

BROOKE INDIA

ACTION FOR WORKING HORSES AND DONKEYS



Annual Report
FY 2023 - 24

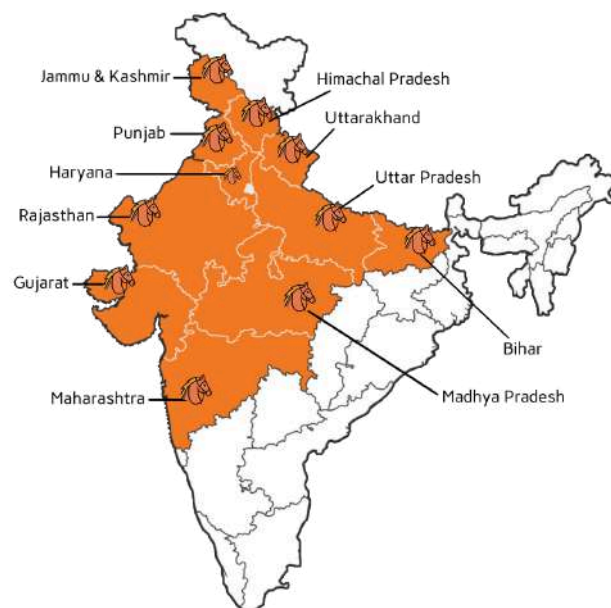


More Info:
www.thebrooke.org/our-work/india



We continue to ensure sustainable improvements in equine welfare and equine-owning communities

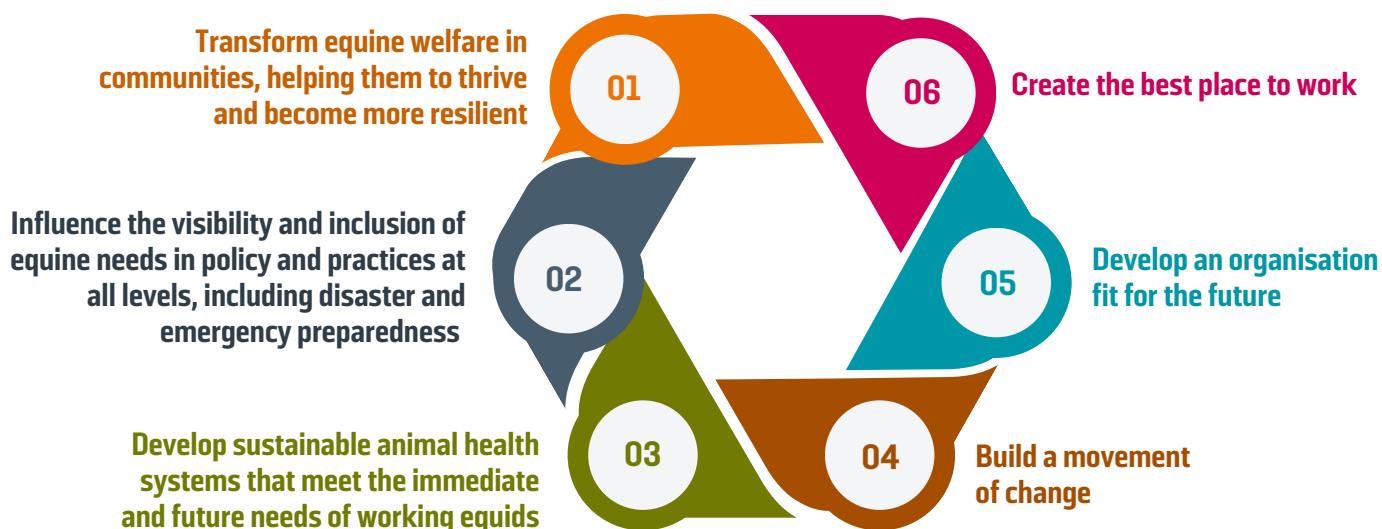
- Running 36 Equine Welfare Projects (EWPs) in 11 states
- Directly reaching and improving the lives of 209,711 equines
- Economically empowering over 87,911 equine-owning families
- ET area: Supporting 30 EWPs (completed)



Equine welfare is being addressed by formulating three-year strategic planning through six global goals, as per the three-year strategic plan, which defines a realistic goal of reaching 0.20 million working equines through an intensive approach and 0.10 million through an indirect approach in Uttar Pradesh.



Global Goals



Theory of change

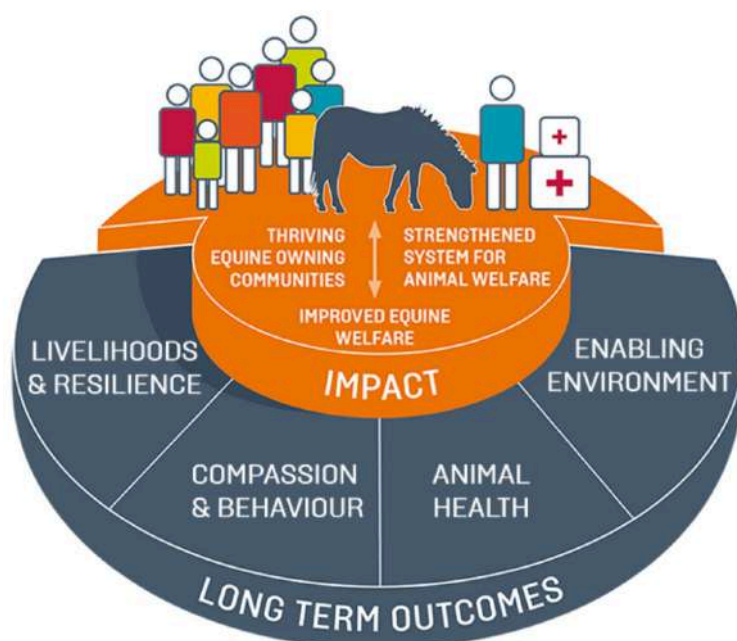
We recognise the complex interaction between the equine, the equine-owning communities and the system in which they co-exist. We believe that change in human behaviour needs to happen at all levels in order to achieve transformational change for the equines and the communities that rely on them.

