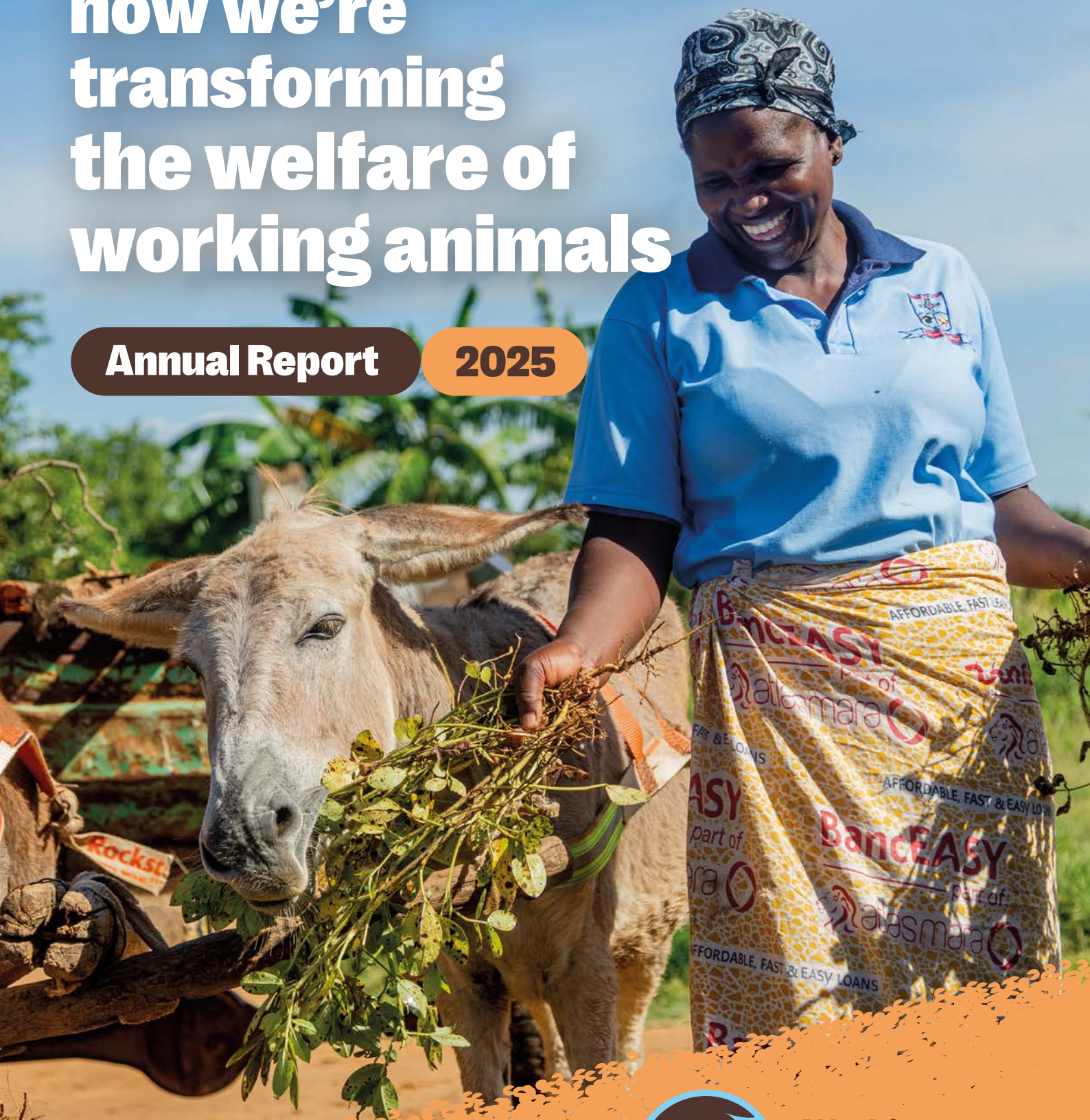


Step by step: how we're transforming the welfare of working animals

Annual Report

2025

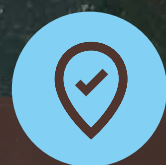


**Working
Animals
International**

The new name for SPANA

They don't stop. We don't either.

