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USAID's Avian Influenza Global Technical Partners for Pandemic Prevention



The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) has made the financial and technical commitment for two initiatives that prepare for and respond to avian influenza and pandemic influenza. With its technical partners USAID is focused on enhancing preparedness planning at all levels; facilitating national plans; monitoring flyways of birds; strengthening outbreak surveillance, response, communication, and containment; and encouraging transparency in reporting and investigating avian influenza.

Strategic partners in USAID's avian influenza program include AI.COMM, DELIVER, GAINS, and STOP AI. Together, these projects work to achieve USAID's avian and pandemic influenza objectives.

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STRATEGIC PARTNERS For pandemic prevention

AI.COMM

Behavior Change Communication - Capacity Building - Formative Research - M&E - Strategy Development

The Global Avian Influenza Behavior Change and Communications Support Activity (AI.COMM) project provides behavior change technical assistance for avian and pandemic influenza. The project scope spans pre-outbreak, outbreak, and post-outbreak communications. AI.COMM's target audiences include backyard farmers, small scale poultry producers, consumers, health care workers, veterinary staff, and communities. AI.COMM offers surge and longer-term technical and programmatic support in formative research; communication strategy development and implementation; material and media development, outreach and advocacy; capacity building; and monitoring and evaluation.

GAINS

Capacity Building - Field Research - Improved Scientific Understanding - Surveillance

The Global Avian Influenza Network for Surveillance (GAINS) project is a multi-disciplinary, multi-stakeholder endeavour to collect and share data on highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) H5N1, as well as other AI strains, in wild birds. GAINS improves the collection, coordination, and laboratory evaluation of samples from wild birds to identify locations of avian influenza viral strains; identify genetic changes in the virus; enhance wild bird distribution and migration information; and provide an early warning system for the global spread of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) that threatens poultry and human health, as well as biodiversity (particularly avian). GAINS shares international disease information through an interactive, publicly accessible web-based database that is available at www.gains.org. The database maps sample collection sites, flyways and results of biological surveillance.

STOP AI

**Logistical Support -
Technical Expertise -
Training**

Stamping Out Pandemic and Avian Influenza (STOP AI) provides technical resources and support services in preparedness planning; surveillance and prevention; outbreak response; and re-infection prevention and recovery within the animal health sector. This project has three interrelated objectives:

- Improved global availability of technical experts qualified and trained in internationally accepted procedures for addressing HPAI outbreaks in animals;
- Increased use of internationally accepted practices for animal and human disease control; and
- Reliable and timely logistical support provided to countries affected by HPAI.

STOP AI also addresses the human health aspects of HPAI, such as human exposure during poultry production and human welfare in outbreak situations.

DELIVER

Commodities - Logistics - Procurement

The USAID|DELIVER Project, Task Order 2 Avian Influenza, has been contracted by USAID to procure, manage, ship, track, and provide logistics technical assistance to ensure that AI containment commodities are available in-country when needed.

These commodities include PPE kits, decontamination kits, lab testing kits, and other HPAI equipment. Small quantities of commodities are pre-positioned in-country, while larger quantities are stored at regional distribution centers for replenishment, and emergency shipments can be dispatched when minimum emergency criteria are met. Commodity requests should be channeled through USAID/Mission points of contact and/or the appropriate U.S. government agency representative.



INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

World Health Organization (WHO)

WHO is taking the lead in the five key areas that concern human health: to reduce human exposure to the H5N1 virus, to strengthen the early warning system, to put in place measures that might contain an emerging pandemic influenza at its source, to increase the capacities of countries and the international community to prepare for and cope with a global pandemic of influenza and to encourage all possible efforts into research and development of pandemic vaccines and antiviral medications and into improving global production capacity.

U.N. Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO)

FAO has assumed the lead role in the UN-wide UN System Influenza Coordination (UNSIC) as the specialized UN organization in charge of assisting member states in controlling the H5N1 virus at source in animals. To date, FAO has provided HPAI control and preparedness support in the form of services and/or supplies to 95 countries. Among its technical services are the strengthening of disease intelligence and emergency preparedness, and analysis of and advice on the social and economic consequences of both the disease and its control. It is the recipient of USAID-funding.

CONTACTS

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GAINS

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DELIVER

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World Health Organization (WHO)

www.who.int/csr/disease/avian_influenza/en/index.html

U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)

www.fao.org/avianflu/en/index.html