

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) is the UN's global development network, advocating for change and connecting countries to knowledge, experience and resources to help people build a better life. We are on the ground in 166 countries, working with them on their own solutions to global and national development challenges. As they develop local capacity, they draw on the people of UNDP and our wide range of partners.



#### VACANCY Announcement

**Post Title: Legal Advisor**  
**Duty Station: Ramallah**  
**Duration: 50 Working Days**  
**Deadline: 5 December 2007**  
**Start Date: Immediately**  
**Remuneration: dependent on qualifications and experience**  
**Type of Contract: Special Service Agreement**

#### Background:

Grant No. TF057369

This request for Expressions of Interest (EOI) follows the General Procurement Notice for this project that appeared in Development Business, Issue No 689 of October 2006.

The emergence of highly pathogenic avian influenza (H5N1) has placed the entire Arab region including the West Bank and Gaza at high risk. On April 20<sup>th</sup> 2006, AI H5N1 presence was confirmed in eight locations in Gaza according to FAO/WHO reports. The proximity of outbreaks in Israel, Egypt and Jordan jeopardizes the whole region if not handled quickly and efficiently. Although preventive culling was concluded in infected areas by the end of April 2006 and no outbreak has been detected since, Palestinian well-being, including public health, veterinarian and agricultural sectors, as well as nutritional and socio-economic conditions would be severely threatened if a future outbreak were to occur.

In 2006, a Palestinian Authority (PA) presidential decree established the Avian Influenza National High Contingency Committee to reinforce the Palestinian National Plan for Pandemic Influenza that had been established in late 2005. In support of the National Plan, the Ministry of Agriculture (MOA), linking efforts with the Ministry of Health (MOH), formed the Avian Influenza Control and Eradication Plan Technical Committee headed by the Veterinary Services and Animal Health Department to supervise and assess implementation of field activities related to the control and eradication elements of the National Plan. Nonetheless, the unequivocal international response to the recent transition in government and the ensuing financial crisis has presented the PA with severe limitations in coping with the AI epidemic. To date, none of the aforementioned plans has reached fruition.

Within this context, a UN Interagency Framework for Avian Influenza Response has been developed to assist the PA in containing the current AI epidemic and reducing the threat of a human influenza pandemic. The current World Bank initiative is based on the UN interagency plan, which provides a platform for a coordinated, multi-disciplinary and flexible response to AI outbreaks. The Bank's Rapid Assessment team, in accordance with the recommendations of the World Bank Note on Approaches to Avian Influenza in Fragile States, concluded that an immediate implementation of critical activities through the UN System with Government approval might be the only effective solution. To this end, the Bank will provide UNDP with a three million US Dollars Grant to implement emergency activities which would ensure the establishment of necessary measures for surveillance and minimizing the risk of HPAI in animal and human populations. This would entail the financing of the most critical start up activities as outlined in the UN Interagency AI Response Framework, and lays out the foundation for activities under the Bank's Global Program for Avian Influenza and Human Pandemic Preparedness and Response.

#### Duties and Responsibilities:

Assignment objective:

This assignment falls under the Policy and Planning component of the World Bank grant to UNDP and serves to provide the National Committee for Avian Influenza Control with a concert assessment of the existing legal framework and associated laws and regulations, which are directly related to Avian influenza control and the level of national preparedness for potential outbreaks from a legal perspective.

More specifically, the legal advisor is expected to perform the following:

- To review the existing national plans for Avian Influenza response and the legal framework on which these plans rely.
- To identify the existing legal framework and regulations related to Avian Influenza in the MoH, MoA, MoF, EQA, and other Palestinian governmental and non-governmental bodies to Avian Influenza prevention and control.
- To assess whether the existing legal framework and regulations are effective for proper AI prevention and control.
- To assess to which extent the existing framework is applicable, implementable, relevant, and practical for the existing Palestinian context (in light of the previous AI outbreak response in April 2006).
- To identify gaps in the existing legal framework or missing laws, bylaws and regulation (if any), which should be addressed to further strengthen the national response.
- To propose additional laws and regulations to cover the identified gaps.
- To provide the national officials in the NCAIC with recommendations to further strengthen the legal framework with respect to Avian Influenza response.

Assignment Deliverables:

The assignment is expected to deliver a final report assessing the existing legal framework as it relates to Avian Influenza prevention and control in humans and animals. The report should include, but not limited to the following:

1. A listing of all the laws and regulations relevant to the AI showing the issuing dates, and the correspondents.
2. An assessment of all relevant laws and to what extent they promote proper national response from relevant national stakeholders (governmental, nongovernmental and private sector). The assessment must also include recommendations for improvement of existing laws.
3. List of any proposed additional laws, bylaws and regulations to further strengthen the existing legal framework.

**Competencies:**

General competencies:

- Professionalism
- Integrity
- Enthusiasm
- Commitment
- Planning and Organizing
- Communication
- Judgment and Decision Making
- High organizational skills
- Able to work efficiently with minimal direction

**Minimum Qualifications:**

Education.

- A minimum of Masters degree in Law.

Work Experience.

- Minimum five years experience in law practice and legal consultancies.
- Experience in assignments involving assessment and review of laws and regulations

Languages.

- Highly articulate written and verbal communication skills in both English and Arabic

Other considerations.

- Proven ability to work with partners, senior government officials and representatives of international agencies.
- Self-starter who can handle difficult tasks simultaneously, work under pressure while maintaining rigorous attention to details.
- Demonstrated task management skills.
- Demonstrate excellent analytical skills
- Demonstrated ability to think strategically

For more information on UNDP/PAPP, including its core values and competencies, please visit the UNDP website at [www.undp.ps](http://www.undp.ps) .

To Apply:

Interested candidates should apply by accessing <http://jobs.undp.ps> and completing the on-line application.

Deadline: 5 December 2007

**“UNDP/PAPP is an equal opportunity employer: applications from men and women will be considered equally”**