

Rift Valley Fever (RVF) situation in Mayotte, a French department in the Indian Ocean



RVF is a viral zoonosis affecting ruminants and humans.

Modes of transmission :

- **vectors** (many species of mosquitoes), **mainly**
- direct contact with biological fluid,
- ingestion of contaminated products (milk or meat not sanitized)

→ Background

Mayotte is at risk of exposure:

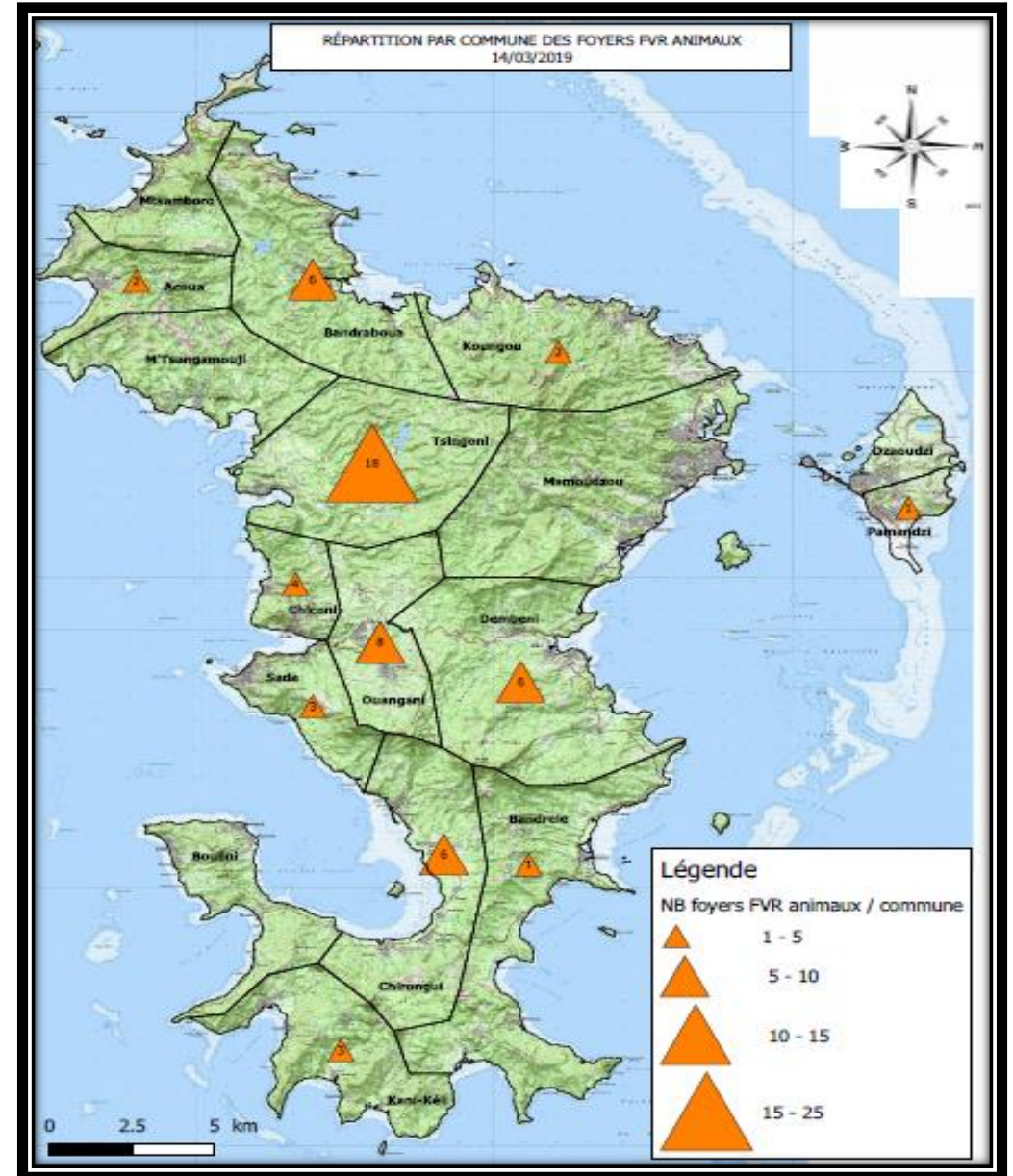
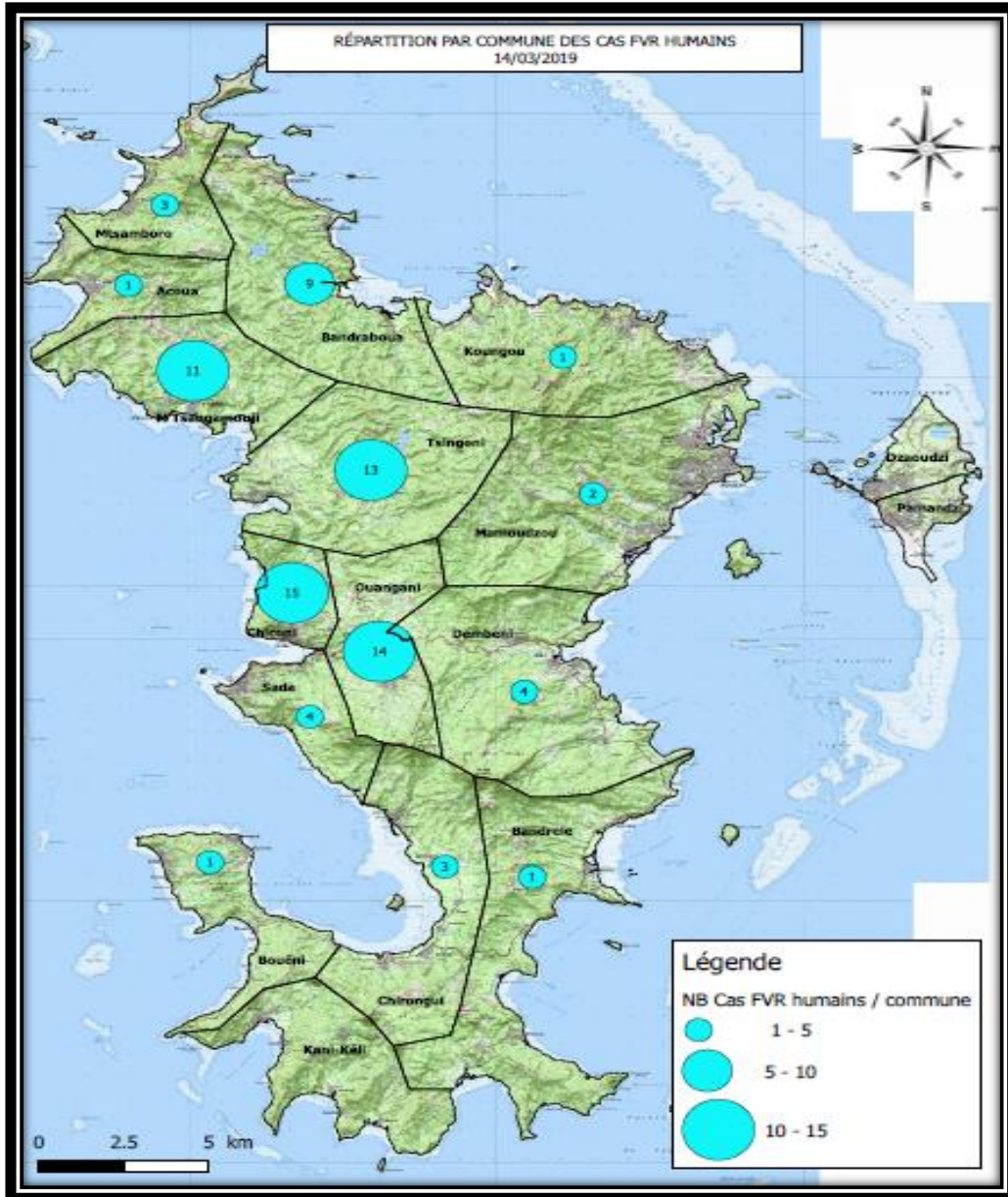
- Geographical proximity to many endemic countries (The Comores, Madagascar) → illegal movements of animals
- Tropical climate (vectors)

