
FAO AIDE news

Avian Influenza Disease Emergency

Update on the Avian Influenza situation (As of 30/01/2004) – Issue no. 2

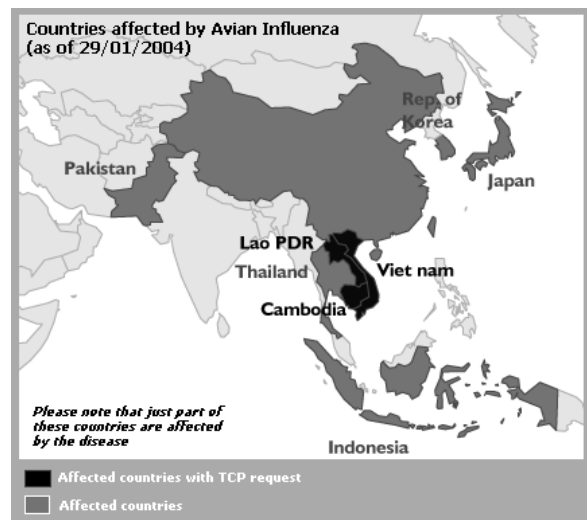
FAO AIDE news was initially developed for FAO representations in the field and more particularly the regional FAO Office in Bangkok, in order to keep them up to date with the information circulating on the current epidemic of Avian Influenza. The information summarized below is gathered from official and non official sources, which are clearly quoted in the text.

Since we receive positive feedback after we sent the first issue, the Technical Task Force at Headquarters decided to distribute AIDE news to a wider audience.

1. Summary of the situation

Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) confirmed:

- As of 30/1/2004 and according to different media reports, HPAI has been reported in Vietnam, Thailand, Cambodia, Lao PDR, Japan, Korea, Indonesia and China.
- Chinese Government announced on 28/01/2004 the presence of H5N1 in the Southern part of the country.
- In Taiwan province of China, HPAI (H5N1) was isolated from smuggled duck in Quemoy Island in December 2003 (an island of the Taiwan province of China close to the mainland).
- OIE official notification (HPAI - H5N1): Vietnam, Japan and Thailand, and Hong-Kong SAR (only in a wild bird found positive); Korea (H5N1/different genetic sequence), and Pakistan (H7).
- In Thailand, death of wild birds in the sanctuary park is also observed.



Other strains:

- In Taiwan province of China, avian influenza virus was identified in southern counties (H5N2, low pathogenic strain). The use of smuggled vaccine is suspected as the cause.

Under investigation / rumours and suspicions:

- In Bangladesh, death of several thousand chickens near Dhaka in the past week was reported, about 12 000 chickens died in the Bhogra, Khuda Boromi, Mariali, and Noujor areas. Vaccine is suspected to be the cause of the deaths (vaccine against Ranikhet Disease Virus). Under investigation.
- Children deaths were reported in Bangladesh (see issue No. 1), the most affected area being Goalundo, 67km west of the Bangladeshi capital Dhaka. Dr Tapash Ahmed (who is treating patients in the worst-hit area) was reported as saying: "I can categorically say there is no link with this disease and bird flu. We are quite sure that it is viral encephalitis (inflammation of the brain), but we don't know what strain it is due to lack equipment." A ministry statement said urine and blood samples from the sick had been sent to the US for tests. The results are expected within a fortnight.
- In Saudi Arabia, death of several thousand chickens was reported in Al- Ehsaa and Riyadh area. In recent months similar cases were seen in some of western, central, and eastern areas resulted in 40 - 60 % losses. An isolated case of avian influenza suspected in one poultry farms in the Eastern Province.

