

# HIGH PATHOGENICITY AVIAN INFLUENZA (HPAI)

## Situation Report 69

Period covered:

March 2025

This report provides an update of the high pathogenicity avian influenza (HPAI) situation, according to the information submitted to the World Organisation for Animal Health.

### Key messages and Recommendations

The new HPAI season which started in October 2024 continued in March 2025 with 142 outbreaks being reported in poultry and 214 outbreaks in non-poultry birds and in mammals in the Americas, Asia and Europe for the reporting month. About 5.6 million poultry birds died or were culled during the month, mostly in Europe. The total number of outbreaks in poultry notified for the first 6 months since the start of the current seasonal wave (October 2024-September 2025) continues to increase. Moreover, like the outbreaks in poultry, **the number of outbreaks in wild birds notified for the first 6 months since the start of the current seasonal wave already exceeded those for the whole year of the previous wave** (1332 outbreaks in the current wave vs 1062 in the previous wave).

Importantly, for the purposes of notification to WOA, high pathogenicity avian influenza in cattle was defined as an infection of bovines (*Bos taurus*) with influenza A viruses of high pathogenicity in poultry as defined by the WOA *Terrestrial Manual* Chapter 3.3.4. **Since 1 April 2025, 'infection of bovines (*Bos taurus*) with influenza A viruses of high pathogenicity in poultry' will be notifiable through the World Animal Health Information System (WAHIS) as an emerging disease according to Article 1.1.4. of the *Terrestrial Code*.**

Given the spread of HPAI across the globe, continued surveillance in wild and domestic species is warranted. As this pathogen is impacting wildlife, livestock, and public health, a One Health approach to management would be beneficial.

WOAH recommends that Members maintain their surveillance efforts, implement biosecurity and preventive measures at farm level, and continue timely reporting of avian influenza outbreaks in

both poultry and non-poultry species.

Considering the situation in mammals, WOAHA also recommends:

- including avian influenza as a differential diagnosis in mammals with high risk of exposure to the viruses;
- reporting to WOAHA outbreaks of avian influenza in all animal species including unusual hosts;
- sharing genetic sequences of avian influenza viruses and associated metadata in publicly available databases;
- protecting humans in close contact with sick livestock and their products, while avoiding implementing unjustified trade restrictions.

**High quality of information is key to support prevention and rapid response to HPAI.**

## Objective of the report & limitations

Based on Chapter 1.3 of the [Terrestrial Animal Health Code \(2024\)](#), three categories of avian influenza are listed by WOAHA: 1) infection with high pathogenicity avian influenza viruses (HPAI) (in poultry, as defined in the disease-specific chapter), 2) infection of birds other than poultry, including wild birds, with HPAI, and 3) infection of domestic and captive wild birds with low pathogenicity avian influenza (LPAI) viruses having proven natural transmission to humans, associated with severe consequences.

This report provides an update of the situation as of 31 March 2025, according to the information submitted to WOAHA through the World Animal Health Information System (WAHIS) and aims to contribute to awareness of the global situation. Although all the information used in this report is already publicly accessible via the WOAHA website, the report aims to intelligently combine these various sources of information to present WOAHA Members with the most accurate information possible, while recognising the limitations of the data available on a global scale.

This month's report covers the HPAI situation only, as WOAHA has not been informed of any exceptional event of infection of domestic and captive wild birds with LPAI viruses having proven natural transmission to humans, associated with severe consequences.

## Contextual information

Since its identification in China (People's Rep. of) in 1996, there have been multiple waves of intercontinental transmission of the H5Nx Gs/GD lineage virus. HPAI has led to the death and mass slaughter of over 633 million poultry worldwide between 2005 and 2024, with an unprecedented peak of 146 million in 2022. During the peak in 2022, 84 countries and territories in the world were affected with HPAI, a number comparable to the 82 affected in 2024. In addition, up to now, humans have been occasionally infected with several subtypes of avian influenza (mainly H5N1, H7N9,

