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Tanzania: Is it Ready to Face the Avian Influenza Threat?

Sithara Batcha

March 2008



Tanzania

- Area: 945,087 km² or 364,898 mi²
- Human Population
 - Mainland 36 million
 - Zanzibar 1 million



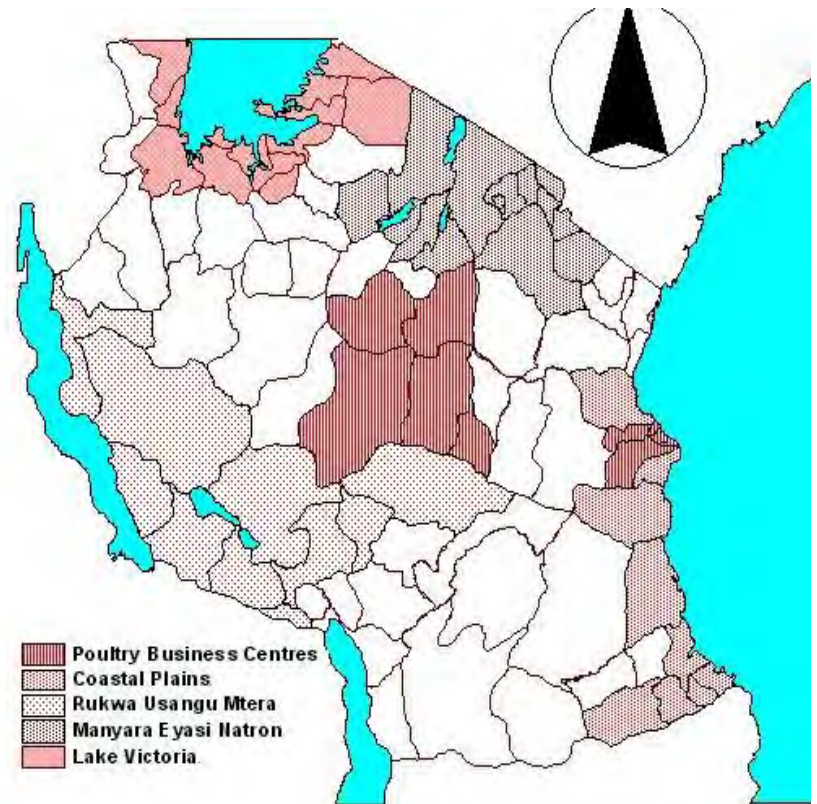


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- Agriculture is main economic activity, accounting for about 45% of the country's GDP and involves about 70% of the Tanzania's population.
- Estimated Poultry Population: 47 million
 - 27 million 'backyard' farms (80% of Tanzanian Households)
 - 20 million commercial (6 million layers, 14 million broilers)

