

SOCIO-ECONOMIC IMPACT ASSESSMENT OF HPAI IN EGYPT

A WFP & FAO effort
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Data analyses and results



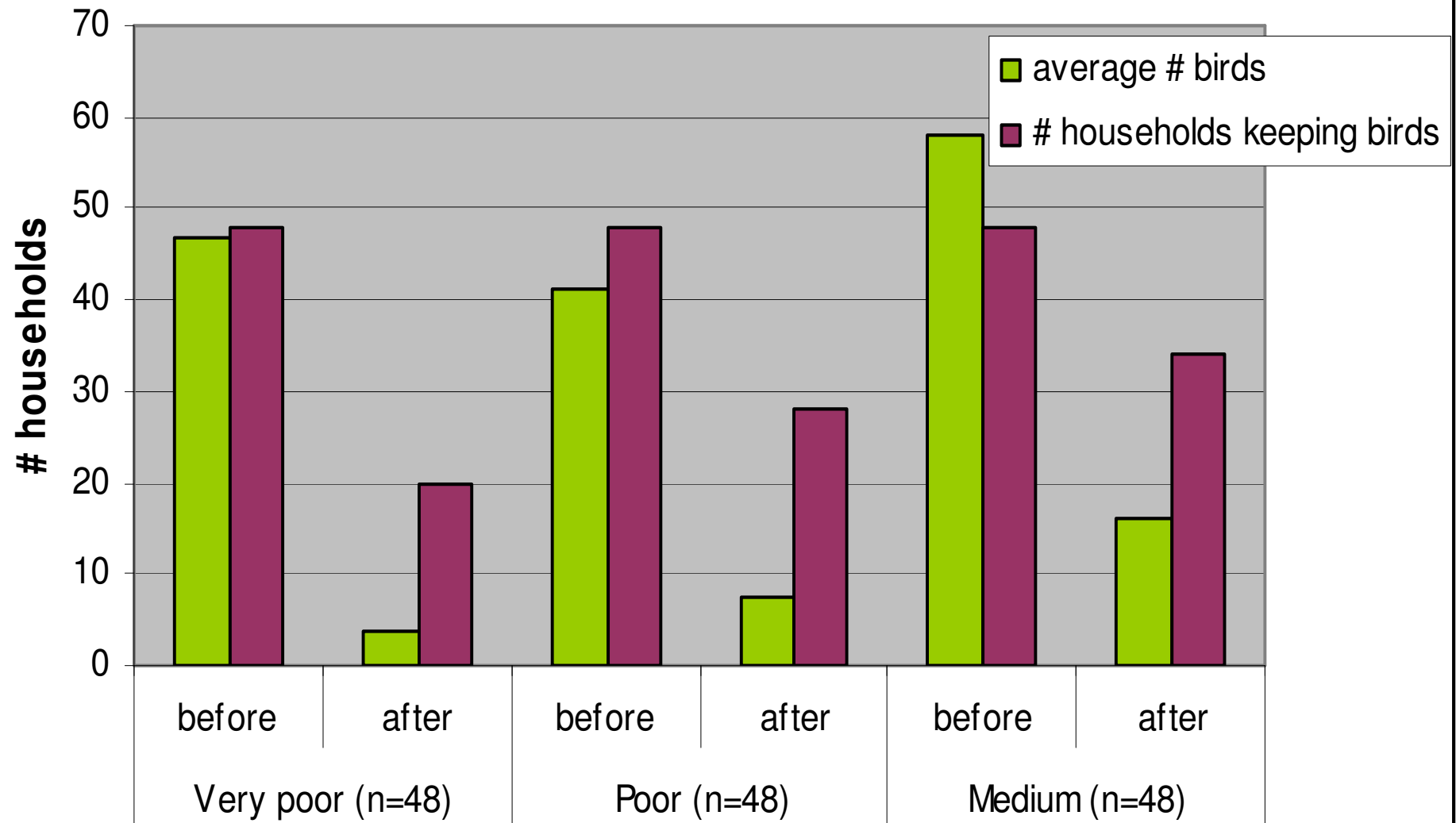
Socio-economic groups

- Key indicators for distinguishing between different socio-economic groups:
 - Sources of income (regular, seasonal, multiple etc);
 - Importance of poultry income to total household income;
 - Land ownership and other assets;
 - Entitlement to government support, charity, and alms (“zakaat”);
 - Type of household (female headed, male headed, widowed, elderly, disabled, divorced etc).

