

Center for Holistic Livestock Development Initiative

Expertise in
Data-Driven Solutions, Disease Resilience,
and Sustainable Development





Transforming Livestock Through Systems Thinking and Local Leadership in Africa

Center for Holistic Livestock Development Initiative



Nigeria

Expertise in
Data-Driven Solutions, Disease Resilience,
and Sustainable Development

About Us:

Center for Holistic Livestock Development Initiative (CHOLD Initiative) is a forward-looking non-profit organization dedicated to transforming livestock ecosystems through innovation, research, data intelligence, and inclusive leadership engagement.

Founded in 2018 and duly registered with the Corporate Affairs Commission of Nigeria under the Companies and Allied Matters Act 1990 as Cambio Development Communication Initiative and renamed as **CHOLD Initiative** in 2025.

We focus on the holistic development of livestock systems by integrating cutting-edge technologies with traditional practices, fostering sustainable livelihoods, and strengthening value chains. Our work empowers communities, promotes animal health, and creates resilient food systems, without boundaries or limitations to geography.

CHOLD Initiative bridges the gap between tradition and innovation, ensuring livestock remains a reliable asset for development, peace, and prosperity.



“Empowering Livestock Communities,
Securing Africa’s Future”

Our Purpose:



Vision:

An Africa where livestock systems are intelligent, inclusive, and resilient—driven by innovation, data, and empowered communities.



Mission:

To advance livestock development through systems innovation, research, data-driven strategies, and community engagement — empowering stakeholders and transforming livelihoods.

Our Core Values:



Innovation

We embrace technology and creative thinking to drive progress in livestock systems.



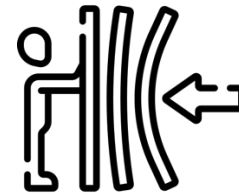
Integrity

We operate with transparency, accountability, and ethical standards.



Inclusion

We engage traditional leaders, communities, and underserved populations.



Resilience

We build systems and capacities that can withstand social, environmental, and economic shocks.



Collaboration

We foster partnerships with stakeholders at all levels for shared impact.



Knowledge

We generate and share knowledge to inform policies and practices.

National Livestock Development

Context

Livestock is a vital component of Nigeria's agricultural sector, contributing approximately 5–8% to the national GDP and supporting the livelihoods of over 20 million people, especially in rural and pastoral communities. The country hosts a diverse livestock population including cattle, sheep, goats, poultry, and pigs, which play critical roles in food security, income generation, and cultural practices.

Despite its importance, the sector faces numerous challenges such as low productivity, limited access to veterinary services, weak data systems, poor infrastructure, disease outbreaks, climate change, and recurring farmer-herder conflicts. In response, the Federal Government has launched various initiatives including the National Livestock Transformation Plan (NLTP), Animal Disease Control Programs, and the Livestock Productivity and Resilience Support (L-PRES) project, aimed at modernizing the sector, improving animal health, enhancing value chains, and promoting peaceful coexistence between pastoralists and farming communities.

With strategic investment, innovation, and inclusive governance, livestock development holds vast potential to drive rural transformation, nutrition, and economic diversification in Nigeria.



Our Understanding of The Challenges:

1. Low Productivity & Poor Genetics

Milk yield among indigenous cows produce around 5 L/day vs. 15+ L in dairy breeds—leading Nigeria to import ~60% of its milk (~900 k tonnes) at a cost of \$1.5 b/year.

2. Animal Disease & Weak Surveillance

Outbreaks of diseases like FMD, PPR, African Swine Fever continue due to insufficient vet services, poor biosecurity, and weak monitoring systems.

3. Inadequate Infrastructure & Logistics

Poor roads, lack of cold storage, insufficient abattoirs and veterinary clinics lead to high transit losses and low market access.

4. Farmer–Herder Conflicts & Insecurity

Desertification and shrinking grazing lands drive cattle south, leading to violent clashes—8,343 deaths in conflicts from 2005–2021. In Zamfara alone, ~377,245 livestock were stolen between 2011–2019, amounting to over N2.8 billion in losses.



5. Climate Change & Environmental Degradation

Northern Nigeria loses ~350,000 ha of land annually to desertification, costing about \$5.1 billion per year. Overgrazing and deforestation degrade rangelands and reduce availability of pasture.

6. Limited Access to Finance & Veterinary Services

Smallholders struggle to access credit, vaccines, quality feed, and professional vet care.

