



 World Organisation
for Animal Health



Substandard and Falsified Veterinary Products Workshop

4 - 6 March 2025. Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.



 The
Fleming
Fund



Perspectives from VSF International

The issue of substandard and falsified veterinary products in the field



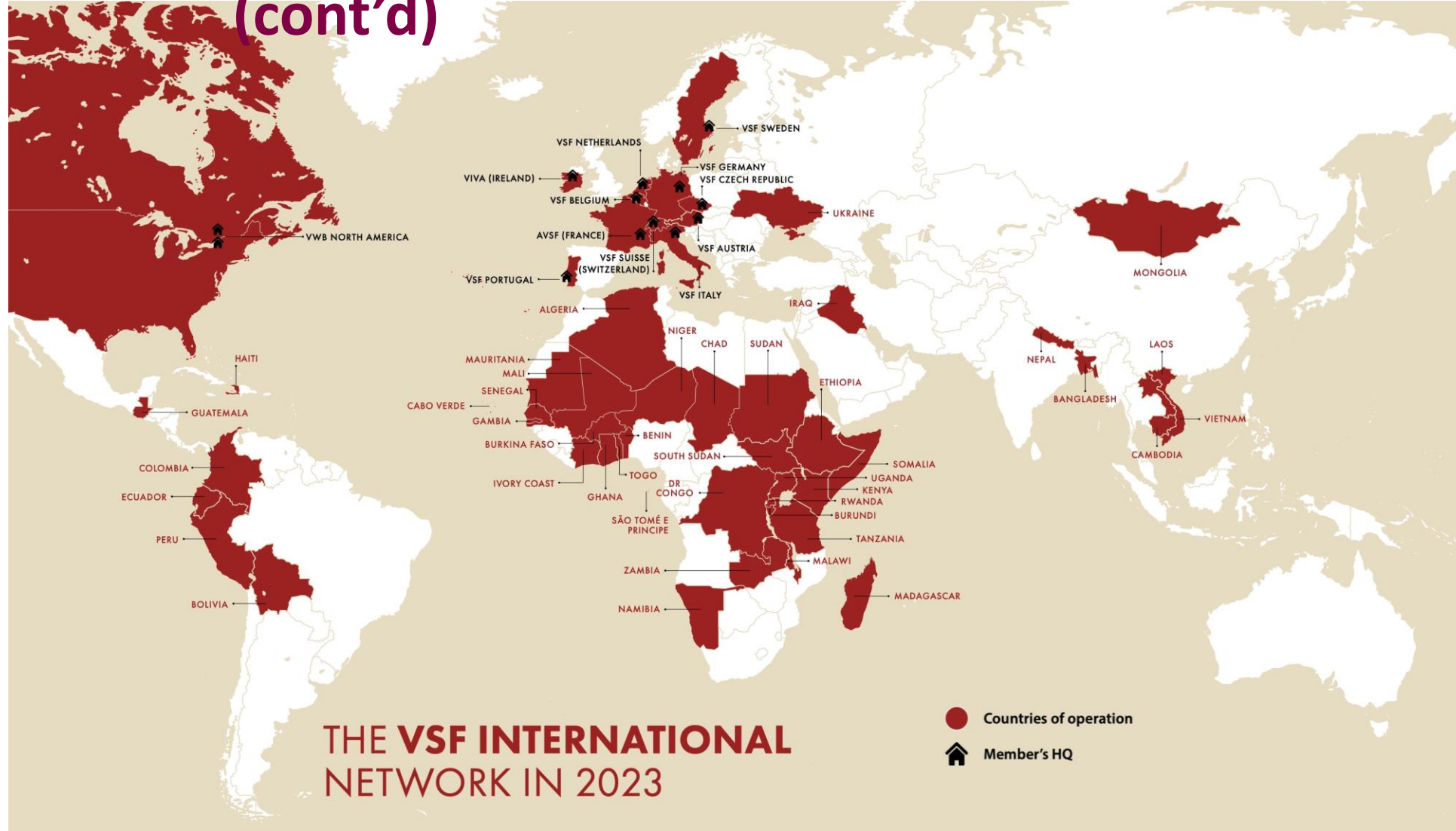
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Rwanda Country Representative, VSF Belgium



Outline

- Global context of VSF intervention
- Online survey result on SFVP (12 countries)
- Key players in prevention of SFVPs in Rwanda
- Origine of veterinary products used in Rwanda
- Distribution of veterinary products in Rwanda
- Appreciation of the SFVP by the rwandan field vets
- Researches about SFVP in Rwanda?
- Ways to reduce proliferation of SFVPs - Rwanda.

