

When Animals Save Lives

Annual Report 2023

Healthy Animals. Healthy People. Healthy Environment



VSF Germany's vision is for people to be able to earn a stable livelihood for themselves and their families through the sustainable use of nature and their animals in order to live a self-determined, humane life.

VSF Germany's mission is to save lives, reduce suffering and to improve the well-being and resilience of vulnerable communities by protecting and promoting the health and productivity of their livestock within a healthy environment.

Support People. Support Animals.

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The Horn of Africa is a region that faces catastrophes on a regular basis: drought, flooding, war, are only some issues that people are confronted with on a common basis; issues that have worsened in the past years due to climate change and conflicts in the region. The needs for humanitarian assistance are vast and continue to grow in the region and our work supports their lives as it enables them with the capacity to respond to the needs.

> Tinega Ong'Ondi, COO and Regional Director Christian Griebenow, CEO

Editorial

Animals save lives. It is a short statement, but one that is able to bring together what it means to undergo humanitarian assistance through animal welfare. For pastoralist communities in the world, livestock is a vital source for survival. They are a reliable source of nourishment and income. They support families and communities on self-determination and protection. In cases of conflict, they even enable safe passage for displaced people. Their health has a direct impact on the lives of their owners.

Animals save lives. It is a short statement, but one that brings together what it means to provide humanitarian assistance through animal welfare. For pastoralist communities around the world, livestock is a vital source of survival. They are a reliable source of nourishment and income. They support families and communities in terms of self-determination and protection. In cases of conflict, they even enable safe passage for displaced people. Their health has a direct impact on the lives of their owners.

2023 was a year confronted with many disasters in the countries we operate. A long year drought ended with a devastating flooding resulting from El Nino; Ethiopia continued to be confronted by the conflict in Afar, localized conflict and drought and subsequent displacements plagued Somalia; a new war erupted in Sudan leading to massive displacements and destruction of livelihoods. Yet, despite all these challenges we are still operating in every single one of these countries. Challenges are not small, but the resiliency and adaptability of the organization allow us to continue supporting the communities where we are most needed. Why? Because years of expertise on humanitarian assistance through animal welfare have shown us that our work matters.

Last year 363.3 million people worldwide were dependent on humanitarian aid. No one can sav how many animals were in need. VSF Germany reached 2.2 million of these people. We also managed to vaccinate over 7 million animals and – where necessary - provide them with the appropriate emergency feeding. You might ask? Emergency feeding for animals when there isn't enough for humans. Why should we do that? The question is very justified. But for pastoralists it is a more sustainable form of nourishment when the animals are fed themselves. They drink the milk, make cheese, weave the wool, use the dung for their fires and also eat the meat of the animals (and use the hides) – much less frequently than we humans in Central Europe. They live with and from their animals. More than that, they even provide the main source of animal produce for countries in eastern

Africa with 90% of animal produce being produced directly from the pastoralist communities.

In the coming year, 2024, 74.1 million people will need humanitarian assistance in eastern and southern Africa. In Sudan alone, a large proportion of livestock will be dependent on emergency disease control and treatment; according to estimates by VSF Germany, this figure will be around 500 million across the whole of East Africa. This is a new sad record that is mainly caused by the wars and conflicts. Our work is needed more than ever. We provide assistance to animals and people in hard to reach rural areas in Eastern Africa, where right now it is so urgently needed. Only by doing this can we make sure to save as many lives as possible and enable these communities to build a self-determined life and to protect and promote their traditional way of life in unison with their animals and environment.

> Thank you for your support Tinega Ong'Ondi & Christian Griebenow

Interview

Even faster and more effective: Our new African-European board.

Tinega Ong' Ondi and Christian Griebenow are now two experienced directors jointly managing the Executive Board of Directors of VSF Germany. As Regional Director in Nairobi, Tinega is in charge of the projects in East Africa, while Christian continues to take care of business matters from Berlin as Managing Director.

"Decide together – take responsibility together" is the new motto. A change to the statutes, which was adopted in September 2023, has improved the work of VSF Germany. Newly distributed responsibilities ensure that we are able to act even faster. This is necessary for an organisation that provides humanitarian aid. After all, wars, droughts, epidemics and other disasters often require a rapid adjustment of our project processes.

In order to further increase flexibility and thus the effectiveness of the implementation of humanitarian and development aid projects, a new statute was adopted on December 4th, 2023. Thanks to the adjustment it contains in it, the organisation's business is now managed by a full-time board of directors. This is determined by the honorary supervisory board, which was elected by the ordinary members.

What else is new?

Important decisions are made jointly. With the new equal representation on the board, which includes experienced directors from the project area and the office in Berlin, we are strengthening our international orientation and improving communication between country offices, regional offices and HQ. Why this is important and how it will strengthen our commitment to healthy animals, healthy people and a healthy environment was explained during the interview with Christian and Tinega:

Tinega, you represent VSF Germany as Regional Director in East Africa. Now you are also a member of the VSF Germany Executive Board. What does that mean for your daily work?

"I am convinced that the cooperation between the head office in Berlin, the regional office in Nairobi that I manage, and the country offices will now become even closer. Our country offices are in Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, Sudan, South Sudan and Uqanda. I coordinate their work from Nairobi by contacting the management teams of the country offices at least once a month. If changes are needed within the projects, the board is usually consulted. Now I am available as a direct point of contact. If there are major problems, I can now coordinate with Christian much more easily at any time. This makes the processes faster and more efficient."

Does your new role give you more influence over project processes?

"We have always been in close contact with the head office in Berlin when ongoing projects need to be adapted – which happens relatively often. With some projects lasting only about one to two years, everything has to be well coordinated. The projects have to run smoothly, the local staff have to be trained and regular monitoring has to be ensured. All of this is easier if I can discuss it with Christian directly. And perhaps our new model will enable me to do more to ensure that other important projects continue: one example is the rehabilitation of child soldiers in South Sudan. The funding has ended, but the problem remains. It is very important to me to create a future for these children outside the military."

Christian, you are now sharing the board with Tinega and voted in favour of this in advance. What are your reasons?

"We do not send experts to project countries, but work with our experienced colleagues on the ground. A regular exchange of views between all those involved at eye level is therefore a must for us. This is the only way to assess the need for humanitarian aid in a timely and accurate manner. The One Health approach is about the health of people, animals and the environment. With Tinega on the board, programme expertise is now also formally present at the highest level of the association's management. At the same time, the new organisational structure means that more responsibility is being given to the project countries. This is something innovative in the field of humanitarian aid. For me. it means that I am relieved of some of the decisionmaking.

It sounds as if the new VSF Germany board is something special!

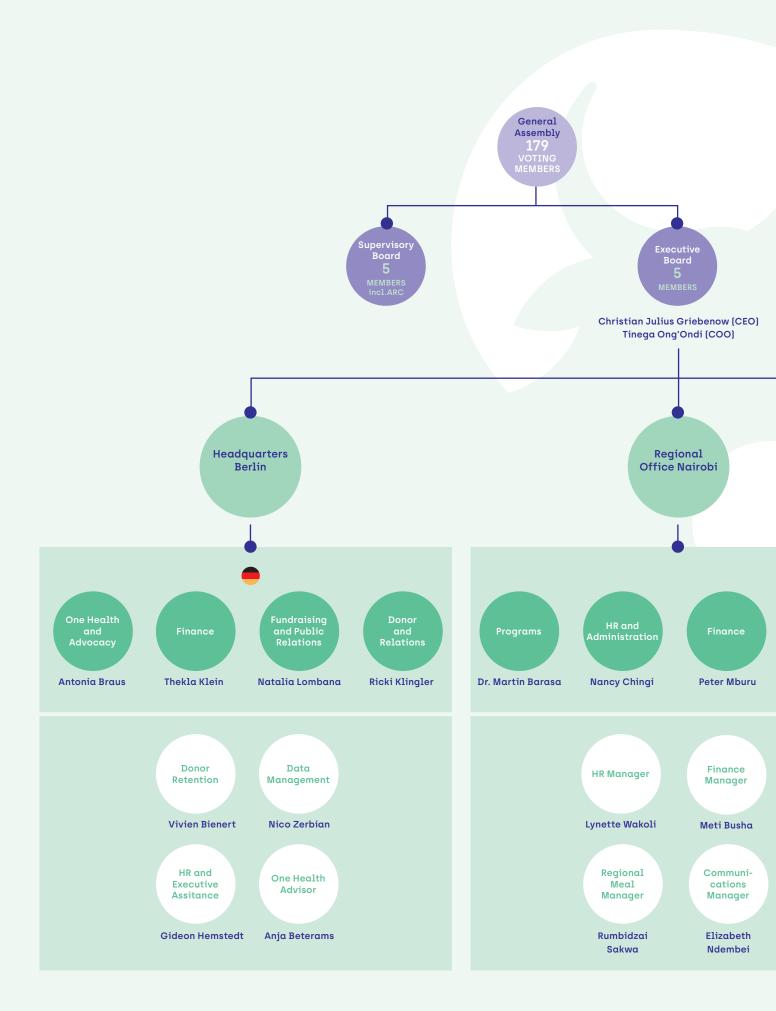
"Through this change we seek to bring more balance in the decision making process of the organization to be certain that we are making decisions that bring the local and the international level together. We believe this way we are able to bring the local needs together with the international interests of the donors."

A pretty complex topic for a formerly "small" organisation! Has VSF Germany changed?

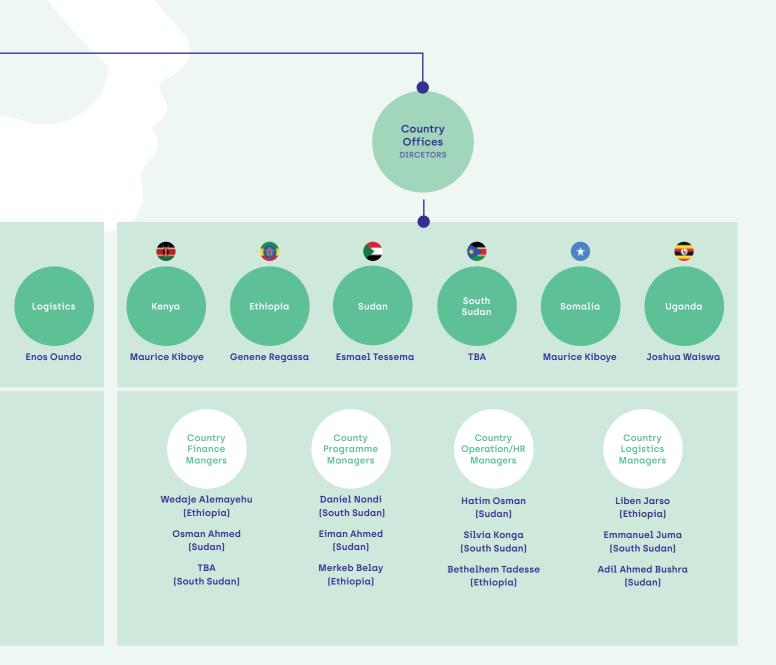
Christan: "Yes, and they are good changes! Since 2018, we have been a member of the German Foreign Office's Coordination Committee for Humanitarian Aid. Our projects are largely financed with institutional funds from the United States, the United Nations, the EU and Germany. As a member of the umbrella organisation Vétérinaires Sans Frontières International, we are also very committed to animal welfare, veterinary disaster relief and the fight against neglected tropical diseases. We have long been a medium-sized organisation. And a very effective one at that. This has also been confirmed by the German consumer organisation Stiftung Warentest Finanztest.

