

Vétérinaires
Sans Frontières
Dierenartsen
Zonder Grenzen



Annual report

VSF BELGIUM
2025

MEMBER OF VSF INTERNATIONAL



Vétérinaires Sans Frontières Belgium is an NGO/ASBL under Belgian law and a member of the VSF International network, which supports African livestock keepers through humanitarian and sustainable development activities.

In Africa, around 70 million people make a living from their livestock. Vétérinaires Sans Frontières Belgium develops animal healthcare activities there in partnership with the local populations, and also supports agroecology.

By providing training, equipment, loans and medicines, we work with communities and the producers within them, private vets and animal health workers, teachers and our local partners to keep their animals and the environment in good health, so that everyone can live in dignity. The special attention we pay to the health of ecosystems also reduces the risk of diseases spreading from wild animals to humans and livestock. This way, we help to prevent pandemics such as Covid-19, Ebola and mpox.

Cover photo: In Karamoja, a pastoralist encountered on the road was moving his herds from one rangeland to another (Uganda).
© Tim Dirven / VSF

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Financial report

Dear donors, partners and sympathisers,

2025 was characterised by profound disruptions and a transitional phase for Vétérinaires Sans Frontières Belgium, as it was for the entire international cooperation sector. The abrupt budget cuts announced by the United States at the beginning of the year made the headlines, but they were only the most visible aspect of the structural changes that had already been underway in Europe for several years. These developments cast doubt on the established financing models and the implementation and sustainability of international cooperation activities.

For VSF-B, this context does not herald change, but rather accelerates a transformation that began in 2023–2024. In 2024 and 2025, we made strategic choices, sometimes difficult ones, to reorganise, recentre, delocalise and adapt.

Now, at the beginning of 2026, we are moving forward with a renewed vision: we are ready to rebuild with greater strength, more decentralisation, greater resilience and in better alignment with the realities of the contexts where we intervene.

A key pillar of this transition has been the redefinition of our financing strategy. While maintaining the trust of our institutional funders and our private donors, we have actively expanded our sources of financing by exploring partnerships with the private sector, sponsorship models and innovative mixed financing mechanisms (blended finance).

This development does not change either our mission or our vision. It represents a new way of valuing and measuring our impact, which is now focused on socio-economic sustainability and the creation of long-term value.

New funders are also showing a growing interest in our activities, especially in Benin, as our existing partnerships are continuing to grow stronger. In parallel, we are consolidating recognition of the economic relevance of our flagship approaches, such as the LPVS programme (local private veterinary services), community animal health worker models (CAHW) and our microcredit schemes. These initiatives show how strengthening animal health systems directly contributes to livelihoods, resilience and local economic development.

Beyond these familiar activities of ours, we also work in ways that are not as visible but no less essential. Our environmental programmes — ranging from ecological cooking stoves to the protection of pasture areas and transhumance corridors in Uganda and the countries of the Sahel — contribute to climate resilience and conflict prevention. In Burundi, microcredit schemes for livestock keepers enable vulnerable communities to invest, develop their activities and stabilise their revenues. Even in extremely precarious settings such as the provinces of North and South Kivu in the Democratic Republic of Congo, where a humanitarian-development-peace nexus approach is necessary, our teams and partners manage to maintain One Health programmes and thus preserve the gains that communities have made as well as possible, despite recurrent crises.

At the dawn of 2026, perspectives remain cautiously optimistic. With our country teams — which are currently focused on six countries besides the team in Belgium — and our local partners, we are developing new five- and ten-year strategic plans. This strategic framework, which is aligned with key funding providers such as the Belgian government, will define the directions of our future activities. It aims to embed our tried and tested models even more in local socio-economic realities, so that they will outlast funding cycles, political changes and our own direct presence, following the example of sustainable success set by our LPVS programme in Niger.

In a world shaped by uncertainty, VSF-B remains true to its mission: to strengthen livelihoods and resilience by means of animal health and sustainable systems. The challenges of 2025 put us to the test, but they also clarified the course we are taking. We will make progress not by returning to the past, but by building what is needed for the future.

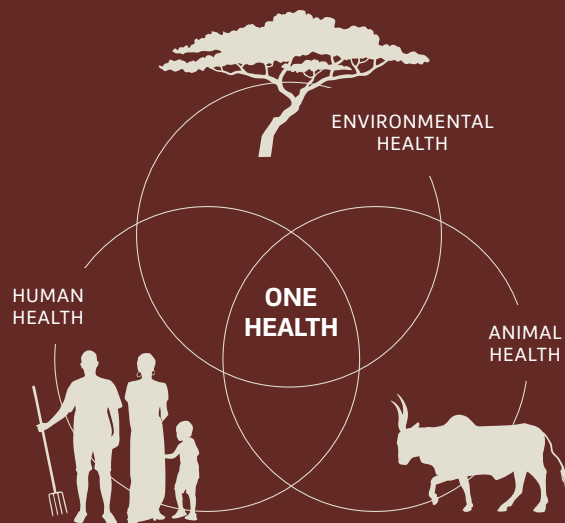
Joep van Mierlo
General Director



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Healthy animals, Healthy people, Healthy planet



Our One Health approach

It is by working together that we can protect world health sustainably.



To find out more,
see our policy brief
on One Health.



SCAN ME

In recent years, major crises such as mpox, Ebola and Covid-19 have shown how quickly a localised disease can turn into a global pandemic.

The growing emergence of zoonoses – infectious diseases that can be transmitted from animals to human beings – is closely linked to the pressure exerted on ecosystems. Deforestation, the intensification of agriculture and the conversion of natural savannahs into cultivated land are fragmenting wildlife habitats. Forced to retreat to smaller areas or habitats populated by humans, wild animals suffer greater stress, which encourages the spread of pathogens between species.

In a healthy ecosystem, however, biodiversity plays an essential role in regulating disease. The opposite is also true: the degradation of ecosystems weakens these natural balances and increases the risk of transmission to humans.

By reducing natural spaces, we also bring wild animals closer to livestock and human populations, which multiplies opportunities for transmission. This phenomenon is particularly worrying in certain regions of Africa, where demographic growth and the expansion of human activity are exacerbating the pressure on natural environments.

At Vétérinaires Sans Frontières Belgium, we defend the conviction that the health of humans, animals and ecosystems is intrinsically linked. This is the basis of the “One Health” approach that guides all our activities.

Our private vets and animal health workers work on the front lines of animal disease prevention. Nevertheless, the prevention of future pandemics requires close collaboration between several disciplines: medicine, agronomics, environmental science, epidemiology and also anthropology, zoology and entomology.

Simultaneously, our projects offer sustainable economic alternatives that enable communities to develop without harming the environment.

Dr Safi Ngomora,
a private veterinarian based in South Kivu,
prepares to treat an animal near
Kahuzi-Biega National Park (DR Congo).
© Thomas Cytrynowicz / VSF – MDM



A STRONG INTERNATIONAL NETWORK

We are a member of Vétérinaires Sans Frontières International network (VSF International), made up of 12 national NGOs in Europe and Canada. Together, we operate across Africa, the Americas, Asia and Europe to support small-scale farmers, livestock keepers and pastoralist communities. We thus address challenges related to animal health, food security, and sustainable livelihoods.

VSF members have developed strong expertise in delivering One Health at community level, especially in remote and pastoral areas. Our added value lies in integrated, locally driven approaches.

By working with local actors, including producers' organisations, communities, veterinary services, local authorities and technical partners through a multi-sectoral and multi-disciplinary approach, we ensure interventions that are coordinated, cost-effective and sustainable.

In 2025, several members of the VSF International network – including VSF Germany, VSF Suisse, VSF Belgium, AVSF and VWB North America – jointly developed a new regional strategy for the Greater Horn of Africa, reinforcing coordination and impact in one of the most fragile and climate-affected regions where livestock systems are central to survival.

Through combined efforts, VSF organisations amplify their impact and contribute to global advocacy, promoting the recognition of small-scale livestock systems – including pastoralism – as essential for sustainable food systems, biodiversity and climate resilience. Together, we continue to work towards a common goal: healthy animals, healthy people and a healthy planet.



For more information,
visit the VSF-International website.



