

## ERADICATING DISEASE

### The Rinderpest Success Story



1863

The first international Veterinary Congress took place in Hamburg, Germany in 1863. The meeting brought together veterinarians and professors of veterinary medicine from around the globe to discuss how nations could better combat animal disease through common rules of cattle trade. The primary disease of concern was rinderpest. Also known as 'cattle plague', rinderpest outbreaks have wiped out farms for thousands of years.



1920

In 1920, a disastrous rinderpest epidemic broke out in Belgium and quickly spread across Europe. The French government called for an international meeting to improve disease control coordination, which led to the formation of the Office International des Epizooties (OIE), now known as the World Organisation for Animal Health.



1924



1950

An improved vaccine is developed in the 1950s that allows for greater control and the Inter-African Bureau of Epizootic Diseases is founded to help eliminate the disease in Africa. However, without a global campaign of sustained vaccination, the disease continues to thrive.



1994

Following devastating rinderpest outbreaks in the 1980s, FAO and the OIE create a Global Rinderpest Eradication Programme in 1994 and quickly begin working with nations on eradication strategies. Their goal is the worldwide eradication of rinderpest by 2010.



2001

Ten years after the final case of rinderpest was ever detected, the FAO and OIE declare the disease eradicated in 2011. Experts estimate that in 10 African nations, the elimination of rinderpest saves US\$111 million each year while providing an additional 126,000 tonnes of beef and 39,000 tonnes of milk to global markets.



2011