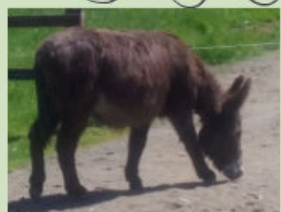


# Working Equines

## In Developing Nations

### WORKING EQUINES

HORSES, MULES AND DONKEYS  
IN THE DEVELOPING WORLD



#### ESSENTIAL WORKERS

800 million people rely on working livestock  
Agriculture, industrial development, tourism and ecosystem

#### INVISIBLE LIVESTOCK

Essential for food security and travel to market  
Neglected in UN SDGs and national policies

#### BUILDING AND INDUSTRY

PAKISTAN AND INDIA  
500,000 equids in brick kilns  
Entire family works at making and moving bricks  
Poor equine welfare in kilns associated with poverty

#### WOMEN

37% of rural jobs worldwide  
48% in low income countries  
Donkey provides livelihood, field work on bad terrain, goods to market, carries animal feed, firewood and water, so girls can go to school

#### GROWTH

BURKINA FASO  
93% of homes use donkeys for tilling  
97% for transporting goods

Information source

UN <http://www.fao.org/3/CA1201EN/ca1201en.pdf>

Brooke: <https://www.thebrooke.org/our-work/exploitative-industries/brick-kilns-a-hidden-industry>  
Brooke Conference on Invisible Livestock 2021

#### RECOMMENDATIONS

- Measure and support women farmers and donkey owners.
- The new Zig-Zag kiln uses less coal and produces improved bricks, with reduced smoke, so has reduced climate impact, but requires a larger initial investment.
- Support organisations which provide water troughs and train farriers and harness makers.
- Provide schools near remote kilns.

Donkey photo,  
Clare O'Beara, at  
The Donkey Sanctuary,  
Co. Cork.

### WOMEN AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

#### Depending on equids

Women work the smallholding when men go away to find jobs.  
They also care for family, household animals and chickens.  
Donkeys help carry food, fodder, tools, seed and goods to sell.  
Lebanon - 83% time spent on housework and care.

#### RURAL JOBS

37% of rural jobs worldwide  
48% in low income countries  
Morocco: 85% of jobs are in rural areas  
Over 50% done by women



#### LAND

Under 15% of all landowners  
Kenya: smallholder farming is 33% of national GDP  
Steep, arid and poor land cannot be worked by tractors, so working animals supply the power as well as fertiliser

#### GENDER BASED VIOLENCE

Women and girls have to travel to collect wood and water  
They may have a violent home  
GBV increases during natural disaster or conflict

#### COVID 19

85% increase in food insecurity  
Girls not in school  
Increased number of child brides  
55% reported loss of income  
41% reported lack of food

#### MONEY

Less access to bank accounts and spending  
Low wage, part time employment  
Kenya: owning a donkey allowed households to earn; spent on essentials like food, schooling, fertiliser and seed for agriculture.



#### SOURCES

<https://www.care.org/news-and-stories/news/she-told-us-so/>  
<https://www.thebrooke.org/sites/default/files/Advocacy-and-policy/Invisible-helpers-voices-from-women.pdf>  
Brooke Conference on invisible livestock 2021  
<https://www.unicef.org/media/67346/file/The-material-risks-of-gender-based-violence-in-emergency-settings-2020.pdf>

#### SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



**"When a woman does not own a donkey, she becomes the donkey of the family."**  
- Rougiatou Ka from Burkina Faso.

Conference attended  
in February, 2021.

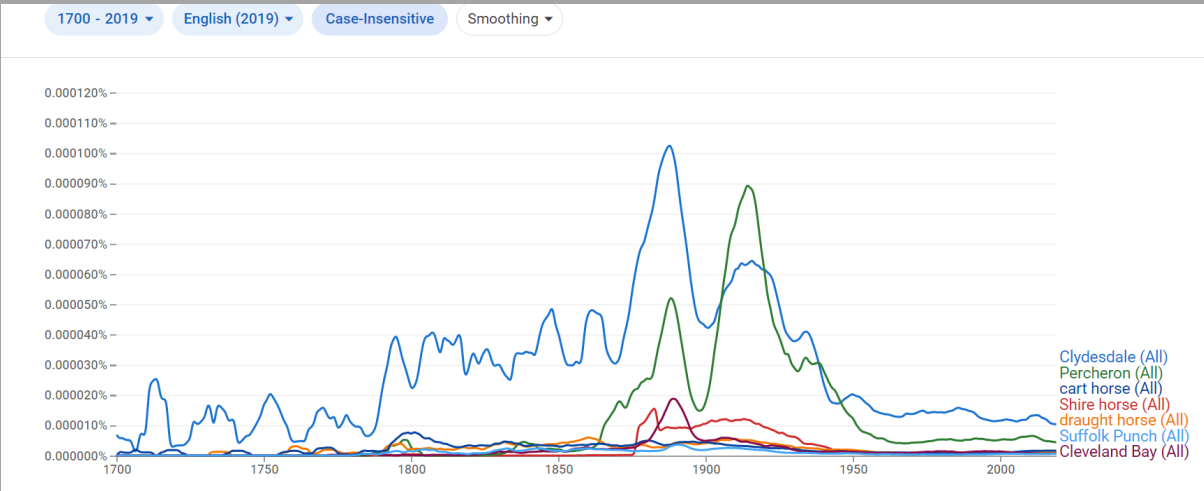
**SDG 2 and "Building Back Better" Contributions of Working Livestock**

