



GLOBAL AGENDA FOR
SUSTAINABLE LIVESTOCK

FROM CRISIS TO ACTION

**Lessons from COVID-19 for Building a Better Future
through Sustainable Livestock**



Impact of COVID-19 on livestock in Asia

FIELD OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION

Antoine LURY – Head of Prospecting and Partnerships in Asia for Agronomists and Veterinarians Without Borders (AVSF)

Online MSP Meeting **14-18 September 2020**

General presentation of AVSF



AVSF in Asia

General context, history and expertise (1/2)

Agronomists and Veterinarians Without Borders (AVSF) is an independent French NGO, resulting from the merger of two NGOs in 2004: Veterinarians Without Borders (VSF), created in 1983, and CICDA, an NGO of agronomists created in 1977. The objective of this merger was to pool the expertise of both organisations to support smallholder farmers and rural families through an **integrated and agro-ecological approach at farm level**: livestock-agriculture integration, recycling of animal waste (organic matter, biogas, etc.), animal feed production, certification and traceability schemes, “One Health” & AMR, etc.

➤ AVSF in key figures (2019) :

- 19 countries of cooperation in Africa, Latin America and Asia;
- 58 ongoing projects, supporting more than 700 000 beneficiaries;
- 235 staffs, of whom 87% are local professionals;
- A budget of 14,5 M€ in 2019, of which 89% was directly used for projects.

➤ AVSF is a founding member of several professional platforms:

- [VSF International](#), a network of 12 professional veterinary NGOs;
- [Fair Trade France](#), [Ethiquable](#) and [SPP Global](#);
- Technical WG in Agro-ecological Transitions ([GTAE](#)), with Agrisud, Gret & Cari.

AVSF in Asia

General context, history and expertise (2/2)

- AVSF is not only acting as a project operator, but also as technical assistant to state bodies or local partners, and service provider for short/medium term expert missions. As such, it is a member of [France Vétérinaire Internationale](#) (FVI).
- AVSF started operating in Asia in the early 1990's in Cambodia, where it was one of the first NGOs to support the creation of Community Animal Health Workers (CAHWs). **For about 30 years, AVSF has worked on training CAHWs and helped the structuration of the sector as a whole:** official recognition within national legislations (*Sub-decree No.26 in 2001*), ToT training schemes, development of sustainable financing models, etc.
- Besides animal health and husbandry, AVSF holds a longstanding record in the promotion of local and international fair trade value chains (VCs). In Mongolia, AVSF supported the creation of sustainable yak and cashmere fibre VCs, operated by local farmers' organizations, reaching out to [PPP schemes](#) with major private buyers.
- In Asia, AVSF currently has permanent offices in Mongolia (since 2004), Cambodia (since 1991) and Lao PDR (since 2011), and was present in Vietnam from 2000 to 2018. Taking into consideration the worrying epidemiological context and the lack of professional veterinary NGOs in Southeast Asia (SEA), AVSF conducted several preliminary missions in 2019 ([Myanmar, Indonesia, Timor Leste](#)) to explore new partnership opportunities.

Regional overview: Southeast Asia

Strategy and main activities - Livestock (1/3)

➤ General context and main challenges:

- Animal health situation is worryingly deteriorating worldwide (endemic and emerging TADs, AMR, etc.), especially in SEA (e.g. ASF, HPAI, etc.) – due to weak veterinary services especially in rural areas, low biosecurity practices, vulnerability to climate change and a great stress to natural resources and local economies under the pressure of rapid urbanization and globalization –, with a direct and significant impact on livelihoods, local and international economies, biodiversity, and human health as revealed by the COVID-19 pandemic;
- The COVID-19 crisis is both a risk and an opportunity to address this challenge:
 - **A great risk** of durably undermining the capacities of countries to prevent and control animals diseases, including zoonosis, as donors, governments (and households) reallocate resources primarily to human health and economic boost programs (*FAO*);
 - **An opportunity**, on the contrary, to promote a “One Health” (OH) approach, aiming at strengthening our health systems to better prevent future crisis and durably improve the resilience of our economies, societies and biodiversity.

➤ AVSF current priorities in SEA :

- Supporting smallholders against **African Swine Fever (ASF)** and other emerging TADs;
- Improving the resilience of rural communities against COVID and other emerging threats (including AMR) through the promotion and operationalization of the **OH approach**.

Regional overview: Southeast Asia

Strategy and main activities - Livestock (2/3)

- To this end, AVSF is focusing on building multi-stakeholders partnerships:
 - Contribution to policy-making and national/regional strategies:
 - **Close coordination with OIE, FAO & national authorities**, to provide inputs/ lessons' learned from the field, contribute to regional fora (e.g. [OIE ASF Coordination Virtual Meetings](#), [GASL MSP Meeting](#)), support expert missions (e.g. ASF EMC-AH missions in Laos & Cambodia in 2019), facilitate project design, coordination & implementation;
 - **Advocacy towards donors and DPs** (EU, AFD, USAID, etc.) to raise awareness on ASF and OH challenges and its necessary inclusion in donor funding priorities for the next years, including joint advocacy campaigns through [VSF International network](#);
 - Promotion of “research-action” schemes, especially with CIRAD (see next slide)
 - To bridge the gap between scientific research and development projects, by mutualizing technical skills/methodologies (**co-construction**) extended to **field experimentations**;
 - To develop, on this basis, strong references to support innovations and prepare evidence-based actions and policy-making processes at a greater scale.
 - Exploration of “OH consortia” with other specialized professional NGOs:
 - Co-construction with key partners on human health/WASH & biodiversity conservation,;
 - Joint implementation (e.g. between community animal/health/biodiversity volunteers)

Regional overview: Southeast Asia

Strategy and main activities - Livestock (3/3)

- Since 2019/2020, AVSF has been actively working on preparing country and regional projects to address those two urging challenges in SEA:

- TA support on ASF response and biosecurity in SEA (FVI, AVSF, CIRAD):

Since January 2020, AVSF, FVI and CIRAD are working on a joint proposal to provide TA support (in complement to ongoing projects from OIE and FAO), covering both (i) technical support at central level, (ii) operational support at district/provincial levels and (iii) scientific research activities. Financing still under negotiation with the donor. Regional scope: Lao PDR, Cambodia, Vietnam and the Philippines. Expected start in 2021.

- One Health/Eco Health “research-action” in SEA (CIRAD, AVSF, WCS, Pasteur)

Since the end of 2019, AVSF has been working with CIRAD on a regional research-action programme financed by AFD to develop actions in line with the “One Health” approach, with a specific focus on Lao PDR, Cambodia and the Philippines. First pilot activities are expected to start in 2021 on biosecurity, wildlife/domestic interface and zoonosis prevention.

- AMR/AMU knowledge and training materials in SEA (FAO, CIRAD, AVSF)

In September 2020, FAO, CIRAD and AVSF started working on a project to: (i) develop a library of past/ongoing evidence-based AMR/AMU interventions focusing on pig and poultry in SEA, (ii) identify and analyse key success/failure factors (including behaviour change) and (iii) design specific ToT materials based on ASEAN GAHP guidelines.

