Situation report period covered: 5 to 21 June 2024

This report provides an update of the high pathogenicity avian influenza (HPAI) situation, according to the information submitted to the World Organisation for Animal Health between 5 and 21 June 2024 (3-week period).

Key messages

The current HPAI season continues with 5 outbreaks being reported in poultry and 8 in non-poultry birds and mammals over the 3 weeks covered by the report, in the Americas, Europe and Oceania. About 166 000 poultry birds died or were culled during the 3 weeks period, mostly in the Americas.

The number of new outbreaks and new events notified in birds worldwide is currently relatively low, which is consistent with the known seasonality of HPAI in poultry. Cases in mammals however continue to be reported to WOAH from different parts of the world, with 3 countries in Americas and Europe mentioned in this situation report update. WOAH continues to pay close attention to the situation of HPAI in dairy cows in the United States of America and disseminate information provided by the official services of the United States of America via WAHIS.

With regard to public health, two cases of avian influenza in humans were reported to the World Health Organisation (WHO) on 22 May 2024:

- Australia reported a laboratory-confirmed case of human infection with avian influenza A(H5N1) virus (clade 2.3.2.1a). This was the first confirmed human infection caused by avian influenza A(H5N1) virus detected and reported by Australia. Although the source of exposure to the virus in this case is currently unknown, the exposure likely occurred in India, where the case had travelled, and where this clade of A(H5N1) viruses has been detected in birds in the past.
- India reported a case of human infection with avian influenza A(H9N2) virus detected in a child resident of West Bengal state in India. This was the second human infection of avian influenza A(H9N2) notified to WHO by India, with the first in 2019.

WOAH recommends that Members maintain their surveillance efforts, implement biosecurity and preventive measures at farm level, and continue timely reporting of avian influenza outbreaks in both poultry and non-poultry species. WOAH stresses the importance of reporting outbreaks of avian influenza in unusual hosts, as the virus has been increasingly detected in mammals in recent months, a situation that should be monitored. Considering the situation in dairy cattle, WOAH also recommends protecting humans in close contact with or handling sick cattle or other sick livestock and their products, while avoiding implementing unjustified trade restrictions.

High quality of information is key to support prevention and rapid response to HPAI.

Seasonal trend

One of the major changes in the dynamics of HPAI in recent years has been its seasonal nature. Traditionally, the global seasonality of HPAI in poultry was as follows: the spread was lowest in September, began to increase in October and peaked in February[1]. This seasonality pattern was mainly influenced by countries in the northern hemisphere. Every year since 2005, the majority of outbreaks have occurred in the northern hemisphere, except, according to WAHIS data, in 2008, 2009 and 2019, the three years in which Indonesia was the country that reported the highest number of poultry outbreaks.

Figure 1 focuses on poultry and shows the seasonality of HPAI separately for the northern and southern hemispheres. For the northern hemisphere (Figure 1a), given that more than 180 outbreaks have been notified each year since 2005, a comparison between the seasonal pattern for 2023 and the seasonal pattern observed between 2005 and 2019 has been provided, based on the number of outbreaks notified to WOAH. To compare seasonality between years, the number of outbreaks was centred and scaled by calendar year. The average was then computed for each month of the

[1] Awada, L., Tizzani, P., Noh, S.M., Ducrot, C., Ntsama, F., Caceres, P., Mapitse, N. and Chalvet-Monfray, K., 2018. Global dynamics of highly pathogenic avian influenza outbreaks in poultry between 2005 and 2016—focus on distance and rate of spread. Transboundary and Emerging Diseases, 65(6), pp.2006-2016.

period between 2005 and 2019. The figure shows that the peak traditionally observed in February at a global level has shifted to January and that the increase traditionally starting in October has remained in place.

For the southern hemisphere (Figure 1b), as outbreaks have been rarer over time, only the seasonal profile for 2023 is presented, based on the raw number of outbreaks notified to WOAH. In that year, 217 outbreaks were notified by five countries in South America (Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Ecuador, and Peru) and two countries in eastern and southern Africa (Mozambique and South Africa). The graph shows an initial small peak in February (corresponding to the peak in South America); then the spread began to increase again in July and reached a higher peak in September (corresponding to the peak in South Africa).

The red rectangle indicates where we currently are in the 2024 cycle based on the period covered in "recent updates" below.

