

Policy advocacy and gaining political support: best practices in Egypt

by

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Advocacy

Advocacy is a strategy to influence policy makers when they make laws and regulations, distribute resources, and make other decisions.

The principal aims of advocacy are to create policies, reform policies, and ensure policies are implemented

Adopted polices (shortly after the start of the AI outbreaks)

- Compensation (no communication plan for compensation).
- Banning household poultry raising at cities (no communication plan).
- Closure of the zoo.
- Mass vaccination (no communication plan).
- Banning the importation of poultry and poultry products from all over the world.
- Culling zone in radius 3 km (no communication plan).
- TV spots to prevent bird to human transmission.
- Official website for the HPAI news.

Reformed and newly developed polices

- Banning the circulation of live poultry
- Closure of unregistered farms
- New compensation law
- New vaccination strategy
- Targeted surveillance in farms and backyard (by using PDS use of RFT)
- Poultry movement control
- New stipulations for importation of poultry and poultry by-products according to OIE guidelines.

kinds of political channels to develop a new polices

- Presidential decrees
- Prime minister decrees
- Parliament
- Ministerial decrees
- CVO
- VS board of directors
- National supreme committee
- Governors

Advocacy steps

- Analysis
- Strategy
- Mobilization
- Action

Advocacy: best practices.**(1) Banning the sale of live poultry in the shops**

- This policy has been issued by a decree from the president of Egypt.
- Approved by the Parliament.
- Reflects a high level of political support.

Advocacy: best practices.**Banning the sale of live poultry (Cont.)****Advocacy steps**

- Analysis
 - Presence of live poultry shops not encouraging the investment in building new poultry slaughter houses.
 - Presence of live poultry shops not encouraging the change of the social behavior toward consumption of frozen or chilled poultry.

Advocacy: best practices.**(1) Banning the sale of live poultry (Cont.)****Advocacy steps**

- Strategy
 - Objectives and implementation plans prepared at VS level.
 - Discussed at Technical committees.
 - Discussed at Ministerial level.

Advocacy: best practices.**(1) Banning the sale of live poultry (Cont.)****Advocacy steps**

- Mobilization
 - Discussed throughout the media.
 - Discussed in the parliament
 - Approved in the parliament
- Action
 - Issued by the president.
 - Soft loans for the owners of live poultry shops to change their activity to be sale of chilled or frozen poultry.

Advocacy: best practices.**Banning the sale of live poultry (Cont.)**

- Gaps
 - No communication has been done with the farm owners and middlemen along the value chain.
 - No communication about the benefit of the decree and how the livelihood could be maintained.

Advocacy: best practices.**(2) New compensation law****Advocacy steps**

- Analysis
 - Encourage the people to notify about suspected cases
 - Most of the recorded HPAI outbreak are in household level.
 - Human cases are evolving.
 - Very few cases recorded in commercial farms.
 - Majority of farms are unregistered.

Advocacy: best practices.
(2)New compensation law (Cont.)

Advocacy steps

- **Strategy**
 - Starting the discussion with the private sector.
 - Communication with the poultry producers association to prepare a strategy to secure the compensation fund.
 - Set compensation rules after consultation with the poultry producers association and FAO.

Advocacy: best practices.
(2)New compensation law (Cont.)

Advocacy steps

- **Mobilization**
 - Draft compensation law was prepared and will pass through the parliament in the next parliament round (November 2009).

Advocacy: best practices.
(3)Changing the vaccination strategy in Backyard

- **Analysis**
 - Household vaccination consume the highest portion from the national budget.
 - Continuous outbreaks instead of vaccination.
 - Low vaccination coverage.
 - Quick poultry turnover rate.
 - Limited human resources to conduct the vaccination campaigns.

Advocacy: best practices.
(3) Changing the vaccination strategy (cont.)

- **Strategy**
 - Visiting villages with different typologies.
 - Estimating the vaccination coverage.
 - Estimating the poultry population turnover rate.
 - Estimating the immune status of vaccinated birds

Advocacy: best practices.
(3)Changing the vaccination strategy (cont.)

- **Mobilization**
 - Technical committee to agree on the steps of the assessment
 - Decision makers workshop to present the results of the assessment
 - Decision makers workshop to present the alternative strategy

Advocacy: best practices.
(3)Changing the vaccination strategy (cont.)

- **Action**
 - Household vaccination has been temporarily suspended.
 - Discussion is going within the VS and with the stakeholders to set a new strategy (Target vaccination).

Advocacy: best practices

(4) Recruiting HPAI task force (1200 vets and 1200 workers)

■ Analysis:

- Although Egypt have a high number of official veterinarians at village level, but they overwhelmed with a lot of activities; such as FMD, LSD and RVF vaccination campaigns, as well as the routine investigation and treatment of livestock.
- The HPAI control activities added burdens on the village veterinarians to a degree that greatly weakened the performance of disease control programs of HPAI and other diseases.

Advocacy: best practices

(4) Recruiting HPAI task force (

■ Strategy

- Discussing the justifications and work plan at the technical committee.
- Discussing the justifications and work plan with the Governor's council.

Advocacy: best practices

(4) Recruiting HPAI task force

■ Mobilization

- Meeting with the prime minister and minister of Finance to present the justifications and work plan.
- N.B) Cost is 1 million \$ per year.

Advocacy: best practices

Recruiting HPAI task force (1200 vets and 1200 workers)

■ Action

- Prime minister approved the recruitment of HPAI task force.
- Ministry of finance secured 1 million \$ per year.
- VS started the contracts process and distribution of the teams among the governorates.

Gaining high level political support for the technical and budgetary priorities

- At the start of the outbreaks on February 2006, all the government bodies were charged and the VS faced no obstacles to secure extra fund or enforce new polices.
- The progressive increase in the number of influenza A H5N1 human cases (32 human cases during 2009) facilitated getting of many technical and budgetary priorities.

Gaining high level political support for the technical and budgetary priorities

Cont.

- Regular press releases by the VS clarifying the ongoing activities, challenges and problems facilitated the gaining of political support.
- Press campaigns were of valuable help in pushing forward the draft compensation law.

Gaining political support for the technical and budgetary priorities at governorate level

- The coordination meetings with the governors were a good treatment for the resistances appeared for the changes in old policies and lead to influence the local decision makers to secure funds and reform the old polices.

Thank you