



African Union

Interafrican Bureau of Animal Resources

SUPPORT PROGRAMME TO INTEGRATED NATIONAL ACTION PLANS FOR AVIAN AND HUMAN INFLUENZA

SPINAP-AHI

Progress Report September 2008



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Acknowledgement

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1 Purpose of the report

This report serves the contractual obligation of AU/IBAR to the European Commission on information and financial narrative reports.

The purpose of the report is to highlight the progress made by SPINAP-AHI during the month of September 2008.

The report outlines the activities, achievements and difficulties encountered in the covered time period. It provides a summary of the financial situation and an outlook onto the activities planned for the following month.

What is progress?

Progress in terms of the project logic can only be deemed progress when the implemented activities and reached achievements constitute a step into the direction of the predefined programme results.

Progress is therefore measured against the background of the three key result areas as laid out in SPINAP's programme design.

Key results

1. Capacity for prevention and control of AHI strengthened at national level
2. Information and communication for creation of awareness enhanced
3. Coordination of INAP implementation supported

2 Progress in the key result areas

Key Result 1 – Capacity for prevention and control of AHI strengthened at national level

Support to countries to finalize their proposals

Activity

The SPINAP team continued to assist countries to finalize their applications, sign contracts and receive their disbursements. In Western Africa a session to assist the countries to finalize their applications was organized after the regional technical workshop in Bamako, Mali. Extensive communication and persistent follow-up were done for countries that had finalized their applications to hasten signing of country agreements, opening of bank accounts and forwarding of the account details to SPINAP.

Achievement

From start of the project until the end of the reporting period:

- SPINAP staff finalized 30 applications for funding, of which 27 had been submitted to and approved by the members of the Project Steering Committee.
- Authorities of 14 countries had signed the contracts, while seven had received the contract offers awaiting signature.
- Seven countries with enacted contracts received the first disbursements of funds for implementation
- One country, Uganda, started implementation

Key result 2 – Information and communication for creation of awareness enhanced

Bringing communication and technical professionals together to discuss HPAI communication strategies and tactics

Activity

The program organized a regional technical workshop for western Africa, which was held from 17th to 19th September 2008 in Bamako, Mali. The workshop realized the participation of 20 out of the 21 African ACP countries of Western and Central Africa

as well as other international partners, namely OIE, FAO-ECTAD, USAID, USDA/APHIS, ILRI, VSF Belgian, the EISMV/Dakar, OMS/Africa and CIRAD.

Information and communication on HPAI was a major theme of the workshop with a keynote presentation from a communication expert followed by small group discussions and a plenary session on the subject.

Achievement

Animal health and human health professionals from the 20 countries presented were sensitised on the importance of the information and communication component of HPAI prevention and control strategy.

The plenary discussions yielded a recommendation to strengthen participatory approaches to HPAI communication for awareness and behaviour change as a tool to combat HPAI and other diseases.

Key result 3 – Coordination of INAP implementation supported

Organizing technical coordination meetings in three project regions

Activity

The regional technical workshop for western Africa from 17th to 19th September 2008 in Bamako, Mali (as described under key result 2).

Achievement

Information and experiences on different aspects of HPAI prevention and control were shared in the meeting and fruitful discussions were conducted resulting in recommendations on how to improve the coordination of INAP implementation.

Key recommendations of the workshop:

- To set up regional integrated preparedness plans at the Regional Economic Community level
- To strengthen laboratory networks for veterinary and human health in the region
- To promote the 'one world one health concept' for an integrated approach to management of communicable diseases

Activity implementation overview

Result area 1 -- Capacities for prevention and control of AHI are strengthened at national level

