



VSF INTERNATIONAL  
VÉTÉRINAIRES  
SANS FRONTIÈRES



# VSF INTERNATIONAL ANNUAL REPORT 2016





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**Pictures:** VSF network

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# VSF International at a glance

Vétérinaires Sans Frontières International is a network of non-profit organizations working all over the world to support small-scale farmers and livestock keepers. With our projects we serve the most vulnerable rural populations and act collectively to advocate in favour of small-scale family farming and livestock keeping, pastoralism, animal and human health, and a healthy environment.

VSF International is composed of 11 members – the different VSF organiza-

tions in Austria, Belgium, Canada, Czech Republic, France, Germany, Italy, The Netherlands, Portugal, Spain and Switzerland. Our members are autonomous organisations, but share common goals and principles, coordinate their actions in the field, pool resources and share skills and experiences. Altogether, our members implement over 170 projects in 31 countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America. VSF International has a coordination office in Brussels.



“  
Healthy animals  
Healthy people  
Healthy environment



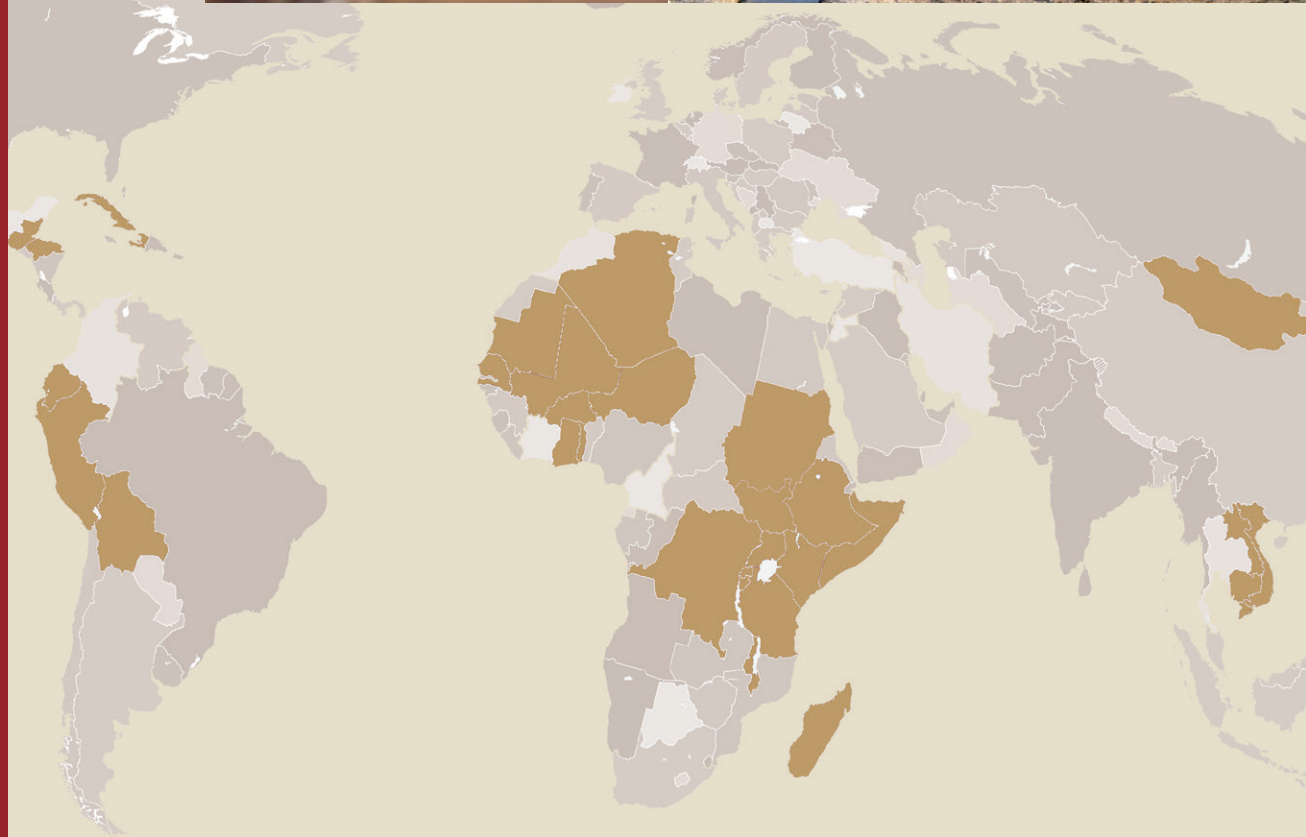
# Our approach

Around 1.3 billion people depend on livestock for their livelihoods, among which 600 million are poor farmers.

