



## SUCCESS STORY

### Improved, Hygienic Poultry Slaughtering Curbs Spread of Disease and Boosts Income

#### Facility Upgrades Help Fight Avian Influenza



*Nguyen Thi Thuy working in her upgraded facility.*

*Photo: Abt Associates*

*“We now have much better working conditions and my workers enjoy working here... my family’s income has increased 25% over the past year.*

*- Nguyen Thi Thuy,  
Beneficiary*

#### USAID IN VIETNAM

<http://vietnam.usaid.gov>

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Nguyen Thi Thuy owns a small poultry slaughtering facility in the central province of Quang Tri. The 45-year-old woman recalls a time when her family did the poultry slaughtering in poor and unhygienic conditions: the slaughtering area was small and dark, without adequate light and water; located within the family’s living area; the slaughtering was performed on the floor with no safety practices. The business was not good either, with around 60 chickens sold a day, and there were many bird flu outbreaks in the province.

With technical and financial support from USAID’s Avian and Pandemic Influenza Initiative, Thuy made an investment to renovate the slaughtering area based on a model developed by the project. The model helped Thuy determine necessary renovations: separating the slaughtering area from the family living area, creating a one-way slaughtering line, installing new roofs with increased height and skylights thus improving lighting and ventilation, tiling of floors and walls allowing for better cleaning and sanitizing and providing standard equipment for the processing line. Ms. Thuy and five slaughtering workers were also given training on risk reduction and safe handling of poultry from the project staff.

“We now have much better working conditions and my workers enjoy working here. The slaughtering area is much more organized and our products are much cleaner,” said Ms. Thuy. “More and more big customers like restaurants and kindergartens want to buy chicken from us after they have seen how we processed chickens in our new and hygienic facility. We often slaughter and sell 100-150 chickens every day now, and my family’s income has increased 25% over the past year.”

Poor hygiene and sanitation in slaughtering facilities threaten both public health as well as livelihoods. In response to this situation, USAID developed an effective, simple and inexpensive model for upgrading small, home-based slaughtering facilities to reduce the risks of contamination of poultry products, people and the environment. By September 2013, 25 facilities had been upgraded using the USAID model. With support from USAID in combating highly pathogenic avian influenza and other pandemic threats, the number of bird flu outbreaks in Vietnam has dropped from almost 2,000 in 2005 to fewer than 100 in 2013.