

# Activity report 2018



DIERENARTSEN | VETERINAIRES  
ZONDER GRENZEN | SANS FRONTIÈRES

BELGIUM



# This is your success!

What is made possible with your support? You can see it **when you look at the animals**. You can hear it **when you speak to the livestock farmers**. You make it possible for disadvantaged African livestock farmers to bring themselves out of poverty. You gave their entrepreneurial spirit a chance. Thanks to **animals, training, materials and improved animal health care**, they now produce enough food for themselves and for the market. So their income is also increasing. Will we continue on with even more farmers and animals after 2018 as well?

In 2018, our local private veterinarians and community animal health workers vaccinated no less than **13,877,705** animals.



You helped

**5,866,996**  
families



You distributed

**16,233**  
animals



You accompanied

**1,406** community  
animal health workers



You supported

**86** private veterinarians



# It's your concern too

There are thousands of them, Belgian students who take to the streets every Thursday for the climate. They demand an ambitious policy against global warming. My children are also taking part. And yes, I'm proud of it. Why? I know from my colleagues in Africa how deadly the consequences of climate change are: every week, climate change kills people in the countries where we work. It's already happening, right now.

## Climate change can be felt everywhere

If you're a livestock farmer, then you know how difficult it is when the desert encroaches. Animals and their herders travel ever greater distances in search of water and grasslands. And if vital resources become scarce, then conflict follows. The result? People fleeing war and poverty. The strongest – with a bit of luck – arrive in Europe after weeks or even months of wandering, fear and suffering. A much larger group flees to a neighbouring country. 86% of refugees are received in developing countries. This was also shown by the campaigns on migration by CNCD-11.11.11 and 11.11.11.

## ... and makes people flee

You, via Vétérinaires Sans Frontières Belgium, are helping to prevent **the causes of that refugee drama**. Thanks to you, our mission becomes tangible: keeping animals healthy and empowering farmers in the Global South. In this way, you enable livestock farmers to tackle these difficult times. With promising activities, the livestock farmers earn a **decent income**. Better still, and with your support, you enable livestock farmers to **share their experiences and solutions**. They do this with policy makers, young people, farmers and the general public in Europe. Because good ideas and solutions do need to migrate.

## Thank you

All this work is only possible because of the support of our public and private donors. I truly thank you for that. Every donation, every subsidy counts and we use it with full respect. Thank you for your trust in us.

Do you want more facts, stories and results of your support in 2018? It is my honour to share these on the following pages. Because our success is your success.

**Marc Joolen**

CEO of Vétérinaires Sans Frontières Belgium



Total budget:  
€ 9.4 million



92 members of staff,  
18 of whom are in Brussels



Operational in  
8 African countries



Information, awareness-raising,  
education and advocacy work  
in Belgium



# Students are the future guardians of our food security

## Belgium

Vétérinaires Sans Frontières Belgium has been working with Belgian students since 2007. We make students aware of three life-saving themes: global challenges related to foodstuffs, food sovereignty and sustainable family livestock farming. The theoretical framework for this is the **concept One Health**.

The students of today are the agricultural and animal experts of tomorrow. Their decisions have an impact on people in the Global South. Because in a global world with global food systems, our choices also have a big impact elsewhere. That means that these students need to have the right knowledge to make informed choices. This is not just about sustainable production systems. The way that we consume what is produced worldwide also plays a role. We demonstrate this entire context through our awareness campaigns. The ultimate goal? That these students, as professionals in their jobs, will show their commitment and use their knowledge to improve human and animal health in the Global South.

### Activities for and by students

The students organise various awareness-raising activities on their campuses every year, sometimes through films, debates or conferences, and through meetings with our partners or visits to family farms.

In the school year 2017-2018, we organised a competition for veterinary students and future agricultural specialists. The winners left on an exchange trip to one of our partner countries and visited our projects and the staff of our local partner organizations. This kind of trip gives them an even better understanding of the challenges that African livestock farmers face. But the real journey only begins when these 'eyewitnesses' get back to Belgium. They play a major role in the awareness raising work that we do to illustrate to new students and the general public that we really need to strengthen food systems in the Global South. And also that we hold the key to this.

### One Health

**If people and animals are doing well, then the environment does well. Unfortunately, the opposite is also true.** That is why we are strengthening the relationship between medicine, veterinary medicine and climate. This is essentially the idea behind One Health. In this way, we improve health systems and prevent epidemics and the transmission of diseases from animals to humans.

