



VSF INTERNATIONAL
VÉTÉRINAIRES
SANS FRONTIÈRES

ANNUAL REPORT 2021





WHO WE ARE

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

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



NEW MEMBER

In 2021, VSF International welcomed a new member organisation: **Vets Beyond Borders Australia (VBB)**.

VBB recruits highly experienced volunteer vets and veterinary nurses, deploying them into remote communities around the world to work with local vets and associated staff providing quality animal health care. Find out more about VBB Australia on their website: <https://vetsbeyondborders.org/>

Welcome onboard to our new member!

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EDITORIAL

2021 was a year marked by multiple crises. The Covid-19 pandemic has continued to impact and reshape our lives, with important socio-economic consequences affecting the most vulnerable populations globally. Persistent and escalating conflicts and climate shocks (such as the enduring drought in the Sahel and the Horn of Africa) contributed to intensifying food crises and deteriorating livelihood opportunities, with between 702 and 828 million people affected by hunger¹. Poverty and inequality, including gender inequality, remain significant problems. And in recent months, the consequences of the war in Ukraine are adding to this already fragile situation.

These global threats and consecutive crises are ringing the bell for an urgent need to act: act to strengthen our global health systems by adopting a One Health approach; act to adopt serious commitments to halt climate change, to mitigate its effects and to strengthen communities' resilience to climate shocks; act to give a decent life to the millions of people in poverty situation; act to prevent food crises by providing access to food and income to vulnerable populations. In summary, they require us to strengthen our engagement in international solidarity and cooperation, fostering international collaborations to address the complex challenges in a united multi-sectorial effort.

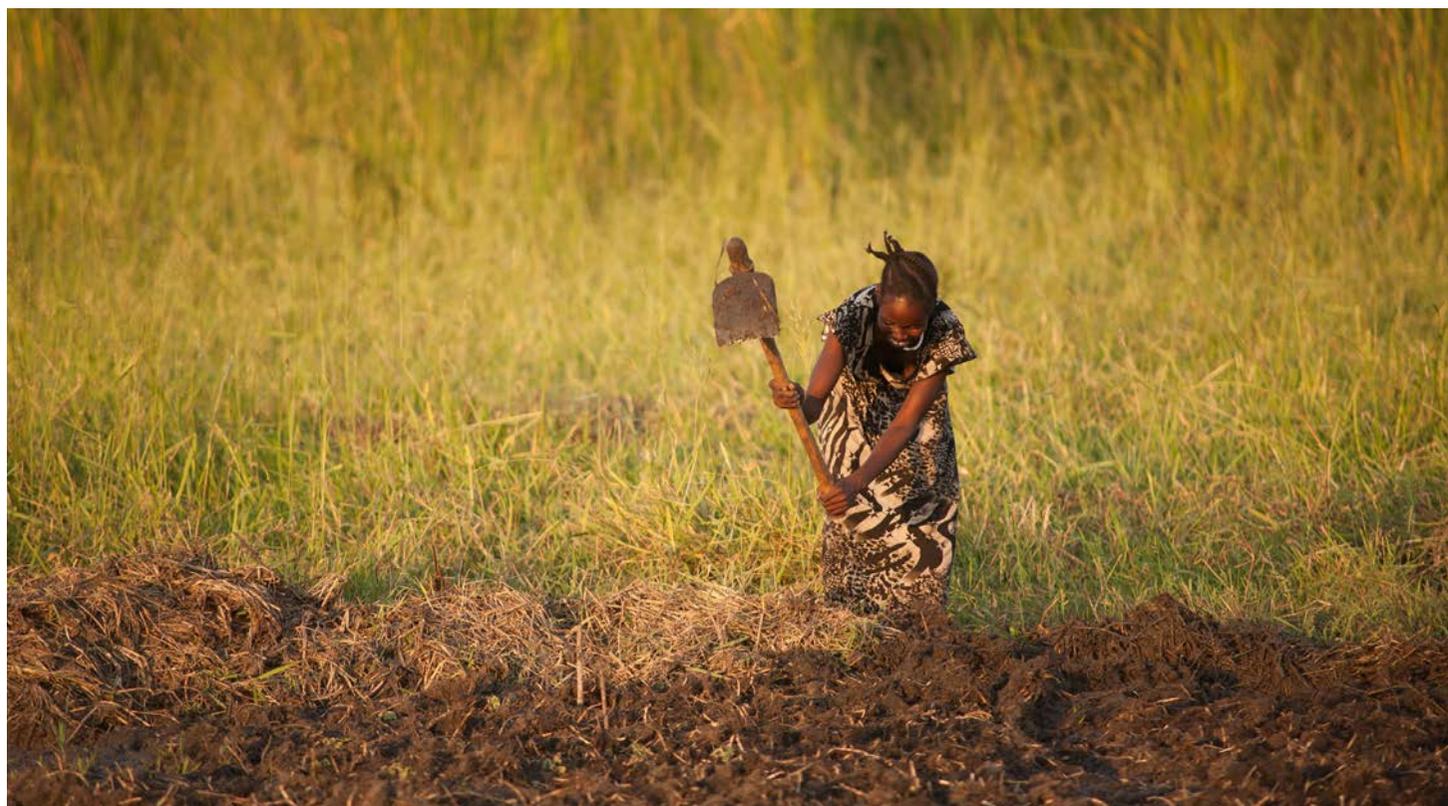
By strengthening animal health, welfare and production, VSF International members contribute to improve the living conditions of the most vulnerable families and their communities. We are committed to continue partnering with other international organisations, NGOs, research institutes, governments and service providers to find

