

Current major event

Avian Influenza A (H5N1) in Egypt

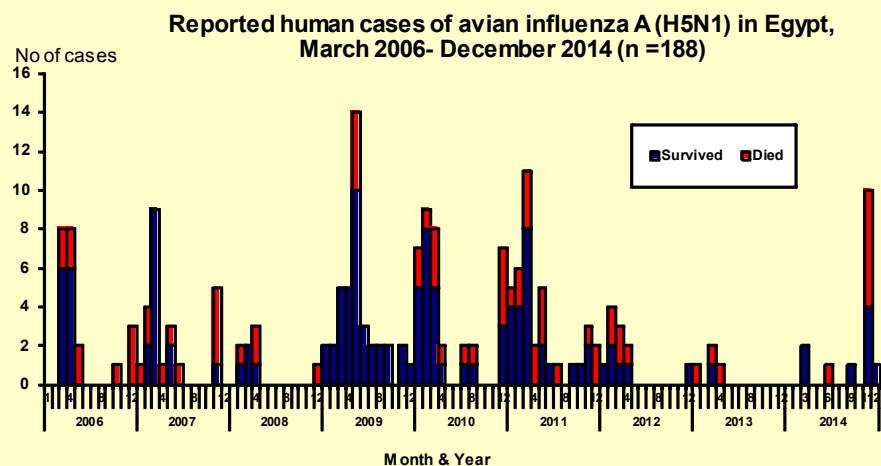
The Ministry of Health and Population of Egypt reported eight new human cases of Avian Influenza A (H5N1) to WHO in the months of November and December. Five of the eight cases were from Menia Governorate, one case was from bordering Bani Swife Governorate to the north, and two cases were from Sohag Governorate further south of Menia. Four patients recovered and three were still admitted as of 7 December. Since 2006, Egypt has reported 188 laboratory confirmed cases of A (H5N1) including 70 deaths (CFR 37.2%).

Editorial note

Egypt has reported 15 cases of A (H5N1) including seven associated deaths (CFR 46.7%) since January 2014. Eight cases were from Menia Governorate (53%); and seven cases were from neighbouring Bani Swife and Asyut Governorates, and Sohag Governorate further south. The cases reported in Menia Governorate were from Menia District (4 cases), Bani Mazar District (2 cases), Der Muwaz District (1 case) and Samallot District (1 case). This year has so far witnessed four fold increase in reported cases of A (H5N1) compared to 2013. However, the 2014 incidence of the disease is only marginally higher than 2012 incidence, and has not exceeded the high peaks observed in 2009 and 2011 (please see the above figure).

With the cumulative total of 188 confirmed human cases of A (H5N1) since 2006, Egypt remains the most affected country in the region, and second only to Indonesia globally. Egypt is also the only country in the WHO Eastern Mediterranean Region (EMR) that has continued to report human cases of A (H5N1) since the virus was first reported in EMR in 2006 (please see the above table).

Field investigations have been conducted by joint teams from human health and animal sectors, for the 15 human cases of A (H5N1) that have been reported so far in 2014, in order to deter-



Age distribution of avian influenza A (H5N1) cases and deaths reported from Egypt, 2006-2014

Age group	Cases	Deaths	CFR (%)
< 5 yrs	57	2	3.5
5 to < 15 yrs	35	4	11.4
15 to < 30 yrs	53	39	73.6
30 to < 45 yrs	37	22	59.5
45 yrs & >	6	3	50.0
Total	188	70	37.2

mine source of infection and mechanism of transmission. Findings have revealed that 13 out of the 15 cases had close contact with a sick or dead poultry. Age distribution of the cases consistently found children under 5 years of age to be at highest risk of infection, followed by the older 15 to 30 years age group category; the 15 to 30 years age group also had the highest case fatality rate (please see the above table).

Menia Governorate seems to have active foci of Influenza A (H5N1) among poultry since last June when Samallot District reported a case of A (H5N1). The ongoing transmission may suggest that intervention measures taken so far are not effective enough to contain circulation of the virus among poultry, and transmission from poultry to humans. Further strengthening of surveillance for early case detection; enhanced risk communication to minimize unsafe handling of sick poultry; and sustained coordination and information sharing between the human health and animal health authorities could be of great value.

Update on outbreaks

in the Eastern Mediterranean Region

MERS-CoV in Saudi Arabia and Avian Influenza in Egypt

Current public health events of international concern
[cumulative N° of cases (deaths), CFR %]

Avian Influenza A (H5N1): 2006-2014

Egypt [188 (70), 37.2%]

MERS-CoV: 2012-2014

Saudi Arabia	[803 (307), 38.2%]
Jordan	[11 (6), 54.5%]
Oman	[2 (2), 100%]
UAE	[68 (8), 11.8%]
Kuwait	[3 (1), 33.3%]
Tunisia	[3 (1), 33.3%]
Qatar	[9 (4), 44.4%]
Yemen	[1 (1), 100%]
Egypt	[1 (0), 0%]
Lebanon	[1 (0), 0%]
Iran	[5 (2), 40%]

Ebola Hemorrhagic Fever: 2014

Guinea	[2292 (1428), 62.3%]
Liberia	[7719 (3177), 41.2%]
Sierra Leone	[7897 (1768), 22.4%]
Nigeria	[20 (8), 40%]
Senegal	[1 (0), 0%]
Spain	[1 (0), 0%]
USA	[4 (1), 25%]
Mali	[8 (6), 75%]

Wild poliovirus: 2014

Pakistan	[276 (0), 0%]
Afghanistan	[24 (0), 0%]