

Inter-agency information sharing/coordination Meeting on avian influenza

*Hosted by the International Federation of Red Cross & Red Crescent Societies,
Southeast Asia Regional Delegation*

**1 June, 2006 (Thurs), 2 - 5 PM
Imperial Queen's Park Hotel, Bangkok**

Minutes (DRAFT)

Summary minutes:

- The afternoon meeting was attended by INGO and UN country and regional office representatives (a total of approx. 30 participants) and was intended to provide an opportunity for agencies to share information, identify and initiate coordination issues among agencies involved in Avian Influenza.
- The meeting outputs were:
 - Update on the livelihood and socioeconomic impact of AI;
 - Discussion on the role of NGOs in mitigating loss of livelihood;
 - Short update by WHO on outbreak situation in Indonesia;
 - Sub-group meeting of communication and media experts on avian influenza.

Key theme: Impact of Avian Influenza on Livelihood – Poverty Reduction Strategies

2:15 Opening: by Dr. Anne Ancia, Regional Inter-agency Coordinator on Avian and Human Influenza, UN
The group was welcomed by Dr. Ancia. She noted that the group is expanding, new agencies are now joining the AHI coordination meetings, and more attention is being given to AHI. Explained background – started in March 2006, as a forum for INGOs to coordinate on issues surrounding avian influenza, but now expanded to include UN agencies, technical organizations, health-concerned NGOs, and donors – agenda format collectively agreed upon by group.

Introductions round table (*see the list of participants at the end of this document*)

- Plan International
- European Commission
- IOM
- IOM from Bangladesh
- MSF
- USAID
- Kenan Institute Asia
- UNSIC
- ADB consultant
- ITeachNet
- ADPC
- FAO
- save the children
- UN-OCHA
- UNDP
- UNICEF Thailand
- IRC
- UNRC Thailand
- IFRC

2:30 Experience Sharing:

1) Presentation by Dr. Bhavani Shankar, Livestock Policy Officer (Economist), Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (*see attached presentation*) (*please see attached draft messages in annexes*)

- FAO has a wide portfolio of projects – this presentation will only concentrate on the economic and socioeconomic dimensions of their AHI work.

Overview: why poultry is especially important in Asia to livelihoods, then describe FAO's HPAI (highly pathological avian influenza) socio-economic group, examples of past FAO work on HPAI, broad lessons, what can we do to reduce negative impacts?

- Poultry & Livelihoods: Low cost of entry into the sector - Less than 2USD/day can buy a chicken, so even the very poorest can enter the sector. In Vietnam 600-700% return per annum on a chicken is estimated, so poultry is attractive and lucrative. Can maintain livelihood by trading asset – very liquid.

- Visual device to show how equally income is distributed – the diagonal is perfect distribution. In Vietnam survey, income as a whole is fairly curved and away from equal distribution, but poultry has an income equalizing effect. From a livelihood perspective, poultry is an important income generator.
- Characteristics of HPAI: Transboundary, zoonotic – separated from Newcastles. The goal is to stop the spread of HPAI at the level of animals – and therefore possibly prevent further human and economic loss. The FAO-RAP (Regional Asia Pacific office) new programme manager is assembling a fairly large team.
- Poultry is classified into 4 sectors: 1) industrial (i.e. Commercial Production); 2) large commercial; 3) community farmers with 100-to-a few thousand chickens; 4) backyard farmers – the mainstay, extremely dominate.
- Study: found sector 3 hardest hit in Cambodia, Laos, Vietnam and Indonesia– not backyard producers – but community farmers – have a lot to lose. The backyard producers are more resilient 60-70% can recover quickly. The way in which poultry is sold is crucial – restricted selling and control immediately restructures the marketing chains and therefore the total market (means, price, quality, biosecurity).
- A closer look at sector 3 shows market outlets are shrinking – Local outlets suddenly are all that’s left. [Boxes and lines solid – still operating. Dotted and dashed – disappearing or already gone]. Movement control... essential, but very disruptive to livelihoods. Security measures are very difficult to control, and they often push the farmers below the profit line.
- Compensation and/or incentive is a big issue. Governments often can’t afford to financially compensate every farmer, and this can make the farmers reluctant to report within the communities. However, it’s also important not to reduce the incentive to develop security measures.
- Some lessons: The commercial and industrial sectors are losing the most in terms of \$ and cents. But small commercial producers are the most economically vulnerable, as they are unable to repay debts.
- Strategies to reduce the numbers: Public awareness → Good surveillance → quick reporting. Minimize culling ... affordability is a critical question and important from a livelihood and cooperative perspective. Reduce market shocks... possibly use social marketing? (i.e. Success stories from other disease campaigns). Rehabilitation... establish biosecure zones (industrial, CP) based on appropriate strategies for each country.

