Lessons learnt and best practices from FAO HPAI interventions in Africa

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Introduction

- FAO initiated its Global Programme according the joint FAO-OIE *Global Strategy for Prevention and Control of H5N1 Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza* for the period 2006–08 to develop a more comprehensive and coherent response to the epizootic.
- Global strategy (10 year vision) – Global Programme (2006-2008)
- Formulated in 2006, revised in December 2006 and updated in January 2008.

Overview of FAO overall portfolio in Africa

- HPAI Global programme

	Global programme USD	Africa portfolio USD	%
Total budget	**321,500,000**	**49,830,000**	**15.5**
Number of donors	**35**	**16**	
Number of projects	**168**	**50**	

Interregional portfolio (SFERA) of US$50,69 million of which the largest part went to Africa.

FAO tools in Africa (1/2)

- Structures and tools put in place by FAO for HPAI prevention and control include:
  - ✓ Establishment of the Emergency Centre for Transboundary Animal Diseases (ECTAD) at HQ, at regional level (Bamako, Gaborone, Nairobi, Tunis) and countries (Egypt, Nigeria, Chad)
  - ✓ FAO/OIE Crisis Management Centre for Animal Health (CMC-AH).
  - ✓ FAO/OIE/WHO Global Early Warning and Response System (GLEWS);
  - ✓ OIE/FAO network of expertise on animal influenza (OFFLU);

FAO tools in Africa (2/2)

- Sub-regional thematic Networks launched or revitalized :
  - ✓ Laboratory
  - ✓ Epidemiology
  - ✓ Socio Economics and Productions
  - ✓ Communication

Main lessons learnt (1/5)

Important lessons drawn from the response to HPAI crisis in Africa include the following:

1. About epidemiology and disease context

- In most African countries, smallholder commercial and backyard poultry production sectors are predominant, in which biosecurity is poor. However, even if biosecurity is poor, since poultry densities are low the disease spreads slowly and is often self-limiting
- Market activities represent a serious risk for dissemination of HPAI, especially poorly controlled live bird markets.
- The possibility of virus circulation at low level cannot be excluded.
- International trade, especially unregulated or illegal, in poultry and poultry products represents a significant risk for international spread of HPAI.

Main lessons learnt (2/5)

1. About epidemiology and disease context (ctd)

- There are strong indications that migratory waterfowl have been responsible for long distance dissemination of H5N1 viruses. However significant knowledge gaps persist in the role of wild birds.
- Lack of accurate data on the poultry sector (structure, commercial flows, stakeholders practices, etc.), on the impacts and cost of disease and diseases control hampers the formulation of more effective et cost-effective control strategies.

- Disease prevention or control measures which are perceived by communities as unreasonable or which are impractical within a country context because of established cultural norms or economic imperatives will not be complied with.
- Maintaining vigilance in surveillance, particularly in countries that were never affected by HPAI is required. Need to combine regular, ongoing, government supported animal health control measures, such as ND vaccination campaigns, with HPAI surveillance.

Main lessons learnt (3/5)

2. About diseases control tool

- A number of well-defined and tested disease control methodologies and technologies are available including surveillance and early detection using various diagnostic tests, biosecurity, stamping out by culling, animal movement control, use of vaccines, cleaning and disinfection, and improved farm and market management.
- Vaccination is effective in reducing HPAI incidence if applied according to guidelines, if quality vaccine is used and if supported by close monitoring and an exit strategy.
- An effective and agreeable “compensation mechanism” is essential to ensure actual cooperation and participation of poultry sector actors (farmers/producers/traders) in diseases control measures (e.g. surveillance, movement control, stamping out, etc.).

Main lessons learnt (4/5)

2. About diseases control tool (ctd)

- Public awareness is vital for HPAI control to gain community support, create recognition of safe practices and avoid market shocks.
- For the medium/long term, fast intensification and growth of poultry production requires that rigorous standards and regulations be developed and enforced for commercial farms and poultry and poultry product trade at national and regional levels.
- In the medium/long term, traceability will become a requirement.

Main lessons learnt (5/5)

3. About diseases control coordination and implementation

- Preparedness is a key factor. Existence of Integrated (cross-sectoral) national strategy regularly updated and of a related coordination mechanism is important.
- Contingency plans must be operationalized and tested (with all concerned)
- Cross-border and sub-regional cooperation and coordination is key to ensure effectiveness of control strategies (of HPAI and other TADs), to build capacities and increase cost-effectiveness.
- As well, national and regional strategies benefit from their involvement and cooperation with global coordination mechanisms.
- Public-private partnership is essential for the design of relevant and sustainable disease control strategies and for their efficient implementation
- Advocacy and communication can help create political support for H5N1 HPAI control at the national, regional and global levels.

Best practices (1/3)

Poultry Sector Reviews

- Poultry sectors review (23 African countries covered so far).
- Complement value chain studies and analysis.

Best practices (2/3)

Biosecurity

- Biosecurity training and training tools to improve biosecurity along the poultry value chain.
- Steps taken to enhance traceability along the poultry value chain with the introduction and testing of the regional zoo-sanitary certificates for poultry and poultry products within the ECOWAS area.
- Biosecurity pilot operations on live bird markets (Benin, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire and Togo)
- Manuals small-scale poultry production (Côte d'Ivoire, East Africa).

Best practices (3/3)

- Existing dynamic within the framework of subregional thematic networks: to be strengthened, formalized and owned by their members and anchored to RECs
- Desk and field simulations.

THANK YOU