



Concerns remain over a potential reassortment event, in which a new strain of influenza A with the virulence of H5N1 and ease of transmissibility amongst humans of H1N1 would emerge. Although the global community has made significant strides in controlling H5N1 and in mitigating the effects of pandemic H1N1, such an event underscores the potential catastrophic global impacts of inherently volatile pathogens. In response, USAID is shifting the paradigm away from emergency management, and is seeking to address the factors that drive infectious disease emergence, utilizing innovative modeling to predict where and how such pathogens are likely to arise. By leveraging the combined expertise of human, veterinary and environmental disciplines, and by strengthening infectious disease prevention, early detection and response, USAID intends to forward a risk-based approach to programming that will enable identification and containment of emerging infectious disease in animal reservoirs before they spill over to human populations.

In FY2005, the U.S. Congress appropriated USD \$25 million in emergency supplemental funding to support H5N1 highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) prevention and control activities in Asia. Of this, USAID received USD \$10 million obligated in Washington into centrally managed mechanisms for avian influenza activities, as well as USD \$3.7 million in reprogrammed funds from country missions. In FY 2006 RDMA received another USD \$12.5 million to continue HPAI interventions. In FY 2007, FY 2008 and FY2009, RDMA received another USD \$18 million, USD \$8.9 million, and USD \$6.6 million respectively in supplemental funding to continue to strengthen HPAI control and prevention, as well as pandemic preparedness. Early FY 2010 indications point toward a continued reduction in H5N1 funding and a concomitant rise in funding addressing emerging infectious disease. RDMA activities in this arena are implemented in close coordination with, and follow guidance issued by, the USAID Avian and Pandemic Influenza Management and Response Unit in Washington.

## SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

USAID RDMA's "SO 3, Increased Effective Responses to HIV/AIDS and Other Infectious Diseases" programs previously received a Categorical Exclusion under its predecessor "SO 498-022 Increase Effective Regional Response to HIV/AIDS and Other Infectious Diseases." Emerging infectious diseases activities under SO3 will be primarily technical assistance and training to improve capacity on prevention and combating existing and newly emerging strains of avian and pandemic influenza. Activities will build upon the foundation established in previous years across the following pillars: human and animal infectious disease surveillance and response, behavior change communications, strategic information, and development of public private partnerships. These activities will not have an impact on the natural or physical environment and are recommended for a **Categorical Exclusion** per 22 CFR 216.2 (c)(2)(i).

As noted above, the activities under emerging infectious diseases will also include support for response activities that will involve contact with and disposal of contaminated animal waste, and treatment activities that will include infection control for suspected human and animal cases. The emerging infectious diseases activities will also support surveillance activities that will involve limited storage, use, and disposal of medical supplies, equipment, lab equipment and contaminated sharps, as well as generation of biological waste. The outbreak response activities will also potentially involve limited procurement and use of pesticides/disinfectants, which may have significant adverse impacts on the environment. These activities are recommended for a **Negative Determination with Conditions** pursuant to 22 CFR 216. The Conditions are that program implementation includes biological waste management training for animal and health care workers and laboratory technicians in standardized protocols ensuring proper handling and disposal as well as training on the support for the procurement of

items required for proper safety precautions and disposal to ensure maximum safety and minimal impact on the environment.

As noted earlier, along with avian influenza, the emerging infectious diseases activities are implemented in close coordination with, and follow guidance issued by the USAID Avian and Pandemic Influenza Management and Response Unit in Washington. Given the nature of the diseases that can change quickly, it is anticipated that program adjustment might be required to effectively respond to the situation and in that case, the IEE document will be amended as appropriate.

**APPROVAL OF RECOMMENDED ENVIRONMENTAL ACTIONS:**

**CLEARANCE:** IEE for Avian Influenza and Emerging Infectious Diseases, Amendment 3

Mission Director Approval: *Olivier Carduner* 4/28/10  
Olivier Carduner Date

Deputy Mission Director Approval: *Barbara Krell* 4/27/10  
Barbara Krell Date

Regional Legal Advisor Approval: *Rebecca Hammel* 4/26/10  
Rebecca Hammel Date

Program Development Officer Approval: *Sara R. Walter* 4/23/10  
Sara Walter Date

Mission Environmental Officer Approval: *Winston Bowman* 4/21/10  
Winston Bowman Date

Office Director Office of Public Health Approval: *Aye Aye Thwin* 4/21/2010  
Aye Aye Thwin Date

**CONCURRENCE:**

Bureau Environmental Officer: *John O. Wilson* Date: 5/25/10  
John O. Wilson Approved:   
Disapproved:

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