The IFBA is a vital GHSA partner, facilitating partnerships between our worldwide network of biosafety associations and national governments in the implementation of Action Prevent – 3: Biosafety & Biosecurity goals and objectives.

**Progress to Date**
To assist countries in achieving GHSA APP-3 targets, the IFBA has:
- Joined the JEE Alliance, a platform for facilitating multi-sectoral collaboration on health security capacity building and International Health Regulations implementation;
- Partnered with the Global Health Security Agenda Consortium, a global network of non-governmental stakeholders committed to helping make the world safe and secure from threats posed by infectious diseases;
- Worked collaboratively with its 39 regional and national member biosafety associations to advance biorisk management practices & procedures;
- Expanded partnerships between civil society and national governments in developing a whole-of-government national biosafety & biosecurity framework including oversight and enforcement mechanisms to ensure compliance;
- Certified the competency of biosafety professionals in the safe and secure handling of infectious disease agents.

To date, 379 professional certifications have been awarded by the IFBA to individuals from 44 countries. Another 247 professional certifications are in progress.
The following are examples of the IFBA’s support for GHSA implementation, including early outcomes of what these activities helped countries to achieve.

**Mali - Towards a National Biosafety & Biosecurity Framework:** Disease outbreaks continue to occur in Mali and the ongoing security crisis highlight the importance of a comprehensive national biosafety and biosecurity framework. To address this need, and with funding support from Global Affairs Canada, the Mali Association for Biosafety & Biosecurity (MABB), in partnership with the IFBA, the Public Health Agency of Canada and Pen Management & Development Consultants have created a National Biosafety & Biosecurity Working Group to provide guidance on the development of policy options and solutions for strengthening Mali’s national biosafety & biosecurity system. Members of the working group include representation from both government and non-governmental organizations with Secretariat support provided by the MABB. Early outcomes of the project activities to date include:

- Increased communication, collaboration and coordination among Ministries and other stakeholders who are participating as members of the new National Working Group
- Completed gap analysis leading to enhanced understanding of existing regulatory framework for managing biological risks in Mali
- Participation in PHAC’s analytical approach workshop leading to greater knowledge and capacity to develop mechanisms and instruments for managing biological risks

By working together, Mali has enhanced their whole-of-government approach for managing biological risks. Once completed, the new national biosafety and biosecurity strategy will lead to more effective and comprehensive oversight of biological risks in the country.
ASEAN Region - Certifying Competency of Biorisk Management Professionals: Ensuring that individuals who handle biological materials have demonstrated competencies in biorisk management is an essential component of reducing biosafety and biosecurity risks. Prior to the launch of the IFBA’s professional certification program, there was no mechanism to certify that individuals have not only been trained, but also understand and can implement the biorisk management concepts and knowledge they have received. Under Global Affairs Canada’s contribution to ASEAN Member Countries, the IFBA and Malaysian Biosafety & Biosecurity Association invited applications for a grant to cover costs associated with participation in a training workshop and examination session geared towards obtaining an IFBA Professional Certification. By the end of 2017, 92 individuals at priority ASEAN institutions handling dangerous infectious materials will be certified for competency in Biorisk Management and another 41 individuals will also earn their certification in Biosecurity. Additional early outcomes of the project activities to date include:

- Institutions within 8 ASEAN countries (Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam) have been provided with additional knowledge, resources and tools to better implement biorisk management programs and training and their local institutions
- The ASEAN region has formed a new professional biorisk management network of certified individuals who are actively sharing best practices, resources and tools
Middle-East & North Africa – Building a Biorisk Management Network: Globally, there has been a growing trend towards increased regional multilateralism and multi-stakeholder cooperation in implementation of the GHSA’s APP-3 goals. Widespread and lasting results to reduce biological threats can only be realized by harnessing the power of multiple stakeholders including civil society, government, academia, research institutions, and the private sector across the public health, animal health and security sectors. Under the leadership of the Tunisian Association for Biosafety and Environmental Education, the IFBA, its member associations in the region, and other key stakeholders met in Tunis, Tunisia to advance the development of a new MENA Regional Biorisk Management Network. Once established, the network will effectively move biosafety and biosecurity initiatives forward and serve as a “louder voice” for these important issues. An empowered, strong, and capable network of interconnected individuals, organizations and biosafety associations represents a critical asset in the MENA region for preventing, preparing for, and responding to biological incidents. Additionally, the network will also support and mentor new and emerging biosafety associations in the region.