



CMC-AH Crisis Management Centre
Animal Health

ACTIVITY REPORT

October 2006 to September 2008



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TABLE OF CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION	4
A CRITICAL ROLE	6
Mission and objectives	6
Part of FAO's broader response	7
PLANNING STRATEGICALLY	8
Tracking	9
Partnerships	9
DEPLOYING RAPIDLY	10
Assembling the team	10
Backstopping	11
TRAINING	12
Rapid deployment workshops	12
COORDINATION	14
FAO network	14
OIE, WHO and other partners	15
ENSURING FOLLOW-UP	16
Increasing awareness	16
Paving the way for longer-term assistance	18
RAPID RESPONSE	20
Missions	21
DONOR SUPPORT	24
Evolving support	24
THE WAY FORWARD	26
Increasing access to expertise	26
A core donor base	27

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Commercial poultry – Nepal

INTRODUCTION

Highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) made headlines worldwide in late 2003 and early 2004. The outbreaks killed countless birds, caused untold damage to poultry-based livelihoods and placed the health of human populations at risk. Additional outbreaks followed, and the disease spread across continents.

Other transboundary animal diseases (TADs) have long threatened both animals and people. However, HPAI represented the first ever “advance warning of a pandemic”.¹ The world was eager to respond.

In reaction to the HPAI crisis and evolving TAD emergencies worldwide, FAO – in close association with the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) – established the Crisis Management Centre – Animal Health (CMC-AH) in October 2006. The Centre was created to enhance “FAO’s ability to help member nations prevent and cope with disease outbreaks”.²

As a facility for animal disease emergency response, the CMC-AH helped 19 governments respond to TAD emergencies through 27 missions deployed from October 2006 through September 2008. CMC-AH efforts over this timeframe have supported governments dealing with not only HPAI but also other TADs, including African swine fever (ASF), foot-and-mouth disease (FMD), peste des petits ruminants (PPR), porcine reproductive and respiratory syndrome (PRRS) and Rift Valley fever (RVF).

Over the past two years FAO has established, developed and operated the CMC-AH, solidifying its capacity for rapid animal disease response with a:

- clear role and mission;
- tried and tested operational method; and
- growing record of rapid response missions.

Through the CMC-AH, FAO coordinates with its partners, OIE and the World Health Organization (WHO) as well as its generous donors to provide technical assistance and operational support to help fight HPAI and other TADs at their source.

Clinical signs of avian influenza can mimic other diseases – laboratory analysis is required to confirm HPAI

THE BIRD FLU THREAT

In December 2003, the highly pathogenic H5N1 strain of avian influenza surfaced in Southeast Asia, first killing migratory birds and domestic poultry and later infecting humans with fatal results. Since that time, the virus has spread steadily through Asia and Africa to Eurasia and Europe. Approximately 245 million birds³ have died from direct contact with the virus or through

related control efforts. As of June 2008, HPAI had caused the deaths of 213 people in 15 countries,⁴ and the risk of a human pandemic remains.

³ FAO/OIE estimates as of June 2008.

⁴ WHO: http://www.who.int/csr/disease/avian_influenza/country/cases_table_2008_06_19/en/index.html

¹ WHO: <https://www.who.int/mediacentre/events/2006/g8summit/influenza/en/print.html>

² Jacques Diouf, FAO Director-General, 12 October 2006



Above: A herd in the Sudan

Below: A trader prepares to sell live birds in a market in Nigeria

CREDIT: FAO/S. de la Roque

CREDIT: FAO/S. Sijarjans-Diaw

CREDIT: FAO/C. Willis

CREDIT: FAO/S. Makenali



Smallholder duck farm –
Bangladesh

A CRITICAL ROLE

The CMC-AH assists FAO member countries to establish effective initial responses to animal disease emergencies or emerging threats.

MISSION AND OBJECTIVES

Helping governments establish appropriate responses to outbreaks before they spread requires the rapid provision of the right technical assistance. Reacting quickly to official requests, the CMC-AH sends rapid response missions to countries in need of urgent support.

Specifically, the CMC-AH helps governments respond rapidly to TAD outbreaks or critical epidemiological situations in countries newly infected or highly at risk of infection. CMC-AH missions facilitate government efforts to assess situations on the ground, diagnose TAD outbreaks and develop and implement emergency action plans to help stop disease spread.

