



AVSF

AGRONOMES & VÉTÉRINAIRES
SANS FRONTIÈRES VSF INTERNATIONAL NETWORK



Helping people live off the land sustainably

Annual Report 2023

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OVER 650,000 PEOPLE SUPPORTED
 (more than 110,000 rural families)



80 DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

Editorial

A combat that resonates in both France and the Global South!

Feelings of anger began simmering in the agricultural world in late 2023, before ultimately bubbling over in France in early 2024. In Europe, and even more starkly in vulnerable countries in the Global South, which have been hit hard by violent conflicts and global warming, markets and supply chains for crop and livestock-farming products are profoundly unfair and do not adequately remunerate the work of the men and women who produce our food.

But make no mistake: in both the Global North and South, while earning a decent income is at the heart of what all the world's smallholders are fighting for, another major focus is to support farming systems that sustain jobs and life in rural areas, that are more climate-friendly and that do more to promote biodiversity as well as soil, animal and human health! Over the past 47 years, our focus has been to work with smallholders and smallholder organisations around the world to defend and promote the most beneficial smallholder-farming systems. We are able to work towards this vision thanks to our highly committed teams, our partners in the Global South and the steadfast support of our members, volunteers and financial partners.

This Report provides an overview of what we accomplished in 2023, despite the current political and security crises in over half the countries where we operate.

The changing geopolitical contexts around the world, armed conflicts, the questioning of aid and the legitimate demands of civil societies in the Global South for greater power and responsibility are challenging us to think about and identify how to best address these issues in the coming years, drawing on all the strengths of our organisation, our partners in the Global South and our allies in both France and Europe.



Barbara Dufour
President



Frédéric Apollin
Executive Director



22 COUNTRIES



371 SMALLHOLDER ORGANISATIONS HAVE PARTNERED WITH US



86% OF SPENDING is allocated to our projects (€18.5m budget)



72 PARTNERS for our projects



300 PROFESSIONALS, 90% of whom are from the countries where we carry out our projects

An NGO driven by professionals and activists

For over 45 years, AVSF has been supporting ambitious smallholder-farming and agroecology systems in the South that can sustainably ensure the food security of cities and rural areas, reduce inequality and poverty, and promote the economic and social emancipation of men, women, young people, and organisations in rural areas.

As an officially recognised non-profit association that promotes international solidarity, AVSF mobilises professionals in agriculture, livestock farming, and animal health. AVSF offers smallholder communities and organisations technical advice, financial support, and training, and draws on traditional smallholder wisdom, to help them improve their living conditions, sustainably manage natural resources, and participate in local socio-economic development.

Read AVSF's charter at avsf.org



FOCUS ON 3 NEW PROJECTS

For more information on all of AVSF's projects, visit avsf.org

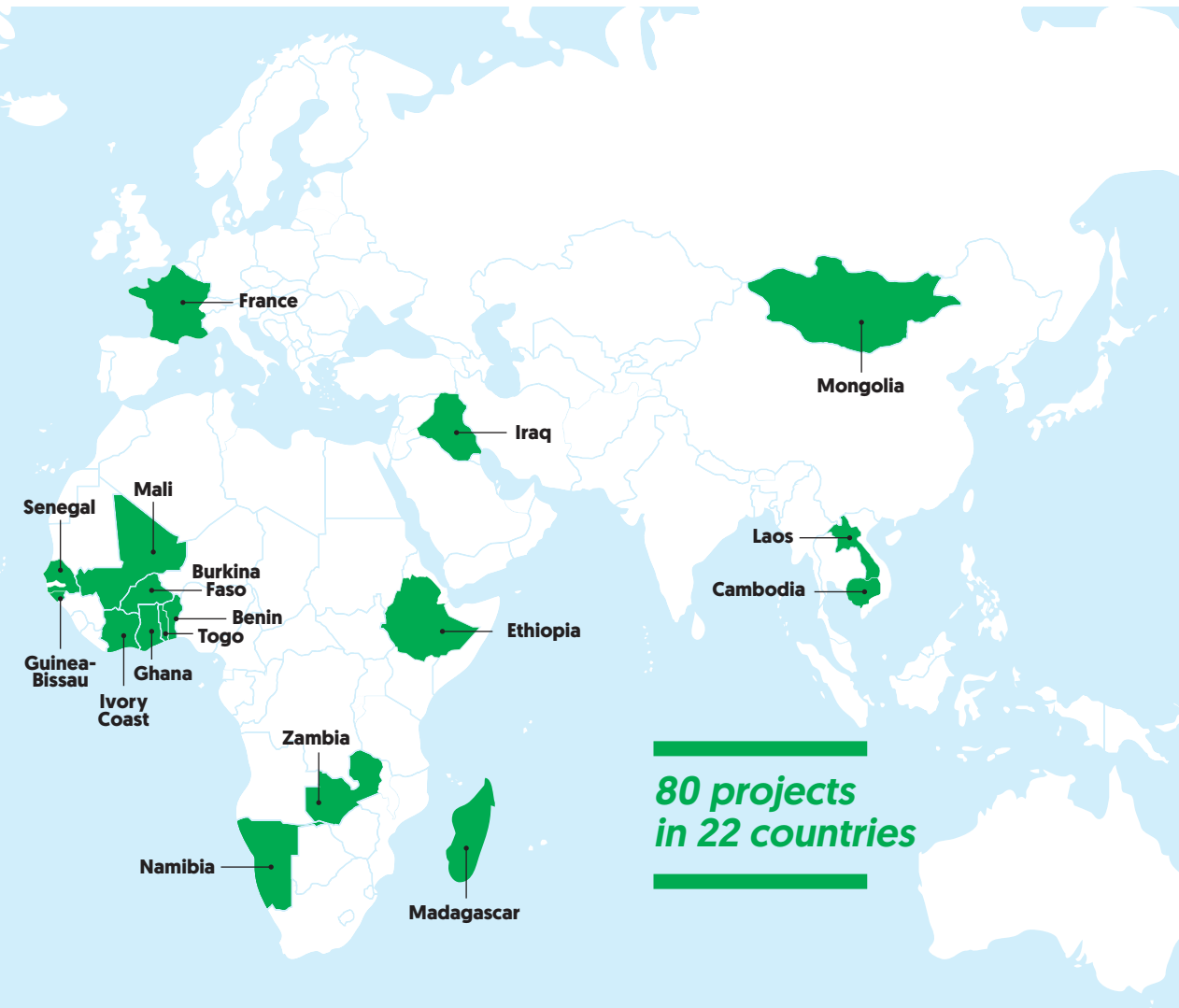
Namibia

Community management of biodiversity in southern Africa

Strengthening the capacities and rights of 50 communities, 200 grassroots community organisations and seven national organisations in southern Africa so that they can collectively manage natural resources, improve their livelihoods and conserve biodiversity. The project promotes recognition of their practices in national law and in international agreements on biodiversity, and carries out pilot tests for income-generating activities with 150 producers in "conservancies" in the Kunéné region.

Partners: NOÉ, Resource Africa, Integrated Rural Development and Nature Conservation (IRDNC), and community- and national-level organisations in Botswana, Malawi, Namibia, Tanzania, Zambia, Zimbabwe and Ghana

Funding: AFD, Resource Africa and Jamma International



**80 projects
in 22 countries**

Peru

Creating a sustainable zone in the VRAEM (“valleys of the Apurímac, Ene and Mantaro rivers”) region

Supporting 1,000 families and strengthening local producer organisations, women and indigenous groups in the VRAEM region to help them jointly manage their land and develop supply chains for production and the processing of agricultural goods in order to enable the growth of sustainable and legal family economies in a region historically dominated by coca production.