We are Working Animals International (the new name for SPANA), a global charity dedicated to transforming the welfare of working animals. We're providing veterinary care and supporting owners, animal health workers and communities to make sure every working animal lives a healthy and valued life. Here are some of the great things we achieved in 2025, all made possible by our partners, donors and supporters.



559,982
working animals
reached

Welfare, Worth and World



163,287
animal owners
trained



82,849
schoolchildren
taught



17,873
pieces of equipment
distributed



6
emergency
projects



17
countries

Harnessing our global potential



180
pieces of
media coverage



336M
potentially reached
through the media



£8.5M
total income

We are Working Animals International

For over a century, we've been dedicated to transforming the lives of working animals and supporting the people who depend on them. We work with partners worldwide to increase access to quality veterinary services and campaign for better welfare standards. We also support owners as they develop the knowledge and skills to look after their animals with confidence and care – while inspiring the next generation to do the same. Together, we're building a world where working animals are cared for and valued, communities are stronger and livelihoods are more secure.

Our vision

Our vision is of a world where every working animal lives a healthy and valued life.

Our mission

Our mission is to transform the welfare of working animals in a world where animals, people and the environment are respected and thrive.

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Welcome

Welcome to our 2025 Annual Report.

As I reflect on the past year, I am filled with both pride and gratitude. Pride in what we have achieved for working animals around the world, and gratitude for the compassion and generosity of those who make this work possible.

This year brought significant milestones for both animal welfare and our organisation.

In Mauritania, our advocacy helped secure the inclusion of working animals in the national census for the first time. While this may sound like a technical achievement, its impact is far-reaching. It formally recognises the vital role working animals play in supporting livelihoods and creates the opportunity to improve the lives of an additional 650,000 animals.

Globally, there was also a landmark moment for animal welfare, with the adoption of a legally binding pandemic agreement that, for the first time, includes animal welfare within an international health framework.

We also continued to strengthen our organisation. By expanding our global support team in animal health & welfare, disaster risk reduction and Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability and Learning (MEAL),

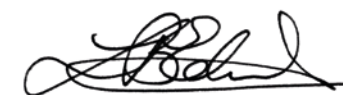
we are better equipped to reach more working animals and respond to the challenges they face.

This investment is more important than ever. Climate-related emergencies, including severe floods and prolonged droughts, are becoming more frequent and intense, placing increasing pressure on working animals and the communities who depend on them.

As we look ahead, we carry strong momentum into 2026, strengthened further by the launch of our new brand and identity. More than a visual refresh, it is a bold step forward in how we share our mission, strengthen our global voice and amplify our impact.

As we build on more than a century of experience, we remain firmly focused on the future. Together, we are creating a world where working animals are recognised, protected and able to thrive.

On behalf of everyone at Working Animals International, thank you for making this possible.



Linda Edwards

Chief Executive
Working Animals International

Goal 1: Welfare

The quality of life improves for working animals globally, at a greater scale than ever before

The welfare of working animals is at the heart of everything we do. During 2025, we made significant strides towards our goal of improving the quality of life for working animals in the countries where we work.

Working with our global partners, we trialled a quality-of-life (QOL) assessment tool. This tool measures the QOL status of the working animals in our projects and gives a numerical score for indicators including body condition, owner interactions and health status. The tool was introduced at a welfare workshop held in Zimbabwe in May and attended by 11 global partners from eight countries. We will be encouraging all our partners to use the QOL tool so that we can use the information to design projects that deliver positive animal welfare impact where it is needed most.

In Ethiopia, we strengthened our long-standing partnership with Addis Ababa University College of Veterinary Medicine and Agriculture. Through this expanded collaboration, we will protect camels for the first time, helping to improve the welfare of animals who are essential to communities across the region.

Throughout 2025, our technical teams spoke with partners, to understand how we could support training needs through online delivery mechanisms. An inaugural online donkey clinical club, about donkey orthopaedic challenges and pain management, was held in December, with 35 veterinarians and veterinary technicians participating from across the globe.

Working animals reached


288,022
donkeys


139,851
horses


85,114
oxen


22,836
mules


17,318
camels


2,216
buffalo


246,837
clinical cases


524,170
preventative measures


17,873
pieces of equipment distributed



Goal 2: Worth

The contribution working animals make to people across the world is recognised and valued

Working animals – horses, donkeys, mules, camels, oxen and more – are the quiet, driving force behind countless communities. They help millions of people earn a living, access food and water, and reach hospitals, work or school. Yet they are often overlooked.

