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**BUREAU FOR DEMOCRACY, CONFLICT, AND HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE (DCHA)  
BUREAU FOR GLOBAL HEALTH (GH)**

## **Global – Influenza A/H1N1**

Fact Sheet #1, Fiscal Year (FY) 2009

May 5, 2009

### **BACKGROUND AND KEY DEVELOPMENTS**

- In late March, health workers began to detect cases of an influenza-like illness in three separate regions of Mexico. On April 25, health officials confirmed the emergence of a novel influenza A/H1N1 virus causing the illnesses.
- On April 27, the U.N. World Health Organization (WHO) raised the pandemic influenza alert to Phase Four on a six-phase scale, indicating sustained, but localized, transmission of the influenza A/H1N1 virus. WHO subsequently raised the pandemic influenza alert to Phase Five on April 29. Phase Five is characterized by human-to-human spread of the virus in at least two countries in one WHO region.
- The WHO phase designation is based upon geographic scope and not severity of the virus. Health officials have not identified sustained human-to-human transmission of influenza A/H1N1 outside of North America.
- Although most countries remain unaffected, the Phase Five declaration signals that a pandemic could be imminent and that limited time remains to finalize the organization, communication, and implementation of planned mitigation measures.
- On May 1, USAID activated a Washington, D.C.-based Response Management Team (RMT) to coordinate the U.S. Government (USG) response to international pandemic influenza, facilitate information sharing, and provide assistance through international and domestic agencies to contain the outbreak.

<b>NUMBERS AT A GLANCE</b>		<b>SOURCE</b>
<b>Total Confirmed Influenza A/H1N1 Cases</b>	1,490	WHO - May 5, 2009
<b>Number of Countries with Confirmed Influenza A/H1N1 Cases</b>	21	WHO - May 5, 2009
<b>Total Number of Influenza A/H1N1-related Deaths</b>	30	WHO - May 5, 2009

### **FY 2009 HUMANITARIAN FUNDING PROVIDED TO DATE**

**USAID/GH Assistance to Mexico .....\$6,072,750**

### **CURRENT SITUATION**

- As of May 5 at 1600 GMT, 21 countries had officially reported 1,490 cases of influenza A/H1N1 infection, according to WHO. Mexico remains the most-affected country, with 822 confirmed cases and 29 related deaths.
- On April 30, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) launched a preliminary appeal for approximately \$4.4 million to assist in influenza A/H1N1 response efforts.

#### ***Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC)***

- As of May 5 at 1600 GMT, health officials have confirmed influenza A/H1N1 cases in four LAC countries, with 822 confirmed cases in Mexico and a total of four confirmed cases in Colombia, Costa Rica, and El Salvador.
- On May 3, the Government of Colombia (GOC) announced that the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) laboratory had confirmed the first influenza A/H1N1 case in Colombia. The GOC National Health Institute continues to monitor additional suspected cases.
- On May 2, the Government of Costa Rica announced that the CDC had confirmed one of two suspected influenza A/H1N1 cases in Costa Rica. The Costa Rican Red Cross has assigned 31 staff to monitor the situation and 12 ambulances to transport patients to designated hospitals.
- To contain the outbreak, the Government of Mexico (GOM) Ministry of Health closed schools countrywide on April 28 and issued guidance to cancel or limit public gatherings. On May 4, the mayor of Mexico City announced a gradual reopening of public meeting places in the coming days, including restaurants on May 6 and museums, libraries, high schools, and universities on May 7.

- The Mexican Red Cross is currently implementing a national strategy that includes specialized care for infected individuals, public information campaigns, and training of more than 12,000 field-based response volunteers.
- On April 29, the Pan-American Health Organization (PAHO) announced plans to send testing kits to affected countries in Latin America and the Caribbean to assist in virus identification.