Global context of VSF's intervention (cont'd)



THE VSF INTERNATIONAL
NETWORK IN 2023

● Countries of operation
🏠 Member's HQ

12 member NGOs


55
countries

Global context of VSF's intervention (cont'd)

- Globally, **very difficult contexts, logistical constraints, security and a lack of state services** (especially in pastoral areas).
- **Large part of the vet products supply is made directly from pharmacies to the farmer**
- **Extensive faming context,**
- **Lack of veterinary service resources and quality control bodies,**
- **If suspicious case of SFVP, generally information is not shared.**
- **Vet parcitioner uses her/his common sens (multiply dose, combining drugs...).**

Result of the online survey on SFVP

Online survey among 12
VSF country directors in
Africa

- 67% of the respondents state it's **not easy** for farmers and even professionals **to distinguish** a falsified VP from an official one (50% for a substandard)
- According to 24% of the respondents, falsified VPs can also be found in the **formal sector** (authorized selling points, pharmacies)

Result of the online survey on SFVP (cont'd)

Online survey among 12
VSF country directors in
Africa

Main categories of VPs being affected by the issue:



Result of the online survey on SFVP (cont'd)

Online survey among 12
VSF country directors in
Africa

Factors contributing to proliferation of SFVP:

● Does not contribute to situation
 ● Contributes a little
 ● Certainly contributes
 ● Contributes a lot

Easier to access than official products / Remoteness

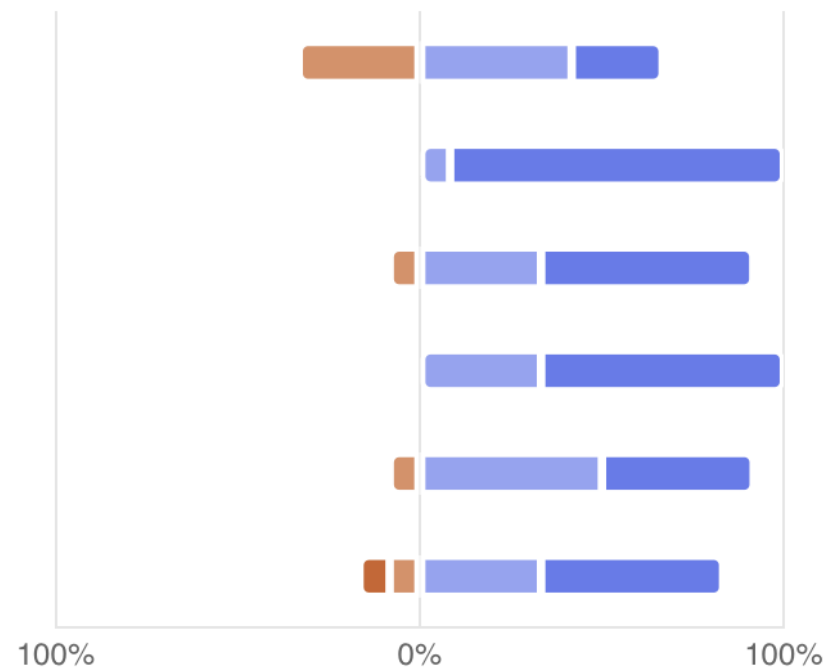
Cheaper products / Affordability

Lack of awareness of livestock keepers on the risks

Controls and seizures in the field are rare (e.g. inadequate staff)

Controls and seizures in the field are inefficient (no sanction, corruption, etc.)

Control of goods at border posts are not enough



Result of the online survey on SFVP (cont'd)

Online survey among 12
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At which level is it thought to happen?

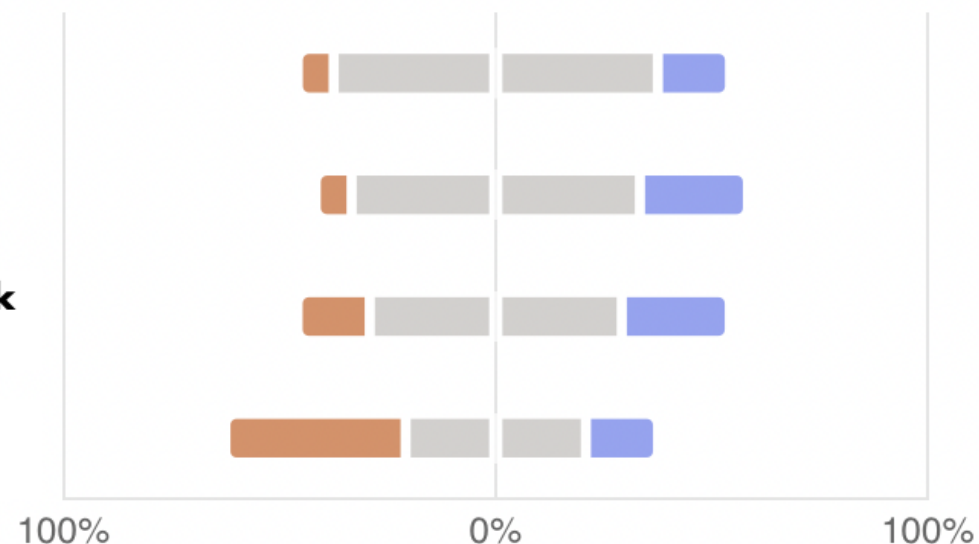
- Not faced in our context
- Factor regularly faced in our context
- This can happen sometimes

