



Activity Report 2008



DIERENARTSEN | VETERINAIRES
ZONDER GRENZEN | SANS FRONTIERES

BELGIUM



**Healthy animals,
healthy people**



Vétérinaires Sans Frontières – Activity Report 2008

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Dear friends and colleagues

I am writing to you from the air, in a small plane, on my way to Kampala in Moroto, Uganda and it's an excellent opportunity for me to retrace my first months with Vétérinaires Sans Frontières Belgium. This is my first mission in East Africa as director for the organisation.

A world free of rinderpest

2008 will be remembered as the year when rinderpest was eradicated in Southern Sudan and also worldwide. Cattle diseases caused by years of conflict and drought have wiped out human and animal populations. An extensive campaign has made it possible to eradicate the source of this cattle disease and after 13 years of hard labour, we can affirm that rinderpest has now completely disappeared from the Sudanese countryside. Vétérinaires Sans Frontières Belgium can be proud of this success. Our first ever project, which was implemented alongside the «Operation Lifeline Sudan» project, was carried out at the request of UNICEF. Over the years, our employees have worked in extremely harsh conditions, in the most remote regions of Southern Sudan, with limited means, few human resources and undertrained staff. However, they have achieved the goal they were aiming for «No more rinderpest!»

Other successes

In West Africa, Vétérinaires Sans Frontières Belgium has initiated a new three-year project in collaboration with DGCD (Belgium Development Cooperation). Our project responds well to the new priorities of the International Cooperation's approach to development: food security. Thanks to our projects in Mali, Niger and Burkina Faso, we aim to protect cattle-rearing families from drought and animal diseases. By supporting the development of veterinary networks and livestock forage banks as well as the production of healthy milk, we offer the people of the Sahel the chance to build themselves a sustainable future. We also do this by offering them help with food shortages.

The projects in place in the unstable region of North Kivu (DR of Congo) are veered more towards providing emergency aid, but they are also aimed at preventing humanitarian catastrophes. Within this area, our approach is orientated more towards production and the farming of smaller livestock including rabbits, guinea pigs and goats. As these animals reproduce rapidly, this type of farming provides a regular source of food and revenue for these marginalised families.

In Kenya and Uganda, alongside the veterinary aid we provide, we also play an important role in helping to resolve conflict between tribes and in helping to develop water points. This is because healthy cattle do not only rely on veterinary care. Only when all of these conditions are satisfied

does the project have a real chance of being successful.

Guaranteeing financial health and a strategic vision

All our teams need to be involved in order to guarantee a strategy for the future of Vétérinaires Sans Frontières Belgium. It was mainly for this reason that we chose to unite our various employees and local partners in a strategic workshop organised in Brussels, in October 2008. By the end of the meeting, we had established a common objective and agenda: by 2015, Vétérinaires Sans Frontières Belgium aims to double its number of beneficiaries, and thanks to its expertise, to be recognised as an important associate in support of livestock breeding in Southern Sudan. The Communication department of Vétérinaires Sans Frontières Belgium cannot rest, since it will be reinforced by the arrival of a new part-time Communication Officer. In addition, we have concluded new partnerships, in particular with the West Flanders Province, the Walloon Ministry of Agriculture and with some other businesses such as Eukanuba, Royal Canin and Grafé-Lecocq. We have also benefited from the financial support of the International Rotary Fund, as a result of collaboration with 10 branches of the Rotary Fund in Belgium and Butare (Rwanda). It is thanks to one of our administrators that we have even achieved this report. These examples can only be inspiring, as they demonstrate that there are many ways of raising funds. However, we must not forget our many other loyal donors. It is especially thanks to them as well, that we have been able to help so many families in Southern Sudan for over 15 years now!

Big changes

Our team, that has been around for many years now, experienced some major changes in 2008: Madeleine Onclin, founder and director of the organisation and Els Bedert, our first employee and coordinator for East Africa until her departure, have been successful in developing the expertise they acquired through Vétérinaires Sans Frontières Belgium, since both of them intend to pursue their careers within the European Commission. I myself took over my role on 1st September 2008. It has been an important change for the organisation but also for myself. Each departure leaves a gap but each arrival is a source of creative energy.

Apart from within our organisation, there have also been other changes. Quality in NGO management is becoming more and more of a priority but not at the expense of the quality of the practical work implemented on land. In addition, the international economic crisis could have had an effect on our financial

means of support yet this has not been the case. Even so, we mustn't cry victory too early as the effects of the crisis may still be felt and our financial situation remains uncertain. During these difficult times, it more important than ever for us to support the populations of Southern Sudan, as they are often the first to be affected by the misfortune of the world's agenda. Moreover, they are often the first victims of climate change.

Working together for a sustainable future

The projects of Vétérinaires Sans Frontières Belgium have an undeniable impact on thousands of families in Africa. We provide expertise in order to support local organisations and build partnerships based on mutual respect and equality. In our opinion, this is a unique way of aiming towards sustainable development. It is thanks to the personal involvement of each of our workers and our expertise that has enabled us to successfully manage our projects. However, it is also thanks to our administrators, members, supporters, volunteers and donors.

I would also like take this opportunity to thank you in person and I hope you will make good progress in 2009 on behalf of the populations of the South.

Johan De Cuuster
Executive director Vétérinaires Sans Frontières Belgium



Strategic Workshop 2008

»» The future of our organisation

Unquestionably, one of the most significant events of 2008 has been our strategic workshop, a two-week discussion group which was held in Brussels at the end of October. Our colleagues in the field as well as our local partners from all the countries in which we are active, came to Brussels with the goal of (re)formulating our mission and our values and also to determine the concrete objectives that we aim to achieve by 2015.



It is not always easy to conduct a discussion amongst people who speak different languages. Fortunately, thanks to the help of professional French to English interpreters, the conversations were able to be carried out in a lively manner. When we broached the topic of the future of our organisation, differences in culture and sensitivities became apparent, and there was some heated debate.

Should we expand our activities? Should we focus primarily on veterinary medicine or should we expand our horizons to encompass related fields of action such as agriculture, the construction of water outlets, or the commercialisation of products derived from livestock farming? What is our vision of emergency aid? How do we want to collaborate with other organisations in the future?

We fortunately arrived at a consensus on the topic of our organisation's values and goals. We can only continue to function efficiently if we are all moving in the same direction. Here are the main areas of reflection that have come out of the workshop with regards to our "Big Hairy Audacious Goal" for 2015, BHAG summary:

Our Mission

- The target group of *Vétérinaires Sans Frontières* Belgium consists of those who are partly, or totally dependent on livestock breeding for their survival.
- *Vétérinaires Sans Frontières* Belgium works with and for people. Clear communication of our work is crucial.
- *Vétérinaires Sans Frontières* Belgium is active in the livestock breeding sector in its entirety, our activities are therefore not limited to veterinary medicine.
- *Vétérinaires Sans Frontières* Belgium's primary focus is on development, but it can equally respond adequately to emergency aid needs.

Our Values

- Honesty and integrity
- Respect
- Transparency
- Expertise
- Efficiency
- Responsible attitude
- Empowerment

Our BHAG, 2015 Objective

- *Vétérinaires Sans Frontières* Belgium and its partners, aim to double the number of beneficiaries.
- *Vétérinaires Sans Frontières* Belgium is

a dynamic organisation that wants to be renowned for its expertise as a preferred partner with regards to support for livestock breeding in the South.

Speeches

Alan Pieters, an external expert has given several conferences on a topical issue: how to incorporate an environmental strategy into our projects. In addition, each participant presented their project, as well as the colleagues at head-office explaining their role at the heart of the team.

Conclusions

The participants were very satisfied with the running of the workshop and the results. These outcomes are going to be developed and used as guidelines for the new operational plans. We have been very fortunate to have such a large number of our local partners present and to have their constructive input during the course of the workshop debates. They are the ones who know the characteristics of their region and their population the best, and furthermore, they will be the ones who will follow up the projects when *Vétérinaires Sans Frontières* Belgium withdraws.

Activities in Belgium

» An education about sustainable development at Vétérinaires Sans Frontières Belgium: raising awareness in the Belgian population to stimulate international solidarity

Since 2007, Vétérinaires Sans Frontières Belgium has been involved in a new type of activity: educating the public regarding sustainable development, meaning developing awareness in the Belgian population of the connection between North and South. Through this project, we aim to raise awareness among current and future professionals in the agricultural world of concepts such as food sovereignty and rural farming practices.



A disturbing international context

It is evident that we are not alone on this earth. Not everyone lives close to a supermarket where he can easily buy milk; not everyone has the means to eat meat every week. But are we really aware that our lifestyle and the choices we make here, in Belgium, can have an impact on other people in the world? The various crises (food, financial, economic and environmental) that struck in 2008, point to an obvious reality: it is high time that we come up with alternatives to the overly-capitalistic model currently undermining the daily lives of the poorest on our planet. There are still 923 million people who don't have enough to eat every day. 600 million of these are farmers, meaning those who produce food are the ones most affected by hunger. This paradox is unacceptable. Subject to the high volatility of international markets, food commodity prices are unable to ensure stable revenue to producers.

