



DIERENARTSEN | VETERINAIRES
ZONDER GRENZEN | SANS FRONTIERES

BELGIUM

ACTIVITY REPORT
2017

Thank you

With your support, deprived but entrepreneurial livestock farmers in Africa can themselves overcome poverty. Thanks to animals, training, materials and animal health care, they can provide enough food for themselves and for the market.

In 2017, our local private veterinarians and community animal health workers vaccinated no less than **12.032.774** animals.

We helped



463,352

families

We distributed



7,154

animals

We accompanied



1,358

animal health workers

We supported



74

private veterinarians

“The effects of climate change can no longer be ignored”

I have just returned from Niger. The journey through this dry Sahel landscape has left a deep impression. Last year there was a lot less rain than usual. The grasslands, which would otherwise be green and sprawling, are now vast, arid plains. And it is much too early in the year for that. The effects of climate change can no longer be ignored here. They have a huge impact on the seasonal movements of the pastoralists and their herds, affecting their search for water and grass.

Vétérinaires Sans Frontières Belgium is therefore preparing for a possible disaster in the Sahel this year, alongside several other international organisations. As many as 4.25 million people are in danger of needing food aid. Whatever happens, we are doing what we can to mitigate the impact that climate change has on farmers and their families. We are ready to intervene when crisis breaks out.

Fortunately, we can always count on the loyal support of our sympathisers, donors and volunteers. Our employees in Belgium and Africa

work with passion and perseverance, day in and day out, to improve livestock farming and animal health care. Thanks to all these efforts and support, disadvantaged livestock farmers' families can build a better future, even in the most remote regions.

Our networks of local animal health workers, who each cover their region under the supervision of a local private vet, ensure good health in the herds. It is wonderful to see how this system, which we as Vétérinaires Sans Frontières Belgium promote, has been consolidated in many West and East African countries and in the Great Lakes region.

We are also trying to replicate this success in other domains. Every day we take a step forward, both for and with the African livestock farmers. In this activity report, you'll discover some of our successes big and small, which I, together with everyone who supports Vétérinaires Sans Frontières Belgium, can really be proud of. I hope you enjoy reading it!

Marc Joolen,
CEO of Vétérinaires Sans Frontières Belgium




TOTAL BUDGET:
€ 9 MILLION


STAFF:
90 MEMBERS OF STAFF,
15 OF WHOM ARE IN BRUSSELS


OPERATIONAL IN
8 AFRICAN COUNTRIES


**INFORMATION, AWARENESS-
RAISING, EDUCATION AND
ADVOCACY WORK IN BELGIUM**

Belgium

towards more North-South solidarity

In Belgium, Vétérinaires Sans Frontières sensitises the general public to the challenges of livestock farmers, vets and citizens in the African countries where we work. Just as in Europe, poverty, climate change and the milk price are also common problems there. Due to globalisation, the choices we make in Belgium have consequences for populations in the southern hemisphere, and vice versa.

To promote this awareness, we regularly organise meetings in Belgium with vets and other partners from Africa. In this way, we hope to strengthen the links between North and South and to foster a sense of solidarity between the Belgian public and the African population.

Traineeship in Belgium

Over the past two years, we have asked Belgian vets to take in an African vet for a traineeship of two to three weeks. In doing so, the Belgian vets get a better picture of the living and working conditions of their colleagues in the South, while also enhancing the African vet's technical skills. Unlike in Belgium, vets in Africa rarely have opportunities for further training after their studies.

Mariama Oumarou, a Nigerian private vet, did a traineeship at a veterinary practice in Couvin in September 2017. She was able to perfect her skills in diagnosis, surgical procedures and artificial insemination. She also spent a few days in Lokeren with a vet who specialises in goats – a rewarding experience for any veterinarian, on both a personal and a professional level. Mariama will then pass on her newly gained knowledge to her Nigerian colleagues.



