This publication was produced for review by the United States Agency for International Development. It was prepared by DAI.
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This is the first semi-annual report of the Preparedness and Response (P&R) Project covering the period from October 1, 2014 to March 30, 2015. The first months of the project began with a concentrated effort on the Ebola outbreak in West Africa and ended with the project adjusting to the implications of the Global Health Security Agenda. Both cases the project responded with flexibility and adjusted technical and operational approaches to these events. This work exemplifies the underlying theme of P&R – Expect the Unexpected.

The project got off to a rapid start, due in part to the immediate availability of the three key personnel – Jerry Martin (Director), Douglas Hatch (Technical Lead) and Margaret Morehouse (Capacity Building Advisor), as well as David Whitfield the Field Operations Manager. Initial activities focused on Ebola preparedness training through regional workshops in Ghana and Cameroon and the development of an interactive Ebola Webinar. At the same time, regional project activities commenced in Southeast Asia and Africa with EPT2 launch meetings. Temporary regional project offices were set up in Bangkok, Thailand and Kampala, Uganda along with support personnel.

The team began holding country level meetings in January and February (detailed below in the Africa and Southeast Asia sections) with USAID staff and other EPT2 partners including PREDICT2, One Health Workforce, CDC, FAO and WHO. These meetings focused on identifying priority actions for P&R to discuss with Government stakeholders as part of developing country-specific implementation plans. The team also started two global endeavors – an Extractive Industry program in collaboration with Chatham House which built on previous work under the PREVENT project and the Africa Livestock Futures Model in collaboration with FAO and PREDICT2. These activities are described in greater detail in the Global section below.

A significant recruitment and hiring program occurred simultaneously with the programmatic work (See the Global section for a list of hires by date). P&R hired Dr. Sambe Duale as Senior Public Health Specialist at the beginning of January to fill a Bethesda-based position, focused primarily on Africa. The project also hired Dr. Baba Soumare and Dr. Serge Nzietchueng, as Africa Regional Director and Deputy Director, respectively. Mr. Robert Salerno, Public Health Specialist, and Ms. Shereene Simon, Capacity Building Specialist joined the project in March and April. Recruitment for the Southeast Asia Regional Director has identified two well qualified candidates, with whom discussions are on-going.

The project management team designed and implemented the Technical Assistance Management Information System (TAMIS) which serves as the central mechanism for tracking and recording financial and project management actions. The team also conducted negotiations for sub-awards to Chatham House for the Extractive Industry work (in AAO office for approval) and AFENET for regional support for One Health Platforms and National Preparedness and Response Plans.

The Financial component of this report is submitted under separate cover.
GLOBAL ACTIVITIES

Global activities include all initiatives that have a multi-regional aspect, as well as activities that are regional rather than country-specific in scope. During the period of this report, P&R commenced three global initiatives.

INTERACTIVE EBOLA WEBINAR
The goal of the Ebola Webinar was to provide USAID and invited USG partners in non-affected countries with the information needed to assist governments in Ebola preparedness and to ensure a timely and effective response, if needed. Working collaboratively with the USAID, the P&R team produced a 90 minute webinar which included a five minute Ebola overview video and a presentation covering the key areas of emergency management, rapid response teams, early detection, communications, isolation, contact tracing, infection prevention and control, and diagnosis and case management. Scenarios were developed and used to illustrate key points and interactive Q&A sessions with subject matter experts from P&R and USAID staff provided for clarification and group learning. Participants were encouraged to identify existing platforms, systems and capabilities that could be leveraged or adapted for Ebola Preparedness and Response and to articulate one commitment they would make using this information after the webinar. The webinar was delivered two times to USAID staff in Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean, and Washington, DC, to 21 total participants. A self-directed version of the course and FAQ document based on the webinar are in the process of being finalized for the USAID team to offer broadly to all USAID staff.