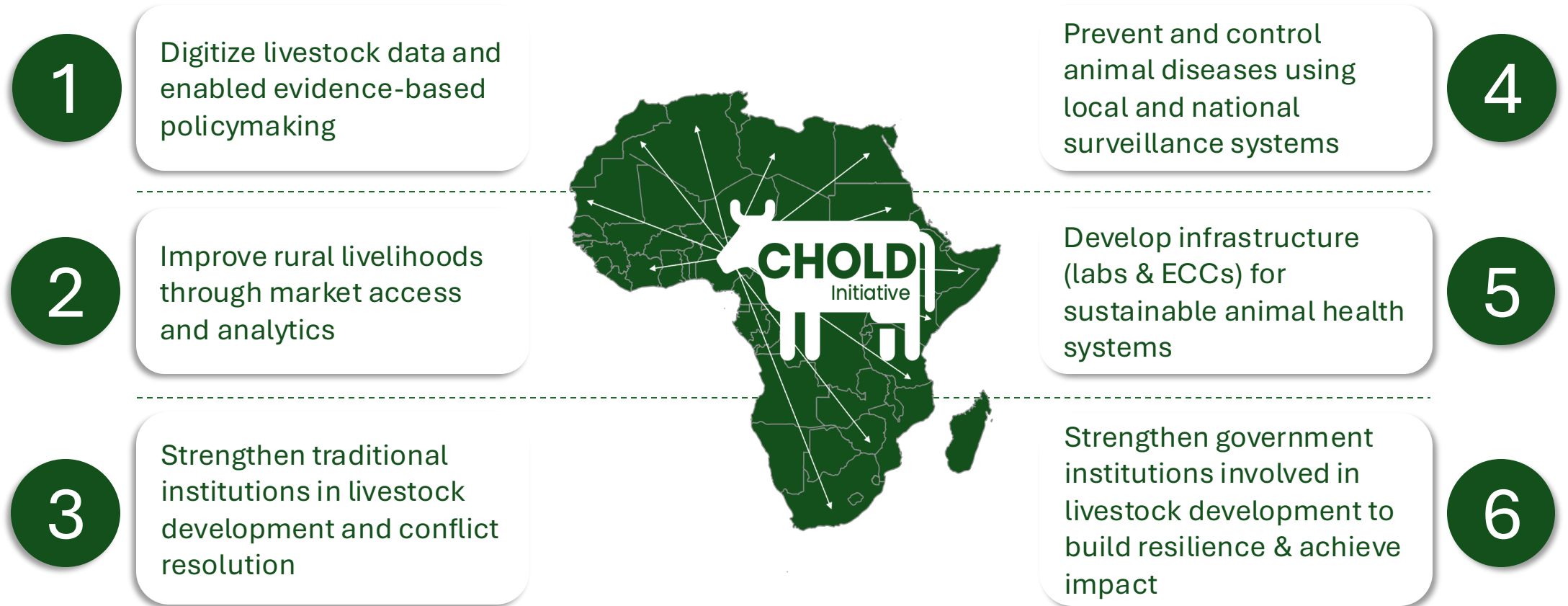
7. Weak Data Systems & Technical Capacities

Around 77% of livestock farmers in 16 states plus the FCT, lack basic production records. Low adoption of modern practices persists due to scarce technical know-how.

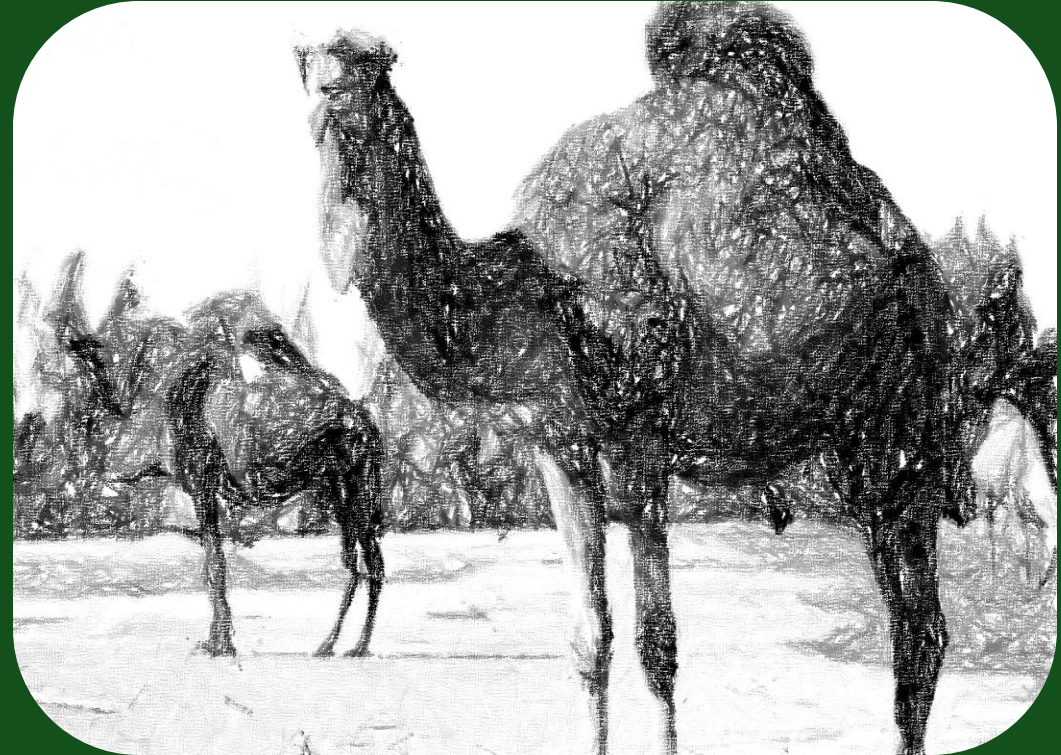
8. Low Engagement of Key Stakeholders

Critical actors/gatekeepers are not strategically engaged in livestock development in Nigeria. Institutions like the traditional institutions with proximity and direct influence on the communities have only been engaged passively.

