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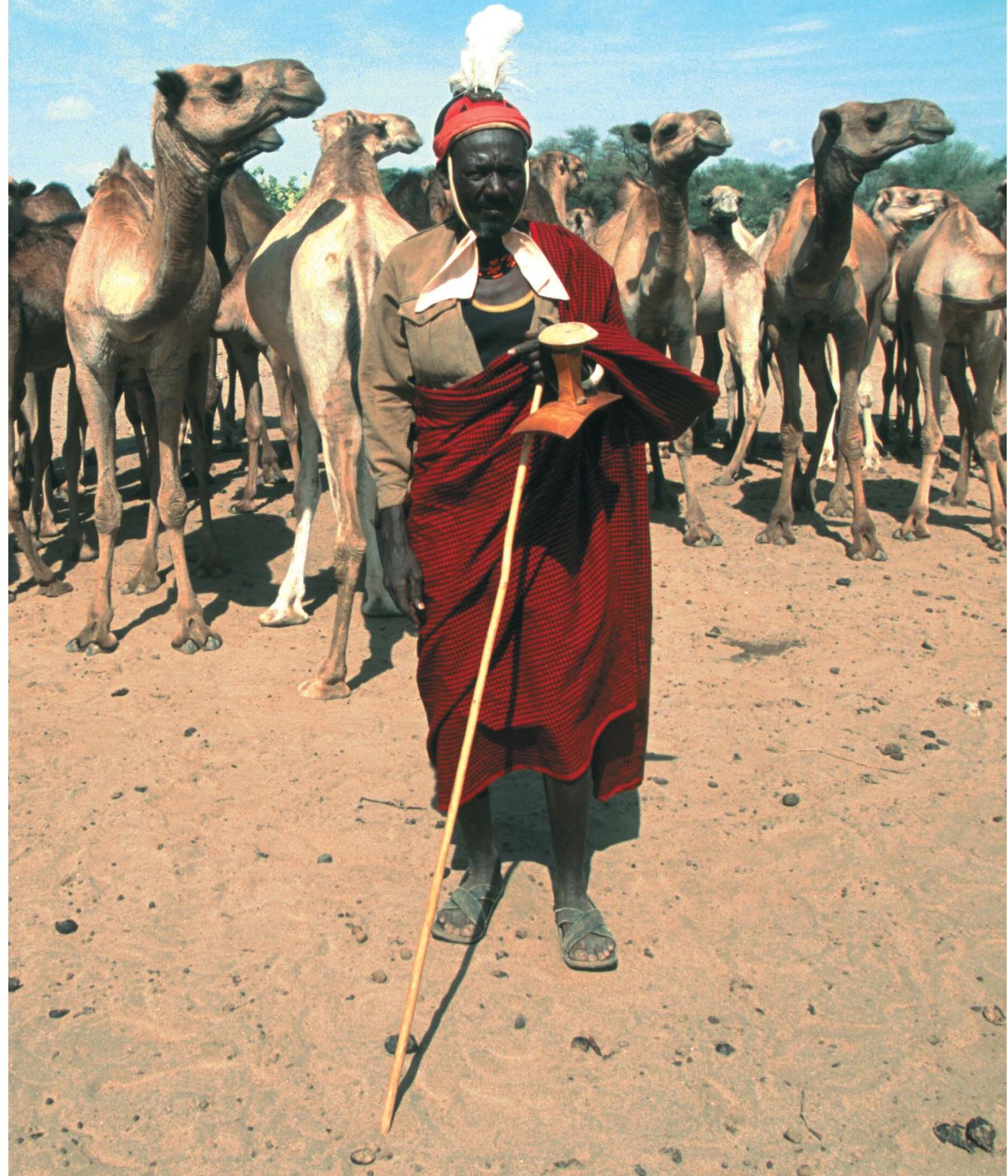
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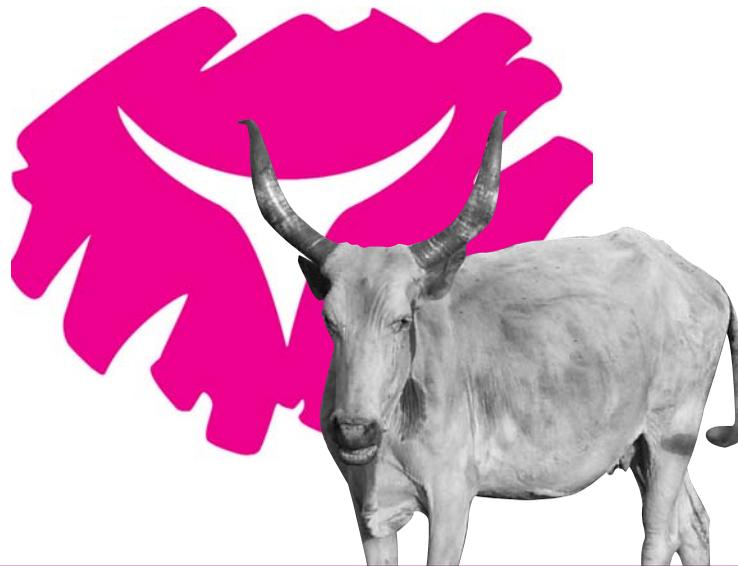


Vétérinaires Sans Frontières • Activity Report

2005

Healthy animals,
healthy people





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Vétérinaires Sans Frontières • Activity Report 2005

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MAP OF AFRICA



VÉTÉRINAIRES SANS FRONTIÈRES

Vétérinaires Sans Frontières Belgium celebrates ten years!

Vets are helping populations in the poorest countries of the world. In many of these countries, livestock is an essential source of food, but animal medicine doesn't exist and there's a constant

epidemic danger to the animals. When the herd is sick in developing countries, the village dies. The herd is the life of the people, which is why animal health aid is so necessary. In this report we want give

you an overview of our 2005 activities, while further information can be found on our website www.vsf-belgium.org and/or by contacting us. We hope you have an illuminative reading experience.

Vétérinaires Sans Frontières helps to optimise livestock keeping

Vétérinaires Sans Frontières helps to improve the living circumstances of the poorest people in the world, who are dependent on their livestock. How? By optimising livestock techniques. In most developing countries agriculture and livestock are a precious source of food and income. But veterinary support, guaranteeing a healthy herd, **don't** exist most of the time.

VSF supports local livestock keepers with training, technology and knowledge

concerning animal production, animal health and livestock marketing. Before support and training begin, there is an in-depth meeting with all parties involved. The long-term objective of VSF is always self-sufficiency and the adoption of the projects by the local livestock keepers, even for emergency projects. This participatory approach has a central place in our philosophy. And for this reason we always work with a local partner, or try to assist livestock keepers to organise themselves.



Present and past

VSF is a relatively young organisation, which has grown very quickly. In 2005, we celebrated our 10th anniversary and organised an international symposium concerning the role of livestock keeping in sustainable development and reducing poverty. The main objective of this symposium was to bring international experts together to make a balance of the current developments and future policy

lines about livestock keeping strategies in developing countries. We hope these discussions have contributed to the promotion of livestock keeping as an essential method to reduce poverty. In our world, almost one quarter of the poor people rely on livestock for their survival, but livestock doesn't play a large role in international development. It's insufficiently recognised and therefore underutilized.