Tinega: "I can confirm that all VSF Germany projects are dedicated to animal welfare. For people in East Africa, animal husbandry is often the most important source of food and income. However, in most countries in the Global South, there is a massive shortage of veterinarians in rural areas. That is why we train animal health workers. Together with them, we are working to improve animal health through species-appropriate husbandry conditions and education, and to create a basis for health care. VSF Germany is also very active in the fight against rabies. And we are committed to improving access to water and food in drought-prone regions for animals and for people."

> The interview was conducted by Dr Beate Grübler of med media Redaktionsbüro.



Organization 1 Team in 7 Countries



Special

Sudan: The beginning of a catastrophic crisis

Since the outbreak of Sudan's current war on April 15th, 2023 between the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) a heavy humanitarian toll, claiming thousands of lives and displacing millions has been exacted. With reports of widespread atrocities including rape, sexual violence, and ethnic cleansing, the humanitarian crisis has reached unprecedented levels.

Over 9 million people have been internally displaced, and another 1.8 million seek refuge in neighbouring countries, exacerbating Sudan's already dire humanitarian situation. Essential services have collapsed, leaving millions without access to food, healthcare, or education. Despite the magnitude of the crisis, international media coverage has been limited, and diplomatic efforts have yielded little progress. The conflict's expansion from Khartoum to the Darfur and Kordofan regions, and later to Al-Jazirah State in

December 2023, marked a significant escalation. Al-Jazirah's strategic importance as a central agricultural region, linking Sudan's eastern, southern, and western parts, intensified the impact on accessibility and operations. This development posed considerable challenges, especially as Al-Jazirah had served as a crucial operational hub for various organizations, including the UN.

The consequences for VSF Germany's Sudan program have been severe. Offices in Khartoum and Darfur experienced looting and damage, including the theft of vehicles. The insecurity stemming from clashes, artillery, and air strikes, combined with the absence of basic services, forced the majority of our country office staff to flee. This situation has also affected access to target communities, making it challenging to deliver essential aid and services. Communication blackouts further hampered coordination efforts, hindering the flow of crucial information.



Furthermore, the disruption of banking services complicated financial transactions and resource management, adding to the logistical challenges faced by the organization.

In response to the upheaval in Khartoum, VSF Germany took strategic action. In August 2023, the organization relocated its country office team and part of the Darfur Team to its Damazin office in the Blue Nile region, a location spared from direct conflict impacts. This relocation ensured staff safety and sustained program operations during the crisis. Yet, the need for enhanced coordination and support encouraged us to open another office in Port Sudan. This strategic move facilitated closer collaboration with UN agencies, partners, and government counterparts, enhancing efforts to address the conflict's humanitarian fallout. Additionally, VSF Germany also opened a new office in Kosti, White Nile State, to better reach displaced and affected host communities in accessible areas.

Challenges Faced – Voices from our Staff



Nahla Idris, Project Manager, South Kordofan

In South Kordofan, the lack of banking services due to insecurity has complicated transactions, while a telecommunication blackout since the onset of the war has caused significant operational delays. Relying on satellite internet, albeit costly, has become necessary for the proper functioning of our offices.

We are still functioning but have had to encounter multiple challenges to be able to engage with target populations, with approximately 50% of implementation areas rendered inaccessible, necessitating a shift in interventions to accessible regions.

Insecure roads have made transporting commodities and people vulnerable to intimidation and looting, leading to a deterioration of local markets. Restrictions on fuel, shortages, black market activities, and commodity inflation have compounded the challenges. Complete lack of access to intervention areas, including the state capital Kadugli, due to the expansion of armed groups and ongoing conflict on the roads leading to these areas, has further exacerbated the situation.

All these challenges encountered have only been able to be overcome due to the resiliency and flexibility of both the organization, as well as the team. Re-planning has become imperative, impacting the target population who are not currently receiving services from any aid organization. We also had to modify our modality and approaches in movement, intervention time management, and other logistical aspects. Employees have also been personally affected, with those not displaced accommodating displaced relatives. They have been impacted

by adverse factors such as stress associated with operating in a highly volatile environment.

The conflict's escalation to Al-Jazirah, fuelled by RSF expansion and SAF airstrikes, had dire consequences for my village. I was unjustly arrested, and my family was subjected to looting, depriving us of essential medical care for my pregnant wife and newborn twins, including vaccination. Tragically, we witnessed the loss of many lives, including relatives. The lack of communication compounded the hardships we faced. This harrowing ordeal has placed immense pressure on our team as we endeavour to provide interventions amid onaoina conflict. Despite numerous challenges, I eventually managed to relocate my family, albeit with great difficulty along the way.



Omer Salim, Consortium Coordinator, Blue Nile



Words from the Country Director

On April 14, 2023, I left Khartoum for Addis to celebrate Eid with my family, unaware of the imminent turmoil. The previous night, during a Ramadan dinner with staff before my departure, news of the brewing conflict between RSF and SAF emerged. Khartoum International Airport became one of the initial battlegrounds when the conflict erupted on April 15th. Since then, VSF Germany's staff and their families have experienced displacement, and our Khartoum office has endured looting and destruction.

The toll of the conflict has been immense. With millions displaced both internally and externally, Sudan now faces the world's most severe displacement crisis. Approximately 25 million people, half of Sudan's population, urgently require humanitarian assistance.

Despite challenges, VSF Germany remains committed on the ground, overcoming obstacles such as connectivity issues and banking disruptions. Our team of 50 members tirelessly operates across five Sudanese states, including Blue Nile, South Kordofan, West Darfur, Central Darfur, and White Nile. Racing against time, we strive to support animal vaccination efforts and have undertaken significant endeavours to import vaccines, ensuring essential livestock protection in conflict-affected areas. Agriculture activities have halted due to the conflict, exacerbating the already dire nutrition situation. To address immediate needs, we conduct multi-purpose cash distributions, vital for securing food, medicine, and hygiene items. The conflict's repercussions are profound, reigniting dormant disputes between ethnic groups, particularly in Darfur. Nonetheless, VSF Germany remains resolute, delivering critical humanitarian aid to crisis-stricken regions in Darfur, Kordofan, and the White Nile and Blue Nile states. We fervently pray and hold onto hope for the return of peace in Sudan, ushering in a new era of hope and prosperity for its resilient people.



Dr. Esmael Tessema Ali Country Director VSF Germany, Sudan Program

One of the most pressing concerns in East Africa is the threat of zoonotic diseases – illnesses that can be transmitted from animals to humans and vice versa. Examples include Anthrax, Rift Valley Fever, and rabies. VSF Germany works with local communities to monitor and control the spread of these diseases through vaccination campaigns, education, and early detection systems. By focusing on animal health, they can significantly reduce the risk of these diseases spilling over into human populations.

One Health The Backbone of our Work

The COVID-19 pandemic has illuminated the profound interconnectedness between humans, animals, and the environment, a relationship that lies at the heart of the One Health concept. This approach is particularly critical in East African pastoralist communities, where VSF Germany has achieved significant advancements in enhancing the well-being of both people and animals.

In East Africa, livestock is not merely a source of sustenance but a cornerstone of cultural identity and economic stability. For pastoralists, their livestock represents the primary means of livelihood, making them acutely vulnerable to disruptions in animal health or dramatic changes of the environment. Livestock diseases, zoonotic or not, can have devastating effects on families and communities, leading to food insecurity and economic hardship.

To tackle all the issues revolving around these communities and support them in leading a self-determined, dignified life, we approach our work under the One Health concept. As a collaborative and transdisciplinary approach One Health brings together experts from various fields – including veterinary medicine, humane healthcare, environmental sciences, and public health - to address issues that impact the entire ecosystem. It recognizes the transmission of diseases between different species, that overgrazing by large herds leads to soil degradation and biodiversity loss, and that environmental change or changes in temperature due to the climate crisis affects the spread of diseases. The One Health Approach of VSF Germany seeks to find holistic solutions to these complex challenges.

Our organisation's projects are meticulously designed to address multiple needs and requirements at the same time. That is why we also work closely with partners and stakeholders from the fields of human medicine, resource management and environmental protection. For instance, collaborations with meteorologists enable the prediction of droughts, allowing communities to prepare through improved irrigation systems, distribution of drought-resistant seeds, and training in effective stockpiling methods.

To ensure the sustainability of our projects, VSF Germany focuses on building capacities. We train Community Animal Health Workers (CAHWs) and work closely with farmers to improve animal health through regular basic veterinary services, disease prevention, and best practices in livestock management. These efforts not only enhance food security but also fortify community resilience and self-sufficiency.

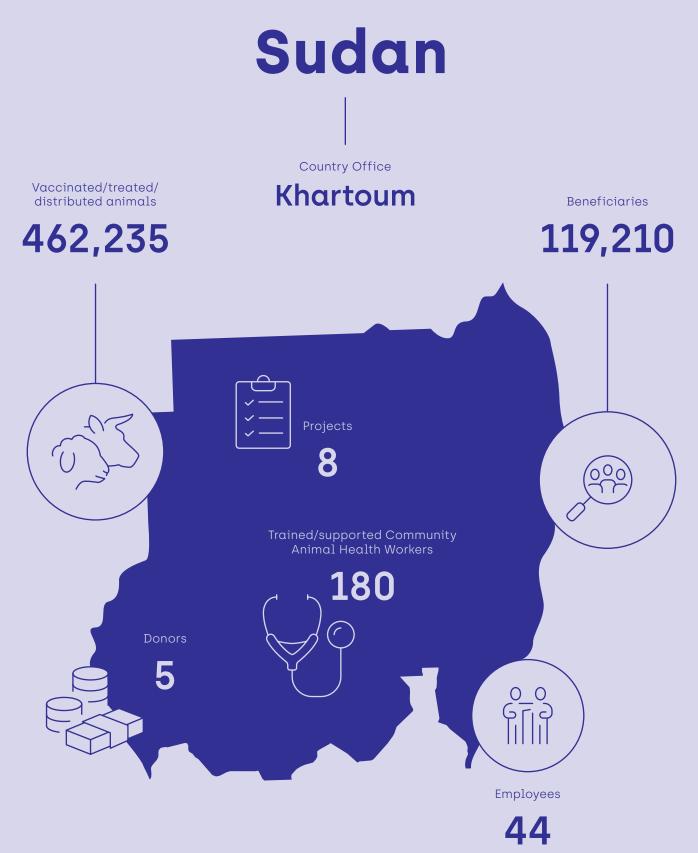
VSF Germany's work demonstrates how One Health can be a transformative approach to improving the well-being of all life. By recognizing and addressing the interconnectedness of the three pillars when choosing the appropriate measures, we mitigate the risks of zoonotic and food-borne diseases while also promoting food security, environmental sustainability, and community resilience. As the world continues to confront complex health challenges, VSF Germany strives to find solutions that can serve as effective models for comprehensive and collaborative interventions.

www.vsfg.org/who-we-are





COUNTRY REPORT



PROJECT IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Sudan

In the volatile region of West Darfur, where conflicts, economic instability, and natural disasters converge, the need for robust protection mechanisms is critical.

Recognizing these urgent needs, VSF Germany, in partnership with a consortium of partners and funded by OCHA through the Sudan Humanitarian Fund (SHF), implemented a project to enhance lifesaving and protection services for vulnerable populations, including internally displaced persons (IDPs), returnees, and host communities in Beida, Krenik, Kulbus, and Foro-Baranga localities. The protection component of this multi-sectoral initiative aimed to address gender-based violence (GBV) and ensure the safety and dignity of women and children.

VSF Germany, together with the Ministry of Social Development, established community-based protection networks in Foro-Baranga and Mangersa. Forty community members were trained extensively on protection principles with a focus on GBV and child protection. This five-day training equipped them to foster protective environments, identify and report protection issues, and manage referrals effectively, which has enhanced the local capacity to address and mitigate protection risks. Additionally, the project prioritized training 20 technical government staff from Foro-Baranga in GBV and sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA) prevention and response. Facilitated with UNFPA, this training covered SEA prevention strategies, harmful practices like female genital mutilation and early marriage, and support services for survivors. This capacity-building initiative has strengthened local response mechanisms, ensuring that protection concerns are promptly addressed.

