



4 APRIL 2008

SOUTHERN AFRICA WORK PLAN

PILLAR ACTIVITIES – (1) PREPAREDNESS AND PLANNING; (2) HUMAN SURVEILLANCE; (3) ANIMAL RESPONSE – COMBINED LINE ITEMS

Based on recent telephone discussions with the USAID/Southern Africa Regional Coordinator, Mission staff, and USAID CTO the STOP AI Project proposes 3 activities during 2008 and 2009 to strengthen the region's capacity to respond to an outbreak of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI).

ACTIVITY I: HPAI RISK MAPPING

STOP AI will conduct a regional HPAI risk mapping exercise to document external and internal trade flows that, when combined with other secondary research will determine high risk pathways for the introduction and spread of HPAI. The mapping effort will rely on the substantial amount of secondary information that exists on regional trades flows within the private and public sector and take advantage of epidemiological knowledge and spatial models using geographic information technology. STOP AI will develop an initial overview of international and intra-regional trade flows in conjunction with the Ministries of Trade and Industry and Agriculture, the SADC Secretariat, the FAO Regional Representative's office, the OIE, as well as the Southern Africa Poultry Producers Association, the Southern Africa Veterinary Association, and others. Further precision and final risk ranking will be based on selective primary data collection, including research information on wild bird migrations made available from GAINS. STOP AI will also include additional follow-up technical assistance on an as-needed basis to the related stakeholders to ensure they are adequately conversant with the geographic information system (GIS) tool provided and are capable of integrating new information to produce updated risk maps.

Outputs from this activity to be made available to USAID Missions will be: i) a detailed report of existing product trade flows, the major sea and terrestrial ports of entry, major importers and exporters of live and processed poultry products, countries of origin, principal formal and informal transportation routes, customs and animal health control check points, surveillance systems status and other critical information that facilitate or impede uncontrolled movement of poultry products; ii) a two-day stakeholders review meeting to discuss the results of the Risk Mapping, including the planning the training objectives of follow on course in HPAI Surveillance, and iii) digital maps comprised of layers of infrastructure risk factors and surveillance system data will accompany the final report. Such maps may be easily up-dated, manipulated and queried for surveillance planning; evaluating response scenarios and

anticipating how economic policy and climatic factors influence trade flows and product mixes; and thereby alter disease risk and dispersal pathways.

From core STOP AI staff, this activity will involve the team leader of the Africa Regional Office, who has extensive experience with risk mapping and spatial epidemiology; an Africa Region Veterinarian; and the project's GIS Specialist. From the STOP AI Experts Roster, the services of a private sector consultant knowledgeable about the southern Africa poultry industry will also be engaged.

ACTIVITY 2: DEEPENING REGIONAL CAPACITY FOR HPAI SURVEILLANCE

Using information generated by Activity 1, STOP AI will coordinate and deliver the agreed-upon training on HPAI surveillance planning and implementation. The audience for this 5-day training will be up to 20 participants from 5 countries. The final design of the course will emerge from a collaborative planning process initiated by the stakeholders review meeting of the HPAI Risk mapping. Possible training content could include topics such as:

- Principles and concepts of the infectious disease process;
- Fundamental epidemiological statistics;
- Known and suspected high risk pathways for virus dispersal in the southern Africa region;
- Disease outbreak investigation principles; and
- Design and implementation of surveillance and surveys.

By incorporating the results of the risk mapping into the training program, HPAI surveillance and prevention capacity in the region will be strengthened.

ACTIVITY 3: ON-DEMAND/COUNTRY REQUESTED WORK

Specific activities using the remaining funds will be defined as the situation in Southern Africa evolves. Several priorities have been identified:

- If the HPAI Risk Mapping Stakeholders Review meeting identifies more activities than can be covered by the planned 5-day training course, additional funds will be used to expand the scope of Activity 2;
- STOP AI may provide technical assistance for the operationalization of the technical topics covered in the training course;
- STOP AI could further disseminate the HPAI risk mapping results;
- STOP AI could allocate funding to support activities based upon the changing needs in the field.