Partners: PROGRESO, DEVIDA, local governments, producer and indigenous organisations (FEPAVRAEM, FECMAVRAEM, OARA, CODIPAS, COPAS)

Funding: European Union

Madagascar

Water for people and animals in the Grand Sud zone

Strengthening the resilience of 1,000 vulnerable small-holder families in the Androy region of Madagascar’s Grand Sud zone by renovating, building, securing access to and managing 15 wells equipped with manual pumps, for human and animal consumption.

Partners: SOS Children’s Villages, Regional Directorate of Water, Sanitation and Hygiene, local communities

Funding: Syndicat d’Eau Potable Bresse Dombes Saône

8 highlights from 2023

May - Conference on the conservation of the Chaco forests and sustainable livestock farming in Bolivia



With Bolivia ranking third in the world for deforestation, AVSF brought together over 300 participants from Bolivia, Argentina and Paraguay

(representatives of civil society, livestock-farmer associations, researchers, regional decision-makers, and representatives of the national government and international bodies) on 10 and 11 May in Villa Montes. The focus of the conference and the challenge it addressed was: how to shift production methods in ranching towards sustainable livestock-farming systems that preserve wooded spaces? How to help small-scale livestock farmers in the Chaco gain access to organisational innovations and to appropriate financial tools, while helping them improve their skills?

June - An international conference to invigorate AVSF's collective project



In the town of Autrans on the Vercors Plateau, AVSF brought together all of its country representatives, employees in France, elected representatives and members to collectively assess the progress made with respect to the "AVSF 2025" strategy, and to prepare for thinking about and defining AVSF's vision for 2030. It was a convivial event that was much needed after the Covid years to revitalise AVSF's shared project in a world increasingly marked by conflicts, climate change, the questioning of development aid and new forms of civic engagement.

June - Agence Française de Développement renews its trust in AVSF



Under the aegis of the French Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs, AVSF and AFD signed a new multi-year partnership agreement for 2023–2026. The

objective is to defend and promote the agroecological transitions, and to strengthen smallholder farming in the service of sovereign and sustainable food systems, social justice and sustainable health for all. It is an essential partnership that supports over 100,000 smallholder families in more than 20 countries in the Global South, and that is helping drive innovations and proposals developed in national and international forums where public policies are discussed.

September - Maintaining support for civilian populations in the Sahel



AVSF is working with Coordination Sud to maintain the French government's support for projects carried out in Burkina Faso and Niger by the civil societies of France, Burkina Faso and Niger. The organisations are asking for strict compliance with the spirit of the French law on inclusive development, which was passed unanimously by members of the French parliament in August 2021 but which has been abused through an alarming misuse of public development aid for political and diplomatic purposes. This aid is invaluable and badly needed to support local civil societies and encourage social cohesion and peace for populations exposed to conflicts, climate change and poverty, which is posing a greater and greater threat.

September - Groupe Initiatives celebrates its 30-year anniversary

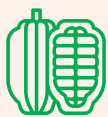


Thirty years ago, AVSF and a group of other NGOs dedicated to promoting international solidarity created Groupe Initiatives (GI) to encourage partner-based cooperation with legitimate local actors in their own localities and foster necessary and permanent dialogue with public authorities and the private sector. Now, thirty years later, in addition to multiple local projects carried out jointly in over 60 different countries, the 15 NGOs belonging to GI are still at the forefront challenging, critiquing and openly sharing their approaches, practices, successes and failures in response to the inevitable and profound changes affecting solidarity work in a fast-changing world.





October - **Salon du Chocolat: smallholder organisations once again in the spotlight**



In Paris, AVSF welcomed representatives of partner organisations in Haiti, Madagascar, Ivory Coast, Ghana and Togo. These producers are key players in the production of fine, aromatic cocoa that is both organic and free trade, and they came to Paris to defend and call for a fair and equitable price for their labour. At two conferences with chocolate makers and institutional players, AVSF and the cooperatives deciphered and discussed the conditions required for adapting to the new European regulation on deforestation-free products.

November - **A new agreement for the AVSF-Gret alliance to develop its collaboration**



As part of the AVSF-Gret alliance established in 2022, this new agreement aims to coordinate collaboration between the two NGOs in countries where they both operate and their joint prospecting efforts in new regions. The purpose is to identify and facilitate opportunities for operational collaboration between the two organisations by pooling their skills and partnerships, in order to encourage high-impact actions in support of vulnerable populations in the regions in question.

November - **A conference on sustainable agricultural supply chains**



AVSF and colleagues from Coordination Sud's Agriculture and Food Commission co-organised a conference on regulatory policies to guarantee sustainable agricultural supply chains and fair trade. A broad spectrum of players and experts from public institutions, smallholder organisations and NGOs clearly highlighted the need for proactive and effective public policies in various fields (agriculture, trade, tax, etc.) in addition to private certifications (fair trade, etc.).

Agroecological transitions

The agroecological transitions are the foundation for all AVSF projects, because they address two priorities: boosting productivity for crop and livestock farming, and ensuring the sustainability of those agricultural systems. These complex dynamics require participation from all players in agricultural supply chains.

By improving agricultural performance, agroecology is a way to help smallholders achieve food and financial autonomy without negative externalities. These practices help preserve biodiversity and human health, adapt to climate change and minimise greenhouse-gas emissions.

The practices for reducing pesticides and preventing misuse of veterinary medicines illustrate this virtuous principle. From the publication of a practical training guide in 2021 for agriculture professionals to the more recent publication of a position paper on the subject, AVSF has been working to identify, test and promote viable alternatives to chemistry, drawing on smallholder knowledge and scientific advances.

After workshops in Senegal, Madagascar and Ivory Coast, in 2023, AVSF organised a workshop in Ecuador on reducing pesticides and other synthetic inputs. A total of 35 people working in the field received training so that they could, in turn, lead training sessions for others on the risks linked to the use and excessive consumption of pesticides and veterinary products, and on the participatory diagnosis of pest-management practices and the wide range of existing agroecological alternatives (see interview, opposite). By avoiding these expensive products while also maintaining ambitious production, smallholders gain greater independence.

Combating deforestation is also part of the agroecological transitions promoted by AVSF: agroforestry helps maintain healthy ecosystems and forests, while also making them productive for people. The Terramaz project, for instance, is being carried out next to Yasuni National Park in Ecuador, where the Amazon Forest is being gradually eaten away at by destructive forces, such as the oil industry and a destructive crop- and livestock-farming model. One aim of the project is to strengthen the knowledge and practices of smallholder and indigenous communities at three agroecology schools for smallholders.

Eight practical training modules are offered, including diagnostic analysis, planning and design of an agroecological farm, and understanding water cycles and soil fertility, how to best manage them and how to make bio-inputs. Two settler communities and one Shuar indigenous community (51 families) are currently in training and are learning how to preserve the forest while also using agroecological techniques to produce crops, such as cocoa, for their own consumption and for export.

Beyond the purely technical aspects, the development of these agroecological transitions requires suitable marketing channels and ambitious support policies.

In this regard, AVSF defends the right of smallholders to have access to natural resources, transparent markets and pre- and post-production services. Lastly, AVSF encourages the participation of civil society, public and private actors, and consumers at local, national and international level to speed up the deep transformation of not only our agricultural model, but also our food systems.

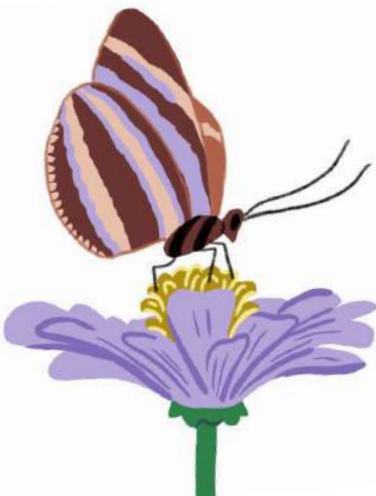
Preserving human health and biodiversity



Younoussa Barry, an agronomist involved in the Thiellal project in Senegal, led a participatory initiative for dialogue and experimentation with local communities which led them to reduce pesticides.

