



Bulletin on Avian Influenza in Cambodia

UN system in Cambodia

Update on the Avian Influenza Situation (as of 4th April 2008)

Issue No. 145



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 the week 14 (from 27 March to 3 April), the animal health hotline at the National Veterinary Research Institute (NaVRI) received 12 calls from 9 provinces. 9 callers asked about what they should do when their poultry gets sick or die, if there is a cure for HPA, what are the clinical signs of HPAI in poultry and how it is transmitted from poultry to poultry.

3 callers from Prey Veng and Kandal provinces reported about sick and dying poultry. NaVRI sent the provincial and district vets to the affected villages to investigate, collect information, and conduct disinfection in the burial site and around the infected premises. During the course of the investigation, it was decided that the illness or death is caused by HPAI.

During the week, NaVRI received 7 samples of different species of sparrows collected by the Wildlife Conservation Society at the Riverside and Wat Phnom Resort in Phnom Penh. Laboratory results are negative for avian influenza.

The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) has commissioned the Center for Livestock and Agriculture Development (CelAgrid) to conduct a baseline study identifying the main poultry markets in each of the 24 provinces in Cambodia.

Identifying major trade points, trade routes and markets helps in understanding how HPAI spreads along the market chain and where in the chain increased risk of spread may occur. This knowledge will help FAO's partner, the National Veterinary Research Institute (NAVRI), to increase HPAI outbreak preparedness. To limit the negative impact of animal disease outbreaks and reduce spread, it is important that policies designed to control and eradicate animal disease are based on an accurate and complete understanding of how disease spreads and the financial and socio-economic losses that can accrue to different market participants following a disease outbreak. The study is funded by the German Government and will be completed at the end of April.

2. Country situation: Human Health

During week 14 the MOH hotline made 15 calls out and received 20 calls from Phnom Penh, Kampong Cham, Prey Veng, Kandal, Battambang, Stung treng, Kampong Speu and Siem Reap provinces. 33 callers asked about signs and symptoms of avian influenza in humans and 2 calls involved animal health.

No suspected human AI cases found this week. All national and provincial rapid response teams are on vigilance of AI surveillance.

II. Information, Education, Communication (IEC) activities

The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the Department of Animal Health and Production have started the broadcast of two TV and 10 radio spots on avian influenza to warn people of the risks of contracting and spreading the disease around Khmer New Year. During this period, high number of birds is expected to be traded and consumed to celebrate the festivities. Similar broadcasts were also made around the Chinese New Year on 6 TV and 7 radio stations in Phnom Penh and 10 provincial radio stations.

III. Upcoming Avian and Pandemic Influenza events in Cambodia

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

IV. International issues

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

<http://un-influenza.org>

http://www.hewsworld.org/avian_flu/