THE EXTRACTIVE INDUSTRY PROGRAM
With short notice, the P&R engaged Chatham House in negotiations to continue their Extractive Industry Risk Assessment and Management (IDRAM) initiative begun under the PREVENT project. DAI executed an at-risk agreement with USAID guaranteeing DAI payment for Chatham House participation at the Mining Indaba meetings in South Africa in February. The project also funded Chatham House participation at the 3rd International One Health Conference in Amsterdam in March. During the conference, P&R Director Jerry Martin met with David Heymann, Head of the Center on Global Health Security, to review the Scope of Work for a 6 month sub-award. The resulting SOW and award agreement have been submitted to the USAID Agreement Officer for approval.

AFRICAN LIVESTOCK FUTURES MODEL
One of the key functions of a One Health Platform is to coordinate and drive multi-sector policy and regulatory actions which address emerging pandemic threats. In this context, P&R, under the leadership of Dr. Scott Moreland, is developing a model building off the work of the FAO African Livestock Futures Report (Herrero, 2014) that was commissioned by USAID. The model will be used to show the possible effects of changing animal populations on emerging pandemic threats and on public and animal health. It will also examine various policy or program strategies that might be undertaken to mitigate the risks and effects of a zoonotic pandemic. It will include parameters that reflect key multi-sector program interventions or policy actions that could be taken to slow or even prevent such outbreaks. P&R is conducting this work in collaboration with PREDICT2 and FAO. The model, which is named “RAPID/ALF,” will be a simplified, user-friendly version of modeling approaches being undertaken by FAO in livestock futures and PREDICT2 in pandemic threats. P&R (Scott Moreland and Jerry Martin)
attended a meeting hosted by FAO in Rome in February, 2015 to coordinate our actions over the next year as part of the USAID-led Africa Livestock Futures Group. Based on these meetings, P&R has drafted a concept paper on the “RAPID/ALF” for review by USAID which describes how a draft model that could be piloted in a P&R country in Year 2 of the project.

INTERNATIONAL ONE HEALTH CONFERENCE
Three P&R staff (Jerry Martin, Sambe Duale and Robert Salerno) attended the 3rd International One Health Conference in Amsterdam in March. The P&R team met with key stakeholders from Uganda, Kenya, Rwanda, DRC, Laos, Vietnam and Thailand. In addition, meetings were held with the Royal Veterinary College, Chatham House (described above), delegations from Thailand, DRC, Kenya, Indonesia and organizers of the next IOHC to be held in Australia in December 2016. Jerry Martin met with Dr. John Mackenzie, Congress Chair of the Organizing Committee, to discuss how P&R can participate in forming the agenda of the next IOHC.

P&R CONSULTATIVE WORKSHOP
On April 24-25 and 27, 2015, 25 members of delegations from nine (9) countries attended a three-day workshop on USAID’s Preparedness and Response (P&R) Project in Washington, DC. Much of the preparatory work for this meeting took place during the period covered by this report. The overall objective of the workshop was to introduce USAID’s Emerging Pandemic Threats 2 program (EPT-2) and the P&R Project, as well as share knowledge on One Health approaches and identify possible country needs and areas for engagement within project. Participants from Africa and Asia had numerous opportunities to network and foster critical regional relationships. Similarly, it presented an excellent opportunity for P&R and USAID to meet with national stakeholders in advance of country engagement.

PROJECT STAFFING
P&R had 18 full-time staff as of March 30, 2015. Shereene Simon, Capacity Building Specialist (April 1), David Mutonga, Africa Public Health Advisor (May 1), Louise Flynn, Senior Extractive Industry and Environmental Specialist (June 1) and Kathy Jacquart, Senior Capacity Building Specialist (June 1) have accepted offers and will be joining P&R on the dates indicated.

