



## **Bulletin on Avian Influenza in Cambodia**

### **UN system in Cambodia**

---

**Update on the Avian Influenza Situation  
(as of 11<sup>th</sup> April 2008)**

**Issue No. 146**



---

*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 15, the animal health hotline received 24 calls from Kampong Speu, Takeo, Kampong Thom, Siem Reap, Kampong Cham, Kandal, Kratie, Prey Veng, Kampot, Bantey Meanchey, Phnom Penh, Battambang, Kampong Chhnang, Otdar Meanchey and Svay Rieng provinces.

14 callers asked about how to prevent the spread of HPAI? Is there vaccine for HPAI? What are the clinical signs? What are the transmission routes from poultry to poultry? How to treat other animal diseases?

10 callers from Kampong Cham, Prey Veng, Kampot, Kandal, Bantey Meanchey, Phnom Penh, Takeo, and Kampong Speu provinces reported about sick and dying poultry. The National Veterinary Research Institute (NaVRI) sent a team of provincial and district vets to the villages with suspected AI cases. During the course of the investigation, it was decided that avian influenza was not the cause of the illness or deaths.

The Food and Agriculture Organization in collaboration with the Department of Animal Health and Production of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries will start this month poultry genetic resources study that will define HPAI control methods that have neutral or positive impact on the livelihoods of small-scale poultry keepers and help maintain poultry breed biodiversity. Funded by the German Government, the study aims

to define, both by phenotype and genotype, distinctive poultry breeds and whether there are breeds that are particularly valuable to the livelihood of backyard farmers. From 21 April to 28 May, the Centre d'Etude et Développement Agricole Cambodgien (CEDAC) will collect blood samples from 400 birds in Siem Reap, Ratanakiri, Kampong Cham, Kampot and Otdar Meanchey. The blood samples collected will be sent to the International Livestock Research Institute in China which will carry out DNA characterization. In addition, CEDAC will assess 2,500 birds in order to describe their characteristics in terms of appearance, adaptive, productive and reproductive traits of different poultry breeds.

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

During week 15, the MOH hotline made 16 calls out and received 24 calls from Phnom Penh, Kampong Cham, Prey Veng, Kandal, Kampot, Battambang, Stung treng, Kampong Speu and Kampong Thom provinces. 36 callers asked about signs and symptoms of avian influenza in humans and 4 calls involved animal health.

Investigation was made on 2 human AI suspected patients but they are negative of H5.

## **II. Information, Education, Communication (IEC) activities**

FAO and the Department of Animal Health and Production supported this week a village meeting on avian influenza in Svay Rieng on 10 April led by the District Veterinary Officer, Village Animal Health Worker and Village Chief. Using the storyline and pictures developed by FAO, village officials explained to some 600 villagers how avian influenza is transmitted and what they can do to prevent its spread. The montage includes posters on do-able messages and benefits villagers will get by following the simple messages being promoted such as "quarantine new poultry for 14 days", "report sick and dead poultry", "wash hands with soap", "keep children away from poultry" and "cook poultry well". TV and radio spots promoting these messages and short films on avian influenza will be shown before the meeting and posters, leaflets and T-shirts will be provided to participants.

An eight-minute film produced by FAO in Cambodia entitled "Are we listening: Community Perceptions and Avian Influenza" has been dubbed into French and will be shown at regional communication workshops in Tunisia and Senegal.

The English version of the film and the report entitled "Bridging the gap between awareness and practice: participatory learning of rural beliefs and practices on HPAI prevention and response in Cambodia" produced and conducted by FAO has been shown at various international gatherings and was considered as an important contribution to the development of communication strategies.

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

28-29 April	UNSIC Review Mission
30 April- 2 May	WB AHI Mission
13 May	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. Recent Publications**

1. "RESPIROLOGY" (an official journal of the Asian Pacific Society of Respirology)  
<http://www.blackwell-synergy.com/toc/res/13/s1>
2. "Understanding avian influenza-Asian-lineage H5N1 highly pathogenic viruses"  
[http://www.fao.org/avianflu/documents/key\\_ai/key\\_book\\_preface.htm](http://www.fao.org/avianflu/documents/key_ai/key_book_preface.htm)
3. Baseline Survey Report in Prey Veng and Svay Rieng provinces prepared by CARE International in Cambodia.

### **V. International issues**

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

<http://www.un-influenza.org>

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

<http://ochaonline.un.org/roap>

<http://www.influenza.undg.org>

<http://www.un-pic.org>

[http://www.who.int/csr/disease/avian\\_influenza/en/index.html](http://www.who.int/csr/disease/avian_influenza/en/index.html)

<http://www.fao.org/ag/againfo/subjects/en/health/diseases-cards/special-avian.html>