So that working animals are recognised and valued, we support owners as they build the knowledge and skills to look after their animals with confidence and care. We're also inspiring the next generation through our education

programme, helping them to value, respect and protect the welfare of working animals for years to come.

In 2025, we launched our new animal care clubs education package, which includes lesson plans, resources and a teachers' guide. Animal care clubs help children develop positive attitudes towards working animals and practical skills in animal care. We are training educators on working animal welfare concepts and supporting them in their roles as they run animal care clubs in their schools.

2025 highlight: Mauritania

Working animals in Mauritania are now included in the country's national census. This is a key policy win that ensures working animals are visible in national government data for the first time in Mauritania. It also extends the potential reach of our work to an additional 650,000 animals.

Bebaha H'meiditt, Country Director for Working Animals International in Mauritania, said: "This is a major step forward for Mauritania. Working animals, the cornerstone of our rural economy, are finally being counted at the national level. This measure ensures better recognition of their socio-economic role and paves the way for targeted support, thereby strengthening the resilience of our communities."



Goal 3: World



The world of working animals thrives and grows sustainably, as part of the nexus of animals, people and the environment

Our work is guided by the principles of One Health, recognising the interconnectedness of working animals, people and the environment. Millions of people rely on working animals for their livelihoods, and the health and wellbeing of these animals is closely linked to the strength of the communities and ecosystems they inhabit. In the places where we operate, our 'do no harm' approach means we focus on improving the lives of working animals in ways that also protect people and respect the environment.

In 2025, we launched six emergency projects across Kenya, Tanzania and Zimbabwe. Our projects helped thousands of donkeys and camels affected by disasters and disease.

Animals were also included in global pandemic prevention strategies for the first time following our lobbying with partners within the International Coalition for Working Equids and the World Federation for Animals. In May, the World Health Organization finalised its pandemic agreement, which means that animals are no longer an afterthought in pandemic planning – their role is now recognised as central to global prevention strategies.

2025 highlight: Côte d'Ivoire



We are the voice for all working animals. In 2025, we continued to move working animal welfare up the global agenda by calling for better policies to help make One Health a reality. One of the global conferences we attended was the Pan-African Donkey Conference in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, from 26 to 27 June.

During the conference, delegates reaffirmed their commitment to Africa's ban on the donkey skin trade by endorsing a declaration to preserve Africa's donkeys and uphold the continent-wide ban.

Dr Amadou Doumbia, Country Director for Working Animals International in Mali, said:

"The Pan-African Donkey Conference brought together diverse voices from across the continent for open and constructive dialogue. What emerged was a clear and collective determination to implement the Africa-wide donkey skin ban. We welcome their strong commitment to safeguarding donkeys and protecting the livelihoods of millions of people."

Emergency response



6

emergency projects



2,707+

working animals reached

Enabling goal: Harnessing our global potential

Our charity builds its reputation and effectiveness as a pioneering, modern and global organisation, while delivering transformative change for working animal welfare

2025 was the third year of our 2023–2027 organisational strategy. To achieve our ambitious goals, we worked behind the scenes on our enabling goal to ensure that our infrastructure and resources can help us reach new levels of innovation, efficiency and effectiveness.

Our 2025 staff culture survey highlighted a workforce deeply connected to our mission. An outstanding 97% of colleagues said they were proud to work for our organisation, while 82% would recommend it as a great place to work. Overall engagement increased to 85% in 2025, up from 82% the previous year, reflecting a culture where people feel motivated, valued and empowered to make a difference.

We trialled and developed new fundraising activities to reach new supporters, which included launching a weekly lottery and a virtual gifts catalogue.

Throughout 2025, our teams worked to develop our new brand identity, which launched in April 2026. Our name and brand immediately define who we are and who we're supporting, and it helps us raise global awareness of an often-overlooked issue – the welfare of working animals globally.



