



**Veterinarians
Without Borders**

North America



2024–2025

Annual Report

One Health, One Future





Land Acknowledgement

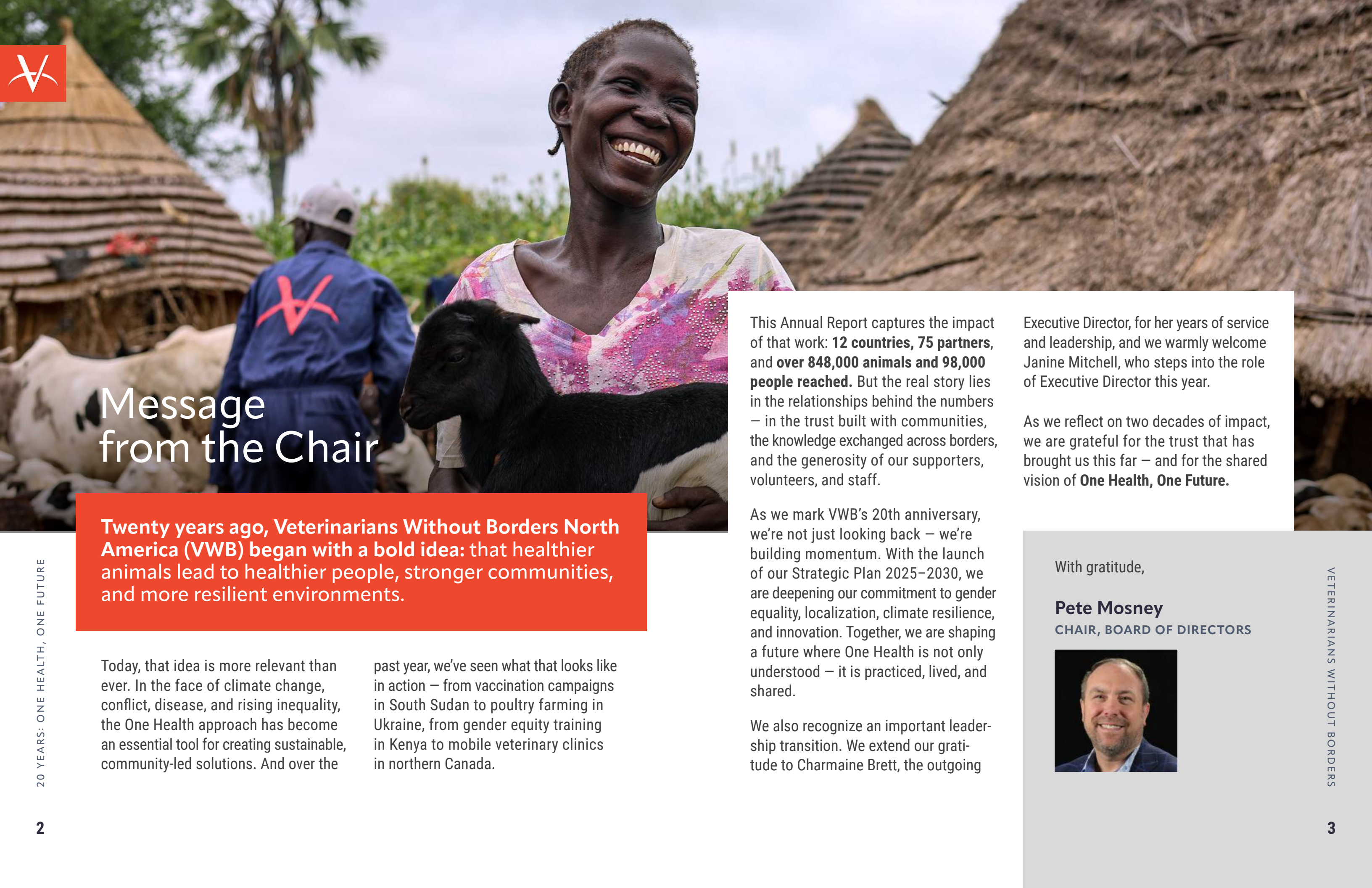
Veterinarians Without Borders North America (VWB) acknowledges that our Canadian office is located on the unceded and unsundered territories of the Anishinaabe Algonquin Nation, and our U.S. office on the traditional lands of the Onondaga and Haudenosaunee Nations. We honour the First Nations, Inuit, and Métis Peoples across whose territories our teams live and work, and we are grateful to collaborate with Indigenous communities through our Northern Animal Health Initiative. Globally, we also recognize the colonial histories and present-day legacies that shape international cooperation, and we remain committed to advancing truth, reconciliation, and participatory, locally led approaches in all our work.

PHOTOGRAPHY

This report features the work of Enric Catala (Cambodia), Timothy Doh (Ghana), Jess Holing (Rwanda), Adam Ibrahim (South Sudan), Jonathan Ijumba (Kenya), Myo Thiha Kyaw (Myanmar), and Sarah Pruys (Northern Canada), whose images capture the spirit of our work and the communities we serve.

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Message from the Chair

Twenty years ago, Veterinarians Without Borders North America (VWB) began with a bold idea: that healthier animals lead to healthier people, stronger communities, and more resilient environments.

Today, that idea is more relevant than ever. In the face of climate change, conflict, disease, and rising inequality, the One Health approach has become an essential tool for creating sustainable, community-led solutions. And over the

past year, we've seen what that looks like in action – from vaccination campaigns in South Sudan to poultry farming in Ukraine, from gender equity training in Kenya to mobile veterinary clinics in northern Canada.

This Annual Report captures the impact of that work: **12 countries, 75 partners, and over 848,000 animals and 98,000 people reached.** But the real story lies in the relationships behind the numbers – in the trust built with communities, the knowledge exchanged across borders, and the generosity of our supporters, volunteers, and staff.

As we mark VWB's 20th anniversary, we're not just looking back – we're building momentum. With the launch of our Strategic Plan 2025–2030, we are deepening our commitment to gender equality, localization, climate resilience, and innovation. Together, we are shaping a future where One Health is not only understood – it is practiced, lived, and shared.

We also recognize an important leadership transition. We extend our gratitude to Charmaine Brett, the outgoing

Executive Director, for her years of service and leadership, and we warmly welcome Janine Mitchell, who steps into the role of Executive Director this year.

As we reflect on two decades of impact, we are grateful for the trust that has brought us this far – and for the shared vision of **One Health, One Future.**

With gratitude,

Pete Mosney

CHAIR, BOARD OF DIRECTORS





Who We Are

Veterinarians Without Borders North America (VWB) is a mission-driven organization working at the intersection of animal, human, and environmental health.

Guided by a One Health approach, we partner with communities in Sub-Saharan Africa, Southeast Asia, Europe, and North America to strengthen animal health systems, support sustainable livelihoods, and improve health outcomes for all species.

We believe healthy animals lead to healthier people and more resilient environments. That’s why we integrate veterinary services, public health, environmental sustainability, and gender equity into everything we do.



Mission

To strengthen animal health and welfare to build more resilient communities.

Vision

A future where animals, communities, and eco-systems thrive sustainably through the One Health model – promoting the well-being of all life and environments through education, accessible veterinary care, local wisdom, and global collaboration.

Governance

VWB is governed by an independent **Board of Directors** that provides oversight and ensures accountability.



Theory of Change

Our One Health approach focuses on six interconnected areas:

- Disease prevention
- Integrated livelihoods
- Equitable access
- Emergency management
- Capacity strengthening
- One Health systems

Together, these pillars strengthen local capacity, foster resilience, and create lasting change.

> LEARN MORE ABOUT OUR THEORY OF CHANGE



2024–2025 By the Numbers

12 Countries	3,084 Communities (77% rural)	98,451 People Reached (54% women)	848,458 Animals Reached
33,408 Animals Treated	54 Volunteers Deployed	75 Partners Engaged	 Veterinarians Without Borders



