



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	11 cases, 7 deaths	19 cases, 12 deaths
Djibouti	0 cases, 0 deaths	1 case, 0 deaths	1 case, 0 deaths
Egypt	0 cases, 0 deaths	14 cases, 6 deaths	14 cases, 6 deaths
Indonesia	17 cases, 11 deaths	35 cases, 29 deaths	52 cases, 40 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	85 cases, 55 deaths	229 cases, 131 deaths

Source: WHO. Laboratory-confirmed cases as of July 4, 2006

AVIAN INFLUENZA NEWS

- **New human AI death in Indonesia:** The World Health Organization (WHO) confirmed on July 4 Indonesia’s 52nd case of human infection with H5N1 avian influenza (AI). The case occurred in a 5-year-old boy from East Java Province who is suspected of becoming infected from direct contact with infected chickens. The boy’s close contacts have been monitored and no additional human AI cases have been detected.
- **Vietnam removing ban on raising ducks:** A ban imposed last year on raising ducks in Vietnam will soon be lifted. The country, which experienced several AI outbreaks in poultry beginning in 2004 and had at least 93 cases of human infection with the virus, has not reported animal outbreaks since early this year and has had no reported human cases since November 2005. Farmers will be required to keep ducks contained and to disinfect farms once a week to limit possible disease spread.
- **AI detected in Spain:** On July 7, Spain’s Ministry of Agriculture reported the country’s first case of H5N1 in a wild bird found outside a marsh in the northern part of the country. Officials have imposed a ban on outdoor poultry farming within a six-mile radius of marshes where wild birds gather.
- **Europeans aware of AI but unsure about basic AI risks:** In a survey conducted by the European Commission’s Eurobarometer, between 70 and 80 percent of Europeans are aware of AI prevention and containment measures, but a significant percentage are unclear on basic facts about the disease, such as how it is and is not transmitted. Around 25,000 respondents answered survey questions between March and May 2006 in 25 European Union member states, the Turkish Cypriot community, Bulgaria, Romania, Croatia, and Turkey.
- **WHO says human AI infections follow seasonal patterns:** A WHO report following an analysis of more than 200 known human AI cases suggests the incidence of human AI infections in the Northern Hemisphere follows seasonal influenza patterns, with an increased number of cases during winter months. If the pattern continues, experts say more human infections are expected in late 2006 and early 2007. The report says the pattern is similar to the 1918 Spanish flu. Most cases have occurred in 10- to 29-year-olds, with more than half of all patients dying of the illness within about nine days of presenting symptoms.

NEW USAID ACTIONS

To date, USAID has obligated \$133 million of its \$159 million in AI funds. The remaining \$26 million in unobligated funds is largely for emergency response and personal protective equipment (PPE). USAID supports **global and region-specific** AI activities in **Africa, Asia and the Near East, Europe and Eurasia, and Latin America and the Caribbean**. Activities focus on **planning and preparedness, surveillance, communications, stockpile commodities** (like PPE), and **response**.

Global update:

- To date, USAID has deployed 65,625 PPE sets to 54 countries for use in **surveillance** and **response** efforts and will produce 320,000 to 400,000 PPE kits per month between July and September. USAID will pre-position the kits to high-risk areas for rapid containment activities in case of outbreaks. To facilitate sample collection and disease detection efforts, USAID has begun to deploy outbreak investigation packs to 40 countries in **sub-Saharan Africa**.
- USAID has awarded a global-level **communications** project called AI.COMM to the Academy for Educational Development (AED). AED will implement activities under the new project, which will enhance USAID's capacity to provide technical assistance in behavior change and promotion of risk reduction practices. For more information on AED's AI behavior change communications activities, see <http://avianflu.aed.org/>.
- USAID has launched a Web-based AI monitoring, evaluation, and budget analysis system (AIMEBA). The system tracks USAID's AI disbursements and expenditures on a quarterly basis and provides Missions and USAID/Washington real-time access to updated information.

Africa update:

- USAID has obligated funds to the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization for **response** to H5N1 outbreaks in birds in **Niger** and **Burkina Faso**. The funds will be used to support surveillance, improved biosecurity, and in-country capacity building to strengthen national preparedness. Funds have also been obligated for regional and country-specific activities through the WHO Africa Regional Office for training in animal and human **surveillance**.
- USAID's West Africa program is working with the U.N. Development Program to provide support for laboratory equipment and diagnostic reagents in **Cameroon**. This activity enhances USAID's coordination efforts with the U.S. Department of Agriculture to improve national laboratory capacity, which is a critical component of Cameroon's national preparedness plan.

Asia and Near East update:

- USAID implementing partner AED has signed a memorandum of understanding with the government of **Laos** that will allow it to work on AI-related **communications**. USAID will fund these activities.
- USAID has announced it will support a public-private alliance in **Vietnam** to help train veterinarians in Thai Nguyen Province and upgrade Vietnam's health and information systems. The activity supports **preparedness, surveillance**, and outbreak **response**. The alliance includes the government of Vietnam, Veterinarians Without Borders, Pfizer Animal Health Group, Synbiotics, Evilais, Proconco, and other agribusinesses.

Europe and Eurasia update:

- USAID is working with **Romania's** government to establish a national working group to draft an AI **preparedness** plan. To support AI **surveillance** and diagnostics, USAID has procured three RT-PCR machines and diagnostic reagents for Romania's laboratories. The equipment will allow for rapid diagnosis of the H5 strain in samples from animals and humans.
- In a regional AI conference in Kazakhstan June 12–13, senior government officials from **Central Asia, Afghanistan, Mongolia, China**, and **Azerbaijan** met with development experts and human and animal health officials to discuss preparedness, planning, and a coordinated response to preventing the spread of AI. The meeting was a regional follow-up to global-level meetings, including the January 2006 international AI-pledging conference in Beijing, and was sponsored by USAID, the Asian Development Bank, the Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation Program, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the European Commission, the U.N. systems agencies, and the World Bank.
- A USAID-supported consultant has conducted an assessment of **Bulgaria's** AI **surveillance** program and has begun planning AI training courses to enhance the country's veterinary capacity.

Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) update:

- Representatives from USAID have participated in an exercise to run through preparedness plans in **Paraguay** to enhance pandemic **preparedness and planning** and to highlight the need for improved readiness in LAC.
- USAID representatives will attend a conference on outbreak and crisis **communication** in LAC July 18–20. The event will be hosted in Washington, D.C., by the Pan American Health Organization. USAID is also supporting a LAC subregional AI preparedness and prevention workshop in the Caribbean July 18–22.