

**HPAI SITUATION – update**

The epidemiology of avian influenza (AI) is complex. AI viruses constantly evolve by mutation and re-assortment with the emergence of new subtypes causing significant impact on animal health and production. Some AI subtypes can be zoonotic and therefore pose major threat to human health.

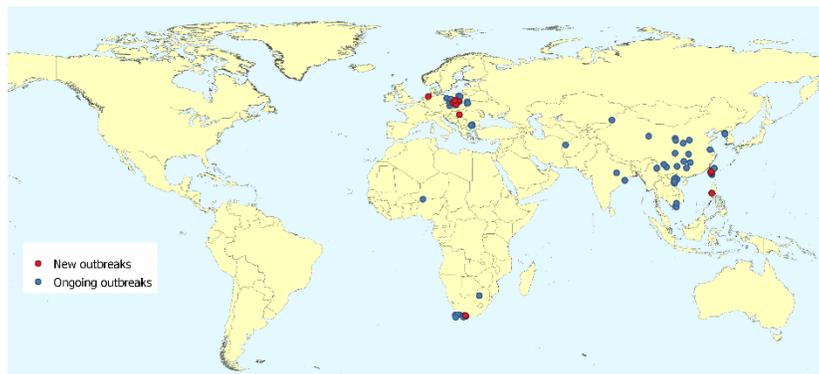
This report presents an overview of HPAI disease events (in poultry and non-poultry including wild birds) reported to the OIE's early warning system by its Members, as well as non-Member Countries, during the period 6 – 26 March, 2020 through the World Animal Health Information System (WAHIS). The stable situations reported in the **six-monthly reports** by two countries, namely Egypt and Indonesia, are not described in this report as this data for the second semester 2019 will be collected throughout the first and second semesters of 2020.

The HPAI events (new outbreaks) are reported in Table 1.

**Table 1: HPAI outbreaks reported through early warning system during 6 - 26, March 2020**

REGION	COUNTRY	Administrative divisions affected	Subtype(s)		N° Outbreaks	
			Poultry	Non -poultry	Poultry	Non poultry
Asia	Chinese Taipei, Philippines	3	H5, H5N2, H5N5, H5N6	NA	6	NA
Africa	South Africa	1	H5N8	NA	1	NA
Europe	Germany, Hungary, Poland	7	H5N8	H5N8	8	2

**1. Spatial distribution**



**Figure 1. New and ongoing outbreaks in poultry March 6 - March 26, 2020**

In this period, **15 new outbreaks** (red dots on the map) were notified in poultry, in Chinese Taipei, Philippines, Germany; Hungary, Poland and South Africa. The total ongoing HPAI outbreaks worldwide is **185** (blue dots on the map), distributed as follows: Africa (20), Asia (124) and Europe (41) (Figure 1).



**Figure 2. New and ongoing outbreaks in non-poultry, including wild birds (March 6 - March 26, 2020)**

In this period, **2 new outbreaks** were notified in non-poultry. The total ongoing HPAI outbreaks (blue dots on the map) in these birds populations is **18**, distributed as follows: Africa (11), Asia (5) and Europe (2).

**2. Impact of the disease by Region in poultry**

During the period, a total of **143,125\*** animals were notified as losses in Africa, Asia and Europe in the ongoing and new outbreaks (**440,095\*** losses notified in the previous report).

\* The impact of the disease is measured in terms of losses, which are calculated by the sum of dead and culled animals from the infected farm or backyard premises of the reported outbreak. In case of non-poultry the losses correspond to the dead animals reported.

**3. Changes in the epidemiological situation**

**Countries/Territories with new outbreaks during the period.**

**Africa**

**One** new outbreak was reported by South Africa in poultry during the period (H5N8). Ongoing outbreaks are still present in South Africa and Nigeria in both poultry (H5N6 and H5N8) and non-poultry (H5N8).

**America**

No new or ongoing outbreaks were reported during the period.

**Asia**

Chinese Taipei, and the Philippines reported **respectively 5 and 1 new outbreaks** (H5, H5N2, H5N5 and H5N6) in poultry. Ongoing outbreaks are still present in Afghanistan, China (People's Rep. of), Chinese Taipei, India, Korea (DPR), Philippines and Vietnam in poultry (subtypes H5, H5N1, H5N2, H5N5, H5N6 and H7N9) and Afghanistan, China (People's Rep. of) in non-poultry (H5, H5N6 and H7N9).

**Europe**

Germany, Hungary and Poland reported **8 new outbreaks** in poultry (H5N8). Germany reported **2 new outbreaks** in non-poultry (**H5N8**). Ongoing outbreaks are still present in Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Germany, and Poland, in poultry and non-poultry (H5N8)

**Oceania**

No new or ongoing outbreaks were reported during the period

## Key messages

In the reporting period, **15 new HPAI outbreaks** were reported in domestic birds across Africa, Asia and Europe, involving 4 different HPAI subtypes namely H5N2, H5N5, H5N6 and H5N8.

- In Chinese Taipei, H5N2 outbreaks continue to be reported since the first notification in 2012 and the H5N5 subtype has continued to be reported since September 2019.
- Since the beginning of 2020, outbreaks of H5N8 have been continuously reported in several European countries in poultry and/or wild birds. It is more likely that the source of infection in these outbreaks is contact with wild birds and followed by limited local spread. Germany, Hungary and Poland reported H5N8 outbreaks in this reporting period. In Africa, South Africa continues to report new outbreaks of H5N8 in its territory.
- H5N6 subtype reoccurred in the Philippines after two years in a quail backyard farm. Exposure to wild birds in the affected area is most likely the factor of introduction.

Veterinary Authorities in the affected countries have responded to contain outbreaks in poultry with stamping out measures, heightened surveillance, and recommendations to poultry owners to increase biosecurity.

The OIE Standards, and the transparency of reporting through the OIE's World Animal Health Information System, provide the framework for Veterinary Services to implement effective surveillance, reporting, and controls for avian influenza. Wild bird surveillance can indicate periods of heightened risk, and at these times measures to improve on-farm biosecurity may reduce the likelihood of exposure of poultry.