

VÉTÉRINAIRES SANS FRONTIÈRES SUISSE
ANNUAL REPORT 2010



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Portrait

More than a billion people live with less than a franc a day. Many of them base their livelihood entirely or at least to a large extent on livestock. Animals milk, eggs or meat and provide wool, leather or fertiliser. They are used as a means of transporting water, goods or even entire households. Further, animals are traded for other goods, are important financial investments and play an important socio-cultural role in rural societies in the south.

Healthy animals - healthy people

Animals that have been weakened through hunger, thirst or illnesses are highly susceptible to epidemics and illnesses. When the animals fall ill it inevitably affects the people. Vétérinaires Sans Frontières (VSF-Suisse) helps where poverty is widespread and where veterinary structures are minimal, such as in conflict zones or drought areas. In our projects the populations benefit from instant help through for instance vaccination campaigns as well as longer term support in the form of knowledge transfer, education of lay vets or the consultation of public veterinary authorities. Through fighting animal diseases and epidemics, particularly the so-called zoonoses (transmittable diseases such as splenic fever or avian flu which can affect humans too), VSF-Suisse contributes to the improvement of public health.

More independence

We at VSF-Suisse support people that already cultivate livestock or that receive livestock from us on their way to more independence. In that respect education plays a key role. We advise the livestock owners in the areas of breeding, hygiene, disease-prevention and support them in improving the production and marketing of their products. We also support the founding of associations and micro-enterprises. Wherever possible VSF-Suisse works with and through local partners and includes all stakeholders in all phases of the projects. This helps to create lasting success in the development. In the project design we stand for respect of social structures, sustainability, ecological compatibility and animal protection.

Development and Emergency Aid

VSF-Suisse operates in six African countries, especially ones that have suffered natural disasters or violent conflict. Thanks to the relationships we have built in our development projects over the years we can launch short-term emergency aid projects in case of droughts, epidemics or violent conflict.

The charitable organisation VSF-Suisse was founded in 1988 as an association with HQ in Berne and is recognised by ZEWO.

Dear members and friends of VSF Suisse

When you ask different people about the meaning of animals the answers couldn't be more diverse. For some they are companions at home or in their spare time, for others they are a source of income be it through breeding or the products they provide. The field in which VSF-Suisse works, namely in six African countries four of which are constantly suffering from violent conflict and climate change related disasters, livestock can determine the survival of the people. They provide food security in times when farming is not possible, they provide a sustainable source of income as opposed to depletion in protected areas and they provide a status within society which is not a given in the army service.

Because of the civil war in Somalia many people flee to Puntland or Kenya. We were also forced to move our projects from southern Somalia to Puntland. Our support focuses on helping farmers and their families, women and refugees sell their fish and camel jerky so that they can generate an income and re-build a living. The border area in the northeast of Kenya is regularly hit by severe droughts and the camel is thus at the focus of VSF-Suisse's work as it is an animal ideally suited to the situation and provides milk. The VSF Suisse Team supported the population affected by war in southern Sudan in 2010. Child soldiers and particularly women were given herds of goats and with them a chance to construct a new life. The local farmers were given the opportunity to increase their production with the help of the Farmer Field Schools. The work of our enthusiastic team in Goma around social and economic re-integration of vulnerable people was visited in 2010 by representatives of the initiative 'every penny counts!'. Once again, women, children and the elderly could build a new existence based on livestock. Further, we have supported initiatives to fight malaria. In Mali the local milk sector in the region of Ségou has been strengthened and the activities were duplicated in other villages also. For the protection of the Fazao-Malfakassa national park in Togo we have supported families of small farmers in building alternative livelihoods outside of the park. The keeping and breeding of livestock such as sheep, rabbits or bees as well as agricultural activities were chosen by the beneficiaries.

The distribution of livestock to victims of conflict and other vulnerable people in combination with the necessary training and education is an invaluable tool to improving people's lives. Several donations over the last few months have enabled us to provide families with goats, chickens, beekeeping equipment and many more. Please do not hesitate to continue supporting our projects.

Thank you very much for your generous donations.