Bernard Gauthier, vet from Couvin

The first time I took part was in 2016, when I welcomed a Nigerian vet called Abdoulaye. I was surprised to find that he was extremely competent in carrying out a whole series of specific operations, but then knew little to nothing about simple things such as auscultating a cow or listening to the ruminant process. I tried to teach him all those things in just a few days. Thanks to this unique collaboration, I realised how much I myself can help my colleagues in Africa, by teaching them here in Belgium.

During his traineeship, Abdoulaye talked to many farmers in the region. He discovered that there are big parallels between livestock farming here and in Africa. After three weeks Abdoulaye returned to Niger, full of new ideas and an even better mastery of veterinary techniques. In 2017 I didn't hesitate for a moment before hosting Mariama as well. For me, it is the most tangible way to help vets in the South. I can be of use to them here, I can make a difference in their lives. By showing them how we solve problems, they take home new techniques and knowledge that they can implement there. I'm really proud and glad to be able to participate in these exchanges. They are enormously rewarding, on both a personal and a professional level.



Burkina Faso

more autonomy with micro-enterprises

Burkinabé women are very active in agriculture, especially in small livestock farming. However, they hardly have any access to means of production such as fields, loans, agricultural equipment... With the support of the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, Vétérinaires Sans Frontières Belgium wants to improve the situation of women in the regions of the North and the Sahel. We aim to do this by helping them set up their own micro-enterprises.

Women at the helm of their own businesses

With our support, 310 women exchanged ideas last year and drafted a simplified business plan to evaluate the financial needs of their micro-enterprise. We made sure that they gained access to a customised loan by making money available through microcredit institutions. The women also received basic training in business management.

Thanks to continuous coaching, they learn to manage their income better. In less than a year, 58% of the micro-enterprises made a profit. Thanks to these good results, men are now more convinced

of the power of women. They can see with their own eyes that women are able to successfully manage the family income.



Oubaida Diallo, livestock farmer in Ouahigouya

I have always looked after small livestock. But selling them to earn some money? That had never occurred to me. A training session from Vétérinaires Sans Frontières Belgium really opened my eyes. They helped me with start-up capital so I could start a small business. I received 76 euros, which is a huge amount for me! With that money I bought a ram that cost 53 euros, medicines and a bag of animal feed.

Not only did I learn to manage my budget and my business, but I also learned better techniques for harvesting and storing fodder for my animals. For example, I didn't know that there were different types of grass and that some contain more vitamins than others. After six months of good care and vitamin-rich feed, I've been able to sell my ram for twice the price. With the profit, I bought a new, small ram to continue my business.





© Koent Mutton

Ousmane Sow, livestock farmer in Dalacoura

I took part in the digging works for the pond in my village. In Dalacoura and the other villages in my district, there are almost no activities that generate an income. These works were therefore a good chance for many young people like me to make money, just when we needed it most. With the money I've earned, I've bought food for my family and started fattening four rams.

But these works generated more than just money. From December, we used to have our animals drink from hand-dug wells. Today, thanks to the excavation works, there is water in our pond from July until the end of April. The number of fish has also risen! In May, we even organised a joint fishing trip with the other villages. I don't know how many kilos I caught, but we were able to eat fish for at least a week. Since then, the relationship between the villages around the pond has improved dramatically. We also benefit from commercial exchanges with the pastoralists.

Mali

grass and water for livestock and food security

Since the political crisis and the armed conflict in 2012, Mali has been facing many challenges. Insecurity and climate vagaries have a severe impact on the lives of the local population. Malians are particularly vulnerable to food insecurity, especially in the Nara and Nioro du Sahel districts, on the Mauritanian border. Vétérinaires Sans Frontières Belgium and its local partners are working to improve food security for disadvantaged families in this region. The sustainable management of grass and water is central to this approach.

From identification to recovery

Together with local authorities, village elders and livestock farmers' organisations, we started by identifying the main livestock migratory routes, grasslands and water sources in their region. We then made an inventory of these pastoral areas, their designation and their level of vulnerability. Based on this, we determined which natural water sources and damaged grazing grounds were eligible for recovery.

