



VSF INTERNATIONAL
VÉTÉRINAIRES
SANS FRONTIÈRES

VSF INTERNATIONAL ANNUAL REPORT 2017



Table of contents

WHO WE ARE AND WHAT WE DO	3
WHERE WE WORK	4
EMERGENCY RESPONSE: FOCUS ON LIVESTOCK	5
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Building resilience through livestock-based interventions in the Horn of Africa • Livestock Emergency Guidelines and Standards • Humans and animals in refugee camps 	
SUPPORTING PASTORALISM IN WEST AFRICA	8
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improving the livelihoods of pastoral communities • Implementing One Health in West Africa 	
INFLUENCING POLICYMAKING	11
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participating in the Global Agenda for Sustainable Livestock • Recognizing Community Animal Health Workers as indispensable actors of proximity animal health services 	
WORKING BETTER TOGETHER	13
FINANCE	14
GOVERNANCE	15



© VSF International 2018

Realized by: Margherita Gomasca, Koen Van Troos, Carline Mainenti, Mike Burke

Graphic layout: Renata Filippi

Icons from www.flaticon.com and www.canva.com

Pictures: VSF International network



Who we are

Vétérinaires Sans Frontières International is a network of 13 non-profit organizations working all over the world to support small-scale farmers and livestock keepers.

With our projects and programs 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.



Our fields of expertise



ANIMAL
HEALTH



LIVESTOCK
FARMING



CROP
PRODUCTION



NATURAL
RESOURCE
MANAGEMENT



MARKETING
AND VALUE CHAIN
DEVELOPMENT



CAPACITY BUILDING
AND TRAINING



EMERGENCY RELIEF
AND PREPAREDNESS



FOOD SECURITY
AND NUTRITION



ADVOCACY

Our mission



Around 1.3 billion people depend on livestock for their livelihoods, among which 600 million are poor farmers. VSF International and its members and partners are working towards reducing poverty and improving food security and nutrition by supporting small-scale farmers and livestock keepers. In addition, we develop value chains based on animal products (dairy, meat, leather, wool etc.) and connect smallholders to urban and peri-urban markets. We promote agroecology by improving crop and livestock farming systems through sustainable practices such as soil conservation, agroforestry, recycling nutrients and ethnoveterinary practices. Finally, our activities are inspired by the One Health principle as we recognize that the health of humans and animals as well as their ecosystems are interconnected. Healthy animals represent the key for a healthy life, better livelihood conditions, improved nutrition and increased well-being.

