



Global strategy for the prevention and control of highly pathogenic avian influenza (2024-2033)

In brief

KEY ELEMENTS OF THE REVISED GLOBAL STRATEGY:

- It provides high-level strategic direction for global and regional coordination to support the development and/or revision of national and regional action plans for HPAI prevention and control. It is not intended to be prescriptive or binding.
- It emphasizes the need for a One Health approach and puts a focus on poultry value chains and measures that can significantly reduce the burden of HPAI.

BACKGROUND

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH), under the Global Framework for the Progressive Control of Transboundary Animal Diseases (GF-TADs), have collaboratively drafted a revised ten-year global strategy for the prevention and control of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) in response to the continued intercontinental spread and changes in the circulating HPAI virus (H5 goose/Guangdong (Gs/GD) lineage, especially 2.3.4.4b clade). This replaces the strategy published in 2007 in response to the initial emergence of the H5N1 Gs/GD lineage in Asia.

The revised strategy emphasizes a systems approach to contextualize the threat of HPAI against the backdrop of other global concerns and work towards long-term transformative change in the poultry sector. There is a strong focus on the One Health approach to ensure integrated collaboration with public health, wildlife and environmental sectors to prevent, protect and transform poultry value chains against HPAI. It encourages the use of established and innovative means of protecting poultry value chains to reduce the burden of infections and losses. The revised strategy provides a framework

for countries to implement effective national plans that reflect the evolution of the disease and new scientific advances adapted to their specific context.

WHAT IS THE VISION AND SCOPE OF THE STRATEGY?

Vision: A world with effective HPAI prevention and control along poultry value chains that supports protection of humans, other domestic animals, wildlife and the environment, and aligns with the sustainable transformation of agrifood systems.

Scope: The strategy takes into consideration all HPAI- and zoonotic LPAI viruses, with an emphasis on H5N1 2.3.4.4b clade. It emphasises a One Health approach and focuses on the actions to be implemented by the animal health sector (in collaboration with other sectors) to prevention and control HPAI thereby complementing other strategies and guidance on avian influenza.

WHO WILL BENEFIT?

National veterinary services; wildlife, environment, and public health services; regional economic communities; private sectors; research and educational institutions; and civil society organizations involved in animal health, welfare, production and value chains, and zoonotic disease prevention and control.

WHAT ARE THE OBJECTIVES AND PATHWAYS TO CHANGE?

- **Prevent** HPAI epidemics, panzootics and negative impacts on biodiversity through multisectoral early detection and control.
- **Protect** poultry value chains, livelihoods, trade, and the health of humans, ecosystems, and other animals from avian influenza impacts.
- **Transform** poultry value chains to improve resilience to avian influenza and other disease threats.

WHAT ACTIONS ARE NEEDED TO ACHIEVE THE VISION?

Global

- Establish governance structure to coordinate, monitor and report on the implementation of the strategy using existing mechanisms under the GF-TADs.
- Engage with international public and private partners to strengthen coordination and collaboration to assist in implementing the strategy.
- Develop and launch a communication plan to ensure awareness of the strategy, position statements, progress updates and advocate for technical support and financial investment in national HPAI prevention and control strategies.
- Support OFFLU, the WOA/FAO global network of expertise on animal influenza, in its central role in providing global, regional and national expert technical input and leadership in scientific collaboration, global surveillance, and technical knowledge generation and dissemination.
- Facilitate the development of international guidance to support the application of science-based disease control strategies including enhancing biosecurity in value chains and use of safe, effective HPAI vaccinations programs when appropriate, as a complementary prevention and control measure.
- Encourage and facilitate countries in international reporting of HPAI outbreaks and disseminate timely global analysis, epidemiological updates and sharing of risk and socio-economic impact assessment.
- Engage with Quadripartite partners (FAO, UNEP, WHO and WOA) in supporting countries to operationalize the One Health approach to prevent and control HPAI in poultry, and protect wildlife and public health.
- Leverage the Sustainable Livestock Transformation Initiative to support regions and countries to strengthen their poultry value chains and increase resilience to HPAI, other infectious diseases, and future pressures, including climate shocks.

Regional

- Facilitate the communication of the strategy and the development of coordinated contextually appropriate HPAI action plans at regional/subregional levels.
- Engage GF-TADs Regional Steering Committees, Standing Groups of Experts and available networks on avian influenza to link to countries and build cross border collaboration with relevant stakeholders and partners.
- Support Members to assess their needs, facilitate opportunities to build capacity and assess risks for HPAI transmission and spill over, as well as vulnerable species, populations, or habitats.

Sphere of control

Outputs

- Integrate avian influenza risk monitoring and risk-based surveillance in domestic and wild animals.
- Improve laboratory diagnostic capacities for early detection, differentiation and identification of HPAI.
- Establish One Health collaborative preparedness and response capacities to control HPAI outbreaks.
- Promote biosecurity/other approaches along poultry value chain and poultry-wildlife-human interface.
- Develop guidance for HPAI vaccination stewardship aligned to international standards.
- Promote guidance, training and tools for infection-free value chains and safe trade.
- Promote One Health, private-public partnerships, policy and legal frameworks, and responsible investments in safe and resilient poultry value chains.
- Facilitate context specific knowledge sharing on risk management -between and within regions.
- Support transformative research to support mass-applied HPAI vaccines and surveillance system to inform evidence based policy.