From recovery to an income...

The recovery of the grasslands and water sources was undertaken by the local residents themselves in exchange for an income. Vétérinaires Sans Frontières Belgium worked with the villagers to choose

the vulnerable families that were most in need of financial support.

After a short training session, the families went to work: they dug large ponds, put stone lines to limit erosion and sowed grass for the livestock. In return for their work, Vétérinaires Sans Frontières Belgium provided financial support to every participant, in keeping with the customary local daily wages. With this extra income, the families were able to buy the necessary food to get through the long dry season while awaiting a new harvest. Because of this, they didn't have to sell the few animals they have, or ask for financial help from family in the city.

... and a sustainable future

The grass on the recovered grounds is growing well and the excavated ponds hold rainwater for much longer. Not only do the livestock now have more grass and water, but these resources are also available for longer. This means that the dry season causes the herds less stress and exhaustion caused by a lack of water and grass.

Under the supervision of 'follow-up committees', the livestock keepers continue to use these recovered natural resources to this day, without any conflicts or tensions.

372 people carried out recovery works



146 men



226 women



3,566 m³
of excavated ponds



19,75 hectares of
re-planted grassland



7,390 metres
of stone lines

They received a total of €51,787 for:

Niger

mobile information system for pastoralists

With a stock of more than 32 million animals, Niger definitely is a livestock farming country. Most livestock farmers travel according to the rhythm of the seasons, letting their herds graze and drink. But how do they know where to go, now that climate change and insecurity are increasingly threatening the availability of and access to grass and water?

To remedy this problem and facilitate the seasonal migration of livestock farmers and their herds, Vétérinaires Sans Frontières Belgium has developed a system for collecting, processing and distributing information that is important for livestock farmers: where can they find grassland and water, are there conflicts or disease outbreaks, what are the market prices for livestock and cereals... The system is based on how livestock farmers traditionally pass information to each other – by sending scouts –, but it is now additionally supported by modern information and communication technologies. This way, more people collect information about a variety of topics, and it reaches more livestock farmers. The system more dynamically integrates the Ministry of Livestock Farming's existing monitoring system: it supplements the information and forwards it to farmers through local radio broadcasts and a voice server. The mobile information system is already available in 13 departments of the Nigerian regions of Tillabéry and Dosso, and in some areas of neighbouring countries Burkina Faso and Mali.

Collecting information with smartphones

Various people gather the information and enter it into the system: employees of the government services for livestock farming, local private vets and animal health workers, but also traditional leaders and livestock farmers. Every ten days, they send the

collected information via electronic forms on their smartphone if it is connected to the internet, or by calling and answering verbal questionnaires. The data is centralised in a cloud server of the Ministry of Livestock Farming, which manages, processes, analyses and summarises the data in fortnightly reports.

Three local radios broadcast the information. All the information also ends up on an interactive voice server: Livestock farmers can call this telephone exchange to check - in their local language - the availability and quality of grassland and water, the possible presence of animal diseases and conflicts, and the market prices. This information helps them make better choices for their animals and their families.

Souhaïbou Tahirou, livestock farmer from Tambarkane

I have been travelling with livestock since I was a child. This used to be a very risky activity, because we had no precise information about the state of the grasslands. Thanks to the mobile information system we now get more information, and we receive it on time, too. Like many livestock farmers in the region, every night I listen to radio Darsalam, which broadcasts information about the state of the grasslands, water points, animal diseases, the prices of animals and cereals on the various markets, the state of the migration routes for livestock and even the safety zones and risk areas. Thanks to this reliable information in real time, I can make the right decisions and take my livestock straight to the best areas. By using the system we save time, and we can move to areas that are safe for both our animals and ourselves.