Seminars for students of agriculture and veterinary medicine

With funding from the European Union, CGRI-DRI, the province of Luxembourg and the city of Brussels, we have organized activities directed towards veterinary and agricultural students. To that end, a website was developed to facilitate contact between Belgian and Rwandan veterinary students. This informative site and forum originated in partnership with the Rwandan farmers' trade union IMBARAGA and the Belgian farmers' trade union FUGEA.

Voyages of exchange in Africa

In September, Vétérinaires Sans Frontières Belgium accompanied Janine Decheneux, a Belgian producer of milk, to Kenya's Turkana region, home to nomadic livestock breeders. The aim of this mission was to locate Lokorio, chief of a Turkana clan, who had visited Decheneux' farm in 2005. Under a blazing hot

sun, Janine came to the realization that the Turkana nomads practice the same profession as she does, only under clearly more difficult conditions than those she experiences on her farm in Belgium. The photographer, Roger Job, who also accompanied this mission, organized an exhibit in 2009 about these ancestral nomadic cattle farmers.

A few months later, Vétérinaires Sans Frontières Belgium took two professionals from the dairy sector to Mali. Christiane Collinet (a cattle farmer from La Roche) and Benoit Robert (a cheesemaker from Trois-Ponts) surveyed the "dairy trails" and became acquainted with the complexity of the African dairy industry. Back in Belgium, they will have plenty of opportunities to raise awareness of the need for greater support to milk production in Africa. They were also accompanied by a television crew from "La clef des Champs (RTBF)" and by a journalist from the agricultural magazine "Le Sillon Belge".

Manneken Pis and the fountain of milk

On June 1st, World Milk Day, Vétérinaires Sans Frontières Belgium made the news with a special promotion: Manneken Pis dressed as a Fula livestock breeder, peeing milk all day long in honour of the occasion. The purpose of this action was to send an important message: "If local dairy industry was better supported, the Fula Manneken Pis could have been drinking milk instead of squandering it in the fountain."

Ketnet's "Day of the Cow" made children aware of the importance of cattle

In November, the Flemish station Ketnet (VRT) broadcast the show "Day of the Cow". The day was entirely devoted to cows and consisted of various reports on the life of livestock breeders in Niger. The station sent a journalist and the 12-year-old Jona to Niger where they spent a week among livestock breeders and nomads. The result was a dozen reports about the daily

life of shepherds, the importance of milk and the work of Vétérinaires Sans Frontières Belgium. For every news story shot in Africa, Kristien and Jona shot a corresponding story in Belgium. This action reached its peak on "Ketnet Koeiendag" day, when the station devoted the entire day to cows. Prime Minister of the moment, Yves Leterme, spoke of the cow's importance to the most impoverished farming families. In addition, Vétérinaires Sans Frontières Belgium presented a prize to the winner of the "Miss Cow" art contest in which a number of schools participated.

The life of the Fula in "The Extraordinary Garden" (front page news)

"The Extraordinary Garden" (RTBF) went to Burkina Faso for the documentary "The Horns of Abundance". This film documented the lives of local livestock breeders and veterinarians. For thousands of years, the Fula have migrated seasonally with their herds. In the past, the lands they travelled to were green and fertile. Today, frequent droughts and desertification force the Fula to breed a greater number of animals in order to earn the same income as before. Vétérinaires Sans Frontières Belgium teaches the Fula how to obtain the same result with fewer animals and provides them with veterinary assistance. These actions are necessary in order to avoid the disappearance of migratory cattle farmers. Desertification will force them more and more towards the fertile South where they will encroach on land belonging to other peoples. The big challenge of this project is to maintain the Fula cattle farmers in their ancestral territory and to enable them to confront climate change.

Project pathway

» Our mission: curing animals to save human lives

For 700 million people on earth, their quality of life depends on the health of their livestock. Thus day-to-day survival of the families of African livestock farmers is directly linked to that of their animals. The animals provide a significant source of revenue whilst equally providing cheap protein sources. Furthermore, they supply manure for the fields and traction power. In addition, milk and animals can be sold or exchanged for other subsistence means. Veterinary medicine is frequently non-existent, and this is where the shoe pinches because: when the herd dies, so does the village. By setting up veterinary networks in these remote areas, Vétérinaires Sans Frontières Belgium is fighting against hunger and poverty.



Promoting food security

By caring for livestock, Vétérinaires Sans Frontières Belgium plays a role in preventing hunger and poverty in Africa. Thanks to their livestock, farmers can diversify their food sources. They become less dependent on a monoculture which could be completely annihilated due to disease, floods or drought. The farmers learn how to make sure that the animals produce more milk, or how to manage livestock food banks. The women are also given much more of a sense of responsibility.

Training of local livestock breeders

Vétérinaires Sans Frontières Belgium provides training in veterinary techniques to local livestock breeders. With the help of advice and basic means, we teach farmers how to treat diseases. These veterinary technicians thus trained, receive a basic medical kit and are given responsibility for the health of the animals in their community. Together, they form a veterinary network which hardly existed before. The veterinary assistants also play an important role in mass vaccination campaigns.

Increasing the meat and milk trade

Milk is not only a food source; it is also a regular source of income. Milk transformation brings many possibilities. Women receive training in milk transformation techniques, such as cheese production and also in the commercialisation

of products. In large areas, more markets are organised, to bring the buyers and sellers closer together. Vétérinaires Sans Frontières Belgium helps to improve trade conditions, so that livestock breeders can obtain a fair price.

Livestock food banks, literacy and construction of water outlets

During frequent information sessions, farmers learn how to better care for their animals and what food they should give them according to the different production phases. We work with them on the construction and the management of livestock food banks, which provide food for animals during the dry season. Several projects also provide literacy sessions. Thanks to literacy classes, the farmers can better organise themselves into cooperatives and are better able to sell their products. Where necessary, Vétérinaires Sans Frontières Belgium helps to identify and develop water outlets.

Encouragement of local and durable initiatives

In all its projects, Vétérinaires Sans Frontières Belgium always stresses the importance of cooperation for durable development. We support and stimulate existing local initiatives and collaborate, when possible, with an existing local partner. We participate in the establishment of commercial opportunities and promote better trade conditions. The goal is to enable the local population, after a certain amount of time, to

have more resources at their disposal and to no longer be dependent on international aid. When this has been achieved, we can withdraw and pass the project to a local partner.

3 target groups in 8 African countries

Vétérinaires Sans Frontières Belgium principally focuses on three target groups of vulnerable livestock farmers: the nomadic livestock farmers, smallholders with few cattle and the livestock farmers who live in towns or in close proximity. We mainly operate in areas affected by prolonged periods of drought and conflict areas. Vétérinaires Sans Frontières Belgium carries out projects in 8 African countries: Kenya, Sudan, Uganda, Burkina Faso, Niger, Mali, Rwanda and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Some projects are of a cross-border nature; they are carried out in several countries and/or in collaboration with other international organisations.

Kenya



For thousands of years, the Turkana people, nomades breeders from the north west of Kenya, have lived in harmony with their livestock in this region. Unfortunately, this harmony has been disrupted by climatic changes; frequent and lengthy droughts have left more than half a million people, who depend on livestock for sustenance, with food shortages. Furthermore, the shortage of water and the spreading of disease among the livestock hinders the breeding process. To make matters worse, the animal health services are all but a pipe dream, the women are scarcely integrated in to the local development schemes and the inter clan conflicts between different communities who are directly or indirectly linked to livestock are frequent.



© Roger Job

»» Turkana Livestock Development Programme II (TLDP II)

2008 Activities

Livestock Productivity and Health Activities

The project took a lead role in the coordination of development agencies' response to controlling the Peste de Petits Ruminants (PPR) in the region. In conjunction with the government department of veterinary services, the project has enabled 88,000 small livestock to be vaccinated against PPR, thus giving hope to more than 1170 families. Through this project, 15 new community animal health workers have been trained, and refresher courses have been provided for a further 43 individuals, which has addressed any gaps that they may have had in their knowledge and improved their diagnostic and disease management skills. The devastating impact of diseases among livestock on the pastoralists was reduced when 56 community animal health workers treated 162,870 animals for various treatable diseases. For 2 years, the project has also continued its support of 5 school children who are to be

trained in livestock health in the AHITI colleges. More than 1050 households have benefited from acquiring new skills (from 16 training schools) on better livestock care and food production methods.

Improved Access to Drinking Water

By constructing 6 new water points that reach over 300 pastoralist households in the Lokichar and Katilu regions of the Turkana South District, the project has relieved the pressure to find drinking water.

Increased Economic Returns

A training course on business skills and the diverse opportunities available in the Turkana region was provided and following the construction of a livestock sale yard in Katilu, there was a 5% increase in livestock sales in the south of the region. Local knowledge was enhanced by the newly emerging livestock marketing organisations and the democratic elections of their leaders.

Peace Building and Conflict Mitigation

Conflicts linked to livestock have fallen by 20% thanks to the hard work of 14 peace committees. These committees, supported by our local partners, have worked through using preventative strategies like sending out early warning messages on conflicts to government security and thereby reducing the levels of suffering for poor communities.

