Vétérinaires
Sans Frontières

Dierenartsen
Zonder Grenzen

Annual report

2025

VÉTÉRINAIRES SANS FRONTIÈRES NETHERLANDS

MEMBER OF VSF INTERNATIONAL

Millions of people in Africa depend on their livestock. Vétérinaires Sans Frontières Netherlands (VSF-NL) implements projects in Malawi. Through our projects, we improve animal health, which also contributes to improving human health. We work closely together with local communities to ensure our projects create long-term impact.

One of our core activities since 2012 has been the training of Community Animal Health Workers (CAHWs) in Malawi. These CAHWs support farmers in keeping their livestock healthy. Through training, access to equipment and animal health services, small-scale farmers are able to produce sufficient food for themselves and for local markets. As a result, these farmers can build a better and more secure life for themselves.

Since March 2022, we have also been actively working towards the elimination of rabies in Malawi. So far, we've been able to vaccinate over 125,000 dogs and cats! However, our approach goes beyond vaccination alone. Together with the local community, we work to raise awareness and promote prevention. Children are a key target group in this effort, as they are often in close contact with dogs and frequently take care of them.

www.dierenartsenzondergrenzen.nl/en/

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Cover photo © VSF

FOREWORD

Dear reader,

We proudly present the 2025 annual report of Vétérinaires Sans Frontières Netherlands (VSF-NL). When I look back on the start of this year, a few words come to mind: small, full of energy and ambition, and surrounded by strong partners. Wonderful ingredients for a successful year, but at the same time challenging in an increasingly unstable world.

Energetic and ambitious are certainly qualities that describe our coordinators, Simone and Marlijn, and that they proudly bring to their work. The four projects implemented by VSF-NL in 2025, Herds for Empowerment (H4E), Livestock Innovations for Thriving Communities (LIFT), Generating Agricultural Income and Nutrition (GAIN) and Action Towards the Elimination of Rabies (ATERP), were all successful largely thanks to their efforts.

Being surrounded by strong partners is incredibly valuable to us. The Edgard & Cooper Foundation remains our loyal partner from the very beginning of our rabies programme. The AFAS Foundation supports the H4E project, while Wilde Ganzen is involved in both GAIN and LIFT. In Malawi, we continue to build together with Centre for Community Empowerment Initiatives (CCEI) and their Executive Director Gilbert Banda, our trusted local partner. The connections within the international VSF-network also remain strong. Our collaboration with VSF-Belgium continues warmly, and during the General Assembly in Lyon, ties with our sister organisation in Ireland grew even stronger. A wonderful foundation for future collaboration in 2026.

Through the project H4E, besides focusing on animal health, we also work on improving food hygiene, reducing food loss and increasing access to markets. In 2025, two milk cooling facilities, a regional meat sales point and yoghurt trainings were realised. Reduced milk losses, improved product quality and sold-out yoghurt shelves are already visible results. These activities particularly strengthen the position of female farmers, which is an important part of the project. We are therefore very pleased that, after the successful first year, the AFAS Foundation decided to continue expanding this project together with us in the coming years.

The rabies project remains an important pillar of our work. Thanks to the loyal and constructive support of the Edgard & Cooper Foundation, we were once again able to vaccinate large numbers of animals this year. As a result, around 80% of households in Northern Malawi now vaccinate their dogs. This is an important contribution towards eliminating a disease that still causes far too many unnecessary deaths worldwide, especially among children.

Through GAIN and LIFT, we continue to invest in Community Animal Health Workers (CAHWs). The new guidelines of the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH) form the basis for training new CAHWs and further professionalising those already active in the field. With these projects, we are steadily building a strong network of CAHWs who can sustainably improve livestock health within their own communities.

The same energy and ambition can certainly be seen within DZG-Student. At a time when it has become less common for students to commit themselves to boards and committees, Lara, Elisa, Lisa, Femke and Danielle chose to do exactly that. Through initiatives such as Run for Rabies, Vaccinate for Africa and their different committees, they show that the world of veterinary medicine reaches far beyond borders. Their journey to Malawi only reinforced this even more. I would like to sincerely thank them for their dedication and for the many enjoyable meetings throughout the year.

An unstable and uncertain world remains challenging. That was already true last year and unfortunately has only become more relevant. Yet we are small, and in my opinion that is exactly our strength. We maintain short and direct lines with both our donors and local implementing partners, and together we get the work done. This allows us to remain relatively independent. We are too small for USAID and large international institutional funds, where many organisations are currently facing major uncertainty and disruption.

