



Planning meeting for the CMC-AH mission to Mexico; Italy.

## A SOLID BASE

### A DEDICATED EMERGENCY SERVICE

Having established the CMC-AH as a fully operational rapid response platform during its first two years of operation, FAO and partners have moved to consolidate the Centre's human resources.

FAO cemented the Centre's leadership by recruiting the CMC-AH Manager as a senior staff member within the Organization's Regular Programme of Work and Budget. An expert in veterinary science and emergency management, the Manager took up the position in August 2009.

### LONG-TERM COMMITMENT

Member states have rallied alongside FAO to support the CMC-AH with new human resources on longer-term assignments.

USDA extended its commitment by loaning two senior experts to FAO on three- to five-year secondments. The first expert joined FAO in October 2009 to provide a direct link between the CMC-AH and the FAO-OIE-WHO Global Early Warning System (GLEWS), thereby enhancing the Centre's response decision making. The second expert joined the CMC-AH in March 2010 to coordinate planning. This expert has brought extensive disease control and incident management experience to the Centre.

In addition, the Government of the French Republic seconded a veterinarian on a two-year assignment in November 2009 to help coordinate response activities. The expert's extensive experience in epidemiology has underpinned the technical basis of the Centre's work.



Animal health experts at a suspect site; Philippines.



Veterinary authorities plan surveillance activities using hand-held global positioning systems provided by FAO; Togo.



Post-mortem diagnostics on pigs; Philippines.



Interviewing backyard farmers at an outbreak site; Haiti.

## CLEAR RESULTS

### SUPPORTING THE MOST VULNERABLE

The CMC-AH functions primarily thanks to the support of donors providing core funding for HPAI. However, in light of the need to support responses to non-HPAI TADs, the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) provided USD 450 000 to the CMC-AH in mid 2008 through an FAO/Sida partnership project. This support enabled the Centre to better fulfil its mandate to provide rapid assistance to governments responding to a wider range of animal diseases.

With this critical investment, the CMC-AH deployed missions and designed support for smallholder farmer livelihoods impacted by TADs. In addition, the CMC-AH was better able to contribute to international efforts in the field of food security. Scenarios included:

- emerging or unknown diseases;
- non-HPAI TADs affecting livelihoods; and
- dangerous diseases impacting both animals and humans.

### FOCUS ON COMMUNICATION

Sida funding in association with other donors enabled the CMC-AH to provide outbreak communication support for several non-HPAI emergencies over the two-year period. The Centre provided crisis communication assistance to eight countries dealing with animal health emergencies through: deployment of communication experts; in-country production of communication materials; and provision of outbreak communication guidance.

Backyard pigs represent a key source of savings for rural farmers; Haiti.



### RESPONDING TO SMALLHOLDER NEEDS IN HAITI

Just months before the devastating earthquake hit Haiti, PTV began killing backyard pigs owned by vulnerable farmers. To combat this extremely rare disease, the CMC-AH mobilized remote assistance from one of the world's few PTV experts. The mission team included a veterinarian and risk communicator

from FAO, an operations expert also from FAO and a pathologist from FLI. The team collaborated with the PTV expert (based at the University of Ljubljana) to support response efforts and develop recommendations for vaccination, training and surveillance.



(Above) Communication is crucial for effective disease risk management; Lao People's Democratic Republic.  
(Below) An FAO expert is interviewed by local media; Philippines.