

Update on Swine Influenza- Africa

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10 Top African Countries by Pig Population

Rank	Country	Estimated Pig Population	Husbandry Level	Key Characteristics
1	Nigeria	>12 million	Very High	Largest pig producer; strong local demand/ many pig farm estates
2	Malawi	7–8 million	Very High	Dense smallholder pig farming
3	Angola	~3.5 million	Very High	Rapidly expanding sector
4	Uganda	~2.6 million	High	Major pork consumption hub
5	Mozambique	2.0–2.3 million	High	Rural production dominant
6	Cameroon	~2.1 million	High	Growing commercial activity
7	Burkina Faso	1.7–2.7 million	High	Widely raised in villages
8	Madagascar	~1.7 million	Medium	Important protein source
9	South Africa	~1.3 million	Medium–High	Industrial/commercial systems
10	Zambia	~1.1 million	Medium	Expanding industry

African Countries Reporting SLV in Pigs

Country	Evidence Type	Key Details
Cameroon	PCR detections/virus isolation	H1N1 detected directly in pigs (2010 study)
Nigeria	PCR detections/virus isolation/Serology	H1N1 detected in pigs (2020 study)/H5
Ghana	PCR detections/ reported in regional surveillance	H1N1/H3N2/H5
Côte d'Ivoire	Serological evidence	Regional influenza circulation in pigs (low data availability)
Benin	Local surveillance	Limited but part of monitored influenza zones
Togo	Local surveillance	Weak but noted in livestock disease monitoring
Burkina Faso	Local surveillance	Pig-dense country with influenza monitoring signals
Uganda	Limited studies	Growing pig sector; influenza risk documented
Kenya	Surveillance-based evidence	Influenza A exposure reported in livestock systems

Key features of SIV surveillance in Africa

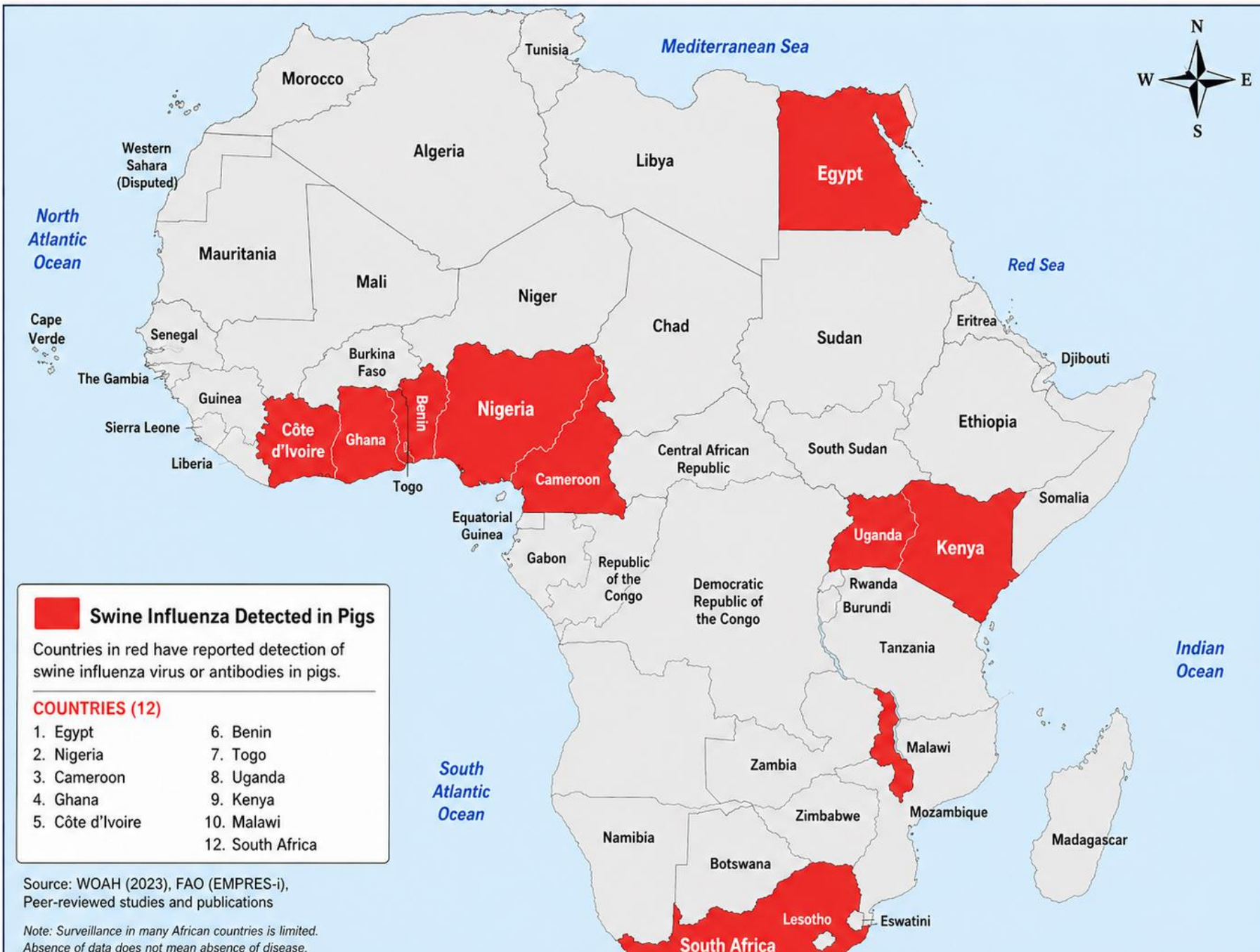
Swine influenza virus **in Africa is underreported** due to:

