

Success Story

The USAID | DELIVER PROJECT Supports Avian Influenza Containment Efforts in Bangladesh



The USAID | DELIVER PROJECT supports avian influenza (AI) containment efforts in Bangladesh by training bird market vendors on how to use Virkon, an AI disinfectant.

The poultry merchants now understand the benefit of disinfecting their shops and requested to continue supply of Virkon.

Dr. Mosaddique Hossain, Chief Veterinary Officer

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As the centers of trade, slaughter, and processing, live bird markets can pose a major threat to containing avian influenza (AI). Regular disinfection of these markets is one of several biosecurity interventions that can limit the spread of the virus. Bangladesh, with one of the highest incidence rates of AI anywhere in the world, also has a long tradition of selling and trading poultry in live bird markets. The AI outbreaks are raising serious concerns within the Bangladeshi government, among poultry farmers, and within international organizations operating in the country.

In preparation for this year's avian influenza season, the USAID | DELIVER PROJECT shipped 200 pails of Virkon (a disinfectant effective against AI) to Bangladesh and supported the timely utilization of the disinfectant in 42 live bird markets in the Dhaka area. Thousands of live birds are dressed and sold daily in each of these markets within the metropolitan city limits of Dhaka. Since Bangladesh has practiced other forms of AI containment to date, the poultry vendors were not familiar with Virkon or market disinfection. The vendors were reluctant to accept the disinfectant, as this method would mean a loss of time, which would impact their sale of birds. It took extra effort to motivate and convince the live bird market vendors of the benefits of the disinfectant program.

Working closely with the Department of Livestock Services and area sanitary inspectors from the municipality, the USAID | DELIVER PROJECT, the Food and Agriculture Organization, and the AI COMM and STOP AI projects developed and distributed posters to the poultry vendors to raise awareness about the benefits of market disinfection and provided guidance in the use of Virkon. After a market was disinfected with Virkon, the sanitary inspector and a livestock officer signed a certificate, which was issued to the vendors, who proudly displayed it on the wall. The disinfectant also diminished the foul smell generally associated

with the live bird markets. Following the disinfection of the live bird market, the vendors observed that the customers were pleased with the cleanliness of the market.

“The poultry merchants now understand the benefit of disinfecting their shops and requested to continue supply of Virkon,” said Dr. Mosaddique Hossain, Chief Veterinary Officer, in a letter of appreciation to the project.

There is a plan to carry out similar disinfectant programs in the near future in other major cities throughout Bangladesh. The project will continue to support the AI containment efforts of Bangladesh and other countries affected by the virus.

The USAID / DELIVER PROJECT, Task Order 2, is funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development, and manages a global distribution mechanism for commodities to contain outbreaks of the highly pathogenic H5N1 avian influenza and to limit its potential to spread globally. Task Order 2 also provides limited technical assistance to priority countries to effectively pre-position commodities in national and regional warehouses for rapid deployment in case of outbreaks.

The authors' views expressed in this publication do not necessarily reflect the views of the U.S. Agency for International Development or the United States Government.

USAID | DELIVER PROJECT

John Snow, Inc.

1616 Fort Myer Drive, 11th Floor

Arlington, VA 22209 USA

Tel: 703-528-7474

Fax: 703-528-7480

www.deliver.jsi.com

askdeliver@jsi.com