

Laboratory System and Network Biosafety and Biosecurity

Certified African Regional professionals: Level 1 Biorisk Management



Lieutenant Colonel Alli James Kalimbuka

Professional Title: Environmental Health Officer
Nationality: Malawian
Institution: Malawi Defence Force Military Health Services
Area of Expertise: Bio-risk Management
Certified as African Regional Level 1 Professional in Bio risk Management: 2023

Lt Col Alli James Kalimbuka is an Environmental health expert working with the military health services under Malawi Defence Force (MDF). He holds a Bachelor's degree in Environmental Health.

Lt Col Kalimbuka is the Biosafety and Biosecurity Technical Working Group of Public Health Institute of Malawi (PHIM). He has worked with Malawi Defence Force for the past 21 years. He is an Environmental Health Officer & Head of Environmental Health Department.



Laphiod Connex CHISUWO

Professional Title: Chief Biomedical Scientist - Ministry of Health - Malawi
Nationality: Malawian
Institution: Public Health Institute of Malawi – National Public Health Reference Laboratory Services.
Area of Expertise: Bio-risk Management
Certified as African Regional Level 1 Professional in Bio risk Management: 2023

Laphiod is a Laboratory Scientist with a Bachelor of Science in Medical Laboratory Technology. He holds a Post Graduate Diploma in Teaching Biomedical Science. He is also a Master Trainer in Biosafety and Biosecurity and SLPTA Auditors (Stepwise Laboratory Improvements Process Towards Accreditation)

Laphiod is a Biorisk Management Focal Point for Malawi. A National Master Trainer, Mentor and Auditor for Biorisk Management. In the past seven year he has been a Laboratory manager – Biochemistry National Reference laboratory.

Laphiod has been a focal person in formulating policies and strategic plan for Public Health Institute of Malawi (PHIM), in development of training materials for Laboratory personnel in biosafety and Biosecurity. He took

part in World Health Organization International Health Regulations (2005) Joint External Evaluation. He has conducted the following activity in Biorisk Management - developing national guidelines for Biorisk Management, Coordinated Biorisk management training for laboratory personnel, Facilitated biosafety Biosecurity training for laboratory personnel, Conducted biosafety and Biosecurity facility assessment and Participated in Regional Biosafety & Biosecurity Technical Working Group East Africa. Currently He is the Laboratory Manager for Biochemistry, Nutrition & Influenza National Reference Laboratory, National focal point for Biorisk management and Influenza Surveillance.



Letsholo Samantha Laone

Professional Title: Bio-risk Management Level 1 Expert

Nationality: Botswana

Institution: Botswana National Veterinary Laboratory (BNVL) – Botswana

Area of Expertise: Bio-risk Management

Samantha is a veterinarian by profession, has specialised in veterinary tropical disease with a focus on virology and applied virology (MSc) and is currently pursuing a PhD in Medical Sciences.

She has championed biosafety and biosecurity (BSBS) at BNVL for ten years, being the secretary of the BNVL BSBS committee for the same period and coordinating the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) BSBS project RAF 5/082 which is geared at enhancing BSBS in the Africa region for the past two years. As an ISO 17025:2017 auditor she has ensured the continual improvement of the BNVL management system and with it, the laboratory's biosafety, and biosecurity. She has been tasked with ensuring the introduction and full implementation of the ISO 35001:2019 (Biosafety) standard at BNVL. In preparation for this, she has conducted a BSBS risk assessment of BNVL in 2021 using the FAO laboratory assessment tool as part of the RAF 5/082 project and has been jointly responsible for auditing the Botswana Vaccine Institute (BVI) for Good Manufacturing Practice (GMP), the ISO 17025:2017 standard and BSBS with other colleagues from BNVL since 2014 on behalf of the central competent authority (Department of Veterinary Services (DVS)). She currently sits in 3 national BSBS committees, the Botswana Regional Biosafety Biosecurity Technical Working Group (RBB-TWG), The National Risk Assessment (NRA) Committee and the technical working group responsible for the implementation of the National Action Plan (NAP) on strengthening UNSCR 1540 (2004) implementation in Botswana.

In March 2018, Samantha attended the consultative meeting on sustainable laboratory biosafety and biosecurity, World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) Headquarters, Paris (France), and participated in the plenary session for ensuring sustainable biosafety biosecurity in laboratories the world over. The meeting was co-hosted by Chatham House. With the assistance of the Air Filter Maintenance System (AFMS), Samantha is working on a project to enhance BNVL's BSBS by improving the existing BSL-2 laboratory by installing a BSL-3 cabinet and setting up a modular BSL-3 laboratory (with lab animal units).

