International Coordination for Deliberate Biological Events (DBE)

An analysis of policies, stakeholders, and roles against a timeline of the event
Challenges of DBE Response and Recovery

- Authorities and mandates, and roles unclear in a deliberate biological attack (DBE), even among experts
  - Policies in place for natural outbreaks do not all apply
  - Stakeholders differ from natural outbreaks (e.g., military and law enforcement involvement; humanitarian assistance organizations may not respond)
  - Additional roles for investigative response, safety/security
Linking International Policy to Response

Mapping stakeholders involved in a deliberate biological event to the timeline of events and policy charters

https://dbe.talusanalytics.com/
Linking International Policy to Response

What policies are in place to coordinate a response?

https://dbe.talusanalytics.com/
When the first cases are identified:

- Most stakeholders are local or regional (e.g. healthcare providers, veterinary care providers, local NGOs)
- Governance and policy is managed by national ministries
- Limited security involvement (maybe local law enforcement) or humanitarian aid (maybe local NGOs already in-country)
• Immediate surge in the number of organizations involved in governance/policy and in safety/security

• Non-affected member states likely to become involved

• Heavy involvement from many UN agencies in governance and policy roles, supporting the affected government
No single clear authority or coordinating body
Pathways to BWC Article VII

Key
- BWC Pathway
- Optional Pathway
- Pathway

1. Immediate confirmation of deliberate use
2. Outbreak investigation & samples analysis highlight biological engineering or telling epidemic curve
3. DBE Suspicion (Serious and credible but not confirmed)
4. Member State request to United Nations
5. Secretary General
6. UNGA United Nations General Assembly
7. UNSC United Nations Security Council
8. UNSGM United Nations Secretary General’s Mechanism

Additional notes:
- These appeals refer to actions unrelated to the provisions of the BWC.
- Consistent with language from the 8th BWC Review Conference, BWC States Parties may submit a provisional request for assistance under Article VII to other BWC States Parties, pending a determination by the UNSC.
Articulating the gap: A path forward

- There is no clear lead for international coordination of a deliberate biological event
- Lack of deliberate events (fortunately) means systems are untested
- What is needed:
  - A clearly articulated and scalable policy framework to define roles and authorities for deliberate biological events
  - Integration between national and international authorities
For more information:

Mapping Stakeholders and Policies in Response to Deliberate Biological Events

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For more information:

GHSS.GEORGETOWN.EDU/DBE_RESPONSE

DBE.TALUSANALYTICS.COM

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