



African Union

Interafrican Bureau of Animal Resources

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

SPINAP-AHI

Progress Report October 2008





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Acknowledgement

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1 Purpose of the report

This report records the progress made by SPINAP-AHI in October as part of the contractual obligation of AU/IBAR to the European Commission on information and financial narrative reports.

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 funding applications, sign the respective contracts and receive the first disbursements fund. In this regard, the SPINAP coordinator for eastern Africa and the project's public health expert visited Rwanda and worked with the country's SPINAP coordinator to finalize the application for funding.

The team met with key government officials of Rwanda to brief them about SPINAP, receiving reaffirmation of their support for the project. Among personalities met were the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture and Animal Resources and the Director General, Rwanda Animal Resources Development Authority.

SPINAP corresponded extensively with the authorities of countries that had finalized their applications to

- speed up the signing of contracts
- follow up with the opening of designated bank accounts
- furnish SPINAP with the account details

Achievement

- SPINAP staff submitted 2 applications for funding approval by the members of the Project Steering Committee
- Authorities of 10 countries signed the contracts
- One of the countries with enacted contracts received their first fund disbursement
- Four countries started implementation: Kenya, Democratic Republic of Congo, Seychelles and Ethiopia.



Status as of 30 October

Accomplishments from start of the project in May 2007 until the end of the reporting period under key result 1:

- SPINAP staff finalized 30 applications for funding of which 29 had been submitted to and approved by the members of the Project Steering Committee
- Authorities of 24 countries had signed the contracts, while five had received the contract offers awaiting signature
- Eight of the countries with enacted contracts have received their first fund disbursement
- Five countries have started implementation, viz. Uganda, Kenya, Democratic Republic of Congo, Seychelles and Ethiopia.

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 southern Africa which was held from 2–4 October 2008 in Gaborone/Botswana. The workshop realized the participation of ten out of the twelve African ACP countries of southern Africa as well as other international partners: OIE, FAO-ECTAD, SADC Secretariat, USAID, AI.COMM, ILRI, WHO-Afro and Onderstepoort Veterinary Institute.

A communications expert from AI.COMM's southern Africa cross-border program gave a presentation highlighting the program's activities and the communication barriers faced in the region during implementation.

Achievement

Animal health and human health professionals from the ten countries were familiarised with the information and communication activity currently carried out in the southern African region and sensitized about the intricacies of developing communication strategies.



Key result 3 – Coordination of INAP implementation supported

Organizing technical coordination meetings in three project regions

Activity

The program organized a regional technical workshop in southern Africa for national SPINAP coordinators, MoH representatives, communications and international HPAI experts as well as international cooperating partners. It was held from 2–4 October 2008 in Gaborone/Botswana (as described under Key Result 2)

Achievement

Experiences with HPAI prevention and control were exchanged. Discussions resulted in recommendations on how to improve the coordination of INAP implementation:

- Member states to develop operational communication strategies for all phases of disease prevention and response
- All SADC countries to carry out simulation exercises, desk-top or field appropriate
- Countries to send monthly disease reports to AU/IBAR using the LIMS standard format, and AU/IBAR to send monthly feedback reports to the countries.
- SPINAP to contribute to the building of regional and country level capacity in wild bird surveillance.
- Collaboration between human and animal health professionals on zoonotic diseases to be strengthened within the National Task Forces.



Activity implementation overview

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

Main activities	Achievements		
	<i>Western Africa</i>	<i>Southern Africa</i>	<i>Eastern Africa</i>
<p>1) Providing support to countries to refine their applications</p> <p>2) Developing MoUs and contracts and facilitating signing of the same.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ The Regional Coordinator (RC) finalized applications of Cote d'Ivoire and Nigeria. Authorities of Nigeria were sent the MoU and contract for signature. The Cote d'Ivoire application was forwarded to the project support unit for further processing. ▶ Authorities of Burkina Faso, Benin, Togo and Cameroon signed contracts and were guided on opening of accounts for transfer of funds ▶ Authorities of Gambia were sent the MoU and contract for signature and the national coordinator was prompted to accelerate signing and opening of bank accounts. ▶ The RC continued to process the proposal of Sao Tome. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Madagascar, Lesotho and Zambia received their first disbursements. ▶ Authorities of Botswana signed the MoU and contract ▶ Authorities of Zimbabwe and Swaziland were sent MoUs and contracts for signature. ▶ Documents of Mauritius and Malawi were finalized ready to be sent to the countries for signature. ▶ Angola was sent the project cycle and cash flow sheet for approval 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ The number of countries in the implementation phase increased from one to five, namely, Uganda, Kenya, DRC, Seychelles and Ethiopia started. The SPINAP national coordinators of these countries were guided on the implementation ▶ The SPINAP national coordinators of Sudan and Djibouti were prompted to speed up the signing of MoUs and contracts ▶ Documents of Rwanda and Eritrea were refined. Two SPINAP members of staff visited Rwanda to technically assist the SPINAP national coordinator to finalize the country application.