Our Mission

Our mission is to achieve immediate and lasting positive change in the lives of working horses, donkeys and mules and the communities that depend on them.

Our Vision

Our vision is of a world in which working horses, donkeys and mules are free from suffering and have a life worth living.



Our interventions are streamlined into multiple phases so that agents of change are sustainably capable even after the phase is over. All the units are divided into three phases, based on the years of operation in the particular unit.



Region A		
Unit Name	Equines (No.)	Owners (No.)
Amethi	4099	3515
Banda	3926	905
Bhariach	7419	2602
Fatehpur	4524	1977
Kaushambi	4538	1425
Ballia	6928	3018
Buxar	4943	2263
Ghazipur	5366	2192
Mau	3217	1266
Pratapgarh	3455	3049
Rohtas	3978	1526
Kaimur	3428	1363

Region B		
Unit Name	Equines (No.)	Owners (No.)
Agra	4503	1936
Barmer	4005	1418
Churu	3490	2849
Dholpur	3374	1746
Kutch	3795	1556
Patan	4786	948
Bharuch	7576	740
Sangli	5131	568
Satara	4648	644
Solapur	7497	640
Vadodara	5793	921
Surat	2079	350

Region C		
Unit Name	Equines (No.)	Owners (No.)
Dehradun	8317	2137
Kashipur	9646	8179
Pithoragarh	4447	1260
Uttarakashi	6111	3626
Ambala	3359	2266
Amritsar	3716	3541
Chamba Mandi	5318	1966
Karnal	4907	2896
Kathua	4375	2384
Almora	2899	649
Tehri	2653	1284
Rohtak	3865	2640

Economically resilient communities

Developing economic resilience by creating linkages with government welfare schemes



Developing long-term linkages between equine welfare groups (EWGs) and various government schemes is the key to making sustainable changes in equine health and improving the resilience of equine owners.

MALE EWG



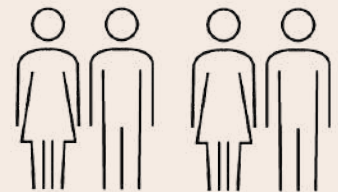
956

FEMALE EWG



1617

TOTAL EWG



2573

Out of the total 1617 female EWGs, 1260 are linked with the National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM)

This financial year (FY), Brooke India (BI) facilitated the formation and strengthening of EWGs. Our cumulative total now includes 2573 EWGs, including 1617 female EWGs and 956 male EWGs. Subsequently, some of these EWGs collaborated to form equine welfare associations to address the challenges of sustainable equine welfare at a larger scale.



Highlights of 2023-24

Ashwamitra Sammelan - 2023

Ashwamitra Sammelan (Friends of the Equine - peer educators in communities) is an annual event designed to bring together the diverse equine community from various regions to share knowledge and experiences. In 2023, BI organised the Sammelan across four locations during the third quarter: Lucknow (Uttar Pradesh), Gandhi Nagar (Gujarat), and Haridwar (Uttarakhand). Additionally, EWP level and zonal level Ashwamitra Sammelans were held in several areas, further broadening the scope of engagement and learning.

This year's Sammelan was a tremendous success, serving as a vital platform for sharing insights and learning. The event allowed equine owners to exchange ideas, discuss challenges, and explore innovative solutions for equine management and livelihood enhancement.



Key Highlights:

- **Regional marketplaces:** regional teams set up marketplaces to display products and services offered by various equine owners, groups and associations. These marketplaces facilitated networking and showcased the diverse range of initiatives being undertaken within the community in different areas.
- **Group displays:** numerous equine groups and associations participated, demonstrating their work and achievements. These displays highlighted best practices and successful strategies in equine care and management, providing valuable learning opportunities for all attendees.
- **Innovative presentations:** equine owners actively engaged in the event by presenting innovative ideas on equine management and alternative livelihood options. These presentations fostered a collaborative atmosphere and encouraged the sharing of practical solutions to common challenges equine owners face.

Given the success of this year's event, the team has decided to adopt a more decentralised small sammelan approach for the future. This will allow for even greater participation and ensure the event's benefits reach a wider audience. By continuing to provide a platform for knowledge exchange and innovation, Ashwamitra Sammelan aims to enhance equines' welfare and their owners' livelihoods.

Highlights of 2023 - 24

Recognition as a Great Place to Work (GPTW)

BI has again been recognised as a GPTW for 2024-25, reaffirming our dedication to fostering a culture of excellence, empowerment, and inclusivity within our organisation. GPTW has also ranked us among the best 20 NGOs in India to work for in 2023.

