



WEHUBIT

**Project name**  
**Sit Sahel Lafia**

**Country**  
**Burkina Faso, Mali & Niger**



**Implemented by**

Vétérinaires  
Sans Frontières  
Dierenartsen  
Zonder Grenzen



+ Action contre la  
faim Espagne

**Budget**  
**350.000 €**

**Duration**  
**07/2019-06/2021**

**Contribution to SDGs**



Implemented by



Financed by



## CHALLENGES/CONTEXT

Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger are 3 Sahelian pastoralist countries, where 86% of the total area (2,781,205 km<sup>2</sup>) is semi-arid to arid. These countries have a total of 138,592,224 head of cattle. This shows that livestock farming is at the heart of the livelihood dynamics of the most vulnerable.

However, livestock farmers regularly face the effects of climate change: droughts, floods and epizootics. These shocks are compounded by conflict, making it difficult for livestock owners to move around and keep their livestock. This makes information a valuable decision-making tool for them. To meet this need, the project offers the 'SIT' (Système d'Information aux Transhumants) to livestock farmers.

## DIGITAL SOLUTION/APPROACH



The SIT relies on a network of data collectors which forms its backbone. This network includes livestock farmers, government service agents and private veterinarians, located in different observation sites.

They are reinforced and use smartphones to collect information useful to farmers via the Kobo-Collect application. The information is sent to a dedicated server, then processed and synthesised by agents from the Ministries of Livestock, guaranteeing the sustainability of the system.

The summaries are sent to radio stations for broadcasting. They are also translated into several languages, digitised and placed on an interactive voice server accessible 24/7 by a simple call.

## WEHUBIT EFFECT



### SCALING-UP OF DIGITAL SOLUTION

The 'SIT' was limited to parts of the regions. Thanks to Wehubit, these regions are covered and others are taken into account.

### SOCIAL INNOVATION

Thanks to the project and the Wehubit support, reliable and official pastoral information services are now available and accessible to all.

## EXPECTED ACHIEVEMENTS

The project's activities contribute to reaching following results:

- 1) Pastoral production is optimised by informed decision-making by pastoralists, through the establishment of reliable information services;
- 2) Pastoralists in the Central Sahel adapt their livestock practices through digitised content on climate-smart livestock techniques;
- 3) The capacities of pastoral organisations, technical services and national early warning systems are strengthened for managing the 'SIT'



## LESSONS LEARNED

The project also identified two significant lessons:

- 1) The participation of livestock owners and different stakeholders requires good preparation and the adoption of an inclusive approach based on information needs.
2. For the 'SIT' to be optimal, it is essential to work with several channels and tools adapted to the target audience. As most of the herders are illiterate but have mobile phones, the choice was made to use a voice server and community radio stations to disseminate information.

## WOULD YOU LIKE TO KNOW MORE?



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