

Major diseases situation in the Sub-region

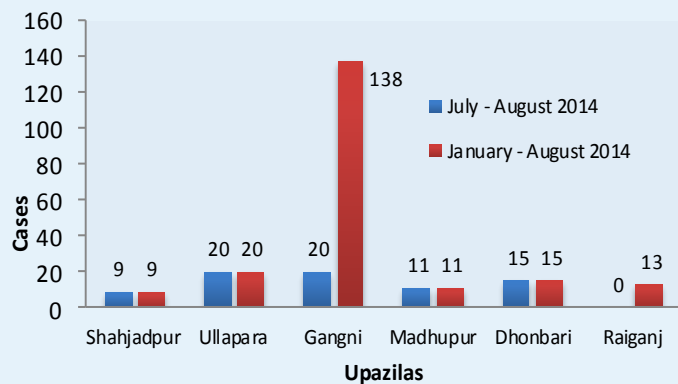
During the months of July - August 2014, no HPAI outbreaks were reported from the SAARC countries. The sub-region continued to record highly pathogenic diseases such as Anthrax (Bangladesh), Crimean Congo haemorrhagic fever (CCHF) in Pakistan, and leptospirosis in Sri Lanka during the period.

Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) H5N1 updates

During the months of July - August 2014, no HPAI outbreaks were reported from the SAARC countries.

Bangladesh

Anthrax update



Cutaneous anthrax cases in Bangladesh

A total of 74 cutaneous anthrax cases were reported from Shahjadpur (09), Ullapara (20), Gangni (20), Madhupur (11) and Dhonbari (15) during July - August 2014. Similarly, a total of 214 cutaneous anthrax cases were reported from 7 Upzilas namely, Raiganj (13), Shahjadpur (09), Ullapara (20), Gangni (138), Araihasar (8), Madhupur (11) and Dhonbari (15) during the months of January - August 2014. The highest number of cases was reported from Gangni Upazila but during the July-August months number reported were almost same from all the Upzilas reporting cases.

For more info: <http://bit.ly/bul32-01>

Pakistan

Crimean Congo hemorrhagic fever (CCHF) update

During week No. 28 - 35 (July - August) of 2014, fifty nine (59) including forty seven (47) suspected and twelve (12) laboratory confirmed cases of CCHF have been reported in Pakistan. A total of three (3) provinces, Punjab, Khyber Pakhtunkwa (KPK) and Baluchistan have reported both suspected and confirmed cases of CCHF. The highest number of CCHF suspected (47) and confirmed (12) cases were reported from Baluchistan. Of the twenty one (21) deaths, seven (7) have been confirmed to be associated with CCHF during this period. Thus the case fatality rate of 58.3% for the confirmed cases is significantly greater than 31.8% observed during May - June 2014.

Most of the confirmed cases had a history of contact with animals. This situation suggested the need to review and evaluate intervention measures put in place for early detection and control of CCHF in animal populations to ultimately prevent infection in human populations especially to the occupational groups (farmers, butchers, animal traders, herders, tannery workers etc.).

For more info: <http://bit.ly/bul32-02>

Sri Lanka

Leptospirosis update

A total of 382 cases (156 in July and 140 in August) of human leptospirosis have been reported. A total of 20 districts in July and 19 districts in August were affected out of 26 districts. The highest numbers of cases reported were 31 and 37 in Ratnapura during July and August

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respectively. A total of 1564 leptospirosis cases were reported from January to August 2014. Previous experience and data suggests that the disease is mainly associated with paddy cultivation. More information can be seen on the website of the Epidemiology Unit, Ministry of Health, Sri Lanka.

For more info: <http://bit.ly/bul32-03>

Workshops and Meetings

Fifth meeting of the HPED Steering Committee and 8th FAO/OIE Regional Steering Committee Meeting on GF-TADs for Asia and the Pacific, 15 - 17 July 2014, Bangkok, Thailand

FAO and OIE co-organized the 5th Meeting of the EU-HPED Steering Committee Meeting and the 8th GF-TADs Steering Committee Meeting for Asia and the Pacific. Mohinder Oberoi, Sub-regional Manager, ECTAD, RSU Coordinator participated in the meeting and as part of the FAO delegation assisted in the presentation of updates on the current EU-HPED programme, and the GF-TADs activities supported from the EU-HPED project resources in South Asia.