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"> ▶ A communications expert shared with animal health and human health professionals from ten countries on the experiences of AI.com in the region and factors to consider when putting up their AI communication strategies. 	

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"> ▶ Preparations continued for regional technical workshop on finance and administration. SPINAP national coordinators were informed. Invitation letters were drafted and forwarded to PCU. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ SPINAP Regional Technical Workshop for southern Africa from 2—4 October 2008 in Gaborone/Botswana. Ten countries namely, Botswana, Malawi, Lesotho, Mozambique, Namibia, Madagascar, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Swaziland and Mauritius attended. ▶ Preparations continued for regional technical workshop on finance and administration to be held on 3—5 December. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Regional coordinator participated in regular meetings of AU/IBAR and FAO-ECTAD EA to consider ways of improving information especially on AI and other trans-boundary diseases. ▶ Preparations were done for the regional technical workshop on finance and administration to be held from 11—13 Nov 2008



3 Challenges during implementation

Delays

The main difficulties experienced in October 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.
- Starting implementation after receiving the first disbursement

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



4 Activities planned for the month of November 2008

Activities planned for the month of November by SPINAP regional coordination offices in Western, Southern and Eastern Africa are given in table 1.

Table 1. Activities planned for November 2008 by SPINAP regional coordination offices

Western Africa	Southern Africa	Eastern Africa
1) Conduct the training on administrative and financial procedures for national coordinators and accountants on 26—28 November 2) To finalize the proposals of Sao Tome 3) To push countries to sign MOU and Contracts and to open the accounts.	1) Follow up with Zimbabwe and Swaziland to get the contracts signed. 2) Follow up with Botswana, Mauritius and Malawi to open the bank accounts. 3) Follow up with Angola to get the project cycle and cash flow approved. 4) Follow up with the PSU to get Namibia, Mozambique and Equatorial Guinea contracts approved and the project cycle prepared. 5) Prepare for the financial and administrative meeting to be held in Malawi on 3—5 December. 6) Follow up of project implementation in Madagascar, Lesotho and Zambia.	1) Conduct the training on administrative and financial procedures and M&E for national coordinators and accountants on 18—20 November 2) Assisting Comoros to finalize country document for SPINAP Funding 3) INAP preparation for Somalia 4) Signing Contracts of Eritrea and Rwanda 5) Process the transference of funds to Tanzania, Burundi, Djibouti, Congo Brazzaville and Sudan 6) Participate in Regional workshops/forum



5 Financial summary for October 2008

The amount of SPINAP funds disbursed to the various regions by the end of October and the status of the country applications is summarised in table 2 below.



Table 2. Amount of the SPINAP funds disbursed to various regions by end of October 2008

REGION	FINANCIAL STATUS		ACTION TAKEN									COMMENTS/ RECIPIENTS
			PCU			PSU			PSC	C	Signed	
	Allocation (\$)	Amount disbursed (\$)	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	
Totals W/C A	11,800,000	285, 000.00	14	7	-	-	-	13	12	2	10	Mauritania, Guinea Bisau
Totals E/C/H A	8,450,000	775,000.00	10	3	1	1	-	11	10	1	9	Ethiopia, Seychelles, Uganda
Total S A	4,100,000	490,000.00	9	2	2	-	-	8	7	2	5	Lesotho, Zambia, Madagascar
Grand Totals	24,350,000	1,550,000.00	33	12	3	1	-	32	29	5	24	

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