#### *Asia and the Pacific*

- On April 28, health officials in New Zealand reported three confirmed cases of influenza A/H1N1 illness, the first confirmed influenza A/H1N1 cases in Asia and the Pacific.
- As of May 5 at 1600 GMT, health officials have confirmed influenza A/H1N1 cases in Hong Kong, Republic of Korea, and New Zealand.

#### *Europe, the Middle East, and Central Asia (EMCA)*

- To date, WHO has reported 108 confirmed cases of influenza A/H1N1 illness in 12 countries in the EMCA region.

#### *Africa*

- To date, no influenza A/H1N1 cases have been reported in Africa.
- On May 2 and 3, the Humanitarian Pandemic Preparedness (H2P) Initiative held a regional workshop in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, to discuss pandemic preparedness and response plans for East Africa.

#### **USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE**

- On April 29, USAID/GH committed \$2.5 million to PAHO and \$2.5 million to WHO for influenza A/H1N1 response activities in Latin America and the Caribbean.
- On May 1, USAID activated a Washington, D.C.-based RMT to coordinate the USG response to international pandemic influenza, facilitate information sharing, and provide assistance through international and domestic agencies to contain the outbreak.
- To contain the spread of influenza A/H1N1, USAID/GH and the USAID/DCHA Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (USAID/OFDA) have coordinated the shipment of 100,000 personal protection equipment (PPE) kits, valued at \$973,000 including transport, to Mexico from stockpiles in Savannah, Georgia.
- On April 29, a disaster risk management specialist from USAID/OFDA's Latin American and Caribbean regional office in San José, Costa Rica, arrived in Mexico to coordinate response activities with PAHO, the U.S. Embassy in Mexico, and USAID/Mexico. USAID Washington, D.C.- and field-based staff continue to monitor the situation to determine if additional assistance is required.
- The USAID-funded H2P Initiative has launched a new website, [www.pandemicpreparedness.org](http://www.pandemicpreparedness.org), hosting communications resources for pandemic preparedness that can be adapted to meet country-specific needs. The materials posted have been approved by USAID and partners, including IFRC, InterAction, the CORE Group, the Academy for Educational Development, and U.N. organizations. The H2P Initiative plans to post additional materials on the site in the coming days.

#### **USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE FOR INFLUENZA A/H1N1**

<b>FY 2009</b>			
<i>Implementing Partner</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Amount</i>
<b>USAID/GH ASSISTANCE<sup>1</sup></b>			
GOM	Emergency Relief Supplies	Mexico	\$875,000
PAHO	Health	Central America	\$2,500,000
PAHO	Emergency Relief Supplies	Panama	\$43,750
WHO	Health	Central America	\$2,500,000
	Transportation		\$103,875
<b>TOTAL USAID/GH</b>			<b>\$6,022,625</b>
<b>TOTAL USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE FOR PANDEMIC INFLUENZA IN FY 2009</b>			<b>\$6,022,625</b>

<sup>1</sup> USAID funding represents anticipated or actual obligated amounts as of May 5, 2009.

#### **PUBLIC DONATION INFORMATION**

- The most effective way people can assist relief efforts is by making cash contributions to humanitarian organizations that are conducting relief operations. A list of humanitarian organizations that are accepting cash donations for pandemic response efforts can be found at [www.interaction.org](http://www.interaction.org).

- USAID encourages cash donations because they allow aid professionals to procure the exact items needed (often in the affected region); reduce the burden on scarce resources (such as transportation routes, staff time, warehouse space, etc); can be transferred very quickly and without transportation costs; support the economy of the disaster-stricken region; and ensure culturally, dietary, and environmentally appropriate assistance.
- More information can be found at:
  - USAID: [www.usaid.gov](http://www.usaid.gov) – Keyword: Donations
  - The Center for International Disaster Information: [www.cidi.org](http://www.cidi.org) or (703) 276-1914
  - Information on relief activities of the humanitarian community can be found at [www.reliefweb.int](http://www.reliefweb.int)