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# HPAI outbreak responses: An integrated One Health approach State of Kuwait

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Ali BuHamad

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Veterinary Assistant

Amman, Hashemite Kingdom of *Jordan*

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- **Susceptible population in Kuwait:** Poultry (chicken, geese, ducks, quail, etc.) and live birds other than poultry kept in captivity poultry, and migratory wild birds.
- **Risk for introduction of avian diseases into Kuwait:**
  - from infected/endemic countries
  - illegal entry
  - wild migratory birds

Note: Risk of introduction mitigated by applying appropriate WOAHH Terrestrial Code sanitary requirements

# Avian disease situations

- Kuwait is endemic for WOAHH listed diseases such as **Newcastle disease (ND), Infectious bursal disease (IBD) and avian infectious bronchitis (AIB)**
- For Avian-influenza positive cases

Year	Host species	Type of samples	Subtype	Sequence information	Outbreaks status
2005	Non poultry	Cloacal & oropharyngeal	H5N1	--	Resolved
2007	Poultry	Cloacal & oropharyngeal	H5N1	--	Resolved
2017	Poultry	Cloacal & oropharyngeal	H5N8	--	Resolved
2019	Non poultry	Cloacal & oropharyngeal	H5N8	---	Resolved
2021	Poultry	Cloacal & oropharyngeal	H5N8	---	Resolved



## Response measures to avian disease outbreak

- HPAI outbreaks not reported in the last three years, the following response measures taken during the previous year HPAI outbreaks.
  - Source of infection (trace back epidemiological investigations) for HPAI outbreaks are inconclusive or unknown
  - Pathogenic agents for HPAI eliminated at source by killing and disposal of susceptible birds in the affected premises/establishments and/ or neighboring premises/establishments.
  - Strictly enforced movement restrictions of animal, animal products, vehicles, personnel etc.
  - Established containment zone to avoid of spread of disease/infection
  - Monitoring biosecurity plan
  - Vaccination prohibited for HPAI, and implemented for other endemic diseases such as ND, IBD, AIB
  - Compensated to the owner of farms affected for HPAI outbreaks
  - Costs of compensation paid by the Veterinary Authority (PAAF)



## Response measures to avian influenza outbreak - surveillance

- Both passive and active clinical surveillance is continuing since 2005 and ongoing program in the poultry farms, back yards poultry, and live markets and during migratory bird's season
- After 2021 HPAI outbreaks, all suspicious cases of HPAI confirmed as negative by the laboratory investigations.



## National prevention and control for avian diseases (1)

Measures	Y/N	Description
1. Programme to control or eradicate disease	yes	control and eradication program implemented for HPAI outbreaks
2. Veterinary legislation	yes	Veterinary law No 10. 1964 in which listed out notifiable diseases in Kuwait, according to the law HPAI is notifiable disease, prevention and control measures implemented as per the law. Surveillance carried out in accordance with the WOAHP Terrestrial Code
3. Emergency preparedness and response plans	Yes	Response plan developed for HPAI
4. Disease surveillance	Yes	General surveillance carried out for avian diseases, active and targeted surveillance carried out for HPAI
5. Disease reporting	Yes	disease reporting being done within the VA(PAAF) and to the WOAHP including GCC early warning center
6. Detection and management of cases	Yes	avian diseases detected by clinical signs and laboratory investigations in accordance with the WOAHP manual diagnostic tests. Disease management being done according to the nature of disease and its impact

Reference: WOAHP Terrestrial Code Chapter 4.19, Article 4.19.1.



## National prevention and control for avian diseases (1)

Measures	Y/N	Description
7. Measures to prevent introduction or spread of disease	Yes	prevention and control measures being implemented (e.g. vaccination, safe importation, isolation. culling, vaccination in response to outbreaks etc.)
8. Vaccination	Yes	implemented for endemic diseases such as ND, IBD and AIB
9. Measures to protect public health	Yes	Zoonotic impact for H5N1 assessed and appropriate measures taken to protect public health(e.g. farm workers, public)
10. Communication and collaboration among all competent authorities	Yes	Implemented with cooperation of MOH
11. Awareness programme for relevant stakeholders	Yes	relevant stakeholders communicated and collaborated appropriately for HPAI



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## Laboratory capacity

- National Veterinary laboratory established by PAAF, is leading laboratory in Kuwait. Laboratory has adequate diagnostic facilities to detect important avian diseases both WOAHA listed and non-listed diseases.
- Diagnostic tests employed to detect antigen, agent identification and antibodies, and diagnostic tests used in accordance with the WOAHA Terrestrial manual.
- Suspicious/clinical cases of avian diseases confirmed or refuted by the laboratory investigations. E.g., ND, IBD, AIB and HPAI confirmed by the laboratory investigations.



# Challenges and solutions in implementing national plan

- **Challenges:**

One health national action plan developed jointly by the Ministry of health, Agriculture and environment authority in Kuwait not yet effectively implemented.

- **Pathway 1: Governance, Policy, Legislation, Financing, and Advocacy**

- adequate financial support is crucial for the successful implementation of multisectoral initiatives.
- address legislation gaps, developing and enacting policies and legislation that promote intersectoral collaboration and information sharing is essential.
- collaboration with sub-regional, regional, and global partners can enhance the effectiveness of One Health initiatives.
- promote awareness of the One Health approach among policymakers, healthcare leaders, and the public.



# Challenges and solutions in implementing national plan

- **Challenges:**
- **Pathway 2: Organizational & Institutional Development, Implementation, and Sectoral Integration**
  - establish coordinated monitoring and evaluation mechanisms to assess the impact of One Health initiatives effectively.
  - inter-ministerial cooperation and data sharing are essential components of successful One Health coordination.
  - capacity building and training to enhance the skills and knowledge of veterinarians, healthcare professionals, environmentalists, involved in One Health initiatives.
  - Risk Communication and community engagement strategies to enhance public awareness and engagement in One Health issues.
- **Pathway 3: Data, Evidence, Information Systems, and Knowledge Exchange.**
  - integrate environmental health considerations into animal and human health policies and programs.
  - Promote collaborative research, innovation, knowledge sharing, and expertise exchange.
  - sustainability of communication and information sharing channels between sector.
  - harmonized sub-regional and regional collaborations for providing technical support, knowledge and expertise sharing.
- Working towards balancing progress across the three pathways is crucial for advancing multisectoral coordination and addressing complex health challenges effectively.



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Thank you



**PAAAF** | Public Authority of  
Agriculture Affairs  
& Fish Resources

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Ali BuHamad

Veterinary Assistant

[aliemadbuhamad@hotmail.com](mailto:aliemadbuhamad@hotmail.com)

+965-97779715

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