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Local Partner

Turkana Pastoralist Development Organisation (TUPADO): sekaladome@yahoo.com

Donor and Budget

Donor: Belgian Survival Fund
Budget: 355,346 €



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» Drought Mitigation Initiatives: a Turkana, Pokot and Sambaru Drought Management Project (DMI)

2008 Activities

The DMI project seeks to minimise the effects of climatic disasters on the people whose main means of survival is dependant on livestock. Most of the actions being embarked upon in 2008 are actually at the planning stage, and will provide the ideal platform in terms of preparation for the official launch of the project in 2009. The DMI project aims to set up a future planning model for drought prevention.

Increase the Earning Power of Local Communities

The DMI project seeks to increase the earning potential of local communities in 8 regions in Turkana, Pokot and Sambaru. By doing this, local communities will be able to take stock of their own needs, have a better understanding of how to improve the prevention of natural catastrophes and how to react effectively to them. The action is geared towards improving the efficiency of the drought management system in Kenya by strengthening its ability to intervene in an appropriate manner both before and during the dry season.

Access to Meadows and Water during the Dry Season

The project has identified the livestock enclosures belonging to the drifting pastoralists, as well as the seasonal pastureland in both the rainy and the dry seasons. A detailed investigation has brought to light the structured debates at the heart of discussion groups, including the leading opinions. The 3 key points that emerged from this investigation

were as follows:

1. Understand the geographical location and use of natural resources.
2. Understand the key resources that are available in each community.
3. Develop a brief analysis that will provide a snap shot of household life in each of the geographical zones being studied so that a future comparison can be made to assess the impact of the project on livelihoods.

A Baseline Investigation report was made available from all consortium partners and the findings were presented at the workshop.

The project seeks to minimise the effects of climatic disasters on the people depending on livestock.

Rallying Communities

Participating and target communities were rallied and informed of the community animal health worker's project plans, as well as the Village Community Bank's (VICOPA) planners and the processes that need to be followed for membership to this organisation. Similarly, the group was taken through the same process regarding training and membership for the

Pastoralist Field School. Existing peace committees have been contacted so that they can be adequately prepared to launch in to action in 2009.

Prevention of Drought and Synchronized Action

From the very early stages of the project, qualified personnel were consulted and planning meetings had taken place, whilst the blueprints for the initial project plans were presented to the group directors of the development steering groups for amendments, should they be needed. Communities were rallied and made aware of the project plans and its take off. The consortium members took part in a training session on the techniques involved in setting up the VICOPA programme. Since then, other training sessions have followed at the Pastoralists Field Schools, which were organised in conjunction with the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO). Furthermore, a planning group identifying key zones and their needs was established and the Asset Based Community Development, which aims to eliminate all dependence on external resources, is going even further by helping communities to identify their resources, define their key goals and identify what will motivate the members of the community to reach their goals.

Local Partners

Oxfam Great Britain (North Eastern Turkana District)
Practical Action (Central Turkana District)
ACTED (North Pokot District)
VSF Germany (North Western Turkana sub district)
VSF Belgium Lead agency (South Turkana, East Pokot, Central and North Samburu Districts)
TUPOSA ABCD- partnerships Turkana and participating community association organisers.
DSG (Districts Development Steering Groups)
Government Ministry Officers

Donors and Budget

Donor: European Commission(90%), Consortium Members (10%)
Total Budget: 2,222,222€ (36 Months)



© Roger Job

Uganda



Uganda is among the least developed and poorest countries of the world. Political instability and erratic economic management have left the country at the mercy of external international aid. Agriculture is the most important sector, employing over 80% of the population. Around 35% of the population is living under the poverty line (less than \$1 US per day), and are mainly situated in the Karamoja sub region in the north east of Uganda which is semi dry, with an average annual rainfall of between 500-700mm. To combat the dry environmental periods, the Karimojong breed the livestock by drifting from one area to another and supplementing their diet with cereal crops.



» Karamoja Livelihoods Support Programme (KLSP)

2007/2008 Activities

The KLSP started its 2 year work on improving the livelihoods of the Karamoja inhabitants with funding from the European Commission in January 2007. The project's mandate was to reduce the pastoralist's susceptibility to drought by improving access to food and income for the target households. The project was implemented in collaboration with the Matheniko Development Forum (MADEFO), which is VSBF's strategic partner for much of the activities taking place at a community level.

Improved Livestock Health

In order to reach the goal of improving the health of the livestock, 15 community animal health workers (CAHWs) were trained and equipped with the necessary equipment in 16 parishes in the Matheniko province. The CAHWs received training in basic animal health care and this coupled with the availability of veterinary vaccines and medication at affordable prices, has led to a 15% reduction in livestock mortality. Moreover, each month a CAHW treats on average 2000 livestock.

Cereal Banks in the Community

The creation of cereal banks offers the guarantee that cereals are available at a stable price at a time when food is scarce. Furthermore, women have been trained on the post harvest preservation of cereals against crop pests, which account for 40% of cereal losses per annum, and on gardening techniques, which lead to environmental conservation through conserving water and controlling soil erosion. The project has improved income and food security for 306 females in the community and around 2000 others have been indirectly influenced.

Poultry Keeping

The project has helped to train 3 female groups in the Matheniko province to improve their poultry care skills. Each group was given 22 birds and a kit containing veterinary medication for the care of the birds. The birds have now bred successfully and each member of the group is benefiting from an extra \$18 US on average every 2-3 months through the sale of chickens and eggs in the local market. Following these positive results, many other women in the community have begun to keep poultry to generate income, thus showing that

the project has led to the empowerment of women who are now able to own and control assets in the household.

Local Partner

MADEFO: Madefo_org@hotmail.com

Donors and Budget

Donor: EC, DGCD
Budget: 499,992 €

Southern Sudan



Southern Sudan emerged from a 20 year civil war in 2005 after signing a peace agreement with the Islamic government in the North of the country. Despite numerous pledges from the international community, the road to recovery has been rocky to say the least, with 40% of the population, the majority from the agro pastoralist community, still living below the poverty line. Investment in the livestock sector is a challenge because of the following factors: epidemics, low institutional funding and inter clan feuds. Despite numerous setbacks, a community based animal health system represents the only viable path for the pastoral community at present.

» Livestock Epidemo-Surveillance Southern Sub-Project (LESP) 2008 Activities

Rinderpest Eradication

In May 2008, Sudan was declared to be free from rinderpest infection by the World Animal Health Organisation, which was very welcome news for its inhabitants. Vétérinaires Sans Frontières Belgium has been a key player in the efforts to rid the region of rinderpest, and thanks to the project, these efforts to eradicate this disease will continue. The project supported surveillance maintenance, implemented safeguards to guard against future outbreaks and composed a rinderpest dossier that gives the annual status of the country to the World Animal Health Organisation.

Development of the Epidemio-Surveillance System

Around 97 people were trained in animal disease reporting and it remains a priority to continue to build on this number. Various training sessions were given on diseases such as Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza

and Rift Valley Fever which have a significant importance for public health. An animal disease website has been set up in all 10 states. The project has also kick started the building of a fully functional laboratory in Juba, which has enabled basic diagnostic tests to be carried out locally, thereby reducing dependency on external laboratories and making test results available to vets much sooner. This is a critical element of an effective disease surveillance system. More diagnostic equipment will be purchased, and further training sessions will be held for laboratory personnel. The project also encouraged stakeholders in the livestock sector to share information and hereby create a platform for meaningful discussions on current problems and future plans.

Drawing Up Policies to Control Animal Diseases

The project supported various studies on the socio economic impact of the main animal diseases, which was the first stage towards formulating strategies to control these

diseases. This was followed by a workshop on trypanosomiasis and tsetse control. An action plan seeking to resolve this problem has been put in place and the government is currently looking at fund raising ideas so that the trypanosomiasis programme can go ahead.

Local Partner

Ministry of Animal Resources and Fisheries,
Government of South Sudan, Juba, South Sudan,
+256 477105227

Donors and Budget

Donor: European Commission
Budget: 375,000 €

» Programme of Decentralised Animal Health (ESVP)

2008 Activities

Delivering the Animal Health Service

The project is continuing to support the Community Animal Health Workers (CAHWs) network at every stage. Drugs to the value of 28,658 € and vaccines worth 14,285 € were produced and delivered to all operational areas, and as a result, 139,411 livestock received treatment for various diseases and 129,107 were vaccinated. These numbers represent 13% of the livestock population in the target areas. More training sessions and refresher courses were needed to keep the animal health workers abreast with fresh knowledge and emerging technology, and therefore 214 Community Animal Health Workers attended a refresher course, and a further 98 new CAHWs were trained. In addition to this, 8 animal health auxiliaries and 3 breeders were also trained at the Marial Lou Livestock Training Centre.

Raising Public Health Awareness

After taking in to account the range of individuals in the target group, teaching about public health

awareness was carried out in the format of a campaign. It targeted common zoonosis such as TB, Brucellosis and Rift Valley Fever, as well as emerging ones like Avian Influenza. At the state level, the Department of Veterinary Services was adequately facilitated to train butchers on the hygienic handling of meat and meat products, and 20 trainees attended a meat inspection training programme in Nasir and Warrup. At the level of the South Sudan government (GoSS), the department of agricultural dispersion was set up to train 20 workers in broadcasting public health messages on the radio.

Providing Support for Dairy and Poultry Producers in Urban Areas

The emerging market for livestock and animal products in Juba is facing a supply shortage of local produce, due to the lack of established farms and/or resources and services. Most of the products are imported from abroad from Northern Sudan, and were ordered as they were needed by local breeders. In order to support local efforts, 10 CAHWs were trained to support

the Nile Community Development Organisation in Juba, and an up and coming poultry farmer was given support through advice and provided with the means to begin breeding birds.

