



U.S. AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL  
DEVELOPMENT

AVIAN AND PANDEMIC INFLUENZA  
MANAGEMENT AND RESPONSE UNIT

Situation Update #29

March 1–13, 2006

**H5N1 AVIAN INFLUENZA THREAT – NUMBERS AT A GLANCE**

Country	Human Cases 2003–2005	Human Cases 2006	TOTAL
Cambodia	4 cases, 4 deaths	0 cases, 0 deaths	4 cases, 4 deaths
China	8 cases, 5 deaths	7 cases, 5 deaths	15 cases, 10 deaths
Indonesia	17 cases, 11 deaths	12 cases, 11 deaths	29 cases, 22 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
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>144 cases, 76 deaths</b>	<b>33 cases, 22 deaths</b>	<b>177 cases, 98 deaths</b>

*Source: WHO laboratory-confirmed cases as of March 13, 2006*

**NEWS**

- H5N1 animal outbreaks confirmed in three more European countries: Since the beginning of March, the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) confirmed H5N1 outbreaks in bird populations in Albania, Hungary, and Poland, as well as H5-subtype outbreaks in Pakistan, Georgia, and Serbia. Of the 33 countries where H5N1 has been confirmed to date, 20 have been detected since the beginning of February 2006, mostly in Europe and the Middle East as well as three African countries. Eight countries have detected H5-subtype avian influenza (AI) viruses with no confirmation of the N-subtype.
- New human deaths in Indonesia, China: H5N1 avian flu has now killed 21 people in Indonesia, following the confirmation of the virus in a 4-year-old boy who died February 28 after developing symptoms 18 days earlier. China reported its 10th case on March 7 (and second since March 2). The most recent victim was a 9-year-old girl from Zhejiang province in southeastern China who is believed to have had contact with diseased poultry at a relative's house.
- Cluster of 10 under investigation in Azerbaijan: Since the beginning of March, the Ministry of Health in Azerbaijan has been investigating 10 people placed under observation for possible infection with H5N1. Three have died, and more testing is being done to determine whether the deaths were caused by H5N1. Six of the patients have been released, and one remains hospitalized in critical condition. Bird outbreaks of H5N1 were confirmed in the same region of the country on February 24.
- Avian flu found in cats: H5N1 has been found in cats in Austria and Germany. The World Health Organization (WHO) says more tests are needed to determine if the virus is adapting to mammals. A German laboratory also discovered H5N1 in a stone marten (a weasel-like animal) in Germany.

**NEW USAID ACTIONS**

- USAID response to first outbreaks in Africa: As a result of early and aggressive USAID engagement on AI in Africa – both by USAID Missions throughout the continent and by USAID/Washington – USAID has acted quickly in response to confirmed outbreaks. Within days of the Nigeria outbreak on February 8, USAID shipped 2,000 sets of emergency protective equipment (in short supply at the time of the outbreak) for first responders and animal cullers and developed an emergency response plan for U.S. Government assistance. An animal health expert from USAID's Avian and Pandemic Influenza Management and Response Unit in Washington was deployed to Nigeria to assist USAID officials on the ground in developing a response plan to support the government and a group of AI specialists, including experts from WHO, the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). In Niger, USAID mobilized

an emergency shipment of 2,000 sets of protective equipment for first responders within 48 hours of confirmation of H5N1 on February 27.

- USAID acts quickly to assist newly affected countries: Besides deploying emergency commodities to eight countries during the first two months of 2006, USAID has deployed infectious disease and animal health experts to Iraq, Turkey, Ukraine, Romania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Moldova, and Nigeria to provide short-term technical assistance to improve the rapid collection of animal samples and help implement procedures to strengthen surveillance and containment efforts. USAID provided the Ukraine government with personal protective equipment kits that two veterinary laboratories and cullers and first responders from the Ministry of Emergencies are using in their response and containment activities.
- Top USAID health official testifies on avian flu: Kent R. Hill, USAID's Assistant Administrator for Global Health, testified on the Agency's ongoing emergency response to AI before the House Appropriations Committee, Subcommittee on Foreign Operations, on March 2, along with Department of Health and Human Services officials Julie Gerberding, head of CDC, and Anthony Fauci, head of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases. Dr. Hill reported that USAID had committed more than \$22.1 million to respond to AI in Southeast Asia, Eastern Europe, and Africa during fiscal year 2005 and is now implementing \$131 million in additional assistance appropriated during fiscal year 2006.
- Continuing support to Albania on bird flu, USAID helps confirm first H5N1 outbreak: In Albania, USAID has taken a lead role with UN organizations to assist in detection and response following the confirmation of its first outbreak of H5N1 in March 2006. USAID helped facilitate the shipment of a suspected animal sample to the OIE reference laboratory in Weybridge, England. With the Department of State and CDC, USAID has been working with the Albanian government on AI since March 2005, alerting Albanian leaders to potential AI risks, ensuring that sound epidemiological information from U.S. sources is easily accessible, and promoting acceleration of needs assessments and preparedness measures, including the establishment of an interministerial task force.
- USAID to support poultry re-introduction in Turkey: Using fiscal year 2006 emergency funding, USAID will provide support for Turkey's efforts to safely restock poultry in areas of mass culling and to improve biosecurity and public awareness in order to reduce the risk of re-introduction of the virus.
- FAO, WHO host USAID-supported expert conference in South Africa: USAID worked closely with FAO and WHO to support and organize a conference in South Africa from February 28–March 3 to bring together FAO and WHO staff and animal and human health experts and epidemiologists from southern African nations to discuss AI preparations in the region.
- Collaborative project with CDC to fund global animal surveillance network: In collaboration with CDC, USAID will support the Wildlife Conservation Society to improve the capacity for early detection of zoonotic disease threats by increasing surveillance of wild migratory birds. USAID and CDC support will permit the establishment of global capacity to track the flyways of migratory birds and determine whether they are carrying dangerous viruses such as AI. The information gained from this activity will help provide early warning to countries at highest risk.