PROJECT HEADQUARTERS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Start Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jerry Martin</td>
<td>Chief of Party</td>
<td>October 2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Margaret Morehouse</td>
<td>Senior Capacity Building Specialist</td>
<td>October 2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Douglas Hatch</td>
<td>Sr. Technical/Epidemiology Specialist</td>
<td>October 2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dave Whitfield</td>
<td>Field Operations Manager</td>
<td>October 2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lindsay Meade</td>
<td>Sr. Program Officer</td>
<td>October 2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sarah Reynolds</td>
<td>Program Officer</td>
<td>December 2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sambe Duale</td>
<td>Sr. Technical Advisor - Human Health</td>
<td>January 2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Laura Stephanadis</td>
<td>Program Officer</td>
<td>March 2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robert Salerno</td>
<td>Public Health Specialist</td>
<td>March 2015</td>
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# CENTRAL & EAST AFRICA REGION

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Baba Soumare</td>
<td>Africa Regional Director</td>
<td>January 2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Serge Nzietchueng</td>
<td>Africa Regional Office Deputy Director/</td>
<td>February 2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Francophone Africa Liaison</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anthony Oryekot</td>
<td>Accountant</td>
<td>April 2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Olive Nabuzale</td>
<td>Travel &amp; Logistics Coordinator</td>
<td>April 2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mary Sheevon Kirabo</td>
<td>Administrative Assistant</td>
<td>April 2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>David Mutonga</td>
<td>Public Health Advisor</td>
<td>May 2015</td>
</tr>
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</table>

# SOUTHEAST ASIA REGION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
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<th>Start Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Brian McLaughlin</td>
<td>Operational Manager</td>
<td>January 2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Suganda Charoenkitivarakorn</td>
<td>Finance Manager</td>
<td>April 2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Natchanan Phornsathitwat</td>
<td>Accountant</td>
<td>April 2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anocha Chuenwanta</td>
<td>Travel and Logistics Officer</td>
<td>June 2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Khomkkrit Phakdeemai</td>
<td>Administrative Officer</td>
<td>June 2015</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
AFRICA REGION

TECHNICAL

GUIDELINE TO ENGAGE COUNTRY
A methodology to engage countries as part of Global Health Security Agenda (GHSA) and ETP 2 P&R project has been developed. The methodology is composed of two parts: 1) Development of government engagement strategy and 2) government engagement and implementation plan process. The development of government engagement strategy aims to provide a briefing note on each of P&R country. A country briefing note presents a review of EPT 1 projects accomplishment, lessons learnt, challenges and opportunity for implementing One Health, on-going activity supporting implementation of One Health, key actors and key entry points for engaging the country. The recommendations provided by the briefing note pave the way for government engagement through introduction of USAID ETP-2 P&R goals, objectives and priorities, identification of country priorities, identification of areas of collaboration, in fine developing country work plan which has the buy-in and full support of each government and USAID mission for the implementation of the country work plan with P&R supports. The guideline which is part of the global P&R Africa strategy is currently being used to engage Rwanda, Uganda, and Cameroon.

AFRICA P&R IMPLEMENTATION PLAN FEBRUARY–SEPTEMBER 2015
Implementation plans are being developed covering the three countries (Rwanda, Uganda, and Cameroon) to be engaged during this time frame. This section provides a synopsis of the status for each country.

Rwanda
USAID Rwanda and the CDC country office were briefed on ETP 2 projects goals, objectives and priorities, including P&R project representatives in March. A kick-off meeting between the Rwanda One Health Steering Committee and the P&R project cumulated to a six month P&R Country work plan. The work plan has been presented to the Social Cluster of Ministers for endorsement and will be presented to the cabinet (See box). P&R agree to support two positions: One Health Country Coordinator and Administrative assistant, as well as basic office and IT equipment for the two positions. P&R will support the launch of the Rwanda One Health Strategic Plan tentatively scheduled for early June 2015 and the development and implementation of a One Health advocacy strategy before, during and after the launch.

Uganda
The P&R project met with PREDICT2, OHCEA, FAO, AFENET, as well as the USAID mission and CDC representatives in March to gather background information on OH implementation issues, key actors and entry points in the country. Uganda has a National Task Force (NTF) which aims to coordinate epizootic/epidemic investigation and response to an emergency or other public health event of national importance at the human-animal and environment interface. Based on a desk review and our in-country meetings, P&R drafted a Country Engagement strategy that focuses on assisting the NTF to move from its current ad hoc status based on responding to periodic disease outbreaks to a preparedness and response driven entity. USAID recently approved the engagement strategy and the P&R team will now move to meet formally with the Government to discuss an implementation plan for P&R assistance.
Cameroon

The P&R team met with PREDICT-2 in to gather background information on OH implementation issues, key actors and entry points in the country. A desk review of key OH documents, such as the National One Health Strategy was supplemented by a meeting with the Cameroon delegates at the recent P&R workshop in Washington. A country engagement strategy is in draft form and will be refined and submitted to USAID in early May.