solutions to the major challenges facing humanity, each one from our own sector of expertise.

Within our network, we already align with experts in animal health and animal welfare, nutrition, natural resource management, agroecology, value chain development, women empowerment, preparedness and humanitarian aid. By partnering with other complementary organisations and

working closely with local communities, we are able to find solutions that are adapted to their specific context, allowing us to achieve important results even in the most remote areas.

The challenges are apparent but together, we hope to face them and continue promoting a fairer, healthier, more sustainable world.



¹ FAO, IFAD, UNICEF, WFP, WHO. The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2022.

2021 IN NUMBERS

40

country programmes



€ 56.5

MILLION

total income



2.02

MILLION

direct beneficiary households



775

staff worldwide

90% in the field
10% at HQ



38 600

animals distributed
to recover from emergency
or as income-generating
activity

4 787

animal health
professionals
supported

including

3 515

Community Animal
Health Workers



23.9

MILLION

animals treated

80

awareness
raising events
targeting European and
Canadian youth



795 000

livestock keepers
gained access
to animal health services



880 200

people improved their professional
and/or life skills
thanks to empowerment, capacity building
or income generation activities

THE HIGHLIGHTS OF 2021

The members of the VSF International network are autonomous organizations that directly implement projects in the field. As members of the network they share the VSF International mission and are committed to coordinating their activities in order to increase the overall VSF impact. The network facilitates exchanges, lesson learning, the development of quality standards and coordinates common advocacy and communication activities.

In this report we will present the key achievements of 2021 showcasing the successful collaborations and joint efforts between different member organizations. For more details about the specific activities of each member, please refer to their respective annual reports.



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A NEW PROJECT TO STRENGTHEN CAHWs SYSTEMS WORLDWIDE

The World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH) and Vétérinaires Sans Frontières (VSF) International launched a joint project entitled “*Strengthening the enabling environment for community animal health workers (CAHWs) through development of competency and curricula guidelines*”. The project is funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development, Bureau of Humanitarian Assistance (USAID/BHA), and will run for 2 years.

The project will develop competency and curricula guidelines for CAHWs based on globally relevant models and needs. It will also identify and analyse the main training and implementation models for CAHWs globally, determine the key success/failure factors and elaborate recommendations for sustainability of CAHWs models.