Our local partner, Peace Light for Rural Development (PLRD), was crucial in conducting GBV prevention and response training for 300 women and girls from IDP and resident communities in Foro-Baranga. This training covered domestic violence, sexual harassment, women's rights, and the role of men in combating violence against women. By empowering these women and girls with knowledge and tools, the project fostered a more supportive and protective community environment. A pivotal aspect of the project was the planned establishment of a women's multipurpose center in Foro-Baranga. Although the outbreak of conflict disrupted its completion, resources were reallocated to provide dignity kits to 500 women and girls. These included sanitary pads, underwear, and personal hygiene products, thus seeking to improve the dignity and health of these women and girls.

Overall, the protection component of this project has significantly addressed the urgent needs of conflict-affected populations in West Darfur. Through community-based protection networks, capacity building of government staff, and distribution of dignity kits, the project created a safer and more supportive environment for women and children.

Sustainable Development Goals:





We protect the communities we work with and provide assistance in proportion to need and without discrimination.

Woman selling her products in a town store.

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Saving Lives

At the centre of the Crisis

The war in Darfur, particularly in Central Darfur, has inflicted significant disruptions and instability, threatening the presence of aid organizations striving to assist affected populations. Insecurity stemming from recurrent armed attacks and clashes between conflicting parties has severely constrained access to affected areas, posing life-threatening risks to humanitarian workers. Moreover, the risk of abduction and ransom demands further compounds the dangers faced by organization officers. Armed groups imposing restrictions on access and blockading vital roads have exacerbated the challenges, leading to looting and confiscation of project inputs. The looting of our office and subsequent damage severely impacted our operations and available facilities, setting us back significantly.

Presently, we are operating with minimal resources and facilities. striving to continue our humanitarian efforts under challenging circumstances. Moreover, the deterioration of infrastructure in Central Darfur, including essential institutions and line ministries, has further compounded our challenges. This deterioration has adversely affected our coordination mechanism and hindered our ability to effectively provide services to the affected population. The logistical challenges, including the scarcity of commodities previously obtained from Khartoum, have led to a lack of goods in local markets throughout Darfur, presenting substantial obstacles. Attempts to access alternative routes, like those through the Northern State

and Port Sudan, have been met with difficulties exacerbated by treacherous terrain and security concerns, particularly in regions such as the Jebel Marra Mountains. The heightened insecurity along these pathways has severely hindered humanitarian efforts, leaving aid convoys vulnerable to the threat of looting.

In the midst of these challenges, beneficiary selection has become increasingly complex. Tribal sensitivities, shifts in control, and the absence of government oversight have compounded the issue. Compounding the situation is the disparity between available funding resources and the scale of the crisis. Pressure on resources is immense, given the extent of displacement and the urgent need for interventions, which far surpasses the capacities of current programs. To adapt and respond effectively, the team in Central Darfur has

relocated its base from Zalinge, the state capital, to Garsila, to better access target communities and mitigate security risks during movements. Local sourcing of project inputs through established suppliers and utilizing cash facilitators to circumvent banking limitations have been instrumental in overcoming logistical hurdles. Additionally, the team has leveraged local expertise to implement emergency programs, including animal treatment, multi-purpose cash distributions, and goat distributions, through engagement with community-based structures.

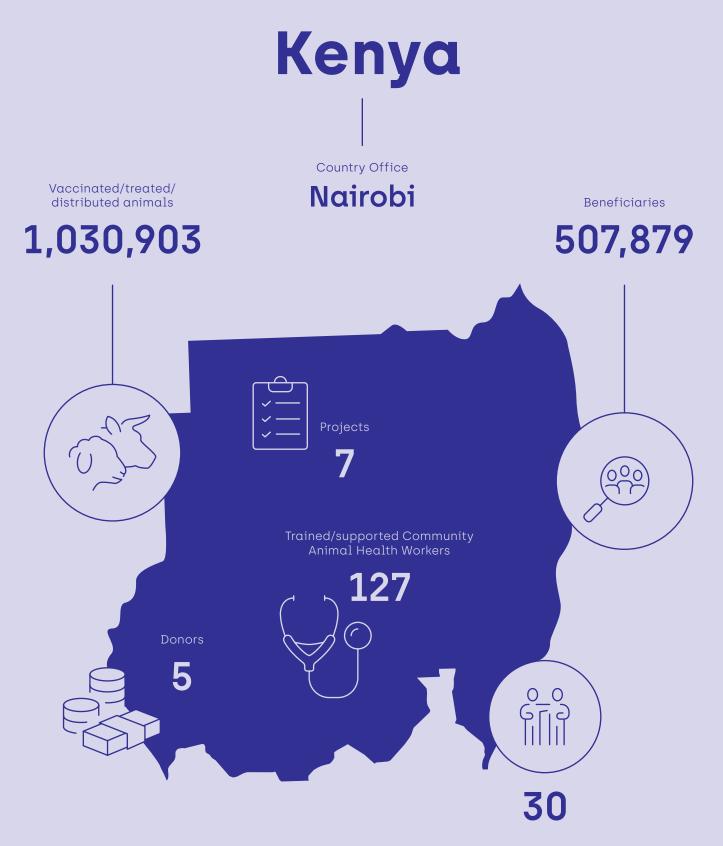
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Ammar Mohammed Project Manager, Central Darfur



COUNTRY REPORT



PROJECT IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Kenya

Drought Impact Mitigation for Vulnerable Pastoral Communities

Pastoral Communities in Turkana and West Pokot experienced the most severe drought in four decades. Following five consecutive below average rainfall seasons, the humanitarian situation in northern Kenya deteriorated significantly. This was exacerbated by poor pastoral conditions and various crises, such as inflation, protracted inter-communal conflict, and the socioeconomic implications of the Russia-Ukraine war, amongst others.

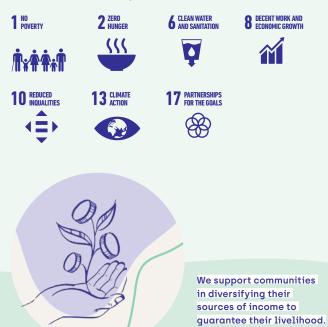
To address the urgent needs of the most vulnerable households in this region, VSF Germany and United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)-Kenya partnered under the LISMID Project. This intervention provided critical financial support to 1,300 households with over 14,000 individuals (4,872 women, 4,681 men, 2,484 girls, and 2,388 boys) through unconditional cash transfers (UCT). This enabled the affected households to meet essential needs such as food, hygiene, healthcare, and fees for education.

The project also addressed the special needs of pregnant and lactating women and young children. The unconditional cash transfers enabled families to purchase nutritious food, improving overall health and reducing malnutrition. In addition, the distribution of supplementary livestock feed enhanced milk production from lactating livestock leading to increased milk consumption among vulnerable groups, resulting in improved nutrition and health outcomes.

The project reached over 328,000 livestock, providing deworming and vaccination services to improve overall health and market value. The improved health of livestock not only ensured a reliable source of sustenance but also generated additional income for families. Furthermore, those affected by the drought received training. Beneficiaries also acquired essential skills for sustainable livelihoods, including proper livestock feeding practices and disease control measures. This newfound knowledge not only improved the quality of life of the beneficiaries, but also equipped them to share these skills within their communities, fostering a culture of resilience and self-reliance.

The project's objective was to enhance the resilience of communities in Turkana and West Pokot counties, equipping them to better withstand present and future challenges in a sustainable manner. By integrating humanitarian and development interventions, the project addressed immediate needs while simultaneously building the long-term resilience of drought-affected communities in Turkana and West Pokot counties.

Sustainable Development Goals:



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With clean water readily available, our health has improved, cases of sickness have decreased, and we feel safer, especially when fetching water close to the village, and for this, we say thank you" Paulina says.

A Tale of Water, Women, and Community Development

Kadakngimoe Village, Turkana County

Pauline Papa is a 34-year-old mother of four, whose journey reflects the profound impact of community development initiatives on the lives of everyday people. For years, accessing clean water in Kadakngimoe was a daunting challenge. Pauline vividly recalls the early mornings spent in search of water. This task not only disrupted her daily routine, and the children's education but also jeopardized the well-being of her family. With a manual hand pump as their only source, the community faced long queues, limited water yield, and heightened risks of waterborne diseases. The ILDRR project, funded by the German Ministry of Foreign Affairs, supported the community in upgrading the village's borehole from manual operation to a solar-powered system. With increased water yield and improved hygiene standards, the community witnessed a remarkable decline in waterborne illnesses, as attested by Mr. Lolmo, the health facility in charge of the nearby Lokore dispensary: "We have seen a marked reduction in diarrhea and water-borne diseases in Kadakngimoe since the borehole was renovated".

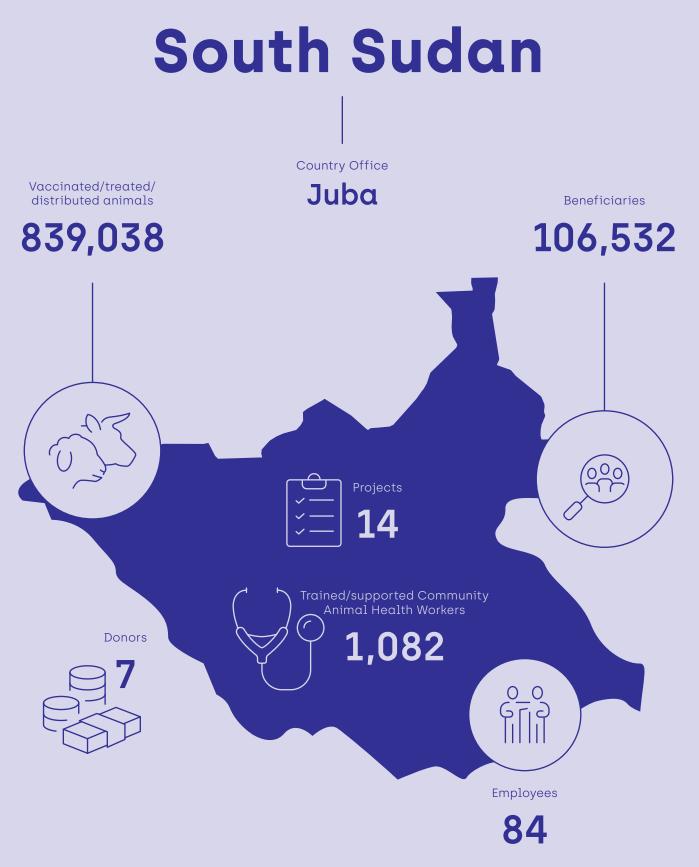
This intervention proved to be a game-changer for Pauline and her neighbours. "The change was incredible," Pauline exclaims, "now, fetching water is no longer a burden or a risk. We have more time for our families, for work, and for ourselves." Beyond its practical benefits, the upgraded borehole symbolized safety and security for the women of Kadakngimoe. An efficient borehole with increased output resulted in less time spent at the borehole fetching water. Women were now able to go home earlier before nightfall thereby reducing the risk of gender-based violence, especially rape, providing a sense of reassurance during daily waterfetching tasks. However, the impact didn't end there. Livestock, integral to the village's livelihood, also reaped the benefits of the renovation. Renovated cattle troughs not only streamlined watering processes but also mitigated the spread of contagious diseases, ensuring the well-being of humans and animals.

In Kadakngimoe, the story of water transcends mere survival, it embodies resilience, empowerment, and the enduring spirit of community.