AFENET

The AFENET technical scope of work and budget were reviewed in Kampala in March during a meeting with Dr. Kenneth Osofu-Barko, Executive Director of AFENET, and Jerry Martin, Baba Soumare and Serge Nzietchueng. AFENET has accepted the principle to revise the list of initial countries (Uganda, Congo and Cameroon) where AFENET will post a One Health Country advisor due to the new priority countries of the Global Health Security Agenda. The draft sub-award agreement also includes other activities such as outbreak investigation and response short course training, and review of existing protocols on surveillance, outbreak response and investigation that AFENET could implement on a case by case basis.

**Increased Awareness and Political Support of One Health – P&R briefing of the Social Cluster of Ministries* on proposed EPT-2 actions in Rwanda**

P&R was invited by Rwanda Minister of Health to attend the meeting of the Social Cluster of Ministries and brief Permanent Secretaries (PS) and Ministers on the objectives of EPT-2 projects and proposed support to GoR in its efforts to implement the National One Health Strategy and Action plan (NOHAP). The permanent secretaries of the Social Cluster of Ministries were updated on the progress of the implementation of the Rwanda One Health Strategic Plan as well as provided an overview of Predict-2, One Health Work Force (OHW) and Preparedness and Response (P&R) and their respective proposed activities to support the implementation of the NOHAP in the next six-month period. Emphasis was made onto the effort to align the One Health Strategic Plan with national major policy documents such as Rwanda Vision 2020 and the remarkable milestone achieved by the Minister of Health of Republic of Rwanda who took and promoted the OH approach at the 9th Council of the Minister of Health of East African Community (EAC). Highlighting the current Ebola outbreak in West Africa, the cluster recommended the Rwanda One Health steering committee to revise and update if necessary the strategic plan. The strategic plan will be presented during the meeting of the cabinet and officially launched tentatively in mid-May. The Ministers expressed their appreciation for the USAID collaborative support to the implementation of the ROHAP, but also their expectations to see the proposed support be provided as per agreed plans, with transparency and contribute to enhancing the OH operational capabilities within and across Rwanda’s borders.


**MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATIVE**

**Mobilization and Working Permit**

Baba Soumare, the Africa Regional Director and Serge Nzietchueng, the Deputy Africa Regional Director and Francophone liaison were recruited and hired. They attended DAI Orientation and retreat meetings in Bethesda in February. The Africa Regional Director, the Deputy Africa Regional Director and its family have been mobilized to Kampala. Uganda USAID mission wrote to the Commissioner General of the Uganda Revenue Authority to introduce USAID P&R project. The mission agreed to facilitate the delivery of the working permit for TCN and P&R office following the USAID mission procedure has submitted all the necessary documents to the mission. The Africa Regional Director and the Deputy have not yet received a working permit.
Office Space
Africa P&R has a functional temporary office since April 1st 2015. The office is located at Course View Towers, Yusuf Lule Road, 7th Floor, Nakaseru. The lease is for a period of 6 months, at the end of that period, the P&R Africa team will be co-located with the African Field Epidemiology Network (AFENET). AFENET is planning to move to its new office in June or early July. P&R is negotiating with AFENET a sub-lease with will include the surface that it will be using, the partitioning and cost-sharing of the monthly rent.

