



Hanoi Headlines

June 2009

USAID Provides Protective Suits, Disinfectant for AI Preparedness

USAID has provided Vietnam with 4,000 sets of personal protective equipment and 100 boxes of biodegradable powder -- enough to produce over 20,000 liters of disinfectant to help animal health workers respond quickly to potential new outbreaks of avian or H1N1 influenza.

This assistance package, valued at over \$57,000, comes at the request of Vietnam's Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, with technical support from the U.N. Food and Agricultural Organization. It is being sent to veterinary departments in 10 provinces throughout the country most at risk of bird flu or in greatest need of the supplies.

The protective gear is intended for use in high-risk provinces to prevent human exposure to the H5N1 Avian Influenza virus and will be used by outbreak responders and others involved in identifying and controlling H5N1 or H1N1 in Vietnam. The gear will limit the risk of animal-to-animal and animal-to-human infection during outbreak response activities such as disposing of infected poultry and decontaminating poultry raising areas. The package of materials is necessary to appropriately disinfect farms that



Nguyen Duc Hanh and veterinarian Phung Thi Thao inspect personal protective kits at Vietnam's Department of Animal Health. Photo: Richard Nyberg, USAID

have suffered outbreaks, in turn helping prevent the spread of outbreaks to neighboring farms. An additional shipment of USAID-funded disinfectant is expected soon. Since 2005, USAID has provided \$27.5 million for avian influenza prevention and control in Vietnam.

U.S. Officials Engage on Issues Related to Agent Orange in Vietnam

USAID Representative Francis Donovan together with U.S. Embassy Environment, Science, Technology and Health Officer Andrew Herrup joined Vietnamese counterparts on a recent visit to several environmental health and remediation projects in Danang. They visited a rehabilitation clinic at Binh Dan Hospital and the newly completed Danang Orthopedics and Rehabilitation Hospital where USAID programs are referring people with disabilities for corrective surgery.

The group also toured areas around Danang airport, including a site at which the Ford Foundation, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the U.S. State Department first began collaborating with the Government of Vietnam on containment efforts in 2007. At the site, officials from EPA, together with their partners from the Vietnam Academy of Science and Technology and the Minis-



USAID Representative Francis Donovan, left, consults with Harry Allen of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency during a visit to Danang where he visited U.S.-funded health and environmental remediation projects. In the background, Prof. Dang Thi Cam Ha of the Vietnam Academy of Science and Technology, center, speaks with U.S. Embassy Environment, Science, Technology and Health Officer Andrew Herrup, regarding bioremediation technology funded by the Ford Foundation to determine if this process can reduce dioxin concentrations in the soil to environmentally safe limits. Photo: Richard Nyberg, USAID

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Y Lam, right, and her grandsons stand among the cocoa trees in their village of Dar Ju in Vietnam's central Dak Lak Province. With USAID support to the Success Alliance cocoa project, farmers like Y Lam expect a big return on their investment from 200 seedlings planted in 2007. Hundreds of farmers will harvest the first pods next year. In the meantime, they plant corn, rice, cashews and other cash crops alongside the cacao to maintain their income. Photo: Richard Nyberg, USAID

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try of Defense, are piloting bioremediation technology to determine if this process can reduce dioxin concentrations in the soil to environmentally safe limits. These tests are expected to help guide future remediation efforts. The U.S. Congress allocated an additional \$3 million for continued assistance for environmental remediation and related health activities. This funding follows an initial \$3 million provided in 2007 for dioxin mitigation and health projects in Vietnam, for a combined total of \$6 million.

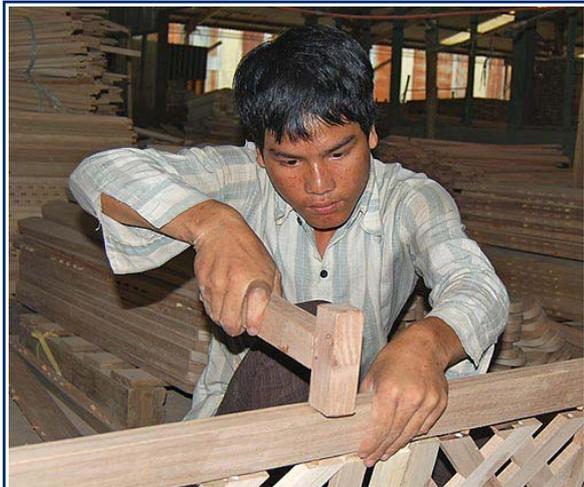
Of the \$6 million total, about one-third is programmed for health related activities, which are already under way. The remaining amount is dedicated to environmental remediation efforts, which the USAID is developing in close collaboration with the Government of Vietnam and in coordination with the efforts of other donors.

As part of its broader aid program, the United States has had a long history of providing help to Vietnamese with disabilities without regard to the cause of their disability. Since 1989, the American people through USAID have contributed more than \$46 million to support Vietnamese with disabilities. From 2001 to 2007, the United States spent over \$2.5 million to build Vietnamese capacity to study the effects of Agent Orange/dioxin.

For more news about USAID/Vietnam, visit:
<http://vietnam.usaid.gov>

1 Million Hits: Legal Websites Enhance Transparency

Using software developed by USAID, the first three provincial online E-Official Gazettes containing all legal documents — equivalent to the U.S. Federal Register — have been launched in Ho Chi Minh City, Binh Duong and Dong Nai in early 2009. The three websites have attracted more than a million visits so far, providing Vietnamese citizens and potential investors with quick access to government regulations.



A Kha, 17, learns the carpentry trade and discovers a path out of poverty through a USAID-funded apprenticeship in Kon Tum. Photo by Richard Nyberg, USAID

Grammy Winning Ozomatli Band Reinforces HIV Messages



The Latin band Ozomatli performed a concert for hundreds of HIV orphans, people living with HIV, recovering drug users and other disadvantaged populations served by USAID, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Department of Defense through the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief in Ho Chi Minh City. The May 14 concert reinforced messages of non-discrimination towards those infected or affected by HIV. It was coordinated through the Embassy, Consulate, USAID and CDC. Photo: Richard Nyberg, USAID