

Dierenartsen
Zonder Grenzen



Annual report

2020

VÉTÉRINAIRES SANS FRONTIÈRES
NETHERLANDS

MEMBER OF VSF INTERNATIONAL





Millions of people in Africa depend on their livestock. Vétérinaires Sans Frontières-Netherlands (VSF-NL) works together with African farmers to keep their animals healthy. This helps these farmers to build up better lives themselves.

One of the concepts used is training Community Animal Health Workers, for example in Malawi for the past ten years. Thanks to the animals, training, materials and animal health care, small-scale farmers can produce sufficient food for themselves and for the market.

www.dierenartsenzondergrenzen.nl

Content

- 03 **Prologue**
- 04 **Healthy animals,
healthy people,
healthy environment**
- 06 **Project Malawi**
- 09 **What do we do
in the Netherlands**

VSF-NL's mission was and is: healthy animals, healthy people, healthy environment.

This is the second annual report of VSF-NL. The foundation was established in 2018 in close cooperation with Vétérinaires Sans Frontières-Belgium and the Veterinary Medicine in Development Cooperation Foundation (Dutch abbreviation: DIO). Since the eighties of the 20th century, DIO has been involved in giving veterinary advice and other forms of support to small-scale farmers who lack access to this. After over 30 years, it was decided in 2017-2018 to delegate these DIO activities to VSF-NL, founded for this purpose.

In the meantime, VSF-NL has existed for almost two years and has not idled. Late 2018 we started with the Participatory Action for Sustainable Animal Care and Livelihood Improvement Project (PASACLIP). After that we started with the next project before the end of 2019: Enhanced Community-based Animal Health Services (ECAHS). Both projects had a budget of approximately €25.000. The goal of the two projects was to increase the income and food security of small-scale livestock farmers by improving animal health and veterinary services. This way, the animal production increases and the living conditions improve.

Additionally, in 2020 a great deal of work was put into the preparation of a project starting in the north of Malawi in March 2021: Livestock For Empowerment (L4E). With this project, too, we want to increase the income and food security of small-scale farmers by improving animal health and the availability of qualitative animal health services. However, L4E particularly focuses on women and young people. L4E is a scaling-up and extension of the previous projects PASACLIP and ECAHS and focuses on the entire value chain of animal products to also improve the access of small-scale farmers to the market.

VSF-NL again committed itself to a better world in 2020 in many other ways by organising various activities and campaigns and by expanding the communication network. Further information about this can be found in the report below.

— The board



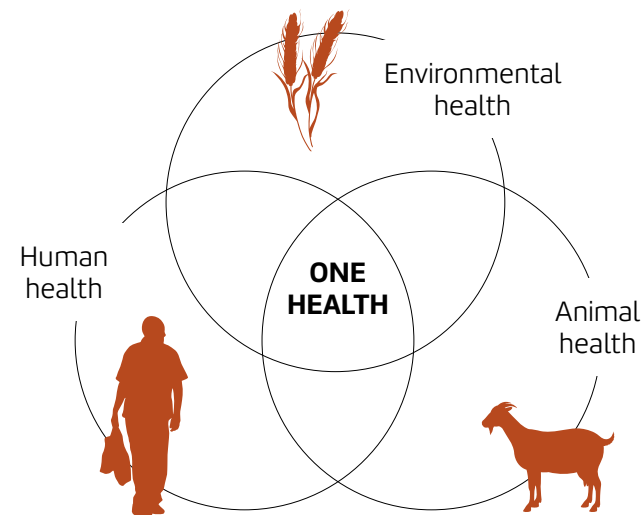
Healthy animals, healthy people, healthy environment

‘One Health’ is a cooperative approach focused on developing optimal conditions for health and wellbeing. It takes the coherence between people, animals, plants and their shared environment into account.

www.vsf-international.org



© Koen Mutton / VSF



An international network

We are members of the **Vétérinaires Sans Frontières International Network**. This network consists of twelve different non-profit organisations in Europe and Canada. Together, we are committed to improving the living conditions of small-scale farmers worldwide and strengthen local initiatives with regard to animal health and animal welfare.

