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OIE Regional Representative for the Middle East



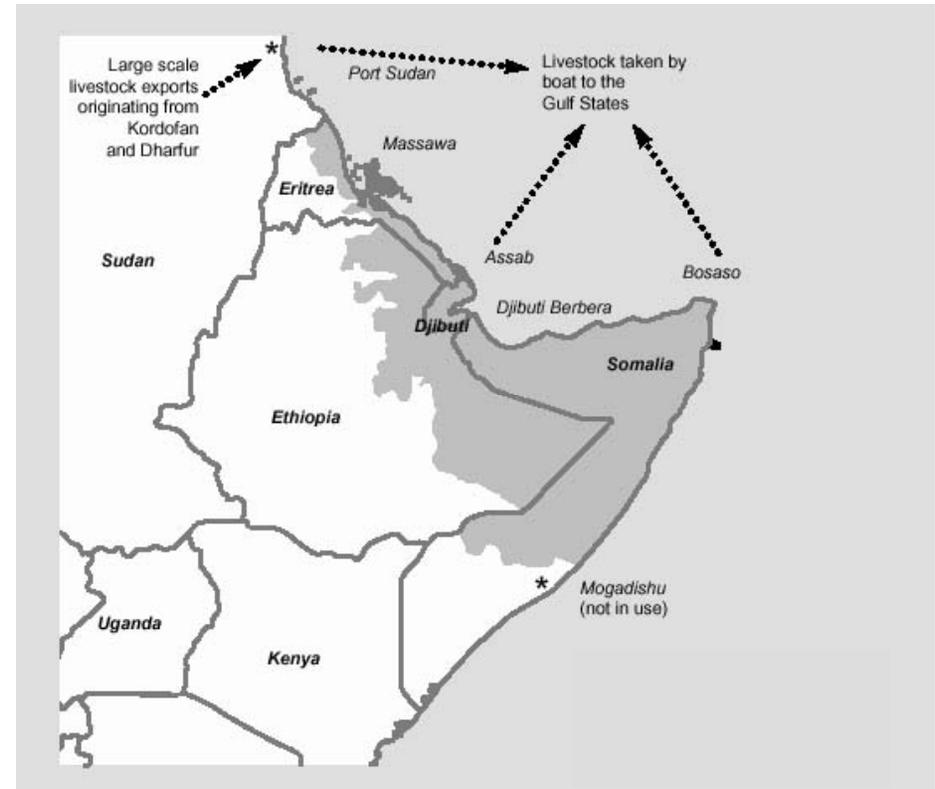
RVF

Related trade constraints in the Middle East



Livestock trade from the Horn of Africa

- About 15 millions cattle, goat, sheep are imported each year from the Horn of Africa to the Gulf Peninsula
- Most of them for the holly periods (Hajj – Eid)



Constraints related to trade

- Increasing demand in importing countries
- Different sanitary status between both region
 - CBPP, FMD (different strains), RVF
- Several animal diseases and zoonoses present in Africa but absent in the Middle East
- Risk to introduce diseases (RVF notably)
- Complexity of transportation – large number of animals

Concerns of importing countries

- Risk of introducing new animal diseases through importation from the G.H of Africa
- Problems of re-emerging animal diseases and the cost of eradicating them
- Problems of quality assurance and traceability in exporting countries
- Transparency in animal health status in Africa
- Efficiency of veterinary services and competency of inspection systems of the exporting countries
- Dis-harmonization of the animal health measures within the African exporting countries