This prestigious certification highlights our unwavering commitment to creating a nurturing workplace environment where everyone is valued. Achieving this recognition for another year underscores the collective efforts of our passionate team members, who embody our core values of integrity, compassion, and excellence. Our commitment to providing a supportive and inclusive work environment remains strong.

We remain dedicated to continuously enhancing our workplace practices. Brooke India prioritises open communication and the well-being and development of our team members. Our heartfelt gratitude goes to every member of the Brooke family for their unwavering commitment to our shared mission.

This certification catalyses our mission to forge a brighter future for working equids and the communities they support. By fostering a positive workplace culture, we aim to enhance the lives of equids and the communities that depend on them.



A few glimpses from our workshops, training and team building exercises



Advocacy & close collaboration with the government

C20 Integrated Holistic Health Working Summit Group

Participated in the summit organised by Mata Amritanandamayi Math in April 2023, promoting the One Health approach and advocating for increased investment in animal health systems to prevent zoonotic diseases.



World Veterinary Day Seminar

Co-organised with National Academy of Veterinary Sciences India (NAVSI), the seminar focused on continuous veterinary education, highlighting research enhancement, technical training, and inclusivity within the veterinary field.



G20 Health Agenda Roundtable

Jointly organised with Health Parliament, the conference in New Delhi emphasised holistic healthcare and institutional advocacy, with recommendations on strengthening the One Health approach submitted to G-20 Sherpa Amitabh Kant.



International Conference on Agri-Food Systems

Participated in the conference held in New Delhi, showcasing BI's work and raising awareness about the welfare of working equines and their role in remote areas.



Participation in the Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development

Advocated for integrating animal welfare into the sustainable development goals framework at the regional event in Bangkok, emphasising the interconnectedness of human well-being, environmental sustainability, and animal welfare.



Seminar on One Health and Carcass Disposal

Organised a seminar with NAVSI to explore carcass disposal practices in India, providing recommendations to enhance the animal health system and promote sustainable solutions.



Animal health & welfare

Nurturing the Future Veterinarians

An Introduction to Animal Welfare, Equine Handling, Restraining and Farriery, Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Pashu Chikitsa Vigyan Vishwavidyalaya Evam Go Anusandhan Sansthan (DUVASU), Mathura

In May 2023, BI collaborated with the College of Veterinary and Animal Science (COVAS) at DUVASU, Mathura, to host a six-day animal health, welfare, and farriery training programme. This initiative aimed to provide veterinary students with both theoretical knowledge and practical hands-on training.



Basic Farriery Training at Acharya Narendra Deva University of Agriculture and Technology (ANDUAT), Kumarganj, Ayodhya, Uttar Pradesh

In June 2023, BI partnered with COVAS and ANDUAT to conduct a two-day basic farriery training programme for veterinary interns, enriching their curriculum with essential farriery skills.



Farriery Training Programme with Dr G.C. Negi College of Veterinary and Animal Sciences, Palampur

In July 2023, BI and Dr G.C. Negi College of Veterinary and Animal Sciences, Palampur, organised a two-day training programme on animal welfare, equine handling, and farriery. The training included theoretical sessions on animal welfare concepts and practical sessions on equine handling and the basic concept of farriery.



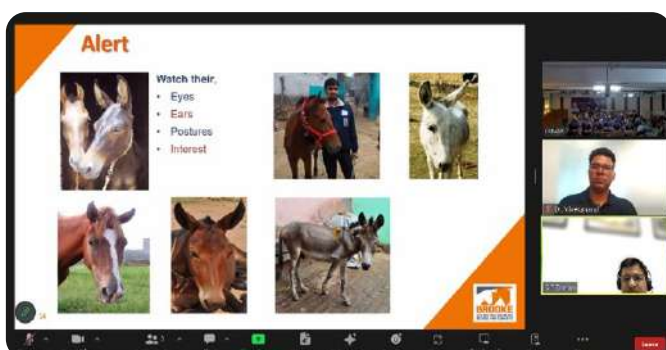
Veterinary Intern Training at Bihar Animal Sciences University (BASU), Patna, Bihar

In September 2023, BI and BASU conducted a two-day training programme on animal welfare, equine handling, and restraining techniques. The programme aimed to provide veterinary interns with comprehensive educational experiences in equine health and welfare.



Veterinary Student Interns Training at Lala Lajpat Rai University of Veterinary and Animal Sciences (LUVAS), Hisar, Haryana

A two-day online training session was conducted for 60 veterinary intern students from LUVAS. The training covered animal welfare concepts, compassionate handling, hoof anatomy, and basic farriery, aiming to equip students with the knowledge and skills to promote animal welfare and manage equine health issues effectively.



