Biosecurity measures for backyard poultry in developing countries: a systematic review

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Abstract

Background: Poultry represents an important sector in animal production, with backyard flocks representing a huge majority, especially in the developing countries. In these countries, villagers raise poultry to meet household food demands and as additional sources of incomes. Backyard production methods imply low biosecurity measures and high risk of infectious diseases, such as Newcastle disease or zoonosis such as Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI).

We reviewed literature on biosecurity practices for prevention of infectious diseases, and published recommendations for backyard poultry and assessed evidence of their impact and feasibility, particularly in developing countries. Documents were sourced from the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) website, and from Pubmed and Google databases.

Results: A total of 62 peer-reviewed and non-referred documents were found, most of which were published recently (after 2004) and focused on HPAI/H5N1-related biosecurity measures (64%). Recommendations addressed measures for flock management, feed and water management, poultry trade and stock change, poultry health management and the risk to humans. Only one general guideline was found for backyard poultry-related biosecurity; the other documents were drawn up for specific developing settings and only engaged their authors (e.g. consultants). These national guidelines written by consultants generated recommendations regarding measures derived from the highest standards of commercial poultry production. Although biosecurity principles of isolation and containment are described in most documents, only a few documents were found on the impact of measures in family poultry settings and none gave any evidence of their feasibility and effectiveness for backyard poultry.

Conclusions: Given the persistent threat posed by HPAI/H5N1 to humans in developing countries, our findings highlight the importance of encouraging applied research toward identifying sustained and adapted biosecurity measures for smallholder poultry flocks in low-income countries.

Keywords: Biosecurity, Poultry, Backyard flocks, Scavenging, Infectious disease, H5N1 HPAI, Newcastle disease

Background

In 2009, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) estimated the global population of domestic chickens and ducks at over 18 billion and 1 billion, respectively. Based on the number of animals, poultry represents the largest domestic animal stock in the world [1]. The industry is dominated by commercial farms while in developing countries, production consists of village or “backyard” (traditional) poultry, which is often extensive [2,3]. Backyard poultry is characterized by small flocks with low biosecurity measures. Backyard flocks represent around 80% of poultry stocks in many developing countries [3,4], often consisting of free indigenous unselected breeds of various ages, with various species mixed in the same flock [4-7]. Poultry closely interact with humans in the same household as well as with wild birds and other livestock where they are also exposed to vermin and predators. Poor or absent disease control strategies and inadequate management practices result in high levels of baseline mortality due to predators (e.g. rodents, snakes, small carnivores) or infectious diseases (e.g. Newcastle Disease (ND), salmonellosis,
Gumboro disease or fowl typhoid) [2,8-12]. Backyard poultry raising usually requires low investments and death among poultry commonly occurs. As such poultry raising is often not the primary source of livelihood for backyard poultry farmers, nor is it the primary farming activity. However, it contributes significantly to incomes and home food consumption in rural areas of many developing countries [13,14]. In some settings or conditions, major losses of poultry flocks can result in malnutrition [15].

In several countries, poultry raising and consumption are also linked to socio-cultural factors such as religion or festivities [16-18], and to economic factors at farm and national levels [2,19,20]. Moreover some infectious poultry diseases are zoonotic, resulting in mild symptoms in humans (such as ND) [21], a range of mild to serious diseases (such as campylobacteriosis or psittacosis) [22,23] or can have fatal consequences in both poultry and humans, such as the Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) A/H5N1 virus. Of these, some have raised potential public health concerns [24]. To avert human health risks and economic losses, biosecurity measures are implemented in farms to prevent the introduction, persistence or dissemination of infectious agents, through isolation, traffic control and/or sanitation measures. The rapid growth in intensive poultry production combined with increasing animal and human movement across the world is thought to have significantly contributed to the emergence of new pathogens (e.g. HPAI A/H5N1 or H9N2). However, in some settings there is evidence of sustained dissemination of these avian viruses between semi-extensive or backyard poultry flocks from area to area [25]. Inadequate backyard flock hygiene highlights the issue of poultry disease control in backyard systems [3,26]. In this context, we conducted a systematic literature review to analyse the evidence on the recommendations and use of biosecurity measures adapted to backyard poultry with a particular focus on developing countries.

