

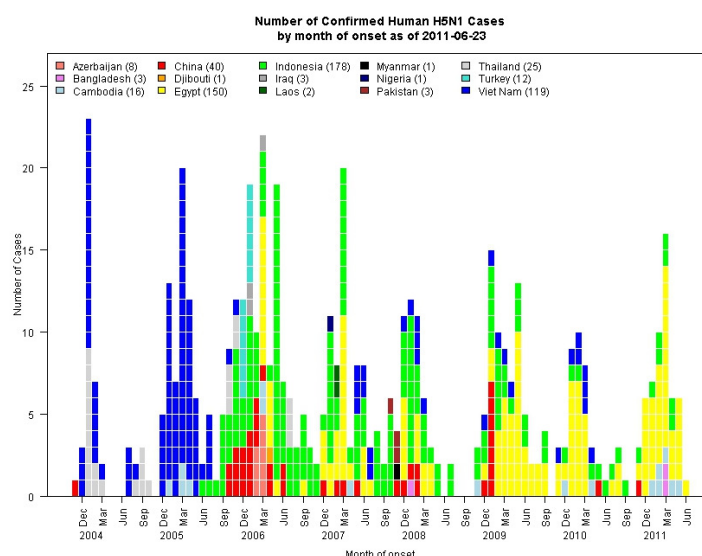
Influenza at the human-animal interface

Summary and assessment as of 4 July 2011

Human infections with avian influenza H5N1 virus and associated animal health events

As of 4 July, 562 confirmed human cases of infection with avian influenza H5N1 virus from 15 countries were reported to WHO (see figure). Of these, 329 died (CFR: 58.5%). Epidemiologic investigations have identified only limited human to human transmission of this virus since its emergence in 2003, and no community-level spread.

Egypt has reported two human cases with onset dates in May and June that were not included in the previous summary (prepared on 17 June). One of these cases died and the other recovered; both were male and both reported contact with poultry suspected to have avian influenza. No other countries reported human cases since the last summary. Egypt and Indonesia have officially declared the virus endemic in poultry¹, and information from FAO suggests the H5N1 virus is also circulating endemically in poultry in China, India, Viet Nam, and Bangladesh².



In Egypt, human cases of avian influenza H5N1 virus infection continue to be regularly reported from several governorates, reflecting a functioning national disease surveillance and reporting structure as well as widespread virus circulation in poultry. The overall number of reported human cases continues to decrease, following the expected seasonal pattern in the country. However, poultry outbreaks continue to be reported from over 10 governorates throughout the Nile valley. This, it is anticipated that people in Egypt will continue

¹ OIE WAHID interface. HPAI Summary of Immediate notifications and Follow-ups - 2010. Available online: http://web.oie.int/wahis/public.php?page=disease_immediate_summary&disease_type=Terrestrial&disease_id=15

² Approaches to Controlling, Preventing and Eliminating H5N1 Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza in Endemic Countries. Rome, United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization, 2011

to be exposed to the virus through contact with infected poultry or contaminated environments, and therefore sporadic human cases will occur as long as the virus continues to circulate in poultry. The animal health and public health sectors in Egypt continue to work closely together to reduce risks from H5N1 at the human-animal interface.

No non-endemic countries reported HPAI H5N1 in poultry or wild birds since the last summary. This downward trend in H5N1 events was predicted based on the seasonal pattern of outbreaks seen in previous years and the onset of warmer weather in the northern hemisphere. However, human cases are possible whenever the virus is circulating in birds. More information on animal influenza is available from OIE (www.oie.int/animal-health-in-the-world/web-portal-on-avian-influenza/),
FAO (www.fao.org/avianflu/en/index.html), and OFFLU (<http://www.offlu.net/index.html>).

Human infections with other animal influenza viruses

There were no human infections with other animal influenza viruses reported to WHO since the last summary.

Other animal influenza events

Since the last summary, new outbreaks of HPAI H5N2 in ostriches have been reported to the OIE from South Africa (onset dates in April). This strain of H5N2 has never been reported to cause clinical illness in humans.

There continued to be new outbreaks of LPAI H7N7 reported to the OIE from Germany and The Netherlands. Low pathogenicity H7 viruses likely do not pose a significant risk to public health currently, but warrant consistent virological and epidemiological monitoring and control in animal populations. One LPAI outbreak in a turkey farm in Minnesota, USA, has also been reported to the OIE although information on the serotype is still pending.

Relevant Links:

WHO Table: Cumulative Number of Confirmed Human Cases of Avian Influenza A/(H5N1) Reported to WHO
www.who.int/csr/disease/avian_influenza/country/cases_table_2011_02_09/en/index.html

WHO Table: H5N1 avian influenza: timeline of major events
www.who.int/csr/disease/avian_influenza/ai_timeline/en/index.html

WHO Archive: Avian Influenza situation updates
www.who.int/csr/disease/avian_influenza/updates/en/index.html

World Organisation of Animal Health (OIE) webpage: Web portal on Avian Influenza
www.oie.int/animal-health-in-the-world/web-portal-on-avian-influenza/

Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN (FAO) webpage: Avian Influenza
www.fao.org/avianflu/en/index.html

Government of Egypt website: "Strengthening Avian Influenza Detection and Response" (SAIDR) website:
www.saidr.org/index.php