CAHWs play a key role in the delivery of last mile veterinary services in many countries around the world. Yet numerous challenges exist related to the sustainability and quality standards of CAHW training programs, including lack of coordination between those who train CAHWs, lack of regulation or even recognition of their role in providing animal health services, and sometimes, lack of follow-up when the projects that fund their training end.

For decades, the VSF International network has worked with CAHWs and provided training and mentoring to CAHW networks by reinforcing their technical competencies, supporting sustainable business models, integrating them into local and national animal health systems and regulatory frameworks in collaboration with public and private veterinarians.

In 2018, VSF International published a policy brief on CAHWs highlighting their valuable role in providing quality proximity animal health services. The policy brief also identified key challenges such as lack of standardized



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training, lack of common nomenclature, inadequate supervision and unclear legal status.

To address these challenges, VSF international and the WOAH are working in partnership in order to contribute to building an enabling environment so that CAHWs can be better regulated and acquire appropriate initial and continuous education.

Based on its extensive field experience, VSF International will bring technical support to this new project through the collection and review of CAHW program documentation, consolidated with field case studies and consultations.

From these findings and expert consultations, WOAH will work with international experts to develop guidelines for competencies and curricula related to CAHWs. These guidelines, which will complement guidelines already available, will be an important step towards supporting

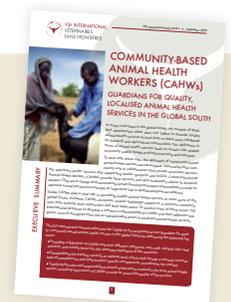
the recognition and integration of CAHWs into animal health systems. This will contribute to improved workforce development planning for Veterinary Services which integrates the roles of veterinarians, veterinary paraprofessionals and CAHWs.



PUBLICATIONS

Policy Brief “**Community-Based Animal Health Workers (CAHWs): Guardians for quality, localised animal health services in the global South**” September 2018 (EN, FR, NL)

— vsf-international.org/community-based-animal-health-workers-policy-brief/



ACTION FOR ANIMAL HEALTH: A GLOBAL COALITION ADVOCATING FOR CHANGE AT THE HIGHEST LEVELS

Global animal health systems are vital in maintaining animal health and welfare, as well as preventing disease outbreaks, some of which have the potential to spill over and infect humans. In the wake of a global pandemic, the Action for Animal Health coalition has called for urgent action to be taken to strengthen animal health systems and help prevent further pandemics.

The Coalition, integrated by several organizations active in animal health, including VSF International, and led by The Brooke, was officially launched on 1st June 2021, together with the public release of its “Call to Action for Animal Health”.

The Coalition aims to advocate for change at the highest levels. Hence, in 2021 we engaged in the G20 process with the aim of ensuring G20 leaders recognise the need to invest in animal health systems both in their own right and as part of a One Health strategy.



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After the May 2021 Global Health Summit, the G20 released the “Rome Principles” which outlined One Health as a global public good. Our aim was then to ensure that animal health systems strengthening was recognised as the weakest link and needs to be invested in to fully implement One Health.

Despite some positive outcomes in terms of adoption of the One Health approach by a newly established health-finance G20 taskforce, and some commitment to ensuring prudent stewardship of antimicrobials and commitment to food security and nutrition, the final G20 Leaders’ Declaration failed to properly address animal health systems’ role in achieving these objectives.

The A4AH Coalition is continuing efforts in calling for more investment in animal health systems worldwide by engaging with different policy processes.

