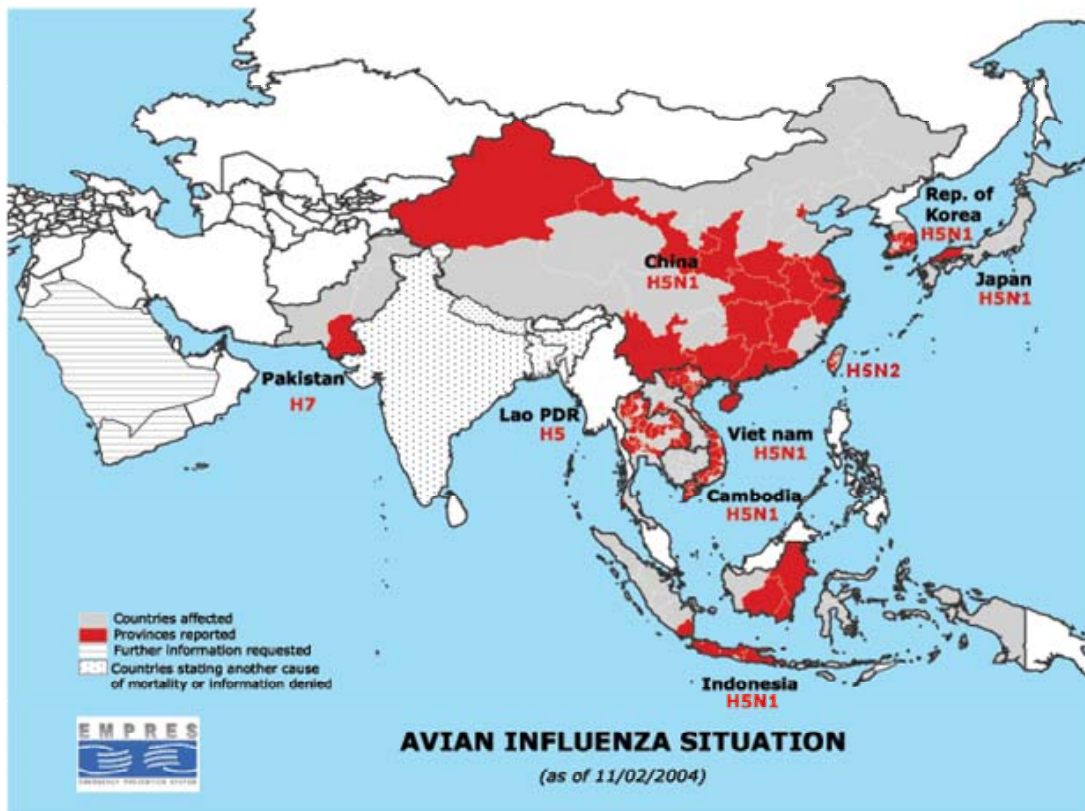


FAO AIDE news

Avian Influenza Disease Emergency

Update on the Avian Influenza situation (As of 14/02/2004) – Issue no. 5

The information summarized below is gathered from official and non official sources, which are quoted in the text. AIDE news is prepared by the FAO Technical Task force on Avian Influenza.



1. Summary of the situation

Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) confirmed:

As of 14/02/2004, HPAI - H5N1 has been reported in Viet Nam, Thailand, Cambodia, Lao PDR, Japan, Korea, Indonesia and China. The number of countries affected remains the same since the last update.

- **China:** As of 14/02/2004, China reported 46 cases in 14 provinces (33 confirmed cases and 13 suspected). The most recent suspicions were reported on 11/02/2004 in seven new Chinese regions located in Hubei, Hunan and Guangdong provinces.