3:00 Q&A, comments:

Q: Philip Brandt – the extreme profitability of raising chickens makes it difficult to initiate behavior change. Feeding chickens is a big cost – scavenger chicks are less costly. Poultry industry standards are looking to ‘feed’ to increase chicken production and therefore improve biosecurity – but ‘feed’ has been indicted as carrying the HPAI as well. Can you comment on feed standards?

A: feed standards are necessary to increase biosecurity, but I’m not aware of results that is looking at this

Q: Daniel Collison – In your presentation, you give advice to NGOs on compensation (i.e. cash transfers) as a means of promoting social safety nets. Can you elaborate on compensation packages?

A: It’s still early to say, but FAO has produced some documents that summarize some options. Questions to consider though are: How to raise the money to compensate a large number of farmers (trust funds, subsidization of sectors 3 & 4, encourage government trust funds)? How much compensation is appropriate (what is the upper & lower boundary)? And in what circumstances is compensation appropriate and when is it better to give credits? At the price prior to outbreak or current level? This issue will explode, I’m sure.

Q: IOM representative from Bangladesh – To my knowledge, Bangladesh is only just beginning to think about the compensation issue, which negatively affects the reporting system.

A: Compensation is a huge financial management issue for governments. How to be sure it’s reaching the right people is a crucial question.

Comment: Philip Brandt – compensation is really an incentive to change behavior. But need to link it to a total package of incentives. Suggest dropping the term ‘compensation’ and instead using ‘incentive’ and encourage micro-finance linked to behavior change. The terminology is important for actors like WB and ADB as they have to protect their customers.

Comment: Anne Anicia – Cambodia reluctant to use ‘compensation’ and instead preferred ‘incentive’. In communities, villagers were educated, which was an incentive for quick reporting.

Q: Anne Anicia – How to encourage involvement of private sectors with compensation mechanism? Take Thailand as a model – it’s the 5th trader of poultry in the world.

A: Sector 1 & 2 producers are well finance in Thailand. Indonesia has fairly good spread across all 4 sectors – potentially sector 1 & 2 can significantly contribute to control strategy. Compartmentalization – creating a geographical zone to ensure biosecurity, issuance of a quality seal – is good. But once nations start restructuring, what happens to all the other ill-financed sectors? How to keep sector 3 & 4 free of disease is the main challenge.

Q: Nescha Teckle – the theory linking incentives to “finance behavior change’ from the village perspective rather than the individual farmer concentration is interesting. Can you comment on the village initiative?

A: Several recent documents suggest that educating/introducing incentives to individual high-risk backyard farmers as a separate entity cannot capture same influence as a village-wide/community stance. Addressing the community increases the chances of altering behavior, and as the NGOs are more familiar with the communities than the UN it’s important that they give their support.

3:45 Updates:

ADPC: update on new initiatives:

- ADPC is working with WHO on training programme for community emergencies. An international working group from 4 countries (Thailand, Vietnam, Timor-Leste, Philippines) has been established to enhance training on pandemic preparedness.
- ADPC is collaborating with US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention on adapting an emergency planning tool from CDC called ADEPT for pandemic preparedness, this is a technological platform for governments and organizations to enhance their planning.
- Hosting a risk communication specialist from Canada who is interested in conducting research on risk communication for epidemic and pandemic preparedness. If anyone is interested in planning or evaluating their risk communication strategies, please contact ADPC.

Plan Thailand: update on survey on the awareness of AI among community people in the north. Plan Thailand will follow up the result and share with the meeting once it’s available.

KIAsia: update on new initiatives:

- Kenan Institute Asia is collaborating with UNICEF to support school-based intervention;
- USAID

ITeachNet: working on web-based dissemination materials

WHO: Update on Indonesia situation. The outbreak in Indonesia is un-explainable, at this moment – scientist cannot confirm if outbreak is due solely to poultry or cannot rule out if a human to human transfer occurred. There is a high probability of human to human spread – as the danger of disease to mutate increases. There is a confirmed family cluster – that started with 3 households in North Sumatra, Indonesia. 1st individual case was the mother, and then 7 other family members were infected – all have since died – last one on 22 May. WHO and Indonesian government are treating all 54 surviving members with Tamiflu, with close surveillance on the extended family as well as surrounding village. So far, no new cases have been detected. Alert remains at phase 3 – some evidence of human to human contact. Similar family clusters have happened in the past in Thailand, Kanchanburi, where the mother was sick, then the child, and both died. But that was not as big as the family cluster in Indonesia now. There is not a well organized public health structure in Indonesia – the Indonesian people don’t trust the authorities – this emphasizes the need for good communication and understanding of the people you are trying to deal with.

