

The coronavirus (Covid-19) is a global crisis. In poverty-stricken countries, lockdowns have devastated livelihoods. With no money to feed their working animals, many owners have had no choice but to abandon them. Starving working animals need your support now, more than ever.

SPANNA colleagues in the field have reported a tragic situation. They've seen starving donkeys and horses wandering the previously bustling streets as they desperately search for food. Many animals are resorting to eating rubbish, including plastic bags, which can get stuck in an animal's intestine causing deadly colic. **These animals urgently need good quality feed and veterinary treatment.**



Working animals are starving due to the Covid-19 crisis

Morocco

The government in Morocco declared a state of sanitary containment on 20 March 2020. With strict travel restrictions in place, many people and their animals are unable to work.



With no income, Elbadaoui and his donkey are in a tragic situation

'People were already suffering from the drought. I don't even know what these abandoned animals are eating now', said Dr Youness, a SPANA vet in our Chemaia centre in Morocco.

Elbadaoui is a donkey cart driver in Chemaia. He usually makes a small income collecting items from the streets around the town and taking rubbish to the rubbish dump. Elbadaoui said: *'I have four children. This cart is my only source of income. Now with the coronavirus, there is no available work. Every morning, I go around with my cart looking for goods to carry but in vain. Everyone here is scared of getting coronavirus. I have nothing to feed my family or my donkey with. We are in a tragic situation.'*

Ethiopia

In Ethiopia, the government declared a five-month state of emergency that will be in place until the end of August. Nationwide virus control measures were put in place. Fortunately, SPANA was permitted to continue operating due to the vital nature of our work.

Abrham brought his 13-year-old horse, Shasho, to our centre during the crisis. Abrham, who is married and has a young son, relies on Shasho to earn a living by transporting goods. Abrham said: *'Due to Covid-19, I'm not earning enough money to support my family and buy feed for my horse. So if I were not to get this free treatment from SPANA, my horse would have died and my family would be in big trouble. Thank you SPANA for keeping your centre open and continuing to treat horses in need.'*



Abrham's horse would have died without SPANA's help



With no means to feed his donkey, Yahya may be forced to abandon him

Mauritania

As soon as the first case of Covid-19 was diagnosed in Mauritania, the government was quick to impose health security measures, including introducing a curfew and closing schools, airports and the borders between cities.

Among those facing severe difficulty during the crisis are Yahya and his donkey, Yacoub. Yahya told us: *'I bought my donkey two years ago. Before the virus showed up I earned seven euros per day and used one euro to feed my animal. Now I barely earn two euros per day and find huge difficulties feeding my donkey. If things continue like this, I will be forced to leave my animal because I have no means to feed him. I find it difficult to feed my family. I work in transferring things from the market and now the market is closed and I work only four hours instead of ten. In this period I accept everything: garbage, bricks, everything I find...'*

HOW YOU CAN HELP DURING THE CRISIS

Your continued support can protect working animals during this crisis by:

- Helping keep SPANA's centres open to treat working animals in urgent need of care
- Providing emergency feed for working animals that are starving as a result of the Covid-19 crisis
- Replenishing depleted supplies of medicines and equipment to prepare for the many working animals who will need our help as soon as lockdown restrictions lift
- Training communities to ensure working animals are protected as the crisis continues and when future disasters strike.



Please help provide feed for starving animals

THE IMPACT OF YOUR GIFT

£250 could feed starving working animals. At just £10 to feed a working animal for one week, your gift would help so many starving animals.

£500 could pay for essential medicines for sick and injured working animals, including vaccines, anti-parasite drugs, antibiotics and painkillers.

£1,000 could help protect working animals during this crisis and in future emergencies by providing disaster training for owners, building resilience and capacity.

We can't do this vital work without you. Please donate now to protect working animals during this unprecedented global crisis.



Your kind gift today will help suffering animals get the care they desperately need