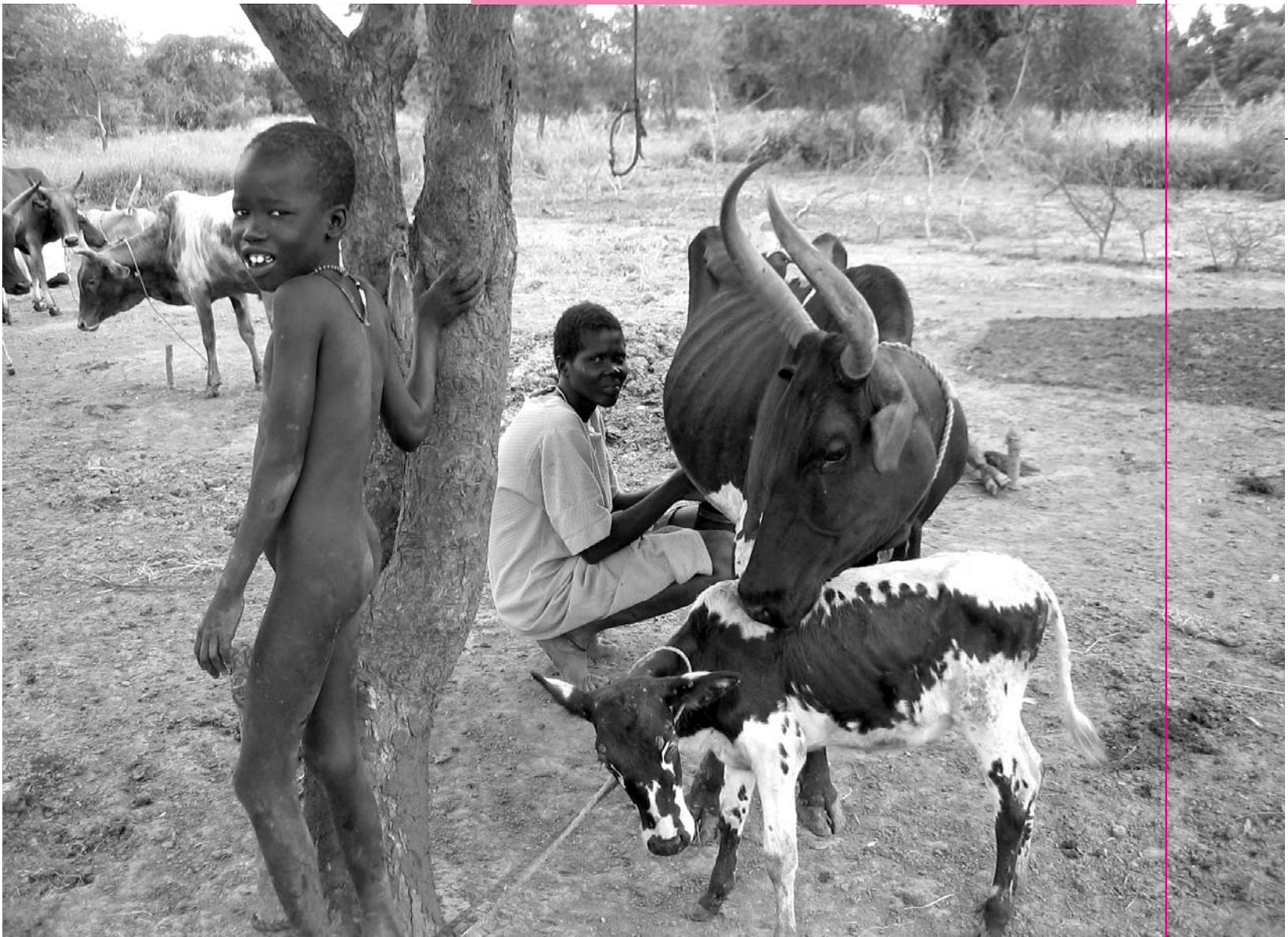
Beside its field-actions, VSF plays an important role in raising awareness about the importance of livestock keeping, and transferring our knowledge to the donors, political decision makers, veterinarians and all other people who are involved in development.

Evaluation of the association's management

Until 2000, like many young non-profit organisations, VSF was mainly directed (and stipulated by) projects in the South. This led to the creation of a regional field office, whereas the head office in Belgium was providing necessary support with a

minimum of people. Soon it became clear that the increasing number of projects would be too overwhelming for the management team. VSF decided to make some changes to be able to provide work of high quality without reducing the

number of projects. We decided to invest in a stronger structure and to follow our vision of quality management.



A DECADE OF VETERINAIRES SANS FRONTIERES

An overview

1994

- 18 Belgian veterinarians establish VSF-Belgium.

1995

- First project in southern Sudan starts
- First regional office installed in Nairobi plus a logistics base in Lokichokio, Northern Kenya.

1996

- A second project in southern Sudan involves setting up the Southern Sudan Animal Health Training Institute (SSAHATI).
- VSF Belgium receives the first prize from the Prince Laurent Foundation (500.000 BEF).

1997

- The first five-year programme (1998-2002) of the ATIFA consortium is prepared and approved by the Belgian cooperation.
- Two new projects start in Mali and on the Comoros islands.

1998

- VSF is registered with the USAID Office of

Disaster Assistance.

- The annual budget reaches one million euro.

1999

- Start of the TLDP project (1999-2005) in Turkana.
- The annual budget crosses the two million euro mark.

2000

- His Royal Highness, Prince Laurent of Belgium, visits the PADEC-project on the Comoros islands.
- The ten-year strategic partnership plan between VSF and the Belgian Survival Fund is approved.

2001

- VSF is chosen to implement the "Fight Against Lineage one Rinderpest Virus" in Southern Sudan.
- In Rwanda and Niger new projects are initiated.

2002

- VSF moves its office into the building off the Prince Laurent Foundation in Avenue Paul Deschanel.

- VSF receives the "Armand Féron" prize.

- Singer/tv-presenter Jan Leyers and actress Marie Gillain visit the Turkana Livestock Development Project. They report on their trip in several television programs.

2003

- The new project PROXEL is started in Niger
- VSF makes a new partnership with ECHO
- The annual budget of VSF reaches three million euro

2004

- VSF Belgium associates with Association Belgique Rwanda to form the consortium SAERP for the remainder of the 5-year program 2003-2007.
- VSF aims to improve its methodological skills in Project Cycle management and organises a workshop for all expats and local partners in French-speaking Africa in Dakoro, Niger.
- Start of a new project in Mauritania.
- The annual budget amounts to more than four million euro.

Strategic Plan "Horizon 2005-2015"

During an organisational assessment in 2000, the importance of a strategic plan became clear. The VSF team had grown and it was important to give a clear message to all employees of the objectives to be reached. This would reinforce coherence and direct involvement in VSF, but it would also support

contacts with technical and financial partners. This would, in turn, increase the staff's motivation and quality of the projects. The writing of the overall strategic plan "Horizon 2005-2015", took place in a participatory way, including VSF and partners, both in the North and the South.



A view on 2006

The 2006's programme sees:

- A working method based on the principles of quality management.
- Priority to the development of local capacity building in pertinent and efficient programmes.
- The role of VSF moving more in the direction of "helping to facilitate development" rather than as directly responsible for the implementation of the action.
- We will use our experiences in the South to set up "development education

activities" in Belgium and Europe, to make the European people aware of the interdependence between the North and South.

- Improved internal and external communication systems, thanks to a communication officer based in Brussels.
- In 2006, we hope to take advantage from a maximum of exchanges with our partners, sympathisers, political decision makers, and the general public, in a constructive spirit, to be able grow further adopting a learning attitude.

Madeleine Onclin
Director VSF-Belgium



MISSION AND VISION

Introducing VSF-Belgium

Our Vision

«Veterinarians can improve living conditions on our planet»

We believe that

- each person has the right to decent living conditions and that international solidarity is of the utmost importance.
- Earth, Animals and Mankind are three inextricably linked elements in a chain where the animal is a factor in sustainable development.
- development gives increased choices to beneficiary populations.

Our Mission

“To improve the well-being of disadvantaged populations in developing countries, by improving animal husbandry”

Our Approach

«To work in partnership, to train, to empower, to raise awareness»

- To establish partnerships based on mutual respect and with common goals.
- To place ourselves at the service of vulnerable populations in a constant process of learning
- To train and to empower communities and to support local partners involved in the livestock industry.
- To respect the environment, culture, laws, human rights, ancient traditions and animal welfare in those countries where the programme is taking place.
- To develop appropriate and ethically-responsible participatory techniques in order to achieve the best results.
- To make the wider public aware of development issues and the role of the Animal as a development factor.
- VSF-Belgium will intervene both for sustainable development and in emergency situations.

Our values

«Respect, Transparency, Sustainability»

- VSF-Belgium always abides by its code of ethics.
- VSF-Belgium's management is transparent and VSF-Belgium is accountable to its stakeholders
- The activities initiated by VSF-Belgium and partners are sustainable.
- VSF-Belgium is an equal opportunity employer concerned with staff development.

Our structure

«Non profit organization registered as NGO»

- VSF-Belgium is a non-profit organisation officially registered as an NGO by the Belgian government, numerous international organisations and various African governments.
- VSF-Belgium works with a professional team, nationally and internationally.
- VSF-Belgium is a member of the VSF Europa network.

DECEMBER 2005 : THE «JEUX DE LA FRANCOPHONIE» IN NIAMEY, NIGER

The Belgian Walloon Community supports VSF's Nigerien projects

In December 2005, Belgium sent a Belgian delegation to the 5th annual Jeux de la Francophonie Games. The Jeux de la Francophonie are a kind of Olympic Games, organised for all French speaking countries in the world. The games in 2005 were organised in Niamey, the capital of Niger:

Never before were the participating countries so solidly aligned with the organising country as in 2005. Niger has a low ranking in the development program of the United Nations with rampant hunger and poverty.

Despite some moral objections, Belgium decided to participate, and did the most

possible to cut its costs. In the end, our country succeeded in saving 75.000 euro, which will be donated to Vétérinaires Sans Frontières and Karkara, a local non-profit organisation working in Niger. Belgium wants to support the local people in the most direct way possible, and thus donated the money to these two worthy causes.

VSF is supported by :



COMMISSION EUROPÉENNE



Aide humanitaire





PROJECTS

Burkina Faso • Comoros • Mali • Mauritania • Niger • Rwanda • Kenya • Sudan



BURKINA FASO



Burkina Faso is located in the Sahel region of Africa and covers 274.000 km². According to the United Nations, it's the third poorest country in the world. Burkina Faso's climate is semi-arid, characterized by a long dry season and poor rainfall.

The vocation of the Sahel is pastoralism, and only 24% of the soil is suitable for agriculture or forestry. As for education, illiteracy in the Sahel population stands at 74,25%. Public health is at risk as the area counts only one doctor for 64.972 inhabitants and one nurse for 6.599 inhabitants. The rate of malnutrition, characterized by children less than five years old weighing less than normal, reaches 34%.