Methods
Recognizing the complexity of production systems and the fact that other terminologies have been used in various countries to describe backyard poultry depending on the differences in general husbandry and agricultural systems, we developed a protocol that consisted of the following items. Firstly, abiding by the PRISMA (Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses) requirements, we performed a systematic literature search using the United States National Library of Medicine and the National Institutes of Health Medical Database (PubMed) and Google with no starting time limits, up until November 2011. As keywords we selected “poultry” associated with any of the following: “biosecurity”, “risk factors”, “knowledge”, “attitude” or “practice”. “Risk factors” documents were expected to provide recommendations on biosecurity measures against infectious diseases; we expected the studies on “Knowledge, Attitude and Practice” (KAP) to describe biosecurity practices, highlighting the needs for improvement.

Secondly, guided by several FAO staff members in the Livestock Production Systems Branch, we obtained additional unpublished documents and reports directly from the Agriculture department of the Animal Production and Health Division (AGAH) or their website devoted to avian influenza (www.fao.org/avianflu/en/index.html).

Finally, because the backyard poultry term is not universally used, we chose to inspect each identified article or report, including those that referred to backyard flocks and infectious agents or diseases. Our definition of backyard poultry encompassed (1) similar terms such as “indigenous poultry”, “native poultry”, “scavenging poultry”, “village poultry”, “local poultry”, “traditional poultry” or “free-range poultry” [5,27] and (2) small scale semi-intensive systems (e.g. ducks free grazing in rice fields) [3]. Backyard poultry is commonly associated with poor biosecurity conditions, small size (under 100 heads per flock) [2] and poultry raised by a family or in a household in rural or peri-urban areas. Parallel to the FAO classification (four sectors; 1: industrial; 2 and 3: commercial; 4: backyard) [28], our search would include sectors 3 and 4. However, we purposely excluded from the review the small-scale intensive poultry system, because of its different management system; a system characterized by higher levels of biosecurity and overall husbandry conditions [6,7]. We also excluded laboratory studies, reviews about specific infectious diseases, studies that were not farm-based (all spatial studies and area, national or regional biosecurity studies were excluded), studies on vaccination or other treatments and those whose contents were not scientific (Figure 1). Relevant references found in the selected documents were also searched and reviewed. Our search was restricted to articles and reports written in English or French.

Results
The literature search identified 62 different references relating to biosecurity issues in backyard flocks including 35 (56%) from PubMed, 18 (29%) from FAO reports and nine (15%) additional reports from Google search (Figure 1). However three documents (11%) - two on Google search [29,30] and five on PubMed [31] – that could not be obtained via the internet or our FAO contacts were dismissed from the review. The 59 remaining available documents referred to Europe (n = 1), Oceania (n = 2), America (n = 7), Asia (n = 23) and Africa (n = 35).
(n = 20), including 47 for developing countries. The remaining documents did not refer to a particular area (n = 6). Field study articles (i.e. 6 case–control studies, 25 cross-sectional studies and 1 prospective longitudinal study) accounted for 54% (n = 32) of the relevant documents, followed by FAO reports (n = 12, 20%) and guidelines published by FAO or other organisations (n = 5, 8%). The ten other documents included descriptions of projects, reports, modelling or review articles, and PhD theses. Overall 23 documents (39%) provided precise biosecurity-related recommendations at flock level.

Interestingly, there has been a surge in the number of reviewed documents since 2004; prior to this date, only four documents were found, dated 1998, 2000 and 2003. Avian influenza (n = 38, 64%) was the predominant subject of the documents we identified and selected. One study on ND-related risk factors provided no relevant results and was therefore not retained [32], reducing the total number of identified documents to 58.

The relevant documents were summarized and presented in Additional file 1: Annex 1 according to bibliographic information, research key (data base and keywords), geographic distribution, type of study, objectives given by authors, biosecurity-related findings and recommendations.

The FAO and OIE (World Organisation for Animal Health) define biosecurity as the implementation of measures to reduce the risk of the introduction and spread of disease agents [33, 34]. Although ways of classifying these measures may vary, they all refer to the
same basic principles of bioexclusion (i.e. preventing infectious agents from entering the farm) and biocontainment (i.e. preventing infectious agents from exiting) [35] and were implemented via: segregation to raise barriers to infectious diseases, cleaning and disinfection [33-35]. These two principles encompass the notions of (i) isolation, which ensures no contamination of flocks through housing and personal protection equipment; (ii) traffic control, which restricts the movement of products, stocks and persons; (iii) sanitation which includes methods for farmers to maintain disinfection and cleanliness in flocks. Specific recommendations for backyard poultry settings were found in ten FAO reports including eight for African countries and two for Asian countries – only engaging their authors – all of which referred to HPAI A/H5N1-related risks. There, the recommendations on biosecurity are listed by sector (described as sector 3 and sector 4) and/or type of recommendations [36-41] or otherwise [42-45].

