

# Role of Civil Society organizations in AI: Plan International in Asia

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# Plan in Asia

- Plan: *children are at the center of all we do*
- 12 program countries
- Reach: more than 7 million people in rural and urban areas
- Invests more than \$ 100 million annually

# Our work

- Programs in Health, WES, Learning, Livelihood
- Works in partnerships with Communities, Governments and NGOs
- Plan's role:
  - Facilitate, capacitate, mobilize communities to demand for quality services
  - Strengthen capacities of governments and NGOs to respond
  - Link community efforts with the formal sector

# The issue: *AI for Plan*

- Potentials for pandemic
- Children among the first to get affected
- Birds and poultry part of life of rural families
- Children's play and mixing with HH animals difficult to limit
- Limitations of Governments

# What can we offer?

- Commitment to children
- Flexibility of taking quick actions
- Resources
- Multi sector programming
- Grass root organizations
- Good relations with governments

# Organizational Preparations

- Multi sector '*crisis management teams*'
- Strategic plans and guidelines
- Resources made available
- Staff orientations
- Stocking of Tamiflu; protective masks
- Crisis simulation exercises
- Continuous information dissemination

# Plan's role: *at national level*

- Plan's role in national networks
- Support to government:
  - meetings/ orientations/ workshops
  - mass media campaigns and TV spots
  - surveillance system
- Support for establishing necessary lab facilities

# Plan's role: *at local level*

- Linkage and support to LG:
  - Inter departmental planning meetings (LG, Agriculture, Livestock, MOH);
  - local level network formation
  - organizing orientation of local level government staffs (LG, Agriculture, Livestock, DOE)
  - Producing IEC materials in local context/ language
  - carrying out monitoring and surveillance activities
- Support to local MOH and NGOs for assessing capacity of health facilities

# Plan's role: *at community level*

- Use of existing opportunities
- Awareness raising:
  - problem and safety measures
  - use of IEC materials; community radio
  - Orientations of community leaders, teachers, volunteers
  - School sessions
- Group discussions by oriented community leaders, peers, volunteers (village health workers, teachers, vets)
- Children: as monitors and informers

# Challenges.....

- Good hygiene practices
- Access and use of water
- Animal culling: *why poor families should report?*
- Maintaining vigilance!
  
- Government response
- Weak surveillance systems

# Conclusion.....

- Civil society organizations can play a vital role in preventing the pandemic
- Effective awareness rather than resources is required
- *Individually we may do a lot but together we can achieve much more!*