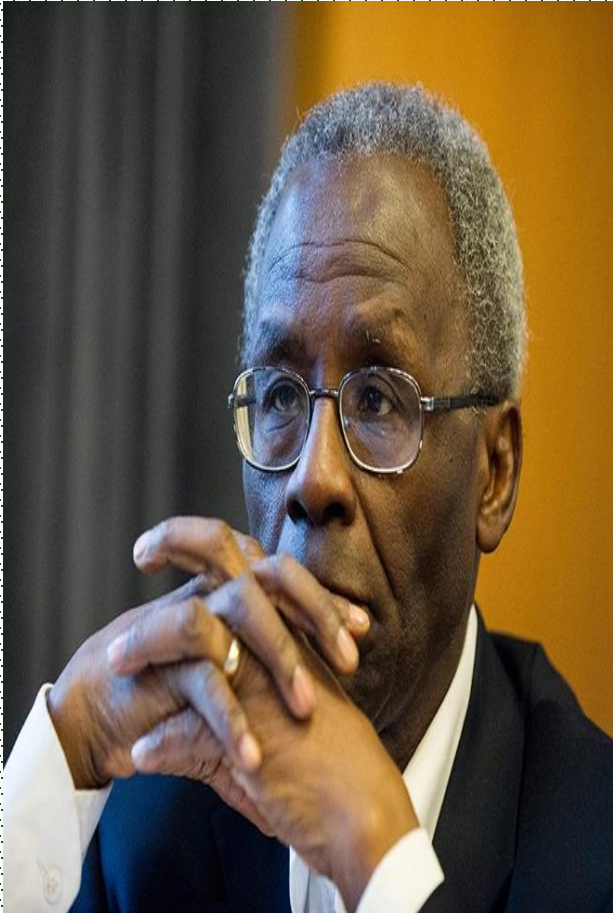
Strategic Objectives



Board Of Trustees



Our Trustees



Chairman



Member



Member



Member

Professor Oyewale Tomori



Professor Oyewale Tomori, from Ilesa, Osun State, Nigeria, is a distinguished virologist and academic. He earned his Doctor of Veterinary Medicine from Ahmadu Bello University and a Ph.D. in Virology from the University of Ibadan. In 1981, he was appointed Professor of Virology at the University of Ibadan, where he also served as Head of the Department of Virology and Director of the WHO Collaborating Centre for Arbovirus Reference and Research. From 1994 to 2004, Professor Tomori was the Regional Virologist for the World Health Organization (WHO) Africa Region.

During this period, he established the African Regional Polio Laboratory Network, which provided diagnostic support for the global polio eradication initiative. He served as the pioneer Vice-Chancellor of Redeemer's University, Nigeria, from 2004 to 2011. Professor Tomori has been involved in research and containment efforts for viral hemorrhagic fevers, including Lassa fever, yellow fever, Ebola, and Marburg, across several African countries.

His contributions have been recognized with numerous honors, including the Nigeria National Order of Merit (NNOM) in 2002. He is a Fellow of the Nigerian Academy of Science, the Royal College of Pathologists (UK), and an international member of the U.S. National Academy of Medicine.

Professor Tomori continues to serve on various national and international advisory committees, contributing his expertise to global health initiatives.

Alhaji Samaila Argungu Mera Emir Of Argungu

Alhaji Samaila Muhammadu Mera, CON, is the 19th Emir of Argungu, a revered traditional ruler and custodian of the rich cultural heritage of the Argungu Emirate in Kebbi State, Nigeria. He ascended the throne in 1996, Emir Mera has distinguished himself as a visionary leader with a strong commitment to community development, particularly in the areas of education and health.

In the health sector, Emir Mera has been a key partner in public health advocacy, supporting maternal and child health campaigns, routine immunization programs, and health awareness initiatives across the Argungu Emirate. He has worked closely with government agencies, NGOs, and international development partners to strengthen primary healthcare services and improve health infrastructure for underserved populations.

Beyond his role as a traditional leader, Emir Mera is recognized nationally for his contributions to peacebuilding, interfaith dialogue, and grassroots development, earning him the national honor of Commander of the Order of the Niger (CON). His leadership continues to inspire inclusive development, blending tradition with progressive values to uplift his people and promote sustainable community growth.



Alhaji Usman Bilyaminu Othman Emir Of Dass



Alhaji Usman Bilyaminu Othman is the Emir of Dass in Bauchi State, Nigeria, and a distinguished traditional leader renowned for his unwavering commitment to education and healthcare development. With a professional background in agriculture and extensive experience collaborating with international development organizations, he has been a pivotal figure in advancing community well-being.

He is the Chairman of the Bauchi State Emirate Councils Committee on Health (BASECCOH) and Co-Chair of the State Task Force on Primary Healthcare. His leadership has been instrumental in mobilizing communities for improved healthcare access, particularly in immunization and primary healthcare services. His proactive engagement extends to polio eradication efforts, where he has led door-to-door campaigns targeting zero-dose children and collaborated with other traditional rulers to enhance vaccine compliance in resistant communities.

Emir Othman has been a steadfast advocate for educational advancement in the Dass Emirate. He has actively supported state initiatives aimed at enhancing education standards and has urged parents to prioritize their children's schooling, particularly in areas affected by mining activities that disrupt academic pursuits. Collaborating with the State Universal Basic Education Board (SUBEB), he has emphasized the importance of rigorous monitoring and evaluation to achieve educational objectives.

Dr Vivian Iwar DVM

Dr. Vivian Iwar is a distinguished Nigerian veterinarian and public health expert with over three decades of experience in veterinary science, epidemiology, and regional health governance. She earned her Doctor of Veterinary Medicine from the University of Maiduguri in 1987, followed by advanced degrees in Veterinary Epidemiology and Animal Health Economics from the Royal Veterinary College, University of London, an MBA, and a Doctorate in Public Health Education and Promotion from Walden University in 2017.

Dr. Iwar began her career at the National Veterinary Research Institute (1988–1991) and has since held key leadership roles, including Livestock Manager at the Benue State Agricultural Development Corporation and Program Coordinator for livestock value chains at the FAO. She only recently retired as Executive Director of the ECOWAS Regional Animal Health Center (RAHC), where she leads regional strategies to control transboundary animal diseases and zoonoses.

Her leadership has been pivotal in initiatives like the mass vaccination campaign against Peste des Petits Ruminants, aiming to eradicate the disease across all 15 ECOWAS member states by 2030. Dr. Iwar co-chairs the United Against Rabies Forum and contributes to the World Veterinary Association's Policy Committee, reflecting her commitment to One Health and global health security.



Dr. Zikrullah Giwa DVM | Founder | Trustee | Board Secretary



Dr. Zikrullah Giwa is a veterinarian, distinguished Nigerian public health expert and development strategist. Serving as the public health advisor to the Nigeria Governors' Forum (NGF), Dr. Giwa was instrumental in coordinating the Forum's health initiatives, particularly during the critical phase of the national polio eradication campaign.

Under his guidance, the NGF established a robust interface for collaboration on all health-related matters with each state, facilitating real-time monitoring and accountability.

