



USAID | STOP AI

FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

2007 QUARTER 4 REPORT



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Introduction

DAI and the other members of the STOP AI Team are pleased to present this quarterly report for the Stamping Out Pandemic and Avian Influenza (STOP AI) Project. The report covers the period from October 1 to December 31, 2007.

Among the project's accomplishments for the fourth quarter are:

- The training of 51 experts in the United States and Senegal on pre-deployment for the STOP AI Project
- The preparation of 5 manuals on USAID-supplied avian influenza commodities and biosecurity
- The completion of field assignments in Ghana and Nigeria, and the continuation of an assignment in Bangladesh
- The full implementation of the project's recruiting system
- The submission of the 2008 STOP AI Work Plan
- The coordination of logistics with the DELIVER Project and the drafting of guidelines for the distribution and management of USAID-supplied avian influenza commodities.

Training

STOP AI Trains 28 Experts in Senegal

This was STOP AI's first pre-deployment training course outside the United States. Split into two parts, the November 5-9 session covered animal and human health and the November 12-16 session focused on veterinary epidemiology, with a laboratory exercise and poultry farm visits.

The participants included veterinarians, poultry specialists, veterinary epidemiologists, poultry production specialists, poultry veterinarians, veterinary virologists, veterinary pathologists, veterinary microbiologists, public health specialists, medical health specialists, epidemiologists, health planners, and health monitoring and evaluation experts from 17 countries.



Attending were experts from:

Benin	Burkina Faso
Cameroon	Ethiopia
Gambia	Ghana
Kenya	Mali
Mauritius	Niger
Nigeria	Rwanda
Senegal	Sudan
Tanzania	Togo
Uganda	

The course prepared participants to:

- Function in an overseas USAID environment and as a member of the STOP AI Project
- Describe the essential characteristics of the H5N1 HPAI virus
- Evaluate a national preparedness and response plan for HPAI
- Explain OIE standards for avian influenza
- Advise on protective measures for the public and response workers in order to minimize the risk of infection and the spread of H5N1 HPAI
- Design and evaluate a national H5N1 HPAI surveillance plan
- Use Geographic Information Systems to support surveillance and outbreak response
- Describe the components of a response operation
- Design and implement surveillance and surveys
- Measure disease and understand disease indices
- Understand the principles and concepts of the Infectious Disease Process.

Special Topics for Animal Health Participants

- Appropriate sampling techniques for poultry and wild birds
- Biosecurity risks and their mitigation
- Depopulation and disposal techniques
- Recovery options.

Special Topics for Human Health Participants

- Surveillance systems for human HPAI H5N1: design and evaluation
- Assessing and responding to potential outbreaks of HPAI H5N1
- Procedures for the safe collection and transport of specimens.

Participants' enthusiasm for the course carried over into after-hour discussion groups. As a result of the training, STOP AI gained a pool of 28 highly qualified professionals who can be employed for trainings, outbreak response, and other activities. The participants also informally created an e-mail list serve to share information on avian influenza in Africa. STOP AI anticipates that two of this course's alumni will deliver commodities kit training in Nigeria during April.

Rating the Course

Participants gave this course a rating of 4.5 (out of 5)

★★★★☆

STOP AI is following up on participants' suggestions for improving the training, which included the use of case studies and additional practical examples, the provision of paper copies of materials, more information on the situations of specific countries, the provision of glossaries and schematic diagrams, more



Participants in the Senegal course had the opportunity to visit a working poultry farm, where they practiced biosafety measures

time for group discussion, and additional scientific, economic, and historic information.



Trainers Jarra Jagne (DAI) and Joseph Gaydos (UC Davis) demonstrate how to handle a chicken



Participants take part in a simulation exercise



Classroom training



Participants practice donning personal protective equipment

Twenty-three Experts Receive US Pre-Deployment Training

STOP AI's second pre-deployment training course was held in Arlington, Virginia from October 2-5. Government representatives and private practitioners from throughout the United States attended.

