

ANNUAL REPORT 2020

VÉTÉRINAIRES SANS FRONTIÈRES SUISSE



VÉTÉRINAIRES
SANS FRONTIÈRES
SUISSE
member of VSF International

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IMPRESSUM

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EDITORIAL

CHALLENGING TIMES

Dear reader,

If someone had told us at the beginning of 2020 that the whole year would be marked by a global fight against a virus—I think we would have been rather skeptical. Yet rarely in the past decades has a single topic influenced all aspects of our private and professional lives to such an extent and confronted humankind with such far-reaching challenges as COVID-19.

Although the pandemic affects us all, its consequences often hit those people the hardest who are already suffering from hunger and poverty. These are the people VSF-Suisse works for. The current pandemic is another item in a long list of challenges that the most vulnerable

groups in our eight partner countries in Africa must deal with daily. In addition to floods, locust plagues and droughts, the pandemic puts further pressure on their livelihoods and complicates development efforts.

It is therefore all the more important that organizations like VSF-Suisse intensify their work right now. We are proud that we were able to continue our long-term projects, while at the same time responding to COVID-19-related emergency needs.

This gives me hope for the future and shows that we can overcome these new challenges together. A special thanks

goes to you, our supporters, without whom our work would not be possible.

Kind regards,
Ueli Kihm



Ueli Kihm, President of VSF-Suisse

FOREWORD BY THE DIRECTOR

WORKING UNDER DIFFICULT CIRCUMSTANCES

Dear supporters and partners,

The COVID-19 pandemic shaped the year 2020 and created existential problems for many people - especially in the countries where we operate. We supported these people with our projects wherever possible and tried to react flexibly and purposefully to the new situation. I am proud of our staff, who were able to adapt and carry out their work successfully under these difficult new circumstances.

The pandemic had a considerable impact on the international development sector and the day-to-day work of VSF-Suisse. To protect the health of our employees and of the people we work with, the regular field visits had to be limited to a strict minimum. This was a big challenge, because the

participatory approach and the exchange with communities at grass root level are at the center of our work.

With all the worries around COVID-19, we should not forget that there were other serious problems threatening human lives this year. The Horn of Africa was facing the worst locust plague in over 25 years and climatic extremes such as droughts and floods destroyed the livelihoods of millions of people. This showed us once again how important measures against the effects of climate change are for sustainable development. In our work the environment plays an important, yet sometimes underestimated role. To shed some light on this aspect, we focus this year's annual report on natural resource management.

Despite all the challenges, we had many reasons to be joyful this year. Among them the celebration of the 10-year anniversary of our Ethiopia country programme and the launch of the Alliance for Sustainable Food Systems and Empowered Communities Sufosec with 5 other Swiss NGOs.

I would like to thank all our staff, partner organizations and supporters with all my heart. Together we can make a difference.

Sincerely,
Nicole Litschgi



Nicole Litschgi, Executive Director of VSF-Suisse

10-YEAR ANNIVERSARY

THE REMARKABLE JOURNEY OF OUR WORK IN ETHIOPIA

VSF-Suisse began working in Ethiopia in 2010 with very few people, with hopes and visions, positive and high. It has been 10 years – time sure does fly by. We are on a continuous journey of learning and improvement. There have been many challenges and rewards that we have learned from and we appreciate them all. Our continued success comes from our biggest asset, our staff – an unbelievable collection of devoted and reliable people who have the passion of working hard as a team. The Ethiopia team has weathered many different types of storms, but our brand has never been stronger or more relevant.

Alignment, focus and superior execution – for the Ethiopia team, these themes are at the core our commitment and are

more than a motto. It is how we as individuals, and collectively as an organization, strive towards a positive impact of our work on the ground. This has been our belief since day one and has paid off ever since.

Looking forward to future prospects, the next milestone will bring its own mix of successes and challenges, but our direction is clear, and we know what we must do. Our job is to continue to focus intently on what we can control: supporting the people for whom we work with holistic relief and development action, managing our costs, fostering our brand, and doing our part to keep VSF-Suisse moving forward.

Me and my colleagues are the funniest humans I know – we are like super friends.
We go together like coffee and donuts!

As we are celebrating the 10th anniversary of our Ethiopia country programme, I really feel fortunate to play a role in this remarkable journey and I am proud of the positive change we were able to bring to the communities we work with.

Kebadu Simachew Belay
Country Director of VSF-Suisse Ethiopia





FOCUS

NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

A member of a horticulture cooperative
in Togo watering his vegetables.

FOCUS

A HEALTHY ENVIRONMENT FOR ANIMALS AND PEOPLE

The livestock-keeping communities we work with depend on healthy ecosystems to maintain their primary sources of food and income. Supporting the sustainable management of natural resources such as land, water, and forests is an essential aspect of our work.

Africa is the continent most severely affected by land degradation and desertification. Fuelled by climate change, demographic growth and changing land use patterns, the loss of fertile soil and vegetation negatively impacts agricultural productivity, biodiversity, as well as water availability and quality. Rising temperatures and unpredictable weather conditions resulting in cycles of natural disasters such as droughts or floods are a threat to the livelihoods and food security of hundreds of millions of human beings.

