

Viva News

Volunteers in Irish Veterinary Assistance
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Volunteers in Irish
Veterinary Assistance

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VÉTÉRINAIRES
SANS FRONTIÈRES



Volunteers in Irish Veterinary Assistance

2021 – COVID continues to feature both here and abroad

Dear Supporter,

After COVID restrictions wiped out our fundraisers last year there were some green shoots in 2021 as we managed to resurrect our annual "Bike 'n Hike" which was cancelled last year. This year's event was a great success, and you can read all about it on Pages 7 – 9. Our "Heifer Draw" went ahead and again we have donations from Clinical Societies and corporate donors (see Donor News on Page 10) to make up some of the deficit along with a new partnership with Merry Sky Pharma. COVID 19 also affects the communities we work with and you can follow up on that story on Page 3.

We continued to support our joint project with VSF Belgium in Uganda with a

contribution of €20,000 and our brucellosis surveillance initiative in Malawi has been boosted with the employment of more staff (See pages 5 - 6)

So this year we are asking all our supporters to consider donating to our Christmas Appeal so that we can end 2021 on a high note. You can donate online at www.viva.ie/donate or send us a cheque in the enclosed Business Reply envelope.

In the meantime, here's wishing you Happy Christmas and a brighter 2022.

Ciaran Gobl (VIVA Chairperson) & Mike Burke (VIVA CEO)

Merry Sky Pharma

Merry Sky Pharma, a new start-up based in Co. Meath, which supplies non-prescription pharmaceuticals to the equine sector has adopted VIVA as its charity partner for 2021. They will be donating 10% of their sales revenue from their wormers, anti-fungals and ulcer prevention products to VIVA.



VSF Belgium & VIVA in Karamoja

Our collaboration with VSF Belgium in the Karamoja region in north-east Uganda continued in 2021. VIVA is funding the animal health elements (which involves the training and support of Community Animal Health Workers – CAHWs) and the breed improvement activities of this large development project which is working with local pastoralists communities. The breed improvement aspect involves the introduction of Sahiwal cattle, a dual breed, from the Punjab region on the borders of Pakistan and India, which is tick-resistant, heat tolerant and an excellent milker. In addition, Galla goats have been introduced due to their ability to withstand tough conditions, like extended periods of drought, while giving higher milk yields.

In Karamojong communities, livestock rearing contributes to more than 50% of the livelihoods of pastoralists. However, livestock provides more than just economic benefits to the pastoralists and plays an important role both socially and culturally, while increasing the resilience of households. The different benefits of livestock to the pastoralist communities are immense, though not always easily measurable.

COVID 19 has created many difficulties on the project. The veterinary outlets, managed by the CAHWs struggled with getting medicine supplies as markets were closed and public transport was interrupted. Secondly, they could not sell as much as before as farmers' incomes fell due to the closure of markets for their livestock.

Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) outbreaks also added to the difficulties farmers were experiencing. Vaccine supplies are often in short supply but when they are available the CAHWs help the district veterinary offices with the vaccination programmes.

Due to increased insecurity in Karamoja region, livestock is increasingly held in enclosures (kraals), where they are protected from raids. However, the herding together of the livestock in these small enclosures leads to an increased incidence of disease and therefore, increased mortality. In addition, the small stock like goats and sheep are trampled by the cattle.

The CAHWs also participated in local vaccination campaigns against endemic diseases such as Contagious Bovine Pleuropneumonia (CBPP), Contagious Caprine Pleuropneumonia (CCPP) and Pestes de Petits Ruminants (PPR). In addition, they participated in a large tick spraying campaign in one region where significant mortality occurred in cattle due to tick-borne diseases such as East Coast Fever (ECF) and anaplasmosis. Over 12,000 cattle were sprayed in this effort.



Lorot Hilary Naapi – one of the project farmers



My name is Lorot Hillary Naapi, I am 49 years old, I live with my family of 17 kids and three wives in Naoyagum village, Kawalakol sub county, I am part of Kawalakol Community Animal Health Worker's Association group that is supported by Vétérinaires Sans Frontières Belgium (VSF-B). Before becoming a CAHW, I was a farmer (both agriculture and livestock), my income was not very high and I could not provide well for my family the way I wanted. The small amounts of money that I could save would fit in one small saving box. Me and the wider community had a lot of problems with animal health issues. Animals would die and no one knew why they had died or what diseases had caused it. The community did not know the diseases or causes of the high animal mortality and so couldn't prevent it.

