



Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

# Avian Flu: FAO IN ACTION

ECTAD - Emergency Centre for Transboundary Animal Diseases

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## ONE WORLD, ONE HEALTH

### FAO presents global strategy paper in Sharm El-Sheikh

Participants from the Sharm El-Sheikh conference on avian and pandemic influenza that was held towards the end of October 2008 now have before them a challenging new initiative which was unveiled during the conference by FAO on behalf of a number of major international agencies.

The initiative, presented by FAO in a joint document on *Contributing to One World, One Health: A Strategic Framework for Reducing Risks of Infectious Diseases at the Animal-Human-Ecosystems Interface*, is an ambitious new strategy to look at HPAI and other existing and emerging infectious diseases at the points where the animal, human and ecosystem domains meet.

In the almost five years that have passed since HPAI hit the scene in eastern and southeastern Asia, realisation of the need for close cooperation between the animal and public health sectors in the fight against HPAI and other existing or emerging infectious diseases (EIDs) has been growing steadily; in Sharm El-Sheikh the first concrete steps were taken to give shape to this cooperation.

Under the banner of *One World, One Health*, FAO, OIE, WHO and UNICEF (together with the World Bank and the UN System Influenza Coordinator (UNSIC), have agreed that a better understanding of the global emergence, spread and impact of EIDs is both urgent and important, and that because of the complexities of novel disease flare-ups, broad multidisciplinary and multisectoral cooperation across the animal-human-ecosystems interface should be put in place.

The thrust of the *One World, One Health* concept is to diminish the risk and minimize the global impact of epidemics and pandemics due to EIDs by enhancing livestock and wildlife disease intelligence, surveillance and emergency response systems at national, regional and international levels, and by supporting them through strong and stable public and animal health services and effective national communication strategies. Priorities will be identified on the basis of known areas of risk ('hotspots') for disease emergence and on research findings that point to new risks.

Delegates to the Sharm El-Sheikh meeting welcomed the approach as a starting point for future action and called for further elaboration of the concept and clear indications of the roles of all "stakeholders" in the process.



FAO/Paolo Pagani

These stakeholders range from local communities to national governments, technical regional and international organisations, and to finance and development agencies and NGOs.

Expressing great interest in *One World, One Health*, the Canadian government offered to organise a technical meeting in Winnipeg at the beginning of 2009 to continue discussion of the issue.

On this basis, the agencies involved in formulation of the *One World, One Health* strategy are expected to decide on the next steps. These include ways of implementing the strategy, costing options and how to ensure that stakeholder "buy-in" to the strategy is as widespread as possible.

Timely implementation will contribute significantly to the overall goal of improving public health, food safety and security, and the livelihoods of poor farming communities, as well as protecting the health of ecosystems.

FAO has started to work with its partners to further develop the *One World, One Health* strategy, to share it with stakeholders particularly at country and regional levels, and to develop clearly defined options for its implementation.

## 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 17 November 2008) a total of USD 182 million, with a further USD 79.6 million agreed but not yet received, for a total of USD 261.6 million. The following table illustrates the breakdown of these funds.

	US dollars (millions)
United States .....	112.94
Sweden.....	25.00
Australia .....	14.27
Japan .....	13.52
European Commission .....	10.47
United Kingdom .....	10.22
Canada.....	9.48
Germany.....	9.43
FAO .....	9.18
Asian Development Bank .....	7.99
UNDP Administered Trust Fund .....	6.76
France .....	6.74
World Bank.....	4.45
Norway.....	3.70
Switzerland .....	3.70
Belgium .....	2.83
Nepal .....	2.39
Spain .....	1.68
Saudi Arabia .....	1.00
Viet Nam .....	0.80
UN Development Group Office .....	0.76
OPEC Fund .....	0.70
Netherlands .....	0.63
African Development Bank .....	0.58
PR China .....	0.50
UNDP .....	0.46
New Zealand .....	0.34
Ireland .....	0.32
CHF* .....	0.30
Italy .....	0.29
Greece .....	0.19
Jordan .....	0.04
UN Ass Prog for Afghanistan .....	0.02

