



DIERENARTSEN | VETERINAIRES
ZONDER GRENZEN | SANS FRONTIERES

BELGIUM



2014 | ACTIVITY REPORT
VÉTÉRINAIRES SANS FRONTIÈRES BELGIUM



HDI

The calculation of the human development index of the United Nations is based on life expectancy, education and income by country. The 187 countries are ranked in a list: the lower a country is on the list, the harder the living conditions of its population.

Belgium: 21
Kenya: 147
Rwanda: 151
Uganda: 164
Mali: 176
Burundi: 180
Burkina Faso: 181
DR Congo: 186
Niger: 187

South Sudan* (The HDI of South Sudan is not yet available since the country's independence on 9th July 2011).

Preface

The Greek philosopher Heraclitus already said 500 years BC that “change is the only constant in life”.

What should we remember from 2014? Many, many changes!

We had to put an end to our intervention in South Sudan, reduce our activities in Kenya and merge two regions in the new Great Lakes area that has been active since early 2015.

The most remarkable thing during these difficult times though was the commitment and the loyalty shown by our teams and partners. This separation is certainly painful but we have the certainty that we are able to continue our work, enriched by an experience shared over many years of collaboration.

At the same time, 2014 also was synonymous with novelties: we started a long-term project in Burundi within the frame of the 2014-2016 three-year programme financed by the Belgian Cooperation. We also prepared our arrival in Tanzania where our programme will be fully operational as from the second quarter 2015. In West Africa, two new regional initiatives oriented towards pastoralism and livestock trade also were prepared in the minutest detail.

All our regional teams, including the one promoting development education in Belgium, have kept providing quality work and thanks to the support and trust of our individual and institutional donors, we have met our co-financing goals. Furthermore, our auditor

KPMG rewarded all our administrative efforts of the last few years with a positive audit report. All these have enabled us to establish a stable budget for 2015.

The international development context evolves more quickly than ever before: it becomes more complicated, new cooperation forms are being established with the emerging powers, and the problems of rising inequality are spreading to all countries – both in the North and in the South – and this requires a change towards a more inclusive and sustainable development model. We need to adapt to it, for instance by trying to establish new synergies with other organisations, by consolidating our market and expanding our scope of intervention through the networks that we are a part of, for instance VSF-International or the Coalition of European Lobbies on Eastern African Pastoralism, which soon will be extended to West Africa.

In Belgium we devote a great deal of attention to the strengthening of our social base, particularly livestock professionals, both current and future. We are slowly forging new links with the veterinary profession. As an example, we have reconnected with the different professional associations and a group of veterinaries now wishes to be actively involved in the organisation.

Dear friends, sympathizers, partners, volunteers, donors, and dear team of Vétérinaires Sans Fron-

tières Belgium, I thank you all wholeheartedly for all the challenges that you have been enabling us to respond to on a daily basis. Together, step by step, we are building a fairer, more equitable and more united world.



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.vsf-belgium.org and can be obtained on request from info@vsf-belgium.org or +32 (0)2 5390989.

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 attaches importance to respect, transparency and sustainability. The organisation 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 enter into 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 (both 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 its partners,

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 the sector's ethical and quality standards.



You have a right to information

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

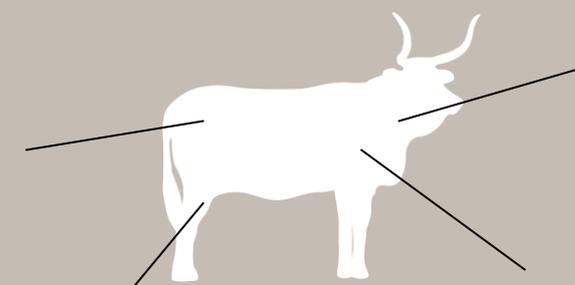
TARGET GROUP

In the South we work with transhumant pastoralists and agro-pastoralists who practice family farming. In the North we focus our efforts on students and professionals in the livestock sector, policymakers and consumers.

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, in order to distribute risks more evenly whilst promoting 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.

Themes

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. The NGO and its partners support these private vets with training and materials. 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 and/or the government. The villagers themselves decide who takes the courses, which last from a couple of weeks to several months. The community animal health workers 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. They 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.