When VSF-B came in, me and 15 other community members in Kawalakol were selected to act as Community Animal Health Workers (CAHWs) and trained on treating animal diseases, vaccinations and disease prevention. VSF-B also regularly conducted refresher trainings to ensure the knowledge was up to date and did not get lost. Most community members are illiterate so appropriate lesson materials and practical exercises are used for these trainings and refresher trainings. All starting CAHWs were given a startup kit which covered the initial materials needed to perform their activities. CAHWs also participated in vaccination campaigns and spraying efforts conducted by VSF-B every year. The project formed a CAHW association in Kawalakol consisting of all the 16 CAHWs in the sub-county. The association is in

charge of a vet outlet that was constructed by VSF-B and monitored monthly. The vet outlet is linked with drug providers from big towns and buys / pays for transport of the drugs themselves in order to sell these drugs to the wider communities. The association and vet outlet ensures the unity of the CAHWs who share the profit to be able to further invest in the business.

Lastly, VSF-B provided the CAHW association with a motorbike so they are able to reach far away communities who now rely on the services provided by the CAHWs to keep their animals healthy. The motorbike also makes it easier to pick up drugs from far away markets and transport it to the vet outlet, saving on the costs of transportation.

After of 6 years of being a CAHW, I now have a much higher income than before. I can send all my kids to school and can provide them with the necessary means to ensure they have a better and healthier life and I even invested in buying some land. Necessary drugs to treat animals that were not available in the past, are now widely available thanks to the vet outlet. Animals in the community are healthier and there is widespread recognition amongst the communities about the importance of disease identification, prevention and treatment. While the intervention from VSF-B has had a big impact on my life, it does not only benefit me from the new situation, the wider communities in Kawalakol now have access to affordable and reliable animal health services that ensure the animals they rely upon are healthy.



VIVA's Brucellosis Surveillance Project in Malawi

VIVA is now in its second year of a bovine brucellosis surveillance project in Malawi in collaboration with the Shire Highlands Milking Producers Association (SHMPA), a dairy co-operative in the south of the country, the main milk producing area of Malawi. *Brucella* bacteria infect both humans and animals causing a chronic debilitating illness in humans and fertility issues in cattle. Pasteurisation eliminates *Brucella* from milk, however, in Malawi, milk is often consumed raw, especially by children who drink milk directly from the cow, meaning that the risk to human health is extremely high.

SHMPA is an organisation of smallholder dairy farmers and accounts for over 90% of milk producers nationally. During restructuring of the national dairy sector in 1998, the Government of Malawi handed over most of the responsibility for milk marketing and service delivery to the association and SHMPA's work expanded significantly. Membership consists entirely of smallholder farmers selling their milk through Milk Bulking Groups (MBGs), over 50% of whom are female. SHMPA provides access to extension services including technical support, training, and



agricultural inputs, as well as links with MBGs which can support farmers with access to finance and other benefits.

VIVA Director, Eithne Leahy, has been working with the Co-Ops vet, Roulex Owino, and the Co-Op's Farm Livestock Technicians (FLT's) to implement a study to understand the prevalence of brucellosis infected cows. The results of this study will



Lisa carrying out the Brucella tests



Lisa collecting blood samples from a local dairy cow



Lisa & the FLT's at an Artificial Insemination (AI) training session

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help inform and educate farmers on milking hygiene and farm biosecurity to mitigate the risk to public health. Only by knowing what disease burden is out there can we then implement measures to act upon it. Over time, by reducing brucellosis levels, dairy cow health will be improved, and milk production will also increase. Healthy cows are productive cows; more milk will be available to the farmers and their families for home consumption or for sale to increase household incomes. Also, the overall public health risk of human brucellosis will be reduced.

