



U.S. AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL
DEVELOPMENT

AVIAN AND PANDEMIC INFLUENZA
MANAGEMENT AND RESPONSE UNIT

Situation Update #34

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H5N1 AVIAN INFLUENZA THREAT: HUMAN CASES AT A GLANCE

Country	Human Cases 2003–2005	Human Cases 2006	TOTAL
Azerbaijan	0 cases, 0 deaths	8 cases, 5 deaths	8 cases, 5 deaths
Cambodia	4 cases, 4 deaths	2 cases, 2 deaths	6 cases, 6 deaths
China	8 cases, 5 deaths	10 cases, 7 deaths	18 cases, 12 deaths
Egypt	0 cases, 0 deaths	12 cases, 4 deaths	12 cases, 4 deaths
Indonesia	17 cases, 11 deaths	15 cases, 13 deaths	32 cases, 24 deaths
Iraq	0 cases, 0 deaths	2 cases, 2 deaths	2 cases, 2 deaths
Thailand	22 cases, 14 deaths	0 cases, 0 deaths	22 cases, 14 deaths
Turkey	0 cases, 0 deaths	12 cases, 4 deaths	12 cases, 4 deaths
Vietnam	93 cases, 42 deaths	0 cases, 0 deaths	93 cases, 42 deaths
TOTAL	144 cases, 76 deaths	61 cases, 37 deaths	205 cases, 113 deaths

Source: WHO laboratory-confirmed cases as of April 27, 2006

NEWS

- New suspected human H5N1 case in China; officials press for better reporting: China's Ministry of Health is urging local health officials to report cases of pneumonia to prevent spread of possible avian influenza (AI) cases in humans; the illnesses can present similar symptoms. Recent reports suggest possible AI cases have gone unreported, and that the overall human toll in China may be higher than World Health Organization (WHO) figures, which were updated this week to reflect a newly confirmed human H5N1 case in China. The case occurred in an 8-year-old girl from Sichuan province who developed symptoms April 16; she is currently hospitalized.
- New suspected human case in Indonesia: The Ministry of Health in Indonesia has reported that a 30-year-old man has died of H5N1. Tests have been sent to WHO for verification; if confirmed, the death would be Indonesia's 14th since January 2006 and 25th since 2003.
- AI reported in poultry in Ivory Coast: On April 25, the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) confirmed the presence of H5N1 in birds in Ivory Coast. Two separate outbreaks occurred; officials have begun culling birds and restricting movement to help contain the outbreak. The Ivory Coast is the sixth country in Africa with OIE-confirmed H5N1 in birds.
- AI response in Southeast Asia: Burma has announced it will lift a ban on transport of poultry that it imposed after AI outbreaks in poultry last month. Neighboring Thailand, considering its proximity to countries that have had recent cases in birds and wary of the virus being reintroduced, has announced it will tighten border surveillance and give resources to help nearby AI-affected countries. Thailand is taking steps against poultry smuggling and has banned poultry imports from Laos, Burma, Cambodia, and Malaysia; the latter three have reported cases in birds in recent weeks.
- Vietnam showing progress against AI: Vietnam, which has been heavily affected by H5N1 in animals and has had the most confirmed human cases and deaths of any country, is reportedly preparing to restore poultry flocks and is speeding up poultry vaccination efforts. There have been no WHO-confirmed human cases in Vietnam since November 2005, and the country will present a plan for virus containment at an Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation meeting May 4–6 in Da Nang. The plan will outline issues such as public awareness campaigns and border controls as well as strategies for combating H5N1 among animals and humans. The meeting aims to link government departments around the region and involve the private sector, intergovernmental organizations, community groups, and regional experts in public health and disaster management. USAID representatives will attend.

- U.S. official visits Bangladesh and India to enhance AI efforts: The assistant secretary for public health emergency preparedness of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) has visited Bangladesh and India to help boost AI preparedness and response efforts. In Bangladesh, HHS and the International Center for Diarrheal Disease Research have signed an agreement to strengthen capacity for pandemic preparedness and response. The agreement will assist in the development and implementation of national pandemic preparedness activities in Bangladesh and surrounding countries.
- IDRC provides AI support: Canada's International Development Research Centre (IDRC) has announced it plans to commit more than \$1.5 million to the Asian Research Partnership on Pandemic Influenza over the next two years. These funds will cover research on animal vaccination programs and a grants competition for research and will be matched by research councils and health authorities in Canada, China, Thailand, and Vietnam. IDRC recently met with staff from USAID's Latin America and Caribbean (LAC) Bureau to discuss AI efforts and needs in the LAC region.

NEW USAID ACTIONS

- USAID to obligate AI funds by June 1: To ensure rapid response to the continued spread of AI, Kent Hill, the Assistant Administrator for USAID's Global Health Bureau and the Agency's lead AI official, has sent a notice to all USAID Mission Directors in AI-affected countries directing Missions and operating units to commit AI funds by May 15. He also announced an obligation deadline of June 1.
- USAID provides commodities for response to suspected H5N1 in Sudan: In response to the presence of the highly pathogenic AI subtype H5 in birds in Sudan, which the OIE confirmed April 19, USAID has deployed 300 sets of personal protective equipment for first responders to potential outbreaks and is set to send an additional 2,000 sets, of which 1,500 will go to Khartoum and 500 to Juba.
- USAID provides technical assistance in Caucasus, Africa: USAID has deployed technical experts to Georgia, Burkina Faso, and Sudan in response to the continued AI threat. In Georgia, a veterinary expert provided technical assistance to Georgia's Ministry of Agriculture and finalized USAID's assistance package to the country in response to the AI threat there and throughout the region. In Burkina Faso, USAID technical experts participating in an assessment and planning team with the World Bank, WHO, and U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) will also make recommendations to USAID about the effective use of \$200,000 in newly directed emergency response funds. USAID is also sending a rapid response team to assist in responding to suspected H5N1 in Sudan and is working closely with other U.S. Government organizations, OIE, and FAO to respond to the situation.
- USAID adds new regional coordinators: As part of USAID's \$7 million planning and preparedness efforts for AI, USAID is building off the valuable support provided by its regional AI coordinators in Southeast Asia to detail regional AI coordinators for East, South, and West Africa; Central Europe; and the Caucasus. The coordinators will assist in planning and preparedness efforts in these areas and serve as liaisons with Washington for critical field support and rapid response commodities.
- Communications plans in Bosnia and Herzegovina: USAID has finalized plans with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) for a public information campaign on AI. So far, USAID has allocated \$15 million for communications and public outreach activities in 34 countries and at broader regional levels. The Agency works with private partners, nongovernmental organizations, and local governments in each of its regions to develop communications strategies and activities.
- USAID supports preparedness, response in Kazakhstan: With USAID assistance, a grant financed through the Asian Development Bank has been developed and used to implement a workshop series in Kazakhstan for representatives of the ministries of health and agriculture and sanitary epidemiological and veterinary departments from all *oblasts*. The second of three seminars, held April 12–13, included a presentation by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (HHS/CDC) on AI response measures and laboratory diagnosis of the virus. A graduate from USAID's applied epidemiology training program also presented results from an AI outbreak in Pavlodar *oblast*.