ZEPESA

Development support project for the Zébu Peul in the Sahel

General context of the project

This project is localized in Gorom-Gorom, the capital of the Oudalan province in the Sahel region. The choice of this area of the Sahel was made by the presence of a population that is very dependent on livestock for nutrition and living support. Their vulnerability related to their main activities (raising cattle and agriculture) is fluctuating seasonally. The area has a low human development level.

The Burkina Sahel is the cradle of the Zébu Peul race. Cattle rearing is important and livestock are bought by the livestock keepers from other regions to train as draught animals. The intervention strategy of VSF-B aims to start actions on a limited level to test the approach and to ensure a firm and lasting impact before enlarging the interventions to other areas.

Local partner

Nodde Nooto, "ready to serve" in the fulfulde language, is an NGO founded in 1996 by Sahel inhabitants, and intervenes in the four Sahel provinces.

Results achieved in 2005

- Recognition of the VSF-B by the Burkina authorities: obtaining the approval and authorization to operate in the area.
- Development and signature of the agreement regulating the partnership between VSF-B and A2N, as well as recruiting staff and opening project offices.
- Start and follow up of an emergency food supply to the population encountering a severe food crisis (July-October).
- Start of a workshop for the Gorom-Gorom project.

- Planning of the first year activities, in dialogue with the livestock keepers and other partners.

Donors and budget 2005

Donor: Belgian Survival Fund
Budget: 395.427 EURO

Plans for 2006

Starting and monitoring the field activities: training of cattle farmers, monitoring the herd, dynamic income activities, support to the veterinary services, support to cattle farmers, elaboration of a support strategy for the most vulnerable households.

<<I was present at the start project of the workshop. If count should be taken by the project with what has been said in the room, we, the livestock-farmers, finally should be able to keep our heads above water. Indeed, when malnutrition occurred here, cereals have been supplied to make the population survive. Very well, but in some ways, cattle have been neglected. If here in Oudalan a farmer has been saved but his cattle die, his life has no more sense.>>

Hama Hamakoila, Chairman of the cattle-market management.

<<If we ease its task, I have good hopes that the new project will constitute a little more for us livestock-farmers of Oudalan. I say so because here we are used waiting for everything. This is not good. If they come to wash our back, we should also be able to wash our belly. This is the message I receive from each area covered by the project.>>

Issa Mahamadou, livestock farmer and chief of the Oursi village.



COMOROS

On the archipelago of the Comoros there's a very high occupancy of the grounds: on average, 80%.

Agriculture and livestock keeping are the main economic activities. In spite of ground that has been damaged by excessive agriculture and erosion, the fertility of the volcanic floor is a strong indicator of the improvement of the food security, which at this moment is strongly dependent on import.



PADEC II Programme to develop livestock in the Comoros

« Since I have been buying concentrated food for my cow, it has given more milk, of which I can sell a part. »

A livestock keeper



General context of the project

The project aims towards the autonomy of the animal health network that was developed during the first PADEC (1998-2002). The plan is to raise animal production by means of livestock keeping development. To attain this, certain regional specific elements must be exploited, which is why the project in Anjouan is directed towards the milk chain, in Mohéli the goat keepers are a priority, and on Grande Comore the bird keepers are the direct target group.

Local partner

ACTIV (Association Comorienne des Techniciens et Infirmiers Vétérinaires) is the local partner of the project. It's a result of the collection of professional animal health workers as an answer to the release policy of the state concerning this matter.

Results achieved in 2005

- In terms of animal health, in 2005 we witnessed the extension of some services: in the north on the island grande Comore, a new hospital was opened, and in Anjouan a third health mail was considered.
- In means of animal production the emphasis was directed towards opening the gene pool. Boer, a German breed of goats, were brought in, which hopes for an increase of production, and a bigger offer of native ewe flesh.
- In Niumakélé, a model region concerning milk cattle breeding, the first artificial insemination action was carried out: 149 selected cows were fertilised with Brune des Alpes seed.
- On grande Comore, the project worked in conjunction with the bird keepers for improved pastoralising techniques. Shelters

were built for the birds, that roamed around before unguarded.

- The strengthening of the local partner was a priority throughout the territory. For institutional support, the project appealed to a specialized organism, which has accepted a task that will be continued in 2006.

Donors and budget 2005

Donor: DGCD (85%)

Budget: 91,530 EURO

Plans for 2006

The local partner must be reinforced by a strategic working group, which can propose a plan to let the association become bigger in an institutional way during the next three years.

We are striving for an increase of the skills of the CAHW's of the APSA (Association des Professionnels de la Santé Animale) by specific support of a veterinary surgeon, during a period of four months. By specialised mastering support on institutional, organisational and financial areas, we will pursue also livability of APSA. In the field of animal production we will apply zootechnical support towards the results of the gene pool widening introduced in 2005. The project aims also for technical and institutional liberation of the ewes - and dairy groupings. In traditional poultry farming one will examine if the import of cocks has an influence on the production of eggs.

MALI



Covered by the Sahara desert in the north and largely located in the Sahel region, Mali is an immense country (1,240,000 square km², or 40 times the size of Belgium) with 11 million inhabitants. Due to a life expectancy of 49 years, a significant child death rate and 73% of Malians living below poverty line, Mali is ranked 174th (out of 177 countries) on the Human Development Index.

Its inhabitants, 80% of whom are living from agriculture, are dependant on the climate and its hazards. Livestock keeping represents 12% of GDP and is the country's third source of foreign currency after gold and cotton. Thus, for numerous vulnerable households, products and revenues stemming from livestock keeping represent not only their means of survival, but also an important indication of socio-economic development.

APLFLSA

Support to Local Partners through the Milk Chain and Animal Health

General context of the project

Despite having a very significant livestock population, Mali is forced to import milk. Some initiatives are possible on a local level in order to increase the share of milk produced locally. In Koumantou in the Sikasso region, the project provides support for the development of a mini-dairy. Thanks to actions concerning livestock feeders' production techniques as well as milk transformation techniques, the dairy has become profitable and has created jobs and brought economic activity to a small village. In Oualia, in the Kayes region, the project operates within the framework of the general privatization of animal health services by helping a private vet to start up and keep a particularly strategic activity within a difficult context.

Local partner

Initiatives Conseil Développement, a Malien NGO

Results achieved in 2005

In Koumantou, thanks to a fund for livestock feed, breeders are provided with more than 45 tons of livestock feed in the midst of the dry season. The volume of milk products sold by the dairy has increased from 17 to 42

tons. The dairy has consolidated its results and is now able to take charge of all its expenses as well as any future investments. In Oualia, purchasing a motorcycle has enabled the livestock technicians to intervene more often in the field. The stock of veterinary products has been boosted in order to face demand. At the end of the year, a young vet was found and will soon start and perpetuate activity at the veterinary pharmacy.

Donors and budget 2005

Donors: The DGCD (85%), VSF-B (15%)
Budget: 87,049 EURO

Plans for 2006

The aim is to reinforce management at the Koumantou dairy in 2006 so as to ensure its' continuation. Additionally, the recruitment of a technician will help livestock keepers produce more milk. In Oualia, the rehabilitation of two vaccination sites and the installation of a private vet are in the pipeline in order to guarantee an animal health service of optimal proximity. Lastly, aid to the installation of private vets will be extended to regions where livestock keepers have no access to veterinary treatment.

<<Without the veterinary pharmacy put in place with the support of the project, our animals were being decimated by epidemics. We used to either have to wait for the government officer, who is based at a long distance from Oualia, or else there would be nobody to intervene when our animals were ill. Now it is possible to get treatment for them.>>

A livestock keeper in Oualia

<<The dairy is really a good thing for us. We would have to get up really early, travel very far to get to the market and we weren't sure that our milk would be sold. Now, thanks to the dairy, our milk is being bought at a good price every day. We have more money for food, clothing and schooling for our children. That's good.>>

A Peul woman in Koumantou

<<The project has enabled us to construct buildings and buy materials. We have also created a revolving fund/working capital fund to provide livestock keepers with feed at a good price during the dry season. We recently brought a new product to the market, called sirime, a kind of melted butter that is highly appreciated here. It's being sold all the way to Bamako, which is 250 kms away. So now the dairy is profitable. For 2006 we have asked for support from the project to improve management, to enable the dairy to sustain its activities independently in the future.>>

The dairy manager at Koumantou



MAURITANIA

In Mauritania a very large part of the rural activities are mastered by livestock keeping. This takes almost 80% of the agriculture sector and contributes, in spite of its very weak investment level, for 15.2% of the GDP. Seen commonly, the countryside knows a considerable delay in means of infrastructure and access to the basis services.

The national strategy for rural development has decided that livestock keeping is a huge aspect in attempts to reduce poverty in the region, because of its added value through the countryside. Livestock keeping plays a vital role in the food security of the country families, by the consumption of milk.



TRARZA

Support for the milk producers by developing an incorporated milk chain in Mauritania

« The problem is... that there is a problem. »

Diallo, Aplt-technicus, illustrating the complexity of the social and technical surroundings of the project.



