



INDONESIA

Empowering communities to prevent and control avian influenza



Boy holding chicken in Indonesian village (FAO)

FAO in Indonesia has been working with the Ministry of Agriculture and local governments to establish the Participatory Disease Surveillance and Response (PDSR) system, a village poultry HPAI prevention and control programme nationally coordinated via provincial-level local disease control centres (LDCCs). The rationale is that participatory tools and processes serve as a platform for the rapid mobilization and coordination of animal health services in a community-based highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) control programme.

With rapid detection and response to HPAI outbreaks in village poultry considered key to bringing the disease under control in Indonesia, the PDSR project was piloted in early 2006 to train and operationally support government veterinarians and other animal health officers in a participatory disease control programme for village poultry enabling rapid detection and response. By the end of May 2008, the project will have approximately 2,100 fully operational PDSR officers, with local support provided by provincial-level LDCCs throughout Java, Bali, Sumatra, southern Sulawesi and – to more limited extent – across Sulawesi and Kalimantan.

The PDSR project recognizes that the optimal disease control unit is the village, not the household. Furthermore, due to the endemic nature of the disease as well as the lack of immediate compensation for culled flocks, PDSR teams face significant challenges in maintaining their relations with communities. Control strategies and the design of the PDSR information system have been modified to take these considerations in account.

Perhaps the most significant lesson identified so far is that village poultry are not *'the problem'*: controlling HPAI does not require 'fixing' a problem with village poultry, but rather protecting them as a means to ensure healthy and economically viable villages and communities. Stakeholders now understand that the role of commercial producers in maintaining and spreading poultry disease should not be underestimated.

Thus controlling HPAI in Indonesia requires a long-term, comprehensive strategy that includes communities and commercial poultry producers.

Overall, the activities of the PDSR project have been driven by a participatory process designed to help build trust among stakeholders – between animal health workers and local communities, as well as between national and local governments. Participation facilitates more inclusive decision-making within a decentralized political system and mobilizes veterinary services in a way that empowers communities to prevent and control HPAI.

Viet Nam

Frontline workers in the fight against HPAI

Raising the awareness of Viet Nam's farmers about the animal health aspects of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) is the challenge FAO has set itself through a project, launched in July 2007.

The project aims to empower vets, paravets and frontline agricultural workers with communication tools – and to draw on their experience – to deliver appropriate messages to farmers.

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Risk communication activities are being carried out as part of field visits, during community outreach activities that include disease surveillance, disease investigation, disinfection, culling and vaccination campaigns.

This project uses interpersonal communication to equip the agricultural sector with communication skills to promote behaviours associated with timely reporting of animal diseases, improved biosecurity in poultry farming, and safe poultry handling practices in slaughtering, transport, and marketing. The agriculture sector is also contributing to efforts to communicate human health risks (particularly to farmers and their families), under health sector guidance.

Rapid assessment has been conducted through semi-structured in-depth interviews and focused group discussions to assess the nature of the work of the vets, paravets and agricultural workers during their visits to farms and households, and their capacity to function as communicators in conveying messages and generating an understanding of prevention and control of HPAI among poultry raisers and farmers.

Based on the information obtained from this rapid assessment, FAO Viet Nam then created a set of sample printed materials, revising these materials on the basis of the results of pre-testing. In partnership with the Department of Animal Health (DAH) and Sub Department of Animal Health (SDAH), FAO Viet Nam then produced 1,500 sets of the communication tools (flipcharts and information sheets) for distribution throughout the country. FAO Viet Nam also prepared a 2008 calendar with avian influenza messages in order to reach animal and human health workers at the provincial, district, commune and village levels.

Face-to-face communication is being used to ensure that farmers and their families are reminded and better informed about the risk factors associated with HPAI, with the aim of bringing about behaviour change to minimise risks associated with the raising of poultry and HPAI.