Control strategies currently in implementation (summary in the table below):

- Countries that are planning/starting mass slaughter of poultry are: Thailand, Vietnam, Indonesia, Pakistan, China(mainland), Taiwan province of China
- Vaccination has been started/ordered in: China (south), Taiwan province of China, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Pakistan.

country	Control measures	
Korea	- Stamping out - Movement control - No vaccination - Surveillance	- Import ban - Quarantine - Screening - Disinfection - Zoning
Vietnam	- Modified stamping out - Movement control	- Quarantine - Screening - Control of wildlife reservoirs
Japan	- stamping out - Movement control - No vaccination - Surveillance	- Import ban - Quarantine - Disinfection - Screening
Taiwan province of China	- Stamping out	- Import ban
Thailand	- Stamping out - Movement control - No Vaccination	- Quarantine - Screening - Zoning
Cambodia	- Stamping out - Movement control	- Disinfection - Quarantine
Hong Kong, SAR	- Vaccination - Surveillance	- Import ban
China	- Stamping out - Vaccination	- Import ban - Disinfection - Market control - Quarantine

Lao PDR	- Stamping out - Movement control - Surveillance	- Import ban - Quarantine
Pakistan	- Stamping out - Movement control - Vaccination	- Import ban - Quarantine - Zoning - Control wild reservoirs
Indonesia	- Stamping out - vaccination planned - surveillance	

Source of information: OIE official reports, press releases, media reports, gphin.

2. Countries affected (as of 29/01/2004)

country	date reported	source*	type	Animals affected	Humans affected	comments
Korea	15/12/2003	OIE	H5N1	broilers and ducks	no	Since 13/12, 16 additional chicken farms were hit by the disease (January 2004)
Vietnam	8/01/04	OIE	H5 (N1)	Broilers	yes	28 provinces affected so far.
Japan	12/01/04	OIE	H5	Layers	no	under control
Taiwan province of China	20/01/04	OIE	H5N2	Layers, native chickens	no	Changhwa , Chiayi and Tainan Prefectures, low pathogenic
Thailand	23/01/04	OIE	H5 (N1)	Layers	yes	31 provinces affected in total.
Cambodia	24/01/04	OIE	H5	Layers	no	
Hong Kong, SAR	26/01/04	OIE	H5N1	Peregrine falcon	no	wild birds
China	26/01/04	gphin, announcement from the Chinese government	H5N1	duck and chicken	no	Guangxi autonomous region, Hunan and Hubei provinces. 23 + 6 people under health surveillance.
Lao, PDR	27/01/04	OIE	H5	layers	no	
Pakistan	28/01/04	OIE	H7(&H9?)	layers	no	
Indonesia	29/01/04	OIE	H5N1	Chickens	suspected	chicken have been dying since August (Bogor, Sukabumi and Bekasi)

* Official (OIE) and non official Information (ProMed, press agencies, tracking systems...)

** Gphin: Global Public Health Intelligence Network (Health Canada)

3. Actions taken – follow-up

- Expert consultation (control strategies) – planned on Tuesday 3rd February and Wednesday morning.
- Messages sent on 28/01 to FAORs/contacts in Myanmar, Saudi Arabia, Bangladesh, Indonesia for further information on poultry deaths
- A request for further information is sent to the Permanent representative of China
- TCP projects in the pipeline:

Animal Health Service, Technical Cooperation Programme Service and Emergency Operations Service of the FAO have jointly worked on a project model for countries requesting assistance to address the emergency situation resulting from the avian flu epidemic. At this stage we expect at least six requests for assistance, but the number of countries may further increase.

The project foresees some standard inputs (experts, materials, equipment, training, GOE, etc.), which could be adjusted in a flexible manner to the actual needs. This would enable the Organization to make an immediate commitment, while allowing country-specific adjustments to be made at a later date to take account of specific local needs, as well as commitments by other donors.

At least one regional TCP is also in preparation and will focus on regional networking and epidemiology.