General context of the project

The milk chain has a strong growth potential in Mauritania, if you keep in mind the expectancies for the native question. Thanks to the presence of a dairy industry, development has been guaranteed. Moreover, the region around the Senegal offers real possibilities for livestock feed and traffic roads. The commercialising of milk by pastoralists through the industry has led to important modifications in the management of the cattle, and to an increase of the quality requirements for raw milk. Those populations which already commercialise their milk production will operate in a fundamental example function. Therefore, it's very important to accompany this movement by incorporating small producers in the chain. Another important commitment which the development of milk production must stimulate is the structuring of the countryside.

Local partner

The APLT (Association pour les Producteurs Laitiers Transhumants) is an independent national non-profit organisation, specialised in support to the pastoral sector. The association wants to extend the existing cattle capital and the traditional technical heritage by raising the productivity of livestock, by promoting the pastoral promoting products, by improving the races and traditional techniques, and by incorporating the chain in the rest of the economy.

Results achieved in 2005

- The livestock health has improved
- The food supply of the livestock feed is under control
- The livestock keepers have the necessary skills for the maximisation of milk production
- APLT has a more solid structure, as an association and as a partner
- APLT has been reinforced at the level of technical and operational competences

Donors and budget 2005

Donor: DGCD

Budget: 106,361 EURO



Plans for 2006

In 2006, the activities follow the evolution of the project, with the opening up to a broader target group, the liberation of the animal health service, the fuelling of feeds, the training on hygiene during milking and feeding livestock and the strengthening of the association as an instrument at both the technical and institutional level.

NIGER



Niger is a West African Sahel country with a surface of 1.267.000 km², positioned as last-but-one in the UN Development Index. Two-thirds of its population lives below the poverty line, and its birth rate is the highest on the continent. National economy is largely dominated by agriculture, which employs 90% of the active population. In this sector, livestock keeping is primordial for food security, but only succeeds in a laborious way to make use of its full potential.

Reasons for this are the wait-and-see attitude and the very extensive way that livestock keeping is practised, as well as the lack of fodder. Agriculture is very subjected to climatic changes. Frequent dryness causes major food crises, such as those in 2005, that badly affect the pastoral and agro-pastoral population.

PROXEL

Project to establish decentralised animal health and livestock husbandry advice networks

General context of the project

This six year program in the Dakoro district has been running since 2003. The region is seriously disadvantaged by demographic pressures, communities without means, territorial conflicts and the whims of the climate. 2005 has been characterized by severe food crises in the rural and pastoral regions of the country, and Dakoro has not been spared these disasters.

To face these major problems, VSF-B aims to improve the food security and the income for shepherds and agro livestock farmers through local structures and community workers.

Local partner

The project runs in close cooperation with the Nigerien NGO Karkara, which has been working nation-wide for more than ten years supporting local initiatives and strengthening organizing and technical capacities in the rural areas.

Results achieved in 2005

In this rural region livestock keeping plays the leading role. Proxel aims to improve livestock production through strengthening animal health and by optimizing livestock farming policies. Results for 2005 are:

- Steady growth of the private local veterinary service (new concept). Over 7,000 livestock farmers joined the prophylaxis programs.
- The boom of the "direct food security" food rationing aspect for the most vulnerable who were severely struck by drought (cf: PRESECAL), and an increased budget to develop and strengthen new crises-easing (coping) strategies. The grain banks managed 300 tons of millet.

- Improvement of livestock farming policies, decisive for strengthening the local development, particularly after the past food crises.
- Herd management: livestock keepers, which are men and women who are trained to apply better techniques in feeding, and strategic supplementary feeding for surviving herds.

Donors and budget 2005

Donors: Belgian Survival Fund (85 %). The Walloon region and VSF-B (15%)
Budget: 479.184 EURO

Plans for 2006

- This year the project will receive a midterm evaluation: the mission will be to assess the results of its actions, to present new policy lines, and to give its approval to an extension to Abalak (a rural department of Niger).
- During 2006 the project will specialize in continuance of the animal health network, by supporting the partners involved in the privatization mechanism.
- Strengthen the grain- and cattle feeding banks in areas struck by drought.
- Promote income-generating activities for female livestock keepers.
- Within the framework of reinforcing their capacity and through the perpetuation of Proxel's actions, grant responsibility to the local associations.

<<Thanks to the fast clinic and DZG/B's intervention, the worst has been avoided for the dromedaries! The vet has vaccinated all our animals and things go better>>.
The mayor of Gadabédjii.



NIGER



PRESECAL

Reinforcement Programme of Food Security in the Dakoro department

«The PRESECAL Project, (Maikansa) really saved us because it brought us sorghum in the middle of the our critical period, and moreover it brought it at an affordable price (300 F) while in the surrounding markets, the price amounted to 750 or 800 F!».

Yahaya Ibi, member of the Guidan Tanko community

«The PRESECAL operation is very important; it allowed the heads of the most deprived households to cultivate their fields.»

Head of the Guidan Aman Bader village, Goula Canton

«A Project which brings your stock in your pocket, it's a first; and you are informed beforehand of the sales day in order to be prepared, it's good work.»

A member of the community of Sawani, Soly Canton



General context of the project

Reference to the general context of the Proxel Project in Niger

Local partner

There's no local partner

Results achieved in 2005

The PRESECAL answered two distinct objectives:

To respond to the consequences of the very bad crop production of 2004 for the most vulnerable livestock-keeping families in Dakoro by implementing crop sales at reasonable prices. To increase the capacity of vulnerable people in food crises by establishing activities funded by the income obtained from crops.

The results of the first phase of food aid are: In the agro-pastoral area: 4500 households in 115 villages benefited from the operation. The project answered the call for cereals during the months of July and August 2005. In the pastoral area: interim intervention of grain banks of roughly 2000 beneficiaries, most of which were sedentary and nomadic livestock keepers.

Currently, the second phase of the project is running with the grain sale funds gathered in

the first phase. **The conducted activities are:**

- Establishment and setup of ten grain banks in the pastoral and agro-pastoral areas of the Dakoro department.
- Support to rural community radios as a sustainable and functional tool for the information and sensitisation of the local population, and answering to the expectations of the department's rural communities.
- Support for the establishment of an approach for information management and capitalisation of the Sub Regional Food Crises Management and Prevention Community (SRFCMPC).
- Organise reflection on how to identify vulnerability in pastoral areas and implementing relevant tools accepted by all actors in food security.

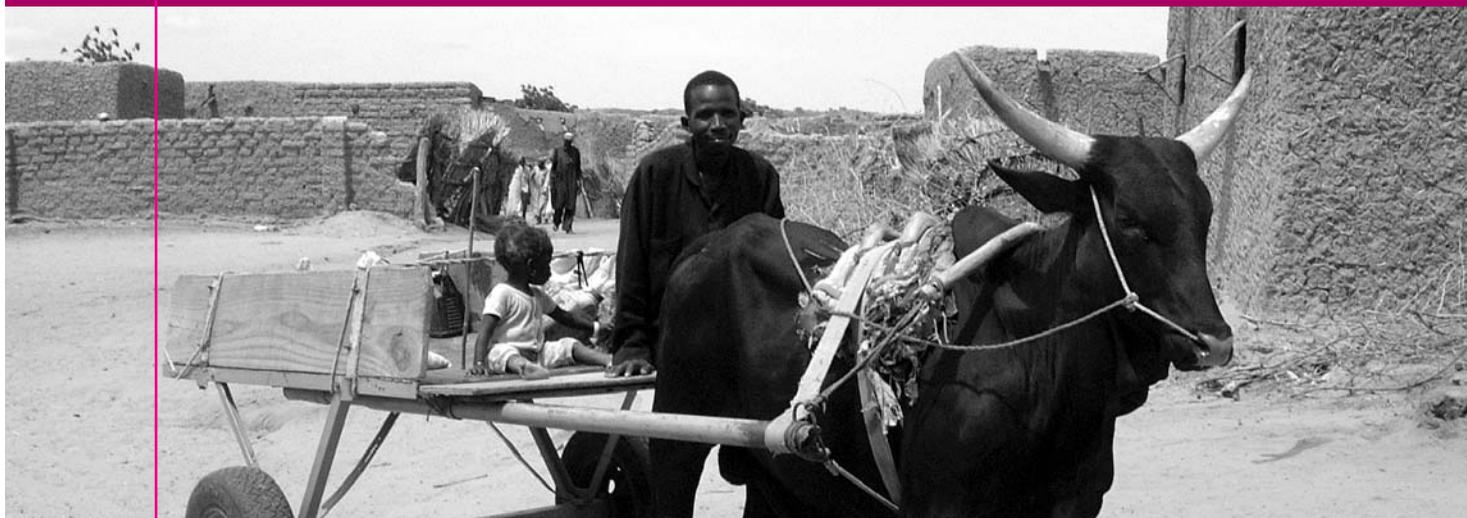
Donors and budget 2005

Donor: DGCD

Budget: 361.000 EURO

Plans for 2006

PRESECAL, during its second phase, will continue its activities up to the end of March. Therefore, the follow-up and the management of these activities will be done by the Proxel project.



LSN

Healthy milk for Niger

General context of the project

Due to the importance of milk for food security and to an insufficient native milk production (which covers only 50% of the needs), the promotion of the milk chain has become a priority for the Nigerian reliance policy in the livestock sector since 2002. Real efforts have been made regarding the production, and several projects are contributing by supporting the government's efforts.

