Funding and donor contributions

Out of a total of USD 308.5 million needed for its three-year contribution to the Global Programme for the Progressive Control of Avian Influenza, FAO had received (as of 14 July 2006) a total of USD 62.2 million, with a further USD 30.3 agreed but not yet received, for a total of USD 92.5 million. A further USD 25.4 million were in the pipeline, bringing the total funding envelop to USD 117.9 million.

NB: The figures concern only funding to FAO and do not include bilateral support to affected countries/regions.

FAO to participate in West African initiative against bird flu

Awareness kit launched for francophone Africa

West African states have agreed to set up a mechanism to coordinate sub-regional efforts to prevent and control avian flu. The decision was taken during three days of discussion June 20-23 in Abuja, Nigeria, at a Ministerial Meeting on a Regional Strategy for the Prevention and Control of Avian Influenza in West Africa organised by the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS).

The Abuja meeting also agreed on the creation of a sub-regional emergency assistance fund (to be coordinated by the African Development Bank) and a strategic action plan. The meeting called on ECOWAS to prepare by August 2006 a programme of activities with associated budget in cooperation with the African Union-InterAfrican Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR), FAO and the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE).

The West and Central Africa Regional Coordination mechanism of the Pan-African Programme for the Control of Epizootics (PACE) will function as the technical secretariat of the sub-regional mechanism for avian flu prevention and control in partnership with the West African Health Organisation (WAHO). It will collaborate closely with other members of the regional centre for animal health created by OIE, FAO and AU-IBAR, as well as the World Health Organisation (WHO) and UNICEF.

During the course of the meeting, the Dakar-based Inter-state School of Science and Veterinary Medicine (EISMV), whose members are Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroun, Central African Republic, Chad, Côte d’Ivoire, Congo, Gabon, Mauritania, Niger, Rwanda, Senegal and Togo, announced the launching of a training kit to raise awareness on avian flu. The kit comprises an illustrated booklet, tools for meeting activities, audio messages and video clips.

Overall funding situation – 14 July 2006

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>US dollars (millions)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Funds received</td>
<td>62.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Funds agreed but not received</td>
<td>30.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total of funds received and agreed</td>
<td>92.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Funds promised</td>
<td>25.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>117.9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Funding Gaps

<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Including funds received</td>
<td>246.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Including funds received and agreed</td>
<td>216.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Including funds received, agreed and in the pipeline</td>
<td>190.6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

See FAO’s messages on what to do and what not to do on the avian flu website www.fao.org/avianflu
Vienna avian flu meeting takes stock of new needs

Representatives of more than 110 countries and international organisations met in Vienna from 6-7 June to take stock of global action to combat avian influenza, to report on effective disbursement of pledges made at the Beijing conference in January, and to agree strategies for the future.

The meeting was co-organised by the Austrian Presidency of the European Union and the European Commission, on behalf of the European Union, in close cooperation with the United States and the People’s Republic of China. Besides FAO, the major international organisations represented were the U.N. System Coordinator for Avian and Human Influenza (UNSIC) on behalf of the United Nations, the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE), the World Health Organisation (WHO) and the World Bank.

The global situation has changed in just five months, with the number of affected countries and regions having increased to one-quarter of the world’s countries in three regions – Africa, the Middle East and Europe. Africa in particular was recognised as a continent in need of increased support. FAO’s position on the needs of African countries was presented on its behalf and on behalf of other member organisations by the African Union Intercontinental Bureau for Animal Resources (AU/IBAR).

The World Bank reported that for the period of calendar year 2005 up to the end of April 2006, donors had reported commitments of 1,089 million US dollars – 83 percent in cash and 17 percent in kind – of which 286 million US dollars had been disbursed – 80 percent in cash and 20 percent in kind. Commitments represent 58 percent of the total pledged, while 15 percent of the pledged amount has been reported as disbursed.

The technical international organisations reported their revised financial requirements in view of recent developments, with FAO pointing to a 230 million US dollar gap between its three-year needs (308 million US dollars) and financial support actually received.

In addition to the new demands being placed on international donors by the situation in Africa, participants also heard that other issues requiring attention include the serious consequences of avian flu outbreaks on the income levels of farmer and rural communities as a result of drastic drops in poultry prices and consumption, and weak government service in a number of countries.

Further, the meeting also agreed on the need to boost country-based ownerships of programmes to combat avian flu, including the need for early notification of outbreaks and sharing of samples, improved surveillance, protection and containment measures with respect to the H5N1 animal virus, and national preparedness plans.

Wrapping up the meeting, officials agreed to organise two similar follow-up meetings: the first in December in Africa to be hosted by the African Union, the second in roughly 12 months time in India to be hosted by the Indian government.

11 million US dollars for 10 countries in Asia

FAO boosting technical assistance in the region

Project documents are in the final stages of preparation for 10 countries in Asia and for regional activities to be coordinated by the regional centre in Bangkok for a total of USD 11 million. The countries covered are Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, India, Indonesia, Lao, Mongolia, Nepal, East Timor and Viet Nam.

In addition, FAO has received USD 400,000 from USAID for a 12-month HPAI emergency preparedness project in Sri Lanka, Australia has agreed to contribute USD 328,000 for Myanmar, and the Irish government will provide USD 550,000 for Viet Nam to provide appropriate storage conditions and inventory control of avian influenza vaccine stocks over a period of 10 months.