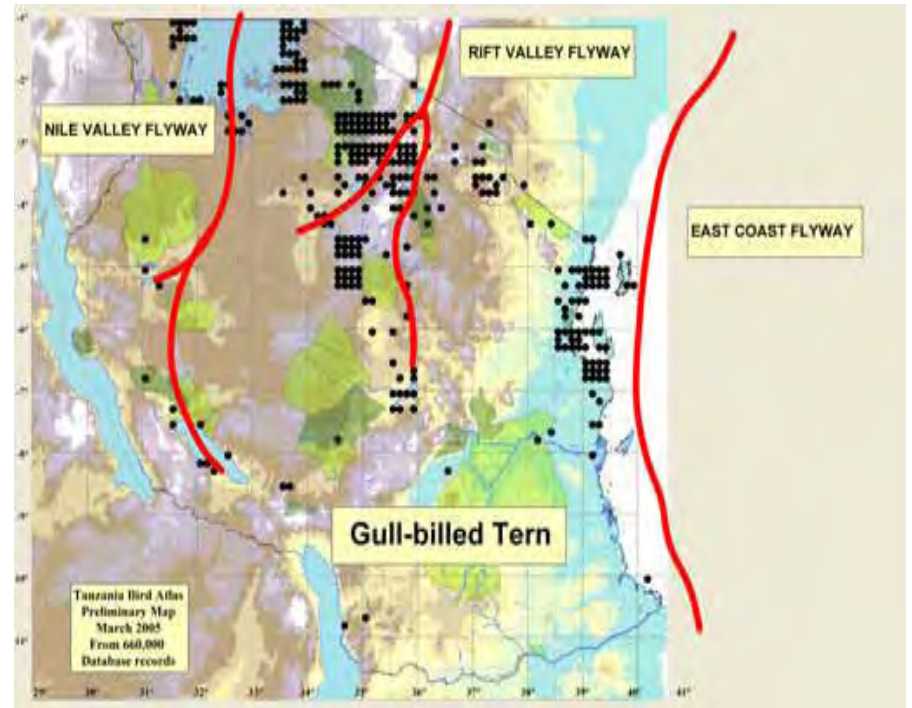




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Wild Bird Migration Pathways

- Rift Valley Flyway
 - Nile Valley Flyway
 - East Coast Flyway
- Three to Five million wild birds migrate to Tanzania September to November, stay until March.





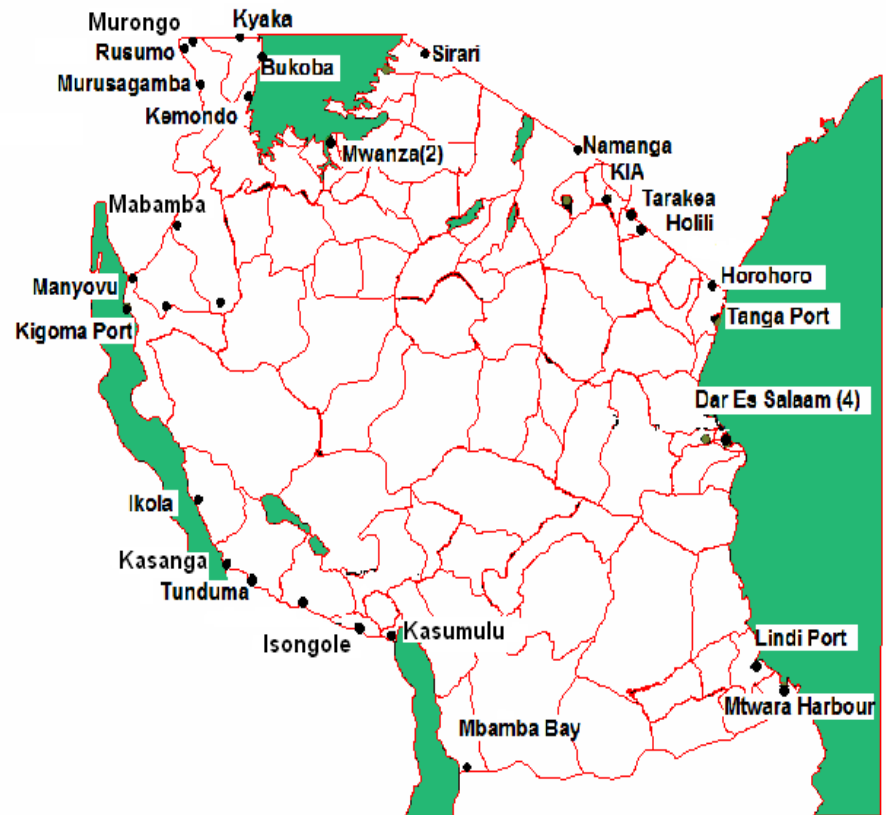
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Ports of Entry

- 42 official ports of entry: include airports, sea ports, lake ports and dry land entry ports.
- Unofficial crossing back and forth from neighboring countries is common.
- Currently in place a ban on import of poultry and poultry products





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Preparedness Plans

- National Avian Influenza National Emergency Preparedness & Response Plan – June 2006
- National Avian and Human Influenza Emergency Preparedness and Response Action Plan - March 2007



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National Coordination and Management

- **National Disaster Management Committee**
 - Led by the Prime Ministers Office
 - Convened in case of an actual AI outbreak
- **National Joint (Multi-Sectoral) Task Group on Avian Influenza**
 - Chaired By Director of Veterinary Services, Ministry of Livestock Development
 - Currently meeting roughly once or twice a year
- **National Multi-Sectoral Technical Expert Group for Avian Influenza**
 - Chaired by Assistant Director Animal Health Services, Ministry of Livestock Development
 - Meets roughly once a quarter
- **Coordinating Secretariat**
 - Oversees Day to Day implementation of National Plan
 - Provides secretariat and report writing services for Joint Task Group and Technical Expert Group