However, a large part of the milk production in Niamey is bad or not at all usable because of its inferior quality.

The major reasons for the bad milk quality are:

- The livestock's unsatisfactory state of health
- Unsanitary circumstances during milking and milk keeping
- Too long of a transfer time to the dairy industry
- Fraud by adding (often undrinkable) water to increase the volume of delivered milk

While developing the milk chain, we have to master the sanitary risks to improve the quality of milk products. Healthy Milk for Niger's specific goal is to improve the quality of the milk which is sold on the Niamey market and to realize better incomes for the producers.

Local partner

The project is carried out by the local non profit organisation Karkara.

Results achieved in 2005

The whole process pursues a steady HACCP-method course, reducing physical, chemical and bacteriological risks through the entire milk chain. **The intervention axis is situated at two levels:**

- Producers: sanitary protection of the livestock and vulgarizing hygienic measures, improvement of the techniques and the equipment for milk keeping.
- Collectors: hygiene, fraud fighting and organizing the commercial circuit.

Within some time, the experiment could be extended to all milk producing sites of Niamey and other city hearts.

In 2005 a project team and working requisites were established. These include a laboratory, vulgarizing tools and sensibilization campaigns. A consultation board to improve communication and synergy between the different milk chain's actors was also established.

Groups of producers and certain partners of the milk chain (groups, collectors, industrials) were contacted and nine intervention sites were identified.

Donors and budget 2005

Donors: DGCD (85%)
Budget: 83.114 EURO

Plans for 2006

In 2006 many specific actions will be pursued on the field in cooperation with different partners who were identified in 2005. VSF will teach the producers the importance of good hygiene and will structure the milk collectors to obtain better transport circumstances.

The general goal is to guarantee a higher milk quality on both the industrial and consumer level.



NIGER



APPLNy Project

Support to small-scale milk producers in the urban and peri-urban communities of Niamey

« Thanks to the veterinary assistants put in place by the project, we are able to easily obtain a dewormer at an interesting price. »

A livestock keeper

« Thanks to the support given by the APPLN project, we are able to buy and transform more milk, which significantly increases our revenue. »

A member of a women's group



General context of the project

The target group consists of livestock keepers of Peul origin who, following different crises (periods of drought, epidemics, Tuareg rebellion, food crises ...), have been living for several years in the periphery of Niamey. These livestock keepers are relatively vulnerable as they are exposed to climatic hazards, land-property pressure and seasonal speculations on livestock feed during the dry season. Their traditional knowledge of breeding does not always take into consideration the constraints that they are facing. The biggest portion of their revenue comes from breeding and milk sales.

Local partner

The local partner is Nigerien non-profit organization AGROPAST. Its mission is to "reinforce the capacities of the grassroots communities by working at the social

sustainability of development". The APPLN project is the first project put in place by this organization. Within this framework, it benefits from institutional aid and as a result has become an intermediate beneficiary.

Results achieved in 2005

The number of villages benefiting from the project has risen from 15 to 21.

The project has continued and reinforced the activities initiated in previous years in the fields of production and conservation of forages, construction and equipment of stock stores, providing working-capital funds for the purchase of zoo-technical input and help in the transformation and marketing of milk.

The activities in the field of animal health have been intensified by refreshing, and equipping para-veterinary assistants trained at the end of 2004 and training of new forces for groups that have recently joined the project.

On top of the institutional aid, the local partner has received equipment and specific training in order to reinforce its capacity.

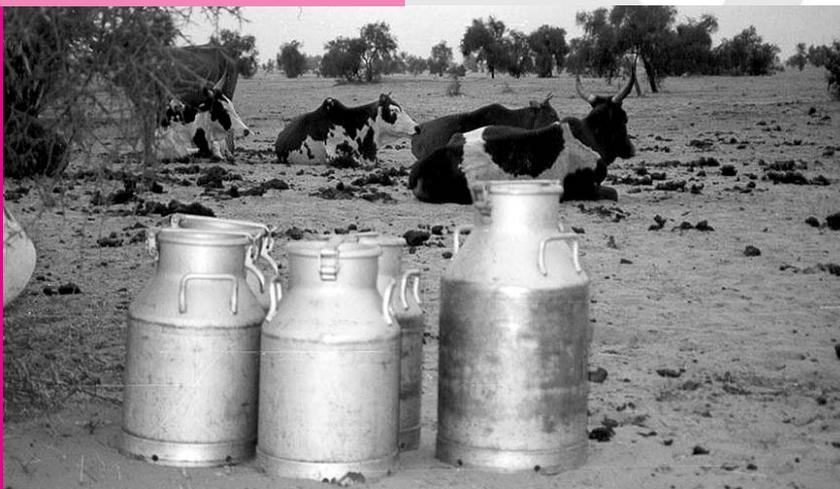
Donors and budget 2005

Donors: DGCD (85 %)

Budget: 125,145 EURO

Plans for 2006

This year, the activities of 2004 and 2005 will be extended so that the beneficiaries may obtain maximal appropriation. The animal health activities must be intensified and diversified. The program also foresees literacy and activities in the environmental field (reforestation for foraging purposes). A plan for VSF-B to fully hand-over to the local partner must be intensified.



RWANDA



Rwanda is a country lying in the region of the large African lakes, where more than 90% of the population lives from subsistence agriculture. There are many problems with the production of animals and crops, including a lack of usable ground (ground to plant vegetables in), soil erosion, a high occurrence of animal diseases, the high costs of the inputs and insufficient integration between agriculture and livestock-farming.

Since 50% of the Rwandan population is less than 18 years old, the training of young people, especially in the field of agro-breeding, has become a priority. That training of the young people coincides with an immense need of the population for services for zotechnical and sanitary follow-up and for recommendation concerning agriculture matters.

EAVK

Support to the Agri-Veterinary school of Kabutare

General context of the project

The support from the technical services of the Minagri (Ministry of Agriculture) by advice giving to livestock keepers has reduced. For this reason, we will focus on private veterinary services and on the establishment of model pastoralists. EAVK, the Agro-veterinarian school of Kabutare EAVK, founded in 1937 by Belgian priests, is part of an educational system for pastoralists who can play an important role in the promotion of rural development. Before the war, this school had an excellent reputation, but the quality of the courses declined sharply as a result of the theft of equipment and a fall in the number of teachers. The school asked for the support of VSF-B' to improve this situation.

Local partner

The Executive Staff of EAVK Kabutare

Results achieved in 2005

The project consists of two main parts: The first is aimed at better training of the animal health workers. The project developed new training curricula which were validated by the Minédu (Ministry of Education) in 2005. These programmes will be followed in ten agro-veterinarian schools from the beginning of the 2006 school year. VSF-B made 80% of its' notes available for the school, and gave regular trainings to teachers, by means of exchange - and/or training sessions. A video library was installed to illustrate our courses.

The second part of the project was to provide the school with appropriate education structures and the development of complimentary income generating activities, enabling the school to be

guaranteed of practical exercises for the students. A unit for the production of cattle feed and the establishment of a veterinary clinic were installed. There was also an important strengthening of the workshop for milk production and cattle feed production. In a small slaughterhouse at school, students can become familiar with techniques for meat inspection. All activities are now managed by the school itself; this project only has a recommending role.

Donors and budget 2005

Donors: DGCD (85 %)
Budget: 158,000 EURO

Plans for 2006

- The writing of school books which are adapted to the new curricula.
- At school some actions will be held to strengthen the production workshops.
- To provide support to new graduates who set up practice in rural areas, VSF will initiate a pilot project regarding installation and strengthening of newly installed animal health workers.

