

Dierenartsen  
Zonder Grenzen



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# Annual report

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2022

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VÉTÉRINAIRES SANS FRONTIÈRES  
NETHERLANDS

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MEMBER OF VSF INTERNATIONAL







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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 eleven 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](http://www.dierenartsenzondergrenzen.nl)

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## Prologue

This is the annual report of the activities of the foundation Vétérinaires Sans Frontières the Netherlands (VSF-NL) in 2022. Once again there has been intensive cooperation with our local partners in Malawi. Furthermore, in 2022 we have been able to contribute to a successful vaccination campaign against rabies, in which more than 22,000 dogs have been vaccinated. An initiative that will be expanded next year and about which you can read more in this annual report.

Just like us, farmers in Malawi are experiencing the consequences of inflation. Prices for fertilizer and veterinary drugs, among other things, have risen sharply. Our program manager Gilbert Banda, on site, summarized it as follows.

*"For example, prices for fertilizer increased by 150%. Many farmers could not afford to buy two bags for example. Such farmers explored some alternatives. Most of them used manure, mostly made from livestock, and some produced by private companies. Farmers used the knowledge they gained from the training on manure management."*

It is great to see that knowledge gained by farmers in our training programs is being used to apply natural manure from their animals in such a way that it can become a good alternative to expensive artificial fertilizer. We hope to strengthen our cooperation in Malawi in the coming years, thereby increasing our impact.

In addition, we, as VSF-NL, have intensified our cooperation with VSF-Belgium. The expectation of this increased cooperation is that this will strengthen both organizations in the future and above all that it will increase the impact of our work in African countries.

Lastly, there were changes in our board members, in 2022 and started 2023 with a fresh board full of enthusiasm. We are also pleased with our staff expansion. Iris Geerts will start supporting Sarah Farrand in the day-to-day work within VSF-NL as communications expert.

Our achievements this year would not have been possible without the commitment of our team, our partners and the loyal support of our donors.

We sincerely thank you for this!

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— **David Speksnijder**

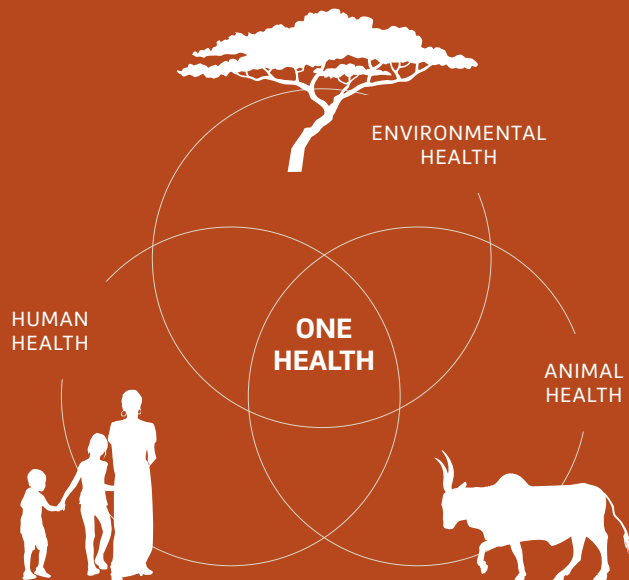
Chairman Vétérinaires Sans Frontières Netherlands  
Utrecht, February 2023

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**We were able to contribute to a successful vaccination campaign against rabies in which more than 22,000 dogs were vaccinated.**

© Tim Bruijninx / VSF





‘One Health’ is a cooperative approach focused on a healthy and sustainable relationship between animals, humans and their environment. We believe that this is of utmost importance for establishing optimal conditions for health and wellbeing for everyone.

[www.vsf-international.org](http://www.vsf-international.org)



