

BROOKE COVID-19 EMERGENCY APPEAL APRIL 2020



ESSENTIAL FOR SURVIVAL: Support the world's most vulnerable communities at a time when the role of working horses, donkeys and mules has never been so vital



With projects across Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Middle East, Brooke works with some of the poorest communities in the world. These areas are yet to see the full-force of the coronavirus pandemic, so Brooke is preparing to respond quickly to the emerging needs of these highly vulnerable people and their working animals.

This appeal document will cover:

- The potentially catastrophic impact of COVID-19 on developing countries over the coming months
- The critical role of working horses, donkeys and mules which will be essential for the survival of people in terms of food security and transportation of water
- The launch of Brooke's emergency appeal for funding: Funds raised will ensure our field teams are equipped to respond to the urgent needs of vulnerable communities and their animals

The current and anticipated impact of COVID-19 on our beneficiaries

While in many ways COVID-19 doesn't discriminate between societies, the resulting economic and social impact certainly does. It is likely to be the poorest countries who are hit the hardest.

- Countries like India and Pakistan, where the informal sector accounts for over 70% of the workforce¹, the current lockdown is having a severe impact on these people who are often paid daily, with no buffer to fall back on
- In sub-Saharan Africa where the health system capacity is weak; for example, there is one doctor for every 5,000 people as opposed to one to 300 in the UK²
- In Ethiopia, where access to healthcare is severely limited especially in rural areas, and where simple precautions like washing hands is an unaffordable luxury in the absence of clean water
- We know from previous health pandemics that during such crises many people often die because they are unable to get treatment for diseases such as malaria, HIV and tuberculosis
- COVID-19 is also likely to exacerbate existing food crises in the East Africa region, creating worsening food security and nutritional outcomes³

At times of crisis food systems lose priority as the health system becomes the focus. However, it must be highlighted that poor food quality is the number one driver of ill health in all countries⁴.

Working horses, donkeys and mules (equines) are an essential component of the food security supply chain, as well as enabling access to water for communities without mechanised transportation.

Our overseas staff are already telling us how equine animals are being mobilised: to transport increased loads of water for drinking and sanitation; as an alternative to public transport in cities like Dakar where this has been banned; to transport vital goods. From experience we also know that as time goes on they may be used to transport the sick and, sadly, the deceased. Never before have these vital community assets been so important. However, as people struggle to support themselves and already overworked animals are pushed even harder, their welfare will suffer.

Brooke's urgent plea for financial assistance

The global Brooke team is united in our pledge to help equine-owning communities and their working equines in whatever way we can, for as long as it takes. We are therefore appealing for funds for the following:

- 1. Immediate emergency assistance:** Brooke is fundraising for an "Emergency Readiness Fund" so we are well-positioned to deploy financial resources to our country programmes in response to the emerging needs of communities as they arise (for example, the provision of emergency feed for brick kiln animals which are in danger of starvation in the currently closed kilns).
- 2. Replacement income lost due to the crisis:** Brooke is fundraising for unrestricted income to replace the income we know will be lost over the coming months. While Brooke is a financially robust organisation (latest [annual accounts](#)), we are already seeing a reduction in income from invested funds (grants from Trusts and Foundations for example) and public

¹ <https://www.economist.com/asia/2020/03/26/india-and-pakistan-try-to-keep-a-fifth-of-humanity-at-home>

² <https://www.economist.com/middle-east-and-africa/2020/03/26/africa-is-woefully-ill-equipped-to-cope-with-covid-19>

³ <https://reliefweb.int/report/world/covid-19-food-security-and-nutrition-alert-30-march-2020>

⁴ <https://www.gainhealth.org/sites/default/files/news/documents/covid-19-crisis-and-food-systems-probable-impacts-and-potential-mitigation-and-adaptation-responses.pdf>

gifts from donors facing hardship. We are bracing ourselves for a further, sharp decline which is expected across the sector.

3. Brooke's longer-term strategy of:

- a) **Strengthening animal health systems:** *"70% of Emerging Infectious Diseases such as Covid-19 are of animal origins; their control relies on integrated efforts to attain optimal health for people, animals, and the environment"*⁵. Brooke already adopts a "One Welfare" approach to our work, and will continue our drive to prevent further zoonotic diseases and associated health pandemics. We will work to strengthen animal health systems through the training and mentoring of vets and healthcare professionals, improve access to veterinary medicines and vaccines and continue our ongoing work to ban the global trade in donkey skins. As a Senior Researcher in International Affairs said: *"That COVID-19 is not a donkey-borne virus is a mere accident of history"*⁶.
- b) **Supporting agricultural supply chains of which working horses, donkeys and mules are a crucial component:** While manufacturing and service sectors can be relatively flexible with their schedules, the agricultural sector waits for no one. There is a very specific process of acquiring labour, seeds and fertiliser, and ploughing and pollination. Agricultural activities safeguard people's livelihoods and are indispensable in the battle against the epidemic. As shutdowns inevitably have an impact on agricultural production, Brooke will intensify our work to support small-holder farmers who will become increasingly reliant on their working horse, donkey or mule to feed their families, send their children to school and sustain their daily income.

Why Brooke?

Brooke's approach is to **think global, act local**. All our work is driven by local teams based in local communities with well-established links to local and national government. At times of crisis, these teams are well-positioned to respond quickly and flexibly. Brooke is also at the sharp end of global affairs affecting our beneficiaries with: Special Consultative Status at the Economic and Social Council of the UN; Special Consultative Status at the Food and Agricultural Organisation; and Affiliate Status at the United Nations Environment Programme. In addition, we have a solid track record of successful disaster responsiveness in countries including Kenya, Senegal, Nepal, Pakistan and Guatemala.

How you can help

To support Brooke at this time please get in touch today: Jessica Maybanks, Philanthropy & Partnerships Advisor (jessica.maybanks@thebrooke.org or 07866 267 104).

Alternatively you can make a donation by bank transfer directly to Brooke's account: Barclays Bank. Sort Code: 20-65-82 Account Number: 70884308 (please use reference 20TFAE01M)

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

www.thebrooke.org Brooke's mission is to improve the lives of working horses, donkeys and mules around the world, as well as the lives of those people who depend on them. Registered charity number 1085760

⁵ <https://www.linkedin.com/pulse/viral-superhighway-5-steps-prevent-next-pandemic-vincent-martin>

⁶ <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC7094919/>