

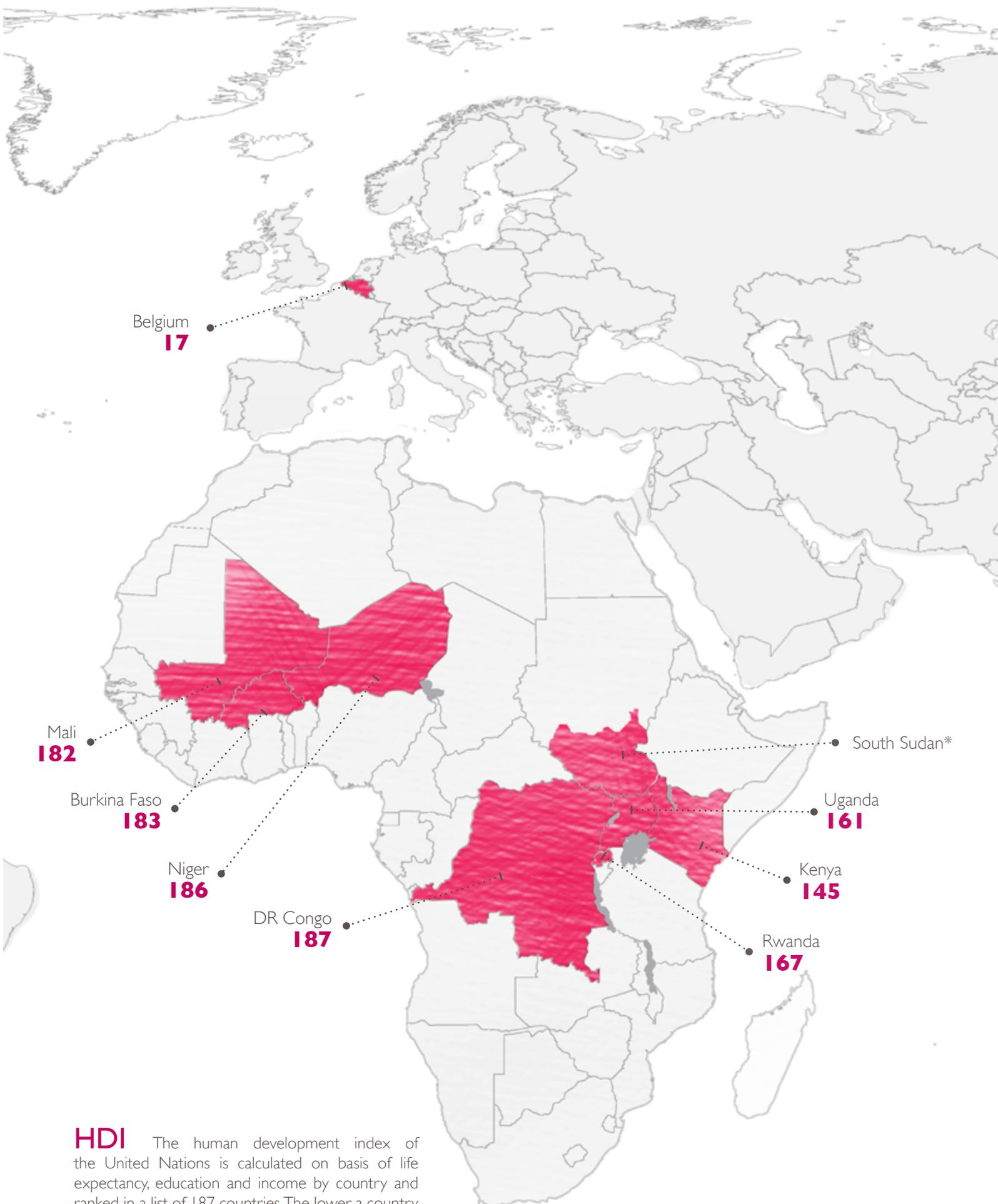


DIERENARTSEN | VÉTÉRINAIRES  
ZONDER GRENZEN | SANS FRONTIÈRES  
BELGIUM



ACTIVITY REPORT  
VÉTÉRINAIRES SANS FRONTIÈRES BELGIUM

2012



Belgium  
**17**

Mali  
**182**

Burkina Faso  
**183**

Niger  
**186**

DR Congo  
**187**

South Sudan\*

Uganda  
**161**

Kenya  
**145**

Rwanda  
**167**

**HDI** The human development index of the United Nations is calculated on basis of life expectancy, education and income by country and ranked in a list of 187 countries. The lower a country is on the list, the harder the living conditions of the population.

\*The HDI of South Sudan is not yet known as the country only became independent on 9th July 2011.

# 01 Preface

We have seen a turbulent year, with many events in Africa. The political and military crisis in Mali has influenced both directly and indirectly the security of the region and the execution of our programmes in Mali, Niger and northern Burkina Faso. Malian refugees were spreading throughout the Sahel, which has also been hit hard by a food crisis. In the Kivu region, too, in eastern Congo, there has been unrest. South Sudan has recently signed a fragile truce with Sudan, but this does not yet mean that security in the area is guaranteed. Kenya was preparing itself for elections in early 2013 with the major riots of 2008 still fresh in memory. Circumstances are not ideal, therefore, for carrying out structural development programmes. Our programmes and safety procedures take this into account, as international aid is especially needed in these situations.

As a result, we are increasingly following the principle of 'Linking Relief, Rehabilitation and Development' (LRRD). This entails that, in high-risk regions, we foresee that structural developments may be interrupted by external shocks - such as extreme drought or political unrest. We build in a stage of prevention, emergency aid and rehabilitation before and after the shock, which then connects seamlessly with the development stage. This coherent approach ensures that African livestock keepers can regain control of their own lives more quickly following a crisis and develop further in a more structured manner.

In Belgium, we also have 'crises', although they do not lead to coups, armed violence or widespread malnutrition. Despite the financial crisis and the drop in the government's development cooperation budget, we note that the solidarity of Belgian citizens with the southern hemisphere remains. With the support of people who are motivated, we have been successful in obtaining more funding and helping many people in their fight against hunger and poverty. Donors, volunteers, students, board members and all our employees worldwide have again given their all in 2012 and worked towards a better world. An important aspect of our work is to inform all our sympathisers about what we have done and can do with their support. You may have seen us on TV or in the newspapers last year, or spoken to us at a fair or during a lecture. Have you seen our website? We have given it a make-over which we hope will make it easier for you to keep up to date with what we can do with your support.

It seems that livestock rearing is also in crisis. We have seen one scandal after another over the last two decades, ranging from mad cow disease and the dioxin crisis to the recent horsemeat scandal in Europe. Although the horsemeat



did not present a threat to public health, the consumers' trust took a severe beating. More and more consumers are banishing meat from their plates and going vegetarian. But is this the only sustainable way forward? It is important that consumers all over the world know where their food comes from, what its value is and what the production costs are. The supermarket prices do not reflect the actual cost to the environment and our health. Vétérinaires Sans Frontières Belgium is therefore increasingly involved in the public debate around the consumption and production of meat. Because rather than removing meat from the menu, consumers can opt for animal products which are sustainably produced, with respect for the farmer, the animal, the planet and the consumer. As such, our organisation promotes a sustainable agricultural model - namely small-scale, family-based livestock farming - on the basis of which millions subsist worldwide, especially in the southern hemisphere.