180
pieces of media
coverage



336M
potentially reached
through the media

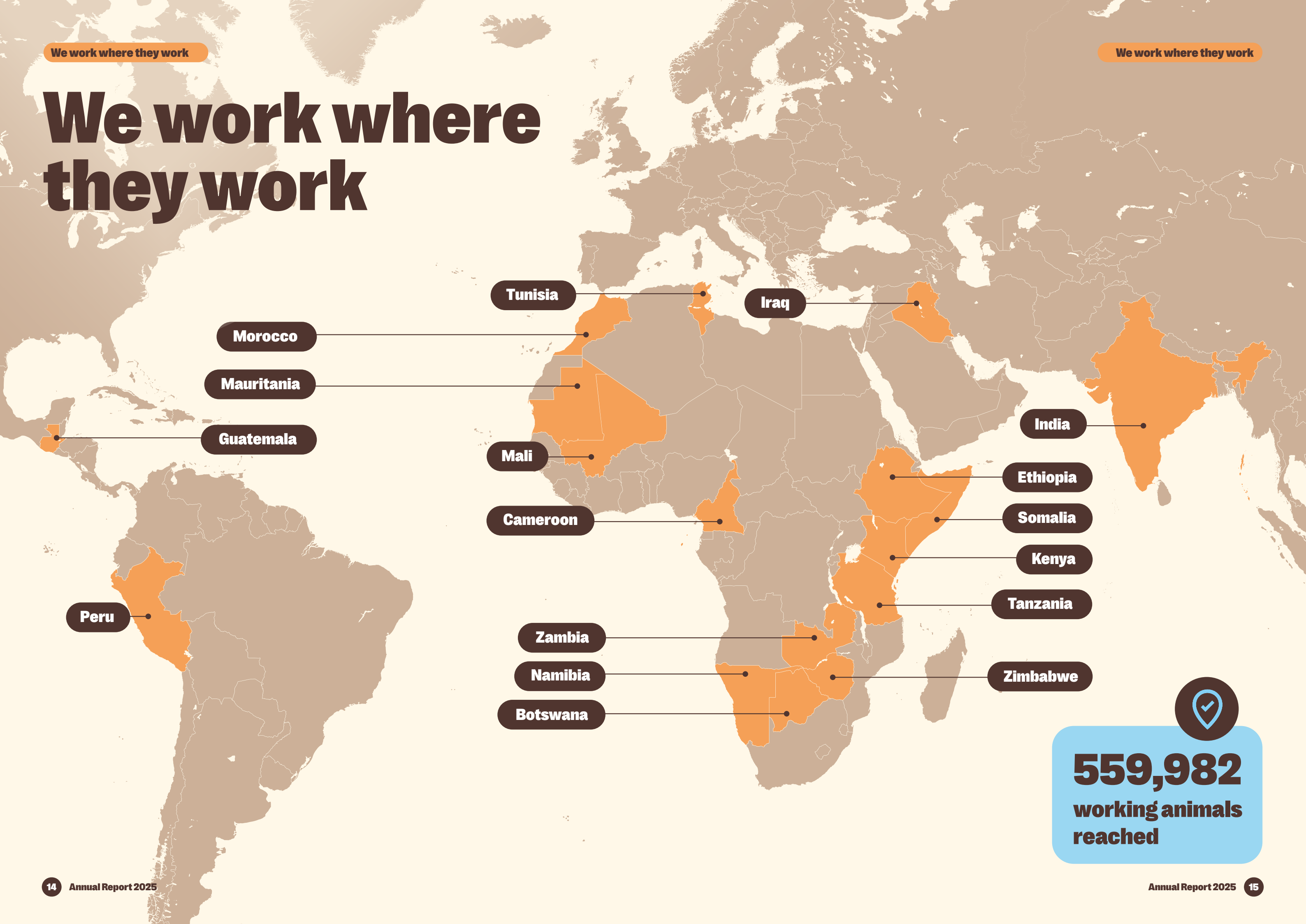
2025 highlight: Global

On 15 June, we celebrated International Working Animal Day. We launched this day in 2016 to spotlight the essential role of working animals and raise awareness of the ongoing challenges they face. The theme for 2025 was “water crisis and working animals” – highlighting how droughts and extreme weather are putting the lives of millions of working animals at risk.

Our multichannel campaign included an opinion piece by actor and ambassador Jim Broadbent. Our celebrity supporters signed an open letter to world leaders, urging governments worldwide to prioritise inclusive water services that meet the needs of all animals and the people who depend on them. A fundraising appeal was also launched for working animals impacted by severe drought in Kenya.