For many rural communities, their traditional mechanisms to cope with variability, seasonality and recurrent more extreme weather conditions are proving insufficient to confront the current pace of erratic sequences. One has to keep in mind that these communities are not necessarily the major inducers of these problems, but they can contribute to alleviate the degradation of the natural resources.

Towards sustainable agriculture and livestock keeping in Africa

Next to the effects of climate change, the ongoing expansion of infrastructure and the increasing use of carbon-based fuel in farming practices, are two direct causes of environmental degradation in Africa. A sustainable agriculture that balances economic, social, and environmental interests is thus a necessity for the long-term health and prosperity of the continent's resources and its rural and urban inhabitants.

Where we work, low-input cattle, camel, goat and sheep production systems are key to the livelihoods of marginalized farming communities, and they play an important role in providing access

to nutrient dense foods for many families affected by poverty. If managed sustainably, livestock can increase natural resource use efficiency and contribute to important ecosystem functions, for example by transforming waste and fibrous vegetation unsuited for human consumption into valuable food, by distributing nutrients in dung and urine across landscapes, or by helping to main-

tain the diversity of habitats through light grazing and browsing. Healthy pastures also serve as important carbon sequestration zones – notably also for carbons produced in industrialised countries.

VSF-Suisse promotes an agroecological approach to farming that seeks to optimize interactions between animals, crops, humans, and the environment. In

semi-arid and riverine areas, the integration of livestock with crop farming and horticulture has many advantages. Good practices include using manure to improve soil fertility, crop residues to feed livestock, irrigated production fodder to enhance milk production, and the introduction of wood-saving milk pasteurizers.

Integrated natural resource management

In Africa's arid and semi-arid lands, where pastoralism is the only possible production system, one of the most pressing environmental issues is the rehabilitation and sustainable management of overgrazed rangelands. To stop the degradation of pastures, it is important to improve agricultural practices as well as governance structures and to enable mobility.

A rehabilitated well in a school near the Abdoulaye forest in Togo. The water can be used for drinking and watering the school garden.



Working with the integrated natural resource management approach, VSF-Suisse supports communities and authorities to build on their local knowledge, skills, and customary institutions to expand to techniques such as rotational grazing, mobile corralling, afforestation, rainwater harvesting, cut-and-carry and silvo-pastoral systems. Through promoting land use planning and controlled

herd sizes, disseminating improved livestock husbandry methods, and supporting localized veterinary service delivery, we aim to empower livestock-keeping communities to adapt their livelihoods on the base of evidence-based sustainable ways of agriculture in Africa.



The women of the Essodounissi cooperative in Togo washing the shea nut meal as a first step in the production of shea butter.

VOICES FROM THE FIELD

THE WOMEN OF THE SHEA BUTTER COOPERATIVE

The Abdoulaye forest in the Région Centrale in Togo was declared a protected area in 2004. However, due to a lack of alternative livelihoods options, exploitation of the forest by the local population continued and seriously endangered the forest and its biodiversity. For instance, people have been forced to engage in illegal logging for the production of charcoal or animal poaching in order to make a living. To protect the environment and fight poverty, VSF-Suisse supported alternative income generation opportunities and carried out environmental education for the concerned population.

A central part of the project was the establishment of women's cooperatives for the professionalized production of shea butter to create a sustainable and

profitable source of income. 45-year-old Thérèse Ekatcheti and 12 other women are part of the "Essodounissi" cooperative in the small village of Ogou Alindé on the edge of the Abdoulaye forest.

Ms. Ekatcheti, who before this project already processed small quantities of shea butter for her own use, joined the cooperative to be able to produce on a larger scale and market the product more profitably. The additional income improves the living situation of her entire family.

"We don't want to leave it at what we have already achieved," Thérèse Ekatcheti told us in January of this year. "Next we want to upgrade the building in which we produce the shea butter. We also want

to teach ourselves how to turn the shea butter into ointment and soap. That would be very exciting to further develop our cooperative".

We know that the women will succeed and are looking forward to their future activities!

VSF-Suisse is partner of the Global Shea Alliance. You can find out more about this on page 19.



Shea butter producer Thérèse Ekatcheti.



COUNTRY REPORTS

OUR ACTIVITIES 2020

A young farm worker in Mali milking a cow to supply the growing numbers of milk kiosks with local milk.