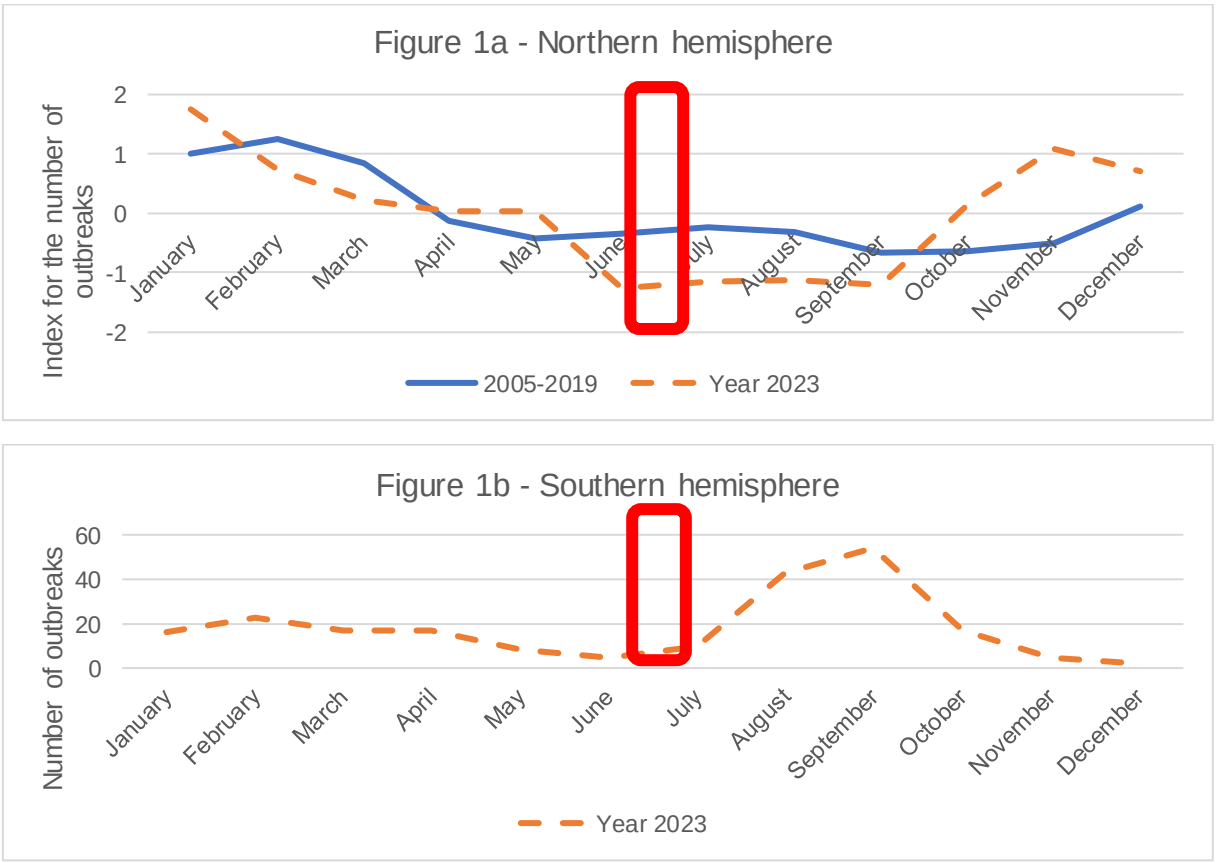

Figure 1. Number of HPAI outbreaks in poultry reported to WOAH for 2023, by month and by hemisphere. For the northern hemisphere (1a), the 2023 distribution is compared to the distribution for the period between 2005 and 2019. Values were centred and scaled each year, for comparability; the average was then computed for each month of the period between 2005 and 2019. For the southern hemisphere (1b), only the 2023 distribution is presented, based on the raw number of outbreaks. The comparison with 2005–2019 is not shown as outbreaks were rare in the southern hemisphere during this period.

Recent updates (05/06/2024-21/06/2024)

To describe the current disease situation of HPAI in poultry and in non-poultry birds, this section covers: (a) a list of new events[2] which started during the 3-week period (reported through immediate notifications); (b) information on events that started before the 3-week period but were still ongoing during that period; (c) the geographic distribution of new outbreaks[3] that started during the 3-week period and d) events which started before the 3-week period but were reported during the 3-week period. The different subtypes of HPAI circulating during the 3-week period are also listed below. This information is based on the immediate notifications and follow-up reports received by WOAH.