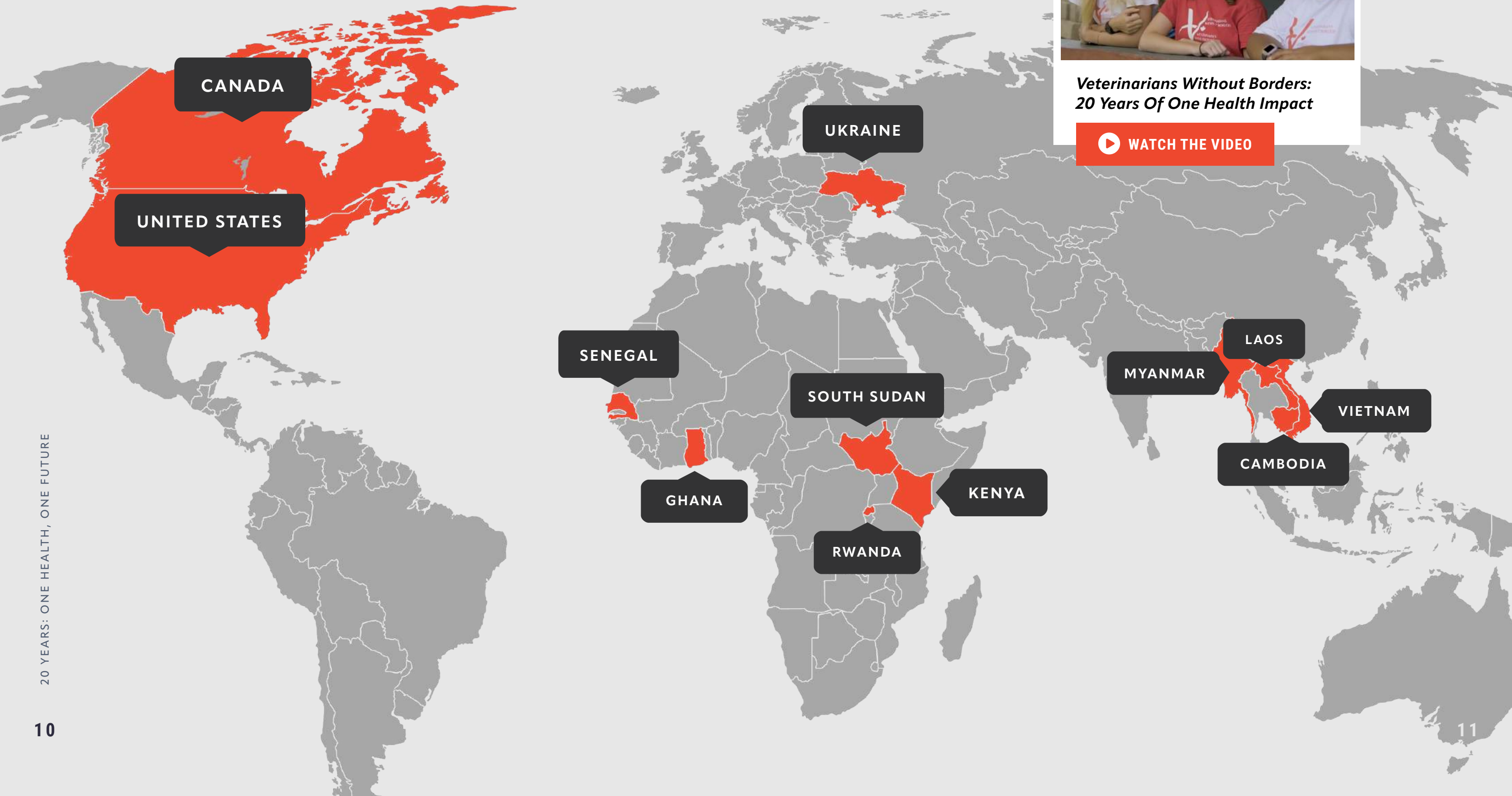


Year in Review



YEAR IN REVIEW

Where We Worked



*Veterinarians Without Borders:
20 Years Of One Health Impact*

[WATCH THE VIDEO](#)



YEAR IN REVIEW

Impact Around the World

Cambodia

Through AGROW, **830 women farmers** joined agricultural groups that strengthened technical skills, supported new enterprises, improved food security, and built leadership among women in farming communities across **48 rural villages**.



Kenya

More than **28,075 farmers** were trained in animal health, forage production, and gender-responsive practices through VETS, in partnership with Meru and Wakulima Dairies. Productivity and women's leadership in the dairy sector are on the rise.



Ukraine

Despite ongoing conflict, **440 households** strengthened food security through poultry farming support. At the same time, **75,487 dogs and cats received lifesaving care**, helping families protect both their livelihoods and beloved pets.



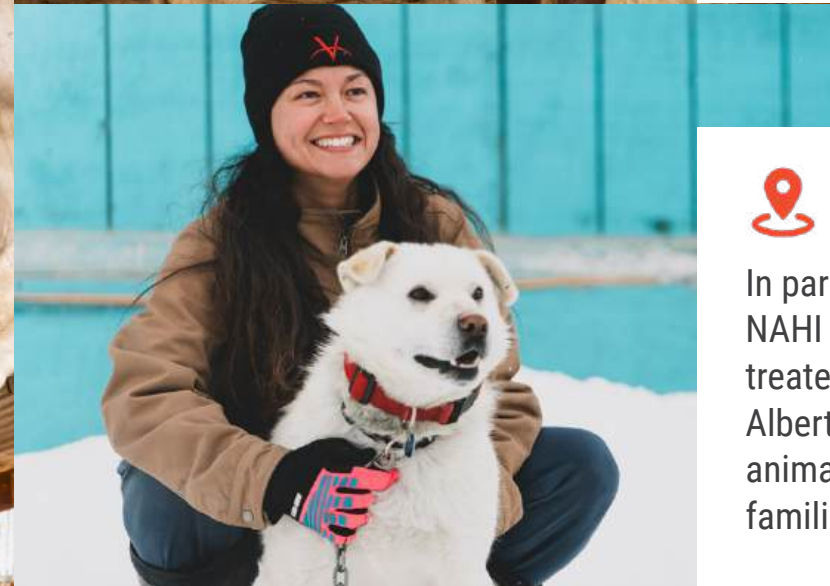
South Sudan

In conflict-affected regions, VWB reached **13,911 animals** through veterinary care and vaccination, while training **200 farmers** in zoonosis control and livestock management. These efforts met urgent needs and strengthened local capacity for long-term recovery.



Canada

In partnership with **7 Indigenous communities**, NAHI delivered **10 mobile veterinary clinics** and treated **1,351 animals**. When wildfires swept Alberta and Manitoba, VWB mobilized to protect animal health and provide urgent care for affected families and their pets.



Defining Moments

LATE 2024

Strategic Plan 2025–2030 launched, setting VWB's course for the next five years.

EARLY 2025

Preparations began for VWB's 20th anniversary, to be celebrated throughout the year.

MID 2025

Leadership transition: Charmaine Brett concluded her tenure as Executive Director, and Janine Mitchell stepped into the role.



Programs in Action



PROGRAMS IN ACTION

International Development

Smallholder farmers form the backbone of rural economies, yet they face persistent challenges: climate shocks, limited access to veterinary care, and systemic barriers to gender equality. These challenges threaten not only their animals, but also food security, incomes, and community well-being.

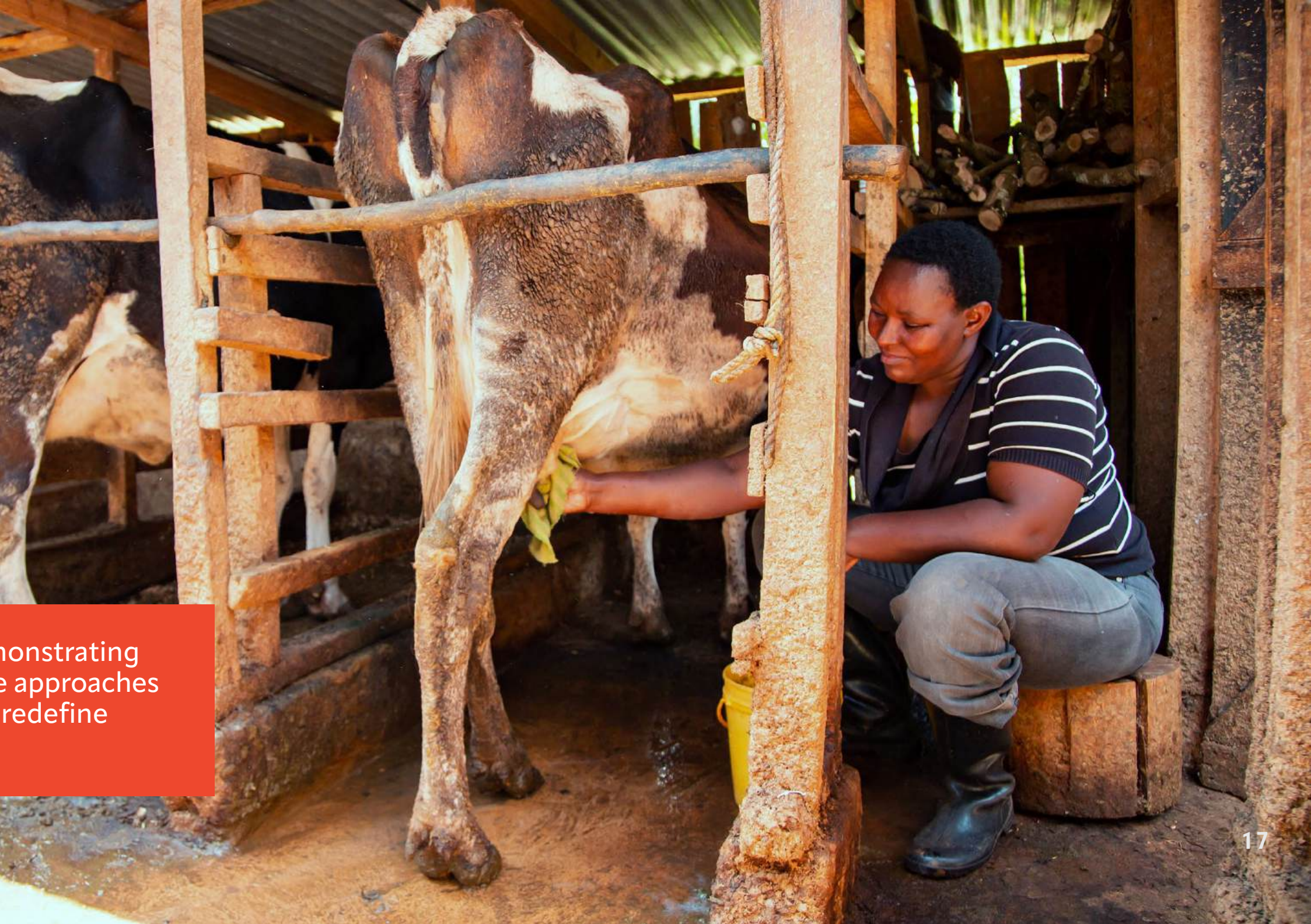
Through our International Development programs, VWB works with local partners to drive systemic, long-term change. By training farmers, empowering women, and strengthening animal health systems, we help communities adapt to climate change, improve nutrition, and secure sustainable livelihoods.

