

## Avian Influenza Surveillance and Control in Greater Mekong Sub-Region

### Objectives

The goal of the Avian Influenza Surveillance and Control Project in the Greater Mekong Sub-Region is to rapidly mobilize communities to be aware of the health risks from avian flu, to increase surveillance and prevention capacity, and to do so by collaborating with local, national, and international institutions. The three-year USAID-funded project provides urgently needed assistance in Vietnam in the Mekong and Red River delta areas, where outbreaks have occurred, and in selected high-risk urban and border areas in Laos that have been identified as vulnerable.

### Principal Activities

Abt Associates and its partners are addressing animal and human health issues simultaneously, helping local governments and communities develop skills to:

- Identify and report suspected animal and human cases
- Adopt safer poultry keeping, marketing, and consumption practices
- Pilot test bio-safety approaches to reduce the risk of infection
- Develop targeted behavior change communication strategies for farmers, poultry workers and marketers, health personnel, and the general public

To assure optimal project impact, Abt Associates is forming senior advisory groups composed of national experts in each country to consult at each stage of the project. Through this collaboration, we ensure that our project strategies and activities are in accord with the Integrated National Operational Program for Avian and Human Influenza in Vietnam (2006–2010) and with the National Avian Influenza Control and Pandemic Preparedness Plan (2006-2010) of the Government of Laos. This collaboration allows us to benefit from and leverage the considerable knowledge and expertise that resides in these countries.



### Progress to Date

The Abt Associates-led team mobilized rapidly and has designed an integrated, multi-sectoral approach that addresses both animal and human health issues. Team members have in-depth experience in Vietnam and Laos, and span a range of professions – veterinary scientists, epidemiologists, disease surveillance and information systems experts, communications specialists, medical professionals, and community mobilization and training experts.

Client: USAID  
Duration: 2006-2009

Project Team:  
Abt Associates Inc. (prime)  
CARE International  
Population Services  
International  
University of Minnesota

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