Avian Influenza

Intersectoral Collaboration

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On the global level, the human health sector lags behind the animal health sector in the assessment of potential threats, although substantive differences exist among countries in the state of national preparedness planning for emerging diseases.
Intersectoral Collaboration

- Intersectoral Collaboration at different levels (international-national-provincial-district-local) are important for the successful application of control measures for any disease emergency.

- Through collaboration, concerned authorities & parties can identify problems, improve conditions, find solutions, build capacities, establish contingency plans, implement them, implement awareness campaign, ............
Capacity building

- Capacity building for individuals, groups, institutions, organizations & societies enhance their abilities to identify & meet development challenges to be able to effectively and efficiently address the needed surveillance, monitoring, prevention, control & eradication of animal & zoonotic diseases, the professional capacity of all players (including training institutions, laboratories etc) in order to meet international standards required.
Lebanese Poultry Sector

- 60 millions broilers/ five cycles/year
- 4 millions layers
- 100,000 parent stock
- 1,000,000 are raised in backyard poultry
- Turkey production is very limited.
- Muscovy ducks and/or Mallard.
  There is also a commercial duck farm that
  export fattened duck livers and duck meat.
- Ostrich farms around 1200 heads
Response to Animal outbreaks emergencies

- The law of veterinary quarantine no. 12301 dated 20/3/1963 states that animal health emergencies will be handled at the national level and that the ARD will assume overall responsibility for responding to the emergency, and will be directly answerable to the appropriate government minister.
- It also states that all the veterinary staff, including the private, will provide essential services during an animal health emergency on condition that they are provided with the required training to ensure that they are prepared to act immediately in the event of an epizootic.
- A mechanism for cooperation among different ministries, if necessary, to control the disease (e.g. police, army, customs, wildlife authorities, fire service, education, media and health).
- The reporting system decree dated 1913.
There hasn't been an H5N1 outbreak that involved death of wild birds or death of domesticated poultry.
ARD Preventive Measures

- Establishment of committees
- FAO/OIE assistance
- Capacity building: ARD / LARI (Fanar Laboratory)

- Strengthening the epidemiological surveillance on
  - Commercial poultry farms
  - Backyard Poultry
  - Wild / Migrating Birds
  - Wetlands
ARD Preventive Measures

- Enforcement of preventive measures, laws, and decrees
- Cooperation with the Lebanese Veterinary Order, the private institutions, producer, production associations & the Migratory bird association in Lebanon
- Compensation policy to encourage farms to notify
- Awareness campaign
- Mapping the commercial poultry farms and entering the data into the GIS system.
- Establishment of a preparedness plan
Preparedness plan

- Early warning
- Rapid response
- Strengthening Biosecurity measures

Collaboration with all the concerned authorities
A **National Steering committee** for AI preparedness had been created in the year 2006 with a focal point representing each of the concerned authorities:

- Ministry of Agriculture (MOA)
- Ministry of Public Health (MOPH)
- Ministry of Environment (MOEnvt)
- Ministry of Interior and Municipalities (MOI)
- Ministry of Economy (MOE)
- Ministry of Information (MOI)
- Ministry of Finance (MOF)
- High Relief Committee (HRC)
- Poultry syndicates (private sector)

*The main function of this committee is to cope with HPAI situation under the supervision of the Council of Ministers.*

*The president of this committee is the Minister of Agriculture*
The Task Force committee for AI preparedness

- It was established, dated 1/3/2006, with focal point representing each of the national and international agencies concerned, MOA, MOPH, FAO, OIE, WHO.

The group meets on regular basis in order to coordinate and unify the action contingency plan.
Collaboration with the MOPH

Meetings
- Exchange of information
- Harmonizing the contingency plan
- Training sessions
Collaboration with the MOPH

- Awareness campaign (MOA,MOPH,WHO)

- IHR
Collaboration with the MOI

Meetings

- Harmonizing the contingency plan
- Training groups of Civil Security Forces
  (Quarantine measures, exit monitoring,
  ........)
Collaboration with the migrating birds association

- Bird immigration Pathways (world-wide)
* Migration throughout Lebanon

* Avifauna of Lebanon

* Resting points
Implementing the Contingency Plan in the case of an outbreak

- Index farm
- RHGH Lab.
- Minister Of PH
- Prime Minister
- MOA
- MOEnvt
- MOE
- MOI
- Ministry of Agr.
- MOPH
- MOWR
- Municipality
- MOEnvt
- NSC
- CVO
- Civil defense
- Governor
- Fanar Lab.
- Red Cross
- Internal Security
- Governor
- MOEnvt
- Poultry Syndicate
- HRC
- Red Cross
- MOEnvt
- Poultry Syndicate
- Epidemiological Inquiry
Difficulties of Intersectoral collaboration

- Political Situation
- Change of Ministers → Chain of command
- Conflict of responsibilities
- Shortage of Funds
- Inability to implement the desk top simulation exercise
- H7 suspicion case in the south (2006)
Experience learned through the Intersectoral collaboration

MOPH-Through meetings & training sessions:

- Exchange of information concerning diseases & their prevention & control
- Exchange of the results
- Exchange of evaluation of the intersectoral sectors work between intersectoral partners & with the international organizations.
Future progress should be implemented

- Continuity especially concerning the exchange of information, training, & experience
- Strengthen the working relationship between the animal health authorities in neighboring countries, & the human health authorities both at the national and local levels for cooperation on quarantine and exchange of early warning information on disease occurrences near mutual borders
- Efforts must be done to benefit from our experience to face any disease emergency especially that the world might face the H1N1 pandemic
Conclusion

- Although there is no certainty that an H5N1 pandemic will occur, history suggests that there will be a future influenza pandemics, unpredictable in timing & severity & that this is beyond our control. At the moment the threat is still in the future; however, this is the best time to invest in an insurance policy. For it is within our control to strive to our utmost to minimize the impact of a future pandemic through collaboration, planning & research. The potential cost in animal & human lives & suffering, & the economic consequences should be sufficient incentive.
Conclusion

- Animal health & Human Health cannot be separated especially that 80% of the human diseases come from animal sources, for that reason intersectoral collaboration is very important between concerned authorities & groups especially MOA & MOPH to achieve food safety from farm to fork & the international goal.