

VSF INTERNATIONAL ANNUAL REPORT 2018



VSF INTERNATIONAL
VÉTÉRINAIRES
SANS FRONTIÈRES

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Who we are

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

Through the implementation of our projects and programs, we serve the most vulnerable populations whose livelihoods depend on livestock, and we act collectively to support small-scale family farming, pastoralism, animal and human health, and a healthy environment.

Our members



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Vision

Our vision is a world of healthy relationships between humans, animals and the environment. Healthy animals are one of the conditions for improved human health, sustainable livelihood strategies, food and nutrition security and well-being of vulnerable populations.

HEALTHY
ANIMALS

HEALTHY
PEOPLE

HEALTHY
ENVIRON-
MENT



Mission

Our mission is to reduce poverty, contribute to food and nutrition security and improve the livelihoods and well-being of vulnerable populations by supporting smallholder farmers and livestock keepers, promoting food sovereignty and implementing the One Health approach.

VSF International and its members contribute to poverty alleviation through the following interventions:

- 1 Ensure equitable access to natural resources (water, land, pastures, forests) and services (credit, technical advice, training, etc.).
- 2 Improve animal health, welfare and productivity through strengthened public and private veterinary services, training of Community based Animal Health Workers and valorisation of traditional and local knowledge through ethnoveterinary practices.
- 3 Improve human health through informed action and capacity building around zoonoses, nutrition, hygiene and through partnering with human health and environmental organisations under a One Health approach.
- 4 Reduce risks of spread of zoonotic and epizootic diseases through improved epidemiology surveillance, disease control and food safety measures.
- 5 Promote sustainable natural resource management, agricultural and herding practices inspired by the concept of One Health and agroecology and contribute to a better environment while also mitigating climate change impacts.
- 6 Support the development of value chains for animal products (dairy, meat, leather, wool etc.) and connect smallholders to markets.
- 7 Support victims of catastrophes and improve emergency preparedness.
- 8 Raise awareness on the challenges faced by smallholder farmers, livestock keepers and pastoralists, get better recognition for the role they play in society and advocate for better policies that defend their rights.

Our work in 2018

The VSF International network supports families and farmers' organizations in **36 countries** in Africa, the Americas and Asia. In 2018, the members of VSF International implemented altogether **196 projects**, reaching over **8.33 million direct beneficiaries**, with an overall budget of **44.5 million €**.