Traditional poultry system

- Flocks are kept on the rooftops of houses, in the back-/court yards, spare rooms in the house and free range on streets and agricultural land.
- During the night birds are confined in brick rooms or shelters made from wood and netting.
- Species and age groups are often mixed although very young birds generally are kept separately in boxes or cages inside the house.
- Women are the main caretakers of poultry birds with occasionally children lending a hand.

Number of households keeping poultry and flock size averages pre and post outbreak



Flock sizes

- Overall average flock size according to study is 52 birds (n=144).
- According to village information units the average size of flocks is 21 birds.
- Underestimation of flock sizes possibly due to:
 - surveys have mainly focussed on chickens rather than poultry
 - timing of surveys (seasonal fluctuations)

Poultry species and breeds

- On average chickens take up 48%-52% of the total number of birds kept across households. Ducks represent 22%-25% followed by pigeons, geese and turkeys.
- “Local” (Baladi) and “exotic” species and breeds are used and each have specific characteristics. Some examples:
 - The Balady duck is a good brooder and is used to brood on the eggs of the Peking duck
 - The Fayoumy chicken is heat tolerant and produces tasty eggs (these eggs gain higher prices in the market)
 - The Peking duck is a fast grower and produces a lot of meat
 - Pigeons have the highest turnover rate and require little investment

Restocking is a problematic and slow

- Most traders refuse to provide new chicks to the poorest and poor again;
- The financial means to re-invest are very limited for most poor households;
- Feed prices have gone up making it very difficult to raise the first investment that is needed to keep poultry before it starts paying off;
- Apart from financial restrains some people are too afraid to start poultry keeping again because of the human health risk that is involved.
- Vaccinated chicks are preferred but not always available

Impact of HPAI according to respondents

Impact	FG (n=72)	HH (n=144)
Decreased income	69 (96%)	122 (85%)
No or less poultry meat and eggs available for household, especially children	60 (83%)	108 (75%)
Stress, fear and sadness	31 (43%)	49 (34%)
Prices of food items increased	13 (18%)	15 (10%)
Not able to offer poultry meat and eggs to guests or use birds and eggs as gifts	4 (5%)	5 (3%)
Scarcity of birds for restocking	3 (4%)	2 (1%)
Pollution of river sides and lake banks because of dumping	1 (1%)	0 (0%)



Poultry Income



Poultry Income

- The overall share of poultry derived income to total household income was 44.5% (n=464) before the outbreak.
- For the very poor and poor this figure lies around 50%. For households representing the medium group the average share is 30%.
- This proportion varies widely among households with very poor and female headed households depending more on poultry for household income.

Poultry Income

- After the outbreak (Feb. 2007) the share of poultry derived income to total household income is only 2% on average (n=464).

Impact of loss of income

Issues as cited by the respondents	FG (n=72)	HH (n=144)
Clothes for children	25 (20%)	46 (40%)
Education of children	28 (23%)	40 (28%)
Household needs	23 (19%)	40 (28%)
Medicines/medical treatment	14 (11%)	25 (17%)
Repayment of debts	14 (11%)	14 (10%)
Purchase of food items	5 (4%)	17 (12%)
Financial support children (other than educational)	5 (4%)	10 (7%)
Marriage needs for daughter	5 (4%)	5 (3%)



Consumption



Consumption

- Poultry is the main and often the only source of animal protein.
- The main source of poultry meat is chicken followed by duck, goose, pigeon and turkey.
- Months of increased demand correlate with Islamic holidays. Ramadan is most important. Among the Coptic Christians increased demand is related to the celebration of Easter and Christmas.
- Other events that involve consumption of poultry include: marriages, births, funerals and gatherings with friends, family and community members.

Impact on household consumption

- Households drastically reduced poultry meat and egg consumption and consumption of more expensive food products.
- People shifted from animal proteins to vegetal proteins, especially lentils.
- Only households within the medium socio-economic groups have managed to slightly increase the consumption of fish and red meat as compared with before the outbreak.
- Social relations have been affected and some women have taken serious risks to be able to uphold socio-cultural customs.

Consumption

- There is not sufficient detailed information to judge what effect the change in household consumption has had on children's health and learning abilities.
- However, stunting (height-for-age) and wasting (weight-for-age) are common phenomena in Egypt.
- Therefore negative affects on children's health and learning abilities due to decrease in diet quality in the households could be an issue.