WHERE WE WORK

OUR PARTNER COUNTRIES 2020

MALI

Poverty alleviation; improving the income of dairy farmers and the nutritional situation of the population

- 2 projects
- 263 livestock farmers trained
- 136 jobs created in the milk sector
- 1,933 liters of milk processed daily

IVORY COAST

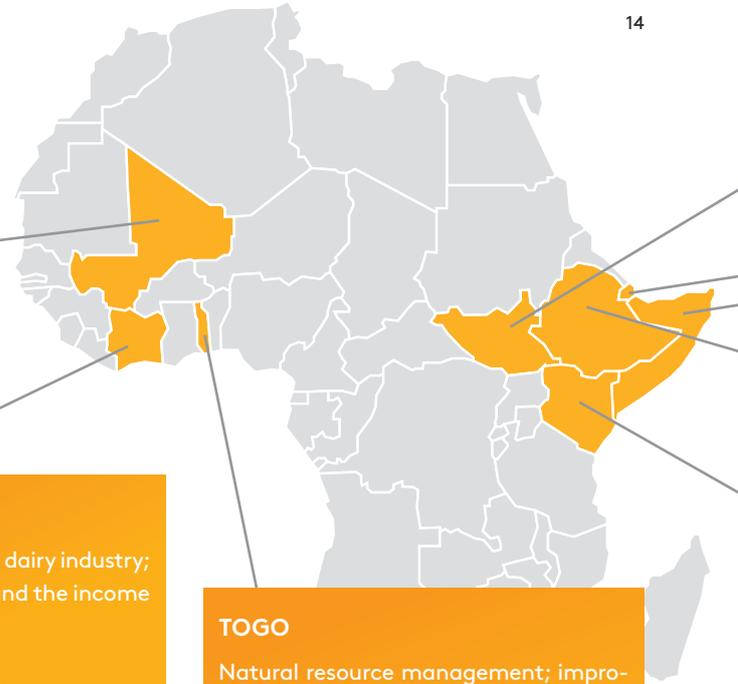
Strengthening the the local dairy industry; improving food security and the income of livestock farmers

- 1 project
- 6 cooperatives founded

TOGO

Natural resource management; improving food security and incomes

- 2 projects
- 1,352 school children sensitised to environmental and forest protection
- 24 Community Animal Health Workers (CAHW) trained and equipped with necessary material



SOUTH SUDAN

Emergency response for livestock and crop production; community animal health services; equine welfare; poultry production; milk and meat marketing

- 12 projects
- 305,919 livestock keepers supported to gain access to animal health services
- 12,610 animals distributed for income generation

KENYA

Camel husbandry and milk marketing; emergency desert locust and flood response for livestock production; animal health services; integrated rangeland management

- 6 projects
- 150 grazing committee members trained
- 3 Rift Valley Fever surveillance missions carried out

ETHIOPIA

Emergency desert locust and drought response for livestock and crop production; one health and community animal health services; integrated rangeland management

- 15 projects
- 25,250 livestock fed during emergencies
- 17,350 households provided with facemasks and COVID-19 awareness sessions

SOMALIA AND DJIBOUTI

Emergency drought response for livestock production; water supply and hygiene; one health and community animal health services; small ruminant husbandry and breeding; integrated rangeland management

- 4 projects
- 13,560 people supported with improved access to water
- 1,100 fodder farmers trained
- 8 veterinary pharmacy attendants coached

EAST AFRICA

INTEGRATED NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT IN ACTION

In East Africa, VSF-Suisse follows an integrated natural resource management approach to harness its many benefits. Our work is based on our long-standing experience, new insights from practice-oriented research and the local people's profound knowledge of the environment.

... TO SAVE LIVES IN SOMALIA

In 2020, Somalia continued to experience food crises and natural disasters – including a desert locust infestation – in addition to political instability and widespread insecurity. Our programme kept its focus on improving the immediate access to food and water to save lives and restore livelihoods. The rehabilitation and disinfection of shallow wells in five flood-affected villages, the training of water management committees, and the dissemination of hygiene messages

benefitted more than 10,000 people and their core breeding stock. Furthermore, 200 particularly vulnerable households were given cash, equipment, and know-how to restore 20 kilometres of irrigation canals in their villages. This helped them purchase food and other necessities from local markets, whilst also enabling the wider community to boost its agricultural production.

Wherever possible we integrate COVID-19 prevention measures in our work.



... TO MITIGATE CONFLICT IN SOUTH SUDAN

In South Sudan, where national peace remains fragile after the re-formation of a transitional government in February 2020, communal conflicts over natural resources remain a major source of political instability. In Northern Bahr el Ghazal state, we supported the establishment and maintenance of 30 peace committees comprised of local leaders and cattle camp chiefs, while also including traditionally underrepresented groups like women, youth, and returnees. Next to spearheading communal dialogues, the peace committees mapped live-stock migratory routes, wet and dry season grazing lands, and water points, as potential conflict zones requiring sustainable and equitable management.

Fodder farmers doing practical training on hay bailing in Gawido village of Bullahawa district, Somalia.

... TO STRENGTHEN RESILIENCE IN ETHIOPIA

In recent years, pastoralists of the Somali region of Ethiopia increasingly settled and started farming of staple crops and vegetables. This helped vulnerable populations to diversify their livelihoods, although there remain certain challenges like restricted access to land, limited knowledge about production methods and weak access to markets. Working with community-based learning platforms, one of our projects in Shebelle

zone concentrated on reviving old and introducing new techniques for the rehabilitation of degraded rangelands and promoting the sustainable use of pump irrigation along the river.

