

A grassroots rabies vaccination campaign: *a story of evolution*

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LAIKIPIA RABIES VACCINATION CAMPAIGN



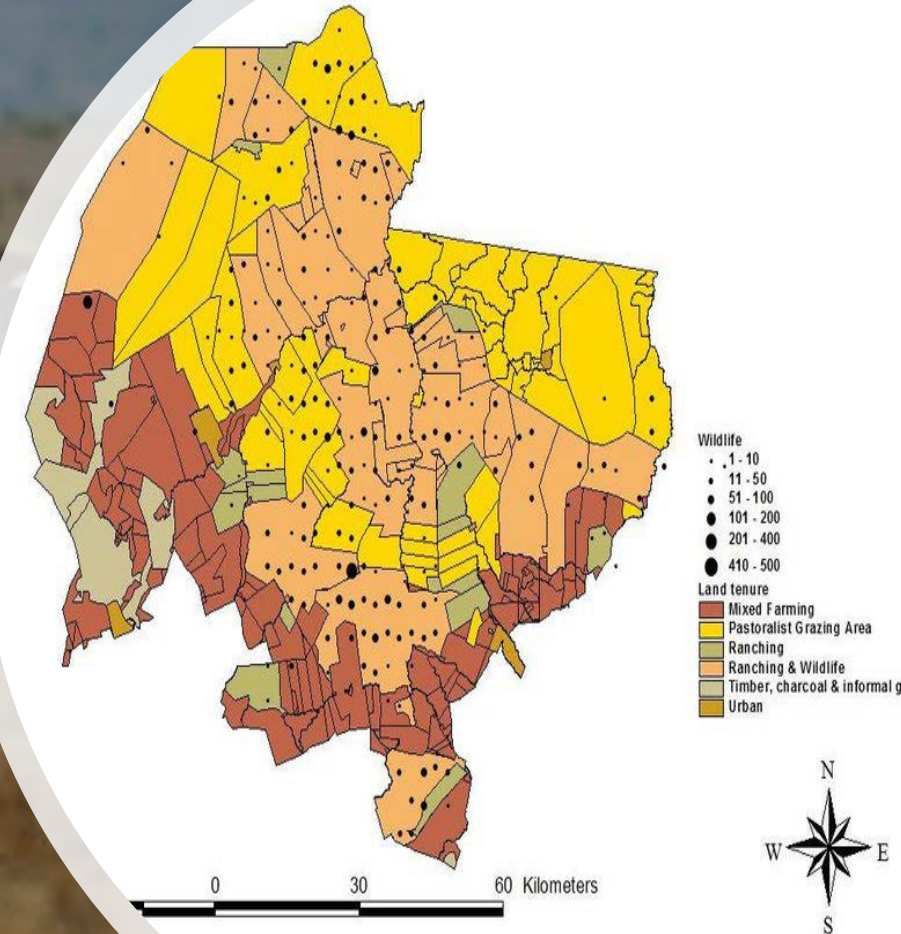


Wild dogs return years after disease almost wiped them out