Despite the challenging and rapidly-changing context, we look positively towards the future as an organisation. 2012 was a year for reflection, in which we and our board members, local partner organisations and employees in Brussels and in the field considered our vision, mission and strategic priorities from 2015 to 2025. Our partners in the southern hemisphere will rely less on our technical expertise, and instead more on our support of their organisational and institutional capacities. The thought-process is not yet complete, but I can already reveal the following: we want to continue doing what we are good at, and what we have always done since our foundation, that is, empowering disadvantaged livestock dependent communities in the South to improve their well-being. You can read all about this in our annual report. Happy reading!

Joep van Mierlo  
Director of Vétérinaires Sans Frontières  
Belgium

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*The financial report will be available on the website [www.veterinairesansfrontieres.be](http://www.veterinairesansfrontieres.be) and can be obtained on request from [info@vsf-belgium.org](mailto:info@vsf-belgium.org) or +32 (0)2 5390989*

# 02 Vision & Mission

## Vétérinaires Sans Frontières Belgium in a few words

### VISION

**HEALTHY  
ANIMALS,  
HEALTHY  
PEOPLE**

### MISSION

Empower disadvantaged livestock dependent communities (in the South) to improve their well-being.

### VALUES

Vétérinaires Sans Frontières Belgium believes in a world in which people, animals and nature live together in perfect harmony, as a driver for sustainable development. Every person has the right to live a dignified life in accordance with his/her choices, traditions or culture. Vétérinaires Sans Frontières Belgium justifies its decisions and actions for all parties concerned in complete transparency.

### SUSTAINABLE PARTNERSHIPS

Vétérinaires Sans Frontières Belgium believes in the strength and initiatives taken by people in developing countries. Therefore, we work together with local organisations and governments, local vets and livestock keepers in Africa.

We conclude sustainable partnerships with local associations, taking into account mutual trust, respect, responsibility, dialogue, sharing of experiences and know-how.

### GOOD GOVERNANCE

Vétérinaires Sans Frontières Belgium is constantly working to apply the principles of good governance. The organisation respects the law, human rights, gender equality, the environment, good practice (indigenous and non-indigenous), animal welfare and the culture of the countries in which we are active. Since 2010, the NGO has gradually decentralised the stewardship of its programmes to its regional and national offices and updated the tools for programme management, financial management and human resources management. This has ensured that we have updated our procedural manual. Furthermore, our operations are

transparent and subject to ethical and quality standards.

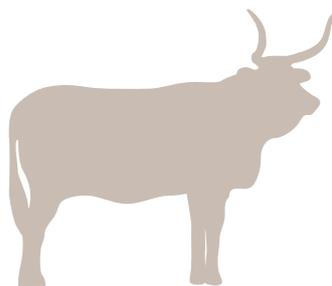


The expertise of Vétérinaires Sans Frontières Belgium is highly appreciated at local, national and international levels.

### TARGET GROUP

Pastoral livestock keepers, agro-livestock keepers and livestock keepers from urban areas who practice family-based livestock farming in African countries.

**ANIMALS:  
MORE THAN JUST  
MEAT OR MILK**



### Household

Cattle provide transport and draught power. Excrement and urine are used as fertiliser, fuel, building materials, beauty products, and insect-repelling and disinfecting agents. Hides are used to make clothing, sandals and mattresses and as a building material.

### Income

By selling or trading livestock or animal products, farmers can afford a balanced diet, clothing, education and healthcare. The animal is a four-legged savings bank and insurance policy, which can be converted into cash quickly whenever the need is greatest.

### Social value

Livestock is part of the family: every animal has a name and the farmer knows their pedigree. Meat, blood and milk from the animals play an important role in family, social and religious celebrations. Livestock is often entrusted to others and promotes mutual solidarity. Livestock also serve as dowries at weddings or else may be given as presents.

### Food

Milk, eggs and meat are an important source of protein. In East Africa, livestock keepers drink the blood of cows in times of crisis, sometimes blending it with milk.



“Over one billion people who live in chronic hunger and poverty depend on cows, buffalo, camels, sheep, goats, pigs and poultry to provide essential nutrition and livelihoods.”

“Livestock for the Future”, ELIDEV, the EU experts' group on livestock matters in developing countries

## 3.1 HEALTHY ANIMALS



**Veterinary healthcare in the expansive rural regions of the South is often inadequate to ensure the optimum health of the herds, for various reasons. Therefore it is essential in livestock keeping that an integrated network of private veterinarians, local animal health workers and national and local governmental bodies is developed.**

### FARMER SEEKS VET

Vétérinaires Sans Frontières Belgium encourages private vets to offer their services in remote areas and supports them with training and materials with which to equip their practices and adapt them to the conditions of the countryside. Livestock keepers who require the services of a vet have to pay for them in order to ensure the continuity of the service.

### COMMUNITY ANIMAL HEALTH WORKERS

Even with private vets setting up in the rural areas, they cannot deal with the numerous villages on their own. Therefore Vétérinaires Sans Frontières Belgium trains livestock keepers to become community animal health workers under the supervision of a local veterinarian. The villagers themselves decide who takes the

courses, which last from a couple of weeks to several months. They learn how to diagnose and treat diseases, supplementing traditional knowledge with new insights. Following the course, they receive a rucksack with veterinary materials and medicines with which they can treat their community's animals. The community animal health workers receive regular refresher courses in order to anchor and expand their knowledge. Like the private vets, they are remunerated by the livestock keepers for their services, more often in kind than in cash.

### KNOWLEDGE IS POWER

The community animal health workers play an important role in raising awareness among other livestock keepers of preventive and curative animal care, welfare, the quality of medicines and the disadvantages of inbreeding. They take part in large-scale (government) vaccination campaigns and early warning systems for drought and epidemics which benefit the whole region.

### STRENGTHENING GOVERNMENT CAPACITY

Vétérinaires Sans Frontières Belgium also strengthens, when requested, the capacities of local and national governmental bodies responsible for livestock farming in the

developing country, to enable them to detect disease epidemics early and counter them in collaboration with the local population.

### QUALITY FEED

Livestock are stronger and more productive when they receive sufficient, high-quality feed. Therefore Vétérinaires Sans Frontières Belgium organises participatory courses on feed and strategic nutritional supplements. In this way, livestock keepers can learn through practice, among other things, how to grow and store feed that is higher in proteins. Here too, they supplement their traditional knowledge with new techniques.

### FEED BANKS

In order to ensure adequate feed throughout the year, livestock keepers store part of their harvest or else buy feed as a group when prices are low. They store these stocks in feed banks so that, in times of scarcity due to long-term drought, they may have feed for their herds. The farmers can buy feed at a reasonable price, especially when market prices shoot up during the dry season. Vétérinaires Sans Frontières Belgium trains local committees to manage these stocks, which also often include grain for their own consumption and for agricultural activities.