[2] As defined in Article 1.1.2. of the WOAH Terrestrial Animal Health Code, an "event" means a single outbreak or a group of epidemiologically related outbreaks of a given listed disease or emerging disease that is the subject of a notification. An event is specific to a pathogenic agent and strain, when appropriate, and includes all related outbreaks reported from the time of the initial notification through to the final report. Reports of an event include susceptible species, the number and geographical distribution of affected animals and epidemiological units.

[3] As defined in the glossary of the WOAH Terrestrial Animal Health Code, an "outbreak" means the occurrence of one or more cases in an epidemiological unit.

HPAI in poultry

New events by world region (reported through immediate notifications)

Oceania
H7N8
The occurrence of a new strain started in Australia (New South Wales) on 17 June 2024. The H7N8 virus was genetically related to strains detected in wild birds in Australia.
Africa, Americas, Asia and Europe
No new events reported.

On-going events for which there were new reported outbreaks, by world region (reported through follow-up reports):

Americas
H5N1
United States of America
Oceania
H7N3
Australia
Africa, Asia and Europe
No new outbreaks reported in the on-going events, or no on-going events.

New outbreaks and associated subtypes

During the period covered by this report, 5 new outbreaks in poultry were notified by 2 countries (Australia, United States of America). Details are presented in Figures 2 and 3.

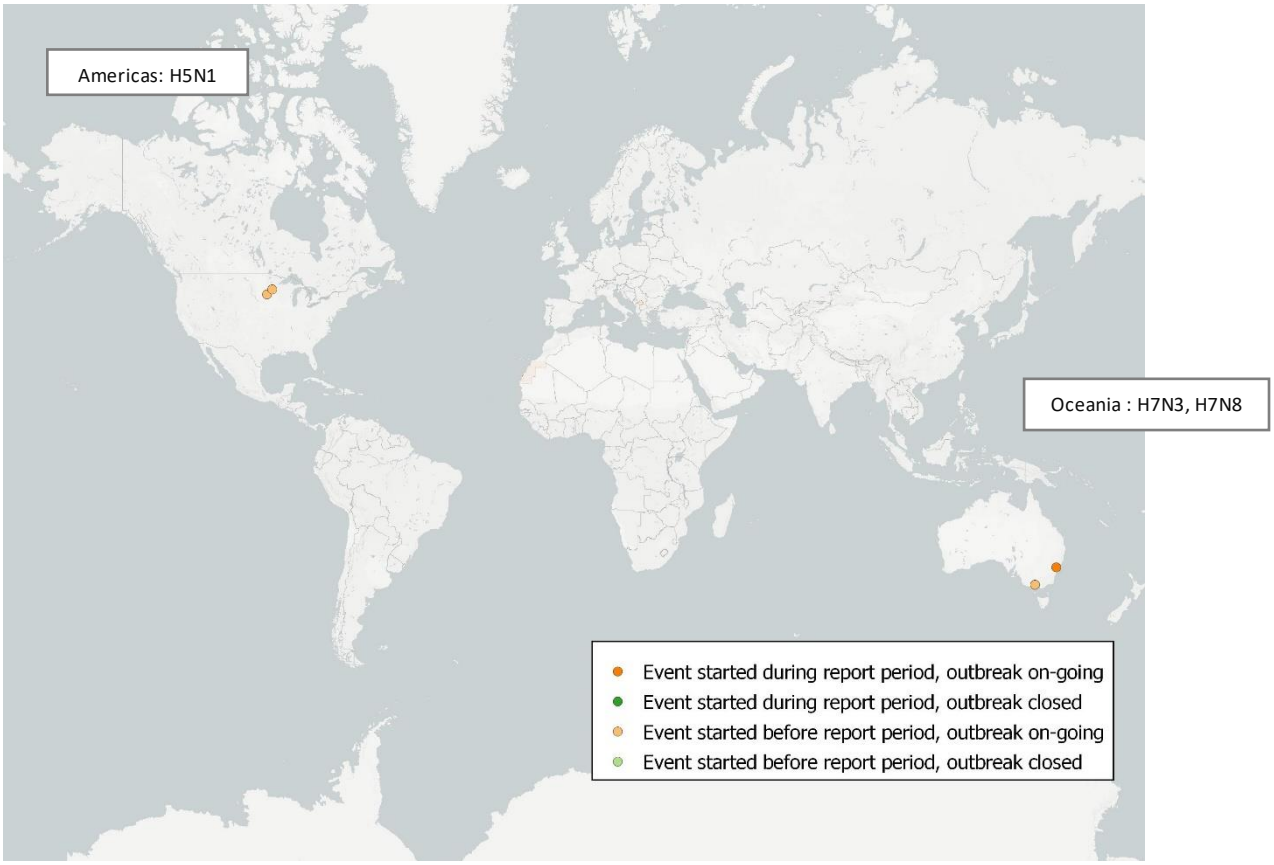

Figure 2. Distribution of HPAI new outbreaks in poultry, and corresponding subtypes