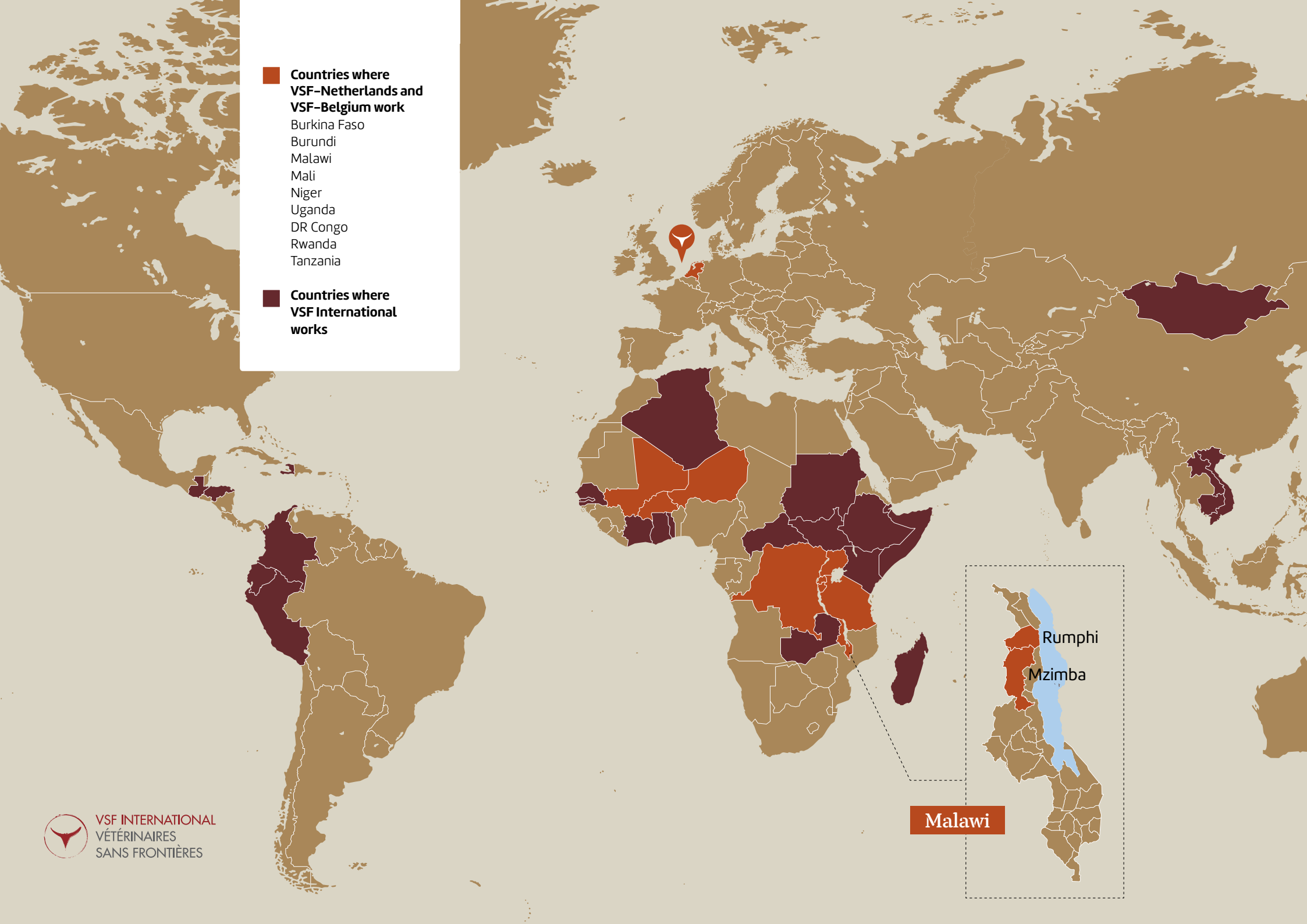
In the network, knowledge is exchanged and means combined to be able to make the greatest impact. For example, in 2020:

- We wrote a policy letter about the implementation of the One Health-principle in low- and middle-income countries.
- We wrote articles about the consequences of COVID-19 for humans, animals and the environment and about the link between zoonoses and the One Health-principle.
- We wrote a new global strategy regarding the evolution of our network towards the year 2025.