The 5th EU HPED Steering Committee Meeting was the last meeting for the Regional Cooperation Programme on Highly Pathogenic and Emerging Diseases in South and Southeast Asia, being implemented by FAO, OIE and WHO with their own respective components. The HPED steering committee meeting was opened by the European Commission representative with remarks from Assistant Director General (ADG) FAO RAP, OIE and WHO. The ADG mentioned that RSUs were recognised as important arm for implementation of activities under the HPED project. The EC representative also complimented that HPED programme was very interesting programme in the EU portfolio to strengthen institutional capacities of ASEAN and SAARC.

The EU-HPED meeting recommended that national governments ensure an appropriate balance to investments made to the human and animal health sectors (e.g. sustaining OIE regional vaccine banks and support to the implementation of disease prevention and control programmes); advocate for social responsibility by the

animal health sector towards an improved and integrated zoonoses and food safety control; the regional organisations explore mechanisms to financially support the continued implementation of activities conducted through the EU-HPED programme, including through advocacy with national government and developing partners.

In the technical session, the recommendations from 4th steering committee meeting were reviewed and adopted. OIE presented its component including vaccine bank, PVS pathway, twinning programmes in laboratories and veterinary education; WHO focused on the road map for regional control of rabies, APSED and IHR.

The GF-TAD Meeting discussed key emerging disease-specific, as well as cross-cutting issues for the prevention and control of TADs and zoonoses. The GF-TADs meeting recommendations also include advocacy for resources to sustain GF-TAD coordination and activities. International donors were urged to make efforts towards the sustainability of the functional RSUs.

Regional Workshop on Emergency Surveillance and Response to Influenza A(H7N9) in South Asia, 10 - 11 July 2014, Kathmandu, Nepal

A two-day workshop was convened under OSRO/GLO/302/USA and TCP/RAS/3407(E) to provide an opportunity for bringing the countries in this region together and sharing their experience on emergency surveillance and response to avian influenza A(H7N9) so far the countries have achieved. Experiences of some countries in developing contingency plans for notifiable avian influenza (NAI) were also shared. Overall status and issues concerning emergency surveillance, laboratory diagnosis, contingency planning and communication, and way forward were discussed during this workshop.

The workshop was organized with the objectives to share the data generated through the H7N9 surveillance, to review country level preparedness and contingency planning for H7N9, to strengthen South Asian regional coordination, and to share experiences and regional coordination. A total of 33 participants comprised of 19

animal health staff from seven countries, staff from FAO Headquarters, country offices, RSU-ECTAD and CMD-Nepal attended the workshop. Regional Environment, Science, Technology and Health (ESTH) affairs specialist from ESTH Office for South Asia, US Embassy at Kathmandu represented as the observers.

The workshop focused on giving participants an update of avian influenza A(H7N9) virus, its emergence and current



Participants of the Regional Workshop on Emergency Surveillance and Response to Influenza A(H7N9) in SA

status, activities currently being undertaken in South East and South Asia, updated surveillance reports from moderate risk countries i.e. Bangladesh, Bhutan and Nepal. Participants were able to update their knowledge on H7N9.

The workshop recommended that:

1. All international, regional and national agencies, authorities and concerned stakeholders fully engage in preparedness efforts to reduce the risks posed by the novel virus;
2. Countries immediately develop and adopt a strong legal framework to deal with notifiable influenzas [as defined by the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE)];
3. All SAARC member states finalize ongoing efforts to update existing HPAI H5N1 preparedness and contingency plans to address risks associated with H7N9 and other low pathogenic avian influenza viruses of concern (e.g. H9N2);
4. Countries integrate all notifiable avian influenzas into their surveillance and contingency plans;