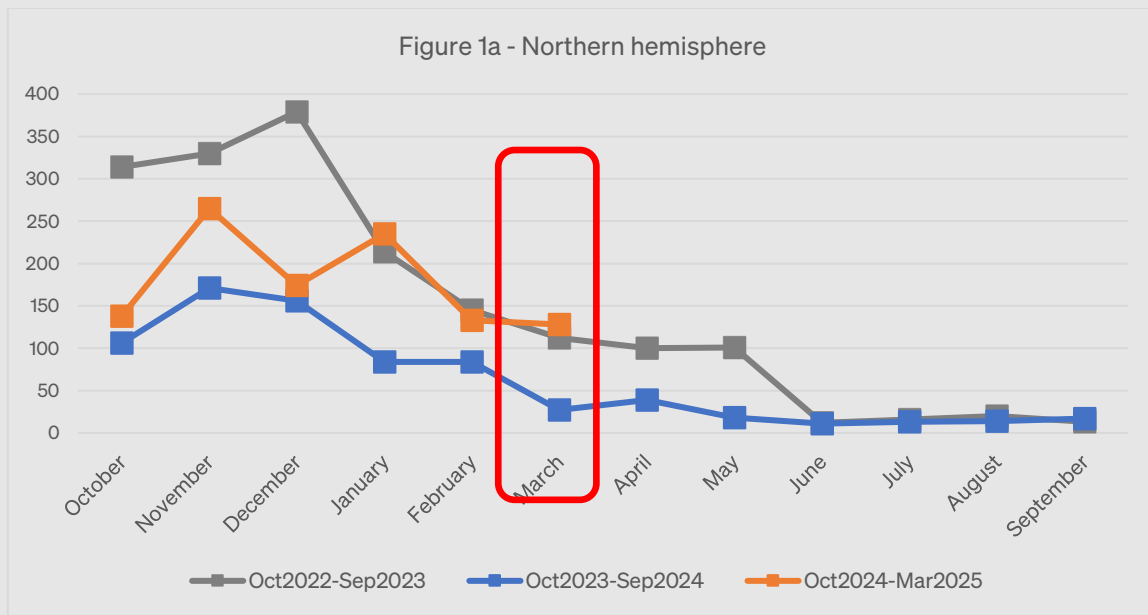
H5N6, H9N2 with more than 2500 cases since 2003)<sup>1,2</sup>.

As described in the [Animal Health Situation Worldwide](#) report presented by WOAHA during its 91st General Session of the World Assembly of Delegates in May 2024, HPAI has been a global concern, particularly since October 2020, due to an unprecedented situation marked by:

- its global spread and the increase in the number of countries and territories affected worldwide, including an unprecedented spread to Latin America in 2022 and Antarctica in 2024;
- the increase in the number of outbreaks and losses in poultry, with a peak during the seasonal wave October 2021-September 2022;
- the increased impact on wildlife and biodiversity;
- the increase in the number of cases detected in domestic and wild mammals.

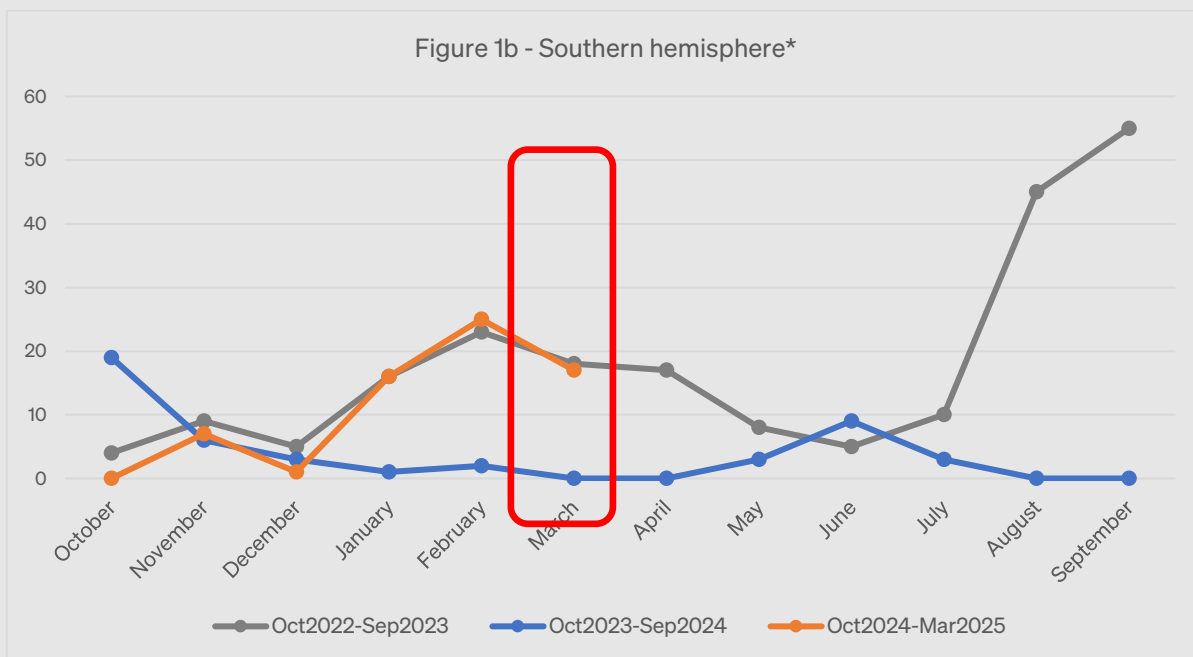
## Seasonality of HPAI outbreaks in poultry

