

VWB U.S.A.

Veterinarians Without Borders
North America

# 2025–2026 Annual Report

Helping Communities Care for the Animals They Depend On

## LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Veterinarians Without Borders North America (VWB) acknowledges that our Canadian office is located on the unceded and unsurrendered 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 Jess Holing (Rwanda), Adam Ibrahim (South Sudan), Jonathan Ijumba (Kenya), and Sarah Pruys (Northern Canada), whose images capture the spirit of our work and the communities we serve.

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# Message from Leadership

## BUILDING STRONGER COMMUNITIES THROUGH ANIMAL HEALTH

Every community deserves access to the animal health services and support it needs to thrive. Around the world, animals play a vital role in food security, livelihoods, well-being, and resilience. Yet too many communities continue to face barriers to veterinary care, whether due to geographic isolation, conflict, economic challenges, or limited access to animal health resources. When animal health needs go unmet, the consequences extend beyond individual animals, affecting families, communities, and the ecosystems they depend upon.

At **Veterinarians Without Borders North America (VWB)**, we believe sustainable solutions are built on local leadership. Our role is not simply to provide services, but to work alongside local partners, community leaders, and animal health professionals to strengthen systems, expand local capacity, and support locally driven solutions that create lasting impact.

Throughout this past year, this commitment was reflected in the breadth and depth of our work. Together with our partners, we supported 2,408 communities, 90% of them rural, advancing animal health, strengthening livelihoods, and building resilience in communities where access to animal health services is limited. Community Animal Health Workers expanded access to essential care, farmers adopted improved animal husbandry practices, and local partners strengthened their capacity to prevent disease, respond to emergencies, and support healthier animals and communities.

These accomplishments are the result of shared effort and collective commitment. We are deeply grateful to our staff, Board of Directors, local and international partners, technical advisors, donors, volunteers, and supporters, whose dedication makes this work possible. Most importantly, we recognize the communities at the heart of this work. Their knowledge, leadership, perseverance, and vision continue to guide and inspire us every day.

As you read this report, we invite you to look beyond the numbers and see the stories of impact behind them. You'll meet farmers, veterinarians, community leaders, and animal health workers who are driving change from within their own communities. Their efforts demonstrate that when local expertise is supported and strengthened, the benefits extend far beyond animal health, creating healthier, more resilient futures for animals, people, and the environments they share.

Thank you for being part of this work — and for helping create a future where healthy animals, people, and environments can thrive together.

## WITH GRATITUDE,



**Dr. Jennifer Ogeer**
CHAIR, VWB U.S.A.
BOARD OF DIRECTORS



**Janine Mitchell**
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR,
VWB NORTH AMERICA

# Who We Are

Veterinarians Without Borders North America (VWB) is the North American member of Vétérinaires Sans Frontières (VSF) International, a global network of independent organizations advancing animal health, resilient livelihoods and One Health.

Guided by a community-centred One Health approach, we work alongside local partners across Sub-Saharan Africa, Southeast Asia, Europe and North America to strengthen animal health systems, expand access to veterinary care, and improve the health and well-being of animals, people and the environments they share.




## VISION

A future where animals, communities, and ecosystems 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.

## MISSION

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

## 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.**

Veterinarians Without Borders

# 2025–2026 By the Numbers

**11**
Countries

**2,408**
Communities (90% rural)

**87,752**
People Reached

**316,237**
Animals Reached

**12,434**
Animals Treated

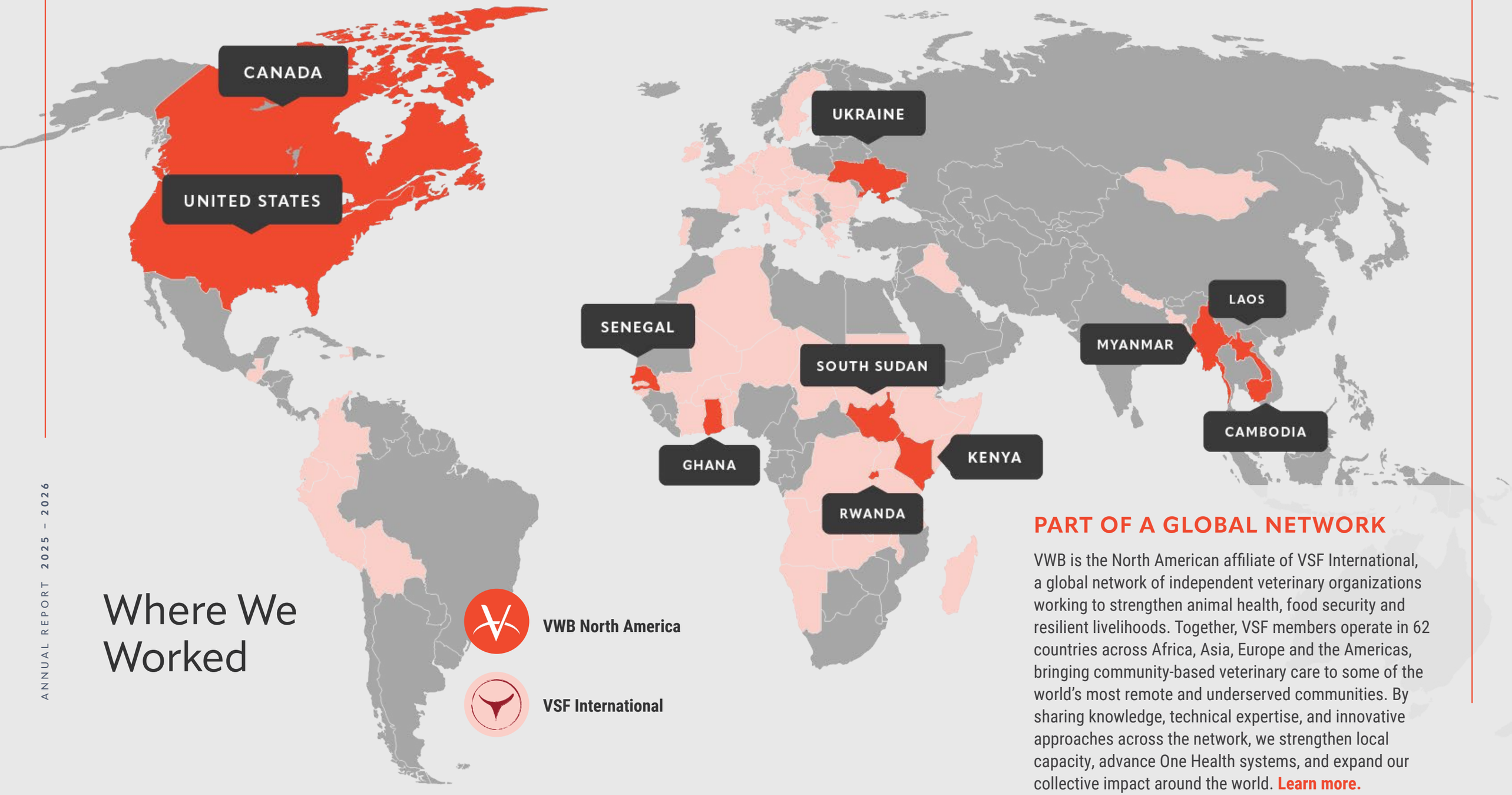
**79**
Volunteers Deployed

**121**
Partners Engaged



*A YEAR OF*

# Expanding Access




# Where We Worked

**VWB North America**

**VSF International**

## PART OF A GLOBAL NETWORK

VWB is the North American affiliate of VSF International, a global network of independent veterinary organizations working to strengthen animal health, food security and resilient livelihoods. Together, VSF members operate in 62 countries across Africa, Asia, Europe and the Americas, bringing community-based veterinary care to some of the world's most remote and underserved communities. By sharing knowledge, technical expertise, and innovative approaches across the network, we strengthen local capacity, advance One Health systems, and expand our collective impact around the world. **Learn more.**



# Highlights Around the World

VSF INTERNATIONAL
VÉTÉRINAIRES
SANS FRONTIÈRES

## By the Numbers 2025-2026

Together, VSF International members strengthened animal health, livelihoods, and locally led services around the world.

