

Workshop on the One Health Joint Plan of Action (OH JPA)



Manama, Bahrain 14-16 October 2025

Lebanon Preparedness plan for the Prevention & control of HPAI

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- Lebanon



World
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for Animal
Health

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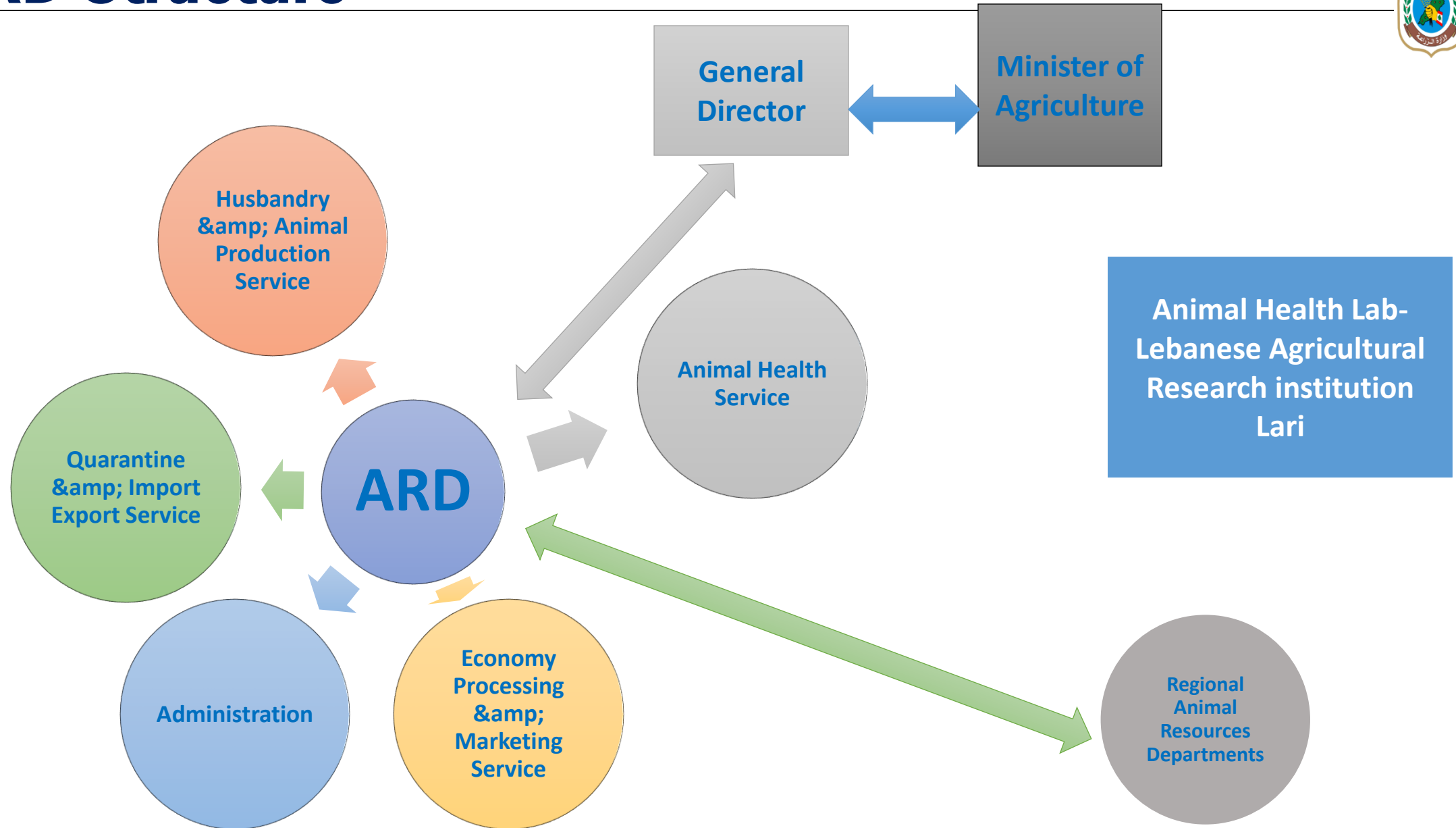
Organización
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Ministry of Municipalities Affairs and Agriculture



ARD Structure



Collaboration between human and veterinary health sectors, under the One Health approach, is crucial for preventing and controlling zoonotic diseases, addressing antimicrobial resistance, ensuring food safety, and protecting overall public and animal health



1. ARD focal point in the OH committee at the MOPH
2. Committees to work on Zoonotic diseases, AMR, Food Safety
3. Meetings
4. Trainings
5. Decrees & decisions
6. Bridging workshop on the OH rc
7. Pandemic Fund



ARD COMMITTEES

National strategic plans for some zoonotic diseases were prepared by MOA/ARD with the involvement of other sectors (MOPH)

- Veterinary Medicine Committee
- Rabies Committee
- Avian Influenza Committee
- Food safety Committee
- A national IHR committee was formed for decision making & an IHR technical committee was formed for implementation
- AMR Committee
- Poultry Farmers committee
- Risk assessment and profiling committee