## 3.2 HEALTHY PEOPLE



**By improving livestock health and optimising animal production, Vétérinaires Sans Frontières Belgium fights hunger and poverty. In Sub-Saharan Africa, 80% of the population lives off livestock production. Animals are therefore crucial to the food security of disadvantaged livestock-keeping families.**

### SMALL BUT IMPORTANT

Goats, sheep, pigs, chickens, rabbits and guinea pigs play a significant role in the local food supply and economy of many African countries. The animals can be kept easily and with few resources. Vétérinaires Sans Frontières Belgium provides small livestock to families, often run by women, in fragile areas and situations. Once the animals have bred, the families donate several of them to other families in turn. This helps build a local solidarity network. They are trained in production techniques and animal

husbandry and learn how to use the manure for their kitchen gardens. In doing so, they combine traditional knowledge with new and appropriate techniques.

### SELLING LIVESTOCK

In order to be able to sell their livestock and animal products, livestock keepers often have to cover large distances on foot. Therefore Vétérinaires Sans Frontières Belgium guides the local population in setting up and managing strategically-located livestock markets. For example, farmers in remote areas can supply their stock to mobile slaughterhouses. They are trained in trading techniques so that they can better estimate the financial value of their livestock.

### DAIRY PRODUCTION

By improving dairy hygiene, partly through training, less milk is lost during the various stages of the production process, so livestock keepers can sell more milk to the cooperatives, which check, process and market the product. They

broaden the range of high-quality dairy products, e.g. yoghurt and cheese. The employees of the dairy companies learn, through technical and simple accounting courses, to generate and manage direct revenues.

### MICROCREDITS

Vétérinaires Sans Frontières Belgium promotes the proper management of village community banks, which grant small loans to their members. All members, including many women, contribute a weekly amount to this savings bank and decide jointly what is done with the money. They start up - individually or as a group - initiatives which generate extra income or lend money when the need is the greatest. The livestock keepers are trained in microcredits and organisational management.





© Tim Dirven

### 3.3 HEALTHY ENVIRONMENT



**Long droughts and devastating downpours, both consequences of climate change, increasingly ravage the Africa continent. Water sources dry-up and supplies**

**of food for the livestock keepers and their herds are becoming scarcer.**

#### WATER AND GRASSLAND

In order to safeguard the sustainable management of natural resources, especially during the dry season when water and grasslands are scarce, Vétérinaires Sans Frontières Belgium supports local water and grazing committees. These committees monitor livestock keepers' compliance with the agreements on grazing and watering. They manage the maintenance of water points above and below ground which are identified and built by the villagers themselves, with the support of Vétérinaires Sans Frontières Bel-

gium. The communities also prepare fire-breaks to prevent fires from destroying hundreds of hectares of grassland. In concrete terms this involves the villagers hacking away a path that is 20 metres wide and several kilometres long that prevents the fire from spreading. The villagers also maintain grassland areas, for example by digging structures in a half-moon shape, in which the rainwater stands for longer, and by replanting grasses and trees which counteract soil erosion.

#### CONFLICT MANAGEMENT

Peace is essential for the sustainable development of local communities, livestock trade and economy and for the smooth running of all of Vétérinaires Sans Frontières Belgium's activities. In areas where water and grasslands are scarce, rival communities fight over feed and water for their livestock. Armed cattle raids are not uncommon. Vétérinaires Sans Frontières

Belgium therefore encourages representatives of opposing communities to reach agreements on the areas in which the various herds can graze and water. In addition, Vétérinaires Sans Frontières Belgium supports local land committees that resolve conflicts between livestock keepers and crop farmers over the use of fields and the large-scale transhumant cattle migration between the different seasons. They create corridors together and agree when harvests are to be gathered, so that herds do not damage forests and agricultural land. To this end they use traditional processes, augmented by new techniques.

### 3.4 SUSTAINABLE PARTNERSHIPS



#### LOCAL PARTNER ORGANISATIONS

Vétérinaires Sans Frontières Belgium works closely with local organisations to implement its programmes

in Africa. In order to fulfil its mission in a lasting, effective and efficient way, Vétérinaires Sans Frontières Belgium helps its local partners strengthen their capacities. As the partner organisations develop greater autonomy, the role of Vétérinaires Sans Frontières Belgium evolves from 'implementer' to 'facilitator' of development.

#### DONORS AND VOLUNTEERS

Everyone who supports Vétérinaires Sans Frontières Belgium deserves a special thank you. Every year the organisation can count on the loyal support of donors and volunteers. They make an essential contribution to the organisation's work. More than 12,000 private donors made a donation in 2012 and helped the African livestock keepers in their struggle against hunger and poverty. In addition, Vétérinaires Sans Frontières Belgium was helped by dozens of volunteers in Belgium who took on managerial and administrative duties, processed questionnaires and translated

documents. In Africa, too, livestock keepers often work voluntarily for their communities, as they believe that the welfare of people, animals and nature are inseparably connected.

## 3.5 AWARENESS-RAISING, EDUCATION AND LOBBYING



Supporting small-scale, family livestock keepers in Africa also requires action on Belgian and European levels. Consumers, agricultural livestock keepers and politicians in

the northern hemisphere should consider the consequences of their day-to-day choices for the southern hemisphere. Therefore, *Vétérinaires Sans Frontières* Belgium, with its partners in both hemispheres, wants to create support for family livestock farming and food sovereignty, especially in the current context of climate change. It's essential that European society helps build a more just world, with sustainable food production and consumption around the world.

The activities of *Vétérinaires Sans Frontières* Belgium in the field of development education and lobbying fit in with the following two programmes:

### 👉 Livestock and climate change: the key-role of small-scale livestock farming

Donor: European Commission

Duration: 3 years (since 2011)

Total budget: € 721,500

Consortium led by AVSF (France): SIVTRO (Italy), *Vétérinaires Sans Frontières* Belgium, VSF-cz (Czech Republic)

### 👉 Development of a balanced understanding amongst livestock professionals and consumers on the production and consumption modes in the North (REGARDEP)

Donor: DGD

Duration: 3 years (since 2011)

Total budget: € 299,299

### MAKING CONSUMERS AWARE

*Vétérinaires Sans Frontières* Belgium focuses its awareness-raising activities on Belgian consumers, whose food choices have a significant impact on agricultural production. As such, the organisation aims continuously to make its mark on the public debate around meat consumption by arguing for better quality meat, produced locally with respect for animals, people and the environment. The NGO has written opinion pieces on this subject in the last year, organised debates and produced an advert for the De Standaard Solidarity Award.

*Vétérinaires Sans Frontières* Belgium also took part in a range of events throughout the year. Among others, the organisation attended the International Day of Peasant Struggle in Brussels, the 'little agricultural fair' in Libramont, Expovet in Ghent, the open-door day of the petting zoo in Wilrijk, the colloquium of be-troplive in Ghent and *Vétérinexpo* in Ciney. *Vétérinaires Sans Frontières* Belgium also organised conferences, film showings and debates, for example for Belmundo, the international solidarity month in Ghent, and Vila Cabral, a series of activities over three months around international solidarity in Antwerp. The NGO also organised for the first time a Family Day for its partners, sympathisers, volunteers and donors, which took place in the Belgian Pairi Daiza zoo.

Furthermore, *Vétérinaires Sans Frontières* Belgium developed a range of tools in order to better inform and raise awareness among the wider public of small-scale livestock farming, food sovereignty, food consumption and production and climate change. The NGO, with VSF Europa, developed a documentary and photo exhibition on small-scale livestock farming and climate change in the South. *Vétérinaires Sans Frontières* Belgium also produced several films, particularly on small-scale livestock farming and climate change in South Sudan, the Wodaabe livestock keepers in Niger, and about the exchange mission of three Belgian cattle farmers and a vet to Rwanda.

