Developing vaccination strategies for Rift Valley fever in East Africa

- Rift Valley fever is a viral disease that affects both humans and livestock (Figure 1). It is associated with severe febrile illness in people and extensive loss of productivity in livestock. The disease is endemic in East Africa (Figure 2).

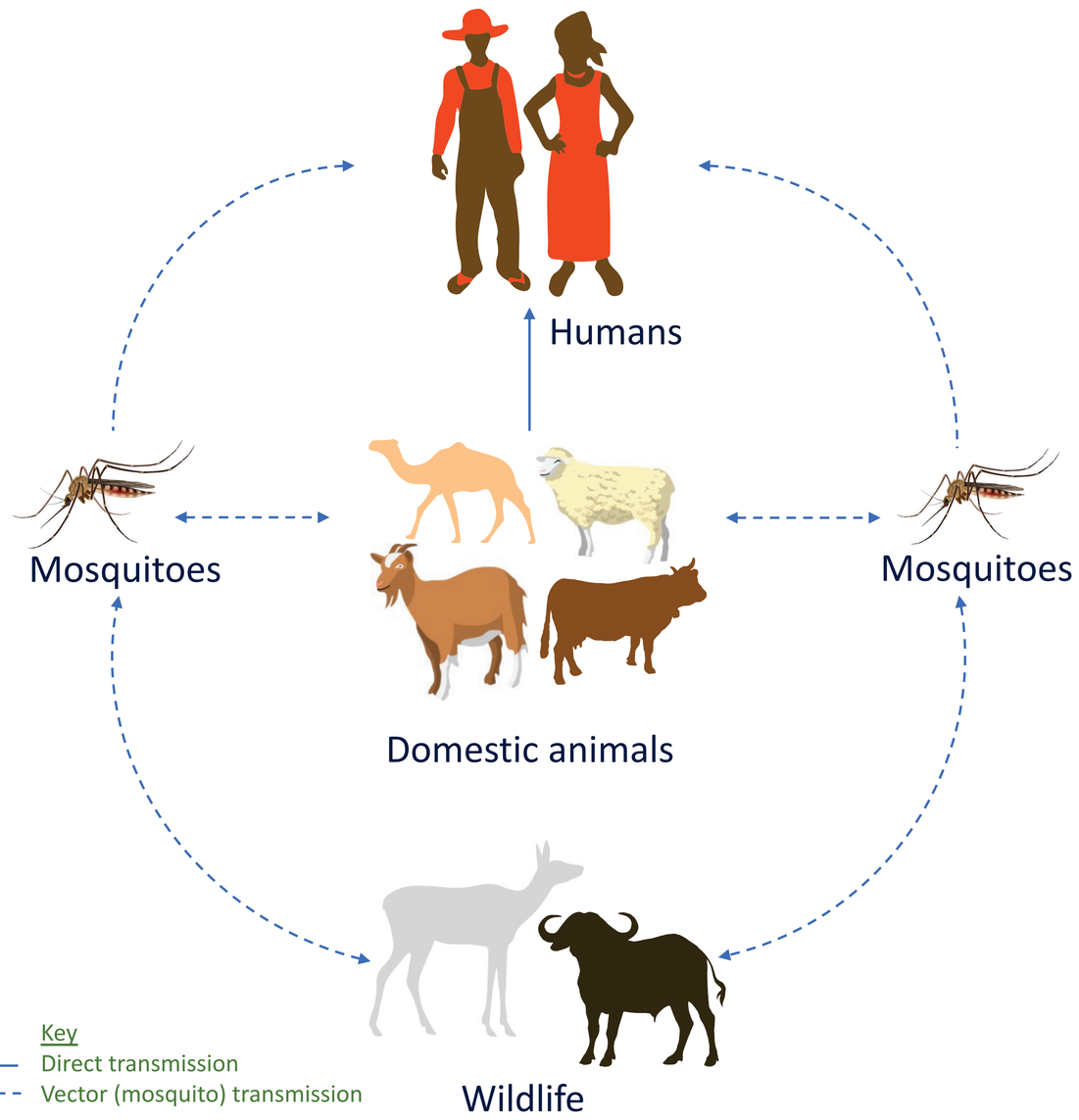

Figure 1. Schematic representation of transmission cycles of the Rift Valley fever virus

