

Working animals: Climate Change and public health issues in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals

UN High Level Political Forum: side event

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The Animal Welfare
Science Centre



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Global Agenda for
Sustainable Livestock





Future
challenges

Assisting
adaptation

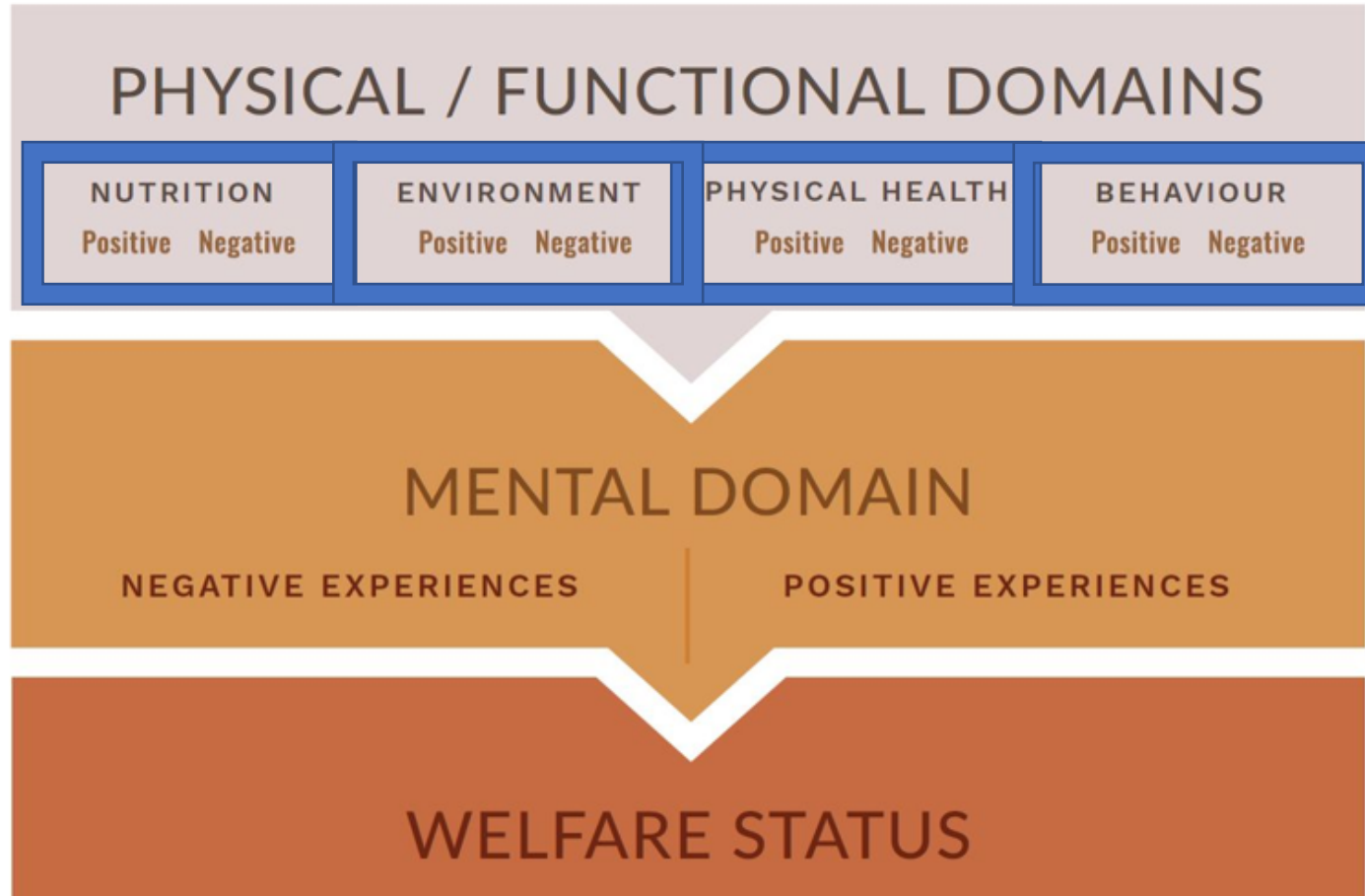
Reducing
disease spread

Livestock, working animals & the SDGs

Livestock and working equids are a
crosscutting contributors to many
of the SDGs



Future challenges



Existing welfare challenges for working animals and livestock will continue, and be exacerbated by climate change

Welfare frameworks can be used to identify and benchmark issues



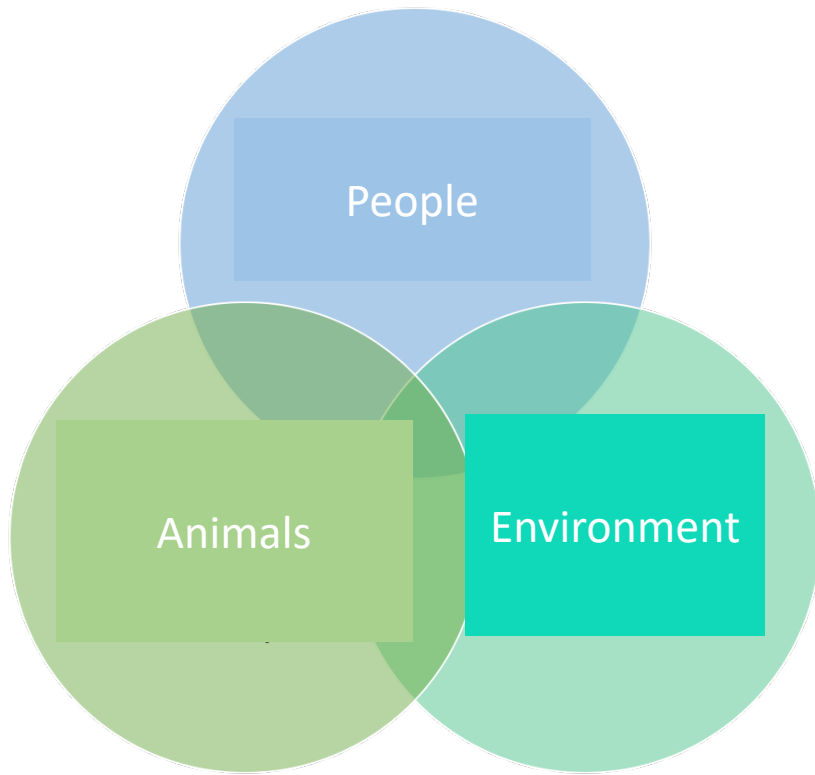
Positive contributions of working animals to climate change adaptation



One Welfare serves to highlight the interconnections between animal welfare, human wellbeing and the environment

Way to assess issues & benefits

The Donkey Sanctuary's Eritrea Borehole Project



(photo credit: The Donkey Sanctuary).

What can be done to address the spread of infectious diseases?



Good welfare = good health & better disease resilience



Photo credit: ILRI/Stevie Mann

Lessons from COVID-19

- Reduced vet drug access, especially rural areas & 20% price increases
- Livestock actors in informal market settings not recognized/supported by government schemes
- Increase in women's workload- more people at home to feed, fewer casual staff, higher health care
- LMIC faring better in *some* cases



Future actions

1. Support smallholders to improve their systems, rather than create alternatives
2. Understand community-level issues currently around resources and animal care
3. Equip veterinary services better
4. Consider the value of a welfare-focused approach



photo credit: ILRI\Zerihun Sewunet

Thank you




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Sheep on migration along the Conquense Drove Road, Spain Photo Credit: ILC Rangelands Initiative



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