



Country Presentation

The Philippines



1. Latest HPAI Situation Update

**Philippines is still an
AI-free country**

Threat Assessment:

- a. Illegal trade of live poultry and exotic birds
- b. Migratory bird habitats
- c. Human cases from other countries



Specific Measures



- a. Illegal trade of poultry and exotic birds
 1. Strict monitoring of wildlife trade (enforcement of RA 9147) through a Memorandum of Agreement with 14 other government agencies
 2. Expanded ban on importation of exotic birds by the Dept of Environment & Natural Resources
 3. Intensified quarantine/surveillance measures in critical ports (e.g. NAIA, Davao, Gen. Santos City, etc) smuggling of exotic birds
 4. Smuggling hotspots under surveillance to clamp down on the smuggling of exotic birds - an identified possible entry point of bird flu infection



b. Migratory bird habitats

1. Intensive surveillance in 20 critical sites and in areas with high duck concentration
2. Bio-security measures
 - a. New duck raising protocols (i.e. no grazing of ducks in areas with bird sanctuaries from October - March).
Fifty five wetlands are being closely watched to prevent free-range ducks and chickens from mingling with migratory birds

2.Preparedness and Response Plan

Avian Influenza Protection Program

(defines the biosecurity protocols for the Prevention and Eradication of AI). This was organized in four stages namely:



Stage 1. Keeping the Philippines Bird Flu Free

Stage 2. Controlling and Eradicating Bird Flu in Domestic Fowl

Stage 3. Prevention of Transmission from Fowls to Humans

Stage 4. Mitigation of Public Health and Socio-economic Impact of Pandemic Influenza

Coverage of Stage 1. Avian-Flu Free Philippines

A. Prevention Programs

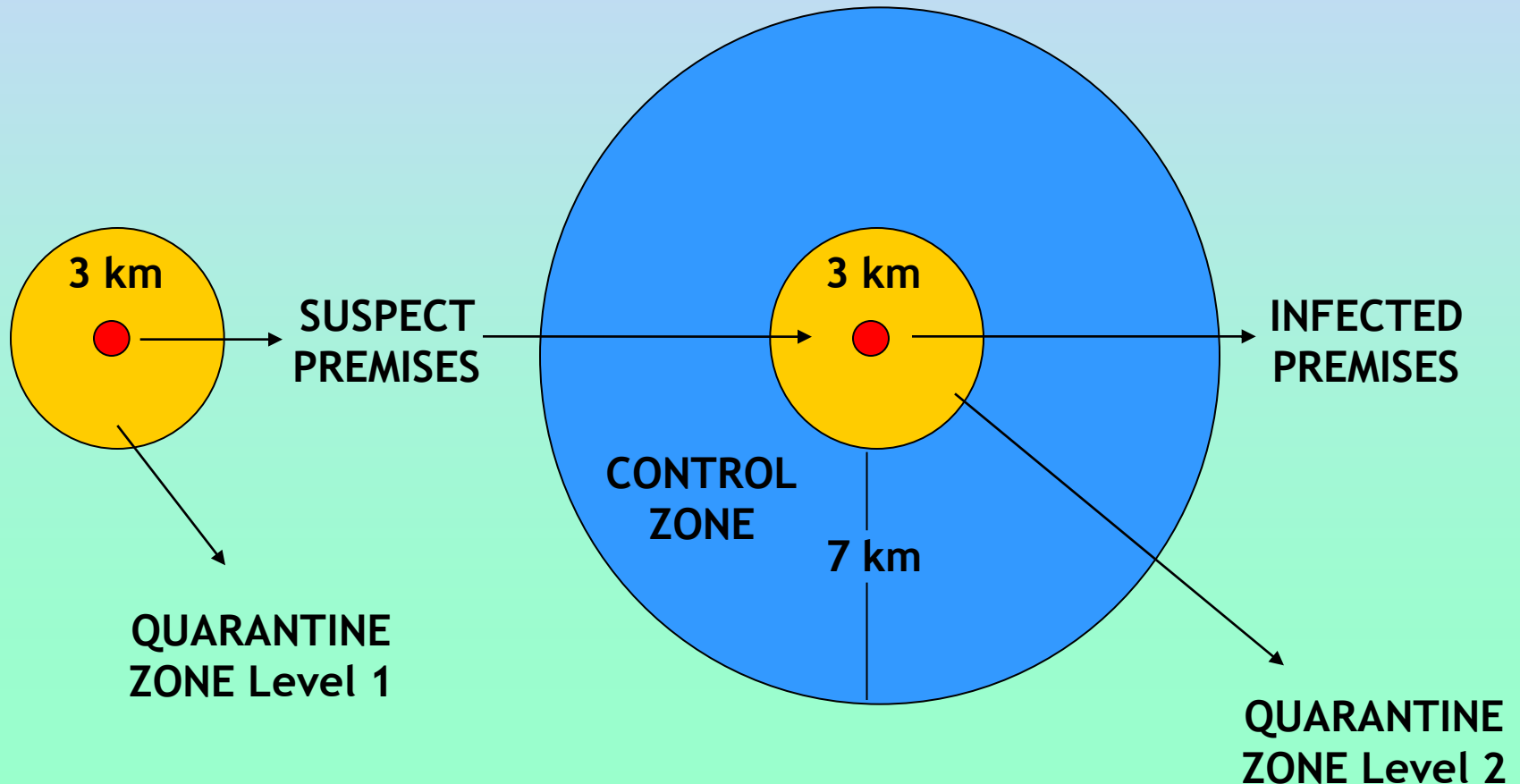
1. Ban on Importation of all Live Domestic and Wild Poultry and All Poultry Products from AI-Affected Countries
2. Minimum Biosecurity Measures
3. Surveillance and Prevention Programs in Airports and Seaports
4. Surveillance of Poultry in Critical Areas in the Philippines
5. Enforcement of the Wildlife Act
6. Preventive Measures in Humans



