



Vétérinaires Sans Frontières Suisse

ANNUAL REPORT 2024



VÉTÉRINAIRES
SANS FRONTIÈRES
SUISSE

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Your donation
in good hands.

FOREWORD

IMPACTFUL WORK IN TIMES OF ADVERSITY

Dear reader,

As we reflect on the year 2024, we are reminded of the remarkable resilience and strength demonstrated by the communities we work with in the Sahel region and the Horn of Africa. These regions faced profound challenges again this year, as the impacts of climate change, protracted conflicts, and socio-economic instability continued to strain livelihoods, health, and ecosystems.

In light of all this adversity, we are proud of what our committed staff achieved throughout the year. They provided life-saving veterinary services to millions of animals, ensuring that livestock – a critical source of food, income, and security – remained healthy and productive. Our community-based training programs empowered thousands with the skills and tools needed to adapt to changing climatic conditions, including sustainable rangeland management and food production.

In a time when international cooperation is under constant attack by politicians and governments, we find it particularly important to highlight that the impact of our work is measurable. Thanks to our membership in alliances and networks, we are able to measure this impact according to scientific standards like never before. The result is clear: our work has a huge impact on vulnerable communities.

With the development of the VSF-Suisse Global Strategy 2025-2028, we set the stage for the next four years to come. We stay committed to our overall goal: Sustainable livestock-based food systems ensure food and nutrition security and resilient livelihoods of marginalized communities in times of climate crisis and fragility.

None of this is possible without the commitment of our staff and the steadfast support of our donors and partners. Your trust and engagement fuel our mission and inspire us to do more. Together, we have shown that even in the most challenging times of adversity, change is possible when we act with compassion, determination, and unity.

Thank you for your continued support.



Dr. med. vet. Hans Wyss
President



Flurina Derungs
Executive Director

OUR ACHIEVEMENTS 2024

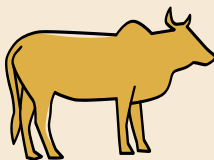
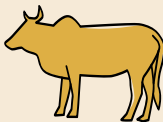
53

projects in 10 countries



5,754

people trained in areas like animal health, food production and hygiene, livestock farming, and marketing practices



7,395,961

livestock treated

50,396

people provided with improved access to natural resources



528,917

livestock keepers supported with animal health services, improving livelihoods and food security

1,005,831

people supported during emergencies



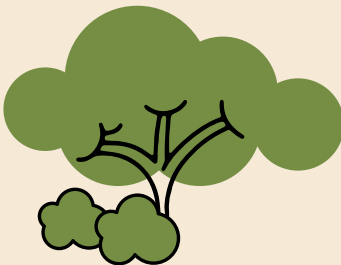
94,571

people reached with animal welfare and One Health awareness campaigns



7,350

trees regenerated or planted and 425 acres of pastures under sustainable rangeland management



DEFYING FRAGILITY, CONFLICTS, AND CRISES WITH LIVESTOCK

VSF-Suisse tackles fragility, conflicts, and crises with adapted solutions for complex situations. From local fodder production to «peace infrastructure», we respond effectively to complex challenges that livestock-based communities face.

Adversity in Sub-Saharan Africa has different names, be it conflicts, fragility or crises:

- 7 in 10 VSF-Suisse countries are caught in high intensity and 2 in low-intensity conflicts (SIPRI 2024)¹: with 5 of the 10 most neglected displacement crises taking place here (NRC 2024)². We are used to working in protracted conflicts that tend to become normalised (ICRC 2019)³.
- All our projects are evolving in already fragile contexts, be it politically, socially, economically or environmentally: reducing the capacities of communities to escape poverty (OECD 2020)⁴.
- Our working environments may as well be described as protracted crises, in the words of FAO: accounting for conflicts as well as for natural hazards and climate change impacts (FAO 2024)⁵.

Conflicts, fragility and protracted crises affect livelihoods: disrupting value chains, hampering access to animal health services or resulting in the loss of livestock. And they sharpen inequalities. VSF-Suisse has found a set of responses, as the following sections show.

LOCAL MARKETS FOR FODDER

Armed conflicts make livestock rearing riskier and limit pastoralists' movement; droughts starve livestock. In both cases, local fodder solutions are promoted in many of our projects, such as:

- ...the use of harvest residues such as maize stover in Ethiopia,
- ...the management of invasive shrubs such as *Prosopis juliflora* in Kenya,
- ...or the promotion of multi-purpose solutions such as sorghum varieties in South Sudan.

RESILIENT LIVESTOCK-BASED LIVELIHOODS

Many VSF-Suisse projects combine relief to affected communities with recovery and resilience-building. In Chad, a project with the Sufosec Alliance trains family farms in rearing small ruminants, combined with a short-term emergency action helping families who have lost their goats and sheep to floods to rebuild a core-breeding stock, while providing feed until pastures have recovered.



¹ www.sipri.org/yearbook/2024/02

² www.nrc.no/globalassets/pdf/reports/neglected-2023/the-worlds-most-neglected-displacement-crises-2023_french.pdf

³ <https://international-review.icrc.org/articles/protracted-conflicts-enduring-legacy-endless-war-ir912>

⁴ www.oecd.org/en/publications/multidimensional-fragility-in-2020_b4fbdd27-en.html

⁵ <https://openknowledge.fao.org/items/b0188e41-f3ba-4f45-8065-ccf9bf5bced6>

SOCIAL COHESION AROUND

«PEACE INFRASTRUCTURE»

VSF-Suisse adopts conflict-sensitive program management, for example by considering local conflict lines when recruiting staff or by prioritizing local solutions in procurement, avoiding unnecessary influx of services and goods from the outside to a conflict-affected area. In the triangle between Mali, Niger, and Burkina Faso, locally adapted infrastructures such as boreholes providing water for humans and animals contribute to livestock farming despite an ongoing conflict, creating new economic opportunities.

«NEXUS THINKING»

VSF-Suisse promotes «Nexus thinking»: Our differentiated responses follow the stipulation «prevention always, development wherever possible, humanitarian action when necessary» (OECD DAC 2024)⁶. «The New Way of Working» for VSF-Suisse means learning how to adapt programs in fragile contexts: A Nexus training in Ouagadougou in May 2024 together with the Sufosec Alliance was an example of building capacity in this area (OCHA 2017)⁷.