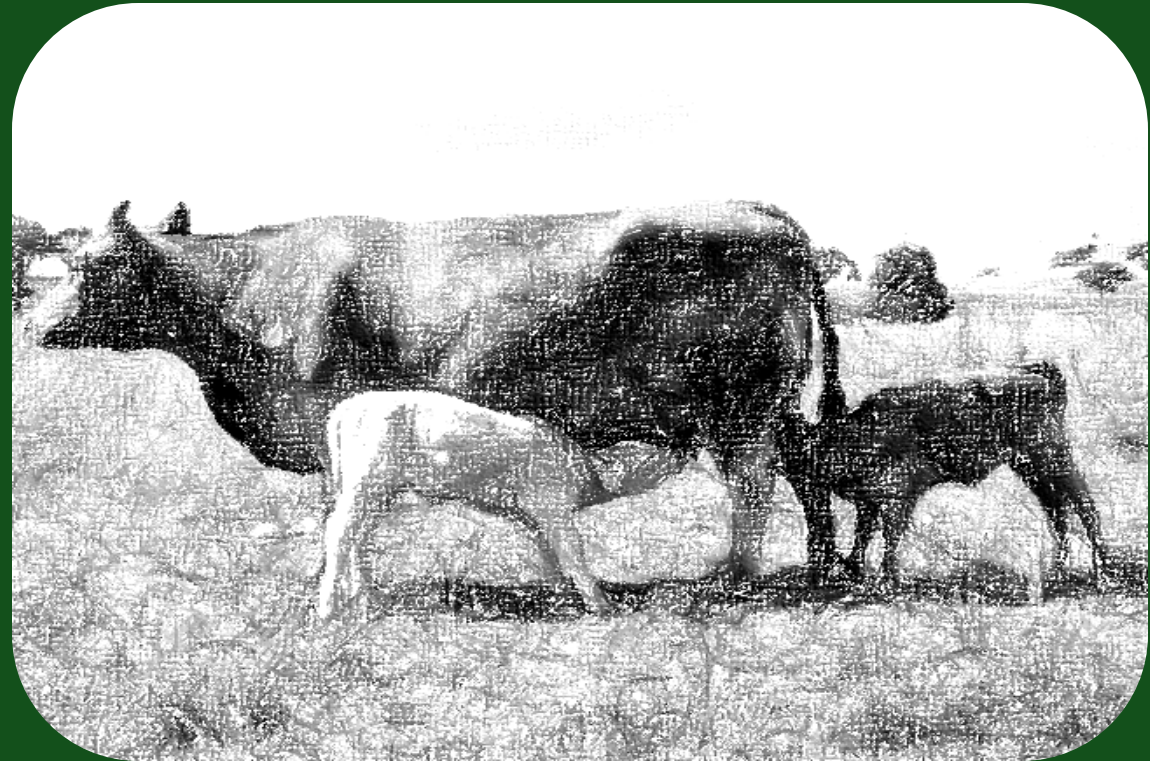
Dr. Giwa provided regular briefings to governors, ensuring that immunization efforts remained a top priority on the national agenda. His leadership fostered a unified approach among states, significantly contributing to Nigeria's removal from the global polio-endemic list.

Giwa has been a steadfast advocate for strengthening primary healthcare systems and promoting routine immunization across Nigeria.

Beyond polio eradication, Dr. His expertise has been sought in various public health initiatives, reflecting his commitment to improving health outcomes at the grassroots level.

Currently, Dr. Giwa serves as the Chief Executive Officer of **CHOLD Initiative**, based in Abuja. In this role, he leverages his experience from the public health sector to benefit the livestock sector. While building strategic partnerships and collaborations for sustainable livestock development in Nigeria.

Delivery Approach



Strategic Approach



CHOLD Initiative employs a systems-thinking framework combining technical innovation with grassroots engagement. Our approach focuses on the following pillars:



Livestock Intelligence:

- Designing and deploying livestock information management systems (LIMS).
- Real-time data analytics for disease surveillance and productivity tracking



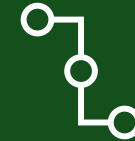
Research & Development:

- Conducting applied research to solve context-specific challenges.
- Promoting indigenous knowledge and evidence-based innovations



Traditional Leadership Engagement:

- Empowering traditional leaders as development allies.
- Bridging cultural governance and scientific advancement



Value Chain Strengthening:

- Supporting market access, infrastructure, and supply chain efficiencies.
- Promoting local agribusiness and entrepreneurship



Capacity Building:

- Training stakeholders in animal health, data use, and system design.
- Building institutional capabilities at the national, state & grassroots levels.

Key Focus Areas

1

Livestock
Information
Management
Systems (LIMS)

2

Livestock
Research &
Development

3

Disease
Surveillance &
Risk Reduction

4

Innovation for
Rural Livelihoods

5

Traditional
Leadership &
Governance
Models

6

Supply Chain
Optimization

7

Emergency
Preparedness &
Coordination
Infrastructure

8

Government
System/Program
Strengthening &
Optimization

Target Stakeholders



Rural Livestock Producers & Pastoralists



Traditional Leaders & Community Gatekeepers



Government Ministries & Departments
(Federal, State & LGA Authorities)