- Missions planned:
 - Carolyn Benigno, FAO RAP Animal Health Officer, Bangkok, will travel to Lao PDR on 29/01/2004
 - L. Gleeson, international expert in epidemiology, will travel to the region

4. Resources available

Relevant articles/publications:

- The use of vaccination as an option for the control of Avian Influenza (I. Capua, S Marango) – 71st OIE General Session (May 2003).
- FAO/EMPRES Manual on procedure for disease eradication by stamping out (available at: <http://www.fao.org/DOCREP/004/Y0660E/Y0660E00.HTM>)

Relevant Web sites:

FAO Avian Influenza fact sheet:

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

OIE Technical Disease Cards:

http://www.oie.int/eng/maladies/fiches/a_A150.htm

WHO Communicable Disease Surveillance & Response web site:

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

WHO Advice to international travellers:

http://www.who.int/csr/don/2004_01_26/en/

Contact person at FAO Headquarters, Rome:

Vincent Martin, Animal Health Officer (Infectious Disease Emergencies)

Vincent.martin@fao.org

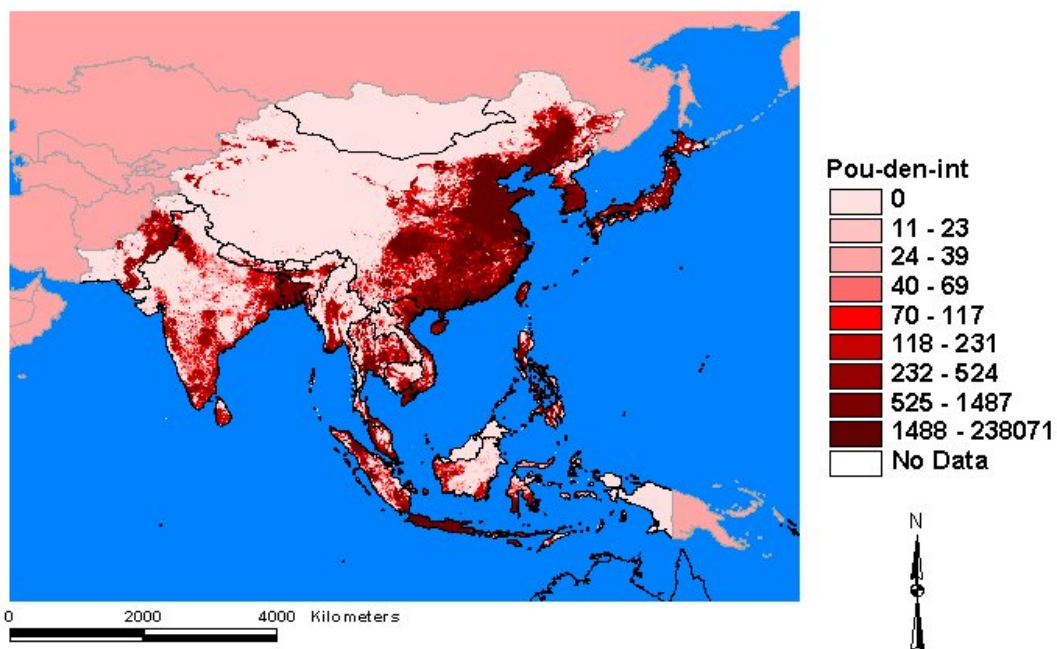
Appendix

Poultry census in South-East Asia

Source : FAOstat (2002)

Country	Poultry Birds Stocks (1000)	Chickens Stocks(1000)	Ducks Stocks (1000)	Geese Stocks (1000)	Turkeys Stocks (1000)
Bhutan	231	231			
China, Macao SAR	600	600			
China, Hong Kong SAR	3250	3000	250		
Taiwan province of China	134250	120000	11000	3000	250
China, Mainland	4662000	3800000	650000	212000	
China	4800100	3923600	661250	215000	250
Lao PDR	17000	15000	1900	100	
Cambodia	23178	16678	6500		
the Democratic People's Republic of Korea	22695	18506	4189		
Nepal	21779	21370	409		
Myanmar	63730	57128	6100	500	2
The Republic of Korea	115028	107000	8000	13	15
Thailand	149698	121000	28448	250	
Philippines	138560	125730	12000	330	500
Pakistan	156500	153000	3500		
Viet Nam	223100	163100	60000		
Japan	283105	283102			3
India	930500	823500	107000		
Indonesia	900000	870000	30000		

Density of poultry in South-East Asia



Source: AGA