



The presence of the highly pathogenic avian influenza H5N1 virus

has been confirmed in more than 60 countries around the globe over the past three years. The virus continues to spread among birds in many parts of the world, causing sporadic cases of human infection, and posing the threat of a global influenza pandemic. The Asia-Pacific region, where the virus first emerged, faces the highest risk of becoming an epicentre for the emergence of a pandemic strain.

Here, national governments have developed pandemic preparedness and response plans, and many have tested their plans through simulation exercises. Simulation exercises are a crucial component of the pandemic response planning process. Many different types of simulation exercise have taken place across the region, with various objectives and stakeholders.

This publication is a compendium of the simulation exercises that have been used to test pandemic preparedness and response plans in different countries and by various organizations in the Asia-Pacific region. Whether you are working in central or local government, international or regional organizations, the nongovernmental or private sector, the experiences gathered here will no doubt help you prepare for the next pandemic.

