



Private vets and CAHWs working together through the Private Proximity Veterinary Service: the case of Niger

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Context

In the 1990s, Niger opted for the **privatisation of their veterinary services**. But challenges (lack of infrastructure, supply chains and markets; livestock keepers' limited ability to pay; insecurity) made it difficult for vets to set up a practice in rural areas. In 2003, VSF Belgium and Karkara initiated the **Private Proximity Veterinary Service (PPVS)** which was later recognised in 2015 by the government as the reference model to deliver private vet services to livestock keepers in country.

Methods / Description of activities

1 PPVS = 1 private vet + 30 community animal health workers (CAHWs).

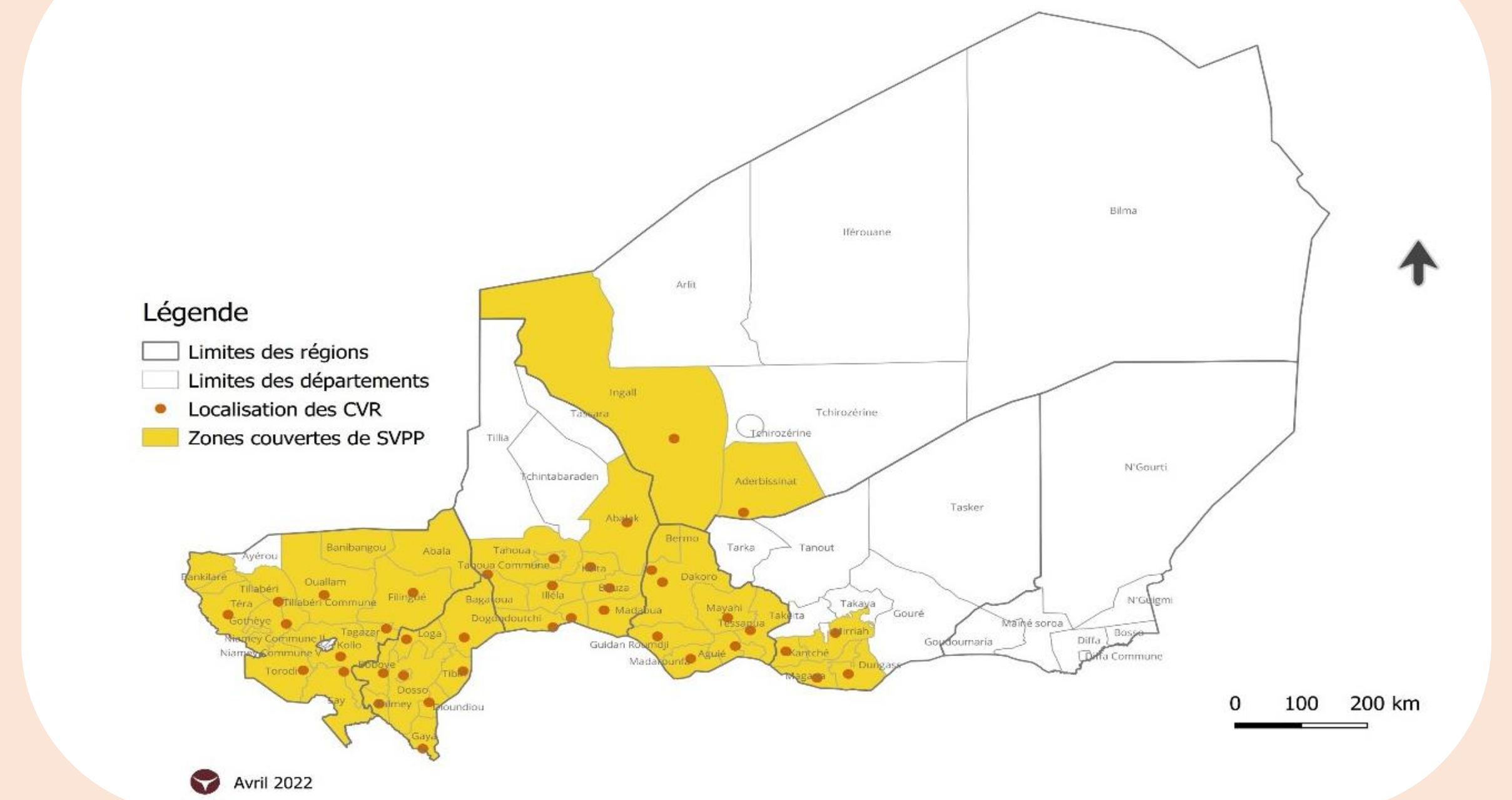
This collaboration leads to a **win-win situation**:

- Private vets extend their geographical coverage and client base, ensuring their economic viability.
 - CAHWs have reliable access to quality inputs, referral and mentoring, providing quality services to livestock.
- PPVS can deliver livestock official vaccination (e.g., PPR, CBPP) through the **sanitary mandate**.