Even while the storm continues around us, we are still able to keep building. This year, we once again contributed to improving animal health, food safety, farmers' incomes, children's protein intake and the position of women. Sometimes these achievements may seem small, but they are important seeds being planted. Strong seeds take deep root and grow into resilient trees that are able to withstand storms.

— **Eveline Mus**
Chair of VSF-Netherlands, June 2026

"With these projects, we are steadily building a strong network of Community Animal Health Workers who can sustainably improve livestock health within their own communities."

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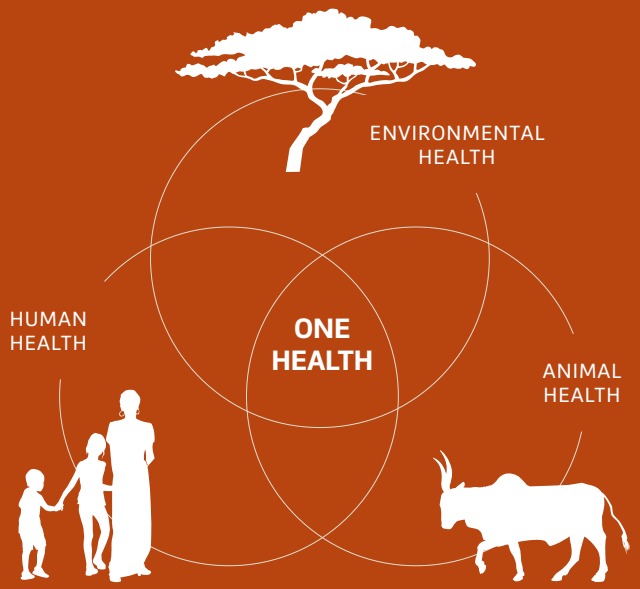


‘One Health’ is a cooperative approach focused on a healthy and sustainable relationship between animals, humans and their environment. We believe that this is of utmost importance for establishing optimal conditions for health and wellbeing for everyone.

www.vsf-international.org

Healthy animals, healthy people, healthy planet

An international network

We are a member of the network **Vétérinaires Sans Frontières International (VSF-International)**. This network consists of twelve different non-profit organisations across Europe and North America. Together, we work to improve the livelihoods of smallholder farmers worldwide and strengthen local initiatives in the field of animal health and animal welfare. Within the network, we exchange knowledge and combine resources to maximise our impact.

In 2025, however, the international development sector faced a major setback. The sudden withdrawal of USAID funding directly affected several projects within the VSF-International network. Ongoing programmes focused on animal health, food security and capacity building in countries such as Ethiopia, Sudan and Mali had to be partially or completely suspended. In addition, two VSF-International projects aimed at knowledge development and strengthening local organisations came to an early end. This affected not only the implementation of activities, but also the support provided to vulnerable communities that depend on these programmes.