This year we have funded the employment of an Animal Science graduate, Lisa Banda, to help Roulex with the brucellosis surveillance and to also work with the FLT's to support the smallholder dairy farmers. She will also be involved in a genetic mapping exercise related to the suitability of Jersey crosses for smallholder dairy farms in Malawi. SHMPA have been using American Jersey semen in their Artificial Insemination (AI) programmes for many years now and started using semen from Jersey Island in 2017. This project is being supported by the University of Edinburgh.

Here, Lisa talks about her work with SHMPA - "There are no standard days and that makes it all exciting. We start our days from home as early as possible so that we can see the morning milk collection. Milk collection is done early mornings to give room to the farmers to go about taking care of all cow-related jobs on their farms. Things like carrying water and feed for the cows, chopping the grass and cleaning the khola (cow shed). We need to see a lot of farmers and FLT's (Field Livestock Technicians) every month, but it

is not always easy if some farmers have serious problems to deal with that take a lot of time. We also gather these farmers in small groups to have training on problems that seem to be affecting that particular area. These trainings are best if we can do practical demonstrations at a khola. It helps farmers understand better and also gives them a chance to see how their friends are progressing. One of the best things is seeing how farmer's lives have really changed since getting a cow. Knowing that you played a part in that change is very rewarding. "If you had not been there for me, I don't know where I would have been now. I don't know what could have become of my family" a farmer said to me. It gives us all the pleasure and happiness of helping people along in their lives. We have our hard days of course when no matter how much we try things are just not working, but they are not as many as compared to the days that put a smile on our faces - just by doing our job!"



Lisa takes hair samples from a cow for the Jersey breed genetic mapping project



Supporting livestock farmers in
the Developing World

The VIVA Wheelers

The VIVA Wheelers are a group of cyclists of all ages and abilities who have raised €308,000 for VIVA's projects worldwide since 2005 with fundraising cycles and hikes in Vietnam (2005), Morocco (2007), the Burren (2009), Bantry (2010), Westport (2011), Dungarvan (2012), the Glen of Aherlow (2013), Leitrim (2014), Westport (2015), Kilkenny (2016), the Burren (2017), the Slieve Bloom mountains (2018), Mallorca (2019) and Ballyhoura country (2021).

After our COVID break last year, this year we headed to Ballyhoura country for our annual "Bike 'n Hike". Situated at the crossroads of Munster, on the borders of counties Tipperary, Limerick and Cork, Ballyhoura Country is an area of undulating green fields, woodlands, hills and mountains, an ancient and unspoilt landscape (sorry, getting carried away here but this is also my home – Editor!). For Eamonn O'Sullivan, who brought Zoetis on board as our major sponsor, this was like a spiritual homecoming as Eamonn lives right in the middle of Ballyhoura on the edge of the mountain bike trials for which the area is also famous. Eamonn was responsible for a lot of the groundwork for the event, from booking hotels to marking roads for the cycle, which was much

appreciated. He even ensured an unusually sunny day. The Zoetis contribution of €2,500 this year brings their total sponsorship since 2011 to €20,000. A special mention also to Paddy O'Donoghue (Veterinary Instruments Ltd – VIL) who sponsor the lunch every year whose sponsorship this year brought their total support to over €4,000.

The cyclists tackled two routes, a 60km loop of the Ballyhouras or a 100km route which took in an extra loop around Sliabh Riadh while the hikers enjoyed a four hour walk in the Darragh Hills. The day ended with a meal in the Park Hotel in Charleville and raised €11,000 for VIVA..

A special mention to Eamonn's wife, Orla, for running a support vehicle on the day and Cathy Waddell for the photography on the hike. There aren't as many photos of the cycle as they were too busy tackling the climbs!



Cathy
Waddell
& Petua
McNamee

John Henry, Pat Meskell, Maria Joao Rosa & Viv Keary



The hikers on top of the world (well, the Darragh Hills anyway!)



Mike Burke & John Henry ignore the "No standing at the bar please" sign!