COUNTRY REPORT



PROJECT IN THE SPOTLIGHT

South Sudan

The Anticipatory Action Against Floods Project (AAAF) in Bor South, Pibor, and Twic East counties, addressed the multifaceted challenges faced by communities in Jonglei State and the Greater Pibor Administrative Area (GPAA).

The project addressed the extraordinary flooding of tributaries of the White Nile, which affected the country in 2023 during the seasonal overflow. The forecast of rains remained high throughout the year, posing a risk to livestock and for the livelihood of the local communities, dependent on livestock sales and production.

The AAAF project supported 950 households with unconditional cash transfers and 150 youth with conditional cash for dyke repair. The anticipatory nature of the project meant that response measures were already in place prior to the floods. The cash intervention ensured that vulnerable displaced households were cushioned from the effects of floods, while the dyke rehabilitation ensured protection and a reduction in the severity of floods. It focused on enhancing community resilience, disaster risk reduction (DRR) and fostering peace through targeted interventions aimed at empowering vulnerable groups, particularly women and youth.

The project has made significant progress during its implementation period. The targeted assistance not only addressed immediate needs but also promoted inclusivity by reaching marginalized groups often overlooked in humanitarian interventions. These achievements demonstrate the AAAF's commitment to community empowerment, resilience-building, and inclusive development in Jonglei State and GPAA.

The successful implementation of the project has yielded tangible benefits, including improved access to cash, strengthened community cohesion, and enhanced infrastructure resilience. By equipping communities with the resources and skills necessary to withstand shocks, the project addressed the worsening humanitarian crisis in the aftermath of the floods and laid the groundwork for sustainable development and peaceful coexistence.

Sustainable Development Goals:





We support communities to adapt to Climate Change through the teaching of sustainable management of resources.

Livestock being treated by Community Animal Worker Yar Achieng Lual.



Yar Achieng Lual

Strengthening women in the field of animal health

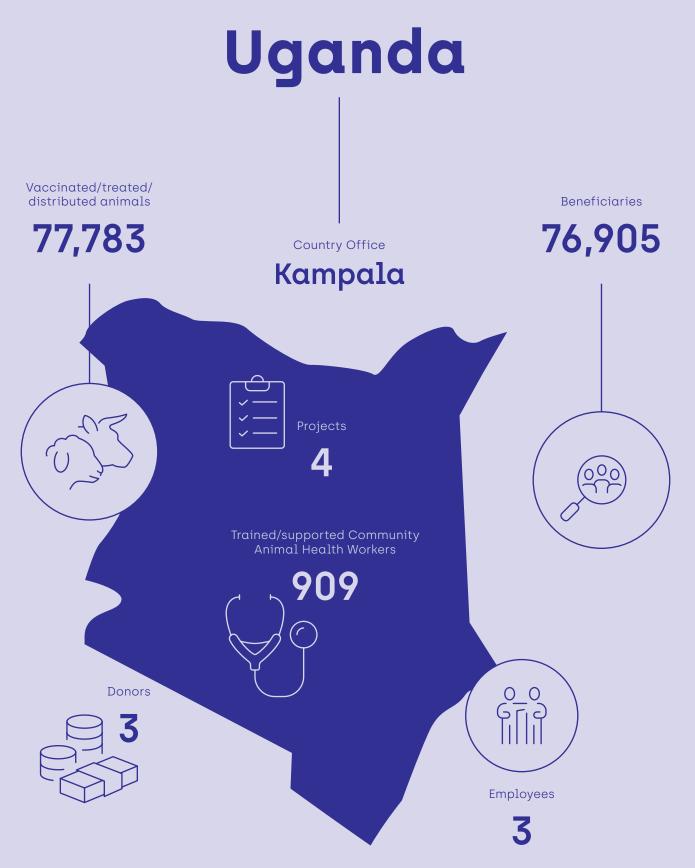
Yar Achieng Lual is a Community Animal Health Worker (CAHW) trained by VSF Germany. Despite the responsibilities of raising six children, Yar passionately serves her community by ensuring the health and well-being of their livestock. Yar's journey began in 2007 when she received training as a CAHW, transforming her into an expert in identifying and treating sick animals. With her newfound expertise, she became an invaluable asset to her community, where livestock plays a vital role in the local economy.

Reflecting on her journey, Yar states, "I began my journey in 2007, when I received training as a CAHW. Before that, I had no knowledge of how to identify or treat my sick livestock. But after the training, I became an expert in the field, capable of identifying and treating sick animals with ease. With my newfound knowledge and skills, I have been invaluable to my community, where livestock plays a crucial role in the local economy." VSF Germany's support has been instrumental in Yar's work, providing essential supplies such as overalls, gumboots, vaccines, and drugs. "As a woman in a maledominated field. I have not faced any discrimination or challenges at work," Yar shares. "As female CAHWs, we collaborate with our male colleagues to tackle challenging tasks that demand physical strength. Such tasks usually entail handling or subduing aggressive bulls or cows, and our teamwork enables us to tackle these situations effectively. Through our joint efforts, we have achieved remarkable achievements that empower women in our community and shatter stereotypes."

Yar recognizes the profound impact of VSF Germany's interventions on her community. Free vaccinations and deworming have resulted in disease-free livestock, fostering collaboration among cattle owners to share resources and enhance security measures. "Whenever VSF Germany brings in vaccines and drugs, we conduct meetings to organize how they will be distributed and used, depending on the cattle camp's needs," Yar explains. In response to the increasing needs of migrating cattle herders returning to Jonglei from Central Equatorial State, VSF Germany has increased its support through a significant boost in the provision of supplies, including vaccines for diseases like hemorrhagic septicemia and contagious bovine pleuropneumonia, along with treatments such as albendazole and penicillin streptomycin. These resources are essential for safeguarding the health of the 88,500 cattle, 25,000 shoats, and 3,000 chickens in the cattle camps. Through Yar's dedication and VSF Germany's assistance, the community thrives, and stereotypes are dismantled, paving the way for a brighter future.



COUNTRY REPORT



PROJECT IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Uganda

In rural East Africa deadly zoonotic diseases have long threatened the lives of both humans and animals.

For the specific case of Uganda, rabies has posed a severe risk for many people, causing approximately 133 human deaths annually. To be able to counteract this toll, VSF Germany implemented a project focused on combating rabies in the country, where it is still considered endemic. Funded by the private foundation 24 Guten Taten, VSF Germany conducted massive vaccination campaigns. Over 70,000 dogs and cats were immunized against the disease in search of a break in the transmission cycle to humans.

To guarantee its success, VSF Germany also implemented awareness campaigns in schools and communities, where over 3,200 pupils and residents were educated about responsible pet ownership and rabies prevention This collaborative effort extended to training over 80 veterinary and medical professionals, enhancing their capacity to manage rabies outbreaks and fostering cross-sectoral cooperation.

A pivotal aspect of the project relates to the surveillance and reporting system as our teams were trained in managing data collection and updating this on the Global Alliance for Rabies Control (GARC) App. Every vaccination done was thoroughly updated on the app enabling and strengthening the rabies surveillance and reporting infrastructure to ensure timely and accurate data collection and response.

The One Health approach was instrumental in addressing the root causes of these zoonotic diseases. By fostering collaboration among local communities, health professionals, and government entities, VSF Germany created a united front against rabies. This holistic strategy not only managed disease outbreaks but also promoted sustainable practices and resilience within the communities. VSF Germany's fight against rabies in Uganda has had a profound impact on public health, animal welfare, and community awareness. The interventions have demonstrated the effectiveness of mass vaccination campaigns, community, and stakeholder engagement in controlling and preventing the spread of rabies. However, despite the progress made, the disease remains a significant threat, and continued efforts are necessary to achieve the goal of eliminating human deaths caused by rabies by 2030.

Sustainable Development Goals:





Our projects are based on the One Health intervention to achieve optimized outcomes for healthy people, animals and their environment. A crowning achievement of the project lies in its ability to foster crossborder collaboration. By harmonizing disease control strategies and facilitating seamless communication between Uganda and Tanzania, the project perpetuates a united front against PPR and RVF. This ongoing collaborative endeavor ensures synchronized actions, sustaining the efficacy of disease management and prevention efforts.

KENYA



RABIES: "ALL FOR 1, ONE HEALTH FOR ALL"

Dog being brought to get vaccinated against rabies at a massive vaccination campaign.











Strengthening Cross-Border Disease Control

A Success Story from the Uganda-Tanzania Border

The Kagera Epizone, in the heart of East Africa, where Uganda and Tanzania converge, has long been afflicted by the devastating impact of Peste des Petits Ruminants (PPR) and Rift Valley Fever (RVF). These diseases have brought havoc among livestock, caused economic turmoil, and tragically claimed human lives, emphasizing the critical need for effective disease control measures. Responding to this urgent challenge, VSF Germany, supported by GIZ, initiated a ground-breaking cross-border project. Embracing a One Health approach, the project acknowledges the intricate interplay between animal and human health, aiming to confront these diseases with comprehensive solutions.

The enduring impact of the project is profound. Through targeted vaccination campaigns, ongoing efforts continue to curb disease outbreaks in high-risk areas, safeguarding the health of both livestock and humans. The establishment of joint surveillance teams, equipped with specialized training in participatory disease surveillance techniques, ensures swift detection and response to potential outbreaks, perpetually enhancing disease control capabilities throughout the region. One of the key aspects of the project is the aspect of capacity building. Continuous training of technical personnel and the active involvement of women in decision-making processes ensure that the project's benefits are extended to all community members. This inclusive approach not only amplifies the effectiveness of disease control measures but also champions

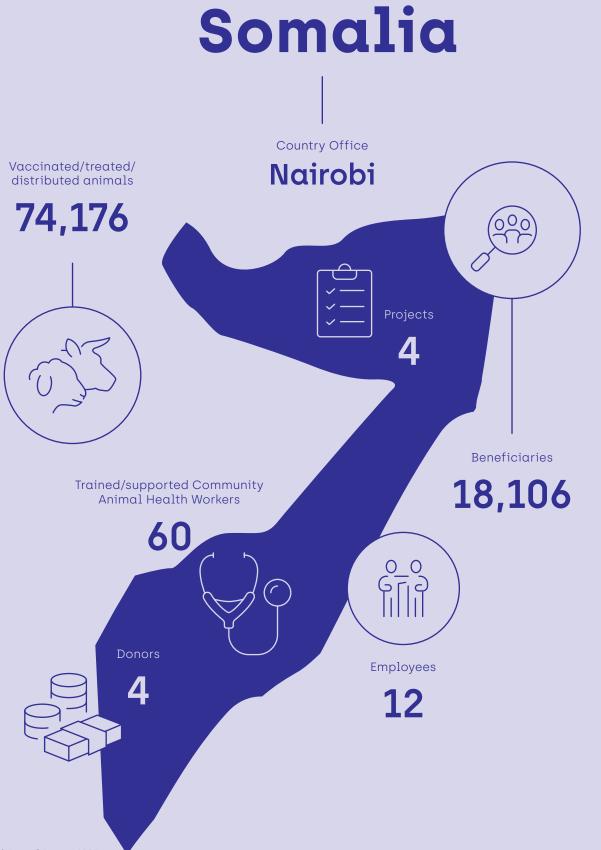
gender equality and community empowerment, bolstering the project's long-term sustainability.

The enduring success of the project is eloquently captured in the words of Daniel Mdetele, an official from the Tanzanian Ministry of Livestock: "On behalf of the Tanzania Director of Veterinary Services, I'd like to express my gratitude to VSF Germany for the invaluable support you and your organization have provided to our veterinary services. Your contributions have been instrumental in advancing our efforts."

The project underscores the indispensable role of sustained and institutionalized efforts in ensuring the long-term success of disease control initiatives in the Kagera Epizone and beyond.