36 Countries
196 Projects
776 Staff worldwide

44.5 million €
Sum of members' annual income

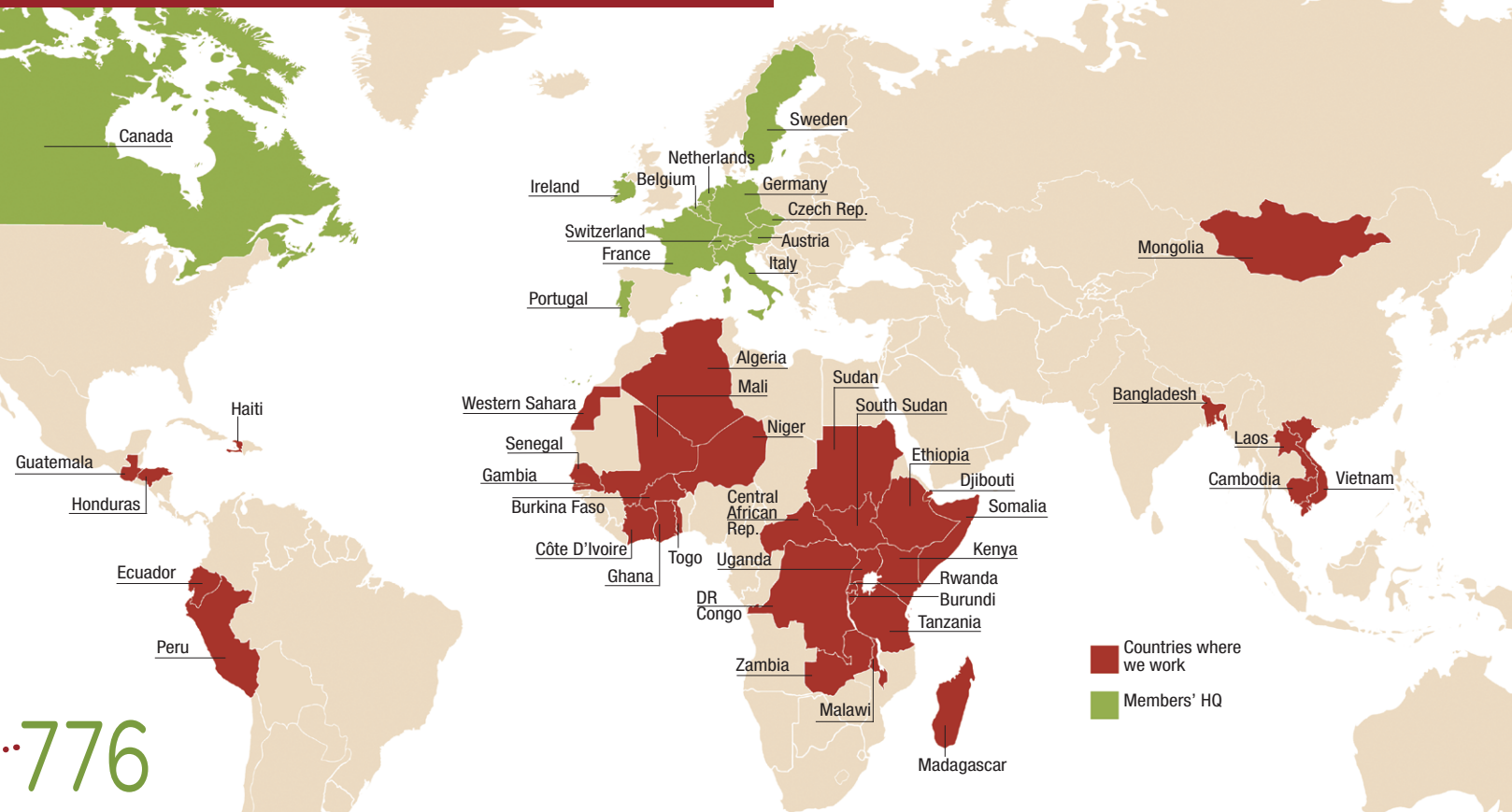
164 Local partner organizations

8.33 million Direct beneficiaries

27.2 million Animals treated

4 464 Community animal health workers trained

55 600 Animals distributed to poor households



A new strategy towards 2025

Read more
about our strategy
towards 2025:
[www.vsf-international.org/
global-strategy-
towards-2025](http://www.vsf-international.org/global-strategy-towards-2025)

Since its creation in the early 90s, the VSF International network has been continuously adapting its structure and the way members work together, always striving to improve collaborations and coordinated actions towards common goals.

During the past couple of years, the network organized a series of consultations among members, which led to the organization of a strategy workshop in April 2018. The work-

shop allowed members to review the current strategy and to define some common priorities for the horizon 2025.

As a result of the workshop, a new VSF International's Global Strategy towards 2025 was adopted, which outlines the change we want to inspire. The strategy presents the main strategic short- and medium-term priorities for the VSF International network. While it is clear that the network will remain autonomous of its members, some changes will be promoted to increase the scope for coordinated functions, as well as to strengthen the role of the coordination office. Six main priorities have been identified, which will guide the evolution of our network towards 2025:

1. Grow and diversify income
2. Increase our public recognition and support
3. Increase the quality and performance of our programs
4. Strengthen advocacy and campaigning
5. Become a learning organisation
6. Improve our performance, structure and governance

The network also discussed ways to improve collaboration in the field between members, and to better manage the presence of several members in the same countries. To this end, VSF International developed the *"Principles of collaboration on the field"*, inspired by our principles of solidarity, complementarity, coherence, transparency and support between members and towards both technical and financial partners.

Joint regional strategy in the Greater Horn of Africa

In the Greater Horn of Africa, the ongoing collaboration between VSF Germany and VSF Suisse led to the decision of developing a joint regional strategy for the next five years (2019-2023).

The two organisations have worked in the same region for many years, and some elements of coordination are already in place. They have now decided to make a step further and to identify common priority areas for the work in Ethiopia, South Sudan, Sudan, Kenya, Somalia and Djibouti, where the two organisations are currently active.

