Situation report period covered: 31 October to 16 November 2023

This report provides an update of the high pathogenicity avian influenza (HPAI) situation, according to the information submitted through the World Animal Health Information System of the World Organisation for Animal Health (WAHIS) between 31 October to 16 November 2023 (3-week period).

Seasonal trend

Using data reported to the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH) between 2005 and 2019 by 76 affected countries and territories for 18,620 HPAI outbreaks in poultry, we carried out a Seasonal and Trend decomposition using Loess (STL) analysis to determine the seasonal pattern of the disease (detailed methodology presented in Awada et al., 2018[1]). Based on the data reported to WOAH, spread is lowest in September, begins to rise in October, and peaks in February. Figure 1 shows the global seasonal pattern of HPAI in poultry and the red rectangle indicates where we currently are in the cycle based on the period covered in "recent updates" below.

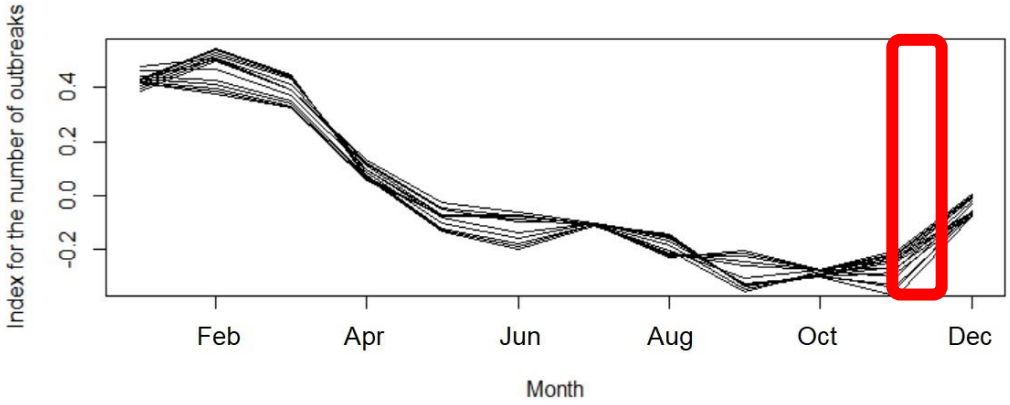

Figure 1. Seasonal trend in global HPAI incidence in poultry

Recent updates (31/10/2023-16/11/2023)

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.

HPAI in poultry

New events by world region (reported through immediate notifications)

Europe

H5

A recurrence started in Netherlands (Utrecht) on 11 November 2023

H5N1

Six events started in Hungary:

- A recurrence in Hajdú-Bihar on 4 November 2023
- Another recurrence in Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg on 6 November 2023
- A third recurrence in Bács-Kiskun on 10 November 2023
- The first occurrence in the area of Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén on 11 November 2023

[1] Awada L, Tizzani P, Noh SM, 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, 2006–2016. https://doi.org/10.1111/tbed.12986

[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.

- A fourth recurrence in Csongrád-Csanád on 13 November 2023
- A fifth recurrence in Jász-Nagykun-Szolnok on 13 November 2023

A recurrence started in Denmark (Veterinary Inspection Unit East) on 5 November 2023
A recurrence started in Italy (Veneto) on 13 November 2023

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

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

Africa
H7N6
South Africa
Americas
H5N1
Canada (Clade: 2.3.4.4b - Lineage: Reassortment Eurasian and North American), United States of America
Europe
H5
Bulgaria
Asia, and Oceania
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, a total of 25 new outbreaks in poultry were notified by eight countries (Bulgaria, Canada, Denmark, Hungary, Italy, Netherlands, South Africa, United States of America). Details are presented in Figures 2 and 3.