COVID-19 impacts on livestock: field observations



Country insights

General introduction: preliminary comments (1/1)

- Even in countries where COVID-19 outbreaks were very low (e.g. Mongolia, Lao PDR and Cambodia), the crisis had immediate and probably long-term impacts:
 - The disruption of VCs due to lockdown policies (restriction of movement, border closure) affected access to market outlets, inputs and extension/animal health services, with direct impacts on production, incomes, FS/nutrition and primary services (education & healthcare);
 - Like any crisis, it impacted more severely the most vulnerable households (HHs) in urban and rural areas, further weakening smallholder farmers and livestock keepers on which those countries highly rely for their food needs (backyard livestock keepers account for 80-90% of meat production in Lao PDR & Cambodia).
- Yet, the degree to which those countries were (and will be) impacted greatly varies due to the diversity of contexts at the regional scale, but also within those countries:
 - It depends on the structuration of economies and societies, the nature, extent and duration of measures taken to control the pandemic and the pre-existence of other crisis;
 - It requires a thorough analysis, at regional, national and local levels to define appropriate and effective recovery actions:
- **Therefore, it is fundamental to associate local technical partners (NGOs, FOs, social businesses) at all stages of policy-making processes/project design.**

AVSF Mongolia



Country snapshot: Mongolia

Quick outlook on AVSF activities – Livestock (1/1)

- AVSF started to operate in Mongolia in 2004, and currently operates 3 main projects:
 - **Sustainable Cashmere program [2.8 M€, 2014-2023]**, financed by the EU, FFEM and the private sector in Bayankhongor province where AVSF supports pastoral communities on: (i) sustainable rangeland management and improved herd management (breeding, animal health and nutrition) ; (ii) creation and capacity-building of herder cooperatives united within a Union; (iii) provision of market linkages with international buyers to support the exportation of sustainable & fair trade certified cashmere.
 - **Sustainable Textile Prod. & EcoLabelling (STeP EcoLab) [2.3 M€, 2020-2022]**, funded by the EU SWITCH ASIA, which aims at (i) upscaling sustainable fiber production and sourcing in Bayankhongor (cashmere), Gobi-Altai (camel wool) and Arkhangai (yak wool); (ii) engaging Mongolian textile industries into sustainable processing practices ; (iii) leveraging green finance opportunities for related investment needs and; (iv) promoting Mongolian sustainable fibers and end-products on international markets.
 - **En-gendering rural economic development in Mongolia [1M €, 2019-2022]**, funded by the EU, which aims at reinforcing the place and role of women in their productive activities in Arkhangai and Khentii provinces by (i) providing guidance, training and mentorship to women leaders active in agriculture CSOs; (ii) supporting the development & upscaling of Sustainable cashmere and organic vegetables VCs; (iii) conducting advocacy campaigns at provincial and national levels to promote enabling policies for more inclusive rural economic development.

Country insight: Mongolia

Main findings & preliminary conclusions (1/2)

- As of August 2019, the situation could be synthesized as follows:
 - Very low impact on the production side (only 2% of herders report a disruption): access to inputs hasn't been affected and no mobility constraints for pastoralists since Mongolia did not suffer from a major COVID-19 outbreak (310 cases, 0 death);
 - However, **very high impact on the value-chains** (58% of herders cannot sell anymore). The cashmere fiber VC, which is the main source of income for herders (90% involved in cashmere production, accounting for 70% of their incomes), was severely impacted after the **collapse of cashmere prices** (-75%, from 110-120k in 2019 to 30-50k MNT) with immediate/severe effects for a large majority of rural HHs (-50% drop of incomes, over-indebtedness).
 - This crisis mounts up with the **most severe drought experienced by Bayankhongor province in the last 10 years**: according to projections, **this climate crisis could cause the death of 2 million livestock** (out of 5.9 million). Herders are destocking to offset the losses and buy fodder for the rest of their herd, putting at threat their production capacity on the long run, and many of them (from 50 to 70%) already left for longer transhumances in the hope of finding pasture land, with a high risk of overgrazing and conflicts between pastoralists.
- AVSF works today on 3 main priorities to support herders:
 - Organizational support to COOP & FOs (e.g. Pasture User Groups), to disseminate info & define coordinated actions in terms of (i) stock management, (ii) pasture land use, (iii) price (higher premium negotiated with international buyers) and (iv) marketing/certification.

Country insight: Mongolia

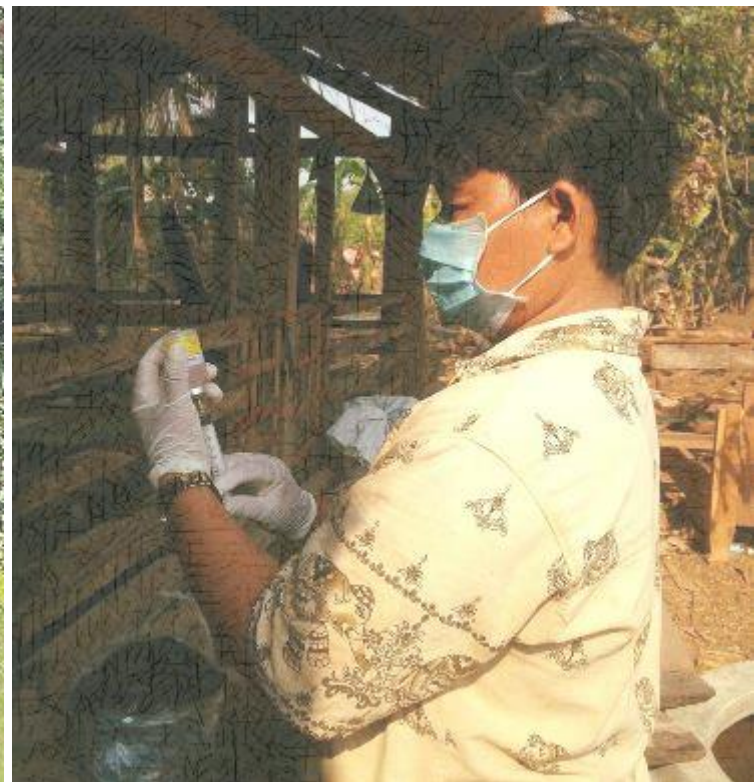
Main findings & preliminary conclusions (2/2)

- Technical support to herders, to offset the losses of income by diversifying the production and market outlets (meat, hides & skin). *Example: Bayankhongor province is about to sign a contract for the export of 1 million goat carcasses with skins, whose profit will be mostly used to invest in fodder for the remaining part of the herds; the collection of animals will be done by COOP, with AVSF support (see above).*
- Promoting the resilience of health systems (OH), to prevent future crisis by (i) improving animal health services, (ii) preventing overgrazing through controlled destocking and VC valorisation and (iii) contracting schemes (with the additional income generated) between COOP and healthcare facilities to improve access to health services for COOP members (largely inexistent), possibly on AVSF's model of "human/animal mixed health service for pastoral areas" in Northern Mali – [currently under scrutiny].