**Countries where
VSF-Netherlands and
VSF-Belgium work**

Burkina Faso
Burundi
Malawi
Mali
Niger
Uganda
DR Congo
Rwanda
Tanzania

**Countries where
VSF International
works**



01.

Malawi

In Malawi, approximately 80% of the population depends on small-scale agriculture and animal husbandry. Over 50% of the people live below the poverty line, so under \$2 per day.



Testimonial

Dorika Mumba



© Richard Nyoni / VSF

Dorika Mumba (31) from Yachema Ngwira village adds how the difference can be noticed in her animals now they can receive care more rapidly. *"If an animal becomes sick today, it can be treated immediately. All my goats now have a shiny coat because I deworm them and I also vaccinate my chickens against diseases myself. As a community animal health worker, I notice that we can make a big contribution to our community by treating animals and providing information."*

There is a shortage of veterinarians in Malawi. When an animal gets sick, the farmer often does not know what to do. If the animal dies, a source of manure, food and income is lost. That is why we train **community animal health workers**, or “**CAHWs**” who keep animals healthy in their own communities. They provide information to farmers about housing, nutrition, reproduction and health. For example, vaccination and deworming campaigns are organised in cooperation with the government. In this way, animal production increases and small-scale farmers can produce sufficient food for themselves and the market.

Since November 2019, Ziweto Enterprises Limited with the aid of VSF-NL and Wilde Ganzen (a Dutch charity that supports people worldwide in the fight against poverty) has been working on the implementation of the project ‘**Enhancing Community-Based Animal Health Services**’ (ECAHS). The project’s starting point was training 15 CAHWs in Mzuzu, Malawi. ECAHS’s goal is the promotion of animal health, believing in the power of empowering and educating the community itself. The CAHWs are selected from their own communities and trained in such a way that they can take care of the animals as well and effectively as possible themselves. The training consists of various theory lessons and practical training. After completing the training, the CAHWs follow an **Assistant Veterinary Officer** from their own region (as a kind of traineeship) to start applying their knowledge in practice. This also contributes to a good relationship between the variety of veterinary (assistant) professionals and the government. The CAHWs provide information about animal diseases in their environment every month, so this can be used in the government’s monitoring programmes.

The reactions of the farmers and CAHWs in the areas where we carry out our projects are positive. Especially the availability of animal health services has improved substantially by training farmers to become CAHWs. Additionally, farmers and CAHWs notice that with minor and simple actions, enormous improvements can be made with regard to animal health. This strongly increases the animals’ productivity and this makes the existence as a small-scale farmer a lot more attractive.



80%
of the population
depends on
small-scale
agriculture and
animal husbandry

Testimonial

Selena Mkhalipi



© Richard Nyoni / VSF

CAHW Selena Mkhalipi tells us that the wellbeing of the animals in the community has improved a great deal after the training, because the animals have gained much better access to food and water. Fulfilling these basic needs has great consequences: fewer animals become sick, there is less mortality and the healthy animals supply more milk and meat. *“We use the manure on the land nowadays,”* she says. *“We used to use fertilizer with low yields. Now we know how to use animal manure for better yields.”* To cure sick animals, Selena used to use herbs as medication. The vet often came when it was already too late, if the vet actually made it. Now she is a trained community animal health worker and she helps her own animals as well as all of her neighbours’ with real medication.

Mary Kumwenda from Kazizwa village even started focusing on cattle-farming after participating in the training of VSF-NL and the social enterprise Ziweeto Enterprise. *"We used to be dependent on growing crops like tobacco, there was little attention for cattle-farming and we did not realise that money could be made by that. I am a farmer myself, but did not know how to look after animals,"* she says. The year before the training, Mary lost seven goats, because she lacked the knowledge to look after them. After the training, not a single goat died. Additionally, the CAHW training is an opportunity for many women to create more income and a better social position for themselves and their families. This is also true for Mary, who calls on other women to take the opportunity if it presents itself. *"You can earn a good income as a community animal health worker,"* she says. *"I advise women to do the same that I did. I used to earn very little money and depend on my husband's income. Now, I cannot just buy clothes for my children myself, we can even build a new house on my income. The walls are already up and I hope that the roof and the kitchen can be built next year. Paying school fees is no longer a problem."*