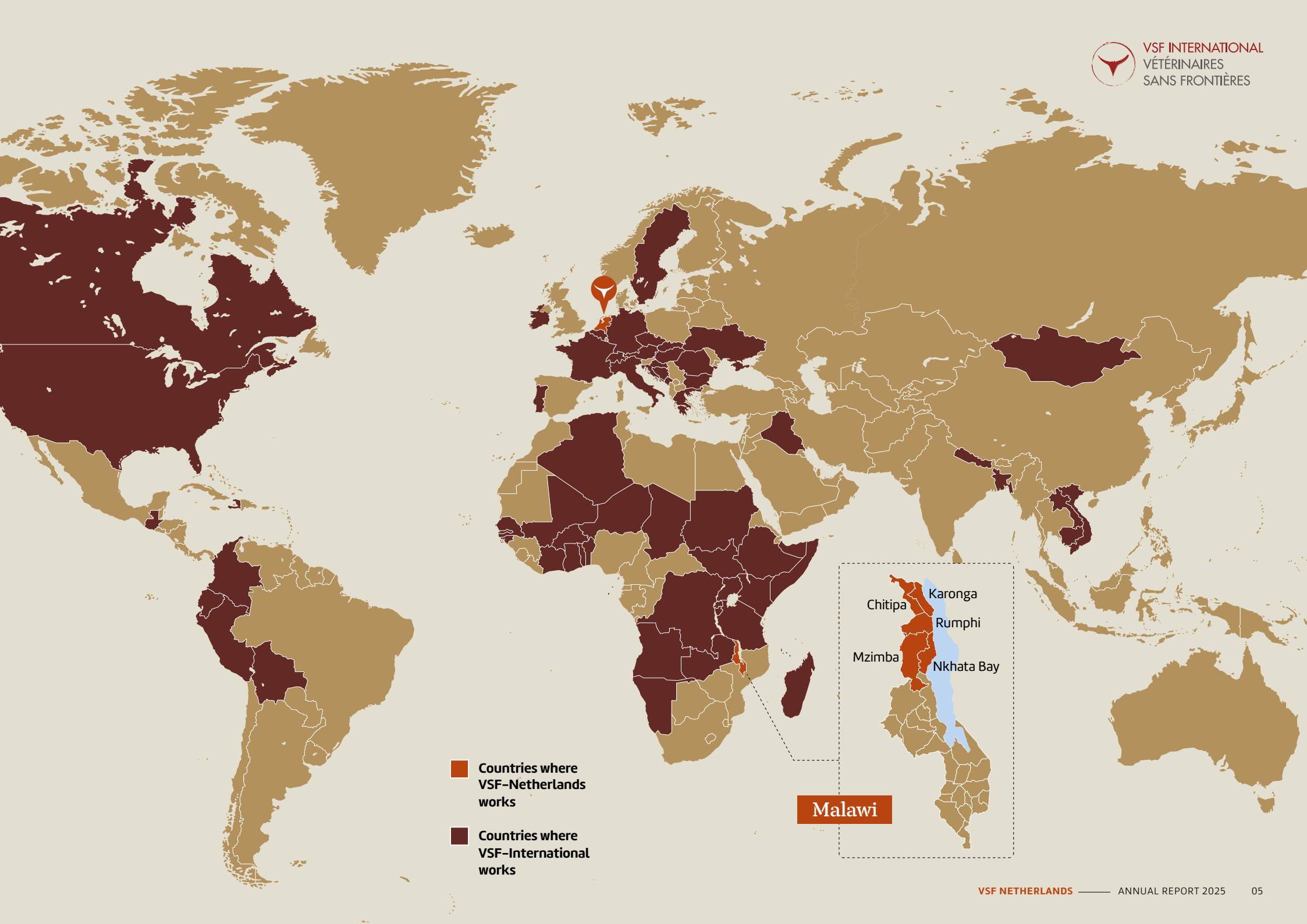
These developments underline the importance of collaboration within the network. Especially in a context of declining funding and increasing pressure on the sector, it is essential to combine knowledge, resources and capacity in order to continue creating impact together.

In 2025, we therefore:

- Organised a multi-day General Assembly with VSF-International members in Lyon, focused on knowledge exchange, alignment between organisations and exploring opportunities for future collaboration within the network.
- Further strengthened collaboration between members of the VSF network:
  - Continued participating in online thematic meetings with VSF-International members every three months. VSF-NL takes part in both the Communications & Fundraising Working Group and the Rabies Working Group.
  - The Communications & Fundraising Working Group meets in person every year to develop a joint campaign and exchange knowledge and experiences in the field of fundraising. In 2025, the focus was on pastoralism (nomadic livestock farming). The related campaign, including a manifesto, will be launched in 2026.

Despite the discontinuation of several VSF projects as a result of the loss of USAID funding, the knowledge, results and collaborations developed through these projects remain valuable. Together with local partners, VSF-NL is exploring how these insights can be used to further strengthen the curriculum for CAWHs in Malawi.

VSF INTERNATIONAL
VÉTÉRINAIRES
SANS FRONTIÈRES



Malawi

The experiences of farmers' families and dog owners in Malawi show that improving (access to) animal health services has a huge impact on animals and the entire community.
By improving access to veterinary services, we strengthen not only the health of animals, but also the resilience of entire communities. On the following pages, we share the results and stories of our projects in 2025.

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Training Community Animal Health Workers

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 enough food for themselves and the market.

The animal health workers are selected from their own communities and trained to ensure that they can provide the best possible care for the animals in their area. The training includes both theoretical lessons and practical sessions. After completing the training, the animal health workers work alongside an **Assistant Veterinary Officer** in their own region. This provides them with valuable on-the-job training, allowing them to deepen and broaden their knowledge and become more confident in applying their skills in practice. It also contributes to a strong relationship between different veterinary (para)professionals and the government. Every month, the animal health workers provide information on animal diseases in their area, which can be used in government monitoring programmes.