No standardized classification exists to describe biosecurity measures. Based on the classification found in FAO documents, we present the result of this review using the following categories: flock management, feed and water, trade and stock, health management and risk to humans.

One recommended husbandry measure is to separate poultry by age and species or to consider raising one species instead of several [46], given that mixing species increases HPAIA/H5N1 virus transmission [47]. Age separation would facilitate the all in – all out strategy whereby sanitary cleaning can be carried out between the complete exit and renewal of flocks. However FAO recognizes that age separation would not be feasible in developing countries as most villagers raise free-ranging poultry for their own consumption. Firstly, the sale of all animals at a fixed age is not practiced by farmers, who keep several ages to ensure meat production throughout the year [34,41,48]. Secondly, farmers use their laying hens to renew the flocks [49,50], so the production of chicks can last throughout the year. Building fences to separate species and limit free-ranging poultry for their own consumption. Firstly, the sale of all animals at a fixed age is not practiced by farmers, who keep several ages to ensure meat production throughout the year [34,41,48]. Secondly, farmers use their laying hens to renew the flocks [49,50], so the production of chicks can last throughout the year. Building fences to separate species and limit free-ranging poultry for their own consumption. Firstly, the sale of all animals at a fixed age is not practiced by farmers, who keep several ages to ensure meat production throughout the year [34,41,48]. Secondly, farmers use their laying hens to renew the flocks [49,50], so the production of chicks can last throughout the year. Building fences to separate species and limit free-ranging poultry for their own consumption. Firstly, the sale of all animals at a fixed age is not practiced by farmers, who keep several ages to ensure meat production throughout the year [34,41,48]. Secondly, farmers use their laying hens to renew the flocks [49,50], so the production of chicks can last throughout the year. Building fences to separate species and limit free-ranging poultry for their own consumption.

FAO recognizes food and water management as a biosecurity related incentive, e.g. confinement with fences implemented to prevent robbery, avoid dirt entering the house or losing birds [59]. Moreover, as shown by a study conducted in Nigeria, keeping flocks indoors without knowing the basic principles of biosecurity could actually expose humans to flocks, resulting in a higher risk of HPAI A/H5N1 infection [48]. Other husbandry measures involve cleaning and disinfecting the surroundings, which proves particularly effective in interrupting potential HPAI A/H5N1 [60]. Disinfection would also include materials, people (footwear, handwashing) and buildings. All these measures are known and frequently used for North American backyard poultry [55,61,62], while many farmers from developing countries may not know how to use disinfectants to protect their birds [48,51,52,58,63,64].

Many studies confirmed the potential risk of small backyard flocks roaming in or near waterlands and thus being exposed to Avian Influenza or ND virus-infected wild birds or contaminated environments [53,65,66]. The presence of ponds or canals was identified as increasing the risk of HPAI outbreaks in the village and the spread to neighbouring villages [60,67,68]. Again despite high awareness of greater risk of HPAI virus transmission from wild birds, contacts remain frequent between domestic and wild birds as observed in Egypt [63], the USA and New Zealand [55,62,65]. Authors recommended the use of bird pens to mitigate contact between domestic and wild birds [61]; however, no data were found on the feasibility and effectiveness of such a measure in HPAI A/H5N1 epidemic-prone countries.

Within husbandry practices, restricting people movement limits the risk of introducing infectious agents into flocks (e.g. HPAI) [47,48]. Some authors from countries where intensive farms are well-developed raised the issue of restricting contacts between commercial farms and backyard poultry [51,55,61,63]. This principle of visitor restriction appears to be well accepted among backyard poultry owners of developed or transitional countries [61,62]. Another FAO recommendation with respect to husbandry practices involves keeping a good record of flock history [38]. This animal observation allows the farmer to detect any changes in the flocks. Moreover, in the case of investigation, events would be easier to interpret if the flock history is known [8,53,61].