⁶ <https://legalinstruments.oecd.org/public/doc/643/643.en.pdf>

⁷ www.un.org/jsc/

«SHE BEGAN PRODUCING MILK, ENOUGH TO FEED HER CALF AND OUR CHILDREN»

My name is Aweis Nunow Ali and I am 58 years old. I live in a small village in the Gedo region of Somalia with my wife and children. For the past thirty years, this has been our home, but the last five years have been the toughest we have ever faced. The recurring droughts have made our lives extremely difficult, and we have been struggling to keep our livestock and ourselves alive.

In the past, we used to have droughts, but there would also be rainy seasons that helped to replenish our lands and sustain our livestock. However, in recent years, it has been drought after drought, and we have seen little to no greenery in our surroundings. The lack of rain has led to a severe shortage of water and pasture, and our livestock has been suffering immensely. Most of the families in our village have lost more than two-thirds of their livestock.

We received support from VSF-Suisse, which has been a tremendous help to us. They provided us with livestock feed and cash. This assistance has made a significant difference to our lives. We were able to buy food for our family and other essential items with the money we received. The livestock feed has helped our animals to



recover and regain their strength. They were very skinny and weak before, but since we started feeding them, they have been doing much better, and we have even seen new fur growing on their skin.

I was particularly pleased with the effect that the livestock feed had on my last remaining cow with her calf. After I started giving her the feed, she began producing more milk, enough to feed her calf and some of our children. Previously, we had to split whatever little money we had between ourselves and our animals. We had to buy grass and straw for the animals, which meant that we had to compromise on our own food. However, the livestock feed we received has been sufficient to feed the animals twice a day, so that we did not need to buy anything else. When we keep the animals healthy, they in turn help us to stay healthy – even during a prolonged crisis.



ETHIOPIA

STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS TO SUPPORT VULNERABLE COMMUNITIES

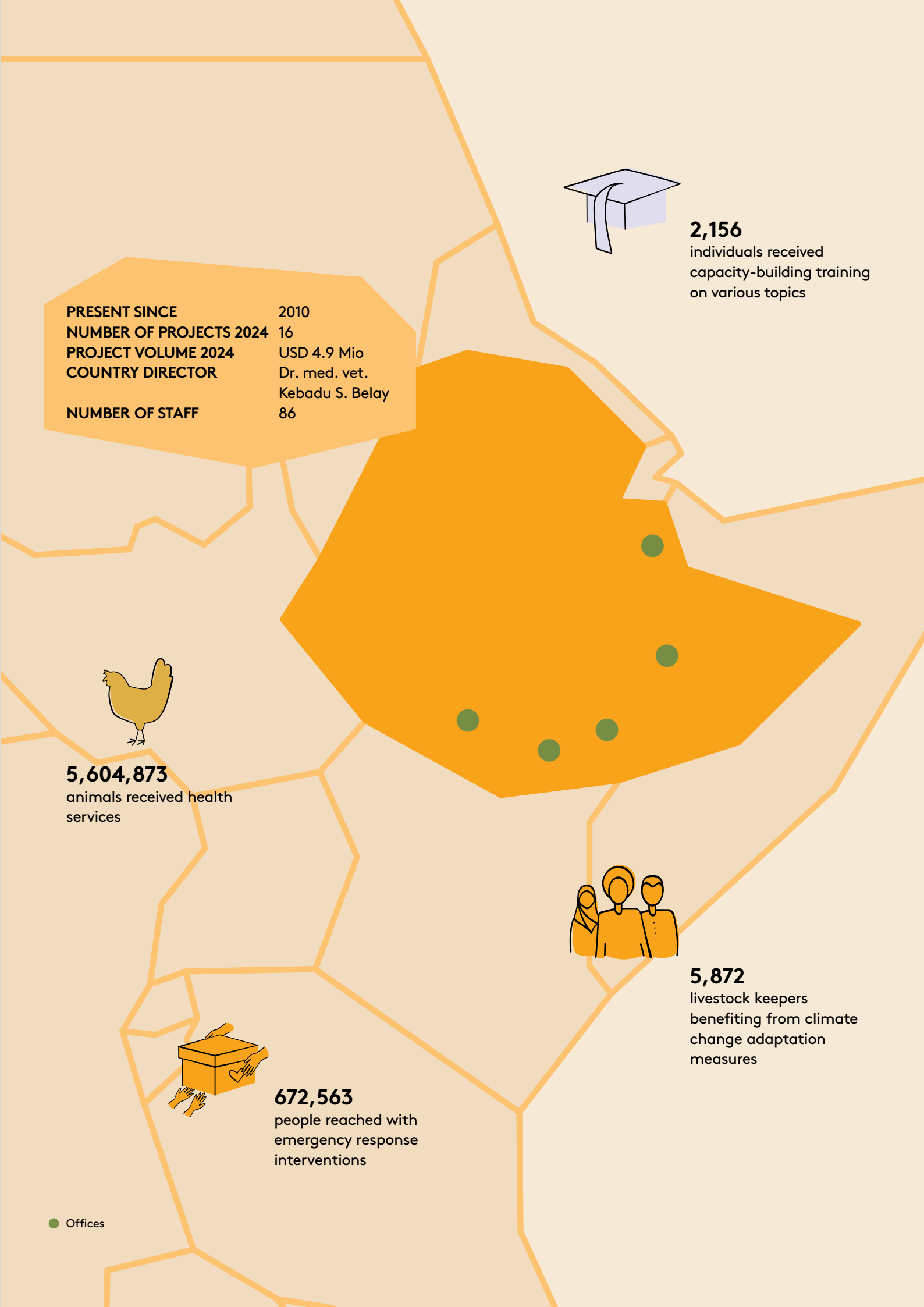
In 2024, the Ethiopia Office made tremendous progress in our core purpose of enhancing the well-being and resilience of vulnerable populations, resulting in the successful implementation of 16 emergency, resilience, and development projects, thereby expanding our geographical footprint in the Oromia and Somali regions of Ethiopia.