To ensure the quality of services and keep knowledge up to date, we regularly organise **refresher trainings** for CAHWs. These trainings help them apply new insights and techniques, and strengthen their skills so they can continue to effectively contribute to the health of livestock in their communities. This year, special attention was given to the responsible use of veterinary medicines in order to help prevent antimicrobial resistance.

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MALAWI

From animal health to income and food security

Livestock are of great importance as a source of food and income, helping to reduce poverty and food insecurity. Several studies have shown that households with different livestock species are more resilient to drought, floods and economic shortages than households without livestock. Despite livestock being vulnerable to hazards, it increases the resilience of vulnerable households.

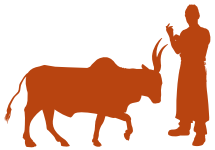
Since 2021, VSF-NL has been working together with the Centre for Community Empowerment Initiatives (CCEI) and Wilde Ganzen on sustainable livestock projects in Malawi. In 2022, the Livestock For Empowerment project reached as many as 19,875 farmers. In 2023, additional research was conducted in Mzimba North, where 72% of the 101,740 households keep livestock but struggle with low productivity and limited resources. These findings formed the basis for the launch of the Herds for Empowerment (H4E) project in 2024, in collaboration with the AFAS Foundation. This project supports farmers in addressing challenges throughout the entire livestock production chain, from healthy animal production on the farm to the processing and sale of animal products on local markets. A stronger focus is placed on increasing the role of women within livestock farming. Through targeted training and support, women are actively involved in decision-making, fmanagement and improving food security within their communities. The success of this approach has led to the continuation and expansion of the collaboration with the AFAS Foundation in 2025 and 2026.

At the same time, we continue our sustainable partnership with Wilde Ganzen and started two new projects in 2025: Generating Agricultural Income and Nutrition (GAIN) and Livestock Innovations for Thriving Communities (LIFT).

Below is an overview of the three projects and their results in 2025.

80%

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



120,378

animals helped in 2024

250,850

households have received direct support through livestock, veterinary services, training, and more.

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Women from the village of Kapacha receive training in yoghurt production.

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A CAHW administers the NCD-vaccine to a chicken using an eye drop.

Herds for Empowerment

This project was implemented in collaboration with our local partner CCEI and with support from the AFAS Foundation. As mentioned above, the project focused on strengthening the entire livestock value chain, from farm to market, with special attention to strengthening the important role of women in animal care and the sale of products. Through trainings, improved facilities and increased awareness, lasting improvements have been achieved.

In 2025, the following results were achieved:

- Two solar-powered milk cooling facilities were installed, reducing milk losses from 17% to approximately 5% and improving the storage of dairy products.
- 1,317 livestock farmers (481 women and 836 men) received training on the responsible use of antibiotics and the prevention of antimicrobial resistance.
- 22 dairy farmers (15 women and 7 men) were trained in yoghurt production, contributing to increased income and improved food security.
- A meat selling point was constructed, allowing meat, considered a luxury product in Malawi and consumed in moderation, to be processed and sold under cleaner and safer conditions. This improved food safety for more than 1,700 households (approximately 8,500 people).
- Two chaff cutters were purchased and put into use, including demonstrations and a learning visit involving 20 livestock farmers. As a result, farmers no longer need to chop animal feed entirely by hand, saving significant time and labour.
- 29 government staff members received training, helping to spread knowledge more widely throughout the region.

Generating Agricultural Income and Nutrition

This project is implemented together with our local partner CCEI and with support from Wilde Ganzen. The GAIN project supports approximately 1.500 farming households in northern Malawi; Mzimba North and parts of Nkhata Bay.

Within the project, animal health plays a central role in improving household food security and income. Many families depend on their animals for milk, eggs and income, but regularly lose livestock due to disease and limited access to veterinary care. The project therefore focuses on strengthening local animal health services, preventive vaccination campaigns and farmer training. An important component is the vaccination of chickens against Newcastle Disease (NCD), a highly contagious disease that causes high poultry mortality in Malawi every year.

In addition, the project supports farmers in improving milk processing and storage, helping to reduce product losses and increase household income from milk production. The project started in July 2025 and has a duration of one year.