This bilateral partnership will progressively embrace other countries and other VSFs active in the region (such as VWB/VSF Canada), to forge a more united front and purpose in the execution of the VSF's mandate.

2018

Brussels, 6-7 April

VSF International's
strategic workshop



Deepening our expertise in One Health

The VSF International network has been inspired by One Health since its foundation, over 30 years ago. The common vision “Healthy animals, healthy people, healthy environment” guides our interventions in support of vulnerable communities whose livelihoods and economic assets depends on livestock. The contexts where we work are characterized by a high degree of interdependence between humans, animals and the environment and poor access to public services. In such contexts, transdisciplinary and multisectoral approaches inspired by One Health are required in order to build sustainable solutions for the people, their animals and the environment in which they live.



At the General Assembly meeting in October 2018, the members of VSF International decided to give One Health a leading role in the network's long-term strategy. Therefore, it was decided to establish a new working group on One Health, to reinforce the capacities of members of the VSF-Int network through improved knowledge exchange and shared lessons learned on One Health interventions, and to contribute to improving the global understanding of One Health in development and humanitarian aid.

The working group is formed by several staff from the different VSF International's member organizations, with a complementary background of technical expertise. The working group is currently producing a technical and policy brief on One Health implementation in the Global South, which will be published in the second half of 2019. The working group

is also establishing a Knowledge Management database for documents on One Health to promote members' knowledge exchange and mutual learning. In parallel, the working group is exploring new partnerships around One Health with other NGOs, research centres and donors that have complementary expertise, and is engaging in advocacy work and policy dialogue for enhanced visibility and recognition of One Health.

How to integrate One Health into our field actions: the Bamako workshop

On 7th and 8th November 2018, in Bamako (Mali), AVSF organised a workshop for the members of VSF International on the theme “How to integrate One Health into our cooperation”.

The main objective of the workshop was to identify the priorities for the implementation of One Health principles in our field work, starting from various experiences in different countries. Participants included representatives of the VSF-Int network, AVSF, VSF Belgium, VSF Canada and VSF Suisse, who shared experiences from Mali, Senegal, Togo, Cambodia and Laos.

This internal workshop was followed by a national symposium “For an increased consideration of the One Health approach in Mali”, on the 9th of November. The symposium was organized to strengthen the collaboration between the recently constituted National One Health Platform – an inter-ministerial public body – with NGOs, civil society and farmers associations.

Our presence at international meetings on One Health:

2018

**Bangkok,
29 January-3 February**

Prince Mahidol Award Conference 2018 on Making the World Safe from the Threats of Emerging Infectious Diseases: panel on “One Health on the move: Nomadic Communities”

Rome, 3-5 April

2nd FAO International Symposium on Agroecology: panel on One Health, Nutrition and Agroecology

**Bologna,
10-11 September**

Network for Evaluation of One Health (NEOH) Final Conference: workshop on “Practical implementation of One Health in the global South”

**Ghent, Belgium,
17-19 September**

TROPENTAG 2018: workshop on “Practical implementation of One Health in the global South”

Bamako, 7-9 November

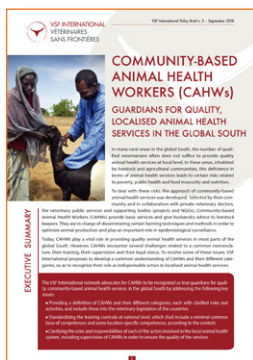
VSF International's workshop on “How to integrate One Health into our cooperation”

Publications

Community-Based Animal Health Workers (CAHWs): Guardians for quality, localised animal health services in the global South

In many rural areas in the global South, the number of qualified veterinarians often does not suffice to provide quality animal health services at the local level. In these areas, inhabited by agricultural communities and their livestock, this deficiency in terms of animal health services leads to certain risks that can impact the levels of poverty, public health and food security and nutrition.

To deal with these risks, an approach for the engagement of community-based animal health services was developed. Selected by their communities and in collaboration with private veterinary doctors, the veterinary public services and supporting bodies (projects and NGOs), Community-based Animal Health Workers (CAHWs) provide basic services and give husbandry advice to livestock keepers. They are in charge of disseminating



certain farming techniques in order to optimize animal production. They also play an important role in epidemiological surveillance.