To diversify its donor base, the Ethiopia Office re-established partnerships with organizations like UN OCHA and GIZ while forming new strategic partnerships with Alinea International and Global Affairs Canada. Notable recognition was received for the community-designed One Health Units model from the World Bank, as a progressive and scalable model for integrated health services. Various donors expressed enthusiasm for our Innovative Feed and Food Solution model, the Community Action Plan approach, and grassroots initiatives such as Pastoralist Field Schools, Farmer Market Schools, and Farmer Field Schools.

In 2024, the Ethiopia Office also intensified its engagement in Anticipatory Action Projects to address the imminent challenges posed by drought induced by La Niña in collaboration with the WFP, FAO, and UN OCHA.



Dr. med. vet. Keadu S. Belay



KENYA/SOMALIA

FOOD SECURITY, BIODIVERSITY, AND CLIMATE RESILIENCE

VSF-Suisse achieved substantial progress in Kenya and Somalia in the areas of food and nutrition security, in sustainable management of ecosystems, and in making communities more resilient to climate change impacts.

FOOD SECURITY

VSF-Suisse actions allowed to treat 657,261 animals, thereby increasing their productivity. Especially women have seen their situation improved through a better management of livestock. Cash transfers increased vulnerable households' purchasing power and thereby, access to food and other household needs during emergencies.



Dr. med. vet. Davis Ikiyor

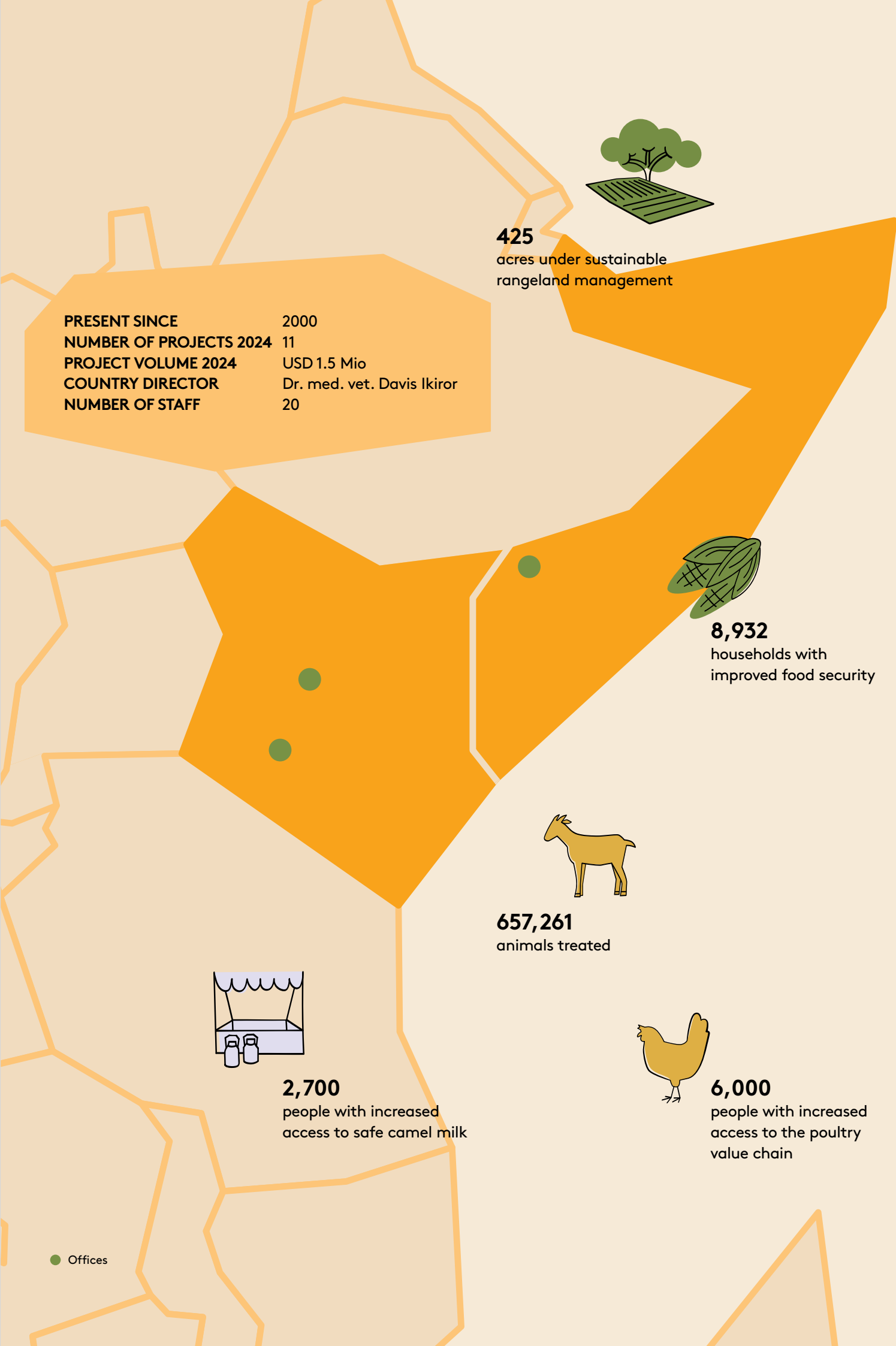


BIODIVERSITY AND ECOSYSTEMS

Sustainable rangeland management as one of our priorities in Kenya has helped both increasing ecological biodiversity and livestock productivity. The active engagement of women in climate smart agriculture and income-generating activities played a significant role in this achievement.

CLIMATE RESILIENCE

Drought response actions fostered the resilience of vulnerable households to climate change. In areas hit by droughts, restocking with camels was critical in restoring livelihoods of those households losing their traditional livestock that are less adapted to drought, while fodder production increased feeding and feed security. These efforts empowered women in agriculture and improved household resilience and economic stability.



SOUTH SUDAN

SAVING LIVES AND BUILDING RESILIENCE IN CONFLICT & CLIMATIC EXTREMES

South Sudan continued to grapple with conflict and climatic extremes. At least 9 million people were projected to face critical needs according to the 2024 Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan. In response, VSF-Suisse scaled up its actions by prioritizing and supporting the most vulnerable communities.

