

**Regional Joint Conference on
“Disaster: Relief and Management –
International Cooperation & Role of ICT”
*Alexandria, Egypt, 14 - 17 April 2007***

**Session X: Special Session on Avian and
Pandemic Influenza
Current Situation of Avian Influenza and
Future Predictions**

ICT Contingency Planning for Avian Flu

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WHO/EMRO**

H5N1 Avian Influenza Pandemic

- **Your mission as ICT manager:**

“Responsible for keeping mission critical ICT systems functional”;

H5N1 Avian Influenza Pandemic

- **The possible problems you have:**
 - **40-50% of the staff are not able to reach the offices;**
 - **Some key staff are infected themselves or a member in the family;**
 - **The pandemic will run for two to three weeks;**
 - **Travel restrictions and embargo on importation of spare parts and goods;**

H5N1 Avian Influenza Pandemic

- **The possible problems you have:**
 - **Only two weeks for you to prepare yourself, your team and your infrastructure;**
 - **Working from home becomes the only option for many of the technical staff;**
 - **Other partners, suppliers, vendors, etc are not in a much better situation than you are;**
 - **The pandemic has become a global issue;**

Possible actions

- Set up the network and enable connectivity to allow remote access to over 70% of the staff to work from home;
- Prepare applications to be web-enabled with thin client to avoid security problems and local installations on portables home computers;
- Provide portable computers pre-loaded with all necessary application interfaces and tables to reduce connection time and upload/downloads;

Possible actions

- Prepare and provide e-learning materials to inform staff on the pandemic in general and transmission, care, etc in particular;
- Cross-training of ICT staff to handle critical functions such as network administration, database administration, event management, trouble-shooting, etc.

Response Strategies

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