In the Global South, we strive for greater food security and sustainable family livestock farming. The idea behind One Health is a guiding principle to achieve this. In the areas where we work, healthy livestock means a healthier community!

**Laura Whitney Mottola, food technology student in Melle,** visited Vétérinaires Sans Frontières Belgium's projects in Rwanda

"Before you go to a country, you have some expectations. Once you get there, these often turn out to be prejudices and misconceptions. This trip made me aware of that. In the country itself, you discover that there really isn't such a big difference between 'us' and 'them'. That discovery alone brings us closer together."



### 2018 : OUR ACTIVITIES IN FIGURES

**29 activities** organized in Flanders and in Wallonia, for a total of **1,825 students** from agricultural colleges and faculties of veterinary medicine

### THE COMPETITION

#### 3 steps

- (1) Creation of a **poster**
- (2) Production of a **video**
- (3) **Presentation** in front of a jury



**For students from Dutch-speaking agricultural colleges**

15 candidates •  
5 students selected •  
Destination: •  
**Rwanda**

**For students from French-speaking faculties of veterinary medicine**

• 7 candidates  
• 3 students selected  
• Destination :  
**Burkina Faso**



**8 highly-motivated influencers, ready to stand up for sustainable food systems**

# Small livestock, big step forward

## Burundi

4.7 million people in Burundi are not sure where their next meal will come from. And all the while, this can in fact be prevented. We are doing our best to do something about it via our local partners but unfortunately there are even more places where they cannot operate. Besides our encouraging activities, the global situation for households has become worse: 23% of the total population is 'very poor' whilst 37% are in the 'poor' category. Of those most vulnerable groups, 60% are in areas that make their living from agriculture and livestock farming. There is also a middle class, which only represents 29% of the population. Finally, there is a group of 11% that is considered to be reasonably wealthy.

In 2016, the Burundi government launched a program to achieve greater yields in agriculture. This is not easy in Burundi as high population growth increases pressure on the available land. Organic fertilisers could increase the fertility of the land, but then those fertilisers need to be available in the first place. Chemical fertilisers are not an option: that is much too high an investment and harmful to soil in the long-term. So what's the solution? Livestock!

### Four goats to regain the community's respect

In 2018 our local partners continued our project for vulnerable households in four communities in Ngozi province. The selected households each received four goats. They also received training on agricultural and livestock husbandry techniques. There were also information sessions given about nutrition, health, education and the environment. Since 2014, over 700 families have already been given a helping hand. You made it possible for us to reach another 426 vulnerable families in 2018.

The first group of 700 families established greater independence thanks to small-scale livestock farming. **They fertilise the soil with the manure from the goats.** This then increases the production from their agricultural land. They now

grow extra crops such as beans, potatoes and vegetables. The goats were mated and that often made it possible to sell two to three goats. The result is clear: higher agricultural production combined with sales of small livestock means a higher income. 80% of households managed – thanks to the higher income – to buy pigs, cows or chickens. Other families bought new land to expand their farming activities. The families in the project evolved from vulnerable, poor families to small food producers. The renewed respect gained from the community drives them even further.

The positive results in the first group motivated 426 new families to systematically apply the new agricultural and animal husbandry techniques, and to leave poverty once and for all.

### 2018 IN NUMBERS



The project expanded to  
**426** new vulnerable households



Each family received four goats. A total of  
**1,704** goats were distributed within the project households



**2,7** times more beans were produced



The first project group transferred **161** goats to the new families



The first project group sold a total of **1,631** goats



### Joselyne Minani, goat breeder

"Before I received support from Vétérinaires Sans Frontières Belgium, I was already working my land. But the yield was low. I had no animals and therefore no fertiliser. My children? They only received one meal a day. And what if they became ill or had costs for school? Then I had to borrow money. Or sell what little I had. Even clothes for myself and the children were a luxury that I could barely afford.

**A few goats have completely changed that.** I use their manure to make the soil more fertile. The harvest of beans, potatoes and maize is noticeably better. I use some of the harvest for our own meals. I sell some more at the market. I started breeding the goats and have already passed some on to other families. Currently I still have seven. I also have a card from the mutual health insurance fund now, and I can send the children to school. If all goes well, I want to buy a cow and start breeding chickens and rabbits. The difference from the past is that, **thanks to a helping hand, I can now independently make my dream come true.**"





# Producing high quality milk

## Burkina Faso

Burkina Faso has faced several extended dry periods over the past few years. The quality of the soil is falling due to these long periods of drought. The production of fodder is shrinking. And yet Burkina Faso remains an outstanding pastoral zone. Locally produced meat plays a key role in national consumption. However, locally produced milk lags far behind. Almost all milk consumed is imported in powder form. This situation could be different, but would require improvements to the quality of the local milk. Good milk is not only a major source of nutrition, it also helps counteract the emergence of diseases such as brucellosis or tuberculosis.

