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ACTIVITY FACT SHEET

AVIAN INFLUENZA PREVENTION AND CONTROL

Human and animal health are increasingly interlinked, with more than 75% of all new, emerging, or re-emerging human diseases originating from animals. The first human case of highly pathogenic H5N1 avian influenza in Egypt was diagnosed in February 2006. Egypt declared the disease endemic in 2008 with more than 350 human cases (42 percent of the global total) and 120 fatalities (26 percent of the global total). Avian influenza continues to threaten Egypt's poultry industry and is a public health risk with pandemic potential. Outbreaks in both commercial poultry farms and households are regularly reported, and occasionally humans are infected when in close contact with sick birds.

Over the past 15 years, USAID has invested more than \$40 million to support the Government of Egypt's efforts to prevent and control avian influenza. Support is currently provided through USAID's Global Health Security and Development program, which seeks to reduce the risk of human exposure by reducing infections in poultry. As a result of this activity, the number of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza cases, which pose the greatest risk to humans, decreased from 40 (with 16 fatalities) in 2011 to three cases (with no fatalities) in 2017. No new cases of the disease were reported in 2018 and 2019. Additionally, the time of confirmatory diagnosis for a human case of avian influenza in Egypt has decreased from several days to less than six hours.

Implementing Partner: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations; Life of Project: February 2015 – December 2020; Total Estimated Cost: \$6.2 million; Governorates: Conducted at the national level in partnership with the General Organization of Veterinary Services/Ministry of Agriculture and Land Reclamation

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GOALS

- Provide training on investigation and response, epidemiological surveillance, and laboratory diagnostics to veterinarians and support staff at the central and field offices of the General Organization of Veterinary Services to enhance the Early Warning System for avian influenza
- Develop comprehensive strategies for value-chain and risk-based surveillance for Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza, and oversee the implementation and sustainability of these strategies by the General Organization of Veterinary Services, which oversees all aspects of animal health in Egypt
- Develop biosecurity guidelines and standards, and provide training to rapid response teams, field veterinarians, and commercial poultry producers on biosecurity procedures
- Promote effective public-private partnerships for avian influenza technical and policy-related interventions to enhance coordination, planning, and decision making

RESULTS

- Strengthened the Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza surveillance capacity in Egypt at both national and governorate levels and improved the response to Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza in commercial and household poultry production sectors
- Established and accredited six satellite laboratories throughout Egypt that comply with ISO 17025, the international standards for testing laboratories
- Created an effective laboratory network that allows avian influenza-related laboratory data and genetic material to be shared in a timely manner with relevant national and international partners such as the Global Initiative on Sharing All Influenza Data and GenBank, managed by the U.S. National Institutes for Health
- Established and operationalized district-level epidemiological networks in all Egyptian governorates that report data from field offices to the central office of the General Organization of Veterinary Services using a web-based portal
- Facilitated partnerships among the Government of Egypt and private stakeholders such as the Egyptian Poultry Association, pharmaceutical companies, and poultry producers that resulted in the development of: 1) the National Strategy for Controlling Avian Influenza and; 2) a strategy and standard operating procedures for administering vaccinations