COUNTRY REPORT



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At the heart of our work is the welfare and protection of animals by promoting species-appropriate conditions for the farm animals.

Sustainable Development Goals:



PROJECT IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Somalia

Unconditional cash transfer for food access and livelihood protection in emergencies

VSF Germany partnered with CEFA, and the Social Fund for Development (SFD) under a project financed by the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), to build resilience for vulnerable communities in Puntland, Somalia and Yemen by enhancing animal health. Central to the project's success is its inclusive, participatory approach. By working closely with local communities, the project integrated multiple sectors to support livestock, a lifeline for many families.

For the specific case of Puntland, Somalia, where rangeland productivity is directly linked to livestock production, VSF Germany supported the communities to manage their resources more sustainably through a Holistic Natural Resources Management (HNRM) approach due to the area being drought prone. It also implemented a Livestock Body Condition Scoring system, which allows for better monitoring of animal health.

Local community members, including 15 Community Animal Health Workers [CAHWs], were trained on the identification and reporting of diseases, how to conduct surveillance and use of basic Participatory Epidemiology (PE) tools. This training empowered them to take an active role in protecting and improving the health of their livestock. Additionally, 10 Animal Health Assistants (AHAs) received training on the rational use of veterinary drugs, raising awareness about drug resistance, and using a risk-shared model for delivering animal health services. Furthermore, 15 government veterinary officers were trained in Participatory Epidemiology, enhancing their ability to respond to animal health issues effectively.

The construction of village collection centres, a slaughterhouse, and a milk sale post has benefitted around 1,700 people, providing essential facilities for managing and selling livestock products. Improved hygiene standards and practices were introduced to 199 milk and meat vendors, ensuring safer products for the community.

The project has reached over 49,000 animals, including sheep, goats, camels. and cattle. from more than 1.100 households. It has aided in detecting and managing diseases early, preventing widespread outbreaks. In response to surveillance reports, more than 15,000 animals were treated for various diseases, directly improving the health and productivity of these vital resources. Additionally, 33 government officers, both men and women, were trained on using a new methodology for assessing livestock body condition. This training helps to ensure that animals are kept in optimal health, supporting the overall goal of improving food security and livelihoods.

With a focus on animal health, the project has helped to secure the main source of income and nutrition for many families. It has demonstrated a successful approach to addressing food security and sustainability in fragile regions, showing how targeted support can make a lasting difference in the lives of vulnerable people.

A main pillar of our work is directed to women empowerment.

This enables women to be economically independent and promotes change towards a more gender-equitable society. 

From Destitution to Empowerment

The transformation of Haa-Haar Women's Cooperative

In a small village of Haa-Haar, Burtinle district, 15 women were collectively bound by one thing: a desire to better their living conditions and provide for their children. For this reason, they started a small milk business to be able to provide for their families. Often, they would resort to negative coping strategies such as reducing the number of meals consumed per day as well as limiting portion sizes. The situation was especially dire in the dry season, when there was lack of sufficient pasture which resulted in reduced milk production and in turn reduced household income.

The MISLIRECA project sought to strengthen cooperatives through capacity building on livestock value chain addition and business skills development. This gave rise to the establishment of the Haa-Haar women's cooperative in 2022 with members comprised of the small milk business owners. The group was trained on cooperative registration, group dynamics, business management, mentorship, basic literacy and numeracy and given a grant to jump start their businesses

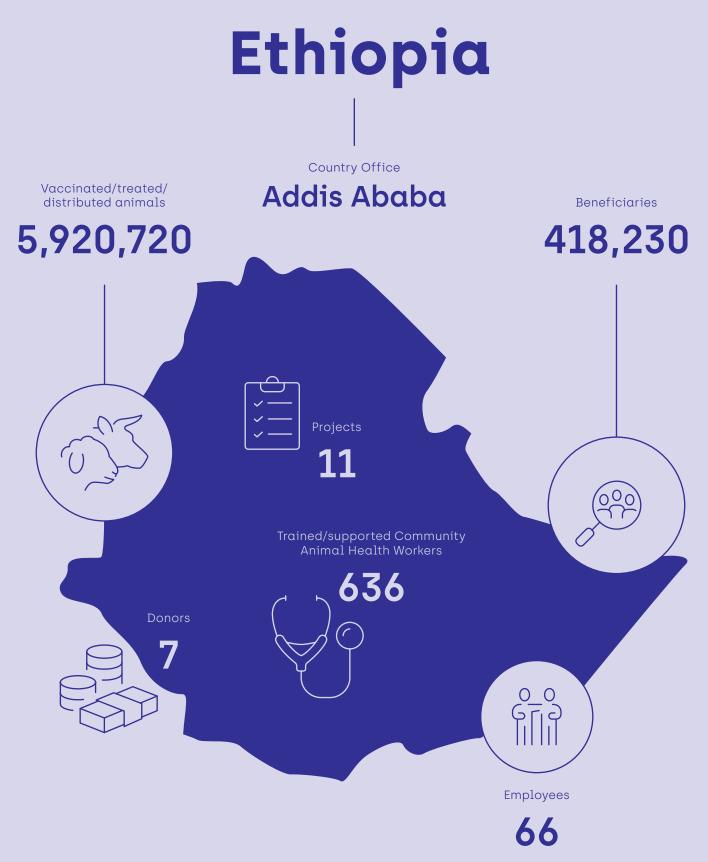
Anab Muse, the cooperatives nominated business sales lady, alluded to the benefits of operating as a cooperative instead of as an individual. "Being in a cooperative helps us pull resources together; This way we can achieve much more than we did as individuals. We received training on business skills from the project after which we developed business plans. We were then supported with a grant amounting to €4,500. We used this grant to establish a shop selling various goods, which aided us to go beyond trading milk. I was nominated as the shops sales lady but I also work with

the committee that includes a secretary and bookkeeper.. Each of us contributes \$15 per month which we use to restock the shop as well as have a platform for loans. In the past year alone, our business has grown a lot and we now have enough stock in our shop as well as \$5,600 as revolving funds. We are very happy as we are now able to provide food for our children and even pay school fees for them. We are now also contributing to decision making in our households on how money should be used."

Supporting cooperatives through grants and business skills has not only offered the women an alternative livelihood source but has also empowered them financially and socially to be able to make decisions on issues that affect them on a daily basis.



COUNTRY REPORT





We support people in acute and chronic food insecurity by providing food or feed for their animals.

Sustainable Development Goals:





PROJECT IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Ethiopia

Integrated Response to Complex Emergency (IRCE) Project

The pastoralist communities of Afar, Oromia (Borena), former SNNPR, and Somali regions of Ethiopia recently faced an unprecedented series of challenges, including consecutive rainfall failures, the conflict in northern Ethiopia, the COVID-19 pandemic, desert locust invasions, and escalating costs of fuels and agricultural inputs. These crises led to substantial losses in crops, livestock, and livelihoods. In response to these compounding challenges, VSF Germany implemented the Integrated Response to Complex Emergencies (IRCE) project, funded by USAID/BHA. Targeting over 374,938 individuals directly, with a focus on inclusivity, the project prioritized vulnerable groups such as pregnant and lactating women, households with cases of malnutrition, people with disabilities, internally displaced persons, elders, and those chronically ill.

The project represents a successful example of the humanitarian and development nexus approach, linking relief and long term resilience activities. Through conditional cash transfers (Cash for Work) tied to activities like rangeland rehabilitation and adoption of local agricultural technologies, vulnerable households were supported in meeting their basic needs while also building sustainable livelihoods. Key interventions included upgrading water schemes to solar-powered systems, benefiting over 33,000 people and reducing the burden of water collection, particularly for women and girls. Additionally, support for agro-pastoralist households through training, inputs, and technical assistance led to increased food production, surplus sales, and income generation.

Livestock, a cornerstone of these communities, received vital attention through integrated feeding and veterinary services, safeguarding up to 2,346,984 heads from feed shortages and preventable diseases. Notably, this approach balanced herd health with environmental sustainability as due to the drought prone environment, destocking of animals allows for sufficient regeneration by reducing the pressure of grazing, maintaining a healthy population-rangeland equilibrium.

Beyond immediate relief, VSF Germany's holistic approach aimed for socially acceptable, financially viable, and environmentally conscious solutions. Cash transfers addressed both food and non-food needs, enhancing overall wellbeing, while solarized water systems mitigated risks of gender-based violence as women and girls do not need to travel long distances to fetch water from alternative sources, which in turn improved their quality of life. By doing this, the project successfully not only provided lifesaving activities but supported the recovery for improving the resilience and long-term prosperity of Ethiopia's pastoralist communities.

Community of beneficiaries gathering in the beginning of a project.



Securing Food and Livelihoods

The Afar Story

Dongole Gnetemelo Yerbur, an agro-pastoralist from Rate kebele in Dassenech Woreda, has been facing severe challenges in the past years. Repetitive droughts followed by flooding from the overflow of the Omo River devastated her livelihood. Dongole, 28, a single mother of four (two daughters and two sons], lost her entire Sorghum crop and 19 livestock (six cattle, eight goats, and five sheep]. Struggling to feed her family, she was glad to receive support from the FAO project, "Support to Introduction of Innovative Approaches to Enhance Livestock Feed Security,". Implemented by VSF-Germany, the project provided Dongole with an opportunity to start a small, irrigated plot of land. Key to her success was securing access to 0.25 hectares of land, 5 kg of Sorqhum seeds, 500 Onion sprouts, farm tools, pesticides, and a shared water pump. She also

received comprehensive training in agricultural techniques, including land preparation, canal lining, sowing of Sorghum and Onion seeds, weed control, harvesting, and seed storage for subsequent planting.

Through her hard work and the support received, Dongole harvested 5 quintals of Sorghum and 4 quintals of Onions in one production season. She utilized her harvest in the following ways: 1.9 quintals of Sorghum were used to feed her family. She traded 3 quintals of Sorghum for six goats, rebuilding her livestock assets, and stored 10 kg of Sorghum for future planting. From the 4 quintals of Onions, she sold 2 quintals and used the income to buy clothing for her children and for other social responsibilities.

The remaining 2 quintals were stored for sale to increase her

working capital. Dongole's success is a testimony to her resilience and the project's impact. "As a result of the project support, I developed the skills to produce Sorghum and Onions, secured my household food needs, rebuilt my livestock assets, and saved seeds for the next planting season," Dongole proudly shared.



Vétérinaires Sans Frontières Germany



Only if the animals with which people live are healthy, and only if this coexistence takes place in harmony with the environment, does One Health have a chance. Since 1991, Vétérinaires Sans Frontières Germany has been campaigning for HEALTHY ANIMALS, HEALTHY PEOPLE and a HEALTHY ENVIRONMENT. The association's humanitarian aid and development cooperation work focuses equally on animals and humans.