➤ Like in Lao PDR and Cambodia, immediate support was also provided within ongoing AVSF projects on:

- Communication on precautionary measures (through project staffs, CAHWs, COOP/FOs);
- PPE equipment (distribution of masks, hand sanitizers, disinfection materials);
- Data collection & analysis (to prepare appropriate and sustainable actions);
- Coordination with technical partners (government, IOs, NGO/CSOs, private sector, etc.)

AVSF Cambodia



Country snapshot: Cambodia

Quick outlook on AVSF activities – Livestock (1/1)

- Since 1991, AVSF action in Cambodia evolved from animal health-focused interventions towards broader integrated community development schemes:
 - **EU-funded Petsat Chhneum project [1.14 M\$, 2016-2018]**, led by AVSF in partnership with PIN and VSO. The project focused on the (re-)training of 2,100 VAHW (of whom 200 new) covering 94,500 livestock breeding HHs in over 6 provinces (Svay Rieng, Prey Veng, Takeo, Kampong Speu, Kampong Chhnang, Pursat). Besides, the project supported the creation of:
 - (i) 12 cooperatives of CAHWs (375 members, over 40k \$ cash capital in 2018). Since the end of the project, some cooperatives have extended their services from animal health services to the provision of agricultural inputs or micro-credit solutions;
 - (ii) 108 demonstration farms (88 for poultry, 20 for pigs) operated by CAHWs, both for diversifying CAHWs' incomes and for disseminating new techniques;
 - (iii) a national network of CAHWs, regrouping 17 cooperatives or associations in 9 provinces and still active today, with continuous support from AVSF team.
 - **One Health pilot action Phase II [105k €, 2019-2021]**, financed by AFD. After a first phase in Prey Veng province (2016-2018), this project aims at replicating and up-scaling this OH experimentation in 8 villages of Tramkak district (Takeo province): (i) training of CAHWs (emerging diseases, AMR/AMU); (ii) educational program in schools (hygiene/WASH, zoonosis, waste/pollution); (iii) solid waste facilities (medical pits, incinerators, bins) and (iv) organization of "Community Health Days" with representatives of different district authorities.
- Out of 12,586 CAHWs (2017), 2,900 were trained by AVSF projects since 1991.

Country insight: Cambodia

Main findings & preliminary conclusions (1/4)

- Despite low COVID-19 cases (275, 0 death), Cambodia was already severely impacted with short and long-term consequences (*FAO, May 2020*), mainly due to:
 - **A very fragile transitional economy, highly dollarized and increasingly dependent from:**
 - Tourism, manufacturing exports & construction, which contributes to 70% of the GDP and employ about 40% of the total workforce and were the most affected by the crisis.
 - Garment & footwear industries: in just 10 years (2009-2019), industry expanded from 21.6 to 34.2% of the GDP (17% for garment & footwear), becoming the 2nd contributor to GDP after services (38.8%), while agriculture decreased from 33.5 to 20.7% (-38%). As of May, about 200,000 people (mainly women/young from rural areas) were laid off;
 - Wages, salaries and debt: in early 2019, 26% of Cambodians (2.4 M out of a 9.3 M workforce) were in debt for a total of 8 Bn\$. In rural areas, over 40% of HHs are indebted (*2017 Cambodia Socioeconomic Survey*), mainly towards MFIs (52.3%). Loans are mainly used for shows household consumption needs (30%) and agriculture (17%).
 - Remittances, which increased from 180 M\$ to 1,2 Bn\$ between 2009-2019 (+550%). As of April 28th, 90,000 workers (out of 1.2 million) had to return home;
 - **Rural HHs, which still accounts for 76% of the pop. were directly & indirectly impacted:**
 - A significant decrease of income, as a majority of rural HHs now depends on transfers from relatives working in garment industries or abroad resulting in an ageing rural population and a lower productivity on-farm durably affecting the production potential;

Country insight: Cambodia

Main findings & preliminary conclusions (2/4)

- Consequently, a significant loss of purchasing power (worsened by rising food prices, especially for food items that cannot be produced locally) and an increasing debt burden raising fears of **over-indebtedness affecting ag. investment, poverty and FS/nutrition**: 30% of surveyed HHs have access to paddy stock for only 3 months, while 73% of respondents indicated a disruption of input supply chains (*FAO, May 2020*). Staff of MFIs are reported to organize door-to-door visits to collect debts (interests & principal) despite Government's pleas for debt payment delay (*AVSF, June 2020*).
- A **disruption of the supply chains** for some export products (mango, cashew-nut) due to border closure, or locally supplied products (vegetable, meat) due to restricted movements, the closure of schools and the collapse of the hospitality sector;
- **The livestock sector in particular was also impacted by the crisis:**
 - The **demand for live and meat products declined** due to the collapse of the tourism sector, restrictions of festivals and a lower purchasing power, alleviating (for the moment) the risks of destocking;
 - During the crisis, access to inputs (see above) and animal health services (AHS) was reduced, resulting in **disease outbreaks (HS, FMD, Blackleg, Coccidiosis, ND, FC)** in several provinces (*AVSF, June*);
 - Small livestock (especially pig and poultry), **on which rural HHs highly depend to cover their priority cash needs for food, education and healthcare**, were especially impacted:

Country insight: Cambodia

Main findings & preliminary conclusions (3/4)

- Local chicken production suffers from **declining prices** (3.25-3.50 \$/kg in Tramkak district, Takeo province, vs. over 4\$/kg in February 2019 – AVSF, August 2020), which might be attributed to an oversupply vs. lower demand (see above);
- Local pig production, which was **severely impacted in 2019 due to ASF outbreaks** (-20% decline in production, massive death/destocking observed in many districts), is showing **signs of resumption** probably due to the necessity for farmers to offset the above-mentioned losses in income. However, **taking into consideration that ASF is still circulating and in the absence of appropriate measures to prevent it (biosecurity), this resumption could lead to dramatic losses** impacting further farmers' income, over-indebtedness and investment capacity in the long run.

➤ Besides, COVID-19 impacts are adding up to existing vulnerabilities and threats:

- **Since 2019, Cambodia has been facing several major challenges:** (i) the downturn of the garment/footwear industry with the potential withdrawal of the EU-driven *Everything But Arms* (EBA) trade scheme, (ii) ASF outbreak management and (iii) **severe and prolonged droughts**;
- **The deterioration of natural resources and land access to farmers**, which could worsen due to the COVID-19 crisis as vulnerable rural HHs might resort to illegal land clearing, logging, and wildlife trade, or unsustainable agriculture/fishing practices to meet their needs, **calling once again for an integrated “One Health” response** to this global and durable crisis.

