



## MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND LIVESTOCK DEVELOPMENT

*State Department for Livestock Development*

*Directorate of Veterinary Services*

## QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS FOR THE PLANNED NATIONAL LIVESTOCK VACCINATION CAMPAIGN

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### Which are the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

#### 1. Objective of the Campaign

##### **Q: What is the main goal of this National vaccination campaign?**

- The main goal of this campaign is to reduce the prevalence and eventually achieve freedom from Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) and Peste des Petits Ruminants (PPR) in the country by vaccinating cattle against FMD and; sheep and goats against PPR.

##### **Q: Why is the government undertaking this campaign?**

- The government wants to do the vaccination exercise in order to protect Kenyan livestock (cattle, goats, sheep and pigs) in accordance to national, regional and global control and eradication strategies against FMD and PPR, which are the main causes of significant production losses, productivity of the animals, impact food security, livestock deaths and restrictions on local and international trade.
- The government is therefore implementing the National Strategy for The Control and Eradication of PPR (2017-2027) and Risk-Based Strategic Plan for Control of FMD (2019) developed in consultation with all relevant stakeholders including County Governments.
- These diseases are classified as trade-sensitive by the World Organization for Animal Health (WOAH), meaning, their control is essential for ensuring compliance with international standards and agreements, an example being the World Trade Organization Agreement on Application of Sanitary and Phyto-Sanitary (SPS) measures (WTO-SPS Agreement).

## **Q: What are the Benefits of this Nationwide Vaccination?**

**The benefits of the vaccination are as below;**

### ***Disease Prevention and Control***

Vaccination is the first line of defense against many serious diseases that affect livestock, such as Foot-and-Mouth Disease, brucellosis and Peste des Petits Ruminants (PPR). These diseases can have devastating economic impacts, leading to significant losses in production, reduced trade, and, in severe cases, culling of animals. Vaccines help prevent these diseases from spreading, reducing the need for drastic measures.

### ***Improved Animal Welfare***

Vaccinated animals are less likely to suffer from preventable diseases, which can cause pain, distress, and even death. Ensuring that livestock are properly vaccinated, is a great support to animal welfare and reduces the ethical concerns associated with disease outbreaks.

### ***Increased Productivity and Efficiency***

Healthy animals are more productive. Vaccinated livestock have higher growth rates, better reproductive performance, and improved milk and egg production. This not only supports the livelihoods of farmers but also helps ensure a stable and affordable food supply for communities worldwide.

### ***Economic Stability***

The economic cost of an outbreak of infectious diseases can be staggering. Vaccination reduces the likelihood of outbreaks, lowering the costs of medical treatment, loss of animals, and trade restrictions. It also helps keep agricultural markets stable by maintaining the supply of livestock products.

### ***Public Health Protection***

Some livestock diseases, such as zoonotic diseases (Anthrax, Brucellosis, Rift Valley Fever), can be transmitted to humans. Vaccinating animals reduces the risk of these diseases spilling over into the human population, thus protecting public health. A strong vaccination program for livestock also supports global health efforts to combat emerging diseases.

## **Q: Who is the manufacturer of the vaccines?**

- The vaccines used in this campaign are produced locally by the Kenya Veterinary Vaccines Production Institute (KEVEVAPI), a parastatal established in 1990 by Legal Notice No. 223 under Cap 446 of the laws of Kenya.
- KEVEVAPI and its predecessor, Vaccine Production Laboratory (VPL) has been manufacturing FMD vaccines since 1964 and PPR vaccines since 2006, ensuring the availability of high-quality, safe and effective vaccines for national use and export.
- The name of vaccine is Fotivax™ for Vaccination against Foot and Mouth Disease and Pestevax™ for vaccination against Peste des Petits ruminants (PPR).