Figure 1 focuses on poultry outbreaks and shows the seasonality of HPAI separately for the northern and southern hemispheres. It covers the seasonal wave which has started in October 2024 (October 2024 to September 2025), as well as the two previous waves for comparison. The red rectangle indicates where we currently are in the 2024/2025 cycle based on the period covered in “recent updates” below.



<sup>1</sup> <https://www.who.int/teams/global-influenza-programme/avian-influenza/monthly-risk-assessment-summary>

<sup>2</sup> [Cumulative number of confirmed human cases for avian influenza A\(H5N1\) reported to WHO, 2003-2023, 21 December 2023](#)

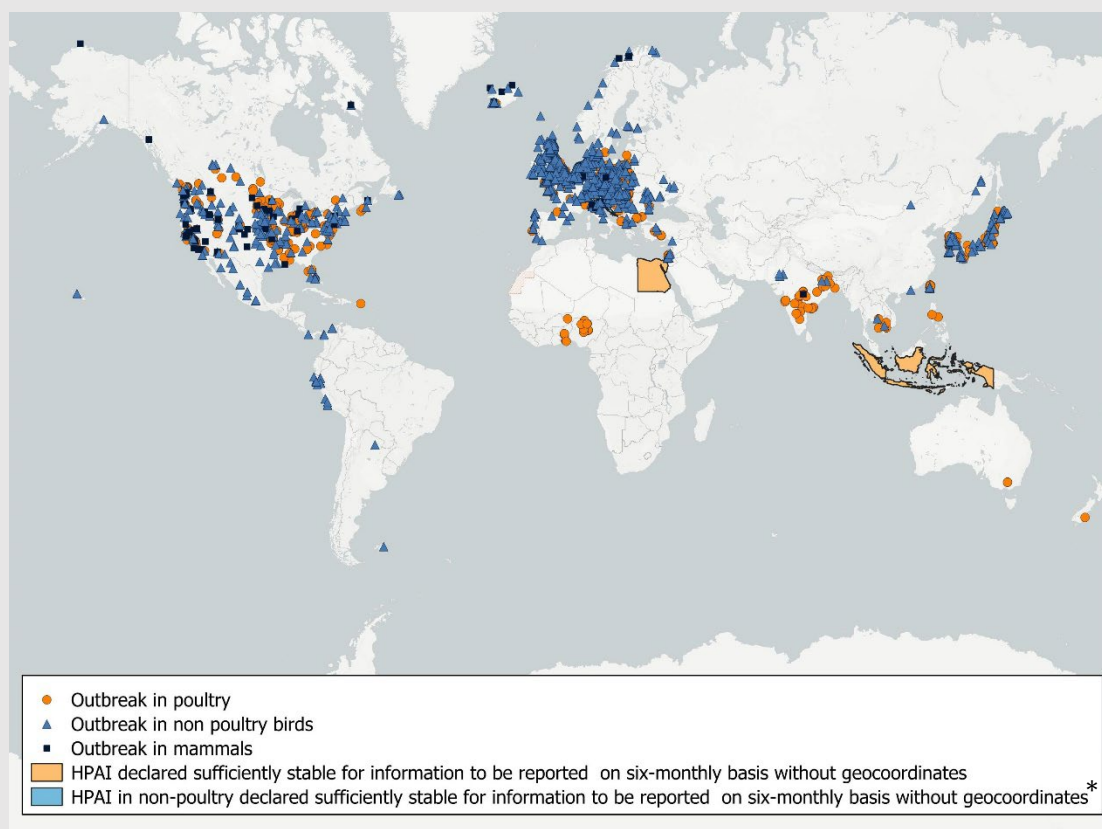


**Figure 1.** HPAI outbreaks of January in poultry reported to WOAHA the seasonal wave which started in October (October 2024 to September 2025), as well as the two previous waves for comparison. Data is presented by month and by hemisphere.  
 \* For the southern hemisphere (Figure 1b), it is important to highlight that the seasonality analysis does not take into account Indonesia, which has declared a sufficiently stable situation to WOAHA to provide data aggregated by semester (and not by month). This is an important limitation, as the country reported an average of 17 outbreaks per six-month period between the second half of 2022 and the second half of 2023, which is significant on a hemispheric scale.