4 In the Sahel region, Vétérinaires Sans Frontières Belgium developed a strategy to improve the quality of the milk. This strategy has been adapted to the specific production systems in the region. The goal? This is twofold: on the one hand, to **increase the quantity and, at the same time, to guarantee the quality of the milk** from processing through to consumption. The strategy starts with upgrading the livestock and bringing together the players in the milk chain, in particular the livestock keepers, milk collectors, dairies and sellers.

### Ten times more milk

There are training courses to feed and treat livestock in the right way to achieve higher milk production. To increase production, they now organise **milk collection with engines and milk tanks**. Dairies therefore process ten times more milk. This means that more is available on the local market. To improve the quality of the milk, the various players in the milk chain were taught how to process milk in a hygienic way.

### Tested and approved

It is important to identify the critical contamination points in the milk chain. We performed physical, chemical and bacteriological tests for this. The National Public Health Laboratory checked the milk quality via periodic analyses for six months. The findings? The milk factories that are part of the project (and are mainly run by women) produced pasteurised milk that meets the programme's quality requirements as well as international standards. More than 2,000 refugee children received healthy milk from local production.

### Ba Safiatou, employee in the milk factory in Dori

"It was hard to make ends meet after my divorce. To support myself and my son, I sold porridge. But that didn't bring in enough money. A friend of mine worked in the dairy in Dori and asked me if I wanted to work there too. That turned out to be a turning point. Finally I am once again building a future for me and my son.

I've been working in the milk factory for almost two years now, with about twenty other women. I've learned a lot about the treatment of milk. Since I started here, the factory has made a lot of progress. Profits have also risen. Our milk is a success locally. This is mainly because we learned how to process the milk carefully and hygienically.

My work at the milk factory helped me a lot on a financial level but especially **as a person and on a moral level**. I have hope again, and that is a very precious thing."



# ‘Cash for training’ emergency operation

## Mali

With 50 million livestock units, Mali's national 'herd' is enormous and is even one of the largest in West Africa. More than 80% of the population depends on animal husbandry for their food and income. The health of their livestock is therefore crucial. But here, too, global warming is throwing a spanner in the works. And as a result, livestock mortality is increasing every year.

Because of the altered rain pattern, the amount of land that can be used for livestock farming has fallen dramatically since 2017. Not only is it not raining enough, the rain is also not evenly distributed across the country. **There is now a shortage of water and therefore also grassland**, with dramatic consequences for 1.6 million cattle, 2.2 million sheep and 2.8 million goats in the Mopti, Timbuktu and Gao regions. A small setback is enough to push the population in these three regions into a food and nutritional crisis.

To support vulnerable pastoral households, we are developing an emergency programme with the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the local farmers. We selected 125 of the most vulnerable villages to participate.

No fewer than 9,000 vulnerable livestock farmers took part in training to adapt their traditional techniques to the new climate context. They also received **76 euros each to replenish their livestock and buy animal feed**.

Around 1,000 other households received 137 euros to slaughter one cow or two to three sheep or goats. This 'destocking' of weakened livestock is an emergency strategy during long periods of drought. The meat undergoes a veterinary inspection and is then given to the poorest families. In 2018, **3,200 families with malnourished children each received 25 kg of meat thanks to this emergency intervention**.

### Nana Diawara, livestock farmer in the Fatoma municipality (Cercle de Mopti)

"The drought period that we had to endure was much longer than normal. Since January 2018, our food reserves had run out. We then sold three sheep so we would have something to eat. The help of Vétérinaires Sans Frontières Belgium came at just the right time because with that money I was able to restock my herd. After my training I received 137 euros. I bought 3 goats for 99 euros. The rest went on food. With this investment, I have a herd again and I can get prepared for the next crisis. I have also learned new techniques for animal rearing. I now also know much more about how to take care of my animals."