5. Countries continue to support coordination, information sharing and collaboration through the Chief Veterinary Officer (CVO) forum and Regional Support Unit (RSU) network for rapid response to newly introduced or emerging diseases;
6. National authorities conduct poultry value chain analyses and update them regularly to better target surveillance efforts and make them more effective;
7. Countries continue risk-based surveillance as a routine practice for early detection of and response to H7N9 and other notifiable avian influenzas;
8. Countries continue to engage in LBM surveillance;
9. National authorities work toward accreditation of laboratories and harmonization of diagnostic protocols as well as building laboratory capacities through the provision of well-trained human resources, appropriate equipment and reagents to support emergency surveillance activities;
10. All concerned authorities strengthen communication capacities, including advocacy with policy and decision makers and enhanced disease risk communication efforts to better sensitize stakeholders to H7N9 in order to enhance public support for preparedness and emergency response;
11. Countries apply and further institutionalize a One Health approach to strengthen multisector coordination and collaboration;
12. Further international financial resources and technical assistance be urgently mobilized to continue supporting capacity building and critical surveillance and response activities in order to safeguard public health, the poultry industry, food security, food safety and livelihoods.

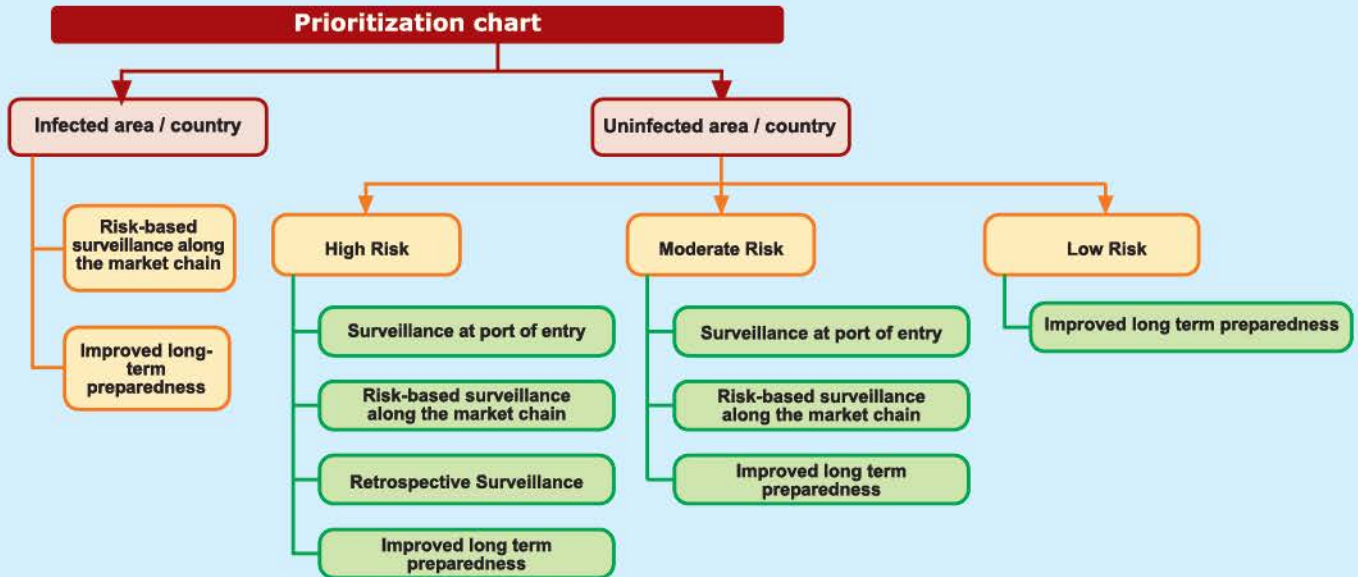
Upcoming event

Event	Details
FAO-USAID Technical Consultation on the FY15 Avian Influenza Programme in Asia	26 Sep 2014 Bangkok, Thailand



Eliminating Animal Health Risks

FAO/EMPRES guidelines for emergency risk-based surveillance for avian influenza A(H7N9)



Design process for risk-based surveillance along the market chain, based on a snowball sampling strategy



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