



Africa Network for Animal Welfare(ANAW) Conference,



Theme: **Animals, Environment and Sustainable Development in 21st Century Africa; An Interlinked Approach**

Topic: **Donkey use and Resilience building ; a case of Somaliland**

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About VSF Germany- Where we work and what we do.



- International NGO, HQ in Berlin, Regional Office in Nairobi
- Works in 6 countries in the Horn of Africa (*Kenya, Uganda, Sudan, South Sudan, Ethiopia and Somalia*) since 1998
- Each Country has a country office with teams on the ground.
- **Focus:** FSL, WASH, Nutrition, NRM, DRR, Protection, Value Chain Development and Marketing, Animal Welfare and One Health.



Why focus on Donkey Welfare?

- Donkeys comprise 95% of working animals globally(Starkey, M. et al (2000);
- In Somaliland Donkeys comprise ,:
 - 61.6% of working animals (Ibrahim,K.,2016)
 - 80% of working donkeys support people's livelihoods(MoLFD,2006).
 - About 792,000 people rely on working donkeys for livelihoods,(especially women headed households).
- Donkeys like other animals have rights to protection and proper management.
- Donkeys are key drivers of economy of the poor households.
- Despite contribution of donkeys to income and livelihoods support, they are least cared for.
- Donkeys are targeted for illegal skin trade.

Project objectives

Goal: To contribute to improved health and welfare conditions working donkeys through improved management and healthcare to maximize their potential for use in gainful economic activities for urban and peri-urban households in Somaliland.

Specific objective: To improve management of and access to and availability of health services for working donkeys for the poor and marginalized urban and peri-urban households in Borama and Hargeisa Districts in Somaliland that use them for commercial transport services.

Expected outcomes and outputs

1. Improved health and welfare conditions of approximately 10,000 working donkeys.

Output1.1: Baseline on knowledge, attitudes, practices and skills on welfare of working donkeys, access to healthcare services and policy frameworks is established.

Output1.2: Access to donkey healthcare services by users and owners is improved.

2. Enhanced knowledge, behaviour and practices on donkey healthcare management and handling techniques by users, owners and service providers.

Output 2.1: Awareness on donkey welfare concerns and response measures by owners, users, service providers and duty bearers is improved.

Output 2.2: 8000 owners and users adopt improved donkey husbandry practices.

Target groups

- Government vets and para-vets.,
- Private vet. service providers-para-vets/CAHWs.
- Agro-vet owners
- Women –donkey users/owners
- Youth –donkey users
- Artisans –income earners
- Community leaders-
- Policy makers –government bureaucrats
- Partner NGOs and CSOs in the livestock. sector

ACTIVITIES:

1. Knowledge Attitude and Practices (KAP) survey

- A study on health and management of working donkeys.
- 343 working donkeys assessed in project areas.



Activities...

Skills enhancement – service providers, artisans, handlers

- Train veterinarians/AHA and CAHWs- donkey health and welfare.
- Train artisans - making of suitable carts and harnesses.
- Train donkey owners /users- health and management of working donkeys.



Activities...

Systems strengthening and coordination- extension, inputs, and services

- Engage Policy makers and other stakeholders in dialogue .
- **Policy advocacy**
- Net-working; resource mobilization
- Award schemes to influence practices
- Monitoring, evaluation, learning and documentation.



Activities...

Awareness on donkey welfare for behavioral change and Policy advocacy
(IEC materials, etc)

Donkey health care.

- Keeping donkeys free from suffering/ distress



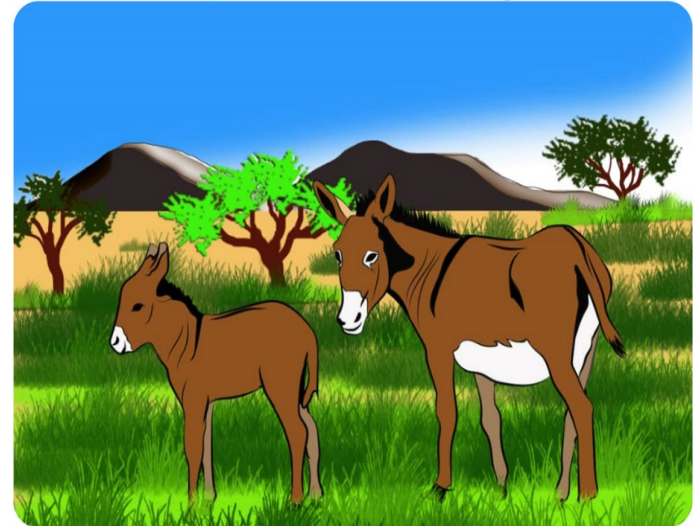
3. Freedom from pain, Injury and Disease.