300 traditional leaders
and farmers gather
information

The information reaches
480,000
livestock keepers

Democratic Republic of Congo

animal health care for productive livestock farming

It is often unsafe in the province of North Kivu in the east of the Democratic Republic of the Congo due to attacks by national and foreign armed groups. In recent years, many civilians have been killed in massacres in the areas around Beni and Lubero. The local residents no longer dare to go to their fields for fear that Congolese soldiers will see them as rebels. This increases the food insecurity in the region.

From farmer to animal health worker

Vétérinaires Sans Frontières Belgium encourages vulnerable families in these areas to engage in small livestock farming. They do not require any land for this. But you can't have animals without animal health care. And therein lies a problem, because most vets are based in the cities. In order to reach

the livestock farmers in the countryside, we trained 65 farmers as community animal health workers and equipped them with the necessary veterinary equipment. They can provide basic care to the animals in their area. They are under the supervision of three private vets, who each have a practice in the region.

Animal health care in the countryside

The three private vets and their animal health workers work with the local government services, which continue to play a regulatory role. Thanks to these combined efforts, it is possible to make animal health care accessible to a large number of agro-pastoralists, especially in remote villages where it would be virtually non-existent otherwise.



© Tim Dirven

3 private vets + 65 community animal health workers for 318 villages



47,986 animals cared for of which 26,300 preventively



Rabbit mortality rate:
37 > 22%



Young rabbit mortality rate:
7 > 3%



Eugénie Kaswera Muvunga, community animal health worker from Masenge

In 2010 I was selected to become an animal health worker. I received a starter kit with medicines and prevention equipment. I was also given a bicycle to make it easier for me to move around, because I'm responsible for the 12 villages around Masenge. Thanks to the income from my services, I was soon able to renew my supplies, and buy a motorcycle.

A few years later I was able to start our own livestock farm with a stable and 5 sheep. By selling the sheep, I had money to build a new house and at the same time maintain my medicine supplies for the animals of the farmers in the region. I was also able to buy a TV, a solar panel and a battery. Today I have a total of 9 sheep, 10 rabbits, 8 chickens, 20 chicks and 15 guinea pigs. I can serve my family better food, but also, our living comfort has greatly improved.

Rwanda

goes green with biogas

In the south of Rwanda, Vétérinaires Sans Frontières Belgium is installing biodigesters for families of dairy farmers. Biogas is a renewable energy source with a number of benefits. Cooking is made easier, and doesn't produce harmful smoke. It is environmentally friendly because no firewood is needed. In this way, biogas prevents logging and deforestation. And the residue that is left over – bioslurry – can be used as manure on the fields.

Bacteria brew biogas

Vétérinaires Sans Frontières Belgium started promoting biogas in 2014. In three years, 93 biodigesters were built. As many as 94% of the assisted families are still using their biodigester today. Because of this success, we are continuing the activity and extending it to other farmers in the districts of Huye, Nyanza and Nyamagabe. We want to construct 450 biodigesters in this region by 2021. We already built 135 in 2017.

A biodigester is a simple brick construction, built a few metres below the ground. In the digester, bacteria convert cow and human excrement into methane gas. Families can use this gas to cook or to illuminate their home.

Two cows, building materials and credit

The livestock farmers need at least two cows in order to provide sufficient excrement for the digester. They must also be willing to share the cost of the building materials. We put them in contact with microfinance institutions, where they can ap-

ply for a loan for the construction of the biodigester. Vétérinaires Sans Frontières Belgium and its local partner Imbaraga are the guarantors at these financial institutions, so they grant the farmers a reduced interest rate.

We guide the farmers through the entire process. We take care of the administrative formalities at the Ministry of Infrastructure and we ensure that the private construction companies and biogas technicians of the districts comply with their obligations. We also provide training to livestock farmers so that they learn how to use and maintain their biodigester.

Sustainable future for people and planet

The biodigester offers lasting benefits for the families of livestock farmers. By cooking with biogas, no harmful smoke is created, and women and children get less ill. The families save money because they no longer have to buy firewood. And the women gain time, because they would usually have to gather the firewood. The environment also benefits, because biogas stops deforestation. The residue that remains after extracting the gas can be used as fertiliser on the fields, so agricultural production increases, and with it, the farmers' income.

