

PANDEMIC PREPAREDNESS FORUM

Thursday, 2 December 2010, 1:30-5:00pm
Imperial Queen's Park Hotel, Sukhumvit Soi 22, Bangkok



*Organised by the
United Nations System Influenza (UNSIIC) Asia-Pacific Regional Hub*

<p>Theme: DONOR INSIGHTS INTO FUTURE WORK ON ANIMAL AND PANDEMIC INFLUENZA</p>

The minutes, presentations and other information about this and past Pandemic Preparedness Forums can be found on the United Nations influenza website at <http://un-influenza.org/node/3730>

Chair: Ms. Annu Lehtinen, Regional Coordinator, Head of the UNSIC Asia-Pacific Hub

Organizations present:

1. AusAID
2. CARE
3. DAI
4. Embassy of Japan in The Kingdom of Thailand
5. European Union
6. International Labour Organization (ILO)
7. International Organisation for Migration (IOM)
8. London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine (LSHTM)
9. OIE
10. Rapid Asia
11. Thai Red Cross
12. UNICEF
13. United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA/PIC)
14. United Nations System Influenza Coordination (UNSIIC)
15. World Vision
16. World Society for Protection of Animals (WSPA)

Total: 27

13:30 Opening and introductions of participants

Presentation: *'International Financial and Technical Assistance - Update and Future Needs'*

13:45 Presentation by Ms. Annu Lehtinen (UNSIIC) on behalf of the World Bank

An overview was presented of the UN/World Bank Global Progress Report on Animal and Pandemic Influenza, highlighting the genesis of AHI financing from its beginnings at the international pledging conference in Beijing in 2005. It was noted that financing gaps persist especially in Africa and that additional funding is needed to sustain the response to AHI and

advance the One Health framework. In addition, while a flexible financing framework has served the international community well in the emergency phase, other arrangements are required for medium and long-term preparedness and response. It was furthermore noted that effective reporting is the key to flexible financing.

(Please see PowerPoint presentation slides on website)

14:10 Q&A

Comment (EU): The distinction between the terminology of 'EU' and 'EC' is no longer relevant following the Lisbon Treaty coming into effect on 1 December 2009. Partners are advised to refer to the organisation as the European Union from this point on. It was noted that the reduction in donor interest after the international ministerial conference in Sharm-el-Sheikh as displayed in the presentation is slightly misleading since the ministerial conferences in Beijing, Bamako and New Delhi featured a pledging aspect while Sharm-el-Shaikh and Hanoi conferences did not.

Session 1 presentation: 'Outcome and Impact Assessment of the Global response to the Avian Influenza Crisis' Report Review and European Commission AHI financing review'

14.15 Presentation by Dr. Alain Vandersmissen, DVM, Coordinator Influenza, Emerging Diseases, 'One Health,' European Commission

The EU presentation touched on four key areas. The first was the recently launched Highly Pathogenic Emerging Diseases (HPED) Programme which aims to minimize the social impact of HPED in Asia. The programme, in partnership with ASEAN, SAARC and a number of countries, will run for the next four years. The 20 million Euro budget will be implemented by FAO, OIE and WHO. The second area covered in the EU presentation was the results of the 'Outcome and Impact Assessment of Global Responses to Avian Influenza (GRAI)'. The EU study aimed to assess the outcome of work on avian influenza against inputs with global and regional focuses, from mid-2009 to mid-2010. Major achievements included the development of multilateral partnerships and the creation of a culture of collaboration. Challenges identified by the study include the difficulty in achieving the behaviour change in the short-term as a result of communication interventions. Another area highlighted by the presentation was the EU's future support to AHI work from 2011-2013. The priority of a 'One Health' approach was stressed as a policy guide in this respect. Lastly, the recent Lisbon Treaty enactment saw the EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security, H.E. Baroness Catherine Ashton, as the key focal point for external relations. The Treaty sees the establishment of the European External Action Service from 1 Jan 2011.

14:50 Q&A

Comment (UNSIC): The GRAI assessment highlighted achievements and also issues to be tackled in the future. The results have implications not only to AHI but also to other crisis's. The USAID-funded review, entitled 'Towards a Safer World', is also reviewing GRAI, in particular the area of multi-sectoral preparedness and response.

Q (ILO): ILO is tackling AHI at the workplace level. The GRAI findings noted that the effects of the work on AHI did not reach community level. ILO noted that certain benefits such as vaccines have not reached them but still some simple messages communicated may make a big difference.

A: Field-level impacts were solidly observed. However, the difficulty in changing behaviour as a result of the exposure to messages was also highlighted. Little progress was seen in the collaboration between animal health and human health at field level in some countries. In other countries, much stronger coordination at community level was identified but not at national level.

Q (UNICEF): What is the future direction of the EU towards the 'One Health' approach?

A: The 2007-2013 strategy focused on cross-border cooperation. While the 2011-2013 strategy has not yet been programmed, the EU anticipates the 'One Health' approach will continue as an important approach in Asia.

Q (WSPA): The GRAI assessment found that restructuring the poultry industry was difficult. Can this be explained?

A: Restructuring the poultry industry does not seem to work easily. What is needed is to promote bio-secure products. However, bio-secure packages that benefit the poultry farmers still need to be developed. The cultural component of this is hugely important and cannot be underestimated.

