


The AH-NGO-RC/RC  
Asia Partnership:



 International Federation  
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies



## Project Brief

### Strengthening Community Based Approaches to Management of Avian and Human Influenza (AHI) in Asia

Dear colleagues,

The AH-NGO-RC/RC Asia Partnership, comprising the Asian Disaster Preparedness Center (ADPC), CARE, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) and the International Rescue Committee (IRC), is pleased to inform you that the project on **Strengthening Community Based Approaches to Management of Avian and Human Influenza in Asia** has received funding support from the Asian Development Bank (ADB). This project will commence implementation in November 2007.

#### The Project

This initiative of the AH-NGO-RC/RC Asia Partnership seeks to strengthen the role of non-government and community organizations in combating AHI at the community level in the Asia region. It will also increase the capacity of community-based organizations to engage with governments to include homegrown solutions into national policies for AHI control and prevention.

#### Project Goal and Objectives

The overall goal of the project is to **“strengthen community-based prevention and control of avian and human influenza (AHI) in Asia region”**.

The Specific Objectives are as follows:

- Develop a regional tool-kit for community-based management of AHI from the experiences of countries in the Asian region.
- Conduct regional training workshops and study tours to build capacity and share experience of community-based control and prevention of AHI in Asia
- Strengthen communication with and coordination of community level organizations in the management of AHI in Asia
- Institutionalize community based strategies and interventions in prevention and control of avian and human influenza

#### Project Components

The following are the major components of the project:

##### Objective 1. Develop a regional tool-kit for community based management of AHI for the Asian experience

The project team will actively solicit, document and collect good practices in community-based AHI in Asia and compile them into a tool-kit of resources and reference materials for AHI practitioners. The tool kit will draw upon lessons learned and complement the existing guides and communication toolkits developed by organizations such as UNICEF, contributing to a more comprehensive multi-sector perspective in AHI control and prevention at the community level. It will enhance the strategies by which community based organizations and NGOs can engage with international technical agencies and the government.


The target user group consists of project managers from local, national and international NGOs, RC/RC and local government staff who have responsibility for working with communities to implement AHI programs.

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### Objective 2. Conduct regional training workshops and study tours for community-based AHI practitioners

To facilitate the exchange of experience among community-based AHI practitioners in the region, the project will arrange four one-week long study tours. Four groups comprising community, RC/RC and NGO representatives from different countries and organizations will observe, discuss and learn from the implementation of AHI community-based programmes in other vulnerable communities and countries. There will be two categories of study tours: cross border, where particular attention will be paid to communities from neighbouring provinces; and internal study tours for representatives from communities within a country. The group leaders will capture the experiences and provide a report for publication.

As follow up to the development of the regional tool-kit, a training package will be developed to guide AHI practitioners in its use and in implementing community-based AHI programmes. This training package will also draw upon related training programmes such as community based disaster risk management, which will be adapted for the management of AHI. The materials will be adapted to the multi-national contexts, as required, and are expected to include additional case studies. They will also be translated into local languages by partner organizations.

### Objective 3. Strengthen communication and coordination of organizations in the management of AHI in Asia

Asia has been the most vulnerable region for AHI, but it is also the leader in terms of AHI response. Since March 2006, the IFRC has been coordinating monthly half-day forums on AHI among representatives from many regional/country international non-government organizations, UN agencies, donor community, media, academia, and private sector organizations based in Bangkok. Up to 50 organizations have participated in the meetings on regular basis. In line with recent discussions in the global level UN Inter-agency Technical Working Group on Influenza, it is envisaged that forums such as this will continue to generate interest from different organisations, especially in the Asia region. The project will support the Secretariat role of the IFRC and strengthen and formalize the function of the Regional AHI Forum.

The goal of the Forum is to contribute to the overall communication and coordination among different types of organizations which are working on the management of AHI in Asia.

The project will establish and maintain a web-page focused on community-based management of AHI, with links with other AHI websites. The web-page is expected to contain an inventory of AHI community-based programmes in the region, disseminate reports of regional events and tools developed under this project, and facilitate the networking for practitioners in community-based management of AHI. A quarterly electronic newsletter will inform community-based AHI practitioners in Asia of regional developments, including the availability of AHI-NGO-RC project outputs.

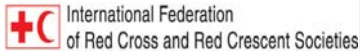
#### **Project Steering Committee**

A Project Steering Committee comprising representatives of each of the four organizations in the consortium, plus a representative of Asian Development Bank, will provide the overall direction for the project and guide the implementation of activities. The Steering Committee will guide the implementation of activities and will be responsible for monitoring and review.

#### **Engagement with Partners**

The proposed project activities are in line with global and country AHI strategies such as the WHO Global Influenza Preparedness Plan and national AHI plans. The project implementation team will coordinate its work with key stakeholders at country and regional levels in Asia: with forums of nongovernmental and community based organizations active in AHI in the targeted countries, national coordination

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mechanisms on AHI, organizations represented at the regional AHI forum meetings hosted by the IFRC, other regional forums/networks on AHI involving non-governmental and international organizations and international and regional organizations, and technical and coordinating organizations. This will help prevent duplication and overlap of activities with other development organizations and will enhance information sharing and coordination of proposed project activities.

We, therefore, seek your kind assistance in forwarding this information to other interested personnel in your organization or partners in your country. Should you need further details about the project, please do not hesitate to contact us at [phe@adpc.net](mailto:phe@adpc.net) or +66-2 516 5900 (extension 351).

We look forward to our future collaboration.

Yours sincerely,

On behalf of the AHI-NGO-RC/RC Asia Partnership

**Jonathan Abrahams**  
ADPC

**Wayne Ulrich**  
CARE

**Anette Cramer**  
IFRC

**Dr Aneley Getahun**  
IRC

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