3: 55 plenary discussion:

What is/should be the role of NGOs when it comes to impact of livelihoods? Dr. Anne Ancia, Regional Inter-agency Coordinator on Avian and Human Influenza, UNSIC leading facilitated plenary

Studies and involvement with the most vulnerable communities show some of the poorest will never recover from the loss of income. What can NGOs do to mitigate negative livelihood effects?

IOM: Dr. Predrag Bajcevic – health screening. More than 10,000 people are scheduled for resettlement in 2006 – so health screenings (chest x-ray, blood) is vitally important for the receiving countries to prohibit the entrance of AHI into countries. Pre-departure check-up (hrs before the flight) include checking the temperature – also often detect chicken pox and TB.

- IEC materials – showed example of “Bird Flu” posters, flip charts, cartoons – were developed in Burmese language for migrant workers in camps in collaboration with CDC in Atlanta for technical input, IRC for surveillance and reporting. IOM has directly prepared these for 1 camp in Tam Hin because US resettlement program – however, high communicable disease present in that camp (31 multi-resistance TB cases detected in that camp alone)

UNSIC: Anne Ancia – Example of Thailand as a good model that minimized the economic and livelihood effects: at 1st outbreak 60 million poultry were culled. After that biosecurity and control were increased. When the 2nd outbreak occurred, only 6 million poultry had to be culled because of simple measures. Economic impact was reduced.

Save the Children: Dan Collison – STC programming focuses on protection, at the moment. STC is in need of IEC materials – would appreciate other NGOs sharing their communication material. Want to incorporate AI education into other protection programs. Livelihood is the next phase, but first we need to concentrate on preparedness and IEC messages.

Plan International: Has not started to link their practical AHI work to livelihood yet. Their offices in Cambodia and Vietnam are mainly working in the communication sector.

IFRC: Molly Schmidt – Red Cross Red Crescent national societies, particularly Cambodia, Vietnam, Indonesia have produce excellent IEC materials appropriate for each country and their volunteers have a clear role in raising community awareness on avian influenza.

UNICEF: Pornthida Padthong – the “Create toolbox” has a 12 page booklet in Burmese language for distribution in Thai/Burmese boarder areas – plans to produce in Karen language. Produced a Thai booklet, distributed 40,000 to schools in Thai language. Now working with Kenan Institute together with the Ministry of Education to introduce curriculum to introduce emergency preparedness in schools – this work with MoPH involving 800,000 health volunteers starts in early June for 2 months. Their communication material is not only representing UNICEF, but the whole UN System. Also working with WHO and FAO as technical advisors, public relations department, and Ministry of Education to create broadcast plan via TV and radio – slow process – continue working with partners. All IEC will be put on UNICEF Thailand website – due to be launched by end of June.

EC Delegation of Commission: Filip De Loof – has not yet seen any proposals or budget lines concerning AHI activities from the NGOs. Has not launched a call for AHI proposals, but is starting to fund several initiatives: World Bank multi-donor trust funds give local government ownership via transferring funds into local budget. This multi-donor trust fund managed by WB is almost operational.

UNSIC: Anne Ancia – The follow-up to the Beijing conference where 1.9 B was pledged to AI will be held in Vienna next week organized by EC Delegation of Commission, co-funded by USAID, and chaired by Chinese government. This is the 1st opportunity to present progress, with emphasis on monitoring, and concentration on operationalizing pandemic plans. There are success stories: Thailand and Vietnam have been successful in organizing at different levels, surveillance, and successful at stamping out 5 or 6 waves in poultry outbreaks.

4:30 Proposed agenda of the next meeting:

Theme:

- multi-national private business contingency plans – corporate responsibility – private sector response to AI.
 - T-CEL is organizing a seminar on 29 June on pandemic flu preparation for businesses (oil, tourism, electricity), addressed by MoPH. Chadin volunteered to contact T-CEL and get presenters. Anne Ancia and Chadin will coordinate identifying presenters.
 - The IFRC will also look at the proposed topics developed at the 1st meeting in March.
- This was email to afterwards: Monitoring and Evaluation. What kind of indicators are being used by different groups, what their M&E systems are like, what the different reporting requirements are for different donors, and if there are commonalities between various NGOs/donors.

Upcoming Dates: **6 July and 3 August**

Chair: no volunteers.

4:40 Any other business:

UNSIC/OCHA ROAP presented. Please send your feedback before 14 June to Jannicke Storm. Will circulate soft copy with the minutes.

