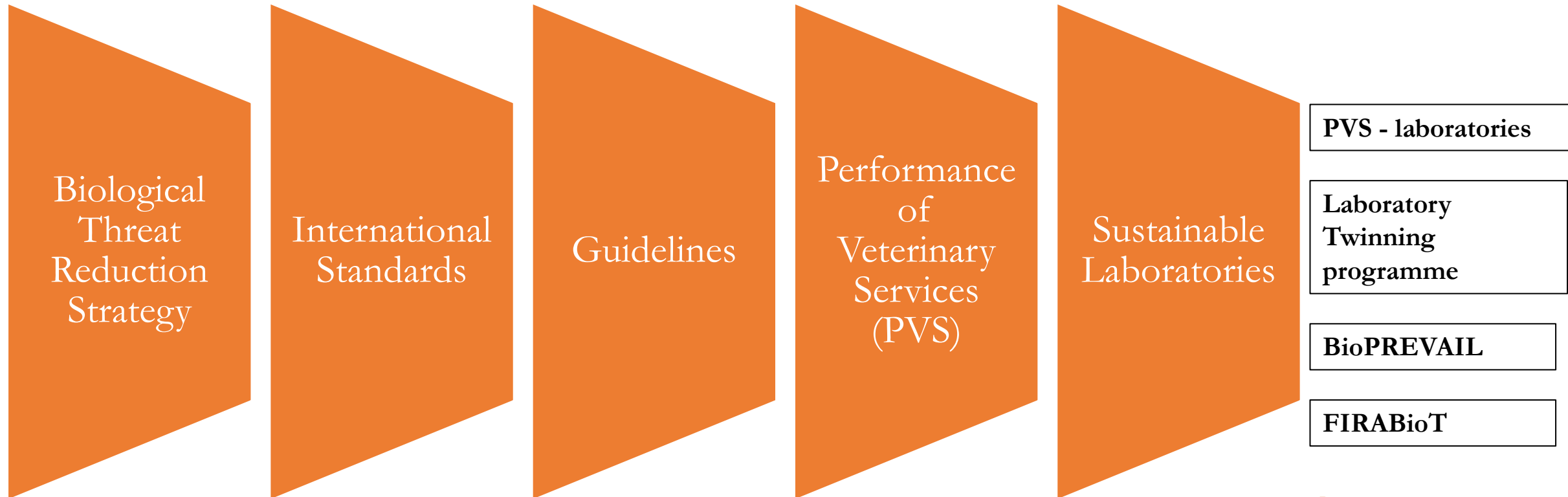
Capacity building and strengthening VS

Veterinary legislation support programme - Biothreat





# Sustainable Laboratories





# Global Rinderpest Action Plan

Biological  
Threat  
Reduction  
Strategy

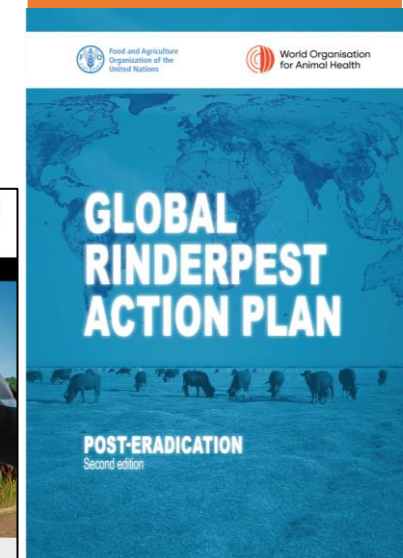
International  
Standards

Guidelines

Performance  
of  
Veterinary  
Services  
(PVS)

Sustainable  
Laboratories

Rinderpest





## Fortifying Institutional Resilience against Biological Threats (FIRABioT) :: [2023 – 2026]

Funded by the Weapons Threat Reduction Program of Global Affairs Canada in support of the Global Partnership **Signature Initiative to Mitigate Biological threats in Africa**

Beneficiary countries in Africa include; **Algeria, Congo (Republic), Kenya, Madagascar, Malawi, Morocco, Namibia, Tanzania, and Zimbabwe.**



### Objectives

- Improve WOAHA's ability to anticipate, respond and recover from emergencies and ensure business continuity
- Strengthen WOAHA Members' abilities and capacities to respond to emergencies, particularly in Africa
- Demonstrate value of WOAHA as a partner for security organisations

**Focus areas;** epidemic intelligence, emergency management, veterinary legislation and sustainable laboratories





## Fortifying Institutional Resilience against Biological Threats (FIRABioT)

### Completed Activities

- National biosafety and biosecurity trainings (Madagascar, Malawi, Morocco, Tanzania and Zimbabwe)
- Diagnostics training (Kenya)
- Regional trainings on biological waste management, bioinformatics and data management, risk and crisis communication for animal health emergencies