Local Partner

Ministry of Animal Resources and Fisheries
(MARF), Government of South Sudan (GoSS)

Donors and Budget

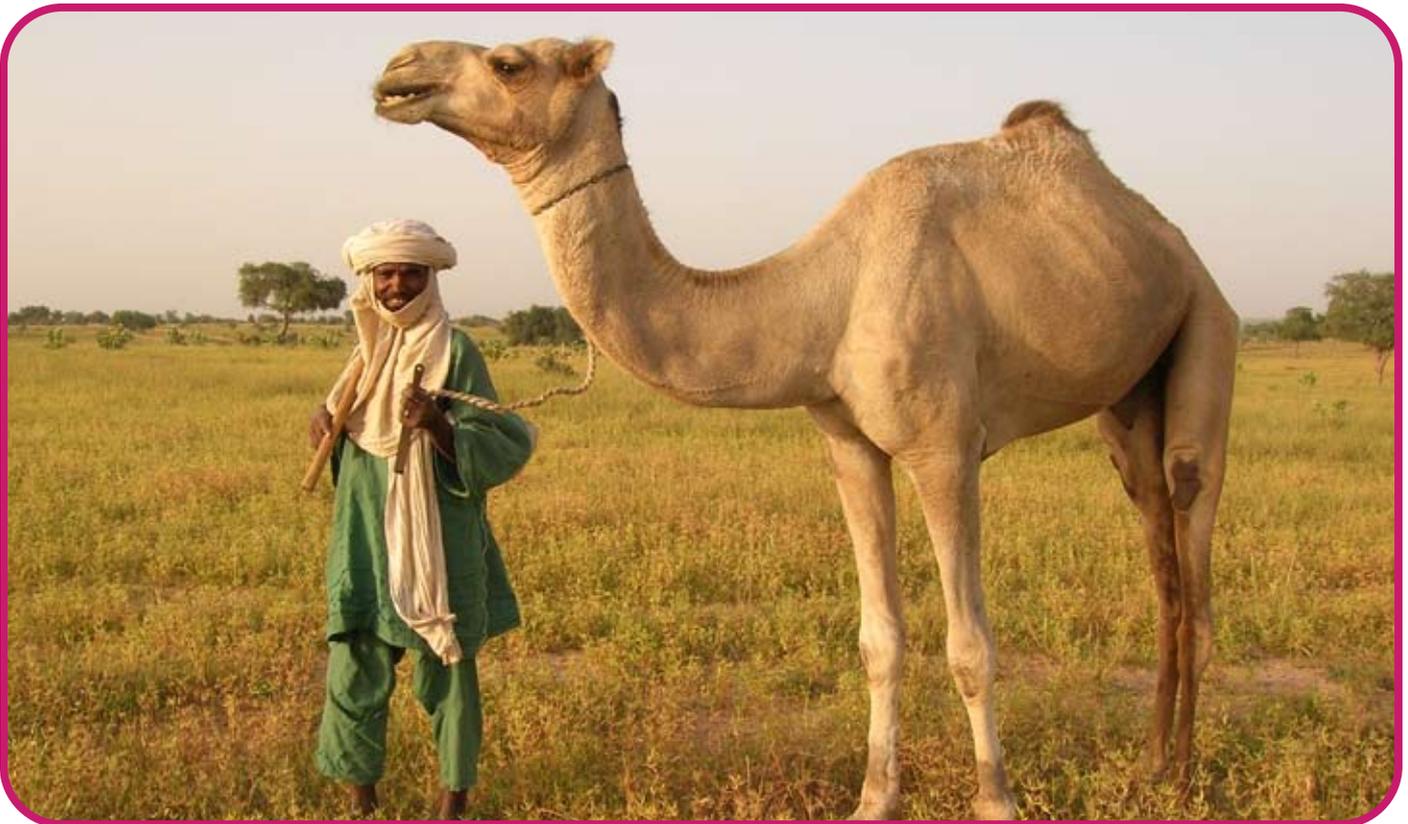
Donors: EC, MDTF, CHF, FAO, OFDA/USAID
Budget: 1,030,000€



Niger



Niger is ranked among the poorest countries in the world, and despite spanning a large part of the Sahara desert, agriculture and breeding contribute to 40% of the country's produce. Livestock breeding holds an important place in Niger. The breeding sector is prey to climactic changes and increasingly, land pressure. Dairy production is a tradition among livestock breeders in the region and since the emergence of dairy industries in the capital, the production has increased, but it is still not able to match the national demand.



» Implementation of the Animal Health Network and Guidance for Livestock Farming within Proximity (PROXEL)

2008 Activities

After 5 years of field work, 2008 marks the last year of the project in its current phase, hence actions have been taken to ensure that after the project reaches its conclusion, the legacy of it continues. A final evaluation of the situation, and the exact ways in which to formulate the new phase have also been put in place. At the end of 2008, preparations for a new 5 year phase began and it is anticipated that it will follow straight on from the current phase ending in mid 2009.

Reinforcement of Veterinary Services

The animal welfare plan, "Private Veterinarian Service in the Proximity" (PSVP) was established in 2004 in Dakoro and has continued to develop and be profitable for breeders. Veterinary care has reached some several thousands of animals (the equivalent of 140,000 UTB). More than 87% of the procedures carried out are cattle

vaccinations, either to combat common diseases or to limit their severity. During 2007, the PVSP was set up in the Abalak area and has received support from the project to expand its network of breeders so that their practical competencies can be strengthened and operating methods can be refreshed. Despite being a challenging project, the technical and economical results continue to improve and the awareness campaigns have reached millions of people. Inspections of breeders carried out by technical bodies and the village communities have had their ups and downs and the official report highlights the need to improve this system in the future.

Success of Cereal-Growing Banks and Cattle Feed

The networks of cereal growing and cattle feed banks in Northern Dakoro merged in 2008 without too much difficulty and for the most part, the sales process and the collections operated as normal. The project has welcomed external support from

shops and despite everything, 2009 will start with a funding shortage, which means that it is imperative that the project remain on track.

Women's Groups

As well as the previous 2 sectors, the project has continued its support of 20 women's groups at the centre of Dakoro's internet society. The success of the project is founded on its ambition to produce numerous reference documents that can be used in the next stage of the process before the end of the current phase.

Local Partner

Karkara: www.karkara.org

Donor and Budget 2008

Donor: Belgian Survival Fund
Budget: 273,000 €

»» Support for Livestock Breeding in the Dosso Region (APELDO)

The Dosso region is located in the far south west of the Republic of Niger. Sheep, goats and cattle are the principal livestock reared in this region, and whilst the importance of poultry is often underestimated, it too represents a sizeable source of income. Agriculture, fishing, handicraft, snack bars and small businesses represent the area's main livelihoods. The region has been greatly influenced by the exodus to the large towns and neighbouring countries.

2008 Activities

Assisting Local Government

The project is actively involved in the decentralisation process and is implementing a series of initiatives to assist the local government. To this end, the project has taken on an advisory role, seeking to raise the councillors' awareness of the importance that livestock rearing holds in the local economy.

Supporting Veterinary Service Privatisation

In order to allow the privatised veterinary services to reach their potential, it is paramount that the auxiliary livestock teams receive adequate training to improve their technical and managerial skills and have the appropriate equipment at hand to allow them to do this. With regards to raising public awareness, it is particularly critical that livestock breeders are given disease prevention plans and given guidance on early curative care. The project also encourages collaboration between the different parties of the animal healthcare sector and supports the public services in their initiatives. Additionally, the working capital and equipment of private veterinary practices have been strengthened.

Improving Breeders' Skills

In order to refresh the technical competencies within the breeding industry and among

breeders themselves, the project is taking action to improve agricultural-livestock integration techniques and support the implementation of education, as well as managing animal science workshops and raising farmers' awareness of the problems caused by inbreeding.

Empowering Grass Root Organisations

The powers of grass root organisations interested in livestock farming are being strengthened, particularly through community outreach programmes, guidance in how to successfully set up a livestock breeding project, improving lobbying powers and networking.

Local Partner

CESAO-PRN: cesaoprm@intnet.ne

Donor and Budget 2008

Donor: DGCD (80%)

Budget: 407,632 €

The project is taking action to improve agricultural-livestock integration techniques and support the implementation of education, as well as managing animal science workshops and raising farmers' awareness of the problems caused by inbreeding.

»» Project for Food Security and the Health of Livestock in Tadress (SESAC)

Tadress is situated in Niger, in the south of the Agadez region. It's a typical rural area, where livestock breeding constitutes the most important socio-economic activity, and is the population's primary source of income. Cattle feed is based on woody and/or herbaceous plants, and is therefore heavily susceptible to climatic changes as a result of rainfall. For example, the 2005 drought led to the death of many animals. The major problem that faces those we are trying to help is the insufficient level of yield produced by the herds, which is not enough to meet the families' food and monetary needs. The factors that have led to this low yield are the loss of animals through sickness, poor feeding conditions, inadequate organisation and education among the farmers and restricted access to basic social services, which means that the activities linked to basic animal cultivation are often neglected. It is therefore the main aim of the SESAC project to build a framework of mechanisms that will prevent and relieve crises in the farming sector, with particular emphasis placed on animal health and nutrition, and organisation among farmers.