Country insight: Cambodia

Main findings & preliminary conclusions (4/4)

- Selected preliminary lessons' learned from AVSF actions:
 - CAHWs have played an important role in the swift dissemination of information to local communities on COVID-19 precautionary measures and GAHP along with technical advice to offset the losses for livestock keepers;
 - Like in Mongolia, the existence of COOP or FOs contributed to the efficiency & effectiveness of information provided and coordinated actions at community, farm and VC levels, e.g. via “CAHWs groups” and the “CAHW national network” created with the support of AVSF;
 - The COVID-19 crisis has made people more aware than before on the importance of health systems on livelihoods (e.g. general hygiene and WASH) and its intertwined effects between human, animal & the environment, leading to a better understanding of the One Health concept and challenges (pilot action ongoing – see above);
 - This crisis, thanks to the return of numerous (internal and foreign) migrant workers now unemployed and with appropriate support (extensions services, credit schemes), could be an opportunity to encourage the diversification of locally produced and supplied food products to improve the resilience of VCs and rural HHs, while reducing their dependence on other sources (industry, remittances).



GLOBAL AGENDA FOR
SUSTAINABLE LIVESTOCK

AVSF Laos



Country snapshot: Lao PDR

Quick outlook on AVSF activities – Livestock (1/1)

➤ AVSF started working in Lao PDR in 2011, and currently operates 4 main projects:

- **Accelerating Healthy Agriculture and Nutrition (AHAN) [11 M€, 2019-2022]**, financed by the EU (lead WVI, other local partners: GCDA, Burnet Institute), where AVSF works in Savannakhet, Saravane and Attapeu provinces (12 districts, 149 villages, 135,000 beneficiaries) on (i) improving the accessibility, diversity and quality of food production, (ii) developing high-nutritional local value-chains (including poultry, crickets and frogs) and (iii) improving animal health and husbandry practices through the training of CAHWs;

To address ASF, additional actions were implemented: (i) adaptation of OIE/FAO materials into simple documents (in local languages, with illustrations), (ii) distribution of biosecurity kits (PPE, boots, disinfection materials) and training to CAHWs, (iii) data collection;

- **ASF prevention and control response in Southern Laos [50k €, 2020-2022]**, financed by AVSF through a [fundraising campaign](#) and [advocacy video](#). This pilot operation will (i) train district vets and CAHWs on biosecurity/biosafety, (ii) develop simple biosecurity models for small pig raisers, (iii) establish quality and bio-secured local VCs for pork through traceability schemes/PPPs (farmers, middle-men, slaughterhouses) and (iv) protect local pig breeds.
- **Viengkham Veterinary Extension & Training (VVET) pilot [70k €, 2020-2022]**, financed by AFD, where AVSF is contributing to poverty alleviation in Viengkham district through livestock development support and animal disease prevalence reduction: (i) training of district vets & CAHWs in 8 target villages and (ii) technical guidance on appropriate animal husbandry practices in support to AGRISUD's "improved pasture land" under FORAE program.

Case study: Lao PDR

Key findings & figures in AHAN project area (1/10)

➤ Key figures from collected data:

- *In August 2020, a data collection was conducted by AVSF team in 36 villages of all 3 provinces and 12 districts of AHAN project, with a total of 245 HHs (next slide). In parallel, our WVI team (lead partner) conducted two surveys: one in April in all 3 provinces (150 HHs) and one in June in 8 districts over 6 provinces (214 HHs).*
- Overall, the impact of the lockdown in May and following travel restrictions on **food security and incomes** was quite limited (70% said they were not impacted). For the other 30% of respondents, the impact was limited to access to food products & health services, mainly due to a reduced access to local markets (28%) for buying and selling products (including drugs);
- Similarly, the impact on **livestock** remained limited (only 26% experienced an increase of animal disease), mainly do to reduced access to animal feed (29%) and AH services (17%), taking into account that access to AHS are anyway still very low (CAHWs training ongoing);
- Data collected by WVL in June confirms this trend (58% said were not or slightly impacted, and only 19% fully or severely), and provides interesting complementary information:
 - Although a sharp decline in **monthly income** (from 115\$ to 66\$) was recorded, it did not affect all HHs, meaning that this impact was particularly hard for impacted people (42%, vs. 56% not impacted). This loss of income was primarily due to a reduced demand for agricultural good & services (15%) and availability of inputs (14%): very few HHs did not have access to local markets (5%) or rely on remittances (2%);

Case study: Lao PDR

Key findings & figures in AHAN project area (2/10)

- The impact of this loss of income for impacted HHs is mostly covered by informal borrowing (32%) and reduced weekly expenses (from 16\$ to 14\$ on average) or meal quantity/quality (17%). Fortunately, **destocking of productive assets is still limited (10%)**.
- Data shows that **communication** on COVID-19 precautionary measures was **very effective, even in remote areas**, mainly due to health workers (20%), TV (22%) and radio (17%), word-of-mouth (13%) and NGOs or community workers (9%), unlike for ASF.

➤ Preliminary conclusions:

- As of today, the impact of COVID-19 in Lao PDR (AHAN project and nationwide) has been relatively limited and mostly concentrated on urban areas (tourism, businesses) or farmers dependent on urban or export outlets. Several reasons can explain this situation: a very short period of total lockdown (less than a month) due to few COVID-19 cases (23 cases, 0 death), the great predominance of traditional subsistence farming practices (own-consumption, low input, low market dependence) and a strong solidarity around the extended family nucleus (32% of impacted HHs borrowed from neighbor or relatives to meet their needs).
- **Yet, the immediate and long-term impacts of this crisis should not be underestimated:**
 - **Emergency response:** many rural HHs among the most vulnerable were still fully or severely impacted (19%) and needs immediate support (cash grants for local market support, food security, input supplies or livestock restocking, savings funds mechanisms, etc.), using **LEGS methodology** for livestock (see also **VSF International guidelines**) ;

Case study: Lao PDR

Key findings & figures in AHAN project area (3/10)

- **Resilience:** the above-mentioned impacts already observed on HHs' indebtedness, FS/nutrition and assets (especially livestock) should be carefully monitored as the situation could rapidly and sustainably worsen in case of a new lockdown or prolonged economic crisis, all the more since this pandemic is coming on top of previous (2019's floods in Southern Laos) or ongoing (ASF) crisis. In this regard, as special emphasis should be put on:
 - **Livestock production and animal health**, which play a decisive role in Lao PDR (especially pig and poultry) for rural HHs' FS/nutrition, income generation (mobile capital for quick cash needs) and access to primary services including healthcare;
 - **Integration approaches to health systems & education (One Health)**, to avoid duplications, encourage coordination and experiment joint implementation schemes to pool financial/HR resources and skills and build stronger health systems, especially at local level (district authorities, community volunteers for human/animal health and biodiversity). In this regard, the role of CAHWs should be emphasized and further promoted. This crisis proved that information can be delivered when necessary (unlike for ASF since 2019).

