

GOOD PRACTICE CASE EXAMPLES –

One Health/One Welfare

NAME OF THE PROJECT	Donkey Health and Welfare Improvement Program
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Organisation	The Donkey Sanctuary
Position	Country Director
Country	Kenya
Duration of the Project	May 2023
Budget/ Funding	746,150 KES (4.975 Euros)
Short description of Organisation	The Donkey Sanctuary is an animal welfare organisation with its headquarters in UK. It specialises in donkeys' and mules' welfare improvement programs and has programs in South America, Africa, Europe and Asia.
Background to the intervention	<p>The Lamu Archipelago is made up of dozens of islands, being Lamu Island the largest. The Lamu island's economy is driven by donkeys, and the majority of households depend entirely on them for their livelihoods. The environment in which Lamu's donkeys live, how they are managed by their owners and users, and the practices which they are engaged in as working animals, leave them vulnerable and susceptible to rabies, tetanus, and worm infection. This is compounded by the lack of veterinary care on the Island, thus donkeys become more vulnerable.</p> <p>The project sought to address the issue of increasing rabies and tetanus infections in donkeys which result in deaths. Furthermore, a loss like this will cost the family its source of livelihood. These diseases, being zoonotic, also pose a public health risk to humans.</p>
Project location (Country, district/state/province)	Lamu, Kenya
Objectives	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To vaccinate a minimum 70 % of the donkeys against tetanus and rabies 2. Deworm all donkeys that will be encountered 3. Enlighten the community on preventative measures that can be applied to control these diseases and prevent their occurrence thus safeguarding the donkeys and public health

<p>Key activities</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Procurement of vaccines and deworming drugs 2. Publicity and mobilisation of donkey owners to attend the events and bring their donkeys 3. Vaccination of donkeys against tetanus and rabies 4. Deworming of donkeys 5. Awareness creation among the community on basic good husbandry practices that improve donkey welfare 6. Treatment of all donkeys that are presented with medical issues
<p>Impact of intervention on animal welfare and livelihoods</p>	<p>Donkeys earn their owners approximately 1,000 Kenya shillings (6 Euros) per day, and this is what sustains most of these families. If a donkey dies due to tetanus or rabies, the family cannot make this income and thus falls into debt or poverty. Purchasing a new donkey costs 25,000 KES (170 Euros) which is too high for most families to do. Thus, any project or activity that enables the donkey to stay healthy and work for very long contributes directly to securing the livelihood of these communities.</p> <p>The project had a target of 2000 donkeys, it was managed to vaccinate 1733 donkeys and to deworm 800 donkeys based on clinical signs and history of previous worming. This fosters donkey health hence builds resilience and reduces the vulnerabilities of the community in Lamu that depend entirely on working donkeys for their livelihoods.</p> <p>This project was set up in a One health / One welfare approach with focus on how improving donkey health and welfare can impact positively in improving human health, development and welfare and by extension securing environmental health status.</p>
<p>Challenges</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Rainy weather: The vaccination activity coincided with the onset of long rains. The rains affected the work to some extent. This challenge was dealt with by carrying out donkey vaccination in the later hours of the day when the rains have subsided. In future, the vaccination team needs to be equipped properly and/or initiate the vaccination activity before the onset of long rains. 2. Vastness of areas covered with roads that cannot be accessed by boats and motorbikes. Certain areas in Amu, Manda and Manda Kitau were vast with poor road networks that made it difficult to access the donkeys in these areas. The vaccination team was able to deal with this challenge by walking to areas where donkeys were.

Key lessons learned	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Collaboration improves project success: Collaboration between the County Government of Lamu, the Donkey Sanctuary and Safari vets ensured pooling of resources and engagement of technical staff in the vaccination activity, thus ensuring a higher population of donkeys being reached either directly or indirectly. Donkey Sanctuary intends to continue with this multistakeholder collaboration going forward while undertaking other donkey related activities.2. Need for community engagement while undertaking an activity: The donkey owning communities were adequately mobilized and involved during the vaccination activity. This enabled the vaccination teams to reach a high number of donkeys during the exercise. The community members were helpful in donkey restraint and general handling and got the opportunity to be sensitized on the prevention of rabies and tetanus diseases. Going forward, the aim is to enhance community engagement in all future activities.3. Publicity and stakeholders' mobilisation: the project's targets courtesy was reached through publicity and community mobilisation in the entire vaccination exercise.
Source (include reports and/or relevant organisational website if possible)	https://www.thedonkeysanctuary.org.uk/



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