

The word "Appeal" is written in a white, serif font on an orange background. To the right of the word is a white arrow pointing to the right.

The International Federation's mission is to improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity. It is the world's largest humanitarian organization and its millions of volunteers are active in over 183 countries.

Appeal number MDR00018

11 February 2006

Avian influenza (ai) preparedness, mitigation, and response

Special focus on East Asia and Southeast Asia

In brief

Update no. 2; Appeal target: CHF 17.4m (USD 13.4m or EUR 11m); Appeal coverage: 18.3%; Outstanding needs: CHF 13.8m;

(click here to go directly to the attached Contributions List, also available on the website).

Appeal history:

- Appeal launched on 20 April 2006 for CHF 17.4m (USD 13.4m or EUR 11m) for up to the end of 2007.
- Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) allocated: CHF 691,000 (USD 531,000 or ERU 438,000).

Summary: This update provides a snapshot of most recent avian influenza initiatives of East Asian and Southeast Asian national societies, especially critical in the face of the recent renewal of avian influenza outbreaks among humans and poultry. Indonesia has come into the spotlight as it has the most avian influenza related deaths – 63 to date – compared to other countries worldwide. In light of the number of initiatives worldwide supported by the Global Avian Influenza Appeal, donors are encouraged to provide more support to improve the low coverage of the appeal.

For further information concerning Federation programmes or operations in this or other countries, or for national society profiles, please visit the Federation's website at <http://www.ifrc.org>.

<click here for contact details>

The Situation

Following an extended period of no outbreaks, since November 2006, the countries in Asia and Africa experienced a new wave of outbreaks of H5N1 in birds. Although many health specialists have advised that these occurrences are seasonal trends and do not indicate a rise in H5N1 transmission, the recent poultry outbreaks of avian influenza in China, Japan, South Korea, Thailand, Indonesia, and Viet Nam are a matter of major public concern. Furthermore, the reports from Bali of two pigs that have contracted the avian influenza virus further highlighted the potential risk of the virus mutating further.



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

The confirmation that H5N1 was the cause of death in a six year old girl in Indonesia's Yogyakarta (25 January 2007) once again reminded the world that the avian influenza (AI) virus continues to present a major health threat. With this human fatality, Indonesia has recorded 63 H5N1-related deaths since July 2005 - more than any other country in the world. According to the latest statistics from the World Health Organization (WHO), since 2003, the H5N1 strain is known to have infected 272 people and killed 166 in eleven countries across Asia, Europe, Middle East and Africa (source dated 6 February 2007: www.who.int).

Since January 2007, Hong Kong has been closely monitoring the local bird population after identifying H5N1 virus in five dead birds after a long absence of avian influenza outbreaks. There are worries over potential outbreaks in China following a reported case of the disease in an Anhui farmer in the middle of January. In Japan, the highly virulent H5 variety of the avian influenza virus killed thousands of birds and chickens in the Miyazaki prefecture. Most recently, on 29 January, Japan confirmed a fresh outbreak of avian influenza at a poultry farm in the western prefecture of Okayama. In November of 2006, the South Korean ministry of agriculture confirmed a new highly-virulent case has broken out in central South Korea in a poultry farm in Cheonan. Most recently, during the week of 22 January, South Korean quarantine workers started to cull hundreds of thousands of poultry following another outbreak.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

Given the potential of avian influenza's conversion into human pandemic influenza (PI) with disastrous consequences, the International Federation continues to address avian influenza through prevention and risk mitigation activities. Globally and regionally, the Federation secretariat carries out its technical, coordination, representation, as well as funding support to the national societies, with their respective activities and plans of action to implement measures in avian and human influenza prevention and preparedness.

It is anticipated that these initiatives provide viable risk reduction and increase the relevant national and global response capacity to AI and pandemic influenza. Many challenges remain as contributing factors to the overall vulnerability of populations to AI, such as low public awareness, misconceptions about avian influenza and safe backyard farming practices, as well as lack of appropriate hygiene habits in endemic areas.