Ueli Kihm

President VSF-Suisse

Poverty Reduction: Capacity Building and Income Generation

VSF-Suisse project countries 2010



VSF-Suisse works in both humanitarian aid and development aid; it combines emergency aid with the transition to sustainable social development processes. In case of an emergency (violent conflict and natural disasters) VSF-Suisse intervenes through food aid and thus directly ensures the survival of people. Simultaneously, VSF-Suisse supports government and societal structures, ministries or veterinary services and helps building their capacities. This helps to improve emergency preparedness and creates the conditions for development. In Aweil East in southern Sudan for instance, farmers, in cooperation with VSF-Suisse, improve their agricultural production and thus their income through the application of the Farmer Field School method.

Further, beneficiaries whose livelihood depends on livestock are trained in the keeping, breeding and marketing of their animals. They are given breeding stock and can therefore generate an income for themselves and their families independently and sustainably. In Puntland, Somalia for instance the fishing sector as well as the marketing of camel jerky are being supported. This allows the coast populations and the displaced persons to generate an income.

Example: Improvement of agricultural production through Farmer Field Schools in Aweil East, South Sudan

The potential for agricultural production in South Sudan is enormous. Trials to improve agriculture have yielded different results. 86.6% of the population depend on agriculture for their living. However, the production levels are low. The reasons for this are factors such as animal and plant diseases, irregular rainfalls, limited soil fertility and in political instability. In order to strengthen the farmers' capacities so that they can increase their food security and income VSF-Suisse in cooperation with the FAO has implemented the Farmer Field School (FFS) method. Farmer Field Schools are schools in developing countries that focus on adult education. The target groups are the

local farmers. The idea is that the path to sustainable livelihood is only possible through development that takes into consideration the pre-conditions and the needs of the rural populations. These populations are then taught tools and methods on how to improve their livelihoods.

Project Goal

Internally displaced, returned refugees and local farmers improve their capacities in the area of agriculture with the help of the FFS method.

Activities and Results in 2010

- 150 farmers, of which 83 were women have proposed solutions for their biggest challenges and have evaluated these. This has strengthened their self-confidence and has led to the discussion of topics not originally foreseen in the project (such as access to water)
- 5 members have been trained in organisational management and group dynamics.
- The harvest has been improved through the sowing of improved millet and mealie seeds as well as training in planting methods, handling of new varieties and sustainable cultivation.
- 75 mango tree seedlings were distributed and planted.
- 3 trainings on post-harvest handling have been given.
- Two FFS leaders were trained in ox ploughing and sustainable agriculture.

Example: Strengthening of livelihoods of women through improved milk and meat production in Puntland, Somalia

The nomadic population in Puntland depends on livestock for their survival. The animals constitute their source of food and income. Changing environmental conditions however, reduce the productivity of the animals. Long distances and insufficient hygiene often result in deficient products. For women the production and marketing of camel jerky, known as hodka, is the traditional source of income. A study has shown that hygiene is insufficient in the slaughter and storage of camel meat. The available supply of low quality jerky has led to a collapse in this market. Similar criteria apply for the processing and sale of milk. VSF-Suisse has therefore supported the income generation for women through a large regional programme through training in hygienic production and marketing of camel jerky and milk.

Project Goal

Strengthening of the livelihoods of two women's groups and their families in the village of Jalam, Nugaal region.

Activities and results in 2010

- A group of 26 women in the village of Jalam that were already active in the areas of production and trading of camel jerky and that had already formed an interest group with a leading committee have been trained in hygienic production techniques, animal health, improvement of value added chains, marketing structures and management of small businesses.

