

## Current major events

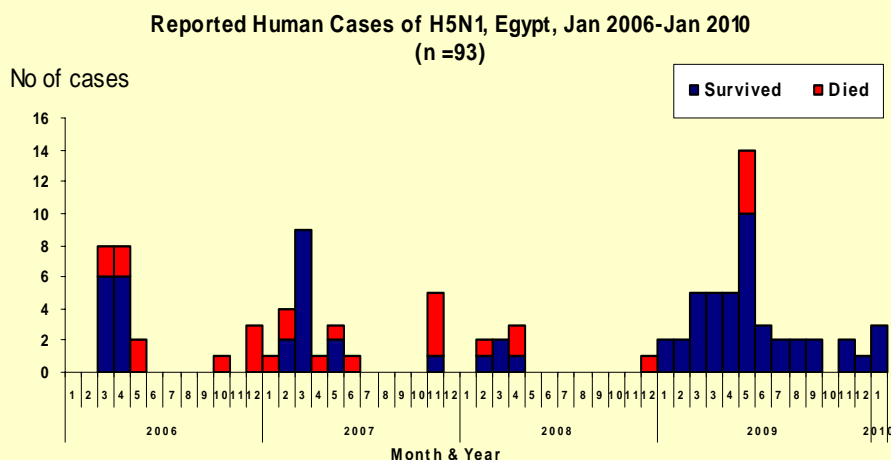
### New human cases of avian influenza A(H5N1) in Egypt

The Egyptian Ministry of Health has announced three more new confirmed human cases of avian influenza A (H5N1) bringing the total number of AI in the Country to 93. Twenty seven (27) of these cases were fatal. The last three cases aged 20, 1.5 and 3 years were reported respectively from Baniswief, dying poultry, Dakhalya and Assiut governorates. Two of these cases were males and one was a female. Investigations into the cases revealed all had close contacts with sick and dying poultry.

### Editorial note

As of 19 January 2010, the Ministry of Health in Egypt has reported 93 confirmed human cases of avian influenza A (H5N1) since the first case was reported in 2006. 27 of these cases were fatal (CFR = 29% is the lowest globally). In 2009, Egypt reported most of the human cases of A/H5N1 (39 out of the 72 cases) that were reported globally. Four (4) of the cases were fatal (CFR = 10.3%). Ninety percent of the A/H5N1 human cases reported from Egypt were aged below 30 years. Out of 36 children below 5 years affected by AI A/H5N1 in Egypt, only one death was reported (CFR 2.9%).

Avian influenza A/H5N1 virus has remained endemic in the animal population throughout Egypt. The virus continued to circulate in the birds population throughout the year with recurrent epizootics in various parts of the country. A pattern of human infection with the virus has developed. The virus began to spread in the human population in the early months (October) of the fourth quarter and peaks around March–April, and starts to decline by June. The control of A/H5N1 virus in Egypt has proved rather difficult. The virus remains endemic among the small scale backyard poultry where mass vaccination and other control measures has not been proved to be successful. This has been made more difficult by the cultural and economic implications to the rural com-



Age distribution of confirmed human cases of Influenza A(H5N1) in Egypt

Age group	Cases	Deaths	CFR (%)
< 5 yrs	34	1	2.9
5 to 15 yrs	27	4	14.8
>15 to 30 yrs	23	16	69.6
>30 to 45 yrs	7	4	57.1
>45 yrs	2	2	100
<b>Total</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>29</b>

munity whose livelihood depend very much on this sector.

We may witness more A/H5N1 activities in the next coming months in Egypt. The situation is particularly tricky and worrisome, especially at this time when the country is still confronting the spread of the new pandemic A(H1N1) 2009 virus. The Ministry of Health in Egypt recommended separate treatment centers for avian influenza A/H5N1 and pandemic influenza A/H1N1 2009 patients at the beginning of the pandemic last year. It is hoped that this measure will be reinforced and that the chances of co-infection with the two viruses will be minimized to reduce the opportunity of the two virus mixing. It is advisable that the medical authorities in the country introduce mandatory tests for pandemic influenza A(H1N1) for all patients who test positive for avian influenza A/H5N1 virus (if that is not being done). Surveillance for ILI/SARI should also be strengthened at this time of the year.

## Update on outbreaks

in the Eastern Mediterranean Region

**Pandemic (H1N1) 2009** in all the 22 countries in EMR. **Avian Influenza A (H5N1)** in Egypt

### Current public health events of international concern

[cumulative N° of cases (deaths), CFR %]

#### Avian influenza

Egypt	[93 (27), 29%]
Indonesia	[161 (134), 83.2%]
China	[38 (25), 65.8%]
Vietnam	[112(57), 50.9%]
Cambodia	[9 (7), 77.8%]
<b>Global total</b>	<b>470 (282), 60%</b>

#### Kala Azar

S. Sudan	[403 (24), 6%]
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#### Yellow Fever

Cote d' Ivoire	[10 (6), 60%]
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#### Pandemic (H1N1) 2009

AFRO	No of deaths: 131
AMRO	No of deaths: At least 7094
EMRO	No of deaths: 941
EURO	No of deaths: At least 3099
SEARO	No of deaths: 1366
WPRO	No of deaths: 1511
<b>GLOBAL Total</b>	<b>No of deaths: 14,142</b>

CFR=Case-Fatality Rate