This is One Health in action, demonstrating that locally led, gender-responsive approaches don't just solve problems — they redefine what's possible.



*"I've gained knowledge in calf rearing and dairy cow management that has increased my milk production **from less than 10 litres to 30 litres per cow per day**. This has also empowered me to help my community improve their farming practices."*

MERCY MWANGI
VETS participant and Community One Health Champion, Kenya





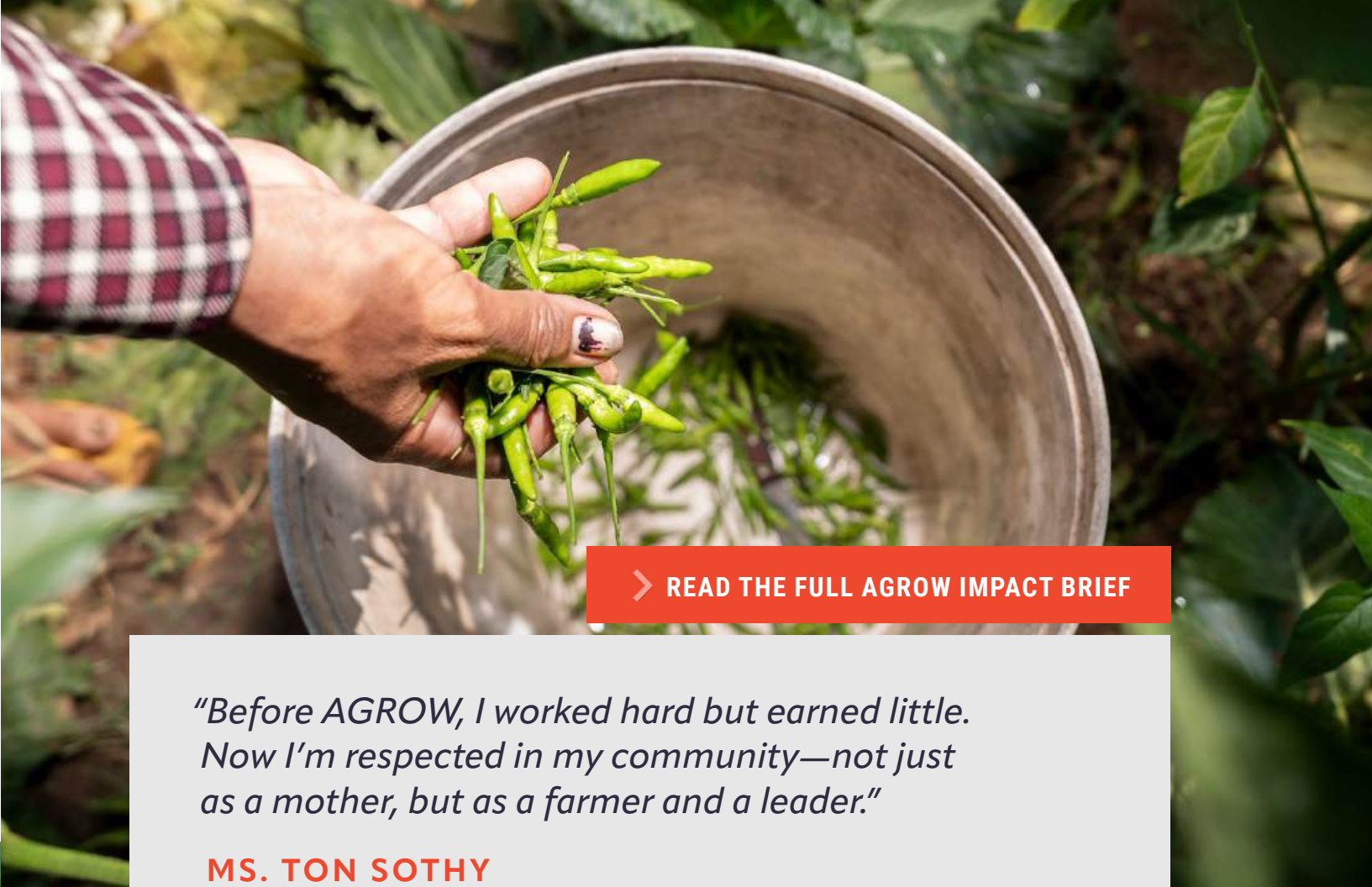
AGROW: Agriculture-Based Growth and Resilience Opportunities for Women

From January 2022 to December 2024, AGROW transformed farming communities in Cambodia’s Battambang Province by empowering women, strengthening food systems, and promoting climate-smart, One Health solutions. Delivered with local partners and funded by Global Affairs Canada, the program supported 21,360 people—59% of them women—across 48 rural villages.

Through cricket, chicken, cattle, and vegetable farming, women gained new ways to feed their families and grow reliable incomes. Demonstration farms showcased eco-friendly practices, while 48 women-led groups became hubs for agricultural enterprise, leadership, and mutual support.

The results speak for themselves: vegetable yields more than doubled, incomes tripled, and resilience scores among farmers rose from 5.5 to 17.4.

Women not only grew food—but also self-confidence, community leadership, and the foundations for long-term change.



[> READ THE FULL AGROW IMPACT BRIEF](#)

“Before AGROW, I worked hard but earned little. Now I’m respected in my community—not just as a mother, but as a farmer and a leader.”

MS. TON SOTHY
AGROW participant, Cambodia

AGROW 2024-2025 Impact Highlights	21,360 people reached (59% women)	42,256 livestock vaccinated or treated	185 animal health trainees, including 48 VAHWs
	12 One Health Demonstration Sites created	117% increase in vegetable yields	300% increase in poultry and cricket income



COHERS: Community One Health Empowerment in Rwanda and Senegal

From pig pens in Rwanda to cattle kraals in Senegal, the COHERS program is re-shaping how communities prevent disease and protect their futures. At the heart of the initiative are local leaders—trained One Health Team (OHT) members and Community Hygiene Club (CHC) facilitators—who are building a grassroots shield against zoonotic disease and poor sanitation.



"Since my training, I know that clean hands, healthy pigs, and shared responsibilities between husbands and wives all matter. One Health has changed how I care for my family—and how I guide others to protect theirs."

LOUISE MUKARUGWIZA

OHT Member, Rwanda

Across 145 villages in Nyamagabe District (Rwanda) and the Kédougou and Vélingara Departments (Senegal), these local teams are tackling some of the region's most persistent health threats—cysticercosis and anthrax—diseases that disproportionately affect women and girls due to their central roles in livestock care, water, and food preparation.

With support from local and international partners, OHTs and CHCs are promoting community hygiene, facilitating animal vaccinations, conducting disease surveillance, and raising awareness about the human-animal-environment connection. Gender equity is embedded throughout, ensuring women are empowered not only as participants but as leaders in building community resilience.



COHERS 2024-2025 Impact Highlights

RWANDA

- 85** villages supported through local One Health Teams (OHTs)
- 255** OHT members trained (125 women)
- 100** Community Hygiene Club (CHC) facilitators trained
- 2,213** household surveillance surveys conducted
- 503** women-headed households identified for sanitation support

SENEGAL

- 60** villages supported through local One Health Teams (OHTs)
- 300** OHT members trained (125 women)
- 3,891** animals vaccinated and treated
- 50** community leaders trained in gender and leadership (72% women)



VETS: Volunteers Engaged in Gender-Responsive Technical Solutions

From Kenya to Cambodia, VETS volunteers and local partners are supporting communities to reimagine what’s possible when animal, human, and environmental health are seen as interconnected.