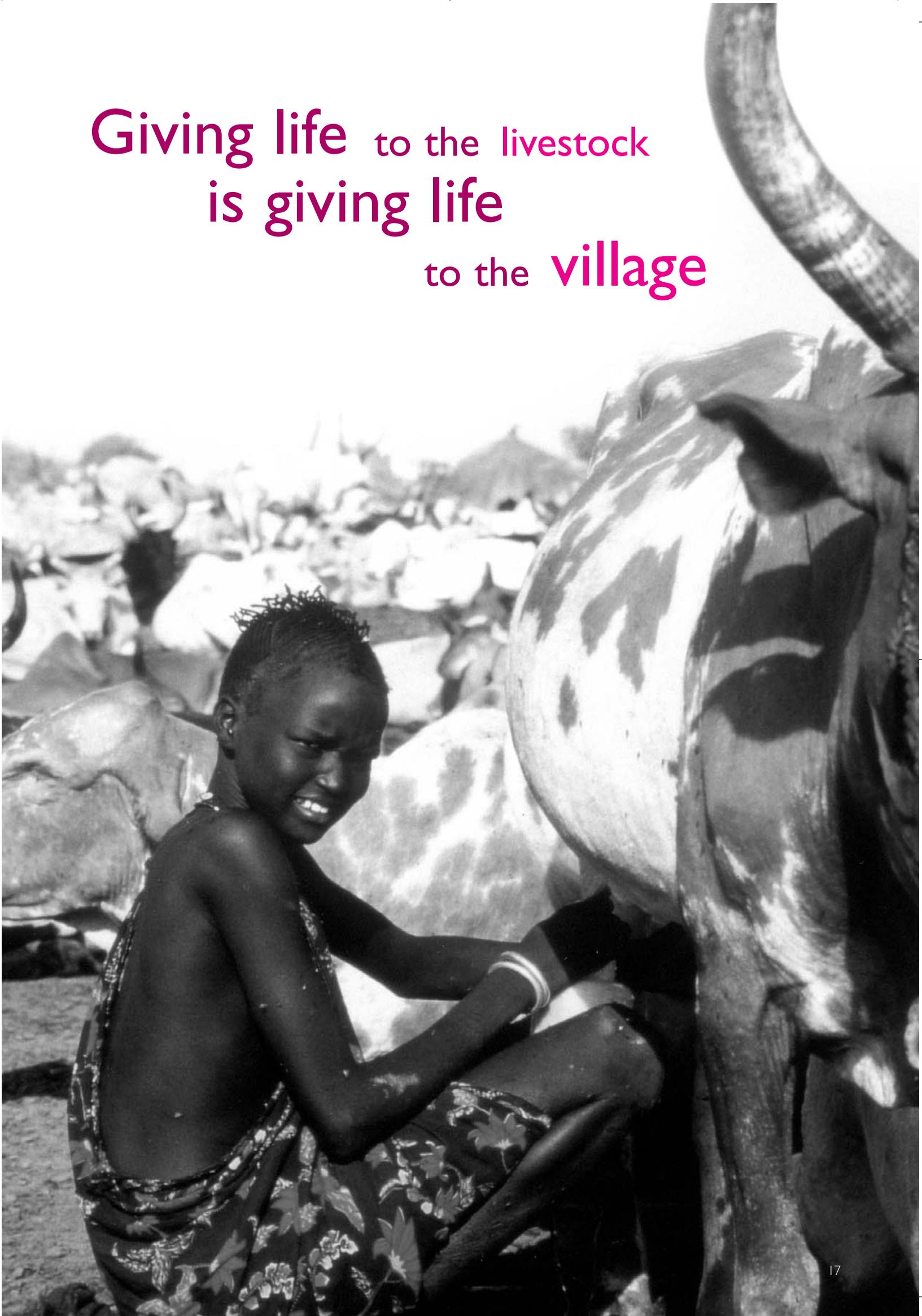
<<Why have there been more pathological animals since VSF looks after our cows?>>

Answer: <<Because before the arrival of VSF, most of sick the animals died.>>

A livestock breeder from the neighbourhood of Butare presents a riddle to his friends



Giving life to the livestock
is giving life
to the **village**



KENYA



The Turkana District is an arid region of North West Kenya. The region has a hot and dry climate with unpredictable rainfall, making the area suitable only for nomadic livestock keepers.

The Turkana livestock farmers keep various types of animals (such as cattle, goats, camels, etc.) This is part of their traditional strategy for spreading risks. Their herds and flocks are not just a source of food, but families are also able to sell animals to provide for their domestic needs.

What they earn from these sales pays for school fees, medical and veterinary services other non-pastoral products (such as sugar, salt, tea, tobacco, fabric, etc.) Logistical and financial constraints and the vastness of this remote area are the main stumbling blocks for providing government veterinary services.

TLDP I Turkana Livestock Development Program I

General context of the project

The overall objective of TLDP I (2000 – 2005) was to improve the viability of the pastoralist way of life in Turkana. To achieve this, the program focused on four primary interventions which formed the specific objectives of the program: Improving animal health, increasing access to dry season grazing areas by development of water structures, increasing opportunities for the marketing of livestock and improving access to dry season grazing areas through peace building activities.

Local partner

The Turkana Pastoralist Development Organization assisted us in peace building and conflict mitigation.

Results achieved in 2005

• Animal health services achievements

Community dialogues were held which led to the training of ten CAHWS from needy areas, and refresher training courses were held for CAHWS to impart technical skills on animal health services. We conducted post training community dialogues to monitor performance of the trained CAHWS, and to ensure they were offering relevant services.

• Achievements in water development for livestock and pastoralist

The project team conducted community dialogues that led to the identification of 15 sites for technical assessment of water development in needy areas. Community action plans were developed between the project and community, where five subsurface dams were constructed using clay. Two shallow wells were constructed with hand pumps installed for water provision to livestock.

• Livestock marketing

Talks were held to create awareness on livestock marketing in times of need, and meetings between traders and pastoralists were held to enhance income from livestock sales. Other trainings were given on business and organization skills to promote better performance.

• Achievements in peace building and conflict mitigation

Our local partner TUPADO was actively involved in the implementation of the peace building and conflict prevention process including trainings of local traditional adakar peace and development committees, cross-border peace meetings for peace actors and community representatives, and rapid responses to early warnings of impending conflicts were promptly addressed and conflicts were prevented by the monitoring peace committees.

Donors and budget in 2005

Donor: Belgian Survival Fund (75%),
own Funds VSF-B (25%)
Budget: 246,462 EURO

Plans for 2006

Plans for Turkana Livestock Development Program II are to develop activities to improve:
animal health and productivity
access to water
economic returns to pastoralists

To promote viable partnerships with TLDP II we shall develop and adopt an agreeable partner; select partners, conduct organization assessment and do capacity building of the same based on identified organizational gaps.

<<Our children play more during the day. They dance and sing when evening comes because we're able to give them more milk. Our livestock is healthy, thanks to VSF>>
A young woman



KENYA



Turkana Emergency Livestock Off-Take project

«Now I understand what animal health means.
The vet vaccinated my animals and all goes well».
Ardo, livestock keeper



General context of the project

This was an emergency project in response to severe drought that affected many areas in the district, causing both extensive pressure on grazing land and weakening of the livestock located therein.

Results

The project promoted purchase of 6,264 goats at 11 euro each from pastoralists in the area, injecting 71,000 euro into the local economy—helping roughly 3212 people of lesser means. The 6,264 goats were distributed to 35,197 needy school children in 75 primary and nine secondary schools throughout the district. The purchase of the goats also benefited 523 livestock traders, four women's groups and six Health

Institutions (encompassing 327 in-patients who consumed the goats' meat). The money saved from the health centres' food bills was used to pay further medical bills, while the savings for the schools' food budget was used to purchase water tanks, repair school desks, purchase school uniforms and pay fees for needy students of lesser means. Due to the extra meat being offered at school, increased enrolment and low absenteeism was particularly noted during this time.

Donors and budget 2005

Donor: Government of Kenya –Arid Lands Resources Management Project, funded by the World Bank.

Budget: 100,000 EURO



KENYA



Drought Response Program for Arid Districts of Kenya Animal health Intervention

General context of the project

This project was an emergency response to the impact of drought in the Turkana District and was for one year. The project ran from October 2004 to December 2005, while the field operations occurred from June 2005 to December 2005.

Local partner

District veterinary Office Turkana
CAHWS

Results achieved in 2005 under drought response program

Mass vaccination against CCPP, sheep pox and goat pox, CBPP and LSD happened this year, where a grand total of 659,271 out of the total livestock population of 720,000 were vaccinated (92% coverage). A total of

432,124 food security animals were vaccinated against diseases that weaken and kill at the full cost of the drugs. 2,199 goats received treatment benefiting 61,852 people. These were school-age children and poor families in areas with severe food insecurity. Forty community animal health workers were selected, retrained and issued with drug kits. They assisted pastoralists in remote areas, treating 34,426 heads of livestock against various diseases.

Donors and budget 2005

Donors: ECHO
Budget: 358,846 EURO

Plans for 2006

The project ended in December 2005.

<<My cows were skinny because of liver-fluke and they produced almost nothing. But since they were dewormed by the community animal health worker, trained by VSF, I have been able to give my children 4 litres of milk a day, while I hadn't even one litre a day before the treatment.>>
Matay, nomadic breeder



SOUTH SUDAN

Currently, South Sudan is considered one of the most underdeveloped and marginalised countries in the world. With the signing of peace, roads are being built in many parts of the country for the first time in the history of South Sudan, water and electric infrastructures are all but non-existent except in a few major cities, Southern Sudanese that have been displaced throughout the world and are now considering if and when they will return home bringing with them the much needed skills that they have learned outside of South Sudan.

Livestock keeping remains central to a majority of the communities indigenous to South Sudan. Livestock represent social and economical security. During the conflict, livestock represented a movable asset that could be transported from one safe location to another to avoid the war. Livestock allowed communities to continue with their traditional ways of governance, justice and family structures. Most importantly, livestock kept many people alive during the war by providing milk and meat when there was no other source of food available. Those communities that lost their livestock, and with it their independence to stay in their homes, were displaced to urban centres where they lacked the skills and knowledge to develop effectively and soon became marginalised in a foreign environment.



CBAHP

Community –Based Animal Health Programme

General context of the project

VSF-Belgium has been involved in facilitation of community based animal health programmes (CBAHP) in Southern Sudan since 1995 when its first project was started in Akobo. The CBAHP project was in response to the food insecurity chronic emergency following the 20 year civil war in Southern Sudan which ended in 2005.