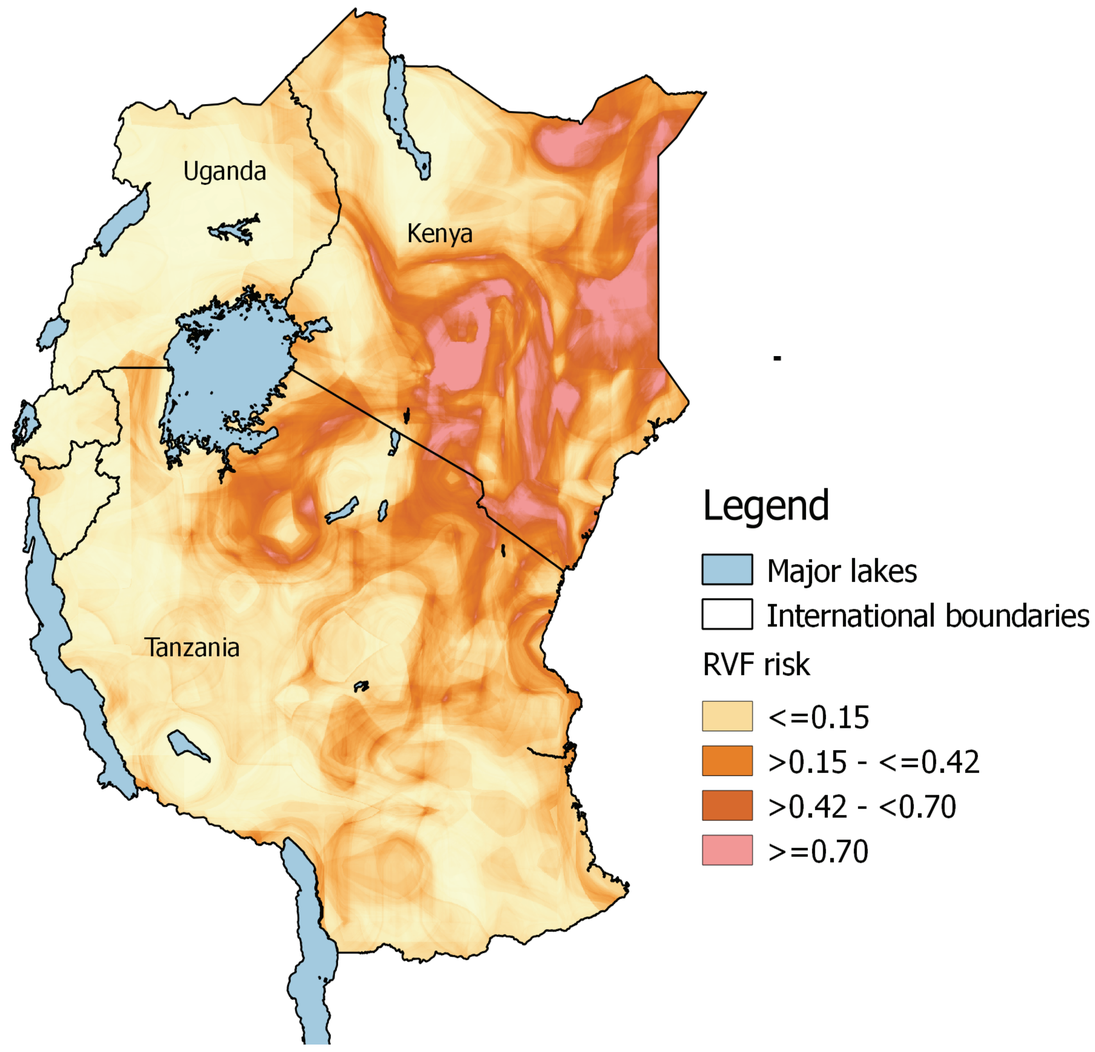

Figure 2. Risk map for Rift Valley fever in East Africa

- Livestock vaccination is the most effective way of controlling the disease in both livestock and humans.

- ILRI conducts research on Rift Valley fever vaccines and vaccination in collaboration with the departments of veterinary services across East Africa, Wellcome Trust, The Pirbright Institute, Oxford University and other international institutions with an aim to produce:
  - More efficacious and safe vaccines.
  - Vaccination strategies which decision makers can use to guide vaccination programs.
  - Guidelines on how to involve the private sector in the delivery of these vaccines.
  - Knowledge on intra-household decision making processes regarding uptake of vaccines.

Initial outputs:

- Prototype adenovirus-vectored vaccine for multiple livestock species and humans which is due for field validation
- Decision support tools that have been used to target interventions during high risk and outbreak periods

ILRI thanks all donors and organizations which globally support its work through their contributions to the CGIAR Trust Fund

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