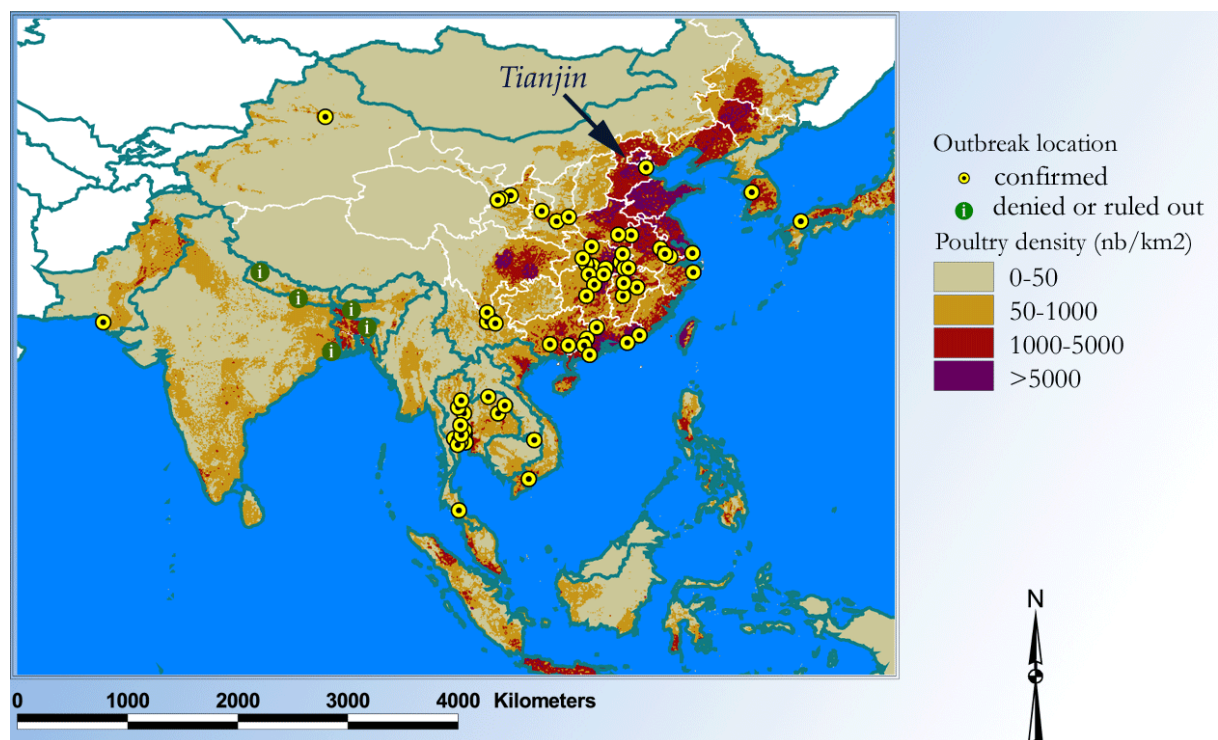
The epidemic in China is not yet under control and the disease is still spreading to new areas. On 10/02/2004, HPAI was reported in Tianjin municipality, Jinnan district in North-Eastern China (see map below), threatening neighbouring provinces which have not yet detected the disease. It is therefore imperative that control measures including movement management, quarantine and animal culling are applied strictly, especially in these areas of high human and animal density.

Wild birds have also begun to return to Southeast Asia and South China as the weather gets warmer, which could increase the likelihood of disease spreading.

“The Chinese Ministry of Agriculture issued an emergency notice Monday requiring authorities concerned to monitor the habits and habitats of migratory birds to prevent the spread of bird flu.

The notice says a more thorough mechanism of monitoring and examination must be established and more detailed information about migratory birds, including breeds, habitat and habits must be gathered. It asks medical staff to disinfect the habitats of the migratory birds, collect their excrement and sanitize it.

Poultry raisers are reminded to segregate flocks from wild birds and government departments to promote publicity campaigns in rural areas”. (china view, www.xinhuanet.com XINHUA online).



Mapping of confirmed and suspected outbreaks (source: empres-i information system). Preliminary results.

The data from official and non official sources collected so far have been entered into the FAO/EMPRES information system (EMPRES-*i*) for further analysis and mapping. Although the dataset is still incomplete (no or few data for Viet Nam, Lao PDR, Cambodia and Indonesia) and likely does not reflect the true incidence of the disease, more than 75 disease outbreaks with epidemiological details have been entered and processed. A tentative analysis of the situation will be given in the next AIDEnews issue (*V. Martin*).

Under investigation / rumours and suspicions / other information:

- **Saudi Arabia:** chicken deaths have been reported in the province of Rania where 50 chickens have died in a farm. No official information received concerning this rumour. (11/02/04 – source: gphin)
- **Yemen:** A large number of chickens died in the county of El-Lehia, province of El-Hadeeda. The villagers fear that it could be Avian Influenza. Situation under investigation. (11/02/04 – source: gphin)

Control strategies currently in implementation (see appendix):

- Countries that are planning/starting mass slaughter of poultry are: Thailand, Viet Nam, Indonesia, Pakistan, China, Taiwan Province of China
- Vaccination has been started/ordered in: China (Central & Southern), Taiwan province of China, Hong Kong SAR, Indonesia, and Pakistan.