Local partner

The local partners are the Ministry of Animal Resources and Fisheries (MARF), international and local NGOs, local communities and local authorities. The project was implemented by a consortium of both International NGOs and local Sudanese indigenous NGO working in the

livestock sector in Southern Sudan. The members of the consortium include ADRA, CARE, Networks Services Trust, VSF-Germany, VSF-Switzerland and VSF-Belgium.

Results achieved in 2005

- The two major objectives of the 2005 community based animal health project were: Strengthen local emergency preparedness and response capacity through enhanced community based animal health services delivery systems and improve food security through increased livestock productivity with special focus on the most vulnerable.
- The veterinarians and field community development officers were trained as trainers on emergency preparedness and response. The community trainings were carried out to develop skills of the local communities and animal health workers to handle livestock emergencies and the animal health workers participated in diseases surveillance and investigations. Emergency veterinary vaccines and medicines stocks were established and used whenever outbreaks of diseases were reported.
- The project expanded to areas particularly in Maban county in Renk, Upper Nile. In support of privatisation of veterinary medicines VSF-B carried out various entrepreneurial trainings to animal health workers that are involved in the activity. The pharmacy managed by Marial Lou Livestock Training Centre was provided with inputs from this project. The pharmacy is now supplying veterinary drugs and equipment to different animal health workers. VSF-B also provided the communities and the livestock workers with training in business and establishes business counselling support systems in all its areas of coverage. The greatest success

of privatised, decentralized animal health services was the willingness of the farmers to pay for the real cost of veterinary drugs in an emergency and relief dominated environment.

- VSF B veterinarians prepared radio programmes on various zoonotic diseases prevalent in Southern Sudan. The radio programs were aired through Sudan Radio. The programme provides awareness to risks of disease that are transmitted between people and livestock.
- During the year several community dialogues and meetings were carried to sensitize communities on HIV/AIDS as well as hygienic handling of milk and meat.

Donors and budget 2005

EU: 2005 Food Security and Food Aid project: 303,250 EURO
ECHO: Food security intervention to vulnerable households through emergency veterinary support and disease prevention: 474,515 EURO
USAID: Emergency Veterinary Support Programme Southern Sudan: \$ 430,000

Plans for 2006

- Support the community based animal health projects in Southern Sudan
- Expand to Atar County in Jonglei State and other previously unaccessed locations with reach of the existing project.
- Support MARF in establishment of county offices to coordinate CBAHP.
- Continue to support livestock emergency preparedness activities.
- Establish project coordinating offices in Southern Sudan.
- Support livestock marketing and livestock inputs markets.

«My cows were skinny because of liver-fluke and they produced almost nothing. But since they were dewormed by the community animal health worker, trained by VSF, I have been able to give my children 4 litres of milk a day, while I hadn't even one litre a day before the treatment.»
Matay, nomadic breeder



SOUTH SUDAN



LITAP Livestock Training & Agribusiness Development Program

General context of the project

There were three active projects under the Livestock Training and Agribusiness Development Program (LiTAP) during 2005. These include SSARP agribusiness (funded by USAID), SSAHATI cost Recovery (Internal funding) and the Food Security and Livelihood Improvement Program (FLIP - funded by the European Commission). Thus, LiTAP is an umbrella program within VSF-B regional Office in Nairobi, under which projects concerned with training and promotion of livestock agribusiness (entrepreneurship and market access) are grouped. The overall aim of the program is to improve the livelihoods of livestock dependent households in southern Sudan through institutional capacity building, skills training, technology transfer and improved market access for livestock and livestock products.

Local partner

Program (LiTAP) implementation pursued approaches aimed at promoting local participation in the prioritisation of program interventions, capacity building and reorientation to the operating context. To achieve this, the program works with local partners, notably, the Marial Lou Livestock Training Center (MLLTC), Vetworks Services Trust and community based organisations. Activities are also implemented through collaboration with local government departments, international NGOs and research institution such as ILRI in Nairobi.

Results achieved in 2005

LiTAP achieved good results during 2005. Capacity building of local partners was achieved through facilitation of recruitment

of local staff by the MLLTC, development of human resources and finance management manual for the MLLTC, management training for the TC principal and accountant and facilitation of the board of trustees meetings. The MLLTC was also officially inaugurated at a colorful ceremony to mark the handing over of the centre to the people of Sudan. Members from the veterinary department, Vetworks Trust, NPA and FAO were trained on participatory epidemiology to equip them with skills needed for effective grassroots mobilization for East Coast Fever control. After the training, participants conducted a participatory epidemiologic survey of East Coast Fever in Kajo Keji and greater Yei counties. The program also successfully conducted participatory baseline studies in Kajo Keji, Yei and Tali. Members of the communities who were trained on PRA techniques by the program, did most of the data collection.

During 2005, the program with its local partners also trained 162 people on various aspects of livestock production through outreach missions in different parts of southern Sudan. Another 65 individuals were trained as Animal Health Auxiliaries at the MLLTC.

Donors and budget 2005

USAID (SSARP): \$ 143,277
SAHATI cost recovery: \$ 260,513
European Commission (FLIP): 238,013 EURO

Plans for 2006

In 2006, LiTAP will strengthen outreach programming and complete the MLLTC handing over process. This will pave way for mutual agreements and target setting in future relations between VSF-B and the

MLLTC. The program will also finalize the East Coast Fever Control strategy for Eastern Equatoria and provide capacity building support to CBOs, the veterinary department and other local partners in the livestock sector. In response to Horizon 2010, the program will also realign its activities to the strategy and mobilize resources for new livestock development projects.

*<<Without the project we would not have been able to stay here and cultivate our lands>>.
A vulnerable citizen of Azagar.*



SOUTH SUDAN



Rinderpest Eradication Project

Project to support a surveillance system to verify the eradication of rinderpest and with the control of other important livestock diseases

General Context of the project

The project ran for 42 months from November 2001 to April 2005, funded by the European Union (EU)-funded Pan African Programme for the Control of Epizootics (PACE) of the African Union

(AU)-Interafrican Bureau for Animal Resources (IBAR), with the objective of supporting the eradication of rinderpest in Southern Sudan. From June 2005, the project was funded for two years by the Humanitarian Plus Programme II of the EU, with the objective of verifying the eradication of rinderpest from Southern Sudan.

The project is implemented in collaboration with the Government of Southern Sudan (GOSS) Ministry of Animal Resources and Fisheries (MARF), and in co-ordination with the PACE Sudan project which operates in the north of Sudan. It works within the Operation Lifeline Sudan (OLS) Livestock Programme led by FAO-OLS and collaborates with livestock NGOs and community-based animal health workers (CAHWs).

The main activities are:

- Investigation of rinderpest outbreak reports,
- Active and passive rinderpest surveillance,
- Rinderpest outbreak emergency preparedness
- Support to epidemio-surveillance system

Local Partner

Ministry of Animal Resources and Fisheries, Government of Southern Sudan

Results achieved in 2005

- Provided data to MARF for inclusion in Sudan's application to Office International des Epizooties (OIE) for freedom from rinderpest disease for Sudan.
- Started rinderpest sero-surveillance – 43 herds sampled and 1,108 serum samples collected. All samples tested so far were

negative for rinderpest antibody.

- 11 reports of rinderpest-like disease investigated and no rinderpest found.
- Passive and active surveillance supported; monthly reporting, market surveillance, participatory disease searching.
- Training of 10 veterinarians and 146 animal health workers in disease surveillance.
- Training of 16 new CAHWs and refresher training for 92 CAHWs.
- 11 people sponsored for Animal Health Auxilliary training.