In 2025, the first activities were launched and the following results were achieved:

- A total of 45,790 chickens were vaccinated against NCD. Through timely vaccination, many chickens were protected and the loss of entire poultry populations was prevented. This contributes to both food security and income security for families. To distribute the vaccines, 190 vaccine vials were purchased and distributed among 41 CAHWs.
- 160 farmers (118 women and 42 men) and two cooperatives received training on animal health, hygiene and improved livestock farming practices.
- A training on yoghurt production and processing was organised, helping to extend the shelf life of milk, reduce waste and increase income opportunities.
- 30 existing CAHWs received additional support and guidance to further strengthen their knowledge and services.

Livestock Innovations for Thriving Communities

This project is implemented in collaboration with our local partner CCEI, the Malawian government, and with support from Wilde Ganzen, the Vallbo Foundation and Vets Without Borders Ireland. Within the LIFT project, training new Community Animal Health Workers (CAHWs) is central. Thanks to their local presence, veterinary services become more accessible, enabling them to support farmers with knowledge of animal health, disease prevention and animal care. In this way, they contribute to healthier animals, higher productivity and improved incomes for approximately **1,700 households** (around 8,500 people) in Mzimba North and Rumphi.

The project started in July 2025 and will continue until July 2026. Below is an overview of the first activities and results achieved in 2025:

- A total of 31 farmers, including 7 women (23%), were trained as CAHWs. The intensive 14-day training focused on animal health, animal management, disease prevention and the responsible use of veterinary medicines. This enables participants to support other farmers and community members in keeping their animals healthy and preventing diseases on their farms.
- The CAHW training programme was further developed, and additional field research was prepared to strengthen the system.
- Eight awareness meetings were organised with local authorities and communities, involving 254 participants (57 women and 197 men). These meetings focused on the importance of animal health and the role of CAHWs.
- Twenty-one livestock farmer groups were established, enabling farmers to work together, exchange knowledge and support one another. The project also promotes soil and water conservation to help farmers become more resilient to drought, extreme rainfall and other impacts of climate change.

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Testimonial

Margreth Kamanga

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Margreth Kamanga is an experienced farmer and mother of seven children. Since 1990, she has gradually built up her livestock farm. Through the income generated from her animals, she was able to send her children to school. Thanks to the support of locally trained CAHWs, Margreth has been able to improve the health of her livestock. With better access to veterinary care, vaccinations and advice on feeding and animal care, her animals remain healthier and her cows are able to produce more milk. In addition, artificial insemination helped her obtain stronger cows with higher milk production. However, selling milk remained a challenge, as milk spoils quickly and often has to be sold at a lower price. Thanks to the installation of a milk cooling facility in her area through the H4E project, she is now able to store her milk for longer and reduce losses.

"The milk often spoiled quickly, which meant I had to sell it at a lower price. With the cooling facility nearby, I can store my milk longer and earn more."

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, 40% of whom are children under the age of 15.

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Our rabies project

Rabies is recognized by the World Health Organization (WHO) as a Neglected Tropical Disease (NTD); a disease that, despite its high mortality rate, is often overlooked in international health programs. In Malawi, poverty is widespread and more than 500 people die from rabies each year, with 99% of infections originating from dogs. That's why we started a large-scale vaccination project in 2022 in Mzuzu, Northern Malawi. By vaccinating dogs, we aim to stop the transmission of rabies and thus contribute to the WHO's goal of ending rabies-related deaths worldwide by 2030.

We have now vaccinated more than **125,000 animals** in total. In 2025, **46,258 dogs and cats** were vaccinated against rabies across six districts in northern Malawi. In most areas, this allowed us to exceed the WHO-recommended vaccination coverage target of 70%. In addition to vaccination campaigns, strong efforts were made to increase awareness and encourage behavioural change. In 2025, a total of **11,750 people** were reached through awareness campaigns about rabies and dog bite prevention. Furthermore, **1,491 dog owners** received training on responsible pet ownership, with attention to animal welfare, disease prevention and safe interaction with animals. To ensure knowledge is sustainably embedded within communities, **232 government staff members and village leaders** were also trained in rabies prevention, responsible dog ownership and appropriate responses to dog bites. These groups play an important role in further spreading knowledge within their communities.

