



Lessons Learned and Best Practice on HPAI in Africa: AU-IBAR Perspectives

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Structure

- **Introduction**
- **The Continuing Threat**
- **Lessons Learned**
- **Best Practice**
- **Conclusion**



Introduction

- **Important work has been on HPAI done by different actors in Africa to develop/enhance pandemic/epidemic preparedness & response**
- **Efforts gained momentum since the advent of HPAI in Africa in 2006**
- **Various achievements have been realized in human skills development, coordination among stakeholders and sectors, early detection and rapid response, awareness raising on disease risk and behaviour change communication, and diagnostic capacity among others**



Introduction

- **AU-IBAR directly involved in 3 projects funded by AfDB, USAID and EC respectively**
- **The broadest effort on HPAI made through the EU supported programs to support the development (Alive executed) and implementation of INAPs in Africa (SPINAP –AHI program)**
- **All programs successfully executed and closed except SPINAP that is due for closure in Dec 2010**



Introduction

- **Important results realized in the enhancement of human skill, lab capacities, com & awareness creation, collaboration across sectors and departments, private and public sectors etc**
- **Important lessons have been learned and will serve to inform future programming, institutional behaviour and relationships and investment in animal and public health services**



The Continuing Threat

- **Threat of HPAI and pandemic influenza**
 - **Entrenchment**
- **Emergence and re-emergence of infectious diseases**
 - **Various factors responsible**
- **Weak National public health and veterinary capacities**
 - **Underdevelopment of capacity and infrastructure**
 - **Under investment**
- **Weak coordination and collaboration among actors**



Lessons Learned

- 1. Integrated National Action Plans (INAPs/IAPs) are intra-country plans lacking in cross-border interventions.**
 - As SPINAP was designed to support INAP/IAP implementation, it primarily focused on intra-country concerns. However, cross-border coordination is essential for effective management of trans-boundary diseases like HPAI.*
- 2. Most countries have been found to have very weak animal and human health capacities.**
 - The effective management of AHI and other zoonoses can only be realized thro' investment in sustainable strengthening animal and human health services*



Lessons Learned 2

- 3. IBAR adopted a demand led approach in the provision of financial and technical support to countries. *Approach is empowering and has great potential for sustainable capacity building of national disease prevention and control systems in Africa***
- 4. Countries developed emergency preparedness plans against HPAI that can be applied for other disease emergencies. *These need to be tested and updated regularly to ensure they are ready for rapid operationalization***



Lessons learned 3

5. Most countries have wide resources gaps for the implementation of their IAPs/INAPs. However, even where additional resources have been available to the country, they were not necessarily channelled through the INAPs, leading to erosion of potential impact

- **Investments to strengthen animal and human health systems should be channelled through the Integrated National Action Plans or other National/ Regional strategies for coordinated and systematic capacity enhancement**



Lessons learned 4

6. Consistent effort made through the HPAI program has narrowed the gap between animal (livestock and wildlife) and human health and communication professionals, effectively laying the foundation for the “*one world one health concept*”.

- **AU member states with the support of AU-IBAR, technical and development partners should invest more resources to deepen and broaden collaboration among the different public health sectors in line with the one health strategic framework**



Lessons learned 5

7. The HPAI threat in general and executed programs have increased appreciation and adoption of communication as a tool for disease prevention and control especially by veterinary services.

- **Participating countries should capitalize on the momentum generated through the program to institutionalize communication in their animal health services – may need initial external support**

8. The Coordination of SPINAP & other HPAI Programs could probably have benefitted by working through the Regional Economic Communities



Lesson 6

9. Disease prevention and control systems developed for one disease can be adapted to other diseases. E.g. Use of surveillance systems established for RP on AI surveillance and adaptation of diagnostic procedures and case management capacities established for H5N1 to H1N1 by affected countries

- *However, it is more useful to invest in the strengthening of systems than creation of specialized individual disease capacities*

10. HPAI has brought multiple actors together on a common platform. This should be strengthened



Best Practice

- i. **The demand led approach taken by IBAR in this program is good practice that needs to be sustained in future and emulation by others.**
 - **It complies with the aid effectiveness agenda adopted by major development partners**
- ii. **The strategy of working directly with member states has won praise and yielded benefits for both IBAR and the countries.**
 - **This may be the best strategy to deliver benefits where they are due. However, it should be improved in future by coordinating similar actions through the RECs to entrench ownership and sustainability at both national and sub-regional levels**



Best Practice 2

- **Execution of the SPINAP through national structures and with national staff offered opportunity to build capacity and entrench sustainability of the program.**
 - **Though challenging, it is seen a good practice for capacity building and program delivery**



Conclusion

- **HPAI has brought about important lessons that will positively influence programming and capacity building of Africa's animal and public Health systems**
- **The unity of purpose created by the HPAI threat among development and technical partners should be extended to support development of the animal resources sector in general**



African Union
Interafrican Bureau for Animal Resources

THANK YOU; MERCI; AHSANTENI