PART OF FAO'S BROADER RESPONSE

The CMC-AH serves as the rapid response platform for FAO's Emergency Centre for Transboundary Animal Disease Operations (ECTAD). Established in December 2004 and operated under the overall supervision of FAO's Chief Veterinary Officer (CVO), ECTAD is FAO's facility for the design and delivery of veterinary services in response to TADs.

ECTAD provides member countries with:

- policy and strategy advice;
- planning assistance;
- technical expertise;
- training; and
- laboratory and veterinary equipment and supplies.

CMC-AH AT A GLANCE (October 2006 – September 2008)

Response missions deployed	27
Countries assisted worldwide	19
Missions in response to HPAI	17
Missions in response to other TADs	10



Above: Sampling ostriches in a
suspected outbreak area

Below: Georgian pig farmers confront
the risk of ASF



Bangladesh traders display their live
birds for sale in a market in Savar



Outbreak mapping – Bangladesh

PLANNING STRATEGICALLY

Being able to respond when needed means thinking ahead. To provide governments with immediate support, the CMC-AH maintains its ability to deploy by tracking animal disease emergencies and maintaining strategic partnerships with donors and agencies.

TRACKING

The CMC-AH tracks the worldwide animal disease situation on a daily basis through direct links to FAO's Emergency Prevention System for Transboundary Animal and Plant Pests and Diseases (EMPRES) and the Global Early Warning System for Transboundary Animal Diseases (GLEWS) of FAO, OIE and WHO. This cross-referenced tracking capacity enables the CMC-AH to stay ahead of developments and forecast emergencies to which the Centre may be requested to respond.

PARTNERSHIPS

Through special arrangements with key partners and donors, the CMC-AH requests outside resources when emergencies require extra support. These pre-arranged loan agreements provide the Centre with a surge capacity to meet situations both small and large by calling on the right personnel from various organizations when their expertise is needed.

For example, for missions requiring wide-ranging expertise, the CMC-AH augments its resources by reaching out to OIE and WHO for additional personnel and support. The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) also provides experts. The Centre is discussing similar arrangements with the Government of the French Republic, the Government of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) and other partners.

A CMC-AH expert takes samples from sick pigs in Viet Nam



TRACKING SUSPICIOUS SWINE MORTALITY IN VIET NAM

When the GLEWS network provided EMPRES with reports of unusual pig deaths in Viet Nam toward late July 2007, the CMC-AH was immediately informed thanks to its direct link to the wider information network. The Centre was placed on standby for possible deployment. Core CMC-AH staff tracked the situation on a daily basis. When field reports of pig mortalities became increasingly frequent, FAO got in touch with the Vietnamese Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD).

On 31 July the Vice-Minister of MARD requested FAO support to assess the pig disease situation. Seven days later, a CMC-AH multidisciplinary team was providing the Government with its rapid assessment of the situation. Mission findings of the joint FAO-OIE team linked the reported mortalities to a series of previous disease outbreaks, including PRRS. The CMC-AH team made detailed recommendations to help the Government prevent similar emergencies in the future.



Free-ranging poultry and live-bird markets pose HPAI biosecurity risks in Togo



Bringing pigs to market – Viet Nam

CREDIT: FAO/J. Amelli

DEPLOYING RAPIDLY

ASSEMBLING THE TEAM

The CMC-AH starts designing an appropriate rapid deployment team as soon as tracking activities indicate a possible need to deploy. Using international and national experts chosen for their specific skills, the CMC-AH adapts the capacities and size of these functional teams to each disease situation and the needs of affected countries.

Mission team members are chosen from the CMC-AH, other parts of FAO and external partners. Regardless of their standard department, outside agency or home organization, assembled experts become fully fledged CMC-AH members deployed rapidly in support of mission objectives.

BACKSTOPPING

Logistical, operational and technical needs change quickly as situations evolve. To work in these dynamic situations, the CMC-AH maintains backstopping channels with deployed teams on the ground. Through daily situation reports, teleconferences and satellite and mobile phone contact, the CMC-AH assures that critical information flows between FAO headquarters and CMC-AH teams in the field. Backstopping helps teams provide governments with appropriate assistance, from arranging the immediate delivery of supplies from FAO headquarters to putting local veterinary services in touch with global expertise from FAO, OIE, WHO and other partners.



