Inter-epidemic Rift Valley fever virus seropositivity in an irrigation scheme in Bura, south-east Kenya

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Rift Valley fever: Background
Rift Valley fever: Distribution

Spatial and temporal distribution of reported Rift Valley fever outbreaks in Africa and the Arabian Peninsula (1912 – 2012) Total number of human deaths (HD) is indicated for selected countries for all outbreak periods. (Nanyingi et al., 2015)
Rift Valley fever: Study aim

Investigate low-level RVFV transmission during an inter-epidemic period (IEP) in Bura irrigation scheme and evaluate the role of potential risk factors.
Materials and methods: Study site
Bura irrigation scheme, Tana River County, southeast Kenya

[Map showing Bura, Chifiri, Husingo, and Tana River]
Materials and methods: Study design

- Longitudinal study – 10 months
  - Open sentinel herd – sheep and goats
    - Screening of anti-RVFV immunoglobulin IgG antibodies directed against RVF virus nucleoprotein
    - Commercially available ELISA kits from ID Screen® from Idvet (Louis Pasteur, France)
    - Testing done using manufacture’s protocol

- Bura (irrigation scheme) – 139 animals
- Husingo (riverine) – 109 animals
- Chifiri (pastoralism) – 69 animals
Materials and methods: Study design

• Periodic sampling done 6 times
  • 3 times during short wet season - Nov-Dec 2014, Jan 2015
  • 3 times during dry season – Sept 2014, Mar & Jun 2015

• Data analysis
  • Generalized linear mixed-effects model (GLM) with binomial family structure in R 3.2.3
  • Account for sample selection method
    • Bura & Husingo – not random (from previous study)
    • Chifiri - random
  • Kaplan-Meier survival analysis
  • 2 levels of analyses (outcomes)
    • Seroprevalence
    • Seroconversion
Results: Seroprevalence

- Total 39 (12.3%) animals tested positive during study period
  - Varied across sampling sites
  - Pastoralist village - 26.1%
  - Irrigation and riverine - 8.6% and 8.3% seropositive animals respectively
Results: Seroconversion

Seroconversions – 15

• Irrigation villages – 7, spread over 4 months (Dec – Mar)
• Riverine village – 8, all in Jan 2015, (wet season)
• Pastoral village – None

• Incidence rate (new cases per 1000 animals per month) was not significantly different (p>0.05) between the irrigated (7) and the riverine areas (11)

• Seroconversions significantly higher in wet season between November 2014-January 2015 than in dry season (OR=71.22, CI= 13.54- 752.15, p=<0.001)
Results: Seroconversion
Results: Seroconversion

Kaplan-Meier survival analysis of RVF virus seropositivity by site

- irrigated
- pastoral
- riverine

Probability of survival vs Months
Conclusion

Creation and expansion of irrigation schemes in this region

- Establishes more habitats that appear similar to the riverine ecosystem
  - RVF incidence

- Potentially contributes in endemic transmission of vector-borne diseases that naturally occur in similar suitable ecosystems

- Increases risk of local RVFV endemicity

- Policy makers
  - Better understanding for vector and RVF prevention and control within changing environment
Acknowledgments

- Dr Anderson Thuo Njau, DVO Bura, Kenya
- Samuel Cheruyiot Tonui, AHA, Bura, Kenya
- John Maigwa Kimani, AHA, Kabete, Kenya
- State Department for Veterinary Services in Kabete, Bura, Garissa
- Dahlem Research School (DRS)
- Institute for Parasitology and Tropical Veterinary Medicine

Financial support

- German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) in Bonn, Germany
- International Livestock Research Institute (ILR), Nairobi, Kenya
- Dynamic Drivers of Disease in Africa Consortium (DDDAC), Nairobi, Kenya
Thank you!

Questions?

http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/d/d0/Aedes_asiaticus.jpg