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Since 2015, the World Bank has provided funding of USD 248 million to the Regional Sahel Pastoralism Support Programme (PRAPS) in six countries (Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Mauritania, Niger and Senegal) as part of a six-year programme administered regionally by the Permanent



### Interstate Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel (CILSS).

This investment in pastoral livestock farming in the Sahel is justified, not only because it guarantees continued diversity in livestock methods, but also because it ensures a better standard of living for the 50 million people in the Sahel directly concerned with this type of farming. Pastoralism contributes to:

1. employment and income distribution;

2. the supply of consumer markets;

3. the resilience of farming households whose production is shifting towards agro-sylvo-pastoral systems that are more diversified and better able to cope with different types of unforeseen events;

4. the development of land and the management and safety of territories, notably through the agro-ecological use of areas ill-adapted to cultivation;

5. the promotion and protection of natural resources and the protection of biodiversity;

6. social relationships between ethnic groups and nationalities, which serve to drive regional integration by societies and form the basis for ensuring that animal movements are managed peacefully and that animals are accepted in transit and destination areas.

The protection of this form of livestock farming is vital for the populations concerned and requires long-term investments through the creation and introduction of structural programmes. Thanks to the progress achieved on the ground by the PRAPs since its launch, other technical and financial partners (including the European Union, the French Development Agency and the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation) have expressed an interest in developing and modernising pastoralism.

Animal health is a key component in all the programmes under way or in development. Several diseases causing productivity losses and often considerable mortality are still rampant in our region. The fall in productivity decreases income and increases food insecurity among pastoral households. Consequently, strengthening animal health through the implementation of efficient veterinary services that are compliant with the standards of the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) is an objective shared by all pastoral development programmes in the Sahel.

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# Pastoralism as a sustainable development tool in the Sahel

### KEYWORDS

#Africa, #Comité permanent inter-États de lutte contre la sécheresse dans le Sahel (CILSS), #pastoralism, #Projet régional d'appui au pastoralisme au Sahel (PRAPS), #Sahel, #sustainable development, #World Bank

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Photo: Ayache Bouhous



The OIE is an international organisation created in 1924 with a mandate from its 182 Member Countries to improve animal health and welfare. Its activities are permanently supported by 301 centres of scientific expertise and 12 regional offices with a presence on every continent.





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