

## Dear Friends

04/11

Tombolas, information stands at Christmas markets, fundraising events at anniversary celebrations - this year again, you impressed us with your commitment and the many activities you put into practice for the benefit of our work. We heartily thank all donors, active and supporting members, our voluntary helpers, our sponsors, vaccination day participants and all those who supported us in numerous ways. VSF Germany's team wishes you merry Christmas and a great start into the New Year.

## Latest news

### Drought catastrophe

The year 2011 will go down in history as the year of the first famine of the 21st century. For many weeks, the drought- and famine catastrophe in East Africa dominated the media in Germany. By now it has become rather quiet around this subject. In the meantime, the rain has set in, but this does not solve all problems. The people in East Africa will struggle with the aftermath of the catastrophe for a long time to come.

What is the current situation in the project areas of VSF Germany? Our emergency relief measures (we reported in our newsletter 03/2011) have proven to be effective: we successfully contributed to the survival of a large number of animals. Thus, the main goal of these measures has been achieved as people's livelihoods are secured.

Meanwhile, it has rained heavily. The rain brings about good pastures, so that the weakened animals can gradually recover. When they have gained some weight, they can become pregnant again. Only with the birth of new young will the mother animals produce milk, but it will be at least 6 months until the young are to be born. Therefore the food crisis is not yet overcome.

A further result we achieved by rescuing the livestock is that the affected people can remain in their homes. In Marsabit (Kenya) most people could remain on site. The "cash-for-work" activities and the water deliveries for humans and animals were a success. In Puntland (Somalia) also, our activities in the course of the drought had a stabilising effect, especially those measures committed to animal health.

So how do we go on from here? We will continue to offer "cash-for-work" activities in all affected project areas. We will also buy weak and unproductive animals in order to help owners to an income. The rain is bringing along new problems: epidemics, parasites and pneumonia are giving the already weakened animals a hard time. In cooperation with the local veterinary department, our staff and educated animal health care workers are treating and vaccinating the animals.

For these activities we still desperately need your support. Every donation helps! As little as 20 € are necessary to deworm five camels in Somalia.

**Donation account: IBAN: DE53 2519 0001 0434 3433 00 • BIC:VOHADE2HXXX • Hannoversche Volksbank • Keyword: Drought**

### 20th anniversary

The year of our 20th anniversary is coming to an end. The whole year through, people who have been closely linked to the organisation for many years had their say at this point. Dr. Olaf Bellmann, board member of VSF Germany since 1997, is to have the final word:

"After my main veterinary work placement in Tanzania, I returned to Germany after a seven-month stay. I brought with me the concept of improving the treatment of dairy cows in Tanzania, which had been developed together with the Sokoine University of Agriculture in Morogoro. While searching for possible donors, I was told that there was an organisation at the University of Veterinary Medicine Hannover which could surely help me with my search. Full of expectations, I travelled to Hannover to meet several active members of the "Veterinary Development Organisation", as VSF Germany was called at the time. Quickly, it became clear that financial support for our project idea was not possible. [...] Just as quickly, I realised that this organisation presented a good opportunity for me to participate and to implement my ideas of cooperation, development and aid in Africa. Little later I became a member, and in 1997 I took the chair. A great deal has happened since those days and the organisation has undergone tremendous development. The 20th anniversary of the organisation's foundation is definitely a good opportunity to reflect the beginnings and one's own part in the organisation. By the way- the planned project in Tanzania finally only turned into a small study in terms of a diploma project."



**Vaccination of goats in Somalia**



## Looking back

### Congress „Humans – Animals – Rural Habitat“ and anniversary celebration

There is a future for nomadic and semi-nomadic livestock keeping in East Africa, but the pastoralists living there are in need of national and international support. This is the conclusion that speakers and participants of the congress “Humans – Animals – Rural Habitat: The future of pastoral animal production in Africa” held by VSF Germany on 4 November on the occasion of its 20th anniversary came to. Speakers both from research and German and international organisations like the FAO and the OIE (World Organisation for Animal Health) demonstrated what animal production in Africa looks like nowadays. Then, experts and participants discussed the future of the pastoral lifestyle in workgroups and in discussion rounds. Following the congress, participants and speakers celebrated the organisation’s 20th anniversary, together with invited guests and staff of the organisation. We have compiled a documentation of the congress in German which you can download at [www.togev.de](http://www.togev.de) under “Aktionen” → “Tagung”.



*Dr. Philippe Ankers, FAO*

## Prospects

### International Green Week: African goats at the ErlebnisBauernhof

Seeing that many of our project areas were affected by the drought catastrophe in 2011, the subject of “drought” is the main focus of our presentation at the Green Week this year: What measures does VSF Germany implement in its project areas for drought preparedness and drought response? Which animals do pastoralists mainly keep in the arid areas? How are goats adapted to drought? We will be happy to present you with answers to these and many other questions. Visit us from 20 until 29 January at the “ErlebnisBauernhof” at the Green Week, and meet the two African Goats Greta and Marlene. Zebu Lisa is also looking forward to your visit.

We are also participating in the show cooking at the Green Week and will prepare a traditional East African dish. Furthermore, there will be two interviews on the stage of the “ErlebnisBauernhof” explaining VSF Germany’s work. Please find the exact dates at the end of this newsletter. The International Green Week is the world’s greatest fair for nutrition, agriculture and gardening.

### Vaccinating for Africa!

All animal owners whose pets need their vaccinations in spring should make a note of 15 May 2012: this is the date of our action day Vaccinating for Africa! On this day, participating veterinary practices throughout Germany will donate half their income from vaccinations for VSF Germany’s work. In 2012, we will use these donations mainly for the support of our project on food security in South Sudan (PARIS). Veterinary practices in Germany can register for the action day as of now: via the online registration form at [www.impfenfuerafrika.de](http://www.impfenfuerafrika.de), by email at [impftag@togev.org](mailto:impftag@togev.org), by phone on +49 511 953 79 97 or by fax to +49 511 953 82 79 95. All information about the vaccinating day and a list of participating practices will be available at [www.impfenfuerafrika.de](http://www.impfenfuerafrika.de) as of mid January.

## Dates

### 20.-29.01.2012

International Green Week Berlin:

- 21.01.2012, 10:30-11:00 a.m.: Show cooking with VSF Germany at the ErlebnisBauernhof
- 25.01.2012, 12:30-12:45 p.m.: Talk with VSF Germany on the stage of ErlebnisBauernhof
- 28.01.2012, 11:15-11:30 a.m.: Talk with VSF Germany on the stage of the ErlebnisBauernhof
- 28.01.2012, 1:00-1:30 p.m.: Show cooking with VSF Germany at the ErlebnisBauernhof

### 15.05.2012

Vaccinating for Africa!

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IBAN: DE53 2519 0001 0434 3433 00  
BIC: VOHADE2HXXX

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