

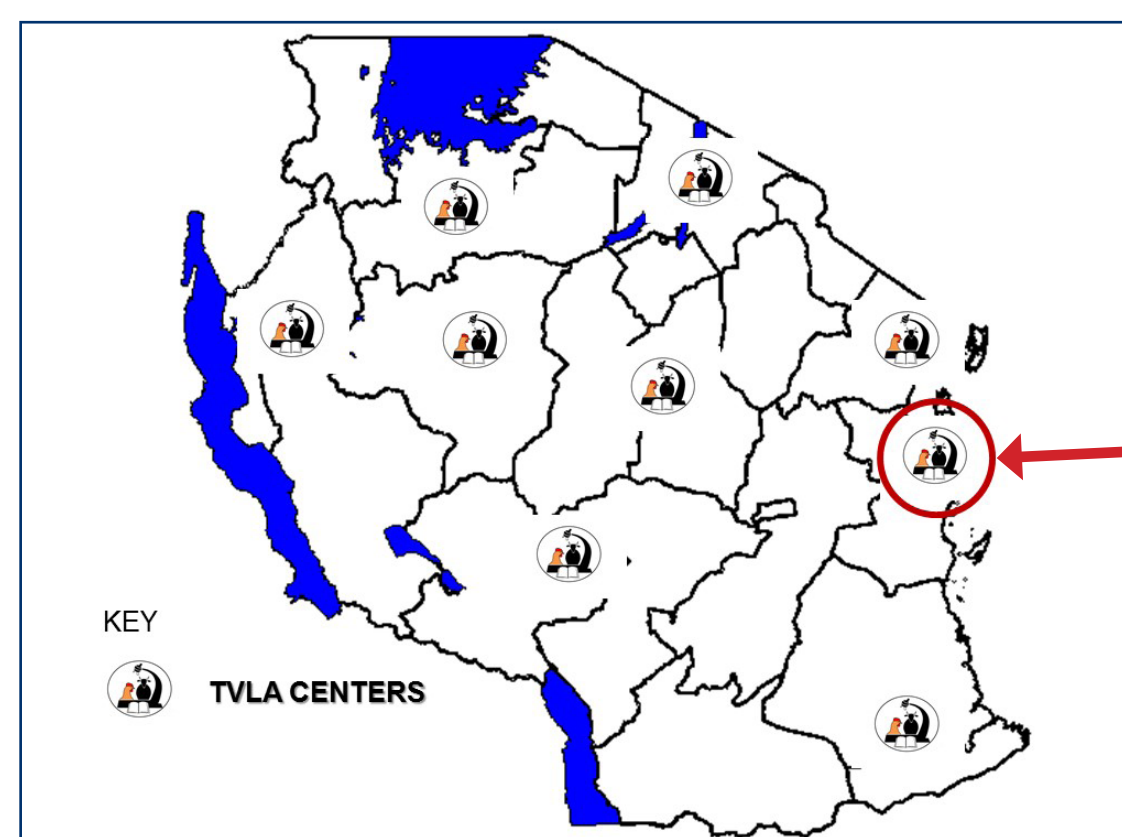


Creation of a Biorisk Management (BRM) Committee for the Tanzania Veterinary Laboratory Agency (TVLA)



Dr. Zachariah Ephraim Makondo, Central Veterinary Laboratory – Tanzania Veterinary Laboratory Agency, Dar es Salaam Tanzania
 Benjamin Fontes, MPH, CBSP, Yale University New Haven, CT

TVLA Centers



- Arusha – Northern Zone
- Mwanza – Lake Zone
- Dodoma – Central Zone
- Tanga – Central Zone
- CVL-TVLA
- Mtwara – Southern Zone
- Iringa – Southern Highland Zone
- Kigoma – South West
- Tabora – Western Zone

