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.

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of partner</th>
<th>Participatory tools used</th>
<th>Number of participatory tools used</th>
<th>Percentage of tools in STL utilised</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>KENDAT</td>
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<tr>
<td>VSF-B</td>
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<tr>
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<td>0</td>
<td>0%</td>
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<tr>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>FSK</td>
<td>No</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 1: Participatory tools used by Brooke EA partners

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.

Footnotes:


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: J. Van IJz et al. (2010). *Sharing The Load, Practical Action Publishing, Rugby, UK*