PPR National situation

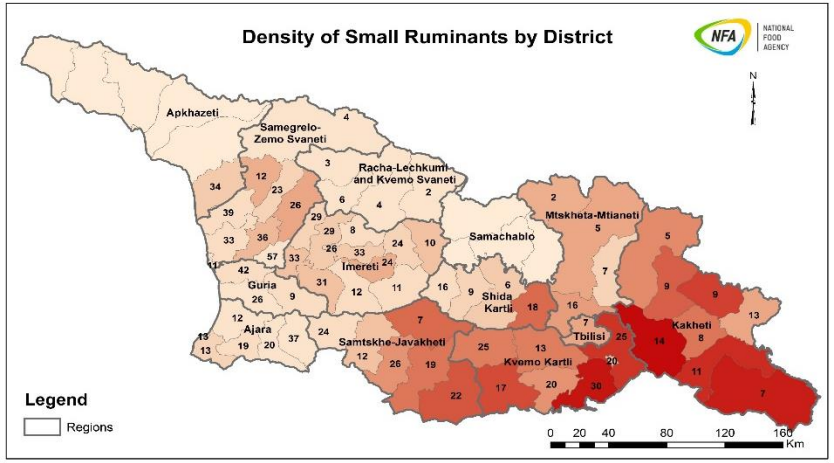
Georgia

National Food Agency

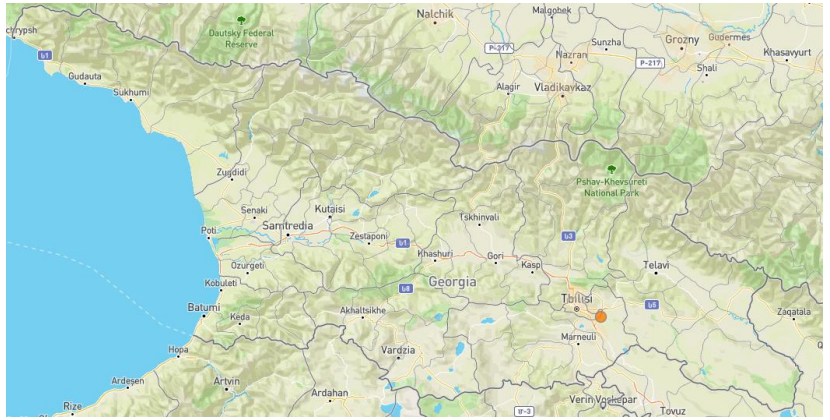
Tengiz Chaligava

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*
- First outbreak was reported in 2016;
- Sheep farm located in Tbilisi Region;
- “Unknown” disease accrued only in Lambs;
- Clinical signs started in end of December;
- Flock moved from Samtskhe-Javakheti region on November;


Bluetongue, Georgia

Information received on 23/01/2016 from Dr Mikheil Sokhadze, 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	Susceptible	Cases	Deaths	Destroyed	Slaughtered
Sheep	2190	68	35	33	0

Affected population

Farmer 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. Diarrhoea. 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

- 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 Kvemo Kartli Region;
- 2200 sheep, out of them 600 lambs
- Flock moved from Samtskhe-Javakheti region on November

Georgia - Peste des petits ruminants virus (Inf. with) - Immediate notification

FAO Support

- 1 000 000 doses 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;

Surveillance strategy and sero-prevalence

- National Peste des Petits Ruminants Surveillance Plan has been elaborated and submitted to the legal department for approval;
- SOP and Guidelines has been updated for active surveillance;
- Case definition has elaborated;
- Participatory surveillance design has been drafted;
- Study design has been elaborated;
  - Confidence Level 95%;
  - Population size – 1 000 000 SR;
  - Expected prevalence – 10%;
  - Accepted Error – 2%;
- 865 animals will be tested for NSP in 2025;
- Awareness campaign to support passive surveillance and increase notifications;

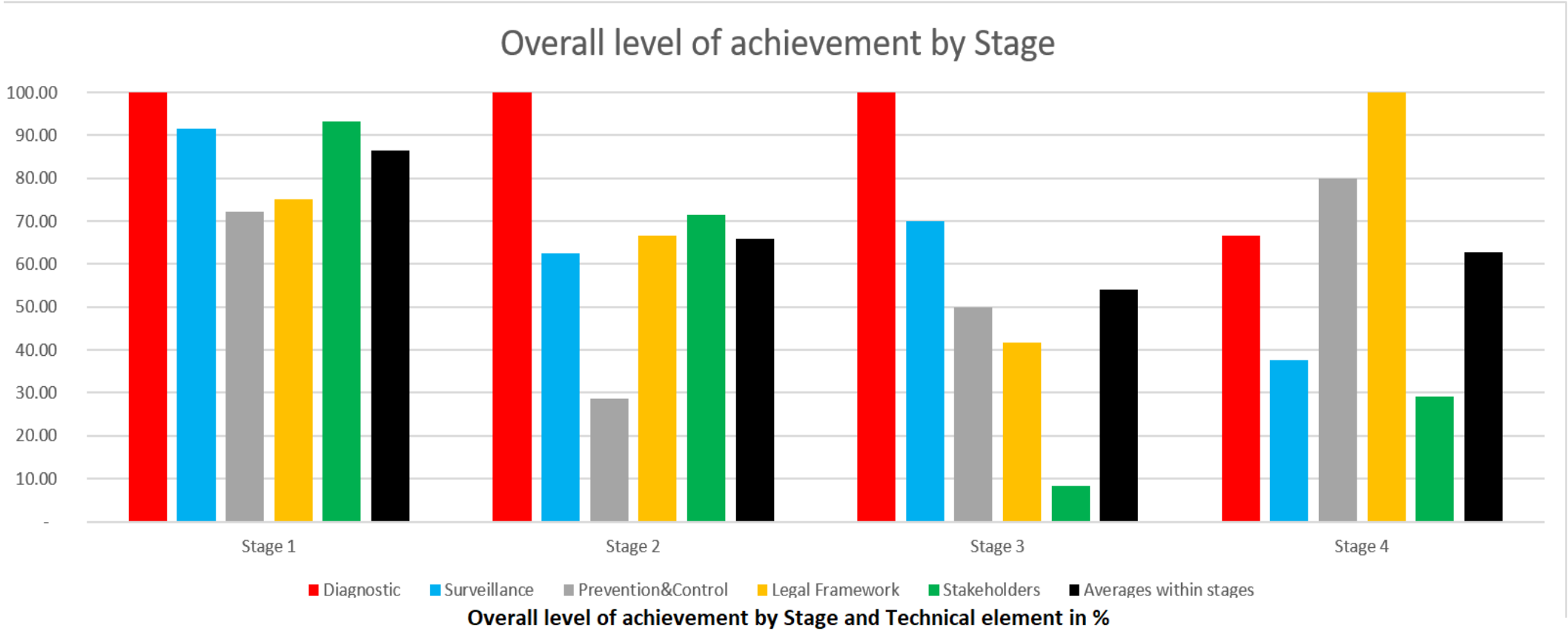
Vaccination campaigns

	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
No. of vaccination doses used	279 382	643 088	293 083	-	350 000
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	-	ongoing
Post vaccination evaluation	70%	84%	90%	-	ongoing
Cost of vaccination campaign	150 000	200 000	150 000	-	97,223.00
Source of funding	NFA /FAO	NFA	NFA /FAO	-	NFA /FAO

Post vaccination evaluation (lessons learnt)

- Animals identification and registration is 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 veterinarian 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 NSP is not approved by government it is submitted to the head of NFA for approval;
- What was achieved in the last 3 years 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;
    - adaptation in establishing rapid detection capacity for PPR events;
    - 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 privet sector involvement in disease prevention and control;

PPR NSP implementation

- Priority actions for 2024/2025
  - Mass vaccination campaign all targeted population;
  - Implementation of active surveillance system:
    - Sero surveillance;
    - Participatory surveillance;
  - Increase traceability system in small ruminants:
    - Animal Identification;
    - Animal registration;
    - Farm registration;

Epidemiological Assessments to Identify Peste des Petits Ruminants (PPR) risk hotspots and Transmission Pathways in Georgia’

- Extensively review of literatures 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 PPR risk map and the surveillance strategy/plan with key stakeholders nationally (25-30 person);

Thank you