Which pesticides are used in the Kolda region?

The studies and surveys conducted by the Thiellal project showed that 66% of the products identified in the department are not approved by the Sahelian Pesticide Committee. As for active ingredients, 50% are substances that are banned in the European Union, and 12% supposedly cause cancer. These products are generally acquired at local markets from informal vendors, who represent 60% of all vendors identified. These vendors are not authorised to sell the products, and generally cannot read or write. They are therefore not able to advise customers on how to use these dangerous products, which come from China mainly, as well as France.





“At the agroecology school for smallholders, I learned how to care for and manage crops, and how to make natural inputs. It’s very interesting, and we learn a lot.”

Jessica Calvache, a member of the Tiguanoa Shuar community involved in the Terramaz project in Ecuador

How are these pesticides used?

We observed that few smallholders – only 14% – have basic personal protective equipment of goggles, gloves, boots and a basic mask. The high cost of that equipment is an obstacle. The surveys also showed that most smallholders in the department store their pesticides in the field, near animals, in granaries or near stored food, or even flush unused pesticides down the toilet. The project therefore includes many awareness-raising initiatives, and communication through home visits and conversations to teach smallholders about best practices for pesticide use [protection, storage, dosage, management of packaging, etc.].

What alternatives were adopted?

The project launched agroecological field-school projects to facilitate experimentation and teach new practices to smallholders. About ten training programmes and exchanges were held on topics such as the use of biopesticides

and biofertilisers. Between the first and second year, we trained 108 smallholders through four agroecological field-school projects. The good results motivated the smallholders to replicate these practices in their own fields and teach them to their neighbours. We are also working with smallholders on companion planting, an agroecological practice that also enables them to diversify their food and income. Lastly, we opened a fund to support local agroecological initiatives and organise smallholder networks in each village. All these actions help preserve human and animal health and biodiversity, which we could not live without.

PUBLICATIONS



Reducing the use of pesticides and veterinary products: a key objective in the implementation of agroecological alternatives
Amélie Bajolet, Valentin Beauval, Bertrand Mathieu, Brunilda Rafael, Position paper, AVSF, 2024

Accompagner les paysans et paysannes ouest-africains dans la transition agroécologique avec des champs-écoles, Report on the evaluation of field-school projects in northern Togo, Teatske Bakker, AVSF, 2023

Available for download at avsf.org

Livestock farming and animal health

AVSF is the first French NGO to offer veterinary expertise, and we still draw on that expertise to help small livestock farmers in the Global South. All our actions centre around the One Health approach and its actual application in rural communities.



The main objective of AVSF's work is to sustainably increase the productivity of small livestock farmers. Doing so helps improve the food security of livestock farming families and boost their income. AVSF and its partners offer technical assistance to improve livestock-farming conditions and practices: better habitat, feeding, reproduction, biosecurity, animal welfare, etc.

AVSF also works to strengthen local animal-health services in rural areas that are suffering from a critical lack of access to veterinary care. These actions are bolstered by the training of community-based animal health workers (CAHW), who are livestock farmers chosen by their community, trained in basic veterinary medicine, and integrated into a network by AVSF in coordination with national veterinary services and private veterinarians.

The Water Buffalo project in Iraq is an original example of a local mobile health system. In the marshlands in the southern part of the country, the veterinary team uses an ambulance boat to reach livestock farmers in around ten different villages. In 2023, these visits made it possible to identify and treat 2,400 cases of parasitism, 800 cases of foot-and-mouth disease and 250 cases of respiratory illness. The project is funded by the Crisis and Support Centre of the French Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs and was expanded in 2024 to cover the entire Al-Chibayish district, with the hiring of a third veterinarian who will work with the women who raise the buffaloes and who process buffalo milk to revitalise the value chain.

AVSF is also active at several different levels in coordination with and supported by national, central and decentralised veterinary services in order to prevent animal diseases and protect public health: epidemiological surveillance, quality of meat and other animal products, etc. All of these actions are part of the One Health approach.

Making the One Health concept a reality

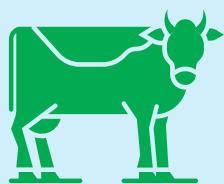
The One Health concept recognises and integrates the interdependence of human health, animal health, environmental health and the health of food systems. For AVSF, the goal is to apply this sound approach in practice with all the institutional actors in question and with genuine participation from smallholder communities. At the One Sustainable Health Forum in Lyon in July 2023 (see p. 18), AVSF's contribution focused on the conditions for ensuring effective and operational implementation of this approach, drawing on its experience in the field, particularly in Africa and Asia.

Among many other projects, AVSF joined the PREZODE (Preventing ZOonotic Disease Emergence) initiative in 2022, which is co-led by CIRAD and IRD. The initiative seeks to better understand infectious zoonotic diseases and prevent their emergence.

It was against this backdrop that AVSF in 2023 joined the AFRICAM project in Senegal, Madagascar and Cambodia to develop epidemiological surveillance systems that connect CAHWs with other local actors and national veterinary services.

AVSF also joined the One Health Indian Ocean partnership (DP OH OI) launched by CIRAD in 2015, which comprises over 120 professionals specialising in animal health, human health and environmental sciences from eight different countries in the southwest Indian Ocean region. Its purpose is to study and better understand infectious and zoonotic diseases in the region in order to better prevent and control them, while also protecting local communities and livestock supply chains, by using epidemiological monitoring tools and diagnostic tools, and by organising training programmes for members on a regular basis.





16,700
NUMBER OF CATTLE VACCINATED
AS PART OF A VACCINATION
CAMPAIGN SUPPORTED BY AVSF
IN THE HIGHLANDS OF SOUTHERN
ETHIOPIA, FROM AUGUST
TO OCTOBER 2023.

The campaign sought to address the region's limited access to vaccination against certain serious diseases, such as anthrax, lumpy skin disease, bovine pasteurellosis and blackleg. It was an important operation for smallholder families, who rely on just a few dairy cows to feed themselves and generate income. The initiative also made it possible to test coordination between multiple actors, with the participation of farmer relays and local veterinary services to ensure better access to this essential service over the long term.

This vaccination campaign was part of a project carried out in partnership with InterAide France and funded by AFD.

