



Mitigating the risk of Rift Valley fever (RVF) emergence and impacts in East Africa

Project code: OSRO/RAF/804/IRE

Donor: Ireland

Contribution: USD 227 531

Implementation: 8/01/2019 – 7/01/2020

Target areas: Kenya, Uganda and United Republic of Tanzania



Contact

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Objective:	To enhance the animal health systems of the target countries for prevention, detection and response to RVF emergence, incursion and spread at regional level.
Key partners:	The Governments of Kenya, Uganda and United Republic of Tanzania through the Directorate of Veterinary Services, Ministry of Agriculture in Kenya and the Department of Animal Health, Directorate of Animal Resources, Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries in Uganda and the Directorate of Veterinary Services, Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries in the United Republic of Tanzania.
Beneficiaries reached:	The project has contributed to information and knowledge sharing between national experts in the three countries, as well as capacity development in prediction, forecasting, modelling, and response to RVF outbreaks in the region.
Activities implemented:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Created a guideline document for RVF preparedness, response and contingency plans for the target countries.• Developed the web-based RVF Early Warning Decision Support Tool (RVF EA-DST) to guide early action against any potential outbreak of RVF in the region.• Reviewed and updated the preparedness and contingency plans for RVF in Kenya and the United Republic of Tanzania.• Conducted a backstopping and technical mission in Machakos, Kenya.
Results:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Enhanced early warning and forecasting capacity at global, regional and country levels.• Integrated risk modelling techniques and expert knowledge into the RVF EA-DST to facilitate and guide early action and improved preparedness and control.• Increased the technical capacity of national veterinary services.• Improved monthly RVF risk forecasting and assessments, issuing three alert messages to the region.• An alert message issued for the Horn of Africa and the surrounding countries (mid-October 2019) highlighted the threat of RVF well before the reporting of the first signs of infection in Uganda (December 2019); as a result, an Incident Coordination Group of the FAO Emergency Management Centre for Animal Health was activated and a response mission was conducted to the country.• Used risk maps produced to target field activities in Uganda and conduct a rapid risk assessment; this in turn prompted neighbouring Rwanda to carry out a national vaccination campaign covering 67 percent of the livestock population.