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## ACTION FICHE FOR ASIA

### 1. IDENTIFICATION

Title	Regional cooperation programme on highly pathogenic and emerging and re-emerging diseases in Asia DCI-ASIE 2009/019-717 & 153-928 & 153-937 & 153-878		
Total cost	23 605 000 EUR EC contribution 20 000 000 EUR Other contributions 3 605 000 EUR		
Aid method / Management mode	Project approach – centralised direct / joint management		
DAC-code	31195 12250	Sector	Livestock/Veterinary Services Infectious disease control

### 2. RATIONALE

#### 2.1. Sector context

Highly pathogenic and emerging and re-emerging diseases (HPED)<sup>1</sup> are able to cause serious crisis and affect livelihoods. Asian countries have undergone such challenges in the past decade - Nipah Virus disease, Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS), and most recently Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI). Some member countries of the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) and the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) still suffer from varying incidence of outbreaks at national levels. HPED are expected to increase which represents a constant threat especially in countries with weak Veterinary and Public Health Services. In consequence, it is essential that capacities in the region are strengthened, to assure the functioning of prevention systems and adequate outbreak responses. Joint efforts from the Animal Health and Human Health entities and the international donor community are needed. The Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO) and the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) developed jointly the Global Framework for the Control of Transboundary Animal Diseases<sup>2</sup> (GF-TADs), to facilitate and empower regional Organisations to address defined problems related to priority HPED.

Control and quick containment of outbreaks will reduce the social and economic impact on the population of the region and serving the poor and their livelihoods. The regional programme aims at improving food security, preserving human health and nutrition, and reducing trade disruption in South-East and South Asia thus alleviating poverty through the prevention and control of HPED and will therefore significantly contribute to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDG).

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<sup>1</sup> Highly pathogenic [transboundary infectious agents-caused] and emerging [or re-emerging] diseases have a high potential for transmission and for morbidity/mortality, which means that they are caused by HP infectious agents and have a high potential of generating serious crises.

<sup>2</sup> The Global Framework for Progressive Control of Transboundary Animal Diseases (GF-TADs) is a joint FAO/OIE initiative which serves as a facilitating mechanism to empower regional alliances in the fight against transboundary animal diseases and assist in establishing programmes for their specific control.

The intended support to regional response capacity will not be limited to the reaction to concrete and specific diseases and the support provided to health systems and care services will contribute to the fight against diseases with high prevalence in the region.

The EC programme is in line with the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness that promotes a model of partnership that improves country ownership, transparency and accountability on the use of development resources. The Regional Strategy for Asia 2007-2013 includes a specific item on "cross-border cooperation in animal and human health", addressing HPED. Furthermore, ASEAN and SAARC are identified as the key dialogue partners for regional integration and dialogue in Asia. ASEAN and SAARC have each developed strategic plans for emerging disease control. EC will support improvement of prevention, control and eradication methods of HPED in ASEAN and SAARC countries.

The proposed programme is consistent with the agreement reached with ASEAN and SAARC member countries under the GF-TADs framework. The project is based on the ASEAN Regional Strategy for the Progressive Control and Eradication of HPAI (2008-2010), and the ASEAN strategy for HPED control in the Region. For SAARC, it is in accordance with the agreement between FAO and SAARC (signed by FAO on behalf of FAO and OIE).<sup>3</sup> Concerning Human Health, the EC support is in line with the Strategic Framework for Prevention and Control of Zoonoses, the Asian Pacific Strategy on Emerging Diseases (APSED), and the International Health Regulation (IHR). WHO has also signed one Memorandum of Understanding with ASEAN and one with SAARC for cooperation on prevention and control of communicable diseases.

## **2.2. Lessons learnt**

The Bamako Conference on Avian and Pandemic Influenza in December 2006, the Rome Technical Meeting on HPAI and Human H5N1 Infection in June 2007 and the New Delhi Ministerial Conference in December 2007 provided opportunities to review progress in the implementation of the Beijing commitments. The New Delhi Conference stressed once again the concept of "one health" with the aim to intensify the effort of integration/coordination between the human and animal health sectors for prevention and control of HPED/HPAI.