FAO recognizes food and water management as a biosecurity hazard to poultry, hence the need to account for it [37,39,40,43]. Consequently, recommendations include providing supplemented food (if possible) or ensuring clean containers for food and water [46,59]. However, there is evidence of an association between an untreated water source for poultry and outbreaks of HPAI A/H5N1 [68]. No practical solutions were proposed to address the latter hazards for backyard poultry, despite the need, as farmers from developing countries...
often use water from ponds or rivers for their poultry [53,65].

Health management includes the management of outbreaks and the use of litter. When there is an outbreak in the flock, sick birds should be separated as they may be a potential risk for the transmission of infectious disease [26,27,39,41,69]. The culling of sick animals by farmers was suggested as a radical measure in the US [61] but is hardly applicable in developing countries, where many farmers cannot afford to lose the entire flock. In view of the HPAI A/H5N1 threat, there is a strong, clearly-stated recommendation that dead birds be buried or burned [46,51,70]. The disposal of sick animals and carcasses is common practice in developed countries [61,65]. However, inappropriate implementation can increase the risk of ND infection [71] while many villagers in developing countries continue to sell sick or dead birds [14,72,73]. The use of untreated poultry manure as fertilizer poses a serious risk of infection spread [46]. This can be addressed by composting manure outside the flock area [46,61,65], a measure that is efficient but not well known among village farmers of many developing countries.

Poultry trading is often viewed as a risk factor for HPAI or ND in the flock and the village [60,67,68,71,74,75]. Backyard poultry farmers are therefore advised to avoid visiting live bird markets or other trading places [46,61]. However, this practice persists in many developing countries [8,48]. Poultry farmers are also advised to ensure that the poultry supply source is disease-free [37]. Ways of applying these recommendations were observed for instance in a study from Myanmar where farmers tend to purchase from a known and regular stock source such as their neighbours – provided the flock is disease free - rather than at live bird markets [14]. This principle is particularly well understood in developed countries where it is common practice in North America or New Zealand for backyard poultry owners to hatch their own eggs [65] or to buy chicks (or same age young adult birds) from one or a small number of the same commercial sources [55,61,62]. Because the risk of HPAI A/H5N1 transmission is actually higher when birds are brought in from another backyard flock [60], the subsequent related crucial recommendation is that newly introduced birds should be quarantined for two weeks before joining the flock to allow a time-lag for any disease to reveal itself [55,61].

Lastly, recommendations are made to limit the risk to humans. This includes separating children from poultry [52,54,59,63] and personal hygiene measures like hand washing or wearing gloves when handling poultry [55,63,76].

All the above recommendations are listed in different guidelines. Some were published by Agronomes et Vétérinaires Sans Frontières (AVSF) as recommendations for Cambodia, Vietnam and the Caribbean [33,77,78] or by DEFRA in the United Kingdom [79]. One of the articles also mentioned recommendations for avian influenza in all sectors [35] while two focused on backyard flocks [54,80]. These documents introduce the principles of biosecurity, and provide a list of the measures described above for application ranging from backyard flocks to veterinary paraprofessionals. A guide for professionals has been drawn up for ND [69]. Measures are also listed by Sharma et al. [81] giving the keys for developing biosecurity in Nepalese farms.

There are few publications (11) available that describe or analyse the impact of biosecurity measures on backyard flocks. Among these, three studies showed that information campaigns on flock management would improve the “general condition of the flock” [8,46,82]. Secondly, model-based evidence showed the positive economic effects of biosecurity in backyard poultry [68]. In articles about biosecurity, impact is confused with input or process indicators such as the number of trained people. Nevertheless, there is a general understanding that interventions require community participation and ownership to be successful [83,84]. Other papers on biosecurity input conclude that gender and age analyses should be included in husbandry and training study, because knowledge of HPAI A/H5N1 for example is correlated with socio-economic factors [85]. However, behaviour towards biosecurity varies according to other social factors (marital status for example), hence the inclusion of gender and economic strategy analysis to promote adequate intervention [70,86-88].

