

## **Avian & Human Influenza and Humanitarian Action**

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### World Vision International Avian & Human Influenza Preparation and Response

World Vision is approaching avian and human influenza preparedness and response with global, regional and national efforts.

- Our global strategy is structured around three key priorities: Education, Response, and Engagement.
  1. Education
    - Communicate to staff, families, public and communities regarding influenza prevention, preparedness and response using a variety of communication tools and processes.
  2. Response
    - Ensure organizational acquisition of accurate and updated information regarding avian and human influenza from key sources internationally, regionally, nationally and locally. Educate staff and families regarding pandemic preparedness and response plans. (Knowledge Management)
    - Provide leadership oversight and decision-making to support the protection of World Vision staff (“staff health and safety”) and the continuation of mission critical activities (“business continuity”) before, during and after a pandemic. (Response Management)
    - Reduce exposure to and the transmission of the virus; minimize illness among employees; and provide staff support before, during and after a pandemic. (Staff Health & Safety)
    - Develop and implement strategies for maintaining mission critical activities before, during and after a pandemic, at regional, national and project levels; including providing essential services, workforce management and technology management. (Business Continuity)
  3. Engagement
    - Engage with communities, government agencies, global agencies & other International NGOs to help develop and deliver programs such as community based surveillance, rapid response capabilities and assistance, health and veterinary capacity building, and advocacy.

- A couple of specific collaborative efforts that World Vision has initiated include:
  1. A consortium project for the Prevention of Avian Influenza in Indonesia proposed by Catholic Relief Services, CARE, Mercy Corps International, Save the Children Federation and World Vision.
  2. A pending proposal by CARE, Save the Children, Catholic Relief Services and World Vision for building capacity in communities so they are better able to address avian influenza through surveillance, containment, prevention, healthcare, and protection of livelihoods.
  
- Efforts in the World Vision regions include:
  1. Establishing regional task forces on Avian and Human Influenza
  2. Appointing World Vision national office focal persons responsible for coordinating preparedness and response activities
  3. WORLD VISION national offices working with national taskforces lead by respective governments, for example
    - a. Seeing where WORLD VISION can complement within the national preparedness framework
    - b. Participating in avian influenza national committees
    - c. Doing surveillance on migratory birds, for example in South African harbors with the Department of Agriculture
  4. Developing Avian Flu specific addenda to World Vision offices' National Disaster Preparedness Plans
  5. Playing a primary role in information, education and communications within World Vision area development programs (ADPs)
    - Considering the scale of the problem, more needs to be done. But, we believe that World Vision is moving in the right direction.
  
- The pending proposed World Vision US consortium with CARE, Save the Children, and Catholic Relief Services encompasses surveillance, containment, prevention, quality healthcare, and livelihoods through coordination with national and international entities and other International NGOs.

The goal of the program is to build the capacity of communities to identify and contain avian influenza and to mitigate its human and socio-economic impact through four objectives:

1. Surveillance & Containment
  - Heighten surveillance of poultry and human outbreaks through improved community planning, monitoring, reporting and containment measures.

#### Example activities

- a. Developing or augmenting existing national working groups
- b. Establishing linkages with regional and international early warning and mitigation plans
- c. Developing or strengthening existing community-based early warning and reporting systems linked to governments, veterinary services, and wildlife groups
- d. Supporting management of public information in areas where communication networks are not adequate or well maintained
- e. Activating and strengthening community level cadre of animal health workers, and train animal and public health workers, together, to monitor and diagnosis avian influenza
- f. Providing AI diagnostic kits to laboratories in rural areas, personal protective equipment (PPE), and communication kits
- g. Developing proxy indicators for secondary surveillance

## 2. Prevention

- Reduce the spread of the virus and risk of human infection through increased knowledge, changed behavior and improved communication.

#### Example activities

- a. Conducting awareness and prevention campaigns to promote improved household sanitation and personal hygiene, improved understanding of AI (signs, symptoms and epidemiology), identification and diagnosis of AI, behavioral change communication and the importance of detection, reporting and culling
- b. Training in safe poultry farming practices and improved management of backyard flocks through village-level demonstrations
- c. Developing or enhancing existing community preparedness and response plans

## 3. Quality Healthcare

- Decrease potential morbidity & mortality in high-risk, infected populations through training and improved access to healthcare.

#### Example activities

- a. Training to healthcare workers on best clinical practices and containment and isolation of infected patients
- b. Developing referral network for diagnosis and treatment of AI
- c. Training to community health workers in case detection, follow up and contact tracing.

## 4. Protection of Livelihoods

- Mitigate the socio-economic impact on vulnerable populations by strengthening resilience to economic loss and diversifying assets.

Example activities

- Developing safety nets for solidarity, self-help and other savings and loans groups
- Training local animal raisers in poultry vaccination
- Diversifying natural assets, such as other livestock not prone to AI, to build resilience to shocks in the poultry sector

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