As of end 2007 the global community had pledged more than 2.7 billion USD to assist countries in need to respond to HPAI and to prepare for a pandemic.

During the New Delhi Conference, UNSIC in collaboration with the World Bank has presented the 3<sup>rd</sup> Global Report on HPAI. The UN-WB report stressed the challenge as of end-2007:

- Threat of HPAI better understood, but fundamentally undiminished;
- Focus on prevention and rapid response and containment and control of AI in emergency response in 2005-2007 was appropriate and should continue;
- Need of medium and long-term strengthening of capacity of animal and human health systems;
- Investments in HPAI response have wider benefits, beyond HPAI.

The WB-UN "Global Animal Health Initiative: the Way Forward" of Washington in October 2007, recognized the need to broaden up the efforts from HPAI to all HPED. The EC will support a holistic response to the spread of infectious diseases, since Asian countries need to be prepared to face other emerging challenges beyond AI.

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<sup>3</sup> These components have been derived from the SAARC strategy and project document entitled 'GF-TADs-Control of Transboundary Animal Diseases in South Asia', which has been formally endorsed by each member country.

### **2.3. Complementary actions**

Avian Human Influenza Facility (AHIF), Multi-donor trust fund, which is funding the implementation of the national HPAI strategic plans, is closely coordinated by the World Bank with awards of IDA grants and loans and of grants from the Japanese-funded PHRD facility. As of December 2007, the AHI Facility received combined pledges of approximately 95 million € from nine donors, with the European Commission contribution amounting to more than €71 million. Funding priority is given to the countries at highest risk. Grant agreements have been signed with Uzbekistan, Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan, therefore there is currently no need seen for a new financing in Central Asia.

The EC initiative is taking into account the evolution of the global reaction against HPAI and its broadening up towards other HPED. A number of initiatives and projects in the Asia region are already enhancing regional cooperation. Projects are funded and implemented by bilateral donors such as AusAID, USAID, Government of Japan, international organisations FAO and WHO, OIE, and regional organisations such as ASEAN, and SAARC. Most of the projects are targeting clusters of countries and with some duplication of activities it requires better coordination. The proposed EC-funded programme will ensure full coordination. The detail of coordination mechanisms and synergies will be identified during the inception phase. The existing projects which will be taken into consideration for coordination are:

- WHO SEARO (South-East Asia Regional Office) and WPRO (Regional Office for the Western Pacific) have developed an Asia Pacific Strategy for Emerging Diseases (APSED) which focuses on the zoonoses prevention and control. The International Health regulation came into force on June 15, 2007.
- The South East Asia Foot- and Mouth Disease program for the eradication of FMD (SEAFMD) is coordinated by OIE and funded by AusAID and New Zealand through an OIE Trust Fund. The Coordination Unit (SEAFMD RCU) is based in Bangkok.
- OIE and AusAID have recently signed an agreement for the implementation of the “AusAID/OIE Project to Strengthen Veterinary Services to Combat Avian Influenza and Other Priority Diseases in South East Asia” (ASEAN countries).
- The FAO project on the control of Transboundary animal diseases financed by the Asian Development Bank (ADB) under the umbrella of GF-TADs has promoted international and regional collaboration between FAO, OIE, ASEAN, and the Greater Mekong Sub-region countries including the Yunnan Province of the Republic of China.
- ADB is funding a grant project for Prevention and Control of Avian Influenza in Asia and the Pacific. Regional activities are implemented in collaboration with FAO, OIE and WHO. ASEAN Secretariat is also supported by the project.
- On the Human Health side ASEAN is now implementing the second phase of the ASEAN Plus Three Emerging Infectious Diseases (HPED) Programme funded by AusAID.
- AHI Facility grants are closely coordinated by the World Bank with awards of IDA grants and loans and of grants from the Japanese-funded PHRD facility.