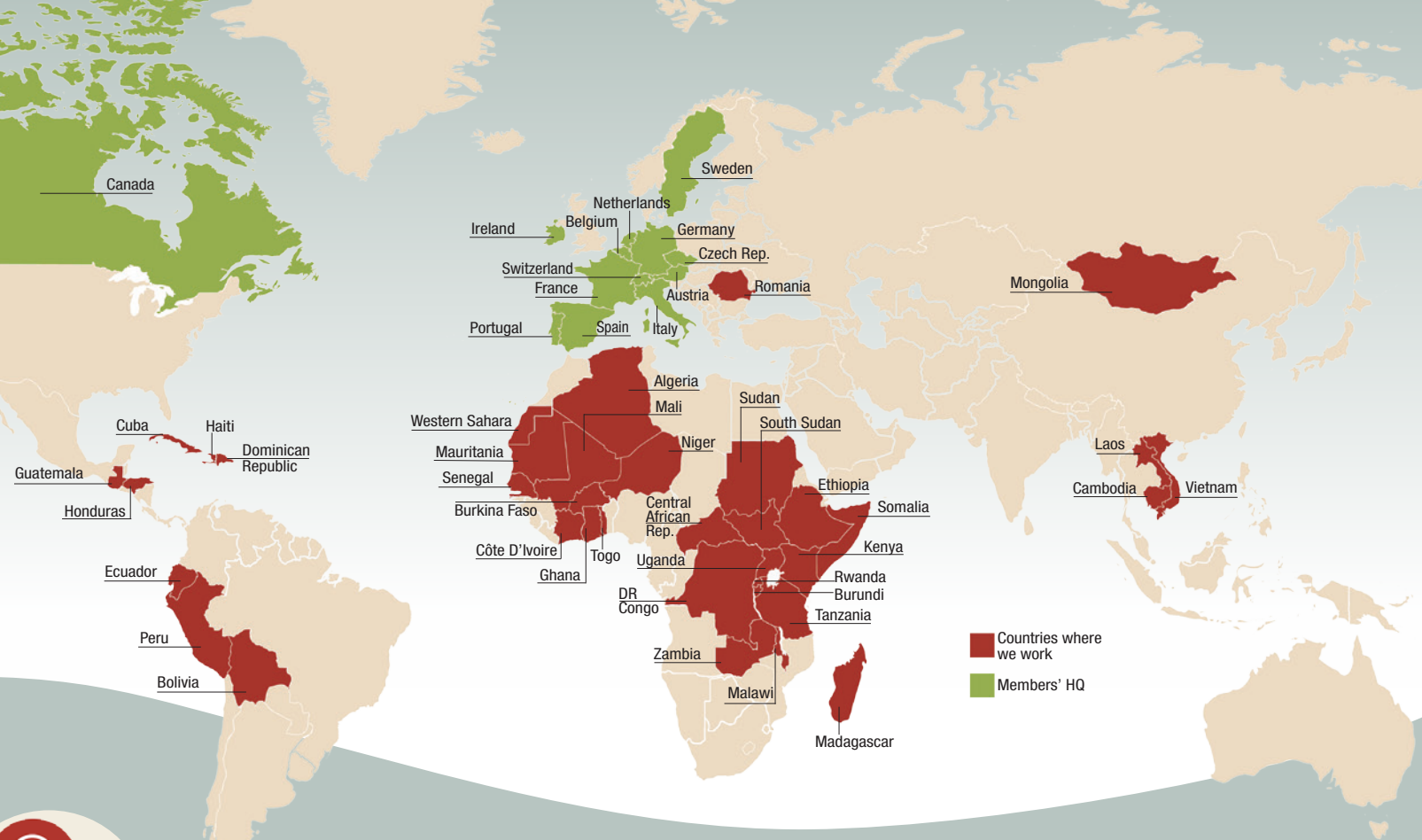
Our members

In 2017, two new member organizations joined the network: VIVA (Volunteers in Irish Veterinary Assistance) and VSF Sweden. VIVA is currently involved in projects supporting smallholder livestock keepers in Uganda and Romania. VSF Sweden is supporting projects in Tanzania, Malawi and Zambia.



Where we work

The VSF network supports families and farmers' organizations in **36 countries** in Africa, the Americas and Asia. In 2017, the members of VSF International implemented altogether **209 projects**, reaching over **6 million direct beneficiaries**, with an overall budget of **48.5 million €**.





Building resilience through livestock-based interventions in the Horn of Africa

For millions of people worldwide, livestock is a key asset that offers multiple benefits, providing food and income, draft power, manure, economic security and social status. When disaster strikes, the loss of livestock affects the livelihood of livestock-dependent households, with larger implications for the whole livestock economy and the food security of the population.

In arid and semi-arid areas of Africa, where pastoralism is widely practiced, droughts are a serious threat that can deplete feed and water resources, reduce livestock production and reproduction, and cause livestock mortality. Increased mobility of livestock in search of water and pastures predisposes them to disease outbreaks and resource-based conflicts.

In 2017, the Horn of Africa was affected by a severe drought, caused by several years of failed rainy seasons, and exacerbated by conflicts – as in the case of Somalia and South Sudan – or by the weakened capacities of local institutions to put in place rapid responses.

For drought to no longer be synonymous with catastrophe, efforts need to be maintained over time, and the capacities of local governments and civil society need to be strengthened.

In order to respond to drought in the region, VSF Germany and VSF Suisse coordinate their actions to deliver effective emergency response and preparedness projects targeting vulnerable livestock keepers and farmers. Their interventions in Somalia, Ethiopia, Kenya, Sudan and South Sudan, focus on:

- Improving access to water;
- Enhancing veterinary and human health services;
- Supporting feed production and storage to maintain the core breeding stock in good shape even in times of crisis;
- Slaughtering animals before they become too weak (destocking) and distributing the meat to food-insecure households;
- Distributing small ruminants or poultry either to replace livestock assets that have been lost or to build new livelihood activity (restocking).