Community animal health workers and private vets form a real network which brings animal health care to livestock keepers in rural areas. Vétérinaires Sans Frontières Belgium started implementing this approach in Niger ten years ago with great success. It is now even recognized by the Nigerien authorities. In the future, Vétérinaires Sans Frontières Belgium plans to apply this system in other countries and adapt it to the different local contexts.

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, flooding 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, healthier and more productive when they receive sufficient, high-quality feed. Therefore Vétérinaires Sans Frontières Belgium organises participatory courses on feed and strategic nutritional supplements that are available locally. 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.





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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. They are a source of proteins, minerals, micronutrients and vitamins, which are essential for children's physical and mental development. 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 and to use garden leftovers to feed the animals. 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. In some areas, farmers can supply their stock to adapted slaughterhouses. They are trained in trading techniques so that they can better estimate the financial value of their livestock. Vétérinaires Sans Frontières Belgium also improves the management of existing livestock markets by supporting the local authorities and encouraging them to invest in their region's livestock sector.

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 strategic 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.

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 cooperatives learn, through technical and simple accounting courses, to generate and manage direct revenues.

Micro-credits

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 - economic initiatives which generate extra income or lend money when the need is the greatest. The livestock keepers are trained in

microcredits and organisational management.

Vétérinaires Sans Frontières Belgium is signing a convention with the local Microfinance Institutions of several countries in order to insure a fair and sustainable access to credits as well as the renewed investments for rural professionals (private veterinaries and community animal health workers). This type of agreement also allows to insure the financial

resources of small-scale livestock breeding organisations and to increase their working capital.

Equal opportunities

One of the essentials in sustainable development and the fight against poverty is that women be given the opportunity to improve their situations. In many African countries the roles of men and women are often strictly defined, even when it comes to rearing livestock. For example, a woman

may be allowed to own certain types of animal, but only use others. Vétérinaires Sans Frontières Belgium works towards equal opportunities for all. We pay particular attention to women and socially vulnerable groups by improving their worth and economic independence through livestock keeping, using means such as microcredit, training and the provision of small livestock.

Healthy environment

Long droughts and devastating downpours, both consequences of climate change, increasingly ravage the Africa continent. Managing water and grassland sustainably and peacefully enables the livestock keepers to build their resilience to the extremes of the climate and limits their impact on the environment. In addition, Vétérinaires Sans Frontières Belgium tries to improve the transformation of medical waste in some countries and to transform cow manure into green energy.

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 Belgium. The commu-



nities also prepare fire-breaks to prevent fires from destroying hundreds of hectares of grassland. In practical 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 rival 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 seasonal

cattle migration. 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, complemented by new insights and techniques.

Environmental impact

In Niger, Vétérinaires Sans Frontières Belgium has launched a

reflection process with private veterinarians in order to set up the equipment intended to destroy all used material and to avoid additional pollution risks in our intervention areas.

In Rwanda, the integration of livestock breeding in the biogas production as a source of energy for the needs of the family has allowed to reduce the use of both

firewood and charcoal and hence to limit deforestation.

Sustainable partnerships

Local partner organisations

Vétérinaires Sans Frontières Belgium considers that a partnership is not restricted to the common execution of development programmes. It also aims at a mutual reinforcement of the capacities of civil society both in the North and in the South, in a spirit of international solidarity and sustainable development at economic, social and environmental levels.

Through its partnerships, Vétérinaires Sans Frontières Belgium is increasingly trying to play a role of facilitator/guide. This translates into a disengagement from the execution of the programmes while supporting the complementarities and synergies between the actors. Thanks to these partnerships, the actors in the South become more autonomous and take on more responsibilities in the fulfilment of their mission.

Donors and volunteers

Everyone who supports the mission of Vétérinaires Sans Frontières Belgium deserves a special thank you. Every year the organisation relies on the loyal support of countless donors and the help of dozens of volunteers. It is thanks to the donors and the support provided by many sympathisers that livestock keepers in Africa are able to make a decent living.

Awareness-raising, education and advocacy

It is essential that European society builds towards a fairer world, in which food is sustainably produced and consumed around the world. Any support provided for family farmers in Africa calls for action in Belgium and Europe.