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

\* Common Fund for Humanitarian Action in Sudan

## Overall funding situation 17 November 2008

	US dollars (millions)
Funds required (over 3 years)	308.51
Funds received and agreed	261.68
Funds in 'pipeline'	21.18
<b>Total funding envelope</b>	<b>282.86</b>

### Funding Gaps

Including funds received and agreed	46.83
Including funds received, agreed and 'pipeline'	25.65

## THAILAND

### Five mobile veterinary units to fight bird flu

FAO handed over five pick-up cars, equipped for avian influenza investigations, to Thailand's Department of Livestock Development (DLD) at the end of October. The mobile veterinary units were provided through a contribution from the government of Japan. The cost of the five mobile veterinary units amounts to Baht 6.6 million (US\$ 187,000).



The provision of mobile veterinary units will further enhance the capacity of the Bureau of Disease Control and Veterinary Services in outbreak investigation, and ultimately contribute to the well-being of thousands of farmers, poultry consumers, the poultry industry and the general public, said FAO.

"It is well known that Thailand makes continuous efforts – on its own and in close cooperation with other countries and partners – to fight against HPAI and demonstrates a high-level of commitment and capability to reduce the spread of the disease," said He Changchui, FAO regional chief during the handing-over ceremony.

Over the last two years, FAO has implemented a regional project – *Strengthening the control and prevention of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) and enhancing public awareness* – funded by Japan. The project has eight participating countries. In Thailand, the project supports DLD initiatives in organizing a series of epidemiology training for the control of HPAI, focusing on outbreak investigations.

The H5N1 HPAI crisis started in Asia in late 2003/early 2004. Various donors positively responded to the appeal from international organizations including FAO, and provided significant financial support to combat H5N1. The Japanese government was one of the first donors to answer the appeal.

To date, FAO's Emergency Centre for Transboundary Animal Diseases (ECTAD) has received over US\$ 13.6 million from Japan for avian influenza related activities, all of which is used exclusively for Southeast Asia.

## INDONESIA

### FAO partners with media in the fight against avian influenza

Through a unique partnership between FAO and the Indonesian Ministry of Agriculture, 13 national media practitioners have been working on a bird flu awareness-raising project under the theme of 'Human Faces of Avian Influenza'.

The challenge for the project participants is to portray the impact and effect of avian influenza through the words and actions of the people most affected or most at risk – smallholder or village farmers (both men and women).

Launched in July 2008, the project will offer awards to professionals in the fields of print, radio, TV, video, digital/online media, photography and multi-media who have demonstrated innovation and capacity in use of their medium to carry forward the prevent avian influenza "message". At the same time, the professionals themselves will become active participants in the communication and advocacy process to prevent avian influenza.

A project Advisory Committee, including representatives from the Ministry of Agriculture, the National Committee for Avian Influenza Control and Pandemic Influenza Preparedness, FAO, radio/television stations, *The Jakarta Post* and the Jakarta Arts Council met in mid-September and selected 13 media practitioners to take part.

The project got off the ground in mid-October, when successful candidates – including media practitioners from pioneer private TV station RCTI, KBR68H and RRI Radio, *The Jakarta Post* and *Republika* newspapers, and award-winning and rising stars in the world of photography and other media, attended an inception workshop.

Organised by FAO Indonesia, the workshop was opened by Pak Turni Rusli Syamsudin (Acting Director of Animal Health of the Ministry of Agriculture), and Tony Foreman (Acting Team Leader of FAO's Avian Influenza Control Programme in Indonesia).



*Committee members advise media partners (FAO)*

Following review by and feedback from a panel of experts and peers at the end of November in Jakarta, the work of the project participants will be given a national launch in December.

The project is funded by the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), with support from the US Agency for International Development (USAID) and the Australian Government's Aid Programme (AusAID).

#### Media project also under way in Viet Nam

Meanwhile, the same project is also currently running in Viet Nam, where 10 national media practitioners, including professionals from Viet Nam News, VTV3, Voice of Viet Nam radio, National Vietnam Television, Sai Gon Giai Phong online newspaper and Vietnam News Agency, were selected by a panel comprising representatives of FAO, Viet Nam's Department of Animal Health (DAH), the Partnership on Animal and Human Influenza (PAHI), WHO, UNICEF, CARE, AED and Abt Associates. The inception workshop was held at the end of September and assignments are expected to be completed by the end of 2008.

