

PPR National situation

Georgia

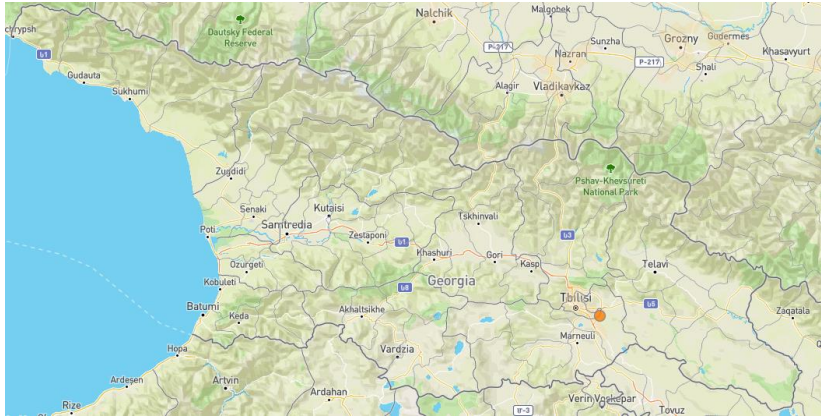
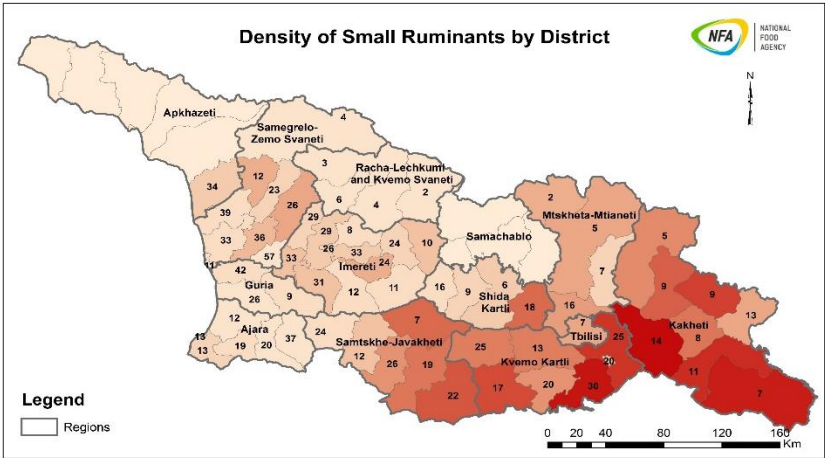
National Food Agency

Vasili Basiladze

Brief overview of PPR epidemiological situation

- 1. Small ruminant population – 1 000 000;
- 2. History of PPR outbreaks in the country – first outbreak in 2016;
- 3. Current PPR epidemiological situation – second outbreak in 2024;

	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
No. of reported outbreaks	-	-	-	-	1
No. of confirmed outbreaks	-	-	-	-	1



First outbreak

- *History of PPR outbreaks*
- The first outbreak was reported in 2016;
- Sheep farm located in Tbilisi Region;
- “Unknown” disease accrued only in Lambs;
- Clinical signs started at the end of December;
- Flock moved from the Samtskhe-Javakheti region in November;

Bluetongue, Georgia

Information received on 23/01/2016 from Dr Mikheil Sokhaze, Chief Veterinary Officer Deputy Head, National Food Agency, Ministry of Agriculture, Tbilisi, Georgia

Summary

Report type	Immediate notification
Date of start of the event	12/01/2016
Date of confirmation of the event	15/01/2016
Report date	23/01/2016
Date submitted to OIE	23/01/2016
Date event resolved	15/01/2016
Reason for notification	First occurrence of a listed disease in the country
Causal agent	Bluetongue virus
Serotype	Not typed
Nature of diagnosis	Laboratory (basic)
This event pertains to	A defined zone within the country
Related reports	Immediate notification (23/01/2016) Follow-up report No. 1 (29/01/2016)

New outbreaks (1)

Outbreak 1	Tbilisi, Varketili Farming, Varketili, TBILISI
Date of start of the outbreak	12/01/2016
Outbreak status	Resolved (15/01/2016)
Epidemiological unit	Farm
Affected animals	Species: Sheep Susceptible: 2190 Cases: 68 Deaths: 30 Destroyed: 35 Slaughtered: 0
Affected population	Farmers noticed disease clinical signs (lesions in mouth, tongue, gingiva and nozzles) on 12 of January. State Veterinary Service was informed on 14 of January. Disease occurs only in lambs 1-2 months of age. Mortality is due to denial of mother's milk. Chlamydia. No lameness or lesions on foot. Samples were collected and submitted to the Laboratory of Ministry of Agriculture of Georgia (LMA). On 15 of January samples were confirmed positive for Bluetongue by RT-PCR.