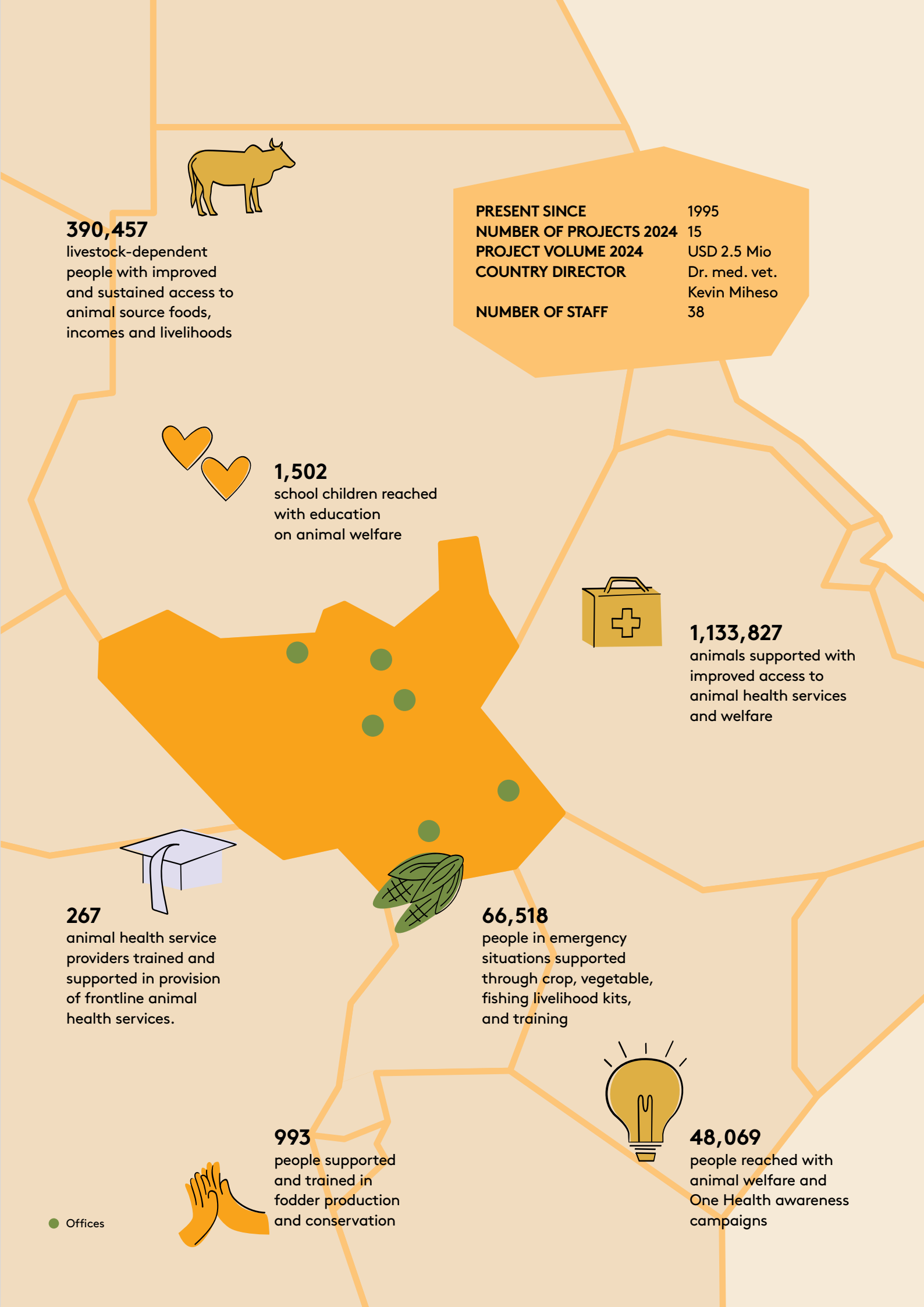
With our animal health activities, we supported livestock-based livelihoods and improved access to animal source foods. Equines played a significant role in one of our projects, supporting livelihoods through transport of people, goods, and general merchandise during migration, conflict, and flood induced displacements.

VSF-Suisse supported refugees and host communities at key border areas in South Sudan’s Northern Bahr el Ghazal State who were impacted by the Sudan crisis. Through the Livestock Technical Working Group, a coordination body under the umbrella of the Food Security and Livelihoods Cluster and co-chaired by VSF-Suisse, we supported livestock sector actors through the dissemination of technical guidance, training materials, and assessments.

Working together with government agencies, the private sector, and related entities comprised of peace actors, cattle camp leaders, animal health workers, social workers, and child protection network members, VSF-Suisse maximized its impact during a challenging year for the country.



Dr. med. vet. Kevin Miheso



MALI

FROM MILK TO PEACE: THE DIVERSITY OF MALI PROJECTS

VSF-Suisse adopts a Triple Nexus approach throughout its programs in Mali and the Western Sahel, combining humanitarian, development, and peace action.

HUMANITARIAN

In the cross-border triangle between Mali, Burkina Faso, and Niger, VSF-Suisse provided vulnerable female-led households of internally displaced and host communities with goats and feeds. Goats produce milk in times of conflict, thereby providing the households with critical nutrients. And milk offers women a source of income.