STOP AI's first course on this topic was held in September; it was designed for experts working on avian influenza. The October training, however, was held to prepare veterinarians who were not familiar with, or had no experience with, avian influenza to become STOP AI consultants and provide technical assistance to USAID missions and host country governments.

The course covered:

- Working effectively with USAID and host country governments while on deployment
- Applying international standards for avian influenza surveillance, diagnosis, and culling techniques
- Evaluating national preparedness and response plans
- Promoting occupational safety
- Using GIS for outbreak mapping
- Prevention and recovery measures
- Public health surveillance, case investigation, and diagnostics.

Rating the Course

Participants gave this course a rating of 4.3 (out of 5)

★ ★ ★★ ½

Some of the participants' suggestions for improving this course included: providing more information on the various organizations involved in fighting AI worldwide and the coordination among them; using more concrete examples, problem-solving exercises and role playing; and providing better visual images and more hands-on practice.

Five Training Manuals Near Completion

STOP AI prepared four training manuals on USAID-supplied commodities and one on biosecurity for Ghana this quarter:

4-Day STOP AI Commodities Course: Training-of-Trainers

The written materials and slides that accompany this course were designed for veterinary professionals who will deliver the 2-Day STOP AI Commodities Kit Training Course. The regional veterinarians they train will be expected to teach this course to veterinarians and veterinary technicians working at the district or sub-district level.

The ***trainer's guide*** contains modules on the three USAID avian influenza kits (personal protective equipment, decontamination, and laboratory /diagnostics) and conveys several training tools for adult learners (e.g., experimental learning, facilitation, feedback).

The ***participant's manual*** covers the same modules, which are addressed during the first two days of training. It devotes the last two days to helping participants learn how to teach well. The manual also contains several practice drills that allow participants to refine their skills.

2-Day STOP AI Commodities Kit Course

The written materials and slides for this course were designed for veterinary and human health professionals involved in surveillance, biosecurity, outbreak investigation, depopulation, disposal, and decontamination efforts associated with highly pathogenic avian influenza.

The ***trainer's guide*** familiarizes participants with the contents and proper use of the USAID-supplied commodities kits. It helps trainers prepare participants to correctly don and doff personal protective equipment (PPE), describe and follow decontamination procedures, identify the items in the laboratory diagnostics kit, describe the proper steps involved in taking and testing tracheal and cloacal samples, and describe proper storage and shipping procedures for samples.

The ***participant's manual*** covers modules on PPE, decontamination, and lab diagnostics. It is supplemented by extensive photographs and reference materials (e.g., regulations for safely transporting infectious substances, characteristics of disinfectants).

Sample Page from the 2-Day STOP AI Commodities Course Participant's Manual

2.3 PROPER SEQUENCE FOR PUTTING ON (DONNING) PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT

1. Coveralls go on FIRST. Always start with the coveralls, which should be big and loose. This allows you to put the coveralls on over your clothes (even over a skirt) without restricting movement. Be certain to zip it up.



2. Shoe Covers go on SECOND. They fit over the coverall feet, providing another layer to protect your shoes from contamination.



3. Respirator goes on THIRD. This protects you from inhaling the infectious avian influenza virus into your nose and lungs.



4. Goggles go on FOURTH. The goggles should fit snugly over and around your eyes.





Ghana Biosecurity Manual

This manual, which is in the final stage of development, contains information veterinarians can use to educate poultry growers and sellers, and live bird market administrators about preventing the spread of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) among their poultry. Its key messages are conveyed in writing and illustrations so the material can be understood by people who can read as well as those who cannot.

The guide will help veterinarians, poultry growers, sellers, and market administrators to:

- Recognize the signs of HPAI
- Understand the human risks associated with HPAI
- Know what to do during an outbreak of HPAI
- Prevent HPAI in their farm or market.