Today, CAHWs provide quality animal health services in most parts of the global South. However, CAHWs encounter several challenges particularly to their legal status and access to adequate training. To resolve some of these issues, VSF International proposed to develop a common understanding of CAHWs and their different categories, so as to recognize their role as indispensable actors in localised animal health services.

With this Policy Brief published in September 2018, VSF International advocates for CAHWs to be recognized as true guardians for quality, community-based animal health services in the global South.

Our participation to international meetings where CAHWs and access to animal health services were at the agenda:

2017

**Bangkok,
6-8 December**
OIE Regional Conference
on Veterinary Para-
Professionals in Asia

>> 2018

**Bamako,
15-16 February**

"Pour une santé
animale de qualité et
de proximité. Atelier de
Réflexion de Haut niveau
Sur la Santé Animale de
Proximité en Afrique de
l'Ouest"

Read
the Policy Brief
on CAHWs:

[www.vsf-international.org/
community-based-
animal-health-
workers](http://www.vsf-international.org/community-based-animal-health-workers)

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Mongolia, 11-15 June

GASL multi stakeholder
partnership meeting on
the subject "Livestock on
the move"

Towards the eradication of Peste des Petits Ruminants (PPR)

In the past two decades, PPR has spread rapidly, mostly in Africa, Asia and the Middle East. The disease is present today in more than 70 countries and causes more than \$2 billion in losses each year. PPR threatens the food and nutritional security of millions of vulnerable households who raise sheep and goats in the affected regions.

After the adoption in 2015 of the Global Eradication Strategy, FAO and OIE have been supporting the establishment of national and regional strategies for PPR control in several countries. In September 2018, they organised a global conference on PPR in Brussels, where VSF International were active participants. The conference aimed to revive the global commitment towards PPR eradication and to reinforce partnerships.

Partnering for effective service delivery in the most remote areas

In many rural areas in the global South, veterinary services (either public or private) are very scattered, insufficient and at times non-existent. The implementation of the PPR eradication strategy is an opportunity to mobilize funds to strengthen veterinary services from the top-down in some countries where there are still gaps. This will also generate wide-ranging benefits in the fight against other diseases. However, this is a long process, and if PPR eradication is to be achieved by 2030, as agreed through the Global Eradication Strategy, other partners from civil society and livestock producers must be

involved in order to assure disease control in these remote and vulnerable areas, with a bottom-up approach.

Livestock keepers have a fundamental role in assuring animal, human and environmental health within their communities, and therefore they need supportive partnerships that recognise their contributions. Women play a significant role in keeping small ruminants, and their fundamental role in PPR control should be acknowledged and leveraged.

Lessons learnt from the Rinderpest eradication effort demonstrate that involvement of NGOs and the strategic collaboration with well-trained Community Based Animal Health Workers (CAHWs) constitutes a factor of success in many countries. CAHWs undertook the mass vaccination campaigns, reaching out to the most remote places on foot and on bicycles. They were even able to travel and deliver within their communities in war affected areas. Local NGOs trained CAHWs networks, supplied them with vaccines and equipment, provided cold chain logistical support and professional expertise. In parallel, livestock keeper communities were trained on disease surveillance and sampling.

This successful approach, based on Public-Private Partnerships involving NGOs, CAHWs and other veterinary para-professionals and the national veterinary services, will be again needed in those fragile and remote areas where government and other structures are not sufficiently present.

Our participation to global events on PPR:

2018

Brussels,
6-7 September

Partnering and investing
for a Peste des Petits
Ruminants-free world



Efforts on PPR eradication in Ethiopia

VSF Suisse and VSF Germany were directly involved in designing and implementing the national Ethiopian PPR eradication program. In Ethiopia, VSF Germany in the Afar region (16 districts) and VSF Suisse in the Somali region (37 districts) have both worked very successfully on PPR control, in partnership with local governments and with FAO.

This successful example for efficient PPR surveillance and control in remote pastoralist areas can be replicated in other countries from the region.