Germany Berlin (Headquarters – HQ)



Sudan Khartoum (Country Office)



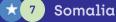


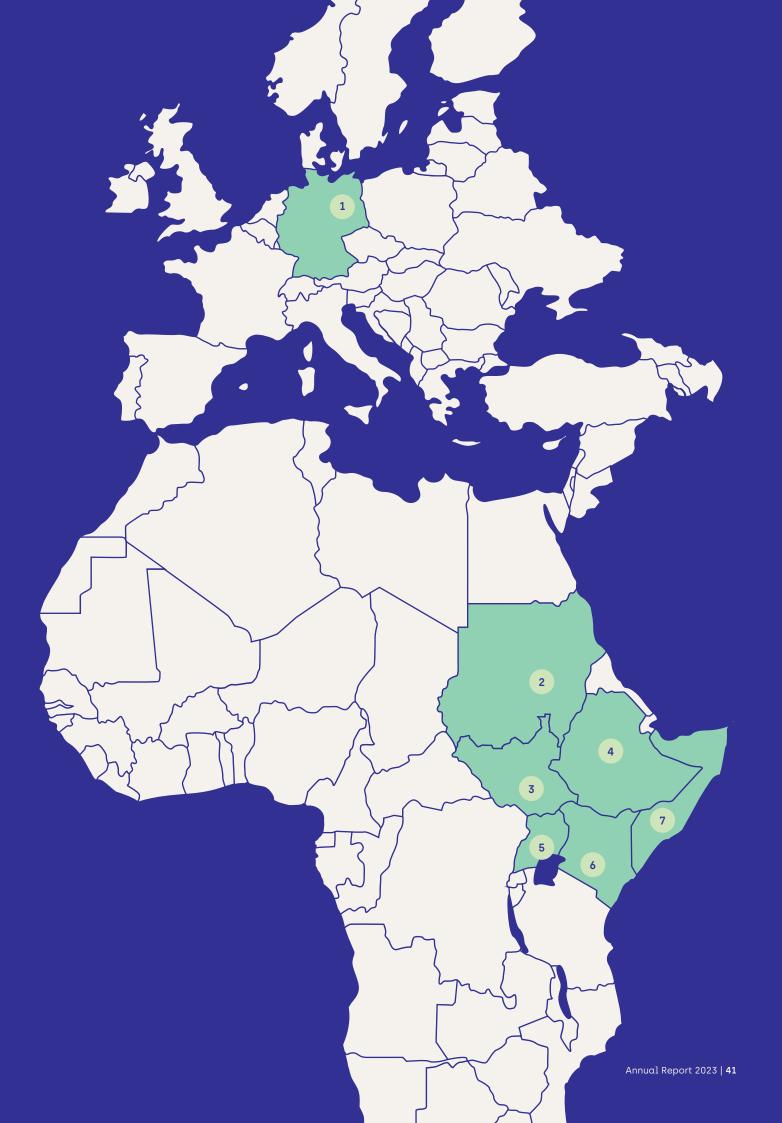














at a glance



15 INSTITUTIONAL DONORS



BENEFICIARIES



19.9 M BUDGET



Treated and distributed animals



Trained/supported Community Animal Health Workers

23 PARTNERS





WASH infrastructures

57 Income Generating Activities







Realized Projects in 2023

Projects South Sudan

No.	Project Title	Project Acronym	Donor	Budget	Start Date	End Date	Current Status
1	Reducing hunger and malnutrition and promoting resilient food production in Cueibet County, South Sudan	16 SS DKH PROMISE	BMZ-DKH	€6,060,000	01.09.2016	31.08.2023	Completed QTR 3
2	Emergency Food Aid for Malnourished School Children in Cuibet County, South Sudan	21 SS EFAM III DKH	DKH	€410,000	01.04.2021	31.07.2023	Completed QTR 3
3	Pathway to Resilience in South Sudan	21 SS P2R USAID	USAID	€1,800,000	01.02.2021	30.09.2023	Completed QTR 3
4	Integrated Life-saving and DRR Initia- tives in Sudan, South Sudan, Ethiopia and Kenya [ILDRR]	21 SSD ILDRR FO	FO	€1,247,052	15.08.2021	31.05.2024	Ongoing
5	Food & Nutrition Security Resilience Program	22 SS ELRP VII FAO	FAO	\$105,059	03.06.2022	28.02.2023	Completed QTR 1
6	Conflict and Climatic Emergency Livestock Response Program in Greater Upper Nile States of South Sudan Phase II (CCLERP II)	22 SS CCLERP-II BHA	ВНА	\$1,600,000	01.08.2022	31.07.2023	Completed QTR 3
7	South Sudan Livelihoods and Resilience Project(SSLRP)	21 SS SSLRP IFAD	IFAD	\$1,817,740	08.08.2022	27.06.2027	Ongoing
8	East Africa Hunger Crisis Response Project	22 SS HCR DKH	DKH	€490,000	01.09.2022	31.07.2023	Completed QTR 3
9	Community Violence Reduction (CVR) in central-southern Jonglei and the Greater Pibor Administrative Area (GPAA) – Phase II (Partnership for Peace)	23 SS PFP UNMTF	UNMTF	\$898,727	01.04.2023	31.03.2025	Ongoing
10	Anticipatory action against floods in Jonglei region of South-Sudan (AAAF)	23 SS AAAP DKH	DKH	€150,000	20.06.2023	31.03.2024	Ongoing
11	Rabies Vaccination Campaign Project in Juba County, South Sudan	23 SS RABIES CF	VSFG-CF	€5,000	01.04.2023	31.12.2023	Completed QTR 4
12	Conflict and Climatic Emergency Livestock Response Program in Greater Upper Nile States of South Sudan Phase III (CCLERP III)	23 SSD CCLERP-III	вна	\$1,906,213	01.08.2023	31.07.2024	Ongoing
13	Fostering Peace and Natural Resources Governance – (FOPNAG) Project.	23 SS FOPNAG EC	EC	€1,250,000	14.12.2023	30.06.2026	Ongoing
14	Resilience livelihood kits and trainings to support 1,200 households in Pibor County – Greater Pibor Administrative Area (GPAA)	23 SS RELIKIT FAO	FAO	\$76,705	10.09.2023	3108.2024	Ongoing



No.	Project Title	Project Acronym	Donor	Budget	Start Date	End Date	Current Status
1	Strengthening the resilience of the conflict-affected population in South Kordofan and Blue Nile through integrated, multi-sectoral and One Health-interventions	21 SUD IDRI BNSK BMZ	BMZ	€6,500,000	15.07.2021	30.06.2025	Ongoing
2	Integrated Life-saving and DRR Initia- tives in Sudan, South Sudan, Ethiopia and Kenya (ILDRR)	21 SUD ILDRR FO	GFFO	€1,394,350	15.08.2021	31.05.2024	Ongoing
3	Improved access to FSL services in response to drought in Mukjar, North Jabel Marra (Rokero), and Azoum Localities of Central Darfur State	22 SUD REF CD SHF	SHF	\$600,000	15.05.2022	31.03.2023	Completed QTR 1
4	Integrated and Multi-Sectoral [FSL, WASH and Protection] Interven- tion to Support Conflict Affected Com- munities in Blue Nile, South Kordofan, West Darfur and Central Darfur States	22 SUD BSCWD BHA	вна	\$3,475,000	01.07.2022	31.12.2024	Ongoing
5	Multi-sectoral and inter-sectoral actions for improved FSL, health, nutrition, WASH and protection services for conflict-affected and food insecure communities in West Darfur (Kereneik, Kulbus, Foro Baranga and Beida) localities	22 SUD HNW FSL SHF WD	SHF	\$446,484	15.08.2022	14.02.2024	Ongoing
6	Multi-sectoral interventions Health, WASH, Protection and FSL in Bendisi, Wadi Salih and Nertiti of Central Darfur state	22 SUD HW-FSL SHF CD	SHF	\$414,497	21.08.2022	20.02.2024	Ongoing
7	Post Harvest Loss Project	23 SUD PHL WFP WD	WFP	\$161,06	01.01.2023	31.07.2023	Completed QTR 3
8	Sustainable Agrifood Systems Approach for Sudan	23 SUD SASAS CIMMYT	USAID	\$1,500,000	01.06.2023	30.09.2024	Ongoing

Projects Ethiopia

No.	Project Title	Project Acronym	Donor	Budget	Start Date	End Date	Current Status
1	Thermostable PPR Vaccine Distribution and Delivery Model (VDDM)	20 ETH RESET EC	EU	€215,776	12.11.2020	31.01.2023	Completed QTR 1
2	Integrated Life-saving and DRR Initiatives in Sudan, South Sudan, Ethiopia and Kenya (ILDRR)	21 ETH ILDRR FO	BMZ	€1,518,715	15.08.2021	31.05.2024	Ongoing
3	Integrated Response to Complex Emergency (IRCE) in Afar and South Omo	22 ETH IRCE BHA	ВНА	\$4,600,000	08.07.2022	29.02.2024	Ongoing
4	Emergency Livelihood support through provision of animal health services to drought affected communities in SNNP Region of Ethiopia	23 ETH SNNRP FAO	FAO	\$188,804	01.03.2023	31.08.2023	Completed QTR 3
5	Consultancy Services-Field Testing the Use of brouse Enhancer to Improve the Availability of Nutrients	23 ETH SIAELFS-FAO	FAO	\$43,396	21,03.2023	31.12.2023	Completed QTR 4
6	VSF Germany Supported Rabies Vaccination Project in Addis Ababa City and Oromia Region, Ethiopia	23 ETH RABIES CF	VSFG-CF	€15,583	01.04.2023	31.12.2023	Completed QTR 4
7	Support to Introduciton of Innovative Approaches to Enhance Livestock Feed Security in Ethiopia	23 ETH ELFS FAO	FAO	\$198,501	01.06.2023	31.12.2023	Completed QTR 4
8	Multisector and Integrated Life Saving Support (MILSS) for vulnerable communities in drought affected district of Karat Zuria, Konso in SNNPR.	23 ETH MILSS OCHA	EHF/ OCHA	\$725,000	01.08.2023	31.05.2024	Ongoing
9	Drought Emergency Response in Borana, South OMO and Somali Region (DER-BOSS)	23 ETH DER-BOSS BHA	вна	\$6.000.000	17.07.2023	16.01.2025	Ongoing
10	Emergency Livelihood support through provision of animal health services to drought affected communities in Southern Ethiopia and Southwestern Ethiopia regions.	23 ETH ELSADAC FAO	FAO	\$326.730	10.11.2023	31.05.2024	Ongoing
11	Piloting the private sector engage- ment in the Prevention and Control of Transboundary Diseases (PC-TAD); PPR Control in selected woredas of Somali and Afar regions, Ethiopia	23 ETH-PPR-WOAH	WOAH	€36,358	01.11.2023	31.12.2024	Ongoing

• Projects Uganda

No.	Project Title	Project Acronym	Donor	Budget	Start Date	End Date	Current Status
1	Boosting Uganda's Investment in Livestock Development	19-UG-BUILD-BMZ	BMZ	€1,547,235	01.01.2019	30.11.2023	Completed QTR 4
2	One Health Regional Project to Combat NTDs , AMR EIDs and Address Food Safety in Uganda and Kenya	21 UG OHRECA BMZ	BMZ	€350,000	01.06.2021	31.12.2023	Completed QTR 4
3	Awareness and Vaccination for Eradication of Rabies in Uganda	23 UG RABIES GUTETAT	24GUTE TATEN	€53,868	01.03.2023	28.02.2024	Ongoing



No.	Project Title	Project Acronym	Donor	Budget	Start Date	End Date	Current Status
1	Theremostable PPR Vaccine Distribu- tion and Delivery Model (VDDM)	20 ETH RESET EC	EU	€215,776	12.11.2020	31.01.2023	Completed QTR 1
2	Integrated Life-saving and DRR Initia- tives in Sudan, South Sudan, Ethiopia and Kenya (ILDRR)	21 ETH ILDRR FO	BMZ	€1,518,715	15.08.2021	31.05.2024	Ongoing
3	Integrated Response to Complex Emer- gency (IRCE) in Afar and South Omo	22 ETH IRCE BHA	вна	\$4,600,000	08.07.2022	29.02.2024	Ongoing
4	Emergency Livelihood support through provision of animal health services to drought affected communities in SNNP Region of Ethiopia	23 ETH SNNRP FAO	FAO	\$188,804	01.03.2023	31.08.2023	Completed QTR 3
5	Consultancy Services-Field Testing the Use of brouse Enhancer to Improve the Availability of Nutrients	23 ETH SIAELFS-FAO	FAO	\$43,396	21,03.2023	31.12.2023	Completed QTR 4
6	VSF Germany Supported Rabies Vacci- nation Project in Addis Ababa City and Oromia Region, Ethiopia	23 ETH RABIES CF	VSFG-CF	€15,583	01.04.2023	31.12.2023	Completed QTR 4
7	Support to Introduciton of Innovative Approaches to Enhance Livestock Feed Security in Ethiopia	23 ETH ELFS FAO	FAO	\$198,501	01.06.2023	31.12.2023	Completed QTR 4