#### ‘CASH FOR TRAINING AND DESTOCKING’ OPERATION 2018



**7,999** livestock farmers were **trained in how to keep livestock**. Including 2,151 women



**1,000** livestock farmers received money for **destocking**. Including 140 women



**1,851** small livestock animals and **371** cattle were **slaughtered** for destocking purposes



**56,680** kg of meat were **distributed** among 2,267 participants, of which 65% were women





# A plan for transhumance

## Niger

Since 1993, every region in Niger has a land development plan. A land development plan determines which agricultural, forestry and livestock activities may be carried out in which places. Livestock farmers have a priority right of use for the land's natural resources but this is not always respected. Moreover, they often intrude on farmers' fields during their seasonal movements and cause conflicts.

Although this spatial planning has been scheduled a long time ago, it didn't exist for all regions until recently. Vétérinaires Sans Frontières Belgium has been working since 2012 to come to a clear arrangement in the region of Dosso as well. This can help **prevent conflicts** and it also ensures a **better use of natural resources**. To do so, we are working with the local authorities.

### All grasslands and water points in one database

Regulations that nobody knows about are pointless. So we started with training the staff of local authorities on the National Guide for spatial planning. They then made a step-by-step plan for the entire process. Together they mapped out the most important places and resources for the region. They then thought of ways to collect the data for each type of space. Finally, we also supported the analysis and interpretation of this data.

After six years of work, the government approved the Dosso plan in November 2018 so there is now a database of all the resources in the region which allows for better management of said resources. Local authorities now have an overview of grasslands and water points (such as wells, ponds or pumping stations). **Now they also know when they need to be renovated or developed.** Livestock farmers can safely move their herds in search of water and grass via the corridors listed in the register.

### Testimony from a livestock farmer in the Dogondoutchi area

"Having a land use plan is a good thing for livestock farmers. It took us a few years, but today we have a good tool because it has been developed with the participation of all the actors involved at every stage. This arrangement guarantees safe passage for access to grasslands and water points. This is a major step forward for us. We also hope that this will enable the authorities to create a number of grasslands and that we will soon have access to larger and safer grasslands."

#### THE DOSSO LAND USE SYSTEM

Includes **1,672** villages  
= **2 million** inhabitants

#### LIST OF RESOURCES



**246** national wells to provide water for the livestock



**5** pumping stations



**500** pools



**138** grasslands with a total surface area of **93,513.28 hectares**



**274** corridors (international, national, regional, departmental) with a total length of **3,862.36 km**



# A trust to protect the rights of local farmers

## Uganda

In north-eastern Uganda, there had been decades of turbulence due to ethnic conflicts. Now there is relative peace and stability in Karamoja. Strangely enough, this peace also entails risks for the farmers who live there because **investors and industrial mining companies are becoming interested in the grasslands and pastures**. These areas are rich in minerals, among other things. Previously, the extraction of limestone and marble brought about the destruction of natural resources.

In Karamoja, land is managed in the traditional way. This happens within the community itself, via cultural customs and without ownership deeds. That works well as long as there are no external investors. In the new context, local governments welcome investors because of their economic potential and easily grant them official land rights and permits. Because of this, local communities in Moroto have lost their property rights over the land and minerals of their region, without receiving any compensation.

### Rucodet: the ears, eyes and voice of the community

In the Rupa sub-county, in the district of Moroto, the local farmers united in a trust. A trust is an organisation that stands for the (land)rights of a group. The trust is called 'Rucodet' and was first registered in 2017 with the support of Karamoja Development Forum, a local partner of Vétérinaires Sans Frontières Belgium. In 2018 the trust obtained a first title of ownership. In practical terms, this meant that investors could no longer ignore local communities.

At the end of 2018, an investor wanted to become the owner of 180 hectares of land without consulting the local community. Rucodet acted as the intermediary and representative of the community. They gave the inhabitants correct information and conducted negotiations with the investor: they made sure livestock farmers could defend their rights.

### "Everyone would have lost their land"

Is it necessarily a bad thing that investors are coming? Of course not. But the intention is that the **local livestock farmers also benefit from this interest in investment**. The objective is that they themselves obtain operating permits so they are then able to negotiate with investors. That should provide financial revenues for the local community. Rucodet is now also setting up a secretariat to organize health services and education to local communities. A second task of the secretariat is to manage the community's incomes.

Where Rucodet is already known, they do a good job. But many efforts are still needed to make the trust known and to strengthen its institutional capacities in order to defend, protect and secure land rights for the pastoral community. Protecting natural resources is a first step towards building a good life.

