

Current major event

New case of avian influenza A (H5N1) in Egypt

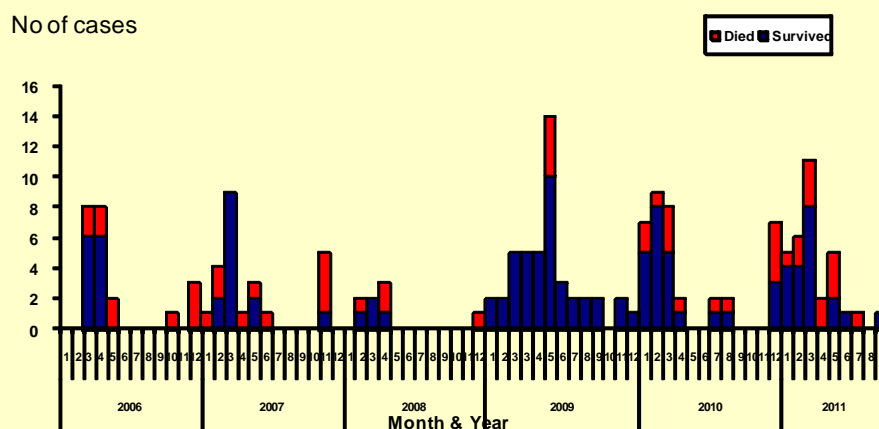
The Ministry of Public Health in Egypt has reported a new case of human infection with avian influenza A (H5N1) virus. The case is a fourteen month old male child from Gharbia Governorate, Mahala District. He developed symptoms on 17th September 2011, received Tami flu on 21st September. The patient has recovered fully. Laboratory confirmation was done at the Central Public Health Laboratory and NAMRU-3 on 29th September and 2nd October 2011 respectively. Investigations into the source of infection indicated the child had exposure to backyard poultry. This brings the number of confirmed cases in Egypt to 152 and 52 of them have been fatal.

Editorial note

In September, the Ministry of Health in Egypt reported a new case of human infection with avian influenza A(H5N1) virus. This brings the total human cases of A(H1N1) thus far in 2011 to 33, of which 12 were fatal (CFR= 36.4%). This is the third year in a row that Egypt tops the list of countries reporting human cases of A(H5N1), accounting for 53.4%, 60.4% and 62.3% of the global cases reported in 2009, 2010 and 2011 respectively. With this latest case, Egypt now has a total of 152 human cases of avian influenza A(H5N1), with 52 related deaths. This year, only four countries (Bangladesh, Cambodia, Egypt and Indonesia) reported human cases of avian influenza A(H5N1) to the World Health Organization.

Since 2006, Egypt has witnessed a regular pattern in upsurge in the activities of avian influenza A(H5N1) virus, starting with widespread epizootic in backyard poultry in the early fall. This is followed by the upsurge in human cases in the Winters and Springs (*see chart*). A(H5N1) virus is endemic in Egypt and Egypt is the only country in the Eastern Mediterranean Region that continued to witness

Reported human cases of avian influenza A (H5N1) in Egypt, Jan 2006- September 2011 (n=152)



Age group	Cases	Deaths	CFR (%)
< 5 yrs	46	2	4.3
5 to 15 yrs	35	4	11.4
>15 to 30 yrs	44	31	70.5
>30 to 45 yrs	22	12	54.5
>45 yrs	5	3	60
Total	152	52	34.2

human cases of avian influenza. Moreover, globally, Egypt is now second after Indonesia with the highest number of human cases of A(H5N1). The control of this virus has remained elusive in the Country despite efforts by the Ministry of Health. The problem with the current control strategy is that, the public health measures are not sustained during the dormant period in viral activities.

We may be lucky that until now, there has not been any major evolution in the virus strain circulating in the Country, but the vigilance must be maintained. The animal sector and the Ministry of Health need to foster a closer cooperation on sharing of data/information. An outbreak in the animal sector should act as an early warning for human sector so that appropriate control measures can be enhanced in good time. It is well understood that avian influenza is not only a public health problem but it also has wider economic and social implication in the country.

Update on outbreaks

in the Eastern Mediterranean Region

Cholera in Afghanistan, Pakistan, Djibouti, Somalia and Yemen; **Wild polio type 3** in Pakistan; **Dengue** in Somalia and Pakistan

Current public health events of international concern

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

Avian influenza

Egypt	[152 (52), 34.4%]
Indonesia	[181 (149), 82.3 %]
Viet Nam	[119(59), 49.6%
Cambodia	[18(16), 88.9%]
Global total	[569 (334), 58.7%]

Dengue

Pakistan	[20639(297) , 1.4%]
Somalia	[]
	[4(1), 25.0%]

Brucellosis & Q fever

Afghanistan	[147(0), 0%]
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AWD (Cholera)

Afghanistan	[1093(11), 1 %]#
Pakistan	[4506(35), 0.8%]
Somalia	[4271(181), 4.2%]

CFR=Case-Fatality Rate; * Number of hospital visits; # Suspected cases only