Depopulation of an infected chicken farm in Togo

CREDIT: FAO/K. De Ballegh



Traditional poultry transportation methods, like this bicycle in Cotonou, Benin, can promote virus spread

CREDIT: FAO/C. Squarzon-Diaw

THE RAPID DEPLOYMENT ROSTER

In addition to special arrangements for loaned experts, the CMC-AH maintains a roster database of qualified technical personnel. This database helps the CMC-AH identify candidates for rapid missions. With a current

total of 150 pre-selected individuals, roster expertise covers a range of veterinary specialties identified as potential requirements for rapid deployment.

CMC-AH AT THE READY: TRACKING, RESPONSE AND FOLLOW-UP IN GHANA, 2007

25 April	Reports of poultry deaths in Ghana reach EMPRES through GLEWS.
26 April	CMC-AH begins daily tracking and remains on standby for deployment.
1 May	Initial laboratory tests result positive for H5N1.
4 May	FAO CVO offers assistance to the Ministry of Food and Agriculture (MOFA) for HPAI assessment and control via a CMC-AH mission.
12 May	MOFA officially invites FAO support.
15 May	CMC-AH team arrives in Ghana to help assess the outbreak.
23 May	Team begins drafting emergency action plan in collaboration with veterinary services.
24–27 May	Stakeholders discuss action plan and mission findings, identify need for emergency cross-border meeting and draft agenda.
28 May	Emergency action plan finalized.
31 May	CMC-AH arranges shipment of personal protective equipment to Ghana in line with mission suggestions.
4–5 June	Cross-border meeting held between the CVOs of Benin, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana and Togo to facilitate regional control efforts.
8 June	Debriefing teleconference conducted with CMC-AH (Rome), WHO (Geneva and Brazzaville) and OIE (Paris).



Dealing with contaminated (painted) jumpsuits – a useful training tool for personal protection and to prevent virus spread

TRAINING

Having access to animal health expertise is not enough. To be effective, response mission experts need shared knowledge and the ability to work as a team. For this reason, the CMC-AH trains mission candidates and field-based support staff to enhance common technical and operational capacities and promote teamwork.

RAPID DEPLOYMENT WORKSHOPS

With support from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and USDA, the CMC-AH conducts training workshops for rapid deployment candidates. These workshops help candidates develop the additional technical and operational knowledge required for rapid response missions. The sessions give participants the opportunity to discuss ideas presented, exchange field experiences and create networks for improved response coordination. Presented in the context of FAO's Global HPAI Programme, training topics include:

- surveillance;
- investigation and control;
- laboratory diagnosis;
- sample collection techniques;
- personal protective equipment;
- outbreak assessment and response; and
- emergency response management.

Putting theory into practice, each workshop concludes with a simulation, which groups trainees into teams and "deploys" them on a CMC-AH rapid response mission. The teams receive an initial briefing, after which they must plan each phase of their deployment. Meeting with government officials, farmers and donors – all portrayed by CMC-AH trainers – the participants work through a simulated, rapid response scenario to assist a fictitious member country dealing with an animal disease emergency. Teams present their findings and recommendations to the host government in final debriefings, and the simulation concludes with a discussion of each team's strategy and approach.

CMC-AH TRAINING SERIES

ROME: 7–12 OCTOBER 2007

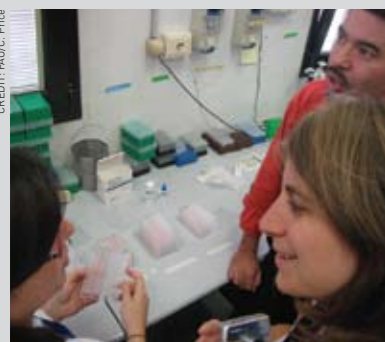
The first CMC-AH rapid response workshop trained 21 participants from around the world.

ROME: 22–27 JUNE 2008

The CMC-AH focused its second workshop on field-level experts. This new audience consisted of 22 trainees from 20 countries, including FAO national consultants and government veterinary personnel.

BAMAKO: 14–19 SEPTEMBER 2008

This workshop, held in Bamako and conducted in French, focused on enhancing capacities to meet mounting needs for CMC-AH services in Francophone Africa and elsewhere.



Participants get a closer look at HPAI rapid testing methods and equipment



Two training participants perform a tracheal swab on live poultry



A group of participants plans its response strategy during a training simulation



Village fogging for mosquito control in the face of RVF – the Sudan

COORDINATION

With implications for animals, humans and trade, responding to animal disease emergencies is a multifaceted challenge requiring a wide array of expertise. The CMC-AH reaches out to the FAO network, partner and sister agencies, donors and other organizations to facilitate coordinated responses to TAD emergencies.