VSF International and its members are working towards reducing poverty and improving food security and nutrition by supporting small-scale farmers and rural households.

The majority of our projects focus on animal health, livestock production and sustainable integrated farming practices.

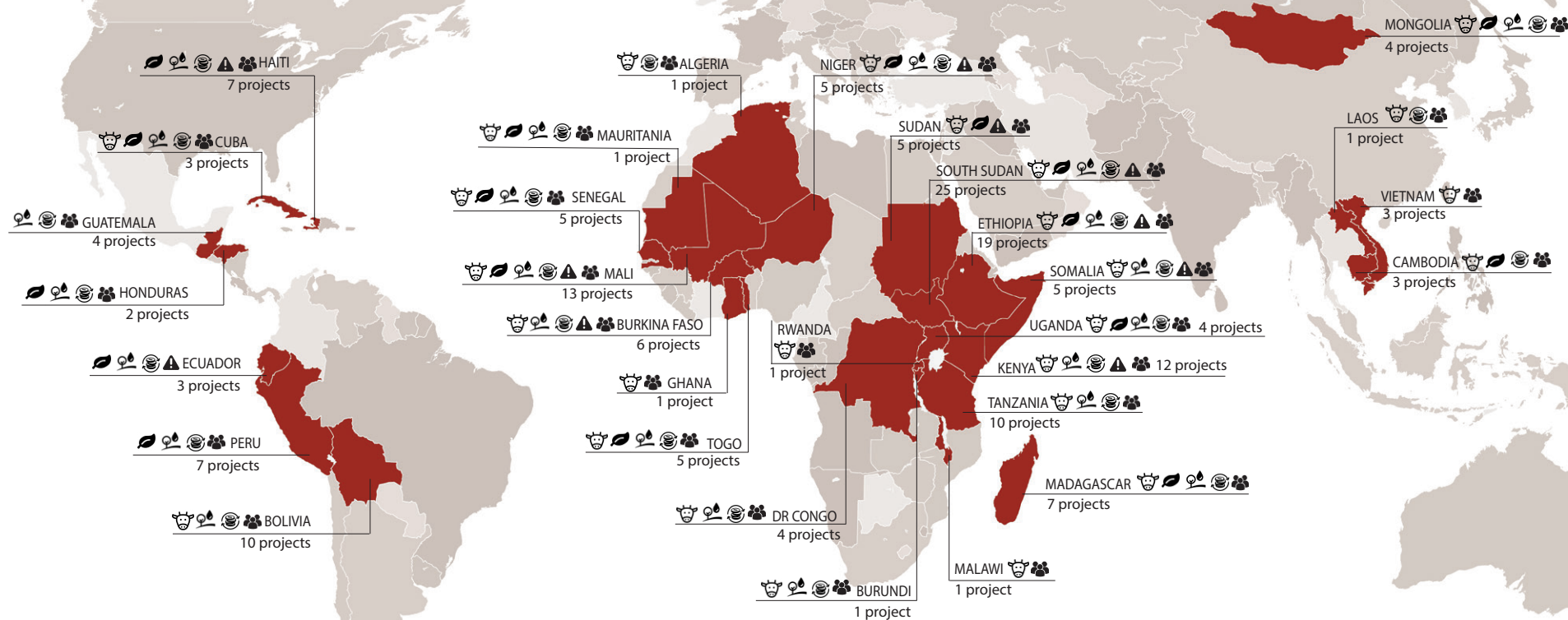
**Healthy animals represent the key for a healthy life, better livelihood conditions, improved nutrition and increased welfare.**





# Where we work

The VSF network supports families and producers in **31 countries** in Africa, the Americas and Asia. In 2016, the members of VSF International implemented altogether **177 projects**.



## LEGEND



Animal health and animal production



Natural resource management



Emergency relief and preparedness



Crop production and agroecology



Marketing and value chain



Capacity building and training



# The VSF International network in 2016



\* includes also animals vaccinated



## Our projects include several components that together contribute to improve the resilience of poor rural households

Livestock production and animal health interventions are the core of our mission. From one side, we work to strengthen the local veterinary services, so that they can better respond to the needs of livestock keepers. On the other side, we work with communities living in very remote areas, where we train Community Animal Health Workers (CAHWs) who – in collaboration with a graduated vet – deliver primary health care to the animals of their neighbours.