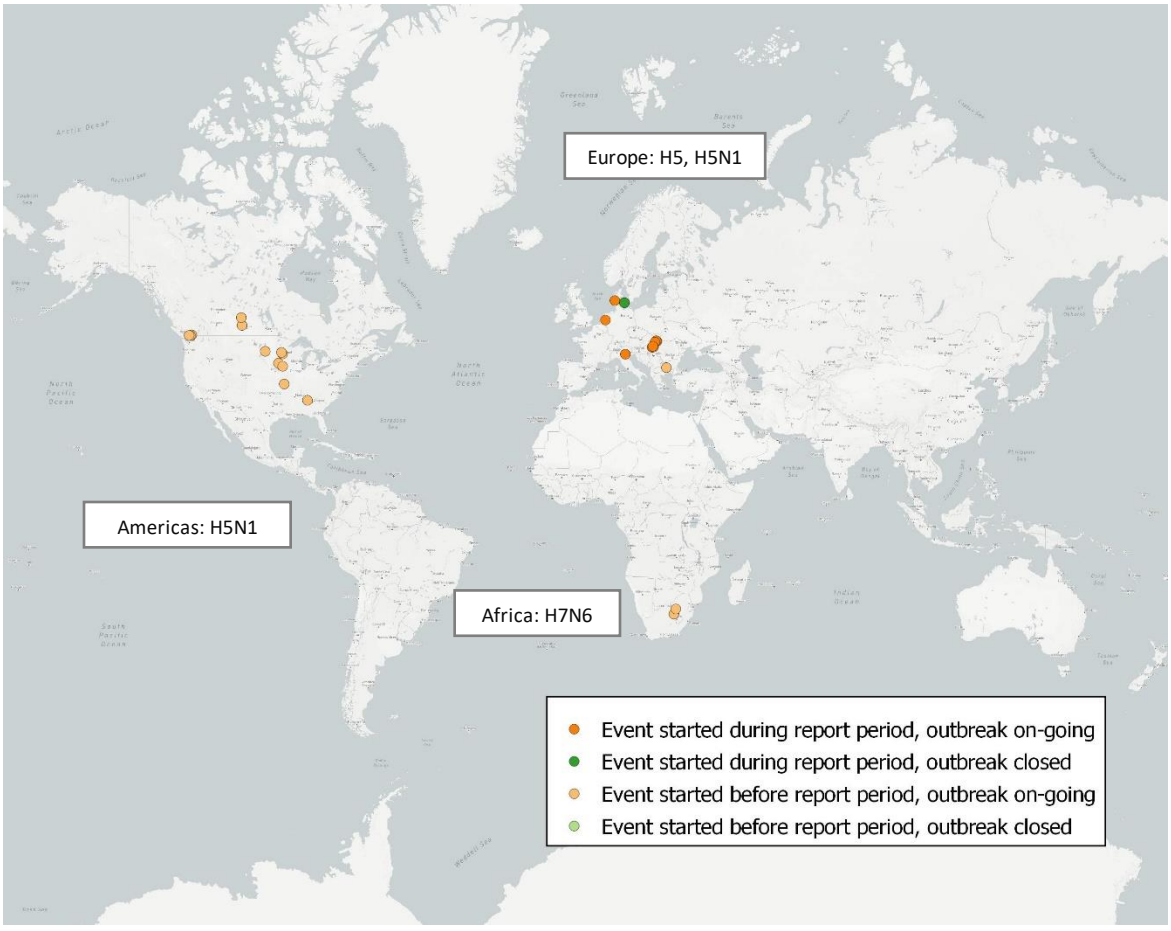

Figure 2. Distribution of HPAI new outbreaks in poultry, and corresponding subtypes

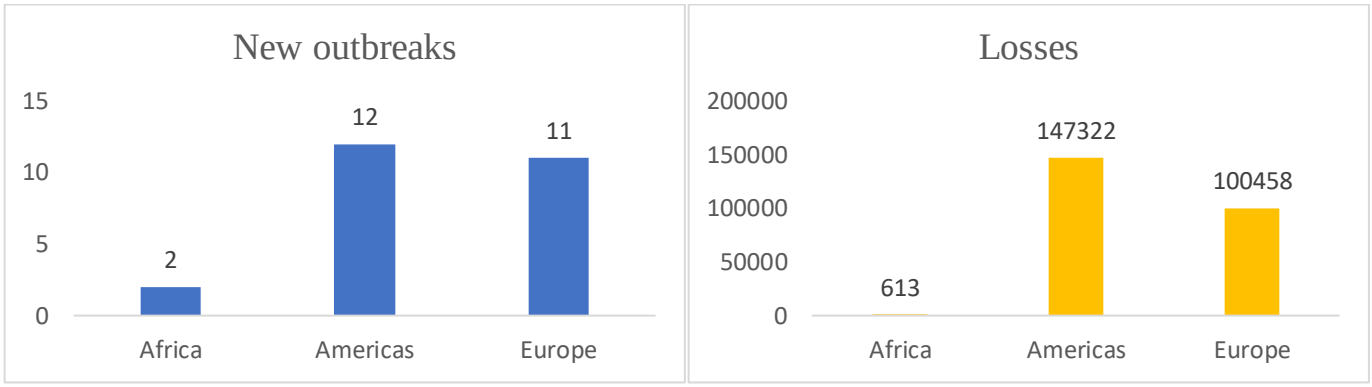

Figure 3. Number of new outbreaks and associated losses by geographical region (losses include animals dead and killed and disposed of within outbreaks – they do not include culling around outbreaks).