Empowering the Equine Owners

Joint Event with Agriculture Skill Council of India (ASCI) and Animal Husbandry Department (AHD), Govt. of Haryana

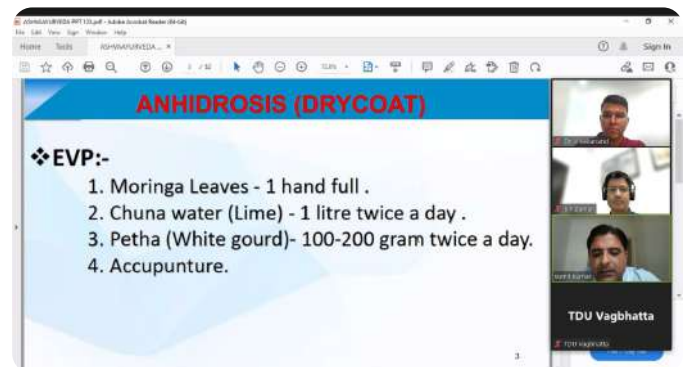
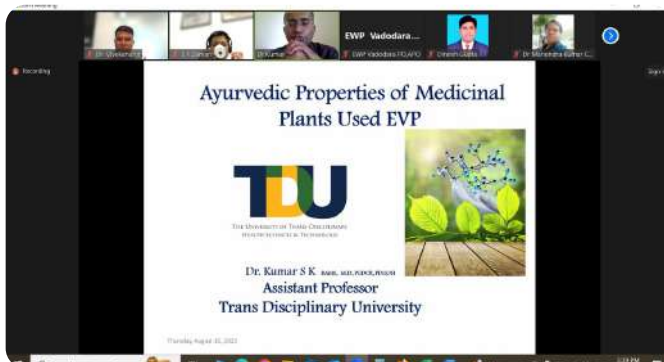
In June 2023, BI collaborated with ASCI and AHD, Haryana, to conduct an awareness camp at the Govt. veterinary hospital in Karnal, Haryana. The camp educated animal owners on vaccination, deworming, farriery practices, and providing quality feed to equines.



Capacity building of BI staff

Ashwa-Ayurveda Training Conducted by University of the Trans-Disciplinary Health Sciences and Technology (TDU) Bangalore

A three-day online training on Ashwa-Ayurveda was conducted by TDU, Bangalore from August 9 to 11, 2023. Twenty vets from BI participated in the training, which aimed to orient vets about ethnoveterinary practices and the use of ayurvedic preparations in equine care.



Training on Disaster Response and Management (DRR) for BI Staff, Organised by Sphere India

A two-day online training on DRR was conducted by Sphere India from September 21 - 22, 2023. 32 BI team leaders from different EWPs participated in the training, which aimed to create awareness about the importance of mainstreaming animal welfare in DRR and enhancing the technical skills and competencies of BI staff to assess, plan for, and respond to disaster situations involving working animals.



Equine Fairs

BI has achieved significant milestones in equine welfare through its impactful efforts across 10 major equine trade fairs. These fairs included prominent events such as the Sri Muktsar Sahib Fair and Bhatinda in (Punjab), Makanpur Fair in Kannauj (Uttar Pradesh), Madhiyayi Fair in Meerut (Uttar Pradesh), and Brahmpur Fair in Buxar (Bihar). The initiatives spanned across several states, engaging a population of over 30,000 equines. These fairs served as crucial platforms to address and mitigate various equine challenges.

Key activities included:

Awareness sessions: conducted over 60 sessions on disease prevention, management, and good husbandry & farriery practices.

Theme-based training: delivered targeted training sessions on specific welfare topics.

Equine health transacts walks: implemented practical demonstrations of best practices in equine care.

Capacity building: trained newly recruited BI staff to support ongoing welfare initiatives.

Emergency treatments: BI staff and Government Veterinary Officers provided immediate medical attention to equines in the fairs.

In addition to these activities, BI worked closely with fair organisers to ensure the availability of necessary resources such as water, sheds, ramps, and fodder. By facilitating the capacity building of local service providers, BI ensured sustainable equine welfare practices. These initiatives underscore BI's unwavering commitment to enhancing equine welfare and fostering sustainable practices within the industry.



Hathras Fair



Kundol Fair



Phalawda Fair



Amritsar Fair

Key highlights from each region in FY 23-24

Region - B

1. Organised Training of Trainers for all staff to enable them to integrate Human Behaviour Change (HBC) techniques to bring transformative changes in animal welfare
2. Held meetings with Animal Nepal to access support for the equine owners who migrate to Nepal during the brick kiln (BK) season
3. Trained 60 equine owners in kitchen gardening & mushroom cultivation and 25 owners in goat rearing in collaboration with Gorakhpur Environmental Action Group and The Goat Trust
4. Facilitated labour card issuance in Bihar, ensured prompt equine insurance claims across the region

