

EU PROJECT ON ANIMAL RESCUE FROM FLOOD IN TURKIYE

PROJEKAT EU O SPASAVANJU ŽIVOTINJA OD POPLAVA U TURSKOJ

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ABSTRACT

Under the scope of Mitigating Flood Risk in flooded areas in the Southeastern Anatolian Region of Türkiye, the project titled as “Capacity Building for Decreasing Animal Losses from Flood in Sanliurfa” has been carried out by Sanliurfa City Disaster and Emergency Management Directorate, Southeastern Anatolia Region Culture, Research and Development Association and Agricultural Development Cooperative. The objectives were to improve the capacities of participant organisations about animal welfare in flood management and in the prevention of flood. Veterinarians, emergency personnel and geographers educated volunteer young people to establish animal rescue teams. International Animal Rescue Conference and Animal Rescue Event have been carried out in Sanliurfa jointly with Royal Veterinary college and Hampshire Municipality fire department.

Key words: Animal rescue, flood, Türkiye.

SAŽETAK

U okviru Ublažavanja rizika od poplava u poplavljenim područjima u jugoistočnoj Anadoliji u Turskoj, projekat pod nazivom „Izgradnja kapaciteta za smanjenje gubitaka životinja od poplava u Sanliurfi“ je sproveda Direkcija za katastrofe i vanredne situacije grada Sanliurfa, Jugoistočni region Anatolija. Udruženje za kulturu, istraživanje i razvoj i Poljoprivredna razvojna zadruga. Ciljevi su bili unapređenje kapaciteta organizacija učesnika o dobrobiti životinja u upravljanju poplavama iu prevenciji poplava. Veterinari, osoblje hitne pomoći i geografi edukovali su mlade volontere da osnuju timove za spasavanje životinja. Međunarodna konferencija o spašavanju životinja i događaj spašavanja životinja održani su u Sanliurfi zajedno sa Kraljevskim veterinarskim koledžom i vatrogasnom službom opštine Hampshire.

Ključne reči: spasavanje životinja, poplava, Turska.

INTRODUCTION

Within the scope of animal welfare, which has gained great importance for nearly fifty years, it is seen that significant progress has been made in developed countries in "Safe Animal Rescue" in Veterinary medicine practice (1-5).

Mitigating Flood Risk in Flooded Areas in the Southeastern Anatolia Region (SAR) project started within the scope of the European Union Pre-accession Financing Agreement in 2006. The project was jointly financed by the European Union and Republic of Türkiye. The Contracting Authority for

grant contract with Grant Beneficiaries was the Central Finance and Contracts Unit (CFCU).

Heavy rains have negatively affected the Sanliurfa region socially, environmentally and economically. The flood caused people's deaths (n= 42). Many animals destroyed, hundreds of houses and dairy seriously damaged and wide agricultural areas were negatively influenced. The first assessments have shown that insufficient infrastructure and rapid growth of unplanned settlements under flood risk are factors determining the influence of flood. Regarding with Mitigating Flood Risk in flooded areas in the SAR Project open call, Sanliurfa Disaster and Emergency Management

Directorate and SAR Culture, Research and Development Association prepared project titled as “Capacity Building for Decreasing Animal Losses from Flood in Sanliurfa” and accepted by EU Union.

Main objectives were to prevent flooding and its effects in the long term through local institutional capacity building in the SAR. Specific objectives were to improve the capacities of local governmental and non-governmental organisations in flood management and in the prevention of flood, mitigate infrastructure, economic and social losses caused by flood. To reach the project objectives in the SAR provinces, social support and physical planning/investment grant schemes have been launched.

Final beneficiaries were small-scale families working with animal husbandry in Sanliurfa Center, Harran and Akcakale districts; large-scale animal enterprises producing meat and milk; race horse and working horse and pet owners. Target Groups were young people dealing with animal husbandry in the region; small and large ruminants, horses, poultry, pet animals; local people: animal owners and people under risk of contagious diseases from animal wasted in flooding.

ACTIVITIES

Activity 1: Establishment of Project Team

Mahmut Sönmez, director of Sanliurfa Disaster and Emergency Management presidency; Profs Gürbüz Aksoy and Halil Selçuk Biricik, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine members have been assigned as contact person, coordinator and technical assistant during the project

Activity 2: Preparation of Training Materials

Training materials have been prepared by the project team. Presentations were about first aid in small and large animals, rescuing animals in dramatic situations with appropriate methods, infectious diseases, proper techniques of animal handling, restraint and evacuation, hygiene, post flood animal care and nutrition.

DISCUSSION

Animal losses occur because animals aggrieved in disaster are not saved in time and rescued with proper techniques. Sometimes it has been encountered by inappropriate animal

Activity 3: Training

It has been planned to train that volunteer young people (n=70) dealing with animal husbandry to establish animal rescue teams. Animal welfare training duration was ten days. Trainers were from veterinarians, Sanliurfa emergency personnel and geographers. It has been emphasized to participants that rescuing animals is important besides people in floods or other natural disasters. Some part of training has been carried out by emergency search and rescue personnel. In this context, rope application for animals has been shown practically. In addition, duties of officials, fire protection, humanitarian rescue in the earthquake and flood has been explained.



Fig. 1-2: International Animal Rescue Conference

intervention news. If emergency personnel have enough experience besides full rescue equipment, society would not encounter with undesired outcomes.

Hampshire municipality, fire department in UK and London Royal Veterinary College works

together on animal welfare. Prof. Dr. Josh Slater, equine hospital director, Royal Vet. College and Jim Green, firefighter in Hampshire fire and rescue service, continue this collaboration with several conferences. We contacted with them for the purpose of the exchange information on animal welfare, invited to the the International Animal Rescue Conference. The conference has been held in Sair Nabi Culture Center, Sanliurfa jointly with Royal Vet. College and Hampshire Municipality. Jim Green and Josh Slater, recipient of the British Equine Veterinary Association's welfare award 2019, joined the conference as invited speakers and presented about modern animal rescue techniques (Fig. 1-2). Following the conference, "Animal Rescue Event" to show practical aid techniques with equipments has been performed by participation of foreign experts, disaster and emergency personnels, fire crews, trained young volunteers, Veterinarians working private or depending on agricultural directorate and farmers.

With the activities under the project, emergency personnels gained experience about

animal welfare. Animal welfare training has been given to 70 young people engaged in animal husbandry. These volunteers have became aware of intervening animals together with veterinarians and emergency personnels using appropriate techniques. Since they have information about animal rescue in the potential disasters and animal casualties, economic losses will be reduced. Also after experience about proper care and feeding of animals, their income derived from animals will possibly increase.

Here are the opinions of several trained volunteers: " I learned how much importance was given to animals with this project. Humans without animal love can not give any benefit to human being." Omer Demirkol; "We've learned a lot in this short time." Celal Şen ; " Animal rescue is the first project I participated and this has increased my animal love and I became a little more sensitive towards animals." Ibrahim Felhan; "This project taught me very important points both financially and morally in my life." Cuma Doğan; "How happy if we could save an animal." I. Halil Tuz.

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