5 benefits of biogas



the consumption of firewood per family decreases by 82%



eye and respiratory diseases decrease by 100%



the families save 144 euros annually



the number of men who cook increases from 0% to 60%



the families are less dependent on chemical fertilisers

Athanasie Uzamukunda, biogas user from Maheresho

After an information session by Vétérinaires Sans Frontières Belgium, my husband and I decided that we wanted a biodigester at home. As soon as we knew that it was possible for us, we signed the contracts. We supplied the building material and the construction company built the digester.

We have been using biogas for a year now and we couldn't do without it. We need to buy less firewood for cooking, so we save money. I can simply carry on cooking during the rainy season. My pots stay clean and there's no smoke during cooking. The harvest from our fields is bigger: thanks to the fertiliser, our bean production has increased from 70 to 110 kg!

I would like to professionalise in livestock farming further in order to take advantage of our biodigester and further increase agricultural production to better feed my family. I am extremely grateful because this system allows us to get a greater return from our livestock. Our quality of life has increased, and we're protecting the environment as well.



Burundi

loans increase income from livestock farming

In Burundi, 90% of the population lives off agriculture and livestock farming, but agro-pastoralists do not earn enough income here. As many as 69% of Burundians live in poverty, and 75% are starving. The socio-political instability in the country since 2015 has exacerbated this situation and is an additional threat to the lives and food security of families that were already so vulnerable.

In order to increase their income and reduce their poverty and food insecurity, farmers should focus on sustainable, diversified and productive agricultural practices. Access to the market can also be improved. But they often have no access to credit that would allow them to improve their agricultural production. Most financial institutions regard agriculture and livestock as a risky investment sector. Therefore, they often refuse loans to agro-pastoralists.

Credit for agro-pastoralists

In the province of Ngozi, Vétérinaires Sans Frontières Belgium helps disadvantaged families of agro-pastoralists to access loans, working together

with its local partners Ucode-AMR and Ucode-Microfinance. We have set up a fund of 20,000 euros at the local microfinance institution Ucode-Microfinance. Thanks to this fund, groups of agro-pastoralists in difficulty can borrow money for their members. The agro-pastoralists are united per hill and receive training on loan management and livestock-keeping techniques. We continue to provide technical support to them so as to minimise the risk of non-productive and non-profitable livestock farming and to ensure repayment of the loan.

Since the start of our activities in June 2015, 68 agro-pastoralists, spread over five groups, have received loans amounting to a total of 15,040 euros. With this money, they have invested in the purchase of animals and in the further expansion of their family businesses. Their agricultural production increased due to the availability and use of organic manure. In December 2017, 62% of the loan amount in the five groups had already been repaid. This is a first, positive experience, which strengthens the confidence of Ucode-Microfinance in its new customers.

Moïse Niyonsaba, agro-pastoralist from Mwumba

We used to struggle to make our soil fertile. Our agricultural production was not enough to feed our family. We found it difficult to generate the income to meet our needs. After we received training from Vétérinaires Sans Frontières Belgium on livestock-keeping techniques and loan management, we opened an account in my wife's name. Very soon, we got a loan of 273 euros with an interest rate of 16%. With this sum, we bought a cow. Today I have a bull calf, and my cow is pregnant again. During her first nursing period, she produced up to 4 litres of milk a day!

Now that we use organic manure from our cows, our agricultural production and our income have quadrupled. We have no more problems fertilising our fields. We've even just bought three new fields. Our first loan has been repaid and we have just taken out a second.

Number of animals bought with microcredit



66
goats



14
pigs



50
chickens



23
cows



Betty Lowanyang from Rupa

Four years ago I was selling local brew. That hardly earned me enough to meet the needs of my family. Thanks to the village bank, I was able to borrow money. The first time, that was 12 euros. Now I have a loan of 1,200 euros, which I am paying off effortlessly. The loans mean that I can expand my activities.