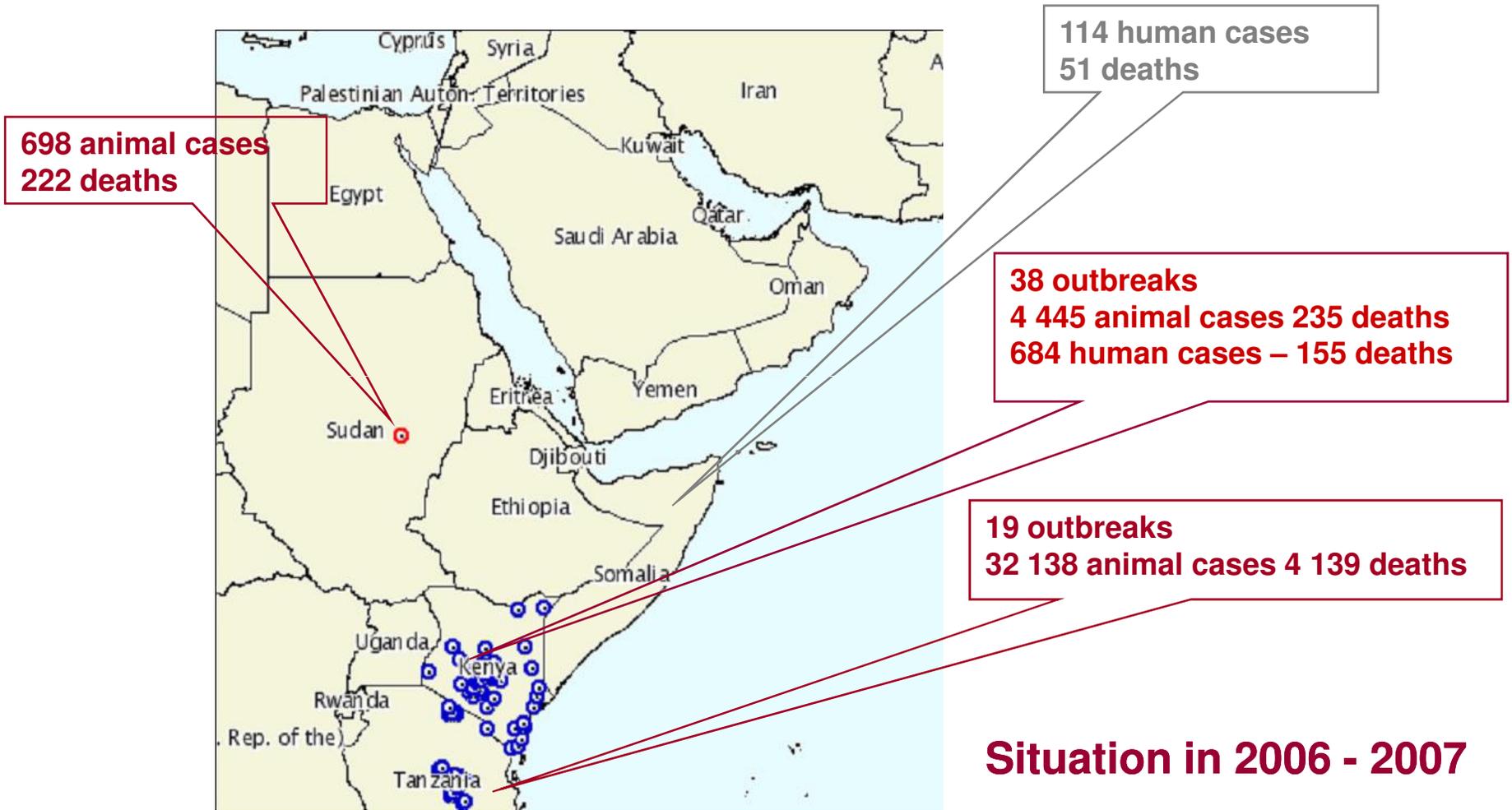
Challenges of exporting countries

- Undertaking the necessary plans of trade promotion with other neighboring exporting partners
- Exaggerated levels of protection in the Middle Eastern importing countries
- Benefiting from using less expensive trade facilities with neighboring exporting partners
- Developing animal health tools through supporting the relevant veterinary authorities
- Achieving more reliable basis for a new livestock exportation industry
- Improving animal health status through implementing effective disease control measures with transparency and efficiency
- Reaching a level of quality assurance leading to stand along their outsider competencies
- Comforting the threat of the trans-boundary animal diseases associated with regional ecological phenomena