Research Institutions & Academia



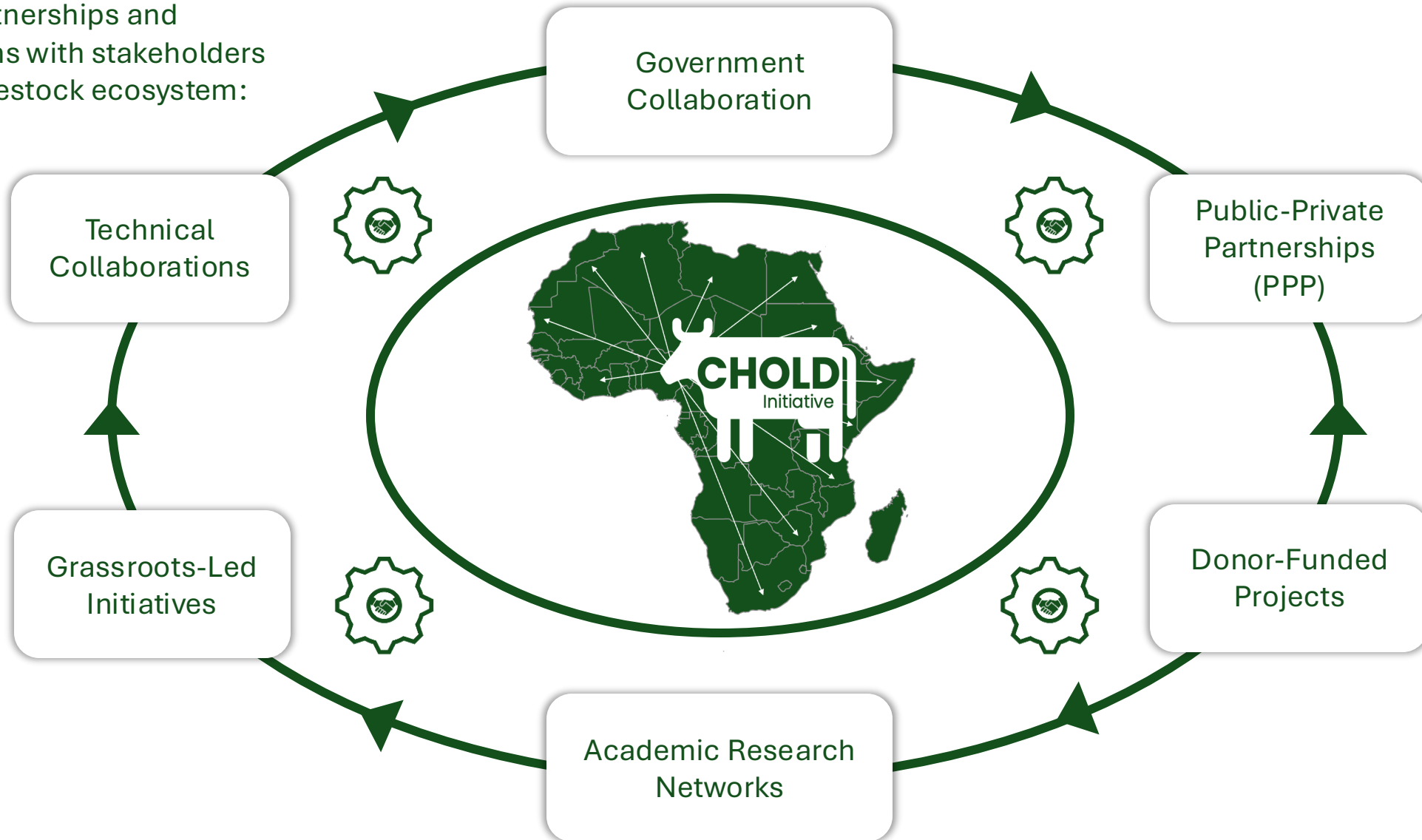
Donors & Development Partners



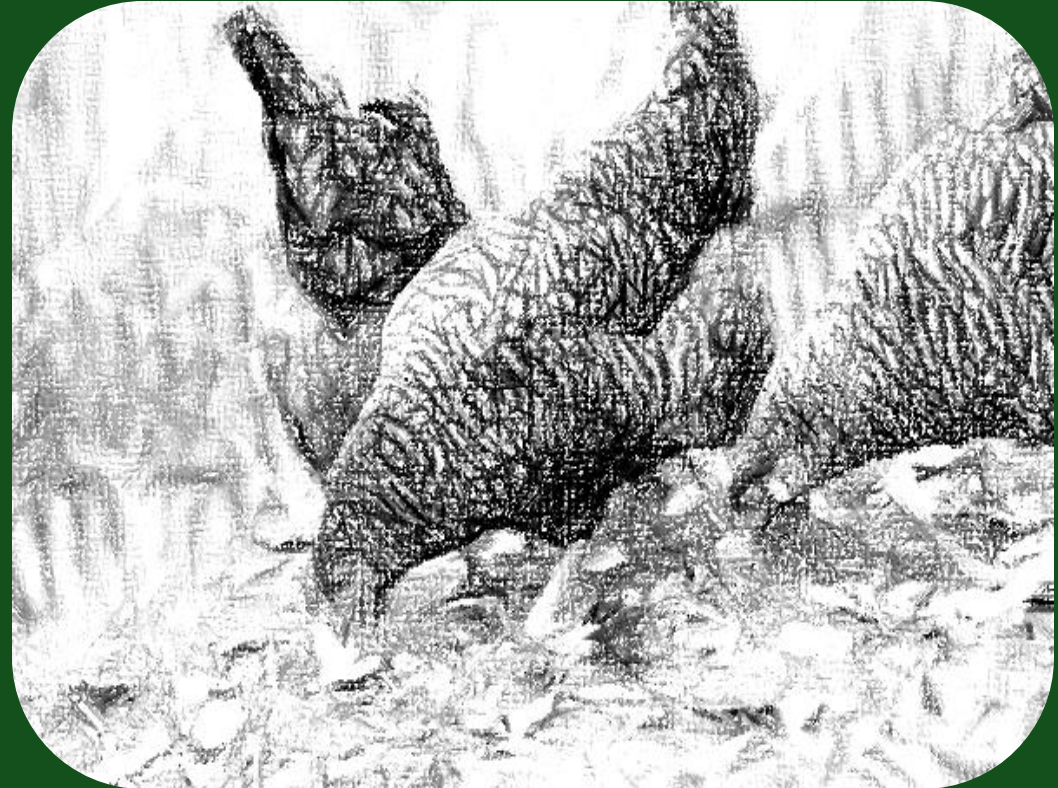
Private Sector Actors in Livestock Value Chains