The activities of Vétérinaires Sans Frontières Belgium in the North, which revolve around awareness-raising, development education and advocacy, fall under three programmes:

Development Education and Awareness Raising (DEAR)

Donor: DGD

Duration: 3 years (since 2014)

Total budget: € 750,062

Students for Sustainable Agriculture (S4SA)

Donor: Flanders International Cooperation Agency (VAIS)

Duration: 3 years (since 2013)

Total budget: € 207,650

Sustainable and conscious consumption

In 2014, Vétérinaires Sans Frontières Belgium organised several conferences and seminars and also took part in different events in order to increase understanding and raise awareness among Belgian consumers of a well-reasoned consumption of products of animal origin. For example, on World Milk Day – during which Manneken Pis urinated milk – Vétérinaires Sans Frontières Belgium collaborated with Biodia and Wervel to raise consumers' awareness of milk

consumption, an important issue allowing to strengthen the links between producers and consumers in the North and in the South. Sustainable consumption also played a dominant role in the work carried out by Vétérinaires Sans Frontières Belgium in different networks, such as in its contribution to the 11 11 11 campaign focusing on the right to food and the fight against food waste.

You may also have met Vétérinaires Sans Frontières Belgium at Expovet in Ghent, at Bruxelles Champêtre, at betropive's symposium in Ath, at Vétérinexpo in Ciney or even at Libramont's agricultural fair.

Move with Africa & Code Aventure



The project Move with Africa, which was organised for the second year in a row, gave the opportunity to 12 students of the Collège Bellevue in Dinant to live an intense experience in Rwanda in collaboration with our on-site partner and team. The teenagers were for instance able to discuss with students from the University of Butare and to participate in our activities in the Southern Province. As the project was organised by La Libre Belgique, this exchange visit received wide media coverage. Upon their return, the students also raised their classmates and teachers' awareness of the importance of animal health and family farming.



Besides, a 13-year old reporter also flew to Rwanda within the framework of the RTBF TV show "Code Aventure" in order to discover the local ways of producing and consuming livestock prod-

ucts. Along with a young Rwandan, he met the local livestock keepers and realized how important animals, small-scale livestock breeding and milk production are. A report on the importance of animal health for livestock keeping was also broadcasted in the TV show "Les Niouzz".

Students and livestock professionals

Vétérinaires Sans Frontières Belgium carries out or supports awareness-raising activities among the agricultural and veterinary students across the country, for instance by intervening in colleges or universities as well as by guiding groups of students formed within the framework of the JAGROS and the "Students for Sustainable Agriculture" (S4SA) projects. Our close collaboration with the teachers of the 5 agronomical colleges in Wallonia has resulted in the writing of a course on food sovereignty, which represents a lasting way of integrating the issues related to sustainable breeding in the students' curriculum.



In addition to that, following a contest organised early 2014, two ambassadors were selected to represent our organisation during one year. After participating in an

exchange trip to Rwanda, these ambassadors organised several activities in order to explain their experience and raise awareness among the veterinary profession and the general public of food sovereignty and small-scale livestock keeping. These activities will intensify in 2015 in order to further mobilize Belgian veterinaries in favour of international solidarity. New ambassadors out of the veterinary sector will also be selected in 2015 and take part in an exchange trip.

Advocacy

Vétérinaires Sans Frontières Belgium raises awareness among politicians on improving nutrition and on the role of pastoralism via networks such as the Coalition Against Hunger and the Coalition of European Lobbies on Eastern African Pastoralism (CELEP), which both stand up for the interests of livestock keepers in the South vis-à-vis policy makers. In 2014, our organisation also took part in a research programme together with ADGembloux, the Red Cross, Entraide et Fraternité and Le Monde Selon Les Femmes on "Nutrition and Gender". This work was brought out in several publications and open events. It should also be pointed out that within the framework of the work carried out by Vétérinaires Sans Frontières Belgium as focus of the CELEP, nine partners in East Africa were invited to and participated in several meetings with European authorities. Finally, an article about the future of pastoralists in Africa was published in collaboration with Mo*magazine.