### RAISING AWARENESS AMONG STUDENTS AND PROFESSIONALS

*Vétérinaires Sans Frontières* Belgium held dozens of lectures and activities in 2012 aimed at raising awareness among students of agriculture and veterinary medicine in Belgium of the importance of small-scale livestock farming and food sovereignty. The organisation invited a partner from Niger and two from Mali who gave testimony in these lectures. In addition, the organisation carried out a number of awareness-raising activities with the NGOs Trias, ADG and SOS Faim in agricultural colleges in Flanders and Wallonia. *Vétérinaires Sans Frontières* Belgium developed a long-term partnership with some Walloon colleges so that

teachers are able to introduce these topics to students in future without the intervention of the organisation. The result is [www.jagros.be](http://www.jagros.be), a website packed with educational tools for agricultural colleges.

As well as the next generation of farmers and vets, the NGO also paid attention to the current generation of professionals. Belgian livestock farmers and vets were able to meet the Malian and Nigerian partner organisations during their stay in Belgium. Furthermore, three Belgian farmers and a vet travelled to Rwanda in December 2012 to exchange their experiences with local farmers regarding the opportunities and challenges of small-scale livestock farming. Together they found out how food sovereignty can offer a solution to many of the family livestock keepers' problems, not only in Rwanda but also in Belgium. This exchange also reached a wider audience through press articles and presentations by the participating farmers and vet.

### LOBBYING

*Vétérinaires Sans Frontières* Belgium is constantly trying to put the concept of food sovereignty and small-scale livestock farming onto the political agenda, through studies, position papers, round table talks, conferences and policy work. In Belgium, the organisation works with other NGOs, particularly as an active member of the Coalition against Hunger, the Platform for Food Sovereignty and the Family Farming Support Network (RsAP). At European level, *Vétérinaires Sans Frontières* Belgium collaborates with its sister organisations in the scope of VSF Europa. The NGO is active within be-troplive, a Belgian network, and CELEP, an international coalition of civil society organisations, both of which defend the interests of livestock keepers in the southern hemisphere before policymakers in Europe and the South.

*Vétérinaires Sans Frontières* Belgium was successful in 2012 in influencing a number of European policy documents, which now pay attention to the importance and challenges of small-scale livestock farming in the southern hemisphere. For example, the European Parliament adopted

amendments – developed by CELEP and VSF Europa – to the Development Cooperation Instrument, one of three documents which determine the development policy of the European Commission for the coming seven years. In addition, during a conference in the European Parliament in Strasbourg, two Malian partners of *Vétérinaires Sans Frontières* Belgium spoke to European policymakers regarding a major challenge for family farmers in Mali, namely climate change.

## Deux agricultures se rencontrent

**BUTARE** Notre voyage au Rwanda suivait également la découverte par des agriculteurs belges du monde agricole local. Au Nord et au Sud, il y a parfois plus de points communs que de différences.

«Leurs réalités quotidiennes sont différentes mais quand on y réfléchit, les agriculteurs rwandais connaissent le même problème que chez nous: leur métier ne leur permet pas de vivre correctement», nous explique Christiane Collinet (photo), agricultrice de La Roche en Ardenne et présidente provinciale de la Fédération des Agricultrices wallonnes. «La différence notable, c'est que chez nous, il n'y a plus que 2% d'agriculteurs alors que 80% de la population rwandaise vit encore de la terre», constate Kurt Sannen, agriculteur bio à Molensède près de Diest et par ailleurs, président de Bioforum Vlaanderen. Invitée par VSF

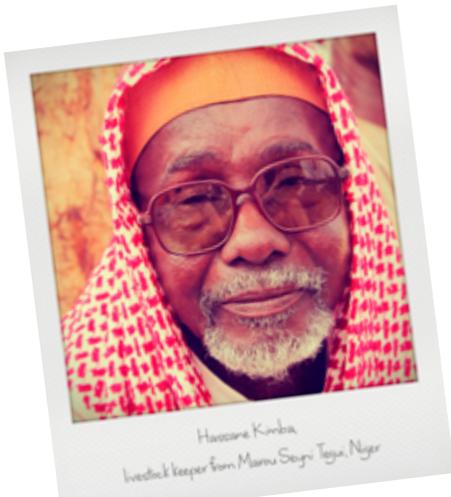
dans le cadre de son programme d'éducation au développement, la petite délégation qui a fait le déplacement jusqu'au Rwanda a pu ainsi comparer les conditions de travail et de vie des agriculteurs du sud. Alors qu'au nord, les choix agricoles des 50 dernières années (intensification des cultures et des élevages, améliorations des engrais, quasi-disparition de l'élevage dit 'paysan') ont complètement changé le secteur agricole. Si bien que pour certains, il est temps de se poser et de revenir à une agriculture plus humaine. «Si nous pouvions leur donner un conseil, c'est de ne pas faire les mêmes erreurs que nous



avons faites», nous dit Marc-André Henin. Ce jeune fermier de 27 ans est passé au bio, convaincu que l'industrialisation n'est pas la voie que doit emprunter l'agriculture si on veut préserver le métier. Au terme de ce voyage, ils sont persuadés que les combats menés jusqu'à présent dans leurs associations respectives sont les bons. C'est-à-dire mettre l'agriculteur et l'éleveur au centre de son métier en valorisant son action pour la société. «Rappeler aux gens d'où vient leur nourriture est important», souligne Marc-André.

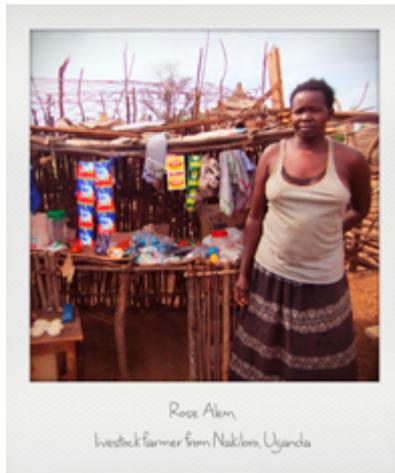
Côté échange, Kurt est comblé par ce voyage. «Je suis inspiré par les agriculteurs rwandais, leurs tentatives de fonctionnement coopératif, leur système de double culture (l'association de haricots et de bananiers sur une même parcelle est courante au Rwanda, ndr.) sur un même terrain me donnent des idées dans mon propre travail.» La confrontation des modes de vie est peut-être le meilleur moyen pour rendre compte d'un monde complexe où les échanges financiers du Nord vers le Sud ne peuvent pas tout régler. L'échange d'expériences amène chacun à se questionner et à poser des actions. Chacun des participants au voyage compte bien relayer les enseignements de leur voyage au sein de leurs associations. Car ils sont convaincus que la révolution agricole passera par les agriculteurs eux-mêmes. ■

# STORIES



Hassane Kimba  
Livestock keeper from Marou Segou Toure, Niger

“We can really count on our community animal health worker. He’s always available, day and night. He treats our cows, goats, sheep and poultry and vaccinates them. Before we had the animal health worker, we had to buy medicines on the black market. From charlatans who knew nothing about animal care. Their products didn’t work and of course, we weren’t happy about it. Now I can see a clear difference. My animals grow more quickly because they’re healthy. And I really enjoy my work as my livestock-rearing is bearing fruit and my family have a better life than before!”



