

**Avian and Human Influenza:
Meeting the challenge of a
coordinated international
response**

Geneva

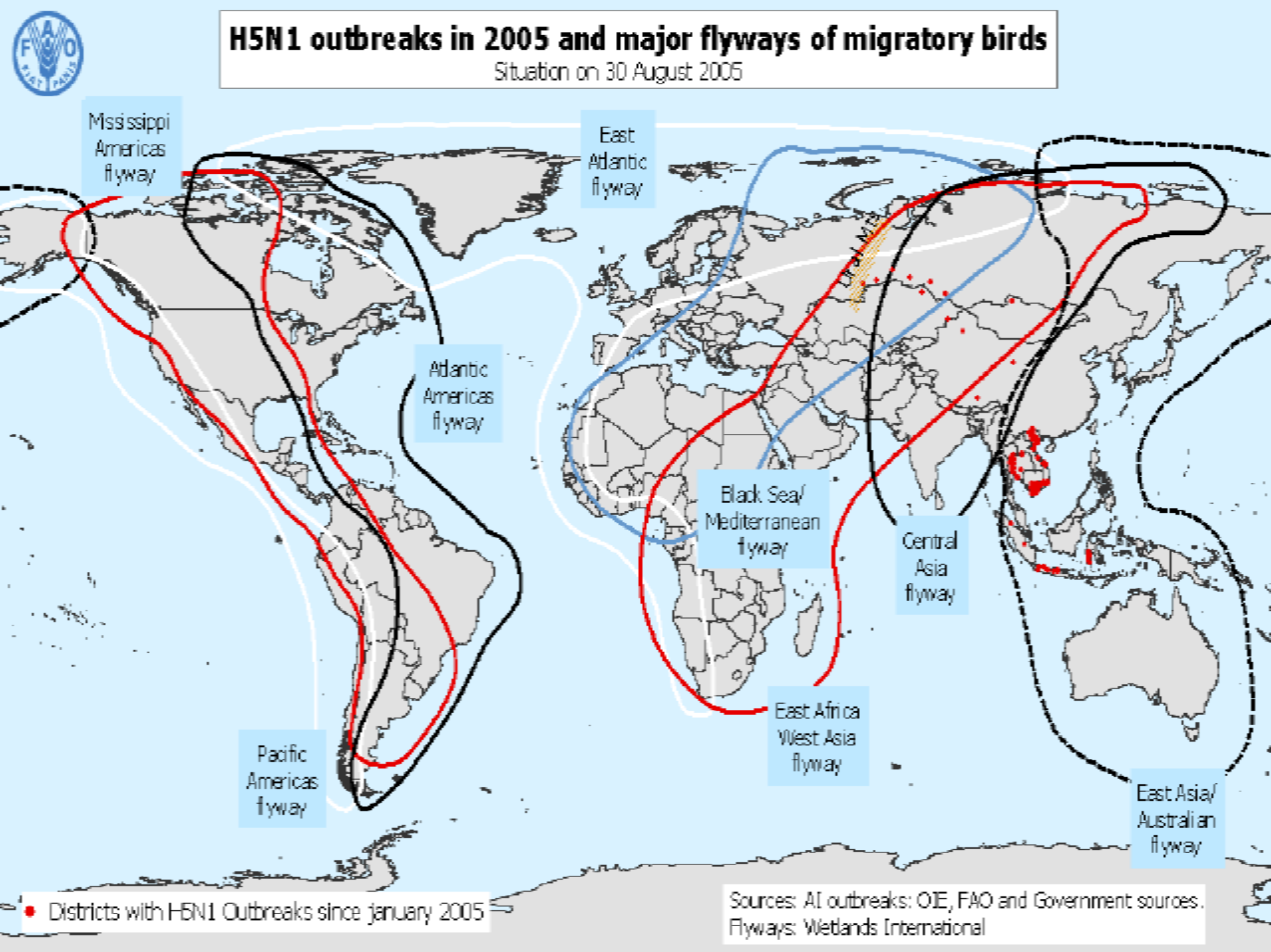
November 7th – 9th 2005

World Leaders are calling for

- better control the current epidemic of avian influenza, which will bring benefits in its own right and, at the same time, prevent – or at least delay – the next influenza pandemic**
- the fullest possible international cooperation in preparing for the next pandemic threat and responding to the pandemic when it does come**