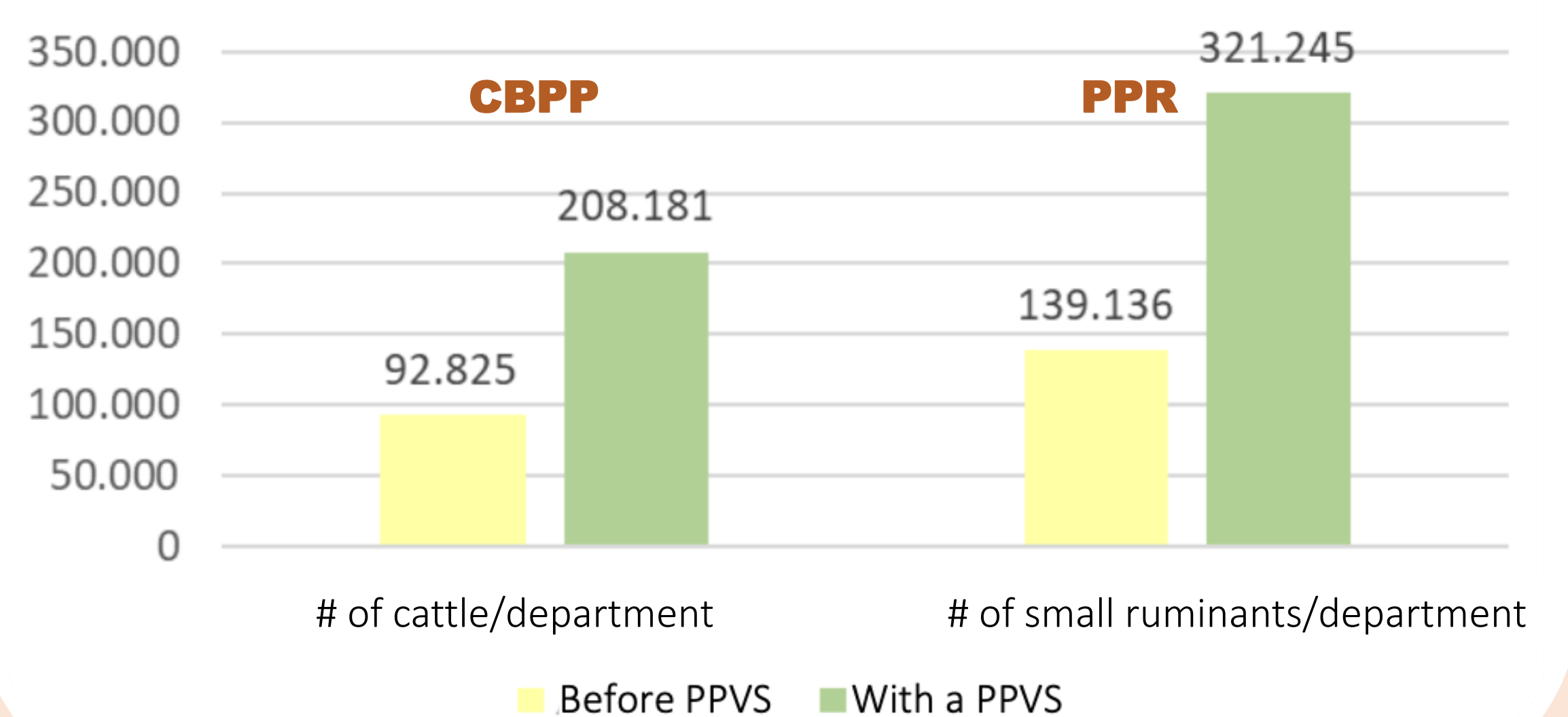
Results / Monitoring and evaluation of results

- **Coverage:** today, 39 active PPVS cover 65% of the country's departments.
- **Attractivity:** 95% of the 39 vets set up between 2003 and 2022 are still operating their PPVS.
- **Quality:** 85% of the livestock keepers are satisfied with the quality of the services provided by the PPVS, 99% of them are satisfied with the vet products sold.
- **Affordability:** 81% of the livestock keepers deem the PPVS services affordable or very affordable.
- **Impact on vaccination** (before/after PPVS set up)
 - +124% vaccinated cattle against CBPP
 - +131% vaccinated small ruminants against PPR

PPVS COVERAGE IN NIGER



Numbers of animals vaccinated during vaccination campaigns before PPVS installation and just after



Conclusions and recommendations

- ✓ **Community-public-private partnerships** can thrive, even in challenging contexts
- ✓ PPVS success: institutional recognition in 2015, official scope of work and training modules for CAHWs, and clear chain of command/accountability : CAHWs → private vet → Veterinary Authorities

The PPVS model can potentially be reproduced in other African countries facing similar challenges to enhance the veterinary capacity to improve animal health and strengthen the livestock sector.