



HANDBOOK FOR PLANNING AND MANAGING CAHW PROGRAMMES

HOW TO BUILD QUALITY
AND SUSTAINABLE
COMMUNITY-BASED
ANIMAL HEALTH SERVICES



WOAH African Continental Conference - 27 November 2024 - Nairobi, Kenya

Bridging Communities: Integrating CAHWs into Veterinary Excellence

VSF INTERNATIONAL VÉTÉRINAIRES SANS FRONTIÈRES



Dierenartsen
Zonder Grenzen



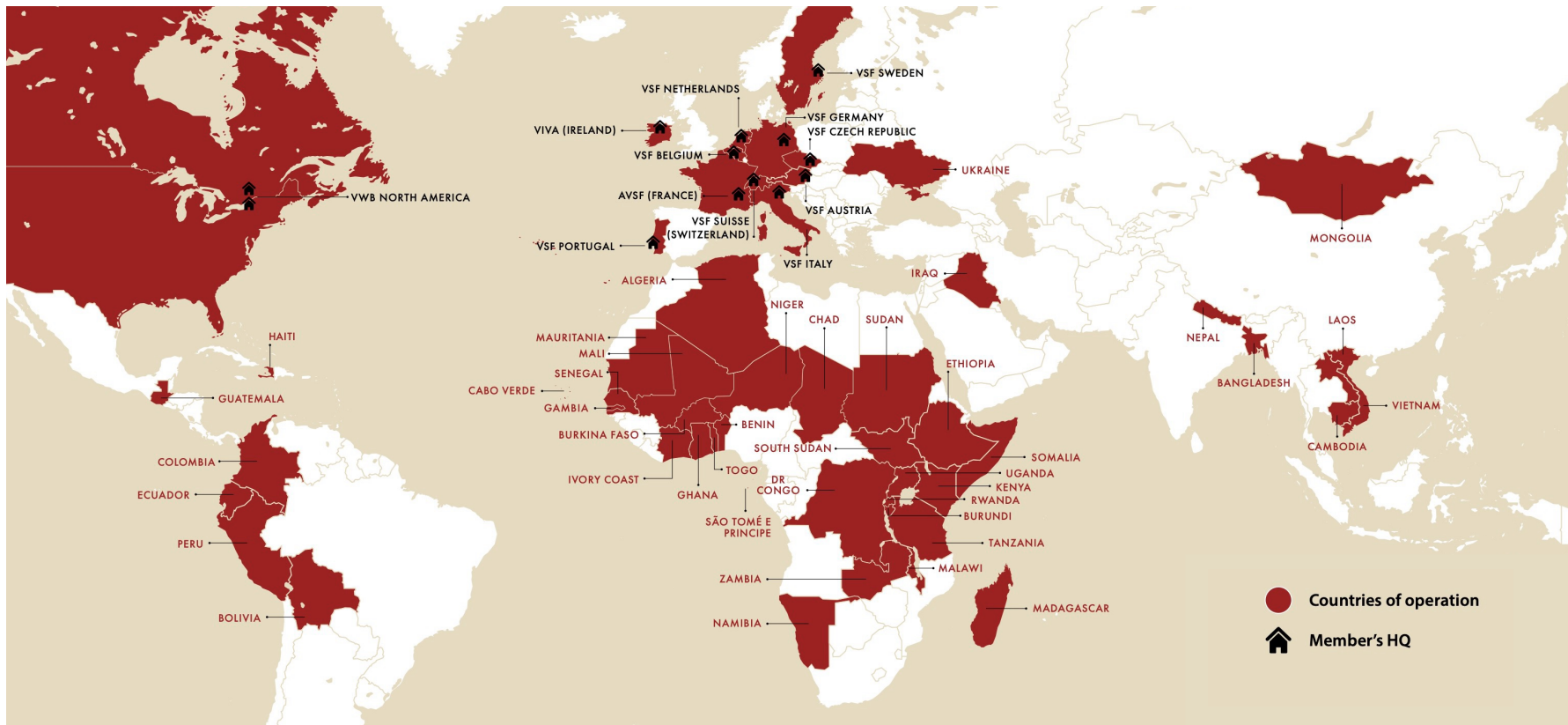
Vétérinaires
Sans Frontières
Dierenartsen
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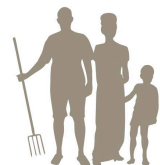
Vétérinaires
Sans Frontières
Germany



