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PRESS RELEASE

USAID Strengthens Avian Influenza Surveillance, Biosecurity, and Response in Turkmenistan

Ashgabad, March 12-14, 2009. The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) funded STOP AI Project in partnership with the Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of Health and Medical Industry provided regional trainings for the lead veterinary and human health specialists from all velayats and the city of Ashgabad.

The "STOP AI" training program focused on practical aspects of epidemiological and veterinary surveillance, biosecurity, and response to possible H5N1 HPAI outbreaks on velayat and etrap levels, including establishing and enforcing movement controls for animals and humans, transportation of the equipment, and laboratory functions in accordance with the national program of H5N1 HPAI prevention.

"STOP AI" in partnership with the Veterinary department of the Association "Turkmenmallary" will replicate this training in the relatively high risk districts of the country.

Avian Influenza preparedness is one of the many areas, supported by the American people through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). USAID is one of the largest donor organizations in the Central Asia, sponsored by one single country. In Turkmenistan, its programs help develop economic sector, support health care and social development.