Updates on RVF in East Africa

Etienne Bonbon
FAO HQ / EMC-AH
Between May 11 and June 30, 2018, 106 human RVF cases (76 probable and 30 confirmed) were identified in three counties in Kenya.

RVF outbreaks have hit the region several times over the past two years: RVF infections have been reported in Uganda (in animals and humans, November 2017), South Sudan (in animals in December 2017 and humans in May 2018), Kenya (in animals and humans, May 2018), Rwanda (in animals, May 2018), Mayotte (in animals and humans, November 2018), Chad (in wild animals, May 2019) and Central Africa Republic (in humans, August 2019).
RVF Regional Technical Workshop in Eastern Africa, August 2018

OBJECTIVES AND ATTENDANCE

- Share knowledge on current RVF situation in Eastern Africa
- Harmonize approaches to RVF preparedness and response including surveillance and vaccination
- Agree on outlines for national preparedness and response action plans, and a regional roadmap to achieve these goals

Co-organized by FAO and EAC

77 participants

11 countries including Burundi, Djibouti, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, Kenya, Nigeria, South Sudan, Somalia, Sudan, Uganda and Tanzania

CVOs, CMOs, heads of veterinary laboratory diagnostic, heads of epidemiology units

AU-IBAR, EAC, ILRI, Agricultural Research Council - OVI, FAO, OIE, WHO, GIZ, USAID
### RVF Regional Technical Workshop in Eastern Africa, August 2018 - recommendations and implementation status – country level

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Recommendation</th>
<th>Ethiopia</th>
<th>Kenya</th>
<th>Rwanda</th>
<th>Uganda</th>
<th>Tanzania</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Establish RVF working groups within national OH platforms (disease control, surveillance, preparedness &amp; response)</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
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<td>Translate the OIE TAHC guidelines (chapter 8.15) regarding infection with RVF virus into national legislations</td>
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<td>Review national preparedness and contingency plans and related SOPs (awaiting formal approval)</td>
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<td>Review/ensure that vaccination is performed in strict compliance with international standards</td>
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<td>Meeting recommendations</td>
<td>FAO-OIE-WHO-EAC-IGAD-AU IBAR-AU PANVAC-Donors</td>
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<td>Formation of a RVF regional technical advisory group (RVF technical working group), to be chaired by the EAC</td>
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<td>Development and dissemination of reference guidance on various aspects of RVF management including mechanism of disease spread, risk assessment, risk communication, vaccination, surveillance and sentinel herds, response and post-outbreak recovery, food safety, public health risks and occupational safety, to be led by FAO</td>
<td>Alignment with the R&amp;D/ roadmap and strategic goals/milestones</td>
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<tr>
<td>Studies to evaluate socio-economic impacts and demonstrate the cost-effectiveness of proposed prevention and mitigation measures – FAO to support countries in conducting the studies</td>
<td>Cross-cutting issues : RVF forecasting, early warning and risk communication</td>
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<td>Support scientific researches in RVF vaccines and vaccination strategies</td>
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<td>Promote harmonization of regional approaches to develop and implement RVF strategies including surveillance, laboratory diagnosis, prevention/control – across</td>
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RVF Regional Technical Workshop in Eastern Africa, August 2018 - recommendations – global/regional level and partners
October-December 2019 - The Sudan, Rift Valley fever (RVF)

- On 13 October 2019, the country notified one outbreak of RVF in goats in Arbaat dam area, in Red Sea state. Human cases were confirmed in the same state.
- Up to now, no updates on animal cases, the events are considered closed in OIE WAHIS.
- Humans - confirmed: According to WHO, since the onset of the disease on 28 September up to 21 November 2019, a total of 319 RVF cases, including 11 deaths, were reported in River Nile (n=186), Red Sea (n=128), Kassala (n=2), Khartoum (n=1), White Nile (n=1) and Gedaref (n=1) states.
• **Sudan**: FAO HQ is regularly in contact with FAO Field officers for sharing additional info on the event;

• An Emergency Room for RVF was established and FAO was nominated as a member: coordination with veterinary authorities at federal and state levels was activated;

• FAO Sudan is supporting shipment of samples (to Soba Central Lab) and resource mobilization for importation of vaccines;

• GLEWS+ platform was activated for sharing Epidemiological updates (human & veterinary situation);
October-December 2019 - The Sudan, Rift Valley fever (RVF)

• **Egypt**: Egyptian Animal Health Research Institute said that a mobile laboratory equipped with a veterinary and technical team has been installed in Aswan to address the RVF issue related to the outbreak of the disease in Sudan. The team collects samples from different places in Aswan governorate to carry out the tasks entrusted to it, in accordance with recognized standards and controls that determine the methods of sampling to ensure transparency in analysis and verification. From the results of analysis and prompt reporting of these results, appropriate decisions can be made to protect Egypt's livestock.

