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Red Cross Red Crescent Actions on Avian Influenza Prevention & Preparedness in Asia

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Presentation Outline:

- § Red Cross/Red Crescent (RC/RC) Actions Globally
- § Actions in Asia:
 - ∅ Regional activities
 - ∅ Regional strategic framework
 - ∅ Examples of actions of national societies
 - ∅ Some success elements and challenges
- § Summary



RC/RC Actions Globally:

- § Mobilization of national societies around the world
- § Mapping of Red Cross/Red Crescent's engagement globally
- § Launch of global appeal for CHF 17 million (April 2006)



RC/RC Actions in Asia at the regional level:

- §** Statement of commitment by RC/RC regional leadership (2005)
- §** Regional working group on avian influenza (Southeast Asia + China)
- §** Regional framework and planning (Southeast Asia + China)



Regional Strategic Framework on Avian Influenza

(Developed and adopted by Southeast Asian national societies and the China Red Cross)

Working on
prevention
now

Defining RC/RC
response
roles in
potential
pandemic

Preparing for
potential
pandemic now

Capacity building now



Key roles in prevention:

- § Public awareness & education
- § Bio-security projects



Key roles in pandemic phase:

- § Protect staff and volunteers
- § Services:
 - ü Relief operations
 - ü Medical services
 - ü Psychological support
 - ü Public risk communication
- § Maintaining other essential services



Key planning issues for pandemic preparedness:

- § Staff and volunteer education and protection
- § Improving general disaster preparedness and response mechanisms and adjusting to RC/RC specific roles in pandemic
- § Contingency planning to maintain essential services



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Examples of Actions of National Societies



Viet Nam Red Cross:

- § Since 2004, it has been actively engaged in avian influenza activities.
- § Has ongoing community awareness projects in 10 provinces (330 communes).
- § Mobilized and trained 1,650 Red Cross volunteers to educate people on avian influenza prevention.
- § Distributed 3.1 million information, education & communication materials.
- § Conducted public awareness campaigns in border areas.



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Indonesian Red Cross:

- § Public awareness activities in 12 provinces
- § Bio-security projects in Jakarta and Sulawesi
- § Vaccination of frontline staff and volunteers against the normal flu
- § Awareness for its staff and volunteers





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- § **Cambodian Red Cross:** community awareness activities in 9 provinces, national society's preparedness plan.
- § **Philippines National Red Cross:** public education campaign in 20 provinces, staff education, stockpile of personal protective equipments.



- § **China Red Cross Society:** launched public education campaign in all 31 provinces and 6 municipalities.
- § **Hong Kong Red Cross:**
 - ∅ Education programmes in 260 schools;
 - ∅ Distribution of educational materials to staff, volunteers, members and service recipients;
 - ∅ Stockpiling of 8,000 hygiene kits;
 - ∅ Sign up of volunteers for deployment for pandemic response services.



- § **Singapore Red Cross:** developed business continuity plan, immunized 90% of frontline staff against the normal flu.
- § **Cambodia, Laos & Vietnam RC:** signed agreement on cross border cooperation in public health emergencies.



Some success elements:

- § Early buy-in and commitment from leadership
- § Coordination with governments in the planning process
- § Coordination with other civil society organizations
- § Integration by national societies of avian influenza related activities into their existing programmes and services



Challenges:

- § Funding support
- § Internal mobilization in national societies
- § Time needed to scale up capacity of national societies



Summary:

- § Avian influenza is a new global challenge, which no organization or government can tackle on its own.
- § As the world's largest humanitarian organization, the RC/RC Movement is very well placed to contribute to addressing this challenge.
- § We are still learning how to do it most effectively.



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**Thank you
for your attention!**

Questions and Comments?