

(Draft)
Mongolia National
Comprehensive Avian and Human Influenza
Strategy and Action Plan
2007-2009

Foreword

Over the last four years, Asia has experienced a large epizootic of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) among poultry, caused by the influenza A(H5N1) virus. This virus has demonstrated the ability to jump the species boundary and has infected a range of animals including humans, with 270 known human cases in 10 Asian and Middle Eastern Countries reported by the World Health Organization as of January 29, 2007. 164 of these cases have resulted in death.

A human influenza pandemic is inevitable. While it is not possible to predict when it might occur, it is possible to be prepared to minimise its impact. The Mongolian Government is seeking to invest increased resources and efforts into controlling Avian Influenza outbreaks and thereby reducing the risk to its population. In order to tackle the problem in an integrated, holistic and sustainable manner, the Mongolian Government has established strong central coordination mechanisms for better inter-ministerial, civil society and development partner cooperation.

The Avian and Human Influenza Strategy and Action Plan for Mongolia is meant to address both immediate short-term needs and longer-term developmental aspects to ensure a sustained capacity to face the threat. This strategy is meant to enhance ongoing development activities in the animal health, human health, and emergency management sectors, and to enhance cooperation among these sectors, as well.

Mongolia's small poultry sector may not present a great risk for Avian Influenza, but Mongolia's proximity to countries with high human and poultry population densities, where Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza is currently circulating, requires Mongolia to remain vigilant both to Avian Influenza, and to the possibility of human pandemic influenza emerging in the region.

Three separate migration fly-ways pass through Mongolia, and create a unique opportunity for Mongolia to better inform the world on the role of migratory birds in avian influenza spread, and to provide global early warning should a new virus strain be uncovered through surveillance of migratory birds.

In addition to serving global efforts, Mongolia must also provide protection to its own people, and the potentially devastating threat of pandemic influenza requires cooperation from all elements of society including the key sectors of animal health, human health, and emergency management.

It is hoped that this Strategy and Action Plan for AHI activities in Mongolia will help mobilize the needed resources to strengthen the Mongolian Government's efforts, and thus serve to enhance the safety and security of all people by contributing to lowering the global risk of avian and pandemic influenza.

Table of Contents

Foreword	2
1. Introduction to the Comprehensive Plan	4
1.1 Background and Context.....	4
1.2 Goal.....	4
1.3 Strategic Components	5
1.4 Coordination Structure for Avian and Human Influenza.....	5
1.5 Document Structure and Scope	7
2 Animal Health: Controlling the disease in Animals; preventing disease spread to humans	8
2.1 Animal Health Sector Planning.....	8
2.2 Animal Health Sector Objectives	9
2.3 Animal Health Sector Strengthening Requirements.....	9
3 Human Influenza: preventing disease in humans; pandemic preparedness and response	9
3.1 Human Health Sector Planning	9
3.2 Human Health Sector Objectives	10
3.3 Human Health Sector Strengthening Requirements	10
4 Emergency Management and Coordination of Avian and Human Influenza.....	10
4.1 Emergency Management and Coordination Planning	10
4.2 Emergency Management and Coordination Objectives.....	10
4.3 Emergency Management and Coordination Strengthening Requirements.....	11
5 Information, Education and Communication (IEC).....	11
6 Implementation Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E)	11

Appendix A: List of Acronyms and Abbreviations and Glossary of AHI Terminology

Appendix B: WHO Pandemic Phases

Appendix C: List of Selected References

Appendix D: Comparison with International Guidelines for AHI

Appendix E: IEC Action Plan: "Information and Communication 2006 Project Plan of Action – Final 'Emergency Risk Communication'"

Appendix F: Summary Proceedings of the Multi-Stakeholder Consultation Workshop to Review the Preliminary Draft of the National Comprehensive Avian and Human Influenza (AHI) Strategy and Action Plan

Appendix G: Strategy and Action Plan Budgets

1. Introduction to the Comprehensive Plan

1.1 Background and Context

Since 2003, outbreaks of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) due to the H5N1 virus have occurred in several East and Southeast Asian countries. Over the past few years, the disease has spread through migratory birds, and the international poultry trade, to include some countries of South and Central Asia, Africa, Europe and the Middle East. The disease has caused the death and culling of tens of millions of poultry and has also infected and killed many human beings.