PUBLICATIONS

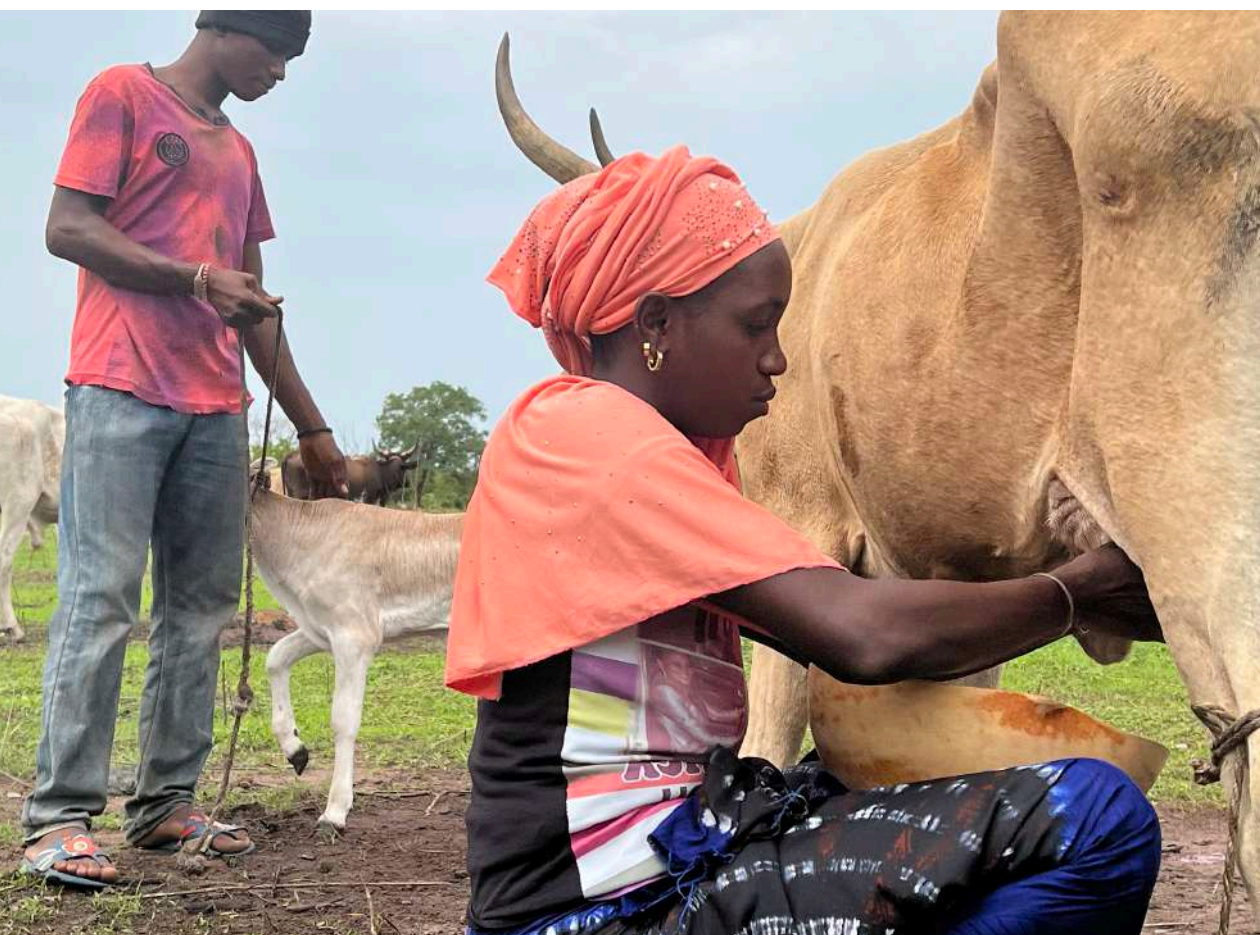


11

La génétique animale, facteur de développement de l'élevage paysan ?
Barbara Dufour and Sabine Patricot, with contributions from Hervé Petit, Manuelle Miller, Bénédicte Boigné, Xavier Plaetevoet, Olivier Faugère, Germain Rives, Margot Gallière, Philippe Collin and Dominique Lebreton, Technical paper, AVSF 2024

Les pratiques traditionnelles de santé animale, Barbara Dufour and Sabine Patricot, with contributions from Bénédicte Boigné, Olivier Faugère, Catherine Roffet, Stefano mason, Manuelle Miller, Dominique Lebreton, Xavier Plaetevoet and Pascal hendrikx, Technical paper, AVSF 2024

Available for download at avsf.org



Sustainable and fair supply chains



AVSF supports the creation of sustainable, fair and transparent agricultural supply chains that provide decent income for smallholder families and organisations. In 2023, roughly half of AVSF's volume of activity was devoted to this objective.

These sustainable and fair supply chains include production for export (cocoa, coffee, shea, fruit, spices, etc.) supported, for example, by the Équitable project in West Africa and the Cacao Bioandino project in the Andes, as well as food production for local markets, for example in Ivory Coast (periurban market gardening), Ecuador (grains, dairy products, market gardening, etc.)

and Guatemala [market gardening, small-scale livestock farming, etc.].

All of them are committed to agroecological transitions (see p. 8): agroecology makes it possible to produce food that is healthy, nutritious and not contaminated with harmful pesticide residues, which means the products can be sold in high-quality markets that are more lucrative for producer organisations.

Whether they are organic, agroecological with participatory guarantee systems (PGS) or fair trade, certifications ensure and legitimise the qualities of these supply chains and the upscaling of production in the eyes of the public and professionals. In this respect, AVSF works with a number of fair-trade labels in both the Global South and North: Fair

Trade, Fair for Life, SPP, Biopartenaire, WFTO, Bio Équitable en France.

AVSF also closely monitors the evolution of the EU's organic regulations in a context where the organic market is shrinking. In December 2023, the cooperative consultancy TERO, Ethiquable (a French cooperative company) and AVSF came together to try to better understand the changes and identify how producer organisations are impacted as well as how to assist them and help them adapt to the new requirements.

Fair-trade supply chains are series of partnerships between producer organisations, processors, buyers, distributors, consumers, etc., that are based on transparency and fair remuneration for the parties involved. In export supply



A turnkey solution

AVSF developed a management toolbox with online training for cooperatives and professionals who work with cooperatives. These systems aim to strengthen the internal, commercial and financial management capacities of producer organisations that are partnered with us in order to help them become more and more autonomous and take control of their own destiny.

AVSF AND THE COCOA SUPPLY CHAIN IN 2023



8 COUNTRIES



12 PROJECTS



6 NATIONAL NETWORKS
and **1 REGIONAL NETWORK**
of producer organisations
partnered with AVSF



50 PRODUCER ORGANISATIONS SUPPORTED

PUBLICATION



Organisations dans les filières et gestion de la qualité : l'exemple du Cambodge, Traverse no. 53, Groupe Initiatives, 2023

Available for download at avsf.org

New project

Ivory Coast

Effective supply chains for agroecological food production around Abidjan

Supporting local marketing of the market-garden production of 300 producers in order to offer healthier food options for consumers in cities, and helping producers become better organised for group marketing and better remuneration.

Partners: Agrisud, smallholder organisations

Funding: Carrefour Foundation

chains, AVSF has developed strong partnerships with commercial operators, such as Ethiquable and Valrhona, who develop virtuous business relationships with producer organisations. AVSF coordinates its projects with these businesses and carries out joint actions serving producer organisations in the Andes, Haiti, Madagascar, West Africa and South East Asia.

Lastly, AVSF defends the rights, interests and recognition of producer organisations as key players in agricultural supply chains. Advocacy actions are carried out within groups of organisations, such as Commerce Équitable France and Coordination Sud's Agriculture and Food Commission. In 2023, the focus was defending the interests of producers impacted by excessively low prices,

and by the EU regulation on deforestation and forest degradation, as well as other public policies on regulations for supply chains (see p. 7 and p. 18).



Crises and emergency-response initiatives

Political and security crises are becoming more and more serious in many of the countries where we operate, and natural disasters are on the rise, driven by global warming. These situations are creating dangers for rural areas and people living in rural communities, and for our own teams and partners.



Although stimulated by international conflicts, these political and security crises are most often domestic: they pit governments and regular armed forces against revolutionary armed groups, separatist groups, jihadist groups, groups resisting occupation and criminal groups or groups created as a result of opposition between different socio-ethnic communities.

Our teams are largely made up of professionals from the countries where we operate. They feel a sense of solidarity and are committed to helping their country and smallholder families, their organisations, smallholder leaders and NGOs, suddenly mired in violent conflicts. The personal relationships they have established with these communities, their ties and their in-depth knowledge

of these regions and their actors allow us to continue, at their request, actions that we believe are useful. **Whenever the level of risk is deemed acceptable, and as long as communities can still be accessed, AVSF will continue its work.**

That was the case, for example, in Mali, Burkina Faso, Haiti, Iraq and Ecuador in 2023. Our actions aim **to maintain or restore smallholders' access to means of food production, income generation and job creation, and to certain essential services.** They seek **to sustain agricultural and rural economies,** which are vital for local communities and for offering opportunities for young

people, who are sometimes tempted to get involved in armed or criminal activity. Lastly, we believe that in any security crisis it is vital to maintain the network of local actors who represent and defend the interests and rights of smallholders. Doing so helps maintain local forums for governance and dialogue.

