Risk analysis: highly pathogenic avian influenza in domestic poultry and wild birds

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Animal disease surveillance implies the collection of information related to the occurrence of disease and the implementation of actions, based on this information, for prevention, control and eradication. In the case of highly pathogenic avian influenza (H5N1), surveillance in wild birds is an important component of a comprehensive surveillance programme that will generate information that should lead to specific actions. Few, if any, of these actions are or should be directed to wild birds; the vast majority of these actions are applied to the domestic poultry sector.

A comprehensive surveillance plan should address four key areas: early warning, prevention, detection and emergency response. The paper addresses these components in the light of HPAI. Risk analysis for HPAI is broadly outlined with particular emphasis on risk management strategies including compartmentalisation based on the OIE guidelines.

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