## ASIA AND PACIFIC

### Animal disease expert to head ECTAD regional office

Dr Subhash Morzaria of the United Kingdom has been appointed ECTAD Regional Manager for Asia and the Pacific, taking over from Dr Laurie Gleeson who has retired. Dr. Morzaria has a first degree in Veterinary Medicine, an MSc in Medical Parasitology and a PhD in veterinary medicine. He has worked for a number national and international organizations in Africa, Asia and the United Kingdom, and held senior positions in various institutions including the East African Veterinary Research Organisation in Kenya, Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, Weybridge, UK, the former International Laboratory for Research on Animal Diseases, the International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI) and FAO. For the last five years he has been based in the FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific in Bangkok, involved in developing regional and international strategies for the control of transboundary animal diseases including foot-and-mouth disease (FMD), classical swine fever (CSF) and HPAI.

He specialises in endemic and infectious animal diseases, and with his background in development of vaccines and diagnostics and epidemiology, he continues to play an active role in regional control of transboundary animal disease in Asia under the joint FAO/OIE Global Framework for the Control of Transboundary Animal Diseases (GF-TADs) umbrella. Dr. Morzaria has written over 150 scientific papers in international refereed journals and has supervised a number of PhD students in the Africa, United Kingdom and Asia. He is also Adjunct Professor at Murdoch University. Most recently, he was the principal writer of the UN inter-agency (FAO, WHO, UNICEF), UNSIC and World Bank document entitled *Contributing to One World One Health: Strategic Framework for Reducing Risks of Infectious Diseases at the Animal-Human-Ecosystems Interface* (to read the document, [click here](#)).

## WEST AFRICA

### Biosecurity on the agenda at sub-regional workshop

Animal health professionals from Benin, Guinea, Senegal and Togo attended a four-day sub-regional workshop in August in Lome, Togo, to discuss biosecurity on poultry farms and in live bird markets throughout West Africa.

The workshop, which followed hard on the heels of an H5N1 HPAI outbreak announced in the north of Nigeria, was called to reinforce the technical capacities of stakeholders in the poultry production and marketing chain to prevent and combat avian influenza.

The meeting was also designed to help producers better organise their activities at farm and market levels by respecting hygiene regulations and adopting good practices in poultry raising and marketing.

By the end of the workshop, participants had acquired the necessary skills to be able to distinguish between different types of avian influenza, describe how the HPAI virus is transmitted, and define the three principles of biosecurity (segregation, cleaning and disinfection). Further, participants were instructed on ways of identifying potential biosecurity risks, and how to explain and describe appropriate biosecurity measures for poultry farms, live bird markets and poultry transport.

The workshop was organised by the FAO ECTAD Regional Unit for West and Central Africa based in Bamako, Mali, and the Washington-based USAID STOP AI.



## GLOBAL PROGRAMME REPORT 2008

### FAO remains fully committed to fighting avian influenza

Almost five years have passed since highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) first emerged as a serious global problem. FAO together with its partners has continued to increase its experience with developing various control strategies and approaches in the light of improving information about the disease and its epidemiology, results of research, and feedback from the field.

This increasing knowledge has been applied to regularly refine the FAO/OIE Global Strategy which outlines the global, regional and national responsibilities of both organizations to help governments combat the HPAI epidemic. To meet these responsibilities, FAO structured a three-year Global Programme (2006-2008) to operate simultaneously on the global, regional and national level.

This year's Report on the Global Programme has just been released and contains a review of FAO's activities between January and September 2008, and an overall assessment of country capacities for HPAI prevention and control. In a foreword to the report, FAO's Chief Veterinary Officer Joseph Domenech notes:

*The HPAI situation has significantly improved in the past year, and the majority of infected countries have eliminated the infection or are currently controlling the disease. Only Indonesia and Egypt still remain of concern. However, the fight must continue, as the virus still has the potential to cause a pandemic. FAO has significantly contributed to the progress made to date and remains fully committed to the task at hand.*

To read the 2008 Report, [click here](#).

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