Let’s prevent AI and other poultry diseases
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Instructions:
When to use this flipchart?
This flipchart is a tool for provincial/district staff and other trainers to inform and educate farmers/poultry raisers on avian influenza and prevention measures during trainings and village meetings. It can be used as a “stand-alone” training or included as part of a broader training program.

How to use this flipchart?
• Read the flipchart and practice presenting before using it.

• Place the flipchart standing by itself in front of your audience, with the illustrations facing them. You will want to make sure that you can see the text.

• Ask questions to the audience and explain the illustrations they see. Make sure to leave enough time for questions and discussion with the audience.

• Before turning the page, summarise the topic and ensure that it is well understood by your audience.
What is AI – avian influenza?
A poultry disease...

- Avian influenza is a new disease of birds in Laos that can spread easily and rapidly among birds.
- Avian influenza can infect all types of poultry, such as chickens, ducks, quails, geese, turkeys, pigeons, pet birds and wild birds.
- Avian influenza looks like other poultry diseases, New Castle and Fowl Cholera, but poultry infected with avian influenza will normally die more rapidly and massively.
- Ducks can carry the disease but may not show any symptoms and may not die, and therefore can infect other birds. Ducks can be silent disease carriers.
How is AI transmitted from bird to bird? **By contact**

Do you know how AI is transmitted between birds?

Avian influenza virus is transmitted to healthy birds in **three ways, by:**

1. direct contact with **infected poultry**
2. contact with **infected body parts** or internal organs
3. contact with **infected feces, saliva and feathers**

The virus can be transported to other places through **equipment** like cages, baskets, tires, egg shells and through **infected birds and body parts** (internal parts).

Other poultry diseases can be transmitted in **similar ways.**
How is AI transmitted from animal to human? *By contact*

How is AI transmitted from animal to human? *By contact*

Can AI infect people? How is AI transmitted from birds to people?

Avian influenza does not transmit easily to human and requires close exposure to sick birds or their droppings.

The avian influenza virus can be transmitted from poultry to **humans through contact with sick/infected poultry, any of their body parts and secretions**, including feces, saliva and feathers. This can happen in three ways, by:

1. **touching** infected birds. Children can be infected when playing with sick birds.
2. **slaughtering** and eating infected birds.
3. **handling, transporting or selling** infected birds.
How can you prevent avian influenza in poultry? By separating

What can you do to prevent diseases to enter your farms?

You should avoid contact between sick poultry with healthy poultry.

You can prevent disease to enter your poultry flock and village by:

1. separating new birds from your existing flock. Any new birds coming from other villages, markets or farms should be separated for 2 weeks.

2. separating sick poultry immediately from the healthy ones (under a coop and with respective distance from the healthy flock and other animals).

3. separating species from each other, especially ducks from the other poultry. Try to keep your poultry housed at night and separated as much as possible.
How can you prevent avian influenza in poultry? **By cleaning**

1. **cleaning the poultry areas**/backyards once per day and your **poultry pen** once per week (and compost the manure)
2. **washing cages, shoes and equipments** properly with soap and water after use
3. **washing your hands with soap** and water, especially before and after handling poultry and poultry products

By washing equipment and materials that have been in contact with poultry, feces or feathers, **you will kill the virus** and it cannot transmit and infect poultry and people. Don’t forget to wash your shoes and hands, ... thoroughly **with soap and water**.
How do you keep your poultry healthy?

What should you do?

By keeping your poultry healthy, you are also making them stronger against potential diseases.

1. **Feed** your poultry well and regularly, even more when the poultry is separated or enclosed. Also, provide clean water to your poultry regularly.

2. **Vaccinate** your poultry against common diseases like Newcastle and Fowl Cholera. Ask advice from your village veterinary worker.
What to do with sick birds?
Report and separate

1. How would you describe sick birds? Can you tell what disease it is? When do birds usually get sick?

Some birds, like chicken, may suddenly die in high numbers without exhibiting prior symptoms. Ducks can be infected but do not always show signs of disease, and although they may appear healthy, they can infect other poultry as well as people.

