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Bosnia-Herzegovina

Poultry and Products

BiH Starts with the WB Supported Avian Influenza Project worth \$ 7 mil.

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Report Highlights:

Implementation of the World Bank supported Avian Influenza (AI) Preparedness Project, worth \$7 million, started this week at a workshop in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH). The project aims to minimize the threat posed, both to humans and domestic animals and poultry, by AI or any other zoonoses, and to prepare for, respond to and control this or other pandemics. BiH's first case of AI was registered in February 2006 and was followed by a cross-border case in Serbia in March 2006. These HPAI outbreaks have had a major impact on BiH's economy and have delayed the country's progress in development of food safety and animal health standards.

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Implementation of the World Bank (WB) supported Avian Influenza (AI) Preparedness Project started this week at a workshop in Sarajevo attended by representatives of the state and entity governments, local health and veterinary experts, foreign donors and WB officials. The project, worth \$7 million, is aimed to minimize the threat posed both to humans and domestic animals and poultry by the Avian Influenza or any other zoonoses, and to prepare for, respond to and control this or other pandemics.

The project will include several key components, including human and animal health protection and disease prevention and control, support for the poultry culling compensation scheme, as well as a country-wide communication campaign. Among other activities, the project will support strengthening of health and veterinary services, disease surveillance, diagnostic capacity and applied research, as well as enhancing public health program planning and coordination.

Background

In February 20, 2006, Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) State Veterinary Office confirmed that two of four swans found on February 16, 2006 on the Pliva Lake in Jajce Municipality, tested positive for Avian Influenza H5. The EU reference laboratory for avian influenza in Weybridge, UK confirmed H5N1.

On March 9, 2006, a case of HPAI was confirmed in a rooster in the municipality of Bajina Basta (Serbia Montenegro). As a consequence, the nearby community of Bratunac (BiH) was declared an endangered area.

These HPAI outbreaks have had a major impact on BiH's economy and environment, as well as setback on the country's meeting of EU food safety and animal health standards. As an example, poultry production and consumption in BiH were seriously affected in 2006, following these outbreaks.

Even before the outbreak, Bosnia and Herzegovina was assessed as high-risk for avian influenza occurrence at a donor's conference on bird flu in Beijing in January 2006. As a result, the World Bank (WB) is supporting Bosnia and Herzegovina's (BiH) implementation of its Avian Influenza Preparedness Plans through its Global Program for Avian Influenza Control and Human Pandemic Preparedness and Response (GPAI) program.

Over the past few years a number of international organizations, including the European Commission (EC), World Health Organization (WHO), United States Agency for International Development (USAID), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) have funded and/or participated in a wide set of activities, which have assisted BiH state and entity governments and institutions to address the threat of Avian Influenza. The WB project has been designed in close cooperation with these organizations to leverage the maximum financing possible and to avoid duplication of efforts.