HEALTH & SCIENCE | By Caroline Chebet | July 10th 2020



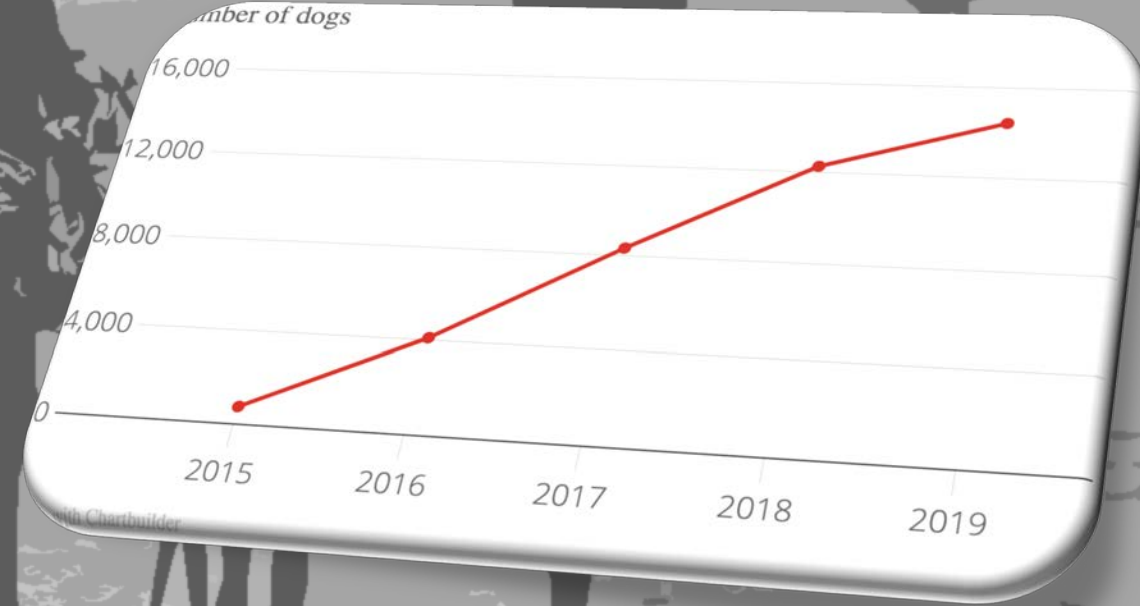
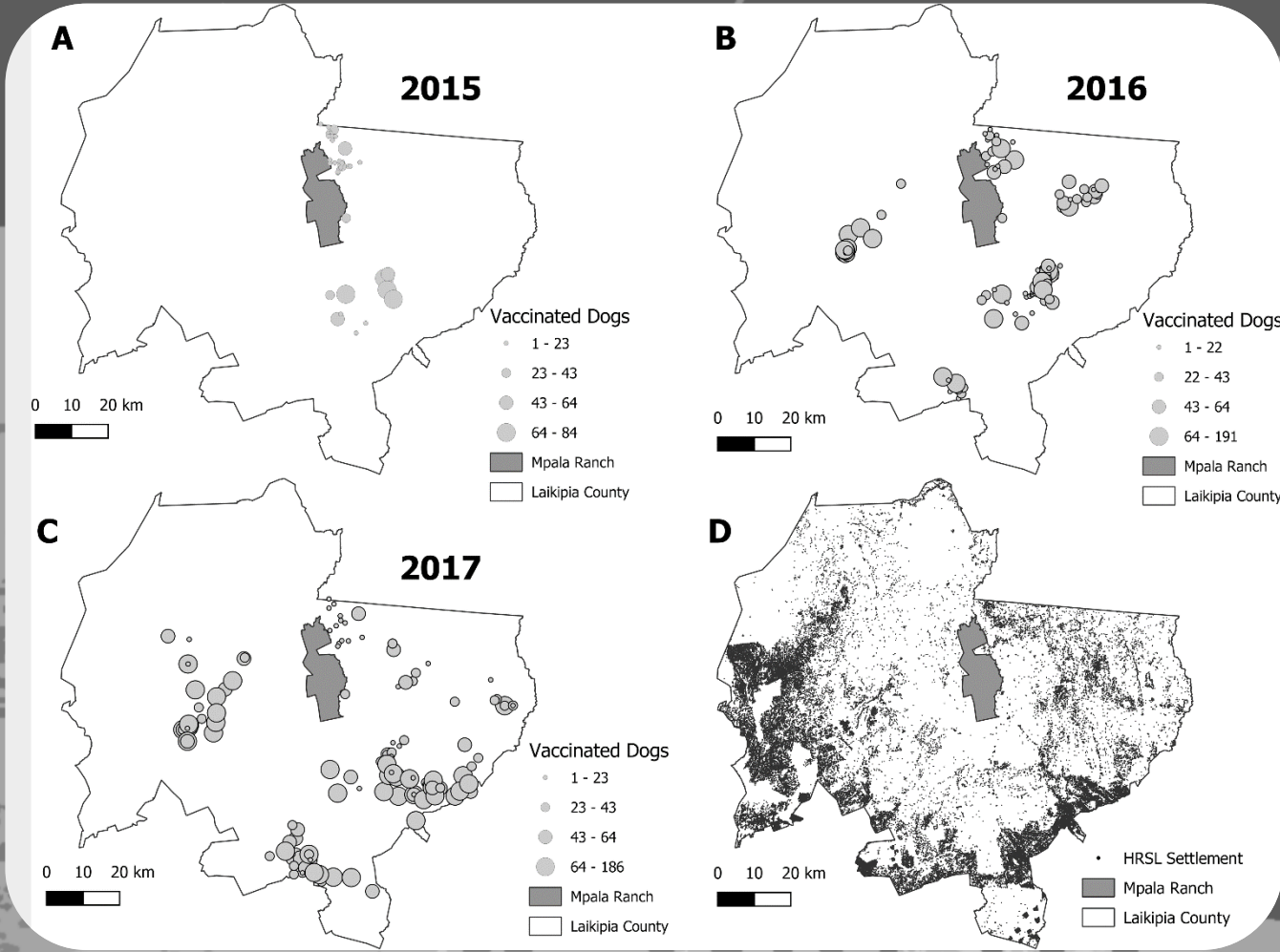
Humans, domestic animals & pets,
and wildlife live alongside Laikipia's
fragmented ecosystem and landscape



