

## Integrated Camel Management Project – Impact Assessment

### 1. Purpose of the Review

Vétérinaires Sans Frontières Suisse (VSF-Suisse) is a humanitarian, politically and religiously neutral organization with its head office in Berne, Switzerland. VSF-Suisse works predominantly for and with people who depend on livestock for their livelihoods, but constantly suffer from the negative impact of political unrest, natural disasters, climate change, marginalization, and limited government support.

In Isiolo County, Kenya, VSF-Suisse has supported a long-term camel development initiative since 2010, receiving funding from Biovision Foundation. The project series is currently in its last phase (Jan 2019 to Dec 2021) and follows a gradual exit strategy to consolidate and catalyse the sustainability of outcomes and impacts. To support these efforts, an in-depth impact assessment is to be conducted in the last year of the project.

The goals of the impact assessment are as follows:

- to reveal impacts of the initiative
- to identify learnings regarding the interventions carried out that can be applied in future projects of VSF-Suisse and/or Biovision
- to synthesize these learnings for wider dissemination through VSF-Suisse
- to make recommendations for evaluative monitoring of future projects of VSF-Suisse/Biovision

### 2. Background: The integrated camel management project series

The population in the Arid and Semi-Arid Areas (ASALs) in the Horn of Africa (HoA) are facing the impacts of climate change, including droughts that are increasing in frequency, duration, and severity. Like other actors, VSF-Suisse has tried to leverage on the camel's superior resistance to drought and productivity in times of water shortage compared to the traditional cattle in order to improve pastoralists and agro-pastoralists food security and resilience.

#### a) Summary of project evolution

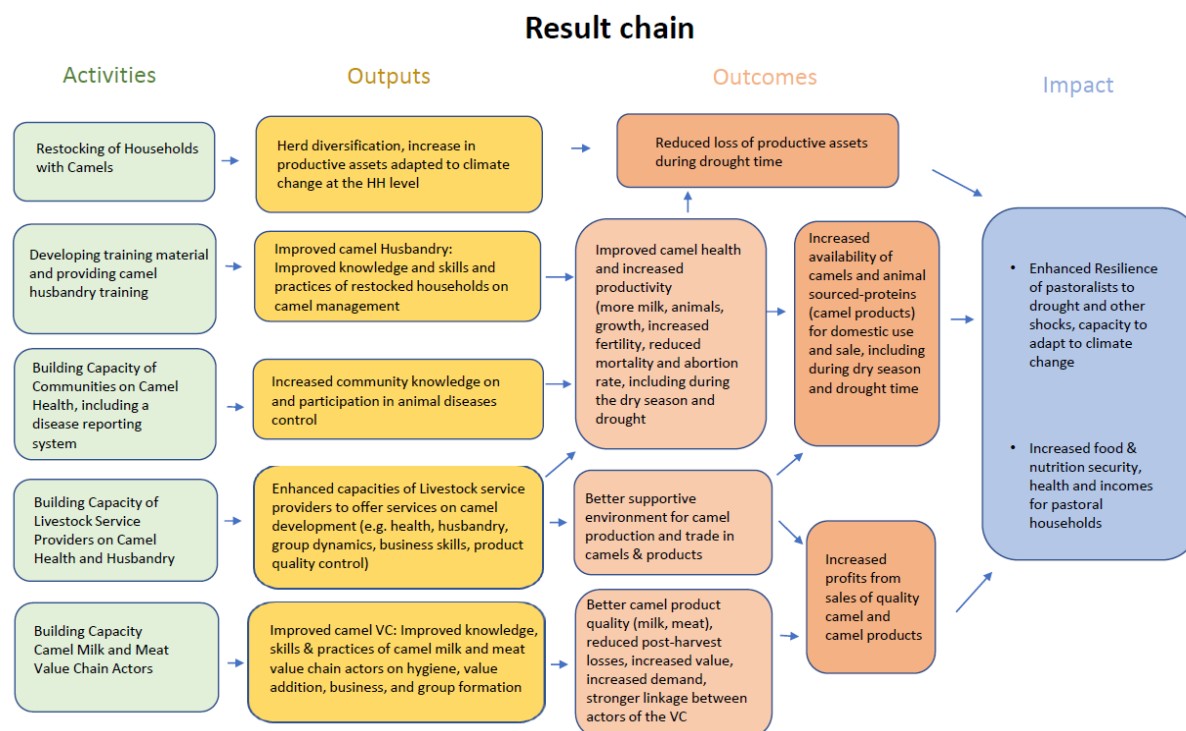
In the past ten years, the project series has evolved as follows:

2010	Developing a "Guide to develop the camel sector in Kenya"
2011-2012	Disseminating knowledge on husbandry, health & production with breeders Developing camel husbandry & health training manual for animal health and production service providers
2013-2015	Restocking + disseminating knowledge on husbandry, health & production with breeders Promoting hygiene, value addition & marketing with milk traders and sellers

	Disseminating knowledge on health, husbandry & production with animal health and production service providers
2016-2018	Restocking + disseminating knowledge on husbandry, health & production with breeders Promoting hygiene, value addition & marketing with milk traders and sellers Developing web-based livestock disease reporting system
2019-2021	Anchoring husbandry & production Improving hygiene & income with milk traders and sellers Formalizing milk marketing regulatory environment Anchoring web-based livestock disease reporting system

### b) Pursued impact hypothesis

The goal of camel restocking was to diversify the household productive asset base with a species that is more resistant to and more productive during times of droughts, thus increasing the resilience of the households. The complementary training on improved animal husbandry and health for communities was to lead to *improved camel health and productivity*. At outcome level, this was to lead to a reduced loss of productive assets and **increased availability of animal-sourced-proteins at household level** at times of drought. Increased household consumption of milk and additional income from sale were to lead to better food and nutrition security, health and livelihoods for the pastoral households at impact level.



Building the capacity of the camel milk and meat value chain actors was to lead to *improved hygiene, value addition and business*, improving the quality of products and strengthening the linkages between the market actors, finally leading to **increased income from the sale of camel products**. The increase in income was to be further supported by building the capacity of livestock service providers on camel health and husbandry, thus leading to *better service provision and a more conducive environment for camel production and trade* in camels and camel products. Increased incomes at household levels were to allow families to diversify their food basket and to pay for other household

needs such as medical care, school fees. Interventions along the value chain additionally were to empower the women to engage in other economic and social ventures, thus further strengthening their adaptive capacity to drought and climate change. The overall resilience of pastoralists to drought and other shocks was thereby to be strengthened.

### 3. Objectives of the impact assessment

VSF-Suisse is looking for experienced researchers with in-depth experience in conducting impact assessments and a thorough knowledge of data collection and analysis tools. A possible approach to be explored is the creation of a team consisting of an international and a Kenyan researcher.

The impact assessment may focus on one or a few components of the project series, rather than assessing it in its entirety. It will focus on learning: What worked well, what did not work so well, and how? The following catalogue of questions provides a list of potential research questions that can and should be further refined and focused by the research team based on their experience and knowledge as well as by the availability of data from the project. The methodology and approaches chosen as well as the focus of the impact assessment shall be laid out in the study proposal (to be included in the application). A more detailed study plan, including the choice of focus questions, shall be provided in an inception report that will be developed together with the project management team.

#### a) Assessment of project interventions

##### **Camel husbandry and health**

Are the developed camel husbandry & health training manuals for animal health and production service providers still used, by whom, and is this a good strategy for wider uptake?

Has the development of training materials and the capacity building of livestock service providers on camel health and husbandry led to an improved/adequate provision of comprehensive services for camel keepers and has this translated into a more conducive environment for camel production and trade in camels and camel products?

Has the camel restocking been a cost-effective way to sustainably promote camel husbandry in pastoral communities that did not have a respective tradition?

How does camel restocking compare in terms of cost-effectiveness with other restocking interventions, and other resilience-increasing interventions?

Have restocking beneficiaries been able to maintain their camels and grow their herds? What were success factors that have led specific groups of beneficiaries to perform better than others (e.g. group formation, selection of beneficiaries according to neediness, ethnical background, differences in the trainings received, etc.)?

Have camels proven to be a successful strategy for herd diversification and climate change adaptation?

Is restocking with camels an environmentally viable option, or does it put additional pressure on land that has already reached its carrying capacity?

Is there a possibility that camel restocking will be continued in the future by the local government?

