



BIOSAFETY AND BIOSECURITY CAPACITY BUILDING IN UGANDA

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RIVM has supported biosafety and biosecurity capacity building in Uganda within the context of the Global Partnership from 2014-2016. For **the training part of the project**, a collaboration was initiated with the Uganda National Animal Disease and Diagnostics Epidemiology Center (**NADDEC**), which is the key veterinarian institute working with highly infectious pathogens.

These training activities aimed to enhance **general biosafety and biosecurity awareness**, to train on safe and secure **handling of samples** in the field and in the laboratory and to **develop and implement SOPs**, all integrated as **train the trainer modules**.

APPROACH

Training materials (Lectures, Factsheets, Risk-assessments) were customized for implementation and made freely available electronically to the training participants.

Two trainings sessions were conducted:

- **General Biosafety and Biosafety**
- **Safe and Secure Sampling and Handling, and Working with BSL-3 Agents**

RESULTS

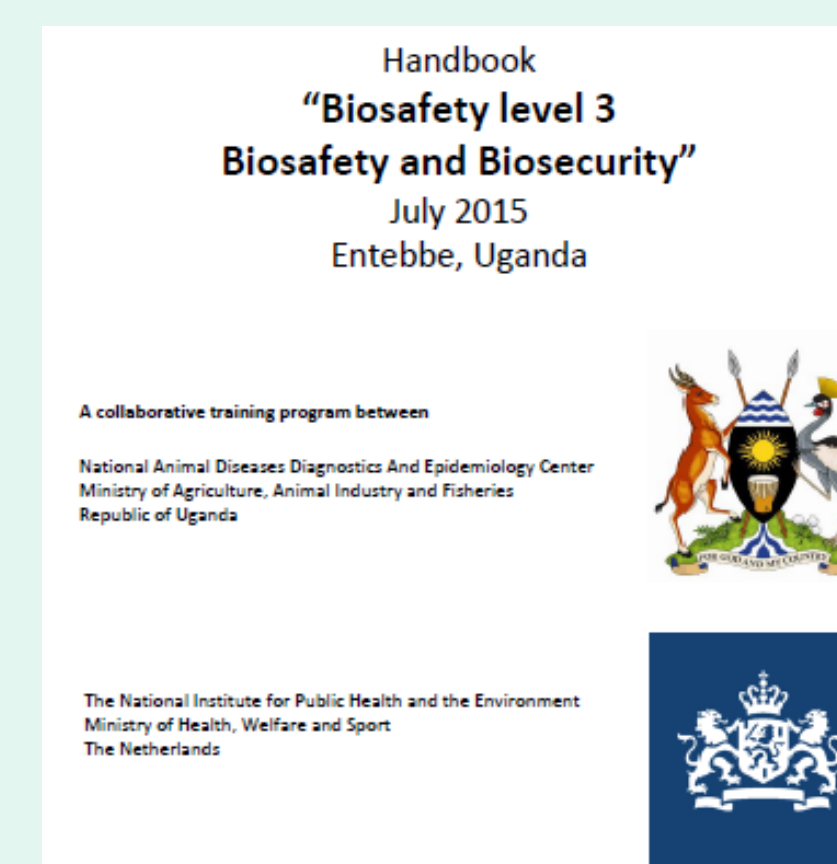
- 45 Participants from NADDEC, district laboratories and Makerere University were trained by means of **lectures** and **laboratory practice**. SOP development was exercised and implemented in the biorisk procedures.
- **NADDEC staff** has conducted five up-country training sessions for regional and district laboratory workers in the subsequent 12 months.



LESSONS LEARNED (1)

A carefully prepared **Fact-finding mission** is vital for a successful project abroad:

- Collect as much information as possible about **local situation, habits and behavior**.
- Gain an overview of **other international initiatives** to prevent redundancy.



- Find the **right balance** between hardware and software of biosafety: if proper containment is unavailable think about additional procedures to reach a safe environment.
- **Costs, applicability and availability** of disposables and PPEs are crucial elements to consider for their implementation in trainings.

LESSONS LEARNED (2)

- **To reach commitment** it is recommendable to reserve budget for inviting officials and reimburse travel expenses for participants.



- With its extreme diversity in wildlife, Uganda poses for veterinarians more complicated cases in the field compared to the Netherlands, e.g. sampling a hippo infected with *B. anthracis*.

➤ **Trainers also learned from local experts on how to deal with those challenging biorisk situations. Such reciprocity in expertise ensures mutual trust and make for engaging capacity building.**