In 2017, in the Horn of Africa:

- We assisted 3.15 million households through our livestock-based interventions;
- We distributed emergency feed to 70 000 animals;
- We distributed 25 360 animals (sheep, goats and poultry);
- We treated and/or vaccinated 13.3 million animals.



Livestock Emergency Guidelines and Standards

We believe that effective emergency responses should include a combination of short-term humanitarian relief and long-term resilience strengthening. Whenever people's livelihoods are largely dependent on animals, the Livestock Emergency Guidelines and Standards (LEGS) offer a valuable set of guiding principles to implement livestock-based interventions that strengthen the recovery capacity and the overall resilience of affected populations. The LEGS standards cover a range of livestock-based interventions – provision of feed, provision of water, provision of veterinary services, destocking, restocking, and livestock shelter and settlement interventions – as well as support and guidance on livelihoods-based needs assessment and identification of appropriate, timely and feasible emergency responses.

Successful LEGS implementation requires adjustments depending on the local contexts and the consideration of local knowledge and actors. VSF International's members have long-established experience with livestock interventions, and a deep understanding of the location-specific challenges and opportunities in their areas of operation.



© Tom Martin for VSF Suisse

Policy brief: FROM EMERGENCY TO DEVELOPMENT. BUILDING RESILIENCE THROUGH LIVESTOCK-BASED INTERVENTIONS

This policy brief describes how disasters affect livelihoods and summarizes the types of interventions available for mitigating their impacts and building resilience. It also shows examples of how VSF is putting LEGS into practice and how its principles can be adapted in emergency situations.

<http://vsf-international.org/publications/>





Humans and animals in refugee camps

VSF International is participating in a research project led by Glasgow University and funded by the Wellcome Trust, which aims to establish a cross-disciplinary network to investigate the relationship of humans and animals in refugee camps around the world, both in the present and in a historical perspective.

The research network is composed of an international group of academic researchers and humanitarian practitioners, including VSF Italy representing VSF international. The group is exploring what roles animals play in refugee camps, how do livestock and companion animals influence human health and the wellbeing of refugees, and what challenges do they pose in terms of animal health and welfare.

The VSF network has been working with livestock in refugee camps for many years and in several countries. In the Saharawi refugee camps in Algeria, VSF Italy is active for over two decades supporting the Saharawi veterinary services and improving the management practices of small ruminants kept in the camps.

In Northern Burkina Faso, VSF Belgium has been running a project to support the establishment of dairy micro-enterprises to provide locally produced fresh milk to Malian refugees' children. In the Horn of Africa, VSF Suisse and VSF Germany work with refugees and internally displaced people and host communities in Ethiopia, Somalia, Sudan and South Sudan.



Improving the livelihoods of pastoral communities

In West Africa, where the regional herd includes more than 74 million cattle, 267 million sheep and goats and 4.5 million camels (FAOSTAT 2016), pastoralism is a fundamental activity, with important socio-economic benefits and opportunities to fight poverty. Nonetheless, pastoralists face several challenges related to access to land, to services (health, education, veterinary services, etc.) and to markets. These challenges are further exacerbated due to climate change and demographic growth.

With our specialization in livestock, we act to improve the resilience of pastoral and agro-pastoral communities by promoting participatory, adapted and inclusive approaches. In pastoral areas where livestock keepers' communities are widely dispersed, access to basic services, including veterinary services, remains a big challenge. In order to provide animal health services to dispersed and mobile pastoralists communities, our members active in West Africa (AVSF, VSF Belgium, VSF Italy and VSF-Suisse)





promote the establishment of Proximity Animal Health Services, in which veterinarians are associated to a network of para-vets and/or Community-based Animal Health Workers (CAHWs).