In case you see your birds sick:
1. **Report immediately** to your VVW and village chief, or district/provincial livestock officer (only a laboratory test can confirm if your poultry is infected with avian influenza)

2. **Separate your sick birds immediately** from the healthy ones. Keep the sick birds under a coop, and away from the house. Do not touch sick birds with bare hands. Put plastic bags on your hands. Wash your hands after touching sick poultry.

Also, you should follow these guidelines:
3. **Do not slaughter, pluck, cook or eat sick birds.** In this way, people can get the disease from poultry.

4. **Do not move sick birds.** You will carry the disease to other places and transmit it to other poultry.

5. **Do not sell sick birds.** You will carry the disease to other places, like markets where people usually slaughter, pluck and cook poultry.
What to do with dead birds?  
Dispose properly

Report immediately to your VW and your village chief.

The carcasses of birds infected by avian influenza still carry the disease and transmit it to other birds and people.

Do not leave dead birds lying around because children might play with them and animals might take away the carcasses. Also, the carcasses should not be thrown in rivers but should be disposed of safely. Follow this advice:

1. Put plastic bags on your hands. Do not touch dead birds with bare hands.
2. Put the carcasses into a hole, deep enough so that animals can not dig them out.
3. Throw plastic bags or used gloves in the hole to be buried with carcasses.
4. If you have lime you can put some on top of the carcasses.
5. Cover the hole completely and wash hands with soap thoroughly.
What happens in case of AI outbreak?

Have you heard about AI outbreaks in Laos? What is an AI outbreak?

An avian influenza outbreak is officially declared by the provincial authorities when sick or dead birds are tested positive for avian influenza by the central laboratory.

Here are the control measures that will be implemented by the provincial and district authorities so that avian influenza will not spread to other villages.

1. **Movement control and disinfection of the vehicles**: the police will ensure that no poultry or poultry products are taken out of or into the infected zone.
2. **Informing the population**: the authorities will inform the villagers about the disease and the control measures, which will take place in their village.
3. **Culling and disinfection of the infected areas**: poultry in the infected zone will be culled and disposed. All the places where poultry were kept will be disinfected.
4. **Compensation** will be given for culled poultry.
5. **Intensive surveillance** is implemented in the zone surrounding the infected zone to ensure that there are not more sick poultry.

Culling can only be ordered by governmental authorities and the purpose is to protect humans and to stop the disease outbreak.
What can you do to protect yourself and your family? By hygiene

In addition to precautions about sick and dead birds that were discussed earlier, you can also protect yourself and your family from the disease by:

1. **washing your hands with soap** regularly, before and after eating, after touching poultry, before preparing food, before eating, and after using toilet.
2. **cooking poultry very thoroughly** (no pink parts)
3. **washing your cooking utensils with soap** every time after use
4. **using separate boards** for raw and cooked meat
What can you do to protect yourself and your family? By distancing

The greatest risk of infection is through handling and slaughtering of live and dead infected poultry. Here are some ways to avoid unnecessary contact with poultry:

- Move your poultry area and pen away from your house.
- Do not allow poultry and birds to roam into your house or come close to the cooking areas.
- Minimize the number of family members working with poultry.
- Do not let children to touch sick or dead poultry, or play near poultry pen.
- Keep pregnant women and sick people away from birds and poultry and do not let them collect the eggs.
What should you do if feeling sick?
Visit the doctor

If AI outbreaks are happening in your village or in your province, you should pay attention if somebody in your family has the following symptoms: fever, cough, shortness of breath, sore throat, headache, muscle aches, diarrhea and exhaustion.

If someone has any of these symptoms after having contact with poultry or poultry products, they should see a doctor immediately.
Who can help you?
A strong network

A strong network of volunteers and professional staff have been trained on Avian influenza and other diseases to be able to answer your questions and to support you in case of a problem.

If you have any kind of questions regarding avian influenza, such as its transmission, symptoms, prevention and control measures for the animal and the human side, call the free number 166.

In case you see or have sick birds, please report immediately to your VWV and village chief, district/provincial livestock officer or NAHC.

If you have any of these symptoms: fever, cough, shortness of breath, sore throat, headache, muscle aches, diarrhea and exhaustion; after having contact with poultry or poultry products, you should see a doctor immediately.
Report immediately to your VVW and village chief, or district/provincial livestock officer (only a laboratory test can confirm if your poultry is infected with avian influenza)

VVW:  
Village Chief: