

**PARTNERSHIP FRAMEWORK
BETWEEN THE
NATIONAL STEERING COMMITTEE FOR AVIAN INFLUENZA OF THE
SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIET NAM
AND
INTERNATIONAL PARTNERS**

Concerning the Establishment of the

**VIET NAM PARTNERSHIP FOR AVIAN AND HUMAN PANDEMIC
INFLUENZA (PAHI)**

Introduction

The National Steering Committee for Avian Influenza (NSCAI) and the international partner agencies as listed at the conclusion of this document, with a wish to support the implementation of the Viet Nam Integrated Operational Programme for Avian and Human Influenza (OPI), also known as "the Green Book", enter into this Partnership Framework to establish the Partnership for Avian and Human Pandemic Influenza (PAHI) with the following content.

Background to the Partnership

Viet Nam has been one of the worst-affected countries by the current highly pathogenic avian influenza¹ (HPAI) panzootic. There have been three main waves of outbreaks in poultry in Viet Nam since late 2003, with 93 confirmed human cases and 42 deaths. The Government of Viet Nam has actively sought to control HPAI outbreaks through enhanced surveillance, culling, market controls and – since October 2005 - mass poultry vaccination. Human health services are being strengthened and public communications campaigns carried out. The NSCAI supervises these efforts, and works closely with UN agencies, the World Bank and other donors. Since mid-November 2005, no case of human infection has been reported; and the last reported poultry outbreak was in December 2005. However, the virus is still believed to be present in Viet Nam, especially in waterfowl, and virus outbreaks in poultry and humans cases continue to be reported in neighbouring countries.

HPAI has had a direct measurable impact on Viet Nam's economy. Around 8 million of Viet Nam's 11 million households were engaged in poultry production prior to 2003, with poor households particularly reliant on poultry and eggs for both income and food. The emergence of a human pandemic would potentially threaten sustainable development not only in Viet Nam but also globally.

The *Vietnam Integrated National Operational Program for Avian and Human Influenza 2006-2010* (OPI), also known as the Green Book, describes the roles of government and other stakeholders and outlines activities to be implemented in the coming five years, with the overall objective of reducing the health risk to humans from avian influenza by controlling the disease at source in domestic poultry, by detecting and responding promptly to human cases, and by preparing for the medical consequences of a human pandemic. The OPI was prepared by a government taskforce established under the NSCAI, with support from UN agencies, the World Bank and other donors. It was adopted by the government on 31 May 2006² as the framework for mobilization of national

¹ Avian Influenza A (H5N1)

² Resolution 12/2006/NQ-CP (5 June 2006) on the Government's regular monthly meeting held on 31 May 2006

resources and international support to fight HPAI, and broadly endorsed by the international community at a government-donor meeting on 2nd June 2006 as a basis for harmonised support following the principles of the Hanoi Core Statement (HCS).

The OPI proposes to strengthen overall coordination of government, donors and other stakeholders in support of implementation of the OPI through the establishment of a Partnership for Avian and Human Pandemic Influenza (PAHI) under the leadership of the NSCAI.

Objectives of the Partnership

In order to improve ODA efficiency as well as mutual accountability, the NSCAI and donors are establishing a voluntary PAHI in order to facilitate implementation of the OPI as the medium-term country programme developed with the overall objective to reduce the health risk to humans from avian influenza by controlling the disease at source in domestic poultry, by detecting and responding promptly to human cases, and by preparing for the medical consequences of a human pandemic.

The PAHI:

- (a) be a forum for information sharing and exchanges with partners;*
- (b) discuss recommendations to the NSCAI and donors on ODA priorities and allocations;*
- (c) facilitate monitoring and evaluation (M&E) of the overall national programme, particularly the ODA-funded parts; and*
- (d) support Viet Nam to share information and experiences with other countries within the region and more widely.*

Principles of the Partnership

- This Partnership Framework is not a legally binding document, but rather signals the intention of all partners to work cooperatively and effectively through a partnership approach in support of government priorities as expressed in the OPI. This Partnership Framework does not constitute a commitment of funds by any party;
- The PAHI is to operate according to the core principles and partnership commitments in the Hanoi Core Statement on Aid Effectiveness (HCS), which was developed following the Paris Conference and endorsed by government and donors at the mid-year Consultative Group Meeting in Can Tho in June 2005;
- The partnership is to be nationally led by the NSCAI, and managed by MARD and MoH;
- The partnership endorses the OPI as the national framework for Viet Nam's medium-term response to avian and human pandemic influenza and intends activities directly based on OPI components;
- The partnership is to operate to facilitate implementation of the OPI through information exchange, policy dialogue and support to coordination of overall monitoring and evaluation. Actual OPI implementation is to be carried out through specific projects and programmes as set forth in the OPI;
- Implementation of programmes and projects in support of the OPI is to work with existing national structures and processes wherever possible, and is to include support for capacity building and institutional strengthening;
- The partnership is to promote transparency through sharing information about plans,

resource allocations, and progress reporting for consolidation within an overall monitoring and evaluation framework;

- The partnership is to support policy dialogue with broad stakeholder involvement;
- Close liaison is to be maintained with other government-donor partnerships, relevant government agencies, donors, mass organisations and NGOs;
- The partnership is to apply a flexible approach, based on information-sharing and analysis of the emerging AI situation in Viet Nam, the region and globally, and taking into account the results of mid-term review and final evaluation of OPI implementation and the PAHI.

Membership of the Partnership

Membership in PAHI is voluntary, and is indicated by signing this Partnership Framework. The Partnership membership is open to:

- Government ministries and agencies
- Provincial People's Committee representatives
- Mass organizations and national social organisations;
- Research organisations, both national and international;
- The business sector, including animal feed processors, manufacturers and suppliers of laboratory equipment, drugs and vaccines.
- International donors, UN agencies and international non-governmental organisations (INGOs) who are supporting OPI implementation

Any participant may withdraw from the Partnership Framework by notifying the the PAHI Secretariat in writing.

Duration of the Partnership

The duration of PAHI as established through this Partnership Framework is to follow the same timeframe as the OPI, from the date of signing this Partnership Framework until 31 December 2010. Any consideration of extending the PAHI beyond the period covered by the OPI is to be based on analysis of the situation of avian and human pandemic influenza as well as the planned mid-term review and final evaluation of OPI implementation and the PAHI.

Institutional Arrangements to facilitate the Partnership

• Management Group of the PAHI Secretariat

A Management Group (MG) should meet semi-annually or more often as appropriate to oversee the operations of the PAHI Secretariat.

The MG is to be Co-Chaired by Director-level officials of the International Cooperation Departments of MARD and MoH.

Membership of the MG is to include:

- Representatives of the ICD and DAH of MARD
- Representatives of the ICD and VAPM of MoH
- Representative of UNDP on behalf of UN agencies
- Representative of the World Bank
- Representative from the other donor members of PAHI (to be selected by the donors)
- Representative from the NGOs (to be selected by the NGOs with facilitation by NGO Resource Centre)

- The MG is to report to the Chair and Vice-Chairs of the NSCAI.

Functions of the MG:

- Provide overall supervision to the activities of the PAHI Secretariat;
- Review and approve the detailed annual PAHI Secretariat work plan and budget and major adjustments to the work plan and budget throughout the year;
- Monitor and evaluate progress on annual work plan implementation and use of resources;
- Provide direction to the development of provisions for technical assistance to PAHI activities;
- Review key PAHI documents including OPI M&E reports prior to dissemination;
- Represent PAHI in relevant national, regional and international forums.

MG meeting minutes and related documents are to be shared with the full PAHI membership.

- **PAHI Secretariat**

A PAHI Secretariat is to be established to carry out day-to-day work in support of PAHI. The ICDs of MARD and MoH are each expected to assign focal points, to be part of the Secretariat and to oversee its work.

The Secretariat is to be located in MARD. To support the focal points and MG in implementing PAHI work plans, the following Secretariat personnel are expected to be recruited:

- Secretariat Coordinator/Manager;
- Coordination Assistant/Translator/Secretary;
- Information officer;
- Accountant (part time);
- IT / LAN Administration / Website support (part time and/or as warranted).

International technical assistance in the form of an Institutional Development Specialist is also to be provided to support the establishment of the PAHI and Secretariat during the first 12 months and periodically thereafter.

Responsibilities of the Secretariat are to include:

- preparation of an annual work plan and budget for approval by the PAHI MG and endorsement by the full PAHI membership;
- organization of an annual high-level plenary meeting of PAHI members with the NSCAI, as well as other meetings, conferences, workshops and other activities of PAHI;
- facilitation and support to the activities of thematic working groups established in support of OPI implementation;
- facilitation of MG meetings;
- support for information sharing within the PAHI membership and other stakeholders including a newsletter, website and email list, and sharing of reports, publications, meeting minutes and other relevant documents;
- maintenance of an overall financing plan and resource mobilization overview for the OPI (including a comprehensive Matrix of Donor Projects/Programmes);