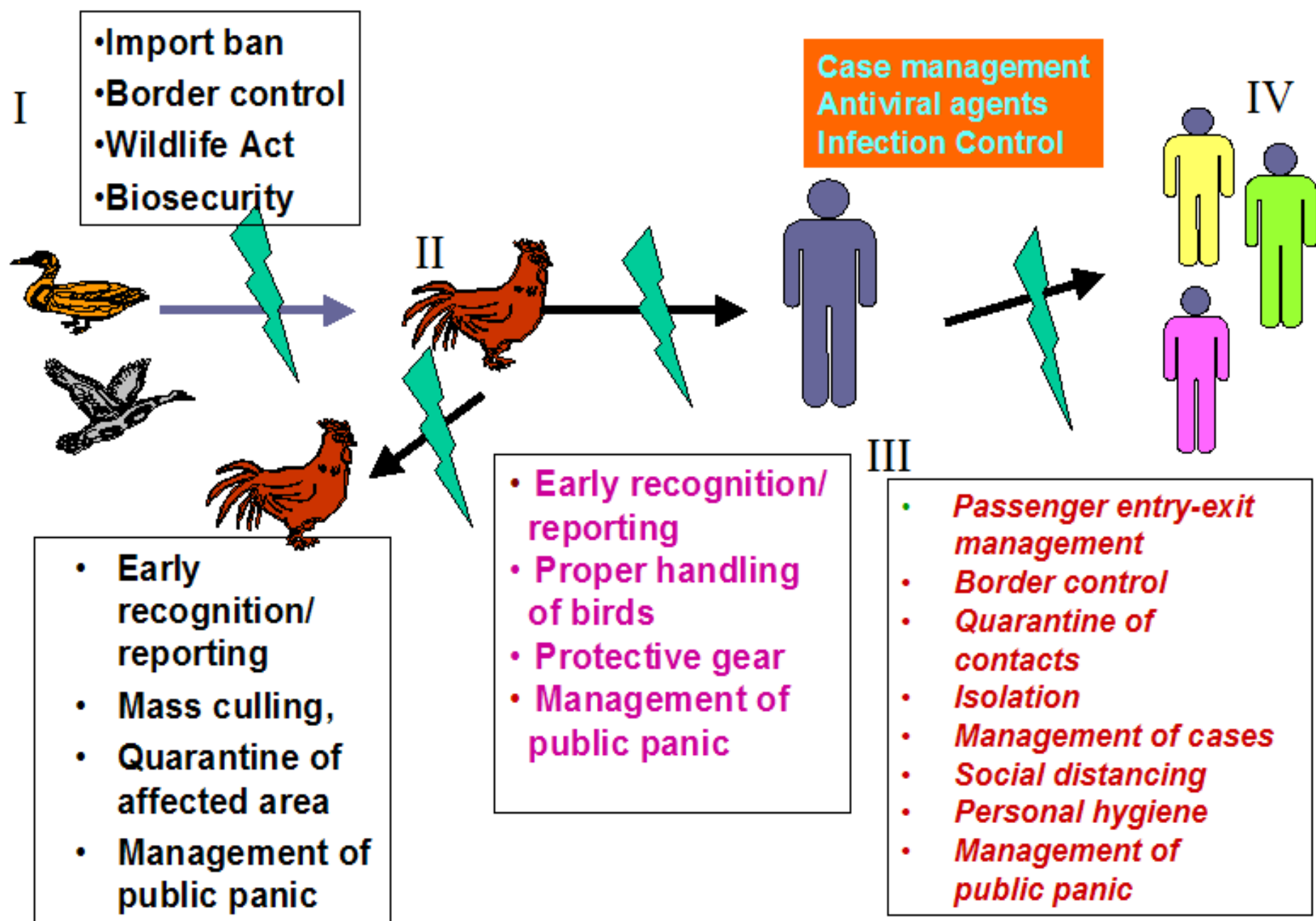
Coverage of Stage 2:

Controlling and Eradicating Bird Flu in Domestic Fowl

In case of an outbreak, a 3-kilometer quarantine zone shall be established and all birds within this area shall be stamped out. Moreover, a 7-kilometer control zone shall be secured so that intensive surveillance can be conducted to detect further outbreaks.



Strategic Approaches for Avian & Pandemic Influenza



3. Good Practices

1. Avian Influenza Protection Program (AIPP)
Preparedness and Response Plan for Avian and Pandemic Influenza, Guidelines Formulated
2. Localization of AIPP to local government units called Project Blue. Trained composite government-private sector teams organized to undertake nationwide training on bird flu prevention and crisis response preparedness.
3. Strong participation of government agencies in the National Avian Influenza Task Force under the network of the NDCC
4. Launch of intensified information campaign dubbed Bird Flu Watch
 - DOH, DA websites for Bird Flu
 - Development of IEC Materials for Bird Flu by target audience, Cough manners, proper handwashing

3. Good Practices

5. Planning workshops- Adoption of table top exercises in workshops/ training
6. Reporting of cases through Short Messaging System
7. Strong private sector participation in all levels of the program
8. Business Continuity Planning – involvement and support of the Business Sector
9. Training of field personnel, epidemiologists, hospitals, Speakers' Bureau

4. Issues and challenges

1. Massive information demanded by public, local government units, business, academe, civil society, etc.
2. Training for more government personnel to undertake surveillance, laboratory testing, quarantine enforcement and crisis response preparedness (i.e. military, local veterinarians, etc.)
3. Full cooperation on eradication policies
4. Funds to support all aspects of the program

4. Issues and challenges

5. *Early warning of human-human spread* :
need for stronger global coordination

6. *Pandemic preparedness and logistics*
overwhelmed health care system, existing manpower and resources could response only to a certain extent

7. *Antiviral agents* : **efficacy is uncertain, in short supply, decision on who should be given priority**

8. *Pandemic Influenza Vaccine* : **equitable distribution and liability, characteristics of the pandemic vaccine, development and production constraints**

5. Proposals

1. Short-term training exchange program on various competencies of member countries
2. Establishment of a web-based information exchange
3. Research funds of priority avian flu-related issues
4. Funding support for the establishment of HAIS and SILIPPs and enhancement of ILISS with SMS integration

5. Proposals

5. Advocate equity of pandemic vaccine distribution
6. Involvement of more sectors for preparedness
7. National and international financial support for development activities for pandemic vaccine and for stockpiling of antiviral agents

Thank you. . .