From the Global Avian Influenza Preparedness, Mitigation and Response Appeal (MDR00018), the Federation presently supports the national societies in Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Mongolia and Viet Nam. The AI appeal is broadly designed to focus on capacity building, scaling-up of capacity and management, contingency planning for concomitant disasters, communications and service continuity planning. In addition, outside this global appeal, individual national societies have continued their own plans in combating avian influenza, using technical advice and guidance from the Federation's Secretariat.

Through its strong outreach to remote communities with its existing volunteer networks, the respective national societies play an essential role in prevention and control, through educating these communities in preventative hygiene measures, as well as the knowledge on proper handling of poultry, thus reducing the risk of loss of livelihood. activities are also furthering commitments made by Asia/Pacific national societies in November 2006, at the 7th Asia and Pacific Regional Conference in Singapore.

East Asia

As indicated by recent outbreaks, avian influenza remains a very real threat in East Asia. Low literacy rates and lack of access to information in rural China and rural Mongolia are keeping farmers from fully comprehending the symptoms of AI, and the measures which can be taken to prevent the disease. At the same time, backyard farmers that make dollars a day in particular fear the serious loss of income and social stigma they may face if they were to report dead animals.

In view of the above, through its strong outreach to remote communities with its existing volunteer networks, the respective national societies play an essential role in prevention and control, through educating these communities in preventative hygiene measures, as well as the knowledge on proper handling of poultry, thus reducing the risk of loss of livelihood. Indeed, many East Asian national societies are seen as important player in national response against avian influenza outbreaks and in pandemic preparedness.

In January, the Mongolian Red Cross Society (MRCS) and the Red Cross Society of China (RCSC) finalised their funding requests to the Federation's Global AI Appeal. This funding will allow the respective national societies build on the accumulated experience and scale up activities of raising public awareness on the prevention and detection of avian influenza (H5N1), as well as the appropriate measures required in the event of a suspected incidence of H5N1.

China

Despite considerable national efforts in China, the prevention and control of infectious diseases still face challenges, as it requires a full community outreach that complements the governmental efforts. With the Chinese government having the lead role in disease prevention and control and coordination, the RCSC works in collaboration with different government departments in providing information and key messages to communities. The national society has good access to vulnerable groups and communities, as the Red Cross staff and volunteers are easily accepted amongst the communities.

The following challenges related to prevention and control of infectious diseases programming are identified by RCSC:

- the country's large geographical area with complicated conditions and uneven development;
- cultural and traditional differences in the regions that pose considerable constraint to effective development of infectious disease prevention and control activities; and,
- the generally low level of education amongst the general public, compounded by the lack of knowledge about the prevention of infectious diseases, which may lead to panic amongst some communities.

The national society prioritised its community-based health education targeting primary school children, housewives, backyard poultry owners and chicken sellers, as well as wider communities through community leaders. The RCSC, as an organisation with highly dedicated and community-based local branches as its backbone, is in the best position to access to these groups.

The community health education will be carried out by Red Cross volunteers around the interactive dialogues on AI awareness, distribution of information, education and communication (IEC) materials to the people in crowded areas with poor hygiene and sanitation, as well as provision of information to poultry owners on maintaining safe poultry farming practices in their backyard farms.

Democratic People's Republic of Korea

The Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) Red Cross conducted awareness raising workshops for 260 household doctors, integrated into their public health in emergencies activities. To this end, the DPRK Red Cross has cooperated with the Federation and the Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) and conducted 13 two-day communicable disease control workshops for 260 household doctors working in Federation supported project areas. The workshops addressed AI health and hygiene awareness, along with education on malaria, tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS.

The national society, in consultation with WHO and MoPH, developed a manual covering key facts on avian influenza. A total of 1,500 copies of this manual were printed and distributed to 64 cities/counties in five provinces.

The DPRK Red Cross developed a list for barrier kits in consultation with WHO and MoPH and procured 770 AI barrier kits at the end of 2006. These kits will be distributed and stocked in 56 cities/counties in North and South Phyongan, North Hwanghae and South Hamgyong provinces to ensure timely response in the event of an epidemic.