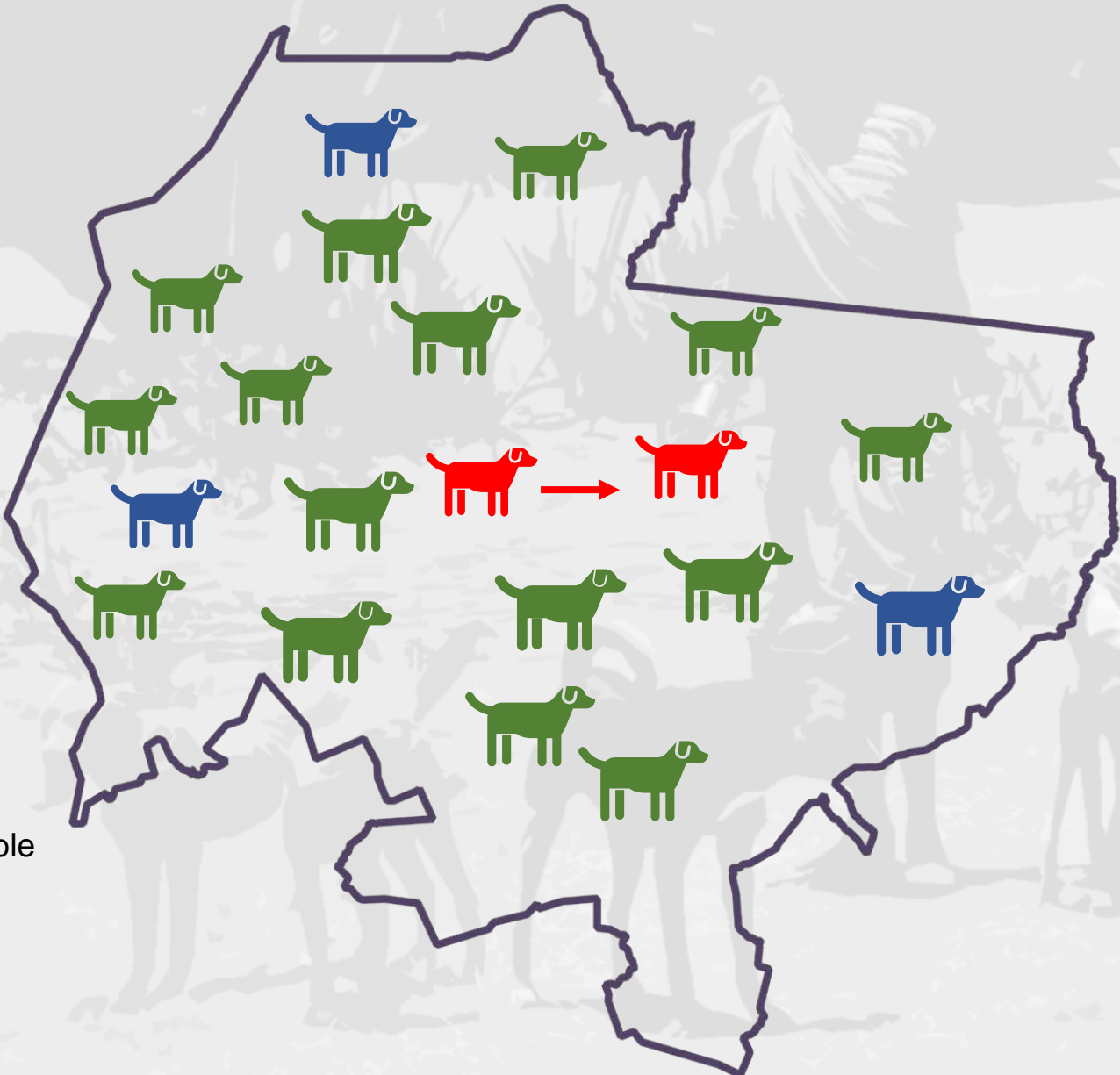


- 2015 – Ongoing
- Started as volunteer based
- Target communities along the urban-rural, nomadic/pastoral-small holder continuum
- Central point vaccination stations & door-door
- Mark-resight surveys & household surveys for vaccination coverage estimation




Finding (1): slow and steady rise of numbers and spatial coverage

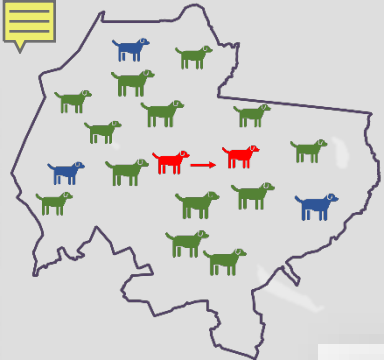


Finding (1): slow and stead rise of numbers ...BUT how about the coverage rate?

