

# FOCUS ON CRIMEA



Photo by Olena Shevchenko

Mira Sirotina of the Solnechnoye village in Simferopol raion demonstrates proper poultry handling, which she introduced after watching a documentary produced by Fauna, an NGO working on ecological issues.

## CRIMEA from page 8

The hospital also cut mother-to-child HIV transmission to less than 2 percent by offering Caesarean section to HIV-positive women. And warm chain technology, which keeps babies warm through either the mother's body heat or warm clothing, has reduced hypothermia.

In Crimea, the project currently works with eight maternities, 11 women's clinics, and 15 pediatric polyclinics. These facilities support approximately 12,500 births, or 44 percent of the estimated 27,000 deliveries that occur in the Crimean Republic each year. ★

## TB LABS from page 8

USAID has supported a TB control program in Ukraine since 2000. Its current project, TB Control Partnerships in Ukraine, covers 10 administrative areas, including Crimea. The project works with the Ministry of Health to improve TB prevention, diagnosis, and treatment practices; strengthen laboratory services; and prevent increases in drug resistant TB.

Ukraine has 106 TB cases per 100,000 people, the eighth highest rate in Europe and Eurasia. Mortality rates are particularly high, with 10,000 Ukrainians dying of TB each year. Crimea is among the regions with the highest mortality rates, with alarming growth in TB-related deaths during recent years. There has also been high growth in the number of new cases of TB during the past decade—from 38.2 new cases per 100,000 people in 1997, to 85.2 cases per 100,000 people in 2007. ★

## Film Helps Save Birds from Avian Flu in Ukraine

Although avian influenza (AI) has disappeared from the headlines, it remains a very real threat in Crimea, Ukraine, a poultry production region at the crossroads of bird migratory routes.

To motivate poultry farmers and others to use safe poultry handling practices, USAID and other groups carried out a public awareness campaign to prevent the spread of AI.

In 2009, Fauna, an NGO working on ecological issues, produced a short film and TV program to raise awareness of AI among the rural residents of Dzhankoy district, an area at high risk for outbreaks.

The film showed how the residents of the village of Zavet-Leninsky dealt with AI outbreaks during 2006. It demonstrated how to build wire coops to protect domestic birds from contact with wild birds and how to separate poultry from other animals to minimize the risk of AI infection.

The film featured local expert Mykola Arsievych, director of the Naturalist and Environmental Protection Center, who described how his team preserved the center's exotic birds during the outbreak.

"By sticking to biosafety rules and practices, not a single

bird perished in our park during the avian influenza outbreak in 2006," Arsievych said in the film interview.

In the film, Mykola Bety, head of the Zavet-Leninsky village council, also recalled the 2006 situation.

"We were really frightened then. And though there have not been any cases registered for the last few years, we continue to remind residents about AI risks," Bety said.

The film and TV program were broadcast by a local

television channel, reaching as many as 30,000 residents of Dzhankoy district. The film was shown to 15,000 children in 52 village schools before the autumn bird migration.

Valentina Pyshkina, a teacher from Dzhankoy, described the potential impact of the film.

"Our school children are extremely active. In the past, they participated in a youth team competition on AI prevention. I'm sure that after watching the film they will remind their parents and neighbors

about AI and its risks," Pyshkina said.

Fauna worked with veterinary and emergency services specialists and USAID partner International Relief & Development to produce the film.

Lyudmila Yatsishina, the head of the Dzhankoy district veterinary department, said the film was "very timely indeed, as avian influenza is a real threat and it exists all the time."

"Every year, more and more households are turning to safe poultry handling practices." ★



Photo by Vladimir Danilov

Mykolai Melnyk and his son Andriy read flyers distributed in their village of Prydi in Kirovskiy as part of an avian influenza awareness campaign.



Photo by Olena Shevchenko

Mykola Arievych and his team at the Naturalist and Environmental Protection Center were able to save all the center's birds during a 2006 outbreak of avian influenza in the region.