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

Americas
H5N1
A recurrence started in Mexico in Sonora on 25 October 2023 (Clade: 2.3.4.4b - Lineage: Reassortment Eurasian and North American)
H7N3
A recurrence started in Mexico in Aguascalientes, Guanajuato, Jalisco, Puebla and San Luis Potosí on 6 January 2022
Asia
H5N1
A recurrence started in Cambodia (Svay Rieng) on 8 October 2023
Africa, Europe, and Oceania
No events reported

HPAI in non-poultry

New events by world region (reported through immediate notifications)

Europe
H5 in non-poultry birds
A recurrence started in Sweden (Vadstena) on 2 November 2023
Africa, Americas, Asia, 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
H5 in mammals
Uruguay: South American fur seal (*Arctocephalus australis*) and South American sea lion (*Otaria flavescens*)
H5 in non-poultry birds
Colombia
H5N1 in non-poultry birds
Brazil
Asia
H5N1 in non-poultry birds
Israel (Clade 2.3.4.4b - Lineage: Fully Eurasian)
Europe
H5N1 in mammals
Finland: American mink (*Neovison vison*), Arctic fox (*Vulpes lagopus*), raccoon dog (*Nyctereutes procyonoides*), red fox (*Vulpes vulpes*) and sable (*Martes zibellina*)
H5N1 in non-poultry birds

Austria, Germany, Hungary, Romania, Serbia (Clade: 2.3.4.4b - Lineage: Reassortment Eurasian and North American), United Kingdom

Africa, 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 33 outbreaks in non-poultry birds and mammals were reported through WAHIS by 12 countries and territories (Austria, Brazil, Colombia, Finland, Germany, Hungary, Israel, Romania, Serbia, Sweden, United Kingdom and Uruguay). Details are presented in Figures 4 and 5.