In its fifth year, the VETS program mobilized Canadian volunteers to collaborate alongside local organizations in Ghana,

Kenya, Cambodia, and Laos. Through hands-on training, capacity building and innovative solutions—like the FAO mobile app for zoonotic disease detection and the Gender Model Family approach—VETS is empowering women, supporting smallholder farmers, and strengthening community systems, one volunteer and partner at a time.



“Through VETS, I learned directly from women to understand how they balance farm work and gendered household responsibilities. By opening conversations with farmers about sharing tasks, men recognized that supporting women isn’t just about fairness—it strengthens the whole farm. That’s the power of VETS: creating change that lifts families and communities together.”

MADALYN NIELSEN
Gender Advisor, Kenya (2024)

*“My work in Laos reinforced my belief that **climate action must be both gender-responsive and community-led**. Working alongside farmers and local leaders, I saw how simple, practical strategies—like diversifying crops or improving soil health—can transform livelihoods. Volunteering with VETS has deepened my commitment to climate justice.”*

ZAINAB BAQIRI
Climate Change Advisor,
Laos (2024)

*“Supporting women poultry farmers in Ghana as a Business Development Advisor showed me that **entrepreneurship and animal health go hand in hand**. Helping farmers strengthen their cooperatives, access markets, and see their poultry as a business was as important as vaccines or feed. The VETS program empowers communities to build lasting livelihoods.”*

GUY AUDET
Business Development Advisor,
Ghana (2025)



VETS 2024-2025 Impact Highlights

1,914	95,051	93,817
communities supported	people reached	smallholder farmers supported
753,957	25,461	33
animals reached	animals treated	volunteers deployed
32,321	127	61
people trained in zoonosis detection and control	community-based gender trainings conducted	One Health trainings delivered to partner staff



Humanitarian & Emergency Response

In times of crisis, VWB responds with urgent care for animals and communities—but our approach goes further. From war zones to climate disasters, we integrate development principles into emergency response to protect lives today and build resilience for tomorrow.

Whether supporting poultry farmers in Ukraine, training CAHWs in South Sudan, or delivering aid after an earthquake in Myanmar, we work with local partners to restore food systems, strengthen animal health services, safeguard livelihoods, and uphold the human-animal bond in moments of profound disruption.

This is One Health on the frontlines, proving that even in crisis, community-led action can lay the foundation for lasting recovery.



“Humanitarian relief is about meeting immediate needs, but it’s also about laying the groundwork for sustainable futures.”

TABAN KAPS ROBERT
VWB Program Manager, South Sudan



South Sudan: Building Resilience Through Livestock and Local Leadership

South Sudan faces extreme food insecurity, with 62% of the population affected by acute hunger—driven by climate shocks, conflict, economic instability, and limited access to health services. Weak animal health systems, poor husbandry practices, and gender gaps in livestock access further limit communities' ability to prevent, detect, and respond to disease threats.

That's why our current project, **Strengthening One Health Systems for the Protection of Health and Livelihoods (1-SHOP)**, is working to build resilience for the long term. Funded by the Zoetis Foundation and running from March 2024 through February 2026, 1-SHOP is improving access to animal health services, strengthening community-based surveillance, and enhancing environmental and human health outcomes for pastoralist communities in Torit County, Eastern Equatoria State.

Rooted in a One Health approach, 1-SHOP empowers local actors to lead—training CAHWs, forming One Health Teams, and developing community action plans. The project also trains farmers, especially women, in livestock management and disease prevention, while supporting women leaders in food safety, hygiene, and livestock product handling. In its first year, 1-SHOP launched a community-based disease surveillance system, trained 20 CAHWs, vaccinated and treated 13,911 animals, distributed 800 goats to 400 vulnerable families, and reached over 1,100 community members (62% women) with zoonotic disease prevention messaging.

1-SHOP builds on the success of our previous Zoetis-funded project, **Building Livelihood Resilience for Income Security and Dignified Life (BLR)**, which ran from March 2023 to February 2024 and



*"Caring for animals in my community is a source of pride. When someone's goat falls ill, **I now have the skills to help**—and that makes a big difference for families."*

SUSAN ITWARI BENJAMIN
Community Animal Health Worker,
Torit County

laid a powerful foundation for what's to come. That first phase expanded veterinary services, delivered 2,200 animals to 550 vulnerable households, vaccinated 12,842 livestock, and reached more than 2,600 households with awareness campaigns on zoonotic disease prevention.

[Read the full BLR project brief.](#)

1-SHOP 2024-2025 Impact Highlights

4
One Health Teams (OHTs) formed

20
CAHWs trained and equipped to provide veterinary services

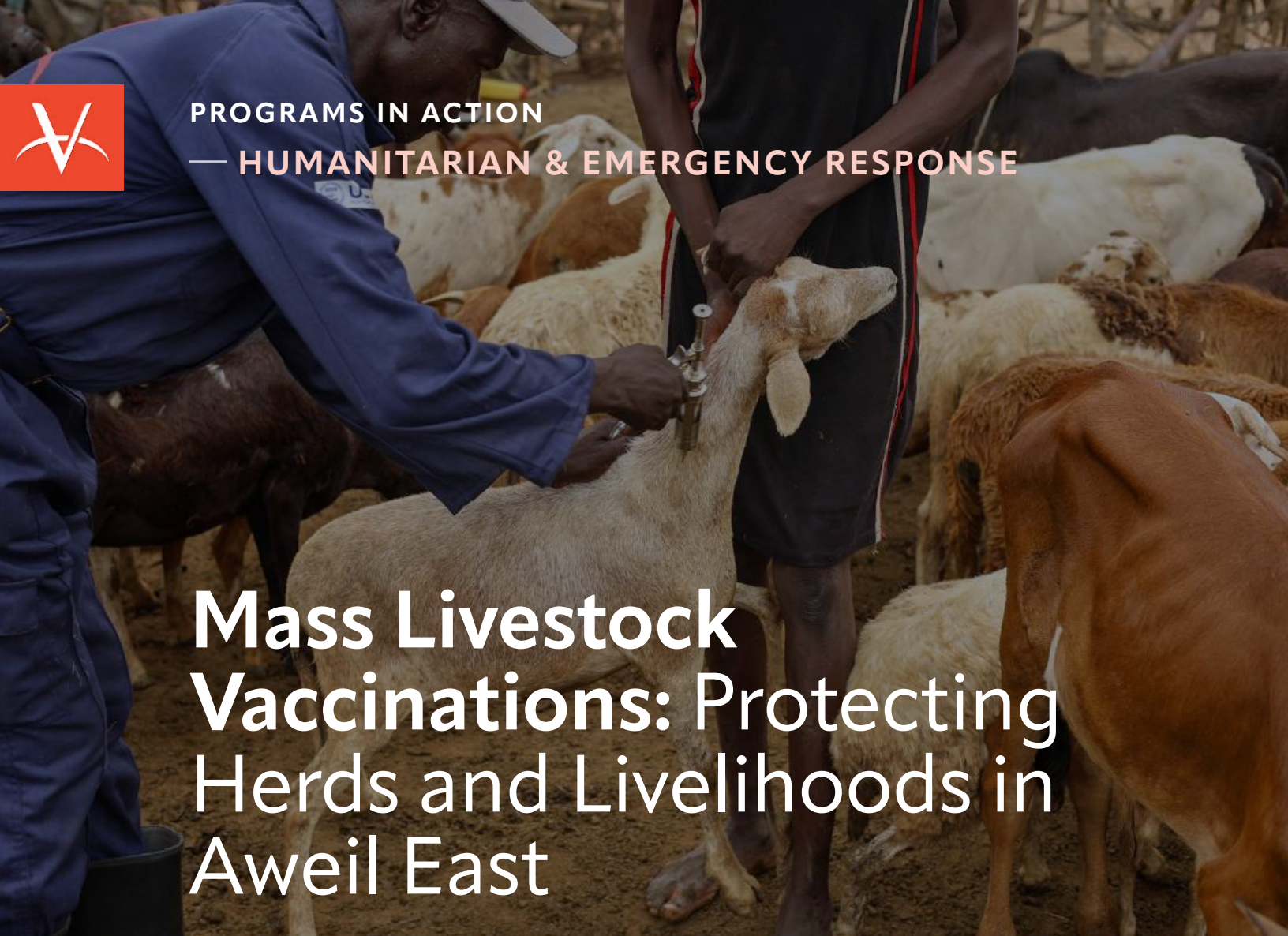
13,911
livestock vaccinated, supporting 2,300 vulnerable households

1,144
community members reached through zoonotic disease awareness campaigns

800
goats distributed to 400 farmers

200
farmers trained in best livestock management practices

60
women trained in food safety and hygiene practices to reduce zoonotic risks



Mass Livestock Vaccinations: Protecting Herds and Livelihoods in Aweil East

In 2024, VWB conducted two emergency vaccination campaigns in Aweil East, Northern Bahr el Ghazal, in partnership with Action Against Hunger USA, under a broader integrated emergency response funded by USAID's Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).