Main activities	Achievements		
	Western Africa	Southern Africa	Eastern Africa
<p>1) Providing support to countries towards refinement of their applications.</p> <p>2) Developing MOUs and Contracts and facilitating their signing.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ The contracts and MoU for Mauritania, Ghana and Mali were signed and countries guided on opening of accounts for transfer of funds ▶ The MoU and contracts for Niger, Guinea Bissau, Senegal, Burkina Faso, Benin, Togo and Cameroun were sent to the countries for signature and national coordinators were prompted to accelerate signing and opening of accounts. ▶ Guinea Conakry, Sierra Leone, Liberia, Gambia, Chad, Central African Republic (CAR), Cote d' Ivoire, Gabon and Cap Verde and Nigeria were assisted to finalize their proposals and these were sent to PCU for further processing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ SPINAP-AHI contracts for Mozambique, Angola and Equatorial Guinea were finalized and sent to PSU for review and assessment. ▶ Inquiries about certain budget items were forwarded to Malawi and Mauritius. A feedback was received from Mauritius. ▶ Cash flow, project cycle and logical frame prepared by PSU sent to Swaziland, Madagascar, Zimbabwe and Mauritius for approval; a feedback was received latter from all of them. ▶ Preparations for Regional Technical Meeting for southern Africa completed. ▶ Lesotho and Zambia signed their contracts. Bank accounts and financial identification forms from these countries were received 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ The proposals of Sudan, Burundi, Djibouti and Eritrea were refined. ▶ Congo Brazzaville, DRC, Burundi and Sudan were instigated to sign their finalized documents. ▶ Preparations were done to further technically assist Comoros and Rwanda to finalize their funding proposals ▶ The National SPINAP-AHI Coordinator of Uganda was repeatedly advised on project implementation on the ground

Result 2 -- Information and communication for creation of awareness enhanced

Main activity	Achievements		
	Western Africa	Southern Africa	Eastern Africa
Bringing communication and technical professionals together to discuss HPAI communication strategies and tactics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Animal health and human health professionals from 20 countries were sensitised by a communication expert on the importance of the information and communication component of HPAI prevention and control 		

Result 3 -- Coordination of INAP implementation supported

Main activity	Achievements		
	Western Africa	Southern Africa	Eastern Africa
Organizing technical coordination meetings in three project regions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Regional technical workshop for western Africa from 17th – 19th September 2008. Twenty countries namely, Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Cap Verde, Central Africa, Ivory Coast, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Liberia, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Sao Tome, Senegal, Chad, and Togo attended. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Reporting of the AU/IBAR Regional Animal Health Coordinator in office in Gaborone 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Recruitment of SPINAP Bilingual Accountant and Administrative Assistant.

3 Challenges during implementation

Delays

The main difficulties experienced in September were delayed responses from the countries in:

- Refining their documents
- Having their endorsed documents signed
- Opening local accounts, and delivering accounts details to AU/IBAR.

This was mainly due to long government procedures in the countries, pre-occupation of the national coordinators with several other assignments in their countries and inadequate technical capacity in some countries.

4 Activities planned for following month

Activities planned by SPINAP regional coordination offices for October 2008.

Western Africa	Southern Africa	Eastern Africa
<p>1) To organize training on administrative and financial procedures for national coordinators and accountants</p> <p>2) To finalize the proposals of Sao Tome</p> <p>3) To guide countries to sign MOU and contracts and open accounts</p>	<p>1) Follow up of MOU and Contracts signatures for Botswana and Swaziland.</p> <p>2) Follow up with Malawi to clarify ambiguity in the budget.</p> <p>3) Procurement of furniture, computers and other office equipments.</p> <p>4) Participate in regional meeting and forum.</p> <p>5) Follow up of pending managerial issues (recruitment of the supporting staff, bank account, host agreement.).</p> <p>6) Organization of the technical meeting for Southern Africa on 2nd to 4th of October.</p> <p>7) Prepare for financial and administrative training</p>	<p>1) Facilitate/ participate in preparing INAP for Somalia</p> <p>2) Guide Sudan, Eritrea and Djibouti in the signing of their contracts</p> <p>3) Follow up to enable countries open local accounts for transference of funds</p> <p>4) Participate in regional workshops/ forums</p> <p>5) Technically assist Comoros and Rwanda to finalize their documents</p>

5 Financial Summary

Amounts of the SPINAP fund disbursed to the three geographic regions as of end of September 2008

REGION	FINANCIAL STATUS		ACTION TAKEN									
	Allocation (\$)	Amount disbursed (\$)	PCU	PSU			PSC	C	Signed	COMMENTS/ RECIPIENTS		
			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	
Totals W/C A	11,800,000	125,000.00	14	7	-	-	-	11	11	6	3	Mauritania
Totals E/C/H A	8,450,000	525,000.00	10	3	1	1	-	11	10	1	8	Ethiopia, Seychelles, Uganda
Total S A	4,100,000	490,000.00	9	2	2	-	-	8	6	1	3	Lesotho, Zambia, Madagascar
Grand Totals	24,350,000	1,140,000.00	33	12	3	1	-	30	27	8	14	

Key: W/CA= Western and Central Africa, E/C/HA= Eastern, Central and Horn of Africa, SA= Southern Africa