- In the villages of Rako, Hafun, Bargal, Burtinle and Kalabeyr 224 additional persons, mostly women that are active in the areas of production and trading of camel jerky and milk production have been trained in hygiene.
- The sites for the construction of the two slaughterhouses, the kitchens for the processing of the camel meat as well as the meat markets were identified in collaboration with the women's group and the local authorities (the villages of Jalam and Burtinle). One person from the village made the land available. The furnished building consists of a slaughter area, a kitchen for the production of unsalted meat as well as an area that is used as meat market. The women have each been allocated a space in the market.
- In a campaign on the local radio the general population has been sensitised on the topics of meat hygiene and prevention of transmittable animal diseases.
- A milk kiosk has been opened in the village of Burtinle. In the first month 216 litres of milk were sold and a profit of 26USD was achieved.
- In order to support the local milk sector a study on the value added chain for milk was conducted in February 2010. This study confirmed the need to improve the hygiene measures in the areas of storage and transport of the milk. More than 33 women in Bosaso have been trained in the hygienic handling of milk and have been provided with aluminium containers. The milk sellers belong to three different groups that were already active in milk selling in different locations in the town of Bosaso.

Food security: Food aid in times of drought

The fight against hunger is a central element of poverty reduction. In the year 2000 189 governments have committed to the first Millennium Development Goals (MDG) which states that the number of people suffering from hunger should be halved by 2015. Nonetheless the FAO announced in 2008 that a shocking 923 million people were suffering from hunger worldwide. In the east African countries the majority of the population bases their living on animal breeding and the availability of food is directly linked to animal health. In the arid areas where agriculture is not possible the populations depend completely on their cows, camels, sheep or goats. However, more regular and prolonged droughts are threatening humans and animals. In Kenya, for example, VSF-Suisse has improved the food security of pastoralists and their families through buying and slaughtering of animals during a drought, the meat of which is then distributed to other families.

Example: Resistance during drought through distribution of livestock and cash in Kenya

VSF-Suisse works in the arid border area in north-east Kenya. The extremely hot and dry climatic zone is characterised by infertile ground and thorn bushes as well as repeated and prolonged droughts. Once the water and food reserve is depleted the people lose their cattle and become dependent on food aid or have to find other ways of generating income. In such times VSF-Suisse, as part of an emergency intervention, buys part of the nomads' cattle which is being kept on pastures far removed from markets against coupons. This significantly reduces pressure on the limited sources of food and water and a smaller herd which has been de-wormed and vaccinated has a higher chance of survival. Through this transaction an increased value for meat is achieved and the generated gain flows back into the local market. The meat of the slaughtered animals is given as food aid to nomadic families as well as local institutions such as health centres and schools.

Project goal

To ensure the survival of those worst hit by drought in Kenya through the marketing of the livestock as well as the distribution of cash.

Activities and Results 2010

- 147,563 pastoralists or 20,943 families profited of the de-worming of 1,123,400 sheep and goats. Especially through the de-worming campaigns in Isiolo, Wajir and Mandera as well as the improvements in fodder and water quality the mortality of less than 10% could be achieved.
- 69 lay vets and 7 vet pharmacies have managed to generate income through participation in the campaign. The pastoralists paid in vouchers which could in turn be redeemed at VSF Suisse.
- The majority of the pastoralists managed to bring 40% to 50% of their livestock through the drought.
- 45,582 persons received a maximum of 20 Swiss Francs per animal destined for slaughter. Each family could sell up to 4 animals.
- The meat (a total of 75,000kg) was distributed to 113,952 persons or 18,992 families.

Social re-integration: victims of conflict re-construct their lives

In countries affected by conflict returnees, internally displaced people and the local population have often lost their livelihood. The southern Sudan is still battling with the consequences of conflict, displacements, instability and lack of infrastructure despite the peace agreement of 2005. The ethnic conflict has cost over 2,500 lives and displaced 400,000 people in 2009 alone. In addition there are over 2 million returnees and refugees from the region of Darfur. These populations depend to a large extent on emergency aid which makes it difficult for those people to build a sustainable livelihood. In the regions Northern Bahr El Ghazal and Unity VSF-Suisse supports war returnees and female-headed households with an environmentally friendly production chain for livestock and intercropping in order to generate income and therefore re-integrate sustainably into society. These re-integration projects are amongst the first of VSF-Suisse in southern Sudan that are geared towards longer term development. In the Kivu region in the DR Congo where conflicts between the army and the rebel groups keep sparking up, despite peace agreements, VSF-Suisse supports victims of sexual violence, war-widows, and former child soldiers. Through poultry or small goat herds the affected women and children can not only generate a dearly needed income for themselves and their families, it further allows them to improve their social status.