2008 Activities

Improving Livestock Health

One private veterinarian, with a team of 32 assistants, is working towards providing healthcare for the livestock in Tadress. This team offers various animal health services, including vaccinations, treatment, worming and advice for farmers. An efficient system is in place to supply and distribute veterinary goods and services. Various campaigns to raise awareness about the diverse aspects of breeding (food supplements, clearing surpluses, animal management) have been developed in the hope of encouraging farmers to adopt the correct practical and technical techniques for breeding.

Building Cattle Feed Banks

An operational network of 5 cattle feeding banks, managed by the farmers themselves, has been established. At present, the supplementary cattle feed accounts for a substantial part of household costs during the dry season, but farmers use it to limit the effects on their cattle during these difficult periods. The 5 cattle feeding banks are continually liaising with each other to ensure that they are all restocked at all times.

Support for Farmer's Organisations

In order to support the farmer's organisations, the 4 Health Protection Groups and the 5 Cattle Feed Banks Management Committees have been evaluated, and a reinforcement plan tailored to their needs has been developed. The active farmer's organisations in the region have been identified and trained so that the structures already in place can be reinforced. Each group sets up its own compensation system for managers and familiarises itself with the processes of self-evaluation and feedback. The farmer's organisations have received training in community organising, developed their action plan and supported the private veterinarian with his vaccination campaign. These grass root organisations are always made aware of the regulations that they must follow, and of their roles, functions and responsibilities.

Local Partners

Karkara: www.karkara.org

Tadress: ong_tadresse@yahoo.fr

Donor and Budget 2008

Donor: DGCD (80%)

Budget: 139,296 €

Mali



According to the UN Human Development Department, Mali is the 5th poorest country in the world. Its climate is characterised by little rainfall and a dry season that can last for up to 8 months. The country's poverty mainly affects those living in rural areas and women. Due to the key role that livestock plays in providing a sustainable food source in Mali, farming is an essential part of the country's food market. Despite this, the government fails to provide adequate support for the country's agriculture industry. To add to this problem, Mali has also recently had to face agricultural and climatic crises, and the price of imported food has skyrocketed. This added to the huge problems concerning cotton production weighs heavily on the most vulnerable people in the population.

» Livestock Development Project in Koulikoro, Koumantou and Kita (PRODEL K)

2008 Activities

Supporting the Local Dairy Industry

Despite its significant production of livestock, at present Mali needs to import large quantities of milk, even though the means to increase the amount of domestically produced milk are possible. It is for this reason that PRODEL K now supports 4 groups to collect and pasteurise milk. In 2008, these dairy cooperatives were able to collect 60,000 litres of milk and they created 15 jobs in the rural areas. Nearly 200 farmers now have access to regular and sustainable incomes, and their wives no longer need to travel long distances to sell the milk each day.

Cattle Feed Banks

In order to increase the productivity of the livestock, the project has also created 4 feeding posts for animals to help farmers deal with the lack of feed during the hot dry season. These feeding posts supply 60 tonnes

of feed. Furthermore, the project has trained many farmers so as to better prepare them for this difficult time, teaching them about many things including stock building and evaluating surpluses.

Animal Health

In addition to the above, PRODEL K also leads the march to improve animal health by providing support for 6 rural veterinary practices. The project gives these practices access to funds, office equipment and transportation, as well as providing the veterinarians with useful training in management and technical skills. PRODEL K has also paved the way for 2 new veterinary practices to be built in areas where they did not previously exist and the veterinarians there have benefited from funding, subsidies and training upon starting at these practices. In order to allow the disease prevention work to take place, the project worked to set up 3 vaccination stations.

Empowering Women with Literacy

The PRODEL K project has set up activities for women in order to empower them. Due to this, roughly 150 women have been taught to read so as to better prepare them for entering work and generating income within local agricultural jobs.

Local Partner

ICD: icd@afribonemail.net

Donor and Budget 2008

Donor: DGCD (80%)
Budget: 416,000 €

PRODEL K has set up activities for women in order to empower them. Roughly 150 women have been taught to read, to be better prepared for entering work and generating income within local agricultural jobs.

» Support Project for Organisations Helping Women Through Breeding for Fast Turnover (PAFEC)

The overall objective of the project is to optimise the area's livestock farming contribution to the economy, as well as improving the quality of life for local families. More specifically, this project aims to increase the income of rural women living in these target areas in a way which can be sustained, through breeding animals with a quick turnover. This project will improve the productivity of animal species, replenish the resources of organisations striving to help women and facilitate access to agricultural services and local markets.

2008 Activities

Improving Animal Health Services

With the help of a private veterinarian, a

vaccination and disinfection campaign was organised, which led to the vaccination of 2693 poultry against Newcastle Disease, and of 599 small ruminants and 56 rabbits against Pasteurellosis. 2147 poultry and 539 small ruminants were treated successfully and disease as eradicated. 107 livestock breeders and 2 commercial intermediaries were trained to fight Newcastle Disease and protect chicks.

Improvement of Livestock Living Conditions

58 shelters and hatcheries have been built by the breeders in accordance with a plan provided by the project. Supplies such as doors, windows and eating and drinking troughs were also provided.

Marketing Campaign

This project has also set up a course to train staff on breeding poultry and small ruminants. A marketing campaign on how to produce poultry was executed during the Christmas period, an operation which allowed animals belonging to 91 producers to be sold, and thus providing a reasonable annual turnover.

Local Partner

ICD: icd@afribonemail.net

Donor and Budget 2008

Donor: DGCD
Budget: 153,377 €



Burkina Faso



The Burkinabe Sahel provides the origins of the Zebu Peul cattle breed, which is the primary focus of the ZEPESA project. The population is dependant on livestock breeding for food other socio economic needs. With livestock breeding accounting for almost 13% of the national livestock, one can see the significance of our activities for the region.

Project to Support Development of Zebu Peul in Sahel (ZEPESA)

Activities between June 2007 and May 2008

Improving the Genetic Potential of the Zebu Peul race

The ZEPESA programme is a long term innovative programme which aims to improve the long term genetic potential of the Zebu Peul race. It is improved in a sustainable way with the active participation of breeders in the following stages: recognising the specific characteristics of the Zebu Peul, selecting the reproductive bulls and then finally having a genetically improved species. The scientific study of these animals and of their activities is now taking place, with breeders monitoring reproduction.

Improving the Feeding Conditions of the Reproducing Herds

The project has put a strategy in place which will allow Cattle Feed Banks to overcome any food crises which may arise. Cutting and conserving

natural pasture to ensure food security for the herds is being promoted, as is food rationing.

A Local Animal Health Network is Established

A Local Animal Health Network, made up of 28 community animal health workers (CAHWs, chosen by local communities and supported by a private veterinarian) has been set up by the project. The project seeks to provide farmers with gradual and regular improvements in animal health management. For example: vaccinations, boosters and treatment... 25 Professional Livestock Organisations offering literacy courses and technical and organisational training have been set up, and each one has an action plan that is to be executed.

Reducing the Vulnerability of Families

Providing a support system for vulnerable families is seen as another corner stone of the project. A small number of small ruminants are allocated to selected families so that their basic herd can be supported.

Increasing the Involvement of Women in Livestock Rearing

Through increasing literacy among women, the project hopes to promote the female role in the breeding process. It is also looking to provide funds for the Women's organisations and to raise awareness about the importance of gender issues.

Local Partner

L'Association Nodde Nooto (A2N):
nodde@fasonet.bf

Donors and Budget 2008

Donor: Belgian Survival Fund (85 %),
Walloon District (6 %)
Budget: 309,689 €

The project has put a strategy in place which will allow Cattle Feed Banks to overcome any food crises which may arise. Cutting and conserving natural pasture to ensure food security for the herds is being promoted.

Project to Support Animal Marketing in Sahel (COMBESA)

Improved Efficiency of the Livestock Marketing Network

The project launched its activities in 2008 in the Oudalan province. Its primary objective is to improve the efficiency and profitability of livestock marketing in the region. As part of the project, an analysis of the province's 5 livestock markets was carried out, and this led to an organisation and management plan being drawn up. The different management committees have been made aware of good management codes of conduct, and been given advice on how to establish effective management tools for the markets discussed underneath.

Establishing a Quality Meat Network

With the aid of a mandate, 190 meat producers have been able to start meat production in accordance

with the quality standards that are expected of them. The awareness-raising sessions have allowed 5 cattle dealers to be pinpointed and put on a contract in the 2 target zones. The identification of stockbreeders in Kaya has led to the selection of 30 producers, and in turn a training programme in effective management and marketing techniques. With the support of the project, meat producers and others working in this sector, were able to gain a better understanding of the need to adhere to quality standards and ensure adequate planning had taken place.

Organising and Testing a Selected Breeder's Network

The awareness-raising and information sessions gave the breeders enhanced knowledge of their roles, and the tasks that need to be undertaken

for genetic improvement. A total of 60 breeders were involved in this project.

Women's Groups

Training on management and marketing was organised for 22 groups of female animal breeders to increase their awareness of the topic. Each of these groups elected 3 Heads of Marketing, amounting to a total of 66 women. The project has successfully reached 336 women, who are in the process of signing a contract with the SVPP to monitor the health of their animals.