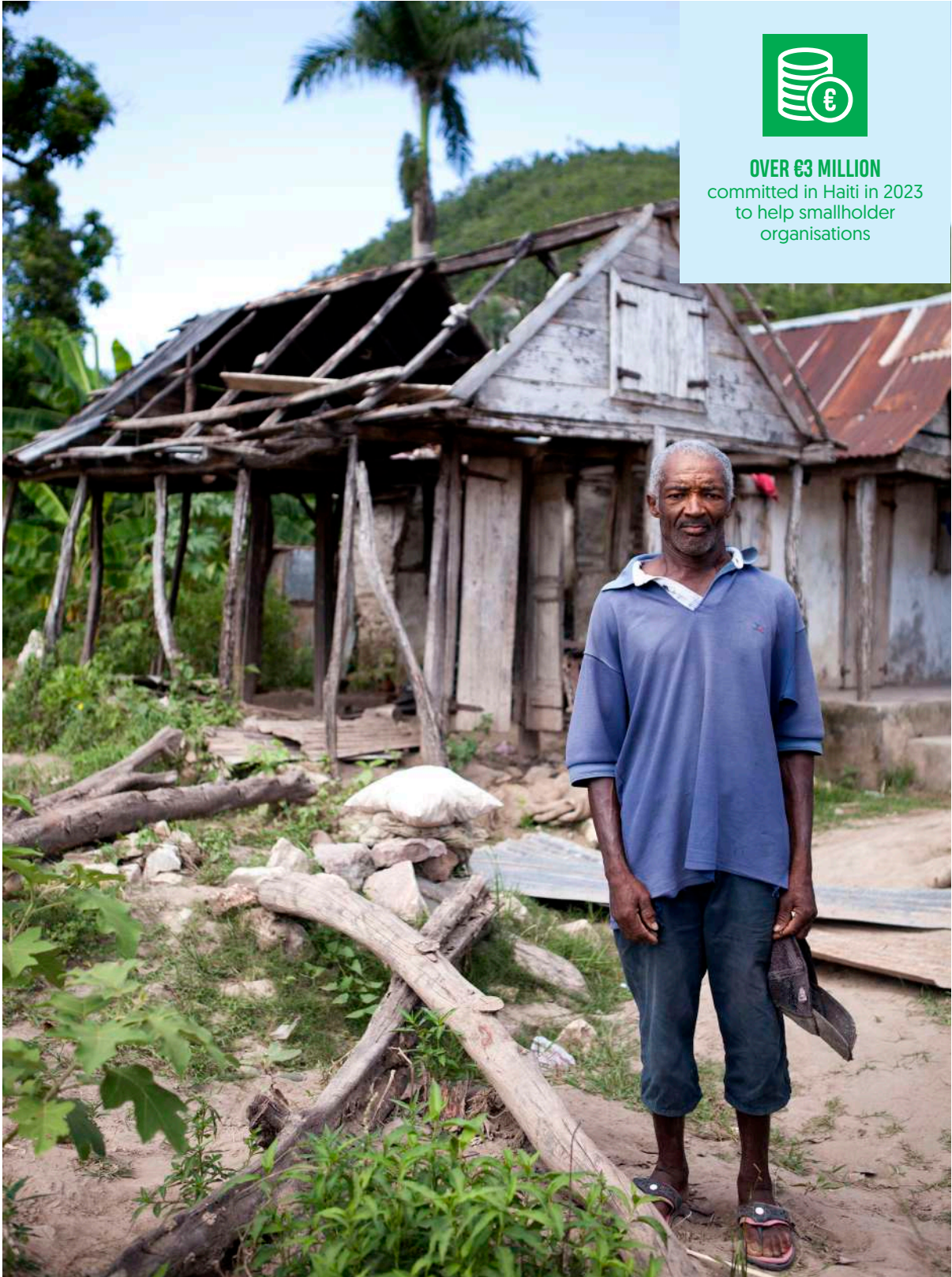
To preserve the integrity of our teams, AVSF has adopted ad-hoc security measures in all the countries where we operate, and these measures are revised on a regular basis [stronger monitoring and risk-anticipation measures, rapid-response procedures in the event of a critical security incident, etc.]. AVSF has also updated the priorities of its actions for smallholders affected by such conflicts, and adapted its approaches and methods, including monitoring.

13 OF THE 22 COUNTRIES WHERE AVSF OPERATES ARE EXPERIENCING MAJOR POLITICAL AND SECURITY CRISES

Haiti: action maintained despite the presence of gangs

Haiti's history is marked by a number of intertwined crises, from climate and political crises to economic and security crises. In 2023, the country experienced a major political crisis that led to the rise of armed gangs in the capital, fighting for control over certain localities, port access, the fuel terminal and the main roads. The situation has caused a sharp rise in the price of fuel, raw materials, agricultural inputs, and food, which no longer circulates freely in the country. In late 2023, roughly half of the population was suffering from acute food insecurity. AVSF continued all of its work with smallholder organisations outside the capital (Nord, Grande Anse and Sud departments) on agroforestry systems and sustainable and fair supply chains for cocoa and coffee. Given the increase in food prices, and because agroforestry

systems are used by smallholders to grow crops for their own consumption as well as for export, these systems are more important than ever, in terms of ensuring the food security of local communities and protecting the natural environment, which is sometimes highly degraded. Supporting these organisations makes it possible to keep rural economies alive and maintain local governance forums. To ensure the security of its teams, AVSF strengthened its security procedures in 2023 as well as its procedures for ensuring permanent communication between team members and with the head office. AVSF also delocalised a large portion of its teams and its office outside the capital, and opted for air travel to and from the capital. But the continuation of this action would not have been possible without our Haitian colleagues, who are remarkably committed to supporting their country and who, despite the risks and difficulties, have adapted every day in order to continue the activities and maintain the connection with rural organisations.



OVER €3 MILLION
committed in Haiti in 2023
to help smallholder
organisations

Equal opportunity

Women and young people in rural communities have limited access to productive resources and are subject to social norms that limit their role in agricultural supply chains. They nevertheless play a key role in supporting agroecological transitions and ensuring global food security.

Half the world's food is produced by women. In addition to doing fieldwork and herding animals for their parents, many young people want to revitalise rural communities and try out innovative practices to support the agroecological transition and boost the performance of their farm. But their work is obscured by customary, social and economic rules, which sometimes hinder their ability to act.

To combat this discrimination, AVSF has launched an array of actions harnessing the agroecological transitions as a lever for empowerment. The main challenge is facilitating their access to natural resources, land, water, means of production and funding so that they can work in agricultural trades. They also need to develop their skills and have access to training and advice. That is the aim of the Ngalu Rewbé project in Senegal, which seeks to empower women by helping them improve their professional skills in sheep farming [see publication]. The project aims to create sustainable local jobs, improve the performance

of sheep fattening and help female sheep farmers with the financial management of their activity.

AVSF also helps women and young people join the decision-making bodies of smallholder organisations and of their respective localities. For instance, the Urku Ñan project (which was completed in 2023) in Ecuador supported and provided training for over 40 Kichwa women, who went on to become political leaders in their communities: their voices are now helping defend the preservation of fragile ecosystems in the Andean highlands.

To ensure greater consideration of equal-opportunity issues, AVSF created two committees (a "gender" committee and a "youth" committee), each comprising a mix of elected representatives and employees. The purpose of the committees is to speed up the integration of these issues by our teams in France and abroad, and in our technical projects. The gender committee organised three webinars to examine local practices and needs and present employees with a guide on gender issues, which will be published in 2024. The youth committee carries out prospective work on the specific problems and expectations of young people in rural communities in the countries where we carry out our projects. It develops the strategy and makes recommendations for how to address these issues. These two committees demonstrate AVSF's reflexivity on important and complex issues.