For more information, contact the FAO Information Officer in Viet Nam, Aphaluck Bhatiasevi (aphaluck.bhatiasevi@fao.org)



Weighing ducks at a poultry market in Hanoi
(Department of Veterinary Services of Perak, Malaysia)

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 21 May 2008) a total of USD 161 million, with a further USD 38 million agreed but not yet received, for a total of USD 199 million. The following table illustrates the breakdown of these funds.

	US dollars (millions)
United States	62.90
Sweden.....	17.60
Australia	13.90
Japan	13.40
United Kingdom	10.20
Canada.....	9.50
Germany.....	9.40
FAO	9.00
European Commission	8.00
Asian Development Bank	8.00
UNDP Administered Trust Fund	6.70
France	6.70
Norway.....	3.70
Switzerland	3.70
World Bank.....	3.50
Belgium	2.80
Nepal	2.40
Spain	1.50
Saudi Arabia	1.00
Viet Nam	0.80
OPEC Fund	0.70
UN Development Group Office	0.70
Netherlands	0.60
PR China	0.50
UNDP	0.50
New Zealand	0.30
Ireland	0.30
CHF*	0.30
Italy	0.30
Greece	0.20
Jordan	0.05
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 21 May 2008

	US dollars (millions)
Funds required (over 3 years)	308.51
Funds received and agreed	199.33
Funds in 'pipeline'	34.55
Total funding envelope	233.88
Funding Gaps	
Including funds received and agreed	109.18
Including funds received, agreed and 'pipeline'	74.63

Communication

Regional planning and skill-building under way

The ECTAD Communication Unit has held two of four scheduled communication planning and skills-building workshops for HPAI prevention and control.

From 12 to 14 April, the unit organized a workshop in Tunis, bringing together 15 participants from Algeria, Egypt, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco and Tunisia. Participants were mostly veterinarians but two communication officers from the national Avian Influenza Task Forces of Morocco and Tunisia also attended, as well as the Under-Secretary of the Ministry of Information of Egypt and the Director-General of Information at the Tunisian Ministry of Communication.

The workshop, largely financed by the Cooperation Department of the Government of Spain, allowed participants and ECTAD officers to exchange experiences and begin discussion on preventive and outbreak preparedness communication strategies within a regional setting.

From 19 to 23 May, the Communication Unit held its second workshop in Dakar, with participants coming from 13 countries (Benin, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, the Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Liberia, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone and Togo).

The workshop, which by the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), the Swedish International development Agency (SIDA) and the US Agency for International Development (USAID), ended with consensus on the need to include prevention and outbreak preparedness components in national HPAI communication plans.

In turn, these plans should be based on a sound analysis of the epidemiological situation of HPAI, on its short and mid-term impact on livelihoods, on research and analysis of main risk factors in term of biosecurity, and the knowledge, attitude and practices of the different actors along the poultry production value chain.

Africa

FAO helping with participatory approach to disease surveillance

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), along with the African Union Interafrican Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR) and Vétérinaires sans Frontières Belgium (VSF-B), is assisting the International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI) in promoting a participatory approach to disease surveillance throughout Africa in order to build critical capacity in the fight against avian influenza.

Participatory disease surveillance (PDS) was first developed as part of the Global Rinderpest Eradication Programme as a tool to locate the foci of rinderpest in remote areas. Subsequently, it evolved as a method of active disease surveillance for application to a range of animal health problems in both rural and urban settings. Most recently, it has been utilized as an effective and transparent method for HPAI surveillance.

PDS is a key component of comprehensive surveillance systems that enhances the sensitivity and timeliness of surveillance. It has revitalized veterinary interactions with livestock owners and leads to more customer-driven animal health services and policies.

PDS aims to build sustainable capacity for innovations in emerging infectious disease surveillance and control in Africa by institutionalizing, harmonizing and targeting participatory veterinary and public health approaches at national and regional levels.

Madagascar (FAO/Sabine Michiels)



PDS is being implemented in collaboration with national veterinary services, public health services and HPAI task forces. Regional disease investigation teams, with members from each participating country, will be trained and supported to investigate potential HPAI and other emerging infectious disease outbreaks. Once trained, the PDS experts will also serve as core national trainers.