Discussion
This review confirms the challenges of raising backyard poultry in such a way as to limit poultry deaths or morbidity due to well-known infectious agents, and discusses how to abide by biosecurity measures that are adapted and financially acceptable [54]. Although basic principles of biosecurity are undisputed regardless of poultry sector, few documents have been published about the impact and efficiency of biosecurity measures in backyard poultry flocks. As a result, guidelines on specific recommendations for improving biosecurity are limited. We found few FAO recommendations, most of which were written in the form of reports following specific country requests or consultancies that only engage their authors. Interestingly, the large majority of these documents have been issued since 2004, as they referred to or were requested following the pandemic threat posed by HPAI A/H5N1 virus infection in humans and birds. Most of these documents were funded by short term projects specifically geared towards emergency response to HPAI...
A/H5N1 instead of the willingness for government to invest in a long-term program. Even in the US and other developed countries, only fact sheets are produced by different organizations or universities [89,90]. There appear to be no national guidelines with practical information about biosecurity for backyard poultry [61].

Secondly, scientific articles looking at specific, adapted solutions to improve the control of infectious diseases in backyard poultry in developing countries are scarce. Despite the fact that 80% of the global poultry population is backyard-raised [3,4], some recommendations in the guidelines or reports are based on indirect evidence as to their efficiency and technical feasibility. However, a number of financial constraints were recognized in implementing these measures in a resource-poor setting. With the exception of one economic model [91], there are virtually no cost-benefit studies using field data. Guidelines have been issued to train farmers on how to reduce contacts with domestic birds and increase biosecurity in backyard flocks [33,69,77,78]. Studies showed that despite these training programmes and high awareness of transmission risk due to HPAI A/H5N1, a significant proportion of villagers continue their at-risk behaviours and practices; like in Egypt and elsewhere, many families rely on backyard poultry for their livelihood contributing to food security [64,76]. This discrepancy is likely explained by the fact that measures are often costly and may not be adapted to the economic considerations inherent to backyard poultry [54]. As reported many villagers tend to change their practices when these measures are economically beneficial [92,93]. Free ranging, for instance, is practised to enable easier and cheap access to feed on the ground or water from ponds or rivers. There is a paucity of data demonstrating the real impact of these measures [72]. Instead, we were only able to identify studies on the impact or effectiveness of these measures, evaluated according to the number of trained people [84] or the absence of outbreaks without control groups [82]. We are left with the impression that the proposed lists of recommendations were made without weighing biosecurity measures according to prioritization criteria, efficiency or financial and technical feasibility. Indeed, we believe that these control measures often derive from facts and evidence demonstrated in intensive sectors [94-96]. Compared with backyard poultry sector related studies, the number of studies from Pubmed on biosecurity in commercial farms is much higher (46 versus 15 for intensive and backyard respectively) (data not shown). As a major global industry, poultry mass production warrants the highest level of biosecurity to prevent the introduction and transmission of known pathogens. Resources have therefore been made available to optimize profits by identifying the most cost-effective measures using sound, robust methodologies such as cluster randomized and controlled trials [94].

Biosecurity implementation requires awareness, resources and the perception of higher risk and loss of profit. Unfortunately, as these conditions are not met, there is insufficient interest in the need to protect backyard poultry. This situation is likely related to multiple factors including a combination of the low economic importance of backyard poultry worldwide, absence of synergetic interests in zoonotic diseases between public health and livestock-related health, and the fact that backyard poultry is thought to pose little infectious disease-related risk to commercial farms [34,97]. Firstly, poultry rearing is often a secondary activity, a means of generating additional food high in protein content and nutritional value [27], and of generating additional income [26,92]. Implementation of basic biosecurity measures in villages to safeguard poultry is not seen as a priority. When there is low investment in poultry rearing, mortality is common, and is not seen as damaging for the household [13,14]. Secondly, prior to the occurrence of HPAI A/H5N1 epidemics and epizootics, most infectious diseases affecting backyard poultry were of little or no concern for public health. Many of these infections were non-zoonotic or involved mild infection in humans (e.g. ND, Fowl cholera) and outbreaks due mostly to salmonella or campylobacter from backyard poultry to humans rarely cause human death and often go undetected or under-recognized in developing countries [98,99]. Thirdly, it is thought that in developed countries commercial operations or farms that practice good biosecurity have fairly low transmission from backyard flocks [62]. In investigations conducted in North America or Europe backyard flocks appeared to have played little part in disease spread between commercial poultry farms [97,100,101]; hence the low investment for public health research on biosecurity adapted to backyard flocks throughout the world.

