

Strengthening Animal Welfare in Africa through formal education and training – The WTS VETS UNITED Experience



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VETS UNITED Mission

To improve animal health and welfare in the long-term by improving the academic and continuous education of animal health professionals

Increasing

- Knowledge
- Practical Skills
- Animal Welfare Awareness

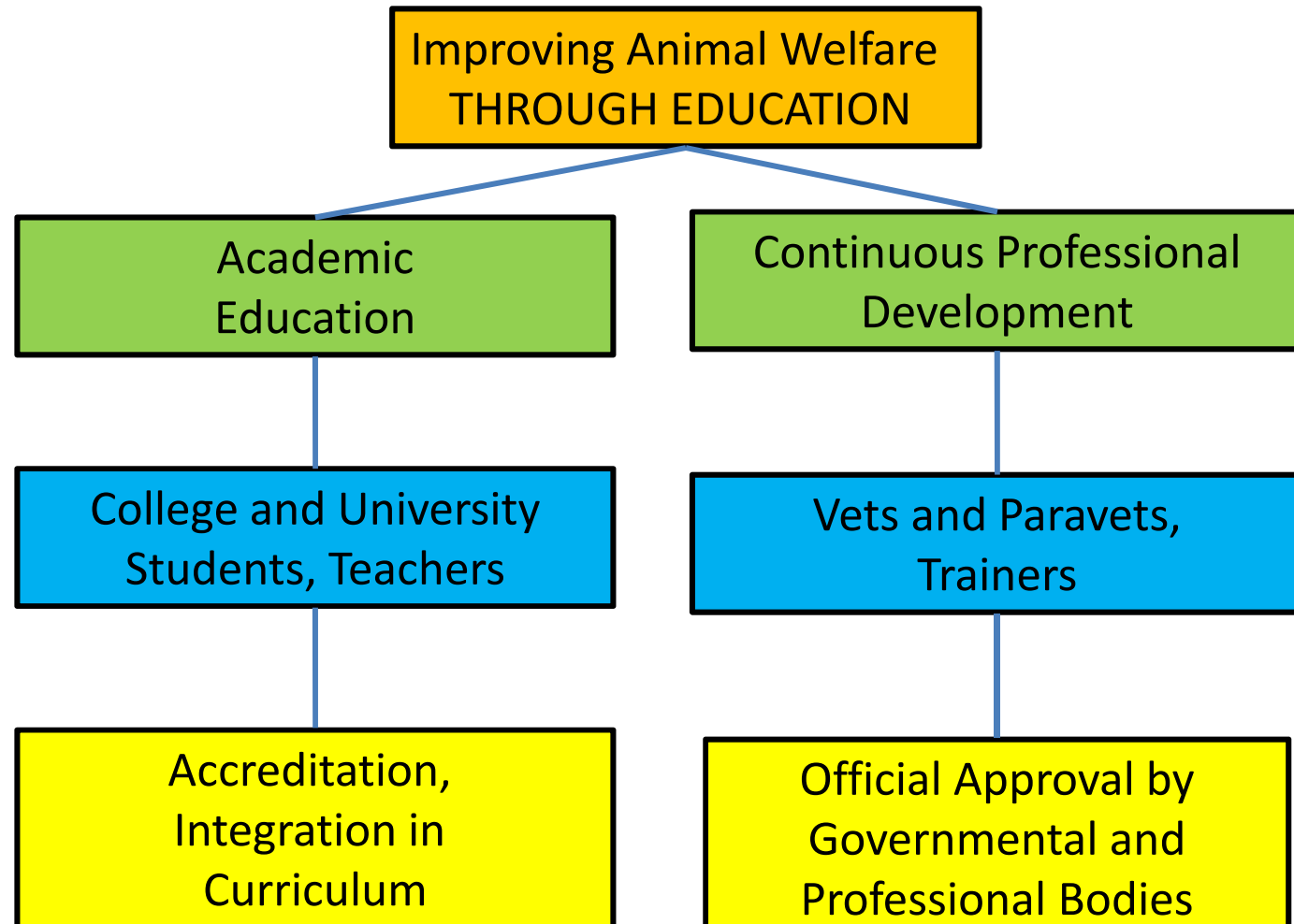


Programme Overview

- Education programme, developed in 2015 by WTS
- Currently in The Gambia, Kenya, Liberia, Malawi, Uganda, Rwanda and Zimbabwe
- **About 4,000 students and 400 professionals** (vets, paravets and teachers) have been trained