From the experiences of these farmers, it is evident that improving (the access to) animal health services can have an enormous effect on the animals, the farmers and whole community. So, we are proud of the results we achieved in 2020 by the ECAHS project:

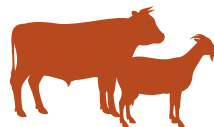
15

community animal health workers trained



2.967

farmers visited



52.481

animals treated



© Richard Nyoni / VSF

The goals of the ECAHS-project include increasing the farmers' access to affordable and high-quality animal health services in remote areas and strengthening the connections between the government, farmers and suppliers of services and products for animal health. In the long term, these goals contribute to improved animal health and wellbeing and an improved financial position for small cattle farmers.

In the Netherlands, we are raising awareness with regard to sustainable cattle-farming and food production. We lobby for decision-making in favour of small-scale farmers in Africa.

02.

What do
we do in the
Netherlands



In the Netherlands, VSF-NL employs one person as a coordinator for two days a week: Sarah Farrand. She takes care of the day-to-day affairs and communication with and fundraising for the projects in Malawi. She consults with the board and VSF-student (see paragraph below).

The organisation

The board sets the direction of the foundation, defines new strategic plans and supervises and gives guidance and feedback to the coordinator. The coordinator is responsible for the financial administration, internal and external communication and fundraising.

The members of the board of VSF-NL in 2020 are:

- **Marc Joolen**, chairman
- **Bart Balis**, treasurer
- **Sarah Farrand**, secretary
- **Hans de Smit**, general board member
- **David Speksnijder**, general board member
- **Marieke Le Poole**, general board member
- **Bram Schreuder**, general board member



© Tim Dirven / VSF

We involve veterinarians and students of Veterinary Medicine in our work via various actions, such as the Vaccinate For Africa campaign, Run4Rabies and Give a Goat. lobby for decision-making in favour of small-scale farmers in Africa.

In 2020 VSF-NL invested in expanding communication and fundraising, among other things, by taking on trainees. A new house style was developed for the website and communication channels and investments were made to maintain the professionalising of the two. A great deal of attention was also paid to fundraising, by setting up a new donor tracking programme, developing communication materials for legacies and active fundraising for the realisation of the L4E project.

VSF-student

VSF-student is the student branch of Vétérinaires Sans Frontières-Netherlands. It was formerly known as the DIO Foundation (Veterinary Medicine in Development Cooperation) and active by the name VSF-student since 18 February 2019. The student board consists of six students of veterinary medicine and there are five committees. The student board is located at the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine in Utrecht, the Netherlands.

2020 started as usual. For example, the traineeship and volunteer work lecture was held on 6 February, and on 11 February there was a well-attended painting evening. On 3 March there was the Biannual Donors Meeting and two functions in the student board were changed. At that point in time, there were many fun activities on the agenda, but unfortunately, they could not go ahead as planned. Obviously, a partial lockdown was announced on 12 March 2020 in the Netherlands. A very quick switch had to be made to meeting entirely online and designing activities.

Fortunately, a number of physical activities did take place in 2020. For example, VSF-student was present during the introduction days of the Veterinary Medicine programme from 1 through 4 September. The new students were introduced to VSF-NL by means of a chat and a game. In addition to this, VSF-student set up a clean-up campaign in the Utrecht Science Park on 19 September during World Clean Up Day. The Science Park was cleaned up a lot with the help of 15 volunteers.



© Tim Dirven / VSF

The **project committee** is occupied with the projects running via VSF-NL. These are VSF-NL's own projects in Malawi, but there is also a supporting function in the projects of other organisations, in among other countries, Armenia, Cameroon, Madagascar, and Guaranda (a city in Ecuador). The committee maintains contact with other organisations and writes project proposals. Additionally, the campaign 'Give a Goat' was organised, which started in November 2020 and by means of which 78 goats were eventually given.

