

## Livelihoods Program Guidance for Avian Flu: Key Messages Draft June 30, 2006

This document is intended as draft guidance to IPPs and others involved in programming related to avian and pandemic flu. Please send comments, suggestions for improvement, and questions to Bill Fiebig at [wfiebig@dc.savechildren.org](mailto:wfiebig@dc.savechildren.org).

### Key Findings and Best Practices

Conventional cooking (temperatures at or above 70 degrees C in all parts of a food item) will inactivate the H5N1 virus. Properly cooked poultry meat is, therefore, safe to consume.

There is no epidemiological evidence to indicate that people have been infected with H5N1 virus following consumption of properly cooked poultry or eggs.

The H5N1 virus, if present in poultry meat, is not killed by refrigeration or freezing.

Home slaughtering and preparation of sick or dead poultry for food is hazardous: **this practice must be stopped.**

**SC should only relay messages generated by Government** to the communities with which we work.

**SC should not** be seen as calling for culling actions as this should be a Government response to an identified problem. **SC should not** be seen as part of any compensation program if culling occurs.

Live poultry markets are problematic. The greatest risk of exposure to the virus is through handling and slaughter of live infected poultry. Good hygiene practices are essential during slaughter and post-slaughter handling to prevent exposure via raw poultry meat or cross contamination from poultry to other foods, food preparation surfaces or equipment.

One of the biggest challenges at this level is how, and at what cost, monitoring of poultry markets can be achieved effectively. In fact, poultry are most often utilized in socio-cultural exchanges (HH visits, weddings, funerals, etc.) and diffusion/exchanges of birds within and across communities occur on a daily basis in most developing countries.

**Save the Children should** assist national surveillance activities by:

- Joining and actively participating in working groups on national pandemic preparedness and response led by Ministries of Health and Agriculture (Extension & Veterinary Services) and supported by WHO and FAO<sup>1</sup>;
- Assisting our beneficiary populations to report and/or encourage reporting of sick poultry;
- Advocating for strategies that address the needs and risks of the poorest and most vulnerable populations; and
- Engaging Save the Children's partners and civil society in this critical area.

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<sup>1</sup> Protect Poultry – Protect People: Basic advice for stopping the spread of avian flu. ECTAD – Emergency Centre for Transboundary Animal Diseases. FAO.