Together, the two 2-week campaigns reached over 116,000 animals with life-saving vaccines against diseases such as Anthrax, Haemorrhagic Septicaemia, Peste des Petits Ruminants, Contagious Bovine Pleuropneumonia, and Sheep and Goat Pox—helping

protect hundreds of families who rely on livestock for food, income, and survival. A key component of the campaigns was the active involvement of 40 Community Animal Health Workers (CAHWs), trained and supported by VWB, who helped close dangerous gaps in veterinary care.

As part of a larger One Health effort, these lifesaving interventions are reducing livestock mortality, improving nutrition, and restoring livelihoods in some of South Sudan's most vulnerable communities.

Locusts & Pests: A Rapid One Health Response to Climate-Driven Crisis

Between June and September 2024, outbreaks of desert locusts, fall armyworm, and other crop pests devastated harvests in Northern Bahr el Ghazal, exacerbating food insecurity in one of South Sudan's most vulnerable regions. In response, VWB launched the **Emergency Locust and Other Pests Response (ELRP)** project, funded by the FAO, to equip farming and pastoralist communities with the tools and training they needed to withstand the shock. Working across Aweil North, the project

distributed agricultural kits to 3,000 vulnerable households, established 8 demonstration plots, and trained 240 farmers in push-and-pull technology, post-harvest handling, pest surveillance, food processing, and climate-smart farming. By linking crop protection with One Health principles and community-based capacity building, the ELRP helped stabilize livelihoods, mitigate future pest risks, and protect food security in a time of crisis.

[➤ READ THE FULL ELRP PROJECT BRIEF](#)





UKRAINE: Supporting Animals and Communities in Crisis

Now in its third year, VWB's Ukraine program continues to respond to the urgent needs of war-affected animals and communities—working in frontline regions such as Kharkiv and in neighbouring areas like Poltava, which now host thousands of displaced families—while building foundations for recovery and resilience.

Working with 28 local partners, we provided veterinary care, pet food, and shelter support, reaching 81,126 animals and supporting 978 communities. Beyond emergency relief, our poultry

farming initiative helped 371 women-led households rebuild their livelihoods, distributing 8,800 chicks and reaching 440 people across 25 communities. Additionally, through telehealth, webinars, and peer learning, Ukrainian and Canadian professionals shared knowledge and strengthened animal care systems under extreme pressure.

Whether offering immediate care or planting the seeds of self-reliance, our Ukraine program reflects a simple belief: animals are family—and protecting them protects communities.

"In overcrowded shelters near the front-line, every vaccine, every bag of food helps prevent outbreaks that could harm animals and people alike. With VWB's support, we're not just caring for pets—we're protecting public health."

IRYNA PODVOYSKA (DVM)
Director, Patron Pet Center, Ukraine



Ukraine 2024-2025 Impact Highlights

COMPANION ANIMAL SUPPORT

- 81,126 animals reached
- 4,594 — animals treated (including spay/neuter)
- 978 — communities supported
- 730 — telehealth consultations delivered
- 133 — tonnes of pet food delivered
- 28 — local animal welfare partners engaged

POULTRY FARMING INITIATIVE

- 8,800 — chicks distributed
- 440 — people reached (84% women)
- 371 — women headed households with improved poultry production
- 25 — poultry farming communities supported

Myanmar Earthquake Response: One Health in the Wake of Disaster

When a 7.7-magnitude earthquake struck central Myanmar on March 28, 2025, it toppled homes, fractured clinics, and left over a million people displaced. In the first 30 days, VWB mobilized a rapid **One Health response** with two trusted local partners—Sopyay Myanmar Development Organization (SMDO) and Let's Save the Strays International (LSTSI)—delivering urgent aid to both people and animals in crisis.

SMDO provided dignity kits to 564 women, cash transfers to 28 displaced families,

"My house is gone, and we sleep in the monastery now. With the money, I bought food for my children. We are surviving because someone remembered us."

EARTHQUAKE SURVIVOR
SMDO cash transfer recipient, Mandalay

and food supplies across Mandalay and Nyaungshwe. Meanwhile, LSTSI treated injured animals around the clock, vaccinated hundreds to prevent rabies, repaired damaged clinics, and distributed thousands of kilograms of food to pets and strays left behind in the rubble.

While full implementation continues into 2025–2026, these first 30 days demonstrate the power of community-led action—even amid collapse.



PROGRAMS IN ACTION

Companion Animal Health

Across the globe, companion animals are deeply woven into the fabric of community life. Yet too often, veterinary care is out of reach. From Arctic communities without access to veterinarians to regions affected by disaster or conflict, the absence of accessible animal health services threatens both animal welfare and public health.

Through our Companion Animal Health programming, VWB responds to community invitations and urgent needs with practical, compassionate solutions. We support northern and Indigenous partners through mobile veterinary clinics, train lay vaccinators to stop the spread of rabies, and pilot telehealth systems to bridge the care gap. And in emergencies, we deliver food, treatment, and shelter for pets and strays — recognizing the human-animal bond as a critical pillar of resilience.

This is One Health with heart, showing what's possible when dignity, access, and care go hand in paw.



"The heart of this work is partnership. Every community visit, every clinic starts with trust—listening first and working alongside communities to support lasting solutions for people and their animals."

DR. MICHELLE TUMA

Northern Canada Veterinary Specialist, VWB



NAHI: Northern Animal Health Initiative

Access to veterinary care across northern Canada remains a challenge. Many remote communities—especially in Nunavut and the Northwest Territories—lack permanent veterinary clinics and may wait months or even years between visits. This puts animals and people at risk, particularly in areas where rabies is endemic and where dog bites from unvaccinated animals can carry serious consequences.

NAHI was created in response to community invitations. Guided by the One Health model, VWB partners with northern and Indigenous communities to deliver mobile veterinary clinics, lay vaccinator training, rabies education, and telehealth support. Volunteers and staff travel by ice road, bush plane, and boat to reach the most remote locations—building long-term relationships grounded in respect, cultural safety, and trust.



NAHI 2024-2025 Impact Highlights

816

people reached

1,351

animals treated

640

animals vaccinated against rabies

21

volunteer veterinarians deployed

10

mobile veterinary clinics conducted in remote communities

51

animals supported via telehealth consultation

22

One Health activities facilitated (e.g., community events, school visits)

31

local partners engaged



“Sustainable animal health in the North means empowering communities with the tools, training, and confidence to care for their animals year-round. But it’s about more than vet services — it’s about trust, dignity, and meeting people where they are.”

BRONWYN BUSH
NAHI volunteer veterinary technologist



Pilot Partnership: From Northern Canada to Rural Alaska

In January 2025, NAHI crossed a new frontier—delivering its first veterinary clinic in remote Alaska. Partnering with the Hub Outpost Project (HOP), led by Colorado State University and the University of Alaska Fairbanks, VWB joined a U.S.-based veterinary team to reach St. Mary’s, a fly-in village in the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta. Working from the local fire hall, the team vaccinated 28 dogs, performed 18 spay/neuter surgeries, visited local schools to discuss animal health and veterinary careers,

and met with Alaska Indigenous leaders and public health officials to explore long-term collaboration.