Recruiting and Hiring
The accountant, administrative assistant, and travel and logistic coordinator positions have been filled and the staffs have started work on April 20th 2015. They received three days training on Ethics, operational manual, field operation manual, lotus notes, TAMIS, human resources, travel and operation, DAI security, office equipment and inventory management, procurement, STTA agreements, contract, record management and finance. An overview of DAI and the USAID P&R project has been presented to the newly hired staffs. The process to recruit and hire a finance officer is ongoing, candidates were selected and interviews are scheduled.
ASIA REGION

TECHNICAL

EPT 2 Southeast Asia Regional Inception Meeting – December 3-4 2014
USAID Washington conducted an inception meeting for EPT 2 partners in Bangkok Thailand on 3 & 4 December 2014. The P&R project was represented by Jerry Martin (DAI), Margaret Morehouse (RTG), Scott Moreland (Futures) and Brian McLaughlin (DAI). During this meeting, Jerry Martin presented the goals, objectives, and types of services and support that the P&R project can provide to government partners in the Southeast Asia region. This Inception Meeting provided an opportunity for the P&R team to meet with EPT 2 partner staff and learn about their work plans for the first year of the program.

The recommendations provided by the briefing note pave the way for government engagement through introduction of USAID ETP-2 P&R goals, objectives and priorities; identification of country priorities; areas of collaboration; inform developing country work plans which has the buy in and full support of each government and USAID mission for the implementation plan which P&R will support. Countries in Asia that the P&R Project has engaged with include: Indonesia, Thailand, Vietnam and Laos.

This section provides a synopsis of the status for each country.

Indonesia
USAID Mission, FAO, and EPT-2 Projects, including P&R, OHW, and PREDICT 2 held internal EPT 2 meetings in Jakarta January 11-12, 2015. After reviewing accomplishments during the original EPT 1 project, and discussing with USAID-W and USAID Mission officials how projects would cooperate with EPT 2 partners, aligned to both EPT 2 Strategic Areas of Focus (SAFs) and GHSA Action Plans (Aps).

On January 13, 2015 the P&R Project, and EPT 2 partners including PREDICT2, OHW attended the EPT-2 launch meeting in Jakarta, hosted by GoI Ministries, and representatives attending from KOMNAS, Ejikman Reference Laboratory, INDOHUN, FETP-Indonesia, FAO, CDC and other EPT-2 partners. P&R officials presented project objectives related to strengthening NOHPs and NPRPs, and described the core elements of NOHPs from P&R perspective, as well as outlined the services and assistance the project could provide including:

- Simulation exercises for needs assessment
- Facilitation and technical assistance for multi-sectoral teams
- Financial analysis and costing
- Policy analysis and implementation
- Organizational development assistance
- Legal and Regulatory Frameworks
- Embedding of Technical Advisors in National Platforms

In March 2015, P&R staff were invited to attend the FAO EPT 2 planning meetings in Jakarta, and held meetings with the USAID Mission in Jakarta to discuss Indonesia sending two government staff to the
TEPHINET International Night/EIS Conference in Atlanta (April 20-23, 2015), and the P&R workshop in Washington DC. Representatives were able to attend these meeting, and during meetings with P&R staff summarized national OH priorities, and gaps that P&R could address during Year 1 country work planning activities.

P&R has drafted two Scopes of Work to support initial work being proposed with KOMNAS Zoonosis, and these are currently being reviewed by USAID Mission and KOMNAS officials. The P&R briefing document and country engagement plan are being drafted. Additional informal meetings have been held with Dr. Bimo (supervisor of RESPOND OH training of RRTs in South Sulawesi province, 2012-13) about providing STTA for P&R project, as well as with FAO to understand priorities linked to animal health and disease.

**Thailand**

On January 20, 2015, RDMA sponsored a EPT-2 Launch Meeting in Bangkok, with participation from USAID-W, PREDICT-2, OHW, and EPT 2 partners, including WHO, the FAO regional office, and representatives from THOHUN. P&R presented a summary of RESPOND/EPT 1 activities, including the training of Rapid Response Teams (RRTs) in Thailand at the provincial and district levels (2012-2013). P&R further presented a summary of project objectives, described core elements of NOHPs, and summarized the key services and solutions available to address gaps (see bulleted list above). The meeting included discussions about how EPT 2 partners could cooperate during EPT-2 activities and workplanning, as well as collaborate closely with WHO, FAO and US CDC. Additional P&R meetings were held with Thailand’s new One Health Coordinating Unit at the Ministry of Public Health (MoPH).

