

United Nations Development Programme

Programme of Assistance to the Palestinian People
برنامج الامم المتحدة الانمائي/ برنامج مساعدة الشعب الفلسطيني



Terms of Reference

Task Title: **UN Interagency Joint Programme Formulation**
Location: **Jerusalem**
Section/Unit: **Agricultural, Rural and Economic Development Unit**
Project Title: **Avian Influenza Prevention and Control Programme**
Project Ref: **Atlas 51437**
Mission duration: **4 weeks**

Background:

The emergence of outbreaks of avian influenza (AI) caused by the highly pathogenic H5N1 influenza A virus, and its rapid spread among poultry across the world in recent years, and more actively in the last months, is currently a cause of great concern as it poses immediate and severe threats to animal and human health. The sub-region, West Bank & Gaza Strip, Israel, Jordan and Egypt, is at particularly high risk because of the large number of wild birds crossing it, with increased opportunities to spread the infection among domestic poultry. The outbreaks are of particular concern due to their dramatic and detrimental effect on public health, agriculture, and food security. Furthermore, the human, social and economic consequences of an influenza pandemic would be catastrophic, with loss of millions of lives.

Since March 23, the avian flu was confirmed in several farms in the Gaza Strip, six confirmed on April 6. Measures for containment and control are underway, they include monitoring and surveillance and culling and disposal within a 3km radius of the initial outbreak. It has been estimated that about 2 million fowls in Gaza and another 4.7 million fowls in the West Bank will be subject to culling in case of other outbreaks in these areas. So far, all suspected human cases, four in Gaza Strip and one in the West Bank, were negative.

A recent WHO mission revealed that the Palestinian Authority (PA) has a limited ability to combat any more outbreaks of AI. They lack a cohesive monitoring and surveillance system for early detection (i.e. the ability to take samples from non-infected areas and to apply appropriate bio-safety measures according to international specifications to prevent further spreading). Moreover, authorities are unable to compensate farmers and poultry owners for their lost assets. At the public health level, there is not enough public awareness among the general public and public health workers regarding the importance of protecting themselves from the risk of exposure. Furthermore, hospitals are not properly prepared in case of an outbreak in humans because of a shortage of resources and equipment.

The necessity to respond quickly to contain the spread of the AI required unprecedented coordination between various UN agencies as well as between all UN agencies and donor countries. The approach to action is rooted in the UN System Strategic approach adopted at the Pledging Conference in Beijing in January 2006.

Within this framework, a preliminary UN inter-agency plan was developed, providing a platform for a coordinated response of all UN agencies, facilitating each ones' technical expertise and contribution within a single framework. To this end, a comprehensive Joint Programme Document is needed delineating roles and interagency cooperation. A Steering Committee will be established, including UN agencies and donors, to provide strategic guidance and communication at the highest level and a Project Implementation Unit (PIU) will be set up for day-to-day implementation operations. The implementation of the Programme will be undertaken in full cooperation and coordination with the Palestinian Authority's ministries and agencies.

Expected Deliverables:

The consultant is expected to produce the following by the end of his/her mission:

1. A comprehensive interagency Joint Programme Document to guide the UN country team response to avian influenza.
2. A joint coordination structure for the UN country team in accordance with the UN interagency coordination structure.

Scope of work

The consultant will be responsible for the development of a comprehensive Joint Programme Document based on the current interagency framework and the technical inputs of UN agencies. More specifically the consultant will be required to do the following:

1. Review the already formulated UN interagency framework and make an analysis of current status of the framework.
2. Conduct meetings with individual UN agencies to collect their input to further develop the framework components.
3. Coordinate with specialized consultants to review their input to the framework/project.
4. Conduct meetings with the national stakeholders to synchronize the UN interagency project with existing national plans, initiatives, strategies, and policies related to AI response.
5. Make an assessment of the framework to specify components which require further development and modifications and identify components that need to be added to the framework rendering it more practical and effective.
6. Formulate an outline for the Joint Programme Document to be reviewed and approved by UN agencies.
7. Propose a joint coordination structure for the UN country team in the Palestinian Territories in accordance with the Global UN interagency coordination structure.
8. Formulate, in coordination with UN country team, the coordination strategy and implementation modality for the programme based on the proposed structure mentioned above in item (7). The consultant should ensure the presence of clear articulation of the value added for: each UN agency involved according to mandate and comparative advantage and the combined effort of the UN country team.

Requirements:

- Advanced university degree in organizations development, planning, socio-economics, developmental studies or related field;
- At least eight years of experience in designing, planning, and evaluating development programmes in an international setting;
- Experience in crisis management or post-crisis recovery;
- Knowledge of UN system;
- Ability to work under pressure and to meet strict guidelines;
- Fluent in English; including excellent report-writing and programme design skills.

Salary determined according to qualifications.

Qualified candidates should send their CV with a short cover letter to the following address:

UNDP/PAPP
Agriculture, Rural & Economic Development Unit
Avian Influenza and Pandemic Response
Reference: **UN Interagency Joint Programme Formulation**
4A Yaqubi Street
P.O. Box 51359
Jerusalem
or
Fax: 972-2-6268223
or
E-mail: hr.ps@undp.org

Please visit our website at: <http://www.papp.undp.org/>

This position is listed at: <http://www.papp.undp.org/nen/en/aboutundp/vacancies.html>

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