## 2. Vaccination Procedures

### Q: How will the vaccination process be carried out?

- The National government through the Directorate of Veterinary Services (DVS) will oversee the campaign's coordination and ensuring that the standards applied are, systematic and aligned with the respective disease control strategies.
- County governments will implement the vaccination, with support from private veterinarians and other stakeholders.
- The campaign will follow a risk-based approach, targeting regions with high disease prevalence, border areas and hotspots identified through epidemiological assessments.
- Pre- and post-vaccination surveys will also be conducted to monitor progress and effectiveness.

### Q: Are there any costs associated with vaccination?

- Vaccination is a costly exercise involving the cost of vaccines, vaccine delivery to the animals and monitoring performance and success of the campaign.
- Various actors will be mobilized in meeting the various costs of the exercise including the national and county governments, development partners and the livestock sector players such as livestock keepers, industry and farmer organizations.

## 3. Target Livestock and Diseases

### Q: Which livestock are covered in this campaign?

- The vaccination campaign targets cattle, sheep and goats.
- These species are prioritized due to their high susceptibility to FMD and PPR, which cause significant production losses and mortality in these livestock populations.

### Q: What diseases will be addressed through the vaccination?

- The campaign focuses on controlling and eradicating Foot and Mouth Disease (**FMD**) and Peste des Petit Ruminants (**PPR**).
- These are highly contagious viral diseases that not only cause severe economic losses but also pose challenges to Kenya's livestock trade, locally and internationally.
- Both diseases have national control strategies that align with regional and global frameworks for progressive disease management.

## 4. Campaign Timeline and Coverage

### Q: When will the campaign begin and how long will it last?

- The campaign will begin in January 2025 and conducted over three years, with repeat vaccinations scheduled biannually for FMD and annually for PPR, as per the national control strategies.
- The aim is to achieve at least 70% vaccination coverage within one year to significantly reduce the prevalence of the two diseases.
- The vaccination campaign will be phased, gradual, sequential and risk based.

**Q: Which areas will be covered?**

- The campaign will cover all regions in Kenya, with particular emphasis on high-risk areas such as **border regions and disease hotspots** as per the strategies and surveillance reports.
- For FMD the priority will be the dairy production areas though ring vaccinations will be carried out whenever there are outbreaks in the beef production area and for the PPR, the priority will be pastoral zones.
- This targeted approach ensures efficient use of resources while maximizing the impact of the vaccination.

## 5. Stakeholders and Partnerships

**Q: Who are the main stakeholders involved in the campaign?**

Key stakeholders include:

- Veterinary Services - both National and County:
- National Government Agencies: Directorate of Livestock Production, National Government Administration Officers, Kenya Wildlife Services,
- Kenya Veterinary Vaccines Production Institute (KEVEVAPI)
- Kenya Veterinary Board.
- Private Veterinary Service providers:
- Livestock owners / keepers
- Farmers' organizations and Community-Based Organizations
- Livestock traders, middlemen, transporters and Livestock marketing associations
- Processors of animal and animal products.
- Opinion leaders, Village Elders and Religious leaders.
- Professional Associations.
- Development Partners.

**Q: How can farmers contribute to the success of the campaign?**

Farmers play a vital role in ensuring the campaign's success by:

- Availing their animals for vaccination as scheduled.
- Cooperating and collaborating with veterinary officers during the campaign by sharing accurate information.

- Adhering to farm biosecurity measures and ensuring good animal husbandry practices.
- Reporting any sick animal to the veterinary officer for treatment and not present sick animals for vaccination.
- Active participation and cooperation by farmers is essential for achieving the desired vaccination coverage and establishing herd immunity.

*For more Information, visit Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development Website [www.kilimo.go.ke](http://www.kilimo.go.ke), or Contact the Director of Veterinary Services on email [infodvs@kilimo.go.ke](mailto:infodvs@kilimo.go.ke), or the nearest Veterinary Office within your County*

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**Hon. Jonathan Mueke**      **Date .....**

**Principal Secretary**

**State Department for Livestock Development**