Tasks Assigned by the Chief Executive of the CVL-TVLA to the BRM Committee

- Finalize and publish the BRM Committee Charter
- Complete and Launch the TVLA Biosafety Manual
- Amend the Job Description for TVLA BRM Officers
- Develop a TVLA Inventory policy, inventory record form, and national inventory database of high risk pathogens within the TVLA
- Create a TVLA BRM Training Course for BRM Officers and BRM Committee members

Continuation of Biorisk Management Activities at the TVLA

- Compilation of TVLA documents to date
- Assessment of existing documents that were based on the CEN CWA 15793 Laboratory Biorisk Management Standard)
 - Biorisk Management Manual
 - Biorisk Management Committee Charter
 - Biorisk Management Officer Job Responsibilities



Trainer for BRM course
Zachariah Makondo CVL-TVLA

Identification of TVLA BRM Needs (Objectives)

- Review existing draft BRM documents and update where applicable
- **Identify gaps in TVLA BRM program**
- Develop a plan to address the gaps at the lead TVLA Center
- Provide a framework to establish a BRM Program at each of the TVLA Centers



United Nations Office of Disarmament Affairs
 United Nations Security Council Resolution
 1540 (2004)

Key Needs

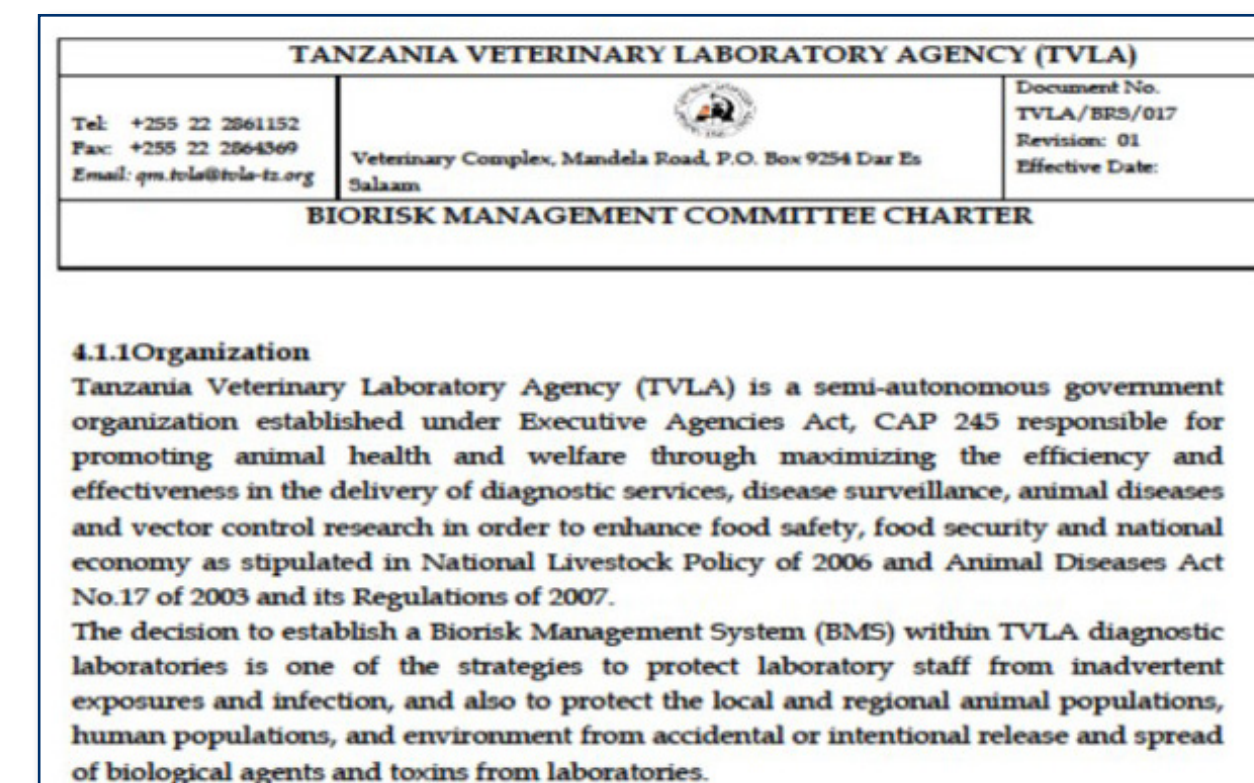
- A BRM Committee
- BRM Officers for 9 main TVLA Centers
- Inventory of pathogens at 9 Centers and ensuring their security
- BRM Training



