

# 14 Avian influenza

## Transmission

- The bodily fluids, faeces and feathers of sick birds, both wild and domestic
- It is possible to transmit through not well cooked bird meat or eggs

## Symptoms

- A severe kind of influenza with very similar symptoms to regular influenza, such as sudden illness, fever, cough and shortness of breath
- May be accompanied by chills, runny nose, sore throat, tiredness and feeling unwell or loss of appetite
- All of these symptoms may be very severe

## Prevention

- ➔ There is very little that can be done to prevent avian influenza
- ➔ Protected and safe slaughter and handling of bird meat and products
- ➔ Culling sick birds and burning them

- ➔ Spraying of birds (places where birds are raised) with disinfectant
- ➔ Eating only well-cooked bird meat and bird products
- ➔ Health promotion

## Vulnerable people

- Anyone with close contact with birds is most vulnerable, especially those raising birds in their yards

## In case of epidemic

- ➔ Culling of sick birds (by the authorities)
- ➔ Spraying of bird farms with disinfectants
- ➔ Prevention of mixing birds and humans in the same residences

- ➔ Community mobilization
- ➔ Health promotion
- ➔ Detection and referral of new and suspected cases to health facilities
- ➔ Use of personal protective equipment

## Volunteer actions

See the following **action tools** for more information on what actions to take against avian influenza:

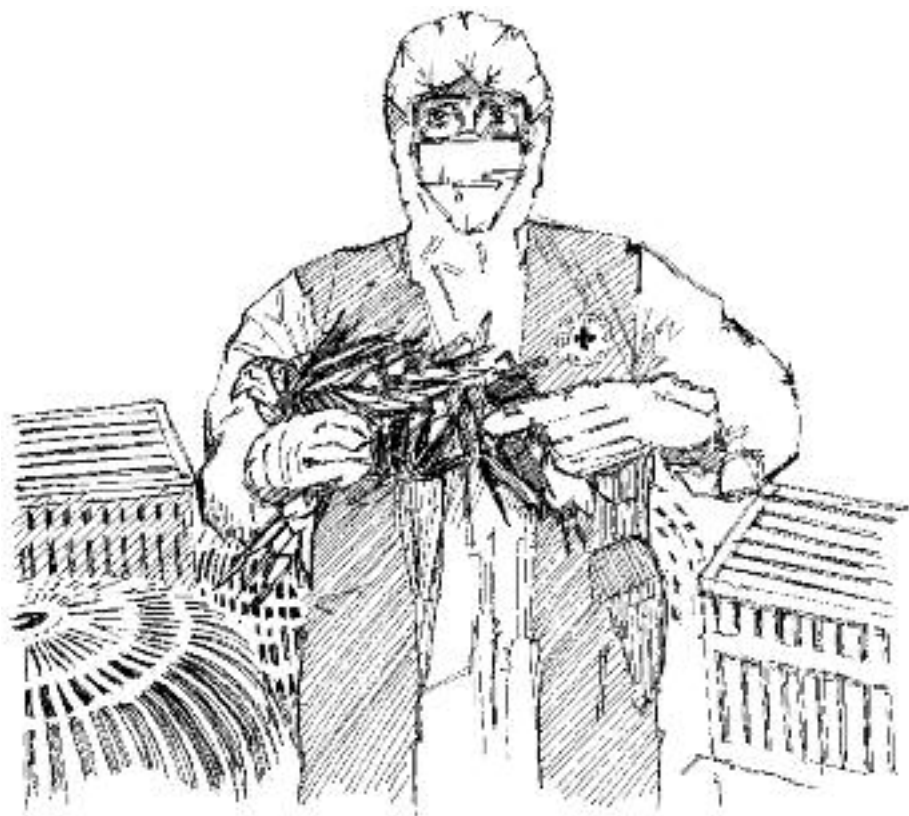
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## Community-based assessment questions

Make a map of the community and mark the information you gather on the map.

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• When did the epidemic start?</li> <li>• How many people live in the affected community?</li> <li>• How many children under 5 years of age live in the affected community?</li> <li>• Who and where are the vulnerable people?</li> <li>• How many people have died from avian influenza and where?</li> <li>• How many people have fallen sick with avian influenza and where?</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Where are the infected birds?</li> <li>• What is the government doing about infected birds?</li> <li>• What are the habits in the community with respect to raising birds in the household?</li> <li>• Are there any health services and where?</li> <li>• Is there a health promotion programme in place?</li> </ul> |
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*Safe handling of a sick bird*