SCAN ME

KEY FIGURES OF THE INTERNATIONAL NETWORK



62

COUNTRIES



1.68

MILLION
HOUSEHOLDS
REACHED



12.48

MILLION
ANIMALS
TREATED



6,817

ANIMAL
HEALTH PROFESSIONALS
SUPPORTED



4,681

COMMUNITY
ANIMAL HEALTH WORKERS
SUPPORTED



33,529

ANIMALS
DISTRIBUTED
THROUGH EMERGENCY
AND RECOVERY
ACTIONS



1.25

MILLION
LIVESTOCK KEEPERS
GAINED IMPROVED
ACCESS TO ANIMAL
HEALTH SERVICES



277,176

PEOPLE
STRENGTHENED
THEIR SKILLS
AND ECONOMIC
OPPORTUNITIES



**VSF Belgium's
intervention area
in 2025**

Belgium
Benin
Burkina Faso
Burundi
Comoros
Mali
Niger
Uganda
DR Congo
Rwanda

**VSF International's
intervention area**

15
EMPLOYEES
IN BRUSSELS

52
EMPLOYEES
IN WEST AFRICA

32*
PROJECTS

10
COUNTRIES

20
LOCAL
PARTNERS

90
EMPLOYEES
FINANCED BY OUR
LOCAL PARTNERS

32
EMPLOYEES IN THE
AFRICAN GREAT LAKES

* In this report, we present several examples of activities implemented in 2025, taken from our many ongoing projects. This summary allows us to highlight the joint efforts of our teams and partners to support animals, communities and their environment.



VSF INTERNATIONAL
VÉTÉRINAIRES
SANS FRONTIÈRES

Belgium

FROM FARMS TO CLASSROOMS:
A FRESH PERSPECTIVE
ON SUSTAINABLE
FOOD SYSTEMS

2025 was marked by an agricultural crisis that manifested in many protests by farmers in Belgium and all over Europe. These protests condemned agricultural and commercial policies, particularly the EU-Mercosur free trade agreement, which encourages intensive agriculture focused on profit to the detriment of fair pay for producers, environmental protection, animal health and food security. This complex context highlights a food system that is hitting its limits at an economic, ecological and social level.



KEY FIGURES
FOR 2025



4,231
PARTICIPANTS
INVOLVED IN OUR
AWARENESS-RAISING
ACTIVITIES

68%
OF WHOM
WERE STUDENTS

85%
OF OUR ACTIVITIES
ACTIVELY INVOLVED
PARTNERS FROM
THE GLOBAL SOUTH



Faced with these challenges, Vétérinaires Sans Frontières Belgium defends a vision based on agroecology. More than merely a collection of agricultural practices, agroecology is a holistic approach aimed at producing healthy food while respecting animal well-being, natural resources, soils, water, biodiversity, the economy and local knowledge. It is also a social project that puts justice, solidarity and fair pay for producers at the heart of the food transition. Agroecology demonstrates that it is possible to reconcile agriculture, the preservation of nature and the dignity of rural populations.

In a context that is often polarised, VSF-B has opted for dialogue, convinced that the only way we can create a fair and sustainable future is by working together. This is the perspective in which we connect students — future players in the worlds of agriculture, veterinary practice and food — with professionals in the field, researchers and organisations who work here and in the global South.

By sharing knowledge, experiences and points of view, we reinforce their understanding of sustainable food systems along with their critical thinking in the face of the challenges that await them. These exchanges are not intended merely to inform: they invite questions, commitment and action by responsible citizens and future professionals at work in the living world. After all, feeding the populations of tomorrow with respect for nature and human beings will only be possible with trained, aware and mobilised people.



© Brieuc Van Elst / VSF



© Laura Detremmerie / VSF

JAGROS: CULTIVATING OUR FUTURE DIFFERENTLY

For the past ten years, in partnership with Humundi and the five agricultural universities in Wallonia, VSF-B has offered around 500 first-year agriculture students three complementary activities to analyse food systems, reflect on alternatives and explore concrete ways to take action. The key strength of JAGROS is that it creates links between the local and the global: the realities of Belgian agriculture are put into perspective with challenges encountered on other continents, with a focus on exchange and cooperation.

In 2024, the pilot committee engaged in strategic reflection to update the project. The results of this have included redesigned activities, a new graphic identity and a new website. Among the changes is the introduction of a new activity: a meeting with a committed agricultural professional. This is designed to reveal the faces and experiences behind the big challenges, to deconstruct received ideas about the agricultural world and to show that another model is possible, in Belgium as well as elsewhere.

Our guests at this event were Farm For Good and Stéphane Delogne.



Find out more on the
JAGROS website.

TESTIMONIAL

Tamara Rombaix

STUDENT OF VETERINARY MEDICINE
AT LIÈGE UNIVERSITY



Tamara Rombaix is a student of veterinary medicine at Liège University. She did a 10-week research placement in Benin with Vétérinaires Sans Frontières Belgium as part of her graduation project.

"I really enjoyed my experience in Benin. The subject of my thesis was ovine rinderpest, a disease that affects sheep and goats, which has a significant socio-economic impact on households and livestock keepers in Africa. I discovered a different approach to a vet's job there, thanks to international cooperation. This experience was shaped by a wealth of interactions, working alongside different stakeholders in the field: vets, livestock keepers and government officials. My placement also made my training feel even more meaningful, as I saw in practice how it is possible to help livestock keepers manage their herds and improve access to animal care."

I would like to thank Vétérinaires Sans Frontières Belgium for allowing me to experience this highly enriching placement."



SCAN ME



Want to write
an academic research
on one of our themes?
Contact us!

INSPIRATION DAY: INVITING STUDENTS TO TAKE A DIFFERENT VIEW OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

What will tomorrow's food system look like? And what role can young professionals play in that? We brought together students in agriculture and food-related degree programmes from Ghent University, HOGENT and Odisee Campus Sint-Niklaas with experts from the world of research and the field for our "Inspiration Day", to reflect together on ways of rethinking our food system.

In interactive exchanges, the students and experts discussed the challenges relating to agriculture and food production. Issues such as biodiversity, the climate and the pressure on farmers served as a starting point to imagine more sustainable and resilient food systems.

What made this approach different was its strong focus on listening, reflection and exchanging different points of view. The students were encouraged to look beyond the limits of their own discipline and reflect together on systemic transformations. The participants also emphasised how enriching it was to engage in conversation with a committed younger generation that takes a critical, curious view of the future.



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Watch the
after-movie
about the day.

GEARING UP FOR THE INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF RANGELANDS AND PASTORALISTS IN 2026

To prepare for the International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists announced by the United Nations for 2026, we brought shepherds, nature lovers and interested parties together in December for an evening on pastoralism.

Following a documentary on traditional pastoral practices in Hungary, a conversation emerged with shepherds from Flanders and the Netherlands about their experiences, as well as the challenges they face with regard to space, public policy and recognition in society. They also reminded us of the essential role that pastures play in biodiversity, soil health and the resilience of the countryside to climate change.

The evening was a reminder that pastoralism is far more than a job. It is a way of managing the countryside, a form of cultural heritage and a source of deep ecological knowledge that is regaining all its relevance today. In 2026, we will continue to draw attention to these stories and voices with new activities and film screenings.



SCAN ME



To find out more about
pastoralism, watch the video
"It's Not the Cow, It's the How"



Animal health

In the areas where we intervene, access to animal healthcare is still a daily challenge, in the Global North as it is in the Global South.

A lack of vets, distance from services and scattered herds complicate access to care. Nevertheless, animal health is essential. It protects the livelihood of families who depend on agriculture, reinforces food security and prevents the emergence of diseases that can be transmitted between animals and humans.