**62**
**Countries of operation**

**3.27M**
**households reached**

**24.67M**
**animals treated**

**490,700**
**people strengthened through training and capacity development**

**11,399**
**animal health professionals supported**

**2.49M**
**livestock keepers gained improved access to animal health services**

A further 61,800 animals were distributed through emergency and recovery programs, helping families rebuild their livelihoods following crises.




### RWANDA & SENEGAL

Through **COHERS, 145 rural communities** strengthened locally led prevention of zoonotic disease with One Health Teams, improved sanitation, and community education. This year, **30,489 people** were reached and **21,885 animals** were vaccinated across the two countries.

### SOUTH SUDAN

Through **1-SHOP,** communities strengthened animal health and liveli-hoods through locally led animal health services and community education. This year, **12,185 livestock keepers** were reached, **47,730 livestock** were vaccinated, and **20 Community Animal Health Workers** were trained and equipped.

### UKRAINE

Through VWB's **Ukraine Response, 650 people** strengthened poultry production, with **400 farmers** also receiving disaster preparedness resources. At the same time, 52,418 animals received veterinary care, and **70 shelters** were supported across **18 regions.**

### KENYA

This year, **VETS** supported **41,580 farmers**—55% women—strengthen their skills in animal health, forage production, and gender-responsive live-stock practices. These efforts also strengthened the decision-making authority of **22,813 women farmers** while improving the care of **124,740 animals.**

### CANADA

Across **8 remote communities, NAHI** expanded access to veterinary care through mobile clinics, community partnerships, and local training. This year, **1,251 people** were reached, **727 animals** were treated, and **14 Community Animal Health Workers** were trained.

# Programs In Action

**Communities around the world face different barriers to accessing animal health care.** Whether strengthening livestock systems through international development, responding to humanitarian crises, or expanding veterinary access in northern Canada, VWB works alongside local partners to strengthen community-centred animal health systems. Through veterinary expertise, capacity strengthening, and longterm partnerships, communities gain greater access to the care they need—supporting healthier animals, stronger livelihoods, and more resilient communities.

# International Development

## STRENGTHENING COMMUNITY-CENTRED ANIMAL HEALTH SYSTEMS THAT IMPROVE LIVELIHOODS, FOOD SECURITY, AND RESILIENCE.

Around the world, livestock are central to household livelihoods, nutrition, and economic opportunity. Yet many farming communities continue to face barriers to animal health care, including limited veterinary services, emerging disease threats, climate change, and persistent gender inequalities.

Through long-term partnerships with local organizations, VWB strengthens community-centred animal health systems that improve livestock health, increase productivity, expand economic opportunities, and build resilience. By investing in local leadership, practical skills, and equitable access to animal health services, communities are better equipped to care for the animals they depend on.

*"We can protect ourselves from zoonotic disease—and when we do, we protect our whole community."*

**LOUISE MUKARUGWIZA**
OHT Member, Rwanda

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

# **COHERS:** Community One Health Empowerment in Rwanda and Senegal

## COMMUNITIES ARE OFTEN THE FIRST TO DETECT AND RESPOND TO DISEASE THREATS—BUT ONLY WHEN THEY HAVE THE KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS, AND LOCAL NETWORKS TO ACT.

Through the COHERS program, VWB is strengthening community-centred animal health systems by equipping local leaders to prevent disease before it spreads.

Working alongside government and local partners, COHERS addresses two important zoonotic diseases in different contexts. In Rwanda, communities are interrupting the transmission of *Taenia solium* through treatment, improved water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), pig vaccination, and community education. In Senegal, communities are strengthening anthrax prevention through livestock vaccination, disease surveillance, public awareness, and locally led One Health coordination.

At the heart of both programs are community-based One Health Teams (OHTs)—trusted local leaders who connect households with veterinary and public health services while promoting practical actions that protect animals, people, and the environments they share. By combining local knowledge with training, community engagement, and gender-responsive leadership, COHERS is helping communities build lasting resilience to disease.



**Watch the COHERS video: *Women Leading One Health in Rwanda and Senegal***

**Learn more about COHERS**





## COHERS 2025-2026 **Impact Highlights**

### SENEGAL

**15,481**
people reached through anthrax prevention activities

**16,885**
animals vaccinated against anthrax

**60**
One Health Teams established

**300**
One Health Team members trained

**86%**
of households adopted zoonoses prevention practices

### RWANDA

**15,008**
people reached through WASH initiatives

**4,400**
people treated for taeniasis

**5,000**
pigs vaccinated and dewormed

**255**
One Health Team members trained

**1,000**
household latrines constructed

PROGRAMS IN ACTION

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

# **VETS:** Volunteers Engaged in Gender-Responsive Technical Solutions



*"Working with technical experts is always an exchange between local knowledge and professional experience. Together, we strengthen how we support farmers in practical, lasting ways."*

**REBECCA NDEMBO**
Extension Officer, Wakulima Dairy, Kenya





## VETS 2025-2026 **Impact Highlights**

**51,134**
people reached (58% women)

**1,093**
rural communities supported

**187,158**
animals reached

**29,558**
women gained decision-making authority

**51,134**
smallholder farmers trained

**79**
One Health leaders trained (71% women)

**27**
Canadian technical experts deployed

**7**
local partner organizations strengthened

**IN ITS SIXTH YEAR, THE VETS PROGRAM CONTINUED TO DEMONSTRATE THE VALUE OF LONG-TERM TECHNICAL PARTNERSHIPS IN STRENGTHENING LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS, IMPROVING ANIMAL HEALTH, LIVELIHOODS, AND GENDER EQUALITY.**

Rather than delivering short-term assistance, VETS invests in lasting capacity by connecting Canadian technical experts with local partners to support community-led solutions that continue long after individual placements have ended.

Collaborating with organizations across Ghana, Kenya, Cambodia, and Laos, technical experts contributed specialized knowledge in areas such as livestock production, animal health, gender equality, organizational development, and One Health, while learning from the expertise and lived experience of their local partners. Whether supporting dairy farmers in Kenya, strengthening women-led poultry enterprises in Ghana, building organizational capacity in Cambodia, or improving livestock systems in Laos, these collaborations expand opportunities for women, strengthen local organizations, and improve animal health where it matters most.

Six years into the eight-year program, generously funded by Global Affairs Canada, VETS continues to demonstrate that lasting change is built not through one-time interventions, but through trusted partnerships, mutual learning, and sustained investment in local leadership.

**Learn more about VETS**

PROGRAMS IN ACTION

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

# Project Spotlight: Empowering Women in Ghana Through Livestock and Leadership

Launched in June 2025, VWB partnered with the Peter Gilgan Foundation and WIPVaC-Apex Ghana to implement the **Women in Livestock Micro-enterprise Development (WILMED)** project, strengthening the livelihoods, leadership, and economic resilience of women in underserved communities across Ghana.

Using a One Health approach, the project combines livestock production, Community Animal Health Worker (CAHW) training, financial inclusion, and leadership development to strengthen animal health, expand economic opportunities, and build women's leadership. By investing in local knowledge, community-based animal health services, and local leadership, WILMED is helping build stronger animal health systems that continue to benefit farmers beyond the life of the project.