## Fortifying Institutional Resilience against Biological Threats (FIRABioT)

### Ongoing Activities

- Development of contingency plans for zoonotic diseases (Madagascar, Malawi, Namibia and Zimbabwe)
- Laboratory twinning (Tanzania/South Africa and Algeria/Italy)
- Drafting biosafety protocols (Malawi and Kenya)
- Drafting risk communication strategy (Tanzania)



### Upcoming Activities

- Regional training on conducting disease simulation exercises
- Forensic training for vets (Kenya and Zimbabwe)
- Diagnostics Training (Congo)
- Regional awareness workshop on agrocrime/agroterrorism
- **Global Conference on Biological Threat Reduction (Oct 2025)**







# FIRABioT Activities

## Gaps identified/Lessons learnt

- Limited number of animal health experts on the topics in Africa
- Lack of integration of animal health in broader emergency frameworks at national and regional level
- Long term sustainability ( i.e. donor dependent)
- Duplication of activities with other organisations and over proliferation of tools
- Many labs lack a proper biorisk management system and only have a quality management system
- Technical understanding of WOAHA standards lost in translation
- Country-specific approach to capacity building appreciated

## Proposed next steps by countries

- Cascading training to sub-national levels
- Conducting laboratory biorisk assessments
- Drafting biosafety/biosecurity manuals and protocols
- Improving biorisk mitigation measures at national level
- Application for WOAHA laboratory twinning
- Implementation of biological waste management programs at national level



## FIRABioT Activities' Impact

*..... my institution nominated me to be part of the Zimbabwe Biosafety and Biosecurity Technical workgroup (ZBB-TWG)...I've implemented improved risk assessment protocols, focusing on identifying biosafety hazards during diagnostic and research activities... I have strengthened waste management and decontamination processes... - **Dr. Mark Jubenkanda, Zimbabwe***

*.... Not only did I train 19 peripheral veterinary laboratory technicians on these enhanced safety procedures, but I also ensure that staff are motivated to consistently apply these measures.... – **Dr. Toky Ramilijohn, Madagascar***

*.... I have taken the initiative to lead a series of training sessions for my team, focusing on best practices in biosafety and biosecurity.... Additionally, I have developed a checklist based on the guidelines provided in the workshop for evaluating our current biosecurity measures..... – **Ms. Mariam Makange, Tanzania***

*....Step down trainings and follow-up needs assessment especially on the development of the institutional risk assessment registers and consistent updating and evaluation of the risks identified. This need led to the institution's Safety Policy and Procedures Manual document to be reviewed and updated .... – **Ms. Patience Mushanawani, Zimbabwe***

*Attended the Biological Waste Management (training)... I am now a Certified African Regional Professional Expert level 1 on Biological Waste Management with the ASLM Academy. Currently, developed and working on an Improvement project titled, 'Biological Waste Management Reform (Improvement): Zimbabwe Government Veterinary Laboratories - Strategies for Achieving 100% Waste Management Compliance' with the ASLM Academy.... – **Ms. Patience Mushanawani, Zimbabwe***

*...Leveraging the skills gained, I contributed to the application process for pandemic funds ... Additionally, a priority in my office is to develop a comprehensive risk communication strategy, integrating the One Health approach ... - **Dr. Magrecia Hausiku, Namibia***



# Global Conference on Biological Threat Reduction

Location: CICG Conference Center, Geneva, Switzerland, (hosted by WOAHA)

Date: 28 - 30 October 2025



## Objectives

- Reflect on Historical Experiences and Current Challenges and anticipate future threats:
- Strengthen International Efforts in Biological Threat Reduction:
- Foster multi-sectoral partnerships in global health security:
- Identify innovative strategies:

**Funded by;** Global Affairs Canada, UK MoD, EU Commission, Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs



## Summary

- As the global animal health authority, WOAHA's mandate covers all-hazards relevant to animal health – including biological threats
- Remain agile to respond and deliver activities for Members upon request
- Active engagement with Membership and partners
- Foster collaboration



# Thank you

Ian Peter Busuulwa

[i.busuulwa@woah.org](mailto:i.busuulwa@woah.org)

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12, rue de Prony, 75017 Paris, France

T. +33 (0)1 44 15 19 49

F. +33 (0)1 42 67 09 87

[woah@woah.org](mailto:woah@woah.org)

[www.woah.org](http://www.woah.org)

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