2. Countries affected (as of 14/02/2004)

country	date declared to OIE	type	Animals affected	Human affected	additional information	
					info.	source*
Korea	17/12/03	H5N1	layer, duck	no	No outbreaks since 05/02/04	Government
Viet Nam	8/01/04	H5N1	Broiler	yes	57 provinces affected	gphin**
Japan	12/01/04	H5N1	Layer	no	under control	announcement
Taiwan province of China	20/01/04	H5N2	Layer, native chicken, duck, pheasant	no	low pathogenic	gphin
Thailand	23/01/04	H5 (N1)	Layer	yes	5 infected areas in 1 province and 158 control areas in 39 provinces	gphin, Thai government
Cambodia	24/01/04	H5N1	Layer, duck	no		government
Hong Kong SAR	26/01/04	H5N1	Peregrine falcon	no	wild birds	gphin
Lao, PDR	27/01/04	H5N1	layer	no		
Pakistan	28/01/04	H7	layer	no		
Indonesia	06/02/04	H5N1	Chicken, duck and quail	no	chicken have been dying since August	gphin
China	06/02/04	H5N1	duck, chicken and black swan	no	46 cases in 14 provinces	Chinese government
United States of America	11/02/04	H7	Chicken	no	Low pathogenic, under control, Further studies being conducted	FAO-LO

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

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

3. Actions taken – follow-up

➤ **FAO/OIE/WHO Technical Consultation on the Control of Avian Influenza 3 - 4 February 2004 Conclusions and recommendations**

On 5 February 2004, the Office International des Epizooties (OIE), the World Health Organization (WHO) with the assistance of some 25 experts from different organizations, institutes, and governments made a series of recommendations regarding HPAI control after the two-day meeting. The full text, including: **Current situation; Origins of the epidemic; Control and Eradication Strategies; Human Health issues including Food Safety; Rehabilitation; re-stocking, reorganisation of the sector and the recommendation is available on FAO website:**

http://www.fao.org/newsroom/common/ecq/36647_en_experts.pdf

➤ Technical meeting:

Joint FAO/OIE/WHO tripartite meeting - 4-5 February 2004, FAO Headquarters
- focused on "The Global Framework for the Control of Transboundary Diseases (GF-TADs)", the joint FAO/OIE initiative. The Avian Influenza crisis was on top of the agenda of the meeting.

➤ **OIE/FAO Emergency Regional Meeting on Avian Influenza Control in Animals in Asia (26-28 February)** – a joint FAO/OIE meeting in collaboration with WHO is to be held in Bangkok to discuss on situation in the area; strategies for control programmes; regional, international coordination; impact assessments on social, economical and policy issues; rehabilitation and restocking.

➤ Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP) projects:

FAO Technical Cooperation Projects (TCP) for Viet Nam, Cambodia, Lao PDR, Indonesia, China and Pakistan has been approved in principle this week by the Director General of FAO and are now operational. Regional TCPs are also in preparation and will focus on emergency control of the disease, regional networking, epidemiology and rehabilitation.

➤ Missions carried out /planned:

- C. Benigno, FAO RAP (Bangkok) Animal Health Officer. Mission to Lao PDR 29-1/02/2004, Viet Nam and Thailand

- P. Roeder, FAO EMPRES Animal Health Officer (Virology). Mission to Pakistan 21/01/2004 - 1/02/2004

- L. Gleeson, Australia Animal Health Laboratory, CSIRO, international expert in epidemiology. Mission to Thailand, China and other related areas.

- D. Swayne, Pathologist in Avian Diseases, Southeast Poultry Research Laboratory, USDA/ARS, OIE expert in collaboration with FAO, Mission to Thailand

- C. Benigno, FAO RAP (Bangkok) Animal Health Officer. Mission to Cambodia

- S. Morzaria, FAO RAP (Bangkok) Animal Health Officer. Mission to Indonesia

- T. Forman, international expert in epidemiology. Mission to Viet Nam

- FAO/OIE International experts are currently preparing missions to China, Cambodia, Lao PDR and Pakistan.