MORE INFO ON THE COALITION
www.actionforanimalhealth.org



PUBLICATIONS

“A Call to Action for Animal Health”,
August 2021
— actionforanimalhealth.org/

Article “3 ways animal health is vital
to One Health”, October 2021
— actionforanimalhealth.org/three-ways-animal-health-one-health/

“Our health systems won’t prevent pandemics, unless G20
invest in animal health”. An open letter to G20 leaders from the
Action for Animal Health coalition, 26 October 2021
— actionforanimalhealth.org/letter-g20-invest-in-animal-health/



EVENTS

Action for Animal Health launch event, 1 June 2021 (online)



ACHIEVING “ZERO BY 2030”: VSF INTERNATIONAL CONTRIBUTIONS TO RABIES ELIMINATION

Rabies is a neglected zoonotic disease that causes an estimated 59,000 human deaths every year, with 40% of the victims being children. Rabies affects the most vulnerable populations; most cases are found in Africa and Asia, and 80% of cases occur in rural areas. Rabies virus transmission is mainly through a bite or direct contact (through broken skin or mucous membranes) with saliva of an infected animal. Dogs are responsible for 99% of human cases. Eliminating rabies in dogs is therefore the key to achieving elimination of human rabies.

The economic burden of the disease is estimated at 8.6 billion USD annually. This occurs despite the availability of anti-rabies vaccines for both animals and humans, which are critical in supporting eradication efforts. Rabies is almost 100% preventable through the administration of safe, effective and extensively available vaccines for humans and animals. However, mortalities are mainly attributed to high treatment costs or lack of access to post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP). This is coupled with the majority of victims exposed to the virus being unaware of the dangers posed by the disease or lacking access to basic medical care.

VSF International is supporting rabies eradication efforts in its areas of intervention, and promotes a holistic approach based on One Health, integrating human, animal and environmental health. Mass vaccination of dogs coupled with population control measures, prompt dog bite management, community education and outreach, and improvements in reporting, diagnosis and surveillance are among the key strategic approaches to rabies eradication adopted by the VSF International network.

By working closely with the communities, key government line ministries and counterpart agencies and institutions,



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we have been supporting eradication efforts in South Sudan, Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Malawi, Algeria, Morocco, India, Cambodia, the Czech Republic and Canada.

The recently established Rabies Working group is supporting the members of the VSF International network in sharing experiences on rabies control projects, fostering learning and expanding their project outreach.



PUBLICATIONS



“Achieving “Zero By 2030”. VSF International contributions to rabies elimination” September 2021
 — vsf-international.org/achieving-zero-by-2030-vsfi-international-contributions-to-rabies-elimination/

PARTNERSHIPS AND NETWORKS

One Sustainable Health Forum

The Covid-19 pandemic has outlined our human, institutional and environmental weaknesses, and confirmed the need for a new approach to health. Launched in October 2020 in Berlin, during the World Health Summit, the One Sustainable Health (OSH) Forum aims at putting together a community of experts (public and private operators and researchers), with the objective of identifying impactful operational programmes and actions that should be funded.

VSF International joined the OSH forum advocating for real and early involvement of local stakeholders (farmers, Farmers Organisations, local NGOs, community members) in any operational programme for One Health. Only by adopting a genuine bottom-up approach will we be able to identify sustainable solutions to health challenges.



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The OSH is working through transdisciplinary International Working Groups, in which a plurality of actors concerned with global health are in charge of formulating operational recommendations. All the recommendations produced by the Working Groups will be integrated into a “One Sustainable Health Declaration”, to be released during the World Health Summit 2022 in Berlin. This “OSH Declaration” will provide guidelines for operational programs of public and private actors (international agencies, companies, NGOs and foundations etc) and public policies.

MORE INFO ON THE OSH FORUM
www.onesustainablehealth.org/en



EVENTS

Launch of the OSH Initiative, 6/4/2022 (online)

Preventing Zoonotic Disease Emergence (PREZODE)

PREZODE is an international initiative with the ambition to understand the risks of emergence of zoonotic infectious diseases, to develop and implement innovative methods to improve prevention, early detection, and resilience in order to ensure rapid response to the risks of emerging infectious diseases of animal origin.

VSF International is one of the 160 international partners of PREZODE and participated in the co-construction process through which a global community of actors identified the main obstacles that need to be collectively addressed by the initiative region by region.

The year 2022 will see the launch of the first two operational programs, and many more are expected in the coming years.