While the current strain of the H5N1 virus is quite deadly in humans, it does not transmit easily. Still, there is a risk that this virus will mutate and become highly transmissible, resulting in a potentially devastating global pandemic. Consequently, Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza has become one of the most feared diseases of our time.

International organizations such as FAO, WHO and OIE (World Organization for Animal Health) warn that HPAI might result in a Human Pandemic, and recommend that countries proceed to implement National Avian and Human Influenza Strategies in order to prevent, fight and eradicate Avian Influenza, calling on all nations to strengthen collaborative efforts at national, regional and global levels for controlling this disease.

Mongolia has been considered an HPAI infected country upon diagnosis of the samples taken from wild migratory birds at Khuvsgul and Bulgan provinces and diagnosis of the virus as HPAI H5N1 at the OIE Reference Laboratory in Hokkaido University, Japan during 2005 and 2006.

While Mongolia has a relatively small poultry sector, it is growing quite rapidly and presents an increasing risk; (although, there are considerable opportunities for reducing that risk through improved biosecurity in the poultry sector.) In 2006, there were more than 10 commercial poultry farms in Mongolia, and many household farms. Approximately 400,000 chicken, goose and ducks were produced for commercial and income generation purposes. This production is increasing to meet a rapidly increasing demand.

Three major migratory bird routes exist in the Asia and Pacific Region, the West Pacific and East Asia flyway, the Australian flyway, and the Central Asia and Indian flyway. All three of these routes cross over parts of Mongolia. The relative separation of wild birds from domestic poultry in Mongolia makes it an ideal location for research on HPAI in migratory birds. Migratory bird research represents an area where Mongolia can make significant regional and global contributions towards understanding the HPAI threat and reducing it.

In addition to contributing to regional and global AHI efforts, Mongolia must reduce the risk of influenza to its own people. Mongolia is a neighbour to many countries that are currently struggling with avian influenza, and where the next pandemic virus may emerge. The efforts described in this strategy and action plan are aimed at strengthening institutions and coordination efforts in Mongolia to reduce the risks of AHI nationally, in Asia, and throughout the world.

Note: the terminology of Avian and Human Influenza can be quite complex and confusing. Appendix A provides a list of Acronyms and Abbreviations and a Glossary of Influenza Terminology to help clarify the terms used in this document. Appendix C provides a list of selected references for further information, and Appendix D compares AHI planning in Mongolia to International Guidelines.

1.2 Goal

The goal of the Mongolia National Comprehensive Avian and Human Influenza Strategy and Action Plan is to improve all activities to limit occurrence and spread of avian influenza, prevent human exposure to the influenza virus, maintain the risk of outbreaks at an acceptable level and limit harmful health and economic effects caused by any outbreak of infection.

1.3 Strategic Components

1. The [Animal Health](#) component will serve to strengthen the key Avian Influenza surveillance and prevention role of the Ministry of Food and Agriculture and its cooperating organizations.
2. The [Human Health](#) component will serve to strengthen the key human influenza surveillance, diagnosis, and treatment role of the Ministry of Health.
3. The [Emergency Management and Coordination](#) component will serve to strengthen the lead emergency management role of the National Emergency Management Agency, and enhance the coordination of all avian and human influenza activities among the Ministries and specialized agencies, filling gaps and improving the effectiveness of pandemic prevention and response activities.
4. The [Information, Education and Communication \(IEC\)](#) component is integrated into sector planning and builds on the existing Information, Education and Communication Strategy developed by UNICEF and the Ministry of Health with Japanese support (see Appendix E for further information). The National Center for Communicable Diseases (NCCD) chairs the multi-sectoral IEC working group.
5. The [Implementation Monitoring and Evaluation \(M&E\)](#) component will rely on existing sectoral monitoring and evaluation structures, in the responsible sectoral organizations that will be enhanced by a coordinated monitoring and evaluation system, to be implemented by the National Emergency Management Agency, that will enable combined tracking of overall, as well as sector-level, progress at all levels of government.

1.4 Coordination Structure for Avian and Human Influenza

The purpose of avian and human influenza inter-sectoral coordination is to ensure harmonized efforts and cooperation of all related sectors, and to support the development of detailed and well-coordinated preparedness plans for all sectors at all levels, and thereby enhance the capacity of Mongolia to respond to AHI emergencies. Avian and Human Influenza activities are inherently multi-sectoral, requiring strong coordination efforts that should yield benefits for all participating organizations.