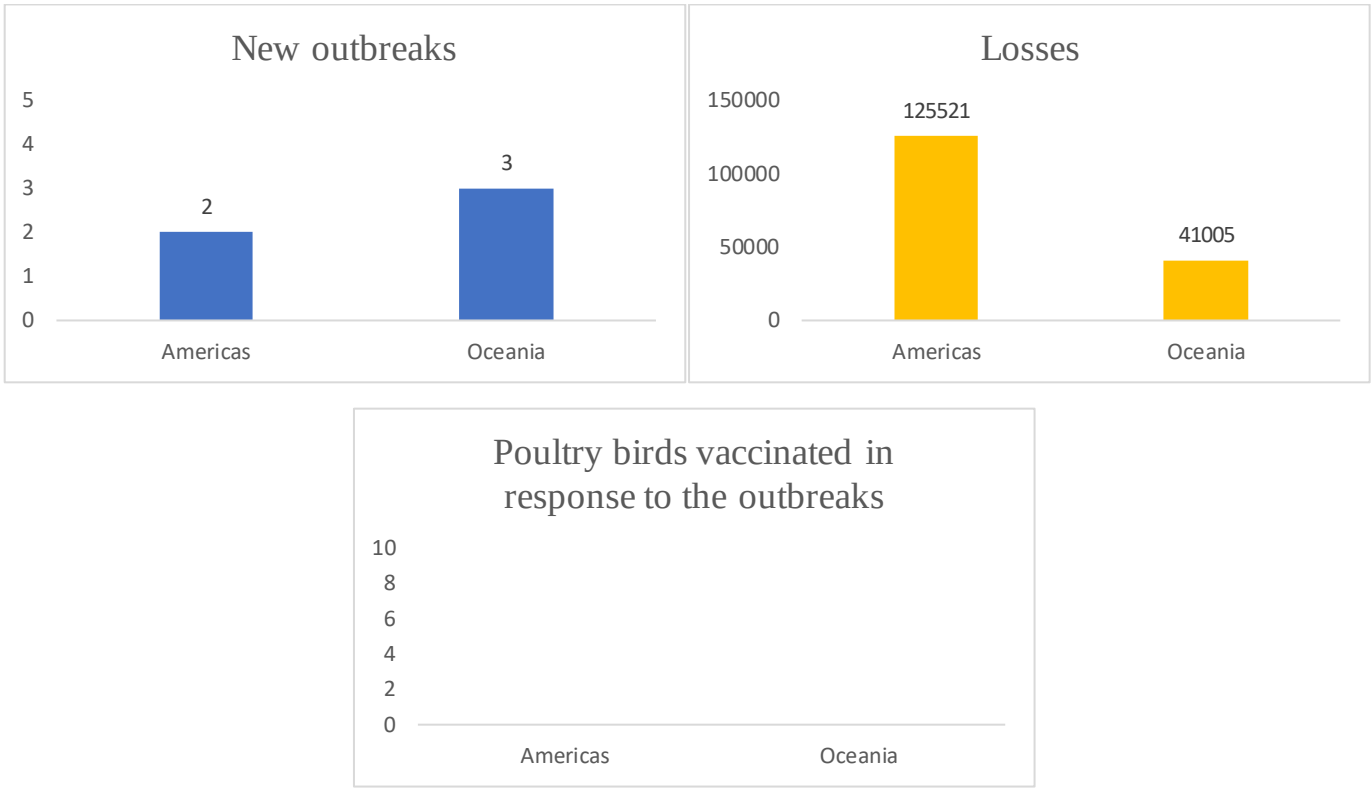

Figure 3. Number of new outbreaks, associated losses, and number of poultry birds vaccinated in response to these outbreaks by geographical region (losses include animals dead and killed and disposed of within outbreaks – they do not include culling around outbreaks ; vaccinated poultry birds include animals that were vaccinated as a control measure in response to the outbreaks, they do not include other official vaccination programmes, for which data is reported through the six-monthly reporting channel).

