

# Guide for M&E of avian influenza programs in Southeast Asia



## MEASURE Evaluation Fact sheet Avian influenza: M&E indicator guide

At MEASURE Evaluation, we know that improved analysis and use of data lead to better health program decision making and, ultimately, improved health outcomes. This fact sheet introduces one of the innovative toolsets created for monitoring & evaluating public health interventions.

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**Overview:** The development of an M&E framework is a critical component for monitoring progress in the prevention and control of avian influenza and the reduction of risk of a pandemic influenza in Southeast Asia.

Developing monitoring and evaluation (M&E) frameworks for rapidly emerging infectious diseases can be a significant challenge. The constantly changing nature of these diseases often hampers effective strategic planning and program development. However, as countries respond to an increasing geographic spread of the disease, the early development of a comprehensive M&E framework provides programs with standard measures to monitor progress at national, regional and global levels.

In this spirit, MEASURE Evaluation and its partners are developing a guide for M&E of avian influenza (AI) programs in Southeast Asia. The guide is a result of broad-based collaboration with Abt Associates, AED, AFAP, AVSP, CARE, CRS, FAO, USAID, UNDP, UNICEF, UNSIC, US-

CDC, WHO, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (Vietnam), National Institute for Hygiene and Epidemiology (Vietnam), Ministry of Public Health (Thailand), Ministry of Health (Lao P.D.R), and the National Animal Health Center (Lao P.D.R).

This guide provides standard M&E terminology for AI indicators and information systems. The use of standard indicators facilitates data aggregation and provides information for consistent national, regional and global-level monitoring of progress for AI programs. Because the understanding of the disease is still evolving, this guide will allow for adaptation as new programs and interventions come into place.

No other region of the world has been affected more than the countries of

Southeast Asia, which account for more than 80% of animal H5N1 influenza outbreaks and 85% of human infections.<sup>1</sup> The first animal outbreaks and human fatalities in the region date from 2003. Because of its position as the epicenter of the disease, Southeast Asia serves as an important reference point for the rest of the world as avian influenza expands its geographic impact. With a longer time horizon, AI programs in the region are more mature and provide a strong foundation for development of an M&E framework. M&E guidance developed in Southeast Asia can provide a model for the development of M&E plans for countries and regions newly impacted by AI.

The AI guide is designed for countries in phases 3 through 5 of the World Health Organization Global Pandemic Alert. As a result, it encompasses prevention and control measures for highly-pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) in animal populations as well as cases of animal-to-human and limited human-to-human transmission of the disease.

**Content:** The guide provides a logic model for understanding regional and national-level AI programs that share the central goal of reducing the risk of a human pandemic influenza. The four program components that support this goal are national planning and policy, animal health, risk reduction and human health.

For each of these components, the guide provides indicators designed to measure key elements of AI prevention and control programs. Because there is no global standard for M&E of AI programs, all indicators in the guide are newly developed, with extensive input from technical experts involved in global, regional and national level programs.

**Intended Audience:** The guide is intended to provide guidance to governments, international organizations, and non-governmental organizations in M&E of AI programs in the areas of national planning and policy, animal health, risk reduction and human health. The users of the guide are not required to have an extensive background in M&E. In particular, the following audiences may find the guide useful to their efforts:

- members of national AI coordinating committees
- program managers and technical staff of AI programs in the region
- international partners and consultants responsible for planning and implementing M&E of AI programs in collaboration with host-country institutions.

**Regional and Country-Level Focus:** From its inception, the development of the guide has been informed by the field realities of implementing AI programs in the different countries in the region. The indicators were developed in dialogue with regional technical experts, country-level program managers and officials from the ministries of health and agriculture from countries across the region. In June, August and October 2006, MEASURE Evaluation convened Technical Working Group meetings consisting of technical experts from FAO, UNSIC, UNICEF, WHO, USAID, Abt Associates, AED and US-CDC to develop the logical framework and proposed indicators.

Countries in the region vary widely in their experiences with the disease and their abilities to harness existing public health and veterinary infrastructures to prevent and control outbreaks. In January 2007, MEASURE Evaluation convened meetings and workshops with government officials in Thailand, Vietnam and Laos to assess the utility and feasibility for collection of the proposed M&E indicators. The meetings and workshops revealed a wide spectrum of national experiences with AI programming. To allow the guide to respond across this spectrum, the document recommends a set of core and additional indicators. Countries are able to select those indicators with the most applicability for their national context.

**Publications:** The *Guide for Monitoring and Evaluating National Avian Influenza Programs in Southeast Asia*. Interim draft for immediate release. June 2007. It is available for download from the MEASURE Evaluation Web site, [www.cpc.unc.edu/measure](http://www.cpc.unc.edu/measure).

## For more Information

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<sup>1</sup> Sources: USAID, OIE, CDC, WHO, and [birdflu.com](http://birdflu.com).