ODS 2, y "reconstruyendo mejor": - Contribucion de los animales de labranza  
OMD 2 : « Mieux reconstruire » - Contribution des animaux de trait au processus

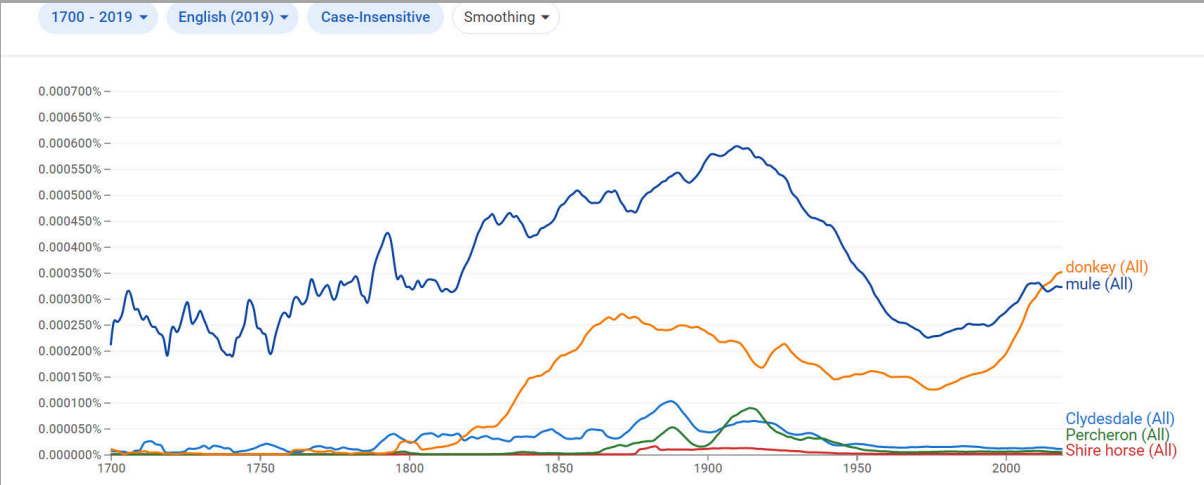
**Speakers**  
Meriem El Hilali, Counsellor of Foreign Affairs at the Permanent Mission of the Kingdom of Morocco to the United Nations  
Antonio Rota, Lead Technical Specialist in Livestock Development, International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)  
Rougiatou Ka, Advocacy Officer, Brooke West Africa  
Ligia Monges Matute, Director, OCTUPAN  
Dr Thanammal Ravichandran, Consultant, CGIAR and the International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI)  
Ilaria Sisto, Gender and Capacity Development Officer, UN FAO  
Hiver Boussini, Senior Animal Health Officer, AUIBAR  
Moderated by Ochieng' Ogodo, Sub-Saharan African Regional Coordinator and Editor, SciDev.Net.



# Historical Context



Mentions of horse breeds in print  
1700 - 2019, Google N-Grams. Research, Clare O'Beara.



"Very great use is made of mules and asses, for carrying baskets and similar goods, such as poor people usually load them with: for such persons as one not able to keep a horse, they are a great convenience."  
- Dutton, 1808, on Co. Clare.

"One of the great difficulties with which the British War Office has now to cope is providing horses for the troops engaged in South Africa. For a considerable time to come, the demand for horses in South Africa must necessarily be very great... Indian remounts were most difficult to obtain, heavy lorry horses were at a premium, and sound, serviceable farm horses as well as those specially adapted for light harness work, have realised payable prices. - There are large areas of mountain country in this colony which could hardly be devoted to better purpose than for growing horses for military purposes, the only drawback being the length of time it takes to produce a serviceable animal."  
- Wadonga and Towong Sentinel, 1900. Trove, National Library of Australia.



Photo: Clare O'Beara.

(L) Monument to the Working Horse of Liverpool.

(R) Soldier of the Norfolk Regiment in the Boer War (South Africa, 1899 - 1902).



Family archive. Restoration: Clare O'Beara.

**Estimated number of equids in kilns**

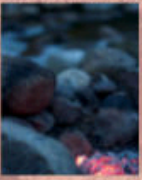
•380,000 in India  
•115,000 in Pakistan  
•6,900 in Afghanistan  
•2,200 in Nepal.

**Estimated number of children in kilns**

•3.3 million, globally.  
- *International Labour Organization, 2020. The Guardian, 2017.*



# BRICK KILNS AND COAL



**Coal Mines**  
Donkeys are used in low ceiling, poor ground, heavy load environments. No clean water.



**Seasonal Work**  
Equids migrate with owners to different areas and countries. Or bought for one season and worked hard.



**1500 billion bricks**

Increasing population, industrialisation and city building in Asia. India produces 13%. Still mainly uses cheap coal. 200 billion bricks p.a.



**Equid labour**  
80% of family income was generated by equids moving bricks.

## Invisible Workers

Women, children, precarious labour, have little rights, education or social security.

## ZigZag Kiln

Uses 33% less coal, produces less air pollution, up to 90% first class quality bricks.

Source: Indian Bureau of Energy Efficiency, International Labour Organization, Brooke, The Donkey Sanctuary.



Photos:  
Donkeys exiting a coal mine;  
horses in brick kilns;  
Pakistan, 2020.

Used under licence.  
Courtesy of  
Freya Dobson and Brooke.

More info:

