It began in the great Rift Valley...

- 1910-1912: Disease first reported in Kenya
- 1931: Virus first described (Daubney, Hudson, Graham)
  1944 Detected in Semliki forest, Uganda
- 1950-1951: Outbreak in South Africa
- Zimbabwe, Zambia, Sudan
- 1976: Outbreak in RSA, human cases
…and continued

- 1977: Outbreak in Egypt
  - persistence, enzootic cycle with occasional outbreaks
- 1979: reported in Madagascar
- 1987: Mauretania, Senegal
- 1999: Large outbreak in South Africa
- 2000: Outbreaks in Saudi Arabia & Yemen
  - 14% mortality (200 people)
  - no further outbreaks, persistence?
- Oct 2011 Zimbabwe ➔ France

Large outbreaks

- Egypt 1977-78
  - ≈300,000 people sick, 600 dead
  - abortions, neonatal mortality among ruminants
- East Africa 1997-98
  - 300 human deaths
- RSA 1999
- Horn of Africa 2006
- RSA 2010
  - >180 human cases
  - 18 deaths

Human disease
- highly fatal hemorrhagic syndrome 1-2% ➔ 10%
Scientific advances

- Vaccine, vaccination
- Meteorological data ➔ early warning
- Diagnostics
Jan-jun 2011

Geographic distribution of Rift Valley fever outbreaks