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Animal Surveillance - Poultry

- Continuous Passive Surveillance
- Active Surveillance:
 - Late 2005-early 2006: 4786 samples collected from 5 areas of the country (corresponding to wild bird migration sites). Testing supported by GTZ and USAID/T (University of Minnesota)
 - Early to Mid 2008: An estimated 2000 samples will be collected in and around Dar es Salam. Samples will be taken from Back Yard Poultry, Commercial Farms, Live Bird Markets – collection and funding supported by USAID/T (University of Minnesota)



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Animal Surveillance – Wild Birds

- Continuous Passive Surveillance
- Active Surveillance:
 - Late 2005-early 2006: 703 birds sampled from 5 areas of the country (corresponding to wild bird migration sites). Collection and testing supported by GTZ and USAID/T (Tanzania Bird Atlas Project, University of Minnesota).
 - 2006 to 2007: 636 birds sampled from 2 regions of the country. Collection and testing supported by USAID/W (GAINS Project).
 - Late 2007, early 2008, an estimated 1000 samples will be collected from wild birds in 2 areas of the country, corresponding to wild bird migration sites. Collection and Testing supported by GTZ and USAID/T (Tanzania Bird Atlas Project).



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Human Surveillance

- Sentinel Surveillance
 - Four hospitals: Muhimbili and Mwananyamala Hospitals in Dar es Salaam, Haydom Hospital in Arusha (supported by USAID/T)
 - Kibondo (Nduta refugee camp -supported by CDC)
 - As of Dec 2007, over 1000 patients enrolled who had signs/symptoms of influenza.
 - Ministry of Health, with the initial support of CDC, will be taking over Mwananyamala Hospital, and probably Haydom Hospital as sentinel sites. Also, expand and eventually move sentinel site in Kibondo from refugee camp to Kibondo District Hospital.
- Inclusion of Influenza into Integrated Disease Surveillance System (IDSR) – under discussion, concern over resources.