### RUCODET IN 2018



Rucodet represents  
**35,000**  
farmers



**8,000** hectares  
of land are protected by  
property rights



Rucodet supervised  
**3** dialogue sessions  
with investors

### Margaret Abura, livestock farmer in the village of Rata

"It was on the market. That was the first time I heard something about Rucodet. In my opinion, this trust is our guardian angel. Speculators and illegal mining companies have been stealing our land for eight years. And us? We couldn't make our voices heard. We couldn't ask for compensation in any way. The investors also gave us no information about what they were doing. That's all different today. Investors now tell us which mining activities are taking place. Thanks to Rucodet's training, we now understand that we are entitled to these lands. If the trust hadn't been there, everyone here would have lost their land."





# A life thanks to beekeeping

## Rwanda

Good things come in small packages. A bee might seem inconsequential compared to a goat or a cow. Yet they are very useful animals. That is why we have been working with the NGO 'Association Rwandaïse pour la promotion du Développement Intégré' (ARDI) since 2017. ARDI specialises in supporting rural populations and they operate in the Southern Province of Rwanda. Beekeeping is their means to do this. The province is a forested area, ideal for beekeeping. This activity is **well suited to young people and women who struggle to find work** and who themselves do not have sufficient workable land.

Vétérinaires Sans Frontières Belgium and ARDI support six cooperatives to which 159 beekeepers are affiliated. We support them in applying for a **microcredit loan of 1,400 euros at a local micro-finance institution, and we also provide them with a financial grant of 700 euros**. With this money they buy new beehives and equipment, and that increases honey production. Our local partner ARDI provides technical support to the cooperatives. There are training courses on modern beekeeping techniques and there is advice on how to improve the quantity and quality of the honey. After this training, the beekeepers can let their hives perform optimally and keep their bees healthy.

Traditional beehives are gradually being converted into modern hives. The advantage of this is that it makes it easier for keepers to observe both the bees and the honey cycle. These modern hives are also better at storing honey. As a result, honey production is increasing. And they also harvest by-products such as wax and propolis. From these by-products, they make candles, beauty cream and soap.

Thanks to Vétérinaires Sans Frontières Belgium, the beekeepers' income has increased significantly. This also means an improvement in the living conditions of the cooperatives' members. In 2018, **the six cooperatives harvested a total of 12,461 kg**

**of honey**. That is an average of 78 kg of honey per beekeeper, which translates into an annual income of around 273 euros. There are also people who are just starting out. For them, this is a new source of income and they invest that extra income in their other agricultural activities, for example, they buy new land or animals to increase their livestock.

### Jean Pierre Mpitabazenga, member of the Kopabuhu cooperative in Huye

"I was born into a poor family that had little land. I didn't have the chance to finish primary school. To supplement the family income, I went to work. Without training, I couldn't find a stable job. A few years ago I started keeping bees. I worked in the traditional way. 13 hives gave me 380 kg of honey. In 2017 I received training on modern techniques and got support from Vétérinaires Sans Frontières Belgium. That yielded 760 kg of honey in a year, almost double. At an average of 3.25 euros per kilo, that means an income of 2,467 euros. That is a huge amount of money. I started building my own house. I owe all of that to the income from beekeeping."







## TRADITIONAL BEEHIVES

- 🐝 **Strongly resemble natural hives:** highly suitable for catching bees
- 🐝 **Cylindrical** with an opening on one side
- 🐝 All bees are in the same chamber
  - **observation by the beekeeper is not possible**
- 🐝 **Easily damaged** by rain and bad weather
- 🐝 Bees use **9 kg of honey** to produce **1 kg of wax**
  - **Honey production** is between **5 to 7 kg per year** on average
- 🐝 The honeycombs are destroyed when the honey is harvested, **causing the bees to swarm** to make a new hive elsewhere



## MODERN BEEHIVES



- 🐝 **Man-made hives;** very suitable for higher production of honey
- 🐝 Made of two **rectangular hives on top of each other.**
  - (1) The lower one is for the queen and the laying of eggs
  - (2) The two hives are separated by a 'queen excluder' that prevents the queen from moving from the bottom to the top and being able to fly out
  - (3) The upper one is for the worker bees and is composed of vertical combs with beeswax

↓

**Queen and worker bees are separated**

↓

**Monitoring of the process** by the beekeeper is easy thanks to the **use of combs**
- 🐝 **Resistant to weather and wind**
- 🐝 The wax in the combs is recycled, meaning that the **bees use less honey for wax production**
  - **Honey production** is between **35 and 60 kg per year** on average
- 🐝 The wax is not destroyed and the queen cannot fly out so **the bees do not swarm and the bee colonies remain stable**
- 🐝 The hives are **mobile** and therefore can be moved easily to where the conditions are best (in relation to the flowering season of different flowers)