4. Avian Influenza Questions and Answers (full text available on the AGA Web site)

Q: What is FAO doing in response to the avian influenza situation?

In its response to the outbreak, FAO is emphasizing safety and prevention, assistance to affected countries and cooperation with other relevant international organizations... FAO has also approved roughly US\$3 million in emergency funds in order to send technical support missions to affected countries... These FAO technical missions will provide advice to governments on proper protection of workers during culling of infected birds; help governments improve the capacity of laboratories to diagnose the disease; respond to new reports of infection with rapid investigation teams; map outbreaks in order to predict possible spread patterns; deepen public awareness of proper food handling and disposal of birds. The organization also stresses that once the current crisis subsides, countries will need assistance in safely repopulating domestic bird flocks.

Technical support missions will be coordinated by the Organization's Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, located in Bangkok, Thailand. FAO's Asia office is also maintaining close communication with national governments in the region as well as other relevant international organizations in order to disseminate technical advice and help coordinate international responses.

More information is now available on:

http://www.fao.org/ag/againfo/subjects/en/health/diseases-cards/avian_qa.html#5

5. Related issues

- **Information for shipping international diagnostic specimens to the International Reference Laboratories** (see Appendix 2)
- **Impact of Avian influenza on livestock producers :**

Small Holders (continued from the previous issue) (source: Production economics affected - small to medium-scale poultry producers in South Asia/ Emmanuelle Guerne-Bleich, Animal Production Officer, AGAP)

1.2. Field Report-Viet Nam

From: Patrice Gautier, Country Representative for Viet Nam VETERINAIRES SANS FRONTIERES (VSF is working right now in two provinces in the North and South, with possible rapid extension due to the Avian Influenza crisis)

The impact on smallholders will depend on the different production systems and sizes of flocks.

1. Middle sized farms (between 100 - 5,000 animals), family managed, are the hardest hit. Either they are affected by the loss of their flock or affected indirectly by strong sanitary measures (culling with very low compensation and/or prohibition of access to the markets).
2. The large majority of the Vietnamese farmers are with small flock (15-20 birds), these farmers are very to extremely poor but they also have other small sources of incomes.
 - 2.a. their direct loss is on average 1,5 USD per bird x 20 = 35 USD.
 - 2.b. their birds are not affected but due to market closures or culling it doesn't hit them too hard, they usually consume the meat or share with neighbours.

1.3. China (Watt Poultry Global E-News [wattpoultry@wattnet.com])

Poultry markets were closed in Shanghai as the city banned the trade and slaughter of poultry to curb the spread of bird flu.

The industry and commerce department has examined 721 farm agricultural markets and seized 97 kilograms of dead poultry since the municipal government issued a notice banning the poultry trade. A total of 690 poultry markets have been closed.

The government notice has been put on every market in the city and detailed account records and quarantine serial numbers of poultry were required to secure the sources.

Hong Kong banned local farms from supplying chickens to markets and halted all poultry imports from China last Friday after Beijing said more provinces were suffering suspected outbreaks of bird flu, an epidemic racing through much of Asia.

Further information including field report on Taiwan province of China and conclusion of the report will be available on the next issue.

6. 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>)
- FAO AIDE News (Vol. 1, 2, 3 and 4) (Available at: <http://www.fao.org/ag/AGA/AGAH/EMPRES/index.asp>)

Relevant Web sites:

FAO Avian Influenza fact sheet:

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

OIE web site:

http://www.oie.int/eng/en_index.htm

OIE Technical Disease Cards:

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

WHO Avian influenza frequently asked questions web site:

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

WHO Advice to international travellers:

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

EU Public Health web site:

http://europa.eu.int/comm/health/ph_threats/com/Influenza/influenza_en.htm

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Supervision and Coordination

