



INTERNATIONAL FOOD POLICY RESEARCH INSTITUTE
sustainable solutions for ending hunger and poverty

2033 K Street, NW
Washington, DC 20006-1002 USA
Tel: +1.202.862.5600
Fax: +1.202.467.4439
Email: ifpri@cgiar.org
www.ifpri.org

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Related Activities of the Poverty, Health, and Nutrition Division (PHN)

Homestead Food Production for Better Health and Nutrition

Deficiencies of essential micronutrients are now recognized as the most widespread nutritional problem facing the world today. The IFPRI program on this global health issue includes research focused on small-holder agriculture and nutrition through homestead food production (HFP) programming. IFPRI is collaborating with Helen Keller International (HKI) to develop and enhance the HFP program to improve intervention delivery and utilization channels and increase nutrition impacts for vulnerable groups. Currently, the HFP program supports home gardens, small animal husbandry enterprises, and nutrition education. It aims to reduce poverty, empower women, and improve household access to micronutrient-rich foods such as fruit, vegetables, dairy, meat, fish, and eggs.

With resources from the Agriculture and Health Platform (AHRP), IFPRI and HKI will collaborate to carry out operations research and apply program theory to investigate these program components in Cambodia. The objective of this project is to study the delivery and utilization aspects of HFP program towards understanding the impact pathways and developing an enhanced HFP model for better health and nutrition. The project will identify and describe bottlenecks and opportunities in implementation, assess key aspects of the quality of service delivery, study the perceptions and attitudes towards the program of different stakeholders, assess the roles of the mothers groups, assess the current nutrition education package and potential use of behavior change communications (BCC) tools, and identify opportunities for effectively linking the program to preventive health services and inputs.

RENEWAL: Regional Network on AIDS, Livelihoods and Food Security

RENEWAL is a regional "network-of-networks" in sub-Saharan Africa. Currently active in five 'hub' countries (Malawi, Uganda, Zambia, South Africa and Kenya), RENEWAL comprises national

networks of food and nutrition-relevant organizations (public, private and non-governmental) together with partners in AIDS and public health. RENEWAL aims to enhance understanding of the worsening interactions between HIV/AIDS and food and nutrition security, and facilitate a comprehensive response to these interactions. Core objectives are:

- To reduce critical gaps in understanding how livelihoods, particularly those deriving from agriculture, a) contribute to the further spread of HIV (susceptibility), and b) are affected by HIV and AIDS (vulnerability);
- To generate new policy-relevant knowledge on how households and communities may strengthen both their resistance to HIV transmission and their resilience to the impacts of AIDS, and
- To enable relevant institutions (in particular, governments) to generate and to act upon realistic priorities for responding to the interactions of AIDS epidemics with food and nutrition insecurity.

The third phase of RENEWAL activity, spanning from 2007 to 2010, is further extending and deepening understanding of the two-way interactions between HIV/AIDS and food and nutrition security, and to improve the effectiveness of food and nutrition-relevant policy and programming in the context of HIV and AIDS. RENEWAL's action research agenda is focusing on three key themes:

1. AIDS, Agriculture and Livelihood Security
2. AIDS, Community Resilience and Social Protection
3. AIDS and Nutrition Security

Avian Influenza and Nutrition

Since its re-emergence, highly pathogenic avian influenza H5N1 has attracted considerable public and media attention. While there is fear that the virus may mutate into a strain capable of sustained human-to-human transmission, the greatest impact to date has been on the highly diverse poultry industries in affected countries. In response to this, HPAI control measures have so far focused on implementing prevention and eradication measures in poultry populations, with more than 175 million birds culled in Southeast Asia alone. Significantly less emphasis has been placed on assessing the efficacy of risk reduction measures, including their effects on the livelihoods of smallholder farmers and their families. In response to this, the UK Department for International Development (DFID) is funding a multidisciplinary HPAI research project for Southeast Asia and Africa to improve local and global capacity for evidence-based decision making on the control of HPAI (and other diseases with epidemic potential). IFPRI joins a research consortium on this project that includes the International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI), Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), Royal Veterinary College in London, and the Rural Development Research Consortium, University of California. The specific purpose of the

project is to aid decision makers in developing evidence-based, pro-poor HPAI control measures at national and international levels. IFPRI is involved in all five of the work packages of the project: disease risk; livelihood impact; institutional mechanisms; risk communication; and synthesis analysis.

PHN has contributed to this project through participation on the livelihood impacts team. The research is focused on investigating the impact of HPAI on nutrition. Using data from the Indonesia Family Life Survey (IFLS), the importance of animal source foods in the diets and nutrition of young children was first characterized. Next, the team has developed models to simulate the effects of an HPAI shock on child anthropometry (stunting, wasting, and underweight) and hemoglobin concentrations (anemia) through the removal of poultry and eggs from the child diet. A similar analysis is planned for the country of Kenya.