

**Call for Proposals:  
Next Generation for Biosecurity in GHSA Competition**

The NTI-Biosecurity program is partnering with the Next Generation Global Health Security (GHS) Network to advance the Global Health Security Agenda (GHSA) and its biosecurity-related targets. In advance of the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual High Level GHSA Ministerial Meeting – which will be held in Kampala, Uganda from October 25-27, 2017 – we are launching a joint competition to foster a biosecurity professional track within the Next Generation GHS Network.

**Competition Goals:**

The competition seeks to develop regional and global partnerships among next generation professionals to:

1. Enhance country and regional capability to achieve the biological security targets within the GHSA and Joint External Evaluation (JEE);
2. Reduce significant biological risks posed by advances in technology;
3. Improve regional and cross-regional collaboration to prevent, detect, and respond to biological threats;
4. Promote a global cadre of multi-sectoral professionals within the Next Generation GHS Network dedicated to reducing catastrophic biological risks and enhancing biosecurity; and
5. Provide additional avenues for knowledge transfer to next generation biosecurity professionals through mentorships and potential engagement with global health security experts in the field.

From October 25-27, 2017, the Government of Uganda will host the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual GHSA High Level Ministerial Meeting in Kampala. During this meeting, health security leaders from around the world will gather to discuss progress and next steps to further implement the GHSA and achieve its targets, which work in tandem with the priorities identified in the JEEs and National Action Planning processes. The meeting will also serve as a venue to discuss actionable next steps for countries to advance their national plans and financing to fill gaps identified during their JEE assessments.

Strengthening biosecurity is a crucial part of preparedness and is built into the GHSA and the JEE. We are therefore pleased to introduce the “Next Generation for Biosecurity in GHSA Competition.” The joint competition seeks Next Generation GHS Network proposals to develop and strengthen regional partnerships to support specific activities in this area. A panel of experts will select the three most innovative and constructive proposals as winners for the competition.

### **Submission Requirements:**

Interested applicants should send an email by August 31, 2017, to [NTI-bio@nti.org](mailto:NTI-bio@nti.org), and include the following:

- One-page resume or curriculum vitae for each team participant.
- 1500-2000 word submission that outlines how you and your team will work within the Next Generation GHS Network to advance biosecurity within the GHSA, to include one or more of the issues highlighted in the Eligibility section below.
- Each proposal must incorporate and build on existing biosecurity best practices, standards, policy, and/or legislation to produce recommendations that (i) outline research or learning that can inform national policy development; or (ii) create a novel platform for networking across sectors and regions to achieve the biosecurity targets within in the GHSA and JEE.
- Each team can include **up to three individuals**.
- Priority will be placed on proposals that include participants from at least two sectors and on proposals that include collaboration across regions.
- The purpose of this competition is to spur country and regional collaboration among Next Generation GHS Network professionals to enhance biosecurity, in accordance with the GHSA and JEE biosecurity targets and indicators. While the NTI-Biosecurity program and Next Generation GHS Network will provide a platform for the winning proposals to be discussed among experts and shared with a broad audience, the winning team will be responsible for implementation following the completion of the competition and mentorship.

### **Eligibility:**

To participate in this competition, the following criteria must be met:

- Applicants must be a current member of the Next Generation GHS Network. If submitting as part of a team, at least 50% of the applicants must be current members of the Next Generation GHS Network. Applicants also must be currently enrolled in an academic institution *or* must be a professional working in the field of global health security.
- Submissions must include one or more specific activities that will be pursued by the partners to:
  - Achieve the GHSA and JEE targets and indicators related to Biosecurity.
  - Develop or promulgate educational materials or other innovations aimed at reducing biological risks posed by advances in technology, such as genome editing and synthetic biology.
- Participants are encouraged to collaborate on submissions with partners from other institutions across sectors within your country and/or with partners from other countries.
- Cross-regional partnerships will receive higher consideration. The inclusion of collaborators that help build cross-sectoral discussion on biosecurity within and across regions will be a key factor for successful proposals.
- All proposals must include a focus on engaging Next Generation leaders in the region to enhance biosecurity, as defined by the GHSA and JEE targets and indicators.

**Timeline:**

- August 31, 2017: Deadline for submissions.
- September 15, 2017: Announcement of winners.
- September to October, 2017: 1-2 Next Generation webinars focused on biosecurity and featuring the winning proposals and global experts in biosecurity.
- October 25-27, 2017: GHSA Ministerial Meeting in Kampala, Uganda.

**Logistics:**

- The announcement for the competition will be posted on the NTI and Next Generation GHS Network websites, and promoted through relevant social media channels.
- The announcement will invite applicants to send their proposals to [NTI-bio@nti.org](mailto:NTI-bio@nti.org).
- Submissions will be assessed by a panel of experts.

**Prizes for Winning Submission(s):**

The winners of the competition will receive the following:

- First Place Prize: NTI can provide travel expenses for up to 3 members of the winning team to attend the 2017 GHSA Ministerial Meeting in Kampala and present the proposal to biosecurity professionals in attendance. The First Prize winner will also be provided the opportunity to create an online video and draft a blog post that will be hosted and promoted online by NTI and the Next Generation GHS Network.
- Second & Third Place Prizes: The winners will be provided the opportunity to create an online video to highlight their proposals.
- All three winning teams will receive a 6-month mentorship with a biosecurity professional, to assist the team in further developing their proposal and accessing a larger network of experts and professionals in the field. In addition, all three winning teams will be provided the opportunity to present their proposals during a Next Generation GHS Webinar featuring biosecurity experts.