J. Domenech, Chief, Animal Health Service (FAO Headquarters – Rome)

Joseph.domenech@fao.org

Appendix 1

- Control strategies currently in implementation -

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

country	Control measures	
Korea	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Stamping out - Movement control - No vaccination - Surveillance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Import ban - Quarantine - Screening - Disinfection - Zoning
Viet Nam	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Modified stamping out - Movement control 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Quarantine - Screening - Control of wildlife reservoirs
Japan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - stamping out - Movement control - No vaccination - Surveillance - vaccine bank planed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Import ban - Quarantine - Disinfection - Screening
Taiwan province of China	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Stamping out 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Import ban
Thailand	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Stamping out - Movement control - No Vaccination - Daily reporting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Quarantine - Screening - Zoning - Compensation planned - 21-day surveillance programs
Cambodia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Stamping out - Movement control 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Disinfection - Quarantine
Hong Kong, SAR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Vaccination - Surveillance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Import ban
China	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Stamping out - Vaccination - Movement control - Vehicle check points 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Import ban - Disinfection - Market control - Quarantine - compensation planned - Vehicle check at main cities - Wild bird watch / disinfection
Lao, PDR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Stamping out - Movement control - Surveillance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Import ban - Quarantine
Pakistan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Stamping out - Movement control - Vaccination 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Import ban - Quarantine - Zoning - Control wild reservoirs
Indonesia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Modified stamping out - Movement control - vaccination - surveillance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Quarantine - Zoning - compensation planned
United States of America	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Stamping out - Movement control - Surveillance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Import ban - Quarantine

Appendix 2**Information for shipping international diagnostic specimens**

To the **National Veterinary Services Laboratories (NVSL), Ames, Iowa, USA.**

IMPORT PERMIT: Packages containing diagnostic specimens or organisms (infectious materials) imported from foreign locations into the United States must be accompanied by a permit issued by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The importation permit, with proper packaging and labelling, will expedite clearance of the package through U.S. Customs. One copy of the permit should be attached to the outside of the shipping container and a second copy placed just inside the lid of the outer shipping container. The importation permit can be obtained from the laboratory (NVSL, Ames, Iowa).

PACKAGING REQUIREMENTS: All materials should be in leak-proof containers and packaged to withstand breakage. All materials should be properly labelled.

SHIPPING ADDRESS:

Director,
National Veterinary Services Laboratories
Diagnostic Virology Laboratory
1800 Dayton Avenue, Ames, Iowa 50010

NOTIFICATION OF SHIPMENT: Please notify the Diagnostic Virology Laboratory with shipping information (date of arrival, airline/courier, weigh bill number, etc.) as soon as it is available. Fax information to (515) 663-7348 or telephone (515) 663-7551.

Contact for Avian Influenza:

Dr. Beverly J Schmitt

Direct Tel +1 515/663-7532; Direct Fax +1 515/663-7348, Email; Beverly.J.Schmitt@usda.gov

To the **Avian Virology Laboratory, Veterinary Laboratories Agency, Weybridge, UK**
from outside the EU

PACKAGING REQUIREMENTS. All materials should be in leak-proof containers. At least two layers of packaging should be used and the inner layer treated lightly with disinfectant.

The outer packaging must be marked as follows:

**ANIMAL PATHOGEN - PACKAGE ONLY TO BE OPENED AT THE AVIAN
VIROLOGY SECTION, VLA, WEYBRIDGE. IMPORTATION AUTHORISED
BY LICENCE NUMBER....*.....ISSUED UNDER THE IMPORTATION OF
ANIMAL PATHOGENS ORDER.**

*Insert one of the following LICENCE NUMBERS:-

For Newcastle disease, **avian influenza** and other viruses: AHZ/2232/2002/5

For tissues and other materials: AHZ/963A/99/2

SHIPPING ADDRESS:

Avian Virology
VLA Weybridge, New Haw, Addlestone, Surrey KT15 3NB, United Kingdom

Packages should be sent by AIR MAIL or AIR FREIGHT. If sending by AIR FREIGHT it is essential that the **AIRWAY BILL NUMBER** is given to us by FAX, telephone, or Email before the arrival of the materials. Packages sent by air freight should be clearly marked: **CARE OF TRANSGLOBAL** to ensure rapid processing at the airport.

NOTIFICATION OF SHIPMENT: Please notify the VLA-Weybridge, Avian Virology Laboratory of the shipment details before dispatch.

Contact: Dr. I. H. Brown

Direct TEL: 01932 357 339; Direct FAX: 01932 357 239; Email: i.h.brown@vla.defra.gsi.gov.uk

Dr. D.J. Alexander

Direct TEL: 01932 357 466; Direct FAX: 01932 357 856; Email: d.j.alexander@vla.defra.gsi.gov.uk