Coordination Committee to Prevent Pandemic Influenza

During the pre-pandemic period, based on the order of the Minister in Charge of Emergency Situations, the National Emergency Management Agency shall set up a Coordination Committee, and the emergency departments in Aimags and the capital city shall establish respective professional committees. The composition of the national committee for the pre-pandemic period is as follows:

Chairperson:

Head of the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA)

Members:

Head of Professional Management Department of NEMA;
Head of Policy Coordination Department of the Ministry of Health;
Director of the National Center for Communicable Diseases (NCCD);
Director of National Center for Control of Diseases of Natural Foci (NCCDNF);
Head of Veterinary Department of the Ministry of Food and Agriculture;
Director of State Central Veterinary and Sanitary Laboratory;
Head of Sustainable Development and Strategic Planning Department of the Ministry of Environment;
Head of the Agriculture State Inspection Department of the State Specialized Inspection Agency;
Head of the Health Inspection State Office of the State Specialized Inspection Agency;
Deputy Director of the Consular Department, the Ministry for Foreign Affairs;
Head of the Tourism Department of the Ministry of Roads, Transportation, and Tourism;
Head of the Department of Policy and Coordination for Loans and Aid of the Ministry of Finance.

Secretary:

Senior Officer in charge of Health in Emergency of NEMA.

The coordination committee composition will change for pandemic alert and full pandemic phases. (See Appendix B for a description of the WHO pandemic phases.) During the alert period, the Minister in Charge of Emergency Situations shall manage the National Coordination committee composed of Ministers, Vice-Ministers, and State-Secretaries of relevant ministries. Coordination committees shall be activated at national and aimag-level within Commissions for Emergency Management. In a full pandemic period, the Coordination Committee will be headed by the Prime Minister, with additional ministries included and represented by their ministers at the national level. Terms of Reference of the Coordination Committee and the Technical Working Group which advises the Committee are included in the *Action Plan to Support Emergency Management and Coordination for Prevention of, and Preparedness for, Avian and Pandemic Influenza in Mongolia*, referred to in Section 4, and are also described in the *Mongolian National Contingency Plan for Preparedness and Response for Influenza Pandemic (Health)*, referred to in Section 3.

United Nations Consultative Committee

A United Nations Consultative Committee for AHI will be established, chaired by the United Nations Resident Coordinator, and composed of representatives of the United Nations Children's Fund, United Nations Development Program, World Health Organization, the World Bank, Food and Agriculture Organization, and the Government's Ministry of Food and Agriculture, Ministry of Health, and the National Emergency Management Agency. Indicative Terms of Reference for this committee are also referred to in the Emergency Management and Coordination Action plan, referred to in Section 4.

Responsibilities of the Governmental organizations

The National Emergency Management Agency, Ministry of Food and Agriculture, and Ministry of Health, shall play leading roles in activities to prevent avian influenza spread, respond to avian and human influenza outbreaks, and prepare to manage pandemic influenza. (Please Note: the Human Health Sector plan, referred to in Section 3, includes a useful list of actions expected from a broad range of organizations during a pandemic.)

1. National Emergency Management Agency is an executing government agency responsible for the development of emergency management policy, creation of legislative frameworks, its implementation, nation-wide management of disaster preparedness activities, and assurance of professional methodology. It is responsible for the nation-wide coordination of avian influenza pandemic preparedness and prevention measures and reports to the Government.
2. Ministry of Health shall protect the population from avian and human influenza, teach prevention methodology, supply accurate information, protect people's health during disease outbreaks and pandemic periods, and undertake activities to fight the nidus (focus) of infection, provide health assistance services, and identify and confirm diagnosis of human illness.
3. Ministry of Food and Agriculture shall arrange measures to protect animals and livestock from avian influenza, limit the nidus (focus) of infection, identify and confirm diagnosis of suspected animals, and ensure conditions to prevent transmission of the disease to humans.
4. Ministry of Environment shall implement activities to survey wildlife and monitor their migration, location, and number.
5. State Specialized Inspection Agency shall arrange all inspection activities related to avian and human influenza.
6. Ministry of Foreign Affairs shall assume the obligation to coordinate foreign investment and foreign relations.
7. Ministry of Roads, Transportation, and Tourism shall arrange domestic and international transportation of laboratory samples whenever needed and regulate tourism matters in case of disease suspicion, bird sickness, and suspicious cases.
8. Ministry of Finance shall facilitate coordination among international organizations and donors, and support resource mobilization efforts.