The roles and responsibilities of each of these actors as well as those of livestock keepers' organisations, local partners, technical services and local administrations are very well defined in this model, which ensures adequate, sustainable and good quality animal health services adapted to the needs of pastoralist communities. Furthermore, in terms of participatory epidemiological surveillance, VSF supports training of livestock keepers that become key actors in the detection and surveillance of diseases and contribute to reporting at national level.

Other coordinated initiatives in support of pastoralism include securing access to and

management of agro-pastoral resources such as land and water through participatory land use planning that contributes to conflict prevention, pasture regeneration, and establishment of feed banks to cope with recurring droughts.

Finally, we also support value chain development of animal products from pastoralist production systems such as milk and meat. As such, we offer services to pastoralists to improve the overall quality and quantity of their produce, assist in processing and facilitate market access. In Mali, Senegal and Niger VSF-Belgium, VSF-Suisse and AVSF are working on different models to ensure dairy value chain development. Common to all of these models is that they work on all aspects of the value chain, from production to consumption.



Implementing One Health in West Africa

Globally, about 60% of known human infectious diseases and 75% of emerging human diseases originate from animals. According to the International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI), 2.2 million people die each year because of 13 zoonotic diseases. The One Health approach has grown since the 1990s to address those challenges, aiming to improve the performance of global health systems by considering human health, animal health and the environment as interrelated dimensions that need coordinated approaches.

The need to develop a coherent approach to the implementation of One Health in West Africa can be explained by several factors. The region has large numbers of livestock with numbers growing at around 3% per annum. This livestock is kept by hundreds of millions of livestock keepers who depend on the animals for their livelihoods. The most common livestock systems in the region are transhumant



pastoralism and agropastoralism, characterized by mobility (often cross-border movements) of the herd and the livestock keepers in search of pasture and water.

Because of the proximity of pastoralists to their animals, but also because of the consumption of raw milk, zoonotic infections such as anthrax, brucellosis, rift valley fever and bovine tuberculosis spread easily in West Africa's pastoral areas. Since pastoralist communities largely depend on animals

for their livelihoods, high-impact animal diseases such as foot-and-mouth disease or peste des petits ruminants, that rapidly decimate the herds, have a big impact on their food security and nutritional status. Moreover, transhumant pastoralists have inadequate access to animal and human health services that are adapted to their needs. Climate change and demographic growth further increase their vulnerability by putting pressure on natural resources, adding to the environmental component



Participants to the workshop on One Health with pastoralist CSOs held in Bamako, Mali in January 2017

of One Health and the need to take ecological and environmental considerations into account.

In January 2017, VSF-Belgium, VSF-Suisse and AVSF – under the umbrella of VSF International – organized a workshop on One Health in Bamako, Mali, to inform and raise awareness among pastoral civil society organizations about the One Health concept and its practical implementation. The meeting was successful in involving local civil society organizations (local NGOs and farmers' organizations) and recognizing their fundamental role in the implementation of national and regional strategies on One Health. The added value of this workshop was to bring together the various actors who implement actions that fall under the three interfaces that form the basis of the One Health approach: the animal-man interface, the man-environment interface and the animal-environment interface.

This led to an ambitious action plan which was developed throughout 2017 mainly in Mali and will continue to be developed in 2018.



Participating in the Global Agenda for Sustainable Livestock

In 2017 VSF International became a member of the Global Agenda for Sustainable Livestock (GASL).

GASL is a multi-stakeholder partnership, facilitated by FAO, that includes a broad range of stakeholders committed to sustainable livestock systems. It is a partnership composed of seven cluster groups: governments, civil society organizations, NGOs, the private sector, donors, research/academia, and intergovernmental and multilateral organizations.

The NGO cluster, in which VSF International is represented, offers a platform which brings together organisations that represent specific issues or concerns relevant to small-scale livestock production. The cluster provides a voice of expertise on key issues such as environment, small-scale livestock systems, pastoralism, animal health and welfare, poverty reduction, livelihoods and development.

Together with representatives from the social movements and other NGOs, VSF International aims to bring a first-hand perspective on small-scale livestock production and pastoralism to the policy dialogue on sustainable livestock at national, regional and global level.





