



# USAID | STOP AI

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## PRESS RELEASE

### **USAID Strengthens Avian Influenza Surveillance, Biosecurity, and Response in Kazakhstan**

Taldykogan, Almaty oblast, KZ; February 17, 2009. The STOP AI project of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) in partnership with the State Inspection Committee on the Agrarian Industry of the Ministry of Agriculture, and participation of the Ministry of Health and Ministry of Emergency Situations provided regional trainings for the lead veterinary, emergency rescue, and human health specialists from all oblasts and the cities of Astana and Almaty.

This USAID-funded training program focused on surveillance, biosecurity, and outbreak response related to H5N1 HPAI (avian flu) virus. Taking into account the vast geography and large number of oblasts in Kazakhstan, two regional trainings were provided: one in Taldykorgan on February, 17-19 for southern and western oblasts and the city of Almaty, and another one in Astana on February 26-28 for northern and eastern oblasts and the city of Astana.

Kazakhstan specialists learned to design approaches to public health and occupational safety; evaluate biosecurity risks, and recommend appropriate measures to minimize risk for the small scale poultry producer, commercial farmers, and live bird market owners and sellers. The course reviewed the essentials of H5N1 HPAI national surveillance plan, district-level implementation, local responsibilities, as well as management of outbreak response operations. Participants familiarized with procedures for deciding the extent of restricted areas, establishing and enforcing movement controls for animals and humans, and laboratory functions.

STOP AI in partnership with the State Inspection Committee will also train specialists in the relatively high risk oblasts and rayons 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. In Kazakhstan, USAID's programs support economic growth and democratic institutions, and assist the Government in its efforts to adopt international health care practices.

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