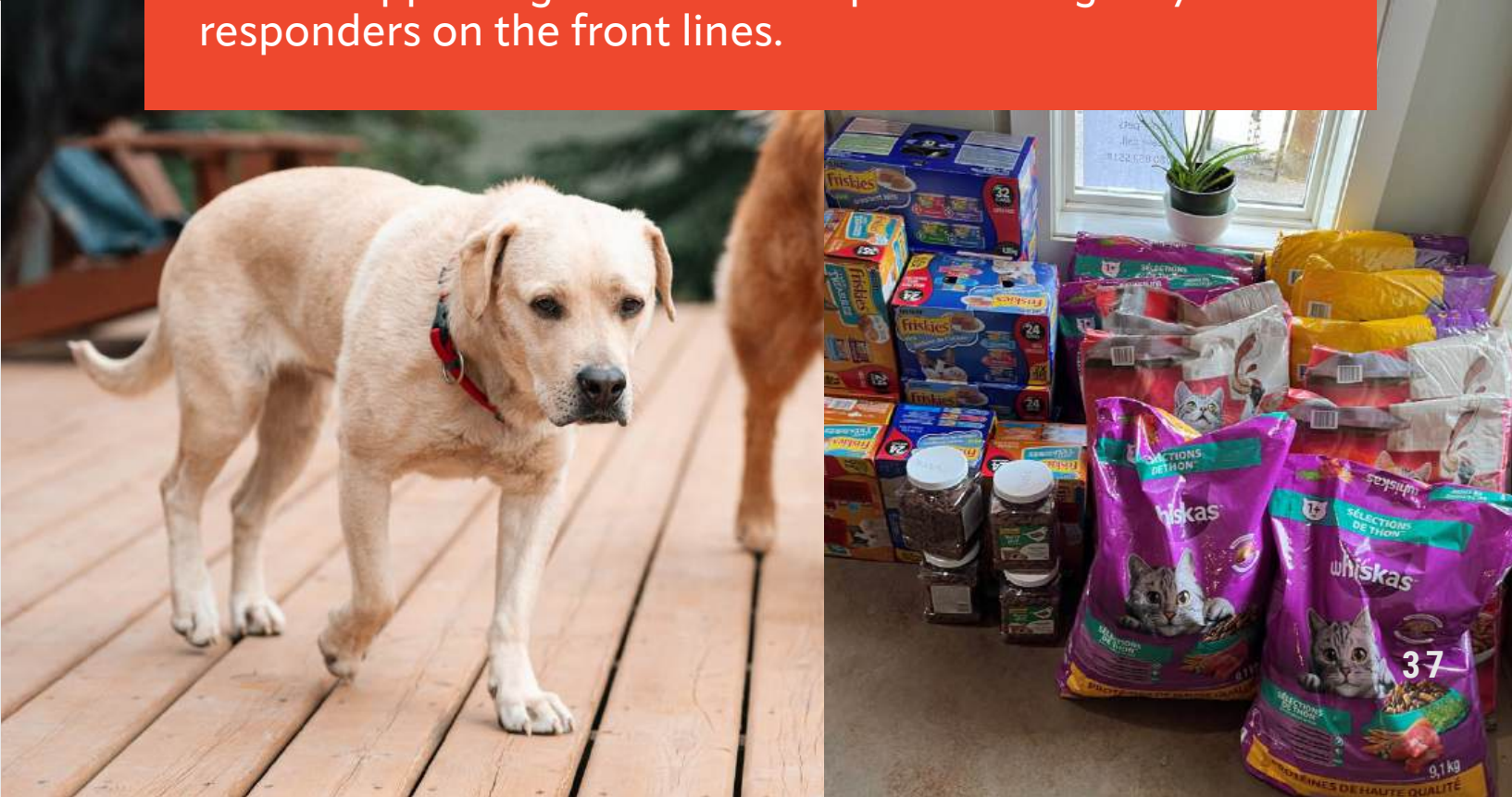
This pilot partnership laid the groundwork for deeper collaboration and a shared vision: building sustainable, community-driven animal health services across northern North America.

Wildfire Response: Emergency Aid for Pets Amid Evacuations

During the summer 2024 wildfires across western Canada, VWB mobilized urgent support for pets left behind and the people caring for them. In Jasper, Alberta—where fires destroyed one-third of the town, including its only veterinary clinic—VWB partnered with Animal HealthLink and the Hinton & District SPCA to deliver tele-triage services and critical supplies to shelters and evacuees.

At the same time, VWB responded to urgent requests from Fort Good Hope (NWT) and Oxford House (MB), sending over 1,000 lbs of dog food to each location. With the help of RCMP officers and community members who remained behind, more than 100 dogs received life-saving nutrition during evacuations.

This coordinated response reflects VWB’s commitment to safeguarding companion animals during crises—and to supporting local leadership and emergency responders on the front lines.





Spotlight Stories

Behind every program are people whose choices and determination create lasting change. Their stories remind us that resilience, gender equality, and local action are the **forces that move One Health forward.**



Seeds of Change: San Davy's Transformation



*"My farm means food,
income, and a better
future."*

SAN DAVY

AGROW program
participant, Cambodia

In Battambang province, Cambodia, 34-year-old farmer and mother San Davy has turned hardship into hope. Once separated from her husband by labour migration and struggling to support her family with a small laundry business, her life changed when she joined the AGROW program. From 2022 to 2024, AGROW trained 16,201 women to build resilient farms and stable incomes.

Through training in sustainable vegetable production and cricket farming, San Davy transformed her modest plot into a thriving farm. Today, she grows spinach, garlic, lemongrass, papaya, and bananas

all cultivated with eco-friendly practices. Her crickets provide protein for her family and extra income for school fees.

***"I am so happy that I don't have to work in Thailand anymore," she says.
"Because of my farming, I can stay near my children and care for them myself."***

Now San Davy's success inspires other women in her village to follow her lead.



Watch our video of San Davy to
hear her story in her own words.

SPOTLIGHT STORIES

Farm to Future: Ruth Wakariti's Journey

In Nyeri County, Kenya, Ruth Wakariti begins her day before dawn, balancing dairy farming with caring for her seven children. Through the VETS program and Wakulima Dairy, she has transformed her small farm into a model of resilience and leadership. She is one of 5,296 farmers in Nyeri County trained in 2024–25, gaining knowledge to boost productivity and build more secure livelihoods.

Through training, Ruth learned improved calf rearing, fodder management, and cow comfort practices. By adopting new forage crops and dry cow protocols, she boosted milk yields and strengthened the health of her herd.

"The training has been so important for our farm," Ruth says. "Now our cows are healthier and producing more."

As a Lead Farmer, Ruth shares her knowledge with neighbours, inspiring other women to step into leadership. With support from her husband Elias, she is showing how families and communities can thrive through dairy farming.

"Working together makes our farm and family stronger."

RUTH WAKARITI
VETS program participant, Kenya



"Raising poultry has given us both food and hope."

KARINA VOLKOVA
Livelihoods program
participant, Ukraine

Poultry and Possibility: Karina Volkova's Resilience

In the war-affected Kharkiv region of Ukraine, Karina Volkova has turned poultry farming into a pathway for survival and stability. Before joining VWB's poultry initiative, the war had left her family struggling to meet even basic needs. She is one of 371 women farmers trained through the program, which helps families rebuild livelihoods in the midst of conflict.

Karina now raises 100 broilers in five cycles each year, providing nutritious food for her children and selling the surplus at market. By adopting intensive

farming techniques and smoking poultry or value-added products, she has transformed a small flock into a growing business.

"With poultry, I can provide for my children and plan ahead," Karina explains. "These chickens represent our future."

Karina's success is one of hundreds across Ukraine. Families like hers are not only rebuilding livelihoods during war but also strengthening local markets and restoring a sense of stability for their communities.



Partnerships & Volunteers



PARTNERSHIPS & VOLUNTEERS

VWB’s impact is made possible by the people and organizations who walk alongside us – volunteers who share their skills across borders, and partners who invest in long-term change. This year, we celebrate the individuals, institutions, and shared values that make our work not only possible, but powerful.

2024-2025
By the
Numbers

54
volunteers
deployed

75
partners
engaged

PARTNER VALUE STATEMENT

VWB works with more than 75 partners worldwide and is deeply committed to localization and sustainability. We believe lasting change comes from within communities – that’s why we prioritize collaboration with local organizations, elevate local leadership in decision-making, and support community-driven One Health solutions that meet the diverse needs of animals and people alike.

Donor Highlight:
Zoetis Foundation

The **Zoetis Foundation** is dedicated to advancing opportunities for veterinarians and livestock farmers worldwide, with a focus on education, mental well-being, and livelihoods. The Foundation’s commitment to building resilient communities is evident in the way it invests in long-term partnerships that support those who care for animals while strengthening animal health.

In South Sudan, grant funding from the Zoetis Foundation is helping livestock farmers in Torit County build thriving livelihoods and food security through a One Health approach that strengthens the prevention, detection, and response to zoonotic diseases.

We are proud to recognize the Zoetis Foundation as a partner whose generosity, vision, and dedication to global collaboration make a lasting difference for people, animals, and the environments they share.

“The health of people, animals, and the planet are inextricably linked. That’s why the Zoetis Foundation supports holistic, long-term solutions that strengthen veterinary services, improve livestock resilience, and support livelihoods. We’re proud to partner with VWB to advance these goals in South Sudan.”

CHARLOTTE HERZAN
Director, Corporate Citizenship & Strategic Initiatives, Zoetis





Volunteer of the Year: Dr. Keisha Harris

In 2024, VWB was proud to honour Dr. Keisha Harris as our VETS Volunteer of the Year. Through the Emerging Leaders Program and multiple short-term placements, Keisha demonstrated exceptional dedication to advancing One Health and inspiring the next generation of volunteers. She stepped into a leadership role as a VETS Technical Advisor and shared her experiences widely through webinars, presentations, and articles.

Beyond her work with VWB, Keisha co-founded Canadian VIBE (Veterinary professionals Instilling Black Excellence) to champion diversity and inclusion in the veterinary profession. While pursuing her Master of Public Health at the University of Guelph, she continues to combine her passions for animal health, human well-being, and environmental stewardship.

Her leadership, advocacy, and commitment to equity made her a standout



"It's truly humbling to be recognized in this manner, especially considering how fortunate I feel to contribute to such a meaningful cause and organization."