Region - B

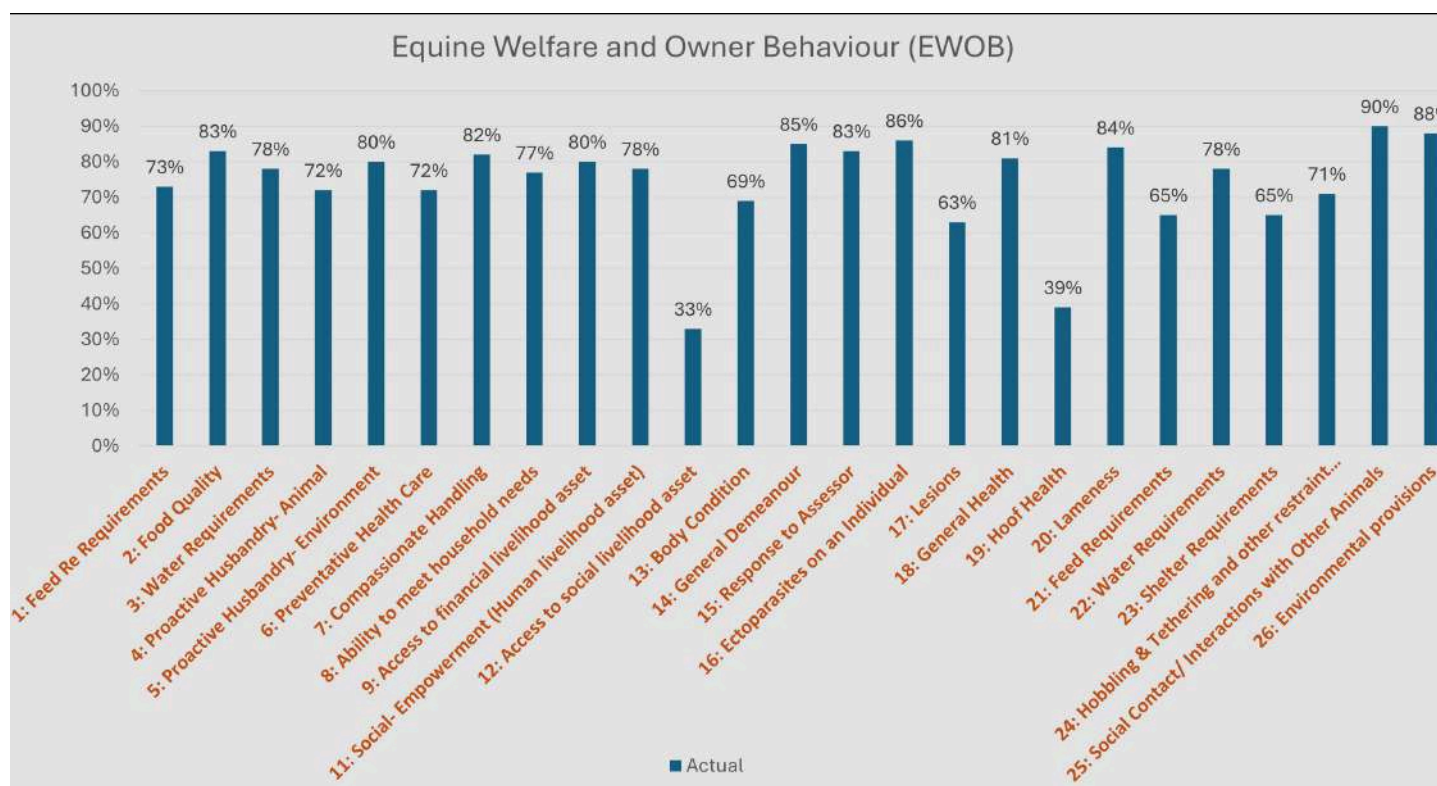
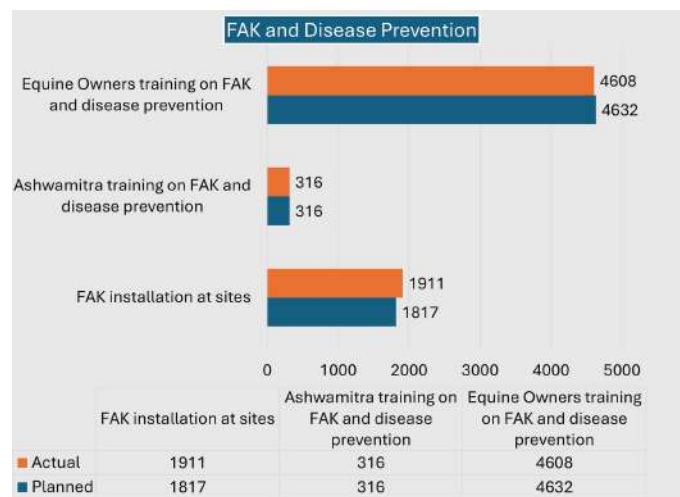
1. Entrepreneurship Development Program Training for female EWG members to empower and motivate women
2. Set up of new Balanced Feed Units (BFUs) across various locations, allowing equine owners to produce, distribute, and sell thousands of kilograms of balanced feed
3. Collaborated to form equine health cards, issued health and transportation certificates, and conducted workshops focusing on equine welfare
4. Coordinated with National Disaster Response Force and government agencies for relief post-cyclone in Kutch

Region - C

1. Established three new EWPs in Almora (Uttarakhand), Tehri (Uttarakhand), and Rohtak (Haryana), including staff recruitment and infrastructure setup
2. Conducted 4 Cluster-level Ashwamitra Sammelans for cross-learning among equine-owning communities and 1 Regional Ashwamitra Sammelan
3. Five BFUs were set up in the region to ensure the availability of nutritious feed for the equines
4. An emergency treatment camp was set up during the Kedarnath and Yamnotri Yatra in Uttarakhand, where 770 cases of equines were treated with support from the AHD