**Products become altered before arriving at field level
(supply chain and transport issues)**

**Products arriving in good conditions but are poorly stored
at selling points (lack of facility)**

**Products arriving in good condition but poorly managed due to back
practices of managers of selling points (stock management issue)**

**Before being even distributed, products are not complying with
national standards (lack of certification/control means)**



Result of the online survey on SFVP (cont'd)

Online survey among 12
VSF country directors in
Africa

Main challenges faced to detect and act on SFVPs:

● Not an issue

● Not the key issue but an aggravating factor

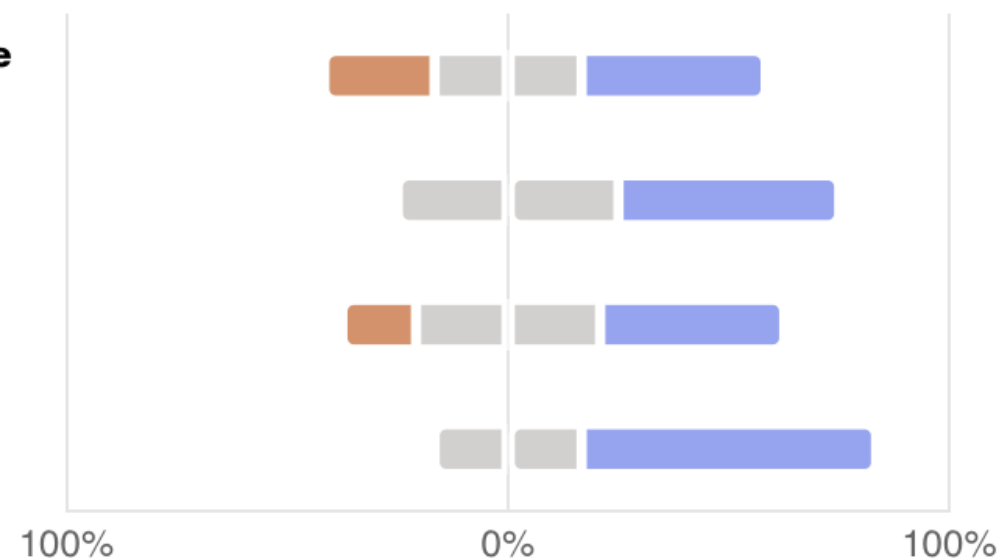
● Key issue

Impossibility to distinguish a substandard product from a quality one

Absence or non-functionality of the pharmacovigilance system to report suspicions at the upper level

Impression that there is no real follow-up done after reporting (no field investigation, no lab testing, etc.)

Inspections of selling points by authorities are not regular enough in the field





Niamey, Dosso, and Tillabéri Regions,
Niger, 2013

Result of the online survey on SFVP (cont'd)

Areas of improvement suggested by respondents

- Stronger control means :
 - **Decentralization**
 - **Adequate staffing and means** for control and seizures
- **Law enforcement** / sanctions
- Farmer and professional **education** (origines and risks)
- **Capacity-building of labs** for quality tests before distribution and after seizures
- Strengthen the **pharmacovigilance system** and involve **grassroot level actors**
- Ensure **availability of quality products** and **service providers** to prevent SFVPs.

Online survey among 12
VSF country directors in
Africa

Key players in prevention of SFVPs in Rwanda

Case study of Rwanda

- **RAB** (Animal Resource Dev. / veterinary services)
- **RCVD** established in 2013, to regulate veterinary profession
- 2018, establishment of **RFDA** which deals with **quality insurance** and **control of medical products** including vet products
- **Private sector**, since **july 2024**, introduction of **VSM**.



Origine of veterinary products used in Rwanda

- **No veterinary products manufactured in Rwanda**
- **All are imported from various countries**
- Registration of some product still under process
- This requires **intensive control and surveillance of quality.**



Main sources of vet products

Distribution of veterinary products in Rwanda

- The law admits **pharmacists** and **veterinary doctors** to hold the veterinary pharmacies
- But law **not yet** efficiently **enforced**
- In current context, the market has **professional and non professional** sellers
- 76.9% of the field veterinary professionals interviewed say that **boutiques** are still selling veterinary products
- Easy access to VP by farmers.



Exemple of small vet pharmacy in Rural area

Appreciation of the SFVP by the rwandan field vets

- 42 veterinary professionals operating in 14 districts out of 30 were interviewed
- **62%** believe they are facing SFVP on their local market
- According to these veterinary professionals, the **main suspected products** are:
- Acaricides, antibiotics such as Penistrepto from China, Oxyt., antiprotozoa (Butachem, Bupanol, Butacure), antihelmintics, minerals...
- Almost **98%** of interviewed accuse many acaricides of not working.
- **91%** of field vet practitioners ignore ways of reporting suspicious cases of SFVPs.

Appreciation of the SFVP by the rwandan field vets (cont'd)

Main causes of SFVPs

- **Manufacturing firms** (at source)
- **Poor transportation / storage** of products (60% of field veterinary professionals estimates that **vet drugs are improperly stored**)
- Veterinary professionals report cases of **drugs exposed to the sun during the market day**
- **Under dosage** (fraud for money)
- Use of **expired veterinary products** (RCVD took measure to prevent).



Exemple of small vet pharmacy in Rural area

Appreciation of the SFVP by the rwandan field vets (cont'd)

Consequences of use of SFVP

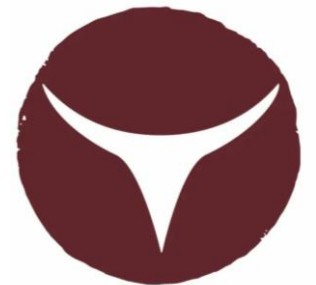
- The **veterinary professionals identified** the main consequences of using SFVPs. These include:
- Ticks **resistant to acaricides** → Tick born diseases
- **Diseases resistance** to treatment (especially AMR), **economic losses**
- **Loose of credibility**
- Death of treated animals, **global negative economic impact to farmers**
- Product can result in **poisoning**.

What do the researches say about SFVP in Rwanda?

- **Africa** is reported to have around **18% SFMP**
- The study by Richard H. et al. (2024) on **Sulfamethoxazole/Trimethoprim** showed that 7.7% of tested was **not complying with specifications.**
- **68%** of health field professionals reports the misuse of antibiotics (Denyse M. et al, 2021)
- **Mainly overdose to face low trust of ATB (95%)**
- **Research activity on SF Veterinary Products need to be developed especially for the most suspected products and ATB.**

Ways to reduce proliferation of SFVPs - Rwanda context

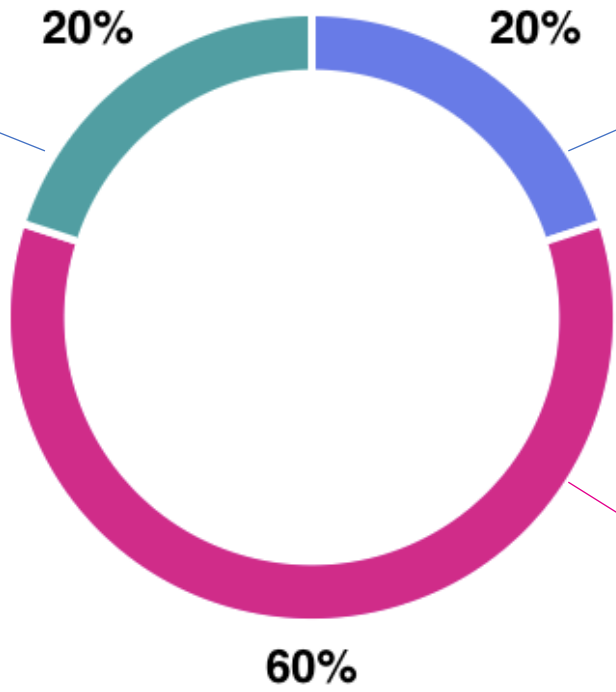
- **Intensification of quality control (decentralize RFDA services (continuous control and surveillance)**
- **Awareness campaigns for all actors (farmers, veterinary practitioners, pharmacists, importers...) to increase level of professionalism,**
- **Platform or channel for easy reporting of suspicious cases by field practitioners and react when any alert reported,**
- **Fight against unprofessional veterinary products sellers (enforce the the existing laws),**
- **Strengthening veterinary professionals (pre-detection of altered VP, storage, surveillance and alert...)**
- **Improve the distribution chain.**



What may be the role of VSF in the WOAAH Platform

Online survey among 12 VSF country directors in Africa

If the government officially allows, VSF could directly report to the WOAAH platform



It isn't VSF role to report suspicions of FSVPs

VSF can report to the national Focal Point on Veterinary Products who in turn will decide whether to report or not

Thank you
for your
attention

