



# INFLUENCE OF FORMAL AND INFORMAL CONTROL OPTIONS OF RIFT VALLEY FEVER IN KAJIADO AND NAROK COMMUNITIES, KENYA

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## INTRODUCTION

Rift Valley Fever (RVF) disease was first reported in Kenya in 1912 and isolated in 1931. It is caused by the RVF virus, genus *Phlebovirus* and family *Bunyaviridae* and transmitted by mosquitoes from the *Aedes* genera. RVF can also be transmitted to humans through the handling of infected animal tissues and fluids.



## OBJECTIVES

To establish the socio-cultural and economic impact of Rift Valley Fever disease in areas which were affected by the 2006-2007 outbreaks in Kenya

### Specific objectives

1. To determine the impact of Rift Valley Fever disease occurrence on the socio-cultural activities in affected areas;
2. To compare types of risk factors in pastoral and dairy farming areas for the occurrence of Rift Valley Fever; and,
3. To determine the effectiveness of vaccination against Rift valley fever and the impact of the intervention on pastoral and dairying livestock owners.



Sheep omasum, heart and liver showing hemorrhages in a case of RVF.

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

Data was collected from Kajiado North and Narok. Data was collected in both areas affected by the 2006-2007 outbreaks and those not affected within the same location to determine the presence or absence of various risk factors.

## STUDY HYPOTHESIS

Communities affected by outbreaks of RVF disease in the 2006-2007 year experienced severe interruptions in socio-cultural and economic activities but they had usable indigenous knowledge to cope with the effects of the outbreaks

## DATA ANALYSIS

SPSS was used for data analysis.

## Wayforward:

A socio-economics baseline study has been carried out using questionnaires and focus discussion groups in each area. Blood samples will be obtained from livestock as well as a typical hosts, like dogs, poultry, rodents and ticks in outbreak and non outbreak areas and tested for RVF virus and anti-RVF antibodies. A vaccine trial will be carried out under controlled conditions. One male (Augustino Alfred Chengula- Sokoine University of Agriculture) and one female (Victoria Mutua Ng'ondeu- University of Nairobi) students have been recruited to the project.

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