



**JOINT STATEMENT BY THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH,
KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA, AND THE WORLD HEALTH
ORGANIZATION (WHO)**



**Avian Influenza in Cambodia
11 April 2005**

The Ministry of Health in Cambodia confirmed that an 8-year-old girl from Kampot province who died on 7 April, was the country's third case of avian influenza.

The girl became ill with a fever on the 29th March and her condition deteriorated rapidly on 7th April when she was taken to a district referral hospital and then transferred to Kuntha Bopha Hospital in Phnom Penh, where she died. Samples from the girl tested positive for influenza A/H5N1 virus at the Pasteur Institute, Phnom Penh.

A field investigation was conducted immediately, with team members from the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Agriculture, WHO, Pasteur Institute and FAO. Poultry deaths occurred in this village in February, but no poultry deaths occurred in the two weeks prior to the girl becoming ill. Human-to-human transmission as a source of the girl's infection can be ruled out, as none of her known contacts were sick with similar symptoms before she became ill. Investigations as to the source of the girls infection are continuing.

Samples were collected from four close contacts who cared for her at the village and nine medical contacts from Kampot and Phnom Penh. All have tested negative for the virus.

The public education campaign in Banteay Meas and neighbouring districts is continuing. The recent funding from international donors will be crucial in helping Cambodia control this disease.

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