**Active in
9 African countries**



West Africa

NIGER

Niger has approximately 17,1 million inhabitants, 81% of whom live in the countryside. Despite the tensions in the region the country's political situation remains fairly stable. Although Niger is experiencing good general economic growth, more than 43% of its population is living below the poverty line. Every year between May and August – a period that is also known as “hunger gap” –, over one third of the population faces food insecurity. Chronic and acute malnutrition rates have been alarming for a decade now.

In this context, livestock keeping provides opportunities for development. Livestock accounts for 15% of the family budget and provides one quarter of the food. Recurrent droughts severely impact the cattle of the poorest people. For livestock keepers, the impact of these crises is even worse as it may result in the nearly total loss of their productive capital. In order to face this challenge, Vétérinaires Sans Frontières Belgium has developed several actions together with its local partners CESAO and KARKARA, aiming at strengthening the early alarm system, the prevention, rehabilitation and support for the development of populations living from livestock breeding. “Pastoral Field Schools” (small-scale livestock keeping training units) play a key role in the local analysis of the risks, practices and behaviours in order to come up with solutions taking into account the results of the research as well as of the most efficient local practices.



Program to support the livestock sector (PASEL)

Donor: DDC

Duration: 4 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, CNCN-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 II)

Donor: DGD

Duration: 3 years (since 2014)

Total budget: € 425,223

Local partner: KARKARA

Project to support livestock in the departments of Dosso (APELDOSSO)

Donor: DGD

Duration: 3 years (since 2014)

Total budget: € 849,603

Local partner: CESAO-PRN

Project Nariindu

Donor: AFD

Duration: 3 years (since June 2012)

Total budget: € 504,130

Partners: IRAM, KARKARA, AREN, Réseau Billital Maroobe

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

“All members of our group are milk processors. Before, we used to travel over 20km to go to Say’s market and sell our dairy products (curds and butter). We even had to pay almost 2€ to cross the river in a dugout, which significantly reduced our proceeds from the sale of milk. Since Kollo’s collection centre was created, thanks to the support of Vétérinaires Sans Frontières Belgium, the collector buys our milk at a better price, just in front of our huts. So, while reducing the time devoted to this activity, we can better provide for our family’s daily food and our children’s education.”

Hamsatou Siddo, President of the Women’s Group of Boulaye Kollo - Niger.



“I am grateful and at the same time indebted to my community, which has chosen me and appreciates my local veterinary services. I am also grateful to Vétérinaires Sans Frontières Belgium for their support that has allowed me to become one of the leaders of my community. Apart from being an advisor to livestock breeders, the trainings I received and my 4-year experience have enabled me to develop entrepreneur skills. Today, I pay people to cultivate my field and devote myself entirely to my duties of community animal health worker. Feeding my family, educating my children and all other basic needs do not worry me any longer. Yet, four years ago I struggled to support my family. Since then, I have built my house and I even have a television and a satellite antenna. Even better: I save money every month to renew my motorcycle that was purchased thanks to Vétérinaires Sans Frontières Belgium.” Saidou Dodo, Community animal health worker of Mokko - Niger

MALI

The landlocked Sahel country of Mali is very vulnerable to food insecurity and malnutrition. In the north of the country, the armed conflict continues despite the intervention of the international community. Local or displaced populations lack access to basic services, production services and markets. The economy is highly dependent on crop farming and livestock keeping, which employs 80% of the population (16 million). With more than 43 million animals, Mali is a real “livestock country”. Yet in the areas of health, food, genetics and economy there are many problems that limit the productivity of the livestock. The armed conflict in the north of the country also exacerbates the situation. By supporting rural veterinarian practices, small dairy farms, livestock markets, herd mobility, feed banks and training, Vétérinaires Sans Frontières Belgium, along with its local partners, aims to improve the welfare of disadvantaged livestock keeper’s families.