Charline Nabindu Kihaha, a community animal health worker in South Kivu, treats animals in service of her community. Her work has reduced animal mortality from 9% to 5% (DR Congo).
© Arlette Bashizi / VSF



KEY FIGURES FOR 2025



MORE THAN
2.1 million
ANIMALS TREATED
AND VACCINATED



32
VETS AND
315
PARA-VETERINARY WORKERS
ASSISTED



ALMOST
100,000
FAMILIES BENEFITED FROM
ANIMAL HEALTH SERVICES



1,245
COMMUNITY ANIMAL HEALTH
WORKERS
SUPPORTED



NEARLY
19,000
PEOPLE MADE AWARE OF
THE ONE HEALTH APPROACH

For more than forty years, we have been developing local private veterinary services (LPVS) across the whole of sub-Saharan Africa. At the heart of this model are the community animal health workers (CAHW), who play a decisive role. Trained and supported by our teams, they provide basic care, advise livestock keepers, raise awareness of good practices and participate in disease monitoring in villages. More importantly, though, they are backed up by a private vet who guarantees quality and continuity for them. In return, their efforts enable the vet to have a profitable private practice in a rural area. Their combined presence makes it possible to cater to the most remote herds, including those in areas struck by insecurity. Without them, many families would quite simply have no access to care.

Investing in this model means far more than providing care for animals: it's a way to increase resilience in rural communities, prevent health crises and contribute sustainably to food security.

© Arlette Bashizi / VSF



Benin

THE LPVS MODEL IMPROVES LONG-TERM ACCESS TO ANIMAL HEALTHCARE

In Benin, access to animal healthcare remains limited, holding back the development of livestock keeping and jeopardising the livelihoods of many rural families. The country is facing multiple challenges: insufficient state resources, a low number of established private vets and no access to veterinary services in many localities.

To address these needs, we have developed local private veterinary services (LPVS) in collaboration with our local partners. The system is based on a partnership between private vets, technicians and community animal health workers. These health workers work with the vets, providing basic care, advising livestock keepers and raising awareness in the villages.

This model improves access to care and encourages the development of a private vet service in the countryside. It is also exceptional in terms of the quality of care it offers, its economic viability and its adaptation to local realities.

In Natitingou in northern Benin, the opening of the VetCarePlus Group veterinary clinic marks an important milestone. It was inaugurated on 1 February 2025 after several months of preparation by Dr Dimas and the project teams.

Dr Dimas Vitouley (white coat) manages the VetCarePlus Group veterinary clinic in Natitingou, while Arouna Doko (blue coat) ensures a daily presence at the clinic (Benin).
© Loïc Delvaux / VSF



OUR ANIMAL HEALTH ACTIVITIES IN BENIN IN 2025



6

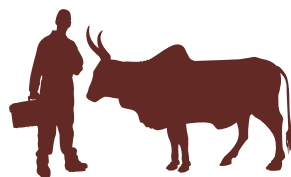
VETS ASSISTED

70

COMMUNITY
ANIMAL HEALTH WORKERS
SUPPORTED

6

VETERINARY CLINICS
AND PRACTICES
SUPPORTED



1,157,054

ANIMALS TREATED
AND VACCINATED

Dr Dimas VITOLEY, who graduated from Dakar Veterinary School in 2022, is in charge of the clinic. Born and raised in the region, he makes it clear how serious his commitment is: "I have chosen to work among livestock keepers because this is where I can have the most impact. Being a private vet allows me to act directly and meet the real needs of communities", he explains. Arouna DOKO, who graduated from agricultural college with a DEAT (Diploma of Tropical Agricultural Studies), provides daily support at the clinic, giving livestock keepers easy access to advice about animal health and livestock keeping.

Since it opened, the clinic has offered regular and affordable access to medical care and products, reducing people's need to turn to informal channels that are sometimes risky. Its proximity encourages livestock keepers to come and ask for advice and care, which makes it easier to detect diseases earlier and limit their spread.

In eleven months, the clinic has treated and vaccinated almost 10,000 poultry, 4,900 small ruminants and more than 3,200 cattle, as well as vaccinating 269 dogs against rabies. These results reveal a considerable need and growing trust.

In a context characterised by the limited availability of veterinary medicines and the presence of informal channels, the LPVS offers a long-term response. It is improving access to care, strengthening disease prevention and contributing to food security and public health.



Find out more about
the opening of the
VetCarePlus Group veterinary
clinic in Natitingou

Niger

THE RESILIENCE OF THE LPVS MODEL IN THE FACE OF INSECURITY

© Tim Dirven / VSF



↓
THE RESILIENCE
OF THE LPVS MODEL IN
A CONTEXT OF INSECURITY,
IN FIGURES



43
LPVS SUPPORTED,
INCLUDING ONE FEMALE
VETERINARIAN, PROVIDING
COVERAGE FOR

70%
OF THE TERRITORY
OF NIGER

749
TEAMS OF CAHWS
MOBILISED FOR THE NATIONAL
VACCINATION CAMPAIGN,
RESULTING IN THE VACCINATION
OF ALMOST

25 million
ANIMALS
TO THE BENEFIT
OF NEARLY

2 million
LIVESTOCK
KEEPERS

For more than ten years, Niger has been confronted with armed unrest that profoundly affects life in rural communities. In several regions, restrictive measures have been taken: movements are limited, the roads are dangerous and certain areas are becoming difficult to access. In this precarious context, guaranteeing livestock health is a real challenge.

This is where the local private veterinary services (LPVS) and community animal health workers (CAHW) play an essential role. This model, which has been applied in Niger for many years, is based on a simple principle: bringing veterinary services closer to livestock keepers, even in the most isolated areas. The CAHW are recruited from the villages, which means they know the families and herds and understand local realities. This proximity makes access to care easier, even in the most isolated areas.

Despite security and logistical constraints, the CAHW adapt. They use market vehicles to get to the villages and stock up on veterinary medicines, or they give a trusted person a list of the things they need. They are fully integrated into the community, which helps to limit the risks, and they receive vaccines and equipment in locked coolers, supervised by the private vet. In the villages, the cold chain is maintained by means of custom solutions, particularly the use of equipment that works on solar energy. In spite of the constraints, they continue to offer care, vaccines and advice to livestock keepers. Their regular presence reassures families and guarantees the continuity of essential services even in the most strained periods.



© Tim Dirven / VSF

This resilience was illustrated during the national livestock vaccination campaign in 2025. On this occasion, the LPVS covered 46 of the 66 departments, i.e. 70% of the country. 749 teams of CAHWs were mobilised at more than 10,000 vaccination centres. In total, around 25 million animals were vaccinated, a higher result than the previous year, benefiting more than a million livestock keepers and agro-pastoralists on a national scale. In a precarious setting, these results bear witness to the robustness of the model.

Faced with persistent insecurity and restricted mobility, the CAHWs and private vets in the LPVS scheme demonstrate exemplary resilience every day. Their commitment guarantees the continuity of care, supports livestock productivity and contributes directly to the food security of pastoral communities. In this uncertain context, they remain an essential pillar of support for millions of livestock keepers.



Fair and sustainable food system

The communities we support, their livestock and their land, and also those in the global North, can only be healthy if their environment is healthy too.

Prolonged droughts, recurrent flooding, deforestation, soil erosion and emerging diseases weaken local food systems profoundly. In the face of these upheavals, agro-pastoralists struggle to maintain their livelihoods.

Ménédore Nyabenda, a farmer, increased her harvests after receiving livestock-keeping training, four goats and equipment to strengthen her agricultural production (Burundi).
© Loïc Delvaux / VSF

However, we are still convinced that it is possible to reverse the trend by building sustainable, fair and resilient global food systems. Encouraging agroecology, integrating agriculture and livestock better, restoring soils and preserving natural resources will make it possible to protect biodiversity, take action for the climate and guarantee healthy, local and nutritious food. This way, we are helping to build food systems capable of feeding families sustainably, now and in the future.

↓
KEY FIGURES
FOR 2025



MORE THAN
55,500
PEOPLE IN THE GLOBAL SOUTH
MADE AWARE OF
ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH



MORE THAN
4,200
PEOPLE IN THE GLOBAL NORTH
MADE AWARE OF FAIR AND SUSTAINABLE
FOOD SYSTEMS AND THE
ONE HEALTH APPROACH

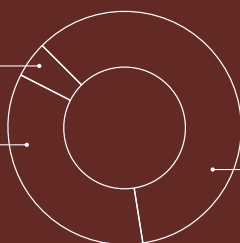


5%
FOREST



35%
AGRICULTURAL
LAND

MORE THAN
1,400
HECTARES PROTECTED



60%
PASTURE



Burkina Faso

SUSTAINABLY GROWING AND BUILDING RESILIENCE

In a difficult humanitarian and security context in Burkina Faso, the Koulché region has been particularly badly affected by the erosion of livelihoods among rural populations, especially internally displaced persons (IDPs), people returning to their homes, and host communities.