RVF risks for the Middle East

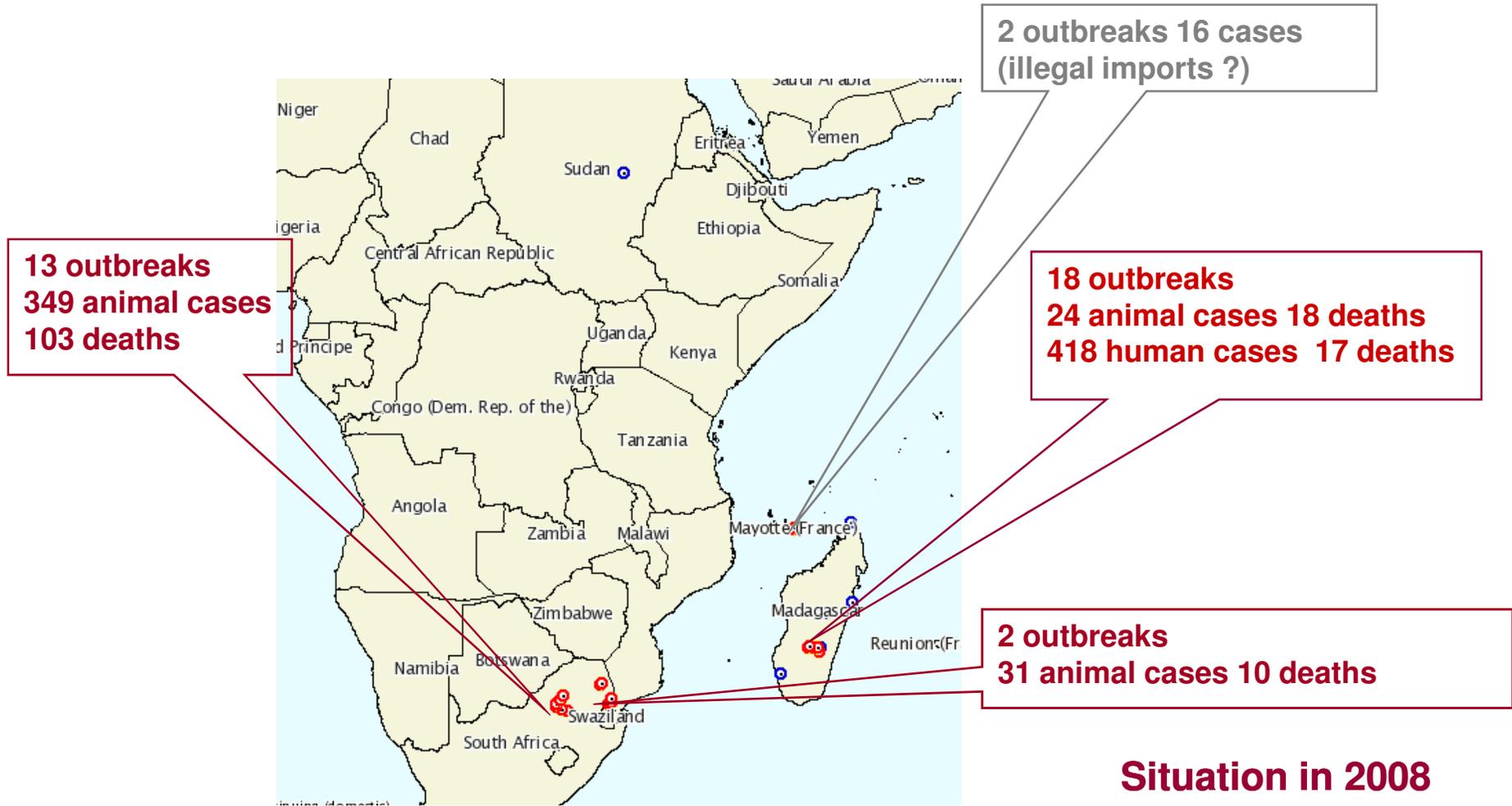
- RVF has the potential to quickly spread in the Horn of Africa (Somalia, Djibouti, Ethiopia)
- As an important traditional livestock trade exists between countries in the Horn of Africa and countries in the Middle East, a major challenge is to manage the risk of spreading RVF with such livestock shipments
- RVF already introduced in the Middle East with livestock trade
- Since 2006, RVF re-occurrence in East and South Africa