H5N1 outbreaks in 2005 and major flyways of migratory birds

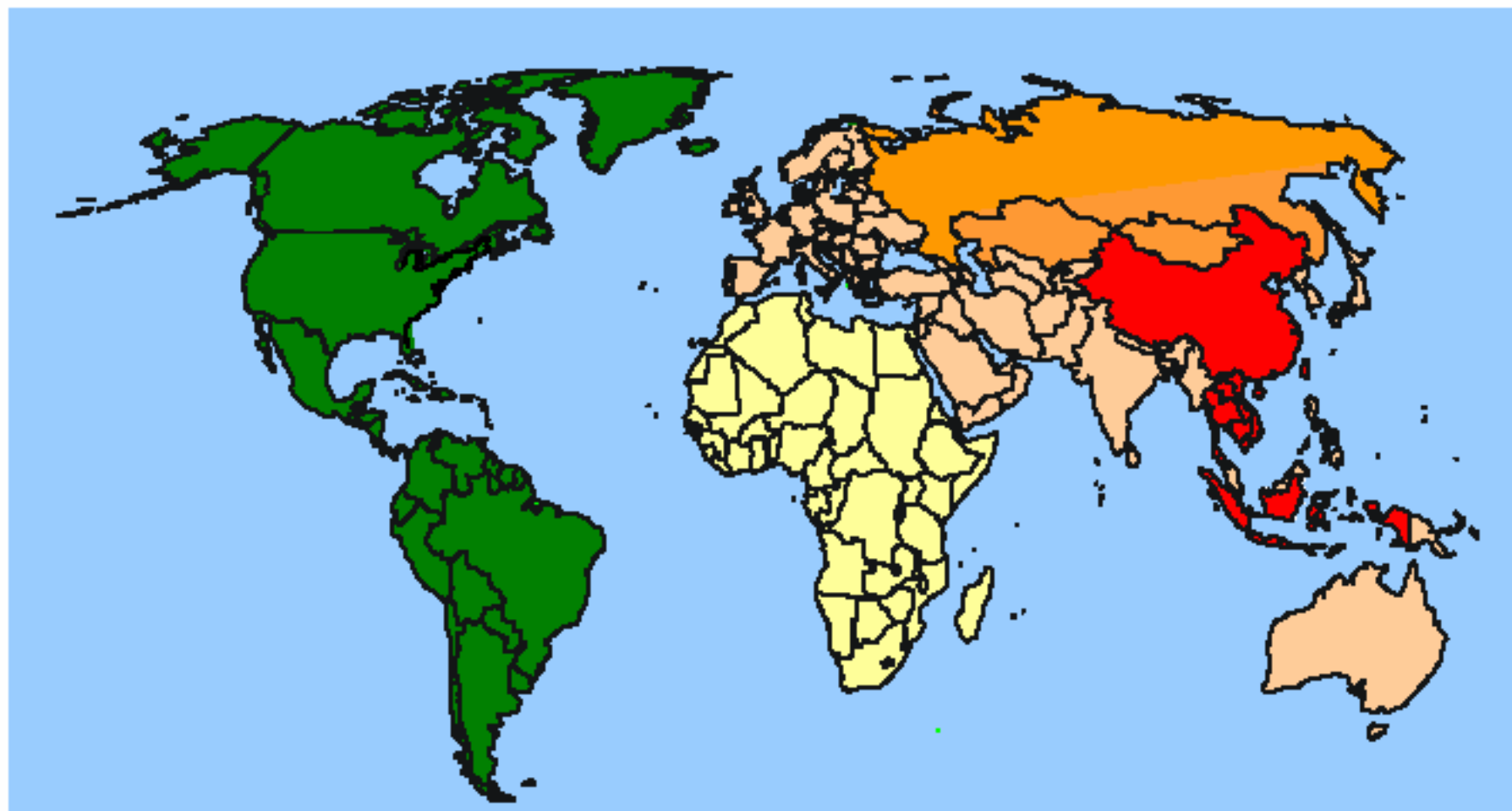
Situation on 30 August 2005



High Expectations

- **National officials are being asked to**
 - **Cope with present realities**
 - **An avian influenza epidemic**
 - **Prepare for an uncertain future**
 - **A human influenza pandemic**
 - **Be ready for major disruption**
 - **Reaction to the pandemic**
- **These tasks affect all of government – with agriculture and health at the centre**

Global Risk of Avian Influenza Outbreaks



Category 1

 **Endemic**


Widespread and recurring H5N1 infections in animals since Dec. 2003

Category 2


 **Epidemic**

Isolated H5N1 outbreaks in animals since July, 2005

Category 3

 **High Risk**

Proximal to endemic or epidemic countries, or at risk of animal outbreaks due to bird migration patterns

 **At-Risk**

At risk of animal outbreaks due to bird migration patterns (Africa)

Category 4

 **Pandemic risk**

At lower risk of animal outbreaks, but would be affected by a human influenza pandemic

Support from the UN System

- **FAO, OIE, WHO, World Bank, UN Resident Coordinators and other UN humanitarian and development agencies are already engaged**
- **Needs are great and urgent. Realities within countries are very different: not “one size fits all”**
- **How can the UN system do more?**

Four Broad Areas of Work

- prevent and contain spread of H5N1 among birds and from birds to humans**
- increase country capacity for surveillance, early detection, diagnosis and reporting of cases – both animal and human, with full information sharing and transparency**
- intensify research, development and production – of vaccines and antivirals – review manufacturing capacity and access**
- communicate risks, prepare for the pandemic and provide people with information on what to do in different circumstances - be correct, clear and consistent;**

Task 1: Actions Needed

- Choosing the right interventions**
- Assessing what is being done**
- Deciding what more needs to be done**
- National, Regional, Global levels**
- Estimating the overall needs**
- What contribution expected from government, civil society, international agencies?**

Task 2: Establishing the kinds of support that is required

- **Technical**
