

Current major event

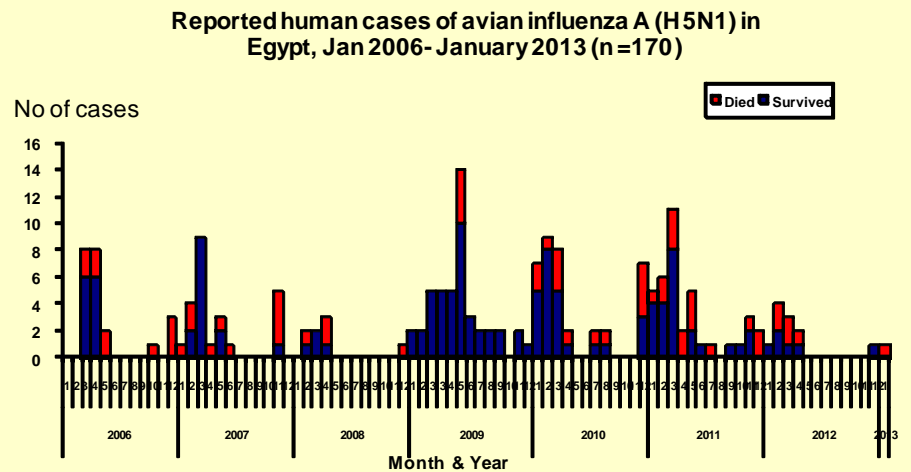
New Case of Avian Influenza A(H5N1) in Egypt

The Ministry of Health and Population in Egypt has reported a new human infection with avian influenza, A (H5N1) virus. The case is a 36 years old female from Behera Governorate, Delengat District; she developed symptoms on 16th of January 2013 admitted at Chest Hospital with critical condition & received Oseltamivir on 20th January 2013. The patient died on 26th January 2013. Investigations into the source of infection indicate that she had exposure to backyard sick and dead poultry (chicken and ducks). Laboratory confirmation was done by RT-PCR at the Central Public Health Laboratories; (NIC) on 27th of January 2013. Of the 170 cases confirmed to date in Egypt, 61 have been fatal.

Editorial note

The Ministry of Health and Population in Egypt has reported a new (fatal) case of avian influenza A/H5N1 in the last week of January 2013. This is the first case of A/H5N1 this year and the second case reported during this influenza season (the last case was reported in December 2012). The total number of cases reported during 2012 was 11, of which 5 were fatal. Although Egypt remained the country with the highest cases of A/H5N1 in 2012, the number of cases was less than half the number reported in 2011. This is a good sign, but does not mean the outbreak could be coming to an end. The Country should remain vigilant and the control measures put in place must continue.

It will be recalled that Egypt reported its first H5N1 in domestic poultry in February 2006 and the outbreaks continued to throughout that year. The first confirmed human case of A/H5N1 in the Country was reported in a 30 year old woman from Qalubiya on 20 March 2006. Since then a total of 170 cases including 61 deaths have been reported .



Age distribution of avian influenza A (H5N1) reported from Egypt, 2006-2013

Age group	Cases	Deaths	CFR (%)
< 5 yrs	52	2	3.9
5 to 15 yrs	35	4	11.4
>15 to 30 yrs	47	34	72.3
>30 to 45 yrs	31	18	56.6
>45 yrs	5	3	60
Total	170	61	35.7

The human cases often followed outbreaks in domestic poultry (mainly in the backyard poultry farms). Avian influenza due to A/H5N1 virus has remained active in Egypt despite concerted efforts by the Ministry of Health and Population; and the Ministry of Agriculture.

Besides Egypt, three other countries in the Eastern Mediterranean Region of WHO (namely Djibouti, Iraq and Pakistan) reported confirmed human cases of avian influenza, and six other countries reported the virus in birds only. Globally, the virus has spread and caused large epizootic and sporadic human cases in Asia, Europe the Middle East and Africa. A total of 616 confirmed human cases of which 365 were fatal have been globally reported.

Avian influenza still poses great risk of a potential pandemic. Countries in EMR should remain vigilant in the face of this persistent threat and collaboration with the animal sector should be encouraged.

Update on outbreaks

Novel Coronavirus in Saudi Arabia, Qatar and Jordan; **Yellow fever** in Sudan; **Hepatitis E**: in South Sudan; **WNV** in Tunisia.

Current public health events of international concern

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

Avian influenza

Egypt	[170 (61), 35.88]
Indonesia	[190 (158), 83.1 %]
Viet Nam	[123(61), 49.5%]
Cambodia	[21(19), 90.4%]
Global total	[611(361), 59.1%]

Hepatitis E

S. Sudan	[3347 (78),2.3%]#
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Novel coronavirus

Saudi Arabia	[5 (3), 60 %]
Qatar	[2 (0)]
Jordan	[2 (2), 100%]

West Nile Virus

Tunisia	[81 (12) 14.8.%]#
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Yellow fever

Sudan	[849 (171), 20.2%] #
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Ebola Haemorrhagic Fever

D.R Congo	[77(36), 46.7%]
Uganda	[7 (4), 57%]

CFR=Case-Fatality Rate; # Suspected cases