

## **Multi-stakeholder partnership with the OIE to promote the welfare of working equids**

Emmanuel Bouré Sarr

Représentant Régional- Brooke Afrique de l'Ouest, Immeuble Sophie Ndiaye Justin, lot n°14H à Mermoz –Ecole Police VDN.

Email : [Emmanuel.sarr@thebrookesenegal.org](mailto:Emmanuel.sarr@thebrookesenegal.org)

---

The adoption of the working equine welfare standard by the OIE General Session represented the culmination of 3 years of collaboration and partnership. As working equids are a relatively new area for the OIE, developing and drafting these standards required input and support from a wide group of stakeholders who had expertise in the subject matter and represented many geographic locations and institutions.

As a non-governmental organisation (NGO) with long-term experience in the working equine sector, Brooke assisted the OIE in developing Terms of Reference for the *ad hoc* group to work on the standards. The final group convened by OIE consisted of individuals from government veterinary service, academia, NGOs and international institutions (including FAO, the International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI) and the International Federation for Equestrian Sports (FEI)) as well as the OIE; and from India, Morocco, Senegal, New Zealand, UK, Switzerland and Italy. This broad participation ensured the standards were applicable to many contexts and interests; additionally the group was able to influence its extended network to participate actively during two rounds of OIE member state feedback on the drafts. Ultimately, this broad collaboration assured the relevancy and adoption of the standards in May 2016.

Even prior to adoption, the draft standards were used to guide policy. An example in Senegal was where Brooke collaborated with the Ministry of Livestock to update the Interministerial Decree on equid-drawn carriages. The legislation was matched to the recommendations described in the Standards for maximum loading, appropriate harnessing and the quality of bits used.

Now adopted, the challenge is to support their implementation at regional, national and local levels. Again, this can be achieved only through partnership between multiple stakeholders. The standard itself (Article 7.12.3 of the Chapter in the Terrestrial Animal Health Code) clearly outlines the responsibilities of veterinary authorities, other government agencies, private veterinarians, NGOs and animal owners in improving working equine welfare. These roles are co-dependent and interlinked.

First contacts have been initiated with OIE Regional office in Bamako. We are also working on engaging West Africa CVOs to identify ways of developing joint implementation action plans.

Key words: Brooke - equine – standards – OIE partnership - welfare.