Glimpses of Achievements Under Goals FY 23 – 24

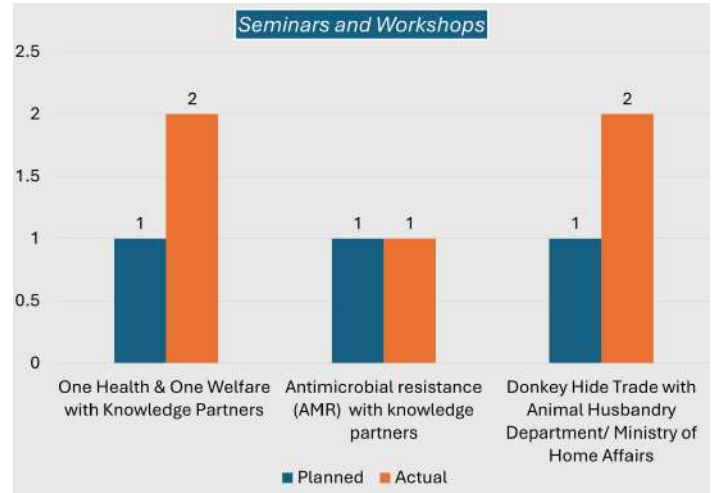
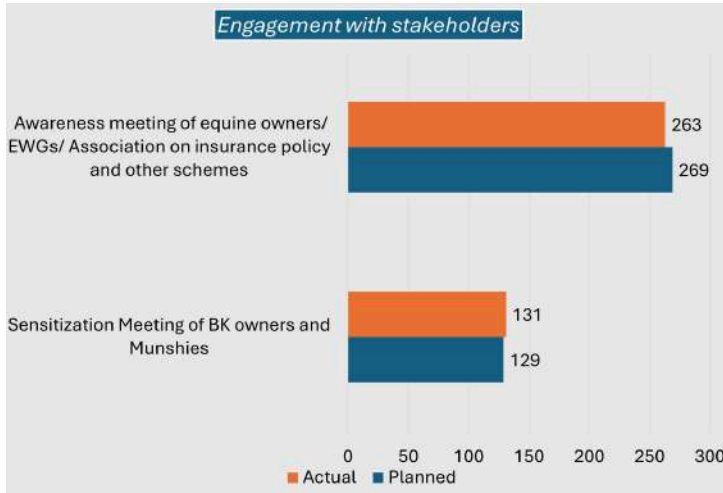
GOAL - 1



Notes

- 69% of equines were found to have a Body Condition Score (BCS) of 2 or above, meeting or exceeding the mandatory standard. (13th indicator on the bar)
- 39% of equines were found to have their hoof health in optimal condition. (19th indicator on the bar)
- 84% of equines were found to be free from lameness. (20th indicator on the bar)

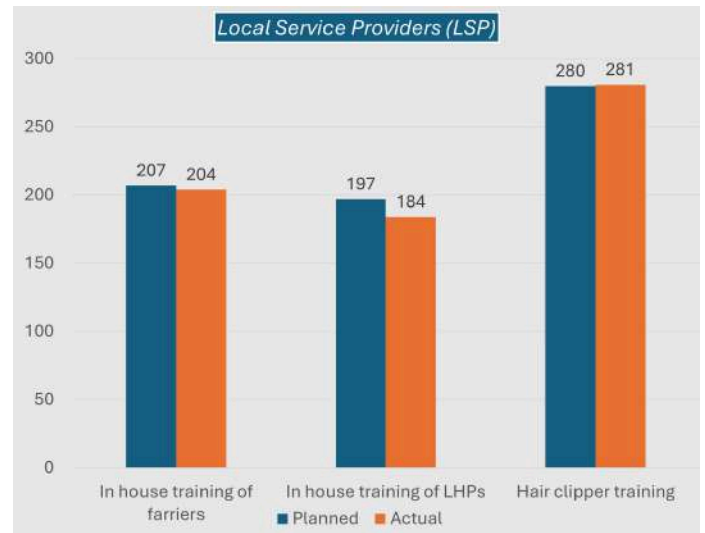
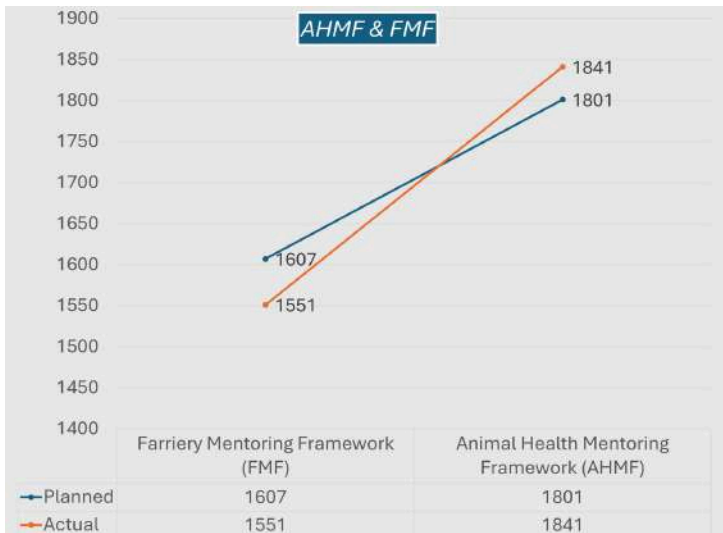
GOAL - 2



Highlights

- 102% of sensitisation meetings with brick kiln owners and munshies were conducted
- 200% of seminars and workshops on One Health and One Welfare with knowledge partners were completed
- 200% of workshops on the donkey hide trade, in collaboration with the Animal Husbandry Department and the Ministry of Home Affairs, were conducted to highlight the issue of illegal donkey hide trading

GOAL - 3



Highlights

- We achieved 102% of the AHMF assessments
- 100% of the hair clipper training sessions were completed
- 99% of the in-house training for farriers was completed

A quick glimpse in our key activities in FY 23 – 24

01

Equine owners training on equine management practices (5024)

02

Capacity building of Ashwamitra completed (290) and for group leader (191)

03

Deworming of equine (90424)

04

Vaccination against Tetanus (85141)

05

Health check transaction visits (2027)

06

Supporting communities to set up first aid kits (6822)

07

Exposure visits of community members (70)

08

EWG linked with NRLM - (1260)

09

Healthy animal competitions - (798)

Glimpses from social media

Brooke Hospital for Animals - India
6 September · 🌐

Brooke India Ballia team had a productive meeting with equine owners in Rukunpur village. Several vital topics like equine health & welfare, benefits of government social welfare schemes were discussed. Brooke team also fostered awareness through wall writing and slogans.