In response, we have set up a greenhouse farming project in partnership with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the Regional Directorate for Agriculture in Koulché to strengthen the resilience and economic autonomy of vulnerable households.

In 2025, a 250 m² community greenhouse was installed in the town of Kaya. Fitted with a solar drip irrigation and misting system, this greenhouse stabilises production and lengthens agricultural seasons. The solar irrigation and adapted agricultural practices enable families to produce their own vegetables, generate income and improve their economic autonomy.

Twenty producers — 70% of whom are IDPs, 10% returned people and 20% from host communities — have benefited from high-quality agricultural inputs and technical training in greenhouse cultivation, fertilisation, an integrated ecological approach to pest control, and collective management.

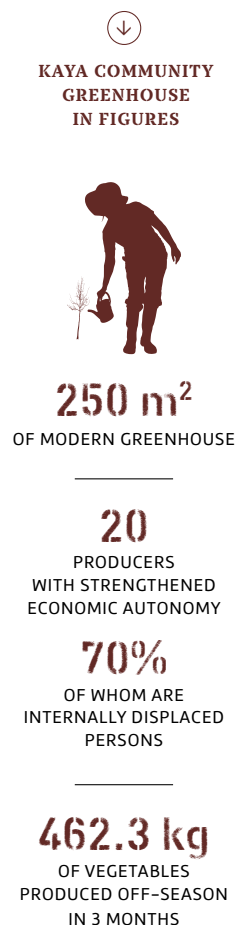
Organised as an agricultural cooperative, they produced almost 500 kg of cucumbers and tomatoes together between September and November 2025. This generated an income that they reinvested in the cooperative's savings and internal loans system.

The community greenhouse in Kaya presents a model for agricultural resilience in a precarious setting. It contributes to financial autonomy, strengthens the social bonds between IDPs, returned people and host communities, improves food security and allows households to reduce their dependence on humanitarian aid. It also serves as a training environment for the transmission of sustainable agricultural practices between the different communities involved.

Sustainable agriculture can become an essential lever for economic and social resilience among vulnerable populations in times of crisis.



© VSF



TESTIMONIAL

Célestin D'Allada

30 YEARS OLD,
FORESTRY ENTREPRENEUR
IN DJOUGOU, BENIN



© Loïc Delvaux / VSF

In a context shaped by deforestation, soil degradation and the effects of climate change, the local production of plants adapted to their environment is a practical way to restore ecosystems while generating income. In Djougou, young entrepreneurs are setting up tree nurseries to support reforestation and agricultural diversification and to strengthen family businesses. By promoting composting, the use of organic manures and species adapted to local conditions, these initiatives are contributing to more sustainable food systems.

A few years ago, Célestin never imagined he would give up his job as a photographer to run a tree nursery. But in 2022, he joined his sister Béatrice in setting up the business BENI D'OR, specialising in plant production in Djougou. The pair grow mango, cashew and papaya trees along with timber species, intended for reforestation and local growers. Célestin was trained on the job by his sister, who has a degree in agronomy. He soon developed a speciality in grafting, with a success rate of over 80%. Their activity is contributing to the implementation of the national reforestation programme. In 2025, they sold 31,723 plants. Despite difficulties with access to funding, water and transport, their ambitions are still clear: to expand their nursery and maintain their activity in a sustainable way.

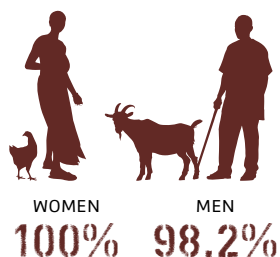
Burundi

STRENGTHENING SUSTAINABLE FAMILY BUSINESSES BY INTEGRATING AGRICULTURE AND LIVESTOCK KEEPING



OUR ACTIVITIES IN BURUNDI IN 2025

BENEFICIARIES SATISFIED
WITH LOCAL PRIVATE VETERINARY
SERVICES (LPVS)



ANIMAL HEALTH PROVIDERS
ADOPTING GOOD PRACTICES
BASED ON THE ONE HEALTH
APPROACH



-77.3%

IN THE PROPORTION
OF BENEFICIARY HOUSEHOLDS
EXPERIENCING GREAT
VULNERABILITY

In Burundi, 90% of the population make a living from agriculture and livestock farming. In the provinces of Ngozi and Kayanza, rural families face many challenges: the pressure of land ownership, fragmented parcels of land, poor and infertile soil, and limited access to agricultural inputs and veterinary services. These constraints are weakening food security and family incomes.

In response, we have developed a global approach that puts livestock keeping at the heart of dietary, economic and environmental resilience. In this approach, livestock keeping is not merely a source of income. It improves nutrition, fertilises soils with organic manure, acts as a savings bank and life insurance, and in doing so reinforces families' autonomy. When combined with composting, agroforestry and vegetable gardens, livestock keeping becomes an essential building block for sustainable food systems.

The approach is also based on a principle of solidarity: families receive animals — mainly goats, cows or pigs — and then pass on some of the livestock they rear to other families. This dynamic of giving and repaying strengthens social bonds and spreads the benefits among the villages.

Philbert Hitimana (left) and his wife
Espérance (right), farmers, received goats
to fertilise their fields and improve
their harvests (Burundi).
© Loïc Delvaux / VSF



The results are significant. 28,277 households have been supported. More than 2,700 households received agricultural inputs, and 1,617 families received four goats each. Their circumstances have improved noticeably: the proportion of households experiencing the greatest vulnerability has dropped from 91% to 20.7%. Simultaneously, income earned from livestock keeping has increased significantly. The households' savings have also grown considerably, allowing more investments and greater autonomy.

The impact can also be seen in the fields: the integration of agriculture and livestock keeping has resulted in bean harvests increasing from 0.45 to 1.2 tonnes per hectare. Diets have become more varied, especially for women and young children, thanks to better access to nutrient-rich foods.

This transformation is also a result of the local private veterinary services, which now cover 96 hills. The community animal health workers provide basic care, prevention and health monitoring, safeguarding livestock health and the continuity of the system.

Investing in family livestock does more than merely increase production: it builds fairer, more sustainable food systems that are capable of weathering crises. It is working so well that microfinancing institutions have picked up on it, granting livestock-keeping loans with our support.



Economic autonomy for communities

In rural areas, whether in the Global South or here in Belgium, livestock keeping and agricultural activities represent far more than just a livelihood: they shape a way of life and provide an essential lever for families' economic autonomy.

The products of livestock keeping primarily augment the family's diet, although they can also sell a proportion of their products to pay for health costs, education and other essentials.

Madeline Liwoni, an entrepreneur specialising in soybean processing in Boukoubé, received training in business management, marketing and management (Benin).
© Loïc Delvaux / VSF

However, due to a lack of knowledge, resources and access to services, skills, markets or innovations, this potential remains largely untapped.

We organise exchanges and, in the Global South, offer technical, business and management training. We also facilitate access to loans and savings schemes and encourage a diversification of production methods. Similarly, the development of local value chains linked to livestock keeping offers a way to extract more value from the producers' labour and create sustainable jobs within communities. Finally, establishing veterinary and para-veterinary services contributes to the sustainability and longer lifespan of economic activities. This way, year after year, rural families have tangible resources to construct a more stable, prosperous and genuinely autonomous future.

↓
KEY FIGURES
FOR 2025



MORE THAN
40,000
HOUSEHOLDS
BENEFITED FROM
OUR DEVELOPMENT
ACTIVITIES



MORE THAN
12,000
BENEFICIARIES
SUPPORTED TO IMPROVE
THEIR SKILLS AND
PROFESSIONAL
PRACTICES



MORE THAN
1,500
HOUSEHOLDS
BENEFITED FROM
DISTRIBUTIONS OR LOANS
OF ANIMALS

Burundi

ENTREPRENEURSHIP: THE DRIVER OF ECONOMIC RESILIENCE IN RURAL POPULATIONS

In Burundi, many rural families make their living principally from agriculture. In the provinces of Makamba and Rutana, where the cassava sector occupies a key position, strengthening rural entrepreneurship has become essential to create sustainable incomes and offer new economic perspectives.