By participating in PREZODE, VSF International contributes to the co-construction of initiatives for the prevention of zoonotic diseases, but also advocates firmly for the inclusion of CSOs – and particularly grassroots actors – at the early stage of project identification and implementation. This way, research can be oriented towards concrete action with and for populations at field level, to effectively tackle the main socio-economic hurdles which limit efficiency of diseases surveillance and prevention.



EVENTS

PREZODE regional co-construction workshops (online, between December 2020 and November 2021)

PARTNERSHIPS AND NETWORKS

Supporting PASTRES report on Livestock and Climate Change

The general perception of the impact of livestock on climate change is biased. This is what a report, written for the PASTRES project and co-published by VSF International shows.

With the title “Are livestock always bad for the planet?” the report warns that the dominant picture of livestock’s impacts on climate change has been distorted by faulty assumptions that focus on intensive, industrial farming in rich countries.

Millions of people around the world depend on extensive livestock production, with relatively lower climate impacts. Yet pastoral communities are often ignored by debates on the future of food. The report identifies ten flaws in the way that livestock’s climate impacts have been assessed and suggests how pastoralists could be better included in future debates about food and the climate.

The report was launched at the eve of the COP 26 on climate in November 2021, to warn global leaders on the need to take a more nuanced approach to the debate on livestock and climate change. Otherwise, they risk taking important decisions about climate mitigation, food systems and land use – including dietary shifts, tree planting schemes and rewilding – based on partial or misleading evidence.

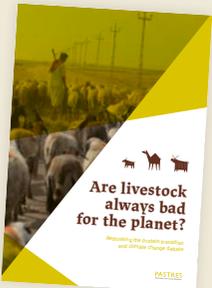


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PUBLICATIONS

Report “Are livestock always bad for the planet? Rethinking the protein transition and climate change debate” by Ella Houzer and Ian Scoones, PASTRES, September 2021
— pastres.org/livestock-report/



Perspectives on Pastoralism Film Festival

The film festival “Perspectives on Pastoralism” seeks to deepen understanding of how diverse peoples across the world gain their livelihoods from extensive livestock production. The relationships of pastoralist people, their animals and their food production systems reflect an intimate intertwining of culture, economy and ecology in highly variable environments such as drylands and mountainous regions. In such environments, mobility of animals plays a key role.

The film festival offers a selection of short films of multiple genres – spanning documentary, narrative and experimental – made by pastoralists and/or about pastoralists presenting different insights into important issues.

The first edition of the festival was launched in 2019 by the Coalition of European Lobbies for Eastern African Pastoralism

(CELEP), the German Institute for Tropical and Subtropical Agriculture (DITSL), Agrecol Association for AgriCulture & Ecology, and VSF Belgium. Recently, VSF International joined the direction committee to prepare the second edition of the festival to be launched in 2022.

In 2021, films from the first edition of the festival have been screened, among others, at the Global Landscape Forum Africa Digital Conference “Restoring Africa’s Drylands” in June and at the International Grassland and Rangeland Congress in October.

MORE INFORMATION ON THE PERSPECTIVE ON PASTORALISM FILM FESTIVAL
www.pastoralistfilmfestival.com

