



VSF INTERNATIONAL
VÉTÉRINAIRES
SANS FRONTIÈRES

ANNUAL REPORT
2023



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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, livestock keepers and local animal health and welfare initiatives.

We are committed to fostering healthy relationships between humans, animals and the environment, and we promote the implementation of the One Health approach at community level through multi-sectoral collaborations and participatory mechanisms.

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, human and environmental health.



OUR MEMBERS



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.

For more details about the specific activities of each member, please refer to their websites and annual reports: vsf-international.org/our-members



THE VSF INTERNATIONAL NETWORK IN 2023

WHERE WE WORK

The VSF International network supports families and farmers' organizations in **55 countries** in Africa, the Americas, Asia and Europe. In 2023, the members of VSF International reached over **1.49 million families** (direct beneficiaries), with an overall budget of **€ 74 million**.

OUR SECTORS OF INTERVENTION

- › Livelihoods and food and nutrition security
- › Animal health, welfare and productivity
- › One Health
- › Sustainable Natural Resource Management
- › Access to markets and value chains
- › Youth and women empowerment
- › Emergency response and resilience building
- › Advocacy and awareness raising

● Countries of operation
 🏠 Member's HQ

2023 IN NUMBERS

€74
MILLION
total income



55
countries


904
staff worldwide
92% in the field
8% at HQ


1.49
MILLION
direct beneficiary households



27.23
MILLION
animals treated


7 049
animal health professionals supported
including
4 340
Community Animal Health Workers



1.31
MILLION
livestock keepers gained access to improved animal health services




57 126
animals distributed
in emergency response programmes
or as income-generating assets


118 000
people improved their professional and/or life skills
thanks to empowerment, capacity building or income generating activities


196
awareness raising events
targeting youth in Europe
and North America



THE HIGHLIGHTS OF 2023

In 2023 VSF International engaged in a number of activities. We facilitated exchanges between our members through different working groups, participated in several conferences and events representing the whole network, and coordinated joint actions in several countries. This report focuses on two major projects being implemented by the VSF International coordination office with the participation of our members in in-country activities.



COMMUNITY ANIMAL HEALTH WORKERS (CAHWs)

An update on the joint project by WOAAH and VSF International

In 2022, VSF International initiated a joint project with the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH), titled **“Strengthening the enabling environment for community animal health workers through the development of competency and curricula guidelines”**, and funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) through its Bureau of Humanitarian Assistance (BHA).

CAHWs play an essential role in delivering last-mile animal health services across many countries, especially in hard-to-reach and remote rural areas that are underserved by public and private veterinary services. Despite their critical contributions, CAHWs face numerous challenges, including the sustainability of their services beyond programmes implementation periods and quality standards for their training. Common issues include a lack of legal recognition of their roles, assorted training contents and durations, lack of coordination among programme implementers, and inadequate monitoring and mentoring once the CAHW programme ends. This project addresses these challenges by developing guidelines for CAHW competences and curricula and making recommendations to enhance the sustainability of future CAHW programmes.

The achievements so far

In the project’s first phase, VSF International conducted extensive stakeholder mapping and document collection, followed by a thorough literature review and in-depth case studies in four countries.

Published in March 2023, the **“Literature review of community-based animal health workers in Africa and**



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Asia, with recommendations for improved practices”

identifies the strengths, weaknesses, and success factors of CAHW programmes. The findings of the literature review served as a basis to develop the methodological framework for the implementation of four case studies in Burundi, Cambodia, Niger, and South Sudan. These studies involved field visits and stakeholder interviews to gather data on the factors influencing the success or failure of CAHW programmes, covering different types of livestock systems and different approaches to CAHW training and deployment.

The findings and recommendations drawn from the case studies and the literature review were subsequently consolidated in a **Handbook for planning and managing**

CAHW programmes

(to be published in September 2024) which was validated through a consultation process with CAHW experts from different organisations and countries. This Handbook aims at improving future approaches to CAHW training and deployment in order to build a sustainable environment for CAHWs.

In parallel, WOAAH has established an Ad Hoc Group of international experts to develop the **Competency and Curricula Guidelines for CAHWs** through several virtual and face-to-face meetings. These guidelines, expected to be published in September 2024, will contribute to promoting harmonization and quality of future CAHW training.




Looking Ahead

The second phase of the project, running between 2024 and 2025, focuses on disseminating the outputs produced in Phase 1 to the relevant audience, and promoting their uptake at various levels.

On the WOAAH side, the “Competency and Curricula Guidelines for CAHWs” will be widely shared and promoted with WOAAH Members, National Veterinary Services, training institutions and standard-setting bodies such as veterinary statutory bodies. In collaboration with the Ohio State University, WOAAH will also develop an online digital platform to facilitate the alignment of CAHW training programmes with the guidelines.