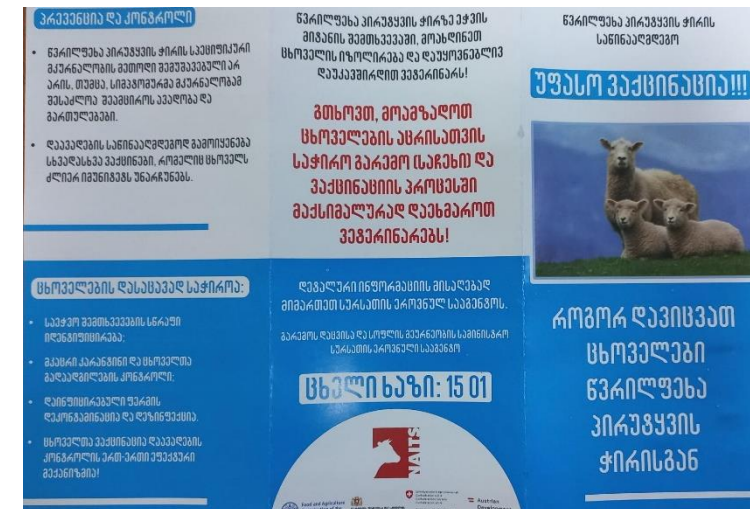
Second outbreak

- A second outbreak was reported in 2024;
 - START DATE – 2024/02/22;
 - CONFIRMATION DATE – 2024/03/01;
- Susceptible – 1700;
 - Cases – 95; Death – 77; Killed – 18;
- Sheep farm located in the Kvemo Kartli Region;
 - 2200 sheep, out of them 600 lambs
- Flock moved from the Samtskhe-Javakheti region in November
- **BLAST analysis of the obtained N-gene sequences revealed the presence of PPRV in all three samples and demonstrated nucleotide identities of between 95.7 to 97.7% with Lineage IV PPRVs from China, Mongolia, Pakistan, Iran, and Kurdistan**



FAO/WOAH Support

- 1 000 000 doses of PPR vaccine donation;
- 1 000 000 disposable injection needles for vaccination;
- 1 000 double ended vacuum needles;
- 1 000 vacuum tub serum separation;
- 250 cool boxes for field veterinarians;
- Printing procures and leaflets;



Vaccination campaigns

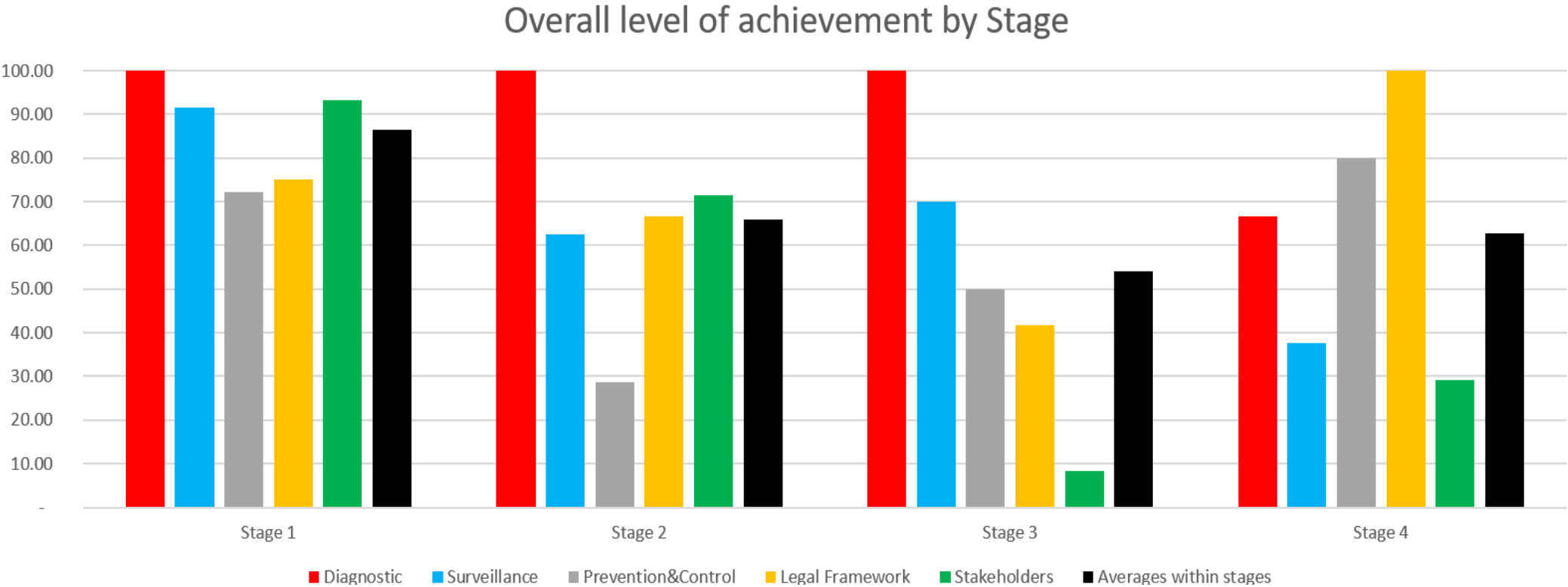
	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
No. of vaccination doses used	279 382	643 088	293 083	-	950 000	500000
Vaccination coverage rate (%)	60% - of targeted animals 27% - of total population	90% - of targeted animals 60% - of total population	60% - of targeted animals 27% - of total population	-	90% - of targeted animals	52% of targeted animals -ongoing
Post vaccination evaluation	70%	84%	90%	-	91 %	To be conducted
Cost of vaccination campaign	150 000	200 000	150 000	-	97,223.00	-
Source of funding	NFA /FAO	NFA	NFA /FAO	-	NFA /FAO	NFA