Where appropriate, permission will be sought for the regional disease investigation teams to operate under the auspices of FAO Crisis Management Centre – Animal Health (CMC-AH) missions.

It is envisaged that PDS will be implemented in 4-5 countries in West Africa, 2-3 in East Africa, and 2-3 in Southern Africa. Experience accumulated from these three regional programmes will be documented and used to design expansion programmes should the opportunity arise to continue and expand the work of PDS.

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In addition to their participation in regional programmes, Nigeria and Uganda will receive additional support for national PDS programmes. Nigeria has been chosen because of the frequent occurrence of HPAI in the country, and Uganda because it is at high risk of HPAI introduction and endemicity.

The PDS project in Africa began in October of 2007 and is scheduled to be completed in two years. While research to evaluate and apply risk-based approaches to HPAI surveillance, and to document lessons learnt through outcome mapping, will continue throughout the project, it is anticipated that the remaining research will be completed within one year. The project is supported by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), and is just one of several implementation projects supported by USAID in the fight to prevent and control HPAI.

Azerbaijan Desktop simulation exercise scheduled for July

FAO and the World Health Organization (WHO), in collaboration with the national authorities, are scheduling a national desktop simulation exercise for avian influenza in animal and human populations in Azerbaijan on 1 and 2 July 2008. The exercise will be funded by the US Agency for International Development (USAID).



Bar-headed geese on the wing

Communication Unit expands in Africa

The ECTAD Communication Unit has strengthened its field capacity with the appointment of two new members in Africa – Prof Missè Missè joins the Bamako regional animal health centre team as Communication Specialist for West and Central Africa, and Isabelle Pierrard the Nairobi regional animal health centre team as Communication Specialist for Eastern and Southern Africa.

Missè Missè has several degrees in communication and more than 25 years of media and development communication experience. From 2006 to 2008, he worked as a Programme Communication Specialist for the UNICEF Regional Office for West Africa in Dakar, where he initiated successful integrated communication activities and partnerships for avian influenza prevention and control, ensuring oversight of a "participatory action research" study on the impact of avian influenza on livelihoods in West Africa. He has expertise in capacity building and has helped develop monitoring and evaluation skills in communication for stakeholders at central, regional and operational levels, stressing the participatory approach.

Isabelle Pierrard graduated from IPAG, a Paris-based International Business School specialising in Communications and International Marketing, and spent a number of years working with J Walter Thompson, one of the world's largest advertising agencies, where she gained experience in private sector media and communications. Subsequently she took a Masters in Communication for Development at Reading University, to utilise her communication skills in the development context. She has initiated successful communication and information interventions for local media agencies, international NGOs and UN agencies in East Africa. She brings strong participatory communication research and analysis skills to the unit.

The work of the Communication Unit is currently being supported by the US Agency for International Development (USAID) and the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA).

Wildlife & HPAI

International Task Force calls for boosting national capacities

There is a continuing need to further develop national capacities within government and elsewhere to respond to the challenges posed by H5N1 HPAI – not only in responding to outbreaks, but also preparing for these through contingency planning and risk assessment. This was the central conclusion reached by the CMS¹-FAO Task Force on Avian Influenza and Wild Birds at an international seminar on 23 May 2008 in Bonn during a UN Conference on Biodiversity.

In order to respond effectively to the spread of H5N1, it is critical that responses to the spread of this disease are 'joined-up', both internationally (between countries), nationally (within governments), and scientifically (between different scientific disciplines). Central to effective responses is the close and integrated working of the governmental and non-governmental sectors, bringing together complementary expertise of epidemiologists, veterinarians, virologists, biologists and ornithologists. Guidance on how to respond to the continued spread of avian influenza will be given in the document published by the Scientific Task Force¹ that will be tabled at the forthcoming conferences of the African-Eurasian Waterbird Agreement (AEWA) and the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands later this year, as well as the CMS Conference of the Parties in Rome in December.