... TO INCREASE INCOMES IN KENYA

In Kenya, strict restrictions on domestic travel and public gatherings due to COVID-19 meant that our field activities were slowed down for several months,



as many staff had to work from their homes. Despite this, we were able to launch a new project in Samburu County, where most land is classified as “low potential rangeland” and unsuitable for crop production. The action aims at the restoration of degraded rangelands to increase livestock productivity and thereby the incomes of pastoralist and agro-pastoralist communities and their resilience to droughts and other shocks. Working closely with livestock keepers, the local authorities and the College of Agriculture and Veterinary Sciences of the University of Nairobi, we were particularly excited to pilot the production of briquettes for cooking and animal feed from an invasive shrub, *Prosopis juliflora*.



Camel group training in Kulamawe, Kenya.

WEST AFRICA

TACKLING LAND USE CONFLICTS

In West Africa, VSF-Suisse offers spaces to resolve and prevent land use conflicts between pastoralists and smallholder farmers.

Poverty reduction and environmental protection in Togo

Togo's forests are part of the Guinean forests of West Africa, a biodiversity hotspot with a high degree of endemism. The forests bind large quantities of CO₂ and contribute to mitigating climate change at a global level. For lack of alternative and sustainable sources of income, the forests are exploited by the local population. The uncontrolled use of natural resources leads to conflicts between pastoralists and smallholders.

Our project APFA trained smallholder farmers in activities that combine income generation and forest protection. With the establishment of cooperatives in the areas of small ruminants rearing, beekeeping, shea nut processing and horticulture, the smallholder farmers organized themselves to tackle challenges together. By becoming partner of the Global Shea Alliance (GSA), VSF-Suisse will continue to promote the use and reforestation of Shea forests and contribute to the landscape restoration

A beekeeper in Togo harvesting honey as a means to make an income in an environmentally sustainable way.



and climate mitigation target of the GSA of planting 10 million shea trees in West Africa.

Conflicts between smallholder farmers and pastoralists are prevented and better managed by establishing “mixed land use committees”, supporting the existing pastoralist committees, increasing the number of watering points and pastoralist pathways, and raising community awareness through informational meetings on peaceful transhumance.

Promotion of fodder production in central Mali

Regional insecurity is causing conflicts between communities over the use of rangelands. Increasing soil degradation is further intensifying the potential for conflict.

We promote joint land use planning as a means of overcoming conflicts in Mali.

VSF-Suisse tested the introduction of fodder production in pastoral areas to reduce pressure on rangelands and produce quality fodder for milk production. A social agreement has been negotiated and approved by local administration, leaders and communities, setting out the use of fodder production and access to rangeland and watering points in the area. In Central and Northern Mali VSF-Suisse thereby contributed to trans-

forming resource-based conflicts into economic opportunities: producing and selling fodder is seen as a means to bringing different groups in touch and building economic linkages.





FINANCES

EFFICIENT USE OF FUNDS

The mostly female members of this Village Community Bank (VICOBA) in the Somali region of Ethiopia deposit a certain amount of money in a lockbox each month. If one of the members suddenly faces financial difficulties or if the whole group decides to make a larger investment, the collected money of the VICOBA can be used to pay for it.

FINANCES

BALANCE SHEET AND STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS (IN CHF)

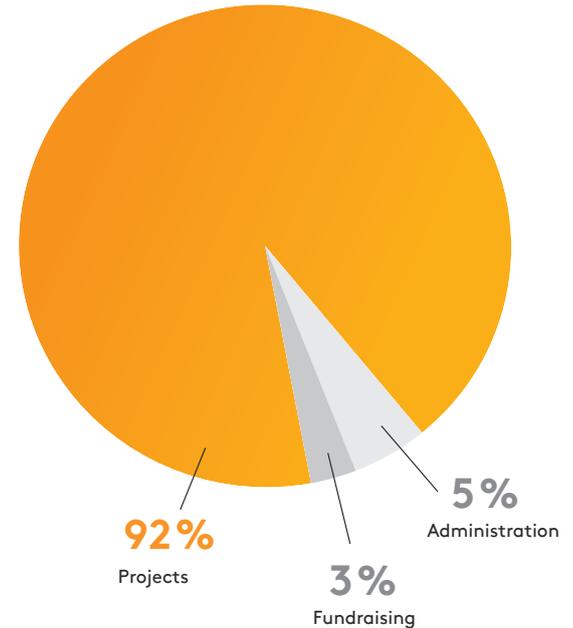
BALANCE SHEET as at 31.12.	2020	2019	STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS	2020	2019
Current assets	3,089,254	2,359,958	Operating income	9,654,150	8,842,070
Non-current assets	77,499	597	Operating expenses	-8,906,355	-8,137,339
TOTAL ASSETS	3,166,753	2,360,555	Other income	-138,946	-270,672
Current liabilities	707,052	627,850	Change in fund and organisation capital	-597,959	-427,722
Non-current liabilities	30,000	40,000	NET INCOME	10,890	6,337
Fund capital	2,054,007	1,354,488			
Organisation capital	375,694	338,217			
TOTAL LIABILITIES	3,166,753	2,360,555			