DEVELOPMENT

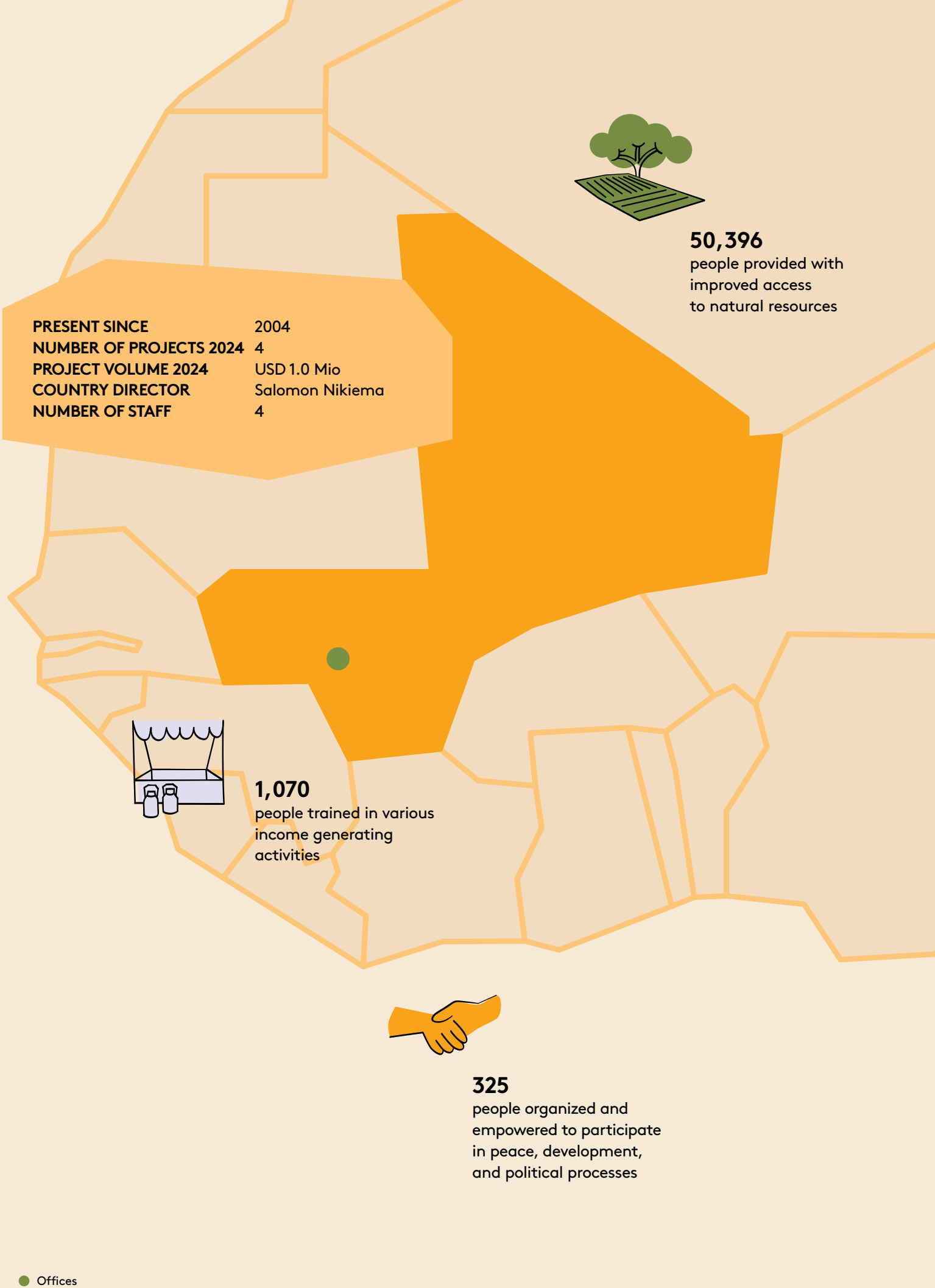
VSF-Suisse focuses the conservation of local cattle breeds and fodder plant species. We aim to breed cattle that are climate-resilient, socially accepted, and economically profitable. To achieve this, sustainable local fodder production is essential. It helps farmers to cope with recurring droughts and provide milk to local markets throughout the year.

PEACE

VSF-Suisse works on peacebuilding mechanisms between host and refugee communities by promoting the peaceful use of water and pasture. Pasture restoration in Niger is an example of targeted support to one group among the most affected by the current conflict: pastoralists.



Salomon Nikiema



TOGO

SAFELY PRODUCED FOOD AND INCOME SOURCES FOR PEOPLE

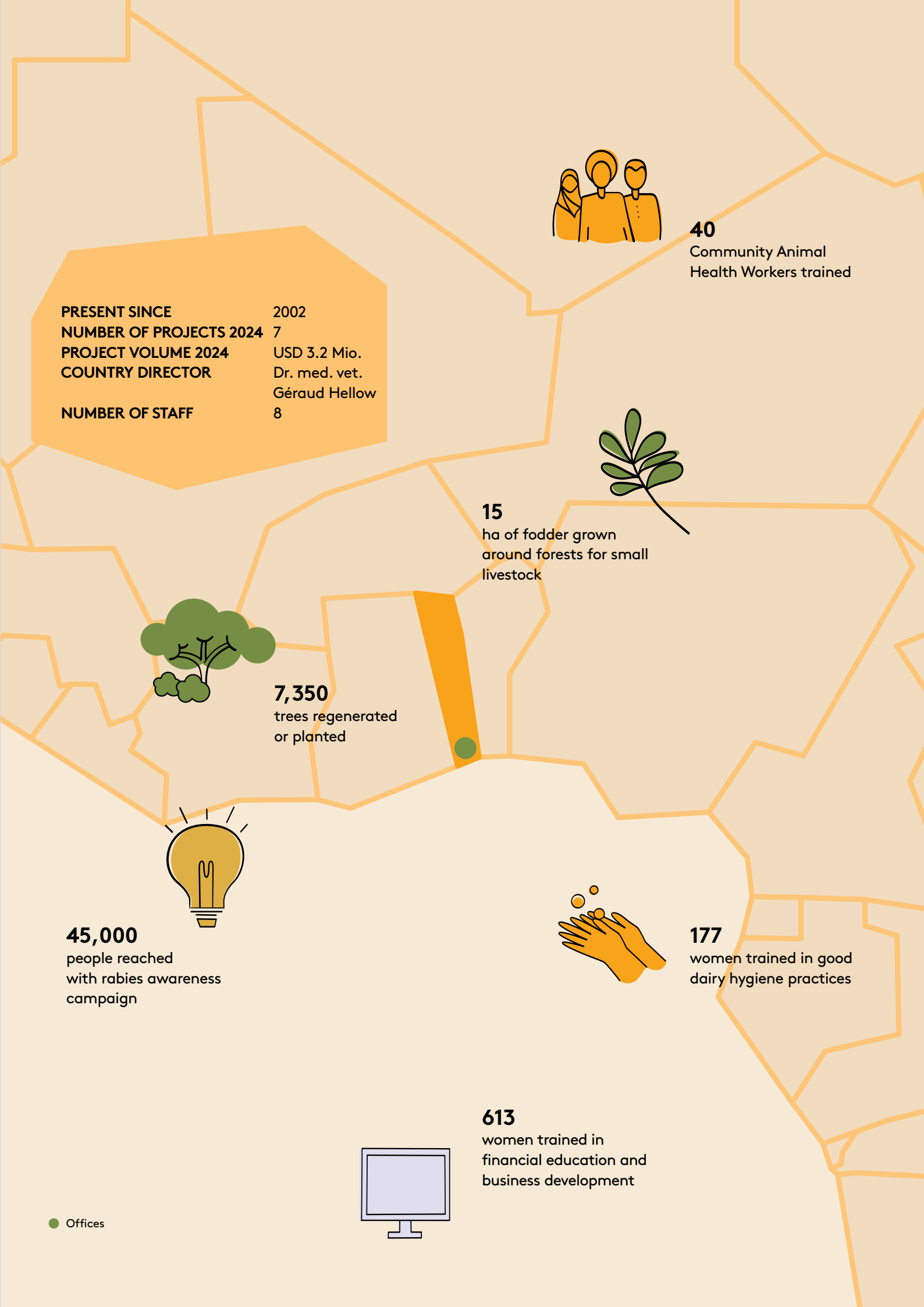
In 2024, Togo made a huge step regarding its project volume with the acquisition of an ECOWAS-GIZ mandate. This mandate will give us the possibility to build sustainable value chains in the agriculture, fish, and livestock farming sectors. These interventions will set up job and income opportunities for young people and women around agriculture and livestock value chains.

