

Project Title: Emergency Assistance for prevention and control of avian influenza in Bosnia and Herzegovina
Project Symbol: BIH/07/001/01/34
Donor: UNDP (100.0%)
Budget: US\$ 88,000
Duration: September 2007- December 2008

In order to contribute to international efforts aiming at the prevention and control of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza and to improve capacity of authorities from Bosnia and Herzegovina in regard to Avian and Human Influenza preparedness an emergency assistance project was implemented.

Highly pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) virus was confirmed in Bosnia and Herzegovina on the 16 February 2006. A National Avian Influenza Contingency Plan was already in existence but the considering inadequacy of detailed technical Standard Operating Procedures at the field level and coordination with different entities the assistance was of utmost importance during a major national crisis. The project was initiated to provide support as well as technical assistance to the Government's efforts in prevention and control of HPAI and considering Food and Agriculture Organisation's (FAO) earlier experience through an Avian Influenza mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina, this project was also designed in cooperation and coordination with FAO. Key Objectives of the project were to revise and improve NAIP, including development of SOPs and design of a compensation strategy as well as testing through desktop simulation exercise both at national level and with counterparts from the Balkan region. The project supported the introduction of improved disease prevention and control methods and strengthened the veterinary practices capacity. During the project implementation UNDP acted as an executing agency and FAO as an implementing agency in close collaboration with State Veterinary Office and Entity Veterinary Services of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

During the project implementation, poultry producers benefited from better government services as the project supported the introduction of improved disease prevention and control methods and strengthened the veterinary services capacity. Improved services resulted in fewer disease problems which in turn contributed to the economic stability of the livestock and poultry sectors of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The project significantly increased the capacity of the veterinary authorities of Bosnia and Herzegovina to prevent and deal with the avian influenza outbreaks.

The earlier NAIP is revised and updated to meet the standard set by the European Council Directive 2005/94/EC in collaboration with the staff of the national veterinary services. A compensation strategy was developed and included in the NAIP.

The NAIP was simulated through an integrated desktop simulation exercise. This provided an opportunity for different sectors involved in HPAI preparedness on national, regional and local levels to participate in a simulation of a real outbreak of the disease and to improve coordination, communication and operation capacities.

The relevant veterinary staff have been trained in the epidemiology of avian influenza virus (both low and high pathogenic) and a surveillance strategy has been developed for the country. Sampling intensity, estimation of the infection parameters and the main epidemiological techniques available for outbreak investigation and control/eradication have been introduced and applied into the analyses of the field data. During the project implementation, a collaborative network of stakeholders is developed to share and exchange periodical information with the national authorities. The assistance provided through this project practically enhanced the preparedness and response capacity of the country both at the state and entity levels to control and eliminate HPAI, especially in the event of multiple outbreaks. The successful implementation of this project by UNDP and FAO lead Bosnia and Herzegovina to ask for further collaboration with FAO in technical assistance related to the brucellosis outbreaks in the country.