With my first loan, to which my husband added 24 euros, I started keeping donkeys: first one, and later five, with good earnings. I also helped my husband at the start of his livestock trade. And I switched from donkey farming to selling cereals. This was a smart idea, because there was already a market for cereals and livestock, both in the region and in neighbouring countries such as Kenya or South Sudan. Thanks to the income from our trades, we've bought livestock and some land. We already have two houses built in hard materials and we're now building a third.



30
Vicoba groups



saved more than
€40,000
together in 2017

with a total of
1,100 members

of which **72% are women**



Uganda

save together for more resilience

In Karamoja, a semi-arid region in northeastern Uganda, the population is particularly vulnerable to climate change. In the past, livestock was the most important source of food and income for the Karamojong, but most families lost all their animals due to violent cattle raids, which were still widespread before the government's disarmament process – initiated in 2004. Deprived of all their cattle, these families ended up in deep economic crisis and food insecurity.

Vétérinaires Sans Frontières Belgium helps the disadvantaged Karamojong to develop ventures and start small businesses. By doing so, they generate more income from more diverse sources. This increases their resilience so that they can better deal with climate change and other crises.

Access to loans

In Karamoja, access to microcredits is very limited. There are very few banks, but primarily, the lengthy procedures and guarantees required - for example, ownership of land or buildings - make borrowing almost impossible for the majority of the population. This applies in particular to women, who have few rights to land.

In order to help these families get loans, Vétérinaires Sans Frontières Belgium and its local partners Dado and Madefo have been supporting several 'village banks' in Moroto and Kaabong since 2007.

Banks by and for villagers

These village community banks (Vicoba) each consist of 15 to 30 members. They receive training on group dynamics, accounting and commercial skills. The members meet every week and put together money for savings by buying one or more shares.

They can then borrow money from this joint fund up to a total amount no more than three times higher than their individual contribution or savings in the pot.

At the end of each financial year, the members of the village bank distribute the accumulated savings among each other, in correlation to the amount saved. Vétérinaires Sans Frontières Belgium then provides subsidies to the Vicoba groups that have operated correctly in the past year. These subsidies are not directly distributed among the members, but end up in the savings pot. They serve as the basis for developing group activities that generate income or issuing loans to members in the course of the new financial year.

In addition to weekly savings, members also contribute to a social fund for emergency situations, such as illness or a death within the family.

Save and borrow for more resilience

The village bank members, who are now able to take out loans more quickly and easily, manage to generate a stable income. With the commercial skills they learn, they develop various activities that generate an income, such as a livestock trade or a shop. These activities enable them to diversify their income. The village banks also teach them a culture of saving. In this way, they increase their resilience and are better equipped to deal with crisis situations.

After a year of saving, 90% of the supported Vicoba groups started a new financial year. The success of this approach also creates a snowball effect: in the surrounding villages, residents have already set up several village banks independently.



Tanzania

sustainable tourism via better land management

Some 26,000 Datoga shepherds and 1,000 hunter-gatherers of the Hadza tribe live in one of the grazing areas in the Yaeda-Mangola region, east of Lake Eyasi, in the north of Tanzania. The Datoga need grass for their livestock and the Hadza get their food from the local fauna and flora. The area attracts many tourists due to its beautiful natural and cultural heritage. For the local villages, these tourists are a welcome source of income.

Less grass and fewer wild animals

However, tourism in the region and the lifestyle of both the Datoga and the Hadza are coming under increasing pressure. Soils, meadows and water sources are groaning under the increasing influx of farmers that are settling to cultivate land in the region. This migration increases the pressure on the available grasslands, but also on the forests where the villagers chop wood to make charcoal and sell it. This has a serious impact on the wildlife and upsets the natural balance in the region.

The livelihoods and lifestyles of the Datoga and Hadza are at risk because of the decreasing number of grasslands and wild animals. This leads to more and more conflicts about access to land, which could ultimately be the deathblow to tourism in the region, and therefore also the income from this activity.