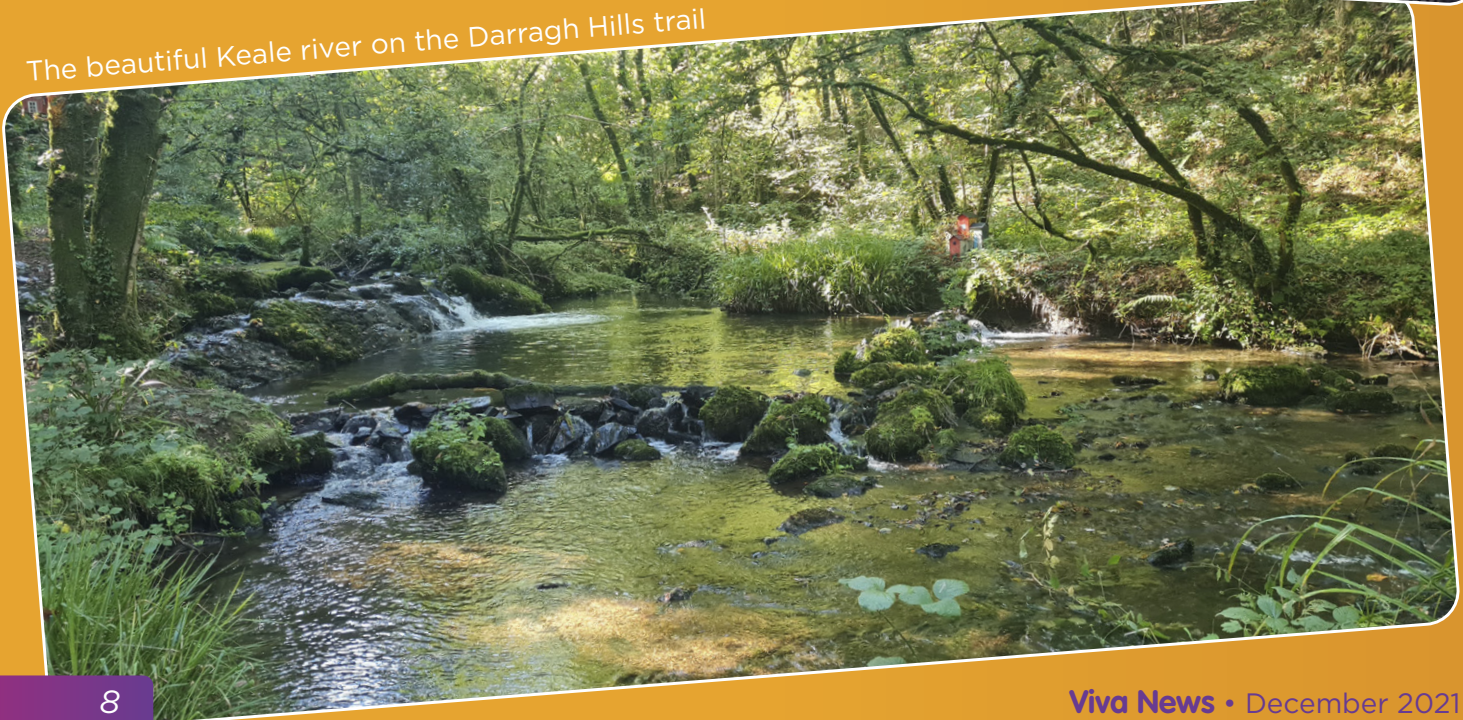
Andrew & Mary Coen



The Fab Four who managed to get up early the next morning to tackle the Ballyhoura Mountain Bike Trails: left to right, Ollie Dillon, Seamus Fagan, Donal Flynn and Eamonn O'Sullivan.



The beautiful Keale river on the Darragh Hills trail





The cyclists take a break at Doneraile House

This is why some cyclists were late home – drinking in Effin: Conor Sheridan, Seamus Fagan, Robert Fabby, Ollie Dillon, Tadgh Murphy & Eamonn O’Sullivan



Cathy Waddell salutes the 2021 All-Ireland champions, Limerick



Kay Burke, Maureen Marray & Mary Rafferty



The “Class of 89” reminisce at the post-event dinner: James Madden, Pat Kirwan, John Bourke & Mike Burke

Legacy Giving

Leaving a gift of any value in your Will can make a real and lasting difference for generations to come. to the small-scale livestock farmers that VIVA works with in the Developing World.