# Supporting animal health services

## Democratic Republic of the Congo

In the Democratic Republic of the Congo, there are many things that make it difficult to keep livestock healthy, let alone productive. The privatisation of medicines and food supplements for livestock is one factor. The absence of compulsory vaccination campaigns doesn't help either. And then there is the lack of qualified personnel in the animal health sector. In particular there are few **well-trained vets**, and the few that there are go to the city and work for the state sector. Which means there are few vets to take care of the livestock. So the livestock farmers give their animals the required veterinary care themselves, which is far from ideal. The risks to humans, livestock and the environment are constantly growing.

In order to provide quality veterinary services in South Kivu province, Vétérinaires Sans Frontières Belgium strengthens the capacities of private veterinary technicians. Thanks to a micro-credit loan, they can set up their own veterinary pharmacies in rural areas. To assist them we also train local community animal health workers and we give them the necessary materials. In this way, we make sure that **herds in remote areas receive the basic care** they need to stay healthy.

The support that the private veterinary technicians receive is not just about the technical aspects. They also develop their management skills.

- In the technical training, theory and practice go hand in hand. They learn to detect and treat the most common diseases in livestock. They **even develop the necessary surgical skills** and husbandry techniques. This enables them to provide the farmers with full animal husbandry guidance.
- The management training also proves to be beneficial. To run their pharmacy correctly, they are given basic training in accounting, sales and stock management. So first and foremost, what's needed is a good business plan. This justifies the **microcredit loan** they then receive because there is more certainty that they can pay it back.

Vétérinaires Sans Frontières Belgium monitors the private veterinary technicians, again both on a technical level and also in terms of management skills. We evaluate their work by measuring the satisfaction of the farmers. We also look at their effectiveness in taking care of the livestock. On the basis of this analysis, they then take part in further training.



**19 private veterinary technicians**  
were trained in 2018 (6 women and 13 men)



**6 private veterinary technicians** were in  
contact with the bank to apply for a microcredit loan  
for a veterinary pharmacy



The **mortality rate** for livestock decreased  
from 5% in 2017 to **2,53 %** in 2018



The **contribution from animal husbandry to the income** of the households involved in the project  
increased from 24.7% in 2017 to **25,9 %** in 2018



### Safi Ngomora, private veterinary technician in Katana

"In 2017 the farmers of my village appointed me to take care of their livestock. I received training from Vétérinaires Sans Frontières Belgium both on animal husbandry techniques and on managing a pharmacy. Since then, I've been responsible for the health of the livestock in Katana. I earn between 87 and 105 euros a month. I can live off that.

In December 2018 I even trained as a surgeon. I received a loan of 1,225 euros for my veterinary pharmacy. I also support 20 local community animal health workers who work in more remote areas. I hope to be able to buy a motorbike soon. That way I can visit them regularly. In the future, I'd like to open a veterinary clinic."

# More certainty about healthy livestock

## Tanzania

In northern Tanzania, there is a fundamental shortage of trained and qualified private vets. As a result, the monitoring and treatment of the livestock falls almost entirely to the District Livestock Departments. Their veterinary teams generally consist of a veterinarian and a few extension officers. As a result, we are seeing an increase in the number of diseases in the herds. Untrained livestock farmers do their best to take care of the animals themselves. But that is not enough. Moreover, there is an increased supply of poor quality medicines on the market.

A situation like this ties in with the core activities of Vétérinaires Sans Frontières Belgium. We train local livestock farmers to become community animal health workers: they can prevent and cure many common problems and ensure appropriate drug supply.

In consultation with the village chiefs of 15 villages, we selected 42 candidates among the local farmers. They received basic training in veterinary care. During the training they also learned how to manage and use medicines correctly. With that knowledge, livestock farmers can work as local community animal

health workers. They receive regular further training after that. We then focus on different themes: the detection of diseases, the rules and principles concerning the use and storage of medicines, and finally, improved animal husbandry techniques. In collaboration with the Flemish NGO 'Trias' we also developed training on commercial strategies. We also work closely with the local Livestock Departments and village leaders.