This is the context in which we launched our initiative to reinforce the integration of livestock keeping into family agricultural systems and support the development of the poultry-breeding sector. The objective is to stimulate rural entrepreneurship, create value, close the cycle of agricultural nutrients and boost local employment by acting on every link in the agricultural value chain, from production to marketing.

This approach combines training, coaching in agroecology techniques, local veterinary services and institutional support. It enables small businesses to acquire skills, improve their productivity and increase their resilience.

We have coached 202 small poultry-breeding businesses and 58 processing businesses. The first livestock-keeping businesses to receive support have started production, with encouraging results. In parallel, 900 households have been made aware of the possibility of integrating agriculture and livestock keeping, an approach based particularly on the use of organic manure from animals to improve harvests in a context where most soils are acidic.



Find out
Marie-Rose's story:
an entrepreneur
who breeds poultry.



SCAN ME

Agro-pastoralists are coached in the production of high-quality manure in sufficient quantities, achieved by means of compost pits. The manure produced by chicken coops also contributes to increased yields, especially in the vegetable sector. Consequently, economic autonomy is strengthened directly: better agricultural production means sustainable activity and more secure income.

In addition, 300 community animal health workers have been trained and put to work in the hills where we intervene. They are genuine local connectors who provide basic animal care, raise awareness of good livestock-keeping practices and contribute to epidemic surveillance whilst integrating the principles of agroecology. With the help of a digital tool, they also collect livestock-keeping data to facilitate health monitoring and support rural businesses.

A well-supported agricultural business can become a genuine driver of economic autonomy. When producers' skills are boosted, local veterinary services are developed and the complementarity of agriculture and livestock keeping is promoted, families gain access to levers to diversify their income, secure their livelihoods and sustainably increase their resilience.



Clémence Bizimana, a poultry farmer, received a chick brooder, a rooster and training to develop her poultry farm. Since then, she has started raising other animals and bought land for cultivation (Burundi).
© Amani Papy / VSF

TESTIMONIAL

Samira Idrissou

20 YEARS OLD,
MICRO-ENTREPRENEUR
IN RABBIT FARMING
IN DJOUGOU, BENIN



© Loïc Delvaux / VSF

In Benin, access to entrepreneurship represents an opportunity for many young people, especially women, who want to set up an economic activity. The support offered by VSF-B allows them to gain skills in management, livestock keeping and marketing. This knowledge strengthens their capacity to structure their activity, secure their income and launch themselves into the future.

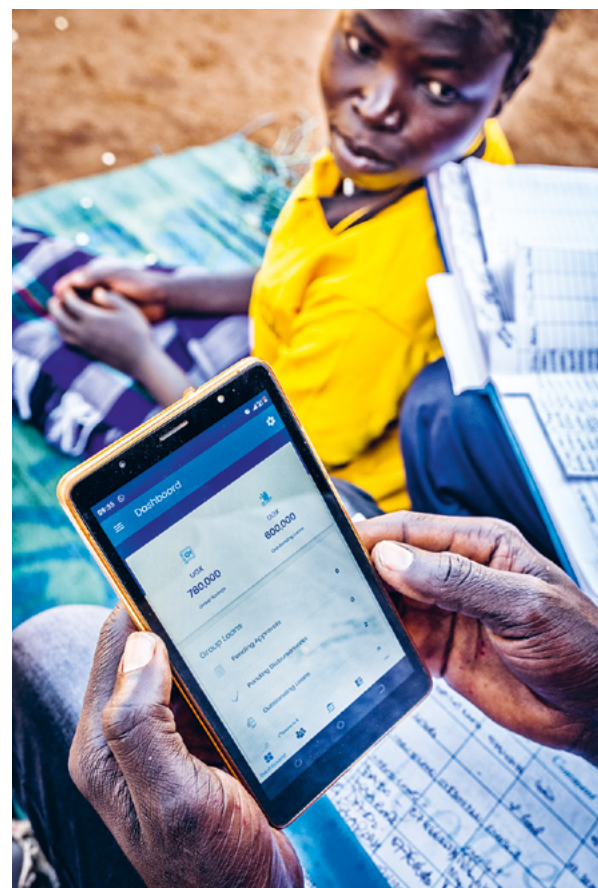
In Djougou, Samira has set up a small rabbit-farming business. She has been passionate about animals since childhood, and has taken training in management, marketing and business monitoring. For the first time, she keeps books to track her income, expenditure and stock. Her training has enabled her to organise her farming activity better and monitor the evolution of her expenditure and income. She has also received practical advice on feeding, reproduction and disease detection. Now she regularly checks her animals and calls a vet when necessary. She started out with just four rabbits and although she sells dozens every year, she currently has sixteen. Samira dreams of growing her rabbit-keeping business and, one day, selling them to restaurants in Donga.

Uganda

GIVING LIVESTOCK KEEPERS THE MEANS TO INVEST IN THEIR ACTIVITIES

Modernising community savings and credit groups: members are moving from paper ledgers and metal cash boxes to a digital system for managing savings, loans and the solidarity fund.

© Tim Dirven / VSF



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**FACILITATING
SAVINGS AND ACCESS
TO FUNDING
IN 2025**

AVERAGE INCOME FROM
LIVESTOCK KEEPING
VALUE CHAINS: APPROX

€ 369
IN 2023

€ 1,336
IN 2025

AVERAGE INDIVIDUAL
SAVINGS: APPROX

€ 95
IN 2022

€ 192
IN 2025

CREDIT CYCLES
PER GROUP:

3 to 4
PER YEAR

In the Karamoja region in north-eastern Uganda, livestock keeping is far more than an economic activity: it is the basis of livelihoods, diets and the social organisation of communities. However, livestock keepers have very few resources to invest in their activities. Access to loans is limited, the risks are high and essential services such as veterinary care remain difficult to obtain.

Faced with these constraints, we are developing an approach that aims to secure livestock-keeping activities and progressively remove the barriers to investment. The objective is to allow livestock keepers to develop their activities sustainably by accessing more stable incomes (during prolonged droughts) and new economic opportunities.

This approach is centred on savings groups and community loans. When such groups are set up in villages, they allow their members to form a savings collective and access small loans to invest in their livestock-keeping business or launch a complementary activity. It works on the basis of solidarity mechanisms: the members know each other, support each other and provide mutual guarantees, all of which greatly reduce the risks linked to borrowing money.

These systems are accompanied by technical support with livestock keeping — animal health, feeding, herd management — along with management training and financial education. This combination is essential, helping to secure the investments made and to progressively increase the profitability of activities.

In parallel, we strive to improve livestock keepers' living environment through better access to veterinary services, management of natural



© Tim Dirven / VSF

resources and the prevention of conflicts linked to pastures and water. By strengthening these different elements, families are better able to protect their assets and face challenges.

The results observed are significant. Between 2023 and 2025, the income generated by livestock-keeping activities increased sharply as family savings and the loans allocated to households progressed. This indicates a better capacity to anticipate shocks and to invest in the long term. This dynamic reveals an important evolution: livestock keepers are no longer content simply to continue their activity; they are now able to develop it further.

In Karamoja, this approach shows that by combining livestock keeping with access to funding and local support, it is possible to progressively transform fragile economic systems into more resilient activities with a real future.



Humanitarian activities

Humanitarian crises are multiplying, intensifying and lasting longer, provoked by humanitarian and natural disasters and by health crises. In these especially precarious contexts, we implement emergency humanitarian campaigns with the support of our partners, including the United Nations and the Belgian Development Cooperation.

We act to respond to the urgent needs of vulnerable families, to preserve their livelihoods and reduce the risks of violence and attacks on their dignity. We do this with immediate aid — particularly food aid — in order to protect their means of subsistence, income and access to essential services.

Minata Bamogo, a displaced Burkinabè woman, has made a fresh start thanks to five goats, animal feed and training that enabled her to care for her animals and manage a small business (Burkina Faso). © Semfilms / VSF

In the rural areas where we work, livestock is often the main source of a household's wealth. Losing their animals puts families at direct risk and may increase their vulnerability. Protecting livestock-keeping systems and providing access to animal health services and to natural resources thus contributes to preserving livelihoods, maintaining the dignity of populations and limiting tensions between communities.