- Weak surveillance systems
- Focus on other diseases like **African swine fever (ASF)**
- Limited laboratory capacity compared to avian influenza

Studies showed **high exposure rates in commercial farms, live animal markets, free range piggery, village-small holder pens/ free range pigs**

- Up to **80-90% serological exposure have been reported in Nigeria, Cameroon, and Ghana**
- SIV is **present in Africa but not widely documented**, unlike in Europe, America or Asia
- Unlike ASF, SIV in Africa is less frequently investigated and reported
- SIV is often detected through occasional research, not outbreaks

SWINE INFLUENZA DETECTION IN PIGS IN AFRICA



Africa in global SIV surveillance

- NCBI-PubMed and Google Scholar databases have reported 34 IAV sero - and/or virological prevalence in backyard swine up to 11 July 2021
- The highest number of studies were reported from Asia (n = 11) followed by North America (n = 10), South America (n = 6), **Africa (n = 6)**, and Europe (n = 1).
- The human-origin pandemic A(H1N1)pdm09 virus clade 1A.3.3.2 was the more frequently detected IAV subtype in virological studies (27.27%) than serological studies (18.92%).
- In addition, the avian-origin highly pathogenic **H5N1** and H5N8 viruses were also detected, which further substantiated the evidence of avian–swine interactions... (Chauhan,

Interspecies transmission

- AIV transmission from poultry to pigs in Africa has been reported in Nigeria (H5), Egypt (H9) and Ghana (H5)
- H5N1 AIV (clade 2.3.2.1c) in apparently healthy domestic pigs during poultry outbreaks - Meseko, C., Globig, A., Ijomanta, J. et al. Evidence of exposure of domestic pigs

Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza H5N1 in Nigeria. Sci Rep 8, 5900 (2018). <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41598-018-24371-6>

- In a study in November-December 2025 - in pig farm complex Lagos

- 125 pooled swine nasal swabs collected
- Test for flu A matrix gene by RT-PCR
- 19 samples (15%) positive
- CT range (26-33)



Conclusion and recommendation

- SIV data from Africa is still limited and inconsistent compared to Asia, Europe and America
- Opportunities for infection is however very high ...
- Interspecies transmission risk is among the highest in the world
- Potential re-assortments and recombination with other IAVs is a concern
- Possibility of secondary and persistent reservoir status in pig for H5 and H9 need investigation and monitoring

Thank you

