



Bulletin on Avian Influenza in Cambodia

UN system in Cambodia

Update on the Avian Influenza Situation (as of 27th June 2008)

Issue No. 157



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 19 to 27 June 2008, the animal health hotline at the National Veterinary Research Institute (NaVRI) received ten calls from Phnom Penh, Kampong Cham, Kandal, Kampong Chhnang and Kampong Speu provinces. One caller reported about sick and dying poultry in Kandal Province. Nine callers asked about information on avian influenza such as: what are the clinical signs of AI in poultry? What to do when one or two chickens get sick or die? what are the prevention measures of HPAI? The team of provincial and district vets went to the village in Kandal province, after investigation they decided that avian influenza was not the cause of the illness and death.

NaVRI received nine samples of different types of sparrows collected by the Wildlife Conservation Society from the Riverside and Wat Phnom resort in Phnom Penh. The result will be known on 30 June 2008.

Laboratory results of two duck samples received the previous week were negative for HPAI virus.

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) this week trained 184 District Veterinary Officers from 24 provinces to become future trainers of Village Animal Health Workers.

Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Undersecretary of State Nou Muth said District Vets should encourage Village Animal Health Workers to continue doing their job of educating communities on the dangers of bird flu. "VAHWs are the first line of defense against bird flu in

the village and they should be given enough respect and encouragement to continue doing their job,” he said. Out of more than 13,000 VAHWs in the country, FAO has trained around 7,000 VAHWs on avian influenza prevention and control.

FAO Representative Omar Salah Ahmed congratulated MAFF’s Department of Animal Health and Production and FAO’s AI Programme for their joint efforts to stop the spread of AI. FAO with funding from USAID and Germany has been assisting DAHP in battling avian influenza on seven fronts namely surveillance, laboratory diagnosis, reporting and response, bio-security, public awareness and education, socio-economics and livelihoods studies, and supportive and protective legislative environment. “The results are encouraging. There is no outbreak since April 2007,” he said. “But I encourage you to continue your efforts because nothing can be taken granted.”

HPAI Research Project -A team of researchers working on the FAO-led research project conducted a mission to Cambodia this week to assess the effects of avian influenza control strategies on the livelihoods of smallholder farmers and their families. Funded by the UK Department for International Development, the project will aid decision makers in developing evidence-based pro-poor HPAI control measures that are not only cost-effective and efficient in reducing disease risk, but also enhancing livelihoods, particularly of smallholder producers.

Expected outputs from the research project are as follows: increased awareness of the contribution of poultry to rural livelihoods and of the social impacts of alternative disease control strategies; better understanding of the risks and consequences of HPAI for different regions and stakeholders; effective and socially equitable control measures and implementation strategies for HPAI control, which are appropriate for different sectors, and household and producer types; capacity building for formulation, interpretation, communication, and negotiation of evidence-based and socially sensitive HPAI control policies.

2. Country situation: Human Health

From 19 to 27 June, the MOH hotline made 25 calls out and received 32 calls from Phnom Penh, Kampong Speu, Kandal, Kampong Cham, Svay Rieng, Prey Veng, Siem Riep, Stung Treng, Banteay Meanchey, Battambang and Pursat provinces. 55 callers asked about signs and symptoms of avian influenza in humans and 2 calls involved animal health. The caller asked about signs and symptoms of AI suspected and clarify what is AI.

1 humans AI suspected found last week, but it was negative for H5.

II. Upcoming Avian and Pandemic Influenza events in Cambodia

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| 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 |
| 12 August | Monthly AHI Partnership meeting at UN conference room, 53 Pasteur Street (gate 1). 14.30-16:00 |

III. Recent publications

Situation update for HPAI (by FAO) including summaries of confirmed HPAI outbreaks in affected countries.

IV. 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://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>