While providing for our loved ones will be your priority, making a will is also a unique chance to provide for those causes close to our heart and leave an everlasting gift.

If you would like further information about including a gift to VIVA in your will please contact Mike Burke on 086 – 2568357 or mike@viva.ie . All enquiries will be treated in the strictest confidence.



Midlands Clinical Society donate €2,000 to VIVA

The Mid-West Clinical Society has donated €2,000 to VIVA's projects as a result of a surplus in their funds. VIVA would like to acknowledge this very generous donation

and thank the Society for their efforts. This brings to almost €10,000 the funds donated by this Clinical Society over the years to VIVA's projects.

Project Amata – Burundi

This March, the Kerry Group launched Project Amata, a new project with the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP), which aims to enhance the production and availability of safe, sustainable milk for children and communities in the Gitega province of Burundi. In Burundi, 65 percent of people live below the poverty line and chronic malnutrition affects over half the population. Milk is one of the few sources of animal protein available to children in Burundi, but on average people receive just two cups per month – the lowest frequency of milk consumption in east Africa. Over the next three years the Kerry Group will commit \$750,000 to the project to build milk production capacity. Recently, VIVA participated in an online training initiative which brought Irish dairy expertise to Livestock Technicians working with local farmers.



The Heifer Draw

The "Heifer Draw" this year raised €4,000. VIVA would like to acknowledge the support of our sponsor, Duggan Veterinary Supplies who generously sponsored all the prizes. For the first time ever, we moved out of Longford for the draw and were hosted by Duggan Veterinary in their new, purpose-built premises in Thurles which includes a new education and advanced practical training facility which offers comfortable lecture facilities and a wet lab on site. Call in, they'd love to show you around!

DUGGAN

VETERINARY DVS GROUP



Donal Duggan pulls the winning ticket

Heifer Draw Winners 2021

The results of the Heifer Draw are in!

- The Heifer goes to Niall Flynn, Moyliss, Co. Roscommon. (Seller – Donal Flynn).
- Second prize of a Weekend Away Hotel Voucher goes to Sheila Mulloy, Carrowbawn, Westport, Co. Mayo (Seller – Cathy Waddell)
- Third prize of €500 to Aideen Kevlihan, Mullingar, Co. Westmeath. (Seller – Seamus Mimmagh).
- And lastly, fourth prize of €250 to Janet Carson, Newtownstewart, Co. Tyrone (Seller – Cathy Waddell, again!)

Thanks to everyone who bought and sold a ticket. Your support is much appreciated. A special mention to our top performing ticket sellers – Mary Coen, Cathy Waddell, Donal Flynn, Conor Sheridan, Tom Fabby and Shane McAuliffe.

Win a heifer – grow a herd!

In 2017, Altamira Kate, was won by Stephen Harrison, Riverstick, Co. Cork and is now looked after by his uncle Sean Coffey in Newport, Co. Tipperary (who sold Stephen the winning ticket) who is a vet in Mulcair Vets. Well, they nearly have a herd of Limousin now. In April this year, "Ruth" and "Rascal" were joined by "Scout". Kate is now one of the family in Newport and according to Sean, "Kate would come into the house and sit by the fire if she could"!



Kate with this year's calf, Scout, and last year's calf, Rascal

A look at the work in 2020 of Vétérinaires Sans Frontières International (VSI), of which VIVA is a member.

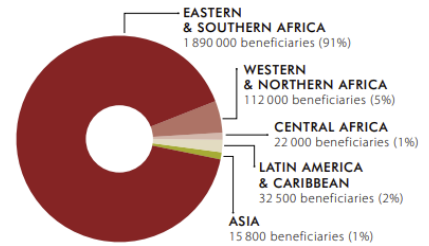
2020 IN NUMBERS

38
country programmes



€ **52.5**
MILLION
total income

2.07
MILLION
direct beneficiary households



797
staff worldwide

90% in the field
10% at HQ



97 800
animals distributed
to recover from emergency
or as income-generating
activity



4 700
animal health
professionals
supported
including
4 300
Community Animal
Health Workers



