



# GLOBAL BIOSECURITY ENHANCEMENT PROGRAMME

Preventing, preparing for and responding to biological threats and incidents

## THE SITUATION

The spread of an infectious or toxic biological agent can happen without warning. It can threaten humans, animals, agriculture, and subsequently lead to severe consequences, causing widespread illness and death, and instilling fear on a transnational scale.

Coordination across multiple sectors, including law enforcement, can help address incidents involving the release of biological toxins, viruses or bacteria, whether of a natural, accidental or deliberate origin. This whole-of-government approach aims to ensure cooperation among relevant national stakeholders in the areas of prevention, preparedness and response to biological incidents.



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## AIMS OF THE PROGRAMME

In 2023, INTERPOL's Bioterrorism Prevention Unit (BTPU) launched a 5-year Global Biosecurity Enhancement Programme, to enhance law enforcement and partner agencies' capabilities to effectively prevent, prepare for and respond to biological threats and incidents.

We do this by:

- Raising awareness on the global biological threat landscape;
- Enhancing cooperation between law enforcement agencies and other sectors such as health, customs and academia;
- Strengthening government agencies' capacity to prevent, prepare for, and respond to biological threats and incidents;
- Increasing the sharing of information related to biological threats and incidents;
- Providing investigative support.

## PROGRAMME ACTIVITIES

### Global support

The first stream will support all INTERPOL member countries through specific activities including:

- A Global Biosecurity Conference
- Information-sharing Working Group meetings
- Emergency and investigative support

### Country-specific activities:

Once selected countries have agreed to join from the programme, INTERPOL will conduct a needs and capability assessment in order to identify areas for improvement in the areas of prevention, preparedness and response to biological threats and incidents.

Based on the outcomes of this phase, a tailored Country-specific Action Plan will be developed and up to four activities will be proposed to address priority areas for improvement. An appraisal phase will measure the overall impact of the programme in beneficiary countries.

Our Programme's activities cover three core areas:

**Police Data Management and Analysis:** We provide a global perspective on the biological threat landscape. We do this by leveraging INTERPOL's core tools to collect, manage and analyze data on biological incidents. Our diverse intelligence products, INTERPOL Notices and Diffusions also help national police authorities share critical crime-related information. The creation of BioTracker, a dedicated INTERPOL solution also facilitates intelligence gathering and sharing to better inform investigations and operations.

**Expertise:** Our specialized expertise helps build member countries' capacity and facilitate cross-border information sharing, investigative and operational support at national and regional levels. This collaboration supports law enforcement objectives and allows for the exchange of international best practices.

**Global Network:** We provide the law enforcement community with access to an extensive network throughout our work at the national, regional and international levels. We also promote interagency cooperation through outreach activities with agencies involved in biological incident management.

**Timeframe:** 2023 - 2027



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