A pilot project for better surveillance and control of Foot-and-Mouth Disease in West Africa

Foot-and-Mouth Disease (FMD) has become an endemic disease in West and Central Africa. Although it remains a low-mortality disease, its overall impact is enormous, affecting a number of animals and causing direct and indirect losses. Over the past two decades, an upsurge in FMD in sub-Saharan Africa has been identified. In the summer of 2018, FMD was recorded as hitting some of VSF partners' intervention areas, e.g. in Kayes (Mali). Despite the poor functionality of the epidemiological surveillance systems, many outbreaks of FMD are reported each year by the Decentralized Technical Services of several Sahelian countries. A 2017 survey¹⁾ among pastoralists in Burkina Faso, Mali, Mauritania, Niger and Senegal revealed that FMD is one of the diseases that affects the most transhumant pastoralists during their mobility. This makes FMD a major cross-border disease that needs to be monitored.

In 2018, VSF International partnered with the FAO's European Commission for the Control of Foot-and-Mouth Disease (Eu-FMD) in a pilot project for the development of a surveillance system and control of FMD in West and Central Africa.

The project engaged different stakeholders such as para-veterinarians, private animal health service providers or other non-state actors in FMD sample collection and submission to national laboratories/authorities. Led by VSF Suisse and implemented in collaboration with VSF Belgium, AVSF (France) and VSF Italy, the project was implemented in Mali, with a focus on 3 target areas that allowed to assess livestock's regional dynamics: the western zone in Kayes region (characterized by pastoral migration routes between Mali, Mauritania and Senegal); the Eastern zone in the so-called Gourma (pastoral movements between Mali, Burkina Faso and Niger); and the Bamako peri-urban area (characterised by sedentary small-scale livestock keeping for milk production).

Activities started in May 2018, with a series of trainings for CAHWs, para-veterinarians, private animal health service providers and other non-state actors on FMD epidemiology, diagnostics and sample collection and management. 150 FMD detection kits were distributed to field agents, who were in charge of carrying out the sampling in the three areas of intervention. Samples were then sent to the reference laboratory for viral characterization.

The project also organized a multi-stakeholder workshop at the end of July, to assess the current gaps and to identify an action plan to improve FMD surveillance and control in Mali, with a view of scaling-up the initiative in the West and Central Africa region at large. The action plan stressed the need to make vaccines available to farmers through vaccination campaigns, to periodically monitor the serotype of the virus in or-



der to assure vaccines are effective, and to involve all relevant stakeholders (livestock farmers, Community-based Animal Health Workers, veterinarians and para-veterinarians, decentralised health services, laboratories, etc.) in FMD prevention, vaccination, detection and good management of outbreaks. At the moment of drafting the annual report, results of the FMD sampling has become available and allows for identification of appropriate vaccine for the type of FMD detected in Mali (one serotype). VSF International's ambition is to build on the results of the pilot study and be part of a coalition to fight FMD in West Africa.

1) Thebaut, B. (2017) Pastoral and Agropastoral Resilience in the Sahel: Portrait of the 2014-2015 and 2015-2016 Transhumance (Senegal, Mauritania, Mali, Burkina Faso, Niger).



2018

May>>>

Project "Control and surveillance of FMD in Western and Central Africa"

>>>>September

Building Resilience through Livestock-based Interventions



Prolonged crises, droughts, conflicts and natural disasters affect livestock rearing activities in a variety of ways: from the deterioration of the animals' wellbeing and productivity (due either to sudden shocks or to the unavailability of inputs and services), to the disruption of livestock markets and value chains. Livestock is crucial for resilience to shocks and constitutes a primary asset for over 1.3 billion pastoralists and agro-pastoralists, farmers, and urban and peri-urban livestock keepers worldwide.

For them, animals are critical to provide food and income, working power, manure, social status and economic security, as well as to valorise marginalized lands and promote women's empowerment. A deeper understanding of the multiple roles of livestock is crucial in understanding why their loss in disasters is so damaging.