Hong Kong

With the Hong Kong government and the media covering most of the mass promotion needs, the Hong Kong Red Cross (HKRC) branch of the RCSC continues to monitor the development of AI in the country. Over the past few months, however, the Hong Kong Red Cross focused on staff protection, including giving flu vaccinations to 114 staff and volunteers who are working closely with high risk groups. Moreover, the HKRC branch has conducted four infection control briefing sessions for 250 staff. These staff members will now deliver the same sessions to their volunteers.

Japan

Following the outbreak of H5N1 in poultry in Japan, the director of the Fukuoka Prefecture Red Cross blood centre served as an important focal point for media inquiries about the disease. At the same time, with Narita International Airport receiving an average of 20,000 people per day on international flights, arrangements have been made with the airport to transport any person infected with the disease to the city's Red Cross hospital, which has an infectious diseases unit.

Mongolia

There is a need for health education initiatives targeting primary school children, herding families and rural communities at the *aimag* and *soum* levels. The MRCS's highly dedicated local branches are the backbone of the organisation and are in the best position to work with vulnerable groups, as they already possess an established presence in communities. At the same time the MRCS has wealth of knowledge in implementing community-based health programming based on the society's experience in HIV/AIDS, first aid and social welfare programming. At the end of November 2006, the MRCS health programme was subject of a comprehensive review supported by the Finnish Red Cross. One of the conclusions of the review team was the need for incorporating AI prevention and preparedness activities into its current health programme.

Achievements will be made through a range of community awareness activities at different levels, targeting the general public. Red Cross mid-level branches at *aimags* will organize mainstreaming on health education on avian influenza. This will include interactive dialogues on AI awareness and distribution of IEC materials to crowded areas in communities with inadequate hygiene and sanitation. The project will produce and distribute pamphlets containing messages tailored to different target groups. The national society will focus on five provinces – Khuvsgul, Bulgan, Uvs, Khovd and Bayan Ulgii – as the MRCS has identified these communities having high risk of contracting AI from the migratory birds. These provinces have been selected because of their vicinity to China's recent outbreaks, and ties in strategically to the objectives laid out in the Global Avian Influenza Appeal.

The spread of the virus through migratory birds has been identified as a key mode of transmission for the H5N1 virus; this makes Mongolia vulnerable as the country is the host to a large number of them. In total, 466 species of wild birds have been recorded. At the same time Mongolians raise chickens, geese and ducks for income, as well as pigeons and carrion for pleasure. Some ethnic minorities domesticate vultures as a means of earning an income. There are more than ten commercial poultry farms in Mongolia, mainly for egg production, with household farms accounting for approximately 400,000 chicken, geese and ducks.

Southeast Asia

In the recent months, H5N1 have reappeared in several Southeast Asian countries. Cambodia, Thailand, and Vietnam reported outbreak among birds while in Indonesia the situation continues to worsen with the continued outbreaks in domestic poultry, as well as several transmissions to humans. In Indonesia, the H5N1

virus is considered endemic in 27 of its 33 provinces. To date, the country has the highest in the world number of H5N1 associated human deaths at 63, surpassing Viet Nam. The total cumulative number of H5N1 cases in Indonesia stands at 81 (source dated 6 February 2007, www.who.int).

In total, three thirds of human cases of avian influenza H5N1 reported worldwide so far are currently concentrated in Southeast Asia, with the total cumulative number of confirmed cases from Cambodia, Indonesia, Thailand and Vietnam standing at 205 (75% of all cases worldwide, as of 6 February 2007).

Over the past six months, the work of the Federation's regional delegation for Southeast Asia and country delegations continued to focus on:

- providing technical support to regional Red Cross Red Crescent national societies in their ongoing AI programmes,
- supporting their fundraising activities,
- facilitating information and experience sharing between the national societies,
- coordinating and collaborating with other key regional players in avian influenza.

As part of these efforts, the national societies of Viet Nam, Cambodia and Indonesia have received funding through the Federation's global appeal. The application of the Red Cross Society of Timor Leste (CVTL) to this global fund is in the process. At the same time, the Cambodian Red Cross and Indonesian Red Cross (PMI) benefited from generous funding support of the American Red Cross (approximate total of CHF 616,000).