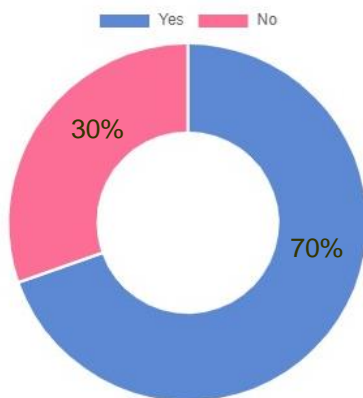
Case study: Lao PDR

Key findings & figures in AHAN project area (4/10)

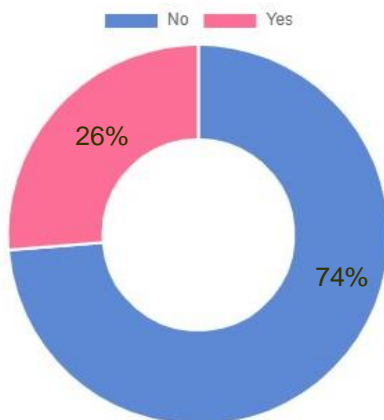


AVSF Laos,
August 2020

Did the lockdown impacted your food security or incomes?

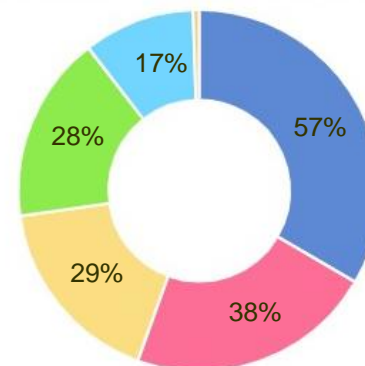


Did you see an increase in animal diseases (in your farm) ?



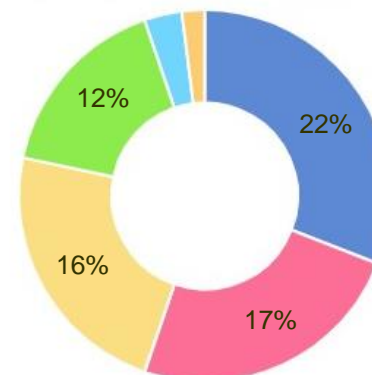
In what ways ?

Access to food product... Access to health servi... Access to animal feed ...
Access to local markets... Access to health servi... Other



If no, why ?

enough_food_stock_anim... support_from_governmen... support_from_other_vil...
no_animal_disease_duri... Other Support for donors (if...



Case study: Lao PDR

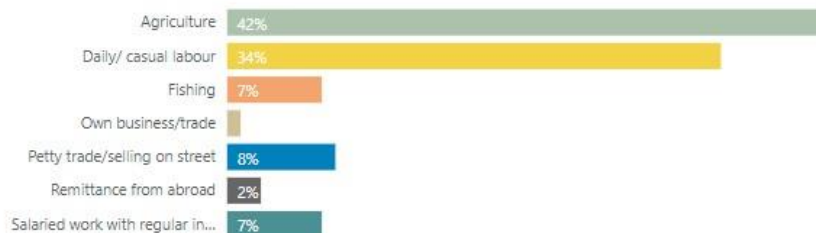
Key findings & figures in AHAN project area (5/10)



COVID 19 - Outbreak | RAPID ASSESSMENT WVI-L (June 2020)

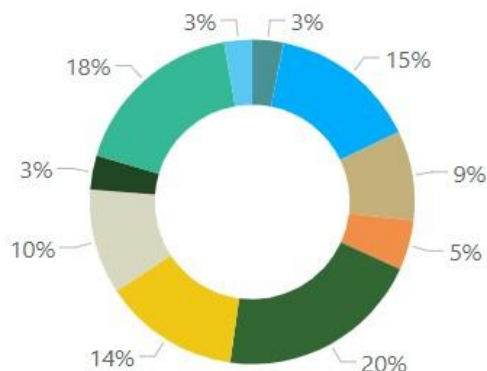
Livelihood at a glance

Main income source



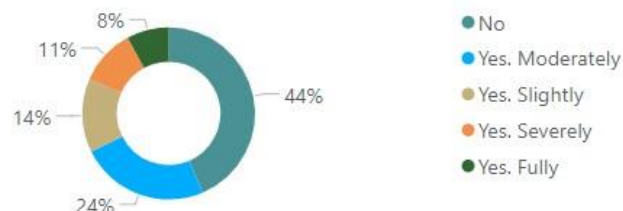
Reasons for livelihood disruption

- Transport limitations
- Reduced demand for ...
- Other reason
- No market to sell pro...
- Movement restriction...
- Inputs unavailable
- Livelihood inputs exp...
- Increased demand for...
- Concerned about leav...
- Adult unwell



Tout

COVID affected livelihood



Key reasons for the livelihood disruption



1. Movement restriction



2. Concern about leaving the house



3. Reduced demand for goods/services

Case study: Lao PDR

Key findings & figures in AHAN project area (6/10)

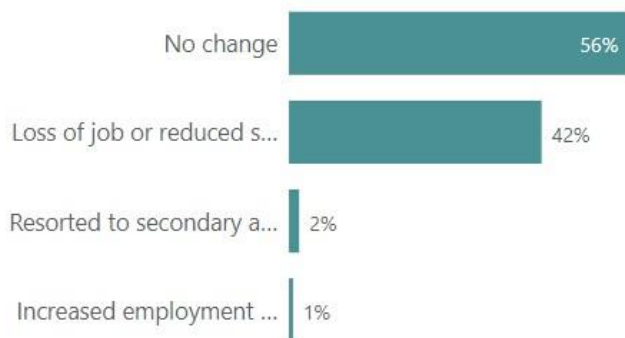


COVID 19 - Outbreak | RAPID ASSESSMENT WVI-L (June 2020)

Livelihood at a glance

Tout ▼

Changes in the income



1052276

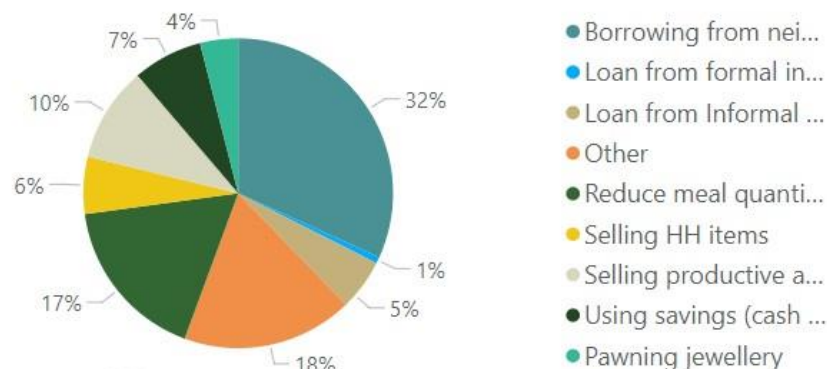
Monthly income (in KIP) before
COVID



605429

Monthly income (in KIP) after
COVID

The ways handled reduced income



- Borrowing from nei...
- Loan from formal in...
- Loan from Informal ...
- Other
- Reduce meal quanti...
- Selling HH items
- Selling productive a...
- Using savings (cash ...
- Pawning jewellery