## 2025-2026 Impact Highlights

**3,023**
people reached (86% women)

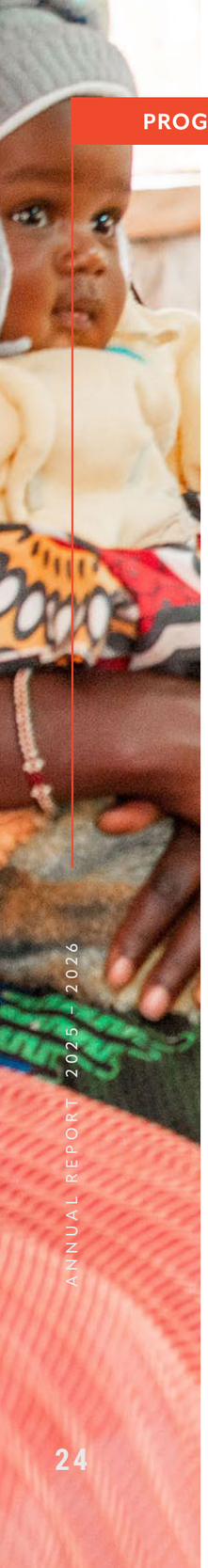
**1,772**
poultry and livestock farmers supported

**6,850**
animals received community-based animal health services

**24**
Community Animal Health Workers trained (83% women)

**6,107**
women strengthened through revolving loan groups

**12**
women-led savings and loan groups supported





INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

# Project Spotlight: Helping Families Build Healthier Futures in Kenya

Launched in August 2025, a new partnership between VWB, the Gay Lea Foundation, and the women-led **Community Organization and Training for Risk Reduction (COTRR)** is helping vulnerable families in Nyeri County, Kenya, strengthen nutrition, improve livelihoods, and build resilience.

The project, Strengthening Community Well-Being through Sustainable Dairy Goat Farming and Agroecology in Nyeri County, supports households caring for children with disabilities through dairy goat farming, agroecological practices, mentorship, and community health support. Rather than providing one-time support, families are gaining practical skills, ongoing mentorship, and opportunities to improve household nutrition and income. A revolving dairy goat model will enable participating families to pass a weaned female goat to another household, extending the project's benefits for years to come.



## 2025-2026 Impact Highlights

**35**
smallholder farmers supported (91% women)

**10**
Community Health Volunteers trained

**34**
people trained in zoo-noses detection and control (94% women)

**34**
households strengthened through improved livestock production

**50**
dairy goats distributed





# Humanitarian & Emergency Response

**STRENGTHENING COMMUNITY-CENTRED ANIMAL HEALTH SYSTEMS THAT PROTECT ANIMALS, LIVELIHOODS, AND COMMUNITIES DURING CRISIS WHILE BUILDING LONG-TERM RESILIENCE.**

Conflict, natural disasters, and disease outbreaks can disrupt animal health systems overnight, placing both animals and the people who depend on them at risk. In these moments, protecting animal health is essential to safeguarding livelihoods, food security, and community well-being.

VWB works alongside local partners to provide emergency veterinary support while strengthening the systems communities need to recover and adapt. By combining immediate response with long-term capacity strengthening, humanitarian action becomes an opportunity to build greater resilience for the future.

PROGRAMS IN ACTION

HUMANITARIAN & EMERGENCY RESPONSE

# **South Sudan:** Strengthening One Health Systems for the Protection of Health and Livelihoods (1-SHOP)



*"Now that I have received four goats from another woman, who am I not to work hard so that I can one day help another family in my community?"*

**CHRISTINE ALONYO**
1-SHOP participant, South Sudan

## 1-SHOP 2025-2026 **Impact Highlights**

**6,151**
people reached through One Health and disease prevention awareness

**400**
goat farmers supported through livestock management training

**800**
goats distributed through a Passing-on-the-Gift model

**20**
Community Animal Health Workers trained and equipped

**12,185**
livestock keepers reached (65.5% women)

**47,730**
livestock vaccinated

**4**
One Health Teams established

**683**
goat kids passed on to **195** additional households

### LIVESTOCK ARE CENTRAL TO HOUSEHOLD LIVELIHOODS IN SOUTH SUDAN, PROVIDING FAMILIES WITH FOOD, INCOME, AND SECURITY.

From March 2024 to March 2026, VWB and the Zoetis Foundation partnered with communities and government stakeholders to strengthen community-centred animal health systems that improve livestock health, reduce the risks of zoonotic disease and antimicrobial resistance (AMR), and build resilience for the future.

Using a One Health approach, 1-SHOP worked alongside Community Animal Health Workers (CAHWs), healthcare workers, government partners, and local communities to strengthen disease prevention and surveillance, expand access to veterinary services, promote safer livestock management, and encourage behaviour change that protects both animal and human health. By investing in local leadership and community-based systems, the project helped build the capacity of communities to improve livelihoods and respond to future health and economic challenges.

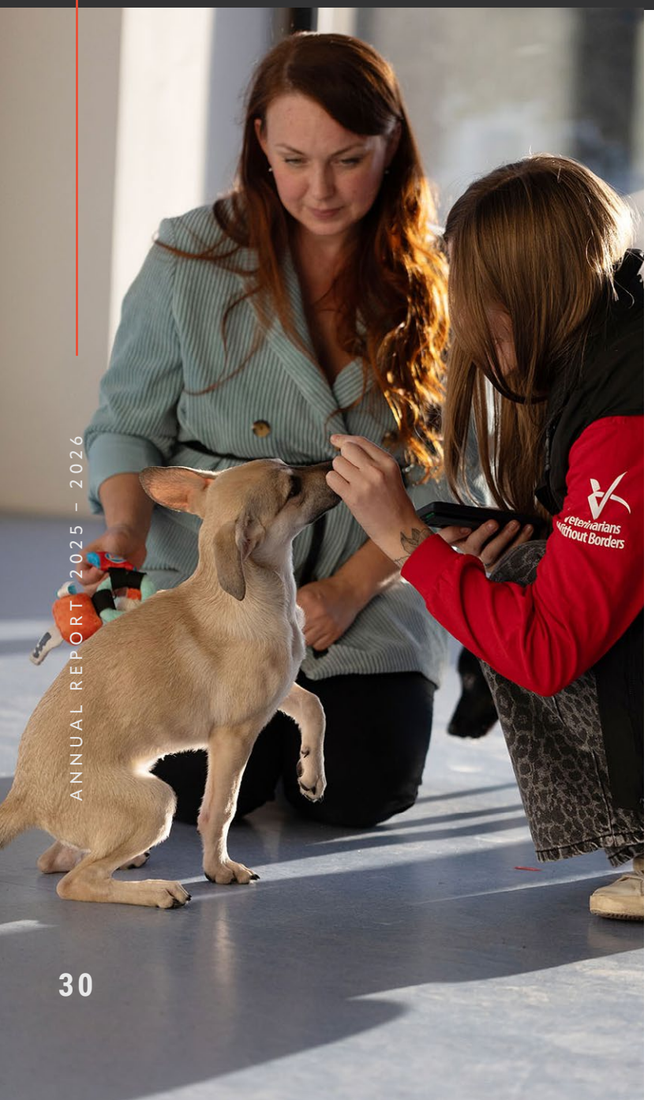
Completed in March 2026, 1-SHOP leaves behind stronger local systems that will continue serving communities beyond the life of the project. By the project's conclusion, 94% of livestock keepers had adopted more resilient livestock management practices, while 91% of households were accessing services from Community Animal Health Workers—evidence that stronger community-based systems can continue improving animal health and livelihoods long after project activities end.