FAO NETWORK

Bringing the added value of the largest UN technical agency to bear on disease situations, the CMC-AH taps into the FAO network to share information and devise coordinated efforts. Including Offices of FAO Representation, Regional ECTAD Units based in Regional Animal Health Centres and other field offices, the network provides the Centre with global FAO expertise and up-to-date information from regional and local sources. The CMC-AH capitalizes on this support to mount coordinated missions in synergy with ongoing FAO programmes.

OIE, WHO AND OTHER PARTNERS

FAO operates the CMC-AH in close collaboration with OIE, the Centre's key partner for animal disease response. When human health is concerned, the CMC-AH also relies on links to WHO. Coordinating closely before, during and after each CMC-AH mission, FAO, OIE and WHO exchange information and share expertise to provide for the best possible response to TAD emergencies affecting animals, humans, trade and world markets. The CMC-AH also collaborates with donors, governments, agencies and other organizations.

COORDINATION PROVES VITAL IN THE SUDAN

When human samples tested positive for RVF on 18 October 2007, FAO, OIE and WHO began holding several teleconferences per day to share information. Continuous, high-level contact contributed to CMC-AH mission planning and enabled FAO, OIE and WHO to produce coordinated public messages and liaise with appropriate Government ministries. Coordination work continued into early November in light of rising human RVF case numbers and the increasing cause for regional concern.

Within 48 hours of the Government's acceptance of FAO assistance, the CMC-AH deployed an RVF expert

to assess the animal disease situation. Working with OIE and WHO, the FAO expert suggested immediate actions to protect the animal and human populations. Contact with FAO headquarters put Government counterparts in touch with OIE for regional trade expertise. Daily contact between FAO, OIE and WHO continued during the mission, followed by joint debriefings. By sharing mission findings, FAO and partners worked to institutionalize coordination mechanisms for use in future TAD emergencies.

Sampling during a joint rapid response mission for ASF – Armenia



CREDIT: FAO/C. Mendrâ

JOINT MISSIONS

When situations require joint action and a unified approach, the CMC-AH facilitates joint missions with UN and external partners. By including team members from multiple organizations, joint response missions provide the technical and operational expertise required for critical situations, especially when these have human health implications.

JOINT RAPID RESPONSE MISSIONS

Date	Country	Disease	Team composition
11–14 June 2007	Georgia	ASF	CMC-AH, EC, OIE
17–21 July 2007	Togo	HPAI	CMC-AH, OIE
10–21 September 2007	Armenia	ASF	CMC-AH, EC, OIE
10–19 November 2007	Sudan	RVF	CMC-AH, WHO*
29 April – 15 May 2008	Madagascar	RVF	CMC-AH, OIE, WHO*

* In light of the highly zoonotic nature of RVF, the CMC-AH closely coordinated these missions to Madagascar and the Sudan with concurrent WHO missions.

A local official provides a television interview regarding RVF in the Sudan



CREDIT: FAO/S. de la Roque



Live poultry market – Togo

ENSURING FOLLOW-UP

The ramifications of TAD emergencies can continue well after outbreaks occur. For this reason, FAO promotes the transition from immediate CMC-AH assistance to appropriate medium- and longer-term support. Within the overall strategy of ECTAD, the CMC-AH acts as a catalyst for follow-up by increasing stakeholder awareness and generating project proposals to help mobilize funding for longer-term efforts.

INCREASING AWARENESS

CMC-AH mission teams frequently work with affected governments to help them develop and implement emergency action plans for immediate disease control. These three- to six-month plans establish strategic, emergency approaches for the future disease control activities of national authorities. Emergency action plans can also raise donor awareness and help mobilize new resources by outlining gaps in funding and capacity.

Each CMC-AH mission ends with an in-country debriefing to present and discuss critical elements like the emergency action plan. Gathering stakeholders together, teams highlight their most important findings to help point governments, donors and partners in the right direction for follow-up.

SECURING FUNDING FOR RVF IN THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA

Following the Centre's rapid response mission to the United Republic of Tanzania in March 2007, the CMC-AH prepared a joint RVF assistance proposal for submission to donors. FAO, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and WHO submitted the proposal, which was developed in collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme, to the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF). The USD 1.2 million project – which included an FAO component for more than USD 700 000 – was approved in April 2007 and moved to the implementation phase.

With CERF funding, FAO provided training and equipment to all seven of the Government's Veterinary Investigation Centres, thereby improving the Government's capacity for surveillance, detection and diagnosis, especially in remote areas.