Local Partner

L'Association Nodde Nooto (A2N):
nodde@fasonet.bf

Donor and Budget

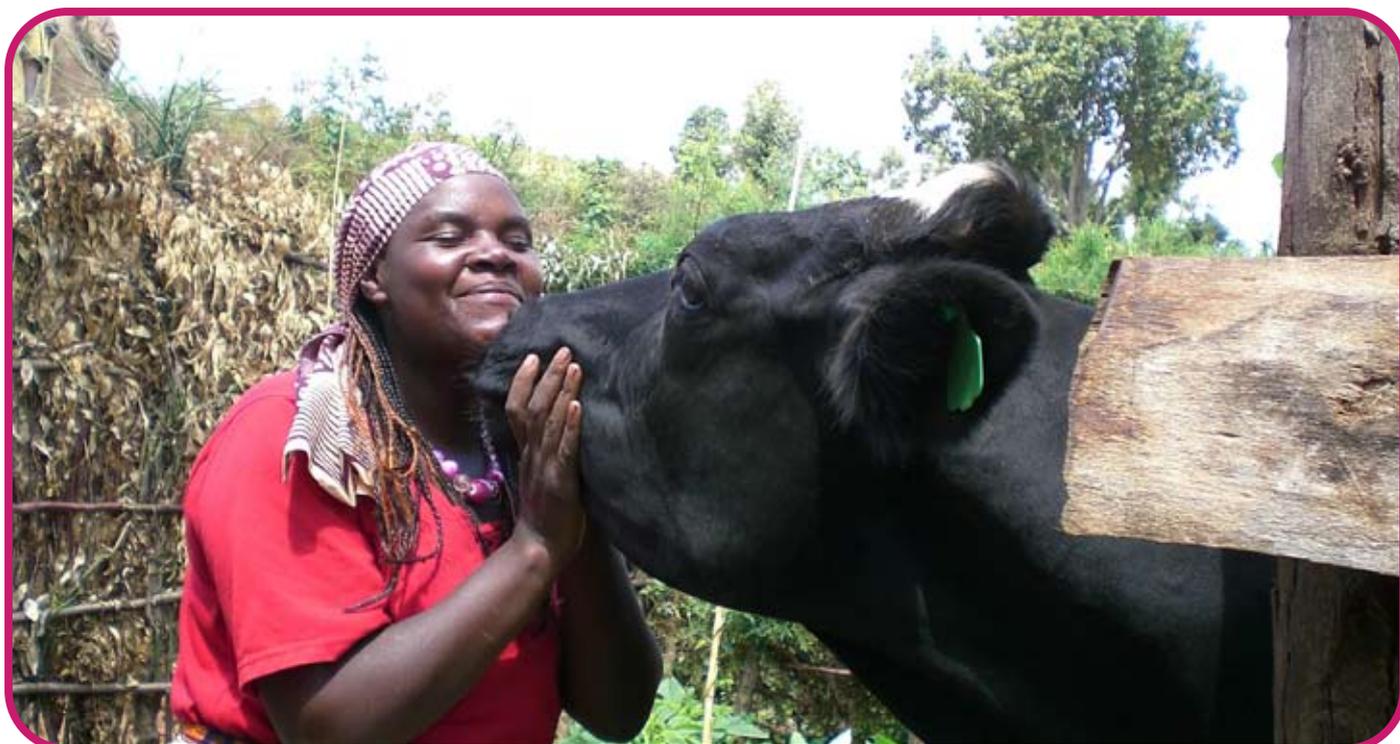
Donor: DGCD
Budget: 190,768 €



Rwanda



Rwanda is a small country, situated among the large African Lakes region. It is characterised by a tropical climate and a high population density. Rwanda's economy relies mainly on agriculture and specialises in food production. 90% of Rwanda's population lives off the primary sector and in particular on agricultural food production. Nevertheless, the majority of farmers are confronted with a shortage of land, and with a low yield in a production system that appears to have reached its limit. In order to increase land productivity in the region, it is paramount that there is integration between agriculture and livestock breeding farming. The problem, however, is that livestock breeding techniques are not fully developed and diseases among livestock are widespread and prevalent. Livestock breeders are therefore in dire need of a strong veterinary health service and of a service which will closely monitor the spread of diseases among animals in detail.



» Proxivet Sud Rwanda 2008 Activities

In 2008, the team moved in to the area and set up the material and juridical conditions that were needed for a successful project. The most important phase, setting up an animal health service, was completed, and significant progress has also been made in this area.

Improving Animal Health

The project has initiated the set up of a private service in which a veterinarian is assisted by 13 specialists. This service was installed, equipped and monitored by those in charge of the project in an attempt to make the scheme more efficient and sustainable. Due to the high number of tick infestations among livestock in the area, a weekly vaccination campaign has been in effect since last September. 6000 bovines have already been vaccinated and animals are now also provided with regular health care. As it is difficult for farmers to obtain up-to-date medical supplies, the project has teamed up with traditional practitioners and the Institute of Scientific and Technical Research to

improve veterinary practices using traditional medicines.

Livestock-Agriculture Integration

After choosing the zone for the study, 18 livestock breeders were selected to take part in the research. In order to establish the specific needs of farmers when integrating livestock and agriculture farming, a study of the region's farms was organised in conjunction with the Faculty of Agricultural Science in the National University of Rwanda. Following on from this research, a technical package, which will be put in to action in 2009, was compiled.

Female Representation within Organisations

During 2008, the number of women in organisations and decision-making bodies was monitored so that more could be done to bring them to the fore in this domain. The obstacles facing women in this area were pinpointed, as were the essential aspects of agriculture that should be implemented in to future training sessions. Women's aid organisations were chosen as part of the project and were instructed

to work on improving feeding and sanitary conditions for animals in the region.

Support for Partners

Proxivet Sud Rwanda has the exclusive opportunity to work with 2 primary local partners. Given the large part that the partners play in the ongoing success of the project, they were able to take part in a diverse training programme, which also included specialised practical instruction.

Local Partners

IMBARAGA: abahinzi@yahoo.fr
SDA-IRIBA: iribassociation@yahoo.fr

Donor and Budget 2008

Donor: DGCD (80%)
Budget: 472,829 €



DR Congo

The Democratic Republic of Congo is a beautiful country with exceptional land that is overflowing with natural resources. Unfortunately, it is also a country that has suffered greatly due to slavery which has claimed the lives of many indigenous people during the post colonial period, and which continued under the Presidency of Mobutu during the following years of independence. All of this has resulted in extreme poverty for this beautiful region of Africa. During the last 200 years, we have witnessed a terrible conflict in the Democratic Republic of Congo, with the first "African World War" from 1998-2003 which involved 6 countries and resulted in 3 million deaths. Even though the democratic procedures have been established, peace has not returned to the east of the country. In October last year, the battles were ever increasing and thousands had been displaced.



» Beneficiaries' Fight Against Vulnerability (LUVUPEL)

The LUVUPEL project was started in June 2007 and its objective is to reduce poverty through increasing the food security and income of the most vulnerable people living in the North Kivu province.

Providing Animals for the Beneficiaries

Those who will benefit from the animal donations include female-headed households, widows, orphans, malnourished children and HIV/AIDS sufferers. They are given small livestock, such as rabbits, hens, guinea pigs, goats and sheep, and are trained in animal production techniques. They are also supervised by the project technicians to ensure that they are managing their livestock

effectively. This target group will be encouraged to practice livestock farming techniques by being provided with vegetable seeds and simple tools, and will be trained in using the livestock waste as manure for their vegetable plots. In 2008, 127 households benefited from this training and were given a total of 381 rabbits and various materials for rabbit cages.

Providing Local and Accessible Animal Health Services

An important activity associated with livestock distribution is the provision of local and accessible animal health services through paravets, who are trained in basic animal health

and equipped with veterinary medicine kits. The paravets are supplied with medicines and are supervised by a local private veterinarian. To date, 17 paravets have been selected in different villages. They have been trained and equipped by the project, and are active in their local communities.

Local Partners

Reseau WIMA: wima1996@yahoo.fr

Donor and Budget

Donor: Belgian Survival Funds (85 %)
Budget: 655,968 €

Cross border projects

» Improved Community Response to Drought (ICRD)

Improved Community Response to Drought (ICRD) is a cross-border project, funded by ECHO's Regional Drought Decision, which aims to prepare regions for drought. Veterinaires Sans Frontières Belgium, Switzerland and Germany have combined their twelve year working experience gained from the dry lands of Northern Kenya and its neighbouring countries, to implement this project in three different ecosystems in Eastern Africa: Karamoja in Uganda and Kenya (VSF Belgium), Oromiya in Kenya and Ethiopia (VSF Germany) and the Somali ecosystem in Kenya and Somalia (VSF Switzerland). Pastoralist systems in these areas are constrained by recurrent droughts, chronic insecurity, marginalisation, increasing demographic pressure on a fragile environment and decreasing mobility.

