

13 Rift Valley fever

Transmission

- Mosquito bite and bodily fluids of infected animals and humans

Symptoms

- Starts with fever, headache, back pain, muscle pain, nausea, vomiting and diarrhoea
- Can cause jaundice (yellow skin)
- May be followed by a rash and bleeding under the skin and from the nose and gums, blood with the cough and in the stools

Prevention

- ➔ Safe animal husbandry and slaughter practices
- ➔ Eating well-cooked animal products (meat, milk, blood)

- ➔ Prevention of mosquito bites
- ➔ Spraying of houses to kill mosquitoes
- ➔ Health promotion

Vulnerable people

- Children under 5
- Pregnant women

In case of epidemic

- ➔ Safe animal husbandry and slaughter practices
- ➔ Destruction of mosquito breeding sites
- ➔ Vector control

- ➔ Detection and referral of new and suspected cases to health facilities
- ➔ Health promotion

Volunteer actions

See the following **action tools** for more information on what actions to take against Rift Valley fever:

31	29	32	35	18	19	29	20	21	33	24	25	22
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Community-based assessment questions

Make a map of the community and mark the information you gather on the map.

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When did the epidemic start? • How many people live in the affected community? • How many children under 5 years of age live in the affected community? • Do people usually use insecticide-treated bed nets? Who in the family uses them? • Are there places with known infected animals and where? • How do people keep and slaughter animals and handle them? • Do people cook meat and milk thoroughly before consuming it? | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Who and where are the vulnerable people? • How many people have died from Rift Valley fever and where? • How many people have fallen sick with Rift Valley fever and where? • Are there any health services and where? • Are there any bed net distributions? • Is there a spraying programme going on in your area? Can you help with it? • Is there a health promotion programme in place? |
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Actions

- Make sure as many people as possible have bed nets.



A mosquito