The Federation regional delegation continues to host monthly interagency coordination/information sharing meetings. These regional meetings are organised in close coordination and support from the regional offices of the UN-OCHA and United Nations System Influenza Coordination (UNSIC). The informal network around this meeting continues to expand. These meetings are primarily geared to provide an exchange forum for concerned international organizations, UN agencies, donor community and representatives from large private corporations based in Bangkok, while at the same time the outputs of these meetings are widely shared electronically with hundreds of people from different organizations throughout the region and the network of USA-based non-profit organizations.

One of the practical outputs from this networking resulted in drafting of joint avian influenza activity plan between the Federation, CARE, International Rescue Committee and the Asian Disaster Preparedness Centre.

Cambodia

The Cambodian Red Cross (CRC) is successfully conducting a programme for the prevention of avian influenza in nine of Cambodia's 24 provinces. Under this programme, 450 trained Red Cross volunteers have reached the owners of backyard farms, those involved in poultry trade and general public with simple hygiene and health education messages aimed to reduce the risk of transmission of the virus between the birds and from birds to humans in those communities.

Another important activity of the CRC in the past months has been further development of a CRC's pandemic preparedness and response plan. The CRC is now gearing up for the launch of the next phase of its avian influenza programme in 2007, with the funding support through the Federation global avian influenza appeal.

The Cambodian Red Cross (CRC) and the International Federation are cooperating with the national authorities, with the support from WHO and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), to conduct AI awareness and prevention activities in February this year.

Indonesia

Since the beginning of the year, Indonesia reported six human cases, of which five were fatal (29 January 2007, www.who.int). Of the total of 81 cases confirmed in Indonesia, 63 cases have been fatal (source dated 6 February 2007: www.who.int). Most cases of AI infection occurred to people that had direct contact with poultry within housing areas. To address the palpable health risk posed by avian influenza in the country, the national authorities called for an intergovernmental meeting on 15 January 2007 between the ministry of health, ministry of social welfare, ministry of agriculture, ministry of internal affairs and the representatives of the Jakarta, West Java and Banten government.

At the meeting, the various government bodies came to a critical decision: ban non-commercial chicken breeding in high risk areas to mitigate the spread of the virus from poultry to humans. The target areas are Jakarta, West Java and Banten. It also has a stock of Tamiflu in the public health centres of each of the provinces. To partly address AI risks on a long-term basis, the government plans to restructure chicken farming. The ministry of social welfare has also announced it will compensate the culling of chickens or other domestic birds.

In close coordination with the Federation country delegation, the Indonesian Red Cross (Palang Merah Indonesia or PMI) launched an AI public awareness campaign on avian influenza on 24 September 2005. Supported by the International Federation and American Red Cross, the current phase has intensified its avian influenza public awareness campaigns in nine most affected provinces, expected to run throughout 2007.

Subsequently, the campaign's second phase began on 27 December 2007 in Banda Aceh. As a member of the Indonesia National Committee for Avian Influenza Control and Pandemic and Influenza Preparedness (Komnas FPBI), the PMI chairman attends meetings hosted by Komnas. To extend the impact of its awareness campaign activities and the urgency of AI to its network of chapters and branches across the country, the PMI has established taskforces in ten targeted PMI provincial chapters and 50 branches.

As part of its campaign, a coordination meeting between PMI, American Red Cross and the Federation in December 2006 was a platform to discuss several AI initiatives: assessments, IEC materials and training-of-trainer in ten PMI chapters. The PMI has also met with USAID under its community-based AI control activities to discuss and update project areas/activities and IEC material.

The PMI has started training-of-trainers for national society volunteers in the province, with support from the American Red Cross. Up to the end of January 2007, 191 volunteers from seven chapters – Aceh, North Sumatra, Lampung, West Java, Central Java, Yogyakarta and Bali – have been trained. The trainings were facilitated by the provincial health department, agriculture/farming department, PMI national office and Federation staff. These trainings are giving volunteers competence in running AI campaigns, and include information on PMI's role in the pre-pandemic and pandemic stages, social mobilization, field practice, development of AI awareness plans of action, assessment and reporting.

