

## **Reduction and Control of Newcastle Disease in Angola**

The European Commission signed a Contract with KYEEMA Foundation in November 2008 to implement a three year program for the Control of Newcastle Disease in Angola. The program is working directly with the Angolan Veterinary Services Institute of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development and will be based in Lubango in the south of Angola. It will be working in five Provinces, namely Kunene, Huíla, Namibe, Benguela and Huambo.

The main objective is to set up a program for the control of Newcastle Disease, undertaking pilot activities in the five southern provinces. It will entail working with the Veterinary Services Institute to produce local I-2 vaccine and set up field trials of the vaccine. It will also involve preparation and field testing of training materials and vaccination calendars, as well as training of community vaccinators.

Dr Robyn Alders undertook an inception visit in October 2008. The project commenced formally on 12 January 2009. During her visit, Robyn was informed that the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development plans to build a new veterinary laboratory in Lubango and they already have the plans drafted. They are also in the process of establishing twinning arrangements for their veterinary laboratory technicians as a way of increasing their capacity. They are linking with reference laboratories in Africa and internationally.

There will be a number of challenges with the program relating to laboratory facilities and Angolan legislation; however there is a strong desire from the Angolan government to get ND vaccination programs up and running as quickly as possible. We are all very excited about the start-up of this program and very hopeful that it will have a lasting positive impact for rural women who depend on chickens for a livelihood.