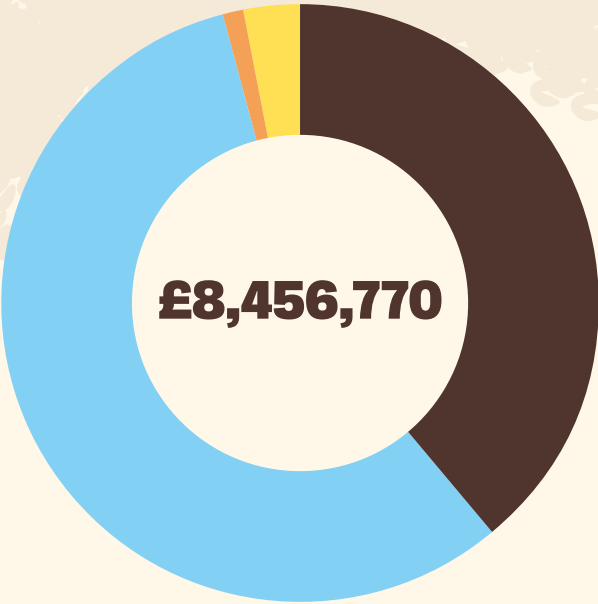


We work where they work



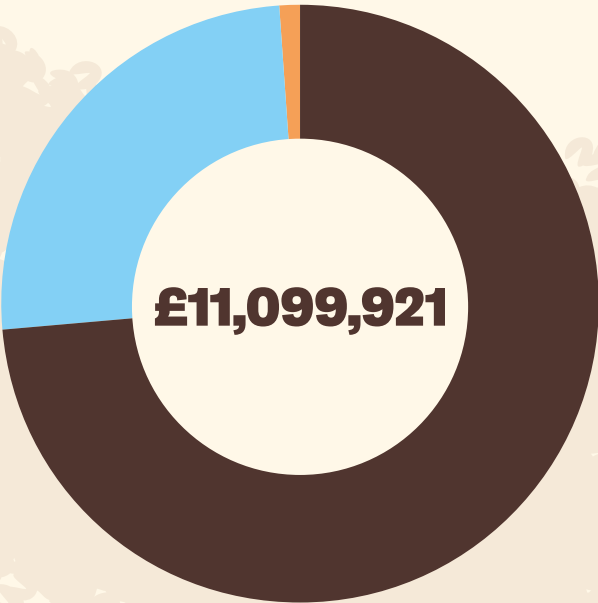
559,982
working animals
reached

Our finances



Income 2025

- Legacies £3,314,973 39%
- Donations £4,814,020 57%
- Trusts £87,232 1%
- Investment and other £240,545 3%



Expenditure 2025

- Charitable expenditure £8,134,246 74%
- Cost of generating funds £2,816,248 25%
- Strategic and development costs £149,427 1%

Consolidated statement of financial activities

(Incorporating income and expenditure account)
For the year ended 31 December 2025

	2025 Total £	2024 Total £
INCOME FROM:		
Donations and legacies	8,216,225	9,655,239
Trading activities	-	67,580
Investments	240,545	235,212
Other	-	-
Total income	8,456,770	9,958,031
EXPENDITURE ON:		
Raising funds		
Cost of generating voluntary income	2,816,248	2,946,048
Fundraising trading: cost of goods sold	-	38,076
Investment management costs	149,427	85,121
Charitable activities		
Veterinary activities	5,918,874	5,349,485
Educational activities	2,215,372	1,848,873
Total expenditure	11,099,921	10,267,603
Net income / (expenditure) before net gains / (losses) on investments	(2,643,151)	(309,572)
Net gains/(loss) on investments	889,273	1,012,442
Net income / (expenditure) for the year	(1,753,878)	702,870
Net movement in funds	(1,753,878)	702,870
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS:		
Total funds brought forward	17,609,764	16,906,894
Total funds carried forward	15,855,886	17,609,764

All of the above results are derived from continuing activities. There were no other recognised gains or losses other than those stated above. Movements in funds are disclosed in Note 18a to the financial statements.