Branding animals as part of a RVF vaccination strategy can help distinguish vaccinated herds from the unvaccinated population



Above: A wet market in Bangladesh



Below: Communication tools, like this sign in Ghana, are essential components of any emergency action plan

THE CMC-AH FOLLOWS UP IN NEPAL

The commercial poultry sector accounts for approximately half of Nepal's estimated 23 million domesticated fowl. The remaining population lies within the hands of smallholder and backyard farmers. To help protect these resources, the CMC-AH fielded a rapid mission to help the Government strengthen preparedness and response planning.

Mission findings indicated that medium- and longer-term support was needed, especially when noting the threat posed by poultry transport across the Nepalese-Indian border. The CMC-AH fielded a second mission of two months to help cover needs while longer-term efforts funded by the World Bank were being formulated. The resulting CMC-AH follow-up mission dealt systematically with key findings from the previous deployment in support of the Government's needs to:

- review surveillance activities;
- revise preparedness and operational plans; and
- develop public awareness messages in collaboration with UNICEF to promote reporting of poultry deaths to help prevent disease spread.



FAO experts inspect live poultry

CMC-AH IN TOGO: OPENING THE DOOR TO WIDE-RANGING ASSISTANCE

With HPAI circulating in West Africa, Togo experienced its first HPAI outbreaks in late June 2007. Within 24 hours of the Government's request, the CMC-AH deployed the first of two rapid response missions to support the Government and its veterinary services.

Through these initial missions, the CMC-AH:

- assisted the national authorities to develop a six-month emergency action plan for HPAI control, surveillance, prevention and compensation;
- provided an emergency funding package of USD 50 000, which enabled the Government to start immediate control operations;
- coordinated with WHO to promote collaboration between animal and human health counterparts; and
- arranged the deployment of an international HPAI expert for two months to help facilitate the transition from immediate to medium-term support.

The emergency action plan was critical to securing follow-up funding and in-kind contributions from the German Technical Cooperation (GTZ), USAID and the World Bank. Efforts led to a 2 million euro grant for longer-term support from the European Commission (EC). Taking the lead in the medium term, the CMC-AH followed up with a third mission providing technical assistance on compensation mechanisms and a fourth mission laying the groundwork for Government efforts to develop a communication plan.

In addition, CMC-AH efforts in Togo provided the impetus for a second, West African cross-border meeting in November 2007 to follow up on the first Regional Meeting of CVOs held in Ghana in June 2007. Through this second meeting, the CVOs of Benin, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Nigeria and Togo consolidated recommendations and built communication links for information sharing amongst their national offices and with the Regional ECTAD Unit in Bamako.

Shortly after mission conclusion, each CMC-AH team submits a detailed report to the government. Mission reports support emergency action plans and in-country debriefings. By documenting mission activities and summarizing technical recommendations, these reports give countries a lasting reference for designing next steps and a specific tool for use in rallying stakeholders for additional support.

PAVING THE WAY FOR LONGER-TERM ASSISTANCE

To generate results, priority items need to be channelled into concrete next steps. When TADs situations require longer-term initiatives, the CMC-AH develops project proposals to mobilize additional funding for the follow-up activities of FAO and partners.

Of the 27 deployments in the past two years, eight missions and subsequent CMC-AH proposals led to FAO follow-up projects for TAD prevention and control. Countries benefiting from follow-up initiatives include Armenia, Bangladesh, Georgia, Kenya, Madagascar, the Sudan, Tanzania and Viet Nam.



Veterinary service staff vaccinate a domestic bird at a backyard farm in Bangladesh



The CMC-AH supports the Government of the Togolese Republic as it (upper left and proceeding clockwise):

- 1) depopulates;
- 2) incinerates;
- 3) compensates owners for their depopulated birds; and
- 4) conducts participatory communication to spread community knowledge and awareness of HPAI.



Eggs seized in cross-border control measures

RAPID RESPONSE

The CMC-AH strives to field response missions within 72 hours of receipt of official requests. While political, logistical or security constraints sometimes challenge rapid deployment, the CMC-AH has succeeded in deploying over 50 percent of its missions within 72 hours.

CMC-AH IN BENIN: HELPING AN AT-RISK COUNTRY RESPOND TO HPAI

Facing an increasing risk of HPAI introduction due to outbreaks in Nigeria since February 2006 and in neighbouring Ghana and Togo in May and June 2007, the Government of the Republic of Benin requested FAO assistance to assess prevention and control capacities in preparation for possible outbreaks.

