Cambodia Pandemic Preparedness and AI Coordination

Status, challenges and next steps

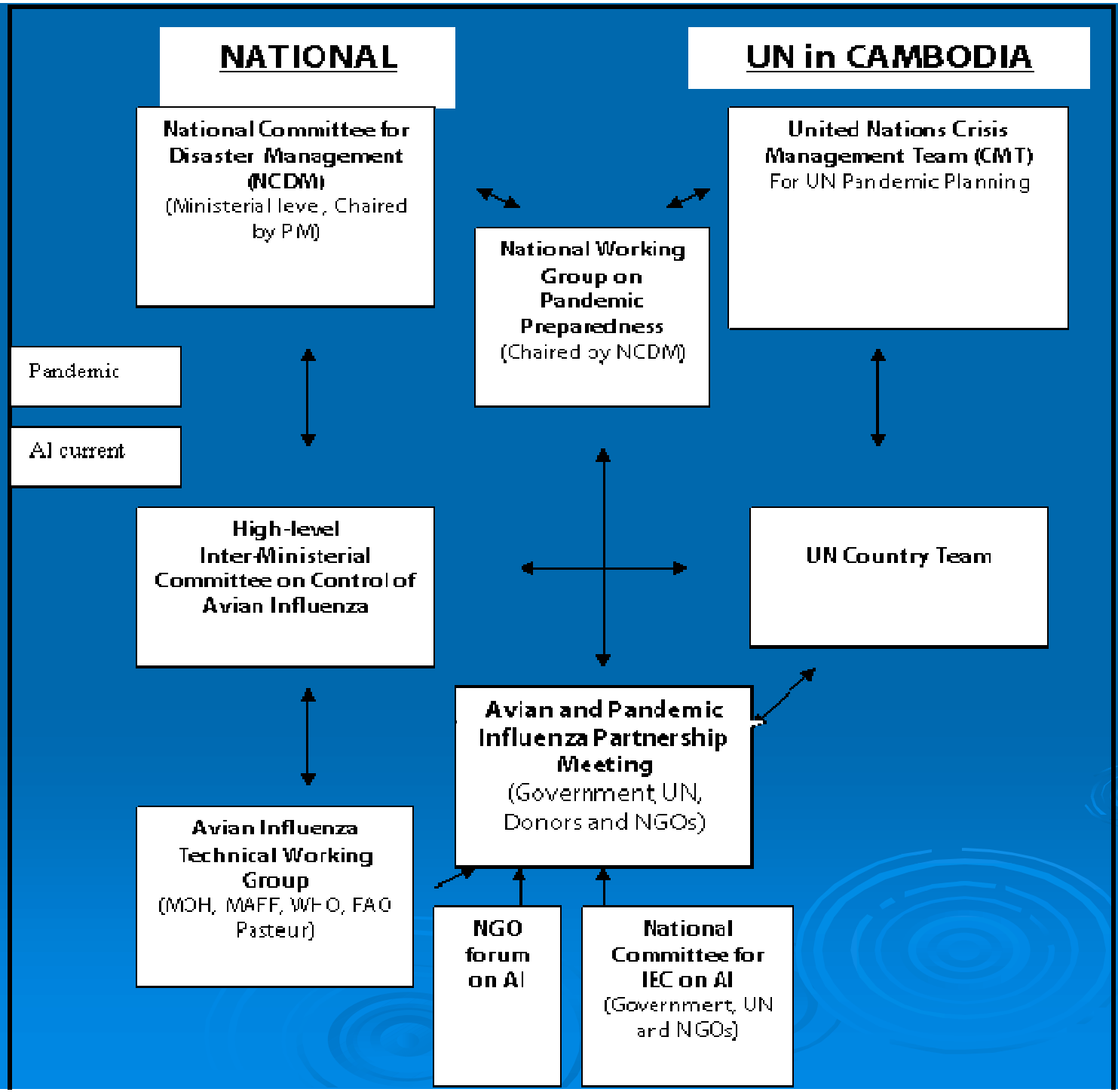
United Nations Cambodia

Quick AI overview for Cambodia

- Over 15 million chickens, ducks and geese
- More than 90% of poultry owned by backyard farmers who depend on it for livelihood
- Since first outbreak in poultry in December 2003, 28 000 poultry have died or been culled.
- 7 human cases confirmed, 100% fatal. Latest case in April 2007
- All neighbouring countries have had outbreaks

API key actors in Cambodia

- **Government**; MAFF, MoH, NCDM, MOEYS, MoD
- **UN**; FAO, WHO, UNICEF, UNDP, WB
- **NGO's**; Medicam, AED, Care, IFRC, Cambodian Red Cross, Pasteur Institute
- **Donors**; USAID, US-CDC, Japan, Australia, Germany, WB