The PMI, Federation and the American Red Cross are working together to test messages of the information, education and communication materials that will be distributed to recipient residents in ten provinces. In total, the PMI has printed close to 3 million leaflets targeting housewives, children, chicken farmers, sellers and consumers, as well as the general public. Large volumes of posters, flipcharts and banners are also being printed to support the campaign that is to be conducted by Red Cross volunteers.

In the spirit of understanding between CARE and the Federation at the global level to collaborate closely on avian influenza, the PMI has started discussions with the CARE in Indonesia to identify common activities and projects in the outbreak-affected communities.

A PMI representative has attended a global forum of non-governmental and international organizations on avian influenza held in Geneva in October 2006.

Viet Nam

There has been an influx of H5N1 outbreaks among birds since 19 December 2006. To date, the outbreak has affected seven provinces in the Mekong delta including Ca Mau, Bac Lieu, Hau Giang, Kieng Giang, Vinh Long, Tra Vinh and Soc Trang with no new human cases reported over the past two months. Provincial authorities have been ordered to address the outbreak by stepping up vaccinations, culling infected poultry and disinfecting poultry farms in high-risk areas.

During 2006, the Viet Nam National Red Cross (VNRC) has implemented a public education campaign in ten provinces- Lang Son, Bac Giang, Ha Tay, Thai Binh, Ninh Binh, Nghe An, Quang Tri, Da Nang, Tien Giang and Soc Trang. These activities were supported by the International Federation, the German Red Cross, American Red Cross and other partners of the VNRC. In September 2006, the society organized a lessons learnt forum to capitalize its programme achievements and identify critical areas for improvement. In the past months, 1,650 Red Cross volunteers trained under this programme continued to visit households and markets, explaining the benefits of applying good hygiene practices in daily life and disseminating information, education and communication materials.

In response to the recent recurrence of the AI in Viet Nam, the VNRC has sent guidelines to its 64 Red Cross chapters to join forces in AI prevention. Recently, it organized emergency meeting to discuss activities of the Red Cross in response to the AI outbreak in the Cuu Long river. VNRC has also launched AI dissemination events in Bac Giang, Ha Nam, Bac Lieu Lao Cai, Nam Dinh, Ca Mau and Tay Ninh provinces. Besides the support from the Federation, the VNRC also received financial support from the Ministry of Health (USD 5,100) to launch AI dissemination campaigns on AI prevention in Bac Giang, Ha Nam, Bac Lieu.

On 9 January, the ministry of health and Viet Nam Red Cross jointly launched a nationwide campaign to curb the spread of avian influenza among both poultry and humans in the wake of epidemic relapses in several Mekong Delta provinces. Epidemiologists warned that the current windy weather conditions and the low humidity are conducive to the transmission of the H5N1 virus from birds to human beings. The risk in Viet Nam will remain high from now until Tet holidays in mid-February.

The VNRC continues to enhance the dissemination campaign in ten targeted provinces of the project. In this 2nd phase of AI prevention, VNRC also initiated a new method to disseminate AI messages by integrating key messages on in wall calendars that were to be distributed to the communities in the project's ten targeted provinces. In addition, the VNRC will carry out some monitoring activities for the UNICEF project in January – March 2007.

Myanmar RC

The Myanmar Red Cross has disseminated avian influenza prevention messages through its existing network of community-based health/first aid volunteers. The Red Cross remains the only organization actively involved in AI prevention and education activities in the country.

Philippines

At the moment, the Philippines National Red Cross (PNRC) is one of the few organisations in the country that is actively promoting better avian influenza prevention and preparedness at the national level. It has organized avian influenza awareness raising campaigns in 20 provinces across the country. The Red Cross chapters of the targeted provinces have trained volunteer core disseminators on avian influenza who in turn will activate the volunteers in their communities. During the recent series of devastating typhoons that hit the country between September and December 2006, many of the national society's staff and volunteers were mobilised for the disaster response relief operations, resulting in slower AI operation over the past months,

especially in the typhoon-affected areas. The national project team is committed to revamp the project activities, as the chapters return to normality.