😒 Projects Somalia

No.	Project Title	Project Acronym	Donor	Budget	Start Date	End Date	Current Status
1	Food Security and Sustainability in Fragile Situations(FSSFs)	19 SOM IFAD FSSFS	IFAD	€1,317,437	18.04.2019	30.06.2024	Ongoing
2	Multi-sectoral Intervention to Strengthen Livelihoods and Resilience of Crisis-Affected Communities in Puntland and Jubaland	21 SOM MISLIRECA BMZ	BMZ	€2,500,000	23.06.2021	31.05.2024	Ongoing
3	Improving Donkey Welfare for Eco- nomic Empowerment of Urban and Peri-Urban Households in Borama and Hargeisa Districts, Somaliland	22 SOM IDOWEL BROOKE	BROOKE EA	€79,225	01.04.2022	31.03.2023	Comple- ted QTR 1
4	Improving Donkey Welfare for Eco- nomic Empowerment of Urban and Peri-Urban Households in Borama and Hargeisa Districts, Somaliland	23 SOM IDOWEL BROOKE	BROOKE EA	\$134,187	01.04.2023	31.03.2024	Ongoing



Public Relations and Fundraising

Our donors and permanent members are the backbone of our organizatio

Without solidarity and financial support from thousands of people we would not be able to implement our life-saving and developmental projects in Eastern Africa. Donations are the backbone of our organization as through them we are able to guarantee the financial stability and flexibility of VSF Germany.

As a highly volatile region, it is of utmost importance that we are able to work in an agile, flexible manner to be able to adapt to the challenges faced by the region such as conflicts, droughts, and floods. Thanks to private donations we are able to apply for institutional donors for our humanitarian assistance and development projects in the area.

2023 represented the most successful year so far in private income for the organization. With a total of 893,854€ private donations increased by 26,4%. We want to thank all of those who supported us financially and believe in the impact of our work.



We are thankful for this support.

Your donation has an impact

Your donation enables VSF Germany to apply for public funding to be able to implement its many project ideas. Once funding is awarded, your donation will have a bigger impact, as we are able to multiply it through institutional awarded funding. Here is how it works:



Your donation of 10 euros

VSF Germany successfully applies for institutional funds and is awarded €209, so €219 is then available for our projects.



Apply for public funding

E.g. from the Federal Foreign Office (FO), the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), the European Union (EU) or the United Nations.

> How your donation and institutional funds have been invested:*

Projects: 98% Administrative Costs: 1.2% Fundraising and Communications: 0.8%







862,082 beneficiaries 8.404 M animals treated. vaccinated and distributed



Feature

Climate change impact on livestock production

In the Horn of Africa, climate change poses a significant threat to livestock production, a cornerstone of livelihood for millions of pastoralist communities. Countries such as Ethiopia, Somalia, Kenya, Sudan and South Sudan face escalating challenges due to changing weather patterns, including increased temperatures, erratic rainfall, and extreme weather conditions.

Rising temperatures and altered precipitation create favourable conditions for vectors and pathogens, leading to increased outbreaks of diseases such as Rift Valley fever, foot-and-mouth disease, and tick-borne illnesses. These outbreaks devastate livestock populations, resulting in substantial economic losses and jeopardizing food security for pastoralist communities.

Erratic weather patterns and prolonged droughts force pastoralists to move their herds in search of water and pasture, heightening the risk of transboundary animal diseases as animals come into contact with other infected herds and contaminated environments. Overgrazing in new areas exacerbates land degradation, further diminishing the availability of forage and water resources, creating a vicious cycle of scarcity and movement. The spread of diseases is facilitated by climate change-induced alterations in ecosystems, with changes in vector habitats and migration patterns leading to transmission over larger areas and previously unaffected regions.

Pastoralists have limited access to veterinary services and disease control measures, making it challenging to manage outbreaks effectively. Consequently, the spread of diseases leads to high mortality and morbidity rates among livestock resulting in severe economic losses. The cumulative effects of disease outbreaks, livestock movement, and the spread of diseases result in decreased livestock productivity, high mortality rates, and reduced market value of animals due to poor health conditions.



VSF Germany's Response

VSF Germany implements comprehensive multisectoral interventions to mitigate the impacts of climate change in the hard to reach communities whose livelihood depends on livestock in the Horn of Africa. The organization works closely with these communities to increase resilience and diversify their livelihoods through adaptation to climate change. This includes the provision of trainings and inputs for climate adapted agriculture as well as grants for cooperatives willing to upscale their milk and meat processing businesses. In response to acute climate-induced crises, VSF Germany implements projects that provide immediate relief and support to affected pastoralist communities. These interventions include multipurpose cash distribution, veterinary services, distribution of animals, emergency feed and water supplies, and vaccination campaigns to control and prevent disease outbreaks. Timely interventions are crucial in stabilizing livestock health and safeguarding pastoralist livelihoods during periods of extreme stress.

Additionally, VSF Germany undertakes climate-focused projects that address both the root causes and long-term impacts of climate change on livestock production. Initiatives in natural resource management (NRM) promote sustainable land use practices, the restoration of degraded rangelands, and efficient water management to enhance resource availability. Disaster risk reduction (DRR) initiatives focus on strengthening community preparedness and response capacities to cope with climate-related disasters. VSF Germany also emphasizes the importance of community involvement and gender equality in its climate adaptation strategies. Training and empowering women as community animal health workers foster gender equity and enhance community resilience. These trained workers provide essential veterinary services and disease surveillance, creating a robust support network for early intervention and ongoing care. By leveraging local knowledge, enhancing capacities, and fostering sustainable practices, VSF Germany contributes to mitigating the adverse effects of climate change and ensuring a more secure future for pastoralists in the region.



Study on Climate Impact and Livestock

VSF Germany, in partnership with VSF Suisse, conducted a study as part of the Conflict and Climatic Emergency Livestock Response Program (CCLERP) funded by USAID's Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance. aimed at finding ways to improve and guarantee sustained access to animal source foods and related income for climate and crisisaffected individuals, particularly children and women. The results showed that by supporting local institutions and mechanisms for delivering animal and public health services, CCLERP strengthens community resilience while mainstreaming conflict sensitivity, protection, and Do No Harm approaches.



One Health Day 2023

Under the Theme One Health in Times of Conflict and Crises, VSF Germany and Help – Hilfe zur Selbsthilfe organized an event for International One Health Day on November 7, 2023. The event focused on the One Health approach and its role in times of crisis and conflict. The presentations and workshops focused on the question of how humanitarian aid can function in times of crisis and conflict: How can we improve our humanitarian aid activities for peace, nutrition and veterinary medicine? How can we still gain access to the regions in conflict situations? How do we cooperate with our partners on the ground? How can we work even better with other German and international organisations?

Through keynote addresses and workshops, the event reinforced the necessity of a transdisciplinary approach to address complex health challenges in conflict zones, advocating for collaboration across sectors to enhance crisis management, food security, and veterinary care. Participants called for increased funding, better resource allocation, and stronger integration of One Health into global peacebuilding strategies, promoting a holistic, collaborative effort to foster resilience and sustainability in affected regions.









Outreach from the grass-roots

Our Volunteer Work in Germany

In several cities across Germany, our dedicated volunteer groups raise awareness about the importance of the One Health Approach, which is crucial for achieving a sustainable future. They also work to inform the German public about the vital humanitarian and development assistance that VSF Germany provides in Eastern Africa. Our volunteer groups organize events and fundraising activities at their respective universities and in their cities, give presentations, and support our campaign work. Additionally, our volunteers regularly assist us at conferences such as the annual DVG Congress as well as our annual One Health Day.

One such group, based in Hannover, consists of 19 engaged students who meet weekly to brainstorm ways of promoting VSF Germany's mission. Through events and actions such as tombolas, Christmas market booths, and other activities, the group plays a key role in increasing our visibility within the student community and beyond. For their commitment and support we are thankful!

If you are interested in joining a VSF Germany volunteer group and supporting our outreach efforts, please visit:

https://www.togev.de/unterstuetzen/aktiv-werden/



With the invaluable support of thousands of veterinary practices, VSF Germany was able to raise over €200,000 in 2023 to combat rabies in eastern Africa. Thanks to this, through the campaign 150,392 dogs and cats were vaccinated and treated in Ethiopia, Kenya, South Sudan and Uganda.





Donor Trip to Kenya

The success of the campaign is a result of awareness raising strategies, education and logistical distribution of vaccines, that is thoroughly planned and implemented by our teams in the field.

It is only with the support of Governments, civil society and companies, that VSF Germany is able to carry out hundreds of thousands of vaccines on a yearly basis, contributing to the international campaign "Zero by 2030" of the United Nations (FAO, OCHA, WHO) that seeks to end human deaths caused by rabies through dog-bites by 2030.

A special event that also took place in 2023 was sponsored by our long-time partner Happy Dog/Happy Cat where winners of a lottery visited the vaccination campaigns in Masai Mara in Kenya. A pet owner, a pet food seller, and a veterinarian, participating in our Vaccination for Africa campaign, were able to experience how our team of veterinarians and animal health workers undergo awareness raising campaigns and mass vaccinations.

#zeroby2030



Welcome to VSF Germany's anonymous reporting hotline

VSF Germany is committed to a culture of zero tolerance towards corruption and irregular behavior, including sexual exploitation and discrimination.

You can help us to achieve this. Use this channel to report alleged irregularities and unethical conduct when normal channels have proven ineffective or not practical. Whistleblowers are the most effective weapon against any form of corruption and irregular behavior. Your knowledge prevents harm and protects this organization.

You do not have to be a VSF Germany employee to use this hotline. This channel is available to anyone affected by a decision taken by our organization.

The hotline operates 24/7/365 and is run by an independent, thirdparty provider. It is designed to protect your confidentiality and anonymity. After sending a tip via the hotline, do not forget to write down the password allowing you access to an encrypted inbox dedicated to your case.

Last but not least:

VSF Germany prohibits retaliation against anyone who reports a possible violation in good faith.



vsfg.nemexis.de/en



HELP CASE STUDY

Consultancy Services in Humanitarian Aid

In 2023 the Integrated Life-saving and DRR Initiatives in Sudan, South Sudan, Ethiopia and Kenya (ILDRR) and the Food Security and Sustainability in Fragile Situations (FSSFs) projects, funded by the Foreign Office and AICS/IFAD respectively, were run via Veterinarians Without Borders Germany gGmbH a subsidiary of VSF Germany.

Furthermore, for the year 2023 VSF Germany continued the partnership with Help – Hilfe zur Selbsthilfe e.V. offering a consultancy agreement for technical support in Syria for an emergency livestock intervention project. It is foreseen that the engagement will be further extended and expanded across their different countries of operation, including Syria, Afghanistan, Lebanon and Zimbabwe. VSF Germany and Help are also exploring opportunities for longer-term collaboration on projects in South Sudan funded by German and other institutional donors in the years to come.

Donors and Supporters

Thank you for what you have made possible

VSF Germany is profoundly grateful for the contributions and support of all our donors and supporters in 2023. Thanks to the official funding and donations, we were able to carry out 48 projects in the 6 countries where we operate, impacting the lives of 862,082 people. Furthermore, we were able to treat and distribute over 2.1 million animals and vaccinate over 6.2 million animals. Through these interventions, we were able to provide humanitarian assistance, respond to emergency situations, and support the livelihoods of hundreds of thousands of people in eastern Africa.

