



Bulletin on Avian Influenza in Cambodia

UN system in Cambodia

Update on the Avian Influenza Situation (as of 17th October 2008)

Issue No. 173



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

Animal Health hotline

From 10-17 October 2008, the animal health hotline at the National Veterinary Research Institute (NaVRI) received 6 calls from Phnom Penh, Sihanouk Ville, Pursat, Kampong Thom and Prey Veng provinces asking information about avian influenza such as: What to do when one chicken is sick or dead? What are the clinical signs of AI in poultry? Is there a cure for HPAI in poultry? What are the prevention measures for AI?

During the week, NaVRI received 10 samples of different types of sparrows collected by the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) from the Riverside and Wat Phnom resort in Phnom Penh. The laboratory tests are negative for HPAI virus through egg inoculation.

Village Animal Health Workers training

FAO trained 135 Village Animal Health Workers and 119 Village Chiefs on avian influenza control and prevention in two districts of Kampong Thom province last week. The training which has been conducted since 2005 in collaboration with the Department of Animal Health and Production (DAHP) of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries will continue in the remaining districts of Kampong Thom next week as well as in Sihanoukville and Battambang provinces.

AI research workshop

Participants at the avian influenza research workshop organized by MAFF and FAO in Sihanoukville from 8 to 10 October identified major research gaps and suggested recommendations to efficiently control avian influenza and improve the Cambodian animal health system. A more risk-based, active surveillance activities should complement the current, primarily passive surveillance programme adopting the formal risk assessment paradigm as

endorsed by the OIE to surveillance activities in Cambodia. Government programme/investment should focus on ensuring and improving the survival of the backyard poultry production which represents more than 90 per cent of Cambodia's poultry and regulation is needed for the development of the fledgling commercial poultry sector. Participants also highlighted the glaring deficiencies in hygiene that currently predominate in live bird markets and recommended market legislation to address this.

Major research/information gaps identified were: 1) the urgent need for a livestock/agricultural census to obtain current figures on livestock numbers and production; 2) the lack of information authorities have on cross-border movements of poultry and poultry products and how these could be estimated through indirect assessments; and 3) the need to "benchmark" the sensitivity of the current surveillance activities and to test the surveillance and response system by conducting simulation exercises. The lack of an 'animal health law' was also identified as a major impediment for improving the Cambodian animal health system.

The workshop was attended by around 50 participants coming from MAFF, NGOs, civil society organizations, international research partners and FAO. It was funded by the UK Department for International Development's Pro-Poor HPAI Risk Reduction project and the German 'Animal Health, Biodiversity and Livelihood' projects.

2. Country situation: Human Health

From 10-17 October, the Ministry of Health hotline made 25 calls out and received 27 calls from Siem Reap, Kandal, Kampong Cham, Phnom Penh, Kampong Thom, Kampong Speu, Stung Treng, Svay Rieng, Takeo, Kampot, and Ratanakiri provinces.

The caller asked about signs and symptoms of AI suspected, clarify suspected AI patient and report poultry sick/death and refer to animal health department. 43 callers asked about the signs and symptoms of avian influenza in human and 9 callers asked about the animal health.

The Rapid Response Teams were conducting 2 human AI suspected cases but they were negative for human AI and excluded after investigation.

CDC Department in collaboration with Stung Treng Provincial Health Department conduct a simulation exercise on Rapid Containment by using Information Technology (IT) supported. The participants were coming from RRT provinces and HC, Village Health support groups, local authorities. It was a great outcome with cleared role and responsibilities and communication by using the IT.

II. Upcoming Avian and Pandemic Influenza events in Cambodia

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| 25-26 October | The Sixth International Ministerial Conference on Avian and Pandemic Influenza, Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt |
| 31 October-7 November | Avian Influenza Epidemiology Training Course, organized by DAHP/NaVRI, USDA, CSU and AVEPM in Sihanouk Ville |
| 6 November | Community Forum on Avian Influenza organized by MAFF/FAO in Prey Veng Province |

18 November	Monthly AHI Partnership meeting at UN conference room, 53 Pasteur Street (gate 1). 14.30-16:00
19 November	Market Forum on Avian Influenza organized by MAFF/FAO in Kampong Cham Province
21 November	Market Forum on Avian Influenza organized by MAFF/FAO in Siem Reap Province

III. 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://ochaonline.un.org/roap/WhatWeDo/PandemicPreparedness/tabid/4304/Default.aspx>

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

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

http://www.who.int/csr/disease/avian_influenza/en/index.html

<http://www.fao.org/avianflu/en/index.html>

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

<http://www.gains.org>