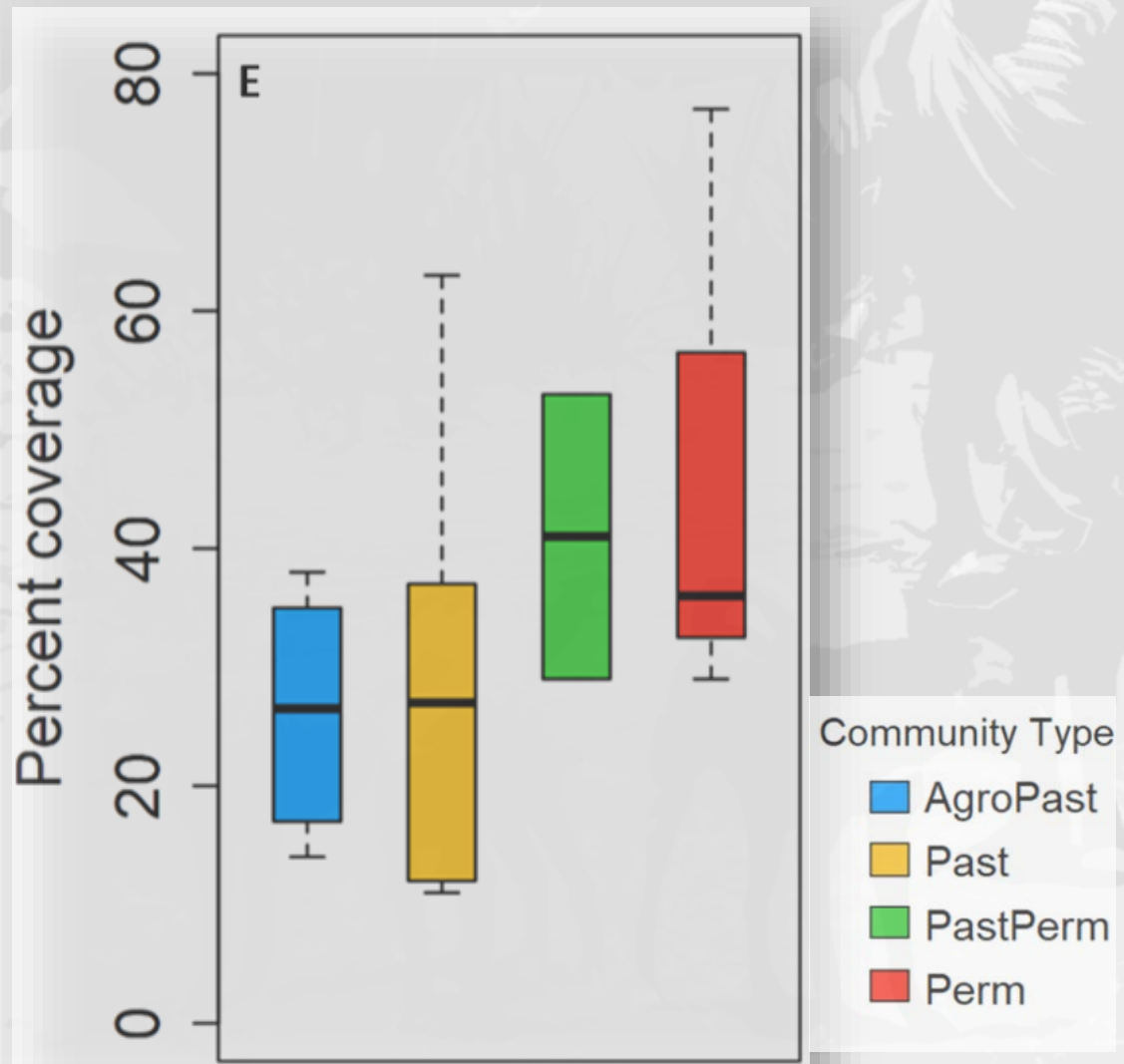


Has been and still is a major challenge..