Combining the capacities of the CMC-AH with the Regional Animal Health Centre (RAHC) in Bamako, FAO sent a joint CMC-AH/RAHC mission from 4 to 19 November 2008 to provide technical assistance in surveillance, prevention, response and control. Mission findings revealed critical gaps in Benin's outbreak response capacity; in the event of an outbreak, the Government had no funding available for immediate

control efforts. Therefore, the CMC-AH provided Benin with an emergency funding package of USD 50 000.

CMC-AH preparedness support proved opportune, as rapid tests performed by the veterinary services indicated an outbreak of HPAI had begun on 4 December 2007, just 14 days after the Centre's first mission left Benin. Official lab results confirmed the rapid tests, and the Government used the CMC-AH emergency funding package to begin immediate control activities.

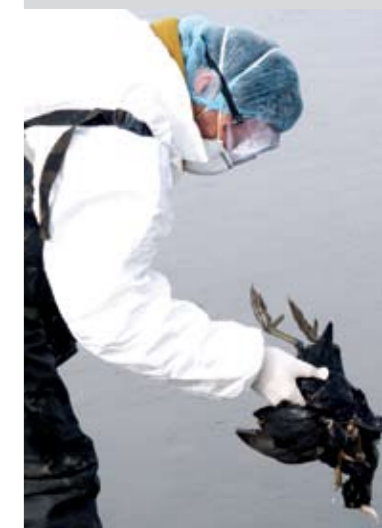
For further support, the CMC-AH deployed a second response mission from 9 to 18 December 2008 to facilitate immediate response efforts through the provision of technical advice.

MISSIONS

From October 2006 through September 2008, the CMC-AH facilitated the efforts of 19 countries responding to TADs emergencies through 27 rapid response missions.

CMC-AH missions share common outputs designed to help rapidly assess TAD situations and government capacities as the first step toward larger prevention and control measures. Common outputs can include:

- three- to six-month emergency action plans;
- recommendations and technical assistance for the immediate-term;
- emergency funding packages of USD 50 000 from CMC-AH sources for immediate response efforts;
- personal protective equipment, laboratory tools and communication materials; and
- project proposals and initiatives promoting the transition to medium- and longer-term assistance.



An FAO wildlife expert takes samples from a dead water bird in Turkey

USING THE RIGHT TOOLS

The CMC-AH uses up-to-date systems and tools to track disease data, plan and monitor deployments, share critical information and coordinate resources.

The latest disease intelligence from FAO, OIE and WHO funnels into the Centre through a direct link with EMPRES, a daily action plan helps manage rapid response activities and detailed situation

reports provide feedback from deployed teams. By setting standards with WHO and equipping both FAO headquarters and RAHCs with up-to-date information communication technology, the CMC-AH is working on a global scale to ensure information exchanged between FAO, WHO and the field is fast, reliable and compatible.



The core strength of the CMC-AH: its people

CMC-AH MISSIONS (October 2006 – September 2008)

No.	Date	Country	Disease	Focus
1	6–25 November 2006	Sudan (Southern)	HPAI	Assessment and response
2	13–21 December 2006	Korea, Republic of	HPAI	Epidemiological investigation and assessment
3	6–15 January 2007	Kenya	RVF	Assessment and response
4	3–12 February 2007	Nigeria	HPAI	Assessment and response
5	14–26 March 2007	Afghanistan	HPAI	Assessment and response
6	16–28 March 2007	Korea, Democratic People's Republic of	FMD	Assessment and response
7	26 March – 6 April 2007	Tanzania	RVF	Assessment and response
8	13–26 April 2007	Bangladesh	HPAI	Assessment, response and control
9	25 April – 17 May 2007	Saudi Arabia	HPAI	Assessment, response, control and lab training
10	15 May – 7 June 2007	Ghana	HPAI	Assessment and response
11	11–14 June 2007	Georgia	ASF	Assessment and response
12	23 June – 3 July 2007	Togo	HPAI	Assessment, response and control
13	17–21 July 2007	Togo	HPAI	Assessment, response and control
14	31 July – 8 August 2007	Togo	HPAI	Compensation policy development
15	4–18 August 2007	Togo	HPAI	Communication strategy development
16	8–22 August 2007	Viet Nam	PRRS	Disease assessment and response
17	10–21 September 2007	Armenia	ASF	Disease assessment and response
18	4–19 November 2007	Benin	HPAI	Preparedness
19	10–19 November 2007	Sudan	RVF	Assessment and response
20	8–16 December 2007	Saudi Arabia	HPAI	Assessment and response
21	9–18 December 2007	Benin	HPAI	Assessment and response
22	18 February – 12 March 2008	Turkey	HPAI	Investigation of the role of wild birds
23	19 February – 3 March 2008	Nepal	HPAI	Assessment and outbreak preparedness
24	4 April – 10 June 2008	Nepal	HPAI	Technical assistance and follow-up
25	29 April – 14 May 2008	Madagascar	RVF	Assessment and response
26	2–19 June 2008	Madagascar	RVF	Technical assistance and follow-up
27	12–21 August 2008	Morocco	PPR	Assessment and response