Stress, sadness and depression



Impacts related to stress, sadness and depression

- Fear of family members and especially children getting infected by avian influenza.
- Loss of women's income reduces their ability to take care of household needs and their children's well-being; this has damaged the self-esteem of many women.

Impacts related to stress, sadness and depression

- Women are no longer able or to a lesser extent able to fulfil certain social-cultural customs that would help the household in up-keeping social relations.
- Households rely more on the husband's wage. Negotiation over the use of these already limited financial resources might cause tension and inter-household conflicts.



Pollution of river sides and lake banks



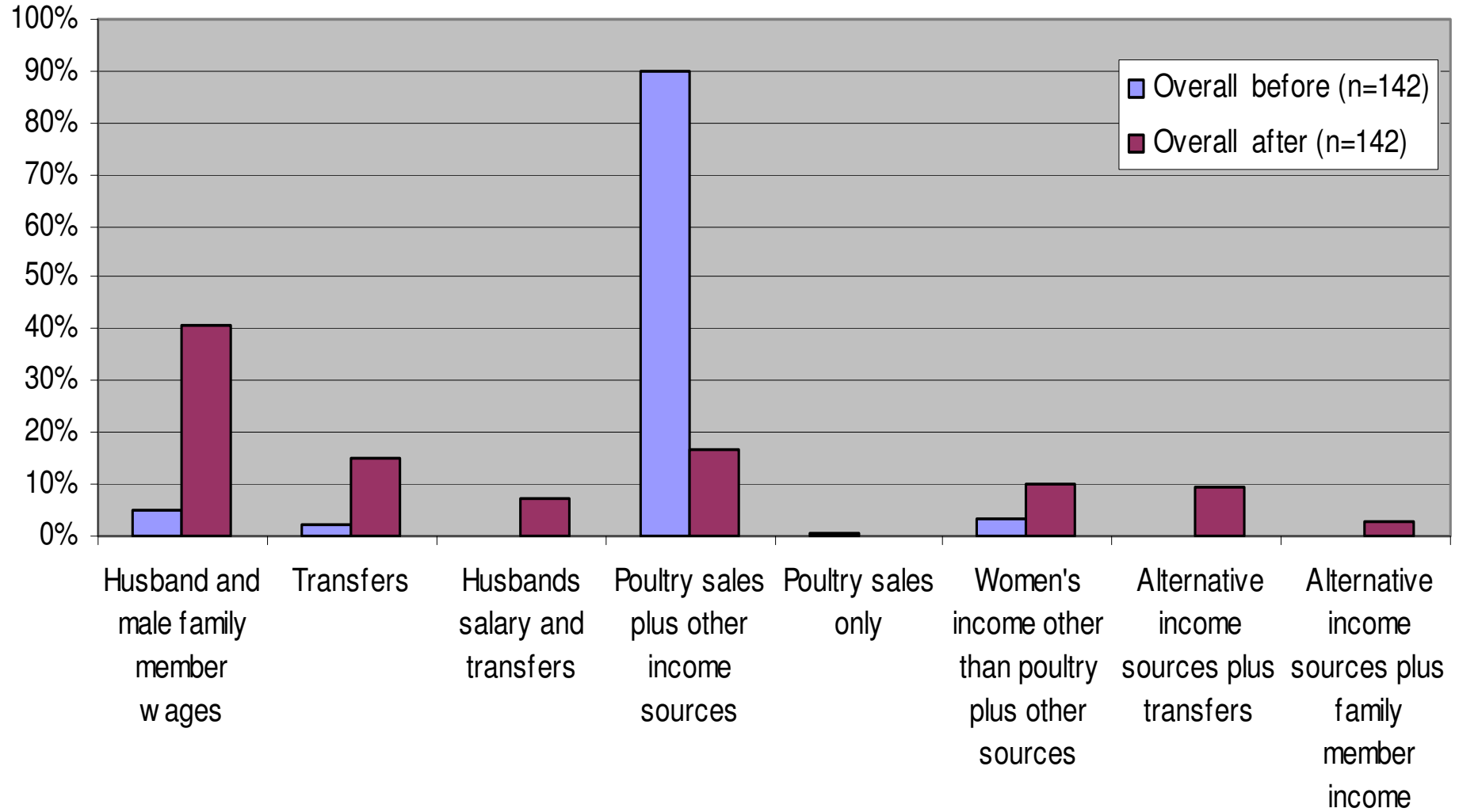
Pollution of river sides and lake banks

- During the outbreak people used lakes and river sides as dumping grounds.
- This will have caused water pollution and localized air pollution especially for people living close to these dumping sites.
- The incorrect disposal of birds could possibly have played a role in the persistence of the virus.