DR. KEISHA HARRIS

recipient of the 2024 VETS Volunteer of the Year Award, which was presented in June at the Canadian Veterinary Medical Association Convention (CVMA) in Calgary.

Study Tour Spotlight: Building Global Connections

In April–May 2024, 16 representatives from VWB's VETS partner organizations in Ghana, Kenya, Laos, Cambodia, and Vietnam travelled to Canada for a two-week Study Tour in Ottawa and Charlottetown. Hosted with partners including the University of Prince Edward Island's (PEI's) Atlantic Veterinary College, the program blended interactive sessions with farm and research site visits.

From food safety at the Canadian Food Inspection Agency to climate adaptation at PEI's Centre for Climate Change, participants gained new insights in areas such

as One Health, gender equality, and volunteer management. Farm visits inspired practical approaches to live-stock care and value-added products, while cross-cultural exchanges deepened networks across continents.

The Study Tour strengthened ties between Canadian farmers, government and academic institutions, and overseas partners—highlighting the power of collaboration, knowledge exchange, and Canada's role in advancing One Health globally.

"Every session had so much to learn, not only from the content, but from the experiences of the facilitators and co-participants." CARE INTERNATIONAL IN LAO PDR





Financials





Veterinarians Without Borders North America is committed to the highest standards of transparency, accountability, and financial stewardship. Every dollar entrusted to us helps create lasting impact for animals, people, and the environments we share.

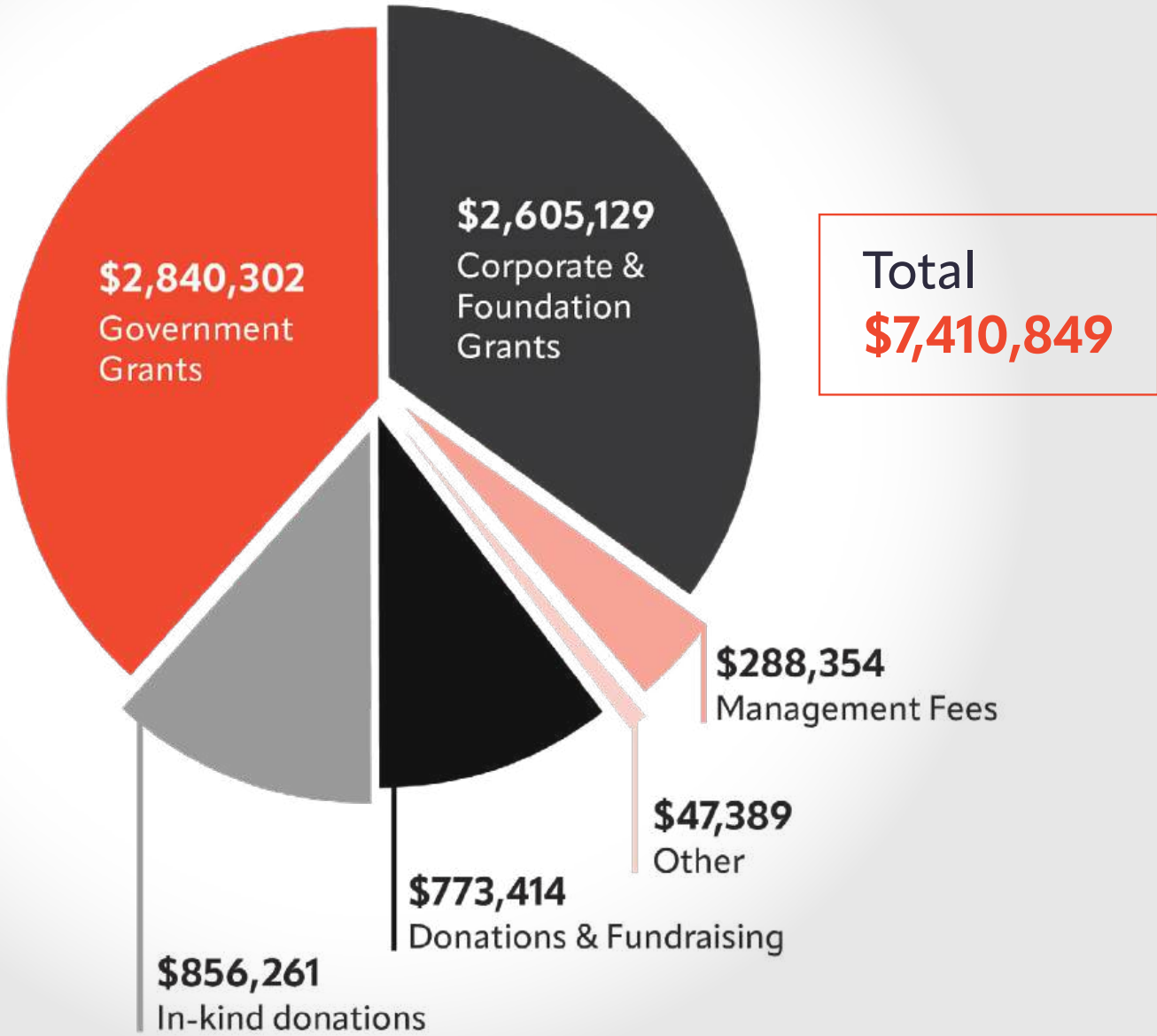
ACCOUNTABILITY AND STEWARDSHIP

As a registered charity, VWB/VSF Canada adheres to rigorous financial management practices, annual audits, and transparent reporting. Our most recent **audited financial statements** are available [on our website](#). We are deeply grateful to the individuals and institutions whose trust and generosity make our mission possible.



Revenue

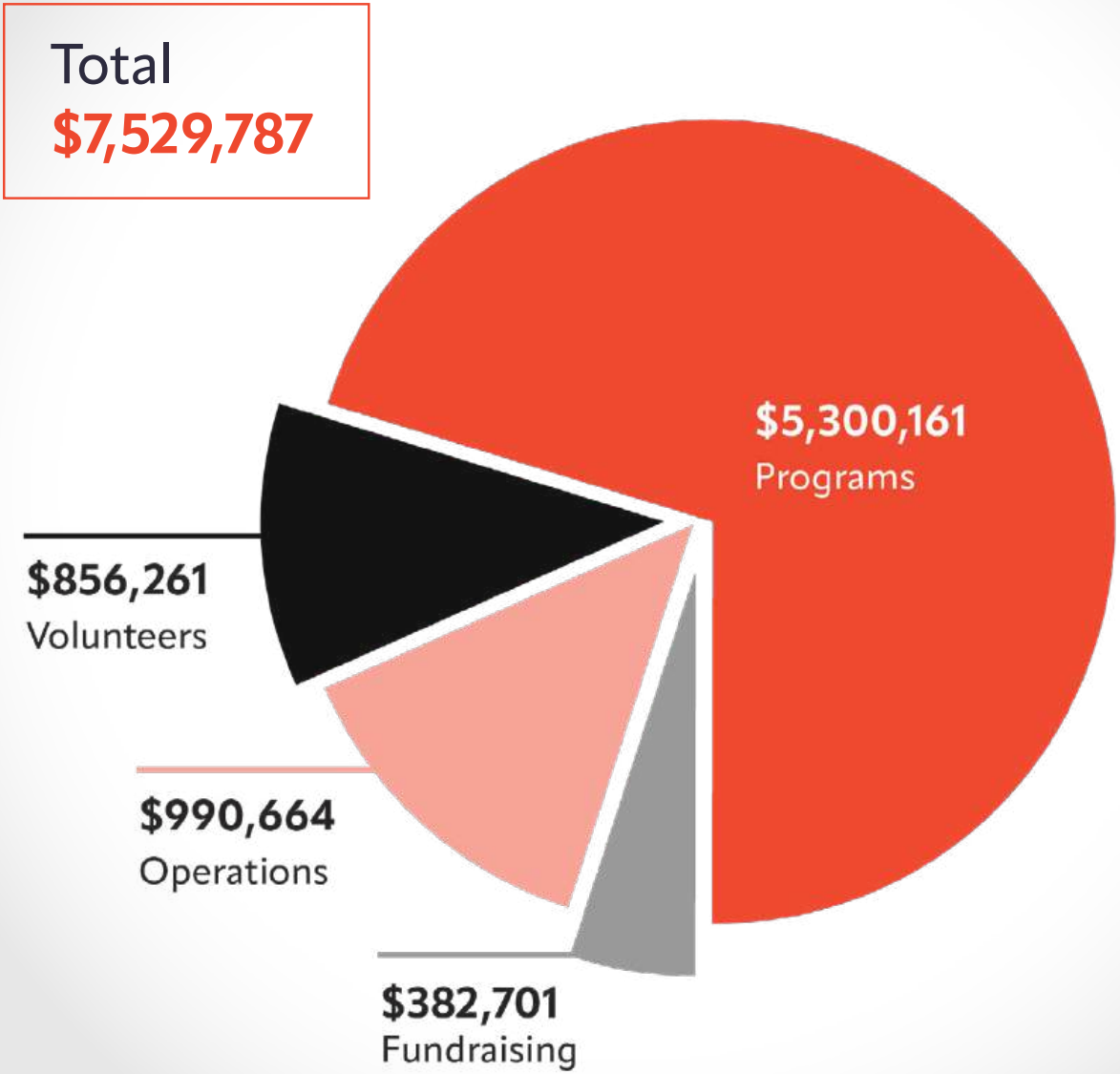
In 2024–2025, VWB generated revenue through a mix of government grants, foundations, corporate partnerships, and individual giving. These diverse funding streams strengthen our ability to deliver sustainable, community-led One Health solutions across four continents.