Recognizing Community Animal Health Workers as indispensable actors of proximity animal health services

In 2017 VSF-International participated in a study to analyze the structure of local proximity animal health systems, and to identify similarities and differences between systems in 19 countries where the different VSF members are active. The study was realized by Margot Galière as part of a thesis for her degree in veterinary medicine in collaboration with AVSF and VSF International.

The study enabled us to gather information about the role, training and legal status of different actors in the proximity animal health systems in each country, including Veterinarians, Veterinary Technicians/Assistants and Community Animal Health Workers (CAHWs). Its outcomes were presented at the Conference on Veterinary Paraprofessionals in Asia, organized in December 2017 in Bangkok by



the International Organization on Animal Health (OIE), and will feed into further advocacy actions that will be developed in 2018 by VSF International. In areas where there are not enough veterinarians, veterinary paraprofessionals and CAHWS – supervised by authorized veterinarians – are essential to provide high quality proximity animal health services. This is especially true in remote areas where most of the livestock dependent communities live.

CAHWs are livestock keepers who are trained in basic animal health care and provide a limited range of veterinary tasks to the members of their community. They are supervised by veterinary professionals who assure constant follow-up and (re) training. However, CAHWs aren't always recognized by the national authorities: they are recognized in only seven out of the nineteen countries analyzed.

In Kenya for instance CAHWs are not recognized, and VSF Germany, in collaboration with county governments, trains and supports Community Disease Reporters (CDRs) who are actively involved in participatory disease surveillance and further actions. In some of the other countries, although no legal status exists, there is a de facto recognition of CAHWs' role in the proximity animal health system, and the State is partially involved in their training and recognition of their right to practice. Finally, in some other countries, CAHWS have no legal status whatsoever and also lack a de facto recognition.

VSF international and its' partners advocate for the recognition of CAHWs, as indispensable actors in proximity animal health services to compensate for the lack of veterinarians, and for the need to include the definition, roles and regulation of CAHWs' activities in the veterinary legislation.



Planning future campaigns

In May 2017 we organized a workshop in Berne, Switzerland, to exchange experiences on communication and fundraising and strengthen collaborations within the VSF International network. The workshop was very enriching and established permanent linkages between communications and fundraising staff from all the member organizations. The main outcome was the formulation of a comprehensive communication strategy to make VSF better known worldwide.

During the workshop we also started planning joint communication and fundraising campaigns for the future. In order to increase the impact of our actions in the South, and to continue supporting the livelihoods of the poorest small farmers, we need to enhance our financial sustainability through strengthening the fundraising capacities of all our members.

“ We are working hard to launch in 2019 our international campaign Vaccinate for Africa! ”

In 2017 the members of VSF International had a total income of 48.5 million €

In 2017, the income of VSF International coordination office were 46,454 €. At the end of the year, the reserves amounted at 19,861 €.

The budget of VSF International is mainly dedicated to coordinating the actions of member organisations and reinforcing their capacities. VSF International doesn't directly implement projects in the field.