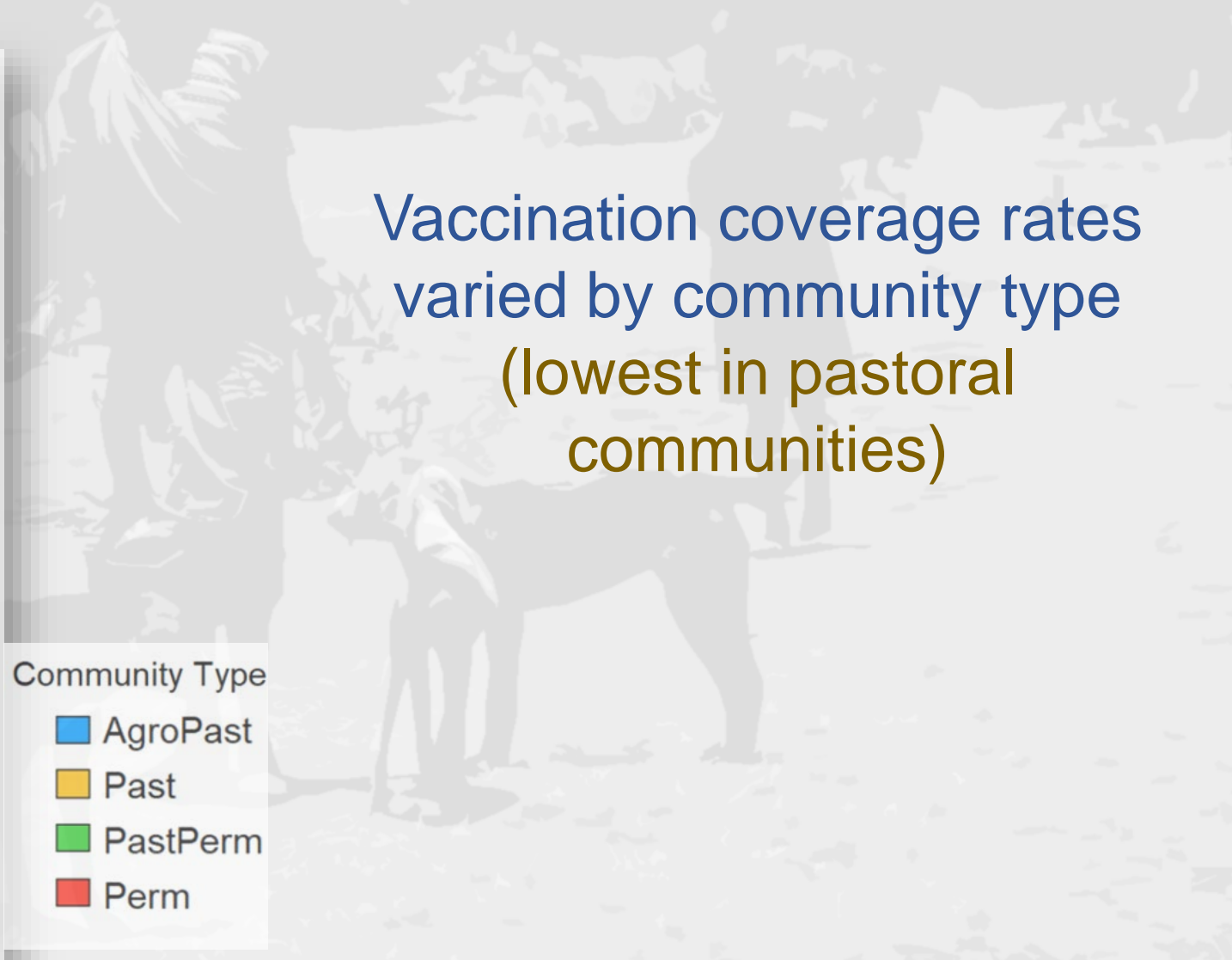
-  Susceptible
-  Infected
-  Immune



...BUT how about the coverage rate?