Negotiations are under way with the Chinese government on the final details of the USD 500,000 contribution it agreed to make following the International Pledging Conference on Avian and Human Pandemic Influenza held in Beijing on 17-18 January 2006.

In terms of technical assistance to the region, a senior-level post of technical coordinator has been established for China and the regional office in Bangkok has started the recruitment process. The post will be funded from USAID funds with start-up financial support from the Asian Development Bank (ADB).

Also in China, an operations officer is being recruited for a period of 3 months starting September 2006 with the possibility of extension; FAO is waiting for government clearance.

In Indonesia, advisers and experts are being brought in to boost FAO’s technical assistance capacity. An operational officer has been appointed for a period of 3 months (to be followed by a similar 3-month stint in Cambodia) and an international information consultant is being taken on for 2 months, both positions being funded by the Japanese government. The United States is funding the appointment of 4 training experts from Tufts University for a period of 11 months. In addition, the contract of the current senior technical adviser in the country has been extended for a further 8 months.

At the end of June, FAO organised a workshop in Bangkok to evaluate activities carried out with USAID funding and discuss overall implementation strategy for a further contribution from the same source. and carried out a joint mission earlier in the month with the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) in Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao, Malaysia and Viet Nam to help draw up a work plan for future activities; a coordination meeting is scheduled for the end of July.
Since late 2005, FAO has supported the establishment of sub-regional networks aimed at strengthening the capacity of national veterinary services and harmonising both their overall strategy to combat the disease and their methodology in the field of epidemiology and laboratory diagnosis. In this framework, seven strategic and training workshops (one week each) have been organised, involving participants from most countries.

Wild bird samples have been collected from selected sites in several countries including Chad, Ethiopia, Kenya, Malawi, Mali, Niger and Senegal. National staff have been trained in sampling techniques.

All countries in Africa have received or will receive shortly sets of standards emergency equipment (for an average of US$40 000 per country) to enable them to react swiftly should outbreaks be suspected. The set contains: Personal Protective Equipment, sampling kits, diagnosis kits, disinfectant, sprayers, etc.

Emergency funds (ranging from US$ 20 000 to US$50 000) to support countries in their surveillance and awareness activities and to procure locally basic equipments needed for diagnosis and or control have been made available to FAO Representations in Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Chad, Cote d’Ivoire, Djibouti, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Liberia, Mali, Mozambique, Niger, Rwanda, Senegal, Sierra Leone and Togo.

Specific country projects have been approved and are funded either through the SFERA or by specific donors in Burkina-Faso, Cote d’Ivoire, Ethiopia, Kenya, Malawi, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Sudan and Uganda, for a total budget of over US$6 million. Other projects are being negotiated with donors for various countries including Angola, Burundi, Chad, DR Congo, Cameroon, Nigeria, Sudan, Djibouti and Zambia.

The speed and effectiveness of FAO’s response in Cote d’Ivoire was largely thanks to the flexibility and ease with which funds could be deployed from the Special Fund for Emergency and Rehabilitation Activities (SFERA).

In most countries, FAO Representations are involved with other UN agencies in the design of integrated national strategies to face the HPAI threat and to prepare for the possibility of a human pandemic.

In Africa, FAO is working on HPAI in close consultation with the AU-IBAR, the OIE, the World Bank, regional organizations such as ECOWAS, IGAD, SADC and main donors. The recently established ALIVE platform offers a framework to coordinate all activities. The setting up of Regional Animal Health Centres (in which FAO-ECTAD is a partner) in Bamako, Nairobi and Gaborone is a concrete and important step for improving coordination between main stakeholders on animal health issue.

The main themes addressed by FAO’s assistance to sub-Saharan Africa are:

- overall assessment and strengthening of veterinary services (the poultry sector is also directly and indirectly benefiting from the activities);
- public information and awareness;
- legal issues;
- preparedness and contingency plans;
- surveillance of poultry and wild birds;
- diagnosis capacity;
- control measures including stamping out and compensation, biosecurity vaccinations; and
- assessment and ways to alleviate socioeconomic impact of HPAI.

Preparation is under way for a pledging conference for Africa, which is to be held in late 2006 in Bamako, Mali. The meeting is a follow-up to the Vienna Senior Officers’ Meeting held in June 2006. As part of the ALIVE platform, FAO will be joining its partners to present Africa’s estimated funding needs for controlling and eradicating HPAI.
FAO goods and services
(supplied to the 95 shaded countries since February 2004)

Joint FAO-partner missions
(countries covered since February 2004 are shaded)

Equipment and goods provided by FAO
FAO has invested donor funds in five major categories: supplies & equipment, human resources, training, studies and support services (figures in USD millions as at 14 July 2006):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Laboratory and veterinary supplies and equipment</td>
<td>11.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Human resources</td>
<td>9.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(missions by veterinarians, economists, and project planners and managers)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Training (laboratory, epidemiology, wildlife, policy and strategy)</td>
<td>1.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Studies (diagnostic reference, field epidemiological studies, wildlife field studies)</td>
<td>1.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Support services (general operating expenses)</td>
<td>4.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>28.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Wild birds on the web