What does that yield? Today, 42 local community animal health workers provide veterinary care to the herds of 11,000 families. For 88% of these families, animal husbandry is their main source of income. On average, every local community animal health worker – who is also a livestock farmer – is called upon by two families every week. The most common treatments are deworming and castration. Under the supervision of the veterinarian, local community animal health workers also prescribe antibiotics and participate in national vaccination campaigns. They monitor the spread of epidemiological diseases and every month they report to the Livestock Department in their district.

### Yohanna Alaisi, community animal health worker in Ketumbeine

"I'm a livestock farmer and I always took care of my animals myself. I also did the same for my neighbours' animals. But in the past, I only had a limited stock of medicines. Thanks to the training and the loan that I received, I now also have more customers and I started my own veterinary pharmacy. I deliver good quality medicines to the other community animal health workers in my area and the livestock keepers can get basic services close-by, without having to travel far."



**42 community animal health workers**  
were trained to take care of the health of cattle,  
goats and poultry in 15 villages.



During the dry season, local community animal  
health workers vaccinate up to **20 cattle**  
and **50 to 100 goats** per week.



**4 veterinary pharmacies**



# Junior in the South

Each year, around 30 young Belgians gain experience with local project partners in the Global South. The Junior programme makes this possible. It is a programme by Enabel, the Belgian government's development agency.

Amber Dierckx is one such Junior. She has been in Uganda since 2017. She focuses on monitoring and evaluation for **Vétérinaires Sans Frontières Belgium**.

**"I am a real Belgian city girl.** The fact that I started working as a Junior in remote Karamoja was surprising to the people around me. But here I am primarily concerned with people and monitoring. I assess whether we are achieving the objectives we promised to the donors. We celebrate good results, identify weak points and try to provide extra support and adjustments where necessary. I work with numbers a lot. I regularly visit farmers and community animal health workers to collect data and ask them plenty of questions. This has already taught me a lot about animals and how farmers can take care of their livestock. I also ensure that all information is stored in an orderly manner. For example, the lists of who has received goats, contacts of community animal health workers or activity reports. I bring them together so that everyone can consult them. Furthermore, we're increasingly trying to go digital. That's how I've become the go-to ICT person in the office.

Moroto is very remote. It's quite different from working in Belgium. It isn't always easy and sometimes I get a bit frustrated. But **I've learned that there is always a solution in Uganda.** Sometimes you have to wait a long time or you have to change your plans completely. But every time, you learn something new. It's wonderful to chat with colleagues about these differences. I remember telling them what a cat litter box is: a plastic box with special sand where a cat goes to do its business... Hilarious! They think it's magical how I can juggle figures in Excel. And I admire them for their patience and their drive to help the community move forward.

**Our team consists entirely of local Karamojong people.**

I think this is important. They speak the language and grew up here. They themselves have spent nights as shepherds in the kraal and travelled long distances with the livestock to lead them to water and fresh grass. They know what they're talking about and don't have the many prejudices that people from the big city usually come to Karamoja with."



© Hervé Bossy

## Small and yet large

Every family for whom you make a difference is a reason to carry on working. Even as a small country, Belgium has a role to play. Yet it's even better when we work together on an international scale. That is why we are part of the **Vétérinaires Sans Frontières International** (VSF International) network. So we have colleague organisations in 11 countries including Canada, Germany and Sweden. Together we operate in more than 40 countries in Africa, Latin America and Asia. The 12 member organisations work with the same philosophy: to optimise family livestock farming and agriculture in order to improve the living conditions of the poorest population groups. For VSF International, it is therefore also a question of a healthy and sustainable relationship between people, animals and the environment. Together we are striving for food security and sovereignty throughout the world.

Our network provides **even more efficiency**. We coordinate the locations where we operate with the other 11 members. We share resources, experience and knowledge. By doing so, we increase our own capacities and those of our local partner organisations. Together we are stronger.

More information on



**vsf-international.org**





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## Live on in Africa

“When my father died, I inherited a small fortune. Since I have no close family, I consulted my notary. He advised me to prepare a will. He also informed me about the existence of the “duo legacy” formula. So I can now leave part of my capital to a friend and the rest of my inheritance to 3 associations that are close to my heart, including Vétérinaires Sans Frontières Belgium. I greatly appreciate their values and activities. The NGO’s philosophy is: “healthy animals for a world without hunger”. It’s about animal welfare, and that also means that farmers must get a balanced diet and that the children must be healthy and educated. What appeals to me the most? That would have to be the campaigns that focus on single mothers or widows with children. Vétérinaires Sans Frontières Belgium gives them the means to finally imagine a better future, far from hunger and poverty.”