[#EquineWelfare](#) [#CommunityUnity](#) [#BrookeIndia](#)

Brooke, Action For Working Horses and Donkeys



Brooke Hospital for Animals - India
2 November · 🌐

Brooke India, with the One Health Support Unit and the Department of Animal Husbandry & Dept of Animal Husbandry and Dairying, Min of FAHD, Govt of India, organized a health camp on Oct 30-31 in Gujjar Basti, Haridwar. Focused on local animal and owner well-being, the initiative addressed zoonotic diseases, hygiene, and sanitation. Faecal and blood samples were also collected to offer insights into contaminants which is crucial for understanding risks to ecosystems and human ... [See more](#)



Brooke Hospital for Animals - India
6 September · 🌐

Brooke India Ballia team had a productive meeting with equine owners in Rukunpur village. Several vital topics like equine health & welfare, benefits of government social welfare schemes were discussed. Brooke team also fostered awareness through wall writing and slogans.

[#EquineWelfare](#) [#CommunityUnity](#) [#BrookeIndia](#)

Brooke, Action For Working Horses and Donkeys



Brooke Hospital for Animals - India
30 August · 🌐

To ensure health and welfare of working equids, Brooke India's Pratapgarh Equine welfare project team conducted an equine health check-up by using 6 clinical parameters. This routine activity is used to assess equine health and act as per welfare needs. During the health check-up of the equines, the owners are also sensitized about good management practices and first aid care.

Brooke, Action For Working Horses and Donkeys



Case study - 1

Equine Welfare Through BK Cart Marking:

Combating Overloading and Ensuring Animal Well-Being in Amritsar, Punjab

Amritsar, a bustling city in northwestern India, serves as a hub for various industries dependent on equine labour. From transportation to tourism, equines play a crucial role in supporting the livelihoods of equine owners. In 2019, BI launched its EWP in Amritsar to address the welfare needs of working equines in the region.

Among the industries prevalent in the region, the BK industry is the largest employer of equines. A recurring issue of cart overloading had been observed in BKs at Amritsar. Equine owners, driven by economic pressures and financial needs, often overloaded carts with bricks, exposing the animals to undue strain and wounds.

The problems faced by equines due to cart overloading were multifaceted and severe. Firstly, the excessive weight placed on the carts led to injuries and strains in the equines. These injuries not only compromised the animals' welfare but also impaired their efficiency, resulting in decreased productivity and reduced income for their owners.

Furthermore, the constant exertion of pulling overloaded carts subjected the equines to fatigue and exhaustion, exacerbating their physical and mental stress. Equines were often observed exhibiting signs of distress, including laboured breathing, lethargy, and difficulty in movement.



BI team illustrating how excessive loads on equine hooves can lead to lameness due to pressure.

In addition to physical injuries, equines faced the risk of developing chronic health conditions such as lameness and hoof problems due to prolonged exposure to excessive loads. These conditions also necessitated costly veterinary treatments, further burdening equine owners financially.

In response to these challenges, the BI team proposed a practical solution: the implementation of a cart marking system.

This innovative approach involved assigning a specific number to each cart, representing the equine's capacity to carry bricks based on its health conditions. Equine owners and munshis assessed an animal's capacity by loading the cart with a certain number of bricks and observing if the animal could carry it comfortably without much exertion.

Based on the equines' pulling capacity, carts were marked with appropriate weight limits, ranging from 200 to 400 bricks. Equine owners and munshis embraced the idea, recognising its effectiveness in promoting equine welfare and enhancing productivity.

To ensure compliance, BI team entrusted munshis at the kilns with the responsibility of monitoring cart loads. As a rule, equine owners would not be compensated for carrying extra bricks; wages would only be paid for the number of bricks marked, not for any excess ones.

The implementation of the cart marking scheme yielded remarkable results within a short period. Equines showed significant improvement, displaying enhanced vigour and reduced instances of lameness. Moreover, the incidence of wounds and injuries resulting from overloaded carts decreased substantially, alleviating the suffering of working equines and reducing the financial burden on equine owners.

The initiative has benefited over 90 equines so far and fostering a culture of responsible cart loading management. The collaboration between BI, equine owners, and munshis exemplifies the transformative power of collective action in promoting equine welfare.



BI team guiding the owner regarding the implementation of cart marking procedures.



Equine owners themselves are marking the cart as per the instructions of the BI Team.

Case study - 2

Saving Lives Through Emergency Treatment at Fatehpur

Fatehpur, a region within the state of Uttar Pradesh, is home to a significant equine population. BKs in Fatehpur encompass both migratory and non-migratory types. Migratory BKs attract workers from outside the city or distant districts, while non-migratory BKs employ local equine owners from nearby areas.