**Read the full 1-SHOP project brief**

PROGRAMS IN ACTION

HUMANITARIAN & EMERGENCY RESPONSE

# **Ukraine:** Strengthening Resilience Through Animal Health




**NOW IN ITS FOURTH YEAR,** VWB's Ukraine program continued supporting companion animals, livestock keepers, and veterinary professionals in frontline and conflict-affected communities across eastern and southern Ukraine. Working alongside local partners, we maintained access to veterinary care through treatment, rabies vaccination, shelter support, emergency pet food distribution, and targeted spay/neuter campaigns, while helping poultry farmers rebuild livelihoods through training, mentoring, disaster preparedness, and business development.

As the war continues, veterinary services remain under immense pressure, particularly in rural and frontline communities where access to care has become increasingly difficult. Alongside emergency response, VWB invested in strengthening local veterinary capacity and improving access to animal health services, informed by research into the barriers facing veterinary care in wartime Ukraine.

## Ukraine 2025-2026 **Impact Highlights**

### COMPANION ANIMAL RESPONSE

**52,418** animals treated

**52,381** animals vaccinated against rabies

**70** shelters supported across 18 regions

**460** households supported through targeted spay/neuter services

**105,157kg** of pet food distributed

### SELF-EMPLOYMENT IN POULTRY FARMING

**650** people trained in poultry farming

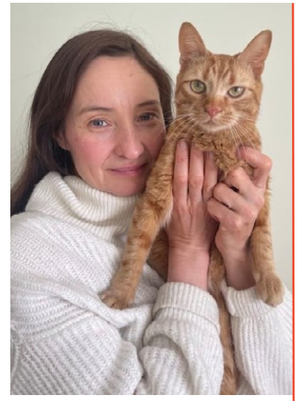
**305** farmers mentored on poultry health and production techniques

**400** farmers received disaster preparedness resources

**4** business development workshops delivered

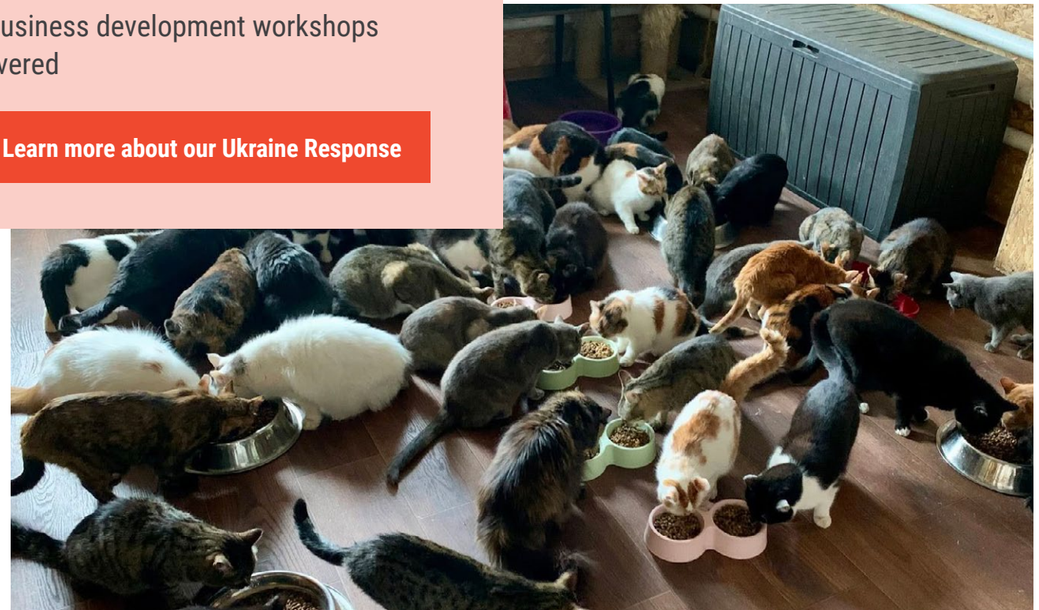
**Learn more about our Ukraine Response**

*"The war has reinforced an important lesson: veterinary care is not a secondary service. It is a core component of community resilience, food security, public health, and recovery."*



**YANA ZHAMBEKOVA**
Ukraine Country Director

Four years into the conflict, VWB's work increasingly bridges humanitarian response and long-term recovery. By supporting both companion animals and livestock—and the veterinary professionals who care for them—we are helping communities protect livelihoods today while strengthening the animal health systems that will support recovery in the years ahead.







# **Myanmar Earthquake Response:** Sustaining Care After Disaster

Following the devastating 7.7-magnitude earthquake that struck central Myanmar in March 2025, VWB continued supporting locally led recovery efforts through partners Let's Save The Strays International (LSTSI) and Sopyay Myanmar Development Organization (SMDO).

**AS COMMUNITIES FACED DISPLACEMENT, DAMAGED INFRASTRUCTURE, AND DISRUPTED ACCESS TO BASIC SERVICES, BOTH PARTNERS RESPONDED TO URGENT NEEDS AMONG PEOPLE AND ANIMALS.**

In Mandalay, LSTSI helped restore two veterinary clinics damaged by the earthquake, allowing local veterinary teams to resume care by May and June. Between April and July, teams treated an average of 15–20 animals each day for trauma, dehydration, starvation, reproductive emergencies, heat stress, and infectious disease. Food assistance also supported approximately 100 people each day who were caring for displaced and street animals, helping reach an estimated 500-1,000 dogs and cats daily across the city. As immediate food needs declined, the team resumed trap-neuter-vaccinate-return activities to help prevent rabies and manage free-roaming animal populations.




At the same time, SMDO provided emergency cash-for-food assistance to 55 vulnerable households — 180 people — in Mandalay and Sagaing, prioritizing displaced families, female-headed households, and households dependent on livestock. The assistance helped families meet essential food needs during the difficult months following the disaster.

Together, these efforts demonstrate how locally led response can evolve as communities move from immediate crisis toward recovery—restoring essential services, meeting urgent needs, and helping protect the health and well-being of animals and the people who care for them.

# Wildfire Response: Coordinating Care During Evacuations

In May 2025, when Manitoba experienced its worst wildfire season in decades, widespread evacuations forced many families from northern and Indigenous communities to leave their pets behind. With support from PetSmart Charities of Canada, VWB partnered with more than ten animal welfare organizations to coordinate emergency assistance for communities including Cross Lake and Split Lake First Nations, where essential service workers and remaining community members continued caring for animals during the evacuations.

As no centralized animal response existed, VWB helped bring together rescue groups and partner organizations to identify needs, coordinate resources, and reduce duplication of effort. Through this collaboration, emergency shipments of dog food reached 200 dogs, ensuring pets left behind continued receiving care until their families could return home.

The response demonstrated the importance of coordinated, community-based emergency planning to ensure animals—and the people who depend on them—are not left behind during disasters.

# Northern Access to Veterinary Care

**STRENGTHENING COMMUNITY-CENTRED ANIMAL HEALTH SYSTEMS BY EXPANDING ACCESS TO VETERINARY CARE IN UNDER-SERVED NORTHERN COMMUNITIES.**

Across northern Canada, many communities have limited or no local access to veterinary care. Geographic isolation, high costs, and limited services can make it difficult for families to access routine care for the animals they depend on and care about.

Working alongside Indigenous communities and northern partners, VWB is expanding access to veterinary care through mobile clinics, community partnerships, and locally led animal health initiatives. By strengthening community-centred animal health systems and investing in local capacity, we are helping build more sustainable access to care in the North.