You can find the Audit Report 2020 with more in-depth information on our website www.vsf-suisse.org/auditreport

FINANCES

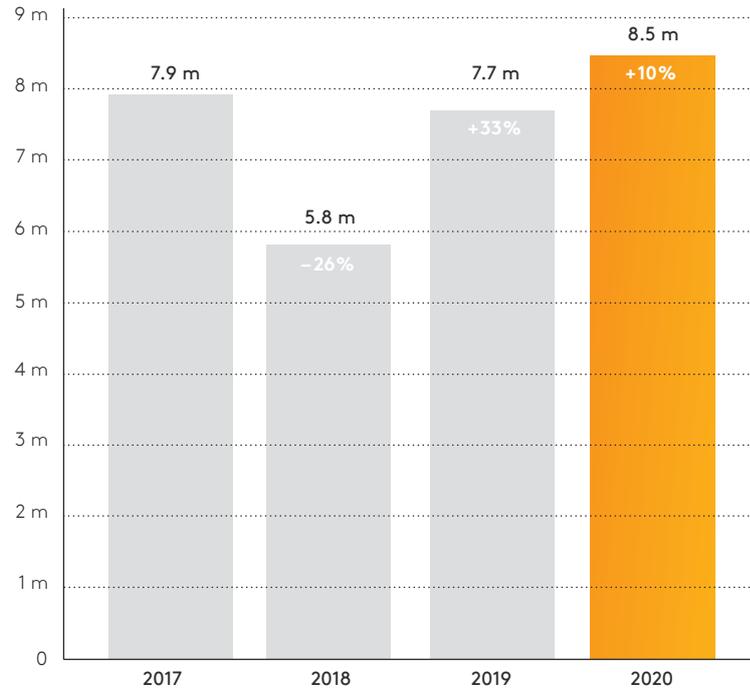
EXPENSES (IN CHF)

	2020		2019	
Project expenses				
Material, goods and services	5,286,321		4,204,786	
Personnel expenses	2,415,120		2,353,766	
Other operating expenses	500,581		575,227	
Depreciation and amortisation	3,066		4,117	
Total	8,205,088	92.1%	7,137,896	87.7%
Fundraising expenses				
Material, goods and services	–		–	
Personnel expenses	63,886		44,625	
Other operating expenses	211,223		183,937	
Depreciation and amortisation	–		–	
Total	275,109	3.1%	228,562	2.8%
Administrative expenses				
Material, goods and services	30,038		10,076	
Personnel expenses	192,788		490,979	
Other operating expenses	203,332		269,826	
Depreciation and amortisation	–		–	
Total	426,158	4.8%	770,881	9.5%
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES	8,906,355	100%	8,137,339	100%



FINANCES

PROJECT VOLUME (IN CHF)



92% of our total expenditure goes into project work and only 8% is spent on administration and fundraising. We thus meet the efficiency standard of the Zewo Foundation, which stipulates that at least 65% of the total expenditure of an organization must go into the projects.

You can find more information about the Zewo standards at www.zewo.ch



THANK YOU
FOR YOUR SUPPORT
FOR THE COMMUNITIES
WE WORK WITH.

Children having a cup of milk on their way home
from school at one of the milk kiosks supported by
VSF-Suisse in Mali.

SUPPORT FROM OUR COMMUNITY

FRIENDS AND VETERINARIANS

VETERINARY COMMUNITY AND VACCINATE FOR AFRICA

Our special thanks go to the veterinary community in Switzerland whose support over the past decades has been incredible. Whether it is by providing technical knowledge, helping us finance projects or participating in our annual campaign “Vaccinate for Africa” (made possible by our exclusive sponsor, Virbac Suisse SA), the veterinary community is always there for us! You know our work the best and we cherish the strong bond we have.

Dear vets, staff, helpers, sponsor and community: **thank you so much!**



VSF-SUISSE MEMBERSHIPS

VSF-Suisse is an association that is supported by more than 250 members. Thank you for your everlasting support! If you wish to get more insight into our work and help shape our future, sign up today at www.vsf-suisse.org/members

FRIENDS OF VSF-SUISSE

This group of dedicated people supports our work with a donation of CHF 1,000 per year or more. Our work would not be possible without their support and we are very grateful for their generosity!

What’s in it for you?

We organize get-togethers exclusively for friends, where you get a “behind the scenes” look at what we do and can exchange one-on-one with our project managers and directors. Additionally, your name will be listed in the annual report.

How can you join?

Simply contact Nina Privitera at 031 332 77 65 or service@vsf-suisse.org. She is looking forward to telling you more about what being a friend could mean for you!