- **Preparedness Plan for Early Detection and Prevention of Notifiable Avian Influenza in Lebanon – 2009 (prepared by Eng. Abeer Sirawan through regional TCP /FAO) This plan was ratified by the Council of Ministers through a decrees dated 2009.**
- **Manual Guide for AI**
- **Animal Health laboratory at LARI**

The risk of HPAI introduction is during the immigration season (Spring and fall) /wild birds/Smuggling poultry

Challenges for HPAI is Early Detection and Rapid Response since Lebanon is a small country with no boundaries and the virus would spread rapidly all over



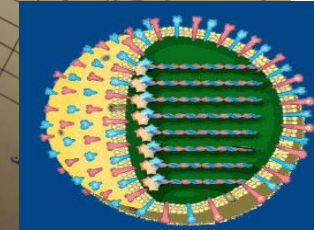
- Apply the contingency plan approved by the Council of Ministers and international organizations
- Minister of Agriculture is the sole person responsible for declaring any outbreak in poultry
- Full transparency with citizens

**As in the outbreak of 2016 in
Nabicheit & Saraeen**



[illegible]

Positive for H5N1



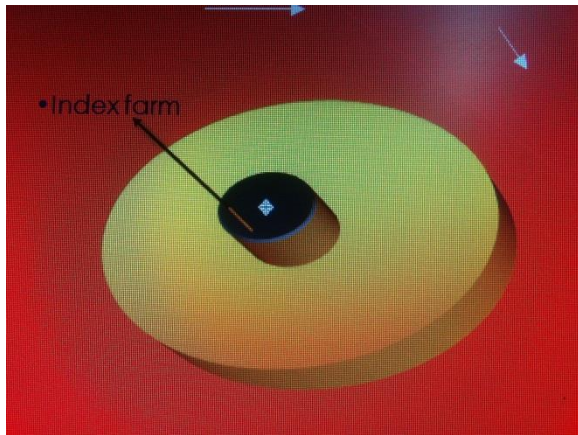


21-24/4/2016



- Urgent Meetings
- (Central emergency unit -Regional emergency unit)