PROGRAMS IN ACTION

NORTHERN ACCESS TO VETERINARY CARE

# **NAHI:** Northern Animal Health Initiative

In many northern and remote communities across Canada, access to veterinary care remains extremely limited. Without permanent veterinary services, families may wait months—or even years—for a visiting clinic, making routine care, disease prevention, and emergency treatment difficult to access. Through the Northern Animal Health Initiative (NAHI), VWB works alongside Indigenous and northern partners to improve access to animal health services while building local capacity to support community well-being.

Responding to community invitations, NAHI delivers mobile veterinary clinics, rabies vaccination, community outreach, and training for lay vaccinators and Community Animal Health Workers (CAHWs). Together, these approaches expand access to veterinary care while building local animal health capacity between clinic visits.

As NAHI places increasing emphasis on community-led solutions that extend care beyond periodic clinics, the program is helping communities build the knowledge, confidence, and local capacity needed to care for animals year-round.




*"I'm really happy to be trained as a Community Animal Health Worker so that I can help my neighbours care for their animals when veterinarians aren't here."*

**JIMMY PAULOOSIE JR.**
Gjoa Haven Bylaw Officer
& Community Animal Health Worker

**Learn more about NAHI**




## NAHI 2025-2026 **Impact Highlights**

**1,251**
people reached through mobile clinics, community events, and education

**10**
mobile veterinary clinics delivered

**8**
remote communities supported

**727**
animals treated

**627**
animals vaccinated against rabies

**14**
lay vaccinators and Community Animal Health Workers trained

**32**
local partners engaged

**24**
volunteer veterinary professionals deployed

NORTHERN ACCESS TO VETERINARY CARE

# **CAHW Training:** A Global Model, Reimagined for Canada's North

**FOR MORE THAN TWO DECADES, VWB HAS TRAINED COMMUNITY ANIMAL HEALTH WORKERS (CAHWS) ACROSS AFRICA AND ASIA.**



They've helped communities extend animal health services where veterinarians are scarce. In 2025–2026, with support from PetSmart Charities of Canada, that internationally proven model was adapted for Canada's North.

Following two years of collaboration with northern communities, 2025–2026 marked the implementation year of VWB's Northern CAHW pilot. Between May and November 2025, inaugural training was delivered in Gjoa Haven, Kugluktuk, and Tuktoyaktuk, equipping 14 lay vaccinators and CAHWs with practical skills to help extend veterinary care between visiting clinics while building long-term local capacity.

By adapting a globally proven approach to northern realities, VWB is helping create a more sustainable model of veterinary access—one where community members become part of the animal health system itself.

**Watch the NAHI video: VWB's CAHW training program in Gjoa Haven, NU**



# **Spotlight:** Strengthening the Northern CAHW Model

**STRONG COMMUNITY PROGRAMS ARE BUILT ON EXPERIENCE, AND THEY ARE STRENGTHENED THROUGH EVIDENCE-BASED PRACTICE.**

As VWB developed its Northern CAHW program, graduate researcher **Hannah (Tsai-Ping) Liao** worked alongside staff, northern communities, and the Ontario Veterinary College at the University of Guelph to help validate and strengthen the program's design.

Rather than creating a new model from scratch, Hannah's research examined CAHW programs around the world and combined global best practices with community feedback and northern realities. Her findings reinforced VWB's approach, helping refine how the program is introduced, supported, and sustained within northern communities while confirming its alignment with internationally recognized practices.






By combining community knowledge with applied research, VWB continually strengthens its programs — ensuring they remain locally relevant, culturally appropriate, and grounded in approaches proven to create lasting impact.




## COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP

# In Action

**Healthy communities depend on local people who are trusted to care, teach, and lead.** Across every region where VWB works, community members are strengthening animal health by sharing knowledge, expanding access to care, and helping neighbours protect the animals they depend on. Together, these stories show how trusted local leaders are building healthier animals, stronger animal health systems, and more resilient communities.

# From Herd to Health: Khadia in Senegal

**BEFORE THE SUN RISES OVER THIANGUÉ VILLAGE IN SOUTH-EASTERN SENEGAL, KHADIA DIALLO IS ALREADY CARING FOR HER FAMILY AND LIVE-STOCK.**

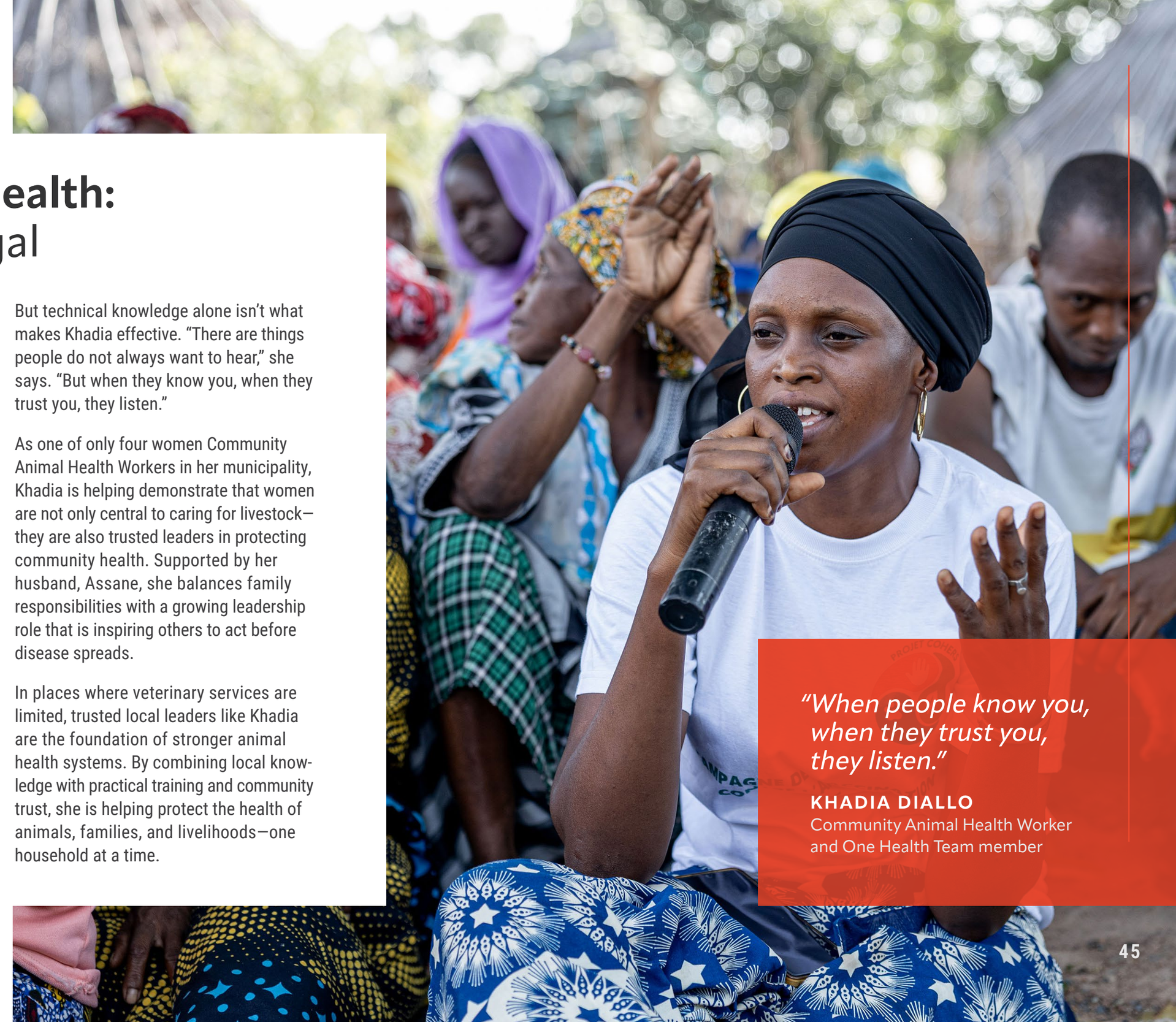
As a mother, farmer, Community Animal Health Worker, and member of her local One Health Team, she is often the first person neighbours turn to when an animal is sick or advice is needed.