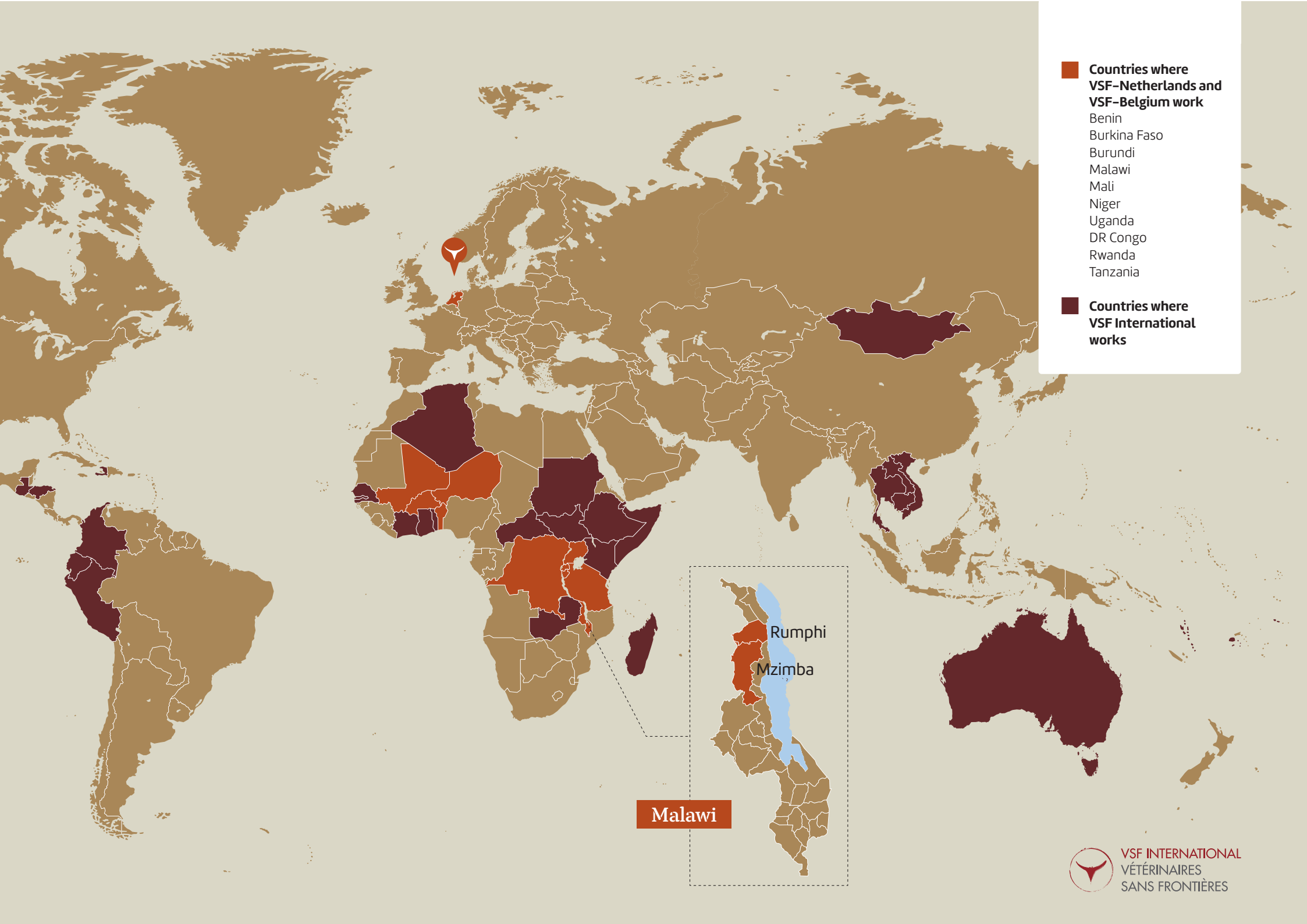
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# Healthy animals, healthy people, healthy planet

## An international network

We are a member of the network **Vétérinaires Sans Frontières International**. This network consists of thirteen different non-profit organizations in Europe, Canada and Australia. Together we are committed to improving the living conditions of small-scale farmers worldwide and strengthening local animal health and welfare initiatives. Within the network we exchange knowledge and combine resources to make the greatest impact. For example, in 2022 we have:

- Launched the project for Community Animal Health Workers (CAHWs)! This can be attributed to the collaboration between the World Organization for Animal Health and VSF-International. The project includes research to improve the conditions of animal health workers in the global south by developing guidelines for competencies and curricula.
- Submitted an application to the European Commission for the DEAR project. This is a project in which several members of VSF- International, including VSF-NL, will work together to raise public awareness of development issues and promote development education in the European Union. The pre-application has been approved by the European Commission in early 2023!
- Improved the collaboration between members of the VSF network in several areas:
  - Joint communication strategies are being developed in which the focus will be on One Health, pastoralism and animal health workers
  - Once every three months online thematic meetings are organized between VSF- International members. VSF- NL participates in the Communications & Fundraising working group and the Rabies working group.
  - Consultations are being held to improve cooperation between VSFs in East Africa and around the Great Lakes in Africa to develop joint regional projects for donors and regional institutions.



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

Benin  
Burkina Faso  
Burundi  
Malawi  
Mali  
Niger  
Uganda  
DR Congo  
Rwanda  
Tanzania

**Countries where  
VSF International  
works**

Rumphi  
Mzimba

Malawi



01.