New project:

Guatemala

Young people in rural areas working independently to exercise their rights

Promoting training, participation, advocacy and the coordination of rural youth organisations to promote and help them exercise their rights, and promoting the development of local initiatives to strengthen their livelihoods: 1,981 young people (men and women) between the ages of 13 and 31 from smallholder and indigenous communities, 50 representatives of public institutions and over 300 people from smallholder families.

Partners: Mercy Corps (leader), Action Aid, Fundacion Educacion y Cooperacion, Trocaire, local organisations

Funding: European Union

PUBLICATION

Une position renforcée des femmes dans la filière bovine au Sénégal, vers une reconnaissance du rôle des femmes éleveuses dans la région de Matam, Papa Djiby Ba, Katia Roesch, Innovation report, AVSF, 2023

Available for download at avsf.org





Youth training: a means of empowerment



Former AVSF assistant coordinator in Ecuador Renata Lasso carried out projects to support young people in rural communities.

What are the challenges that young people in rural communities must overcome?

Young people in Ecuador, particularly in rural areas, face considerable challenges: 46% of them are living in poverty, and 22.6% in extreme poverty. This situation is due to disparities in access to resources such as water, land and loans, and is also due to unbalanced investments in extractive sectors. Moreover, the limited offer of professional training leaves them in a precarious position in the labour market and has driven a rising number of young people to relocate to urban areas. It is essential to implement policies that give priority to the needs of young people

in rural areas. These actions not only benefit young people, but they also improve living conditions in rural areas as a whole.

What action has AVSF taken to better integrate young people?

AVSF worked with the Shiña Community Intercultural and Bilingual Educational Unit in the province of Cuenca, and guided instructors and students' parents to help them overcome a number of administrative obstacles to create Ecuador's first technical baccalaureate in agroecology. AVSF also worked with the Amawtay Wasi indigenous university to design, through a participatory process, a training programme in agroecology, providing training for instructors and producers. Lastly, in collaboration with the network of young people in Chocó Andino, a biodiversity hotspot near Quito, AVSF supported innovative production-focused initiatives in a region threatened by mining and provided training for young people to help them defend their lands, showing that it is possible to promote sustainable alternatives in threatened regions.

The "Young People and Rural Communities" project was completed in 2023. What were the main results?

Many results will be seen to have an impact over the medium term. The technical baccalaureate in agroecology was approved by the Ministry of Education, which means it can be implemented at any school, offering a particularly relevant alternative for agricultural schools. At the Shiña educational unit, the first class of 15 students from rural communities has completed their training, and a similar number will likely pursue this programme in the upcoming school year. The training programme developed in collaboration with the Amawtay Wasi public university has already trained 15 instructors and producers, and plans are underway to promote new cohorts of students. Ten production-focused initiatives were promoted with the network of young people in Chocó Andino, but the most important result was the training of a group of young defenders of the land, who are trained and committed to protecting their lands from the impacts of extractivism.

IN 2023



60,922 WOMEN DIRECTLY SUPPORTED



39,409 YOUNG PEOPLE DIRECTLY SUPPORTED



15 PROJECTS
with a "youth" component

Our influence and advocacy work



One Health: ensuring greater consideration of smallholder organisations

Improving human health, animal health and environmental health requires participation from local communities and smallholder organisations. They are among the first in their respective localities to understand the impact of their practices on the environment and on health. That was the viewpoint defended in 2023 by AVSF and its partners in the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH) and multiple international forums, where the implementation of the One Health approach and related public policies were discussed. AVSF also reiterated the crucial role of community-based animal health workers (CAHW), who help detect and prevent epizooties.

In July 2023, AVSF represented VSF International at the One Sustainable Health Forum (OSH Forum) in Lyon. The objective was to propose solutions to close the gap between the “theoretical” concept of One Health and its actual implementation. Throughout the year, AVSF also co-facilitated an OSH Forum working group on how to include local communities in these types of actions. AVSF also joined the steering committee

for the Prezode international initiative, which seeks to understand and prevent the emergence of zoonoses.

AVSF active within Collectif Nourrir

For over a year, AVSF has been promoting agricultural and food issues affecting countries in the Global South within three of the collective’s working groups: transition towards more sustainable livestock-farming systems, tools for regulating income and trade at different scales, and the collective’s strategy for influencing opinion and public policies in favour of profoundly transitioning agricultural and food systems in France and worldwide.

Combating imported deforestation in the European Union

AVSF is working to defend the interests of producer organisations in light of the application of the new EU regulation on combating deforestation and forest degradation. Although AVSF is delighted with its adoption, the regulation presents challenges for smallholder organisations in terms of being able to bring themselves into full compliance

before 1 January 2025, owing in particular to the costs associated with traceability at a time when remuneration for producers – especially cocoa producers – is very low. The risk is that only private companies and multinationals will be able to succeed. AVSF promoted various positions and proposals in favour of smallholder organisations within the monitoring committee for the National Strategy to Combat Imported Deforestation (where AVSF represented Coordination Sud and the French Initiative for Sustainable Cocoa) and in the countries where AVSF carries out its projects.

Draft bills jointly drawn up by smallholder organisations

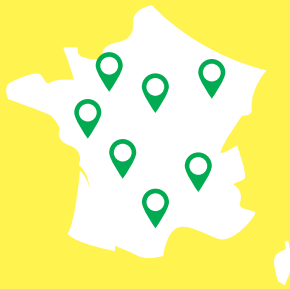
In Ecuador, indigenous and smallholder organisations, supported by AVSF, delivered a bill to the National Assembly on 28 March 2023 to reform the law on the management of water and its use. The text proposes, among other things, banning activities that may harm the quality and quantity of water and the balance of ecosystems, recognising the role of rural communities and community practices in the protection of water resources, and creating a national water fund.

In Colombia, AVSF worked with senators and civil-society groups to draw up a draft bill on agroecology, which was presented to the Senate in 2022. The bill proposed support for small producers in the form of training or access to loans, the creation of a department dedicated to agroecology within the Ministry of Agriculture, and the creation of a road map for developing agroecology at national level. In June 2023, AVSF continued its efforts by co-organising a meeting at the Senate, which brought together over 40 participants from the Ministry of Agriculture, smallholder and indigenous organisations, universities, etc.

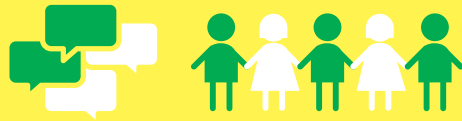
Education in citizenship and international solidarity

AVSF is carrying out a series of awareness-raising initiatives in France to teach the general public and young people about smallholder farming and international solidarity.

2,500 PEOPLE ATTENDED THESE EVENTS
in a dozen different towns: Paris, Lyon, La Rochelle, Angers, Rouen, Montpellier, Caen, Nantes, etc.



47 AWARENESS-RAISING WORKSHOPS WERE ORGANISED FOR 13,600 PRIMARY-SCHOOL STUDENTS,



USING THREE DIFFERENT WORKSHOP KITS:

Aminata in the Land of Chocolate,



Aminata and Livestock Farming



and Aminata's Farm



15 "JUNIOR" WORKSHOPS were organised for 300 secondary-school students to teach them about the Sustainable Development Goals.



Participation in several events at two festivals:

ALIMENTERRE AND FESTISOL



26 FILM-SCREENING AND DISCUSSION EVENTS organised throughout France: Angers, Dijon, Mâcon, Rouen, Montpellier, La Rochelle, etc.