Concurrently, VSF International will promote the “Handbook for planning and managing CAHW programmes”, through online and in-person events. This handbook is a landmark document for VSF-Int, providing a comprehensive guide to implementing sustainable community-based animal health services. More particularly, VSF International will organize three regional workshops in West Africa, East Africa and Asia to encourage the uptake of the project recommendations to key regional and national stakeholders and discuss the way forward for a more sustainable and effective integration of CAHWs into national animal health systems.

While the achievements thus far are substantial, the journey continues. **Our focus remains on ensuring that the recommendations and guidelines are accessible and widely disseminated to all stakeholders, ensuring a sustainable future for CAHWs and the communities they serve.**

 **PUBLICATIONS**

A literature review of community-based animal health workers in Africa and Asia, with recommendations for improved practices, March 2023
(available in English and French)

— vsf-international.org/
project/cahws-literature-review

Why and how to integrate the One Health approach into training of Community Animal Health Workers, November 2023
(available in English and French)

— vsf-international.org/
why-and-how-to-integrate-oh-cahw



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ONE HEALTH IN HUMANITARIAN SETTINGS

Strengthening multi-sectoral readiness and response to infectious disease outbreaks at the community level

VSF International is excited to announce the launch of the **Local Engagement and Response Network (LEARN)** project, funded by USAID's Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (BHA). This five-year initiative, running from October 2023 to June 2028, aims to **enhance the capacity of local first responders across diverse sectors to manage infectious disease outbreaks in humanitarian settings.**

The LEARN project is designed to strengthen existing networks of Local First Responders (LFR) to respond to emergencies, improving their technical and operational capacities to effectively tackle infectious disease outbreaks with epidemic or pandemic potential. LEARN seeks to achieve three core objectives:

1. Enhance the ability of LFR networks to engage with critical infectious disease coordination platforms.
2. Improve the readiness and multi-sectoral response capabilities of local and regional organizations to manage infectious disease outbreaks.
3. Provide the necessary resources and tools to support a localized, contextualized, and integrated multi-sectoral response to infectious disease outbreaks.

The project is implemented by a consortium of partners, each bringing unique technical strengths and experience in enhancing the capacities of Local and National Non-Governmental Organizations (L/NNGOs) in humanitarian contexts. Led by International Medical Corps (IMC), the consortium includes Africa Humanitarian Action (AHA), Harvard Humanitarian Initiative (HHI), International



@ VSF Germany

Council of Voluntary Agencies (ICVA), and Vétérinaires Sans Frontières International (VSF International).

VSF International's role in LEARN is to provide **cross-cutting technical assistance for the integration of the One Health approach** across the project strategies, and to foster the coordination and engagement with animal health services and One Health networks, integrating into different project activities the perspective of animal health surveillance and zoonotic infectious disease outbreak preparedness and response.

Targeting 80 Local/National NGOs across 14 countries across sub-Saharan Africa, the Middle East and North Africa, the project beneficiaries include Local First Responders such as key staff of L/NNGOs, personnel from local and regional

Schools of Public Health, and the broader humanitarian community. The countries targeted for this initiative are the **Democratic Republic of Congo, Nigeria, Cameroon, Mali, Central African Republic, Ethiopia, South Sudan, Sudan, Somalia, Libya, Lebanon, West Bank/Gaza, Iraq and Yemen.**

Through the LEARN project, VSF International and its partners are committed to building stronger, more resilient communities capable of effectively responding to infectious disease outbreaks in humanitarian settings. **This initiative exemplifies our dedication to fostering local leadership and enhancing multi-sectoral coordination to safeguard public health in some of the world's most vulnerable regions.**





€74
MILLION
sum of members'
income in 2023

FINANCE

Overall, in 2023 the VSF International network had a total income of € 74 million.

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

In 2023, the total income of the VSF International coordination office was € 199,317.

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

@ AVSF

GOVERNANCE

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 senior management. 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 current Board was elected in October 2023, and will remain in charge for 2 years.

PARTNERSHIPS AND NETWORKS

We are member of:



We support:



MEMBERS OF THE BOARD

- › **Giorgia Angeloni** (VSF Italy) - **President**
- › **Manuelle Miller** (AVSF, France) - **Vice-president**
- › **Peter Van Der Jagt** (VSF Belgium) - **Treasurer**
- › **Christian Griebenow** (VSF Germany)
- › **Charmaine Brett-Mills** (VWB North America)

MEMBERS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY (AS OF AUGUST 2023)

- › **Frédéric Apollin** (Executive Director, AVSF - France)
- › **Charmaine Brett-Mills** (Executive Director, VWB North America)
- › **Mike Burke** (Executive Director, VIVA - Ireland)
- › **Piero Casale** (President, VSF Italy)
- › **Flurina Derungs** (Executive Director, VSF Suisse)
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- › **Sara Lysholm** (President, VSF Sweden)
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- › **David Modrý** (Managing Director, VSF Czech Republic)
- › **Dagmar Schoder** (President, VSF Austria)
- › **Joep Van Mierlo** (Executive Director, VSF Belgium)



VSF INTERNATIONAL
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