Long before receiving formal training, Khadia had spent years caring for animals as part of everyday life. Through VWB's COHERS program, she strengthened that experience with additional training, veterinary supplies, and closer collaboration with veterinarians and fellow community health workers. Today, she helps vaccinate livestock, monitors for signs of disease, and leads community awareness sessions that encourage families to act early to protect both animal and human health.

But technical knowledge alone isn't what makes Khadia effective. "There are things people do not always want to hear," she says. "But when they know you, when they trust you, they listen."

As one of only four women Community Animal Health Workers in her municipality, Khadia is helping demonstrate that women are not only central to caring for livestock—they are also trusted leaders in protecting community health. Supported by her husband, Assane, she balances family responsibilities with a growing leadership role that is inspiring others to act before disease spreads.

In places where veterinary services are limited, trusted local leaders like Khadia are the foundation of stronger animal health systems. By combining local knowledge with practical training and community trust, she is helping protect the health of animals, families, and livelihoods—one household at a time.



*"When people know you, when they trust you, they listen."*

**KHADIA DIALLO**
Community Animal Health Worker and One Health Team member




# Guardian of the Herd: Suzan in South Sudan

**WHEN LIVESTOCK BECOME SICK IN NYONG PAYAM, SOUTH SUDAN, MANY FAMILIES DON'T HAVE IMMEDIATE ACCESS TO VETERINARY CARE. INSTEAD, THEY CALL SUZAN ITUARI BENJAMIN.**

Nominated by her community and trained as a Community Animal Health Worker through VWB's 1-SHOP project, Suzan now provides essential animal health services where they are needed most. She treats sick animals, assists with difficult births, helps farmers prevent disease, and shares practical advice that protects both livestock and the livelihoods families depend on.

"I treat about 650 goat sickness cases every month," she says. Her work reflects both the demand for animal health services and the trust her community has placed in her.

In South Sudan, livestock are far more than animals. They provide food, income, savings, and security. When disease spreads through a herd, the effects are felt across an entire household. By bringing veterinary knowledge directly into her community, Suzan helps families identify health problems early, reduce livestock losses, and adopt healthier management practices that strengthen resilience over the long term.

In places where veterinary care may be hours away, Community Animal Health Workers like Suzan are often the first line of defence against disease. By bringing practical skills, trusted advice, and timely care directly into her community, she is helping protect the animals, livelihoods, and families that depend on them—one call at a time.

*"I would rather not sleep than let a sick animal die unattended."*

**SUZAN ITUARI BENJAMIN**
Community Animal Health Worker

# From Farm to Future:
## Mary in Kenya

**WHEN MARY KAREMI NDUBI BEGAN DAIRY FARMING IN MERU COUNTY, KENYA, SHE HAD LITTLE KNOWLEDGE OF ANIMAL HEALTH OR NUTRITION.**

Her cows grazed freely, milk production was low, and supporting her family was a constant struggle.

Through VWB's VETS program, Mary received training in dairy herd management, animal nutrition, calf rearing, disease prevention, and gender equality. She applied what she learned by improving feeding practices, constructing a zero-grazing unit, and adopting healthier herd management techniques. The results transformed her farm, creating a more reliable income for her family and allowing her to invest in the future.

But Mary's greatest achievement extends beyond her own farm. "Before the trainings, I was milking 6 litres a day. Today, I produce 33 litres—and my life changed," she says.

Today, she serves as chairperson of the Kiambiriria Dairy Cooperative and as a Community One Health Champion, helping other farmers improve their herds and strengthen their livelihoods. She shares the knowledge she gained through VWB, training fellow cooperative members in dairy management while supporting the cooperative's growth and success.

In communities where knowledge is shared from farmer to farmer, leaders like Mary help good practices spread far beyond a single household. As a Community One Health Champion, cooperative chairperson, and mentor, she is strengthening animal health, improving livelihoods, and helping other farmers build more resilient futures—one farm at a time.

*"I want other farmers to benefit from what I've learned, just as I did."*

**MARY KAREMI NDUBI**
Community One Health Champion





*"Kindness and understanding go a long way with both pets and their owners."*

**HELEN KLENGENBERG**
Community Coordinator



# **Where Care Begins:** Helen in Nunavut

**LONG BEFORE HELEN KLENGENBERG BEGAN COORDINATING VETERINARY CLINICS IN KUGLUKTUK, NUNAVUT, SHE LEARNED THAT CARING FOR ANIMALS WAS PART OF CARING FOR PEOPLE.**

Growing up on the land in the era of sled dogs, she learned from her parents that healthy animals were essential to family life. Those lessons continue to guide her today.

Since joining VWB's Northern Animal Health Initiative in 2022, Helen has become the vital link between visiting veterinary teams and her community. She schedules appointments, connects with pet owners in Inuinnaqtun, and ensures as many animals as possible receive care during each clinic. In a community where the nearest veterinary services are roughly 760 kilometres away, her local knowledge and relationships help make every visit count.

Helen believes lasting access to care depends on more than periodic veterinary visits. "It is important to have Community Animal Health Workers because they know the community and its people. They can speak the language," she says.

She sees Community Animal Health Workers as the future of animal health in the North—trusted local people who can answer questions, monitor animal health, and support pet owners between clinics. They provide the continuity that visiting teams alone cannot.

In northern communities where veterinary care is hundreds of kilometres away, lasting access begins with trusted local people. By connecting neighbours with veterinary services today—and helping lay the foundation for Community Animal Health Workers tomorrow—Helen is helping build stronger, community-led animal health systems rooted in local knowledge, language, and trust.

# Partnerships

## *THAT MAKE IT POSSIBLE*

**Helping communities care for the animals they depend on is only possible through partnership.** Across every region where VWB works, volunteers, local partners, institutional supporters, and donors contribute their expertise, leadership, and resources to strengthen community-led animal health systems. Together, these partnerships create lasting impact that continues to benefit people and animals long after individual projects end.

**2025-2026**
By the Numbers

**79**
volunteers deployed

**121**
partners engaged

# Volunteer of the Year: **Dr. Alina Cota-Merlo**

VWB was proud to recognize **Dr. Alina Cota-Merlo** as the 2025 Veterinary Volunteer of the Year, honouring her outstanding contributions through two VETS volunteer placements with CARE Laos between 2024 and 2025.



**AS A GENDER AND LIVELIHOOD ADVISOR AND LATER A ONE HEALTH ADVISOR, ALINA WORKED ALONGSIDE LOCAL COLLEAGUES TO STRENGTHEN ANIMAL HEALTH, GENDER EQUALITY, AND COMMUNITY RESILIENCE.**

From training farmers and Village Veterinary Volunteers to supporting gender-responsive programming and developing practical veterinary resources, she combined technical expertise with humility, collaboration, and a deep commitment to locally led development.




Presented at the 2026 Canadian Veterinary Medical Association Convention, the award recognized not only Alina's contributions in Laos but also her continued commitment to VWB following her placements. Since returning to Canada, she has remained an active member of the volunteer community, sharing her experiences through webinars, developing resources for future volunteers, and helping strengthen the VETS program for future technical volunteers.