2008 Activities

ICRD's overall objective is to play a part in improving the livelihoods of those living in the Karamoja, Oromiya and Somali ecosystems by developing and executing a model which will empower communities to proactively address their own needs. Rather than providing significant levels of external support, the project aims to enable pastoralists to proactively address their own needs by using their assets more efficiently. ICRD is a pilot project that seeks to provide a model for the future plan of action should a drought occur. The project was launched in mid 2008. Two new operational field

offices were built in Northern Kenya. Due to the deteriorating security situation in the El Wak regions of Kenya and Somalia in September 2008, the central point of action had to be reviewed. Although the majority of results are expected to emerge in 2009, the following are examples of what has been achieved in 2008.

Increased Access to Grazing Areas during the Dry Season

Over 20 community resource maps were drawn up throughout the project areas, and these were then shared during the inter-community meetings so that the locations of strategic water points could be agreed on. Following such discussions, 7 water structures, which are under the management of Water Management Committees, were repaired or built in 2008.

Early Warning Signals

Over 40 Community Animal Health Workers (CAHWs) have been selected to receive training on how to collect information and report on the early warning system. Each week, the radio in the Oromiya ecosystem broadcasts information warning of any early signs that there are problems in the region with animal health, market information, soil issues or drought.

Protecting Livelihoods

In 2008, 4 Village Community Banks (VICOBA) and 6 Pastoralist Field Schools (PFS) were built. Through VICOBA groups, communities are able to obtain loans to invest in money-

making schemes to generate income, and they are able to get state support at times of instability. PFS groups provide a platform on which technical information can be exchanged, and they also promote empowerment through decision making. Furthermore, they provide a means to strengthen and diversify livelihoods while all the time protecting the environment. ICRD's livelihood protection scheme means that firm links need to be established between the CAHWs, VICOBA and PFS groups.

Partners

Vétérinaires Sans Frontières Switzerland:
www.vsf-suisse.ch
Vétérinaires Sans Frontières Germany:
www.vsf.org

Donor and Budget

Donor: ECHO (100%)
Budget: 1,718,987 €

» Early Detection, Reporting and Surveillance of Avian Influenza for Africa (EDRSAIA)

Western Africa covers the northern coastal countries from the Gulf of Guinea (Nigeria, Benin, Togo, Ivory Coast, Liberia, Guinea, Sierra Leone, Guinea-Bissau, Gambia, Cape Verde) to Senegal, as well as the inland Sahelian countries (Burkina Faso, Niger, Mali and Mauritania). Traditional poultry production in this region plays an important role in the activities and in the heritage of farmers. Modern poultry farming is seen as an industry for the future, which has directly and indirectly created employment for between 150,000 - 200,000 people in Western Africa. However, since the wave of HPAI Infections (Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza) the industry has seen a decline. Since the period from February 2006 to May 2007, the presence of HPAI was confirmed in 11 African countries, 7 of which are in Western Africa.

2008 Activities

Improving Systems to Monitor Disease

The entire poultry industry in the sub-regions has been seriously affected by the HPAI disease, and the outbreak has also brought to light the shortcomings of the national system for disease monitoring. A renewed interest in setting up networks to monitor disease and to change the current methods began to emerge, and in particular, there was growing interest in researching Participatory Epidemiology (PE) or Participatory Disease Surveillance (PDS), which has been proven to work in the eradication of Rinderpest. Therefore the sub-regional ERDSAIA project aims to take stock of the national systems for disease monitoring and provide the support where it is most needed.

A quick assessment was carried out on the 7 veterinary services (Benin, Burkina Faso, Ivory Coast, Togo, Nigeria, Liberia and Sierra Leone) which fall under the project to ensure that Avian Influenza was controlled. Among other things, this project made it possible to identify the priority areas and their specific needs.

3 Types of Training were Identified and put in to Action

Training sessions in reporting the spread of disease has attracted 50 auxiliaries, divided equally between Togo and Benin, because more and more farmers are now reporting disease to the monitoring bodies. 27 veterinarians have been trained in Participatory Epidemiology for 3 English-speaking countries (Nigeria, Liberia and Sierra Leone) and 30 have received training in Participatory Disease Surveillance for the 4 French-speaking countries (Togo, Benin, Ivory Coast and Burkina Faso). The training is followed by 3-6 months of practical experience interspersed with a second series of refresher courses.

Improved Coordination of Monitoring Systems

In addition to supporting the disease monitoring systems through training, the ERDSAIA project is also making improvements to the regional and national mapping system so that Avian Influenza can be better controlled.

Local Partners

DGSV Burkina Faso (General Management of Veterinary Services)
DEP Togo (Management of Livestock and Fisheries)
DE Benin (Management of Livestock)
DSV Cote D'Ivoire (Management of Veterinary Services)
LD/MOA Liberia: Livestock Department/Ministry of Agriculture
LD/MAFFS Sierra Leone (Livestock Department/Ministry of Agriculture, forestry and food security)
NADIS Nigeria (National Animal Disease Information and Surveillance)

Technical Partners

ILRI: International Livestock Research Institute: www.ilri.cgiar.org
AU-IBAR: Inter African Bureau for Animal Resources: www.au-ibar.org

Donor and Budget 2008

Funding: USAID
Budget: 450,000 USD



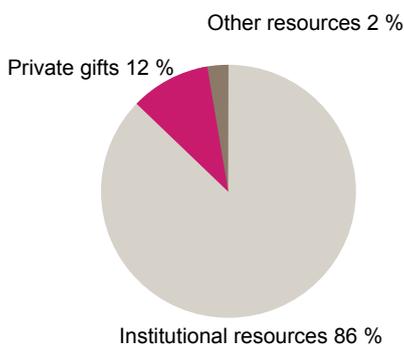
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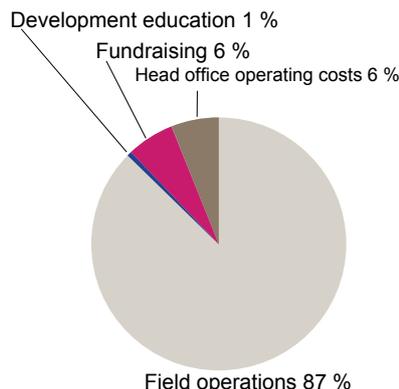
Financial report 2008

The financial report relates to the consolidated accounts of the non-profit organisation Vétérinaires Sans Frontières Belgium for all the activities carried out during the financial year from 1st January 2008 to 31st December 2008. The annual accounts for 2008 were audited by the Association des réviseurs d'entreprises (the Belgian Association of company auditors) "DGST & Co.", and the Commissaire Réviseur's (external auditor) report may be obtained from Vétérinaires Sans Frontières Belgium on request.

In 2008, the resources of Vétérinaires Sans Frontières Belgium amounted to EUR 8,583,714 - a 23.6% increase in comparison to 2007. The institutional resources of the Belgian and foreign governments made up 86% of the total resources; the remaining 14% was made up of private donations and other income.



Expenditure increased in the same proportion as resources and included field operations, a development education program run by the head office, fundraising-related expenditure and head office operating costs.



2008 resulted in a loss of EUR 84,459 to be offset against the reserves made in previous years. Vétérinaires Sans Frontières Belgium also received a legacy entered on the liabilities side (therefore not included in the results for the financial year) leading to an increase of the available reserves to EUR 35,106. The combined effect of the loss for the financial year and the legacy brought about an 11% decrease in the reserves available for 2009, amounting to EUR 388,981.

The "scissors" effect was brought about by the noticeable rapid growth of Vétérinaires Sans Frontières Belgium. Short term liquid assets aren't healthy. Vétérinaires Sans Frontières Belgium does not have enough liquid assets to cope with its commitments in the short term. This is due mainly to the following:

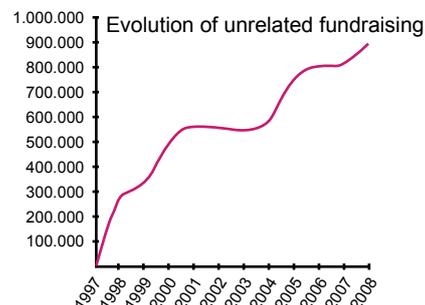
- Low reserves compared with the volume of activity (<5%)
- Backers having lengthy payment term (we often receive money after it has been spent, and therefore advanced by Vétérinaires Sans Frontières)

It would be wise to anticipate this coverage before committing to new projects, and also to shorten the payment terms of backers by issuing reports to them in as short a time as possible.

On the other hand, Vétérinaires Sans Frontières Belgium can look forward to having new projects in the pipeline. Business is therefore secure for years to come... Funding however has not yet been secured.

Vétérinaires Sans Frontières Belgium saw an increase of approximately 24% in its business activities between 2007 and 2008. In addition, income generated from fundraising only increased by 10%. In future, particular attention must be paid to the following problems:

- Co-financing current actions. Unrelated fundraising should be used for other things than for the systematic financing of projects that are not 100% funded. To do this, more research into related co-financing must be sought.
- An increase in payment of the costs of the regional office in Nairobi by using their current projects in East Africa. This increase is, above all, possible because of the increased activities generated by the office.
- Increased head office's coverage using administrative incomes etc. (65% in 2008, the aim for 2015 is 100%): this increase will come about with the increase of managed projects.