Project to develop livestock keeping in Koulikoro and Kita (PRODEL-K III)

Donor: DGD

Duration: 3 years (since 2014)

Total budget: € 738,404.53

Local partner: ICD

Project to support food diversification in the circle of Banamba (PADABA)

Donor: EU

Duration: 41 months (since 2011)

Total budget: € 1,797,700

In consortium with ACF, HI

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

Project to support women’s organisations through small livestock keeping in the circle of Kati (PAFEC III)

Donor: DGD

Duration: 3 years (since 2014)

Total budget: € 382,665.10

BURKINA FASO



Burkina Faso is a country in which agriculture, forestry and livestock keeping are extremely important. More than 85% of families derive at least some of their income from livestock. Just like other countries of the Sahel, Burkina Faso is suffering through climate change, which is having serious effects on the local ecosystems. On top of that, thousands of Malian refugees and their cattle still live in the north, which places the already scarce natural resources under even greater pressure. In October 2014, the country

went through a popular uprising that altered the political regime in power. Though transitional structures have sufficient authority at the central level to make decisions, the new delegations established to replace the old municipalities struggle to find their bearings. In this difficult context Vétérinaires Sans Frontières Belgium and its Burkinabe partner, A2N, are joining to meet the needs of the local population through a combination of emergency aid, rehabilitation and development.

“I am really touched by the commercialisation approach developed by the ZEPASA II project. I have here the tidy sum of 200 000 CFA francs that I obtained by selling my cow at home. It is the first time ever since I was born that I sold an animal directly to a trader. I did not need to go through the usual intermediaries to do it. Neither did I need to travel or pay a shepherd to bring it to the cattle market in Dori or Gorom, which are both really far from my village.”

Testimony of an agro-pastoralist during the bundling selling session held in an intervention village in Gaigou, in the municipality of Gorom



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

Seeds for Solutions (milk as a solution for the improvement of the living conditions and self-sufficiency of Malian refugees and host communities in Burkina Faso)

Donors: UNHCR, IKEA Foundation

Duration: 12 months (since 2014), with possibility of renewal until 2017

Total budget: € 485,061

Local partner: A2N

Central Africa



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DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

The province of North Kivu, in the eastern part of the Democratic Republic of Congo, is facing many problems, particularly the uncertainty caused by the presence of many militarised groups. In 2013, the M23 troops withdrew from Goma following skirmishes with the Congolese army and the UN peacekeeping force. The retreat of the ADF-NALU rebels who were operating in the Beni territory early 2014 brought some sense of calm back to the area and the population went back to its rural activities. Unfortunately, this respite was short-lived and attacks on villagers resumed in the area during the fourth quarter of 2014. These conflicts force the population to be constantly on the move. Luckily, none of our beneficiaries was harmed by these attacks and Vétérinaires Sans Frontières Belgium and its local partner, Réseau WIMA, have kept helping disadvantaged families in the region. The distribution system of rabbits and small ruminants by the village committee through the self-managed revolving credit keeps evolving. The small livestock is crucial to the families' food security.

Project for food security through small livestock farming in the province of North Kivu

Donor: Belgian Fund for Food Security
Duration: 5 years (since 2013)
Total budget: € 3,132,463
Local partner: Réseau WIMA



Victorine Kyakimwa is head of household; she is 43, has 5 dependent children and lives in Mulo, a village located 50 km south of Butembo in Western Congo.

In 2009, Victorine was selected as beneficiary of Vétérinaires Sans Frontières Belgium's support because despite all her efforts she struggled to pay school fees and food for her children.

Victorine received three rabbits (including one male), three double-cages and the necessary trainings on livestock keeping techniques. Today, thanks to their reproduction, Victorine has twenty-eight female rabbits. Besides paying school fees and food for her children, the proceeds of her production has also allowed her to buy a field worth \$190. She enriches the soil with her rabbits' excrements and grows potatoes, beans and manioc.

In 2013, the village committee, which was set up by the LUSAPEL project and is in charge of the livestock breeding follow-up in the village, selected Victorine as best cattle keeper and offered her a bigger hutch to improve her livestock breeding. Given her successful management, she was also appointed treasurer of the committee. She now feels more responsible because she takes part in meetings as executive rather than simple beneficiary. Her role within the committee also adds to her social standing in the village.

RWANDA

2014 was characterized by the organisation of many events across the country to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the genocide that devastated Rwanda during 100 days back in 1994. Since then and over the last twenty years, Rwanda has launched an extraordinary reconstruction and development process, reaching an average yearly economic growth of 8%. At the same time, the reconciliation process initiated by the authorities has resulted in a restored security and peace across the country. However, in spite of this exceptional rebound, a great poverty persists in the country, particularly in rural areas of the Southern Province, which remains the less developed of the country with 56% of the population still living under the poverty line.