### HPAI key figures for the current seasonal wave and the two previous waves

	Oct 2022-Sep 2023	Oct 2023-Sep 2024	Oct 2024-Sep 2025 (as of 31 March)
<b>Countries and territories reporting HPAI in poultry</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>42</b> <i>(of which two reported stable situations through six monthly reports and are not covered in the "recent updates" section below)</i>
<b>No. of HPAI outbreaks in poultry</b>	<b>1971</b>	<b>786</b>	<b>1139</b>
<b>Countries and territories reporting HPAI in wild birds</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>46</b> <i>(of which one reported stable situation through six monthly reports and are not covered in the "recent updates" section below)</i>
<b>No. of HPAI outbreaks in wild birds</b>	<b>3975</b>	<b>1062</b>	<b>1332</b>
<b>Countries and territories reporting HPAI in mammals</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>10</b>

## HPAI map for the current seasonal wave (Oct 2024-Sep 2025, as of March 2025)



**Figure 2.** HPAI map for the current seasonal wave (October 2024-September 2025, as of March 2025).

\*The country in the blue category is Croatia (hidden by the outbreak dots that cover it).

## Recent Updates (March 2025)

To describe the current disease situation of HPAI in poultry and in non-poultry birds, this section covers: (a) a list of new events<sup>3</sup> which started in March 2025 (reported through immediate notifications); (b) information on events that started before March 2025 but were still ongoing during that period; (c) the geographic distribution of new outbreaks<sup>4</sup> that started in March 2025, together with figures on numbers of outbreaks, cases, losses and animals vaccinated in response to outbreaks. The different subtypes of HPAI circulating during March 2025 are also listed below. This information is based on the immediate notifications and follow-up reports received by WOAHP through the World Animal Health Information System (WAHIS).

<sup>3</sup> As defined in [Article 1.1.2](#) of the WOAHP Terrestrial Animal Health Code, an “event” means a single outbreak or a group of epidemiologically related outbreaks of a given listed disease or emerging disease that is the subject of a notification. An event is specific to a pathogenic agent and strain, when appropriate, and includes all related outbreaks reported from the time of the initial notification through to the final report. Reports of an event include susceptible species, the number and geographical distribution of affected animals and epidemiological units.

<sup>4</sup> As defined in the [glossary](#) of the WOAHP Terrestrial Animal Health Code, an “outbreak” means the occurrence of one or more cases in an epidemiological unit.

## HPAI in poultry

### New events by world region (reported through immediate notifications)

#### Africa

##### **H5N1:**

Three recurrences started in Togo:

- In Maritime on 10 March 2025.
- In Centre on 11 March 2025.
- In Maritime on 19 March 2025 (Clade 2.3.4.4b; Lineage: Fully Eurasian).

#### Americas

**H7N9:** A recurrence started in the United States of America (Mississippi) on 8 March 2025.

#### Asia

**H5:** A recurrence started in Bangladesh (Khulna) on 11 March 2025.

#### Europe

**H5N1:** A recurrence started in Albania (Durrës) on 2 March 2025 (Clade 2.3.4.4b; Lineage: Fully Eurasian).

Two recurrences started in Germany:

- In Bayern 9 March 2025.
- In Sachsen-Anhalt on 28 March 2025.

Three recurrences started in the United Kingdom:

- In Scotland 10 March 2025.
- In England on 18 and 25 March 2025.

A recurrence started in Denmark (Veterinary Inspection Unit East) on 31 March 2025

#### Oceania

No new events reported.