Farm operators and market administrators who are trained on the content in this guide can use it to train the workers and sellers in their farm or market.

Other Field Activities

Field Deployments

Two on the short-term technical assistance assignments STOP AI began during 2007 were completed during the fourth quarter (Ghana and Nigeria), while an assignment in Bangladesh is continuing. In addition, STOP AI staff attended an Avian Influenza Partners meeting in Mali.

Ghana

In 2007 STOP AI provided veterinary technical assistance to USAID/Ghana and the Government of Ghana in support of their avian influenza control programs. Through STOP AI, 14 trainings on avian influenza and the use of USAID-supplied commodities were completed. Of the 310 participants who completed these training programs, 11 participated in cascade training events (training of trainers) and are now better qualified to lead avian influenza training programs. STOP AI's other assistance to the Mission included input and revisions to the initial and final long-term Ghana Mission AI Operating Plans for 2008-2009, reviews of the response plans for the FAO and EU, and advice on the best use of emergency funds.

Nigeria

A logistics team from STOP AI traveled to Nigeria to assess the country's logistics assistance needs and develop a strategy for enhancing access to USAID-funded avian influenza (AI) commodities in coordination with USAID's DELIVER Project. As a result of the trip, current distribution systems were profiled, national and regional stockpiles were assessed, and in-country transport services providers were identified. A standard operating procedure, plan and scope of work for AI commodities logistics were developed with the Government of Nigeria to lay the groundwork for long-term distribution, storage, and reporting systems. STOP AI is slated to provide technical and logistical assistance for the in-country distribution of AI commodities in early 2008.

Bangladesh

STOP AI was asked to identify a field epidemiology expert to support USAID and FAO in implementing a surveillance program. We recruited a poultry veterinarian with expertise in managing surveillance programs for this assignment. STOP AI's technical assistance included developing a biosecurity training package to build capacity in the commercial poultry sector, working with FAO, and coordinating with several NGO networks to improve surveillance.

In addition, a STOP AI laboratory management expert from the Midwest Research Institute conducted bench-top training at national and regional veterinary laboratories.

Mali

From December 4-7, three members of the STOP AI Team attended the USAID HPAI Program Partner's meeting in Bamako. The meeting was held to:

- Identify complementary strengths of avian influenza partners in West Africa
- Identify lessons learned from current avian influenza work to incorporate into 2008 activities
- Further define the activities partners will implement, including expected outcomes and country and sub-regional activities in 2008.

The 34 representatives who attended the meeting:

- Shared work plans
- Harmonized and reached consensus on the implementation of lab support and training, surveillance, communications, and research and information management
- Established network and communication/coordination mechanisms
- Clarified roles and responsibilities
- Shared lessons learned on prevention and outbreak response, and updated priorities.

Organizations Attending the Mali Meeting

USAID

POCs from Missions, non-presence countries

Implementing Partners

AI.COMM
CRS
FAO
ILRI
SRA
STOP AI

Other Partners

AU-BAR
CILSS
DoD/NAMRU3
GTZ
HHS, CDC
OIE
UNICEFF
UN-OCHA
USDA
World Bank

Expert Resource Network

North America/Europe Recruitment

STOP AI recruited 23 North American and European professionals to participate in the avian influenza pre-deployment course, which was held in October in Arlington, VA. These experts had experience in animal disease response, or in the case of public health professionals, pandemic preparedness, but were not necessarily familiar with highly pathogenic avian influenza.

	Pathologist	1
Human Health	Public Health Physician	4
	Other Health Professional	2
	Veterinary Epidemiologist	3
Veterinary Health	Veterinarian	7
	Poultry Veterinarian	3
	Public Health Veterinarian	2
	Pathologist	1

Africa Recruitment

All 28 professionals attending the November STOP AI orientation training session, which was held in Senegal, were recruited to the project and added to the project's database.