# Malawi

The experiences of farmers' families in Malawi show that improving (access to) animal health services can have a huge impact on the animals and the entire community. On the following pages you can read a number of experiences from people we have supported and trained.







In our 2021 Activity Report, Community Animal Health Worker Mary Kumwenda told us why the goats she received are of great value to her:

*“Goats have very good qualities that make it easy for us to keep them. Unlike pigs, goats do not compete with humans when it comes to food. Goats grow fast and can give birth twice a year. Goats are also resistant to many diseases. This makes keeping goats relatively cheap.”*

This year, Bonifaya Nyangulu talks about what the goats he received mean to his family. Bonifaya is a pastoralist with several types of livestock. He lives in Euthini, a village in Malawi and his wife received two goats. He says the following:

*“Because of the goats, I get manure that I can use in my corn garden. We are expecting a big crop this year as a result of the manure.”*

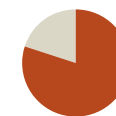
## The results of our Livestock for Empowerment project

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 also organised in cooperation with the Malawi government. In this way, animal production increases and small-scale farmers can produce sufficient food for themselves and the market.

The CAHWs are selected from their own community and then trained to ensure that they can take care of the animals themselves. During the training, various theoretic lessons and practicals take place. The CAHWs then accompany an **Assistant Veterinary Officer** from their own region to put their knowledge into practice. This also contributes to a good relationship between the various veterinary (para) professionals and the government. Every month, animal health workers provide information about animal diseases in their environment, so that it can be used in the government’s monitoring programs.

Since April 2021, CCEI has implemented the **Livestock For Empowerment (L4E)** project with the help of VSF-NL and Wilde Ganzen. Now, a year and a half later, the project is completed. L4E aimed to promote animal health, believing in the power of empowering and educating the community itself. With L4E we wanted to ensure that **women** and **youth** in Malawi have more capacity to increase and improve the productivity of their livestock in a sustainable and responsible way. During the reporting period, 37 CAHWs operated and 754 farmers (504 women; 250 men) were trained by CAHWs. The CAHWs also facilitated the construction of 21 cattle houses, 207 goat houses, 130 pig houses and 265 chicken houses.

In addition, during the reporting period, a total of 1,216 livestock farmers (571 female; 645 male) were trained in improved management practices of various livestock that farmers kept. Out of these; 609 (375 Female; 234 males) were dairy farmers; 459 (87 female; 372 male) beef cattle farmers; 34 (22 female; 12 male) goat farmers; 30 (21 female; 9 male) pig farmers; and 84 (66 female; 18 male) rural poultry farmers. The training was conducted by the project staff and government staff.



80%

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



19,875

farmers benefited from L4E project

A total of 19,875 farmers benefited from the project through treatments, training and vaccinations against Newcastle disease, among others. We are proud of the results we have achieved

## What is rabies?

**Rabies** is one of the most life-threatening and infectious diseases on earth. It is **99.9% fatal** and **100% preventable**. Rabies not only occurs in animals, but humans can also be infected with the rabies virus after being bitten by an infected animal. The virus mainly affects **underprivileged populations** and 59,000 people worldwide die from it every year, 60% of whom are children under the age of 15.