She is the Laboratory Manager for all Viral Testing at BNVL.



Musonda Mandona

Professional Title: Biosafety and Biosecurity Advisor
Nationality: Zambian
Institution: Ministry of Health-Zambia
Area of Expertise: Bio-risk Management
Certified as African Regional Level 1 Professional in Bio risk Management: 2023

Musonda is a Laboratory Scientist in the Ministry of Health, Pathology, and Laboratory Services section. She holds a Diploma and BSC in Biomedical Sciences and has 10 years' experience in implementing Biosafety and Biosecurity as well as Quality Management Systems, in keeping with ISO 15189;2012, ISO35001;2019 and ISO15190;2020. In her career, she has attained experience in Good Clinical Laboratory Practice (GCLP), policy document development, Leadership and management and project management in addition to technical expertise.

Musonda is a Biosafety Biosecurity Advisor in the Ministry of Health, an Africa CDC/ASLM certified Biosafety and Biosecurity Trainer of trainers, and a trained internal auditor in ISO 15189. Over the past 10 years, she has worked closely with the Ministry of Health and cooperating partners to strengthen biorisk management systems and ensure implementation of sustainable approaches in assessing and managing bio-risks. She participated in the review of the National Biosafety Biosecurity Manual and accompanying Standard Operating Procedures, establishment of a National multi-sectoral Biosafety and Biosecurity Technical Working Group, review of the National Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) guidelines, review of the National health and IPC strategic plans for Zambia. Additionally, she also participated in the development of a National Biosafety and Biosecurity training curriculum in line with national and international standards such as ISO 35001:2019, and the WHO Biosafety Manual 4th edition which emphasizes a risk-based approach in the management of biological hazards and threats.

She sits on the National Biosafety and Biosecurity Technical working group as co-chair under the Ministry of Health, Zambia and is a member of the Biomedical Society of Zambia.



Nondo Kayula

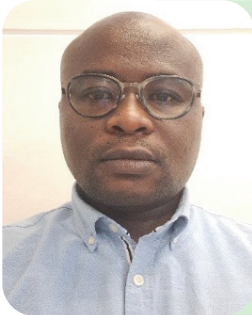
Professional Title: Bio-risk Management Level I
Nationality: Zambian
Institution: Kalindawalo General Hospital, Petauke
Area of Expertise: Biorisk Management
Certified as African Regional Level 1 Professional in Bio risk Management: 2023

Nondo is a Laboratory Scientist with a Diploma and BSc in Biomedical Sciences.

Nondo is a National Trainer in Biosafety and Biosecurity. Over the past four years, he has worked closely with the Ministry of Health and cooperating

partners to support the strengthening of Biorisk management in Zambia. He participated in the development of the National Biosafety Biosecurity Manual; Biosafety and Biosecurity standard operating procedures and the Biosafety-Biosecurity training curriculum.

He is the Laboratory Manager for Kalindawalo General Hospital; a member of the Nation Biosafety-Biosecurity Technical working group; and the focal point for Biosafety-Biosecurity in Eastern Province.



Zacharia Mabena

Professional Title: Assistant Biosafety Technician (Engineering)

Nationality: South African

Institution: National Health Laboratory Service, National Institute for Communicable Diseases – South Africa

Area of Expertise: Bio-safety Engineering and Infrastructure

Certified as African Regional Bio risk Management Level 1 Professional: 2022

Zacharia Mabena is an Assistant Biosafety Technician working for the National Institute for Communicable Diseases (NICD) a division of the National Health laboratory Service (NHLS) in South Africa. He holds an N6 certificate in Electrical Engineering, a certificate in Medical Laboratory specializing in Microbiology and a certificate in Medical Laboratory specializing in Tuberculosis.

Zacharia has vast experience working on the bench for 9 years in both diagnostic and research laboratory environment. He has also worked as a laboratory training facilitator for 4 years at the African Centre for Integrated Laboratory Training (ACILT) under PEPFAR in South Africa. The primary function of ACILT was to strengthen laboratory systems in terms of quality assurance in order to attaining accreditation and to build capacity in testing for Tuberculosis, Malaria and HIV. He recently joined the Division for Biosafety and Biosecurity (DBB) in the past 3 years; a unit within the NICD where he is specializing in design, operations and maintenance of high containment labs and the only maximum containment lab in the SADC region.



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