Human Health	Physician	6	Mali (1), Rwanda (1), Senegal (3), Uganda (1)
	Veterinarian	4	Cameroon (1), Ghana (1), Nigeria (1), Senegal (1)
Veterinary Health	Poultry Veterinarian	7	Benin (1), Mali (1), Mauritius (1), Niger (1), Nigeria (1), Sudan (1), Togo (1)
	Veterinary Epidemiologist	8	Cameroon (1), Ethiopia (1), Gambia (1), Nigeria (2), Senegal (1), Sudan (1), Uganda (1)
	Microbiologist	1	Tanzania (1)
	Pathologist	1	Tanzania (1)
	Other Poultry Health	1	Burkina Faso (1)

Program Management

2008 STOP AI Work Plan Submitted to USAID

STOP AI's annual work plan was sent to USAID on January 2. It contains a range of activities at the global, regional (Latin America and the Caribbean, Africa, Asia/Near East, and Europe and Eurasia) and country levels (activities are planned for 18 countries).

Before an activity is implemented in the field, a work plan will be agreed upon with each region or Mission to finalize timelines, experts, and deliverables.

The work plan includes activities under all of USAID's avian influenza pillars: preparedness and planning, animal surveillance, human surveillance, animal response, and human response. The activities cover:

- **Global activities:** recruiting, the development of training materials and guidelines and procedures, logistics, the establishment of regional offices, program management, pandemic preparedness, staffing, and performance monitoring.
- **Regional/country activities:** preparedness plan assessments and/or development, municipal and district preparedness and response, technical assistance, poultry trade risk mapping, capacity building for public health laboratories and stakeholders, outbreak response, commodities logistics support, community- and farm-level drills, certification monitoring and evaluation, monitoring support, study tours, and training.

The work plan proposes a comprehensive range of training programs:

- **Basic avian influenza**
- **Biosecurity**
- **Border guard training**
- **Commodities**
- **Epidemiology**
- **Geographic information systems**
- **Preparedness and outbreak response**
- **Pre-service training for veterinary universities**
- **Public health**
- **Surveillance and response**
- **Training of trainers**

Logistics

Project Orientation Workshop, Bangkok

STOP AI's logistics manager participated in this workshop for USAID's DELIVER Project. Held in October, the workshop aimed to strengthen the collaboration between the STOP AI and DELIVER projects. Those attending were able to increase their understanding of the two projects' mandates, capacity, and operations. Exchanges among the partner organizations enabled STOP AI to clarify some of the needs it must be prepared to meet once DELIVER transfers ownership of USAID-supplied avian influenza commodities shipped to a recipient country government. After the workshop, the two projects continued to collaborate to enhance coordination mechanisms.

Distribution Monitoring, Nigeria

In follow up to its September planning mission to Nigeria, STOP AI continued to monitor progress and advance the plans for the distribution of USAID-supplied avian influenza commodities in Nigeria, which is now scheduled for January 2008.

Guideline Development

STOP AI's Logistics Unit began drafting guidelines and procedures for the in-country distribution and management of USAID-supplied avian influenza commodities. They were submitted for technical and peer review in January 2008.

Services to Benin

By the end of the fourth quarter, STOP AI stood ready to respond to an urgent request that the project provide procurement and logistics services to meet supply shortages the Government of Benin is reported to be facing in stamping out and containing HPAI outbreaks. While the outbreak emergency appears to have been addressed without STOP AI's immediate intervention, the project is prepared to respond to the situation in Benin as it evolves and on-the-ground needs change. STOP AI has identified three candidates from the Senegal training course who are qualified, interested, and available to provide assistance in Benin, should the need arise.