Example: Re-integration of former child soldiers in the DR Congo

Since 2007 VSF-Suisse engages in a broad intervention to socially and economically re-integrate former child soldiers in North and South Kivu. The present project has allowed 100 former child soldiers to re-integrate into their families and societies through the development of profitable goat rearing. The families (approximately 700 persons) were given the possibility of developing activities for income generation and therefore improve their social and economic status. With the income the families not only cover their cost of living, they further cover additional costs such as school fees and

health costs for their children or investments (i.e. buying land, house construction, motorbike, etc.) Fortunately this has coincided with a reduction of new recruitments into the various military groups and none of the children benefitting from this intervention has returned to the army.

Project goal: Social and economic re-integration of former child soldiers through support in the development of activities around goat rearing.

Goals	Results
Incorporation of former child soldiers and education in animal keeping and breeding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 75 girls that had been recruited as child soldiers by army or rebel groups as well as 25 additional vulnerable girls were identified, with support from organisations such as UNICEF and Save the Children, for the national programme for de-mobilisation and re-integration by means of a defined catalogue of criteria. 4 vets and 4 project animators were prepared for the specific activities through five training units. This way all the beneficiaries profited from the hygiene and health supervision through competent vets and the project activities were closely followed by the VSF-Suisse staff on site. All members of the identified families were trained in 6 units on the topics of animal keeping and health as well as product marketing and have all received certificates.
Construction of new breeding units and supervision of breeding activities from old as well as new project phases.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The construction of stables were completed by the beneficiaries according to the VSF-Suisse model and under supervision of the technicians. Local materials were used. The beneficiaries each received seven vaccinated and treated local goats with good reproductive capacities at the reproductive age. 25 exceptional rearers received fertile bucks for the improvement of the local breed. To improve the fodder of the 25 nucleus herds three different fodderplant varieties were planted on 25 hectares. In total 120 ha were cultivated to improve the goat fodder.
Supporting marketing strategies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The beneficiaries were able to continuously increase their number of goats to 1052 animals between Mai 2010 (711) and October 2010; this is already taking into account the sold and dead animals. Each family has on average sold one goat per month at a price of between 30-55 CHF. 50% of this additional income was invested in basic needs, 24% in investments and 26% in social needs.
Establishment of veterinary pharmacies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2 veterinary pharmacies were opened servicing both the beneficiaries as well as the villagers. As the managers of the pharmacies two of the beneficiaries have been trained in the areas of sale, material and finance through eleven training units.

A mother reports:

„VSF Suisse is like the husband I never had. I know the situation of the former child soldiers that have been rejected by their families very well. Without the goat rearing business I could, however, not look after them. Now I provide them with a new home and a new family. They call me Maman Masika. Through the goat rearing we generate an income which allows us to cover the cost of living. I send the girls to school so they can take charge of their own future.“

Maman Masika., DR Congo

Strengthening of the milk sector: production and marketing of milk in Mali

There are more cattle, goats and sheep than people in Mali. Despite being a milk-producing country very little locally produced and processed milk is consumed in Mali. The reasons lie mainly in the fact that cow herds in Mali are nomadic and due to the climate produce little milk; further, the production fluctuates greatly according to the season. The traditional cattle rearing in Mali does not focus primarily on the maintenance of the herd rather than the production of milk. Large herds are an expression of wealth and social riches and they are looked after by paid herdsmen on their seasonal wanderings. The small amounts of milk that are not consumed by the families rarely reach the dairies in the urban centres. The dairies therefore process large amounts of imported milk powder which consumes the country's foreign exchange necessary for economic development.

More than six years ago VSF-Suisse started an ambitious programme to structure the milk sector on all levels, from the producer to the consumer. The first projects were launched in the suburbs of Bamako in 2004. This included the founding of milk co-operatives, the establishment and equipment of dairies and milk collection centres as well as training of staff. In 2009 VSF-Suisse started a programme to commercialise local fresh milk in milk kiosks. After the successes in and around Bamako similar projects were initiated in the region of Cinzana.