Singapore

The national board of the Singapore Red Cross has approved the Red Cross pandemic preparedness plan, including contingency planning for maintenance of its essential blood donor recruitment services in case of a pandemic outbreak.

Timor Leste

The Cruz Vermelha de Timor Leste (CVTL) plans to activate its avian influenza project in the first quarter of 2007. The project implementation has been postponed from mid-2006 due to the political insecurity. The project is supported by the German Red Cross.

Lao

With the bilateral support of the Danish Red Cross, the Lao Red Cross has been successfully implementing avian influenza awareness project. The project reaches 175 villages in 4 provinces (Vientiane Capital, Borikhamxay, Khammouane and Champassack). Under this project, the implementing Red Cross chapters approached the local government officers, village headmen, village self-organized groups, owners of poultry farms and other important players in their communities, seeking their cooperation for the project. In the course of two months alone (July to September 2006), 243 people including 98 female (including the employees of provinces) from the 3 target provinces and Vientiane Capital were involved in these activities.

Thailand

The Thai Red Cross Society is not directly in charge of avian influenza outbreak prevention, but rather the ministry of interior and ministry of public health. To date, (1-17 January 2007) daily surveillance by the ministry of public health's bureau of epidemiology's reported a total of 61 clinical influenza and/or pneumonia patients from 21 provinces. In addition, 11 new clinical influenza or pneumonia patients were reported on Jan 17th for investigation and are awaiting lab results.

The ministry has trained 80,000 village volunteers in a door-knocking campaign in the North and Northeast where the avian influenza outbreak happened. Similar trainings will also be launched in other regions. This week some 75,000 booklets on AI symptoms and preventative measures will be distributed to villages nationwide.

How we work

All International Federation assistance seeks to adhere to the [Code of Conduct for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organizations \(NGO's\) in Disaster Relief](#) and is committed to the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response \(Sphere\)](#) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

The Federation's Global Agenda

The International Federation's activities are aligned with under a Global Agenda, which sets out **four broad goals** to meet the Federation's mission to "improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity".

Global Agenda Goals:

- Reduce the numbers of deaths, injuries and impact from disasters.
- Reduce the number of deaths, illnesses and impact from diseases and public health emergencies.
- Increase local community, civil society and Red Cross Red Crescent capacity to address the most urgent situations of vulnerability.
- Reduce intolerance, discrimination and social exclusion and promote respect for diversity and human dignity.

Contact information

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

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Avian influenza: Preparedness. Mitigation & Response

ANNEX 1

APPEAL No. MAA00018

PLEDGES RECEIVED

24/01/2007

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
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CASH

REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF ----->	16,861,498		TOTAL COVERAGE		
			18.3%		
AUSTRALIAN - GOVT	1,000,000	AUD	960,000	22.09.06	ASIA PACIFIC REGION
AUSTRALIAN - GOVT	5,277	AUD	5,092	16.01.07	
BRITISH - GOVT/DFID	495,000	GBP	1,138,005	25.08.06	
DANISH - RC			20,000	28.10.06	DIRECT ASSISTANCE: LAO RC
GERMAN - RC	50,000	EUR	78,500	28.06.06	PREVENTION IN TIMOR LESTE
JAPANESE - RC	30,000,000	JPY	331,200	17.05.06	
LIBYAN - RC			3,000	21.06.06	
MONACO - RC	5,000	EUR	7,900	10.10.06	
NEW ZEALAND - GOVT	700,000	NZD	529,900	28.06.06	
UNITED ARAB EMIRATES - RC	5,000	USD	6,141	24.08.06	
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH			3,079,738	CHF	18.3%

KIND AND SERVICES (INCLUDING PERSONNEL)

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN KIND/SERVICES						
				0	CHF	0.0%

ADDITIONAL TO APPEAL BUDGET

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT

Avian influenza: Preparedness. Mitigation & Response

ANNEX 1

APPEAL No. MAA00018

PLEDGES RECEIVED

24/01/2007

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED				0	CHF	