Evaluations show that this approach is effective: **more than 80%** of households now vaccinate their dogs, and almost all surveyed households are familiar with rabies. At the same time, the true impact of the disease partly remains invisible due to limited testing capacity and monitoring systems. Confirming rabies is complex and often only possible through laboratory testing of brain tissue from animals or humans after death. In many areas, the capacity to carry out such testing is lacking, meaning that rabies infections and deaths are not always officially confirmed.

To sustainably eliminate rabies, it is therefore essential to invest not only in vaccination and awareness raising, but also in improved surveillance and diagnostics. In 2026, we aim to focus more strongly on this by improving the monitoring of bite incidents and rabies cases, and by investing in laboratory capacity.

Only through this integrated approach, combining vaccination, awareness and improved monitoring, can we sustainably reduce rabies and work towards a world free of rabies by 2030.

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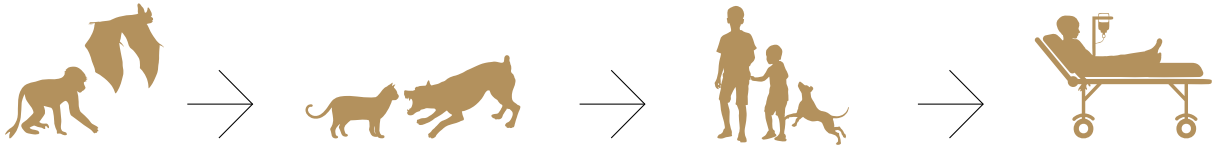
Rabies: breaking the chain

HOW RABIES SPREADS



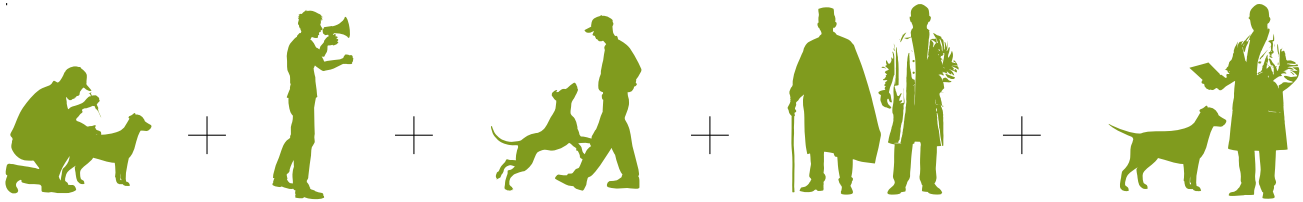
WILD ANIMALS
Rabies occurs in wild animals

DOGS & CATS
Transmission through a bite or scratch from an infected animal

PEOPLE
Rabies can be transmitted to people through bites or scratches from dogs or cats

WITHOUT TREATMENT ALMOST ALWAYS FATAL

THIS IS HOW WE BREAK THE CHAIN



VACCINATION
Vaccinate dogs and cats to stop the spread

AWARENESS
Communities informed about rabies, risks and prevention

RESPONSIBLE PET OWNERSHIP
Train owners in animal welfare, disease prevention and safe handling

LOCAL LEADERS & PROFESSIONALS
Government staff and community leaders trained for a sustainable impact

BETTER SURVEILLANCE & DIAGNOSTICS
Invest in monitoring and laboratory capacity to detect rabies earlier and prevent outbreaks

A RABIES-FREE FUTURE

46,258
DOGS AND CATS VACCINATED

11,750
PEOPLE REACHED

1,491
DOG OWNERS TRAINED

232
LOCAL PROFESSIONALS AND COMMUNITY LEADERS TRAINED

6
DISTRICTS
Mzimba North, Mzimba South, Rumphi, Karonga, Nkhata Bay, Chitipa

Together towards Zero by 2030

In 2025, the focus was on further strengthening and making the rabies approach in northern Malawi more sustainable. This work was made possible thanks to the support of the Edgard & Cooper Foundation. While previous years focused on scaling up vaccination campaigns, this year the emphasis was placed on making better use of available resources and reaching the most vulnerable communities.

The project was expanded to more remote areas, where access to animal health services and information is limited. It is in these rural areas that most rabies cases occur. Especially in regions surrounding national parks, the risk is higher because rabies can spread from wildlife to dogs and cats, and subsequently to humans. By actively including these areas, an important link in the transmission of the virus is being addressed.