Members of the Central Veterinary Laboratory - TVLA BRM Committee

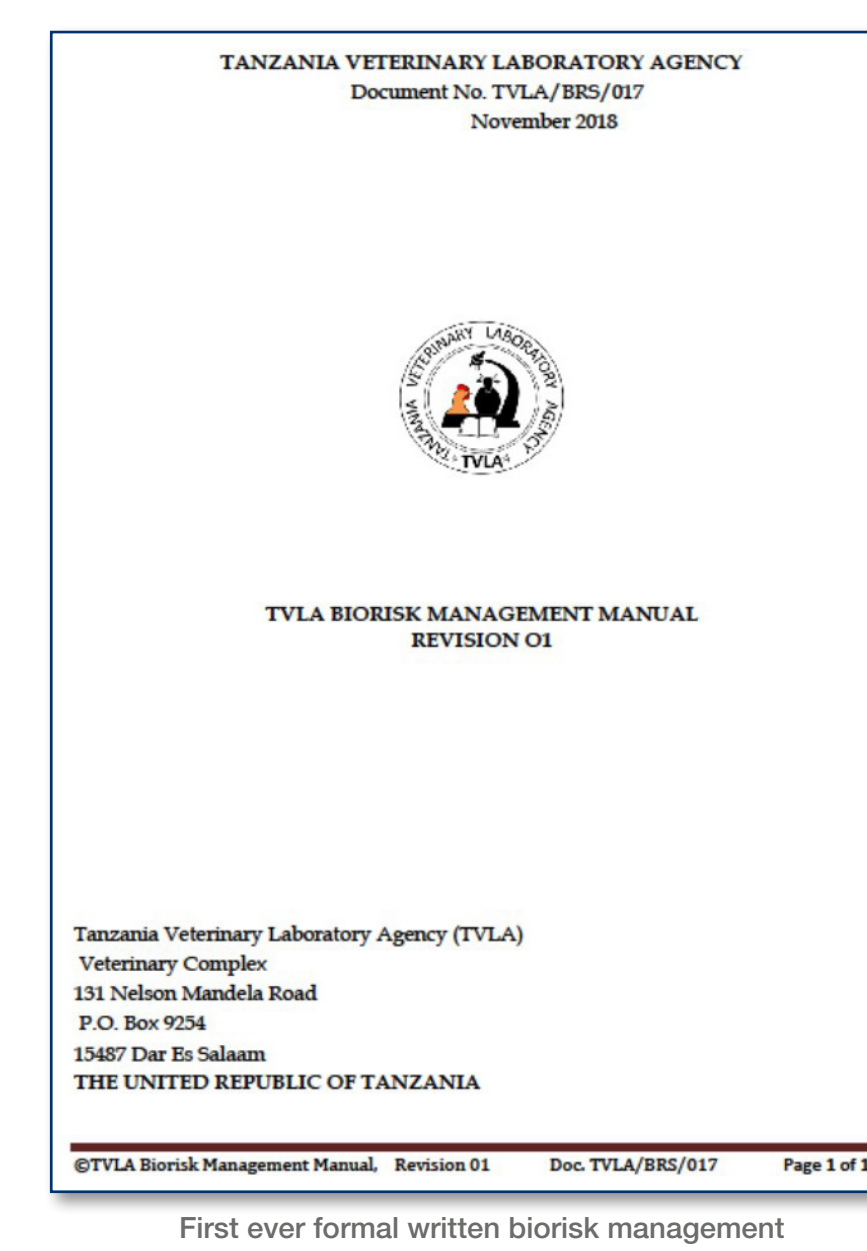
Step 1: TVLA BRM Committee

- Reviewed draft BRM Committee Charter (CEN CWA 15793 based)
- Amended (slightly) to broaden scope
- BRM Committee Charter approved by TVLA Leadership
- Charter (distributed to TVLA main centers for establishment of local BRM committees at each location)
- Recruited additional members for the Central TVLA BRM Committee
- Tasked BRM Committee to assist the TVLA Director with the review of the materials created by the twinning project