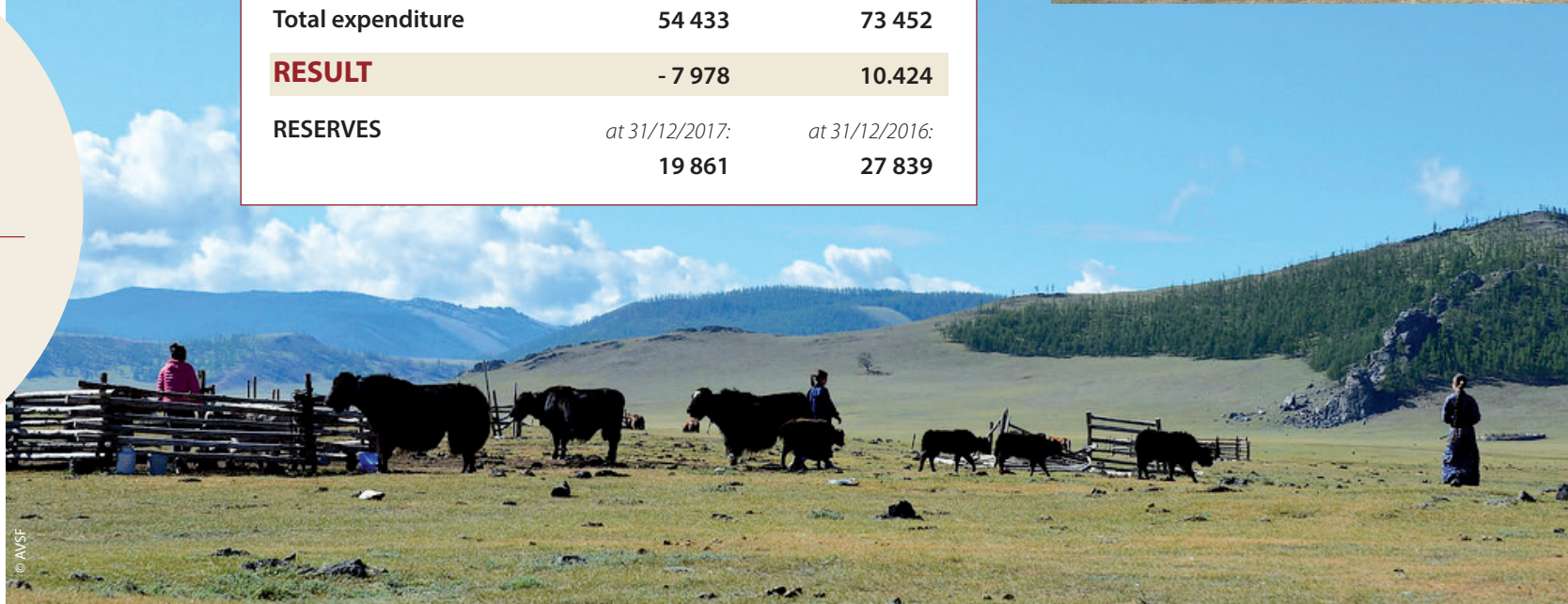


Sum of members' annual income

* 71 million Canadian dollars

VSF International's operating account at 31st December 2017 (in Euro):

	2017	2016
INCOME		
Membership fees	5 650	5 650
Members' contributions	25 700	23 300
Grants	9 513	53 475
Donations	272	1 089
Service provided	0	290
Other income	5 319	72
Total income	46 454	83 876
EXPENDITURE		
Human resources	45 510	38 491
Transport costs	2 530	8 761
Investments	0	30
Operating costs (including projects activities)	5 023	26 103
Bank costs	42	67
Other costs (exchange rate loss)	1 328	0
Total expenditure	54 433	73 452
RESULT	- 7 978	10.424
RESERVES		
	at 31/12/2017:	at 31/12/2016:
	19 861	27 839



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.

The Board has been renewed in October 2017, and it is composed by:

- Koen Vantroos (VSF/DZG Belgium) *President*
- Giorgia Angeloni (SIVtro-VSF Italy) *Vice-president*
- Carline Mainenti (AVSF) - *Treasurer*
- Constanze Bönig (VSF Germany)
- Daniel Bolomey (VSF-Suisse)
- Sonia Fèvre (VWB/VSF Canada)
- Sarah Farrand (DIO)



1 - 7th multi-stakeholders meeting of the Global Agenda for Sustainable Livestock, Addis Ababa, May 2017 (photo credits: ILRI/Apollo Habtamu).

2 - Workshop on One Health, Bamako, January 2017.

3 - VSF International Annual General Meeting, Lisbon, September 2017.

4 - Conference "Restoring value to the borders: Livestock as guardians of the marginal areas of the world", Bologna, October 2017, VSF Italy.



5 - Pastoralist Knowledge Hub Partners meeting. Rome, April 2017 (photo credits: Tonia Galasso/FAO).

6 - Annual meeting of the Coalition of the European Lobbies for Eastern Africa Pastoralism (CELEP), Brussels, November 2017.



VSF International

Av. Paul Deschanel 36-38,
1030 Brussels, Belgium

+32 (0)2 240 49 60

info@vsf-international.org

www.vsf-international.org