Through close collaboration with CCEI and the Malawian government, available vaccines could be used more efficiently. When government services still had vaccines available that would otherwise remain unused or risk expiring, the project supported the logistics and implementation of additional vaccination campaigns. As a result, significantly more animals could be vaccinated than originally planned.

In addition to local partnerships, we also make use of technical support from the Global Alliance for Rabies Control (GARC), particularly in the areas of monitoring and data collection. Together, we continue building towards a future without rabies.

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What we do in the Netherlands

In the Netherlands, we raise awareness about the global dangers of rabies and the importance of sustainable animal health care in the Global South. In addition, we focus on fundraising and strengthening our network. We focus on four target groups: veterinarians, veterinary students, organisations/companies and the general public. In this way, we build a strong foundation of future ambassadors, volunteers and donors. Our student branch, VSF-Student, organizes various campaigns and activities, and also reaches primary and secondary school students through its education committee.

© Michele Cattani / VSF

Marlijn Kroezen & Simone Vuijk

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In the Netherlands, VSF-NL employs two coordinators. Marlijn Kroezen (right) works two days per week as general coordinator and is responsible for, among other things, the daily operations and communication. In addition, she works closely with the board and VSF-Student. Simone Vuijk (left) is coordinator of projects and partnerships and works two days per week on communication and fundraising for the projects in Malawi. For this, she is in close contact with our local partner organisation CCEI and with major partners and donors. Important decisions are made by the coordinators in consultation with the board of VSF-NL. In February, Marlijn and Simone travelled to Malawi for three weeks to visit the projects, evaluate their progress and hold extensive consultations with our local partner.

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 internal and external communication, fundraising, and (financial) administration.

The board members of Vétérinaires Sans Frontières-Netherlands in 2025:

- **Eveline Mus,** chair
- **Janke Maat**, secretary
- **Sarah Farrand**, treasurer
- **Simone Vuijk**, general board member
- **Marlijn Kroezen**, general board member

Participants run with their dog during the Run for Rabies in Utrecht to raise funds and awareness for rabies.

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Engaging veterinarians, veterinary medicine students and the wider public in our mission.

In 2025, we once again actively involved different target groups in the mission of VSF-NL. Through campaigns organised by VSF-Student such as **Vaccinate for Africa** and **Run for Rabies**, we raise awareness about rabies while also fundraising for our rabies project in Malawi. Veterinary practices also actively supported VSF-NL this year. A collaboration of several veterinary practices in Friesland donated the proceeds of a client event focused on hoof health to support our work. In addition to our regular supporters, new audiences also became involved in VSF-NL this year. People participated in marathons in Paris, Rotterdam and Utrecht to raise funds for our projects.

We also took new steps in fundraising. We joined The Social Handshake, a platform that enables employees to easily donate part of their salary each month to a charity such as VSF-NL. In addition, we received our first **legacy** from an unknown supporter with a clear love for both animals and people. We also continued our collaboration with MedSocks: through the sale of veterinary-themed socks, 10% of the proceeds is donated to our projects. In this way, we continue exploring creative ways to involve more people in our mission and build long-term support for our work.

Through our main sponsors and donors, we also receive valuable public attention, inspiration and support. Robert Bakker, project leader at the AFAS Foundation, wrote a blog about our work and our project was featured in their annual report. Thanks to the support of the Edgard & Cooper Foundation, thousands of pet owners come into contact with VSF-NL: information about our rabies work in Malawi is featured on the back of their pet food packaging. Wilde Ganzen is also an important sparring partner for us in the field of international development cooperation. Through networking events and meetings organised by Wilde Ganzen, we gain new inspiration and continue to expand our network.

This year, we received support from several **volunteers** and established a volunteer network. As a result, we now have access to a group of people with diverse expertise who support and advise us whenever needed. Thanks to this additional support, we received assistance with project proposals, social media and marketing. At the end of 2025, we also joined the platform De Nieuwe Gevers. Through this network, we receive support from professionals who volunteer their expertise whenever we need additional capacity or specialised knowledge, for example in the areas of marketing or donor administration.

VSF-Student

VSF-Student has been the student branch of VSF-NL since February 2019. The board consists of five veterinary medicine students and is supported by five committees. Together, they organise activities and fundraising campaigns, provide educational lessons at schools and collaborate with organisations working on animal health. The student board is based at the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine in Utrecht and follows the mission: "Healthy animals, healthy people, healthy planet!"