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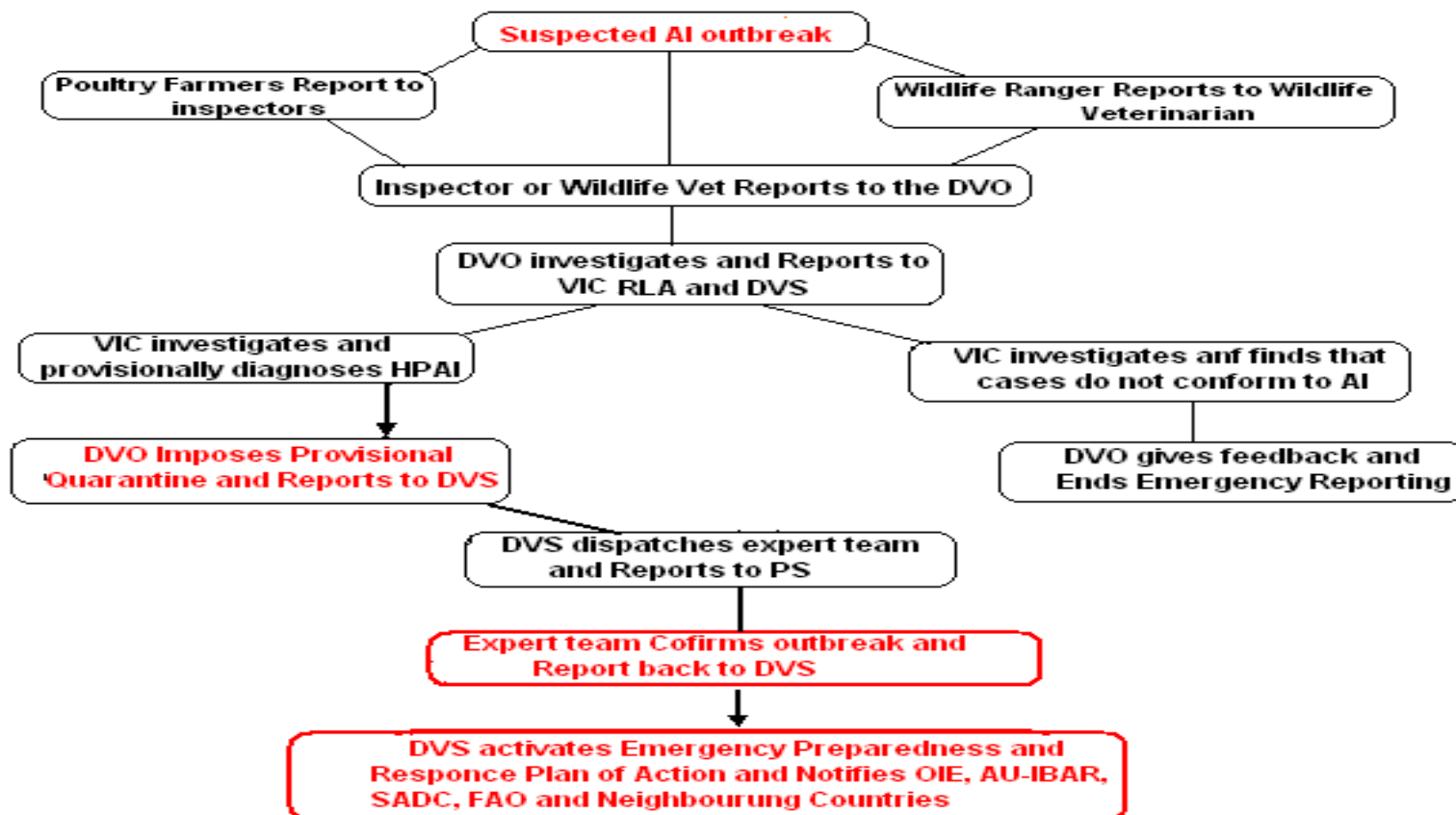
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Laboratory Capacity

- Animal
 - Central Veterinary Laboratory in Dar es Salaam equipped for AI testing (including RT-PCR).
 - 20 Veterinary Staff trained in AI laboratory diagnosis
 - Samples are currently being tested for AI
 - Support from USAID/T (University of Minnesota, NVSL of USDA)
- Human
 - National Reference Laboratory in Dar es Salaam currently being equipped for AI testing (including RT-PCR).
 - PCR training conducted in South Africa and Instrument training to occur in Mid March
 - Expect lab to be operational April
 - Support from CDC
 - Aims to become a WHO National Influenza Centre



Response – AI Reporting Chain



Note: Reporting Chain for human infections currently not included in the National Plan or Action Plan.



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Response

- Field Teams Training
 - Health Staff of 54 districts (out of 121) trained on AI Rapid Response (supported by CDC/Tanzania and UNICEF)
 - All District Veterinary Officers Trained (supported by GOT)
 - WHO has created training materials for district level training
- Commodities:
 - Received 2250 PPEs from USAID AI Unit 2006
 - Expecting 4500 PPEs, 40 Decontamination Kits and 1 Laboratory Specimen Kit from USAID AI Unit, March 2008
 - PPEs are distributed nationally among veterinary Zonal Investigation Centres, and national hospitals (USAID, CDC collaborate in dividing supplies)
 - Received 500 PPEs from FAO



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Public Awareness

- Limited number of leaflets and posters distributed (GOT, UNICEF)
- UNICEF has supported the following:
 - Media Workshops
 - Radio and TV campaigns
 - Awareness raising in communities and schools (theatre/films)
 - Training workshops for community leaders, community health workers, health officers, livestock officers



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Tanzania is on track,
but there is a long
way to go.



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Support Needed

- Public Awareness at grassroots level – work with UNICEF (absolutely critical for successful passive surveillance).
- Rapid Response Teams need to be trained at the district levels. Teams need to include both veterinary and human health staff (need to be trained together).
- Expanded Active Surveillance - animal side
- Once above elements are in place, need for simulation exercises.
- Continued support for elements of USAID/University of Minnesota Project, (ends June 2008) – provision of laboratory supplies for animal lab and follow-up training