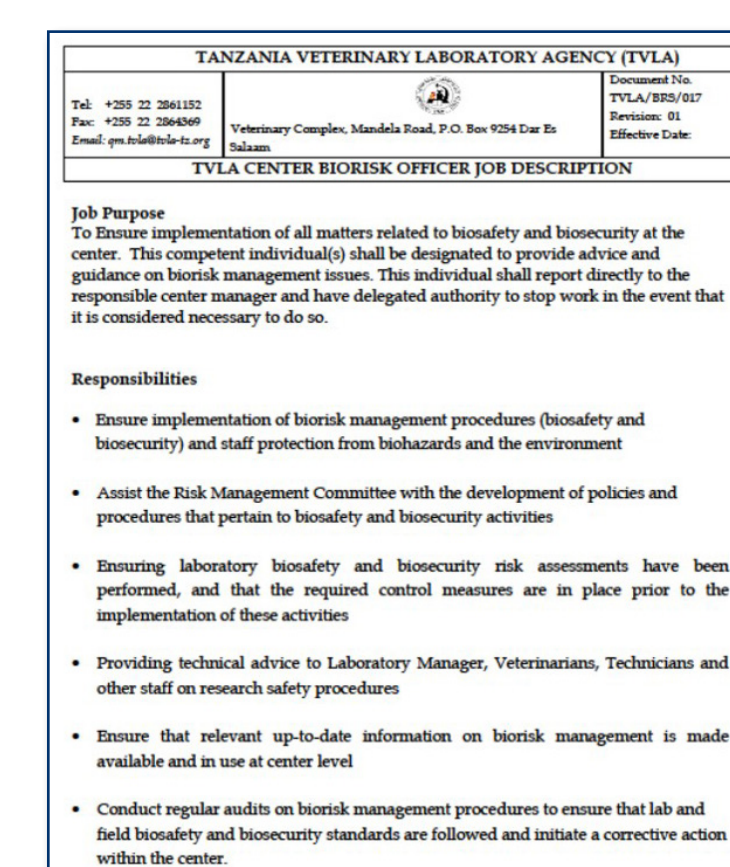
Step 2: TVLA BRM Manual

- Review of existing TVLA BRM Manual
 - Policy based (excellent administrative overview and provides a structure and framework for a BRM program)
 - Did not include Biosafety and Biosecurity site-specific measures for risk assessment and risk management for their diagnostic, research and field work activities
 - Added Appendices to address biosafety work practices, animal biosafety, PPE, decontamination, emergency response, field biosafety
 - Updated the TVLA BRM Manual to address the identified gaps
 - TVLA BRM Manual approved by TVLA Leadership
 - Launched and distributed the TVLA Manual (electronically) to TVLA BRM Committee and TVLA Centers around Tanzania



Step 3: BRM Officers

- Reviewed the existing draft BRM Officer position description
- Updated the document and submitted to TVLA Leadership for approval
- TVLA Leadership amended and approved the TVLA BRM Officer Job Description
- Distributed the TVLA BRM Officer job description to the 8 other TVLA centers
- Initiated recruitment of potential BRM Officers at each of the TVLA centers