Progress toward Results

The STOP AI Project has established its management systems and all of its work plan activities are on track. The key progress made to date toward reaching the project's objectives can be summarized as:

1. Increased use of internationally accepted practices for animal and human disease control

- Coordinated with other USAID partners working on AI, including the DELIVER Project, AI.Comm and several USAID missions
- Provided training in Senegal and the United States

2. Improved global availability of technical experts

- Continued the development of the roster of experts
- Recruited experts for training courses in October and November
- Delivered two AI pre-deployment training courses, recruiting 51 professionals to the project
- Recruited for the senior technical manager position

3. Reliable and timely logistical support services provided

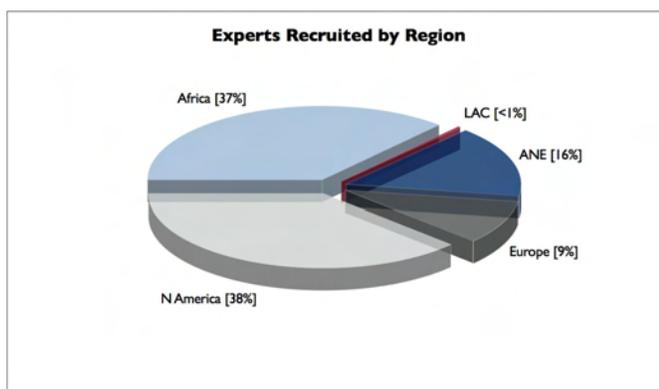
- Began operations from Dakar at the first STOP-AI regional office.

Training

Two major training events in October and November familiarized 51 professionals from 18 countries with the USAID environment and gave them skills in response, surveillance, commodities, preparedness, and other areas essential for combating H5N1 HPAI. The 5 training manuals prepared this quarter will add to the body of knowledge on internationally accepted practices for animal and human disease control.

Expert Resource Network

To date, STOP AI has identified and recruited 387 experts from throughout the world; they are categorized below according to major skill sets and nationality.



Communications	7
Economics and Socioeconomics	8
Environmental Protection	3
Field Management/ Operations	12
Human Health	52
Veterinary Health	296
Natural Resources	7
Total	387

Field Activities

The three field deployments in the fourth quarter have resulted in improved field surveillance in Bangladesh, the training of 310 professionals on avian influenza control as well as 11 trainers on the methodologies for training others in Ghana, and the assessment of regional stockpiles of avian influenza commodities through a mission to Nigeria.

Program Management

The 2008 STOP AI work plan, which is pending approval, will bring assistance to 18 countries and 5 regions served by USAID, through such activities as planning, preparedness, technical assistance, and training.

Logistics

Coordination activities with the DELIVER Project and the drafting of guidelines and procedures in the fourth quarter will enhance the disbursement of USAID-supplied avian influenza commodities.

Financial Report (all figures in 000's)

Pipeline

Total task order value	\$35,839
Total obligation	34,303
Total expended through December 31	4,626
Remaining balance of obligation	29,677
Percentage of obligation expended	13.5%

Planned Expenditures for Next Quarter

Additional obligations expected	0
Total expended through December 31	4,626
Planned expenditures, January 1 through March 31	1,875
Estimated remaining balance of obligations on March 31	27,802

AIMEBA Expenditure Data: Life of Project

PP1 – avian influenza preparedness and response plans	3,828
PP2 – Coordination and collaboration	425
AR2 – Animal response efforts	373

AIMEBA Expenditure Data: This Quarter

PP1 – avian influenza preparedness and response plans	1,780
PP2 – Coordination and collaboration	36
AR2 – Animal response efforts	11
AR3 – Biosecurity	48

STOP AI helps to develop systems, practices and procedures to prepare for, detect, respond to, and recover from HPAI outbreaks. The project works with its partners to tailor internationally accepted practices to local conditions, and promotes linkages between animal and human health professionals.

The STOP AI Team:

- DAI (prime contractor)
- Bird Flu Control
- MacFadden
- Management Sciences for Health
- Michigan State University
- Midwest Research Institute
- The QED Group
- Training Resources Group
- UC David Avian Flu School
- Winrock International

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