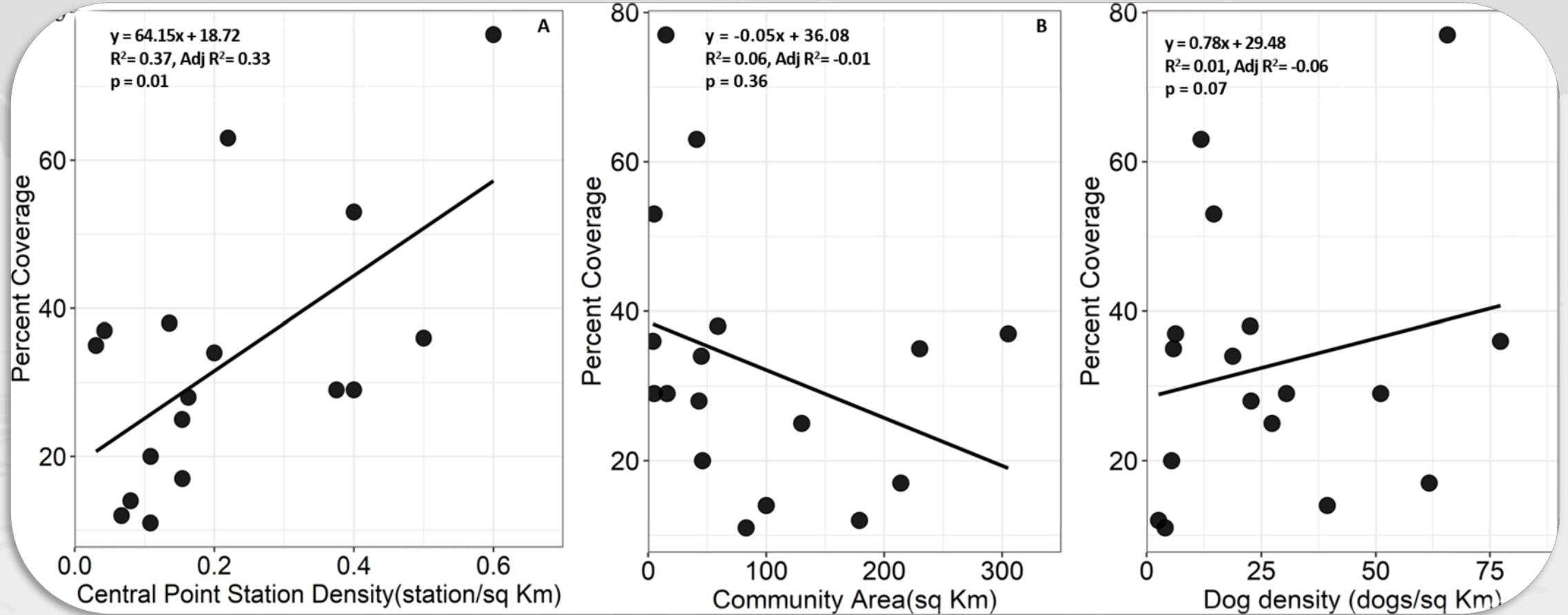


Vaccination coverage rates varied by community type (lowest in pastoral communities)





...BUT how about the coverage rate?



Vaccination coverage rates was higher in central station, densely populated areas

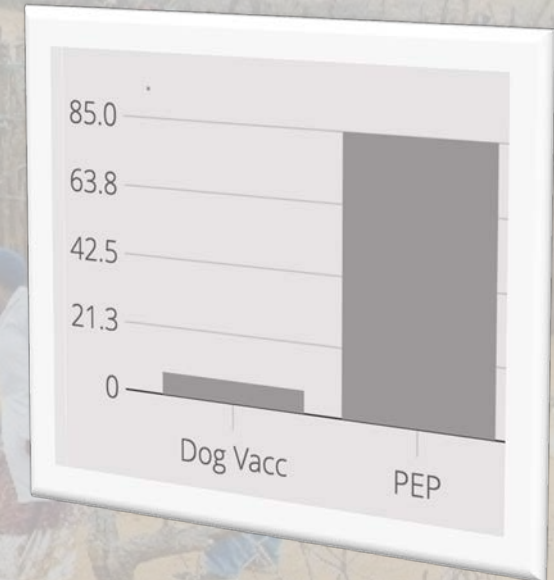
Finding (2): Need for sustainable financing



\$7.44 without contributions

\$ 3.44 with in-kind contributions

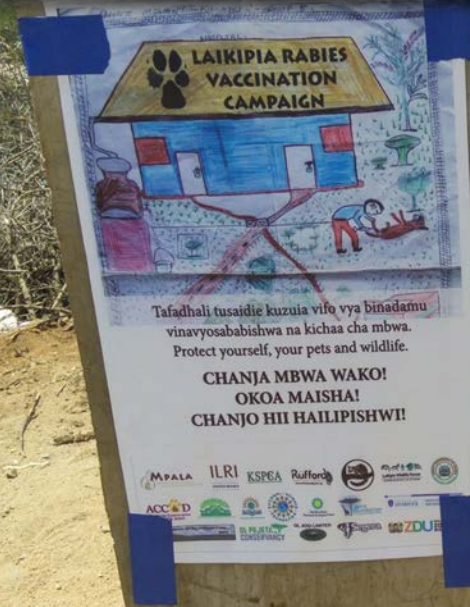
Cost higher in pastoral area



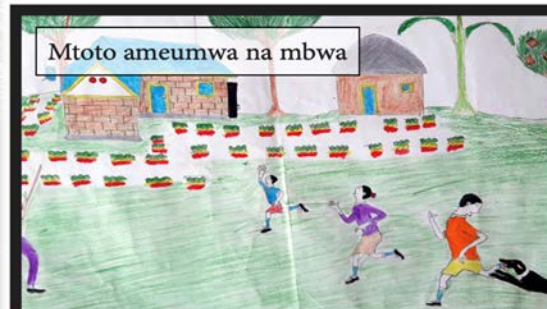
Finding (3): Community outreach and rumor management

Our approach

- Working with community leaders esp teachers
- Public posters
- Engaging conservation school clubs
- Significant association between knowledge of rabies and vaccination uptake



Je wajua utafanya nini ukiumwa na mbwa kichaa?