### On-going events for which there were new reported outbreaks, by world region (reported through follow-up reports):

#### Africa

**H5N1:** Nigeria

#### Americas

**H5N1:** Canada (Clade: 2.3.4.4b - Lineage: Reassortment Eurasian and North American), the United States of America

#### Asia

**H5N1:** Cambodia, Chinese Taipei (Clade 2.3.4.4b; Lineage: Fully Eurasian), India

## Europe

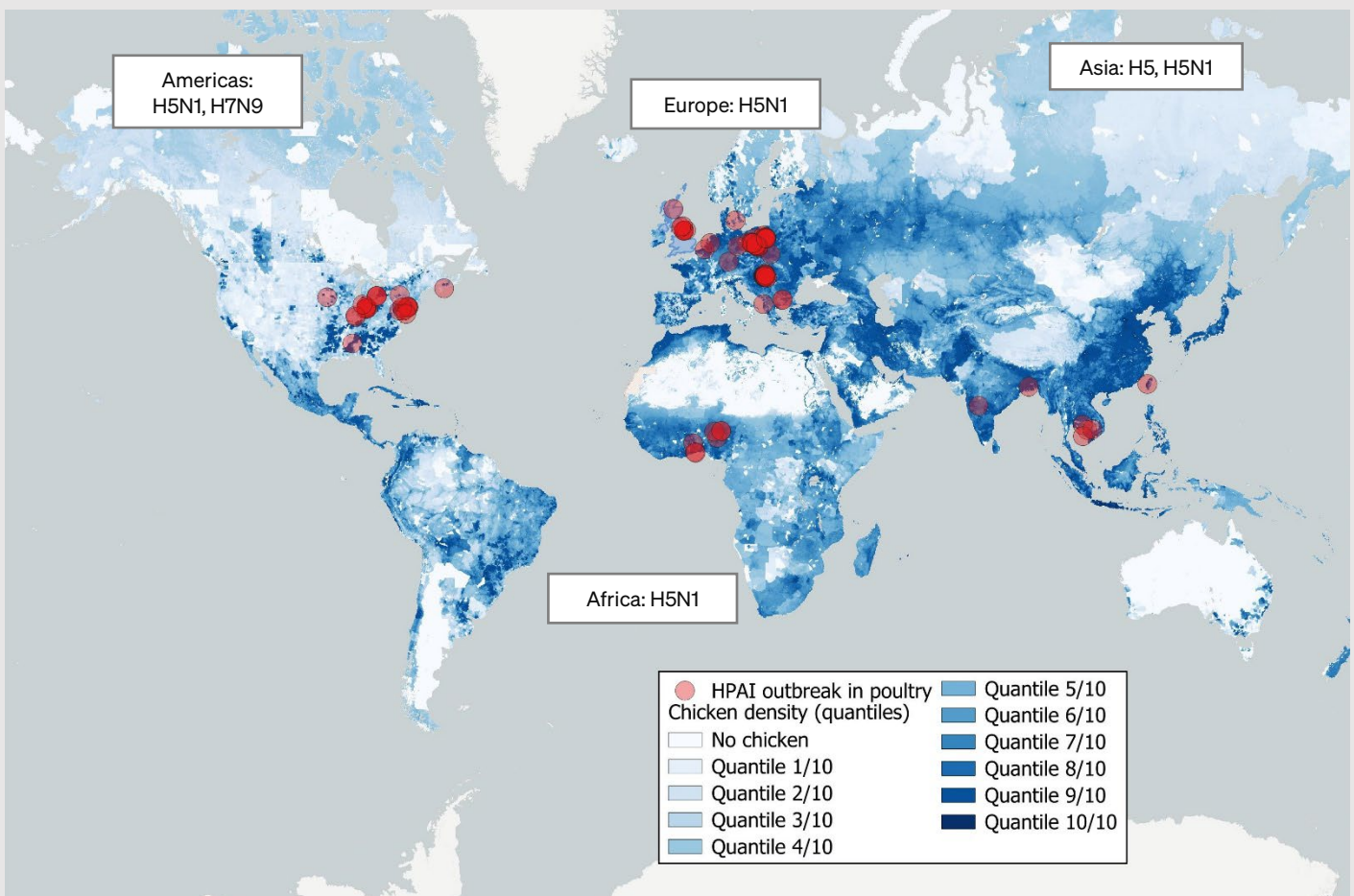
**H5N1:** Belgium, Bulgaria, Hungary, Poland, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom

## Oceania

No new outbreaks reported in the on-going events, or no on-going events.