Q: This is a useful tool for the NGOs – Is there a similar tool for the donors?

A: Looking into it for the future, some have already been mapped at country levels in (Cambodia, Lao, Indonesia). It's a contact database with stakeholders working on AI.

Announcement: ASEAN Foundation opening: AI communications opening. Contact Molly for more details – she will put you in touch with them.

List of participants:

**Inter-agency information sharing/coordination
Meeting on avian influenza**

Participant List - JUNE 1

Organization	Name	Title
Plan International	Arunee Achakulwisut	Regional Communications Adviser
WHO	Chadin Tephaval	Communications Officer
UNICEF	Pornthida Padthong	Assistant Communication officer
UNDP	Barbara Orlandini	Manager, Inter-Agency Support Unit
	Patnarin Sutthirak	Coordination Analysts Inter-Agency Support Unit
UN-OCHA	Jannicke Storm	Humanitarian Affairs Officer
	Dan Caspersz	Humanitarian Reporting Officer
	Nescha Teckle	CPR Team Leader, UNDP Regional
UNSIK	Koji Nabae	AHI coordinating officer
	Anne Ancia	Inter-agency regional coordinator on AHI for Asia and the Pacific
IOM	Dr. Predrag Bajcevic	Migration Health Physician
MSF	Gilles Isard	Acting Head of Mission
Save the Children, UK	Daniel Collison	Regional Programme Manager
US AID	Molly Brady	Avian Influenza Advisor, USAID Regional Development Mission/Asia
CDC	Monique Petrofsky	CDC Atlanta
FAO	Domingo "Jim" Caro	Communications Officer
	Bhavani Shankar	Livestock Policy Officer (Economist)
IFRC	Molly Schmidt	Regional Health Programme Officer
	Kanyasorn Tusabhopol (Charee)	Regional Information Officer
Thai Red Cross	Dr. Werasit Sittitrai	
Kenan Institute Asia (KIAAsia)	Richard Bernhard	Associate Executive Director
	James Hopkins	Manager, Border Action Against Malaria Program
	Ms. Phungpit Kaewphet	Deputy Project Manager, Border Action Against Malaria Program
	Ms. Yada Kritsilpe	Senior Coordinator, Strategic Corporate Citizenship Unit
IRC	Liviu Vedrasco	Field Coordinator, Ratchaburi - Thailand
ADPC	Jonathan Abrams	Team Leader, Public Health in Emergencies
European Commission	Filip De Loof	Programme Officer
ADB	Philip Brandt	ADB consultant
OIE	Nichola Hungerford	Communications Officer
iteach	David Bucknell	Director

4:40 Media and communications sub-group meeting

Chaired by Arunee Achakulwisut, Regional Communications Adviser, Plan Asia Regional Office

Participants: Attended by 12 participants; communication and media experts.

- Plan International, UNICEF, UNOCHA, ITeachnet, WHO, UNSIC, EC, UNDP and IFRC

Purpose of the Meeting:

To update on progress work among communication/information officers from each organization involved.

Discussion:

The discussion has focused on the following issues:

- How each organization has so far communicated with one another, apart from this monthly meeting?
 - WHO, Chadin, puts out Daily Health reports via email for news coverage in Thailand and internationally for informal information sharing purposes. Please contact Chadin to be placed on that list. For NGOs there is no centralized mechanism right now, other than this AI coordinating meeting.
 - Inter-organization coordination is essential and still needed. There should be more increasingly communications among organizations.
- Stakeholders between information/communication officers and health officers should be separated in a meeting.
- It was also suggested to create an exhibition table – to expand the concrete transparency of information sharing – where each organization brings their IEC communication materials. Materials could be laid on a back table at the meeting – would create lively interaction – and the meeting organizers could house materials and bring to each meeting.
- UNICEF has now prepared IEC materials and any organization can log into www.unicef.org, then go to AI and communication information to download English language IEC. Other languages are coming soon. UNICEF wants to be informed if another organization is using material as appropriateness of materials is key. The copyright is fine, but in case any organization wants to distribute the information from the website, please inform UNICEF for usage as “under courtesy”.
- For information sharing, there can be a link from UNICEF’s website (Thailand) under AI section to other NGOs if they want to post downloadable IEC.
- The Communication Initiative – <http://www.comminit.com> site is compiling all communication work on HPAI communications to share information at Regional levels and link with country level. Supporting FAO as a partner of The CI as well as supporting those organizations working on Avian Influenza prevention and control, the site has posted the most recent FAO AI messages to our Avian Influenza section.