A sustainable solution for both man and nature

Vétérinaires Sans Frontières Belgium wants to meet these challenges and encourage sustainable and balanced management of natural resources for all local communities. For this purpose, we are working with Ujamaa Community Resource Team (UCRT), a civil society organisation with expertise in land management, and Dorobo Tours and Safaris, a local travel agency specialising in responsible tourism. With our support, they strengthen the capacities of the villages and the local land management authorities, make plans for participatory land use and develop sustainable tourism.

We help all affected parties in the public and private sector – village and district councils, technical public services, safari operators, guides, hotels, campsites, ... –, as well as all land users – pastoralists, farmers and hunter-gatherers – when planning and managing land use. In doing so, we hope that the local population can use natural resources in a sustainable way, and can continue to gain revenue from responsible tourism.



Saikobe Gabro, traditional Datoga leader from the Yaeda Valley

Since we have drawn up our plans for land use and obtained certificates of user rights, we - the people of the Yaeda Valley - have ensured our access to land and thus also the survival of our livestock during the dry season, because there is a lot of grassland available. But in the neighbouring villages, some areas remain bare and empty, without grass... those villagers then illegally travel to our area with their livestock. This causes conflict and destroys our environment. We can't let this happen, because soon we'll have no more grassland for our animals and then they'll die! Unless our neighbours also draw up plans for their land use. Only then can we guarantee sustainable and proper management of grasslands, in everybody's interest.

Junior in the South

The Junior Programme run by Enabel, the Belgian development agency, offers young professionals the opportunity to gain experience in development cooperation. With the Junior Programme, young people under 31 years of age can work in the South for one year or a maximum of two years. They work at a Belgian NGO or in a project run by the Belgian governmental cooperation in one of Belgium's 14 partner countries.

Annelies Van Erp has been working as a junior for Vétérinaires Sans Frontières Belgium in Ouagadougou since July 2016: "As a communications junior in Burkina Faso, I get the chance to carry out a very diverse range of tasks. I regularly visit the area to take testimonies from local people, I accompany camera crews during press missions and I think about the best communication strategy for putting the activities of Vétérinaires Sans Frontières Belgium in the spotlight."

"Working abroad and therefore in a completely different context isn't always easy, but it's incredibly rewarding. You learn to be creative, to quickly search for alternatives and solutions. Like the one time when we wanted to visit a village with a photographer, but the road had suddenly become inaccessible due to a heavy downpour..."

"From day one I was accepted into the local team as a full member. My colleagues always encourage me to make my own proposals for improving the visibility of our organisation. And that isn't difficult for me in Burkina Faso: by visiting our various activities and talking to the families we support, I understand that healthy animals really are essential for daily life in the Sahel. I see how a few goats can make a huge difference for a single mother, or how a cattle farmer can sell his cow for a better price thanks to vaccination. And those are the stories I like to write down, to share with a larger audience afterwards."



VSF International

Vétérinaires Sans Frontières Belgium belongs to the network "Vétérinaires Sans Frontières International" (VSF International). Its thirteen members are active in more than 40 countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America to strengthen small-scale livestock keeping and farming, serving the most vulnerable rural populations. VSF International seeks to build healthy relationships between people, animals, and the environment. By strengthening veterinary services and improving the wellbeing and resilience of the livestock keepers, VSF International enhances food security, food safety and food sovereignty around the globe.

The members of the network coordinate their actions geographically; they pool their resources, share their skills and experiences, and reinforce the capacities of network members and other partners. They serve vulnerable rural populations and act collectively to advocate in favour of small-scale family farming, livestock keeping, animal and human health, and a healthy environment.

In 2017 VSF International welcomed two new members from Ireland and Sweden: Volunteers in Irish Veterinary Assistance (VIVA) and VSF Sweden.

VSF International is headquartered in Brussels, in the same building as Vétérinaires Sans Frontières Belgium.