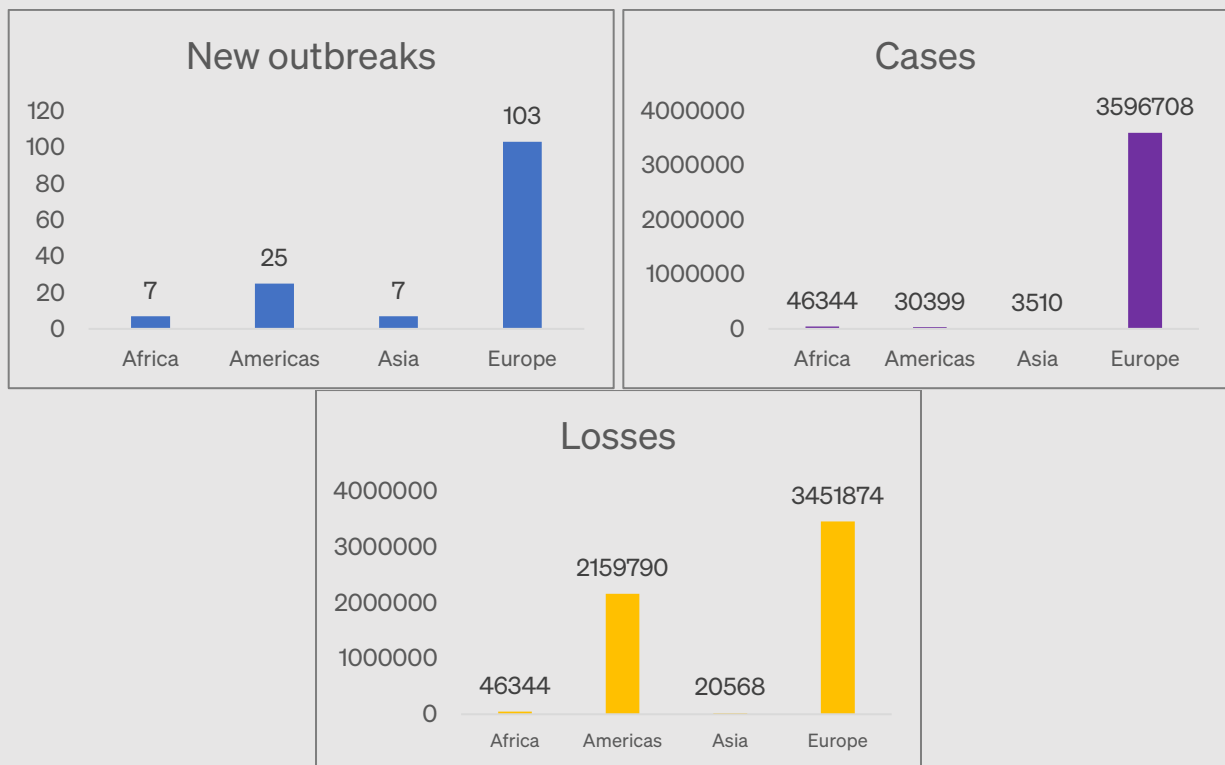
## New outbreaks and associated subtypes

During the period covered by this report, 142 new outbreaks in poultry were notified by 17 countries and territories (Albania, Bangladesh, Belgium, Bulgaria, Cambodia, Canada, Chinese Taipei, Denmark, Germany, Hungary, India, Nigeria, Poland, the Netherlands, Togo, the United Kingdom, the United States of America). Details are presented in Figures 3 and 4.



**Figure 3.** Distribution of HPAI new outbreaks in poultry, and corresponding subtypes. The outbreaks are presented on top of the chicken density layer<sup>5</sup> produced by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) - [GLW 4: Gridded Livestock Density \(Global - 2020 - 10 km\)](#)

<sup>5</sup> Layers for the distribution of other poultry species (such as ducks, turkeys, geese, etc.) are not currently available under FAO GLW 4: Gridded Livestock Density (Global - 2020 - 10 km).



**Figure 4.** Number of new outbreaks, associated cases and losses (losses include animals dead and killed and disposed of within outbreaks – they do not include culling around outbreaks. It should also be noted that some countries or territories are unable to provide a precise number of cases and leave this field blank in the report.

During the period covered by the report, no country/territory reported vaccination of poultry birds in response to the outbreaks. The number of poultry birds under preventive official vaccination programmes are reported through the six-monthly reports to WOA and this information is not yet available for the period under review.

## HPAI in non-poultry

### New events by world region (reported through immediate notifications)

#### Asia

##### **H5N8 in non-poultry birds:**

A recurrence started in Israel (HaZafon) on 31 March 2025.

#### Europe

##### **H5 in non-poultry birds:**

A recurrence started in Belgium (Vlaanderen) on 26 March 2025.

##### **H5N1 in non-poultry birds:**

A recurrence started in Norway (Rogaland) on 3 March 2025.

A recurrence started in Ukraine (Kharkiv) on 7 March 2025.

A recurrence started in Austria (Steiermark) on 31 March 2025.

A recurrence started in Lithuania (Kauno) on 31 March 2025.



## **H5N1 in mammals:**

An event started in Germany (Sachsen and Nordrhein-Westfalen) (Red fox [*Vulpes vulpes*]) on 6 March 2025.

An event started in the United Kingdom (England) (Sheep [*Ovis aries*]) on 10 March 2025.

## Africa, Americas and Oceania

No new events reported.