Finding (3): Community outreach and rumor management



Despite our targeted approach we faced heavy resistance in '17

End of 2016 CD outbreak – mass dog mortalities

Perception of links between the LRVC and dog deaths

Hire a rumour manager ?

Hosting stakeholder meetings and open dialogue/discussions with entire communities

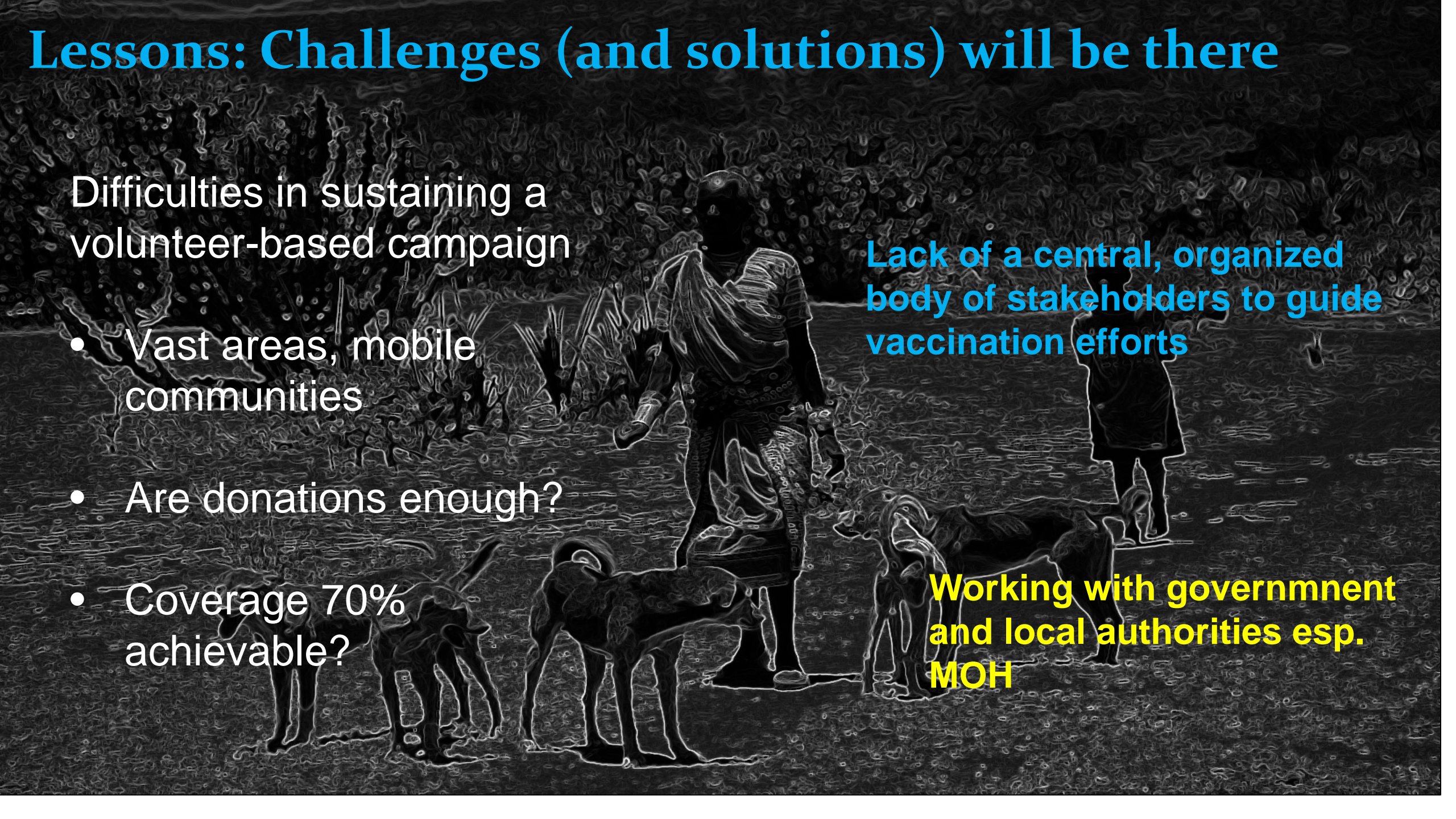
Lessons: Challenges (and solutions) will be there

Difficulties in sustaining a volunteer-based campaign

- Vast areas, mobile communities
- Are donations enough?
- Coverage 70% achievable?