ASSOCIATION LIFE



268 MEMBERS



120 VOLUNTEERS
5,037 volunteer hours recorded in the Use of Resources Statement



12 SCHOOL CORRESPONDENTS



23 REGIONAL CORRESPONDENTS



4 CONFERENCES without borders and 1 country-specific conference

Elected representatives and governance bodies

[14 june 2024]

The Bureau

Barbara DUFOUR :

President - Veterinarian, professor of contagious diseases and epidemiology at Alfort veterinary school

Jean-François LAMOUREUX :

Vice-President - Architect, former vice-president of Action Contre la Faim

Dominique LEBRETON :

Secretary-General - Farmer, former regional Confédération Paysanne representative to CESER (economic, social and environmental council), former president of Confédération Paysanne for the Loire-Atlantique department and former vice-president of the Chamber of Agriculture for the Loire-Atlantique department

Alain YVERGNIAUX :

Secretary-General - Economist, former business executive, strategy and organisation consultant

Élisabeth MULLER :

Treasurer - Former AVSF administrative and financial director

Michel PROST :

Member - Agricultural economist, former director of a federation of cooperatives

Daniel ROCHE :

Member - Agricultural engineer, former director of the ESITPA school of agricultural engineering, agricultural training instructor and specialist in agricultural and rural development

Hugues VERNIER :

Member - Former head of "agriculture/food" and coordination of the Biovallée strategic and operational project for the Val de Drôme community

Other members of the Board of Directors

Amélie BAJOLET :

Agronomist and president of the Bee Friendly Label

Moussa BALDÉ :

Local development engineer, AVSF national coordinator for Senegal, Gambia and Guinea-Bissau

Cécile BÉRUT :

International consultant specialising in rural development, former AVSF representative in Haiti

Patrick CARON :

Veterinarian, researcher at CIRAD, vice chair of CGIAR's board of directors, director of the Montpellier Advanced Knowledge Institute on Transitions (MAKIT/MUSE), chair of Agropolis International

Marc CHAPON :

Agronomist, AVSF national coordinator for Togo and Benin

Camille CLUZEAUD :

Project manager in charge of relations with large retailers at the Bee Friendly Label

Loïc COISNON :

Former regional director at Crédit Mutuel, corporate auditor

Philippe COLLIN :

Farmer, former spokesperson for Confédération Paysanne

Guy DURAND :

Agricultural economist, professor emeritus of economics and rural development at Institut Agro Rennes

Olivier FAUGÈRE :

Veterinarian, specialist in livestock farming in warm regions and veterinary public health, former director of the French National School for Official Veterinarians, former director of "France Veterinary International"

Jacques LOYAT :

Honorary general engineer of agricultural engineering for water and forests

Hervé PETIT :

Veterinarian and former head of AVSF's Livestock Farming, Animal Health and Veterinary Public Health unit

Xavier PEYRACHE :

Economic consultant

Christian TAUPIAC :

Forest ranger and agricultural economist, specialist in rural development in developing countries

Jean-Michel THOMAS :

Agricultural engineer, professor emeritus of agronomy at Institut Agro Dijon

International technical teams

[March 2024]

In the countries where we carry out our projects

9 national coordination offices

Cambodia

NC: **Sophoan MIN**
AFS: **Vuthy CHAY**

Ecuador/Colombia

NC: **Sylvain BLEUZE**
AFS: **Luisa Viviana PAZMIÑO JARAMILLO**

Haiti

NC: **Jean-Edy THEARD**
AFS: **Manoucheka Annie SAINT-VICTOR**

Madagascar

NC: **Guillaume PARIZET**
AFS: **Rovan'ny Soa Hajalalaina RAZAFINOTRONA**

Mali

NC: **Damouko BONDE**
AFS: **Mama DEMBELÉ**

Mongolia

NC: **Manon LELARGE**
AFS: **Sukhbaatar BOLORCHIMEG**

Peru

NC: **Javier ALARCÓN CERVERA**
AFS: **Melania VALDIVIA MAS**

Senegal/Gambia/ Guinea-Bissau

NC: **Moussa BALDÉ**
AFS: **Aboubakrine SARR**

Togo/Benin

NC: **Marc CHAPON**
AFS: **Ayaovi Gagno DJOGBEMAH**

9 national representation offices

Bolivia

Telmo **ROBALINO CAMPOS**
AFS: **Diana Corina GUTIERREZ**

Burkina Faso

Moussa **BARRO**

Colombia

Gonzalo **CARDONA MARTINEZ**

Ivory Coast

Edem **KOMLAN**
AFS: **Rasidatu LAWAL**

Ethiopia

Maria Da Graça **DA CAMARA ARCHER DE CARVALHO**

Guatemala

Pascal **HUWART**

Guinea-Bissau

Serifo **EMBALÓ**

Namibia

Reinhold **KAMBULI**

Laos

Véronique **RENAULT**
AFS: **Thavisouk ANOUVONG**

In France 30 professionnels

Administrative and Financial Department Financial Director Julie CRENN	Operations Director Christophe CHAUVEAU	Human Resources Department HR Director Chloé DESGEORGE
	Cooperation Department Technical Director Myriam MACKIEWICZ HOUNGUE 3 technical departments - Smallholder Farming, Natural Resources and Climate Change - Livestock Farming, Animal Health and Veterinary Public Health - Smallholder Organisations and Markets Sponsorships & Private Funding Christelle BERJOT	
Executive Director Frédéric APOLLIN		
Fundraising Nina CLOISEAU	Communications Édouard COUTURIER	Advocacy Carline MAINENTI

NC: National Coordinator
AFS: Administrative and Financial Support

AVSF's professional network

The AVSF-Gret alliance



After working together for many years on various projects in West Africa, Asia, Haiti and Madagascar, AVSF and Gret decided to strengthen their cooperation by creating an alliance in 2022. The purpose of the alliance is to pool together their resource and increase their capacity for action, innovation, influence, advocacy and mobilisation of new funding. In other words, the goal is to strengthen our role and become a major player in international solidarity in order to more effectively overcome the global challenges of sustainable development, climate change and social justice. In 2023, the two members of the alliance signed a new agreement on their operational collaboration, further strengthening their mutual commitment (see p. 6).

AVSF is a founding member of



avsf.org



vsf-international.org



groupe-initiatives.org



cite-developpement-durable.org



avsf.org

AVSF is an active member of



AVSF supported the creation of



tero.coop



spp-france.fr

Financial partners in 2023

Bilateral & Multilateral Organisations

- AFD (French Development Agency)
- GAC (Global Affairs Canada)
- ADB (Asian Development Bank)
- IDB (Inter-American Development Bank)
- European Commission - DG INTPA - Directorate-General for International Partnerships (e.g. DEVCO EuropeAid)
- European Commission - DG ECHO - Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations
- DCI Principality of Monaco (Department of International Cooperation)
- SDC (Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation)
- ENABEL (Belgian Development Agency)
- FAO (Food and Agriculture Organisation)
- FFEM (French Global Environment Fund)
- IFAD (United Nations International Fund for Agricultural Development)
- MEAE (French Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs), French Crisis and Support Centre, French embassies (Cooperation and Cultural Action Services)
- MINEFI - Directorate-General for the Treasury (FASEP [Private Sector Study and Aid Fund] for Green Innovation)
- WOAHA (World Organisation for Animal Health), founded as OIE
- UNEP (United Nations Environment Program)
- USAID

French Public & Parapublic Bodies

- AFEID (French Association for Water, Irrigation and Drainage)
- CIRAD (French Agricultural Research Centre for International Development)
- VetAgro Sup / ENSV-FVI: French National School for Official Veterinarians
- France Veterinary International

French regional authorities

- Hauts-de-Seine department
- Metropolitan Lyon – Greater Lyon
- Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes region
- Normandie region
- Syndicat d'Eau Potable Bresse - Dombes Saône
- City of Lyon

Institutions and public authorities in the countries where we operate

- ECOWAS (Economic Community of West African States) – ARAA (Regional Agency for Agriculture and Food)
- Haitian Ministry of Agriculture, Natural Resources and Rural Development
- Senegalese Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Equipment
- Lao PDR Department of Agriculture
- Ivorian Ministry of Agriculture and Development
- Malian Ministry of Rural Development