Rose Aton  
Livestock farmer from Nakiloro, Uganda

“I’m a member of the community bank in my village, Nakiloro. With the support of the other members of the bank, I was able to save up 200,000 Ugandan shillings (60 Euros). With this loan I started my own shop. I sell sugar, oil, soap and matches. Even people from outside the village shop here. This shop has changed my life. I even have some money left to go to the city of Moroto and buy more goods to sell in my shop. Other members of our savings and credit bank have seen my success and are now starting their own businesses.”



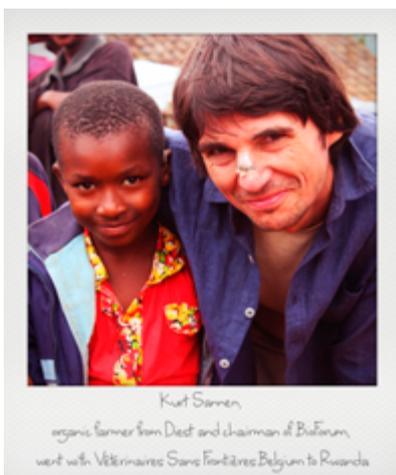
Christiane Cabinet  
cattle farmer from Marchamps,  
went with Vétérinaires Sans Frontières Belgium to Rwanda

“Throughout the world, it comes down to developing an adapted form of agriculture, that takes into account food security and the environment while also providing enough income for those working within it.”



Sala Segou, mayor and chairperson of the COFOCOM - the municipal land committee - of Mokko, Niger

“Vétérinaires Sans Frontières Belgium supports the municipal land committee of Mokko in setting-up, training and monitoring the local land committees in the villages. We get the materials we need to be able to work, such as computers, GPS, legal texts, etc. As a result we have been able to mark-out two corridors for livestock, 85 km and 60 km, and a grazing area of 285 ha. This follows intensive consultations with the population and all the government services involved, which are also represented in the committees. Once marked-out, we ensure that everyone respects the borders and we resolve disputes between crop farmers and livestock keepers. And as time goes on there are fewer conflicts about land use in Mokko. Everyone has more respect now for the demarcated areas, which are crucial to maintain the traditional lifestyles of pastoral livestock keepers.”



Kurt Sarren  
organic farmer from Dieet and chairman of Bioforum,  
went with Vétérinaires Sans Frontières Belgium to Rwanda

“All over the world we, small farmers, are squeezed by weak prices for our products and rising costs. The intensive agriculture model puts farmers under pressure to produce more and more at lower prices. Who gains from this system? Not the farmer, not the environment, not the animal, and not the consumer.”



Elizabeth Lakela  
animal health technician at TUPADO  
in Locheor, Kenya

“In 2007, TUPADO entered a partnership with Vétérinaires Sans Frontières Belgium, in the scope of a development programme for livestock farming in Turkana. Since then, our organisation has developed rapidly, including in terms of technical capacities. Our expertise is now recognised throughout the Turkana district. Other international organisations want to get involved with us, now that they have noticed how competent we are as a local organisation.”

# 04 Active in 8 African countries





## Crisis in the Sahel

In 2012, the Sahel was struck by a major food crisis. Chronic poverty, malnutrition, high food prices, drought and a failed harvest threatened 18.7 million people in the region. The conflict in northern Mali and the potential outbreak of a plague of locusts which threatened to destroy the annual harvest, endangered the lives of 50 million people. Farmers lost many animals to disease and exhaustion; those which survived were severely weakened by a lack of water and feed.

Niger was hit the hardest by the food crisis, with 42% of a population of 6.4 million Nigeriens at risk of malnutrition. In Mali, 32% of the population was in danger, and in Burkina Faso 15%. The predominant factor was the climate, a poor rainy season, which led to a severe partial reduction of the harvest, pastures which did not grow adequately, and water supplies which failed to replenish. For a region where more than 80% of the population is sustained by livestock farming, this was a disaster for humans and animals alike.

Vétérinaires Sans Frontières Belgium provided help to thousands of farming households. The NGO distributed sacks of grain and feed for free or at a reduced price. Private vets and hundreds of community animal health workers treated and vaccinated the herds against diseases. Vétérinaires Sans Frontières Belgium also took part in 'destocking': the organisation bought weak but healthy animals from local farmers, paid local butchers to process the meat and then distributed it as food aid.

The most vulnerable families were given cash. They could decide for themselves what to do with it. Most bought food or started their own businesses. In exchange for the money they had to follow courses on hygiene and balanced nutrition for their children (cash for

training) or restore grassland pastures (cash for work). At the end of the crisis, when enough feed was available once more, Vétérinaires Sans Frontières Belgium gave goats and sheep to those families who had lost all their animals. This enabled them to re-build new herds, and thanks to training they can look after their herds better now too.

### REFUGEES

In early 2012 unrest broke out in the north of Mali. The army staged a coup and radical groups used violence to oppress the northern population. A foreign military intervention force drove the armed groups out of the region but it still remains unsafe today.

Since the start of the conflict, over 170,000 Malians have fled their country, of whom around 50,000 went to Burkina Faso. 300,000 Malians fled from the north to the south of the country. Many of them were livestock keepers who took their herds with them.

In the south of Mali, Vétérinaires Sans Frontières Belgium rushed to provide aid to the refugee farmers. In the Ségou region, the organisation distributed goats, feeds and veterinary medicines to 1,000 families, including refugees and local residents. The families were also trained by a vet in increasing the productivity

of their goats through better nutrition, housing and health, whilst local vets monitored the health of the goats.

In the north of Burkina Faso, Malian refugees brought more than 50,000 animals with them. The food crisis and drought made the herds very weak and they produced very little milk. Furthermore, the arrival of the refugees put even greater pressure on the scarce water and grassland resources, which led to conflicts with the local populations. Therefore Vétérinaires Sans Frontières Belgium brought representatives of the refugees and local villagers together to reach agreements around the communal use of pastures and water sources. In addition, the NGO supported local vets in vaccinating the refugees' animals and treating them. The livestock keepers were also trained in livestock-rearing techniques and the strategic feeding of their animals in order to produce more milk.

# West Africa



## Niger

With more than 32 million head of livestock for 14 million inhabitants, Niger is a true cattle nation. Apart from its major contribution to the national economy, the livestock sector also goes a long way to combating hunger and poverty. But the livestock keepers must adapt to the rigours of the climate which are gaining in regularity and intensity, and further develop their farming practices in order to cope with crises. In 2012 the country was in the grip of a long drought, with dire consequences for the livestock. The failed harvests and lack of affordable feed, grassland and water caused exhaustion, led to diseases and reduced the productivity of the livestock.



