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INDONESIA

AVIAN INFLUENZA CONTROL

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Photo: Gavin MacGregor-Skinner

A surveillance officer works with farmers to gather information on recent poultry outbreaks

THE CHALLENGE

The H5N1 avian influenza virus has infected over 387 people in 15 countries since 2003, as well as poultry in 60 countries. Health experts believe it could mutate into a form that is transmissible between humans and trigger a global pandemic threatening the lives of millions of people.

Indonesia has the world's highest number of confirmed human infections with H5N1 (139 cases as of January 7, 2009, of which 113 resulted in death), and is uniquely vulnerable to the threat of ongoing outbreaks and the emergence of a pandemic strain due to high human population and poultry densities, and traditionally close contact between people and poultry.

THE GOAL

Reduce the likelihood that a human influenza pandemic will emerge by:

Preventing H5N1 transmission among poultry

Minimizing human exposure

OVERVIEW

The U.S. Government is the largest donor supporting Indonesia's efforts to control H5N1 avian influenza (AI), and USAID plays a key role as part of the overall U.S. response. USAID's comprehensive AI program supports the Government of Indonesia's *National Strategy for Avian Influenza Control and Preparedness for Human Pandemic Influenza 2006-2008*. The program includes integrated public and private sector AI surveillance and responses to both animal and human outbreaks. It also includes behavior change communications in every district of Java, Bali, North Sumatra and Lampung to minimize behaviors that facilitate the transmission of AI to both poultry and people. USAID has provided \$64 million in support of AI control and prevention in Indonesia since 2005.

PROGRAMS

Preparedness and Control

USAID has established the Community-Based Avian Influenza Control (CBAIC) program, which is undertaking a number of initiatives to improve preparedness and the capacity for AI control at both the national and community level, including assistance to Indonesia's National Commission for AI Control and Pandemic Influenza Preparedness (KOMNAS FBPI), to facilitate coordination among all levels and sectors of the government. CBAIC is also training Village AI Coordinators to enhance local capacity to detect signs of an outbreak.

Animal Surveillance and Response

USAID is making a major contribution to the Ministry of Agriculture (MOA) to build capacity and implement active animal surveillance and response through the UN Food and Agriculture Organization. Through the Participatory Disease Surveillance and Response (PDSR) program, animal health teams are trained in surveillance, containment, and prevention skills and provided with the means to conduct field activities and report findings into the national and local systems. With USAID support, 2,151 officers are active in 324 districts. Supplementing the public sector activities and working to support the role of local governments, the CBAIC program takes AI prevention, surveillance, reporting, and containment to the village level, by partnering with local NGOs with strong volunteer networks, such as the Indonesian Red Cross and Muhammadiyah (a faith based organization). Trained volunteers are engaged in AI prevention in over 22,000 communities. Animal sector activities are integrated with human health care through direct reporting of poultry outbreaks to local health officers and through program collaboration.

Human Influenza Surveillance

USAID is building capacity with the Ministry of Health (MOH) to integrate active human surveillance and response with animal surveillance through a program with WHO. This program works to reduce human infections and improve survival outcomes by initiating case detection within 24 hours of animal outbreak confirmation and getting suspect patients into appropriate care more quickly. CBAIC helps prevent human cases by training village volunteers to educate their communities and reduce risky behaviors.

CONTINUES >



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Photo: Gavin MacGregor-Skinner

A surveillance officer conducts a rapid field test to determine if poultry deaths were caused by avian influenza

CONTACT INFORMATION

jakarta-info@usaid.gov

PRESS AND OUTREACH

Roman Woronowycz
Outreach and Communication
Officer
USAID/Indonesia Program Office
Tel: (021) 3435-9424
RWORONOWYCZ@USAID.GOV

<http://indonesia.usaid.gov>

Behavior Change Communications

USAID is supporting the National AI Commission (KOMNAS), through CBAIC and other programs, to develop and provide key messages to the mass media (e.g. radio public service announcements, television spots), and materials for direct communications (e.g. posters and brochures) for AI prevention and control. Over 22,000 CBAIC volunteers are using these communications tools to enhance public awareness and promote safe poultry rearing practices, thereby limiting the spread of AI among poultry and minimizing the risk of transmission to people.

Research

USAID is working with the International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI) to conduct operational research to identify the most effective avian influenza control measures in poultry. ILRI is collaborating with the Ministry of Agriculture, FAO, John Snow International (JSI) and PATH to measure the epidemiological impact of various control strategies utilizing the Participatory Disease Surveillance and Response Program, and the feasibility of replicating those control measures throughout Indonesia. The first mass vaccination campaign commenced on July 2008.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- As of December 2008, 324 high-risk districts covering all districts of Bali, Java, Sumatra, and all provinces of Sulawesi, and Kalimantan have active participatory disease surveillance and response (PDSR) teams, providing systematic surveillance, control, and reporting of AI outbreaks among small-scale and backyard poultry farmers, as well as intelligence about AI transmission and risk factors.
- From January 2006 to August 2008, PDSR teams conducted over 177,300 surveillance visits and reported 6,011 outbreaks of avian influenza in participating districts. They met with over 2 million poultry farmers and community members in their efforts to prevent and control avian influenza.
- As of July 2008, more than 22,000 Village AI Coordinators have been trained to educate communities on how to prevent avian influenza and how to recognize and report signs of a suspect outbreak in animals and humans.
- Hundreds of thousands of training booklets and millions of other educational materials (flyers, posters, banners and stickers) have been developed and distributed to support community mobilization activities through local partners such as Muhammadiyah and the Indonesian Red Cross, and in coordination with WHO and FAO.
- Cold chain and vaccination equipment have been provided to 16 districts participating in the Operational Research program. 1,088 community vaccinators have been trained, equipped and are vaccinating 2.8 million poultry (chickens and ducks) in 16 districts of West Java, Central Java and Yogyakarta during vaccination campaigns.
- Over 210,000 personal protective suits and 2,900 decontamination kits have been provided to Government of Indonesia animal and human health officials to aid in AI surveillance and response efforts.