*"It has been an honour to take part in VWB's capacity-building work in Laos. I look forward to continuing to contribute to making veterinary medicine more accessible for everyone."*

**DR. ALINA COTA-MERLO**



# Partner Spotlight:
## Wakulima Dairy Cooperative

This year, VWB's long-standing partnership with Wakulima Dairy Cooperative continued to strengthen dairy production, animal health, and rural livelihoods in Kenya's Nyeri County. Through the VETS program, Wakulima's extension team and VWB technical volunteers worked side-by-side to share knowledge, strengthen local capacity, and support practical solutions that continue benefiting farmers long after each volunteer placement ends.

**BUILDING ON MORE THAN A DECADE OF COLLABORATION, THE PARTNERSHIP COMBINES INTERNATIONAL TECHNICAL EXPERTISE WITH DEEP LOCAL KNOWLEDGE TO CREATE LASTING, COMMUNITY-LED CHANGE.**

For Extension Officer **Rebecca Ndembo**, who has worked closely with VWB volunteers over the past five years, the partnership is built on mutual learning. Volunteers contribute technical expertise and fresh perspectives, while Wakulima's extension team ensures those ideas are adapted to the realities of smallholder farming—making them practical, relevant, and sustainable for local communities.

Together, the partnership has strengthened animal nutrition, improved zoonotic disease prevention, expanded climate-smart farming practices, and increased opportunities for women to participate in household and farm decision-making. By investing in local extension capacity alongside farmers, the partnership helps ensure knowledge continues spreading throughout communities long after individual volunteer placements have ended.



*"Working with volunteers is always an exchange of local knowledge and professional experience. Volunteers bring new ideas and perspectives, while our extension team helps adapt these approaches to the realities of smallholder farming."*

**REBECCA NDEMBO**
Extension Officer,
Wakulima Dairy





# Donor Spotlight: **Elanco Foundation**

Established in 2019, the **Elanco Foundation** is the philanthropic affiliate of Elanco Animal Health. Through strategic partnerships with nonprofit organizations around the world, the Foundation works to improve the well-being of animals, people, and the planet, with a focus on food security, the human-animal bond, and sustainable communities.

**IN UKRAINE, THE ELANCO FOUNDATION IS PARTNERING WITH VWB TO HELP CONFLICT-AFFECTED FARMING FAMILIES REBUILD THEIR LIVELIHOODS THROUGH POULTRY PRODUCTION, VETERINARY TRAINING, AND BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT.**

Together, VWB and the Elanco Foundation are expanding access to practical animal health knowledge, strengthening local veterinary capacity, and helping smallholder farmers build more resilient livelihoods despite the ongoing impacts of war.

By combining the Elanco Foundation's commitment to food security with VWB's expertise in community-centred animal health, this partnership is helping conflict-affected families rebuild stronger livelihoods while creating lasting improvements in veterinary knowledge and animal health systems.



*"We're proud to partner with organizations like VWB that are creating practical, lasting solutions alongside local communities. By investing in animal health, food security, and local capacity, we can help families build healthier, more resilient futures together."*

**ERIC SEREMET**
Chairman, Elanco Foundation

## OUR PARTNERSHIP APPROACH

VWB works with more than **121 partners worldwide** because we believe the strongest solutions are those led by communities themselves. By investing in long-term relationships, strengthening local leadership, and supporting community-driven One Health solutions, we are helping build animal health systems that continue benefiting people, animals, and ecosystems long after individual projects have ended.



# Financials

## *VWB U.S.A.*

Veterinarians Without Borders North America (VWB) operates through two registered nonprofit organizations: VWB/VSF Canada and VWB U.S.A. Both organizations are committed to the highest standards of transparency, accountability, and financial stewardship. Every investment in our work helps strengthen community-led animal health systems that improve the lives of animals, people, and the environments they share.

**The financial information presented in this report relates specifically to VWB U.S.A. for the 2025–2026 fiscal year.**

### ACCOUNTABILITY AND STEWARDSHIP

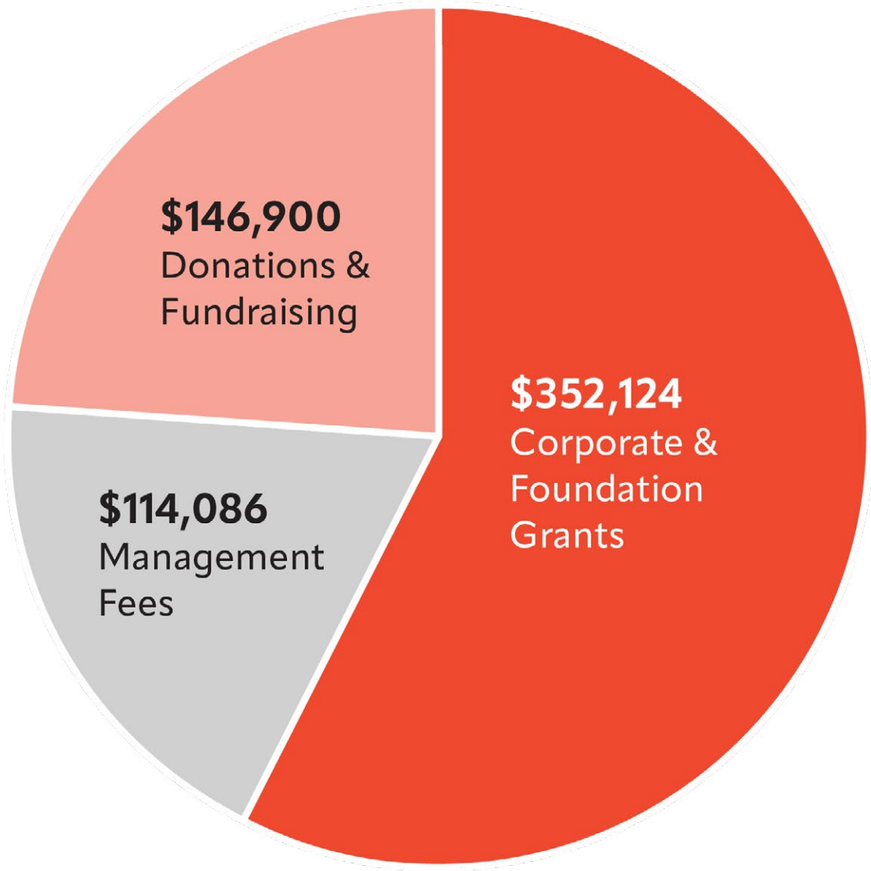
VWB/VSF Canada and VWB U.S.A. each maintain rigorous financial management practices, undergo independent annual audits, and report transparently on their operations. Audited financial statements and annual reports for both organizations are available **on our website.**

# Revenue

In 2025–2026, VWB U.S.A.'s work was supported through corporate and foundation grants, donations and fundraising, and management fees. Together, these funding sources provided the resources needed to support community-led animal health and One Health programs in the U.S. and around the world.