The **Run4Rabies committee** organises the annual Run4Rabies event. This is a running event, which gives the donated funds to a charity that fights to end rabies. In 2020 the Run4Rabies took place digitally in the week from 21 through 27 September. The participants could walk a 3km route or run a 5 or 10km route in their own environment and mail a photograph and receipt of donation to the committee. The three fastest participants per distance won a nice prize. This event raised €693,50 for the All Creatures Foundation in Malawi as a contribution to a large-scale vaccination campaign against rabies.

The **activities committee** organises activities for students at the faculty. Unfortunately, this mainly concerned digital lectures in 2020 due to the Covid-19 situation. Fortunately, a Valentine's Day painting evening could take place on 11 February 2020 and a Christmas card action was organised on 7 December.

2020 in a nutshell

An overview of the activities that took place in 2020 follows below. These concern activities organised by VSF-student as well as events in which the student board was present to provide information, to network and/or build up a reputation.

The events below mainly took place online. Due to COVID-19, many events unfortunately could not take place in a physical form.

6 February

Information on Veterinary traineeships and volunteer work

11 February

Valentine's Day painting evening + dinner

3 March

Biannual General Donors Meeting

3 April

Fridays For Future (online)

Gilbert Banda



© Richard Nyoni / VSF

Since 2018 we have been working together with our programme manager in Malawi: Gilbert Banda. He gained a lot of experience in training community animal health workers in his previous work for Heifer and other NGOs in Malawi. On average, he works 50% for Vétérinaires Sans Frontières-Netherlands and the other 50% for a social enterprise, Ziweto. Gilbert is occupied with the design and implementation of new projects, trains community animal health workers and connects them to the existing veterinary infrastructure and finally, he monitors and evaluates the projects.

DZG-student

From left to right, top to bottom, the student board introduces itself: Tim Haverkort, Stella Steenbergen, Femke Castellino, Max van Straaten, Annika Stokvis, Amber van Beek.



22 April

Earth Day
sign showcase

**1 through
4 September**

Introduction Days for
Veterinary Medicine

19 September

World Cleanup Day –
VSF cleans up!

**21 through
27 September**

Run4Rabies 2020

24 September

Traineeships & Volunteer
work lecture



23 November

Start of the Give a Goat
campaign

**9 through 15
november**

Vaccinate4Africa



21 October

General Donors
Meeting

4 October

Bubbles&Bones
Outdoor event

1 October

Mini-symposium 2020:
Pastoralisme



Contact

Vétérinaires Sans Frontières Netherlands

Veerstraat 17-1
1075 SL Amsterdam
+31 6 55625708
coordinator@dierenartsenzondergrenzen.nl

RSIN: 858920463
KVK: 71964843

DONATE

To our bank account
NL67 TRIO 0379 3388 66

or online
www.dierenartsenzondergrenzen.nl

24 November

Lecture: World Dogs
Foundation (online)

31 November

Giving Tuesday

**7 through
13 December**

VSF Christmas cards week

The **Vaccinate For Africa (V4A) committee** is occupied with the organisation of the Vaccinate For Africa campaign. This is a week during which participating veterinary practices donate €2,50 per vaccination to VSF-NL. The committee writes to veterinary practices, promotes V4A and provides the necessary (promotion) means for participating practices. In 2020, the V4E campaign was postponed from June to 9 through 15 November and ended up yielding €3807,73.

The **Symposium committee** is occupied with organising the annual symposium. This concerns an educational day with various lectures regarding a theme that fits in with VSF's mission. There were plans for a large international symposium, which unfortunately could not go ahead. However, a digital mini symposium was organised about pastoralism on 1 October.

Every year there is a **General Donors Meeting** in October and around March the **Biannual Donors Meeting**. During these meetings, the preceding 6 months are discussed and the plans presented for the next six months. Additionally, a part of the student board can be changed. This also happened during the General Donors Meeting on 21 October 2020, in which three of the six board members changed.



© Richard Nyoni / VSF



Follow us on



Facebook: @dierenartsenzondergrenzenederland
Instagram: @dierenartsenzondergrenzen.nl

covetrus



Triodos Foundation