Days utilizing savings

14

Case study: Lao PDR

Key findings & figures in AHAN project area (7/10)



COVID 19 - Outbreak | RAPID ASSESSMENT WVI-L (June 2020)

Key problems at a glance



Support on livelihood



Assistance on food items

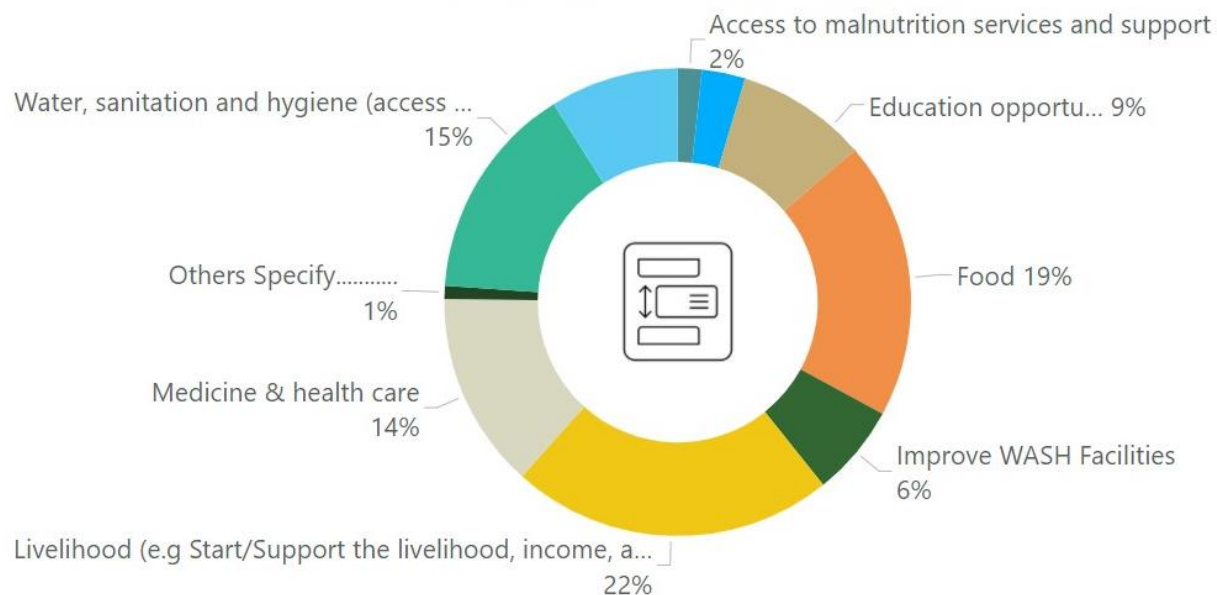


Assistance on WASH
facilities



Assistance on medicine
health care

Problems prioritized by the community



Case study: Lao PDR

Key findings & figures in AHAN project area (8/10)



COVID 19 - Outbreak | RAPID ASSESSMENT WVI-L (June 2020)

Recomendations



Livelihood

Improve coping mechanism of affected household through set of options;

- a) Increase purchasing power by increase income
- b) Promote context appropriate savings methods.



Food security

Provide unconditional cash grant to most vulnerable families to increase food security.

Promote knowledge among adults to provide healthy foods at an affordable cost for children through three healthy meals per day.

Create awareness on the consumption of diversity diet using minimum resources, food safety and hygiene practices.



WASH

Continue to promote awareness of COVID-19 prevention and protection.

Increase access to personal protection materials such as facemask and soap/hand sanitizer.

Promote hygiene promotion and support improve access to water and sanitation within community.



Health



Education



Child Protection

Case study: Lao PDR

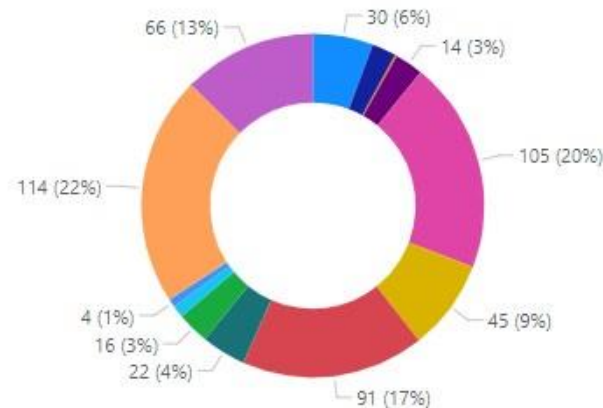
Key findings & figures in AHAN project area (9/10)



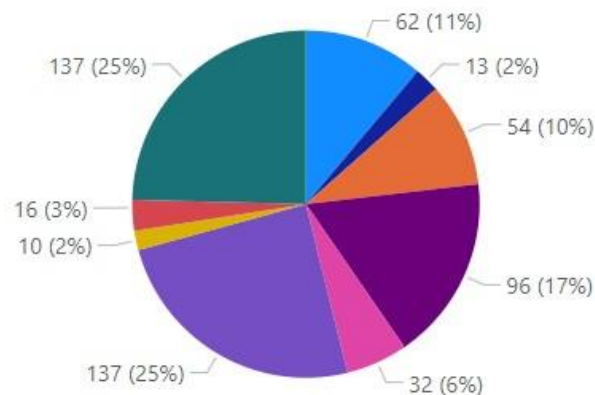
COVID 19 - Outbreak | RAPID ASSESSMENT WVI-L (April 2020)

Best channel to receive info

- Community gathering
- Community Health worker/Volunteer
- Community leaders/Religious leaders
- Family members
- Health unit/health care worker
- IEC materials
- NGO/CSO/Other community mobilizers
- Radio
- Red Cross Red Crescent volunteers
- Social media
- Someone in the community
- WhatsApp
- TV
- Friends

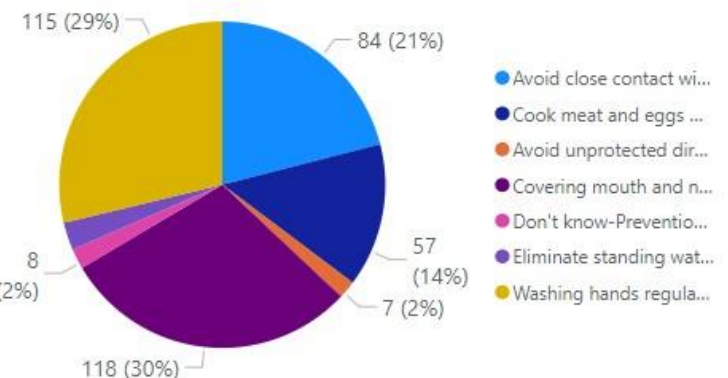


Knowledge on each Prevention steps



- Cook meat and eggs well
- Eliminate standing water
- Drink only treated water
- Avoid close contact with any...
- Avoid unprotected direct co...
- Cover your mouth and nose...
- Don't know
- Sleep under the mosquito net
- Wash your hands regularly u...

