



WELFARE OF WORKING EQUIDS

CONTEXT

In many countries, working equids, used for transport and traction, contribute directly and indirectly to households' livelihoods and benefit communities as a whole. Working equids may be of direct or indirect use in production and commercial activities. Specifically, they contribute to agricultural production and food security by transporting, for instance, water and fodder for other livestock, firewood and other daily needs to the homestead and agricultural products to the market. They provide draught power for agricultural work and transport. The welfare of these working equids is often poor because their owners lack sufficient resources to meet their needs or have insufficient knowledge of the appropriate care of equids. Specific working contexts, such as working in construction industries or in harsh environments, may present a particular risk to their welfare.

In 2016, the World Organisation for Animal Health adopted the first global standards for ensuring the welfare of working equids – Chapter 7.12 of the Terrestrial Animal Health Code. The scientifically based guidelines encompass various welfare aspects, ranging from managing living conditions to treating diseases and injuries, particularly by veterinarians. Following the adoption of the standards, the Platform animal welfare for Europe included welfare working equids as one of the priority topics with an initial objective of raising countries' awareness of the newly adopted WOA standards to assist implantation and improving this situation with an animal-human win-win effect.

Awareness day on working equids
27 September 2017, Tashkent (Uzbekistan)



ACTIVITIES

Achievements of the 3rd Action Plan for 2021 – 2023

Awareness campaign - initial proposals for the 3rd action plan (development, preparatory workshop, deployment, evaluation)

Under discussion for further development.
Development of an awareness campaign material based on the results of the baseline survey conducted in 2019 - a decision should be taken about further activities that are the most applicable and would have the most impact (e.g., an awareness campaign) to be organized in selected West Eurasian countries to raise public awareness on the economic and welfare importance of working equids.



Regional online workshop on welfare of working equids September 2023



Focus on West Eurasia (8 initially targeted) and Balkan countries
Collaboration with:

- International Coalition for Working Equids
- WOAH Collaborating Centre on animal welfare,
- European Union reference center for animal welfare for ruminants and equines,
- Regional Animal Welfare Centre

Baseline survey (2019)

The baseline survey developed by the Platform secretariat with the International Coalition for Working Equids was conducted in 2019.

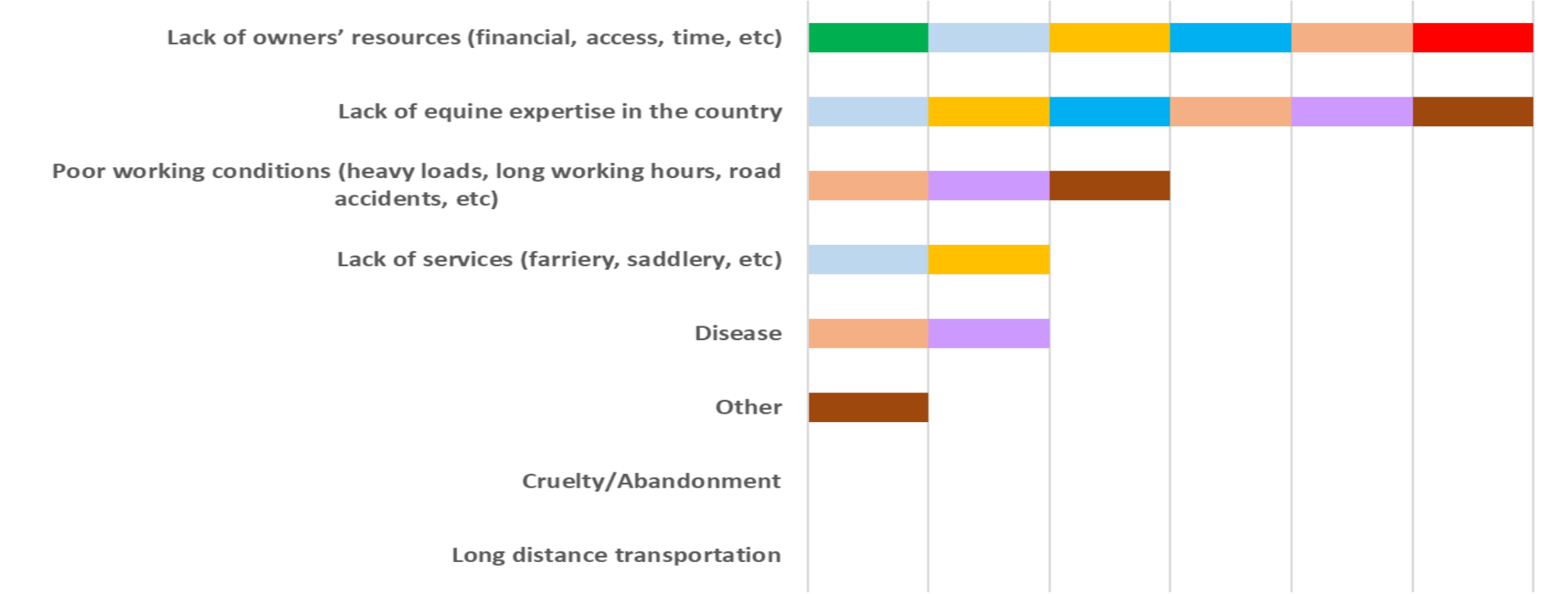
The survey targeted eight countries (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan).

Main areas covered by the survey:

- Working equids population
- Working equids in local country context
- Veterinary services
- Para-professional services
- Health and welfare issues
- Stakeholder engagement and awareness

Key findings of the survey confirm that working equids play a valuable role in West Eurasian countries, and Member countries recognize the importance of raising awareness of the welfare of working equids.

Biggest welfare challenges for working equids



WHAT'S NEXT?

4th Action Plan for 2024 – 2026

WELFARE OF WORKING EQUIDS

4th Action Plan (2024-2026) activities will be defined based the outcomes of the online consultation event



WE NEED YOUR HELP

WHAT ARE YOUR NEEDS AND EXPECTATIONS OF EACH OF THESE TOPICS FOR THE 4TH ACTION PLAN FOR 2024-2026 REGARDING DISASTER MANAGEMENT ? ANY REMARKS ? COMMENTS ?