Therefore, Vétérinaires Sans Frontières Belgium and its local partner IMBARAGA are helping those rural households through a programme ran in 3 districts of the Southern Province. The EVE project continues to help the most vulnerable households thanks to small livestock keeping (goats, pigs and rabbits), its support to income-generating activities within agro-pastoralist groups and the setting up of private veterinaries in rural areas. A new major and innovating component was integrated in the project, namely the access to energy and the environmental protection through the production of renewable energy (biogas) thanks to the installation of bio-digesters in small-scale dairy farms.

Green Energy and Livestock (EVE)

Donor: DGD

Duration: 3 years (since 2014)

Total budget: € 887,034

Local partner : IMBARAGA

"I lived a long time in poverty. My family suffered from hunger, I had no animals and I barely could grow anything on my 4000-square meter plot. No one in my family had health insurance. During the wet season, we could barely sleep because it was raining inside our house. I used to live isolated because I did not dare to go and meet other people or participate in the village meetings. I was ashamed of myself.

In 2011, my family was recognised as vulnerable and we received the project's support. An animal shelter was built and we received two goats, three female rabbits and three cages, as well as a kitchen garden. Six months later, I could sell twenty rabbits of reproductive age. Thanks to this money, I bought a piglet and health insurance cards for my family. Sometime later, I rented a plot to grow manioc. Today, I do not have food problems anymore because thanks to the manure, my small plot produces 200kg of beans, instead of 27kg earlier. When I need money, I sell two or three rabbits. I even paid back the animals offered by the project to another vulnerable household. At the moment, I have one cow, two pigs, three goats and twenty-six rabbits, and I surely intend to go on like this!"

Josué Rwanyagatare, 54, 2 young children, village of Kigarama, Nyanza District, Southern Province, Rwanda.



BURUNDI

Landlocked in the centre of Africa, Burundi struggles to recover from over a decade of civil war. Despite its strong potential deriving from its mining and hydraulic resources, the country remains highly exposed to food insecurity. Among other things, this can be explained by its high population density (>310 inhabitants/sq. km) that has thwarted the immediate prospect of food sovereignty while soil's fertility is decreasing. Consequently, the living conditions of agro-pastoralists are declining day after day and child mortality remains particularly high in rural areas. Given all these difficulties, Vétérinaires Sans Frontières Belgium has decided along with its local partner UCODE/AMR to help vulnerable agro-pastoralists of the Province of Ngozi through multiple actions aiming at improving their economic and food security.

Project for the development of small livestock (DEPEL)

Donor: DGD

Duration: 3 years (since 2014)

Total budget: € 621,624

Local partner : UNCODE-AMR



Gloriose Havyarimana, 39, 4 children including one attending school, Municipality of Ngozi.

“Before the intervention of Vétérinaires Sans Frontières Belgium, I had a very limited agricultural production and I desperately needed dung for my small plot. Today, thanks to the four goats (including three pregnant females) and the different trainings that I received from the project, I am hoping to have enough manure for my plots and to find revenues to send my children to school, take care of my family and buy ourselves better clothes. My goal is to have enough rabbits to buy a heifer and eventually be able to sell and consume its milk.”

East Africa

KENYA

In the regions of Garissa and Turkana, Vétérinaires Sans Frontières Belgium has been working, along with its local partners, with vulnerable pastoral and agro-pastoral communities to build their resilience. By encouraging the livestock keepers to diversify their livelihoods, for example through poultry and honey production, their food security and nutrition improves. Furthermore, focus in Kenya has been on livestock asset protection, animal welfare and the implementation of disaster risk reduction, in order to build community resilience to external shocks such as drought and livestock diseases. After over twenty years of intervention, our NGO is forced to put an end to its activities in Kenya due to insufficient funding for long-term projects.