➔ Implementation of NPP



Press Release

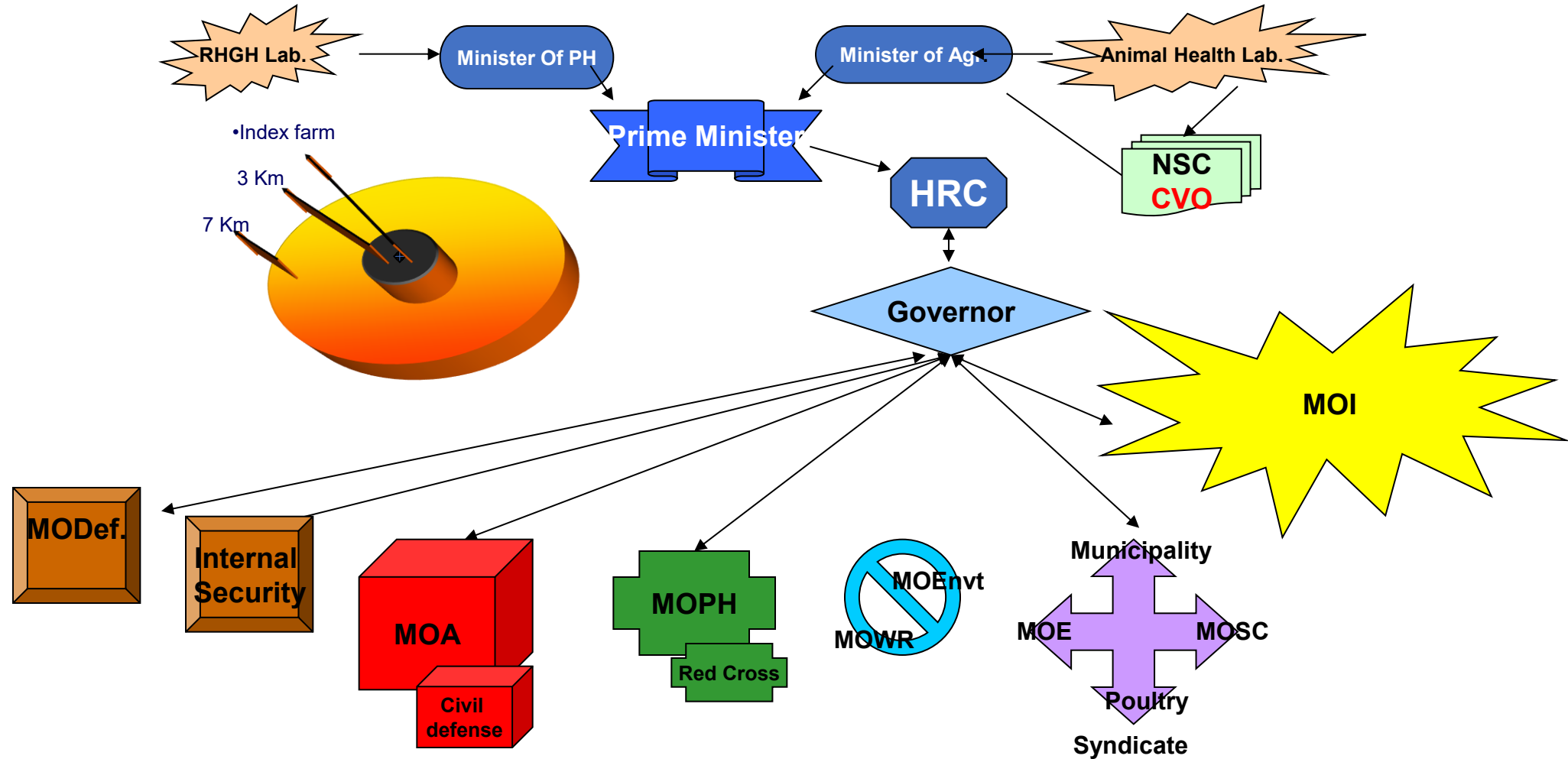


Notification
to
OIE/WOAH





Emergency plan — Chain of orders





Nabicheit /Saraaen 2016/ Measures Taken



- Team Preparation in the animal department in Baalbeck (MOA)
- Quarantine / escort (MOD-MOI)
- Farmers Awareness & soothing (MOA-MOPH)
- People check ups (MOPH)
- Collecting extra samples (MOA)
- Stamping out (MOA-Workers)/ commercial-backyard
- Burying dead & stamped out poultry (MOEnvnt-Workers)
- Fumigation of pens(Formaldehyde)
- Litter (Fumigation-Disinfection/Fermentation(OIE/WOAH)
- Awareness & soothing visits (Eng. Abeer Sirawan - Head of Poultry Husbandry Department-Dr. Bassel Bazzal –Head of Animal Health Service)





Measures Taken in parallel

- Several Disinfections to reduce contamination
- 21 days samples NEGATIVE SAMPLES



FREE AREA

- Declared resolved (1/6/2016)/OIE-WOAH
- 3 months  Repopulate/ ARD



- Samples sent to Reference Laboratory (Padova-Italy) for confirmation
- Samples taken intensively within 10 Km radius
- Samples taken randomly from all the Lebanese governorates
- Epidemiological Inquiry
- Compensation (Assessment made by the ARD MOA /Council of Ministers - High Relief Committee)
- Awareness Program for commercial poultry farmers /Backyard poultry farmers (Biosecurity/Notification)
- Analysis & Evaluation (MOA-MOPH)



Response measures to HPAI outbreak



- Tracing in-contact animals
- Eliminating of source of pathogenic agent Stamping out of infected/suspected cases
- Prevention of spread of disease by:
 - Movement restrictions
 - Biosecurity measures implementation
 - Communication and public awareness

Costs of response measures were
covered by the HRC/MOA/MOPH-
Council of Ministers

FAO-WHO-WOAH



Subtype /Genome - Human Link Project



- Type of samples: **swabs and dead poultry**
- Subtype: **An A/chicken/Lebanon/157/2016(H5N1) virus was isolated**
- Sequence information: **HPAI H5N1 Clade 2.3.2.1c Virus in Lebanon, 2016**

Complete Genome Sequence of the First H5N1 Avian Influenza Virus Isolated from Chickens in Lebanon in 2016:

An A/chicken/Lebanon/157/2016(H5N1) virus was isolated from infected chickens. The emergence of this H5N1 clade in the Middle East is of both veterinary and human public health concern and requires surveillance at the human-animal interface

Avian influenza surveillance at the human–animal interface in Lebanon, 2017:

In chickens, 0.6% were positive for AIV H9N2. None for H5N1. All human samples tested negative.



- Passive and Active Surveillance;
- Moreover all imported one day old chicks are being tested upon arrival

Negative results for HPAI since 2016



Animal Health Laboratory Capacity



Capacity: HPAI per day 50 sample
Airport samples daily

LEBANESE REPUBLIC
Ministry of Agriculture
Lebanese Agriculture Research Institute

FANAR LABORATORY
FANAR- Jdeidet El Metn

ANIMAL HEALTH LABORATORY

December 9, 2024

POULTRY DISEASE TEST LIST

Disease	Diagnostic Techniques			Genotyping
	Antibodies Detection (ELISA)	Antigen Detection (PCR)	Kit available	
Avian Influenza	x			
Newcastle Disease	yes	yes	3	H5 and H7
Infectious Bursal Disease	yes	yes	2	x
Infectious Bronchitis Virus	yes	yes	1	x
Mycoplasma gallisepticum	yes	x	1	Genotype 1, Variant 1
Mycoplasma Synoviae	yes	x	1	x
Adenovirus	yes	yes	1	x
Infectious laryngotracheitis	yes	x	1	x
REO virus	yes	x	1	x
Avian encephalomyelitis virus	yes	x	1	x



Challenges



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Challenges	Solutions
Current situation	???
Lack of suitable funds for the updating of the NPP/Sops/sustainable capacity building/Awareness programs	Funding
Lab: Kits availability from the suppliers/importers(dangerous goods)	Stocking

Local, national, &
Reginal Collaboration

International
collaboration

Regional
Projects



Thank you!

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