VÉTÉRINAIRES
SANS FRONTIÈRES
SUISSE
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Our impact
in 2023:



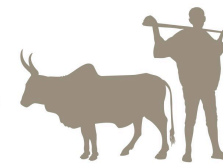
1.49
MILLION
direct beneficiary
households

7 049
animal health
professionals
supported



including
4 340
Community Animal
Health Workers

1.31
MILLION
livestock keepers
gained access to
improved animal
health services



27.23
MILLION
animals treated

VSF-INT HANDBOOK

Why?

Approaches can be uncoordinated:

- ▶ Different scopes of work and training programmes, training duration
- ▶ Different modalities of supervision, of remuneration

Legal frameworks are often inadequate:

- ▶ Fear of competition from vets and VPPs
- ▶ Poor visibility on the number of active CAHWs in-country

→ Need for a practical guide to harmonize our approaches and promote CAHWs regulation and integration into animal health systems...

... for the benefit of livestock keepers and the veterinary profession



CONTENT

- ✓ 52 pages (cover and bibliography included)
- ✓ Very illustrated
- ✓ Available in English, French, Spanish, Portuguese, and Arabic

Target audience:

- Individual/organisations planning to train and deploy CAHWs : private, public, civil society sectors
- Veterinary Statutory Bodies, Veterinary Services and line Ministries
- Donors and financial partners

PILLAR 1

ANALYSING THE LOCAL CONTEXT AND NEEDS WITH COMMUNITIES

PILLAR 2

DESIGNING THE CAHW PROGRAMME IN A PARTICIPATORY MANNER

PILLAR 3

SELECTING THE RIGHT CAHW CANDIDATES

PILLAR 4

TRAINING CAHWS APPROPRIATELY

PILLAR 5

PLANNING SUPERVISION AND CONTINUING TRAINING

PILLAR 6

PLANNING ACCESS TO QUALITY VETERINARY MEDICINAL PRODUCTS AND EQUIPMENT

PILLAR 7

ENSURING THE FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY OF THE PROGRAMME

1

ANALYSING THE LOCAL CONTEXT AND NEEDS WITH COMMUNITIES

The first step in any CAHW programme is a **local context analysis and needs assessment for livestock keepers**. This step should bring evidence that training CAHWs will indeed be a relevant solution to the needs expressed by the community. This analysis should be carried out in a participatory manner and in coordination with local community representatives. It should include all the local stakeholders relevant to animal health and livestock keeping: livestock keepers and herders, livestock keepers' associations, local authorities and public veterinary services, private actors (service providers and/or input suppliers), traditional healers, etc. The needs of women, young people and other marginalised groups should also be listened to and considered at this stage.



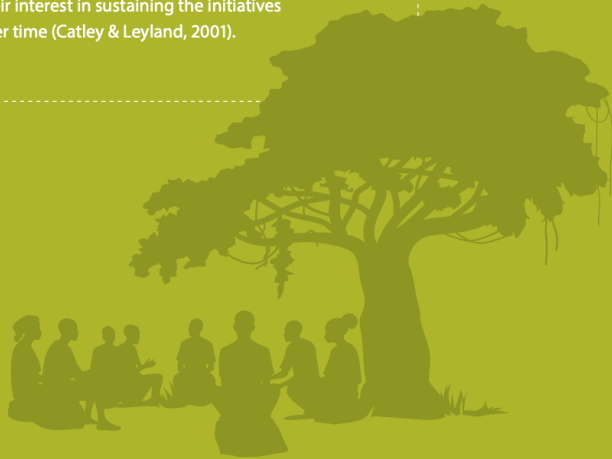
How to ensure that the CAHW programme meets both community needs and veterinary services needs ?