FRIENDS OF VSF-SUISSE 2020

Veterinary practices who have donated 1,000 CHF or more:

Adrovet vétérinaires, Danielle Adoutte et Philippe Roux | AniCura Tierklinik Thun AG, Gregor Schmid | Cabinet Veterinaire du Breuil Sàrl, Thomas Pilloud | Clinique VÉTérinaire, Diego Stornetta et Jean-Bernard Deillon | Gross- und Kleintierpraxis, Markus Riedener | Praxis für Gross- und Kleintiere, Pool Romano und Brigittje | Tezet AG, Lisa und Felix Goldinger | Tierarztpraxis am Kanal, Urs Studer | Tierarztpraxis Richenstein, Käthi Brunner | Tierarztpraxis Thöny AG, Markus Thöny | Tierarztpraxis Wetli, Urs Wetli | Tierklinik Aarau West AG, Gertrud Hartmeier | TIERMED AG, Ruth Ferraro | VETcetera, Matthias Burri

Individuals who have donated 1,000 CHF or more:

Ambühl Jürg | Barandun-Schoellhorn Kitty | Bauen Walter | Baumann-von Felten Verena | Boller Ruth | Braun Ueli | Brunner Käthi | Brunner-Humbel Madeleine | Burger-Bolliger Dora | Deplazes Peter and Pfeiffer Véronique | Dessauges Anne-Lise | Dörig-Herzig Sabina | Dürr Markus and Edith | Federspiel Singh Geneviève | Giess Hans-Peter | Guillod Gertraude | Hähni Beat and Dominique | Hauswirth-Zingre Hans Kurt | Heck-Halbheer

Corinne | Hilti Martin | Hofmann Heini | Horber Peter | Janser Eveline | Kihm Ulrich and Susi | Kohler Samuel and Silvia | Kreyenbühl Karin | Leuch Barbara | Martig Johannes | Meylan Mireille and Schelling Esther | Morgenegg Gottfried | Moser Christian | Moser Markus | Müller J. | Müller-Maier Sonja | Pfister Rudolf | Pool Romano and Brigittje | Pospischil Andreas | Preiswerk Lucas and Ursula | Privitera Susanne | Räber Alex | Raetz Katharina | Salvisberg Peter | Schmid-Kellenberger Gregor and Franziska | Schneider-Fröbel Fritz | Schüpbach Gertraud | Schuppers Manon | Seewer Martin | Sihler Monika and Hanspeter | Steinlin Hanspeter and Anita | Stohler Eduard | Stuker Gerhard and Melcher Stuker Natalia | Stutz-Scherer André and Theres | Taeschler-Sieber Gregor and Andrea | Thurnherr Anita Tamara | Viglezio Marco | Vogel Regula | Waldvogel Ruth | Waldvogel-Boller Andreas and Ursula | Wehrli Barbara and Samuel | Wenger Bettina | Wiederkehr Hanni | Wieland Barbara | Wyss Bernhard and Christine | Wyss Hans and Caroline | Wyss Johannes and Monika | Zollinger Ernst

SPONSORS 2020

Companies, associations, institutions and members of the public sector in Switzerland who have donated 1,000 CHF or more:

Club Cynologique de Gimel | G+S Treuhand AG | Gesellschaft Zentralschweizer Tierärzte | Hilfsfonds der Gesellschaft Schweizer Tierärzte | Infomaniak Network SA | info-werkstatt Cuno Vollenweider | Richfield Invest SA | Roost Unternehmensberatung | Rotary Club Gstaad-Saenenland | Schweizerische Ärzte-Krankenkasse | Service de garde du Valais romand | Stiftung zum Schutz von Haustieren | Swissgenetics | Tierärztliche Verechnungsstelle TVS AG | Verein Schweizer Vollblutzüchter | Virbac Schweiz AG | Zoetis Schweiz GmbH

The support of the Tierärztliche Verrechnungsstelle (TVS/SVS) allows VSF-Suisse to pre-finance projects.

PARTNERSHIPS AND ALLIANCES

WORKING TOGETHER FOR GREATER IMPACT

VSF INTERNATIONAL

VSF-Suisse is member of Vétérinaires Sans Frontières International (VSF-Int). This network consists of 12 organizations who all share the same philosophy: Healthy Animals, Healthy People, Healthy Environment. Being part of VSF-Int allows us to pool our resources, share our skills and experiences, and reinforce the capacities of network members and other partners. The global approach makes it possible for us to coordinate our actions geographically, resulting in an overall presence in more than 40 countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America.



VSF INTERNATIONAL
VÉTÉRINAIRES
SANS FRONTIÈRES

www.vsf-international.org

SUFOSEC ALLIANCE

In 2019, VSF-Suisse has joined forces with Aqua Alimentaria, Fastenopfer, SKAT Foundation, Swissaid and Vivamos Mejor to build the Alliance for Sustainable Food Systems and Empowered Communities (Sufosec). The Alliance submitted a joint programme to the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) to achieve shared goals under Switzerland's International Cooperation Strategy 2021-2024 and along the lines of SDC's new NGO policy.

This unique alliance of 6 NGOs makes it one of the biggest and most potent Swiss players in the field of food security. After a year of intense preparations and strategic planning, we are proud to announce that on December 1, 2020, the Alliance

was officially launched to become fully operational in 2021.

In sharing our resources and combining our strengths with key strategic partners, we are aiming to make an even greater impact in the world!