### **2.4. Donor coordination**

The endemic nature of HPAI in certain countries in Asia and the need to prevent and control the spread of other HPED demands a sustained effort from the donors to continue strengthening institutional and coordination capacities of regional and sub-regional institutions as well as local animal and public health institutions.

The EC is delivering its assistance within the multi-donor financing framework for actions to be funded at country, regional and global level agreed at the Beijing pledging conference. In general, coordination at country level is lead by national governments ensuring that duplication of efforts are

avoided, the use of global assets and resources optimized. EC Delegations, local World Bank offices and technical agencies (FAO, OIE, WHO) are playing a catalytic role. Coordination of national plans at regional and global levels is a key for success. Internationally, the EC/EU will continue to play an active role in consolidating the Global Partnership that was created in Beijing, ensuring high level of political commitment from partners. On the technical front, in the proposed project, the regional key organisations, ASEAN and SAARC, play a dominant role, supported by the International Organisations (FAO, OIE, WHO).

### **3. DESCRIPTION**

#### **3.1. Objectives**

The overarching objective is poverty eradication in the region. The overall objective of the proposed project is to minimize the socio-economic impacts of HPED, by strengthening the capacity of regional institutions in Asia, with the final outcome of improved public health and veterinary public health competencies. The concerned regions and countries will be enabled to cope with the threat of HPED (including preparedness) and coordinated HPED control.

The specific objective is to strengthen in a sustainable manner the institutional capacities of the Association of South-East Asia Nations (ASEAN) and the South Asia Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) and their secretariats (including, when needed, the capacities of selected individual countries in Asia) to control HPED and improve epidemic and pandemic preparedness in the region.

#### **3.2. Expected results and main activities**

The expected results are:

##### **Result 1. Enhanced capacities and capabilities of ASEAN Secretariat and Member countries to prevent, control and eradicate HPED .**

The activities are targeted to strengthen regional cooperation, disease response capacity and policy development. In the sector of Human Health (supported by WHO) they will be implemented within the project structures to ensure collaboration and coordination with the Animal Health activities (supported by FAO). The planned activities are as follows:

Activity **1.1.** Assist ASEAN to establish 1 Regional Support Unit (RSU) in the ASEAN Region to promote regional cooperation, in the area of HPED control in Animal and Human Health (joint activities of WHO and FAO are training in Epidemiology and diagnostic, risk analysis and improvement of live bird and food markets.)

Activity **1.2.** Establish a Regional Epidemiology Network that will strengthen regional capacity to understand the Epidemiology of HPEDs in animals and humans, in order to design appropriate control measures (joint activities of WHO and FAO).

Activity **1.3.** Establish a Regional Laboratory Network, to organize and coordinate networks of national laboratories in order to provide technical support to improve the laboratory diagnosis of the priority HPED ensuring coordination with Human Health (joint activities of WHO and FAO).

##### **Result 2. Enhanced capacities and capabilities of SAARC Secretariat and Member countries to prevent, control and eradicate HPED**

The activities are targeted to strengthen regional cooperation, disease response capacity and policy development. In the sector of Human Health (supported by WHO) they will be implemented within the project structures to ensure collaboration and coordination with the Animal Health activities (supported by FAO). The planned activities are as follows:

Activity **2.1.** Assist SAARC to establish 1 Regional Support Unit (RSU) in the SAARC Region to promote regional cooperation, in the area of HPED control in Animal and Human Health (joint activities of WHO and FAO are training in Epidemiology and diagnostic, Risk Analysis and improvement of live bird and food markets.)

Activity **2.2.** Establish a Regional Epidemiology Centre for SAARC, ensuring collaboration between Animal and Human Health Sector (joint activities of WHO and FAO).