KEY AREAS OF DEVELOPMENT WITHIN THE VSF NETWORK

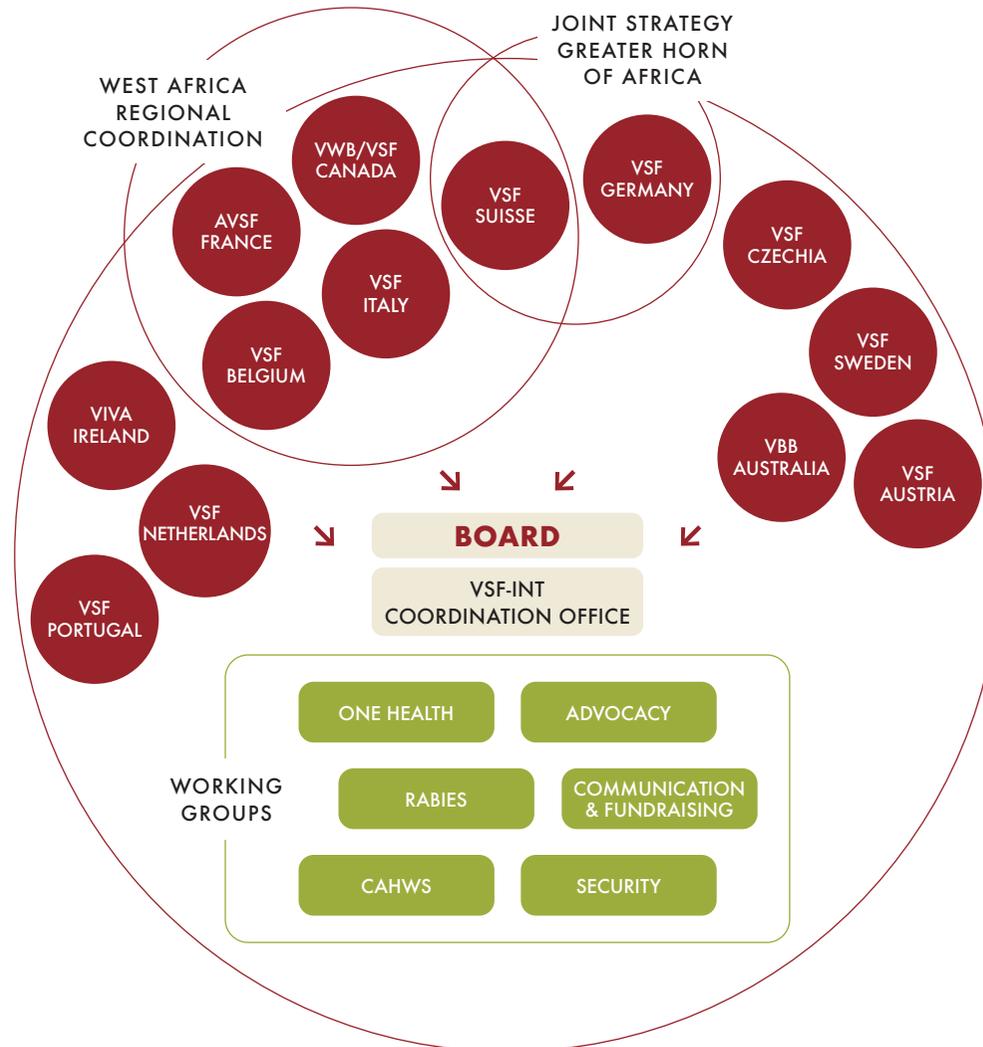
Revision of the strategy “Horizon 2025”

In October 2021, VSF International organised a strategic workshop to start a mid-term review of its strategy towards 2025. The workshop focused on reviewing some of the strategic priorities and elaborating detailed action plans for the next 3 years. It highlighted how VSF International can act as a catalyst to reach common goals which ultimately benefit all member organisations, and how the members can combine resources to achieve mutual objectives.

After the workshop, the network started to reassess the setup of the different working groups, to ensure that they are well aligned with our strategy. The working groups are key to assure sharing and learning between the different network’s members. It is through the working groups’ activities that the network advances in developing new policy documents, promoting good practices, sharing experiences and lessons learned, and identifying challenges and areas for improvement.

At present, 6 Working Groups are active, with the participation of experts from the different VSF member organisations: One Health; Rabies; Community-based Animal Health Workers; Communication and Fundraising; Advocacy; Security.

Collaboration between member organisations is further fostered through regional coordination mechanisms in Western and Eastern Africa. In Eastern Africa, VSF Germany and VSF Suisse are implementing a formal Joint Strategy for the Greater Horn of Africa, while in Western Africa some coordination mechanisms are in place between AVSF, VSF Belgium, VSF Suisse, VSF Italy and VWB/VSF Canada, and the road is being paved for a further development of a joint regional strategy.



