

# U.S. Cooperative Biological Engagement Programs



Department of State ♦ Department of Defense

December 9, 2011



# Bioengagement Programs Advance Shared Bilateral Goals



- ❑ Both the Departments of State and Defense have independent bioengagement programs that complement each other
- ❑ We work cooperatively with partner countries to:
  - Increase ability to detect, diagnose, and report infectious disease outbreaks
  - Improve biosafety and biosecurity
  - Facilitate bilateral joint research partnerships
- ❑ These collaborative efforts advance mutual nonproliferation and public health goals



# Policy Drives Programmatic Efforts



“We will continue to face new and emerging biological threats that will require the coordinated and concerted efforts of a broad range of domestic and international partners. As we take action to counter these threats, we will work together to advance our health security ...”

*President Obama, National Strategy for Countering Biological Threats (November 2009)*

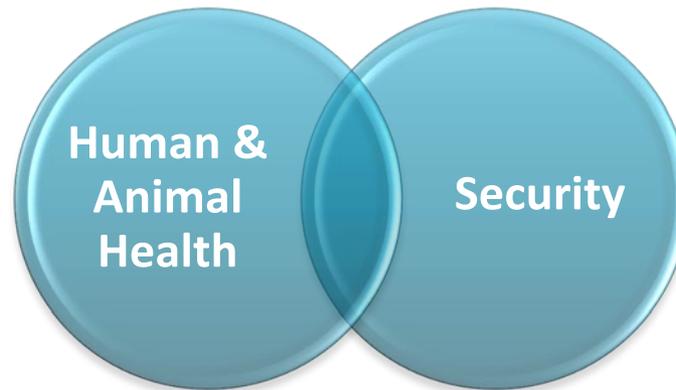
AGREEMENT	RELEVANT LANGUAGE
<b>Biological Toxin and Weapons Convention Article X</b>	“...Contributing individually or together with other States or international organizations to the further development and application of scientific discoveries in the field of biology for prevention of disease or other peaceful purposes”
<b>United Nations Security Council Resolution 1540</b>	“Offer assistance as appropriate in response to specific requests to the States lacking the legal and regulatory infrastructure, implementation experience and/or resources for fulfilling the above provisions...”
<b>WHO International Health Regulations (IHR) (and World Organization for Animal Health Regulations)</b>	“The purpose and scope of these Regulations are to prevent, protect against, control and provide a public health response to the international spread of disease...”



# Spanning the Health Security and Risk Spectrums

*“The activities required...to minimize vulnerability to acute public health events that endanger the collective health of populations living across...international boundaries.” (WHO)*

Focus on health problems that transcend national borders



Focus on laboratory biosecurity as well as dual-use expertise

Chronic  
Disease

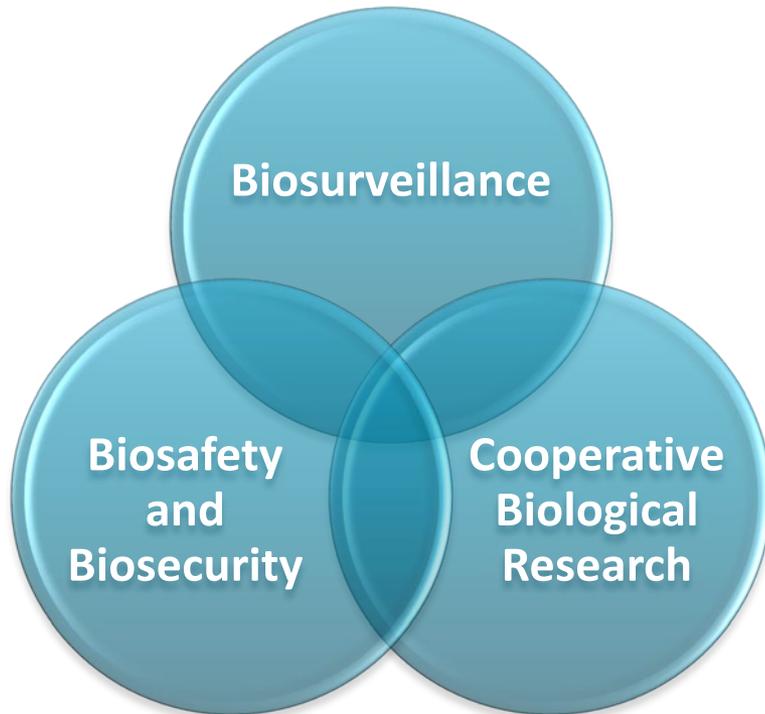
Emerging  
Infections

Dual Use  
Technologies

Bio  
Terrorism



# Our Approach to Bioengagement



## Biosurveillance

- A sustainable network for disease detection, response, and communication of dangerous outbreaks

## Biosafety and Biosecurity (BS&S)

- Enhance capability to prevent the theft, sale, diversion, or accidental release of biological materials, technology, and expertise by improving BS&S standards and procedures

## Cooperative Biological Research

- Encourage high standards of ethics and integrate scientists into the international community through joint research
- Prevent proliferation of dual-use expertise to rogue actors



# Expert-Level Implementation Support

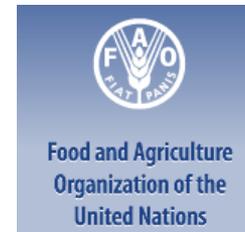


- ❑ International and multilateral organizations
- ❑ Embassies
- ❑ Biosafety Associations
- ❑ U.S. Government Interagency
- ❑ Academies of Science
- ❑ National, regional, local professional societies
- ❑ Bilateral agreements
- ❑ NGOs

**THE NATIONAL ACADEMIES**  
*Advisers to the Nation on Science, Engineering, and Medicine*



World Health Organization



Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations



International Federation of  
Biosafety Associations

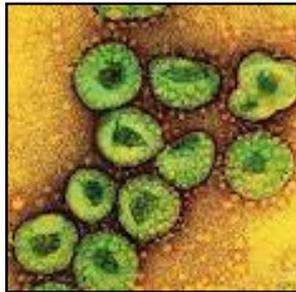




# Examples of Bioengagement



## Biosurveillance



- Health and veterinary ministries in Central Asia
- Electronic Integrated Disease Surveillance System (EIDSS)

## Biosafety and Biosecurity



- Human and animal reference laboratory in East Africa
- Physical security upgrades, supported by training provided through Biosafety Associations

## Cooperative Biological Research



- Health, Agriculture, and Education Ministries in South Asia
- Joint research projects between partner country and U.S. scientists



# Thank You!



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