Coordination at aimag (province), the capital city, and soum (county) level,

Aimag (provinces) and soum (county) governors shall serve as heads of aimag, the capital city, and soum coordination groups responsible for avian and human influenza matters. Emergency departments in aimags and the chief veterinarians or doctors in soums and dhurgs (urban districts) shall serve as their working apparatus (or secretariat). Volunteers shall be appointed at bagh (communities) and khoroo (urban communities) levels.

Coordination secretariats (working apparatus)

The National Emergency Management Agency shall ensure the coordination of the sectors, National Emergency Management Agency shall be the working apparatus (secretariat) of the Coordination committee; the committee shall convene once a quarter or whenever necessary to address urgent problems. The Minister in Charge of Emergency Situations shall submit to the Government any matter for consideration, as proposed by the Coordination committee.

In rural areas the working apparatus (secretariat) shall develop issues, Governor headed working groups shall coordinate, and at bagh level, the local governor shall appoint a volunteer and provide him/her with guidance.

Development of detailed sector plans

The purpose of detailed avian influenza emergency pandemic preparedness plans are to:

1. Prevent outbreak of disease among poultry and spread to other livestock or humans;
2. Prevent pandemic influenza emergence in Mongolia and limit the transmission and impacts of epidemic viruses whether of internal or external origin.

Every sector shall develop its own plan and ensure preparedness in accordance with the plans. Sector planning shall be done by the line ministries and their affiliate organizations, and sectors shall develop their detailed plans in accordance with the ministry-level plans. The National Emergency Management Agency shall develop a broad consolidated plan to ensure coordination. Local level Plans shall be developed by emergency departments in aimags and the capital city, and by soums' medical and veterinarian organizations in consultation with aimag professional organizations. Various training and simulations to evaluate plans shall be arranged. Regional training on evaluation of plans shall be conducted in rural areas.

1.5 Document Structure and Scope

This comprehensive plan is based on the *Strategic Plan for Prevention and Preparedness to Avian Influenza Pandemic in Mongolia*, endorsed by the Government of Mongolia in May 2006. Since that time, the sectoral plans in the Animal and Human Health sectors have been greatly revised and expanded, requiring an update of the original strategic plan. This new comprehensive strategy and action plan provides a strategic framework for overall AHI activities, which accommodates the integrity of the sectoral planning process, while facilitating coordination of multi-sectoral programming aspects. These multi-sectoral aspects are at the core of AHI emergency management, so a third component of the plan focusing on emergency management and coordination has been added, while a previous component focusing on avian influenza in wild birds has been incorporated into the animal health component. Components 4 and 5, Information, Education and Communication (IEC), and Implementation Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) are retained as essential elements that cut across all sectors and will require close coordination.

It is recognized that influenza planning is a dynamic process, and not a static product, yet there must be some strategic and coordinated basis for actions that helps form a stable basis for resource mobilization. To that end, this Comprehensive Strategy and Action Plan and accompanying budget is meant to provide a basic framework for Avian and Human Influenza Management planning. The composition of the plan is represented in the following diagram:

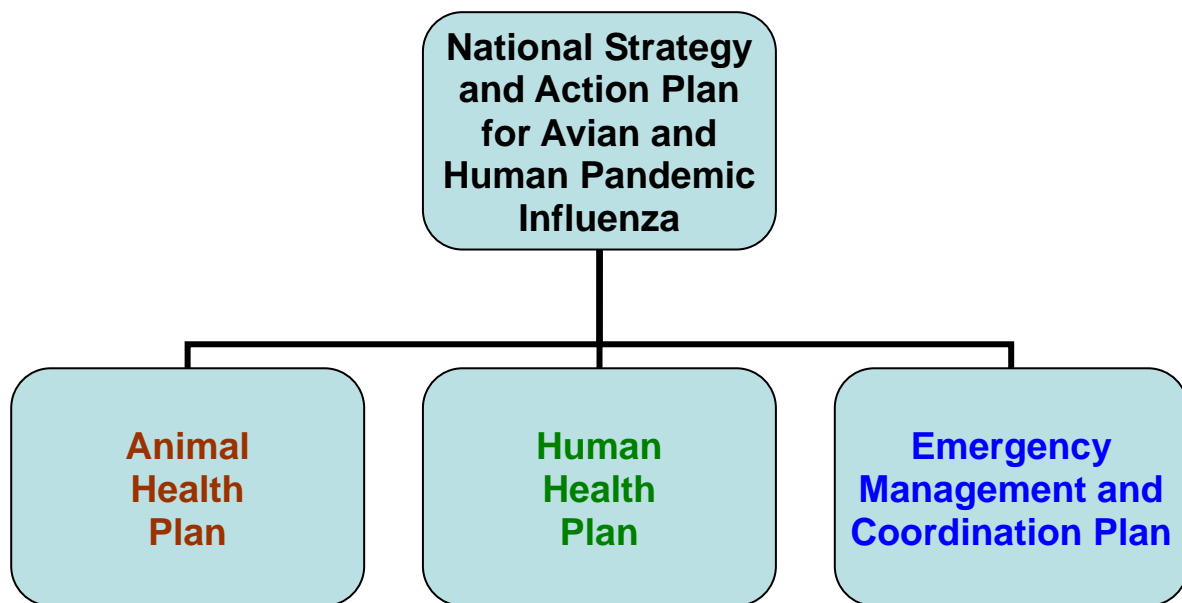


Fig. 1. Composition of the Comprehensive National Strategy and Action Plan

The composition of the plan is not meant to correspond to the level of importance placed on planning sectors. It is recognized the importance of the three planning sectors: animal health, human health, and emergency management and coordination will vary with the phasing of the pandemic. The animal health sector is the most important sector of activity during the current WHO pandemic phase 3 (Animal to Animal and limited Animal to Human transmission), while there are also important human health aspects and inter-ministerial cooperation is most important between the MoH and MoFA with more limited involvement of other ministries. (Please see Appendix B for a discussion of the WHO Pandemic Phases) As the pandemic phase shifts towards rapid human to human transmission (WHO pandemic phase 6), the emphasis will rapidly shift away from animal health towards human health concerns, with more need for strong emergency management coordination and cooperation.

This comprehensive plan is in no way meant to take the place of detailed national pandemic planning or of detailed business continuity planning for individual ministries. **This brief document is meant to identify the broad activities, and corresponding resources required to meet the priority needs to improve the management of Avian and Human Influenza, including the resources required for development of these more detailed and specific plans.** (Appendix G includes Government Strategy and Action Plan Budgets). The resource requirements identified in this plan are considered to be indicative of initial priority needs only. Additional resources may be required to strengthen current efforts and to sustain these efforts beyond a three-year funding framework.

2 Animal Health: Controlling the disease in Animals; preventing disease spread to humans

2.1 Animal Health Sector Planning

The central planning document for Animal Health Sector Activities related to Avian and Human Influenza is the *Strategy for Prevention and Preparedness for Avian Influenza Pandemic in Mongolia 2007-2009: Animal Health Component*, Prepared by the Ministry of Food and Agriculture, (Draft January 2007). The animal health plan includes six sub-components: 1. Veterinary System Capacity Building; 2. Wild Bird Surveillance Investigation and Response; 3. Biosecurity in Poultry Production and Trade; 4. Information Education and Communication; 5. Pandemic Planning; and 6. Strategic Management.

2.2 Animal Health Sector Objectives

The overall goal of Animal Health Sector activities are to reduce the risk of avian influenza outbreaks in birds, and thus reduce the risk to human populations from avian influenza, and to help prepare for, and thus mitigate, the impacts of pandemic influenza in the Agriculture Sector. The objectives of each of the animal health sector plan subcomponents are listed below:

1. The objectives of the **Veterinary System Capacity Building** sub-component are to achieve a veterinary service with capacity to OIE standard, to develop an appropriate legal and regulatory framework to strengthen governance of the veterinary system, to enable enforcement of the HPAI control measures, and to develop an effective private veterinary service nation-wide.
2. The objectives of the **Wild Bird Surveillance Investigation and Response** sub-component are to contribute to global understanding of H5N1 and to domestic disease control by detecting the virus in wild birds migrating into and through Mongolia, and understanding more about wild bird migration patterns and populations
3. The objectives of the **Biosecurity in Poultry Production and Trade** sub-component are to prevent H5N1 from entering into domestic poultry farms, and if H5N1 does enter, ensure that it does not spread.
4. The objectives of the **Information Education and Communication** sub-component are to ensure that people dealing with poultry and wild birds are fully aware of the technical aspects of avian influenza in birds and know what to do if they see dead poultry or wild birds.
5. The objectives of the **Pandemic Planning** sub-component are for MoFA to have a plan of operation for WHO pandemic phases 4-6 and for the post-pandemic period.
6. The objectives of the **Strategic Management** sub-component are effective management and coordination of activities within the animal health sector, including the coordination of resource mobilization and the prioritization of sector activities.

2.3 Animal Health Sector Strengthening Requirements

The problem of Avian and Human Influenza places a special burden on the animal health sector as the front-line against animal diseases that can threaten humans. Increasing the capacity of the Animal Health Services in Mongolia to meet these frontline responsibilities will require substantial investment. An estimate of the financial requirements, secured funding, and gaps are presented in Appendix G. The capacity building requirements for the animal health sector include capacity building of the Ministry of Food and Agriculture and cooperating institutions, such as the Institute of Biology and the Ministry of Nature and Environment.

3 Human Influenza: preventing disease in humans; pandemic preparedness and response

3.1 Human Health Sector Planning

The central planning document for Human Health Sector Activities related to Avian and Human Influenza is the *Mongolian National Contingency Plan for Preparedness and Response for Influenza Pandemic (Health)*, Prepared by the National Centre for Communicable Diseases (NCCD), Ministry of Health, (Draft: 26 January 2007). The human health sector plan details strategies and response mechanisms for avian and pandemic influenza in humans. The plan provides general information on the influenza virus to Health Care Workers in the process of early identification of a viral infection. It also provides information on proper case management, infection control measures, and epidemiological surveillance, including laboratory diagnosis. The plan provides specific medical guidance, and also provides general guidance on non-pharmaceutical interventions for the general public, such as social distancing and proper hygiene behavior. The plan also provides an outline of the roles and responsibilities of various government agencies for pandemic preparedness and response.

3.2 Human Health Sector Objectives

The overall goals of Human Health Sector activities are to reduce the risk of avian influenza to humans, and to help prepare for and respond to, and thus mitigate, the health impacts of pandemic influenza. The objectives of human health sector planning efforts are to: ensure that adequate surveillance is in place so that the country can rapidly detect, diagnose, characterise and respond to a pandemic influenza virus that may gain entry into the country; prevent the spread of avian influenza virus from birds to humans; limit pandemic spread through early containment measures; limit morbidity and mortality from infection during a pandemic; ensure essential services during a pandemic, sustain infrastructure and mitigate the impact to the economy and the function of the society; and to provide the public, health care workers, the media and other service providers with up to date information on Avian and Human Influenza.

3.3 Human Health Sector Strengthening Requirements

The tremendous threat of avian and pandemic influenza to human health is the primary motivation behind all AHI activities, and the human health sector will be the core focus should a pandemic virus emerge. Thus, the human health sector must be fully prepared to engage in all AHI activities, as well as providing technical leadership for Mongolia's overall pandemic preparedness efforts.

The Human Health Sector will require additional resources to strengthen health capacities and minimise the risk of transmission of AI to humans, and to detect, report and contain such transmission rapidly if it occurs. Resources are currently required for five areas of health system preparedness: 1 Health System Capacity Building, 2 Surveillance and Early Warning System, 3. Health System Response, 4 Prevention and Containment, and 5 Communication and Health Promotion. An estimate of the financial requirements, secured funding, and gaps are presented in Appendix G.

4 Emergency Management and Coordination of Avian and Human Influenza

4.1 Emergency Management and Coordination Planning

The central planning document for Emergency Management and Coordination Activities related to Avian and Human Influenza is the *Action Plan to Support Emergency Management and Coordination for Prevention of, and Preparedness for, Avian and Pandemic Influenza in Mongolia*, prepared by the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA), (Draft February 2007). The plan describes the necessary preparedness and response activities that NEMA must support at all levels and among all relevant organizations, and also discusses the role of NEMA and Emergency Management Commissions at the Aimag and Soum level in coordinating AHI activities in Mongolia.