Activity **2.3.** Establish 3 Leading Diagnostic Laboratories for Animal Health in the SAARC Region (supported by FAO)

### **Result 3: Strengthening of Veterinary Services in Asia**

Activity **3.1.** Establish and manage a Regional Vaccine Bank in regard to HPED (supported by OIE)

Activity **3.2.** Carry out Evaluation of the Performance of Veterinary Services, follow-up activities to PVS Gap analysis (supported by OIE)

Activity **3.3.** Carry out National and Regional seminars and workshops on Good Governance of Veterinary Services, as a support to control Animal diseases and capacity building (supported by OIE)

Activities under technical assistance include conferences and seminars, support to appraisal, monitoring, visibility actions and international/regional coordination.

Measures to ensure success and sustainability of the programme:

The project activities implementation will be overseen and guided by a Project steering committee under the existing GF-TADs for Asia and Pacific. The members of the Steering Committee will include representatives from the Regional Organisations (ASEAN or SAARC), International Organisations (FAO, OIE, WHO) and the European Commission.

To promote ownership of ASEAN and SAARC EC will seek their endorsement of the programme.

The project will support establishing 2 (two) RSUs in Kathmandu and in Bangkok, one for ASEAN and one for SAARC, to coordinate and manage the FAO and OIE project activities in collaboration with WHO. The coordinators for each of the proposed RSU will be recruited from ASEAN/SAARC countries by a selection panel. The regional organisations will have a leading role in the selection of the coordinator.

### **3.3. Stakeholders**

The principal beneficiaries are the populations of South and South-East Asian countries, especially the small-holders, who are present in most rural areas and many peri-urban areas and belong often to the poorest parts of the population, through a reduced loss of animals and therefore an increased production and income. The Veterinary Services and Human Health Services of the National Governments will improve their capacity to cope with the control of HPED. Consumers and producers will benefit from improved hygiene conditions in food markets. The principal implementing parties are the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and SAARC, and the governments of Asian countries, supported by EU, WHO, FAO, and OIE.

### **3.4. Risks and assumptions**

The ownership and sustainability of the regional programme beyond the 4-years programme duration has to be assured by the regional organisations, ASEAN and SAARC, and the commitment of the countries involved. Administrative procedures in both of the regional organisations and differences in procedures among the participating international organisations could lead to a delay. The project decision should therefore take into account the different structures of participating entities and

determine a suitable arrangement. Animal/Human health activities could suffer in some countries initially from a weak veterinary public health infrastructure and the initial absence of functional linkages between Health Services and Veterinary services. A lack of trained human resources may hamper the activities in some countries (Cambodia, Laos). Political crisis potential in a few countries in the region could affect implementation. The long term sustainability of these disease control programmes will greatly depend on the regional approach, ability to coordinate policies and strategies of countries in the region, promoting formal collaboration in various aspects of disease control (e.g. cross-border trade management, biosecurity enhancement, commitment of financial resources and transparent disease reporting).

### **3.5. Crosscutting Issues**

The project is aimed to strengthen a regional approach applying harmonization and cooperation and involving national governments, therefore contributing to a good governance practice, an increased coordination and visibility. Among the smallholders, women and children are often substantially involved and will benefit essentially from an increased standard of Animal and Human Health leading to an increased income. Any effects on the environment generated by the programme will be taken into consideration and appropriate actions and measures for mitigation will be taken. The EC is carrying out at present a study on gender aspects of the Avian Influenza crisis in South-East Asia.

## **4. IMPLEMENTATION ISSUES**

### **4.1. Implementation method**

Joint management / centralised direct

The EC support will be implemented through:

- § Contribution Agreements with UN international organisations (FAO and WHO) and with the OIE
- § EC Service Contracts

Activities under result 1 and 2 will be managed by the EC through a signature of a standard contribution agreements with UN organisations – FAO and WHO – under FAFA. The joint management mode with FAO and WHO can be selected on the basis of the positive assessment carried out by the relevant AIDCO services pursuant to art. 53 (d) FR.

Activity under result 3 will be managed by the EC through the signature of a standard contribution agreement with the OIE (World Organisation for Animal Health). This International Organisation will be subject to a compliance assessment in relation to article 53 (d) of the Financial Regulation in 2008.

