

Fact Sheet on Rift Valley Fever

Empowering Communities to prevent and control Rift valley Fever in Baringo County, Kenya.



**A product of WHO/TDR/IDRC sponsored research project on
Population Health Vulnerabilities to Vector-borne Diseases:
Increasing Resilience under Climate
Change Conditions in Africa.**



World Health
Organization

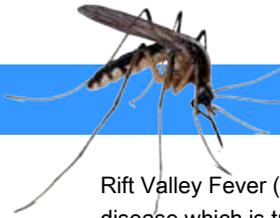


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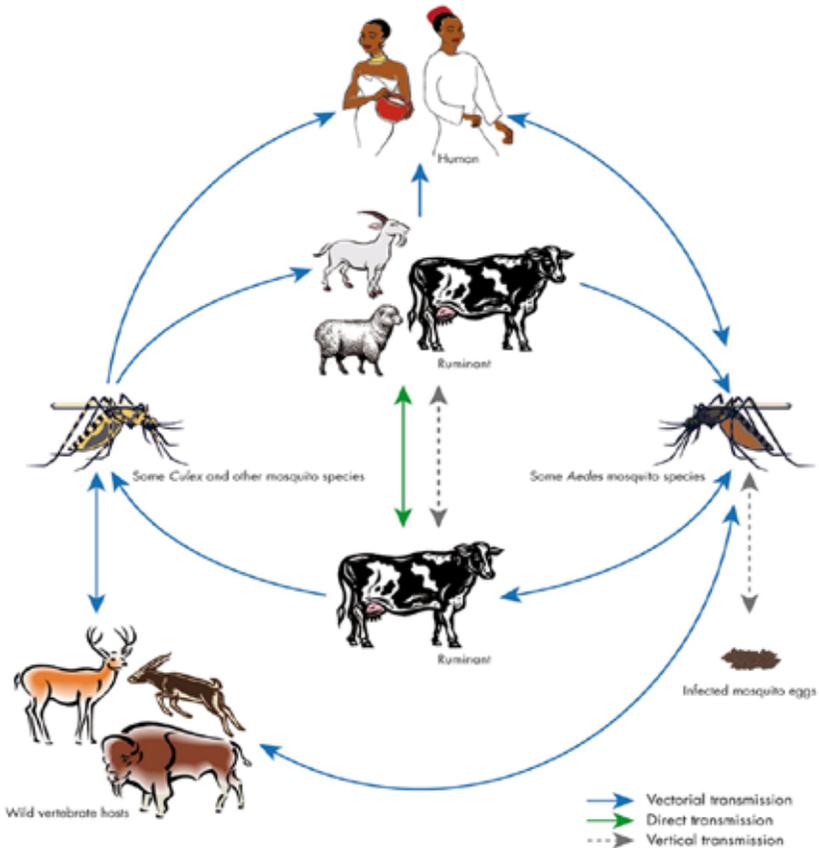
Transmission of Rift Valley Fever

Rift Valley Fever (RVF) is a viral disease which is transmitted by mosquitoes to livestock and spreads to human through contact with infected animal fluids or through the consumption of products from infected animals.

The 2006/2007 outbreak occurred in Baringo County following El-Nino rains in four villages surrounding Lake 94 namely:

- Longewan
- Sintan
- Ngambo
- Sirata

RVF Transmission Life Cycle



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Who is at risk of getting infected with Rift Valley Fever?



Anyone can get infected with Rift Valley Fever. However, animal herders, workers in abattoirs and slaughter slabs, and livestock traders are more at risk of getting infected with the Fever.





Common Practices that pre-dispose communities to RVF



1. Handling or slaughtering livestock without appropriate protective clothing.
2. Skinning dead animals before disposing of the carcasses.
3. Consumption of animals suspected to be infected with RVF.
4. Ignoring government bans on trade, slaughter or consumption of meat during RVF outbreaks
5. Poor disposal of carcasses or animal waste products during an outbreak.
6. Community beliefs such as not burying dead animals (whole) like people.

Some common myths
on the causes of RVF

- ❖ That RVF is brought about by change in wind and weather patterns.
- ❖ That burying livestock (mostly cattle) that die of disease with their hides on would result in the other animals contracting the disease.



Common Symptoms of RVF in Animals

An outbreak of RVF in animals frequently manifests itself as follows:

- ❖ Unexplained mass abortions in cattle, sheep and goats may signal the start of an epidemic.
- ❖ Nearly all pregnant sheep (ewes) abort when infected with Rift Valley Fever
- ❖ Sheep and goats tend to be more susceptible than cattle and other livestock.

Other symptoms include:

Loss of appetite
Fever
General body weakness and
Nasal discharge

***If you suspect RVF in livestock,
report to the nearest Veterinary office immediately***





Common Symptoms of RVF in Humans

In its mild form RVF is characterized by:

- ❖ Feverish syndrome
- ❖ Some patients develop neck stiffness,
- ❖ Sensitivity to light,
- ❖ loss of appetite and vomiting;

Ensure you seek medical attention from the nearest health facility whenever you have any of the above symptoms



Managing Rift Valley Fever

1. Avoid consuming milk and raw blood from livestock that is suspected to be sick.
2. Ensure that animals slaughtered for domestic consumption are inspected by trained veterinary personnel or a local animal expert.
3. Use protective wear while handling animals suspected to have died of RVF or any other disease and bury or burn the carcass.
4. Livestock traders should suspend trade whenever called upon until the ban is lifted .
5. Livestock that die on transit to or from the markets should not be slaughtered for consumption; sold to public or left in the open to rot.
6. Avoid skinning animals suspected to have died of RVF or any other sickness.
7. Present your livestock for vaccination whenever called upon by the Veterinary officers or any other authorised persons



Prevention and Control of RVF

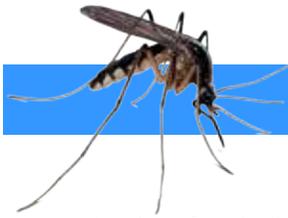


Testing and vaccination is key in preventing RVF in Livestock.

Other Preventive and control measures include:

1. Diversification of diet and livelihood activities during an outbreak can help prevent spread RVF from animals to humans and from place to place.
2. Adherence to bans and restrictions on animal movement.
3. Adherence to bans on consumption of animal products during periods of RVF outbreaks.





Recommendations

1. Intensify activities to increase awareness and knowledge of RVF.
2. Conduct timely disease surveillance exercise and vaccination of livestock against RVF.
3. Encourage communities to actively participate in vaccination to control RVF
4. Monitor mosquito vector presence and abundance to develop a useful early warning tool for the local occurrence and transmission of RVF.
5. Encourage practices that reduce exposure and risks of RVF infections.

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