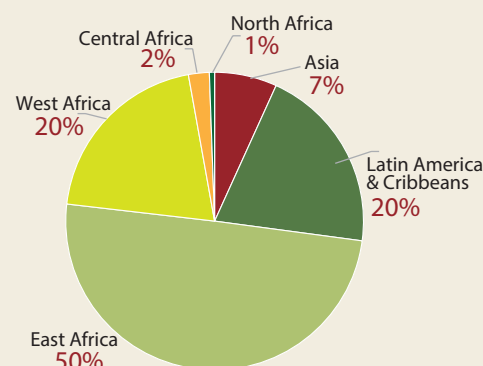
We support producers' groups to get better access to market and to develop value chains so that they can get better earnings from selling their products or live animals. We support women's small entrepreneurial businesses through a microcredit system called Village Community Banking (VICOBA).

Crop and forage production are also an increasing component of our projects, targeting agro-pastoralists or small diversified farms. In order to prevent conflicts and promote a sustainable use of natural resources such as water, land and pastures, we work with communities and local governments to establish resources use plans, to promote better pasture management and pasture restoration, and to build and manage water infrastructure.

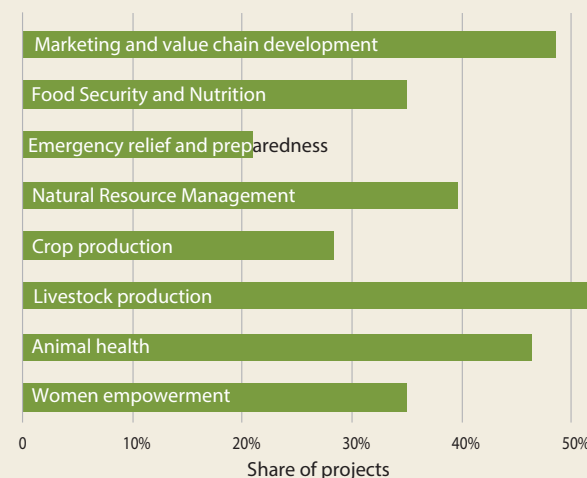
Finally, we are also active in humanitarian response and in strengthening community preparedness to crisis in several arid and semi-arid areas. Here, improved animal health and livestock management are large components of our activities, that allow to increase resilience to shocks and to improve the livelihood strategies of our target communities. In our actions we are aligned with the LEGS (Livestock Emergency Guidelines and Standards), which cover important technical aspects of livestock-related emergency interventions such as destocking, veterinary care, supplementary feeding, provision of water, livestock shelter and settlement, and provision of livestock or restocking.

## >>The VSF International network in 2016

### Projects in 2016 per sub region



### Key components in our projects







# Giving a voice to pastoralists

From August 2015 to March 2017, a consortium composed by VSF International and 5 member organisations (VSF Germany, AVSF, VSF Belgium, SIVtro-VSF Italy and VSF-JAG Spain) jointly implemented the project *"Regional Consultations with Pastoralists CSOs – Towards better policies in support to pastoralism"*, co-financed by

the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD).

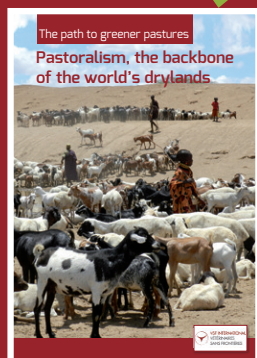
The project focused on 5 sub-regions where pastoralism plays a significant role: Northern Africa and the Near East, Western and Central Africa, Eastern and Southern Africa, Asia, and Latin America.

Pastoral systems are sustainable, low-input systems that are extremely adaptable to the environment and to the specific socioeconomic conditions. Yet, pastoral communities are often marginalized, lacking recognition and proper political and institutional support.

Between November 2015 and February 2016, the VSF consortium organized – together with its partners – a broad consultation with pastoralist Civil Society across 38 countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America. In each region, this process allowed to collect evidence of the value of sustainable pastoralism; identify challenges and



## PUBLICATIONS OF VSF INTERNATIONAL



**Report and Technical brief**  
*"The path to greener pastures. Pastoralism, the backbone of the world's drylands"*

**Infographics**  
*"Pastoralism towards sustainable development"*



*"Better approaches in support of pastoralism". Article published in the December issue of Farming Matters magazine (Vol. 32.4, December 2016)*



*"Securing pastoralists' land tenure rights". Article published in the international journal Rural 21 (Vol. 50 Nr. 3/2016)*



## >> Giving a voice to pastoralists

opportunities at local, regional and international level; and provide recommendations for policymakers and international organizations on how to better support pastoral communities.