CMC-AH EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AND STAFF DEVELOPMENT

To help the Centre manage its rapid response operations, the CMC-AH applies principles from the Incident Command System (ICS) when assisting FAO member countries responding to TAD outbreaks. ICS is an internationally recognized emergency response management system that establishes a functional, systematic approach to the mobilization and organization of resources for any type of emergency response. With their ICS background, USDA experts, who were provided in-kind to FAO, also strengthen the Centre's emergency management capacity by sharing knowledge and applying ICS principles to CMC-AH tasks.

ROME: 10–30 JUNE 2008

To explore ICS principles, the CMC-AH organized training workshops for CMC-AH core staff and some 80 officers from other parts of FAO (including 25 senior-level managers). The ICS workshops were supported by USDA, which supplied ICS expertise to run the training sessions.

To ensure staff skills match the needs of CMC-AH operations, the Centre also promotes the professional development of its core personnel. In addition to ICS training, staff development has included:

- language instruction for work with Francophone or Anglophone countries (6 personnel);
- project proposal design, budget management and/or logical framework courses (4 personnel); and
- advanced office skills and software training (2 personnel).



Insufficient separation of pigs from ducks risks cross infection of HPAI – Viet Nam



Eggs for sale – Bangladesh

DONOR SUPPORT

The CMC-AH and its operations are made possible by funding from a variety of generous FAO donors.

EVOLVING SUPPORT

Created primarily in response to the HPAI threat, the CMC-AH was established with funding from USDA and FAO's Special Fund for Emergency and Rehabilitation Activities (SFERA) earmarked for HPAI. In-kind, USDA support for core staff since inception has helped the CMC-AH become fully functional.

The Centre assists countries threatened by HPAI with support from: the Asian Development Bank, the Governments of Canada, the Federal Republic of Germany, the French Republic and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Sida, USAID and USDA. Donors supporting the Centre through the SFERA for HPAI include the Governments of: the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, the Hellenic Republic, the Kingdom of Norway, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the Kingdom of Sweden, the People's Republic of China and the Swiss Confederation. This dedicated HPAI funding enables the CMC-AH to play its role in FAO's Global HPAI Programme as the first step in responding to avian influenza emergencies.