Partnership Model

We co-create impact through strategic partnerships and collaborations with stakeholders within the livestock ecosystem:



Intervention Areas

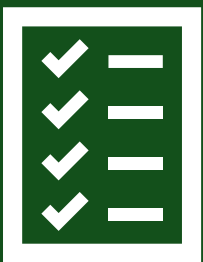


Technical Capabilities

1	Livestock Information Management System (LIMS)	
2	Animal Disease Surveillance	
3	Traditional Leader Engagement	
4	Livestock Research & Innovation	
5	Livestock Business Analytics	
6	Livestock Supply Chain Management System	
7	Emergency Coordination Centers (ECCs) & Animal Laboratories	
8	Government System/Program Strengthening & Optimization	

Livestock Information Management System (LIMS)

Scope:



- Develop, deploy, and maintain digital and field-integrated systems to collect, store, analyze, and visualize real-time data on livestock populations, ownership, demographics, health status, production, movement, and services.
- Integrate geospatial tools (GIS) and IoT devices (e.g., RFID tags, sensors) to track livestock health and movements.

Strategic Objective:



- Establish a centralized, integrated, and interoperable database to inform evidence-based policymaking, resource allocation, sector monitoring, and transparent resource planning.

Impact:



Enhanced transparency in livestock value chains, improved breeding programs, and reduced duplication of efforts by stakeholders.

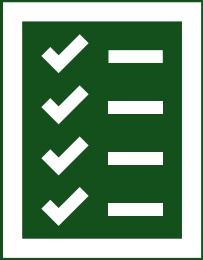
Reliable livestock data across rural and semi-urban communities

Increased visibility and inclusion of smallholder livestock owners

Informed policymaking and rapid response to sector challenges

Animal Disease Surveillance

Scope:



- Establish integrated surveillance systems—including grassroots informants, mobile reporting apps, veterinary partnerships, and emergency reporting dashboards—to monitor, detect, and respond to livestock diseases (zoonotic and transboundary diseases).
- Train veterinarians and community health workers in rapid diagnostic testing and reporting protocols.

Strategic Objective:



To reduce the spread and impact of animal diseases through early detection, reporting, and coordinated responses.

Impact:



Safer livestock trade, higher farmer confidence, and minimized economic losses from epidemics.

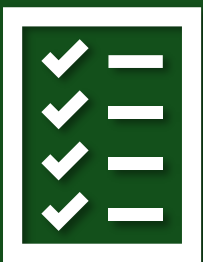
Early containment of transboundary and zoonotic diseases with Lower economic losses for producers.

Strengthened One Health response at the community level.

Strengthened national capacity to contain zoonotic diseases and comply with international health standards.

Traditional Leader Engagement

Scope:



- Integrate traditional institutions in livestock governance, resource management, and peacebuilding initiatives.
- Partner with Emirs, Obas, Chiefs, religious leaders, and local councils to promote vaccination drives, sustainable grazing, and gender-inclusive programs.
- Develop culturally tailored communication materials (e.g., radio programs, workshops).

Strategic Objective:



- To ensure local ownership, cultural relevance, and security in livestock initiatives through community leadership.
- Achieve 80% community adoption of modern livestock practices through trusted intermediaries.

Impact:



Conflict mitigation over grazing lands, improved women's participation, and preservation of indigenous knowledge.

Reduced communal and farmer-pastoralist conflicts

Enhanced compliance with animal health and movement protocol

Strengthened indigenous knowledge integration

Livestock Research & Innovation

Scope:



- Conduct applied and participatory research on animal health, genetics, feed systems, climate adaptation, indigenous practices, and digital technology application.

Strategic Objective:



- To generate homegrown solutions and innovations that increase livestock productivity, resilience, and inclusiveness.

Impact:



Significantly transform the livestock sector by generating context-specific solutions that improve animal productivity, health, and climate resilience.

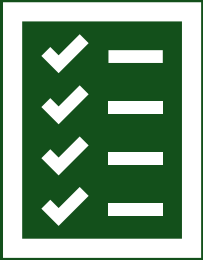
Evidence-based interventions tailored to local needs.

Wider adoption of best practices in animal husbandry.

Stronger partnerships with academia and research institutions.

Livestock Business Analytics

Scope:



- Collect and analyze production, cost, and market data to generate insights for policy, private investment, and smallholder profitability.
- Provide training and tools to farmers/cooperatives on market trends, cost-benefit analysis, and value-addition opportunities.
- Develop dashboards for predictive analytics on feed prices, demand forecasting, and export potentials.

Strategic Objective:



- To increase economic viability, private investment, and competitiveness of smallholder farmers and livestock enterprises by offering actionable insights and market intelligence.

Impact:



Increased income for farmers, reduced post-production losses, and diversified livestock products (e.g., dairy, leather).

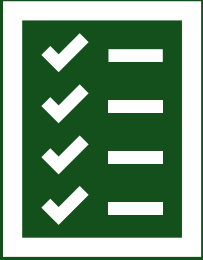
Data-informed business models for farmers and cooperatives.

Better financial planning for producers and cooperatives with reduced financial risks in livestock production.

Enhanced investment in underdeveloped livestock value chains and strengthened investments in rural agribusinesses.

Livestock Supply Chain Management System

Scope:



- Map, digitize and optimize supply chains for meat, dairy, and byproducts, livestock value chains—tracking production, aggregation, cold storage, logistics, certification and sales to improve efficiency and reduce losses.
- Pilot blockchain solutions for traceability from farm to fork.

Strategic Objective:



- To optimize livestock logistics, input delivery, and market access for rural producers while connecting smallholder farmers to formal markets.

Impact:



Higher farmer revenues, reduced spoilage, and compliance with international export standards (e.g., EU sanitary requirements).

