



# VISION, MISSION, PRIORITIES AND WAY FORWARD

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## 1. Our vision

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Vétérinaires Sans Frontières International (VSF-Int) vision is summarised by the slogan : Healthy people, healthy animals, healthy environment.

VSF International is a network of non-profit organisations that operate in the field of animal health, welfare and production and agriculture using a holistic approach, integrating human, animal and environment health and pursues humanitarian, development<sup>1</sup>, scientific, educational and advocacy objectives. The member organizations of the network support people whose livelihoods depend on the health and production of their animals, regardless of their ethnic or religious status.

VSF International believes that:

- Food sovereignty and food safety and security are a basic human right;
- The healthy and sustainable relationship between humans, animals and their environment is of the outmost importance for the livelihoods and living conditions of all people;
- Food safety and security through veterinary care and knowledge are crucial for improving livelihoods of vulnerable populations.

## 2. Our mission

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The mission of VSF International is to strengthen its members to reach their vision through networking, cooperation on projects, and the sharing of information and experiences in improving the well-being of disadvantaged populations.

VSF-Int network is a platform for (a) exchange of experiences and strengthen its members; (b) creation of synergy and joint actions in the South as in the North; (c) advocacy on livestock and animal health; (d) increasing the awareness of its members from public and private donors.

VSF-I aims to achieve its mission by:

1. Strengthening the network based on common philosophy, ethical principles and mutual respect to reach a common goal. VSF-Int encourages its members to coordinate their geographical coverage and to share and pool human resources, as well as to gather and share information in the network regarding results, experiences, approaches and tools in the field.
2. Raising awareness about the positive role of livestock and small scale integrated farming systems / family farming as a key factor for sustainable livelihood development.

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<sup>1</sup> Intended as structural development, rehabilitation and relief.

3. Promoting open source exchange information, especially about agro-zootechnical approaches, environmental management, climate change mitigation and adaptation, social well-being and resilience, disaster preparedness and management, economic equality, gender and social equality, biodiversity and education.

Furthermore, VSF-Int commits :

1. To promote the exchange of experience between members and local partners, and contribute to capacity building using participatory approaches.
2. To strengthen the capacity of its members to advocate with their partners and stakeholders.

### **3. Priorities of the network**

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**1. To improve the visibility of the international network and its members, highlighting its comparative advantage deriving from:**

- Strong professional field and scientific expertise in animal health and production, food sovereignty and food security;
- Professional skills (organisational skills and systems, financial systems and international cooperation);
- Capacity to implement educational activities on themes related to VSF's work
- Use of holistic approaches adapted to local social, environmental, economic, gender and public/animal health contexts;
- Diversity and complementarities amongst its members .

**2. To build common positions and strengthen advocacy towards international organisations and partners (FAO, IFAD, OIE, AU IBAR, IGAD, EC, Alive...) on such topics as: the importance of small farmers, livestock for sustainable development and climate change, food security, food sovereignty, one health, integration between livestock and agriculture, complementary use and integration of other medicines (e.g. homeopathy, phytotherapy, ethnoveterinary medicine) , integrated technical approaches which aim to reduce external inputs (drugs, fertilisers, fuels, etc.), income generating activities (IGAs), conflict resolution/peace mitigation, child protection, gender equality, access to resources and natural resource management (NRM), innovative approaches that can solve complex problems.**

**3. To facilitate partnerships and synergies between network members in order for them to implement common actions, and in particular large programs.**

*Examples:*

- *VSF International network is operational*
- *DEP*
- *partnership among VSF Germany, Switzerland and Belgium in East Africa*
- *Partnership among AVSF France, VSF Switzerland and Belgium in West Africa (to be build/being build)*
- *Partnership between AVSF France and VSF Spain in Haiti*
- *Partnership between AVSF France and VSF Canada in Cambodia*
- *Partnership between VSF Canada, (Swiss/Belgium) and Germany in South Sudan*

- *Office sharing: Juba, Bamako, (Niger in the past), Addis, ..., Brussels*

**4. To assist members to mobilise international and national funds (the most proper way to manage fundraising actions will be discussed and implemented on a case-by-case basis)**

- *Ex: partnership between VSF Belgium, Italy, France for the European development education program "livestock and climate change"*
- *Coalitions in East Africa*

**5. To facilitate the exchange of good practices and methods in areas related to cooperation and institutional dynamics:** communication tools, human resource management, financial management, project management, funding management experience, national security procedures , country context analyses, knowledge management, etc.

Adopted by the Board of VSF International  
Prague, September 2013