

Concept Note:

Inclusive Animal Care and Welfare Program

Kachua Dalima Association (KDA)

Background

In Bangladesh's rural, coastal, and disaster-prone regions—such as Patuakhali, Bhola, Barguna animals are more than companions; they are critical to food security, livelihood, and emotional well-being. Unfortunately, poor animal health services, lack of awareness, climate stress, and poverty lead to high mortality, abuse, and neglect of both livestock and domestic animals. Women, children, persons with disabilities, and elderly family members are often the primary caretakers of animals, yet their voices and needs are frequently overlooked in program design and service delivery.

Kachua Dalima Association (KDA) recognizes the importance of animal care in promoting humane values, community resilience, sustainable livelihoods, and public health. Our inclusive Animal Care and Welfare Program aims to empower communities to protect, care for, and benefit from animals in a compassionate, sustainable, and equitable manner.

Objectives

- To ensure the well-being of domestic and farm animals through inclusive, community-driven animal health services.
- To reduce livelihood vulnerability of marginalized families by improving livestock productivity and survival.
- To promote a culture of compassion, humane treatment, and responsibility toward animals.
- To link animal care with climate adaptation, food security, gender equity, and disaster preparedness.

Program Components

Mobile Animal Health and Care Services

- Regular veterinary check-ups, vaccinations, deworming, and first aid.
- Outreach to remote and vulnerable areas using mobile veterinary units.
- Special attention to disaster-hit communities and livestock shelters.

Community Education and Behavioral Change

- Awareness on zoonotic diseases, animal hygiene, proper sheltering, and feeding.
- Promote humane handling, zero cruelty, and community monitoring.
- Culturally sensitive training for men, women, youth, and religious leaders.

Capacity Building for Livelihoods

- Hands-on training for women, youth, and persons with disabilities in animal husbandry, fodder cultivation, and livestock business planning.
- Promote inclusive access to veterinary inputs and credit for livestock rearing.
- Encourage local para-vets and animal health workers, especially young women.

Animal Disaster Preparedness and Relief

- Pre-positioning of feed, medicine, and safe shelter for animals before floods, cyclones, or heatwaves.
- Rapid response teams for animal rescue and treatment post-disaster.
- Guidelines for communities on caring for animals during emergencies.

Youth Engagement and School-based Outreach

- Animal care clubs in schools and madrasas.
- Youth campaigns on empathy, kindness to animals, and responsible pet ownership.
- Promote interfaith messaging on compassion for animals in Islam and other faiths.

Integration with Public Health and Environment

- Promote One Health approach: connect human, animal, and environmental health.
- Address antimicrobial resistance (AMR) through awareness and better practices.
- Eco-friendly animal waste management and safe slaughtering guidance.

Target Groups

- Marginalized farmers, especially women-headed and landless families
- Persons with disabilities and elderly caregivers
- Climate-vulnerable and disaster-affected households
- Youth and students
- Urban poor and informal animal workers

Geographical Focus

Initially targeting:

- Kachua, Chandpur and surrounding areas
- Coastal and flood-prone zones like Bhola, Patuakhali, Lakshmipur
- Later scaling up to urban slums and char lands with high animal dependency

Partnership and Collaboration

KDA seeks to collaborate with:

- Veterinary departments, district livestock offices, and para-vets
- Disaster risk reduction agencies
- Animal rights organizations, faith-based institutions, and education authorities
- Development partners, local government, and corporate donors

Expected Outcomes

- Reduced livestock mortality and improved community nutrition
- Increased income for vulnerable households through better animal productivity
- Improved community awareness on animal welfare and zoonotic risks
- Strengthened resilience of communities and animals during disasters
- Promotion of kindness, inclusion, and humane treatment in society