Lack of a central, organized body of stakeholders to guide vaccination efforts

Working with government and local authorities esp. MOH

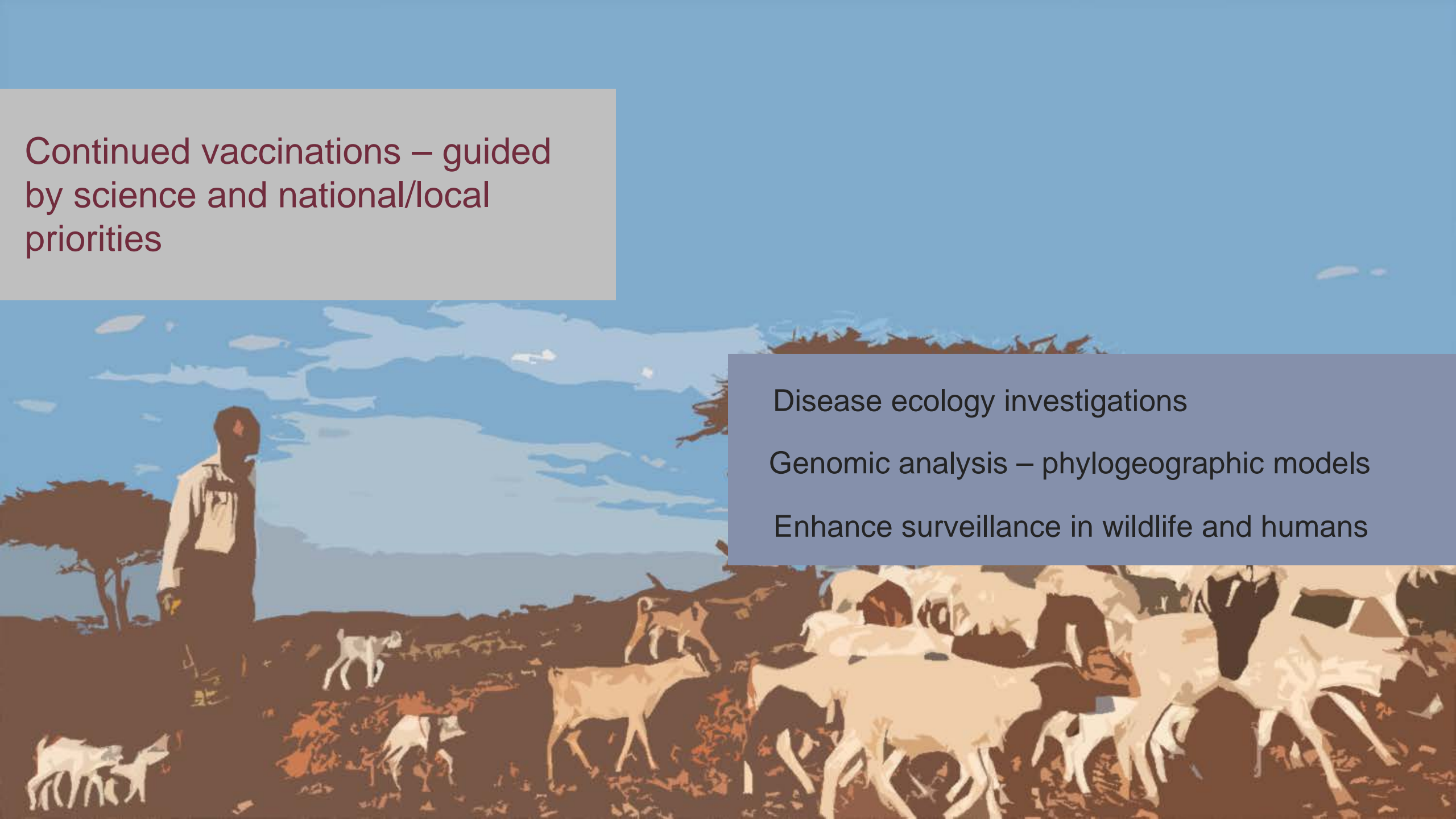


Continued vaccinations – guided by science and national/local priorities

Disease ecology investigations


Genomic analysis – phylogeographic models

Enhance surveillance in wildlife and humans

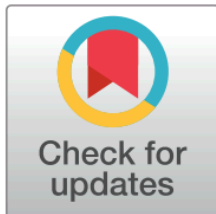


RESEARCH ARTICLE

Volunteer based approach to dog vaccination campaigns to eliminate human rabies: Lessons from Laikipia County, Kenya

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