The results of this consultation were presented at the Special Session on Pastoralism, organized at the opening of the IFAD's Farmers' Forum in February 2016.

The action contributed to strengthening networks and alliances of pastoral-

ists CSOs worldwide, and stressed on the need to include pastoralists constituencies in decision making processes.

VSF International is committed to continue advocating worldwide in favour of pastoralist communities. Thanks to strong partnerships with pastoralist networks and good relationships with donors and national governments the network is working towards this path.

### **VSF International contributed to advocate in favor of pastoralism through participation to several events, congresses and meetings:**

- "Moving towards sustainable pastoralism and responsible consumption of livestock products" organized by the United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP) [[Nairobi, Kenya. May 2016](#)]
- Conference "Pastoralists, custodians of animals and the environment: towards better policies to support pastoralism. Case studies from the world" organised by VSF Italy [[Vicenza, Italy. June 2016](#)]

- Workshop "Multifunctionality of pastoralism: linking global and local strategies through shared visions and methods", co-organized by the World Bank, FAO, the Global Agenda for Sustainable Livestock, the Livestock Farming and Local Development (LIFLOD) network, TerrAfrica, INRA and CIRAD [[Saskatoon, Canada. July 2016](#)]
- The 10th International Rangeland Congress [[Saskatoon, Canada. July 2016](#)]
- 67th Annual Meeting of the European Federation of Animal Science [[Belfast, UK. September 2016](#)]

- 1st Joint International Conference of the Association of Institutions for Tropical Veterinary Medicine (AITVM) and the Society of Tropical Veterinary Medicine (STVM) [[Berlin, Germany. September 2016](#)]
- Conference "The Path to the Greener Pastures: Pastoralism, the backbone of the world's dry lands" organised by VSF Germany [[Berlin, Germany. September 2016](#)]
- The Conference on Tropical and Sub-tropical Agricultural and Natural Resource Management (TROPENTAG) [[Vienna, Austria. September 2016](#)]

## THE PASTORALIST KNOWLEDGE HUB INITIATIVE

VSF International is partner of the Pastoralist Knowledge Hub initiative, which is lead by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). The Hub brings together pastoralists and international actors to ensure that pastoralists' concerns are integrated into international policy dialogue. The Hub enables pastoralists and their representatives to meet, discuss and voice their concerns to the international community.

The Hub have been a key partner of VSF for the project "Regional Consultations with Pastoralists CSOs – Towards better policies in support to pastoralism". VSF and the Hub worked together to co-organize three of the five regional gatherings in January 2016, and to build a database of pastoral organizations from all over the world, which will be launched and published online in mid-2017.







# PPR global eradication campaign

2016 has been a key year for the international community engaged in the eradication of the **Peste des Petits Ruminants (PPR)**. Between 2015 and 2016 the Animal Health Organization (OIE) and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) have consulted with different stakeholder to set up a global eradication programme.

The VSF International network participated to this process both at country-level (especially in the Horn of Africa) and at international level, by providing inputs and comments to the draft Global Eradication Strategy. The Global Strategy was finally launched in October 2016, and consist of a 15-year effort to eradicate PPR by

2030, with an estimated investment of 996.4 million US\$.

PPR is a highly contagious animal disease affecting small ruminants, and it is present today in more than 70 countries. Once introduced, the virus can infect up to 90 percent of an animal heard, and the disease kills anywhere from 30 to 70 percent of infected animals. **Small ruminants play a significant role to support the livelihood of rural families and their resilience against various shocks.** Especially sheep and goats, differently than cattle, are present sparsely in small herds in almost all households between the tropics, even in very remote areas.





## >> PPR global eradication campaign



Lesson learnt from the Rinderpest eradication campaigns showed that the implementation work was done in many countries with strong involvement of NGOs and through the strategic collaboration with Community-based Animal Health Workers (CAHWs). This will be again needed in those fragile and remote areas where government structures, and others agencies are not present for many reasons. If PPR remains uncontrolled in these spots, the spillover of disease to surrounding coun-

tries will continuously break down the entire process, due to the intrinsic characteristics of extensive livestock production systems, including animal mobility.