In March 2015, P&R staff met with the leadership and epidemiologists in the MoPH’s Bureau of Epidemiology to discuss challenges and gaps as well as potential areas where P&R could provide technical assistance on OH issues. Similar to Indonesia (above), discussions were held to discuss Thai interest in working with RDMA Mission to nominate several government staff from human and animal health areas to attend the TEPHINET International Night/EIS Conference in Atlanta (April 20-23, 2015), and the P&R workshop in Washington DC. Representatives were able to attend these meetings, and at the P&R workshop actively participated in discussions about gaps and opportunities to work in Year 1 of the project.

The regional P&R office had advertised for a Regional Senior One Health Technical Advisor focused on human health and zoonotic diseases, and a discussions are being held with the highly qualified candidate selected for this position. A job description for a 2nd SOHTA focused on animal-wildlife health and disease has been finalized, and will be sent to RDMA for initial review and concurrence by first week of May 2015, then be advertised.

**Laos**

On January 22, 2015, representatives from P&R attended a EPT 2 partners meeting in Vientiane and met with NEIDCO and other Lao PDR Ministry officials hosting the event. Other EPT 2 participants at this meeting included RDMA, PREDICT-2, OHW, CDC, DTRA, WHO, and FAO. P&R presented a summary of RESPOND/EPT 1 activities, including the training of Rapid Response Teams (RRTs) in Lao PDR at the provincial and district levels (2012-2013). P&R also presented a summary of project objectives, described core elements of NOHP, and summarized key services and solutions available to address gaps (see bulleted list above). Subsequently, P&R and OHW staff met individually with RDMA, NEIDCO leadership (Dr. Bounlay), and the FET Coordinator to discuss EPT-2 collaboration and P&R focus.
In March 2015 P&R staff attended additional meetings with Dr. Bounlay, FET Coordinators, and USAID Mission staff to further define possible areas of P&R collaboration on work planned for Year 1 (including for example, a simulation exercise as part of a needs assessment, collaborating on steps to operationalize the new Emergency Operations Center, and strengthen provincial OH capacity of RRTs for preparedness and outbreak response (collaborating with US CDC (A.Corwin), DTRA (A.Hollands), as well as WHO, and FAO).

A draft workplan describing proposed Year 1 activities has been submitted to USAID and was further discussed in a phone call between RDMA, USAID-W, P&R Regional office and P&R implementation team leadership on April 28, 2015. Results of this discussion will be incorporated into finalizing this initial Year 1 workplan.

In addition, Lao PDR nominated 3 participants from human and animal health sectors who attended the TEPHINET International Night/EIS Conference in Atlanta (April 20th-23rd, 2015), and actively participated in the P&R workshop in Washington DC (April 24th - 27th, 2015). Results of discussions and review of key documents shared in these discussions, as well as survey results will be used to help inform the workplan being developed.

**Vietnam**

On March 10, 2015, the Vietnam Emerging Pandemic Threats 2 (EPT-2) Program Year 1 Work-Planning Meeting was held in Hanoi at the Pullman Hotel. The objectives of the meeting was to discuss key opportunities and challenges in implementing EPT-2 in Vietnam, to build consensus on priorities and objectives for EPT-2 in Vietnam, clarify issues related EPT-2 workplans for Year 1, and clarify EPT-2 linkages with other programs and partners in Vietnam. At the EPT-2 Planning Meeting, presentations were given by EPT 2 partners, including US CDC, WHO, FAO, PREDICT-2 and OHW; presentations included summaries of accomplishments, as well as future plans, including plans linked to GHSA APs.