Services will be managed by EuropeAid Cooperation Office at Headquarters through the signature of service contracts following calls for tenders.

FAO, WHO and OIE have been chosen as partners due to their presence in the Region of South East and South Asia with country offices and representations, their technical competence and their international mandate, and project management of projects related to HPEDs in the Region.

The OIE is the reference organisation in the field of animal health and has developed in this field internationally recognised health standards for animal health and animal products. OIE under the mandate of its 172 member states is responsible for drafting standards on risk analysis in animal health and zoonoses and has developed international guidelines for the Evaluation of Veterinary Services which ensures the effective performance of the Veterinary Services worldwide. A specific methodology has been developed to enable countries to evaluate their Veterinary Services and verify their compliance with OIE standards. A PVS evaluation can be performed at the request of a country by experts trained and certified by the OIE. The OIE is the world-wide acting body to set up the international standards of vaccine quality and use, as well as quality standards for the recognition of Reference Laboratories.

## 4.2. Procurement and grant award procedures

### a) Service Contracts

All contracts implementing the action must be awarded and implemented in accordance with the procedures and standard documents laid down and published by the Commission for the implementation of external operations, in force at the time of the launch of the procedure in question.

The essential selection and award criteria for the award of grants are laid down in the Practical Guide to contract procedures for EC external actions. The maximum possible rate of co-financing for grants is 80%. Full financing may only be applied in the cases provided for in Article 253 of the Implementing Rules of the Financial Regulation where financing in full is essential to carry out the action in question.

### b) Joint management with WHO, FAO and OIE

All contracts implementing the action must be awarded and implemented in accordance with the procedures and standard documents laid down and published by the International Organisation concerned.

All programme estimates must respect the procedures and standard documents laid down by the Commission, in force at the time of the adoption of the programme estimates in question.

## 4.3. Budget and calendar

	<b>EC contribution EUR</b>	<b>Other contributions EUR</b>	<b>Total EUR</b>
1. Joint management	19 000 000	3 605 000	22 605 000
1.1. Contribution agreement with FAO	8 000 000	(FAO) 800 000	8 800 000
1.2 Contribution agreement with WHO	4 000 000	(WHO) 805 000	4 805 000
1.3 Contribution agreement with OIE	7 000 000	(OIE) 2 000 000	9 000 000
2. Services	1 000 000		1 000 000
2.1 Monitoring and evaluation	200 000		200 000
2.2 Technical assistance	600 000		600 000
2.3 Information and visibility	200 000		200 000
<b>Total</b>	<b>20 000 000</b>	<b>3 605 000</b>	<b>23 605 000</b>

The foreseen duration of the programme is 48 months as from the signature of contribution/grant agreements.

## 4.4. Performance monitoring

Technical and financial monitoring of the Programme and of individual projects will be a part of the Commission's responsibilities. Performance will be assessed against the objectives set out in the

logical framework matrix. External impact monitoring will also be carried out by independent consultants recruited directly by the Commission on specifically established terms of reference and in accordance with EC rules and procedures. Support would be provided to develop project monitoring and impact evaluation assessments.

#### **4.5. Evaluation and audit**

Evaluations and audit arrangements are integral part of the contractual arrangements with the selected international organisation. A Mid-Term Review and a Final Review will be also carried out by external independent consultants recruited directly by the Commission in accordance with EC rules and procedures on specifically established terms of reference. The European Commission reserves the right to perform a Financial Audit at the end of the project, via independent consultants recruited directly by the Commission on specifically established terms of reference.

#### **4.6. Communication and visibility**

It is important that the results of the project are disseminated as widely as possible across Asia and to others involved with the animal and human health sectors outside Asia. All projects under this programme have a visibility component and subsequent budgets to ensure visibility and communication through implementing bodies.

To gain high-level political visibility and impact on policy-makers, project results will be synthesized and made available via political foras such as the various regional, sub-regional and bilateral dialogues. These meetings will also be used to take stock of progress in implementation.

EU visibility guidelines will be respected.