VETS UNITED Structure



VETS UNITED Projects

The GAMBIA
Academic Education
University and College



LIBERIA
Academic Education
University and College



MALAWI
Academic Education
University and College



UGANDA
Academic Education and CPD
University and Paravets



KENYA
Academic Education
Universities and
Colleges



RWANDA
CPD
Vets and Paravets



ZIMBABWE
Academic Education
College



VETS UNITED Animal Welfare Training Guide

The material consists of

- Lectures
- Instructions for exercises
- Training films
- Tests (theory and practical)
- Handouts



VETS UNITED Animal Welfare Modules

Download the workshop material

The course material consists of lectures, instructions for practicals and training videos. It covers many aspects of animal welfare in the work of animal health professionals during their hands-on work with the animals, as advisers for animal keepers and general public as well as in their role as animal welfare representatives and animal welfare law enforcement.

The material is divided into topics and can be added to an existing curriculum in animal health related education, for CDP training, personal further education etc.

1. Introduction to animal welfare	+
2. Animal Welfare Legislation	
3. Animal Care	
4. Clinical Examination and Humane Handling	
5. Wound Management	
6. Pain Management	



Nutritional requirements

e.g. growing, pregnant or lactating animals have increases requirements



Picture © Carl Salter



Picture © Community Veterinary Services-Southern Africa

Section B

VETS UNITED Best Practice

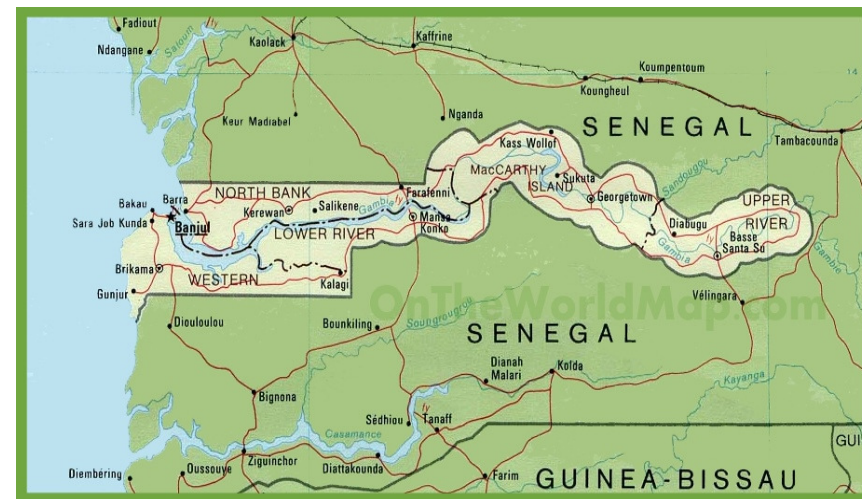
The Gambia



Situation in The Gambia

- West Africa, surrounded by Senegal
- Population: about 2 Million
- Agriculture employs 75% of workforce
- About 15 registered veterinarians and 68 livestock assistants

300,000	Cattle
500,000	Small ruminants
22,000	Horses
65,000	Donkeys
1,000,000	Poultry
15,000	Pigs



**83 Animal Health Professionals for
2 Million Livestock**

Gambia map:

<http://ontheworldmap.com/gambia/gambia-political-map.html>

Academic Education

- No veterinary faculty
- Animal health related courses at Gambia University and Gambia College
- No Animal Welfare in Curriculum for College and University
- Hardly any practical training for students



VETS UNITED Achievements

- Started in 2015 with bi-annual workshops by German and Gambian vets
- Since 2016 weekly Animal Welfare lectures and practical clinics for students at College and University
- Since January 2020 accredited at College, curriculum review and accreditation at University planned in 2020/2021