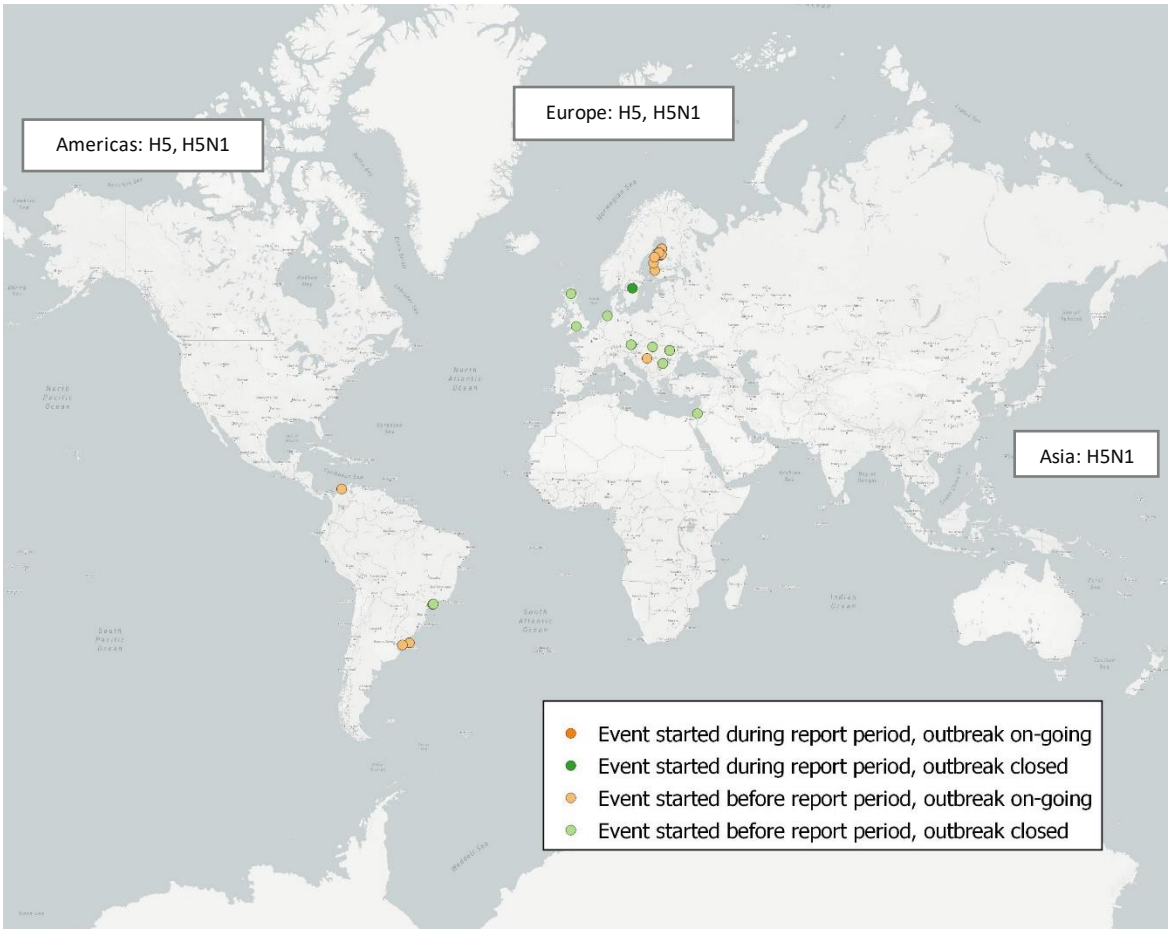

Figure 4. Distribution of HPAI new outbreaks in non-poultry animals reported through WAHIS, and corresponding subtypes.

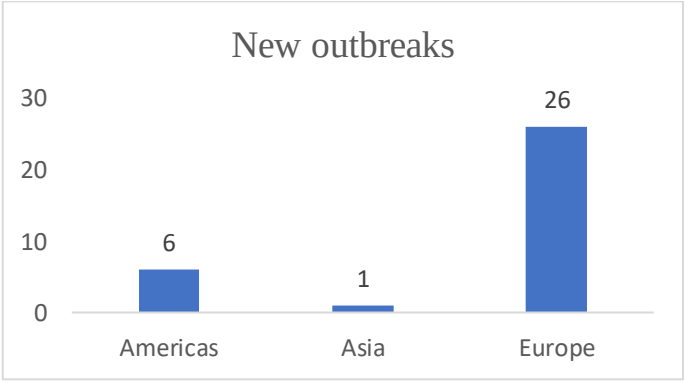

Figure 5. Number of new outbreaks reported through WAHIS by geographical region

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

Americas
H5N1 in non-poultry birds
The first occurrence started in Falkland Islands (Jalisco) on 30 October 2023
H5N5 in non-poultry birds
Greenland reported the new strain, with a start date on 14 September 2023
Europe
H5N1 in non-poultry birds
A recurrence started in Russia (Komi) on 19 October 2023
A recurrence started in Portugal (Aveiro) on 19 October 2023 (Clade 2.3.4.4b - Lineage: Fully Eurasian)
A recurrence started in Germany (Mecklenburg-Vorpommern) on 29 October 2023
Africa, Asia, and Oceania
No new events reported.

Self-declarations of freedom submitted 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.

No Member submitted a self-declaration for HPAI during the three weeks covered by this report.

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 resulted in the death and mass slaughter of more than 316 million poultry worldwide between 2005 and 2021, with peaks in 2021, 2020 and 2016. During each of the years 2006, 2016, 2017 and 2021, more than 50 countries and territories in the world were affected with HPAI. In addition, up to now, humans have occasionally been infected with subtypes H5N1 (around 870 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].

Key messages

The current HPAI epidemic season continues with 25 outbreaks being reported in poultry and 33 in non-poultry birds and mammals over the 3 weeks covered by the report, in Africa, Americas, Asia and Europe. Nearly 250,000 poultry birds died or were culled worldwide during the 3 weeks period, mostly in the Americas and Europe.

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. Over the 3 weeks covered by the report, cases in mammals were reported to WOAH by Finland and Uruguay, in seven species of terrestrial and marine mammals.

WOAH recommends that countries 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 is also paying close attention to the situation in the sub-Antarctic region and is calling on the animal health community to monitor the situation and the potential spread to Antarctica, as experts fear that the consequences for wildlife could be devastating if the disease reaches the continent.

[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 915, https://cdn.who.int/media/docs/default-source/wpro---documents/emergency/surveillance/avian-influenza/ai_202311030c034f8d3ed24af38b49203f8d0058fb.pdf?sfvrsn=22ea0816_36

Recent news

- 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
- World Animal Health Information System (WAHIS)
- Q & A: Avian influenza in cats
- 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
- Preliminary FAO/WHO/WOAH Joint Rapid Risk Assessment - Human infection with influenza A(H5N1), Cambodia (2023)
- One health Joint plan of action (2022 – 2026)
- The first meeting of the Standing Group of Experts on HPAI for Europe, May 2023
- Technical meeting on HPAI vaccination, GF-TAD Americas, March 2023

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 2022
- 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 (September 2023)

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 15 July to 30 August 2023
- Vaccination of poultry against highly pathogenic avian influenza – part 1. Available vaccines and vaccination strategies