



USAID | STOP AI

FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

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PHILIPPINES WORK PLAN

Based on a preliminary meeting with Mission personnel, the STOP AI Team proposes 2 activities during 2008 to assist the Philippines National AI Task Force in improving its preparedness for and response to an outbreak of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) through the design and implementation of a “tabletop” exercise for regional, provincial, and community-level stakeholders. The tabletop will be an interactive learning opportunity where participants from both the animal and human health sectors evaluate their existing response plans to a theoretical HPAI outbreak in a small village. Field drills will be included as necessary. The tabletop exercise will be developed and piloted for one “high risk” location of interest to the Mission and the National AI Task Force. Key learnings from this pilot exercise can be used in the development of a model tabletop/field drill which might be replicated in other rural locations in the future. This STOP AI activity builds upon multiple activities already executed by USAID’s RAISE SPS Project. These activities included 1) an expert assessment of the National AI Preparedness Plan in early 2006, (2) a study tour in mid-2007 for National AI Task Force officials of USAID project activities in Indonesia focused on community-based AI control, and (3) development and piloting of an “early warning” community-based AI training module, and development and distribution of related AI communications materials, in mid-2007, for use at barangay level in the Philippines.

ACTIVITY 1: RECONNAISSANCE/DESIGN

For one week in early 2008, a STOP AI Health Specialist will work with USAID/Philippines, the National AI Task Force, private sector, and animal and health experts to assess current levels of outbreak response preparation, and then design the most appropriate type/level of tabletop exercise. During this trip, the most appropriate site for the exercise will also be determined, and a local health-oriented NGO will be recruited to be ultimately responsible for the organization of the venue and all associated logistics. The key output of Activity 1 will be a draft outline of the tabletop exercise and any field-related drills. Additionally, all the principal participants and stakeholders need to be notified, engaged, and “enlisted” for the tabletop concept.

ACTIVITY 2: EXECUTION OF TABLETOP EXERCISE

The tabletop exercise will be conducted approximately 2 months after Activity 1 is completed. During the interim period, the Activity Manager and Health Expert will further develop the approach for the tabletop and field drills with the key participants. Objectives will be clarified, details of scenario and exercise design will be agreed upon and further developed, roles of the facilitator/support team and participants will be further clarified, and logistical arrangements will be finalized. Facilitation of the exercise will be conducted through the combined resources of the Health Expert, Activity Manager, National AI Task Force, private sector representatives, and the local NGO. The local NGO will focus on organization of the tabletop venue and execution of any required “field drills”. Our initial budget estimate assumes that the tabletop will involve no more than 20 participants, with 10 fully covered through STOP AI funding. We also assume that the exercise will require approximately 4 days of participant time

(1 day for arrival, 2 days of exercises, 0.5 day for lessons learned and closure, 0.5 day for departure). Of course this proposed scheduling may be changed as a result of deliberations made during Activity 1. The major output of Activity 2 will be a report on “lessons learned” from the exercises for use in the development of a tabletop/field drill model that might be used in other communities.