

The objective of the bulletin is to report new health events occurring outside and inside EpiSouth area that have potential implications on EpiSouth population. It does not aim to provide an exhaustive review of international alerts. Since 2006, The French public health Institute (InVS) is issuing an online epidemic intelligence bulletin (Bulletin hebdomadaire International - BHI). In order to limit duplication and to make this already verified information available to a larger audience, information relating to health events of interest for EpiSouth population are translated and integrated in the relevant e-web sections. Despite all verifications, WP6 team would not be responsible for potential errors. The recipient is responsible for the cautious use of this information. Neither the European Commission nor any person acting on behalf of the Commission is liable for the use that may be made of the information contained in this report. Data maps and commentary used in this document do not imply any opinion of EpiSouth countries or its partners on the legal status of the countries and territories shown or concerning their borders.

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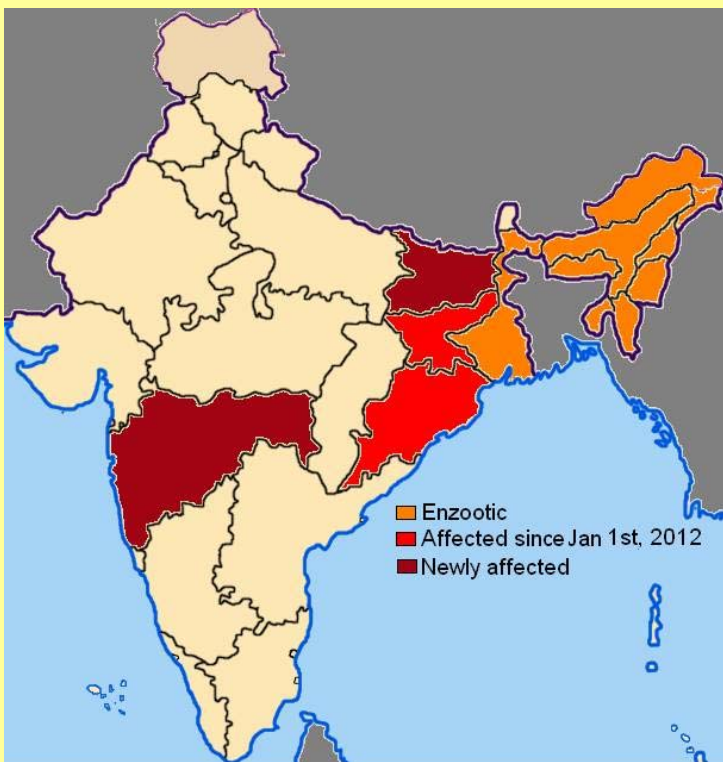
## INDEX e-WEB n°203

- A(H5N1) Avian influenza – India
- A(H5N1) Human influenza – Vietnam
- “INSIDE” events: none
- “OUTSIDE” events: Drugs contamination - Pakistan

Location: <b>India</b>	Event: <b>A(H5N1) – Epizootic</b>	<u>Comments</u>
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- On 6<sup>th</sup> February 2012, the Indian health authorities reported to [OIE 2](#) new foci of A(H5N1) influenza in wild birds in two new states: Bihar and Maharashtra (Bombay), respectively located in the North East and in the East of the country (cf. map 1).
- The last A(H5N1) influenza outbreak in India was reported in Orissa state in January 2012 (cf. [eWEB n°199](#)).

Map 1. Bihar and Maharashtra states (newly affected), India



- Since April 2011, FAO considers the North East region of India as enzootic.
- The notification of these new avian influenza A(H5N1) foci indicates a geographical extension of the virus circulation towards the South and the West of the country.
- To date, no human case has officially been reported in India. Access to health care and diagnosis, added to human and veterinary surveillance are weak in the country.
- The evolution of the situation in the country is carefully monitored.

Location: Vietnam	Event: A(H5N1) – Human	<u>Comments</u>
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- On 8<sup>th</sup> February 2012, the Vietnamese Ministry of Health notified to [WHO](#) one new human case of A(H5N1) infection in Soc Trang province, in the Mekong delta in the South of the country (cf. map 2).
- The case was
  - a 26 years old pregnant woman;
  - Onset of symptoms on 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2012;
  - She was hospitalised on 25<sup>th</sup> January and died on 28<sup>th</sup> January 2012;
  - Exposure to sick poultry was documented;
  - The newborn was tested negative for H5N1.
- The last A(H5N1) human case in Vietnam was reported on 20<sup>th</sup> January 2012 (cf. [eWEB n° 201](#)) in Kien Giang province.
- To date, 121 A(H5N1) human cases have been reported in Vietnam, including 61 deaths.

Map 2. Soc Trang, Vietnam.



**REPORT OF NEW HEALTH EVENTS OCCURRING OUTSIDE THE EPISOUTH AREA  
(Occurring in one or several EpiSouth countries)**

Location: Pakistan	Event: Drug contamination	<u>Comments</u>
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- On 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2012, WHO reported that the batch number J093 of Isotab® contained sufficient quantities of Pyrimethamine (molecule used to treat some infections due to protozoa) to cause severe adverse effects.
- Indeed, since 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2012 more than a hundred deaths due to medullar aplasia and haemorrhagic have been reported in patents being treated at the Cardiology Institute of Penjab, in Lahore (2<sup>nd</sup> biggest city located at the East of the country, with 7 millions inhabitants, cf map 3).
- To date, 450 cases with severe adverse effects including 107 deaths have been reported by Pakistani health authorities.
- Further investigations are under process.

Map 3. Lahore, Pakistan



- To date, only one batch of Isotab® has been identified as being contaminated by Pyremethamine.
- Measures have been taken by Pakistani health authorities to localise and withdraw drugs of the contaminated batch.
- The Efroz pharmaceutical company producing the Isotab® and which is based in Karachi, Pakistan, said it this batch was only distributed to the Cardiology Institute of Penjab.
- To date, the situation does not represent a threat for EpiSouth countries, but it is necessary to remain alerted in case some batched would have been reported to have been exported to other countries.