Associations & Foundations

- CFSI (French Committee for International Solidarity)
- Fondation de France
- Pro Victimis Foundation – Switzerland
- Lord Michelham of Hellingly Foundation
- WeForest
- Fondation Isocrate

Companies & Corporate Foundations

- Berlioz veterinary clinic (Nice), Anicoon clinics (Ploemeur, Larmor), Animovet clinics (Maiche, Le Russey)
- Vetsforthem clinic (Bègles), Société Civile Professionnelle des Docteurs Vétérinaires (Châtillon-sur-Seine), Procyon Selarl de Veterinaires (Château-Thébaud)
- Sevety's clinics: Clinique de l'Empereur clinic, Paris Ouest Veto Saint-Prix clinic, FamilyVet Lanester
- Fondation Bel
- Carrefour Foundation
- EGIS Foundation
- Raja Foundation
- EDF Foundation
- Rabobank Foundation
- Alstom Foundation
- M Demain, Missegle endowment fund
- Valrhona endowment fund
- Oreade Breche
- SCOP Ethiquable

Fundraising partners

- Prizle
- Benevity
- Goodeed
- Heoh
- 1% for the Planet

Financial Report 2023

For AVSF, 2023 was marked by the suspension of activities in Mali carried out with French funding at the request of local authorities. This contributed to the 17% decrease in project spending, which nevertheless amounted to €17.4 million.

Africa still accounted for a little over half of our projects in 2023, thanks to the dynamism of projects in Senegal and to the launch of new activities in Namibia. The Americas region accounted for 33% of our projects in 2023, with Asia at 11%.

We generated a surplus of €22,000. Operating earnings totalled €15,000, while financial earnings were €10,000 and extraordinary earnings were -€3,000.

Most of our funding (80%) still comes from public subsidies, such as the "program"-type cross-disciplinary funding agreement with Agence Française de Développement. Donations from individual donors were down compared with 2022 (we received two large exceptional donations that year), but remained stable in relative terms. In 2023, donations from individual donors totalled €1.2 million, which accounts for 6% of total resources for the year. We are continuing our policy of creating sensible, balanced budgets, which, combined with sound budgetary monitoring, allows us to generate surpluses.

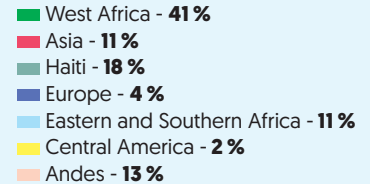
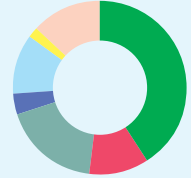
This result allowed us to bring our accumulated fund to €3,311,000. That figure has been steadily growing for several years and now represents 18% of our volume of activity.

Lastly, volunteers contributed 5,037 hours to AVSF's mission and operations in 2023, which was valued at €252,000.

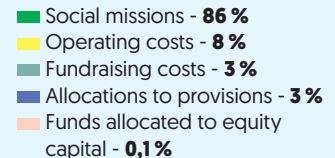
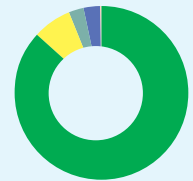


Julie CRENN
Financial Director

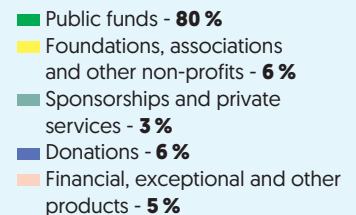
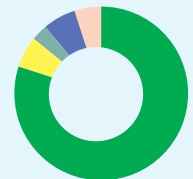
BREAKDOWN OF SOCIAL MISSIONS BY GEOGRAPHIC ZONE



USE OF FUNDS - 2023



RESOURCES - 2023



ASSETS			2023	2022
In thousands of euros	Gross	Deprec. & Provisions	Net	
Fixed assets	727	123	604	463
Current assets	19407		19407	24173
Accounts receivable	19208		19208	23871
Accrued charges	199		199	302
Currency translation adjustments - Assets	539		539	756
Cash	9326		9326	6653
Treasury investments	5		5	5
Available cash	9321		9321	6648
TOTAL	29999	123	29876	32045

LIABILITIES			2023	2022
Association funds			3312	3290
Equity capital			3290	3145
Earnings			22	145
Provisions for risks and charges			868	618
Restricted funds			205	125
Debts			25096	27125
Other debts			2836	3196
Deferred income			22260	23929
Currency translation adjustments – Liabilities			395	754
Loans and other borrowings			0	133
TOTAL			29,876	32,045

Notes to the balance sheet

- Our balance sheet shows substantial masses of receivables and debt for projects spanning several years, which have been accounted for under current accounting standards.
- There are significant amounts under assets as accounts receivable. Those accounts receivable correspond to agreements where the contract has been signed but the funds have not yet been received.
- There are also significant amounts of deferred income under liabilities. That deferred income corresponds to funding that AVSF has signed a contract for, but not yet spent on its projects.
- Our accumulated fund increased to €3,311,000 thanks to the allocation of earnings generated in 2023, which brings the accumulated-fund ratio to 18% of the volume of activity for 2023.

Surplus/Deficit Account Indicating Source and Destination of Funds 31/12/2023 (in thousands of euros)

A - INCOME AND COSTS INDICATING SOURCE AND DESTINATION OF FUNDS	TOTAL	%	Incl. donations from the general public	%
BREAKDOWN OF INCOME BY SOURCE				
1 - INCOME LINKED TO DONATIONS FROM THE GENERAL PUBLIC	1589	9%	1589	96%
1.1 Contributions without consideration	10		10	
1.2 Donations, bequests and sponsorship	1578		1578	
- Hand-to-hand donations	1194		1194	
- Legacies, gifts and life insurance	65		65	
- Sponsorship	319		319	
1.3 Other income linked to donations from the general public				
2 - INCOME NOT LINKED TO DONATIONS FROM THE GENERAL PUBLIC	3404	18%		
2.1 Contributions with consideration	-			
2.2 Corporate sponsorship	-			
2.3 Financial contributions without consideration	905			
2.4 Other income not linked to donations from the general public	2421			
3 - SUBSIDIES AND OTHER PUBLIC ALLOCATIONS	13211	71%		
4 - REVERSAL OF PROVISIONS AND IMPAIRMENT	288	2%		
5 - USE OF RESTRICTED FUNDS FROM PAST YEARS	69	0%	69	4%
TOTAL	18561		1658	
BREAKDOWN OF COSTS BY DESTINATION				
1 - SOCIAL MISSIONS	15857	86%	1251	75%
2 - FUNDRAISING COSTS	520	3%	397	24%
3 - OPERATING COSTS	1474	8%	10	1%
4 - ALLOCATIONS TO PROVISIONS AND IMPAIRMENT	538	3%	-	
5 - INCOME TAX	-			
6 - RESTRICTED FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD	150		-	
TOTAL	18539		1658	
SURPLUS OR DEFICIT	22			

Notes to the Surplus/Deficit Account

The Surplus/Deficit Account was drawn up in compliance with the ANC-2018-06 accounting regulations. The right-hand column shows resources from fundraising and their contribution to our operations. The information here is identical to the information presented in the Use of Resources Statement*. In all, 87% of resources are used to cover expenses for development projects in France and in other countries. 51% of the expenses for those social missions were for projects carried out in Africa, and 4%

were for operations in France. Most of the resources collected from the public were allocated to social missions and fundraising. Only member subscriptions were used to fund association-life operations. Fundraising costs were stable compared with 2022. Other income not linked to donations from the general public mainly includes proceeds from services provided by our teams to cover our coordination costs and representative offices in the countries where we operate, and financial contributions from associations and foundations.

*The official detailed versions of the Surplus/Deficit Account and Use of Resources Statement appear in the report prepared by our statutory auditors at Bakertilly. That report is also submitted to the website of the Journal Officiel after approval of the accounts at the General Meeting. It is available on our website at www.avsf.org





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