



Bulletin on Avian Influenza in Cambodia

UN system in Cambodia

Update on the Avian Influenza Situation (as of 6th June 2008)

Issue No. 154



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

From 30 May to 5 June 2008, the animal health hotline at the National Veterinary Research Institute (NaVRI) received 12 calls in which 5 reported about sick and dying poultry in Kandal, Svay Rieng, Takeo, Sihanoukville and Kampong Cham Provinces and the rest asked about information on avian influenza.

NaVRI contacted the Provincial vets to send a team of veterinarians to the affected villages. After investigation, it was decided that avian influenza was not the cause of the illness and death.

During the period, NaVRI received 10 samples of different types of sparrows collected by the Wildlife Conservation Society from the Riverside and Wat Phnom resort in Phnom Penh. Laboratory tests conducted through egg inoculation are negative for HPAI.

2. Country situation: Human Health

From 30 May to 5 June, the MOH hotline made 20 calls out and received 22 calls from Phnom Penh, Kandal, Kampong cham, Svay Rieng, Siem Reap, Banteay Meanchey, Prey Veng, Kampong Thom, Battambang and Takeo provinces. 39 callers asked about signs and symptoms of avian influenza in humans and 3 calls involved animal health. The caller asked about signs and symptoms of AI suspected and clarify what is AI.

No human AI suspected found last week.

II. Information, Education, Communications (IEC) Activities

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the Department of Animal Health and Production/MAFF conducted the third village meeting on avian influenza involving 6 villages in Memot District, Kampong Cham on May 30. The meeting provided information to 1,200 participants about transmission routes and prevention measures they can take to stop and control the spread of AI.

Mr. Chhean Chit, the father of the 13-year-old girl who died of AI in Kampong Cham in April 2007 who was invited to the meeting bravely spoke about how his daughter died and warned villagers about the danger of preparing sick and dead poultry for food.

The village meetings involved villagers in interpersonal and participatory communication approaches, built capacity of national and local counterparts in participatory and interpersonal communication methods and tools and enhanced collaboration between national/local authorities, FAO and partners, village chiefs and village animal health workers. The meetings will soon be linked to the ongoing training on communication for village chiefs and VAHWs conducted by FAO and DAHP to provide them a venue to practice what they learn from the training.

FAO and DAHP set up a booth for communication and public awareness on AI during the US Medical and Dental Mission in Ou Reang Ov District of Kampong Cham. The booth drew 1,500 people over three days majority of whom are women and children, who also engaged in competitions, quizzes, karaoke, singing and dancing, with gifts and prizes provided. The booth screened the FAO-MAFF film “Avian Influenza: A country responds” and TV and radio spots. In addition, education sessions took place, using the storyline illustrating bird-to-bird transmission of HPAI which were projected on the screen and on posters hanging in the booth.

III. Upcoming Avian and Pandemic Influenza events in Cambodia

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| 9 June | Meeting of the National Coordinating Committee on IEC for AHI, 10:00-11:45, FAO Conference Room |
| 10 June | Monthly API Partnership meeting at UN conference room, 53 Pasteur Street (gate 1). 14.30-16:00 |
| 12 June | Village Meeting on Avian Influenza in Kampong Trach District, Kampot organized by MAFF/DAHP and FAO |
| 16-20 June | Step 5 workshops in Siem Reap Multi-Sectoral Pandemic Planning Process (pilot) |
| 19 June | Village Meeting on Avian Influenza in Pouk District, Siem Reap organized by MAFF/DAHP and FAO |
| 4 July | Inter-personal Communication Skills Training for Medical Staff organized by AED and Angkor Children Hospital |
| 7 July | Inter-personal Communication Skills Training for Village Animal Health Workers Trainers organized by AED and FAO/DAHP |

IV. International issues

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

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

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

<http://www.hpai-research.net>