



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



Avian Influenza in Cambodia

4 May 2005

The Ministry of Health in Cambodia confirmed that a 20-year-old woman from Kampot province who died on 19 April in a hospital in Viet Nam, was the country's fourth reported case of avian influenza.

The woman was from Kompong Trach district in Kampot province, the same district as the first case reported in February. Samples taken from the woman were sent to Pasteur Institute in Ho Chi Minh City for testing and they were confirmed positive for avian influenza A/H5 virus.

A team of investigators went to the field to determine her likely exposure and whether there were any more cases. The woman was a secondary school student who also ran a small business selling food to neighbours in her village of residence. No poultry deaths with patterns of mortality indicative of avian influenza were reported in her village. Investigations at the school found that poultry deaths began occurring in late March/early April and were continuing into Khmer New Year. The woman was a part-time chicken seller and was likely to have been exposed to the virus in the village of her school. The Ministry of Agriculture are conducting an investigation into poultry deaths in the area of the school.

Staff from the Ministry of Health are conducting active case finding in the village of the case's school and will also provide education sessions to the students at the school. Public education in Kampot province is on-going and the government is calling for support from public and private health care workers in detecting and responding to suspected cases of avian influenza.

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