Coping strategies

- It has been difficult for many women to find alternative income sources.
- The majority of households became fully dependant on the husband's salary, transfers or both (this share has risen from 7% to 63%)(n=142).
- Only seventeen women (13%) have found alternative income sources (n=142).
- Twelve out of these seventeen belong to the very poor group and halve of these are widowed women.

Income sources pre- and post outbreak



In summary

- There has been a big reduction in the numbers of all poultry species.
- Households most strongly affected are the poorest and most vulnerable. They have very limited access to alternative income activities.
- Recovery has been and still is very slow.
- Appropriate information and support is missing.

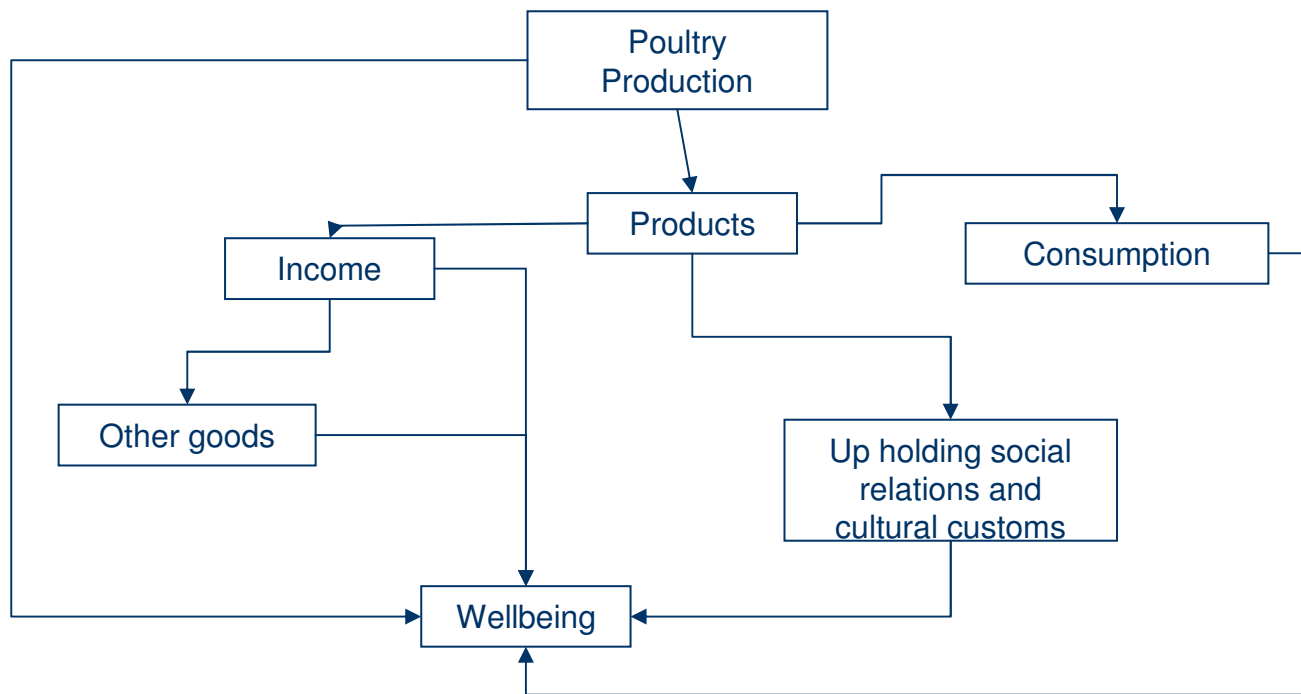
What is special about Egypt?

- Contribution to household income is very high.
- Poultry is the major and often the only animal protein source in rural areas.
- More than 90% of households in rural areas keep poultry.
- Bird numbers are probably at least twice as much as estimated by government sources.
- Poultry keeping is one of the very few income earning activities available to women.

Use of results

- Main issues could be used for the development of a policy brief.
- The experiences gained will help in starting similar research projects in other countries.
- Lessons learned will help to improve and further develop the “toolkit” in terms of methodology and conceptual framework.

Livelihood perspective



THANK YOU!

