

# **OFFLU – the joint OIE-FAO network of expertise on animal influenza**



OFFLU is now a broad, functional and flexible network that provides technical results, advocacy for information and material sharing, and coordination among partners.

Scope is expanded to include ALL animal influenza

# OFFLU Key Achievements

- 8 ongoing technical activities delivering results on
  - Biosafety guidance
  - Surveillance and diagnostics recommendations for pandemic (H1N1) 2009 in animals
  - Tools to match H5 vaccine to circulating viruses in endemic countries
  - Validated control reagents for diagnostic tests
- Rapid mobilization of experts to pandemic H1N1 2009
- Assessment of genetic sequence databases

# At the human-animal interface

- FAO-OIE-WHO Joint Technical Consultation on Avian Influenza at the Human-Animal Interface (October 2008, Verona)
- WHO contribution to annual OFFLU technical and policy meetings (as observers)
- OFFLU contribution of animal influenza data to WHO semi-annual vaccine strain selection meetings
- OFFLU contribution to WHO global research agenda for influenza
- Ongoing informal discussions to address current events

# **OFFLU national capacity building activities (H5 endemic countries: Egypt and Indonesia)**

- **Biologic, genetic and antigenic analysis of avian influenza viruses allowing:**
  - identification of potential poultry vaccine strains
  - selection of updated challenge viruses
- **Improved in-country capacity to generate and analyze molecular and antigenic data**
- **In Indonesia data-driven mechanisms established to:**
  - track antigenic drift
  - monitor vaccine efficacy
  - support policy decisions on the vaccine strategy

# OFFLU national capacity building activities

- Networking of experts in developing countries with leading international experts
  - e.g. Verona consultation, OFFLU contributors
- Lab. expertise missions with CMC for influenza
  - Nepal and Mexico
- Other support (coordinated by OFFLU-FAO staff):
  - Proficiency assessment of AIV and NCD lab diagnostics
  - Reagents hub for immediate provision of test kits and sample shipment containers
  - Shipment of diagnostic samples to Reference Laboratories for early and accurate disease detection
  - Advanced virus characterization at international reference laboratories

# Conclusions

- Systems/relationships built through these activities were used to mount a rapid, joint, technical and policy response to pandemic (H1N1) 2009
- OFFLU was considered as the key representative of the animal health sector for influenza during the WHO response to pandemic (H1N1) 2009