In northern Togo, the Savannes Region is one of the poorest in the country and faces a huge insecurity crisis. Here, VSF-Suisse empowered women of pastoral communities to produce and sell their traditional Wagashi cheese. The women were trained in safe production and marketing techniques to improve their livelihoods. To improve milk safety, VSF-Suisse facilitated contacts between private veterinarians and milk producers. This intervention lead to a decrease of dairy-borne diseases in people. With its annual rabies campaign, VSF-Suisse also raised awareness on the importance of vaccinations for dogs to battle the deadly disease.

Keeping the interconnection of human and animal health in mind, the One Health approach was, is, and will remain important for the success of our interventions in Togo.



Dr. med. vet. Géraud Hellow



CONTINUED GROWTH AMIDST INCREASING UNCERTAINTY

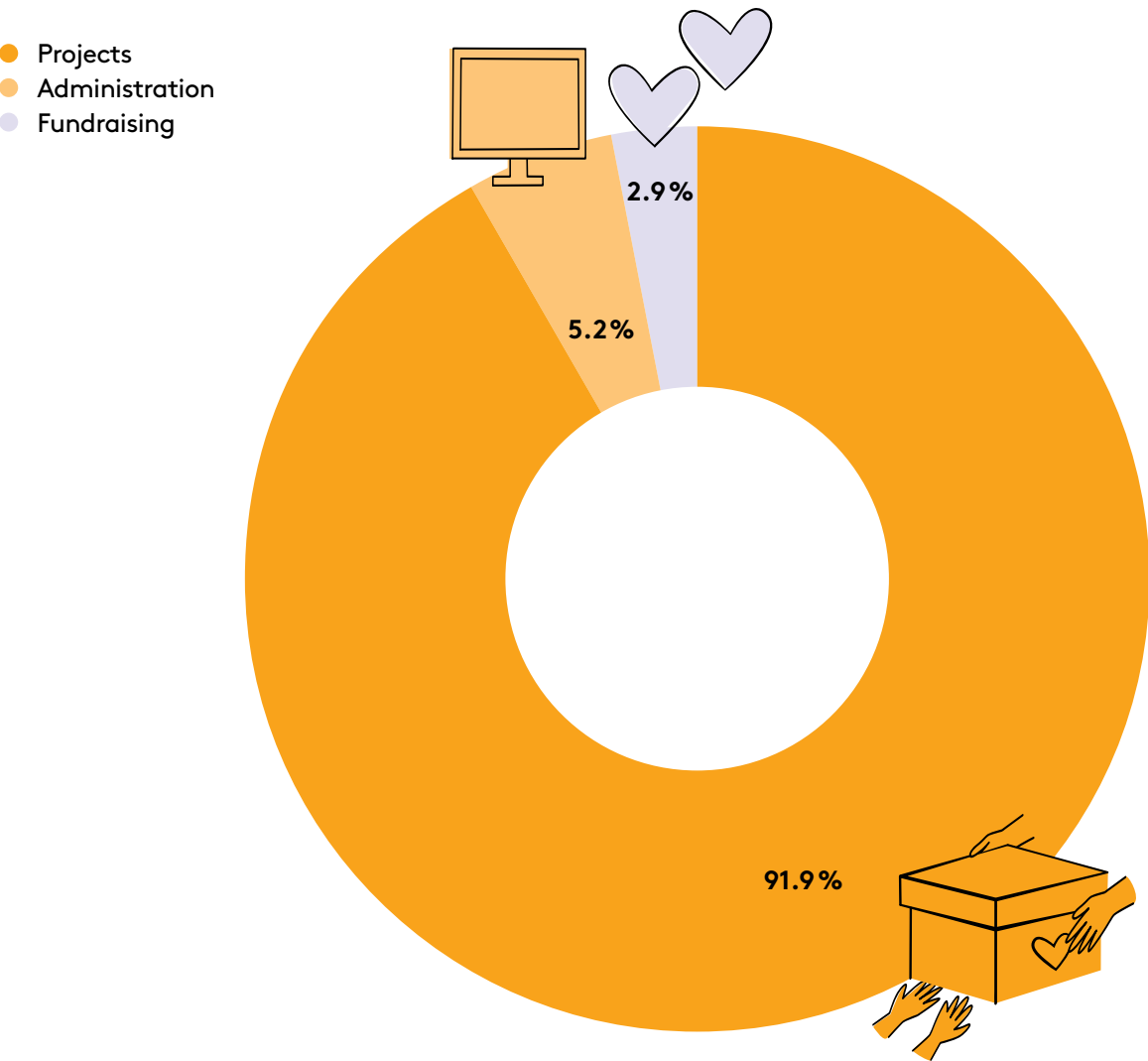
Since 2021, VSF-Suisse's turnover has been growing steadily. In 2024, turnover increased by a good CHF 1 million year-on-year to CHF 13.2 million, thus exceeding the 10-million mark for the second year in a row. While in recent years, the historic drought in the Horn of Africa and the increase in emergency aid projects had led to growth in turnover, in 2024 it was the acquisition of new (WFP) and the return of former donors (GIZ, FCDO).