We also support the victims of violence and join local players in strengthening the mechanisms that prevent and manage risks. This approach enables us to act consistently before, during and after crises, combining immediate assistance, support for livelihoods and activities to promote peaceful coexistence.

↓
KEY FIGURES
FOR 2025



4,551

PEOPLE
BENEFITED FROM
FOOD AID



6,544

VICTIMS
OF SAFETY INCIDENTS
BENEFITED FROM
PERSONALISED SUPPORT



15,585

PEOPLE BENEFITED
FROM SPECIFIC HELP
TO PROTECT AND/OR REBUILD
THEIR LIVELIHOODS



5,108

ANIMALS
WERE DISTRIBUTED
TO RECONSTITUTE HERDS
AFTER A CRISIS



To find out more
about the HDP nexus
in the DR Congo
and Uganda, read
our two fact sheets.



SCAN ME



SCAN ME

DR Congo & Uganda

ACTION IN THE FACE OF ONGOING CRISES

In both the DRC and Uganda, pastoral and agro-pastoral communities have been facing prolonged crises, characterised by insecurity, displaced populations and severe pressure on natural resources. On the Ruzizi plain and in the highlands of Uvira, years of violence and inter-community conflict have caused massive population displacements: in 2025, more than 6.8 million people were internally displaced in the DRC, increasing the pressure on local resources that were already stretched. In Karamoja in Uganda, recurrent droughts, loss of livestock and tensions relating to resources are jeopardising livelihoods and exposing households to severe food insecurity.



© Tim Dirven / VSF



© Arlette Bashizi / VSF

To respond to these situations, we take an approach that combines emergency aid, support for livelihoods and activities to promote peaceful coexistence. The objective is to respond to immediate needs while helping the communities handle crises better in the long term.

- **Before crises**, we strengthen local capacities to limit the impact of shocks. VSF-B supports community veterinary networks, assists livestock keepers' associations and develops adapted economic activities. In the DRC, the mini-dairies we support collect around 160,000 litres of milk per year, helping to improve incomes and food security. In Uganda, strengthening 83 village savings and loan associations has improved households' access to financial resources and underpinned their resilience.

- **During crises**, the veterinary networks and community structures are mobilised to respond rapidly to needs. Cash transfers and essential aid are set up, while livelihoods are protected through support for livestock keeping, access to water and veterinary services. In the DRC, more than 40,000 veterinary interventions have taken place

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OUR HUMANITARIAN
ACTIVITIES IN THE DRC
AND UGANDA IN 2025



27,527

DISPLACED
PEOPLE
AND

17,611

HOSTS
RECEIVED OVERALL
HUMANITARIAN
ASSISTANCE

328

PEOPLE
BENEFITED FROM
FOOD AID

3,569

PEOPLE
BENEFITED FROM
SPECIFIC HELP
TO PROTECT AND/OR REBUILD
THEIR LIVELIHOODS

3,816

VICTIMS
OF SAFETY INCIDENTS
BENEFITED FROM
PERSONALISED
SUPPORT

in two years. In Uganda, the support we offer has helped to limit losses and reduce tensions between communities.

- **After crises**, we assist with the reconstitution of herds, the recovery of economic activities and dialogue between communities. In both countries, local mechanisms for mediation and resource management are supported to prevent conflicts and foster coexistence between the host communities, displaced people and returning populations.

Drawing on support from local players, this approach helps to stabilise living conditions, preserve livelihoods and reduce tensions, even if the results remain fragile in the face of persistent crises.

In Karamoja, a group of women uses theatre, dialogue and personal testimonies to speak out against violence. Together, they learn to overcome their trauma, defend themselves and advocate for peace (Uganda).
© Tim Dirven / VSF



Niger

**ECONOMIC AUTONOMY
AS A MEANS TO PROTECT
WOMEN WHO HAVE
SURVIVED VIOLENCE**



**OUR HUMANITARIAN
ACTIVITIES IN NIGER
IN 2025**



7 271

PEOPLE HELPED
IN ORDER TO PROTECT
AND/OR REBUILD
THEIR LIVELIHOODS

439

OF THESE
WERE FEMALE SURVIVORS
OF VIOLENCE,
GIVEN ASSISTANCE
TO REBUILD THEIR
SOCIO-ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES

482

SMALL RUMINANTS
WERE DISTRIBUTED
TO SUPPORT THE REBUILDING
OF ACTIVITIES

In Niger, violence committed against women and girls is a worrying reality in a context marked by insecurity, forced displacements and heavy pressure on resources. When displaced and host populations have to live together, in combination with deteriorating living conditions, the risks to which women are exposed increase. In particular, this means violence and reduced access to essential resources.

To respond to these challenges, VSF-B draws on its expertise in livestock keeping in the service of communities to help women who have survived violence progressively regain their autonomy. The objective is to respond to immediate needs by giving them the means to develop an income-generating activity, regain financial autonomy and recover their self-confidence.

Every woman we support benefits from individual coaching in a safe and confidential context, so that an activity suitable for her circumstances can be found. The activities set up are predominantly based on livestock keeping, particularly sheep fattening and the reconstitution of goat herds, supplemented by small businesses in cases where this is more suitable. This allows us to offer solutions embedded in local practices that quickly generate income.



© Tim Dirven / VSF

Over the last two years, 439 women have been supported in the towns of Torodi and Abalack. The support they receive is a combination of financial aid to launch an activity and the distribution of sheep and goats, along with feed to get them started. In contexts where assets are easily lost, livestock plays a crucial role: it forms a source of income, a reserve of value that can be mobilised in case of need, and a practical tool for rebuilding livelihoods.

The results reveal positive developments. The vast majority of the women supported report an improvement in their situation, with a greater capacity to meet their essential needs and a reduction in the risks to which they are exposed. Access to their own resources also contributes to reinforcing their position at the heart of the household and limiting their exposure to certain forms of violence.

In the context of a prolonged crisis, this approach shows that support for livelihoods, especially by means of livestock keeping, constitutes a concrete tool to protect the most vulnerable women and preserve their dignity.



99%

OF THE WOMEN
EXPERIENCED AN IMPROVEMENT
IN THEIR SITUATION
AND A REDUCTION
IN THE RISKS OF VIOLENCE

Financial report

This is the financial report on the annual accounts of Vétérinaires Sans Frontières Belgium, covering all activities carried out between 1 January and 31 December 2025. The accounts have been audited and certified by our auditors, L&S Réviseurs d'Entreprise. They can be viewed on the website of the National Bank of Belgium www.nbb.be.

INCOME

In 2025, the total revenue of Vétérinaires Sans Frontières from private and institutional donations amounted to **€10,563,617**, compared to €12,466,822 the previous year, representing a decrease of 15.2%.

Donations are essential for Vétérinaires Sans Frontières Belgium to be able to achieve its objectives. In 2025, we received €1,154,341 in private **donations**. This accounts for 11% of Vétérinaires Sans Frontières Belgium's income, a proportion that is greater than in 2024. Cumulatively, these funds allow us to obtain significant subsidies in Belgium and internationally through the co-financing system.