Total
**$613,110**

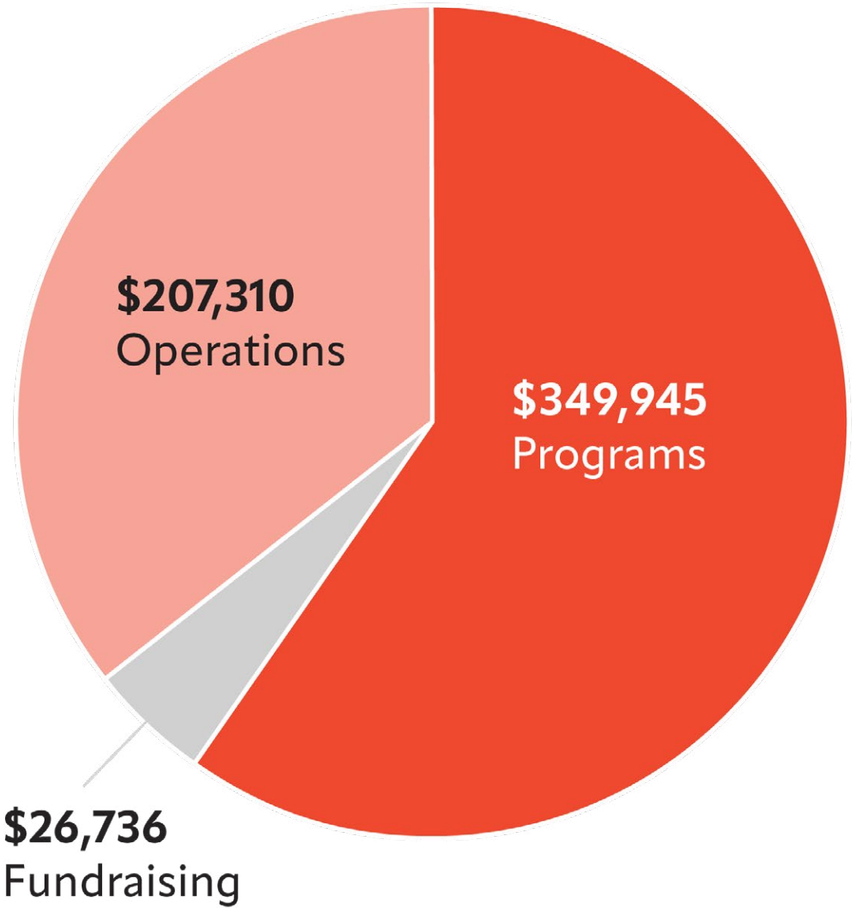


# How Funds Were Used

The majority of expenditures were directed toward program delivery, supporting veterinary care, training, and community-led animal health initiatives. Investments in operations and fundraising provided the people, systems, and infrastructure needed to deliver programs responsibly, strengthen organizational capacity, and sustain our mission over the long term.

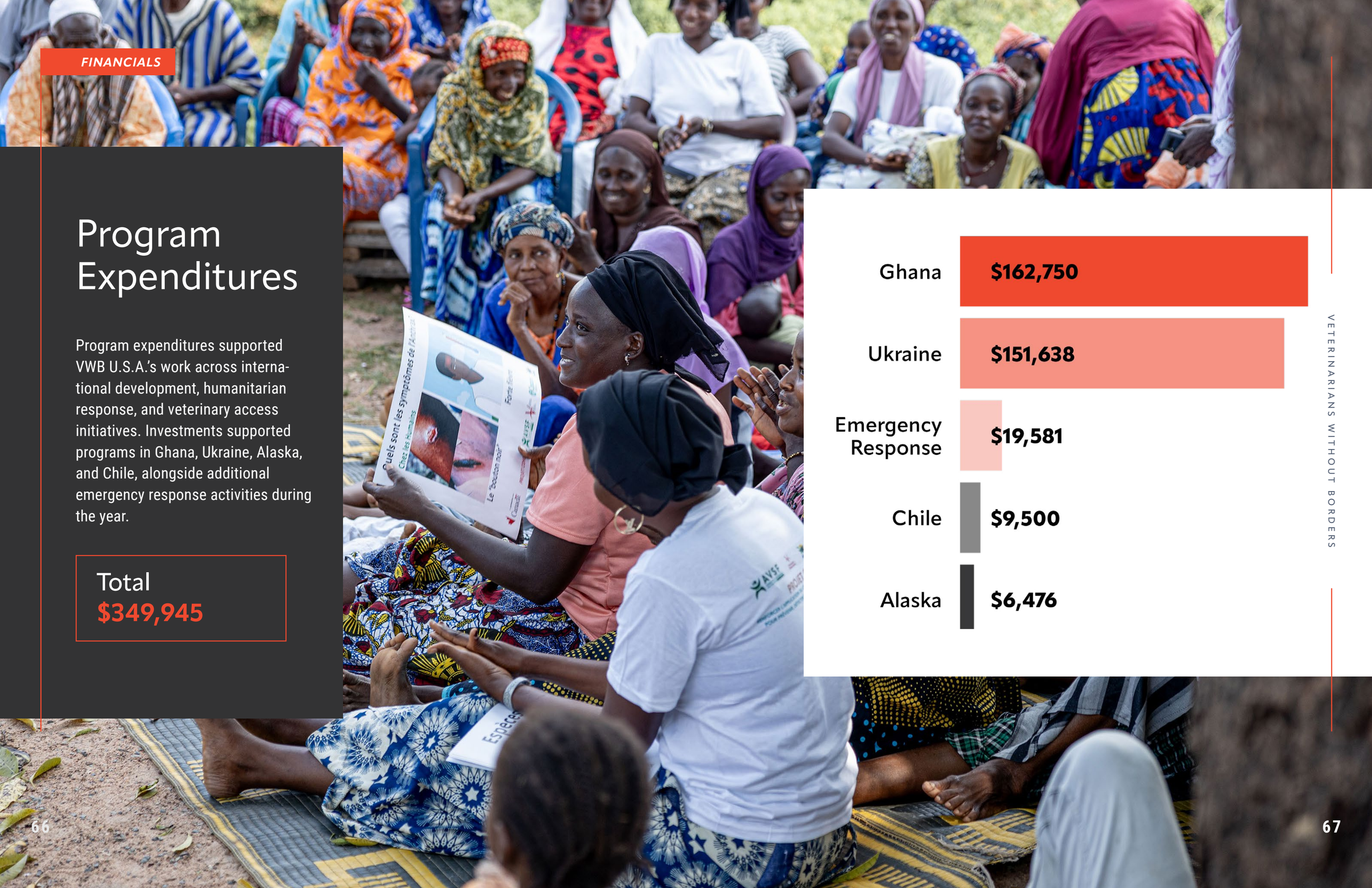
Total
**$583,991**



# Program Expenditures

Program expenditures supported VWB U.S.A.'s work across international development, humanitarian response, and veterinary access initiatives. Investments supported programs in Ghana, Ukraine, Alaska, and Chile, alongside additional emergency response activities during the year.

Total
**$349,945**



# *WITH* Gratitude

Every achievement in this report reflects the power of partnership. From individual donors and volunteers to institutional funders, local organizations, and technical experts, every contribution helps strengthen community-led animal health systems. Together, these partnerships are helping create healthier animals, stronger communities, and more resilient futures around the world.

## OUR CORPORATE AND FOUNDATION DONORS

We gratefully acknowledge the following corporate and foundation donors whose support helped make our work possible during the 2025–2026 fiscal year.

- DAF Giving 360
- Elanco
- Zoetis Foundation Inc.

## A NOTE OF THANKS TO ALL SUPPORTERS

To the many individuals, families, businesses, organizations, volunteers, and supporters who contributed to VWB's work this year: **thank you.** While we are unable to recognize every person by name, your generosity, time, expertise, and commitment have helped communities care for the animals they depend on—and made every achievement in this report possible.



# Our Board of Directors
## (VWB U.S.A.)

VWB's Board of Directors provides strategic oversight and governance, helping guide the organization through growth, opportunity, and change. We are grateful for their leadership, generosity of time, and steadfast commitment to our mission.

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Pete Mosney
VICE CHAIR

Brendan Delehanty
TREASURER & SECRETARY

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