

Does a holistic approach to improving equine welfare produce better outcomes?

A study on participatory rural appraisal tools for greater participation of owners and users in equine welfare

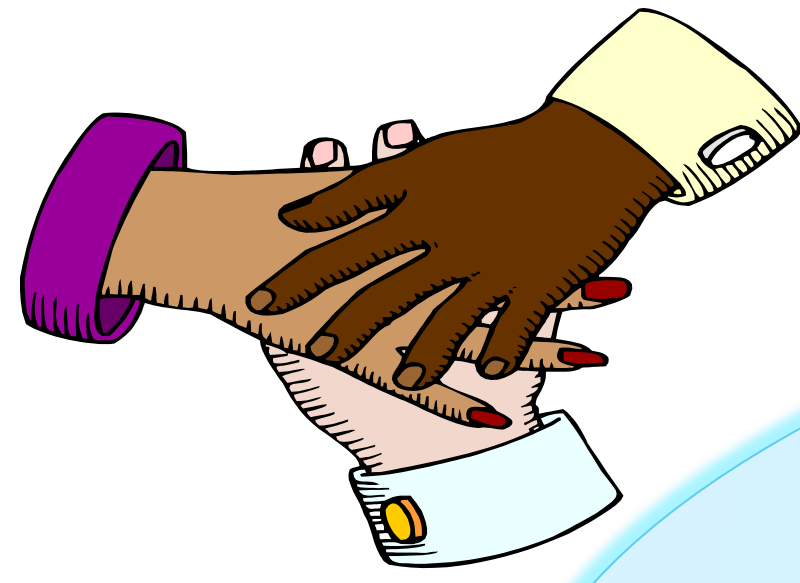


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Introduction

Brooke East Africa (EA) is working with six partners in improving the welfare of working donkeys in Kenya. Drawing from Brooke India's experience in participatory approaches, using Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) tools has encouraged owners' and users' participation and involvement in their animals' welfare (Figure 1). The Brooke has published a toolkit for collective action, *Sharing The Load*¹, comprising of 28 participatory tools that promote equine welfare. The Brooke EA partners are currently using different tools and approaches in community engagement. This study sought to find out if partners were already using any participatory approaches and if so which ones

"I depend on my donkeys for my livelihood, taking good care of them is important to ensure I have food for my family at the end of each day"

Methods

A simple closed-ended questionnaire was sent out to 6 Brooke EA partners via email. Partners were required to send back their responses on the use of participatory approaches in their areas of operation. A desk analysis was done to compare the results from each partner.

Results

- 1 partner is using at least 4 tools from *Sharing The Load* (Table 1; Figure 2)
- 1 other partner is using an approach named 'Assets-Based Community Development' (ABCD) in community action
- The other four partners are using meetings and community forums to mobilise community participation



Figure 1: A typical donkey owner in Kenya using his donkeys to earn a daily wage

Name of partner	Participatory tools in use	Number of participatory tools used	Percentage of tools in STL utilised
KENDAT	Yes	4	14%
VSF-B	Yes	1	0%
AWAPH	No	0	0%
KVA	No	0	0%
Vetworks	No	0	0%
FSK	No	0	0%

Table 1: Participatory tools used by Brooke EA partners



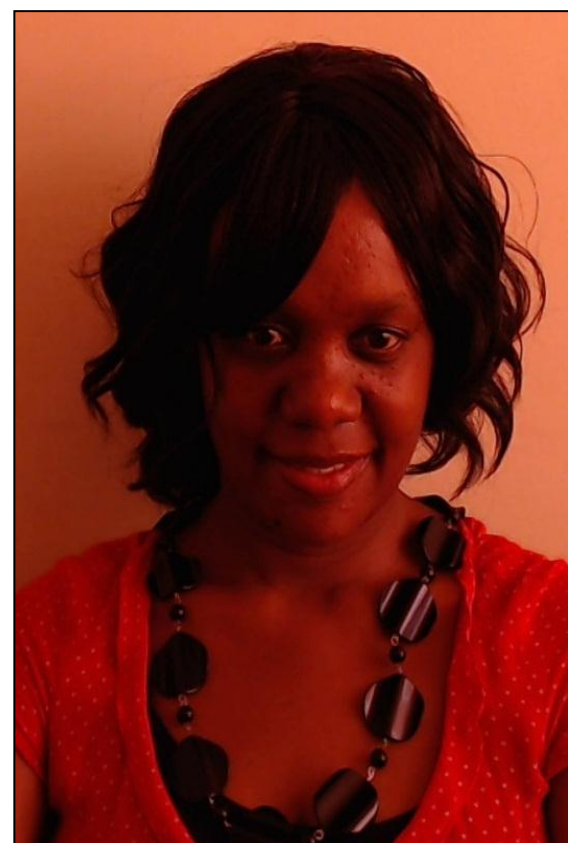
Figure 2: A group of owners using one of the PRA tools facilitated by KENDAT – "mapping" to identify the availability/non-availability of animal resources and services in their village

Challenges

1. Usually time consuming
2. Requires a skilled facilitator
3. Requires full commitment from participants

Conclusion

Sustainability of the donkey welfare projects is largely dependent on owners and users taking full responsibility of their animals' welfare. Brooke EA should put in place strategies that would ensure all partner staff are equipped with skills and knowledge in application of STL tools that would enhance community involvement and participation in their donkeys' welfare.



Presented by
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Abbreviations:

AWAPH – Animal Welfare and Public Health
EA – East Africa
FSK – Farming Systems Kenya

KENDAT – Kenya Network for Dissemination of
Agricultural Technology
KVA – Kenya Veterinary Association

PRA – Participatory Rural Appraisal
STL – Sharing the Load
VSF-B – Veterinaires Sans Frontieres - Belgium

Reference: 1. Van Dijk et al. (2010): *Sharing The Load*. Practical Action Publishing, Rugby, UK