• The awareness and understanding of farmers and breeders dealing positively with the preventive measures are praised; this includes the progress of the RVF vaccination campaign of livestock, required to defend the health of citizens in the Aswan governorate.
October-December 2019 - The Sudan, Rift Valley fever (RVF)

- On 16 October 2019, FAO issued an Alert message to the Central Veterinary Officers (CVOs) of the region and FAO Representatives.
- An Incident Coordination Group (ICG) have been created by FAO EMC-AH, in order to coordinate communication (awareness messages, preventive measures, recommendations) to ensure that messages sent to countries and national authorities are aligned and consistent.
- FAO EMC-AH is developing/updating key messages on disease transmission and vector control to be shared with countries and partners.
- A FAO EMC-AH Preparedness & Assessment mission was sent in Djibouti (11-14 November 2019).
October-December 2019 - The Sudan, Rift Valley fever (RVF)

- **Djibouti**: A FAO EMC-AH Preparedness & Assessment mission was conducted (11-14 November 2019). Based on the outcome of the mission, the risk of incursion from neighboring countries of RVF is considered negligible to low and risk of spread within country is low. Risk of introduction and spread at the quarantine station is negligible to low.

- The below actions has to be implemented from the country:
  1) to hold national study to identify risk zones;
  2) to generate risk maps for RVF;
  3) to develop and disseminate preparedness and response plan;
  4) to work on awareness campaign.
Emergency Management Centre for Animal Health
What does the EMC-AH do?

**PILLARS**

**PREPAREDNESS**
Support countries to enhance their readiness for the management of animal health emergencies

**RESPONSE**
Support countries at risk or affected to respond to animal health emergencies

**INCIDENT COORDINATION**
Develop leadership and expertise and support national, regional and international coordination of animal health events

**COLLABORATION AND RESOURCES MOBILIZATION**
Develop strong collaborative networks and resource availability for a timely and effective management of animal health emergencies

**ACTIONS**

- **BUILDING EMERGENCY CAPACITIES**
  - GEMP workshops

- **EMERGENCY MISSIONS**
  - Alert missions
  - Surge support for protracted emergencies

- **COORDINATION PLATFORM**
  - Coordination platform for local, regional and global animal health emergency
  - Incident Coordination Groups (ICG)

- **PARTNERSHIP WITH OIE, WHO, INTERPOL**
Incident Coordination of AH Events

- Situation Awareness
- Resource Requests
- Overarching Situation Reports
- Resource Mobilization

- OIE
- EMC-AH FAO HQ
- FAO PSE
- FAO AGAH
- WHO
- FAO Region
- National Organizations
- National
- Field
- Field
- WHO
Purpose

• Connect the efforts of international animal health personnel at the national, regional, and global sector
• Ensure the coordination and delivery of consistent messages to the public and media
• Contribute to cooperation and collaboration among animal health emergency institutions and stakeholders
• Set the overall strategy for the response to animal health incidents
Activities

1. Maintain situational awareness and share updates from multiple sources,
2. Coordinate risk communication among animal health personnel
3. Offer recommendations for development of policy and risk communication materials
4. Support local offices, national veterinary services, regional offices, and headquarters
5. Provide guidance and tools for emergency response, as warranted, and
November 2019: Preparedness mission in Djibouti
Animal identification

• For the country

No animal identification is in place.

• For the quarantine station

All animals (small ruminants, camels and bovines), only males. Animals come mainly from Ethiopia and Somalia. No commercial link with the Sudan exists. Health certificates (only from Ethiopia) are controlled by the official veterinarians. They are received in a pre-quarantine station where they stay for few days. Once received in the quarantine station (composed of 3 different stations A, B and C), all animals are individually identified (individual numbers and colours by trader).
**Surveillance**

- **For the country**
  Sentinel herds in the past. The last data available is from 2016 – 1,500 small ruminants in total covering the 6 administrative regions.

  Vector surveillance is implemented by MoH (malaria surveillance and control activities). Vector breeding sites are active all year long in Djibouti City, while in the rest of the country (rural areas) two seasons are suitable for vector abundance and malaria outbreaks: February to May and October to mid-December.