On behalf of VSF Germany, implementing partners, and all project beneficiaries, we **THANK YOU FOR YOUR UNWAVERING SUPPORT**.



COOPERATION

Networks and Partner Organizations



TRANSPARENCY

Certifications

VENRO is the umbrella organization of **development and humanitarian NGOs** in Germany. As a member of the VENRO, VSF Germany is committed to the VENRO code of conduct and its values of transparency, organizational management and control as well as protection of children from abuse and exploitation in development cooperation and humanitarian aid. In 2010, VSF Germany also committed to the voluntary declaration of commitment of the transparent civil society initiative. On the initiative of **Transparency International Deutschland e.V.**, various actors from civil society and science defined ten points that every civil society organization should make public, including their articles of association, the names of the essential decision-makers, information on the sources and use of funds as well as their personnel structure.

Since 2005, VSF Germany has held the "Spendensiegel des **Deutschen Zentralinstituts für Soziale Fragen (DZI)**", a quality seal for reputable charitable organizations. The DZI certifies statutory and economical use of donated funds.





Initiative Transparente Zivilgesellschaft



FINANCES

Statement of Financial Situation

Balance sheet as per 12/31/2023

Ass	ets (in euro)	2023	Prior Year
A.	Fixed Assets		
I.	Intangible fixed assets Acquired industrial and similar rights and assets as well as licenses in such rights and assets	58,910.45	97,487.91
II.	Property, plant and equipment Other equipment, operating and office equipment	15,610.45	15,694.60
III.	Long-term financial assets Shares in affiliated companies	25,000.00	25,000.00
	Total Fixed Assets	99,520.90	138,182.51
В.	Current Assets		
I. 1.	Receivables and other current assets Receivables from funding parties	2,928,137.05	2,752,533.25
2.	Receivables from affiliated companies	0.00	398,337.38
3.	Other assets	481,123.30	723,015.25
		3,409,260.35	3,873,885.88
II.	Cash-in-hand, bank balances	5,561,799.10	2,321,895.77
	Total Current Assets	8,971,059.45	6,195,781.65
C.	Prepaid Expenses	27,213.72	26,017.83
	Total Prepaid Expenses	27,213.72	26,017.83
	Assets	9,097,794.07	6,359,981.99

Equity and liabilities (in euro)		2023	Prior Year
А.	Equity		
I.	Association capital	92,926.65	92,926.65
II.	Currency adjustment item	282,094.45	282,094.45
III.	Net accumulated losses/ net retained profits	260,008.47	200,229.76
	Total Equity	635,029.57	575,250.86
В.	Provisions		
	Other provisions	267,000.00	178,890.20
	Total Provisions	267,000.00	178,890.20

C.	Liabilities		
1.	Liabilities to funding parties for payments made in advance - thereof with a residual term of up to one year	5,812,028.86	4,659,588.18
2.	Trade payables – thereof with a residual term of up to one year	2,247,880.52	868,293.68
3.	Other liabilities – thereof with a residual term of up to one year	135,855.12	77,959.07
	Total Liabilities	8,195,764.50	5,605,840.93
	Equity and Liabilities	9,097,794.07	6,359,981.99

In 2023 VSF Germany faced one of the most challenging years since its founding in 1991.

The war in Sudan, natural catastrophes and ongoing conflicts prevented to organization from carrying out projects as planned.

In this regard, the annual result increased by \pounds 564k compared to the previous year. In terms of operations, the organization's performance increased by \pounds 5,737k compared to the previous year, whereas operating expenses increased proportionately by \pounds 5,173k in comparison with 2021 – resulting in a net surplus of \pounds 306k. Income from institutional grants increased by \pounds 5,493k, while other operating income decreased by €358k. Income from donations and membership fees, as well as allocated fines, increased by €225k. Transfers to consortium partners decreased by €313k. Personnel expenses increased by €1,174. In these terms, shareholders' equity experienced a boost of €306k due to registered surplus/profit in 2022 to reach €575k.



FINANCES

Income and Expenditure Report for 2023

The table below, which has been derived from the statement of profit and loss, presents the components of the loss for the reporting period as a percentage of the operating income.

	Prior Year	2023		
An do 5. as	EUR (k)	EUR	Income from grants & donations	1.
wr plo	18,826	17,239,509.56	Institutional grants VSF Germany and consortium	A
6. Ot			partners	
A Pro	430	321,819.92	Income from project management	В
B Su ex	656	893,854.72	Donations, membership fees and assigned fees	С
	19,912	18,455,184.20		
To	26	202,296.86	Other operating income	2.
7. Pro	19,938	18,657,481.06	Total Income	
	2,414	4,048,830.22	Expenses for grants passed on to consortium partners	3.
_			Personnel expenses	4.
Econon	4,860	4,668,060.02	Wages and salaries	A
Income	84	89,007.66	Social security	В
Expenses	407	592,296.29	Other personnel expenses	С
	5,351	5,349,363.97		

		2023	Prior Year
5.	Amortization and write- downs of intangible fixed assets and depreciation and write-downs of property, plant and equipment	45,446.81	48
6.	Other operating expenses		
А	Project equipment and services	8,445,906.43	11,295
В	Sundry other operating expenses	708,154.92	524
		9,154,061.35	11,819
	Total Expenditures	18,597,702.35	19,632
7.	Profit for the year	59,778.71	306

Economic Business Operation	s 2023	2022
Income	446.23	7,695.38
Expenses	0	1,336.52
	446.23	6,358.86



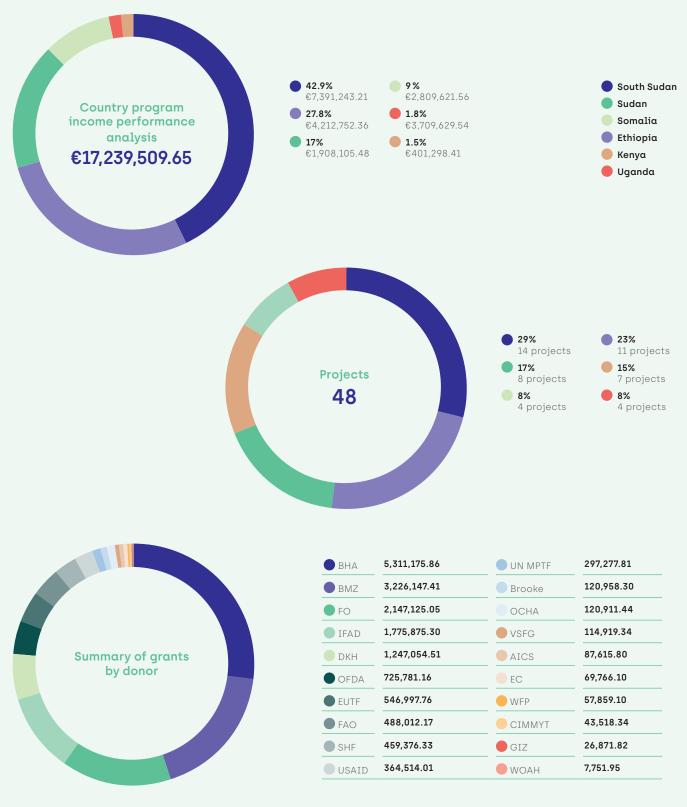
Excerpt from the internal auditor's report

In summary, in accordance with § 321 Abs. 1 Satz 2 HGB, we conclude that the management assessment, in particular the going concern assumption and the assessment of the future development of the company, as expressed in the annual financial statements and the management report, are realistic.

FINANCIAL REPORT 2023

Summary of Financial Report

by Country Income Performance, Number of Projects and Donor





Future Outlook: 2024 and Beyond

Dr. Martin Barasa PROGRAM DIRECTOR 2023, like its preceding year, was marred by various challenges that posed operational difficulties for VSF Germany. One of our key operational countries -Sudan - experienced a full blown out war, which resulted in loss of lives, destruction of property and livelihood. Meanwhile, the other countries where we operate continued to experience cyclic natural resource-based violence as well as climate change induced hazards (droughts and floods). These factors collectively exacerbated the already existing humanitarian crises. Despite increased humanitarian needs, donor funding commitments are foreseen to continuously decline in the years ahead due to other competing priorities emanating from the Ukraine/ Russia and Israel/Gaza conflicts, as well as budgetary cuts in development cooperation and humanitarian assistance.

Going forward, VSF Germany will take measures to adapt to the continued shrinking of funding prospectives. To maintain the organization's case of support relevant it is important to adopt innovative approaches that showcase the importance of the health of livestock for the survival and endurance of hardto-reach pastoral communities in eastern Africa. A pivotal aspect in this regard will be to embark on Anticipatory Humanitarian Assistance. In the geographical areas where we operate, to be able responding to crises in a timely manner is vital for the success of our humanitarian and development interventions. Through the use of digital data and technology we will be able to foster appropriate and timely responses, as well as build a substantive knowledge base for informed action This is especially relevant for the link between health/disease surveillance and climate induced hazards.

Funding prospects will be enhanced through adoption of consortium and integrated and multi-sectoral expertise. Multiple country regional and or crossborder programming approaches will also be prioritized. VSF Germany will also broaden its funding base through lobbying other non-traditional donors such as research institutes and relevant thematic foundations in order to meet the constantly evolving humanitarian needs of vulnerable communities.

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Ethiopia Country Office

Addis Ababa, Yeka Sub City, Woreda 8, House No. 749, P.O. Box 2278/1250, behind Holiday Hotel, Lex Plaza Wuhalimat Area, Ethiopia

South Sudan Country Office Hai Nimra Talata Plot 27 Block

No.1, Juba (Kokora Road) LandMark: Next to Horizon Bank and Queens Medical Centre South Sudan

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Abbreviation List

AAAF	Anticipatory Action Against Floods Project
AHAs	Animal Health Assistant
AICS	Italian Agency for Development Cooperation
BROOKE	Brooke Action for Working Horses, Donkeys and Mules
CCLERP	Conflict and Climatic Emergency Livestock Response Program
CEFA	Comitato Europeo per la Formazione e l'Agricultura/ European Centre for Education and Agriculturen[?]
CIMMYT	International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center
DRR	Disaster Risk Reduction
DVG	Deutsche Veterinärmedizinische Gesellschaft
DZI	Deutsches Zentralinstitut für soziale Fragen
EU	European Union
EC	European Commission

EHF	European Humanitarian Forum
EUTF	European Union Emergency Trust Fund
FSSFs	Food Security and Sustainability in Fragile Situations
GARC	Global Alliance for Rabies Control
GBV	gender-based violence
GFFO	German Federal Foreign Office
HNRM	Holistic Natural Resources Management
ILDRR	Integrated Life-saving and DRR Initiatives in Sudan, South Sudan, Ethiopia and Kenya
IRCE	Integrated Response to Complex Emergency (Project)
LISMID	Livelihoods support to mitigate the impact of drought for the most vulnerable pastoral and agro-pastoral communities of Turkana and West Pokot counties (Project)
MISLIRECA	Multi-Sectoral Intervention to Strengthen Livelihoods & Resilience of Crisis-affected Communities in Puntland & Jubaland (Project)

NRM	Natural Resource Management
OFDA	The Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance
PE	Participatory Epidemiology
PLRD	Peace Light for Rural Development
RSF	Rapid Support Forces
RVP	Rift Valley Fever
SAF	Sudanese Armed Forces
SFD	Social Fund for Development
SEA	sexual exploitation and abuse
SNNPR	Southern Nations, Nationalities, and Peoples' Region
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNMTF	United Nations Multi_Partners Trust Fund
WHO	World Health Organization
WOAH	World Organization for Animal Health



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Donation Account

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