*“I sold one of my seven cows to Vétérinaires Sans Frontières Belgium. My skinny cow is only worth six Euros at the livestock market. I’m sad because my cow has to die, but with the better price I get for it I can buy food for my wife and four children. I can also buy feed for my other cattle to keep them alive. My cows have not produced enough milk for eight months now. The little they do produce we keep for the calves. Instead of milk, we now eat okra leaves with our millet. Normally, we eat three times a day, but now at the end of the dry season we eat only in the morning and evening, and much less than a few months ago. We used to have problems with drought every five years, now there is a food crisis every other year.”*

### Support to livestock keepers in the department of Tera (LIKES 2)

Donor: USAID  
Duration: 1 year  
Total budget: \$ 740,103  
Local partner: CESAO-PRN

### Program to support the livestock sector (PASEL)

Donor: DDC  
Duration: 3 years (since 2010)  
Total budget: CHF 5,030,000  
Partners: SNV, CESAO-PRN

### Project to strengthen food security through livestock in the departments of Dakoro and Abalak (SAREL)

Donors: Belgian Fund for Food Security, CNCDD-11.11.11, WBI, FAO, Télécoms Sans Frontières  
Duration: 5 years (since 2009)  
Total budget: € 3,052,462  
Local partner: KARKARA

### Project to promote the peri-urban dairy industry in Niamey (APROLAN)

Donors: DGD, 11.11.11  
Duration: 3 years (since 2011)  
Total budget: € 355,294  
Local partner: KARKARA

### Project to support livestock in the departments of Dosso and Aderbissinat (APELDA)

Donors: DGD, 11.11.11

Duration: 3 years (since 2011)  
Total budget: € 869,996  
Local partner: CESAO-PRN

### Emergency project in aid of food security (PUSA 2)

Donor: World Bank via the Ministry of Agriculture of Niger  
Duration: 1 year  
Total budget: € 193,187  
Local partner: KARKARA

### Project Nariindu

Donor: AFD  
Duration: 3 years (since June 2012)  
Total budget: € 504,130  
Partners: IRAM, KARKARA, AREN, Réseau Billital Maroobe

### Project to reduce the pastoral and food crisis in the concentration areas of livestock (PACAP-MATI)

Donor: French embassy  
Duration: 4 months  
Total budget: € 320,018  
Partners: CARE, AREN

### Project to strengthen and expand local private veterinary services in the regions of Dosso, Tahoua and Maradi (CE-SVPP)

Donor: BTC  
Duration: 18 months (since 2012)  
Total budget: € 211,661  
Local partners: CESAO-PRN, KARKARA



## Mali



In Mali, more than 70% of families derive their income and food from livestock farming. But there are a lot of problems, such as little water and grazing land, and many farmers live in remote areas, far from the markets with no vets in the area. Furthermore, armed conflict broke out in 2012 in the north and many livestock keepers fled to the south and neighbouring countries. To make matters worse, the whole region was hit by a food crisis. In such situations, it is essential to safeguard livestock farming as an important economic resource and capital, in both the long and short term. Protecting and managing natural resources such as water and grass can ensure better availability of feed, better access to finance and veterinary care, and better milk production and sales.

**Project to develop livestock keeping in Koulikoro and Kita (PRODEL-K II)**  
 Donors: DGD, National Lottery of Belgium, CEVA nv, FAO  
 Duration: 3 years (since 2011)  
 Total budget: € 944,861  
 Local partner: ICD

**Project to support women's organisations through small livestock keeping in the region of Bamako (PAFEC II)**  
 Donors: DGD, municipality of Hove, province of Vlaams-Brabant, province of Oost-Vlaanderen, CNCD-11.11.11, WBI, city of Antwerp  
 Duration: 3 years (since 2011)  
 Total budget: € 307,600  
 Local partner: ICD

**Project to support food diversification in the circle of Youwarou (PADACY)**  
 Donor: EU  
 Duration: 41 months (since 2011)  
 Total budget: € 1,797,700

In consortium with ACF  
 Managed by local partner ICD

**Project to combat food insecurity in Mali (LIAM)**  
 Donors: Belgian Fund for Food Security, Gillès Foundation, province of Antwerp  
 Duration: 5 years (since 2012)  
 Total budget: € 2,203,085  
 In consortium with SOS Faim, Belgian Red Cross, World Solidarity, Protos, UNCDF, FAO  
 Local partners: ICD, CEPAP, Association pour l'Appui au Développement Global

**Emergency aid project to restore the capacity of the displaced population to look after its agro-pastoral productivity in the Ségou region**  
 Donor: FAO  
 Duration: 5 months  
 Total budget: € 97,745  
 Local partner: ICD



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## Burkina Faso

The livestock-rearing sector in Burkina Faso provides 12% of GDP and 19% of national exports. More than 85% of families derive at least some of their food and income from livestock rearing. But like the other Sahel countries, Burkina Faso was faced with a food crisis and drought in 2012. Furthermore, many Malian refugees sought refuge in the north of Burkina Faso, putting greater pressure on the scarce water sources and pasture. Grassland is also being increasingly taken over for arable farming, which leads to conflict between livestock keepers and farmers.

### Program to support the development of the Fula Zebu in the Sahel (ZEPESA II)

Donors: Belgian Fund for Food Security, ZEBUNET, WBI

Duration: 6 years (since 2011)

Total budget: € 3,522,518

Local partner: A2N

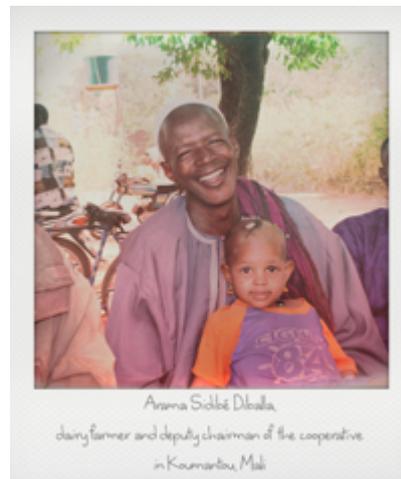
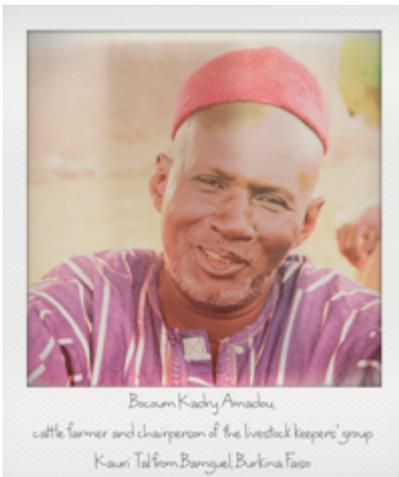
### Emergency aid to refugees and asylum seekers in Burkina Faso

Donor: UNHCR

Duration: 3 months

Total budget: € 129,540

Local partner: A2N



*"We know now that we can't keep the same bull in our herd. You see, inbreeding had led to less food and income, as it negatively affects milk production and the growth of the cows. Vétérinaires Sans Frontières Belgium has introduced local bulls from an improved breed to our livestock keepers. We sold the bullocks to prevent inbreeding. We are now seeing a clear difference in milk production among the female offspring. They give more milk but they are also more robust animals."*

*"The women used to sell their milk in the village, on the road-side, but they couldn't always sell it. Often there were no buyers and the milk had to be thrown away. Vétérinaires Sans Frontières Belgium encouraged the milk producers to join forces. If we want our milk to be profitable we all have to stand together: the producers, the boys who take the milk to the dairies and the sellers in the dairy. Now the consumers have more faith in the quality of our milk and they buy more*

*local milk. Thanks to the training in hygiene, processing milk, strategic feeding for dairy cattle and collecting milk, the livestock keepers have gained more know-how and have more faith in their own milk production."*



# Central Africa

## Democratic Republic of Congo



Despite its natural resources and agricultural potential, the Democratic Republic of Congo has the lowest human development index (HDI) of all recorded nations. In fact this wealth of materials is why the country struggles under armed conflict, especially in the northeast. In 2012, the M23 rebel movement temporarily occupied the city of Goma, the provincial capital of North Kivu province. The inhabitants live in continuous fear of violence and often have to flee, abandoning their fields. Vétérinaires Sans Frontières Belgium supports disadvantaged families in North Kivu province through small livestock keeping. Animals such as sheep, goats and rabbits do not require a lot of space and can be taken to safety when threatened with looting. They make an essential contribution to these families' food security.