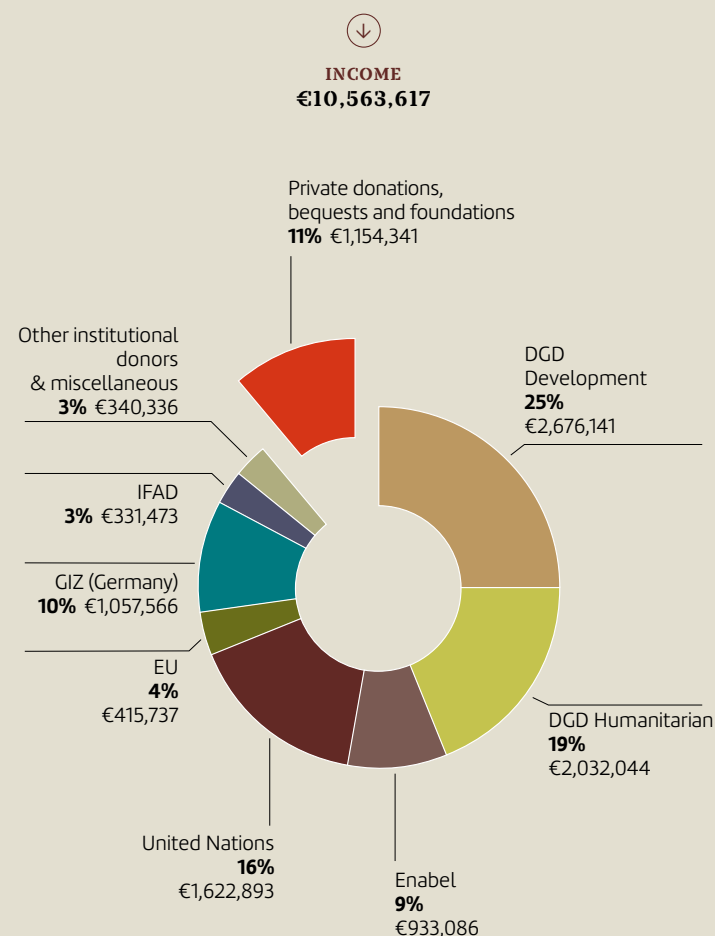
We have again been able to rely on significant support from various government bodies and stable partners this year. Our primary institutional donors are:

- The Belgian government's development aid programme: €4,708,185 from the **Belgian Development Cooperation (DGD)** (divided into €2,676,141 for development aid and €2,032,044

for humanitarian aid), and €933,086 from **Enabel** (i.e. a total of €5,641,271 accessed in 2025)

- The **United Nations** (€1,622,893), predominantly the High Commissioner for Refugees, UNHCR (€979,430)
- The German Agency for International Cooperation (**GIZ**) for €1,057,566
- The **European Union** for €415,737

These five institutional funding bodies represent **82.7%** of our organisation's income. The diversity of our donors gives us a certain level of independence as an NGO. Furthermore, stability in terms of the volume of transactions with our main institutional partners is a decisive factor in ensuring the continuity of our activities.



EXPENDITURE

Our expenses amounted to **€10,768,122** in 2025, compared to **€12,777,955** the previous year.

In 2025, we allocated **€8,560,604** to the implementation of our programmes, representing 79.5% of our total expenses. In addition, **€164,425** was dedicated to information and awareness raising activities among the Belgian public. The remaining expenses mainly cover operational costs for the headquarters in Brussels, as well as fundraising-related costs.

The 2025 financial year ended with **a loss of €204,506**, covered by the organisation's reserves. Our reserves currently amount to **€448,198**.

The year 2025 was marked by a particularly unstable geopolitical and political environment, which led to significant budget constraints in the development cooperation sector. The announcement, at the beginning of the year, of the closure of the USAID agency set the tone and accelerated an already emerging trend of reduced development aid budgets in Europe. According to OECD data, this trend resulted in an approximately 30% decline in sector funding over the 2024–2025 period.

In this context, and in response to a 15% decrease in its revenues, our organisation had to continue and intensify the restructuring process initiated in 2024. This combined staff reductions at headquarters and in the field, cost rationalisation, and operational adjustments, with the aim of preserving operational capacity as much as possible.

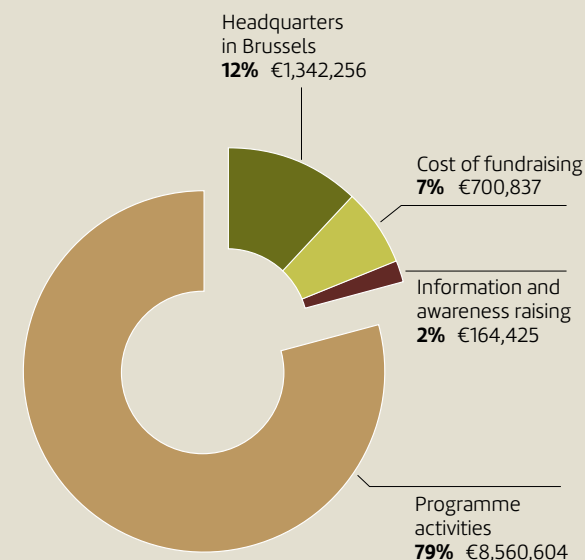
CO-FINANCING, SUBSIDIES AND PRIVATE FUNDRAISING

A part of our projects are co-financed by a lead donor, on the condition that VSF-B contributes part of the total programme budget (generally between 5 and 20% of the total). This own contribution comes from funds collected from private donors, companies, and subsidies granted by other institutional donors. In 2025, our own contribution amounted to **€1,154,341 in private donations and €605,921 in co-financing subsidies**.

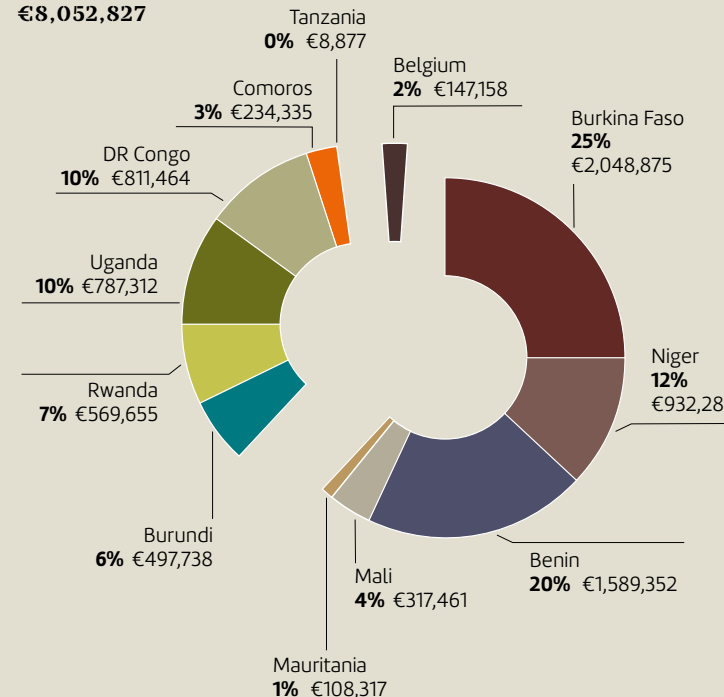
This means that every donation and every subsidy counts, and all of them are essential for the implementation of our projects in Africa and in Belgium. We would like to thank all our donors and sympathisers for their renewed support. We are also very grateful to all our institutional donors for their subsidies, particularly Maribel, the province of East Flanders, Wallonie-Bruxelles International, the Flemish Region and the Fondation NIF. And thanks to all the companies and organisations that have supported us financially or in kind, by making a donation, sponsoring a campaign or activity, or offering their services for free or at a reduced rate.



EXPENDITURE €10,768,122



ACTIVITIES IN THE FIELD BY COUNTRY €8,052,827



PLANNED AND FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS

The year 2026 begins under more favourable conditions. The signing of new contracts (with the German Development Bank KfW, worth €6.2 million, and the renewal of our contract with the humanitarian department of the Belgian Government, for €3.7 million), as well as the renewal of our accreditation with DGD Development for 10 years, represent a strong signal of confidence from our institutional partners. Encouraging prospects are also emerging, with several contracts in the process of being finalised, notably in the Democratic Republic of Congo with the World Bank.

The organisation also ensures that structural costs remain controlled and aligned with the level of activity.

Investments in fundraising from private donors continue to be strengthened, with the aim of increasing the share of private donations in our income and thereby consolidating our financial independence.

In a context of overall reductions in development aid budgets, VSF-B is also reflecting on a greater diversification of its funding sources, particularly towards the private sector and blended finance mechanisms. These pathways, still under exploration, are part of a cautious approach consistent with the organisation's values and positioning.

As they do every year, our teams analysed potential strategic collaborations with other NGOs, particularly with national and local partners. This policy enables Vétérinaires Sans Frontières Belgium to ensure that its strategic orientations are in line with global evolutions in international cooperation.