In 2010 in Bamako we continued with the project to strengthen the local milk market in and around Bamako, which had been initiated in 2005. In the first phase of the project we built and operationalised a network of four dairies (Kassela, Ouéléssébougou, Sélingué, Kéléya) and three milk collection centres (Markala Coungo, Koro-koro, Sido) on the routes Bamako-Ségou and Bamako-Sikasso. The goal of the second phase of the project is the promotion and improvement of the marketing of locally produced milk. We have been successful in opening milk vending points in the city of Bamako for the sale of high quality milk. Thanks to these milk-vending points the milk merchants have been able, on average, to increase their income fivefold. The daily intake of milk in the dairies has increased by 30-50%. The beneficiaries participate actively in the project implementation and the locally produced milk is valued by the customers, not least because of the improved hygiene thanks to milk cans collected in Switzerland as well as the use of milk cooling-

tanks. Through the project activities the rural production zones are being linked to the urban commercialisation zones. This allows local fresh milk to reach the urban dairies that previously processed mainly imported milk powder. The different actors in the milk sector are now strongly linked with each other, for example via the national federation of milk producers (FENALAIT) or the inter-professional dairy commission, both of which have been consulted and supported technically.

Environmental Conservation: Protection of Natural Resources through alternative Income Generation Strategies

In 1951 the national park Fazao-Malfakassa was founded in the central region of Togo. In order to optimise its protection the populations formerly living within the boundaries of the park were re-settled on the outside and the use of natural resources from the park was prohibited. Many of the re-settled people were agriculturalists and lost their livelihood due to the forced re-settlement. Out of need and lack of alternatives they continued to use the park area. Forest was felled in order to produce coal, fields were cultivated, honey was collected and animals were poached. This did not only result in a burden on the environment, it also led to conflicts with the park authorities. Since 2006 VSF-Suisse introduced small farming initiatives and founded farmers' organisations in some of the villages surrounding the park.

Example: Supporting of farmers' initiatives in Togo

In 18 villages around the Fazao-Malfakassa national park VSF-Suisse provided the farmers with the possibility to increase their income through agricultural initiatives. Through cattle rearing, vegetable production and beekeeping the farmers working for these agricultural organisations are given the opportunity to produce and market foodstuffs. This way they no longer depend on the park's resources and thus alleviate its protected ecosystem. The beneficiaries further learn to protect the resources. Amongst other activities tree nurseries have been established and the population, including teachers and pupils, have been sensitised in the sustainable use and management of natural resources; further, village committees have been founded and the co-operation with the park authorities has been encouraged.

Project goal:

Sustainable improvement of livelihoods and strengthening of the community of small farming families outside of the Fazao-Malfakassa national park.

Activities and Results 2010

- 94 trainings were conducted and the small farmers were educated on various animal-keeping themes including food conservation and feeding of kitchen waste to poultry.
- In 4 villages the following vegetables have been cultivated and sold: lettuce, cucumber (45% sold), peppers, tomatoes, spinach, gombo (50-65% sold).

- A total of 63 beneficiaries could increase their livestock; the sheep and goat herds from 114 to 140 animals (19 beneficiaries), pig herds from 30 to 54 animals (14 beneficiaries), poultry from 60 to 157 animals (6 beneficiaries). 1 beneficiary received Agoutis, the other interested parties have to wait as there are currently no breeders in Togo anymore. The animals have to be purchased in Benin. 7 additional beneficiaries have received new pigs, sheep and poultry.
- 23 new beehives have been established. 3 apiculturists could harvest 31kg of honey in Mai 2010.
- 17 groups (2 of which new) were given seed money for vegetable cultivation. In 5 villages farmers were supported with loans for fertiliser.
- 36 animal-health-helpers were trained on diseases affecting small ruminants and pigs. Previously trained animal-health-helpers have been trained further and their work in the field was supervised.
- In over 50 villages around the national park poultry has been vaccinated against the Newcastle-disease (31,915 animals). Further, 11,507 sheep and goats were vaccinated against the „Peste des petits ruminants“.
- The staff of VSF in Togo was trained in labour law (rights and obligations).
- The population has been sensitised on issues in environmental conservation.