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BELGIUM

VISION

Healthy animals,
healthy people

MISSION

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

DONATE

online or on our bank account

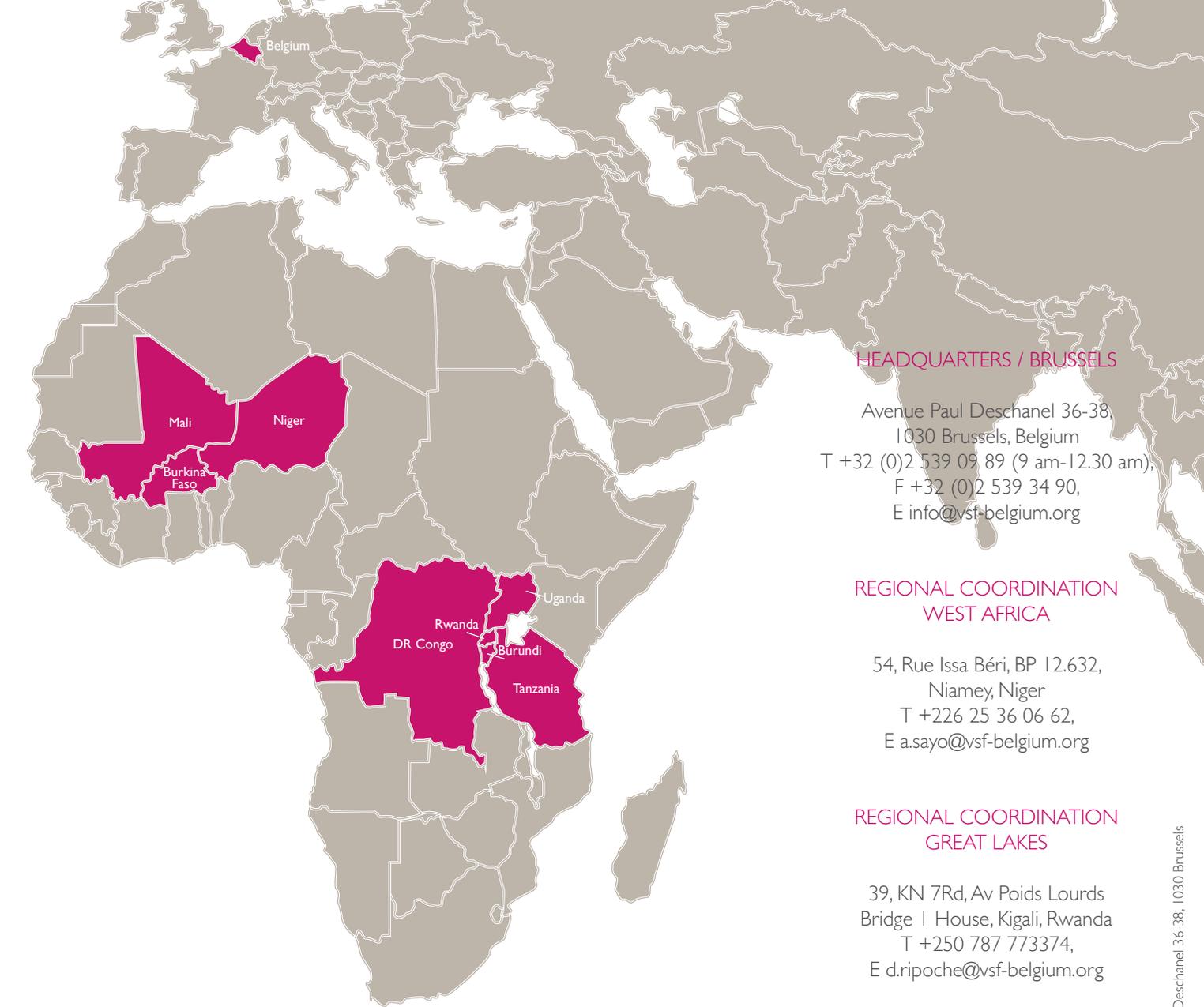
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The financial report will be available on the website
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