Among the BKs in Fatehpur is Ashish BK, a migratory establishment located in the village of Aliabad, approximately 22 kilometres from the BI, EWP, Fatehpur office. The BK employs five equine owners who own eight equines and have migrated from the district Jalaun in Uttar Pradesh.

Sundar Kumar, an equine owner employed at Ashish BK, arrived at the BK with his family and three mules at the start of the BK season, aiming to secure a good income for his family. He constructed a small temporary shelter from the bricks provided by the kiln owner for his family to work and reside at the BK until the season's end. Utilising his lightweight cart, he transported sun-baked bricks within the BK premises or sometimes delivered baked bricks to the nearby locations, depending on the tasks assigned by the BK owner. He employed one mule named Kallu with his lightweight cart and assigned the other two mules to hired labourers for work at the BK.



Kallu drinking water at the BK

One day, an unfortunate incident took place at the BK. While Kallu was pulling the cart loaded with bricks, he suddenly became frightened and started jumping while still attached to the fully loaded cart. Sundar was unable to restrain Kallu, who then jumped furiously and ended up getting injured.

Upon inspecting the wound, Sundar noticed a deep cut on Kallu's back. Panicked by the situation, Sundar sought assistance from other owners at the BK. After receiving suggestions, he contacted BI's Field Assistant (FA), Rahul Kumar, and provided details about what had happened and the severity of Kallu's wound. Without wasting a moment, Rahul Kumar instructed Sundar to slowly detach the mule from the cart. Kallu was then kept in an isolated area within the BK. As the FA was at another site, he reached out to a Local Health Provider (LHP), Sandeep Kumar.

Sandeep Kumar had received training from BI on equine-related ailments and their treatment to become an LHP, and he was prepared to serve the equine-owning communities in the region. After undergoing regular training and multiple capacity-building sessions, Sandeep developed a good understanding of equine health and was able to treat common equine-related diseases and wounds.

Upon arrival at the BK, Sandeep swiftly joined Rahul, who had also arrived at the scene, to assess the mule's condition. Together, Rahul and Sandeep cleaned mule's wound and surrounding area to prevent infection. They administered first aid and medication to reduce inflammation and pain before delicately dressing the wound to facilitate optimal healing. Additionally, the LHP prescribed medications and recommended daily wound cleaning, along with applying Betadine ointment.

After the treatment, inflammation and pain decreased, as evidenced by the animal's behavior, and the wound began to heal. The LHP conducted regular visits and follow-ups at the site for the next 5-6 days. Sundar was advised to allow Kallu ample rest and time off from work until recuperation. Kallu made a full recovery within 15 days.

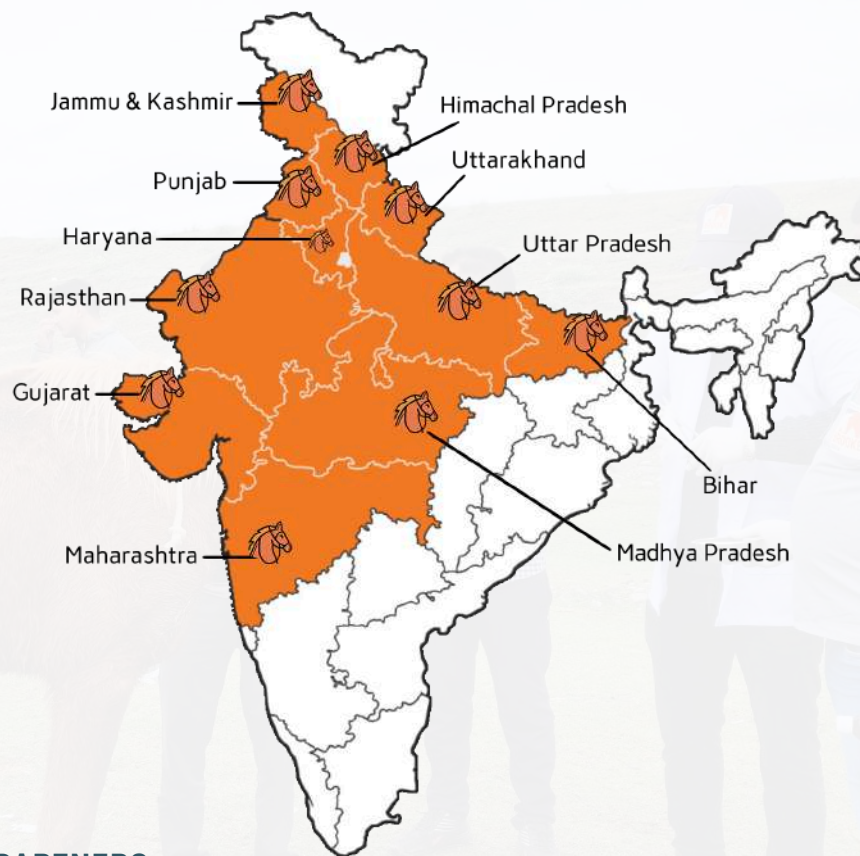
The successful treatment of Kallu not only resulted in the healing of his physical wound but also cultivated a deep sense of gratitude among the equine owners towards the LHP and the Brooke team for safeguarding Sundar's livelihood.



LHP Sandeep Kumar treating the wound of Kallu



FA Rahul Kumar came at the BK for a health check-up of Kallu



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