**Project to promote livestock among vulnerable urban groups in the city of Butembo (PROMELVU)**

Donor: DGD

Duration: 3 years (since 2011)

Total budget: € 354,375

Local partner: Réseau WIMA

**Project to combat vulnerability through small livestock in the province of North Kivu (LUVUPEL)**

Donors: Belgian Fund for Food Security, municipality of Zoersel

Duration: 6 years (since 2007)

Total budget: € 2,358,062

Local partner: Réseau WIMA



*"I received a rabbit kit from Vétérinaires Sans Frontières Belgium: two does and one buck, materials to house the rabbits and a training course. The two does have already become pregnant four times in one year. In total they have had 60 young, 15 of which died prematurely. By selling 10 rabbits I was able to feed my children and my chronically ill mother, and buy material to construct extra rabbit hutches. I was also able to pay my children's school fees. We have eaten five rabbits ourselves and given 11 to other disadvantaged families in order to maintain the chain of solidarity."*



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## Rwanda

In the last decade, Rwanda has seen considerable economic progress but remains dependent on foreign aid. Food production is not meeting demand and the country has to import food for its rapidly growing population. Furthermore, almost half of the population lives beneath the poverty line. In the Southern Province, which is the poorest in the country, *Vétérinaires Sans Frontières* Belgium helps disadvantaged families to ease their way out of poverty by providing small livestock (rabbits, goats and pigs) and improving access to veterinary care.

Project to promote local and private veterinary services in southern Rwanda (PROXIVET II)

Donor: DGD

Duration: 3 years (since 2011)

Total budget: € 930,035

Local partner: IMBARAGA



Félicien Hishamunda  
private vet from Nyanza, Rwanda

*“I started up my own practice in the area where I was born. To start with, I didn’t have enough materials to treat all animal illnesses correctly. I prioritised the most urgent diseases, caused by worms and ticks. Since 2011 I have received support from *Vétérinaires Sans Frontières* Belgium. I received training on business management, accounting and artificial insemination. The organisation also helped me to procure veterinary products, surgical equipment and a motorbike to travel around the hills to the farmers and their herds. I have even managed to open a second pharmacy in my birthplace, Mukingo, in the same district. I now work with another vet as the livestock keepers need us so often.”*

# East Africa

## Kenya

The indigenous knowledge of the social systems of the Kenyan livestock keepers in the regions of Turkana, Samburu and Garissa is essential in drawing up peace accords between different peoples, tribe members and even across borders. Vétérinaires Sans Frontières Belgium aims to strengthen the resilience of the livestock keepers in these arid and semi-arid regions through conflict management, better access to water and grasslands and by promoting activities which create extra income. The NGO also supports affected farmers in restoring their herds and farming activities following the severe drought and famine in 2011.

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### Emergency program in the arid areas of Turkana and Garissa (La Niña 2)

Donor: ECHO via Oxfam  
Duration: 6 months  
Total budget: € 723,846  
Local partner: TUPADO

### Emergency program in the arid areas of Turkana and Garissa (La Niña 3)

Donor: ECHO via Oxfam  
Duration: 14 months (since 2012)  
Total budget: € 800,000

### Donkey welfare and livelihoods (DOWELI)

Donor: The Brooke  
Duration: 1 year  
Total budget: € 112,495

### Emergency and early recovery for host communities

Donor: FAO  
Duration: 6 months  
Total budget: € 64,894  
Local partner: TUPADO

### Economic recovery and market systems

Donor: FAO  
Duration: 6 months  
Total budget: € 149,855

### Poultry and bee keeping project

Donor: FAO  
Duration: 6 months  
Total budget: € 77,755

### Strengthening pastoralist communities' drought resilience in the arid and semi-arid lands of Kenya

Donor: Belgian Consortium for Emergency Situations 12-12  
Duration: 2 years (since 2012)  
Total budget: € 200,000  
Local partner: TUPADO

### Open sustainable livelihood opportunities for poor households in Dadaab district

Donor: Belgian Consortium for Emergency Situations 12-12  
Duration: 2 years (since 2012)  
Total budget: € 200,000



Riada Nyibayo  
Turkana chicken farmer and member of the pastoral field school from Lokibaa, Kenya

*“Through training, technical expertise and material input from Vétérinaires Sans Frontières Belgium, the members of our pastoral field school have managed to rear 1,000 one-day-old chicks into adult chickens. We have found that keeping poultry is a lucrative activity: we can eat the eggs and sell the cockerels. Our children can now eat better thanks to the eggs. The profits from the poultry farming can now fulfil our daily basic needs as well as paying our children’s school fees. Furthermore, it’s safer because hostile clans don’t steal poultry, only the larger stock. And it’s cheaper to breed chickens: you don’t need much space, feed or water. They don’t need any special care either as they walk around freely in their chicken-run.”*



## South Sudan

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The world's youngest nation is still at loggerheads with Sudan. Conflict over oil revenues led to violent confrontation and bombardment in the border region of the countries in 2012. South Sudan derives 98% of its income from oil production but depends on Sudan for transport via pipelines and the harbour. Nevertheless, livestock farming can still play a crucial role in the country's further development and food provision. However, the sector is struggling to develop due to animal diseases, harsh climate, insecurity, etc. Vétérinaires Sans Frontières Belgium works closely with the Ministry for Livestock to develop better veterinary care for transhumant herds, including training of local animal health workers. By diversifying their income sources, the livestock keepers are better equipped to deal with external shocks of a natural, economic or human nature.