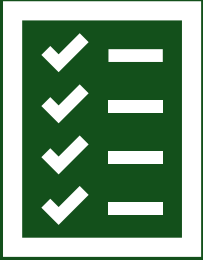
Greater trust in local livestock products from consumers and traders through a transparent and efficient supply chain system.

Reduced post-harvest and transit losses.

Lower market access barriers for rural producers with improved price stability and traceability.

Emergency Coordination Centers (ECCs) & Animal Laboratories

Scope:



- Design and support the construction of Emergency Coordination Centers (ECC) for coordinating rapid animal health responses, disease outbreaks, and climatic emergencies, equipped with communication tech and rapid response teams.
- Construct biosecure labs for diagnostics, vaccine trials, and antimicrobial resistance (AMR) research, and export product certification.

Strategic Objective:



- To enable 24/7 emergency response and strengthen domestic diagnostic and research capacity for endemic and emerging livestock diseases..
- To institutionalize rapid response capacity for livestock emergencies and disaster preparedness.

Impact:



Faster containment of crises (e.g., droughts, pandemics) and innovation in veterinary medicine.

Improved inter-agency coordination (federal, state, and local)

Improved quality of surveillance and quicker mobilization during disease outbreaks or droughts.

Strengthened early warning-to-action pipeline

Government System/Program Strengthening & Optimization

Scope:



- Support MDAs (e.g., FMARD, NVRI, NALDA, VCN) to improve livestock policy implementation, service delivery, and coordination.
- Provide technical assistance in institutional planning, data management, and inter-agency collaboration.
- Build capacity of public livestock personnel (federal, state, and LGA) through training, mentorship, and system digitization.
- Enhance accountability, transparency, and M&E systems across government livestock programs.
- Facilitate policy harmonization between national and sub-national levels.

Strategic Objective:



- To strengthen the institutional, operational, and technical capacity of government agencies to deliver inclusive, efficient, and resilient livestock development programs.

Impact:



Improved coordination among federal, state, and local livestock actors.

Increased efficiency in livestock program delivery and resource use.

Enhanced sustainability and scalability of national livestock interventions.

Strengthened data systems for evidence-based livestock policymaking

Greater reach and quality of veterinary, extension, and regulatory services

Impact Projection



Strategic Impacts (2025–2030)

CHOLD Initiative aims to transform livestock systems through measurable, high-impact interventions across innovation, data systems, leadership engagement, and sustainable development. The attainment of these impacts will be hinged on strong partnerships and collaborations with stakeholders. Below are projected strategic impacts over 5 years:



Strategic Impacts (2025–2030)

4

Livestock Value Chain Growth & Innovation

5,000+

Agripreneurs and livestock SMEs supported through training, finance, or market linkages.

30%

Increase in livestock product market access and revenue for rural producers.

1,000

New jobs created in supply chain logistics, cold storage, and value-added livestock processing.

5

Resilient & Climate-Adapted Livestock Systems

50+

Climate-resilient pastoral zones mapped and supported through data planning tools.

20%

Decrease in climate-related livestock losses in supported areas.

Development of climate-sensitive livestock insurance tools for vulnerable communities.

6

Capacity Building & Knowledge Exchange

25,000+

Stakeholders trained (including farmers, extension workers, policymakers, and youth).

300+

Training sessions and knowledge workshops held on livestock systems innovation.

Creation of an open-access knowledge platform for data, research, and training materials.

Strategic Impacts (2025–2030)

7

Emergency Response & Coordination Infrastructure

10+

Emergency Livestock Coordination Centers designed or supported.

Establishment of real-time reporting channels across **5+** national veterinary networks.

Response time to emergencies reduced by **60%** through digitized communication and early alerts.