» Vétérinaires Sans Frontières is financially supported by



» Vétérinaires Sans Frontières has partnerships with



Annual Account

» 1. Balance sheet

Assets	Codes	Period	Previous period
FIXED ASSETS	20/28	794.092	476.119
I. Formation expenses	20	0	0
II. Intangible fixed assets (ann. I,A)	21	10.076	15.795
III. Tangible fixed assets (ann. I,B)	22/27	748.091	430.146
A. Land and buildings	22	45.828	55.811
B. Plant, machinery and equipment	23	9.059	10.324
C. Furniture and vehicles	24	691.965	362.401
D. Leasing and other similar rights	25	0	0
E. Other tangible fixed assets	26	1.238	1.609
F. Assets under construction and advanced payments	27	0	0
IV. Financial fixed assets (ann. I, C et II)	28	35.925	30.178
	0	0	
CURRENTS ASSETS	29/58	12.253.518	8.443.540
V. Amounts receivable after more than one year	29	2.194.104	1.230.266
A. Trade debtors	290	0	0
B. Other amounts receivable	291	2.194.104	1.230.266
VI. Stocks and contracts in progress	3	0	0
A. Stocks	30	0	0
B. Contracts in progress	37	0	0
VII. Amounts receivable within one year	40/41	8.785.337	5.602.333
A. Trade debtors	40	201.759	188.377
B. Other amounts receivable	41	8.583.578	5.413.956
VIII. Current investments (ann. II)	50	0	29.491
IX. Cash at bank and in hand	54	1.133.668	1.530.925
X. Deferred charges and accrued income	490	140.409	50.525
	0	0	
Total assets	20/58	13.047.610	8.919.660
Equity and liability	Codes	Period	Previous period
EQUITY	10/15	1.015.276	788.383
I. I. Capital (ann. III)	10	0	0
A. Issued capital	100	0	0
B. Uncalled capital	101	0	0
II. Share premium account	11	0	0
III. Revaluation surpluses	12	0	0
IV. Reserves	13	35.106	0
A. Legal reserve	130	0	0
B. Reserves not available	131	35.106	0
1. In respect of own shares held	1310	35.106	0
2. Other	1311	0	0
C. Untaxed reserves	132	0	0
D. Available reserves	133	0	0
V. Accumulated profits	140	1.686.176	1.707.941
Accumulated losses	141	-1.332.341	-1.268.678
VI. Investment grants	15	626.336	349.121
PROVISIONS AND DEFERRED TAXES	16	50.000	53.500
VII.			
A. Provisions for liabilities and charges (ann. IV)	160	50.000	53.500
B. Deferred taxes	168	0	0
AMOUNTS PAYABLE	17/49	11.982.333	8.077.776
VIII. Amounts payable after more than one year (ann. V)	17	0	0
A. Financial debts	170/4	0	0
1. Leasing and other similar obligations	172	0	0
2. Other loans	170+171	0	0
B. Trade debts	175	0	0
C. Advances received on contracts in progress	176	0	0
D. Other amounts payable	178	0	0
IX. Amounts payable within one year (ann. V)	42/48	2.240.107	624.039
A. Amounts payable after more than one year falling due within one year	42	0	0
B. Financial debts	43	28	0
1. Credit institutions	430	28	0
2. Other loans	439	0	0
C. Trade debts	44	2.183.335	456.015
1. Suppliers	440-441	2.183.335	456.015
2. Bills of exchange payable	441	0	0
D. Advances received on contracts in progress	46	0	0
E. Taxes, remuneration and social security	45	56.744	166.775
1. Taxes	450	-805	32.489
2. Remuneration and social security	454	57.550	134.286
F. Other amounts payable	47	0	1.250
X. Deferred charges and accrued income	492	9.742.227	7.453.737
Total liabilities		13.047.610	8.919.660

» 2. Income statement

	Codes	Period	Previous period
I. Operating income			
Turnover	70	8.376.653	6.841.474
Raw materials, consumables	60	-519.991	-465.590
Service and other goods	61	-3.434.824	-3.463.622
A.B. Turnover on service and other goods (positive)	70/61	4.727.053	2.912.261
Turnover on service and other goods (negative)	61/70	-305.214	
C. Remuneration, social security and pensions (ann. VI,2)	62	-1.624.209	-1.611.907
D. Depreciation of and amounts written off formation expenses, intangible and tangible fixed assets	630	-272.522	-218.184
E. Amounts written down stocks, contracts in progress and trade debtors - Appropriations (write-backs)	631	-23.621	-8.338
F. Provisions for risks and charges - Appropriations (uses and write-backs)	635	0	0
G. Other operating charges	640	-2.536.365	-1.053.898
H. Operating charges carried to assets as restructuring costs	649	0	0
Operating profit	70/64	-34.879	19.935
Operating loss	64/70		
II. Financial income	75	201.270	100.639
Financial charges	65	-256.637	-119.374
Gain on ordinary activities before taxes	70/65	-90.246	1.199
Loss on ordinary activities before taxes	65/70		
III. Extraordinary income	76	5.791	4.129
Extraordinary charges	66	-4	-24.158
Gain on ordinary activities before taxes	70/66	-84.459	-18.830
Loss on ordinary activities before taxes	66/70		
III bis. Transfer from postponed taxes	780	0	0
Transfer to postponed taxes	680	0	0
IV. Income taxes	67 et 77	0	0
Profit for the period	70/67	-84.459	-18.830
Loss for the period	67/70		
V. Transfer from untaxed reserves	789	0	0
Transfer to untaxed reserves	689	0	0
Profit for the period available for appropriation	70/68	-84.459	-18.830
Loss for the period available for appropriation	68/70		

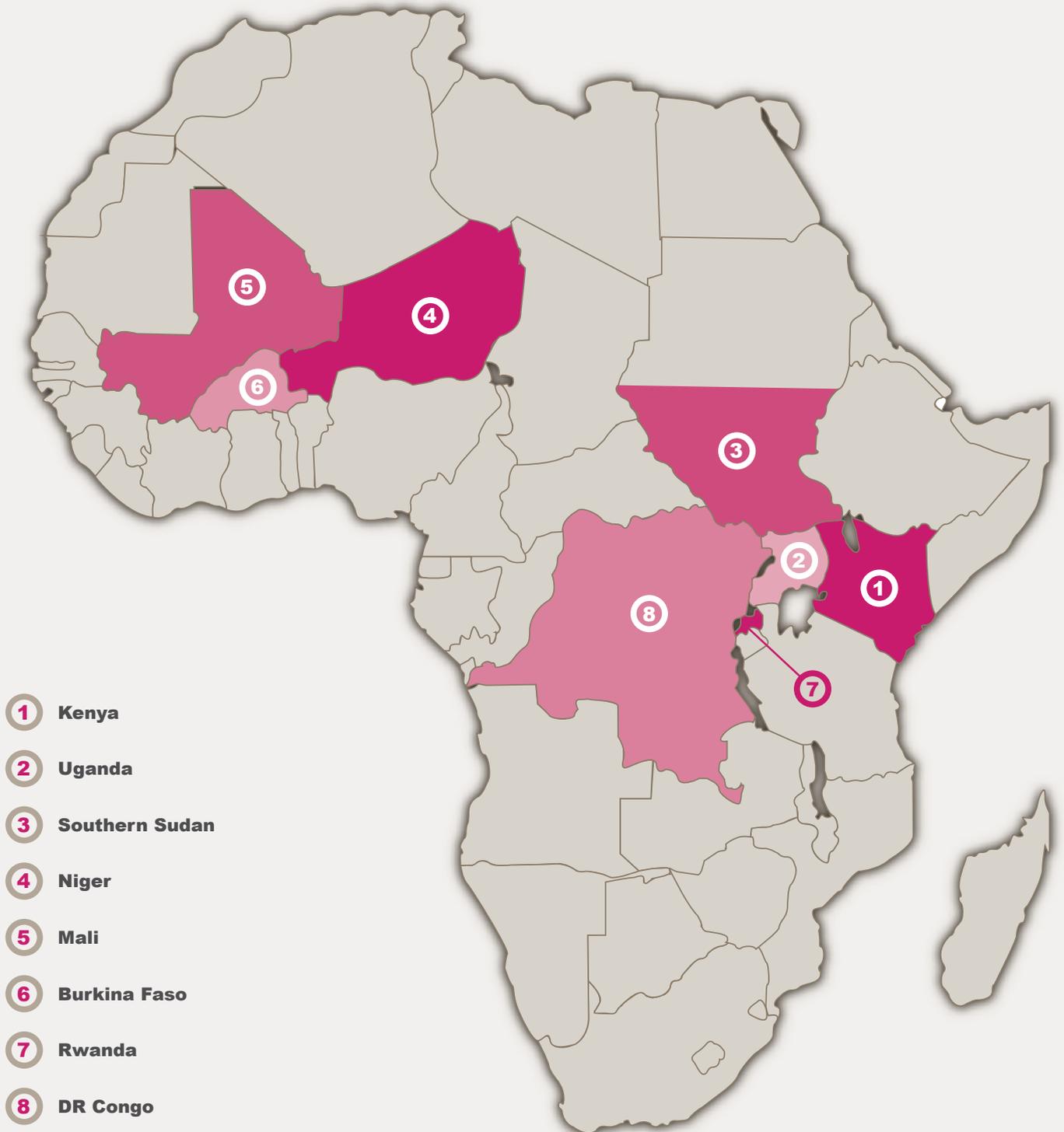
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