Animal Health: Vaccination Campaigns and Strengthening of the Veterinary Sector

Animal health is not only crucial for the well-being of the animals, healthy animals also contribute to food security and reduction of poverty of millions of people. Estimations claim that more than a billion people worldwide directly depend on livestock for their survival. Animal health thus directly influences human health. New and re-emerging diseases are usually diseases that are transmitted from animals to humans, so-called zoonoses such as the avian flu or the swine flu. The fight against these diseases has to happen internationally and across borders as the outbreak of such a disease in one country can affect all countries. The failure to prevent such diseases from breaking out in one country can affect the region or even the entire world. VSF-Suisse contributes to animal health in the country where it operates through various activities such as vaccination campaigns and animal treatment, improved fodder production, the establishment of veterinary pharmacies as well as the training of lay vets. In order to create more sustainability VSF-Suisse contributes to the strengthening of capacities in the public and private veterinary services such as ministries and interlinks all stakeholders active in this area, i.e. public and private service, international organisations and NGOs.

Example: Fighting avian flu in Togo

A nationwide outbreak of avian flu can have a devastating effect on the economic development of Togo. Immediately after the announcement of the first case of avian flu in Togo in 2007 VSF-Suisse began supporting the national authority with technical and financial support. In this broad programme the training of all stakeholders in prevention and early recognition of avian flu as well as the handling of a potential epidemic is at the core. Further components of the project are the fight against other widespread poultry diseases (e.g. the Newcastle disease) as well as the general improvement of poultry breeding structures. Since 2007 the projects against the avian flu encompassed three of five regions in Togo. It is planned to further expand the activities.

Project goal: Establishment of a permanent and reliable system for the identification of avian flu and the prevention of its spread.	
Goals	Results
Training of professionals in the poultry sector	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 34 professionals were trained at a three day workshop on the following topics: animal diseases, development of avian flu, recognition of symptoms, transmission factors, risk factors, protection measures, national strategic plan for prevention and behaviour in case of a pandemic. More than 11,000 flyers aimed at sensitisation and education on avian flu were compiled and distributed. The level of knowledge of stakeholders before and after the campaign against avian flu was evaluated. Before the campaign knowledge was very limited, afterwards fundamental knowledge about the problematic was achieved.
Sensitisation of poultry farmers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 14 representatives of local NGOs trained 14,295 poultry farmers and other persons in 143 villages. 9 representatives of poultry breeding and trading associations trained 2,500 poultry farmers in 51 villages.
Vaccination campaign against the Newcastle disease	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 90% of poultry in 3 districts has been vaccinated with a total of 576,900 dosages.
Improvement of poultry breeding structures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In 143 villages one chicken coop with a run-out was constructed as a model. The influence of poultry keeping on the general well-being of animals was explained to the population.
Coordination between the government, international institutions and NGOs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The activities conducted by VSF-Suisse in the area of avian flu are recognised and have been endorsed by the government of Togo. The coordination between government, international institutions and NGOs is ongoing.

Climate Change: Coping with Changing Circumstances with the Help of Dromedaries

Dromedaries are amongst the most important productive livestock concerning food security of the nomads in the arid and semi-arid zones of Africa, which includes Kenya and Somalia where VSF-Suisse implements several projects. In those two countries alone there are over 8 million dromedaries and counting. Those who gain insight into the lives of the nomads will immediately recognise the importance of the dromedary as an existential partner for those populations. It constitutes the main source of milk, especially in the increasingly longer dry periods. It serves as a means of transport for water and the entire household, it's a meat provider and plays an important role in the social and cultural fabric for instance as dowry or in relation to ceremonies. The work with dromedaries constitutes a key aspect of our projects. In Kenya and Somalia we also train the active

lay vets on the treatment of illnesses affecting dromedaries as well as the consultancy on camel products from production to marketing. The main focus thereby lies on hygiene based on the assumption that those who can sell high quality products take better care of their herd. The traditional knowledge of the dromedary herders is of course taken into consideration. Apart from the improvement of camel herding we continuously support the development of early warning systems and cross-border contingency plans to cope with the effects of climate change.