In **2025**, VSF-Student organised a variety of activities and remained closely involved in several events. On 14 April, a **rabies lecture** was organised at the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, where experts shared their knowledge on rabies and One Health.

On 13 June, 77 participants joined the Run for Rabies, raising €2,745. In addition, the annual Vaccinate for Africa campaign took place from 2 to 15 June, raising €2,445 together with participating veterinary practices. Students and staff also continue to support the projects in Malawi by donating bottles and cans through two **recycling collection bins** at the faculty.

The Education Committee organised 11 lessons at primary schools and 4 lessons at secondary schools about veterinary medicine in developing countries. In addition, work continued on the internship guide and the internship experience booklet, which are available to students interested in gaining international experience through internships or work experience abroad.

The annual **internship lecture** attracted around 35 visitors and introduced students to opportunities for gaining international experience in veterinary medicine. An exchange meeting with a Belgian student association also took place, focusing on wildlife, international veterinary medicine and the exchange of knowledge and ideas.

Unfortunately, there was no change of the student board in the autumn of 2025. Potential candidates indicated that they currently lacked the time and capacity to take on a student board position. Today's student environment brings considerable pressure, obligations and distractions, making it increasingly difficult for students to commit themselves to extracurricular board responsibilities alongside their studies. As a result, it was decided that the current board would continue for another year, although at a slightly lower level of activity.

2024 in a nutshell

Below is an overview of the activities that took place in 2025. These include both events organized by VSF-Student, as well as events where the student team was present to provide information, network, and/or raise awareness.

10 February
Parents' Day

13 February
Squash clinic

24 February & 2 March
Wild Wildlife Weeks

11 March
VSF-Student reception

25 March
Semi-annual Donors Meeting

26 March
Education Committee lesson at a secondary school

Local partner

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Since 2021, VSF-NL has been working in Malawi together with our local partner: Centre for Community Empowerment Initiatives (CCEI). CCEI is a young and rapidly growing local non-governmental organisation (NGO) with a small team of experienced Malawian experts and recently graduated young professionals. The organisation was co-founded by Gilbert Banda, who currently serves as Executive Director. Gilbert has extensive experience in training CAHWs and strengthening local animal health systems, gained through his previous work with other NGOs in Malawi.

CCEI is responsible for the design and implementation of new projects, training Community Animal Health Workers and farmers, and integrating these activities within the existing veterinary infrastructure. In addition, the organisation is involved in the monitoring and evaluation of ongoing projects. CCEI spends approximately 60% of its time on activities related to VSF-NL. During the remaining time, the organisation works on other initiatives, including agroforestry and beekeeping.

Trip to Malawi

In August, six students from the current and former VSF-Student board travelled to Malawi. During the first two weeks, they visited several VSF-NL projects and actively contributed to the activities. They attended trainings for CAHWs and gave a lecture on animal welfare and rabies. The students also took part in the rabies vaccination campaign, where they spoke with local government staff and helped vaccinate dogs. In addition, they visited the yoghurt training, an initiative that originated from an earlier visit of VSF-Student members to Malawi. Conversations with local project participants highlighted needs and opportunities that eventually led to the development of this training.

The students also visited a slaughterhouse and meat selling point, aimed at slaughtering animals hygienically and selling meat safely. In addition, the students organised a spay and neuter campaign on their own initiative. They raised the necessary funds themselves and collaborated with local veterinarians. Under the supervision of these veterinarians, the students were able to perform surgery themselves, providing valuable hands-on experience. During the final weeks, the students travelled through Malawi, further exploring the country.

VSF-Student

From left to right, the student board introduces themselves:
Lisa van Son, Elisa Villares Asencio, Lara Eleveld, Femke Lenes and Daniëlle Veld.

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14 April
Rabies lecture

10 May
Peerdepieten

14 & 15 May
Plant exchange

17 May
Veterinary Medicine Outdoor Event

21 May
Former boards BBQ

2 — 15 June
Vaccinate for Africa

17 December
Oliebollen fundraiser

14 October
General Donors Meeting

18 September
Internship lecture

6 September
First-year student weekend

2 September
Introduction Day for Veterinary Medicine students

28 July
Departure to Malawi

13 June
Run for Rabies

Vétérinaires
Sans Frontières

Dierenartsen
Zonder Grenzen

Contact

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DONATE

To our bank account
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or online
www.dierenartsenzondergrenzen.nl

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Global Alliance for Rabies Control