P&R presented a summary of key activities during the RESPOND project (2012-2013), including support for One Health training of Rapid Response Teams (RRTs) at the provincial and district levels in 3 regions in Vietnam (in collaboration with WHO, and CDC), as well as support to establish SEAOHUN, and the VHOHUN network within Vietnam. P&R also presented project objectives (to strengthen NOHPs and NPRPs), and a summary of services and solutions available to address gaps and needs, including: simulation exercise as part of a needs assessment, technical assistance for multi-sectoral teams, financial analysis and costing, policy analysis, organizational development assistance, review of legal and regulatory frameworks, and possibility of embedding of National One Health Technical Advisors (NOHTAs) in National Platforms, if useful to government agencies dealing with preparedness and response activities and zoonotic diseases.

On March 11, 2015, P&R met with USAID (M.O’Leary and Dr. Oanh) to discuss Mission perspective and priorities, and proposed P&R activities and services considered useful in the Vietnam context. A subsequent meeting was held with PAHI officials (D.Payne, T.Trang) to discuss PAHI role as NOHP for avian influenza policy,¹ and recent interest by Government of Vietnam to broaden focus to One Health

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¹ THE VIETNAM INTEGRATED NATIONAL OPERATIONAL PROGRAM ON AVIAN INFLUENZA, PANDEMIC PREPAREDNESS AND EMERGING INFECTIOUS DISEASES (AIPED), 2011-2015: Strengthening responses and improving prevention through a One Health approach.
and zoonotic disease issues/priorities. Additional meetings were held with FAO (S.Newman), and CDC Resident Advisor to FETP (A.Mounts) to understand priorities and perspective of those organizations.

P&R supported the participation of a Vietnamese delegate to attend both the TEPHINET International Night/CDC EIS Conference meetings in Atlanta (April 20th-23rd, 2015), and the P&R workshop in Washington DC (April 24th-27th, 2015). Results of discussions about national government preparedness and response priorities and regional cooperation, along with responses to the P&R meeting survey will, along with USAID Mission priorities and planned discussions with GoV will inform the draft workplan being developed for Year 1 activities.

**Bangladesh and Cambodia**

As of April 2015, although P&R staff have not yet met officially with USAID Missions or Government agencies in Bangladesh or Cambodia, both countries have recently been included in the EPT 2 program. During March and April 2015, RDMA – Bangkok worked closely with both FAO, USAID Mission and government officials in Bangladesh, as well as with USAID Mission representatives in Cambodia to identify human and animal health officials to attend the TEPHINET International Night/CDC EIS Scientific Conference meetings in Atlanta (April 20th-23rd, 2015), and the P&R workshop in Washington DC (April 24th-27th, 2015). Results of discussions about national government preparedness and response priorities, regional cooperation, and responses to the P&R meeting survey will be used to help inform draft workplans being developed for Year 1 activities.

**MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATIVE**

**Office space**
The P&R temporary office is located at the Pendulum Instant Office facility on Wireless Road. This location is within 10 minutes walking distance to the USAID/RDMA offices. DAI has leased this office facility for a 6 month period from January to June 2015.

**Recruiting & hiring**
Recruiting focused on four operations support as follows—

- Finance Manager – Ms. Suganda Charoenkitivararokorn - Start date April 20
- Accountant – Ms. Natchanan Phornsathitwat - Start date April 20
- Travel and Logistics Officer – Anocha Chuenwanta - Start date June 1
- Administrative Officer - Mr. Khomkrit Phakdeemai - Start date June 1

Plans for onboarding/training of the newly hired operations staff have been developed and are in-process.

**Technical staff**
Recruiting for two Regional Senior Technical Advisor(s) concluded at the end of March. Discussions with two Thai national shortlisted candidates have been ongoing during the month of April—factoring in some delays due to the extended holiday period during the first half of the month.
Bank accounts and accounting systems
P&R bank accounts have been established at Standard Chartered Bank Head Office in Bangkok. Weekly cash transfer and accounting systems have been established, finance and accounting staff are on board and trained, and the office/operations team is prepared for conduct of business/activities.

Registration of P&R with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs/Thailand International Development and Cooperation Agency (TICA).
USAID/RDMA has agreed to support a request for the P&R project to apply for project registration with TICA. The request to TICA requires specific details about P&R support for Thailand so this process is pending an agreed upon work plan with USAID and our government counterparts in Thailand.