Events which started before the 3-week period but were reported during the 3-week period (reported through immediate notifications)

Africa
H5N1
A recurrence started in Gabon (Estuaire) on 3 May 2024.
Americas, Asia, Europe, and Oceania
No events reported.

HPAI in non-poultry

New events by world region (reported through immediate notifications)

Africa, Americas, Antarctica, Asia, Europe and Oceania
No new events reported.

On-going events for which there were new reported outbreaks, by world region (reported through follow-up reports):

Americas
H5N1 in mammals
United States of America (dairy cattle)
Europe
H5N1 in non-poultry birds
France (Clade 2.3.4.4b - Lineage: Fully Eurasian) and Poland
Africa, Asia, Antarctica and Oceania
No new outbreaks reported in the on-going events, or no on-going events.

New outbreaks

During the period covered by this report, a total of 8 outbreaks in non-poultry birds and mammals were reported through WAHIS by 3 countries (France, Poland, United States of America). Details are presented in Figures 4 and 5.

Figure 4. Distribution of HPAI new outbreaks in non-poultry animals reported through WAHIS, and corresponding subtypes.

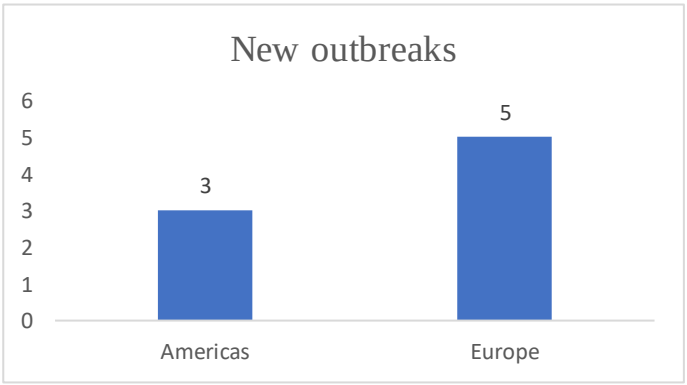

Figure 5. Number of new outbreaks reported through WAHIS by geographical region

Events which started before the 3-week period but were reported during the 3week period (reported through immediate notifications or through emails)

Asia

H5 in non-poultry birds

A recurrence started in China (People's Rep. of) (Xizang) on 25 May 2024.

Europe

H5 in mammals

An occurrence in wild walrus (*Odobenus rosmarus*) started in Norway (Svalbard and Jan Mayen) on 15 June 2023. The animal was found dead and samples were positive for H5. The sample material left was insufficient for

further subtyping. The H5 subtype of highly pathogenic avian influenza virus (HPAIV) detected is almost identical to sequences of the HPAIV H5N1 subtype detected in bird samples in 2022.

Hungary informed WOAH of a case of HPAI H5N1 in a cat. The dead cat was sent for diagnosis testing on 22 May, and results were confirmed on 30 May.

Africa, Americas, Antarctica, and Oceania

No new cases reported.

Self-declarations of freedom published during the 3-week period

In accordance with the provisions of the *Terrestrial Animal Health Code*, Members may wish to self-declare the freedom of their country, zone or compartment from HPAI. A Member wishing to publish its self-declaration for disease-freedom, should provide the relevant documented evidence of compliance with the provisions of the Code.

The WOAH Delegate of **Japan** declared the country **free from infection with high pathogenicity avian influenza viruses (HPAI) in poultry** as of 2 June 2024 in compliance with the provisions of Chapter 1.6. and Article 10.4.6. of the *Terrestrial Code* 2023, and consistently with the information provided to WAHIS.

Epidemiological background

High pathogenicity avian influenza (HPAI) is caused by influenza A viruses in the family Orthomyxoviridae. Since its identification in China (People's Rep. of) in 1996, there have been multiple waves of intercontinental transmission of the H5Nx Gs/GD lineage virus. HPAI has led to the death and mass slaughter of over 557 million poultry worldwide between 2005 and 2023, with an unprecedented peak of 141 million in 2022. During this peak in 2022, more than 85 countries and territories in the world were affected with HPAI. In addition, up to now, humans have occasionally been infected with subtypes H5N1 (around 890 cases reported, of which half died), H7N9 (around 1,500 cases reported, of which about 600 died), H5N6 (around 80 cases reported, of which about 30 died), H9N2 (around 80 cases reported, of which 2 died) and sporadic cases have been reported with subtypes H3N8, H7N4, H7N7 and H10N3[4,5,6,7,8].

