

**Oral statement by Brooke Action for Working Horses and Mules
High-Level Political Forum (HLPF), 19 July 2019
ENGLISH**

Hello. At Brooke, we believe that if you want to sustainably empower people, you start with what they have. Many of the world's poorest people, in both rural and urban settings, choose to own a donkey, mule or horse.

Recognised by the UN Committee on World Food Security in 2016 as 'working livestock', working horses, donkeys and mules are critical to the livelihoods and resilience of millions of families throughout the developing world.

There are around 600 million people in the world today who depend on working equids. They play various roles such as in agriculture or transporting goods and people. Their labour also reduces domestic burden on women.

In my native country of Senegal, not having an equid means a 45% decrease in millet production.

In Pakistan, the draught power of working livestock can in some cases support 100% of a household's income.

In Kenya, donkey owners can earn up to 87% of their annual income from the labour of their animal.

With this in mind, SDG15 – Life on Land - could be better realized by recognizing working livestock in target 15.9. For example, censuses should be updated after climate related shocks so that policy makers can quantify and respond to the needs of communities.

Your commitment to widening the definition of SDG15 to include working livestock will help us support rural communities in your countries to better achieve against agenda 2030.

More information:

www.thebrooke.org/SDGs