Alliance Sufosec

Alliance for Sustainable Food Systems
and Empowered Communities



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra

Swiss Agency for Development
and Cooperation SDC

INSTITUTIONAL PARTNERS 2020

Governmental Bodies

EU European Union | **ICAT** Institut de Conseil et d'Appui Technique | **IGAD** Intergovernmental Authority on Development | **LED** Liechtenstein Development Service | **SDC** Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation | **USAID-BHA** Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance of the United States Agency for International Development

International Organisations

FAO United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization | **IFAD** International Fund for Agricultural Development | **OCHA** Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs of the United Nations | **UNDP** UN Development Programme

Research Institutes

CSRS Centre Suisse de Recherches Scientifiques en Côte d'Ivoire | **HAFL** School of Agricultural, Forest and Food Sciences | **ICRAF** World Agroforestry | **ICRISAT** International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics | **ILRI** International Livestock Research Institute | **Yabello** Pastoral and Dryland Agriculture Research Institute

NGOs

ACPA Aged and Children Pastoralists Association | **ACTED** Agency for Technical Cooperation and Development | **ADRA** Adventist Development and Relief Agency | **AJT** Action Jeune Togo | **APROMORS** Association pour la promotion du monde rural au Sahel | **AE2D** Agir pour un Environnement et un Développement Durables | **Aqua Alimenta** | **AVSF** Agronomes et Vétérinaires Sans Frontières | **CAB Déméso** Support Committee of Regional Initiatives | **CCM** Comitato Collaborazione Medica | **COOPI** Organization for International Cooperation | **Cordaid** Catholic Organization for Relief and Development Aid | **E4Impact** | **ETD** Entreprises et Développement des Territoires | **Fastenopfer** | **GEVAPAF** Gestion de l'Environnement et Valorisation des Produits Agropastoraux et Forestiers | **GRAT** Groupe de Recherches et Applications Techniques | **HEKS** Hilfswerk der Evangelischen Kirchen Schweiz | **HeRY** Help Restore Youth South Sudan | **NARDO** Nasib Relief and Development Organization | **NRC** Norwegian Refugee Council | **OADEL** Organisation pour l'Alimentation et le Développement Local | **RONGITO** Togo | **SKAT** Foundation | **SOMIRENEC** Social Ministry Research Network Centre | **Swissaid** | **Vivamos Mejor** | **VSF** Belgium | **VSF** Canada | **VSF** Germany | **We World Onlus**

Foundations

Allianz Share for Food | Biovision Foundation | Corymbo Foundation | Däster-Schild Foundation | Else v. Sick Foundation | FADV Fondazione L'Albero della Vita | Greendale Charitable Foundation | Malou Stiftung für Tierschutz | Margarethe und Rudolf Gsell Foundation | Medicor Foundation | Paul Schiller Foundation | Temperatio Foundation | The Brooke | Werner Dessauer Foundation

Swiss Public Sector

Cantons of Basel-City and Geneva | **Lottery funds** of the cantons Appenzell-Ausserrhoden, Argovie, Bern, Glarus, Grisons, Schaffhausen, Schwyz, Solothurn, Uri | **Cities** of Lancy, Onex, Pully, Sion, Veyrier, Zug | **Municipalities** of Bottmingen, Collex-Bossy, Küsnacht, Muri, Riehen, Tujetsch

Private Sector

AESA Agriconsulting Europe S.A. | **FENALAIT** | **FENAPFIBVTO** Fédération Nationale des Professionnels de la Filière Bétail et Viande du Togo | **Transtec**

OUR YEAR, OUR PEOPLE

TIMELINE 2020

January

February – July

August

September

October

November

December

Photographer Tom Martin and VSF-Suisse Head of Communication Nina Privitera visited our projects in Togo and Mali, resulting in many of the beautiful photos you see in this annual report.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic we were forced to hold our annual Senior Management Meeting online for the first time. Despite the odd network failure, we were very happy how well collaboration from afar works with the right technology.

We are happy to count on the support of the Swiss veterinary community. 92 veterinary clinics participated in our annual “Vaccinate for Africa” campaign, where they donate part of their earnings from vaccinations to support our work.

VSF-Suisse’s One Health Units for Humans, Environment, Animals and Livelihoods (HEAL) project successfully completed its inception phase. The project aims to enhance the well-being and resilience of vulnerable communities in pastoralist and agro-pastoralist areas of Ethiopia, Somalia, and Kenya.