Since 2006 – Re-occurrence in East and South Africa



Situation in 2006 - 2007

Since 2006 – Re-occurrence in East and South Africa



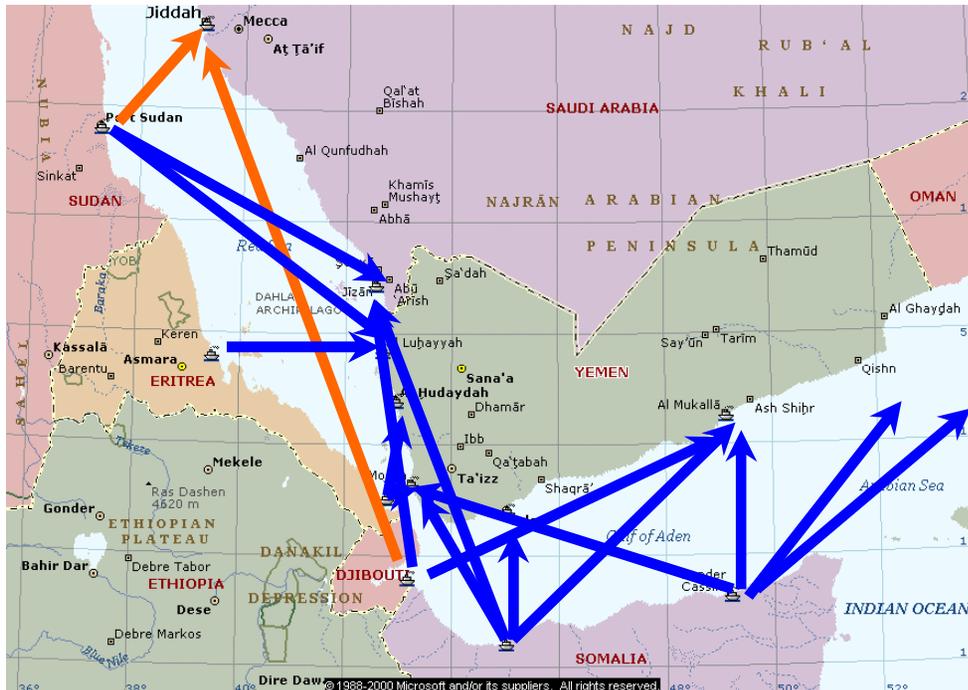
RVF introduction in the Middle East

- Rift Valley Fever was restricted to sub-Saharan Africa until it was detected in Egypt, 1977
- Since then, there have been several recurrences in Egypt causing explosive epidemics (1977-1978, 1986-1987), resulting in hundreds of human deaths and heavy losses in the animal industry
- The introduction of RVF into Yemen and Saudi Arabia in 2000, its first appearance outside the African continent, was of particular concern related to its impacts on public health, causing human suffering and mortalities (around 200 people died)

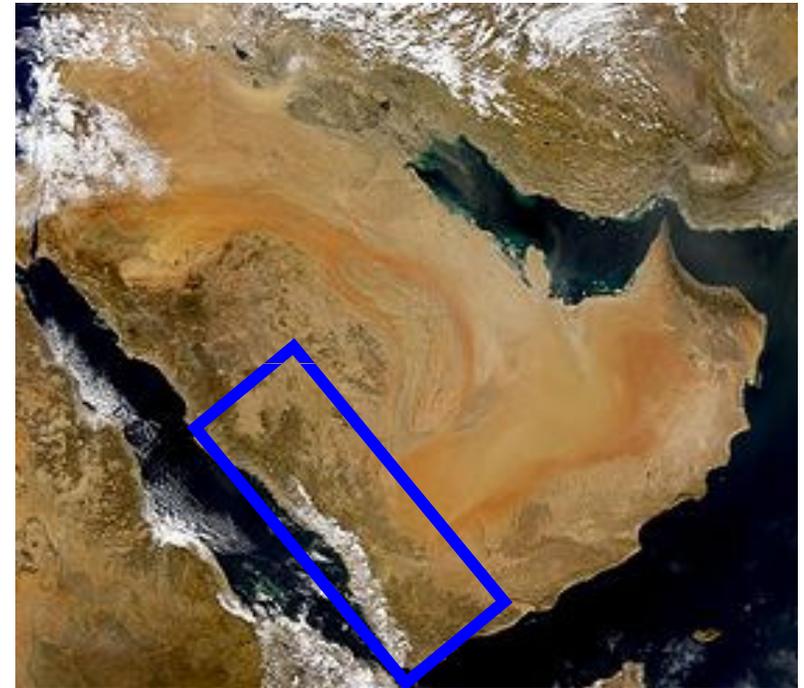
RVF Introduction in the Middle East

- The Tihama/Jizan regions of Yemen and Saudi Arabia were principally involved
- Their ecological characteristics are identical with those areas across the Red Sea in Africa. The Red Sea constitutes the floor of the Great Rift Valley before its separation from the African continent
- Those regions are also the main destination of the animal trade from the Horn of Africa to the Middle East

