

Avian & Human Influenza and Humanitarian Action

Geneva, Palais des Nations, Room XXV

22-24 February 2006

InterAction. Summary of Activities to Date with Respect to AHI

Interaction is a non-operational coalition of 165+ relief and development NGOs with headquarters in the USA.

1. **Convene a Working Group:** within the standard structure for InterAction activities, a Working Group of member organizations has been meeting biweekly for 6 months.
 - 30-40 NGOs actively participate in the working group
 - NGO email list has swelled to over 300 individuals
 - AHI has been on the agenda of the last two InterAction Board meetings (Board comprised of member organization CEOs)
2. **Advocate for adequate emphasis in United States response on international activities:** Working with an array of partners, have urged that AHI must be addressed “at the source,” and the relevance of community-level interventions
 - Relevant Capitol Hill staff have been briefed by InterAction
 - InterAction’s call for 10% of budget for international was picked up by a number of politicians and other active groups
 - Providing ongoing analysis of different, relevant budgets
3. **Develop an NGO-specific resource guide:** we have collected those resources, tools, assessments, messages, etc. most likely to be useful to our member NGOs in one document, including access to contingency and continuity plans.
 - www.interaction.org/disaster/avian has become one of the more visited parts of our website
 - Print versions of the Guide have been widely distributed
4. **Continuity of operations planning:** assist NGOs in preparing for a pandemic
 - Internal continuity plan for InterAction (US HQ only) is prepared in draft, but has not yet been considered by senior management / finance / Board
 - Staff education has begun
 - Have hosted several speakers on continuity of operations
 - Several member organizations have “advanced the ball,” sharing draft plans and templates with other agencies
 - Plans are emerging for a “road show” to assist others.

Key outstanding issues:

- *While most large humanitarian organizations are now giving serious consideration to AHI planning, the vast majority of the InterAction membership is still not actively and aggressively preparing. We have an uphill battle to reach 100+ organizations.*
- *There is still no definitive planning guidance / templates for NGOs. InterAction has held back on preparing such definitive documents, awaiting action by official sources.*