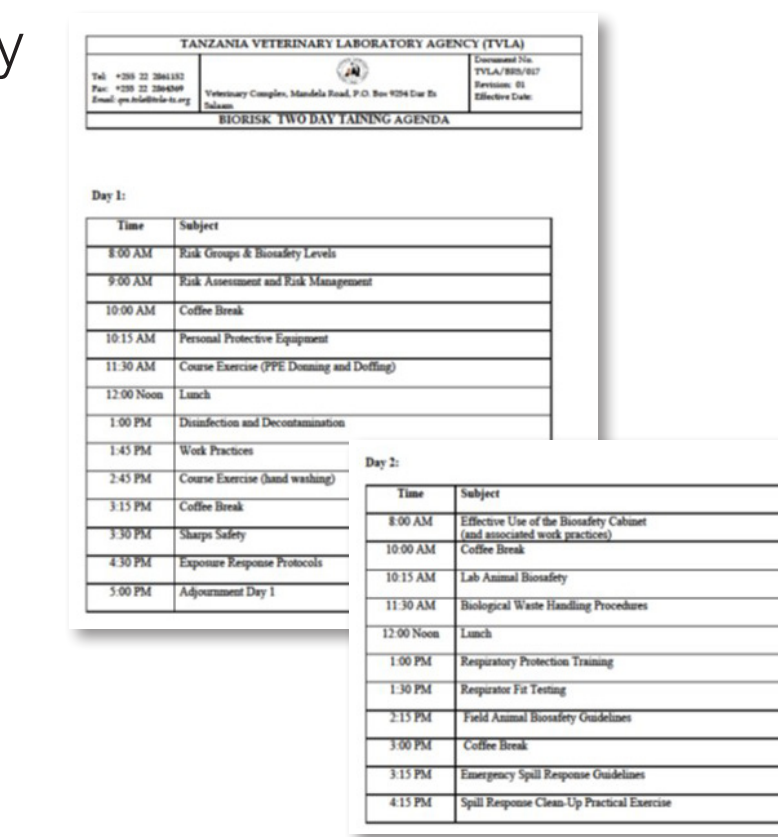
Step 4: TVLA BRM Inventory and Biosecurity

- Drafted inventory policy and inventory record form for review by TVLA Leadership
- Had Policy and form approved by TVLA Leadership
- Distributed TVLA Inventory policy, biosecurity measures and inventory record form to 9 main TVLA centers



Step 5: BRM Training for BRM Committee & BRM Officers

- Created a BRM Training agenda for a 2 day training event
- Developed training materials for the event
 - Slides, exercises/drills, evaluation form
- Piloted the training materials at the Central TVLA in Dar es Salaam
 - Invited local BRM Officers and BRM Committee members
 - Conducted 1 day BRM Training
 - Obtained feedback for the full 2 day BRM Training Program



Lessons Learned

- Recognize the significant hurdles that geography and funding can represent
 - 9 Centers throughout Tanzania
 - Logistics and costs associated with bringing BRM Officers and BRM Committee members to one location are substantial and beyond the individual twinning project budget

What was helpful

- Having the recognition from the Center Director helped ensure that the project remained on schedule
- Working "locally" to pilot the training provided an opportunity to practice the training and get feedback for the "to be scheduled" planned 2-Day Biorisk Management training



Step 6: Establish local BRM Committees at other 8 main TVLA Centers

- 8 local BRM Committees at other main TVLA Centers have been Established, with each reporting to CVL-TVLA BRM Committee in Dar es Salaam
- These have helped BRM initiatives to be implemented at other 8 TVLA Centers
- Each of the 8 TVLA centers have BRM Officer
- Each Center has inventory records of all dangerous pathogen handled
- CVL Confirm all targeted pathogens of biosecurity concern

Step 6: Next Steps for TVLA BRM Program

- Feedback from pilot BRM Training in Dar es Salaam assisted in organizing a successful 5 days BRM training agenda for a specialized national Biorisk course for BRM Officers and BRM Committee members from various centers
- Scheduled to conduct a 2 day BRM training course for National High Level Administrators and policy makers under one health coordination desk
- Coordinate funding for travel expenses and training materials for representatives other centers and laboratories to attend the 2 day BRM Training at strategic location

Acknowledgements

- Sandia National Laboratories, CVL-TVLA Leadership, CVL-TVLA BRM Committee members, Defense Threat Reduction Agency Biological Threat Reduction Program