RVF Introduction in the Middle East



Livestock Trade – Horn of Africa



Location of RVF outbreaks

Persistence in the Middle East – 2000/1

- Linked to animal movement in a northerly direction from Yemen into Saudi Arabia
- Many of the sheep and goats traded in this way originate in the Horn of Africa and have been transported to the Arabian Peninsula by way of the Yemeni ports
- However, a significant number are from within Yemen itself; they are grazed and traded in a northerly direction to the big markets on the border with Saudi Arabia. This trade has probably continued unaltered for centuries
- These animals could be exposed to RVF during passage through the Tihama of Yemen and Saudi Arabia if the climatic conditions are favorable for RVF virus activity

RVF in the Middle East

- Outbreaks of RVF in 2000 - 2001 linked to animal movement :
 - From Horn of Africa
 - Within the Tihama region
- No more outbreaks since then in the region despite ecological environment favorable for the maintain of the virus

The way forward

How to minimize the threat of RVF virus activity and to secure the trade:

- National Level
- Regional Level



How to minimize the Threat of RVF – National Level

- Good Governance of VS: legislation, policies and resources, in compliance with OIE international standards on quality of national animal health systems democratically adopted by 172 Member Countries
- Intersectoral collaboration with other concerned national agencies or ministries (Public Health)

How to minimize the Threat of RVF – National Level

- Surveillance mechanism of the entire national territory under official supervision and in compliance with OIE standards
- Relevant contingency plan – vaccination strategy
- Early detection
 - Awareness
 - High quality of public and private component of Veterinary Services

How to minimize the Threat of RVF – National Level

- **Rapid and transparent notification**
 - Appropriate national chain of command
 - Respect of OIE obligation (WAHIS)
- **Rapid response**
 - rapid confirmation of suspected cases
 - confinement and humane stamping out
 - use of vaccination if appropriate
 - compensation Mechanism
- **Respect OIE Standards for RVF for trade**

How to minimize the Threat of RVF – National Level

Adopt the Model of Health Certificate developed by the OIE Regional Representation for the Middle East for the safe trade of ruminants:

- To secure the trade from the Horn of Africa
- In compliance with the OIE Terrestrial Code
- According to OIE inter - regional meetings on RVF (Cairo 2004 and 2007)
- Adopted by OIE Regional Commissions for Africa and the Middle East

How to minimize the Threat of RVF – National Level

- Established in both english and arabic language, understandable by all importing and exporting countries
- Available on the website of the OIE Regional Representation

HEALTH CERTIFICATE FOR EXPORT INTO THE TERRITORIES OF THE GULF COOPERATION COUNCIL
COUNTRIES OF CATTLE FOR SLAUGHTER
شهادة صحة لتصدير أبقار الذبح إلى دول مجلس التعاون الخليجي

Name and address of consignor اسم وعنوان المرسل		EXPORTING COUNTRY وزارة			
Name and address of consignee اسم وعنوان المرسل إليه		Check point in the country of origin المركز الحدودي في بلد المنشأ			
		Place of loading محطة التحميل			
		Country and place of destination بلد وعنوان المرسل إليه			
Identification of means of transportation مواصفات وسيلة النقل					
Total Number العدد الإجمالي	Identification number(s) رقم التعريف	Species النوع	Breed العرق	Sex الجنس	Age العمر
Additional information (if required) معلومات أخرى					
I the undersigned, official veterinarian, after considering all the supporting documents related to the sanitary information included in this certificate, certify that the animals described above have been examined this day, and meet all the requirements mentioned in the health attestation attached to this document. أنا الموقع أدناه، الطبيب البيطري المسؤول، وبعد الاطلاع على جميع الوثائق الداعمة للمطهرات الواردة في هذه الشهادة، أؤكد بأنه أخرجي الفحص على الحيوانات التعرف عنها أعلاه، ولين أها مستوفية جميع الشروط الصحية المطلوبة.				Stamp and signature of the veterinary inspector: ختم وتوقيع الطبيب المسؤول:	
Place		Date			

Each separated page must be signed and stamped.

