



## Bulletin on Avian Influenza in Cambodia UN system in Cambodia

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### Update on the Avian Influenza Situation (as of 21<sup>th</sup> March 2008)

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*The information summarized below is gathered from official and non official sources, which are quoted in the text. This bulletin is prepared by the UN in Cambodia in cooperation with the Royal Government of Cambodia and development partners.*

### I. Latest information on Avian Influenza in Cambodia

#### 1. Country situation: Animal Health

During week 12 the animal health hotline received 8 calls from 6 provinces. Seven callers asked about what to do when their poultry get sick or die, if there is a vaccine or medicine for the prevention and treatment of AI in poultry and how avian influenza is transmitted in poultry. One caller from Takeo province reported about sick and dying ducks. A team of provincial and district veterinary officers went to the village with suspected AI cases to collect information, conduct disinfection in the burial sites and the surrounding premises. During investigation, it was found that the illness or deaths in the ducks were not caused by HPAI.

NaVRI received three samples of different species of sparrows collected at Wat Phnom resort and Riverside in Phnom Penh. Laboratory test results were negative for avian influenza.

The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) in collaboration with the Department of Animal Health and Production (DAHP) will start a new round of training for Village Animal Health Workers and Village Chiefs in Siem Reap on March 26. The training

programme will cover the remaining villages that were not covered previously in 18 provinces. So far, FAO has trained a total of 5,405 Village Animal Health Workers (VAHWs) in 24 provinces and 577 Village Chiefs in five provinces. The training programme has recently been revised to include a one-day course for Village Chiefs at the beginning of the four-day course for the VAHWs. This first day concentrates on communication messages and methods and the VCs' responsibility to ensure that their communities are properly informed. The remaining three days deliver more technical information and detail to the VAHWs including avian influenza control measures such as surveillance, biosecurity, reporting and outbreak response. The training addresses the realities of sector 4 poultry rearing as opposed to just addressing the science of disease and disease control.

FAO and DAHP's duck market surveillance programme is now operational in 12 markets in Cambodia with the start of the activity in Banteay Meanchey today (Friday). The markets already covered are in Phnom Penh, Battambang, Sihanoukville, Takeo, Siem Reap, Pursat, Kampong Cham, Kandal, Svay Rieng, Kampot. The surveillance aims to determine whether the HPAI virus is circulating unnoticed or unreported in the duck population. Under this programme, 30 tracheal and 30 cloacal swabs and 30 serum samples are collected fortnightly from each market. Duck samples are selected from the traditional duck production systems rather than commercial farms in the order of 70 per cent traditional and 30 per cent commercial wherever possible. So far, it has taken samples from 1,525 ducks. None has been found positive for the H5 Avian Influenza virus.

The Wildlife Conservation Society's Field Veterinary Program in Cambodia collected swabs from 2440 individual birds of 92 different species from eight provinces in Cambodia from 1 August 2007 to 14 February 2008. Samples were collected in collaboration with the National Veterinary Research Institute, Department of Animal Health and the Wildlife Protection Office. In February 2008, 8,500 swab samples were delivered for avian influenza testing to the University of California Davis (UCD) and the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE), FAO and National Reference Laboratory for Newcastle Disease and Avian Influenza in Italy. A similar shipment of 250 samples was made to UCD in December. These avian influenza samples have been collected under funding from the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) of the National Institutes of Health (NIH).

## **2. Country situation: Human Health**

During week 12 the MOH hotline made 19 calls out (returning missed calls) and received 21 calls from Phnom Penh, Takeo, Kampong cham, Prey Veng, Kandal, Kampot, Pursat and Stung Treng provinces. 35 callers asked about signs and symptoms of avian influenza in humans and 5 calls involved animal health and was referred to MAFF.

No suspected human AI cases found this week.

## **II. Upcoming Avian and Pandemic Influenza events in Cambodia**

- 10-14 March MPAT TE 14 Exercise co-hosted by the US Pacific Command and the Royal Cambodian Armed Forces (RCAF) on testing response capacity for natural disasters and pandemic influenza.
- 19-20 March UN System Regional Workshop on Avian and Pandemic Influenza in Bangkok, Thailand.
- 25 March Presentations on 3 recent AI research studies conducted in Cambodia, Cambodiana hotel, 8.00-12.00
- 25 Mar-4 Apr Step 4 in Siem Reap provincial pandemic planning pilot
- 8 April Monthly API Partnership meeting at UN conference room, 53 Pasteur Street (gate 1). 14.30-16.00
- May Step 5 in Siem Reap provincial pandemic planning pilot

## **III. International issues**

Click these links for the latest updates of the global situation on Avian Influenza:

<http://un-influenza.org>

[http://www.hewsweb.org/avian\\_flu/](http://www.hewsweb.org/avian_flu/)