Recent news

- Global strategy for the prevention and control of high pathogenic avian influenza (2024–2033)
- High Pathogenicity Avian Influenza in Cattle
- Joint FAO/WHO/WOAH preliminary assessment of recent influenza A(H5N1) viruses
- OFFLU statement on high pathogenicity avian influenza in dairy cows
- Updated OFFLU statement on high pathogenicity avian influenza in dairy cows
- OFFLU diagnostic guidance: HPAI dairy cattle
- GF-TADs meeting: Detection of HPAI in ruminants and humans in the USA
- Wildlife under threat as avian influenza reaches Antarctica
- WOAH policy brief: Avian influenza vaccination: why it should not be a barrier to safe trade
- OFFLU statement: Continued expansion of high pathogenicity avian influenza H5 in wildlife in South America and incursion into the Antarctic region
- OFFLU call to discuss AI in the Latin America and Caribbean Region
- OFFLU avian influenza matching (OFFLU-AIM) report
- OFFLU ad-hoc group on HPAI H5 in wildlife of South America and Antarctica: Southward expansion of high pathogenicity avian influenza H5 in wildlife in South America: estimated impact on wildlife populations, and risk of incursion into Antarctica
- OFFLU's annual report: tackling animal influenza through data sharing
- WOAH's Animal Health Forum reshapes avian influenza prevention and control strategies
- WOAH Statement on avian influenza and mammals
- OFFLU statement: Infections with Avian Influenza A(H5N1) virus in cats in Poland

WOAH resources

- Avian influenza portal
- Self-declared disease status

[4] Chen H. 2019. H7N9 viruses. Cold Spring Harb Perspect Med doi: 10.1101/cshperspect.a038349

[5] WHO. Influenza (Avian and other zoonotic), 2018, available at https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/influenza-(avian-and-other-zoonotic)

[6] WHO. Cumulative number of confirmed human cases for avian influenza A(H5N1) reported to WHO, 2003-2022, 25 November 2022, available at https://cdn.who.int/media/docs/default-source/influenza/human-animal-interface-risk-assessments/2022_nov_tableh5n1.pdf?sfvrsn=babfcad1_1&download=true

[7] Yang L, Zhu W, Li X, Chen M, Wu J, Yu P, Qi S, Huang Y, Shi W, Dong J, Zhao X, Huang W, Li Z, Zeng X, Bo H, Chen T, Chen W, Liu J, Zhang Y, Liang Z, Shi W, Shu Y, Wang D. 2017a. Genesis and spread of newly emerged highly pathogenic H7N9 avian viruses in mainland China. J Virol doi: https://doi.org/10 .1128/JVI.01277-17

[8] WHO Avian Influenza Weekly Update Number 924, https://iris.who.int/bitstream/handle/10665/365675/AI-20231201.pdf?sequence=1906&isAllowed=y

- World Animal Health Information System (WAHIS)
- Animal Health Forum on avian influenza: policy to action: The case of avian influenza – reflections for change
- Strategic challenges in the global control of high pathogenicity avian influenza
- Resolution adopted in WOAH General Session 2023: Strategic challenges in the global control of HPAI
- Considerations for emergency vaccination of wild birds against high pathogenicity avian influenza in specific situations
- Practical guide for authorised field responders to HPAI outbreaks in marine mammals

Awareness tools

- Infographic: Understanding avian influenza
- Avian influenza: understanding new dynamics to better combat the disease
- Avian influenza: why strong public policies are vital
- Video: Avian influenza threatens wild birds across the globe

Press inquiries: **media@woah.org**

OFFLU resources

- OFFLU annual report 2023
- OFFLU Statement on high pathogenicity avian influenza caused by viruses of the H5N1 subtype
- OFFLU avian influenza matching (AIM) pilot study
- OFFLU avian influenza VCM report for WHO vaccine composition meetings (February 2024)

Other relevant resources

- Cumulative number of confirmed human cases for avian influenza A(H5N1) reported to WHO, 2003-2023
- WHO, Human infection with avian influenza A(H5) viruses
- Epidemiological Alert Outbreaks of avian influenza and human infection caused by influenza A(H5) public health implications in the Region of the Americas
- WHO, Influenza at the human-animal interface, Summary and risk assessment, from 27 February to 28 March 2024
- HPAI detections in livestock