Our Team



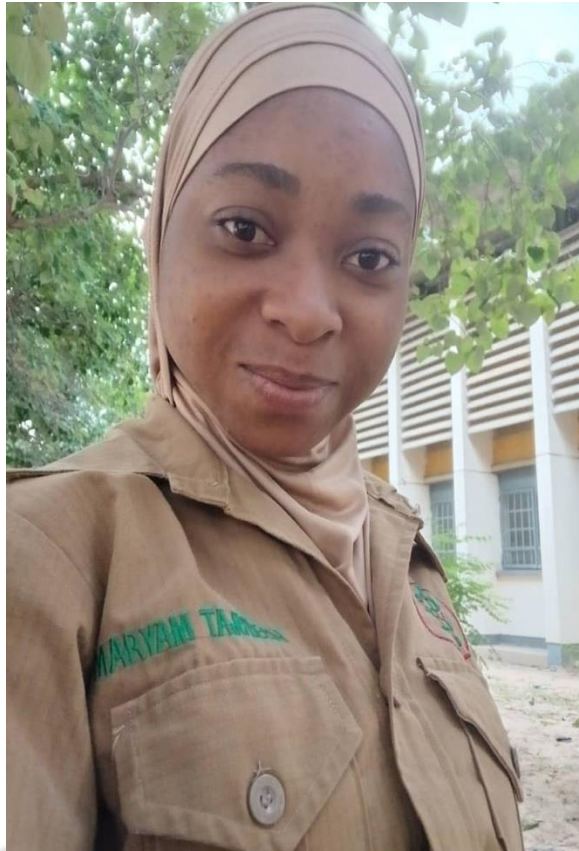


Dr Zikrullah A. Giwa DVM
Executive Management

Operational Team



Dr Sylvester James Ogbaji
Consultant
Animal Health Specialist



Dr Maryam Tajudeen
Consultant
Animal Health Specialist



Dr Obansa Ummulhanni Oyiza
Consultant
Animal Health Specialist



Dr Anthony Lambata Karatu
Consultant
Animal Health Specialist

Operational Team



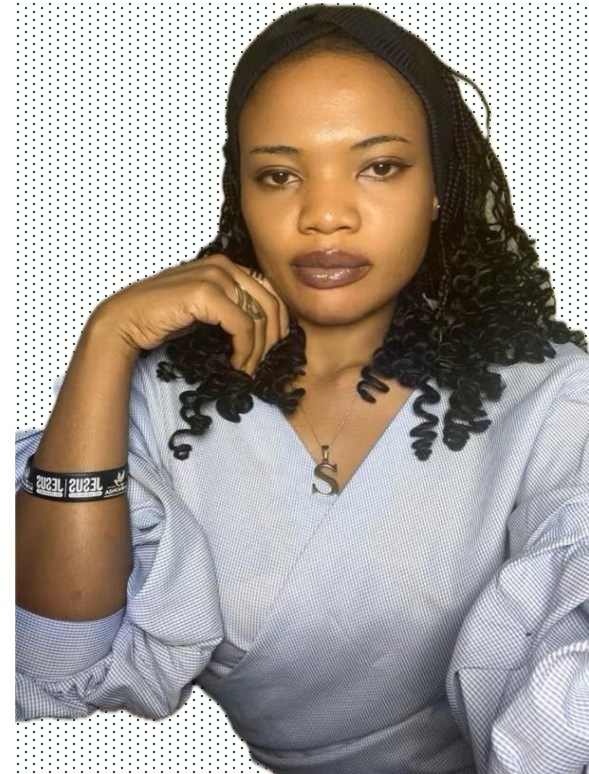
Abdulmumin Muslim Idris
Senior Manager
Software Development



Sola Ozugbakun
Senior Manager
Operational Research



Oluwatosin Deba
Senior Manager
Training/Capacity Building



Sokolayam Gimba
Manager
Strategic Communications

Operational Team



Aliyu Rafindadi
Consultant
Graphic/Animation



Monsurah Yusuf G.
Consultant
Legal Services



Eniola Hauwa Lawal
Consultant
Human Resource



Munachi
Senior Analyst
Information Management

Contact Us



Contact

CHOLD Initiative

📍 Abuja, Nigeria

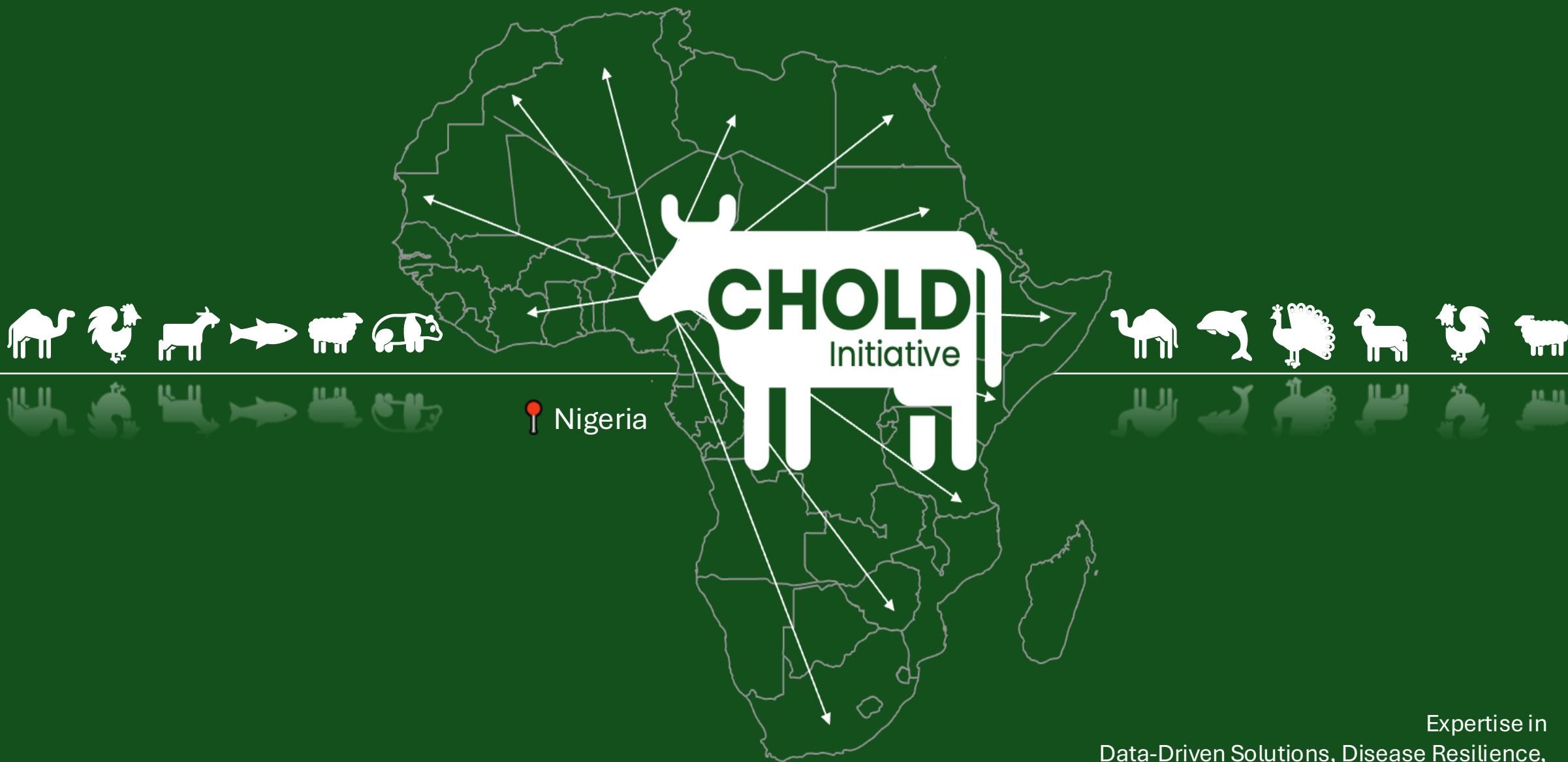
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 Nigeria

Expertise in
Data-Driven Solutions, Disease Resilience,
and Sustainable Development