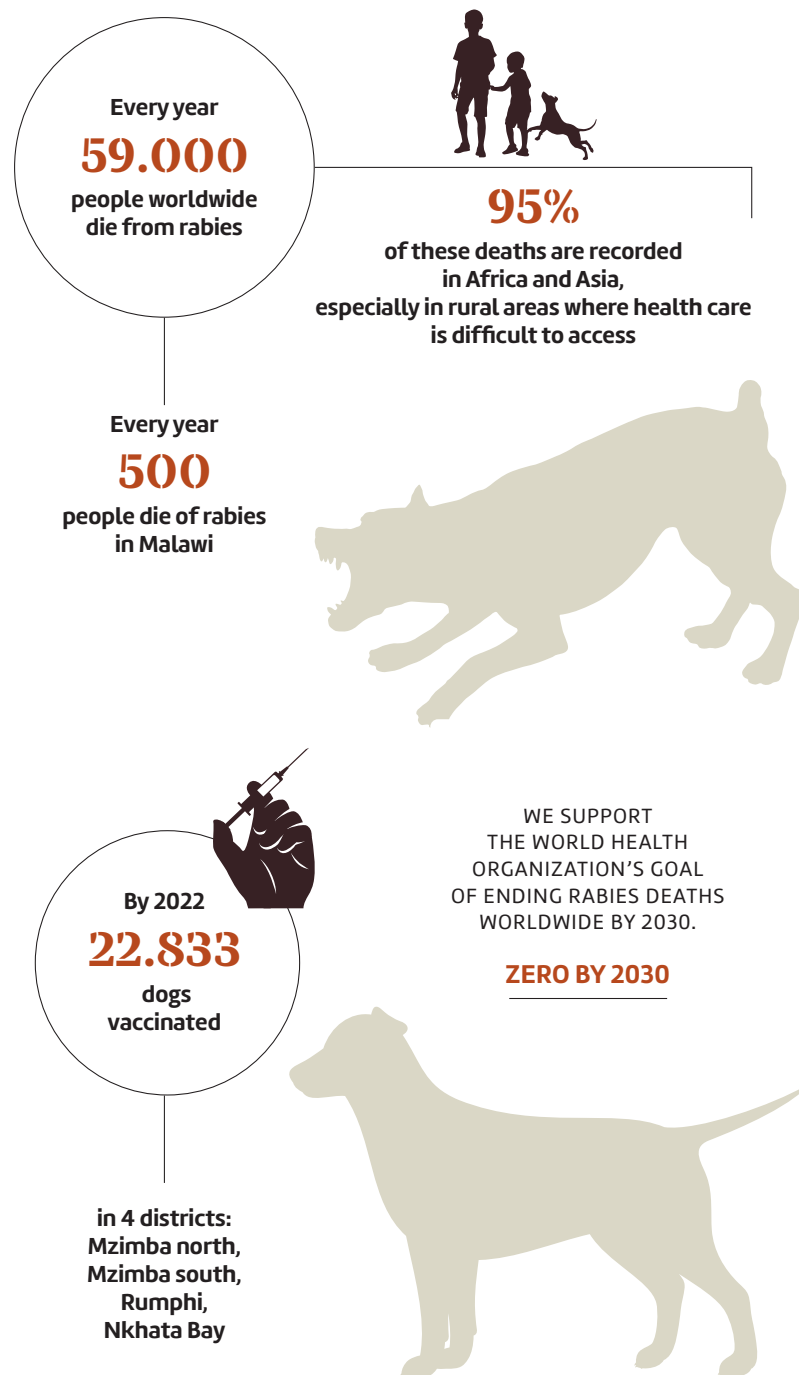
## Our rabies project

In Malawi there is poverty and also more than 500 people die every year from rabies. This is why we started a new project in Mzuzu, Malawi. By vaccinating dogs against this disease, we want to stop the **transmission** of rabies in the entire northern part of Malawi by 2030. In doing so, we support the World Health Organization's objective of ending human rabies deaths worldwide **by 2030**.

Between August and December 2022, we were able to help vaccinate more than 22,000 dogs in northern Malawi. We are proud of what we have accomplished so far! In the Netherlands, we have worked to combat rabies through fund-raising, the Run4Rabies, rabies awareness and knowledge transfer, among other things.

By 2023, we aim to vaccinate at least **50,000 dogs**. This is **70%** of the total number of dogs in that area and thus significantly reduces the risk of death from rabies.

Together we can stop rabies



## Together we can stop rabies

In 2022, we worked with our local partner Centre for Community Empowerment Initiatives (CCEI) in Malawi. Thanks to CCEI, we were also able to work with the Malawian government and government veterinarians and veterinary officers participated in the rabies vaccination campaign.

In addition, we collaborated with Global Alliance for Rabies Control (GARC). GARC is a non-profit organization with the ambition to eliminate rabies by 2030. They support us with the implementation of the rabies project and provide us with advice. We may also use the Rabies Vaccination Tracker developed by GARC to keep track of all vaccinations.

Finally, the Edgard & Cooper Foundation is the largest donor to the rabies project.



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02.

# What we do in the Netherlands

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.





© VSF

In the Netherlands, VSF-NL employs two coordinators: Sarah Farrand and Iris Geerts. Sarah takes care of projects and partnerships and spends one day per week communicating with and fundraising for the projects in Malawi. Iris Geerts fulfills the role of general coordinator two days per week and takes care of the daily operations and communication. She also consults with the VSF-NL board and VSF-Student.

### The organisation

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

The members of the board of Vétérinaires Sans Frontières in 2022 in the Netherlands are:

- **David Speksnijder**, chairman.
- **Janke Maat**, secretary.
- **Sarah Farrand**, treasurer.
- **Eveline Mus**, general board member.
- **Iris Geerts**, general board member.



© Papy Amani / VSF

We involve veterinarians and students of Veterinary Medicine in our work through various actions, such as the Vaccinate For Africa campaign, Run4Rabies and Give a Goat.