Donkey welfare and livelihood project (DOWELI)

Donor: The Brooke

Duration: 9 months (since July 2014)

Total budget: € 74.500

Support program for poultry breeding in Kitui and Makueni, Eastern Province

Donor: FAO

Duration: 6 months

Total budget: \$ 161,816

Strengthening of security in the community of the Loïma district, Turkana

Donor: FAO

Duration: 1 year (since April 2014)

Total budget: \$ 178,150

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 May 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 May 2012)

Total budget: € 200,000



“I would like to commend the excellent work that Vétérinaires Sans Frontières Belgium has accomplished during all these years in Turkana in collaboration with TUPADO. The help provided by organisations is often of limited duration. This is why Vétérinaires Sans Frontières Belgium set up and strengthened infrastructures and established strong partnerships with the local institutions, which will quickly be able to fill the void in case the partner puts an end to its operations. In the Kenyan part of the Karamoja sub-region, Vétérinaires Sans Frontières Belgium helped reinforce the local associations, i.e. TUPADO in Turkana and PGDP in Samburu. Thanks to this, Vétérinaires Sans Frontières Belgium will not need to worry about the continued support to the local populations in most of those regions after its leaving.

Sammy Ekal Adome, Programme manager, TUPADO

Livestock emergency response project I in Warrap state

Donor: CHF

Duration: 1 year (since March 2013)

Total budget: \$ 400,000

Livestock emergency response project II in Jonglei & Upper Nile state

Donor: CHF

Duration: 9 months (since October 2013)

Budget: \$ 616,535

Emergency support program for livestock vaccination and treatment in Central Equatoria, Jonglei, Lakes, Unity, Upper Nile and Warrap states

Donor: FAO

Duration: 5 months

Total budget: : € 240,141

SOUTH SUDAN

Three years after independence, South Sudan is still facing many challenges. Political tensions, violence, cutbacks, flooding, poor services and an underdeveloped infrastructure are making life more difficult for the rural population. By distributing goats, sheep and veterinary kits and by running vaccination campaigns, Vétérinaires Sans Frontières Belgium has enabled impoverished families and displaced livestock keepers to keep or reconstitute a herd and to have a source of food and revenues. However, in September 2014, we had to close our last project. Indeed, given the context, we were no longer able to obtain financing for those development projects over a sufficiently long period of time for them to have a lasting impact.

“Many animals were stolen by the rebels but I am confident that those remaining will not contract any disease. I thank Vétérinaires Sans Frontières Belgium and its donors for their massive support during these very critical moments. If the animals stay in good health, the child that you see there will survive because the cow will provide him milk three times a day for his meals. For my part, I will no longer need to worry and ask myself what he is going to eat.”

Mawut Mach (sitting on the picture).



Drugs and equipment – Livestock protection through a vaccination programme (Bor, Jonglei State).

UGANDA

Over 80% of the population in Karamoja, in Northern Uganda, rely on livestock keeping and subsistence farming. After years of food insecurity, the relative peace has enabled the village communities to seize different economic opportunities. Communities are indeed reconstituting the herds they lost during raids or as a result of a difficult access to pasture and water points. They are also involved in several flourishing economic activities through self-managed village community banks. On top of that, the rural communities' participation in the village saving banks offers them a social safety net allowing them to face risks and reduce their vulnerability. However, there are many challenges. In 2014, a foot-and-mouth disease outbreak resulted in the quarantining and prohibition of livestock products for human consumption during seven months. The war in South Sudan also had indirect impacts on the local population as livestock products missed out on some market opportunities. With the cooperation of MADEFO and DADO, Vétérinaires Sans Frontières Belgium kept supporting the cattle's health and productivity improvement by establishing an efficient network of community animal health workers, improving access to drinking water and supporting vaccination programmes in Moroto and Kaabong's districts.

“Thanks to the help provided by Vétérinaires Sans Frontières Belgium, I was able to acquire skills in terms of diagnosing animal diseases and identifying their treatments. This allowed me to offer veterinary services in my village and to get complementary revenues. Thanks to this, I have bought three cows and two bull-calves. I recently sold the mature bulls and bought a motorcycle, which enables me to further diversify my sources of income.”