Practice of each Prevention steps



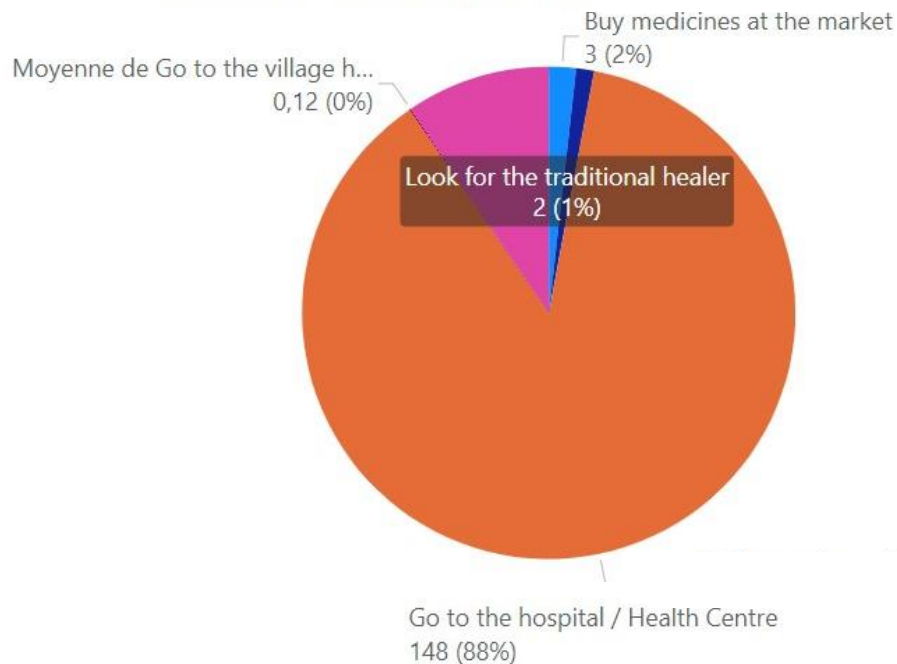
- Avoid close contact wi...
- Cook meat and eggs ...
- Avoid unprotected dir...
- Covering mouth and n...
- Don't know-Preventio...
- Eliminate standing wat...
- Washing hands regula...

Case study: Lao PDR

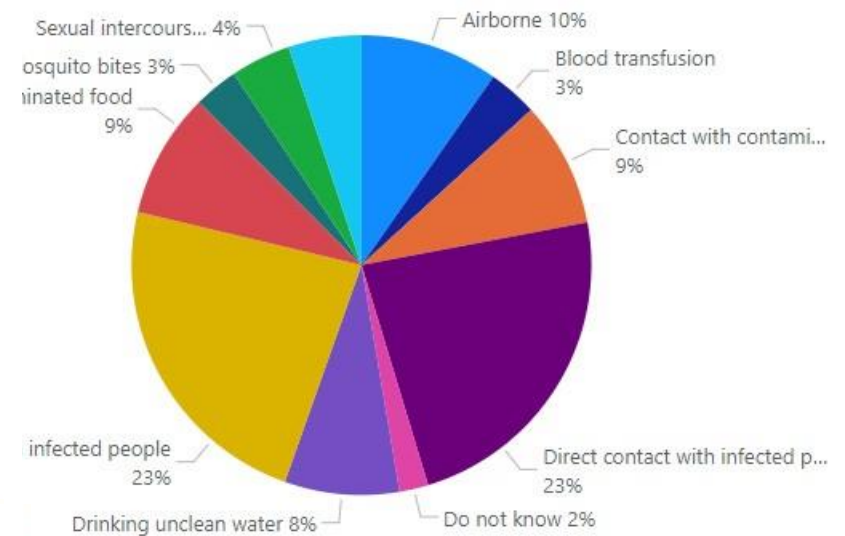
Key findings & figures in AHAN project area (10/10)


COVID 19 - Outbreak | RAPID ASSESSMENT WVI-L (April 2020)

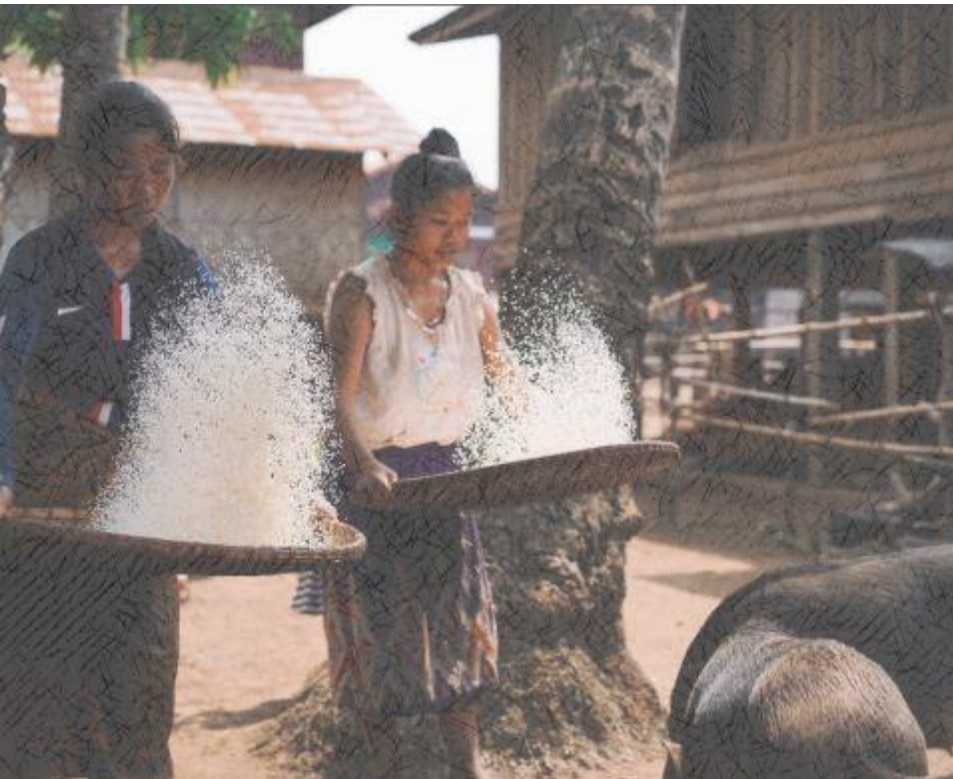
Knowledge on treatment sources



Knowledge of Transmission



COVID-19 response for livestock: recommendations



COVID-19 response & recovery

General conclusions & recommendations (1/4)

➤ Preliminary general conclusions and recommendations:

- **Several factors limited COVID-19 impacts, from which lessons can be learned:**

- Traditional systems based on subsistence farming and local value-chains were generally more resilient to short-term impacts (**e.g. Lao PDR**), in comparison to other systems either dependent from external markets (e.g. Mongolia) or transfers from relatives working in factories or abroad (e.g. Cambodia). Yet, those systems remain vulnerable to severe/prolonged external shocks and will be severely and durably impacted in the long run if not appropriately supported;

R1: Support to diversified and agro-ecological practices, local market outlets and VCs and circular economy schemes is more than ever essential to ensure national food security objectives, resilient production schemes, and alleviate the impacts of such crisis.