26.12
MILLION
animals treated

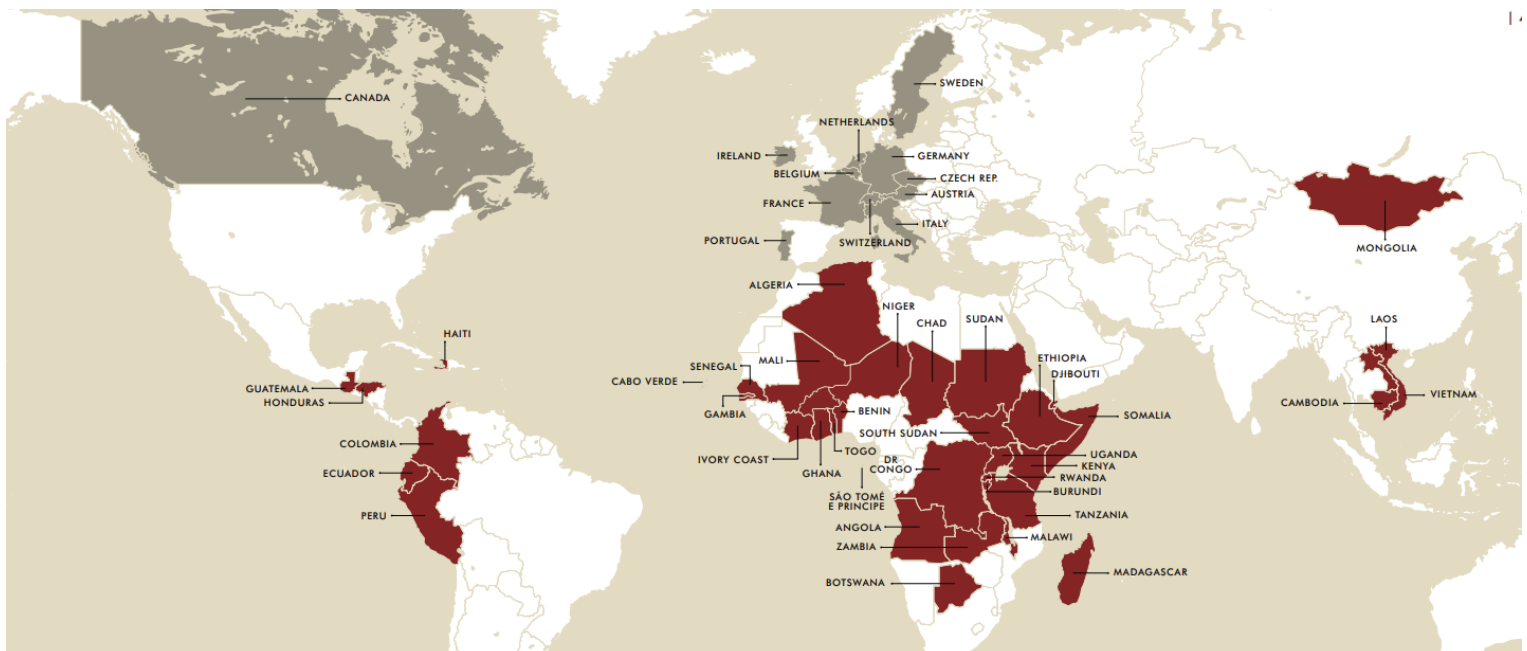


80
awareness
raising events
targeting European and
Canadian youth

2.37
MILLION
livestock keepers
gained access
to animal health services



976 300
people improved their professional
and/or life skills
thanks to empowerment, capacity building
or income generation activities

THE VSI INTERNATIONAL NETWORK IN 2020

WHERE WE WORK

The VSI International network supports families and farmers' organizations in **38 countries** in Africa, the Americas and Asia. In 2020, the members of VSI International reached over **2 million families (direct beneficiaries)**, with an overall budget of **52.5 million €**.

OUR SECTORS OF INTERVENTION

- › Livelihoods and food and nutrition security
- › Animal health, welfare and productivity
- › One Health
- › Sustainable Natural Resource Management
- › Access to market and value chains
- › Youth and women empowerment
- › Emergency response and resilience building
- › Advocacy and awareness raising