### Emergency veterinary support program III in Warrap, Western Equatoria, Central Equatoria, Unity, Jonglei, Upper Nile and Lakes states (EVSP III)

Donor: USAID

Duration: 13 months (since May 2011)

Our budget: \$ 1,000,000  
(total budget: \$ 2,900,000)

Consortium led by Vétérinaires Sans Frontières Belgium: Vétérinaires Sans Frontières Germany and Switzerland

### Emergency veterinary support program IV in Warrap, Central Equatoria, Unity, Jonglei and Upper Nile and Lakes states (EVSP IV)

Donor: USAID

Duration: 1 year (since July 2012)

Our budget: \$ 1,016,800

(total budget: \$ 2,500,000)

Consortium led by Vétérinaires Sans Frontières Belgium: Vétérinaires Sans Frontières Germany and Switzerland

### Reintegration and recovery for returnees, internally displaced persons (IDPs) and host communities whose livestock based livelihoods are at risk in Upper Nile and Jonglei states

Donor: CHF

Duration: 9 months (since April 2012)

Total budget: \$ 380,000

### Emergency livestock intervention in Jonglei and Upper Nile states

Donor: CHF

Duration: 1 year (since October 2012)

Total budget: \$ 200,000

### Livestock epidemio-surveillance project in all 10 states of South Sudan (LESP)

Donor: European Union

Duration: 6 years (since January 2007)

Total budget: € 3,550,000

### Food security recovery program in Lakes state (FSRP)

Donor: European Union

Duration: 4 years (since 2009)

Total budget: € 1,500,004

### Enhancing community based resource utilization to secure livelihoods in Lakes state

Donor: Elisabeth and Amélie Foundation

Duration: 6 months (since August 2012)

Total budget: € 33,285

### Support to horticultural and poultry production and agro-processing activities in Juba Town, Central Equatoria state

Donor: FAO

Duration: 1 year (since March 2012)

Total budget: SSP 140,990

## Uganda



Though Uganda has been stable for over thirty years with strong economic growth, the region of Karamoja is far behind in this development. Malnutrition amongst children is alarmingly high and hundreds of thousands of livestock keepers are suffering due to on-going conflicts over access to water and pastures. A good rainy season did provide sufficient grassland and water in 2012 but disease affected the livestock's productivity. Vétérinaires Sans Frontières Belgium therefore aims to improve the access to veterinary care, by training community animal health workers, among other things. By encouraging peace meetings between rival clans, improving sustainable water and pasture management, and supporting activities which provide extra income, the population is able to overcome crisis situations.



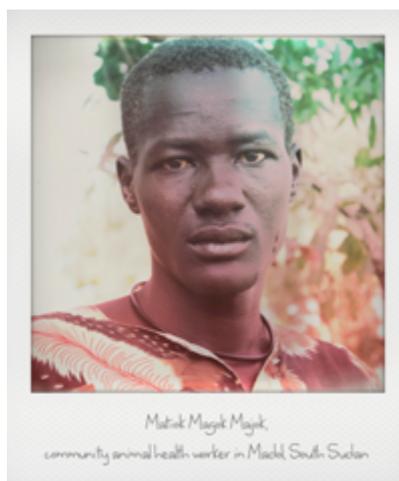
### Karamoja livestock development program (KLDP II)

Donors: DGD, province of Vlaams-Brabant

Duration: 3 years (since 2011)

Total budget: € 580,313

Local partner: MADEFO



*“My community appointed me to do this work. The government, the local chief and the elderly told me I was chosen to look after the animals using modern medicines. When an animal is ill, we go to the city and bring back medicines. I accepted this job because our herds are more important to us than anything here in South Sudan. They are all that keeps us alive.”*



*“Vétérinaires Sans Frontières Belgium supports us in protecting the environment and mitigating the impact of external shocks such as drought and flooding. The organisation shows us how we can grow vegetables by using various techniques and terracing. We are also learning more about hygiene and protecting our water sources. We, like our neighbours the Turkana in Kenya, are reaping the rewards of this. We share grazing lands and water and it has brought peace in the region.”*

# Regional projects



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## **FSTP: regional initiative to support vulnerable livestock keepers and agro-pastoralists in the Horn of Africa**

Food insecurity and consecutive droughts are a constant threat to livestock keepers in Kenya and Uganda. That's why Vétérinaires Sans Frontières Belgium, in cooperation with its local partner organisations TUPADO (in Kenya), DADO and KADP (in Uganda), supports agro-pastoralist communities in the regions of Karamoja (Uganda) and Turkana (Kenya). The initiative significantly improves the way of life and resilience of agro-pastoralists by diversifying their means of subsistence and reinforcing the institutional and policy frameworks. Consequently, communities will be better prepared for disasters thanks to planning and community action.

Donor: European Commission via FAO  
Duration: 2 years (since 2011)  
Total budget: \$ 200,000

## **L4L: livestock for livelihoods**

The African continent consists largely of dry areas where water, fertile soil and vegetation are scarce. In the continent's fragile ecosystems, pastoralists and their livestock, sedentary farmers, wildlife, governments and private companies compete for these limited natural resources. Vétérinaires Sans Frontières Belgium supports livestock keepers in Eastern Africa - the border regions between Ethiopia, Kenya, South Sudan and Uganda - and Western Africa - the border regions between Benin, Burkina

Faso and Niger - to strengthen their adaptive capacities to cope with climate change, and by proposing livelihood alternatives and less conflicting solutions.

Donor: European Commission via African Union  
Duration: 3 years (since 2010)  
Our budget: € 616,350 (East Africa); \$ 143,325 (West Africa)  
Partners: IUCN, AWF

## **TRYRAC: improving the management of trypanosomiasis in small-scale livestock systems in Sub-Saharan Africa, which are plagued by tsetse flies**

Trypanosomiasis is a parasitic disease transmitted by the tsetse fly. Vétérinaires Sans Frontières Belgium and its partners are investigating whether the parasite (*Trypanosoma*) is building up resistance to trypanocidal medicines. Resistance counteracts the management of the animal disease and affects the lives of millions of small-scale livestock keepers in Sub-Saharan Africa. TRYRAC aims to map out and control the development of such resistance in Ethiopia, Mozambique and Togo; first and foremost, by developing better protocols and tools for detecting trypanocidal resistance, and also by researching the qualities of the trypanocidal medicines available. The project also aims to develop strategies to improve the effect of such treatments on cattle. Vétérinaires Sans Frontières Belgium is responsible for disseminating these strategies among all those concerned, from policymakers and lab

technicians to vets and livestock keepers alike.

Donor: European Commission  
Duration: 5 years (since March 2012)  
Our budget: € 420,680  
Partners: Institute of Tropical Medicine in Antwerp, Freie Universität Berlin, Leibniz Universität Hannover, CIRDES, University of Pretoria, veterinary services in Ethiopia, Mozambique and Togo

## PARTNERSHIPS



## FINANCIAL PARTNERS



Gillès Foundation, Consortium I2-12  
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**HEADQUARTERS / BRUSSELS**

Avenue Paul Deschanellaan 36-38, 1030 Brussels, Belgium  
T +32 (0)2 539 09 89, F +32 (0)2 539 34 90, E [info@vsf-belgium.org](mailto:info@vsf-belgium.org)  
[www.veterinaire.sans.frontieres.be](http://www.veterinaire.sans.frontieres.be)

**REGIONAL COORDINATION / EAST AFRICA**

PO BOX 13986, 00800, Lavington, Nairobi, Kenya  
T +254 (0)20 273 4518, E [vsfb@vsfb.or.ke](mailto:vsfb@vsfb.or.ke)

**REGIONAL COORDINATION / WEST AFRICA**

BP 12 632 Niamey, Niger  
T +227 20 72 52 01, F +227 20 72 23 95, E [s.pil@vsf-belgium.org](mailto:s.pil@vsf-belgium.org)

**REGIONAL COORDINATION / CENTRAL AFRICA**

Kigali, Rwanda  
T +250 787 773374, E [d.ripoche@vsf-belgium.org](mailto:d.ripoche@vsf-belgium.org)