- Farmers organized within farmers' groups (FO), COOP or local/national networks were better informed and reacted more swiftly and efficiently (**e.g. Mongolia, Cambodia**): price negotiation, coordination of production/marketing strategies, access to inputs, AHS or credit facilities, coordination with development partners, etc.;

R2: Support to/participation of COOP, FOs and Community-based Organizations (CBOs) in terms of emergency preparedness is fundamental to organize coordinated response strategies and establish efficient early warning systems (EWS).

COVID-19 response & recovery

General conclusions & recommendations (2/4)

- **Such global crisis involves multi-dimensional impacts, both direct and indirect, that need to be properly assessed and addressed in an inclusive manner:**
 - In terms of timeframe, mixing short-/long-term actions jointly designed (exit strategy):
 - **Emergency relief:** immediate support should target the most vulnerable to prevent adverse effects that will increase HH/VCS' vulnerability in the long run (cash for local market support, FS/nutrition, input supplies or livestock restocking, saving fund schemes, feed banks, short-cycle crops/livestock), using [LEGS methodology](#);
 - **Resilience:** such crisis are generally revealing existing vulnerabilities that need to be addressed, e.g. diversification of crop/livestock production & GAHP (to alleviate the risks) and market outlets (including support to local markets), sustainable farming practices ([including crop-livestock integration](#)) to optimize the sustainable use of natural resources and reduce external inputs, support to COOP/FOs, etc.;
 - In terms of scope: beyond immediate impacts (on health, VCs, livelihoods), such crisis can have [indirect and delayed impacts](#) that could cause even more lasting effects (e.g. land pressure/deterioration of natural resources in Cambodia and Mongolia) that need to be anticipated, [requiring a deep knowledge of the local context and holistic approach](#).

R3: “Effective crisis responses should offer a combination of short-term emergency relief and long-term resilience strengthening, tackling the multiple dimensions of livelihoods, including livestock” ([VSFI guidelines - Emergency](#)), with an [holistic approach](#).

COVID-19 response & recovery

General conclusions & recommendations (3/4)

- **Prevention measures are more effective and cost-efficient than emergency response:**
 - This global crisis has exacerbated the weaknesses of our health systems (even in developed countries) in general (including AHS). Although necessary to some extent (if proportional and well-targeted), emergency only will not prevent the longer-term effects of this crisis, neither than they will prevent future ones. Therefore, it is urgent to adopt a longer-term and inclusive approach focusing on:
 - Improving biosecurity applying a “farm to fork” global approach (*VSF International*);
 - Adopting an inclusive One Health approach, especially at district/community level

R4: CAHWs can and should play a key role in rural areas (e.g. Cambodia), alongside other CBOs and in coordination with public veterinary services, to: (i) swiftly communicate on safety measures within their community; (ii) detect and report animal diseases; (iii) raise awareness and provide guidance on hygiene and GAHP (e.g. zoonosis, AMR, biosecurity, pesticides, waste management) in an integrated manner (One Health); (iv) provide local input supply services (e.g. drug outlets) and (iv) coordinate vaccination campaigns or (v) liaise with other intermediaries to strengthen market outlets, quality and biosafety practices (see [*VSFI guidelines on CAHWs*](#), [*AVSF Lessons’ learned*](#) + our joint [*OH technical paper*](#)).

R5: Inclusion and participation of all local stakeholders, especially CSOs, CBOs, farmers and district officials is fundamental to define and adopt appropriate measures.

COVID-19 response & recovery

General conclusions & recommendations (4/4)

- **Coordination between technical partners and joint advocacy towards decision-makers and donors is essential to ensure efficient, appropriate and sustainable actions;**
 - Need assessment analysis: as demonstrated, there is a great diversity of contexts and impacts, between and within countries, which requires a special effort for data collection and analysis and coordination with local stakeholders and between technical partners. Unfortunately, animal health/husbandry (and One Health) are rarely in the scope of donors' priorities and thus, are not included in COVID-19 response actions, although they play a fundamental role in rural HHs' livelihood and within national VCs and have severe impacts on the most vulnerable, especially women (gender-sensitive actions).
 - Project design and funding: the reorientation and concentration of donor funding to emergency interventions, if not properly designed and allocated, could have negative impacts either by saturating local absorption capacities or by diverting funds from other crisis (e.g. ASF, droughts) or sectors such as livestock/animal health (e.g. TADs).
 - Project implementation: significant improvements are necessary, especially regarding emergency actions, to optimize the use of funds and avoid duplication (e.g. joint communication campaigns at local level through existing CBOs, FOs and NGO/CSOs).

R6: A comprehensive coordination is essential all along this process with all stakeholders, from governments, IOs, NGOs, CSO/CBOs, COOP/FOs and farmers, the scientific community, social businesses.

Selected bibliography

Technical guidelines & position papers

The following documents were quoted in this PPT presentation:

- *From Emergency to Development: Building resilience through livestock-based interventions* (VSF International: Policy Brief, February 2018) – [link](#).
- *COVID-19 Response: LEGS Guidance Note* (LEGS, April 2020) – [link](#).
- *Community-Based Animal Health Workers (CAHWs): Guardians for quality, localized animal health services in the global South* (VSF International: Policy Brief, September 2018) – [link](#).
- *Quality animal health arrangements: lessons from the AVSF experience* (AVSF, 2011) – [link](#).
- *One Health implementation in the Global South: a holistic approach to address the key challenges of livestock-dependent communities* (VSF International: Technical document, June 2020) – [link](#).
- *Acting in the South against zoonosis is a vital necessity* (AVSF, March 2020) – [link](#).
- *Mali : des soignants à la rencontre des nomades* (AVSF, 2020) – [link](#).
- *ASF Coordination Virtual Meeting: ASF epidemiological situation, progress on ASF prevention and control and current needs* (OIE, June 2020) – [link](#).
- *From Crisis to Action: Lessons' learned from COVID-19 for building a better future through sustainable livestock* (GASF MSP Online Meeting “Rest of Asia”, September 2020) – [link](#).



Thanks for your attention !

Antoine LURY

Head of Head of Prospecting and Partnerships Asia

a.lury@avsf.org | WhatsApp: +33 6 69 45 64 54 | Skype: antoine.lury

AVSF office in Vientiane, Lao PDR