Ayopo Andrew, Community animal health worker in Moroto



Karamoja livestock development program (KLDP II)

Donors: DGD, province of Vlaams-Brabant

Duration: 3 years (since 2014)

Total budget: € 621,624

Local partner: MADEFO, DADO

Better access to drinking water, sanitation and hygiene in the Kaabong district, Karamoja (WA-SAKA)

Donor: Gouvernement flamand

Duration: 2 years (since 2014)

Total budget: € 215,000

Partners: Protos, Ingénieurs Zonder Grenzen, MADEFO, DADO

Regional projects

TESO: Support for the vulnerable families of pastoralists and agro-pastoralists in the county of Téra (Niger) and the provinces of Oudalan and Séno (Burkina Faso)

In the border area between Mali, Niger and Burkina Faso, the local and refugee population is still impacted by climate events and the consequences of the armed conflict in the north of Mali. Vétérinaires Sans Frontières Belgium and its partners CESAO et A2N are active in this very area to reinforce livestock keepers' resilience through the creation of Pastoral Field Schools (small-scale livestock keeping training units), preventive conflict management and access to local veterinary services. Representatives of civil society, municipalities and decentralized technical services also receive a training on the Livestock Emergency "Guidelines and Standards" (LEGS). All these make it possible to preserve the livestock capital, which is essential to the survival of livestock keepers pastoralists.

Donor: USAID

Duration: 2 years (since April 2013)

Total budget: \$ 987.866

Local partner: CESAO-PRN, A2N

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. It affects the livelihoods of millions of small-scale livestock keepers in Sub-Saharan Africa. Through this project, Vétérinaires Sans Frontières Belgium and its partners strive for a better control of the disease and the resistance to trypanocides. In order to achieve these, the project aims at developing better tools to diagnose the disease and identify the causes of the resistance to trypanocides. Based on the results of a study conducted in Ethiopia, Mozambique and Togo on the prevalence of the disease and the effectiveness of treatments, the best strategies will be developed and popularised with the aim of achieving a more efficient control of the African trypanosomiasis.

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



ZAK (Zootechnical Analysis Kit): methodology and innovative toolbox for the zootechnical analysis in Sub-Saharan Africa

One of the problems of livestock keeping development programmes in Sub-Saharan countries lies in the lack of reliable zootechnical data about traditional forms of livestock keeping. This problem also arises on a broader scale, for instance within the ministries in charge of livestock breeding and the different development assistance structures.

Yet, in order to improve livestock keeping, it is essential to be able to analyse the zootechnical parameters of the herd so as to detect those presenting the failure and to find their causes with the livestock keepers in order to implement relevant and consensual corrective measures. It was to face these challenges that ZAK – a global analysis tool

of the zootechnical parameters – was created. This software's objective is to establish the zootechnical performances of the livestock during the previous year thanks to a unique survey. ZAK can be used for all animals, regardless of the type of breeding (peri-urban, agro-pastoralist, pastoralist, etc). All the data collected and processed provides information on many parameters, including the fertility and mortality rates, the herd's exploitation rate, and the internal numerical increase as well as the numerical productivity rates per reproductive female animal and per year. This information also provides interesting indications regarding the animal health situation as well as the economic aspects of the livestock sector.



Donor: Humanitarian Innovation Fund (ELRHA, Save the Children)

Duration: 6 months

Our budget: € 65,697

Partners: consultants Guy Van Vlaenderen and Guy Detienne, Ministry of Livestock in Niger, Burkina Faso and Uganda

VTropics

VTropics represents a consortium project consisting of Avia-GIS (Agriculture and Veterinary Information and Analysis-Geographic Information System) and MEDES (Institute for Space Medicine and Physiology). Avia-GIS, the consortium leader, is specialised in the gathering, processing and analysis of spatial information and in the conception of spatiotemporal information systems related to animal health, agriculture, public health and the environment. MEDES develops satellite communication means and epidemiologic monitoring tools. VTropics, their supporting system, aims at backing the national epidemiologic monitoring tools by improving communication and providing spatiotemporal decision-making tools. VTropics is financed by the European Space Agency's Integrated Applications Promotion Programme (IAP). Aiming at showing the relevance of this tool to potential users, the consortium cooperates with several final users such as Vétérinaires Sans Frontières Belgium and Uganda and Niger's State Veterinary Services. This 18-month demonstration phase started in 2014 with the formation of the focus in Niger and the distribution of smartphones for the gathering and transfer of data.

PARTNERSHIPS



FINANCIAL PARTNERS



And all the others who support us financially & technically.



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