Sphere of influence

Outcomes

- Upstream drivers identified, spillover reduced, and transmission prevented through sustainable, collaborative One Health efforts.
- Reduced circulation and emergence of new HPAI virus strains.
- Reduced burden of HPAI virus on poultry value chains and trade.
- Greater cooperation, investment, partnerships in poultry value chains.

Sphere of interest

Objectives and goal

Prevent

Protect

Transform

Substantially reduce impacts of HPAI on poultry, improve resilience of agrifood systems, and protect wildlife and human health.

- Assumption 1:** Countries prioritize HPAI prevention and response capacity within national poultry health programmes.
- Assumption 2:** Countries are actively adopting a One Health approach as part of health security.
- Assumption 3:** Effective public-private relationships exist to enable livestock system transformation.

- Encourage engagement with existing One Health Platforms or the establishment of regional and national One Health Platforms working with regional Quadripartite partners.
- Convene regular regional information sharing and updates on HPAI highlighting the regional context and anticipated high risk transmission periods linked to increased poultry trade and wild bird migration.
- Facilitate the development of regional laboratory network and reference laboratory capacity to improve the detection and characterisation of HPAI viruses.
- Engage stakeholders in regional assessment of poultry value chains to identify key areas for transformation.

National

- Develop and/or update national action plans for HPAI guided by the global strategy to identify and adapt control measures to be appropriate their national context and based on the latest science.
- Promote timely and transparent reporting and information sharing concerning HPAI and low pathogenic avian influenza (LPAI) outbreaks, including genomic data, to FAO, WOA, OFFLU and other global and regional partners and initiatives.
- Ensure surveillance and laboratory capability to support early detection and response.
- Collaborate with regional partners to share experiences and data related to HPAI, discuss challenges and progress on national plans, and identify solutions to support advancement.

- Foster collaborations with relevant sectors and stakeholders to ensure effective, long-term operationalisation of the One Health approach for prevention and control of HPAI.
- Advocate for political and financial support to prevent and control HPAI in country.
- Review past outbreaks of HPAI in country, including lessons learned, to identify contributing systemic factors or barriers to prevention as well as future concerns that might affect poultry value chains requiring action.

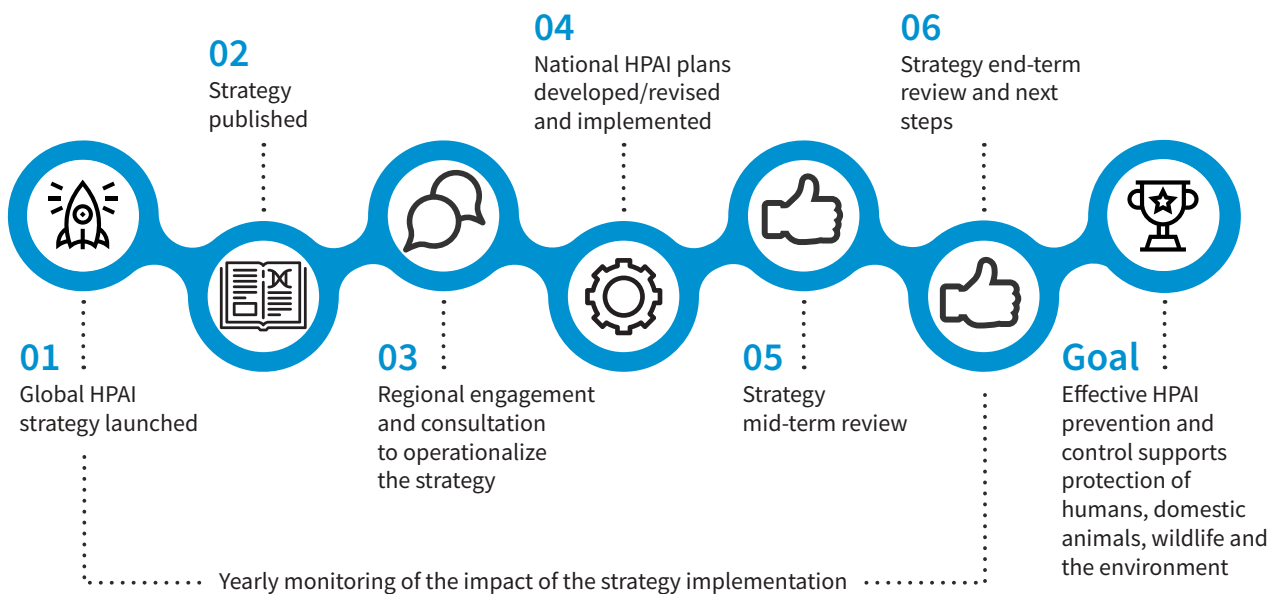
HOW CAN YOU STAY INFORMED?

- The GF-TADs website share regular information on the progress of the strategy with links to related sites, key reports and documents.
- Monitor the HPAI status through FAO and WOA situation reports.
- Follow OFFLU, FAO and WOA for updated statements on new and evolving changes in the epidemiology of HPAI.
- Actively participate in GF-TADs regional workshops and seminars on HPAI prevention and control.

Acknowledgements

The GF-TADs would like to thank all of those who contributed to the preparation of the strategy.

WHAT ARE THE NEXT STEPS?



Source: Authors.



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