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FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

Emerging Pandemic Threats (EPT)

Workshop participants learn the basics of field and laboratory diagnosis. Photo: EPT/IDENTIFY

FOUR KEY AREAS OF EMPHASIS UNDER EPT:

1. Wildlife pathogen detection
2. Risk determination
3. Outbreak response capacity
4. Risk reduction

Implementing partners:

PREDICT: University of California Davis School of Veterinary Medicine, Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS), Ecohealth Alliance, Smithsonian Institution, and Global Viral Forecasting (GVF).

RESPOND: Development Alternatives, Inc., University of Minnesota, Tufts University, Training and Resources Group, and Ecology and Environment, Inc.

IDENTIFY: FAO, OIE and WHO

PREVENT: FHI360 and GVF

EPT Plus: FAO

U.S. CDC

The Emerging Pandemic Threats program (EPT-1) is a five year program targeting the early detection of new disease threats; enhanced "national level" preparedness and response capacities for their effective control; and a reduction in the risk of disease emergence by minimizing those practices and behaviors that trigger the "spill-over and spread" of new pathogens from animal reservoirs to humans. In South East Asia, Vietnam is a priority country for the EPT program. Using a risk-based, proactive approach, the EPT program is building on the Government of Vietnam's successes in disease surveillance, training, and outbreak response in geographic areas where these threats are most likely to emerge.

PREDICT

Through PREDICT, USAID aims to build a global early warning system for emerging diseases which move between wildlife and people. In Vietnam, the PREDICT project works with in-country government partners to build local capacity to investigate and monitor diseases at the animal-human interface and to develop a risk-based approach to concentrate efforts in surveillance, prevention, and response at the most critical points for disease emergence from wildlife.

RESPOND

RESPOND strengthens country capacities and twins schools of medicine, nursing, public health, and veterinary medicine in the "hot spot" regions with U.S. counterpart institutions to strengthen their capacities to provide long- and short-course trainings for cadres of professionals in order to identify and respond to disease outbreaks in a timely and sustainable manner.

IDENTIFY

The IDENTIFY project represents a USAID partnership with WHO, FAO and OIE. The project aims to help develop laboratory networks and strengthen diagnostic capacities in geographic "hot spots" in order to improve detection of normative diseases in animals and humans.

PREVENT

The PREVENT project builds upon USAID's ongoing H5N1 avian influenza efforts to develop effective behavior change and communication responses to diseases of animal origin. It also supports efforts to characterize behaviors that increase the potential for the amplification and spread of new disease threats from wildlife or wildlife products, and formulates strategies for behavior change and/or communication approaches that meet the challenges posed by emerging pandemic disease threats.

U.S. CDC

The U.S. CDC provides technical assistance and funds to the Vietnamese Field Epidemiology Training Program. This program trains physicians and other health workers to become experts in identifying and responding to disease outbreaks.

EPT Plus

Implemented by FAO, EPT-plus is actively working in China and Vietnam to: 1) conduct influenza surveillance in farmed animal systems where virus diversity is considered to be highest (e.g. swine, aquatic waterfowl, backyard poultry); 2) implement surveys to assess biosecurity, epidemiology, animal production characteristics and animal movements in the sectors sampled; and 3) gather detailed information on virus identification and sequence data to better understand the "progenitor" influenza viruses present in swine and the dynamics of evolution.

October 2014

For more information on USAID/Vietnam's work, contact us at 84-4-39351260, vietnam.partnerships@usaid.gov or visit www.usaid.gov/vietnam and see our project map at http://map.usaid.gov.