NATIONAL
UN in CAMBODIA
National Committee for Disaster Management (NCDM)
(Ministerial leve, Chaired by PM)
United Nations Crisis Management Team (CMT)
For UN Pandemic Planning
National Working Group on Pandemic Preparedness
(Chaired by NCDM)
Pandemic
AI current
High-level Inter-Ministerial Committee on Control of Avian Influenza
UN Country Team
Avian and Pandemic Influenza Partnership Meeting
(Government, UN, Donors and NGOs)
Avian Influenza Technical Working Group
(MOH, MAFF, WHO, FAO Pasteur)
NGO forum on AI
National Committee for IEC on AI
(Governmert, UN ard NGOs)

UN AHI focal point tasks

Support the coordination of Avian and Pandemic Influenza Preparedness and response

- AI coordination and communication
- Support to national pandemic preparedness
- UN joint programme monitoring and resource mobilisation
- Support to UN pandemic planning team

Current Animal Health Activities

- Disease surveillance and reporting; AI hotline, research, regular testing of market and wild birds
- Investigation and response; by all levels, in partnership with MOH, culling (but no compensation)
- Strengthening of Veterinary service; 5000 VAHW, lab upgrading, legislation improv.

Human Health

- Disease surveillance and reporting; 27000 vhv trained, AI hotline
- Investigation and response; provincial rapid response teams established and trained, training of clinicians in high-risk provinces
- Case management and infection control; 2 referral hospitals and 3 other upgraded. All can manage AI cases

Information, Education, Communication

- Integrated in Animal and Human health strategies
- Massive awareness campaigns conducted through TV, radio, posters, theatres, karaoke videos, tuk-tuk posters,public marches…
- Next: Awareness → Behaviour Change
- IEC for pandemic preparedness, Superflu video

NGO mapping

- Large and dynamic NGO community
- Mapping of who is doing what where (province, district, commune) also including regional projects
- Also includes NGO's not active on AI so far
- Could be extended to other areas/sectors
- Is in need of continued financing
- www.medicam-cambodia.org

National Pandemic Planning process Ambitious Goals set in May 2006:

- National operational Pandemic Plan
- Integrated Community Disaster Management Program
- National Emergency Coordination Center
- Bottom up planning – province /district
- Strengthened Govt. Coordination

What Held us Back?

False Assumptions

- Disaster Response Legislation in place
- Emergency policy in place
- Institutional Funding in place
- NCDM confidence to extend itself outside its comfort zone

Impediments

- Weak capacity in ministries
- A history of project approaches
- Low absorption capacity
- Low political leverage of NCDM

Using existing Disaster Management structures

Pros

- Mainstreaming PP, harmonisation
- Agency Brand name
- Existing networks
- National ownership
- Direct line of command

Cons

- Comfort zones
- Brand Name again!
- Inflexibility
- Not health oriented

What Actually Happened…..

- National AHI Plan (non-operational) Endorsed by PM
- Working Group Pandemic Planning
- Early engagement with Education and National Defense sectors
- Pandemic Focal Points
- Integration between Disaster management and PP
- UN/Govt. AHI Partnership Forum

Cambodian experiences - PP

- Constantly revisit your assumptions
- Align with existing structures but be prepared to invest in confidence and trust building, and the need to adapt mandates
- The process is at least as important as the plan. Without true ownership an ever so good plan will stay on the shelves – and be forgotten
- Think: national policies – local planning

Next Steps - PP

- Start local level Planning – piloting in Siem Reap province
- Orientation and training for national Pandemic Focal Points (non-health govt. sectors)
- Extend Working Group on PP with Pandemic focal points to start process of a multisectoral operational pandemic plan
- Legislation study…

Provincial pandemic planning

- Governors to prepare operational multi-sector response plan for their province
- For provincial teams to know who is going to do what with the available resources
- Using existing PCDMs for disasters
- Supported by NCDM and the UN
- First province out is Siem Reap

Role of Pandemic focal points

- Represent their respective Ministry as members of WGPP and provide feedback to Senior Ministry officials.
- To coordinate the processes within ministries to produce policies, procedures and guidelines to manage emergency response.
- To work closely with NCDM to update on ministerial activities re emergency preparedness.
- To support pandemic planning processes at the provincial level providing technical and policy guidance to sector counterparts

Reasons for success - API

- Coordination structure according to needs – not for the sake of coordination initself
- Strong Government commitment
- Active RC and RC Office as a central pillar
- Using existing government structures
- Constant focus on mainstreaming AI for sustainability
- A skilled UN team working closely together

Questions?