Example: Camel programme for the nomadic societies in north-east Kenya

In recent years the interest in dromedaries as a means for development has increased. They have been introduced successfully even where traditionally dromedaries did not form part of the livestock. Dromedaries are the most important animals in ensuring food security of nomadic societies. They are very well adapted to the harsh climate of the arid and semi-arid zones and have been accompanying the nomads in these areas for centuries. Milk is their most important product, especially during the dry seasons and makes up 50-60% of the nutrition of the nomads. It is therefore not surprising that camel milk is also known as the 'white gold of the desert'. The dromedary provides more security for the people as opposed to goats that are more susceptible to droughts, diseases and natural disasters. However, goats, also always form part of a nomadic household. They provide milk for the daily consumption and are easily sold. This is why the distribution of goats and dromedaries complement each other perfectly, as much for the short- as for the long-term needs of the nomads during periods of drought.

The goal of the camel programme is to increase the quantity and the quality of the camel milk in Isiolo. All stakeholders active in this domain are involved, from producers to marketers. They receive education in milk hygiene, quality control and milk processing. The producers learn everything about dromedary keeping and their feeding. Lay vets learn the specificities of dromedary health in order to be able to treat them adequately. The local authorities will legalise the trade and encourage the construction of so-called milk bars with coolers. A strategy for the implementation of vaccination campaigns in arid and semi-arid areas is currently being developed with the veterinary authorities.

Project goal:

The livelihoods of the nomads in the arid and semi-arid zones of northern Kenya are improved.

Activities and Results 2010

- A baseline study was conducted in 14 villages and information from 4,934 households was captured.
- 105 were trained in camel and goat keeping.
- 88 dromedaries and 440 goats were vaccinated and distributed to 88 families (1 dromedary and 5 goats per family).
- The quality of the camel milk was measured. 10 samples were taken each at the stages of the milking, from the transport containers, from the marketers in Isiolo and on the Eastleigh market in Nairobi. The quality was satisfactory; however it decreased on the way to Nairobi.
- 2 women's groups, 184 producers and 13 lay camel vets and counsellors were identified as beneficiaries that should receive education in milk hygiene and quality control. 81 women and 30 men have to date profited from these trainings.

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What we have achieved

Production and Marketing

The education in all areas from production to marketing allows the animal owners to increase their production as well as better access to the market. Their hygienically impeccable products that do not put the consumer's health at risk naturally yield higher profits. In the areas inhabited by pastoralists milk represents a very important nutrient as well as source of income.

Eduction and training:	
Agricultural production and marketing	18,903 farmers (male and female)
Milk hygiene and quality control	1,559 women and 1,163 men
Distribution of livestock	1,970 animals

Animal health

For the pastoralists in Kenya, Somalia and the southern Sudan the improvement of animal health equals the maintenance of their livelihoods.

Education and Training:	
Lay vets	744
District vets	104
Animal treatments:	
Vaccinations	1,845,856
De-worming and treatment	2,175,216
Construction and equipment:	
Veterinary pharmacies	10
Vaccination centres	10

Food security

28,110 families have received over 75,000 kg of locally produced meat in order to cover their protein needs. 9,211 families thus profited from selling their livestock.

In times of crisis such as prolonged droughts it is important to maintain the best animals through adapting the size of the herd according to climate and fodder availability. At the same time the excess meat guarantees healthy nutrition levels in vulnerable families.

Social re-integration

In the Democratic Republic of Congo and in southern Sudan 229 children, 150 women and 70 elderly people have been successfully re-integrated into society. Together they have received 2,771 goats as well as training on their keeping.

Children and women that have been implicated in the civil war, as well as elderly people, find it difficult to be accepted into society without help. Thanks to the distribution of goats these people can generate their own income and therefore re-gain their places within the family and the village.