4.2 Emergency Management and Coordination Objectives

The overall goal of the Action Plan for AHI emergency management and coordination is to effectively and efficiently develop AHI preparedness and response capacity that is firmly integrated into existing emergency management and coordination efforts. The Action Plan is comprised of three major objectives:

1. Implementation, in cooperation with all relevant organizations, of an **Effective Pandemic Preparedness, Response and Recovery Program** supporting AHI preparedness and detailed planning at all levels of government
2. Establishment of an effective **Emergency Management Information System** to support enhanced coordination and emergency response, including an active programme Monitoring and Evaluation system
3. Incorporation of Pandemic Preparedness activities into ongoing **Community Based Disaster Management** (CBDM) Programmes

Some key areas that will require special coordination emphasis, as many cooperating agencies are involved, include: 1. Information, Education and Communication activities, 2. Personal Protective

Equipment (PPE) procurement and use, and 3. influenza surveillance and related information exchange.

4.3 Emergency Management and Coordination Strengthening Requirements

Avian and Human Influenza activities are inherently multi-sectoral, going beyond the animal and human health sectors, and involving all sectors for true pandemic preparedness. The multi-sectoral nature of influenza preparedness and response requires strengthened coordination mechanisms to be effective. Additional resources will be required to meet the demand for enhanced coordination and for additional specific capacities to manage influenza pandemic preparedness and emergency response. Appendix G presents an estimate of the required AHI resources, with some indication of resources available and funding gaps. The budget for emergency management and coordination also includes the resource requirements of the State Specialized Inspection Agency, as a key partner in AHI activities.

5 Information, Education and Communication (IEC)

Information, Education and Communication activities are perhaps the most effective and sustainable activities for preparing the population for, and protecting them from, Avian and Human Influenza. IEC activities include informing the public on how to recognize and report suspicious cases in poultry and wild birds, proper hygiene behaviour to avoid all types of influenza, and preparedness measures for pandemic influenza.

IEC activities are included in all sectoral plans, and reflected in the sectoral budgets, but are separated here to indicate the importance of this component and to ensure cross-sectoral coordination. The National Center for Communicable Diseases (NCCD) chairs the multi-sectoral IEC working group. The Government of Japan has already provided considerable support for IEC activities in Mongolia through UNICEF. This activity is described in the IEC Action Plan: "Information and Communication 2006 Project Plan of Action – Final 'Emergency Risk Communication'", which is included in Appendix E.

6 Implementation Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E)

Effective and suitable partnership arrangements in support of this plan have been developed and implemented within the Government of Mongolia and with the UN international technical agencies, donor agencies and NGOs. The primary implementation agencies will be Ministry of Health, Ministry of Food and Agriculture, and the National Emergency Management Agency. The Ministry of Nature and Environment will implement its activities as part of the MoFA plan, and the State Specialized Inspection Agency will receive support for its involvement through the NEMA plan. Each organization has appointed an internal component coordinator responsible for coordinating plan activities.

Overall programme implementation monitoring and evaluation (M&E) will rely on existing monitoring and evaluation structures of the relevant sectoral organizations. These M&E structures will be enhanced by a coordinated monitoring and evaluation system that will incorporate sector-level evaluations and include the preparedness level of essential infrastructure and related vulnerability information. This comprehensive M&E system will be incorporated into the disaster management information system of the National Emergency Management Agency, and will enhance overall monitoring of avian and human influenza activities, support coordination, and also serve to guide emergency response and recovery efforts. These National M&E efforts will be designed to be compatible with regional and international M&E guidelines for Avian Influenza to ensure compatibility with regional and international efforts.

Regular forums will be held for coordinating activities and for improved monitoring and evaluation including: A semi-annual meeting of the Coordination Committee to Prevent Pandemic Influenza, which shall report on the execution of the national agenda and on-going processes, and quarterly meetings among key stakeholders to ensure progress and resolve coordination issues. Additionally, the Minister for Emergency Situations shall report on implementation of the national agenda and its results to the Government within the fourth quarter of each year.