2

DESIGNING THE CAHW PROGRAMME IN A PARTICIPATORY MANNER



Communities must be **actively** involved at every stage of the process: analysis, design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation. They should not just be informed or consulted; they should make decisions, take initiatives and share resources. The involvement of the community is an important element in the sustainability of the programme as it stimulates their interest in sustaining the initiatives over time (Catley & Leyland, 2001).

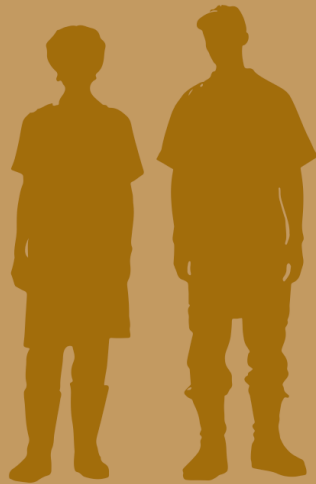


How to involve the communities in the decision-making process and in the implementation of the programme?

3

SELECTING THE RIGHT CAHW CANDIDATES

Selection modalities for CAHWs depend on the context and should be decided during the participatory design of the programme (Pillar 2). However, there are a few guidelines that can be applied to all situations.



What criteria should be considered to select candidates with the best chances of succeeding as CAHWs ?

4

TRAINING CAHWS APPROPRIATELY



What are the particularities of a CAHW training ?

How to improve CAHW training quality?



5

PLANNING FOR SUPERVISION AND CONTINUING TRAINING

CAHWs need to be working under the direction of a vet, a veterinary paraprofessional (or an appropriate official).

What successful approaches regarding CAHW regular follow-up can we try duplicate?



6

PLANNING FOR ACCESS TO QUALITY VETERINARY MEDICINAL PRODUCTS AND EQUIPMENT



Whether the CAHW initiative supports the creation of a new supply chain or strengthens an existing one, it is essential to adhere to veterinary practice standards and medication distribution regulations.

In most countries, veterinary pharmacy managers are required to be qualified pharmacists, veterinarians or VPPs. In some cases, CAHWs may not be authorised to dispense, store, transport or administer veterinary medicinal products. These considerations must be anticipated, and it is essential for the sustainability of the programme that it is designed in accordance with current legislation.



How to ensure that CAHWs can access quality veterinary products, in a reliable and sustained manner ?



7

ENSURING THE FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY OF THE PROGRAMME

CAHWs are local animal health service providers who, depending on the context, may operate in the private and/or the public sector.



What financial constraints are CAHWs facing and what solutions can be implemented to develop a self-sustained service ?

Community-Public-Private-Partnership



RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IMPROVING THE SUSTAINABILITY AND QUALITY OF SERVICES PROVIDED BY CAHWS

FOR VETERINARY STATUTORY BODIES

- ✓ Official scope of work, national standards for training and licensing

FOR NATIONAL VETERINARY SERVICES AND LINE MINISTRIES

- ✓ National database of active CAHWs, establishment of a « single window »

FOR PRIVATE, PUBLIC AND CSO INITIATIVES PLANNING TO TRAIN AND DEPLOY CAHWS

- ✓ Sustainable exit strategy, in line with legal framework and not running a parallel system

FOR DONORS / FINANCIAL PARTNERS

- ✓ Need for long-term investment to create positive change at the community level and at the institutional level

WHAT'S NEXT ?

- ✓ 2025 : workshops for French-speaking Africa, English-speaking Africa, and South/Southeast Asia
- ✓ Subscribe to our CAHW newsletter : <https://tinyurl.com/y2h4sttz>
- ✓ Visit our website to access useful resources for your CAHW programme : <https://vsf-international.org/themes/cahws/>
- ✓ Read the Handbook and engage with your counterparts and partners in your country !



<https://vsf-international.org/handbook-cahw-programmes/>



Thank you



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