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VIETNAM VETERINARY LAW DEVELOPMENT WORK PLAN

BACKGROUND

The Government of Vietnam's (GVN) Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD) has begun a multi-year program to modernize laws regarding veterinary medicine and has solicited the assistance of USAID as well as FAO, OIE, and other donors in this process. According to MARD's current schedule, this legislative reform process (initiated in 2008) will result in the submission of a completely reformed and publicly vetted law to Parliament by late 2011). STOP AI has been requested by USAID/Vietnam and the API Unit in AID/Washington's Office of Global Health to provide assistance to MARD in this process.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this assignment is to provide technical and organizational support to MARD's Department of Animal Health (MARD/DAH), which has the lead technical role in the development of the law. The drafting team (led by MARD/DAH) is in the process of revising the existing law after a month-long, FAO consultation that took place in May 2009. This consultation did not re-write the law, but made many suggestions as to how the law could be improved. Additionally, an OIE consultation took place in August 2009 and provided an assessment on the general principles of the legislation and how it relates/conforms with the Vietnamese Constitution. The purpose of the STOP AI activity is to provide additional international technical input on the draft legislation. This will involve providing technical and logistical support for a 6-province (2 northern, 2 middle, and 2 southern) Fact-finding Mission (FFM) for high-level drafters and reviewers of the legislation. Such a trip is important to assess current realities in the public and private veterinary services at provincial and district levels. The FFM will focus on extracting information on veterinary services and application of the current law at the provincial and district level from authorities in the areas of animal health and livestock production. If requested by MARD/DAH, major private sector livestock producers and animal health practitioners will also be interviewed.

OBJECTIVES

The support will primarily involve provision of comments to legislative drafters and reviewers on the current strengths and weaknesses of the law, as well as participation in and logistical support of meetings and provincial/district-level visits and FFMs aimed at refining sections of the draft law. STOP AI participation in the development of the new veterinary law will seek to emphasize the following:

- Provide comments to initial drafts of the proposed law to ensure adherence to international standards and best practices for effective disease control, especially the control of emerging zoonoses;

- Recommend approaches to the operationalization of key sections of the proposed law to facilitate development of standard operating procedures (SOPs) emanating from the law; and
- Ensure that the draft law reflects the realities of veterinary service structure and function, down to the lowest administrative levels of the country.

STOP AI support will include:

- 1) Expert technical input on veterinary legislation through drafting and/or reviewing and commenting on draft legislation, and
- 2) Participation in and logistical support of meetings, provincial visits, consultations, and a formal workshop aimed at refining sections of the draft law.

TASKS

The tasks to be undertaken by STOP AI include two main tasks and a number of sub-tasks. The main tasks are 1) provide logistical support and participate in a multi-province FFM with select drafters and reviewers of the veterinary law; and 2) provide advice and draft language on the legislation if requested. A cross-cutting task is to develop a working relationship with the point person within MARD responsible for developing the law (Veterinary Law Development Manager), and to establish links with other donors and programs providing support to the veterinary service.

I. Pre-Trip Preparation

- Acquire existing external consultant (FAO, OIE) reports on the law, and acquire translation of existing draft legislation for review by an International Expert and a local Vietnamese Veterinarian
- Review draft legislation and provide comments
- As necessary and requested, provide draft legislation language

2. Six-Province Fact-finding Mission (FFM)

- Meet with MARD Veterinary Law Development Manager to establish parameters of the program, including selection of delegates for the provincial trips
- Development and approval of itinerary
- Undertake provincial FFM

3. Post-FFM Lessons Learned Workshop

- Organize 1-day lessons learned workshop to review findings of the FFMs
- Design next steps for translating the findings into the draft legislation

STAFFING

It is critical that STOP AI assistance to the MARD DAH is able to blend international best practices with structures that are suitable to the Vietnam livestock and public health context – thus an international expert will be teamed with a domestic expert. It is important that the project engage a local Vietnamese veterinary consultant, preferably one who has knowledge of national vs. provincial issues in veterinary services and infrastructure. The domestic consultant should be complemented by an internationally-experienced veterinarian or food/agriculture expert who has been involved in drafting laws, regulations, and policies pertaining to veterinary

services in numerous countries. These two consultants will need to be supported by 1) a highly experienced STOP AI project coordinator who will ensure that STOP AI quality assurance mechanisms are in place and adhered to for the activity, and who will be responsible for organizing the logistics and payment modalities for the provincial trips and the workshop, and 2) part-time assistance from a local project coordinator who will ensure smooth logistical operations related to provincial transport and lodging. A STOP AI Activity Manager will oversee all aspects of the activity from the home office and will serve as the primary link between MARD, USAID/Vietnam, USAID/W, STAR II Project, and other stakeholders.

STOP AI Headquarters Coordination

- Activity Manager, 12 days LOE

Pre-Trip Preparation:

- STOP AI Country Coordinator, 12 days LOE

Provincial FFM (includes 6-days, in-country prep time):

- Vietnamese Veterinarian, 30 days LOE
- STOP AI Country Coordinator, 30 days LOE
- International Veterinary Law Expert , 30 days LOE
- Local Facilitator, Lessons Learned Workshop, 3 days LOE
- Interpreter, 3 days LOE

Post Workshop Technical Review of Draft Legislation

- Vietnamese Veterinarian, 6 days LOE
- International Veterinary Law Expert, 6 days LOE

DELIVERABLES

- Draft language or written recommendations as requested
- Trip Report
- Workshop Report