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UGANDA WORK PLAN

PILLAR ACTIVITIES – (1) ANIMAL RESPONSE AND (2) ANIMAL SURVEILLANCE

In June 2007, under RAISE SPS, DAI completed USAID AI Commodities Training in Uganda in collaboration with USDA, the FAO, and ILRI.

Based on consultation with USAID/Uganda, the Uganda Ministry of Agriculture AI Task Force Representative, the FAO's Uganda Mission, and East Africa Regional Animal Health Centre, program heads from Makerere University's Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, the CDC, Walter Reed, USAMRU, and other collaborating local and international organizations, STOP AI proposes three activities during 2008 to extend HPAI preparedness and surveillance beyond national-level management to those district level units engaged in outbreak response operations.

ACTIVITY I: PREPAREDNESS AND EMERGENCY OUTBREAK RESPONSE TRAINING

Working with the Government of Uganda's Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industries and Fisheries (MAAIF), the FAO, and other local partners, STOP AI will provide HPAI emergency response training in those districts evaluated by MAAIF as being at highest risk of HPAI infection. Cross-border trade and human movement will receive special consideration. Because response is typically triggered by surveillance, this response training will be linked to either existing or planned surveillance activities. Training objectives are to deepen Uganda's capacity for early detection of any incursion of HPAI, to enhance districts' ability to rapidly contain any suspected outbreak, and to hone skills in conducting disease investigation leading to identification of index cases and their resolution. Achieving these objectives will require close collaboration among veterinary and human medical disciplines, government regulatory agencies, and the private sector.

STOP AI will build upon the capacity that has already been developed through other HPAI training activities, such as those conducted by the University of California – Davis' Avian Flu School in association with Makerere University and MAAIF. Training and surveillance activities will also be carefully aligned with Uganda's Integrated National Action Plan (INAP) to support its recommendations.

Modular, 5-day courses will train up to 45 people from selected high-risk districts on HPAI operational preparedness, response, and containment. The course is designed for district-level government personnel responsible for implementing HPAI outbreak response. Participants of the course will be identified with the assistance of the national-level personnel previously trained by STOP AI and its collaborating partners. Nominations will also be sought from the Uganda Customs and Immigration Authority as well as from the Uganda Poultry Producers' Association. As a condition for its participation, the latter will be requested to commit to organizing a training-of-trainers workshop on bio-security for its members. The members' workshop will be conducted by the Association's nominated participant(s) with technical support from STOP AI.

In addition to response training, participants will receive an introduction to practical surveillance approaches and receive briefings on the surveillance activities in their operational areas by the institutions conducting them. Training will explore and facilitate coordination of district level response with district level surveillance.

The course content will include:

- Incident response command structure and procedures (intra-district, inter-district, and district-to-national)
- USAID AI commodities management and logistics, including stockpile management, storage, tracking and replenishment
- Site management, including movement control and quarantine
- Use and disposal of USAID-supplied personal protective equipment kits and bio-safety for responders
- Use of rapid test kits
- Culling techniques and carcass disposal options
- Decontamination and use of decontamination kits
- Field surveillance
- Human surveillance, case investigation and response
- Table top simulation

ACTIVITY 2: ON-DEMAND/COUNTRY REQUESTED WORK

STOP AI will define specific activities using these funds as the situation in Uganda evolves. Potential uses for these funds include:

ACTIVITY A: DISEASE INVESTIGATION SUPPORT

The rapid investigation and identification of index cases are critical to halting the spread of any new HPAI infection and are known to reduce the financial, economic, and social costs of disease control. The safe and careful collection and referral of suspected infected material are critical to this process. In partnership with local institutions and established international programs, STOP AI proposes to conduct a series of small group training exercises focused specifically on rapid disease investigation. These activities would be joint exercises with human health professionals targeting high risk areas of the country. To fully enable disease investigation teams, STOP AI would commit limited funding for the provision of disease investigation kits to field epidemiology teams, field investigatory labs, and the National Veterinary Lab. Technical assistance on how to use the equipment provided and maintain it could also be provided.

Support to the National Veterinary Laboratory or other animal disease diagnostic facilities, e.g., Makerere University's Veterinary Faculty, will be considered on an "as requested" basis and after it has been determined that the requested services will not be provided by other projects or in a timely manner.

ACTIVITY B: SUPPORT TO THE NATIONAL AI TASK FORCE

Uganda's National AI Task Force is the national coordinating and advisory body on HPAI in the country, as requested, STOP AI will coordinate with the Task Force to scope out and deliver advisory, technical, and other support services.