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# FIRST PERSON

## Biosecurity Lessons Protect Production

**A biosecurity course enables a veterinarian to enhance production safety at a poultry farm.**



*Evelina Em with the chicks at the farm.  
Photo: Project HOPE*

***“Knowing some general principals on biosecurity is very important in our job. Neglecting them might seem trivial, but could result in a big trouble for poultry production.”***

***- Evelina Em, participant of the USAID STOP AI training***

“Biosecurity is the cheapest, most effective means of disease control available,” says veterinarian Evelina Em of Kibray District poultry production farm “Kibray Parranda”. Recently, Em underwent a training course organized by USAID’s STOP AI project on the use of biosecurity principles and health management at poultry farms. Em is convinced that this training will help her farm to minimize animal health threats and the risk that highly pathogenic avian influenza becomes a human pandemic.

Em has been working as a veterinarian for more than 20 years, and for the past five years, she has served as the chief veterinarian of “Kibray Parranda” with a capacity of 100,000 chicks. Despite her extensive experience in chicks’ brooding and growing, prevention of infectious diseases, and sanitation, Em felt that the USAID course has changed her outlook.

This was the first training course she can remember to include specific knowledge applicable to her job. “I have expanded my knowledge on differential diagnostics of viral poultry diseases, clinical signs and pathology of E. coli infections, and calcium and vitamin deficiencies,” says Em.

The course also reminded Em that many infections at the farm are caused due to the lack of awareness of the farms personnel about the possible dangers. “Oftentimes, our farm employees also raise poultry at home or have family members who work at other poultry farms,” says Em. “A more rigorous application of sanitation procedures, such as a restricted use of employee mobile telephones and other personal items, as well as a better control of farm visitors, can protect us from Avian Flu.”

To minimize biosecurity risks at “Kibray Parranda,” Em instituted a compulsory training course on Biosecurity for all farm personnel. She also is drafting the Standard operating procedures related to biosecurity and plans to train all farm personnel on them. “Preventing diseases is always cheaper than treating or suffering the effects of disease,” says veterinarian Evelina Em. “Small investments in improved housing and equipment, and creating staff awareness on proper biosecurity procedures will lead to healthier and more productive birds.”