- **For the quarantine station**
  Depending on the trading partners requirements, animals remain in quarantine between 14 and 21 days. Every 3 months vector surveillance is in place.
For the country
ID Screen RVF Competition Multi-Species by IDVet was used in the latest surveillance campaign of 2016 in the national veterinary laboratory housed in the Veterinary Services.

For the quarantine station
ID Screen RVF Competition Multi-Species by IDVet is currently used in the quarantine laboratory. There is not PCR (or RT-PCR) capacity currently in the laboratory.

No inter laboratory essay is implemented and laboratory SOPs are not existing (they were not updated after introduction of the IDVet competitive ELISA test in May).

Positive animals sera are not tested for IgM (animals are just excluded from shipment once found seropositives).

Samples are not kept after analysis is performed.


**Biosecurity**

- **For the country**
  Most of the farms are extensive and nomadic (90%) with limited biosecurity measures.

- **For the quarantine station**
  The pre-quarantine station is located 3 km away from the rest of the quarantine station. Wheel dips (TH4, changed every two days) are present at the entrance of the 3 different premises (pre-quarantine, station A /B and station C) constituting the quarantine station.
  Triple fenced. Specific staff.
  Rodent control programmes are applied.
  Specific trucks are washed and disinfected at the end of the shipment activities.
  Pens are disinfected and disinsected after the batch is gone.
Awareness

Awareness on the disease (symptoms, exposure pathways, risk factors) needs to be addressed.
Risk assessment – country – NEGLIGIBLE to LOW
Risk assessment – quarantine - NEGLIGIBLE

Mission

Ps=N

Ps partner= N

Ps DJ=L

Pi=N
Objectif 1 : Augmenter les capacités du pays à prévenir et répondre à la FVR

### Activités

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1.1. Augmenter les connaissances du risque FVR dans le contexte Djiboutien</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mener une enquête nationale de détermination des zones favorables aux vecteurs</td>
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<tr>
<td>Identifier les zones à risque</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dresser les cartes du risque FVR</td>
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<tr>
<td>Conduire une enquête de surveillance basée sur les cartes du risque</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rédiger le rapport de surveillance</td>
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<tr>
<th>1.2. Préparer un plan national de préparation et de réponse à la FVR</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Conduire une enquête de sensibilisation sur la maladie</td>
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<tr>
<td>Conduire une série d’ateliers pour rediger le plan de preparation et de reponse a la FVR</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tester le plan par exercices de simulations au niveau national et local</td>
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<tr>
<td>Finaliser le plan, valider au niveau politique et diffuser par une série d’ateliers</td>
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<tr>
<th>1.3. Augmenter la sensibilité des partenaires étatiques, commerciaux et régionaux</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Préciser dans les certificats sanitaires les résultats des tests IG pour les animaux</td>
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<tr>
<td>Discuter des possibilités de recourir à la vaccination de 100% des lots destinés à l'export</td>
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<td>Création d’une plateforme “Une Sante” avec le ministère de la santé</td>
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<tr>
<td>Continuer les discussions régionales sur la RVF</td>
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<tr>
<td>Discuter de l’harmonisation des procédures et exigences de quarantaines et exportations vis-à-vis de la FVR</td>
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### Ressources

- DSV (FAO)
- DSV (FAO)
- DSV (FAO)
- DSV (FAO)
## Emergency workplan – for the station

**Objectif 2: Augmenter les capacités du centre de quarantaine contre la FVR**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activités</th>
<th>mois 1</th>
<th>mois 2</th>
<th>mois 3</th>
<th>mois 4</th>
<th>mois 5</th>
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<th>mois 9</th>
<th>mois 10</th>
<th>mois 11</th>
<th>mois 12</th>
<th>Ressources</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>2.1 Valoriser l’expertise diagnostique du laboratoire</strong></td>
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<td>Prima</td>
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<td>Engager le laboratoire dans une démarche de tests inter-laboratoires</td>
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<td>S’inscrire dans une démarche ISO 17025</td>
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<td>Mettre à jour les POS pour le laboratoire</td>
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<td><strong>2.2 Adaptation des protocoles des laboratoires</strong></td>
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<td>Utiliser des lunettes de laboratoire en routine</td>
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<td>Mettre en place une recherche IgM pour tout résultat Elisa FVR positif</td>
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<td>Développer des POS spécifiques en cas d’animal positif au test ELISA IgM</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>2.3 Améliorer les protocoles de gestion du centre</strong></td>
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<td>Mettre à jour les POS de gestion (rotolubes...)</td>
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<td>Recueillir les données entomologiques de la base allemande ou, dans le cas contraire, mettre en place des pièges</td>
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Thank you

Protecting people, animals, and the environment everyday