- **Institutional**
- **Partnerships**
- **Standby Capacity**
- **Political engagement**

Support Needed

- **Better equipped national technical agencies, such as Centres for Disease Control and veterinary reference laboratories, to provide technical guidance on the interventions that are essential, and the ways in which they should be made available;**

Support Needed

- **Increased capacity in responsible national authorities, specifically the institutions under the authority of Ministries of Health and Agriculture, ensuring that they have the necessary people, systems, management and resources to deliver interventions effectively**

Support Needed

- **Functioning partnerships and networks that bring together public and private stakeholders in influenza work, for information exchange, scientific research, product development, and community involvement**

Support Needed

- **Standby capacity for public health and for acute hospital care; reserves of essential material, and the ability to get services and goods rapidly to those who most need them;**

Support Needed

- **Continued high level engagement of national and international decision makers to ensure resources are available, to facilitate progress, to maintain the pressure for results, to ensure continued debate and dialogue in the media, and to unblock bureaucratic obstacles when they occur;**

Task 2: Resources

- **identify the financial and technical resources that are needed to scale up actions in this way; establish what is required:**
- **consider how resources can best be made available to the communities, organisations and governments who need them.**

Task 3: Monitoring

- **How best to monitor movement of H5N1 virus is moving within and between countries, its impact on birds and people?**
- **How best to pick up any suspected human-to-human transmission of an influenza virus?**
- **How to assess the progress of collective efforts to tackle the avian influenza epidemic and prepare for a human pandemic?**

Task 4: Coordination

- **How can countries and organizations implement interventions in a joined up way**
- **Maximum efficiency; minimum duplication and confusion**
- **Viruses will explore the cracks in our defences**
- **No shackling to unreasonable conformity**