In contrast, income from unrestricted funds decreased slightly, in line with the general trend. While it was encouraging to see that the level of general donations was maintained, income from bequeathed legacies was delayed.

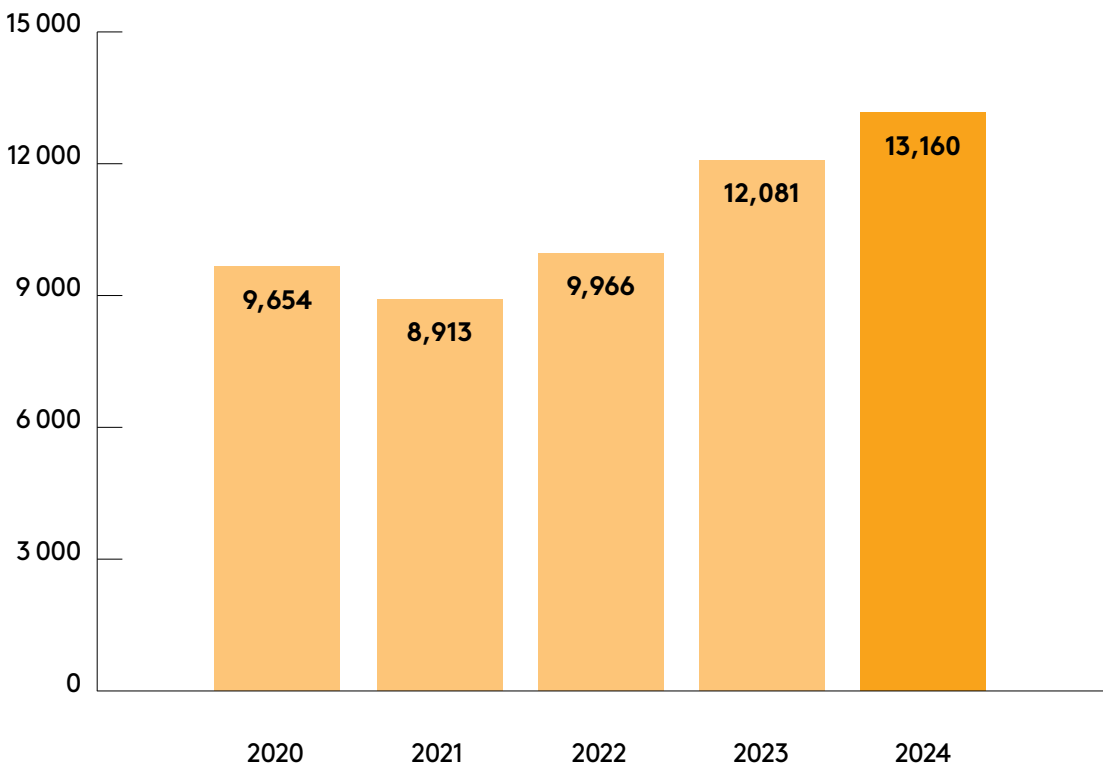
The trend towards stabilizing operating costs not covered by projects also continued – in 2024, these costs rose only slightly. By contrast, project-financed operating costs declined in 2024. Since these were fully financed by restricted funds, they had no impact on the result.

Despite another record turnover and falling operating costs, the profit of CHF 210,000 was lower than in the previous year, as the growth in turnover and the decline in costs occurred in the area of restricted funds. Nevertheless, this enabled us to further strengthen our organizational capital in 2024, thus expanding our capacity for action in the future – this is more necessary than ever in such uncertain times.