In 2022 VSF-NL invested in expanding communication and fundraising, among other things, by taking on trainees again. Thereby, the social media content and email newsletters could be greatly expanded. A great deal of attention was also paid to fundraising, among other things by developing communication materials for legacies and active fundraising for the realization of the new rabies project in Malawi developed in the end of 2022.

### VSF – Student speaking

VSF-Student has been the student branch of VSF-NL since February 2019. The student board consists of six Veterinary Medicine students and there are five committees: Project Committee, Education Committee, Run4Rabies Committee, Vaccination For Africa Committee and the Activities Committee. These committees are responsible for organizing activities and campaigns, maintaining contact with other organizations conducting projects that interface with animal health and conducting educational classes in schools. The student board is based at the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine in Utrecht and their mission is *“Healthy animals, healthy people, healthy planet!”*

At the beginning of 2022, it was fortunately possible to organize physical activities again! On March 8, the annual **internship lecture** was organized. During this lecture, internship opportunities were presented and students talked about their internships abroad. In addition, on March 17, the **Semi-Annual Donors’ Meeting** took place during which we evaluated the past six months and looked ahead to the next six months. In addition, some board members stepped down and others started. March also marked the end of the **Give a Goat** campaign, through which 34 goats were donated.





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In early April, we represented VSF-Student at the **Parents' day** to veterinary students and their parents. On May 3 a **plant cutting exchange** took place, where old cuttings could be exchanged for new ones. In addition, in May we were present at **Peerdepieten** (a horse racing event) and represented VSF-Student at the Veterinary Outdoor Event. During the week of June 6 to 12, the annual **Vaccinate For Africa** campaign was organized in which 28 practices participated and together raised **€4965**! Finally, VSF-Student has had a partnership with the SIAPROM internship site in Uganda since June.

After the summer vacations, VSF-Student attended the freshmen weekend and **introduction day** to get to know the new first-year Veterinary Medicine. At the September 14 **General Donor Meeting**, two board members stepped down. Four new board members started and enthusiastically joined the annual **World Clean Up Day** on September 17! Together with veterinary medicine students, we cleaned up the Uithof. We also went to a **Trotting Race** in the center of Utrecht on September 24 to represent VSF-Student and the **Run4Rabies** took place on September 26, which raised **€880.80**. At the end of September, an **African dance workshop** was organized.

## 2022 in a nutshell

An overview of the activities that took place in 2022 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 to build up brand awareness.

**March 8**

Lecture internship opportunities and experiences

**March 17**

Semi-Annual Donors' Meeting

**March 31**

End of Give a Goat campaign

**April 2**

Parents' Day

**May 3**

Plant cuttings exchange

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 VSF-NL and the other 50% for the nonprofit organization founded by Ziweeto, called Centre for Community Empowerment Initiatives. 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: Pleuni van Maanen, Esther Bor, Lennart van de Merwe, Luka Botman, Lisanne Louwerse en Siska Hulsman.



- May 7**  
Peerdepieten  
(horse racing event)
- June 6 to 12**  
Vaccinate For Africa campaign
- September 6**  
Introduction day  
for Veterinary Medicine
- September 14**  
General Donor Meeting
- September 17**  
World Clean Up Day

- November 8**  
Lecture in Antwerp
- November 1**  
Internship lecture in collaboration  
with International Office and IVSA
- September 30**  
African dance workshop
- September 26**  
Run4Rabies
- September 24**  
Trotting Race





## Contact

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RSIN: 858920463  
KVK: 71964843

DONATE

To our bank account  
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or online  
[www.dierenartsenzondergrenzen.nl](http://www.dierenartsenzondergrenzen.nl)

## November 18 to 20

Weekend away with the numerous  
veterinary student boards

## December 1

Lectures in Barneveld

## December 12

African wine tasting

## December 12 to 18

Christmas cards

## December 20

Christmas action

In early November, in cooperation with the International Office and IVSA, a **lecture** on opportunities for internship and study abroad was organized. Moreover, a piece in the newsletter regarding Malawi has been written every month since November. On November 8, three board members traveled to Antwerp to give a **lecture on DZG**. November 18–20, four board members attended the **board weekend** to meet other boards within Veterinary Medicine.

On December 1st we gave **three lectures** at Aeres MBO in Barneveld and on December 12 an **African wine tasting** was organized. In the second week of December many veterinary students wrote Christmas cards for lonely elderly people. Furthermore, **Christmas cards** from DZG were sold. On December 20, a Christmas action was organized where we **sold 180 of the so-called “oliebol-len”**, a Dutch delicacy. The profit went to the projects of VSF-NL.





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