M.-T. M. from Linkebeek.



**For all your questions about legacies, you can ask  
Alexandra Goemans: 02 240 49 54 -  
[a.goemans@vsf-belgium.org](mailto:a.goemans@vsf-belgium.org). In complete confidence.**





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ZONDER GRENZEN | SANS FRONTIÈRES

BELGIUM

## Vision

Healthy animals,  
healthy people

## Mission

Empower disadvantaged livestock dependent  
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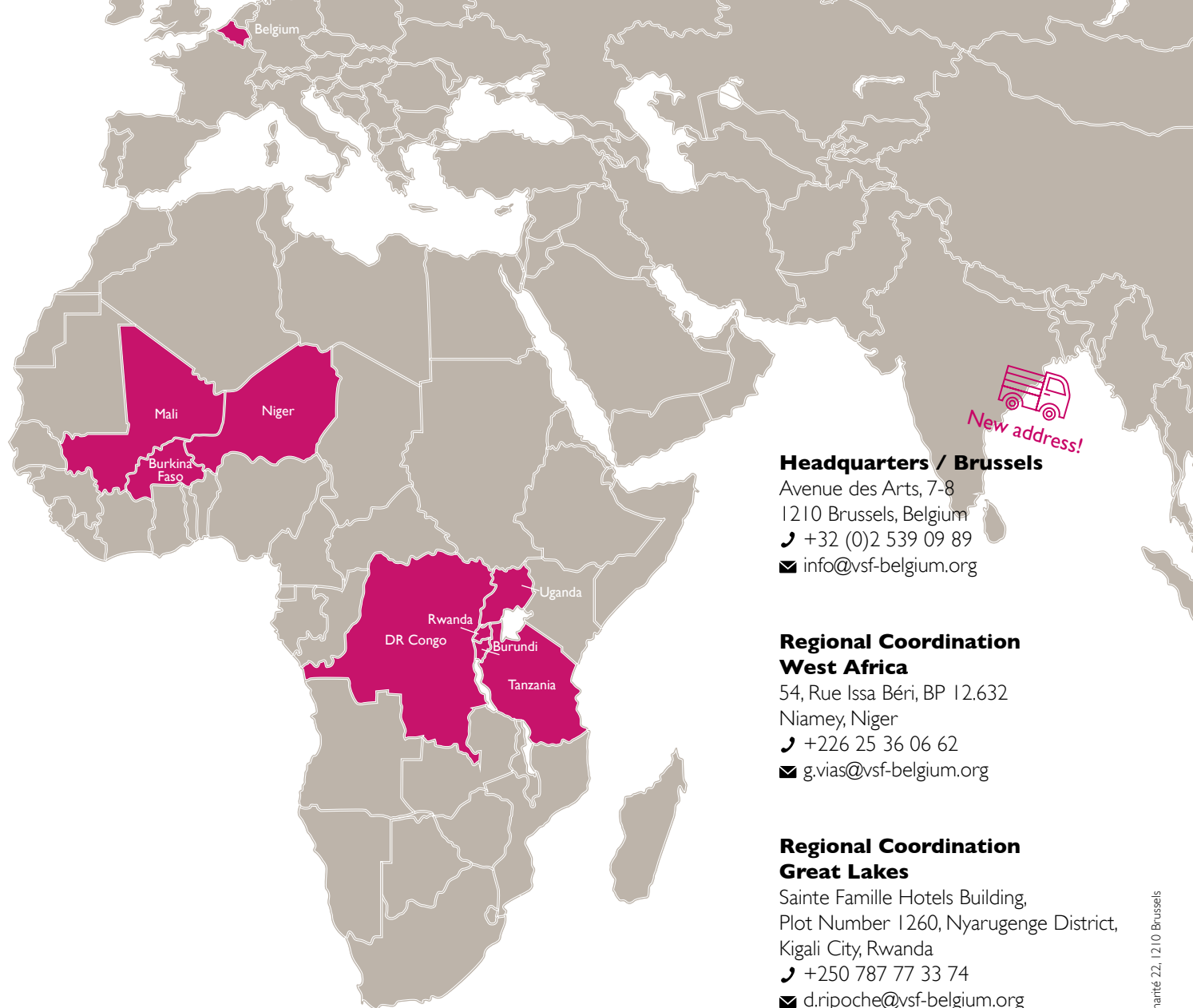
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Vétérinaires Sans Frontières Belgium subscribes to the ethical code of the AERF/VEF.  
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