**VSF International's members are involved in disease control (including PPR) and capacity building targeting various actors across East, West and North Africa, supporting several components included in the global PPR eradication strategy.**





## STRUCTURE AND GOVERNANCE

VSF International is a non-profit organisation (a.i.s.b.l. for its French acronym) registered in Belgium. It is governed by a General Assembly, which is composed of all the organisation members of the network. The General Assembly is the supreme organ of VSF-international, which meets once a year and defines the global vision and strategy of the organisation, approves the accounts and budget, and elects the Board. The Board is elected every two years. It is responsible for the implementation of the general Assembly's decisions and supports the day-to-day activities of the coordination office in Brussels. Board members are also participating in different thematic working groups, together with other experts from the national VSFs.

VSF International is managed by a coordination office in Brussels (Belgium), which is responsible for fostering collaboration between members, coordinating joint projects and campaigns, leading external communication and representing the network at International level.

In the years 2016-2017 the Board was composed by:

- Carline Mainenti (AVSF) – President
- Koen Vantroos (VSF/DZG Belgium) – Treasurer
- Cornelia Heine (VSF Germany)
- Giorgia Angeloni (SIVtro-VSF Italy)
- Daniel Bolomey (VSF-Suisse)
- Chris Braeuel (VWB/VSF Canada)
- Sarah Farrand (DIO)

# Consolidating the international network

VSF International aims at strengthening ties between the member organizations, towards more and better collaborations in the field and a stronger international presence. In the last years the network has been working to consolidate its vision, mission and strategy, to better serve members' needs and to raise their profile at the international level.

## Co-branding and joint advocacy

In 2016 VSF international adopted a common advocacy strategy, focusing on two main themes that are at the core of VSF's vision:

- Small scale livestock farming, focusing especially on pastoralism and on adaptation and mitigation to climate change, food security and nutrition and poverty reduction; and
- Livestock health and production, supporting the proximity animal health systems, and promoting the implementation of One Health approach

All members of VSF International contribute to disseminate the positions of the network on these key topics, and try to influence decision makers at national, regional and international level.







## >> Consolidating the international network

The network is also redefining its corporate image and communication strategy. In 2016 the new logo of VSF International has been adopted, showing a stylized head of a cattle with long horns, which includes all the distinctive traits of the single members' logos.

### Collaboration in the field

In the field, a number of consortia agreements are implemented (e.g. in South Sudan and Mali), and new consortia projects are often submitted to donors. The network is also putting in place better coordination mechanisms involving all the members active in a same country, in order to mutually complement the capacities, expertise and areas of intervention of each organization, so that the operational capacity of the single organizations is reinforced.

Furthermore, from August 2015 to March 2017, a global project on pastoralism has been implemented under the coordination of VSF International by a consortium of 5 members of the network (AVSF, VSF Germany, VSF Belgium, SIVtro-VSF Italy and VSF-JAG Spain). The project (see page 8), contributed also to strengthen the capacities of members to work together, reinforcing the knowledge exchange and adopting a joint work plan for advocacy in favour of pastoralism.

### Better collaboration through joint working groups

Six thematic working groups are run by VSF International, to create a space of dialogue and collaboration between the member organizations, and push forward the agenda of the network:

- Advocacy
- Knowledge management
- Communication and Fundraising
- Strategy and governance
- Livestock-based emergency and post-emergency interventions
- Security issues





# Finances

In 2016 VSF International had a turnover of 83,876 €, with a benefit of 10,424 €. At the end of the year, the reserves of the organization amounted at 27,839 €. The budget of VSF International is mainly dedicated to coordinate actions of the member organizations and reinforce their capacities. VSF International doesn't directly implement projects in the field.

Overall, in 2016 the members of VSF International had a total turnover of 40.6 million Euros (59.7 million Canadian Dollars).

## Operating account at 31st December 2016 (in Euro):

	2016	2015
<b>INCOME:</b>		
Membership fees	5 650	5 500
Members' contributions	23 300	18 700
Grants	53 475	13 725
Donations	1 089	0
Service provided	290	0
Other income	72	48
<b>Total income</b>	<b>83 876</b>	<b>37 973</b>

	2016	2015
<b>EXPENDITURE:</b>		
Human resources	- 38 491	- 24 205
Transport costs	- 8 761	- 1 692
Investments	- 30	0
Operating costs	- 26 103	- 13 796
Bank costs	- 67	- 85
Other costs	0	- 147
<b>Total expenditure</b>	<b>- 73 452</b>	<b>- 39 925</b>
<b>RESULT:</b>		
	<b>10 424</b>	<b>- 1 952</b>
<b>RESERVES:</b>		
	at 31/12/2016:	at 31/12/2015:
	<b>27 839</b>	<b>17 416</b>





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