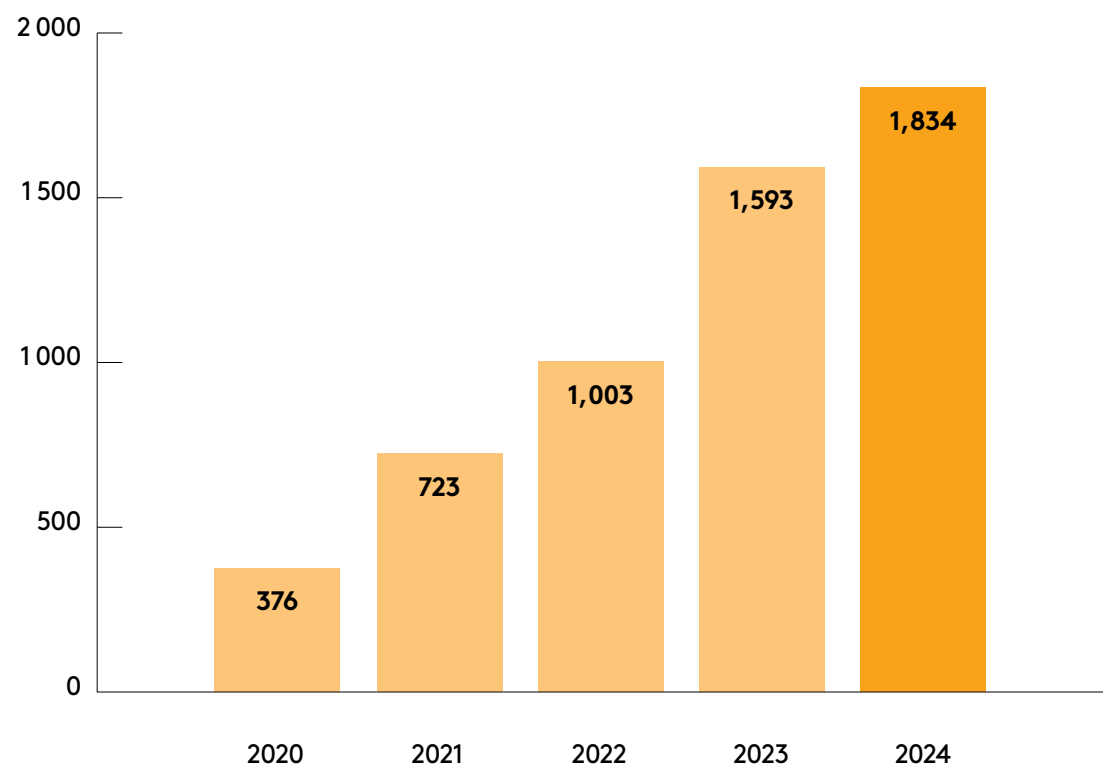
HOW WE USE OUR FUNDS



DEVELOPMENT OF OPERATING INCOME (IN CHF 1,000)



DEVELOPMENT OF ORGANIZATION CAPITAL (IN CHF 1,000)



BALANCE SHEET, STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS, AND EXPENSES (IN CHF 1,000)

BALANCE SHEET AS OF 31.12.	2024		2023	
Current assets	7,025		5,120	
Non-current assets	9		20	
TOTAL ASSETS	7,034		5,140	
Current liabilities	2,101		1,042	
Non-current liabilities	20		20	
Fund capital	3,079		2,484	
Organization capital	1,834		1,593	
TOTAL LIABILITIES	7,034		5,140	
STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS	2024		2023	
Operating income	13,160		12,081	
Operating expenses	-11,978		-12,447	
Other income	-217		-18	
Change in fund capital	-730		981	
Total before change in organization capital	235		598	
Change in organization capital	-25		-261	
NET RESULT	210		336	
EXPENSES	2024		2023	
Project expenses	-11,003	91.9%	-11,513	92.5%
Fundraising expenses	-349	2.9%	-326	2.6%
Administrative expenses	-626	5.2%	-608	4.9%
TOTAL EXPENSES	-11,978	100.0%	-12,447	100.0%

AN ANIMAL FOR TODAY AND TOMORROW!
Camels are effective means of both climate change adaptation and mitigation, making them well-suited for climate-smart farming. They are more drought-resistant than cattle and produce three times less methane than cattle when fed the same quantity and quality of feed.

WORKING TOGETHER FOR GREATER IMPACT

SUFOSEC ALLIANCE

VSF-Suisse is part of Sufosec, the Swiss Alliance for Sustainable Food Systems and Empowered Communities. Together with five other NGOs, we implement a joint program and are supported by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) with a core contribution. Being part of this alliance allows for a unique pooling of expertise in fields such as food security and agroecology as well as better measurement of the impact of our work, translating into concrete results for the people we work with. On World Food Day 2024, Sufosec released its World Food Report. It shows that the average food insecurity in the 17 project regions fell from 72% in 2021 to 62% in 2023. Our work has a measurable impact! www.sufosec.ch

VSF INTERNATIONAL

VSF-Suisse is member of a network of 12 organizations connected by their veterinary background and the shared philosophy: Healthy Animals, Healthy People, Healthy Environment. Being part of VSF International allows us to share our skills and experiences, and reinforce the capacities of network members and partners. Combined, we are active in more than 40 countries in Africa, Asia, and Latin America. www.vsf-international.org



INSTITUTIONAL PARTNERSHIPS & DONORS

Thank you to all our institutional donors for funding our projects. The donors shown below financed our work in 2024 with more than CHF 500,000 each. A complete list of all our institutional partners and donors can be found on our website: www.vsf-suisse.org/partners



THANK YOU

MEMBERS, FRIENDS, AND PARTNERS

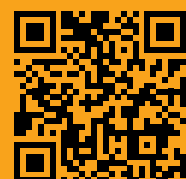
We thank all our members, donors, and partners for their unwavering and valuable support. A special thank you goes to the friends of VSF-Suisse – a special group of people who support our activities with a large yearly donation. As a friend, you can attend special get-togethers, receive behind-the-scenes information, and much more! For more information, get in touch at service@vsf-suisse.org

VETERINARY COMMUNITY AND VACCINATE FOR AFRICA

A big thank you to the Swiss veterinary community and especially to the City Tiernotfall Bern, the Gesellschaft Schweizer Tierärztinnen und Tierärzte GST and the Tierärztliche Verrechnungsstelle GST AG for their generous support. Many thanks also to all participants and Virbac Suisse SA for making the annual campaign Vaccinate for Africa possible. Find a list of all participating veterinary practices here: www.vsf-suisse.org/ifa

HOW TO SUPPORT US

- Become a member and help shape the future of the association.
- Make a donation: CH78 0900 0000 3002 4633 4
- Include VSF-Suisse in your will as an heir or with a legacy.
- Subscribe to the e-mail newsletter and stay informed about all activities.
- Tell your friends and family about us!



You can find all the information on our website: vsf-suisse.org
We are also happy to be there for you personally at 031 332 77 65
or info@vsf-suisse.org



Your donation
in good hands.

MANAGEMENT 2024

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- Dr. med. vet. Géraud Hellow, Director Togo and Chad
- Dr. med. vet. Davis Ikiror, Director Kenya/Somalia,
- Dr. med. vet. Kevin Miheso, Director South Sudan
- Salomon Nikiéma, Director Mali and Coordinator for trans-border activities

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- Med. vet. Olivier Flechtner, former board member and president
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- Prof. Dr. Jörg Jores, Director, Institute for Veterinary Bacteriology, University of Bern
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- Dr. rer. pol. Judith Safford, NPO Consultant
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- Prof. Dr. med. vet. Jakob Zinsstag, Swiss TPH, Basel, former board member

**HEALTHY ANIMALS
HEALTHY PEOPLE
HEALTHY ENVIRONMENT**



VÉTÉRINAIRES
SANS FRONTIÈRES
SUISSE