Session 2 presentation: 'Japanese International Cooperation on Pandemic Influenza'

15.30 Presentation by Mr. Mamoru Yamashita, First Secretary, Embassy of Japan in Thailand

Participants were briefed on the Asian stockpile of 1.5 million courses of anti-viral drugs in Singapore. It was noted that the Embassy of Japan was working with WHO to strengthen measures against Pandemic H1N1, to build the capacity to tackle avian and other influenzas in high-risk countries in Asia and to organise the Japan-WHO Joint Meeting on Early Response to Potential Influenza Pandemic. In addition, through work with OIE and FAO, the Embassy is funding three avian influenza projects. With UNICEF and other humanitarian organisations, the Embassy is supporting prevention and awareness-raising efforts around AHI. In the area of research and development, the Embassy is working with the Japan Initiative for Global Research Network on Infectious Diseases (J-GRID) to strengthen AHI research. The Embassy is providing bilateral technical cooperation through JICA and other assistance through the World Bank and other multilateral development banks.

15:45 Q&A

Q (ILO): The Government of Japan provides a wide range of support. Are there any cross-cutting principles that it focuses on?

A: Currently the main focus that lies in the centre of international development assistance is the area of 'human security'.

Comment (UNICEF): UNICEF thanked Japan for its generous in the area of communication. It not only enabled the UN body to support governments but also allowed it to highlight the importance of the community-based communication in crisis management.

Session 3 presentation: 'AusAID's Pandemic and Emerging Infectious Diseases Framework (2010-2015)'

15.50 Presentation by Mr. Royce Escolar, Regional Program Manager, AusAID

AusAID structured its presentation on three main areas. Firstly, it gave an overview of its Pandemics and Emerging Infectious Diseases Framework 2006-2010, which targets key programmes such as the WHO APSED Programme, the OIE Community Avian Influenza Risk Reduction in Mekong Programme, and the bilateral Indonesia Programme. Secondly, the presentation discussed lessons learned, which to date include the need to link AHI efforts with the Millennium Development Goals, the need of health system strengthening to ensure sustainability, the importance of supporting veterinary services, the need for a 'One Health' model in action, the need for evidence-based policy and activities such as cost-benefit analysis and the need of accountable and harmonized aid effectiveness. Finally, the presentation discussed AusAID's EID framework 2010-2015 which continues to focus on Asia-Pacific, aiming to assist countries to comply with animal health standard and targeting community systems, rapid response to outbreaks and evidence-base to EID response. Its guiding principles are to align with partner

priorities, harmonize and use existing systems, apply a multi-disciplinary approach, be pro-poor and science-based, and to measure performance.

16:00 Q&A

Q (UNSIK): What is AusAID's budget in this area for 2010-2015?

A: The budget is Aus\$32 million, which is smaller than the previous five years, but does not include the bilateral features.

Q (DAI): What is the 'One Health' model in action?

A: It means, for example, any specific disease on which One Health can be effectively applied. Another example is the CARE programme which applied many of the One Health principles at field level. Village health and animal volunteers work together well. The challenges lie in ensuring collaboration at higher levels.

Comment (DAI): That is also the common challenge for the RESPONSE programme.

Q (ILO): The urban poor often slip through the cracks and not focused on as important target audience, while the rural poor are usually addressed.

A: The ASEAN+3 Emerging Infectious Diseases Programme was implemented by Ministries of Health and included dengue fever. It was primarily the urban disease. One Health pilot project might focus on urban areas, but it will be developed by July 2011.

Comment (UNSIK): UNSIK noted that an update from AusAID on these activities in next year's PPF will be greatly appreciated.

Q (WSPA): WSPA enquired about the possibility for AusAID to support behaviour change communication in the future.

A: AusAID noted that it would not be its main scope as other donors are focusing on it.

Session 4 - General Open Discussion

Comment (ILO): Reported that cramped conditions in some factories are a huge cause of infections, for example with workers in shrimp peeling factories.

Comment (EU): Migrant health and emerging diseases is another important area that needs focus.

Comment (World Vision): The EU presented its GRAI impact assessment and pointed out the difficulty in achieving tangible behaviour change. It should be noted that it takes time to realize the change in behaviours.

Q (EU): There is a communication gap between policymakers and the general public regarding highly pathogenic avian influenza. In Europe citizens feel that they were cheated five years ago by the wolf cry on AHI. What is the perception of the general public in other regions?

A (EoJ): Fortunately the number of deaths was small. The allergic social reaction as seen in Europe is fortunately not prevalent in Japan.

A (DAI): The general public in the US and Australia are generally very much against 'pandemics' and 'influenza'. Care needs to be taken also about a potential 'One Health' fatigue.

16:45 Organizational updates and other business

- WSPA: The organization is not only working in the animal area but also the area of disaster preparedness. Kasasart University called for students to respond to the central Thailand flood for the first time.

- DAI: Reported that it conducted region-focused training on basic veterinary skills in November. It is currently working on developing a curriculum module on One Health for Chiang Mai University.
- World Vision: Noted that its migration and tuberculosis programme report is available upon request.
- UNSIC: The Pandemic Preparedness Forum Core Group met on 25 November and discussed the organization of the PPF in 2011 as well as the Forum's objectives. In 2011, ADPC, AED and DAI will co-organize the Forum. Going forward, the PPF will try to broaden its scope beyond avian and pandemic influenza, to include other emerging infectious diseases with pandemic potential and the 'One Health' approach.
- OIE; OIE is implementing its assessment of country veterinary services and capacity building in line with Performance of Veterinary Services (PVS). It is conducting capacity strengthening of veterinary services in each member state. In 2011, OIE will propose to donors the 'One Health' oriented programme for funding.
- CARE: Reported that its community-based surveillance and bio-security programme materials are available for distribution.