

HOW AGENCIES WITHIN THE PUBLIC SECTOR IN PNG ARE COMMUNICATING/ COLLABORATING WITH EACH OTHER ON AVIAN INFLUENZA/ PANDEMIC INFLUENZA PREPAREDNESS

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PRESENTATION OVERVIEW

- Background
- Activities
- Impact of the collaboration
- Continuing inter-agency collaboration
- Future direction



Highlights

- A national Task Force was set up in 2006.
- It comprised of representatives from both the National Agriculture Quarantine & Inspection Authority (NAQIA) and the National Department of Health (NDOH).
- The Task Force was set up with the assistance of the WHO at the initial stage.
- Since then the Task Force has continued to play a major role in terms of coordinating the planning of short to medium term strategies, aimed at improving PNG's capacity to deal with the emergence of AI and Influenza Pandemic.

HIGHLIGHTS - CONTINUED

- The National Task Force has set up five (5) sub-committees or work groups to do the planning. These are:
 - Surveillance (WHO/Partners)
 - Logistics (Nat'l Disaster Centre/Defence Force)
 - Training (Red Cross/NDOH)
 - Legal (WHO/SPC)
 - Communication (UNICEF)

HIGHLIGHTS - CONTINUED

- Weaknesses of the National Task Force
 - Needs secretarial support
 - Sub-committees or working groups also need support

Activities

➤ Meetings

- A number of meetings were held by the Task Force since 2006 (meeting every month).
- On average about six meetings or more were held per annum.
- Initially it was planned for the Task Force to have 12 meetings per year i.e., one per month.
- In 2008 so far two joint meetings with NAQIA were held. One coincided with the handover of the Secretariat from ORCHA to SPC. The other was a normal Task Force meeting.

Activities - continued

Training

- Two joint trainings were done by the NDOH and NAQIA with some input from SPC on AI Early Warning System & Response in 2007 & 2008 respectively
- A joint workshop on Awareness on AI was done by the NDOH & NAQIA in August 2006

Activities - continued

➤ Investigation

- In July 2007 a joint probe was undertaken by NAQIA & the NDOH with major input from SPC on the suspected cases of AI in domestic chickens in several villages in Yapsie area, Sandaun Province, next door to Indonesia.
- The results of the joint investigation however, showed that there were no confirmed cases of bird flu in chickens along the border villages as reported in the local newspaper media.

Activities - continued

➤ **Collaboration at international level**

- NAQIA and NDOH representatives attended the Risk Communication Workshop for the human health and animal health in Cairns, Australia in June 2007.
- NAQIA and NDOH jointly produced the PNG economy report on the Progress of Implementation of the APEC Action Plan on the Prevention & Response to Avian & Influenza Pandemic. The report was presented to the APEC HTF meeting in Hanoi in May 2007.
- PNG economy is also working closely with public sector agencies abroad like the WHO, SPC, Australian, New Zealand & Japanese Ministries of Agriculture & Quarantine etc, in strengthening its risk communication network as well as its national preparedness & response plan on Avian Influenza & Influenza Pandemic.

IMPACT OF THE COLLABORATION

SPC has worked very closely with NAQIA and the NDOH in the following activities:

- Check list
- Identify areas needing attention
- Drawn up a work schedule to complete the provincial plan
- Response plan now being completed
- Work Process in place
- Template for response plan now being completed

High risk Provinces being targeted are: Sandaun, Western, East Sepik, Madang, Morobe, Western Highlands, East New Britain, Manus, NCD/Central.

High risk – Close to border

- International Transport Route
- Wetland

CONTINUING INTERAGENCY COLLABORATION

➤ Key activities:

1. Brief the NEC via the National Coordination Board
2. Complete Advocacy Package
3. Complete Template
4. Organize Provincial Awareness for Sandaun & Western Provinces
5. Organize awareness meetings for Business Houses, & other non health & non agriculture sectors ,e.g. water, power, transport etc.

CONTINUING INTER AGENCY COLLABORATION - CONTINUED

Key activities:

6. Conduct Planning Workshops

- Health Response Plan
- Provincial Plan
- Business Houses Plan
- Non-Health Sector Plan

7. Endorse the Plans

8. Test of Plans – Tabletop i.e. discussion with stakeholders

- Functional e.g. actual response in an epidemic situation

FUTURE DIRECTION

- **Collaboration with other agencies**
It is envisaged that the following will activities will be completed in liaison with other stakeholders:
 1. **Complete all response plans for the 6-10 high risk provinces**
 2. **Complete all non-health & non-agriculture response plans**
 3. **Test plans – Table top**
 - **Functional**
 4. **Maintain surveillance & awareness at all high risk points**
 5. **Update infection control/facility preparedness**
 6. **Stockpile PPE, drugs, ?vaccines**

FUTURE DIRECTION - CONTINUED

- Collaboration with other agencies
 - The APEC PNG HWG plans to also work with other agencies, especially the mass media in trying to control the spread of avian influenza & influenza pandemic. This is because the media which is usually private sector based plays a very important role in risk communication. Without the mass media, the efforts of the HWG cannot go very far in trying to enhance avian influenza & influenza pandemic preparedness