Balance sheet

Assets	2025	2024
Fixed assets	539,519	383,290
Intangible fixed assets	504,960	328,702
Tangible fixed assets	13,473	33,584
Financial fixed assets	21,086	21,004
Current assets	15,248,283	14,058,959
Receivables with a maturity of more than one year	5,609,430	3,888,064
Receivables with a maturity of less than one year	7,667,010	9,219,074
Cash equivalents	1,927,016	700,451
Transitory accounts	44,827	251,370
Total assets	15,787,802	14,442,249

Liabilities	2025	2024
Capital	494,744	779,152
Social fund	959,268	959,268
Profit carried forward	-511,069	-306,564
Capital subsidies	-	-
Provisions	46,545	126,449
Debts	15,293,058	13,663,096
Debts with a maturity of more than one year	7,146,416	4,157,287
Debts with a maturity of less than one year	1,517,721	1,640,881
Transitory accounts	6,628,921	7,864,929
Total liabilities	15,787,802	14,442,249

Profit and loss statement

	2025	2024
Sales of products and services	10,411,653	12,348,475
Cost of products and services	-10,578,636	-12,541,983
Operating result	-166,983	-193,508
Financial income	21,963	118,347
Financial expenditure	-189,485	-181,003
Current result	-334,505	-256,164
Exceptional income	130,000	-
Exceptional expenditure	-	- 54,970
Result of the financial year	-204,505	- 311,134
Total income	10,563,616	12,466,822
Total expenditure	- 10,768,121	- 12,777,955

ADDENDUM

ORGANISATION PROFILE

Who are we and how is our organisation structured?

Vétérinaires Sans Frontières Belgium is an ASBL (non-profit organisation) under Belgian law, founded in 1985 by a small group of veterinarians who wanted to use their expertise to help disadvantaged populations dependent on livestock keeping in the Global South. Its articles of association were published in the Belgian Official Gazette on 5 December 1985 under number 14089/85. They were most recently amended by the General Assembly on 24 April 2022 and published in the annexes to the Belgian Official Gazette under number 22013835. Vétérinaires Sans Frontières Belgium's company registration number is 0442.168.263. It was accredited as an NGO on 13 November 1997, then as a programme NGO on 14 April 2007 for a period of ten years, by the Belgian Federal Public Service Foreign Affairs, which is in charge of development cooperation. In 2025, the government approved our request for renewal, which will take effect on 1 January 2027, for a further ten-year period.

In 2025, our headquarters (including our Global Citizenship Education programme) had a total of 15 employees (10 women and 5 men), representing 14.3 full-time equivalents. Ongoing professional training is encouraged by the organisation. The staff data for Vétérinaires Sans Frontières Belgium can be found on the website of the National Bank of Belgium: www.nbb.be (Central Balance Sheet Office).

Vétérinaires Sans Frontières Belgium is a founding member of the Vétérinaires Sans Frontières International network, comprising twelve independent organisations based in Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, the Netherlands, North America, Portugal, Sweden and Switzerland: www.vsf-international.org.

In addition to its membership of the NGO federations in Belgium (Acodiv and the ngo-federatie), Vétérinaires Sans Frontières Belgium is also an active member of the Coalition of European Lobbies for Eastern African Pastoralism (CELEP) (www.celep.info) and the Global Alliance for Livestock Veterinary Medicines (GALVmed) (www.galvmed.org).

At its General Assembly in June 2021, the association adopted a new vision: "Healthy animals, healthy people, healthy planet." This slogan reflects its commitment and the integration of the "One Health" concept into its development programmes.

GOVERNANCE

Who decides and who is involved?

Decisions are made at four levels in Vétérinaires Sans Frontières Belgium: the General Assembly, which is the highest-level body, the Board of Directors, the Executive Committee and the Country Directors.

The General Assembly (GA) of Vétérinaires Sans Frontières Belgium was comprised of 15 effective members in 2025.

The Board of Directors (BD) was made up of 7 independent individuals in 2025, acting on a voluntary basis

- Guy Hendrickx, chair
- Cécile Appels
- Caroline De Siron
- Chantal Lafort
- Stéphane Liétard
- Caroline Rabemanantsoa
- Bernard De Bo

The Board of Directors is delegated by the General Assembly to establish the long-term strategic plans for the organisation. Board members are elected for a renewable four-year term. The current list of members can be found on our website. We would like to thank the board members for their active commitment to the Board of Directors, in some cases over a long period of time. We are actively looking for new members of our General Assembly. You are welcome to contact us about this at: VSF-B-CA@vsf-belgium.org.

The Executive Committee is responsible for running and managing the organisation according to Belgian and international laws, the procedures of various donors and the strategy approved by the Board of Directors. The committee ensures that the overall strategy is properly reflected in operational plans, and that the organisation has the human and financial resources needed to achieve its objectives. The Directors also play an important role as representatives of Vétérinaires Sans Frontières Belgium.

At the end of 2025, the Executive Committee had six members: the General Director, the Executive Director of Support Services, the Director of Operations, the two Regional Directors for West Africa and the Great Lakes, as well as the Fundraising and Communications Manager.

QUALITY APPROACH

How can we improve the quality of our internal management and of our programmes?

The Belgian NGO sector, through its two federations (ngo-federatie and ACODEV), benefits from substantial support in quality management. This support aims to encourage NGOs and associations to achieve and maintain higher performance outcomes, meeting the expectations of all their stakeholders. In 2025, Vétérinaires Sans Frontières Belgium obtained the renewal of its accreditation as an NGO from the Belgian State and will soon submit its accreditation renewal file to the Directorate-General ECHO of the European Union. These assessments focus on our administrative organisation and internal control systems. They reflect our commitment to a process of continuous improvement in our management practices.

VALUES & INTEGRITY

What are our values and how do they translate into our operations?

All the staff, volunteers, and interns at Vétérinaires Sans Frontières Belgium sign our **Integrity Code**, which covers both **financial** and **moral** integrity.

In 2025, VSF-B strengthened staff and local partner awareness of integrity standards, with a particular focus on **the Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA)**. These actions are part of our ongoing commitment to ensuring a safe and responsible working environment.

Throughout the year, our internal control mechanisms detected a **case of fraud**, which was immediately investigated in line with our procedures. The investigation confirmed misconduct, leading to the **dismissal of two employees**. Corrective measures were put in place to strengthen our systems and prevent recurrence.

FINANCIAL TRANSPARENCY

In accordance with the law on non-profit organisations, the accounts of Vétérinaires Sans Frontières Belgium detailed in this report were audited and certified by the audit firm L&S Réviseurs d'Entreprise. They were also approved by our General Assembly on 27 June 2026. The Directorate-General for Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Aid (Belgian federal public service) and all our other institutional donors systematically audit the projects that they finance. Our entire financial statement is available from the National Bank of Belgium (www.nbb.be). So you can rest assured that the funds we receive are used appropriately.

Vétérinaires Sans Frontières Belgium subscribes to the ethical code of the RE-EF. You have a right to information. Consequently, donors, partners and staff are informed at least once a year on the use of the funds received.



OUR DONORS

We carried out our activities in 2025 with the support of many donors. In particular, we worked with:

- AICS – Italian Agency for Development Cooperation
- DGD – Belgian Development Cooperation
- Enabel – Belgian Development Agency
- European Union (DG INTPA / DG ECHO)
- Flemish Government
- Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)
- G-STIC
- German Cooperation (GIZ)
- International Organization for Migration (IOM)
- NIF Foundation
- Province of East Flanders
- Regional Humanitarian Fund for West and Central Africa
- Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC)
- United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
- United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)
- Wallonia-Brussels International
- World Food Programme (WFP)

OUR TECHNICAL PARTNERS

- African Union – Inter-African Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR)
- Global Alliance for Livestock Veterinary Medicines (GALVmed)
- International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI/CGIAR)
- Livestock Emergency Guidelines & Standards (LEGS)
- Organisation Mondiale de la Santé Animale (WOAH)
- PREventing ZOonotic Disease Emergence (PREZODE)
- Programme Régional d'Appui au Pastoralisme au Sahel (PRAPS)
- UGent – Faculty of Veterinary Medicine
- ULiège – Faculty of Veterinary Medicine

OUR NETWORKS

- ACODEV
- Agroecology in Action (AiA)
- CELEP
- Coalition Against Hunger
- IYRP Global Alliance for Rangelands and Pastoralists
- Ngo-federatie
- RE-EF.be
- Testament.be
- Voedsel Anders
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Company number 0442.168.263
Vétérinaires Sans Frontières Belgium asbl - RPM Brussels
Design : Beltza