### **Camel milk value chain development**

Has the promotion of camel milk marketing through the project series had a (positive or negative) impact on the development of the camel milk market in terms of improvement in access, availability, and quality, increase in demand and sales, formalization and establishment of linkages between actors? If so, how? If not, why?

What was the project's contribution to the increase in camel milk marketed? (possibly compare to groups that were not supported)

Has the increased demand from Isiolo led to additional pastoralists being linked to the camel milk market?

Has camel milk hygiene increased? Is camel milk consumption now safer for customers?

Has technology push (pasteurization; skills training for yoghurt, cheese and sweets) been an effective approach for creating demand and generating added value?

Has the development of the camel milk value chain as a business opportunity for women created any (unintended, positive, or negative) social dynamics in rural Isiolo, in Isiolo town and in Eastleigh, Nairobi?

### **Community-based livestock disease reporting**

Has the community-based livestock disease reporting increased community participation in livestock disease control? If so, how? If not, why?

Is the web-based livestock disease reporting an appropriate tool to use in community-based livestock disease reporting? If so, how? If not, why not? How can this be sustainably improved?

What are the prospects of linking animal health and human health reporting in a One Health system?

What are the chances of such a community-based system to be taken over by the government?

### **b) Assessment of and recommendations on the MEAL of UPICAM/VSF Suisse Kenya**

How appropriate was the data collected through the project's monitoring system to show an impact on the outcomes and links proposed in the Theory of Change?

Which indicators could be used, in the future, for projects on:

- livestock restocking, improved husbandry and health;
- milk value chain development;
- community-based livestock disease reporting?

What data could be collected and how in the future in order to improve monitoring?

c) Recommendations regarding the finalization of project interventions and potential new interventions to be added in a flagship project

Based on the results of the impact assessment, the consultant should make recommendations whether there are certain components and interventions of the project

- a) that would still need to be finalized at the project site, and
- b) that could be included in a new flagship project at another site.

The consultant may also use their own expertise in the field of sustainable pastoral development to suggest potential new interventions for such a project that are within the scope of VSF-Suisse's and Biovision's work.

#### 4. Tentative timeline, outputs and process

	Dec 20	Jan 21	Feb 21	Mar 21	Apr 21	May 21	Jun 21
Apply with detailed study plan							
Conduct systematized literature review and review project reports							
Inception report							
Conduct field work (Isiolo and Nairobi Counties)							
Draft report							
Present draft report for validation with stakeholders							
Submit final report							

- Offers should be sent to [office.nairobi@vsf-suisse.org](mailto:office.nairobi@vsf-suisse.org) until **1 December 2020**. The offer should include the reviewers' CVs, a detailed study plan, a breakdown of costs and 2 reference studies.
- After selection, details shall be clarified in a briefing call with VSF-Suisse and Biovision.
- After a first desk review, an inception report shall be delivered, detailing first results from literature, document and project data analysis. The inception report should also refine the methodology, including the definitive selection of the main research questions to be answered and additional data collection methodologies. The inception report will be reviewed and discussed with VSF-Suisse and Biovision.
- The final outputs of the impact assessment will be the following:
  - a report of maximum 20 pages, which should include a 2-page executive summary. The report shall be written in English.
  - 2 policy briefs, summarizing the results and learnings of the 2 most important project interventions/components for wider dissemination to relevant stakeholders in relevant fora.

- A first draft of the report will be discussed with the project coordinator and the Biovision program officer. The draft report shall be sent no later than 30 April 2021.

## 5. Qualifications of the consultant(s)

The consultant is expected to have the following qualifications:

- In-depth expertise in quantitative and qualitative social research methods and solid experience in carrying out impact assessments with a proven track record of delivering excellent results
- Demonstrated background in and strong knowledge of livestock-based livelihoods in the ASALs of the Horn of Africa, working experience in Kenya desirable
- Effective team player
- Excellent report writing skills

## 6. Terms of Payment

An all-inclusive consultancy fee (including travel costs and per diem as budgeted for) will be paid according to the following schedule:

- 10% instalment after signature of consultancy agreement
- 40% instalment after approval of the inception report
- 30% instalment payment after submission of the draft report
- 20% instalment after submission of final review report