Although biosecurity is not a recent issue, the threat of HPAI A/H5N1 since 2004 to humans and poultry production (in terms of public health and economy) has underlined the lack of biosecurity in backyard farms in developing countries. Backyard flocks in high HPAI A/H5N1 virus transmission areas were initially thought as having a higher likelihood of HPAI A/H5N1 infection than commercial flocks because of higher frequency of exposure to wild birds [102-104]. Although spatio-temporal studies have proved the presence of free range duck flocks as a risk factor of HPAI A/H5N1 at regional level [105], recent studies indicate instead a lower risk of HPAI A/H5N1 in backyard flocks at farm level [106-109]. The current view is that no system is more to blame for infectious disease spread, and that biosecurity levels have to be increased in both commercial and

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backyard poultry systems [108,110]. In addition, the transmission of HPAI A/H5N1 is officially enzootic in 4 countries (Indonesia, Vietnam, Bangladesh, Egypt) according to FAO [111] and probably in other countries such as Cambodia [112]. Even drastic biosecurity in commercial poultry production systems in both the developed and developing worlds would hardly prevent the introduction of HPAI A/H5N1 or other infectious agents in the free-disease areas if biosecurity in the backyard sector does not increase dramatically. As shown in California, USA, exotic ND was transmitted to commercial farms in multiple geographic regions by bird and human movements associated with the backyard-flock sector [113].

Admittedly, our review may not be exhaustive and complete. We may well have missed unpublished observations and studies, particularly those conducted at a small scale or as part of a community development project. Indeed, many of the latter projects may have involved assessing biosecurity measures that improved livestock production in rural areas. Nevertheless, should these data exist, the appropriate evaluation of measures for backyard poultry settings is lacking and practical information is not readily available.

To date, control of HPAI A/H5N1 in endemic countries has basically relied on poultry vaccination (e.g. China, Indonesia, Egypt or Vietnam) and massive culling whenever HPAI A/H5N1 is detected [114,115]. However, these interventions have been difficult to sustain [116]. Furthermore, their efficiency in eliminating the virus from the poultry population is yet to be evidenced: vaccination as in Egypt [116] or culling with or without compensation policies as in Southeast Asia [117] can prove counterproductive i.e. economic losses that discourage reporting [118]; and new costs related to vaccination are not readily supported by backyard poultry farmers. In view of the mounting evidence that HPAI A/H5N1 can be transmitted through contaminated environments [119,120], we recommend that biosecurity measures, if appropriate, should be better promoted as a crucial intervention in containing H5N1 circulation. The international animal and public health community should encourage further research or projects to identify sustainable measures, which must be practical and proportionate to the risk [34,115]. In addition, we believe that the correct approach to zoonotic diseases should be holistic, based on the principle of improving personal and community hygiene to prevent all infectious diseases in backyard poultry to eventually mitigate exposure and transmission risk to humans. The keys to success and sustainability would undoubtedly involve engaging the community [34] and assessing the impact and economic benefit of a healthy livestock thanks to community hygiene.

**Conclusion**

Our review confirmed that biosecurity is considered as an indispensable tool to mitigate the spread of infectious diseases. However, many recommendations for backyard flocks are not entirely practical. No general guidelines were found for backyard poultry-related biosecurity in developing countries. Although biosecurity principles of isolation and containment remain, few documents were found about the impact of measures in backyard settings and none gave any evidence of their feasibility and effectiveness. Moreover, most of the studies were short-term research and lacked evaluations of the sustainability of the recommended biosecurity measures. Long-term national programs should be envisaged in the future. Given the persistent threat posed by HPAI A/H5N1 to humans in developing countries, our findings highlight the importance of encouraging applied research toward identifying sustained and adapted biosecurity measures for backyard poultry flocks in low income settings.

**Additional file**

**Additional file 1: Annex 1. Main characteristics and information of studies included in the review after the study selection process.**

**Abbreviations**

AGAH: Animal production and health division; AVSF: Agronomes et vétérinaires sans frontières; FAO: Food and agriculture organization; HPAI: Highly pathogenic avian influenza; KAP: Knowledge attitude and practices; ND: Newcastle disease; OIE: World organization for animal health.

**Competing interests**

The authors declare that they have no competing interests.

**Authors’ contributions**

AC and SV designed the study. AC conducted the literature review and wrote the manuscript. FG, SS and SV were instrumental in collecting data and the grey literature and reviewed the manuscript. All authors approved the final version.

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