RVF in humans was detected for the first time in 2007 :

- About 12 human cases in 2007-2008
- since 2008 : epidemiological surveillance system for ruminants
- no human case reported since 2011

→ Situation

Between 22nd November 2018 and 14th March 2019, 101 human RVF cases et 60 in ruminants



→ Livestock monitoring

Suspicion in farm - early detection of disease in livestock

Veterinary visit triggered by a call from the farmer :

- blood sampling
 - confirmed case = animal with clinical signs and positive IgM Test
 - Official confirmation by PCR (CIRAD)
- Epidemiological investigation

Active surveillance in ruminants :

- 4000 farms : 20000 cattle and 15 000 small ruminants
 - sampling of 1500 farms (blood sample)

→ Control measures

Biosecurity measures :

- Burial stillborn
- Isolating sick animals
- Protect animal with insecticide treatment



No stamping-out of livestock because :

- period is too favourable to the development of vectors
- short duration of viraemia (7 days) vs delay of result
- risk of under declaration of outbreaks
- increasing the risk of illegal introduction of ruminants

What about vaccination?

- To date, no vaccine authorized in the EU



→ Joint action human and animal health

Vector control :

Disinsectization around human and animal outbreaks

Awareness messages for population and breeders :

- Boil the milk,
- Cook the meat
- Keep out mosquitoes
- Eliminate larval breeding habitat
- For professionals :
 - Use of individual protective equipment (masks, gloves and goggles)
 - Report abortions to the sanitary veterinarian

FIÈVRE DE LA VALLÉE DU RIFT
Ce qu'il faut savoir

Maladie touchant principalement les ruminants domestiques (bovins, ovins, caprins), mais pouvant occasionnellement contaminer l'homme

Comment se transmet la fièvre de la vallée du Rift ?

- Contact avec le sang ou les organes d'un animal contaminé.
- Consommation de viande mal cuite, lait cru ou caillé d'un animal contaminé.
- Piqure de moustique vecteur de cette maladie.

Quels sont les symptômes ?

Syndrome grippal (forte fièvre, douleurs musculaires et/ou articulaires, maux de tête intenses, fatigue) qui généralement guérit en quelques jours. Dans 5 % des cas, des formes plus graves peuvent survenir (atteinte oculaire, méningo-encéphalite ou fièvre hémorragique).

Comment se protéger ?

- Bien faire cuire la viande, faire bouillir le lait et ne pas consommer de lait caillé.
- Se protéger contre les piqures de moustiques et éliminer les gîtes larvaires.
- Pour les professionnels en contact avec les animaux : se protéger en portant des lunettes, un masque et des gants au moment des soins ou de l'abattage. Se laver les mains avec du savon.

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→ Conclusions

French authorities remain vigilant to the epidemiological situation in Mayotte

- Measures adapted to the local conditions
- Human and animals epidemiological surveillance, biosecurity, information, vectors control

Risk of RVF spreading is negligible because :

- Deficit in beef and sheep meat in Mayotte,
- No live animals nor products exchanges from Mayotte to La Réunion or EU territory
- **Administrative decision to prohibit the export of live ruminants and products (meat and milk)**