Monitoring & Evaluation

Small-scale study with paravets
2017/2018

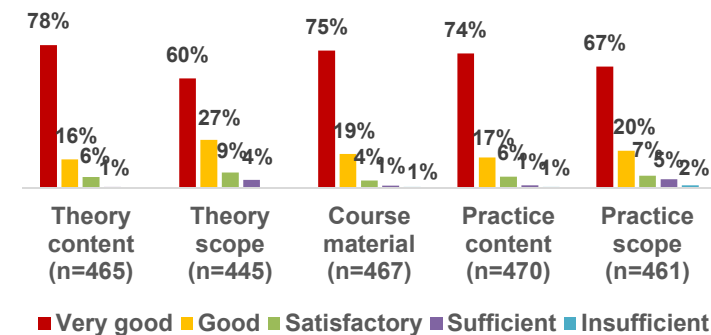
Setup of **Monitoring System**

- continuous control of training
- collection of data for further evaluation

Survey among Graduates of the
VETS UNITED training 2019



Animal Welfare



M&E Study 2017/18

- Interviews with 5 experienced livestock assistants
- Monthly reports about work tasks and animals treated
- Observation of practical work
- Interviews with 5 animal keepers/farmers



M&E Study 2017/18

Results:

Knowledge about the work reality of livestock assistants

Positive changes:

- More animal welfare awareness of paravets
- Improved knowledge and skills
- Growing awareness in the communities
- increased animal health and welfare



M&E Evaluation 2019

- Electronic survey among former students who participated in the VU training and finished their studies by July 2019
- 81 graduates participated
- Most participants (76%) use their knowledge and skills
- Changes on individual level, gradually on community and societal level



M&E Evaluation 2019

Results:

- Improved technical skills
- Preventive measures
- Holistic approach
- Increased confidence
- Improved animal health and welfare



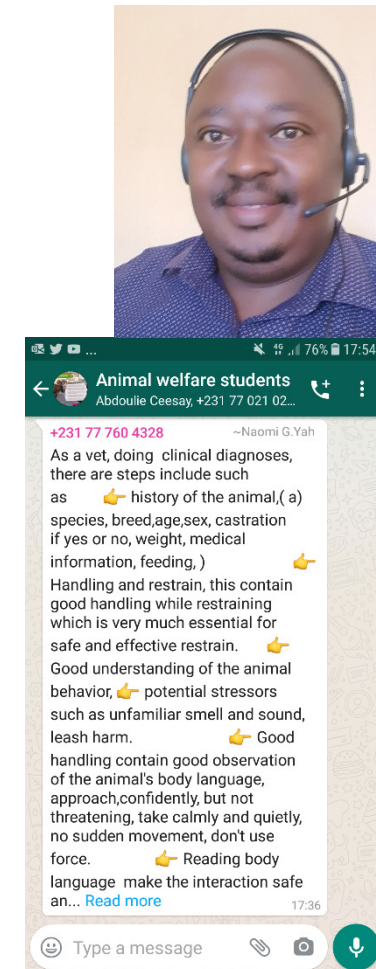
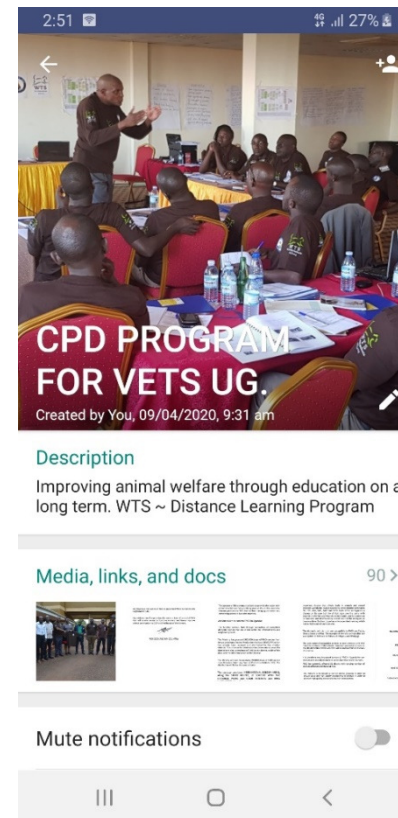
“I see that they have appreciated my advice on animal welfare by providing shelter, by giving them feed and clean water. In fact, you see people [...] use barrels and clean them and water their animals, this was not the case before.”

(Livestock Assistant)



Our Covid-19 response

- The WTS VETS UNITED programme is currently running online learning modules as a response to Covid-19 pandemic for both students and professionals.
- In the last 6 months, we have been able to empower over 300 students and 500 professionals with knowledge on animal welfare using various online platforms and social media.





VETS UNITED - Improving animal welfare through education

Thank you!

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