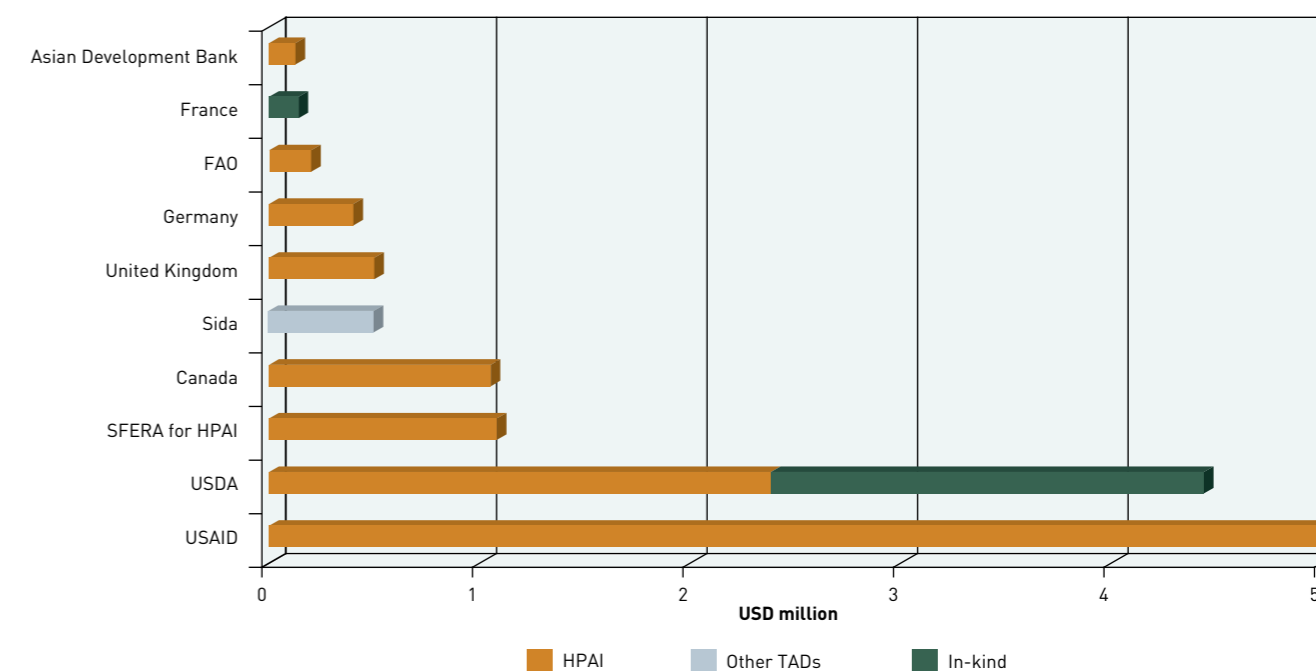
The CMC-AH is also mandated to assist countries responding to TADs other than HPAI. Lacking funds for this purpose until April 2008, the CMC-AH was nevertheless able to assist eight non-HPAI responses with alternative support. The CMC-AH missions to Madagascar and Morocco – made possible by Sida – mark the first deployments funded by support for TADs other than HPAI.



Above: Villagers raise questions during participatory communication activities in Togo

Below: A Nepalese merchant prepares chicken meat for local sale

FUNDING AND IN-KIND SUPPORT RECEIVED



The above-mentioned funds cover some CMC-AH activities up to March 2010.



A disinfection checkpoint – Georgia

THE WAY FORWARD

Two years on, FAO has taken the CMC-AH from concept to reality. Providing ECTAD and member countries with an operational platform for rapid animal disease response, FAO and OIE have established the Centre and cultivated its growth as a primary rapid response facility of the UN and international organization family.

The CMC-AH has assisted where HPAI and other TADs threatened animals, livestock-related livelihoods and human health. The disease threat continues worldwide, and the CMC-AH remains ready to provide rapid technical and operational assistance as the needs of member countries emerge.

INCREASING ACCESS TO EXPERTISE

The CMC-AH continues working to enhance its access to animal health expertise. Building on the agreement with USDA and discussions with the Government of the French Republic, the Government of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, Sida and others, FAO is seeking new, strategic partners for the loan of international experts. In addition, FAO is enhancing the strength and continuity of the Centre's core veterinary staff by allocating a senior, regular programme position to the CMC-AH.

A CORE DONOR BASE

To ensure the Centre's capacity to fulfil its mandate, the CMC-AH is seeking to create a core donor base. Funding from a dedicated donor group will provide for the essential staff, equipment and operational and technical capacities the Centre requires to continue assisting with HPAI and other TAD emergencies. Sida's contribution allocated for all TADs – not just HPAI – represents the first step toward this goal.

With additional and regular core donor support, the CMC-AH will continue providing rapid assistance to governments working to prevent and control TAD emergencies and safeguard the livelihoods of their populations.



Above: In Madagascar and many other countries, livestock form an integral part of farmer livelihoods

Below: A disinfection checkpoint is set up in Togo as part of a new control strategy for HPAI



A street vendor proudly displays his merchandise in Nigeria

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The Crisis Management Centre – Animal Health (CMC-AH) is a primary facility of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) for animal disease emergency response. A combined effort of FAO's Animal Health Service and Emergency Operations and Rehabilitation Division, the CMC-AH unites FAO's extensive technical and operational expertise with that of OIE, the World Health Organization (WHO) and other international, national and local partners.

With the support of its donors, the CMC-AH provides technical and operational assistance to help affected governments assess epidemiological situations on the ground, diagnose transboundary animal disease outbreaks and set-up immediate measures to help prevent or stop disease spread. CMC-AH efforts also represent the first step toward broader assistance. Working to facilitate the transition from immediate, emergency assistance to longer-term support, the CMC-AH initiates resource mobilization and project proposal formulation efforts for affected countries and regions.

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