## **On-going events for which there were new reported outbreaks, by world region (reported through follow-up reports):**

### Americas

**H5N1 in non-poultry birds:** Canada (Clade: 2.3.4.4b - Lineage: Reassortment Eurasian and North American), the United States of America

**H5N1 in mammals:** the United States of America (bovine)

### Asia

**H5N1 in non-poultry birds:** Chinese Taipei (Clade 2.3.4.4b - Lineage: Fully Eurasian), India

### Europe

**H5N1 in non-poultry birds:** Belgium, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France (Clade 2.3.4.4b - Lineage: Fully Eurasian), Germany, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Moldova, Poland, Romania, Sweden, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom

### Africa and Oceania

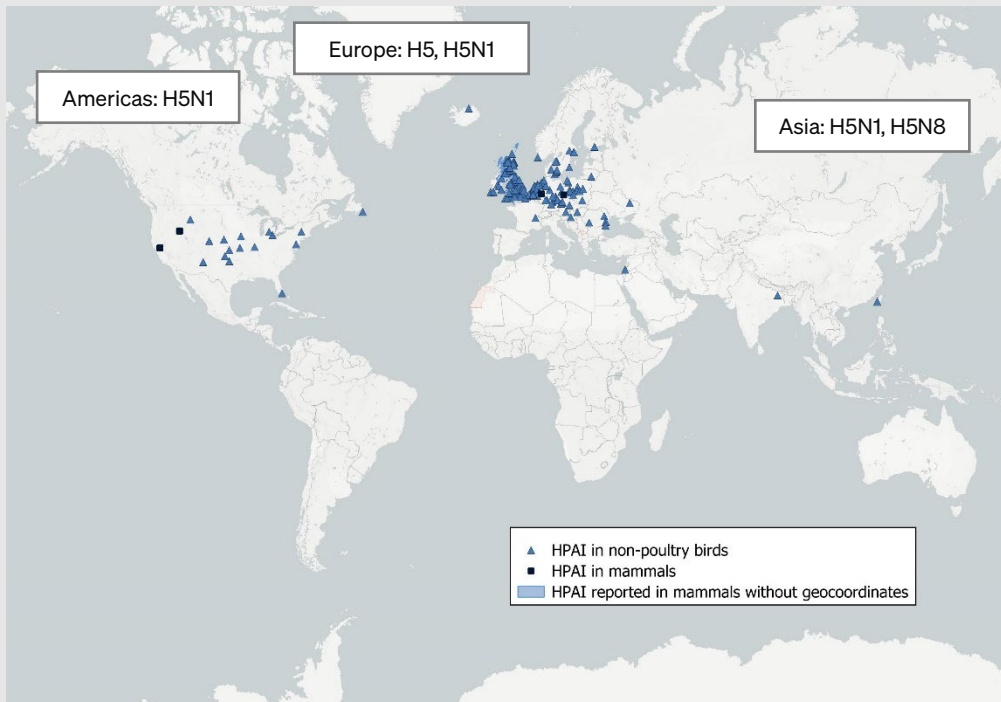
No new outbreaks reported in the on-going events, or no on-going events.

## **New outbreaks**

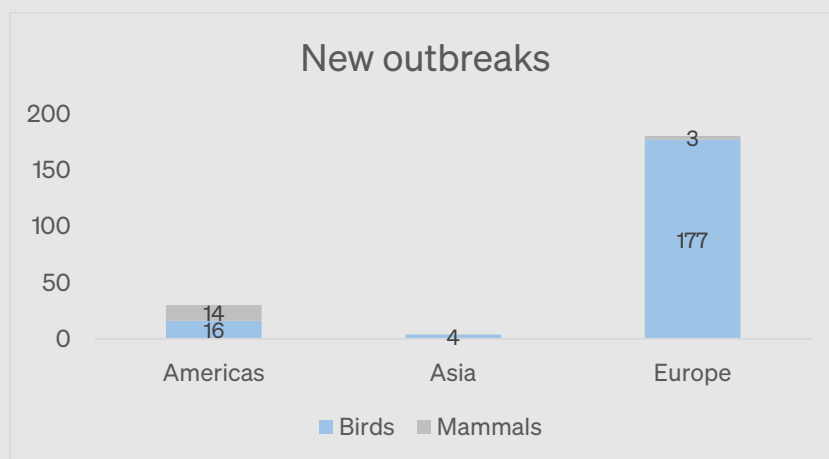
During the period covered by this report, a total of 214 outbreaks in non-poultry birds and mammals were reported through WAHIS by 24 countries and territories (Austria, Belgium, Canada, Chinese Taipei, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Iceland, India, Ireland, Israel, Lithuania, Moldova, Norway, Poland, Romania, Sweden, the Netherlands, Ukraine, the United Kingdom, the United States of America)<sup>6</sup>. Details are presented in Figures 5 and 6.