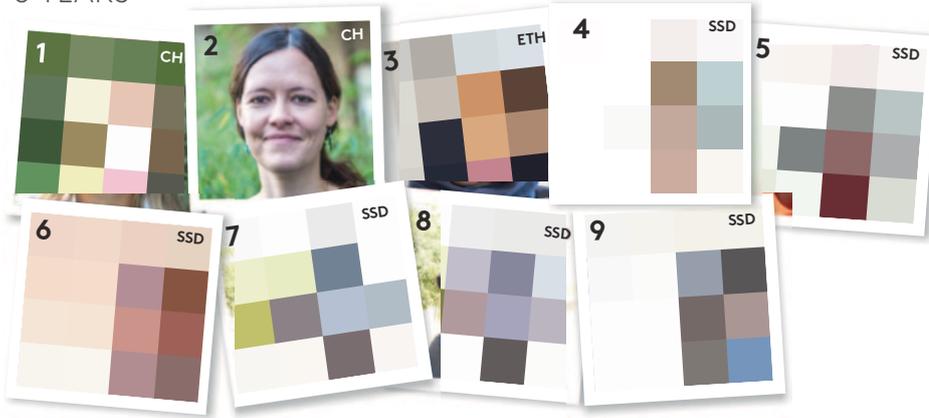
At this year’s event for the “Friends of VSF-Suisse”, we gave insights into our field work and talked about the many challenges we are facing each day, this year especially due to the combined effects of COVID-19 and the locust plague.

On December 1, the Alliance for Sustainable Food Systems and Empowered Communities (Sufosec), of which VSF-Suisse is a member, was officially launched. Together with our partners, our work will make an even greater impact in the world.

STAFF ANNIVERSARIES

This page is dedicated to our amazing colleagues celebrating a round professional anniversary this year. Your hard work and passion are what makes our organization great, thank you!

5 YEARS



1. Frédérique Damstaedter, Programme Manager East Africa 2. Sara Imbach, Programme Officer 3. Zuleka Ismail, DVM, Team Lead and HEAL Regional Project Manager a.i. 4. Dr. Kwajok Tongun, Technical Assistant/Liaison Manager 5. Norman Lokujo, Driver/Logistic Assistant 6. Wono Luke Jibi, Project Manager 7. Agany Dut Peerdit, Field Officer 8. Mou Mou Makuei, Field Driver 9. John Koak Marial, Field Officer 10. John Miabil, Field Assistant (not pictured)

11. Dr. med. vet. Keadu Simachew Belay, Country Director (10 years) 12. Moussa Diabaté, Executive Director CAB DèmeSo Mali (15 years) 13. Catherine Ndunge Kyule, Finance & Admin Manager (15 years) 14. Dr. med. vet. Davis Ikiror, Country Director (15 years) 15. Justus Namatsi, Project Officer (20 years) 16. George Kinuthia, Driver (20 years)

10-20 YEARS



CH = Switzerland, ETH = Ethiopia,
KEN = Kenya, SOM = Somalia, DJI = Djibouti,
SSD = South Sudan, MLI = Mali

MANAGEMENT 2020

Board of Directors 2020

- Prof. Dr. med. vet. **Ulrich Kihm**, President
- Dr. med. vet. **Hanspeter Steinlin**, Vice President and Treasurer
- Dr. med. vet. **Andreas Waldvogel**, Secretary Jan–Jun
- **Simone Hofer Frei**, Secretary Jul–Dec
- Dr. biol. **Pascale Wälti Maumier**
- Med. vet. **Stefanie Graf**
- **Shirley Cuénoud**, student liaison



A throw-back photo of our Senior Management Meeting 2018, a time when physical meetings were still possible!

Senior Management 2020

- **Nicole Litschgi**, Executive Director
- **Daniel Bolomey**, Executive Director a.i. Jan–Apr
- Dr. med. vet., PhD, **Esther Schelling**, Deputy Executive Director, Director of Programmes
- **Frédérique Darmstaedter**, Programme Manager East Africa
- **Christian Wirz**, Programme Manager West Africa
- **Claudio Clematide**, Head of Finance
- **Nina Privitera**, Head of Communications and Fundraising
- Dr. med. vet. **Kebadu Simachew Belay**, Director Ethiopia
- Dr. med. vet. **Davis Ikiror**, Director Kenya, Somalia, Djibouti
- Dr. med. vet. **Abdoulaye Diaouré**, Director Mali and Representative in West Africa
- Ing. agr. **Phanuel Adwera**, Director South Sudan
- Dr. med. vet. **Géraud Hellow**, Director Togo

Expert group

appointed by the Board of Directors:

- Ing. vet. **Moussa Diabaté**, Director of partner organisation CAB Déméso, Mali
- Med. vet. **Olivier Flechtner**, former board member and former president
- Dr. med. vet. **Enzo Fuschini**, former board member and former president
- Dr. med. vet. **Ilona Glücks**, Int. Cooperation and Livestock Specialist, consultant VSF-Suisse, Kenya
- Prof. Dr. **Jörg Jores**, Director, Institute for Veterinary Bacteriology, VetSuisse Faculty University of Bern
- Dr. rer. pol. **Judith Safford**, NPO Consultant
- Ing. agr. EPFZ **Fritz Schneider**, Int. Cooperation and Livestock Specialist, former board member
- Dr. med. vet. **Mauro Pavone**, Int. Consultant
- Prof. Dr. med. vet. **Jakob Zinsstag**, Swiss TPH, Basel, epidemiologist, One Health, former board member



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SANS FRONTIERES
SUISSE

HEALTHY ANIMALS, HEALTHY PEOPLE, HEALTHY ENVIRONMENT.



VÉTÉRINAIRES
SANS FRONTIÈRES
SUISSE

member of VSF International



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