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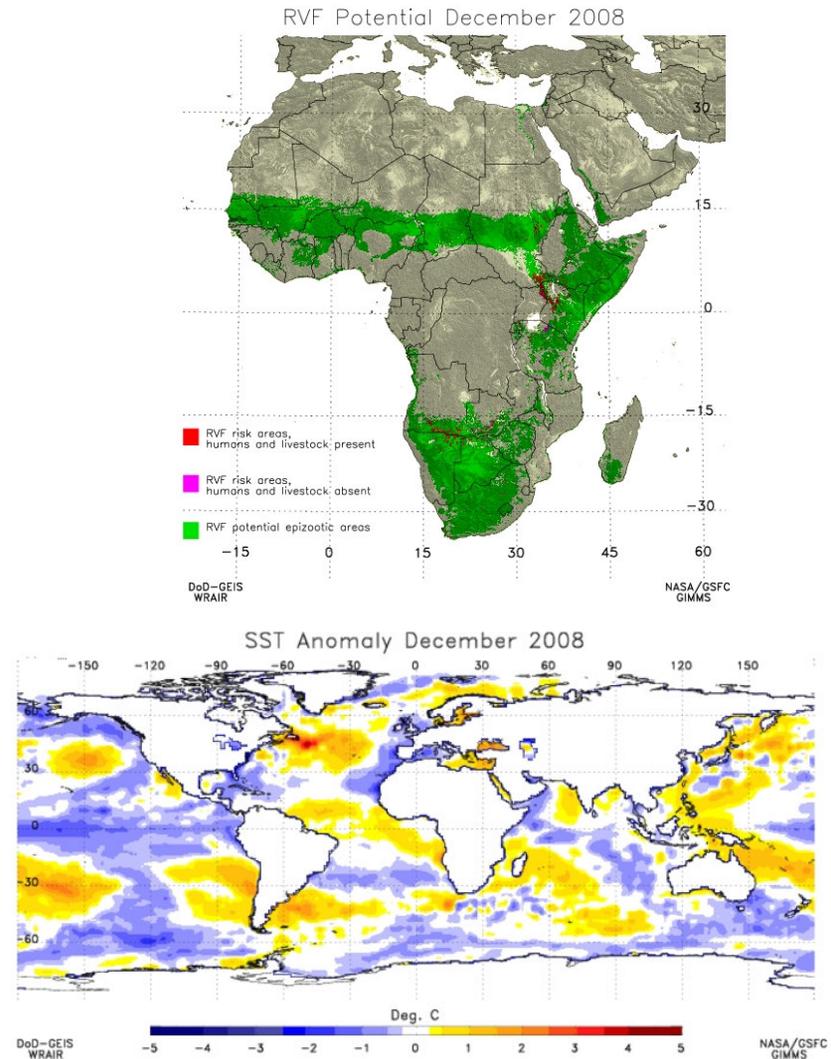
How to minimize the Threat of RVF – Regional and International level

Develop regional and international strategies for prevention and control

- Coordination between all actors: International Organizations, national VS, ONGs...
- Increasing the number of Reference Laboratories: OIE Twinning – Egypt ?
- Enhancing knowledge of professionals and their capability to respond to a RVF crisis
- Establishment of adapted regional predicting model for the Middle East with scientific support

RVF predicting model for the Middle East

- ✓ RVF occurrence can be predicted using several relevant tools
- ✓ Forecasting models focused on Africa
- ✓ Necessity to develop relevant predicting model for the Middle East
- ✓ Wish of all Middle Eastern countries – several recommendations on such matter



Example of regional collaboration

Pre-export quarantine premises in the Horn of Africa

- Somalia: Bossasso (300 000 heads)
- Djibouti: (1 000 000 heads)
- Private funding from Gulf Countries
- Under Official Veterinary Services control
- Technical assistance provided by OIE experts
 - Infrastructures, premises, laboratory
 - Practical procedures

Pre-export quarantine station - Djibouti



Conclusions

- Importing countries in the Middle East must be given adequate safety assurances with respect to OIE standards on RVF, while the livestock trade, vital to the livelihood of agropastoralists in Africa and in the Middle East, should be permanently maintained on a safe basis
- Collaboration with high transparency and trust between exporting and importing country is necessary

Thank you for your attention



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Thank you for your attention

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