Consolidated and charity balance sheet

as at 31 December 2025

	2025 £	2024 £
FIXED ASSETS:		
Tangible assets	17,859	30,488
Intangible assets	22,750	34,135
Investments	14,062,701	14,744,136
Total fixed assets	14,103,310	14,808,759
CURRENT ASSETS:		
Stock	6,918	6,918
Debtors	736,710	710,876
Cash at bank and in hand	2,283,467	2,843,691
Total current assets	3,027,095	3,561,485
Liabilities:		
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	(1,274,519)	(760,481)
Net current assets	1,752,576	2,801,004
Total assets less current liabilities	15,855,886	17,609,764
FUNDS:		
Restricted income funds	65,135	62,784
Unrestricted funds:		
Designated funds	140,611	2,064,623
General funds	15,650,140	15,482,357
Total unrestricted funds	15,790,751	17,546,980
TOTAL FUNDS	15,855,886	17,609,764

These summarised financial statements are extracted from the full financial statements of Working Animals International for 31 December 2025. The full statutory report, financial statements and auditor's report can be found at workinganimals.org/publications

Thank you

We are so grateful to every single person who made our work possible in 2025. Your support is making a real difference to the lives of working animals across the globe.

Legacies

- Mrs M E Hughes
- Mrs E J Tucker
- Miss T M Nye
- Mrs D M Harris
- Ms M J Meeks
- Ms B McGee
- Mrs J M Hawkins
- Ms Y Smith
- Ms Bentley
- Mr J C Marshall
- Mrs B O Collett
- Ms G A Ware
- Mrs M C Howarth
- Mr B J McAllister
- Ms V A Coltman
- Ms S H Sewell
- Mr J S Shrigley
- Ms M Cox
- Mrs E M Mulholland
- S Grainger

Organisations

- The Dischma Charitable Trust
- Marjorie Coote Animal Charity Trust
- Norman L Anderson's Foundation
- Petplan Charitable Trust
- The Rushbrook Charitable Trust
- The Scott (Eredine) Charitable Trust

Partners

- Action for Protection of Wild Animals (India)
- ADAM Mauritania
- Addis Ababa University – College of Veterinary Medicine (Ethiopia)
- Africa Network for Animal Welfare (Kenya)
- Animal Welfare Society (Cameroon)
- Arusha Society for the Protection of Animals (Tanzania)
- AWARE Trust (Zimbabwe)
- Benadir University (Somalia)
- Disability Relief Services Tanzania
- Equitarian Initiative (Peru)
- Ethiopian Veterinary Association
- Foundation for Development of Children (Zambia)
- Fundación Equinos Sanos para El Pueblo (Guatemala)
- Gondar University (Ethiopia)
- Help in Suffering (India)
- Institute of Social Research and Development (India)
- International Organization for Animal Protection (Cameroon)
- Kurdistan Organization for Animal Rights Protection
- Meru Animal Welfare Organisation (Tanzania)
- Organization for Creative Impact (Tanzania)
- Ripple Effect International (Ethiopia)
- Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals of Namibia
- SPANA Mali
- SPANA Morocco
- Tanzania Animal Welfare Society
- Utunzi Africa Animal Welfare (Kenya)
- Voluntary Education and Relief Initiative for Tanzanian Society.

Governance

Our Senior Leadership Team

- Linda Edwards – Chief Executive
- Katie Crane – Director of Global Marketing, Communications & Advocacy
- Gita Patel – Director of Global Resources
- Rebekah Sullivan – Director of Global Animal Health & Welfare
- Emma Williams – Director of Global Income Generation
- David Bassom – Director of Global Fundraising, Marketing & Communications (until 30 April 2025)
- Natalie Hogg – Interim Director of Global Programmes (From 7 July 2025–13 February 2026)
- Kit Vaughan – Director of Global Programmes (until 2 July 2025)

Our Board of Trustees

- Marianne Davies – Chair of Trustees
- Phil Alvey – Honorary Treasurer
- Samantha Bunis
- Dr Gayle Hallowell
- Soumya Guhu
- Leah Wanjiku Kihara
- Morgan Lance
- Dr Mwenda Mbaka
- Dr David Mole
- Sarah Shanks
- Barry Topham
- Kerin Lee Welford
- Adam Firby – until 19 June 2026
- Melissa Liszewski – until 2 July 2025
- Spencer Simmons – until 23 April 2025

Our President

- Lord Rupert de Mauley

Our Vice Presidents

- Professor Derek Knottenbelt
- Lady Odile Slyn

As of 22 June 2026



Keep in touch



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Registered charity no. 209015
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Registered in England no. 558085

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ACN: 617 228 109
ABN: 53617228109



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Animals
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The new name for SPANA