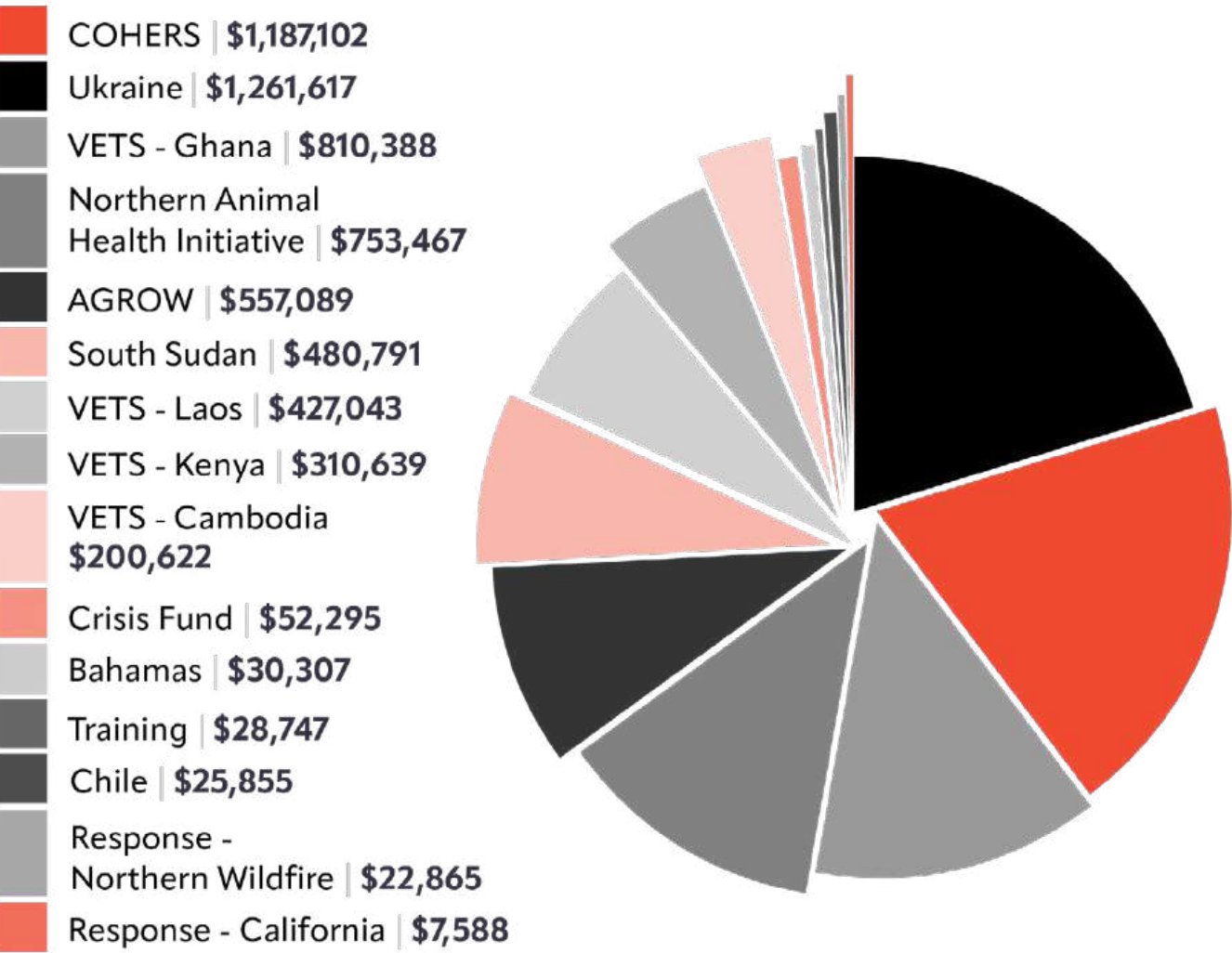
How Funds Were Used

The majority of funds raised were directed toward program delivery, ensuring that vital resources reached the communities and partners we serve. Supporting costs for administration and fundraising ensure the systems, staff, and sustainability that make this work possible.



Program vs. Operations Breakdown

Program delivery accounted for the largest share of expenditures, reflecting our commitment to efficient, mission-driven impact. Our cost of fundraising was **12.53%**, demonstrating responsible stewardship and donor value. This figure reflects individual giving costs and excludes government and institutional grants.





Looking Ahead





LOOKING AHEAD

As I step into the role of Executive Director, I am inspired by the foundation that has been built over the past two decades.

Veterinarians Without Borders North America has grown from a small organization with a bold vision into a trusted partner delivering impact across four continents.

Our new Strategic Plan 2025–2030 calls us to carry this work forward through a One Health approach that places equity and decolonization at the centre – in Canada and globally. This means recognizing the knowledge and leadership that already exist in communities, shifting power and resources to where they are most needed, and ensuring that women, youth, and Indigenous voices are not only included but are driving the solutions.

Marking our 20th anniversary is both a celebration and a responsibility. It is a moment to reflect on the privileges and systems that have shaped our sector, and to commit ourselves to doing better—building approaches that are not only innovative but also inclusive, just, and community-led.

With your support, we will continue to:

- **Scale up programs** that strengthen climate resilience, food security, and livelihoods through local leadership.
- **Stand alongside communities in crisis**, while investing in pathways to long-term recovery and resilience.
- **Challenge ourselves to innovate responsibly**, ensuring new approaches are grounded in evidence, equity, and respect.

I am honoured to join VWB at this pivotal moment. Together, we can make the next 20 years even more impactful—advancing our vision of healthier animals, people, and environments around the globe.

With gratitude,

Janine Mitchell

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Our Ambition for 2030

Expand One Health programming in at least 2 core countries and 6 Indigenous communities.

Improve animal health and food security by expanding CAHW models, piloting new technologies, and scaling access to veterinary care in underserved regions.

Strengthen emergency response capacity by embedding disease surveillance and disaster preparedness across programs in Canada and globally.

Embody localization for sustainability by supporting 10 local partner organizations to lead One Health initiatives.

CROSS-CUTTING COMMITMENTS

- **Gender equality**
- **Climate action and environmental sustainability**
- **Localization and equity**
- **Innovation and knowledge exchange**

> READ VWB'S FULL STRATEGIC PLAN 2025–2030



In Gratitude

As we look back on 20 years of impact, we are grateful for the supporters who have made this journey possible—and for the shared vision of One Health, One Future. Whether through generous gifts, strategic guidance, or community-based partnership, your commitment has helped shape a future where the well-being of animals, people, and the environment are deeply connected.

A Note of Thanks to All Supporters

Veterinarians Without Borders acknowledges with heartfelt appreciation all those who stood with us this year—individual donors, volunteers, corporate partners, foundations, and community champions across the globe. While we are unable to list every name here, please know that your support has left an indelible mark on our work and on the communities we serve.

OUR INSTITUTIONAL DONORS

We extend special thanks to our institutional donors whose generous contributions made our programs possible in 2024–2025.

- Action Against Hunger
- Angel Gabriel Foundation
- Animal Welfare Foundation of Canada
- CanFel Foundation
- Community Foundation for Kingston & Area
- Construction and General Workers Local Union #180
- Donald Loewen & Louise Neveu
- Fitzhenry Family Foundation
- Food and Agricultural Organization
- Four Feet Companion Foundation
- Global Affairs Canada
- Moore Foundation
- NWT Brewing Company LTD.
- PetSmart Charities
- The Eric S. Margolis Family Foundation
- The Peterborough K. M. Hunter Charitable Foundation
- Toby Hull & Lindsay Panning Foundation
- United Way East Ontario (UWEO)
- VSF Sweden
- West Vancouver Community Found

Note: Reflects institutional giving between April 1, 2024 and March 31, 2025.

Our Board of Directors (VWB/VSF Canada)

Our Board of Directors provides critical strategic oversight and guidance, helping to steer Veterinarians Without Borders through complexity, growth, and change. We are deeply grateful for their leadership, time, and unwavering belief in our mission.

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Board Member

Katinka De Balogh (DVM)
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