Post vaccination evaluation (lessons learnt)

- Animal identification and registration are crucial;
- Vaccination should be done before or after migration;
- High-quality thermos boxes in the field are crucial;
- Clear and transparent communication can help maintain or build public trust in vaccination programs;
- Local veterinarians are recommended to work in the community;



PMAT results



Overall level of achievement by Stage and Technical element in %					
Technical element	Stage 1	Stage 2	Stage 3	Stage 4	Averages across stages
Diagnostic	100.00	100.00	100.00	66.67	91.67
Surveillance	91.67	62.50	70.00	37.50	65.42
Prevention&Control	72.22	28.57	50.00	80.00	57.70
Legal Framework	75.00	66.67	41.67	100.00	70.83
Stakeholders	93.32	71.43	8.33	29.17	50.56
Averages within stages	86.44	65.83	54.00	62.67	

PPR NSP implementation

- PPR National Strategy Plan is elaborated by NFA;
- What was achieved in relation to the NSP activities?
 1. Rigorous vaccination campaigns;
 2. Establishment of robust surveillance systems;
 3. Capacity building for veterinary professionals;
 4. Fostering collaboration among stakeholders;

PPR NSP implementation

- Lessons learned over the past three years/what worked well (**Diagnostics, Surveillance, Prevention and Control, Legal Framework, Stakeholder Engagement**).
 - what worked well:
 - Availability of basic molecular-based diagnostic tests like conventional RT-PCR;
 - Implementation of quality assurance and quality control systems in laboratories;;
 - Participation in proficiency testing for diagnostic activities;
 - Completion of an assessment describing the epidemiological knowledge of PPR;
 - Easy and reliable access to reporting systems for veterinarians and livestock keepers;
 - Timely investigation and characterization of suspected PPR cases;
 - Integration of PPR prevention and control activities with other small ruminant disease control efforts;
 - Existence of legal measures for emergency response and import control;
 - Development and availability of communication/awareness materials tailored for different stakeholders;

PPR NSP implementation

- Any limitations/problems encountered in implementing the NSP (**Diagnostics, Surveillance, Prevention and Control, Legal Framework, Stakeholder Engagement**).
- Challenges and drawbacks:
 - limited capability to capture and characterize PPR events in wildlife;
 - Animal migration;
 - Movement control;
 - Lack of legal basis for compensating farmers in case of culling for eradication;
 - No sufficient sanitary conditions in compartments;
 - Limited awareness among stakeholders about PPR eradication efforts and their roles;
 - Lack of private sector involvement in disease prevention and control;

PPR NSP implementation

- Priority actions for 2025
 - Mass vaccination campaign for all targeted populations;
 - Implementation of active surveillance system:
 - Sero surveillance;
 - Increase traceability system in small ruminants:
 - Animal Identification;
 - Animal registration;
 - Farm registration;
 - Awareness of Farmers;

Epidemiological Assessments to Identify Peste des Petits Ruminants (PPR) Risk Hotspots and Transmission Pathways in Georgia'

- Extensively review of literature on PPR disease in Georgia;
- Map key stakeholders of the small ruminant value chain (including public and private sectors) and small ruminant movement/density;
- Analyse market networks for small ruminants and identify potential disease hotspots and transmission pathways.
- Prepare overall monitoring and surveillance system/Plan for the country;
- Conduct risk-based survey and PPR disease outbreak investigations complemented with biological sample collection and analysis;
- Validation of the PPR risk map and the surveillance strategy/plan with key stakeholders nationally (25-30 people);



Thank you