In February 2018, VSF International, together with the Livestock Emergency Guidelines and Standards (LEGS) project, organized a panel session at the EU Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO) on "Livestock-based Interventions to Build Resilience in Pastoral Areas". The session aimed to inform and raise

Read the Policy Brief on resilience through livestock-based interventions:

[www.vsf-international.org/
from-emergency-to-development](http://www.vsf-international.org/from-emergency-to-development)



awareness about the importance of livestock-based interventions to increase resilience of pastoralists, agro-pastoralists and smallholder farmers in complex emergencies and recurrent droughts.

During the panel session, LEGS was presented as a key tool to support the resilience of livestock-dependent communities affected by crisis, bridging humanitarian and development goals. Two concrete cases from arid and semi-arid areas in Mali and Ethiopia where LEGS has been successfully implemented by VSF were also presented.

Conference organised by VSF International and the LEGS project

2018

**Brussels,
23 February**

Conference at ECHO:
Livestock-based
Interventions to Build
Resilience in Pastoral Areas



Vaccinate for Africa: every vaccination counts!

In 2018 the communication teams from the national VSFs have collaborated to launch the Vaccinate for Africa global campaign in the spring of 2019.



Vaccinate for Africa is a campaign that aims to engage veterinary clinics and pet owners in support to African livestock keepers. In 2019, the campaign ran during one week in Germany, Switzerland, Ireland, Sweden, France, The Netherlands, Italy, Czech Republic and Portugal. During the campaign week, veterinary clinics collected the revenues made through vaccinations and other treatments and donated part of them to their national VSFs. These donations support the work of VSFs in Africa to keep animals and people in good health.

Vaccinate for Africa is the opportunity for veterinarians to participate in an international campaign and communicate about this commitment to their clients. Pet owners can contribute to support the work of the VSF network by bringing their puppy to one of the clinics participating to the campaign during the corresponding week.

In the past, similar Vaccinate for Africa actions have been organised by VSF Germany, VSF Suisse, VSF Austria and VSF Netherlands. As a result of the success of these campaigns, the VSF network decided to scale-up the effort to an international level.

Other VSF International's members have joined in 2019. They include AVSF France, VSF Czech Republic, VSF Italy, VIVA Ireland, VSF Sweden and VSF Portugal. They have organised a vaccination week in their respective countries to support the work of their teams in Africa.



>>>2019 Campaign implemented in:

Germany: 6-12 May

Switzerland: 13-18 May

Ireland: 13-17 May

Sweden: 20-24 May

France: 3-8 June

The Netherlands: 3-8 June

Italy: 3-9 June

Czech Republic: 10-16 June

Portugal: 13-21 July

Finance

In 2018 the members of VSF International had a total income of 44.54 million €*.

In 2018, the income of VSF International coordination office was 45,089 €. At the end of the year, the reserves amounted to 12,830 €. The budget of VSF International is mainly dedicated to the coordination of the actions of member organisations. VSF International does not directly implement projects in the field.

* 68 million Canadian Dollars

VSF International's operating account
at 31st December 2018 (in Euro):

	2018	2017
INCOME		
Membership fees	43 350	31 350
Grants	0	9 513
Donations	1 249	272
Other income	490	5 319
Total income	45 089	46 454
EXPENDITURE		
Human resources	47 157	45 510
Travel costs	2 934	2 530
Operating costs	1 288	5 023
Bank costs	41	42
Other costs	700	1 328
Total expenditure	52 120	54 433
RESULT	- 7 031	-7 978
RESERVES	at 31/12/2018: 12 830	at 31/12/2017: 19 861

Governance

Members of the Board:

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

The Board has a mandate of two years. It will be renewed in October 2019.

Members of the General Assembly:

- Frédéric Apollin (Executive Director, AVSF)
- Elina Åsbjör (President, VSF Sweden)
- Mike Burke (Executive Director, VIVA)
- Piero Casale (President, VSF Italy)
- Katie Clow (President, VWB/VSF Canada)
- Christian Griebenow (Managing Director, VSF Germany)
- Marc Joolen (Executive Director, VSF Belgium)
- Marieke Le Poole (Coordinator, VSF Netherlands)
- Nicole Litschgi (Programme Director, VSF Suisse)
- David Modrý (Managing Director, VSF Czech Republic)
- Maria Conceição Peleteiro (President, VSF Portugal)
- Dagmar Schoder (President, VSF Austria)





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