In laga dhowro inay soo gaaraan dhaawacyo, cuduro iyo waxkasta oo naftooda dibaato u keeni kara.



5. Freedom from Fear and distress, Avoid suffering and mental distress.



Xaqa iney sameyn karaan dabecadaha xoolonimo ee ay leeyihiin

Activities...

Awareness for behaviour change and advocacy...



- Proper feeding of working donkeys.
- Improvement of equipment for working donkeys.



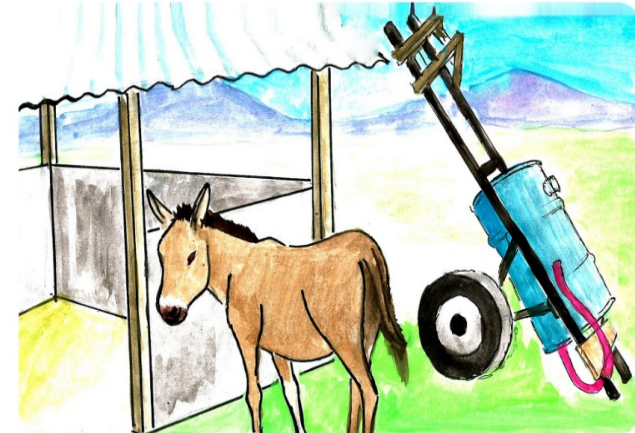
1. Freedom from Hunger and Thirst-The donkeys to have access to sufficient and fresh clean water and appropriate diet to maintain health and vigor.



Dameerkaaga sii cunto kufilan, kana ilaali inuu cuno qashinka wayo waxa uu ka qaadi karaa cudur xuquuqda iney helaan biyo iyo cunto niif ah oo ku filan.



2. Freedom from Discomfort.The donkeys should be provided with adequate comfort and shelter, to protect them against the extremities of weather like excess heat,cold and rain to overcome stress and fear.



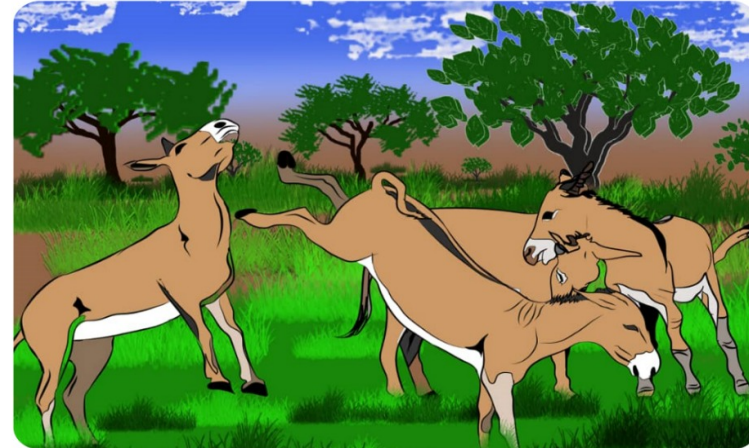
Xuquuqda iney helaan nasasho ku filan iyo hoy ay galaan, si ay noolaadaan wer wer iyo cabsi la'aan

Activities...

Awareness for behaviour change and advocacy...

- Providing enabling environment for normal donkeys' behaviour.

4. Freedom to express normal behavior .The donkeys should be allowed to express normal behavior like having accompanion(friend), allowed to play like rolling with other animals (particularly of like kind).



Xuquuqda iney la noolaadaan xayawaanada ay iskumidka yihiin.

Achievements to date

- Status and condition and needs of working donkeys established in project areas; 74% very poor body score, 95% have lesions/wounds from beating/harnesses.



- Trained 80 donkey users/owners house holds on husbandry and welfare issues.



Achievements...

- **10** dialogue meetings on donkey welfare policy issues with key ministry counterparts and community leaders; create awareness on donkey welfare issues. **300** local leaders.
- **15** awareness sessions conducted and sensitized **1200** households of donkey owners/users on donkey welfare issues.
- Apparent better management of working donkeys.
- Health seeking for working donkeys.
- Improved income –from **\$14** to **\$ 16/day**

Challenges and opportunities

• Challenges

- Security clearance- for technical staff and government counterparts training.
- Entrenched attitudes and harmful practices by donkey owners.
- Donkey theft linked illegal trade and slaughter of donkeys(ready market).
- Increasing demand for donkey welfare interventions vs available resources.

Opportunities

- Clear needs of working donkeys to address in across the country .
- A few dedicated actors addressing animal welfare
- Local support in championing donkey welfare.
- Possible integration in One Health Projects
- Contribution to SDGs; 2,3,5,8, and
- Promoting Animal Health and adaptation to climate change.
- Donkey remains a major “working partner” of rural communities.



THANK YOU



Q&A