Donors and budget 2005

Jan-Apr: PACE Programme of AU-IBAR (EU) 186,688 EURO

Jun-Dec: Humanitarian Plus Programme II, EU 254,583 EURO

Oct-Dec: FAO-OLS \$ 25,500

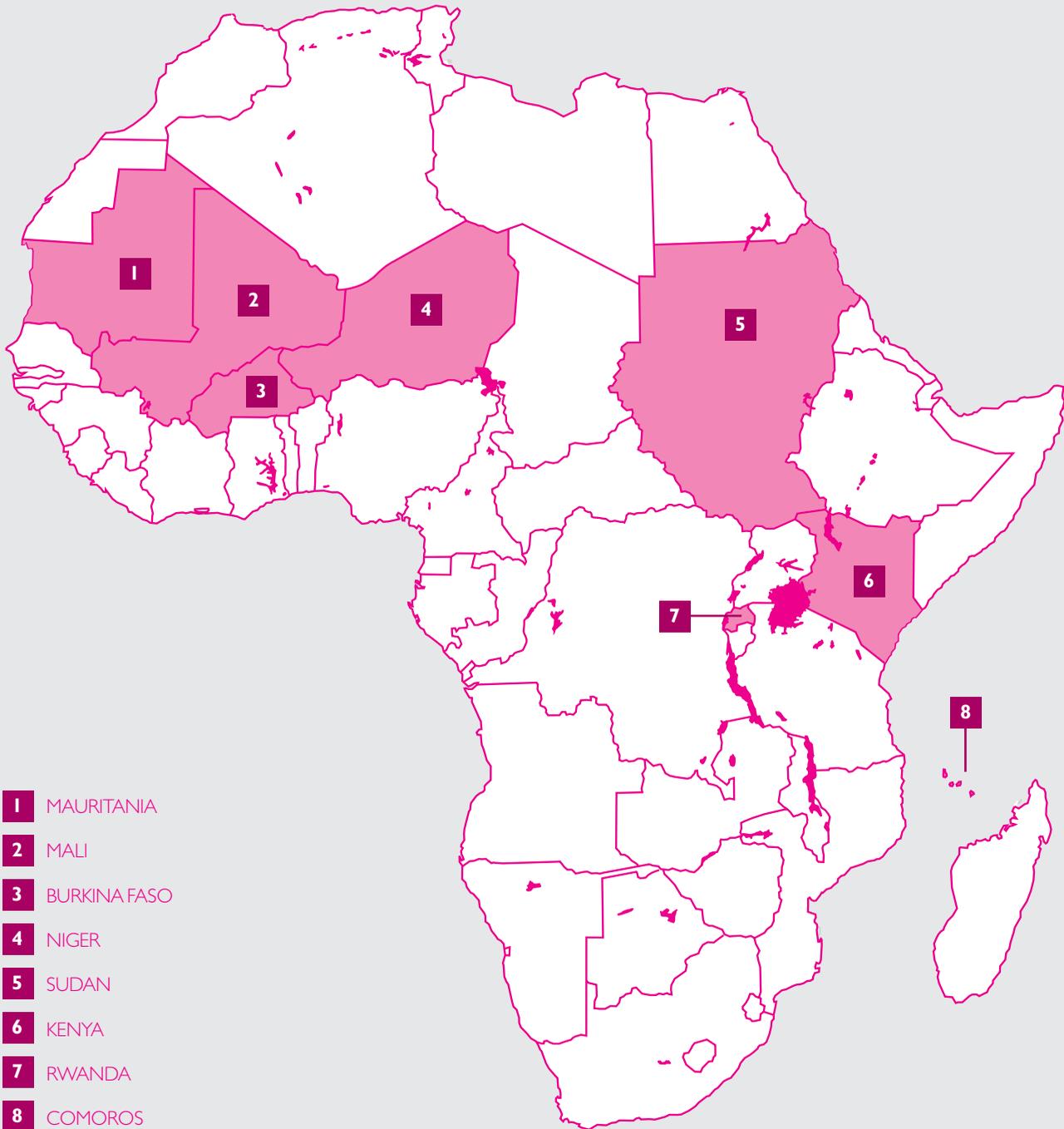
Plans for 2006

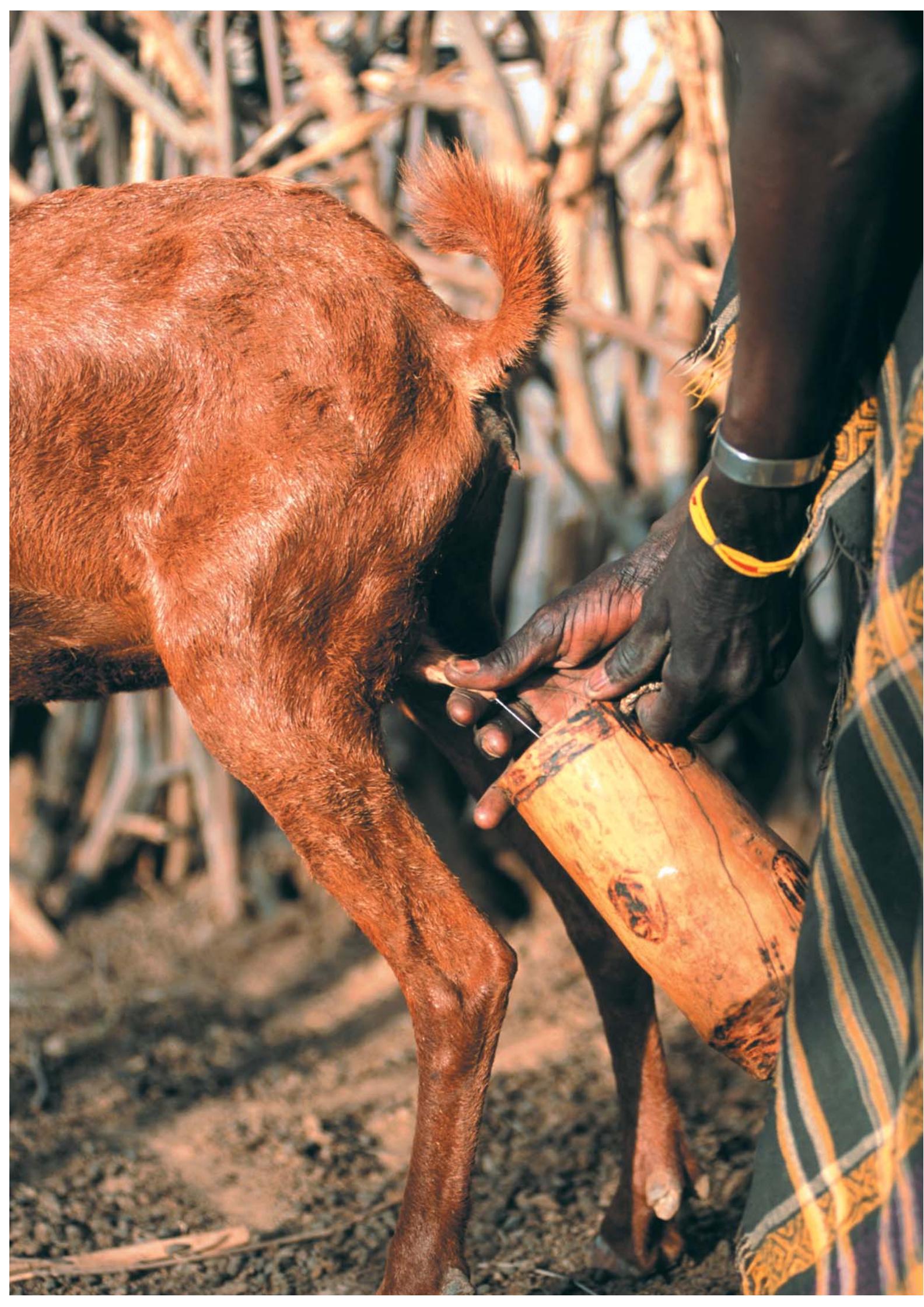
The main activities for 2006 are similar to 2005: rinderpest outbreak emergency preparedness, investigating rinderpest outbreak reports, active and passive surveillance, training of animal health personnel in surveillance and strengthening of epidemio-surveillance system. Most of the field work will focus on sero-surveillance exercise, which will involve the collection of 8,850 serum samples from 354 randomly-selected cattle herds to test for rinderpest antibody. In the context of Southern Sudan this will be a major technical and logistical challenge and will require the collaboration and participation of all stakeholders for successful completion.

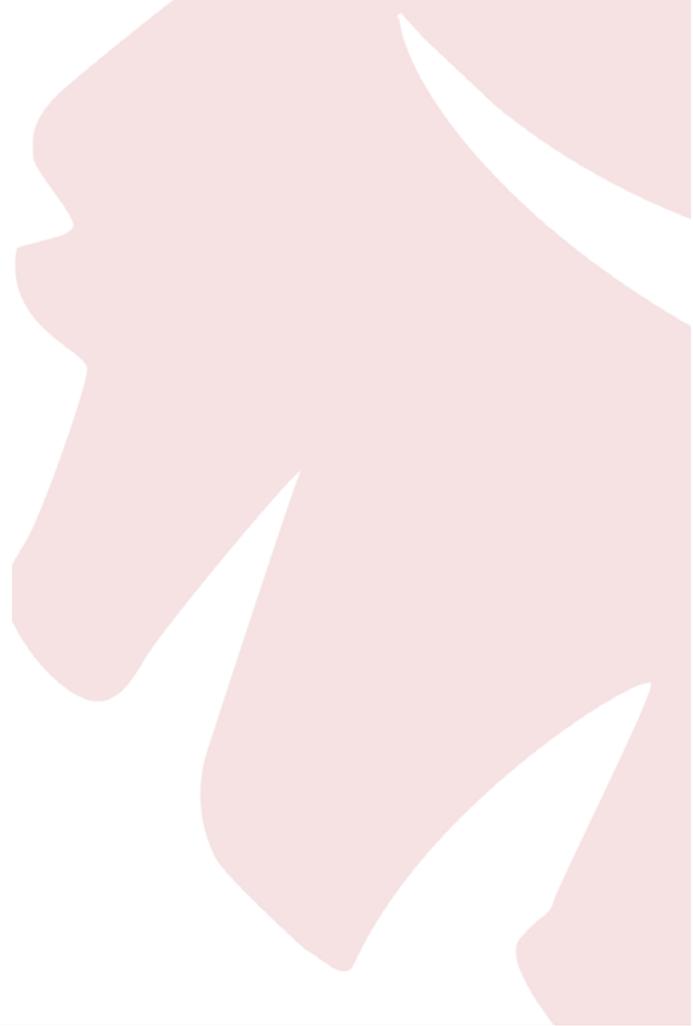




AFRICA







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