

# GLOBAL RESEARCH REVIEW



## Delivering our Global Research Strategy 2023–2028

**Our values guide our work worldwide.**

We are proud to be Brooke. We are resourceful, share new ideas and help each other succeed.

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# Welcome

Brooke is an international animal welfare charity dedicated to improving the lives of working horses, donkeys and mules and the communities who rely on them. We work in Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Middle East.

In 2023, we launched our first Global Research Strategy. The strategy sets out our vision for research and our approach to delivering that ambition. It's an exciting new chapter, and in the coming years, we will strive to work with our collaborators to deliver strategic and impactful research that provides data and knowledge to support us in delivering our evidence-based programmes.

We aim to trial and test new approaches to planning and delivering our research. This will involve designing and using an impact monitoring and evaluation plan and innovative ways to tell the story of our research, including the issues it aims to address and the solutions it will provide. We will build our network of researchers and those who use research to help ensure the outputs from our Global Research Programmes provide real-world benefits to the lives of horses, donkeys and mules and the people who depend on them.

We look forward to learning from our peers, trying new things, and evolving our approach to deliver ethical, needs-driven, and robust research knowledge.

Read on to find out more about our work so far.

**Gemma Carder and Ruth Jobling**  
Senior Managers for Global Research



Our research has impact when the knowledge generated has demonstrable benefits beyond its contribution to academia and contributes to lasting positive change to the lives of working horses, donkeys and mules and the communities that depend on them."

**Brooke Global Research Strategy  
2023-2028**

# Launching our Global Research Strategy

At the heart of Brooke's first-ever Global Research Strategy is a commitment to achieving research impact.

Our vision is that Brooke's research contributes to transforming equid welfare in communities and supporting owners to thrive, ensuring that working equids' needs are covered in policy and practice and developing sustainable animal health systems that meet the immediate and future health needs of working equids.

To achieve our 2028 vision, our research will focus on two themes: working equids' socioeconomic role and their role in the resilience and disaster preparedness of their communities.

We kick-started our [Global Research Strategy \(please click here\)](#) by bringing together external partners and Brooke teams from Africa, Asia, Latin America and the UK for an international workshop. Held in London in October 2023, the workshop was an essential step in collaboratively planning how research will be used to progress Brooke's work most effectively in communities, policy and animal health.

Over four days, participants co-created top-line impact goals for our two research themes. The broad themes were narrowed into smaller focus areas, key stakeholders were identified, and research objectives and impact pathways began to emerge. This work has culminated in us launching two Global Research Programmes. These programmes will run to 2028 and focus on 1) the role, value and welfare of working equids in Disaster Risk Management and 2) how working equids' welfare affects their socioeconomic role and are explored more below.

Throughout these research programmes, we will build networks and form strategic collaborations, make the best use of existing quality evidence, generate new research knowledge and facilitate the use of that knowledge so that we contribute to lasting positive change for working equids and their communities.

# Understanding the role and welfare of working equids in disaster risk management

Our Global Research Programme to understand the role, value and welfare of working equids in Disaster Risk Management (DRM) will span three years and will bring together expertise from Brooke and University College London (UCL).

It will deliver quality, ethical and informed research to support Brooke to achieve organisational goals in transforming equine welfare in communities and increasing the visibility and inclusion of working equids in national and international policy.

The programme will span multiple countries and deliver data, stories and recommendations which will support Brooke to deliver our evidence-based programmes and, ultimately, our mission to achieve immediate and lasting positive change to the lives of working horses, donkeys and mules and the communities that depend on them.

## The need for research

The occurrence of hazards such as floods and droughts can have catastrophic effects on people and animals. The communities that Brooke and our partners work with rely heavily on equids for their livelihoods, for example, to deliver water and milk, take goods and produce to market to sell and transport people.

When a disaster occurs, these donkeys, horses and mules are often critical to the recovery process. Unfortunately, they are

frequently undervalued by and even invisible to policymakers when it comes to Disaster Risk Management plans. There is currently little available evidence generated by robust research which has explored the contribution of working equids in DRM and their welfare status.

## Exciting new collaboration

We are collaborating with **Ilan Kelman** ([please click here](#)), Professor of Disasters and Health at UCL, to conduct this research on the role and welfare status of working equids in disasters.

The evidence generated will inform our advocacy work for working equid inclusion in policy as valuable community assets like other livestock and will inform our actions at community level.

Planning for this important work is underway. In 2024, we will build our network and form further partnerships in the countries where we work. If you would like to receive updates or discuss how you can get involved, please email [research@thebrooke.org](mailto:research@thebrooke.org)



# Exploring the socioeconomic impacts of working equid welfare

Working equids have a role in sustainable livelihoods, food security and good health and wellbeing. Although organisations like Brooke believe that an equid's welfare status affects those roles, there is little research exploring this or whether opportunities to improve equid welfare also have positive outcomes for people.

A stronger understanding of the interconnections between working equids' health and welfare, the roles they fulfil, and societal outcomes could be useful to decision-makers and for arguing the case for recognising working equids as important assets that need to be kept in good health and welfare.

This three-year research programme will focus on working equids' welfare and how this interacts with their roles within their communities and the industries and value chains they participate in. We will coordinate existing evidence, deliver new quality, ethical research knowledge and build on our collaborations to learn from and apply others' research.

The knowledge gained will primarily contribute to:

- Increasing visibility and inclusion of working equids – making sure that working equids' needs are covered in policy and practice.
- Developing sustainable animal health systems – meeting both the immediate and future needs of working horses, donkeys and mules.

At the centre of this programme are two Brooke-funded PhDs.







## The Burden of Animal Disease in Working Equids

This PhD sits within the Global Burden of Animal Diseases programme (GBADs) at the University of Liverpool and is now in its third year.

The GBADS programme aims to determine how animal disease affects human health and wellbeing. It produces accessible information to compare the burden of animal health issues within and between farming systems, species, regions, countries, socioeconomic status and gender. Brooke's contribution to the GBADs programme enables a better understanding of how working equids contribute to livestock systems and communities, the issues that affect them and the impact of those issues on society.

We will maximise this world-class research by helping Brooke teams apply GBADs learning to their contexts, further growing our understanding of these complex issues.

## Exploring donkey welfare in Kenya within the framework of One Health

Brooke East Africa are collaborating with the University of Nairobi to deliver this new PhD. By investigating the multifaceted factors influencing donkey welfare this PhD aims to understand the challenges affecting donkeys and how these might interplay with humans and the environment. The knowledge gained will be used to develop evidence-based interventions and in our advocacy.

We are keen to make connections and explore further opportunities for collaboration. If you are an organisation, university or individual also exploring working equids' socioeconomic role, the impacts of their welfare status and how this interplays with human and environmental wellbeing, then please do get in touch with us at [research@thebrooke.org](mailto:research@thebrooke.org)



