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## FACT SHEET

# *Bioterrorism Prevention Unit*

The threat from bioterrorism – the malicious use of bacteria, viruses or toxins to threaten or cause harm to humans, animals or agriculture – is growing, with many terrorist groups demonstrating an interest in obtaining and using biological material as weapons.

At INTERPOL, we are engaged in a number of innovative projects and operations designed to reduce the threat of a terrorist act where biological material is used as a weapon. We facilitate targeted training for law enforcement agencies on how to prevent, prepare and respond to a bioterrorist attack, including capacity building workshops and table-top exercises. We also compile and distribute intelligence assessments and conduct assessments of country or regional needs.

### ► **BIOTERRORISM: RISKS AND CONTROLS (BRC) WORKSHOP**

These workshops provide law enforcement officers with a risk assessment of current biological threats related to global terrorism and technological vulnerabilities, including dual-use research and the impact of the Darknet on law enforcement operations. This four-day workshop gives an insight into global terrorism trends and threats, implications of natural disease outbreaks and the advancements of biotechnology and IT technology. It also incorporates a mock bioterrorism crime scene to demonstrate risk assessment and response techniques. The workshop is focused on those regions identified as priority.

### ► **PROJECT PETRICHOR: BIOTERRORISM RISK MANAGEMENT AT THE BORDERS WORKSHOP**

PETRICHOR identifies national and regional vulnerabilities to crossborder attacks that make use of biological materials, and develops strategies to prevent, detect and respond to deliberate acts of bioterrorism by reducing the risks at the border. The project brings together national law enforcement, customs, immigration and other border officials in a four-day interactive workshop. This course will also include the development of customized reference material for law enforcement.

### ► **BIOTERRORISM OPERATIONAL RESPONSE EXERCISE**

The Bioterrorism Response course provides law enforcement with a risk assessment of current biological threats related to global terrorism, the skills required to prepare, prevent and respond to an incident and the capability to coordinate among agencies. This five-day course, which comprises a one-day live exercise, includes sessions on biological agents, command and control of a bioterrorism scene, forensic evidence collection, risk assessment and recovery. The course is aimed at law enforcement officers within counter-terrorism and specialist CBRNE Units, and involves representatives from border police, health agencies and crews dealing with hazardous materials.

### ■ **Oleander-TTX: Multi-agency Coordination Table-Top Exercise**

This three-day table-top exercise builds on existing law enforcement capabilities by exercising the coordination between key national agencies – including law enforcement, customs, immigration, health and policy makers – during a simulated bioterrorism incident.

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- **Project RHINO** – Response, Hazard assessment, Infection Control, National coordination, Operational change: This is a series of activities designed to assist national law enforcement agencies in West Africa to assess current law enforcement capabilities, discuss key observations and develop immediate and future action plans for improved coordination and response to potential biological incidents or attacks.

### ► **PARTNERS AND STAKEHOLDERS**

- Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) - USA
- Department of Foreign Affairs Trade and Development (DFATD) - Canada
- Defence Threat Reduction Agency (DTRA) - USA
- International Organisation for Animal Health (OIE)
- International Federation of Biosafety Associations (IFBA)
- Connecting Organisations for Regional Disease Surveillance (CORDS)
- Red Cross / Red Crescent
- World Health Organisation (WHO).



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#### ► **CONTACT INFORMATION:**

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