

Corporate-Wide Projects

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World Food Programme (HQ-Rome) SO 10502.0: "WFP Avian and Human Influenza Preparedness"

Duration: 13 December 2005 - 31 December 2007

Total project commitment: US\$7,000,000

The H5N1 virus has spread more rapidly in 2006 than any other virus in recorded history. It is causing a devastating avian influenza epizootic across three continents and had proved an aptitude to infect and kill humans. Moreover, its ability to mutate and the risk for it to become efficiently transmissible from human to human could trigger a global human influenza pandemic. WHO remains at a high alert status saying it could happen anytime. A full-blown human influenza pandemic could, at least temporarily, cause significant disruption of social, economic and political life on a global scale and thus seriously affect WFP's ability to operate.

WFP's preparedness framework is looking at four main planning objectives:

- *Staff Safety and Health*, by minimizing the impact on the health and safety of staff, including compliance with the UN Medical Services Staff Contingency Plan;
- *Continuity of Operations* in serving current beneficiary caseloads and maintaining WFP infrastructure;
- *WFP's capacity* to identify and address the food security needs of possible new beneficiary caseloads (new programme response);
- *Contribution to a system-wide effort* to prepare for, prevent and/or combat a pandemic (new services).

By enhancing its pandemic preparedness and in line with its mandate, WFP is contributing to five of the seven objectives of the Avian and Human Influenza (AHI) consolidated UN Action Plan, approved by the Deputy-Secretary-General's Steering Committee on Influenza. Those objectives are:

- Sustaining Livelihoods
- Coordination of National, Regional and International Stakeholders
- Public Information and Communication to support Behavior Change
- Continuity under Pandemic Conditions
- Common Services

In the "AHI Consolidated Action Plan for Contributions of the UN System" (June 2006), WFP requested US\$ 7,000,000 to implement AHI preparedness measures.

World Food Programme (HQ-Rome) SO 10522.0: "Establishment of Two Additional Humanitarian Response Depots (HRDs) and targeted activities aimed at the establishment of a United Nations Humanitarian Response Depot (UNHRD) Network"

Duration: 15 June 2006 - 15 March 2007

Total project commitment: US\$8,058,590

WFP established its first UN Humanitarian Response Depot (UNHRD) in Brindisi, Italy on 1 June 2000. In 2006, in order to facilitate WFP's capacity to meet its mandated goal of responding to four concurrent large scale emergencies, the programme is replicating the Brindisi model for an emergency response facility in strategic locations by creating a global network of HRDs, with

depots in Africa (Ghana, Accra), the Middle East (UAE, Dubai), South East Asia (Malaysia, Subang) and Latin America (Panama, Panama City). The operation is based on WFP's own needs and at its own cost. The primary advantage of the HRDs is more rapid deployment of physical and/or virtual stocks and cost-savings in transporting the most urgently needed humanitarian aid to the disaster locations.

Furthermore, WFP is offering the use of these emergency response facilities and associated support services to UN Agencies, international organizations and governmental/non-governmental organizations at a no-cost or cost-recovery basis, so as to ensure that the UNHRD network will benefit the entire humanitarian community.