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<sup>6</sup> This list corresponds to countries and territories that have notified cases in wild birds, mammals or domestic birds other than poultry. This explains why their numbers are different from those presented on page 4 in the 'HPAI key figures for the current seasonal wave and the two previous waves' table, which does not cover domestic birds other than poultry.



**Figure 5.** Distribution of HPAI new outbreaks in non-poultry birds and mammals reported through WAHIS, and corresponding subtypes.



**Figure 6.** Number of new outbreaks reported through WAHIS by geographical region.

## Self-declarations of freedom published during March 2025

In accordance with the provisions of the *Terrestrial Animal Health Code*, Members may wish to self-declare the freedom of their country, zone or compartment from HPAI. A Member wishing to publish its self-declaration for disease-freedom, should provide the relevant documented evidence of compliance with the provisions of the Code.

**No declaration was published during the period covered by this report.**

## Recent news

[Meeting on Vaccination and Surveillance for HPAI in Poultry: Current Situation and Perspectives,](#)

[WOAH HQ, Paris – France, October 22-23, 2024.](#)

[Updated joint FAO/WHO/WOAH public health assessment of recent influenza A\(H5N1\) virus events in animals and people \(December 2024\)](#)

[Global strategy for the prevention and control of high pathogenic avian influenza \(2024–2033\)](#)

[Advancing Global Efforts for the Prevention and Control of High Pathogenicity Avian Influenza](#)

[High Pathogenicity Avian Influenza in Cattle](#)

[GF-TADs meeting: Detection of HPAI in ruminants and humans in the USA](#)

[WOAH policy brief: Avian influenza vaccination: why it should not be a barrier to safe trade](#)

[WOAH’s Animal Health Forum reshapes avian influenza prevention and control strategies](#)

[WOAH Statement on avian influenza and mammals](#)

## WOAH resources

[Avian influenza portal](#)

[Self-declared disease status](#)

[World Animal Health Information System \(WAHIS\)](#)

[Animal Health Forum on avian influenza: policy to action: The case of avian influenza – reflections for change](#)

[Strategic challenges in the global control of high pathogenicity avian influenza](#)

[Resolution adopted in WOAH General Session 2023: Strategic challenges in the global control of HPAI](#)

[Considerations for emergency vaccination of wild birds against high pathogenicity avian influenza in specific situations](#)

[Practical guide for authorised field responders to HPAI outbreaks in marine mammals](#)

### Awareness tools

[Infographic: Understanding avian influenza](#)

[Avian influenza: understanding new dynamics to better combat the disease](#)

[Avian influenza: why strong public policies are vital](#)

[Video: Avian influenza threatens wild birds across the globe](#)

For any press inquiry on HPAI, email us at [media@woah.org](mailto:media@woah.org).

# OFFLU resources

[OFFLU summary report from the WHO vaccine composition February 2025 meeting](#)

[OFFLU Statement on the Development of a Global Consensus H5 Influenza Genotyping Framework](#)

[OFFLU Avian Influenza Vaccine Matching \(AIM\) for poultry vaccines: H5Nx executive summary \(October 2024\)](#)

[Webinar: OFFLU avian influenza matching for poultry vaccines \(July 2024\)](#)

[OFFLU statement on high pathogenicity avian influenza in dairy cows](#)

[Updated OFFLU statement on high pathogenicity avian influenza in dairy cows](#)

[OFFLU diagnostic guidance: HPAI dairy cattle](#)

[OFFLU ad-hoc group on HPAI H5 in wildlife of South America and Antarctica: Southward expansion of high pathogenicity avian influenza H5 in wildlife in South America: estimated impact on wildlife populations, and risk of incursion into Antarctica](#)

[OFFLU statement: Continued expansion of high pathogenicity avian influenza H5 in wildlife in South America and incursion into the Antarctic region](#)

## Other relevant resources

[FAO, Recommendations for the surveillance of influenza A\(H5N1\) in cattle](#)

[Cumulative number of confirmed human cases for avian influenza A\(H5N1\) reported to WHO, 2003-2023](#)

[WHO, Human infection with avian influenza A\(H5\) viruses](#)

[Epidemiological Alert Outbreaks of avian influenza and human infection caused by influenza A\(H5\) public health implications in the Region of the Americas](#)

[WHO, Influenza at the human-animal interface, Summary and risk assessment, from 20 July to 27 September 2024](#)

[HPAI detections in livestock](#)