PUBLICATIONS

“VSF International’s global strategy towards 2025”, April 2019
 — vsf-international.org/project/global-strategy-towards-2025/

VACCINATE FOR AFRICA INTERNATIONAL: 3RD EDITION

In 2021, VSF International organised the Vaccinate for Africa campaign internationally for the third year in a row.

Vaccinate for Africa is an international campaign that aims to engage veterinary clinics and pet owners to support African livestock keepers. In 2021, Switzerland, Sweden, the Netherlands and Italy each conducted a week-long campaign. In Germany, the campaign was organised twice, in spring and fall. In France, Vaccinate for Africa was extended across one full month in summer!

As part of the campaign, veterinary clinics collect the earnings from vaccinations and other treatments and donate part of them or their entirety to VSF in their country. These donations support the work of VSF in Africa to keep animals and people in good health. Vaccinate for Africa provides the opportunity for veterinarians to participate in an international campaign and talk about their support for VSF to their clients. But it's not only about the veterinarians, pet owners can also contribute by bringing their companion animals to a participating clinic during the campaign.

In 2021 the campaign was supported by 1,491 veterinary practices in six countries, whereas in 2020 it was 1,308 veterinary practices. We are so glad that our supporters are growing!

IN 2022 THE CAMPAIGN CONTINUES WITH ITS FOURTH EDITION.
FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT

vsf-international.org/vaccinate-for-africa



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€ 56.5
MILLION
sum of members'
income in 2021

FINANCE

Overall, in 2021 the VSF International network had a total income of 56.5 million €.

With varying budgets and structures, the members of the VSF network implement projects in the field, organise education and awareness raising activities in their own countries and support the common activities of the network.

The VSF International coordination office is financially supported by the members' contributions, and is responsible for knowledge management, developing common quality standards and coordinating joint advocacy and communication activities, all the while ensuring that exchanges and network dynamics are running smoothly.

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GOVERNANCE



Martin Demay VSF-Belgium

VSF International is a non-profit organisation (a.i.s.b.l. from its French title) registered in Belgium. It is governed by a General Assembly, which is composed of all the members of the network and represented by the Managers in charge. The General Assembly meets annually and defines the global vision and strategy of the organisation, approves the financial statements and budgets, and elects the Board every two years. The Board is responsible for the implementation of the General Assembly's decisions while supporting the day-to-day activities of the coordination office in Brussels. Board members also participate in different thematic working groups, along with other technical 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 the international level.

The Board was renewed in October 2021 at the General Assembly meeting held in Brussels.

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD (AS OF JUNE 2021)

- › **Giorgia Angeloni** (VSF Italy) – **President**
- › **Manuelle Miller** (AVSF, France) – **Vice-president**
- › **Sébastien Tyrpak** (VSF Belgium) – **Treasurer**
- › **Nicole Litschgi** (VSF-Suisse)
- › **Shoshanna Hillmann-Breuer** (VSF Germany)
- › **Ciaran Gobl** (VIVA, Ireland)
- › **John Allen** (VBB, Australia)

MEMBERS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY (as of August 2022)

- › **Frédéric Apollin** (Executive Director, AVSF - France)
- › **Elina Åsbjer** (President, VSF Sweden)
- › **Charmaine Brett-Mills** (Executive Director, VWB/VSF Canada)
- › **Mike Burke** (Executive Director, VIVA - Ireland)
- › **Piero Casale** (President, VSF Italy)
- › **Sally Colgan** (Chief Executive Officer, Vets Beyond Borders - Australia)
- › **Sarah Farrand** (Coordinator, VSF Netherlands)
- › **Christian Griebenow** (Managing Director, VSF Germany)
- › **Joep Van Mierlo** (Executive Director, VSF Belgium)
- › **Nicole Litschgi** (Executive Director, VSF Suisse)
- › **David Modrý** (Managing Director, VSF Czech Republic)
- › **Manuela Oliveira** (President, VSF Portugal)
- › **Dagmar Schoder** (President, VSF Austria)



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