



DUTCH COMMITTEE FOR AFGHANISTAN

کمیته هلند برای افغانستان



VETERINARY PROGRAMMES



Annual Report 2008



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Abbreviations

ADP	Alternative Development Program
AECID	Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation
AKF	Aga Khan Foundation
AI	Artificial Insemination
ALP	Alternative Livelihoods Program
ASAP	Accelerating Sustainable Agriculture Program
AVA	Afghanistan Veterinary Association
BCF	Baghlan Cheese Factory
BVW	Basic Veterinary Worker
CVO	Chief Veterinary Officer
DAI	Development Alternatives Inc.
DCA & DCA-VET	Dutch Committee for Afghanistan – Veterinary Programmes
DCU	Dutch Consortium for Uruzgan
DVM	Doctor of Veterinary Medicine
EU	European Union
FAO	Food and Agricultural Organization
HLP	Horticulture and Livestock Project (World Bank)
IDEA-NEW	Incentives Driving Economic Alternatives for the North, East and West Program
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
MAIL	(Afghan) Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock
NGO	Non Governmental Organization
OIE	Office International des Epizooties
PADCO	Planning and Development Collaborative International Inc.
PRB	Partners in Revitalization and Building
PRT	Provincial Reconstruction Team
RAMP	Rebuilding Agricultural Markets in Afghanistan Program
SV	Stichting Vluchteling (Netherlands Refugee Foundation)
UK	United Kingdom
UNDP	United Nations Development Program
USAID	US Agency for International Development
VFU	Veterinary Field Unit
VO	Village Organization
VTSC	Veterinary Training and Service Centre



DCA-VET team in Kabul, 2008



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DCA-VET Mission

Foundation

The Dutch Committee for Afghanistan – Veterinary Programmes (DCA-VET) was founded on June 24th, 1994, by members of the Board of the already longer existing Dutch Committee for Afghanistan (DCA). The latter was founded in 1980, shortly after the Soviet invasion. Whereas previous activities of DCA included humanitarian assistance in a broader sense, DCA-VET focuses on veterinary and directly related livestock activities.

Mission Statement

The mission statement runs as follows:

“To offer aid and assistance to the population of Afghanistan by improving the health and productive output of the local livestock”

Objective and Activities

The main objective of DCA-VET is to protect and improve the health of existing livestock and to increase livestock production in Afghanistan.

To realise the objective, DCA-VET has developed programmes to:

- Train paraveterinarians (paravets) and Basic Veterinary Workers (BVWs)
- Establish district-based Veterinary Field Units (VFUs) throughout Afghanistan
- Provide for veterinary equipment, medicines and vaccines
- Support the sustainable delivery of animal health services at community level
- Support activities that enhance livestock production
- Support the integration of public and private veterinary services
- Enhance the range of services the VFUs can offer to their clients as well as their earning capacity.

Director's Introduction

The year 2008 has again not been an easy year for the country, its livestock, and thus for many of its inhabitants. It started off straight away with an extremely harsh winter period, followed by lack of rain in springtime. This time mainly the Northern regions were affected, contrary to the drought that hit Afghanistan early this century, when it was more the South that suffered (and for years on a stretch!)

Drought in Afghanistan means a direct threat to the rural communities, where so many depend on grazing facilities for their livestock. Livestock owners turned for aid and support to the government, who in turn approached the donors. The relief raised was only sufficient to alleviate the most acute needs, and could not avoid the death of thousands of livestock. Market prices for livestock and meat also tumbled, as many owners thought it better to sell off part of their stock.

Where livestock owners suffer, the livestock services providers suffer as well. The unfavourable climatic factors thus had a serious impact on our core-business, the establishment of the paravet-based Veterinary Field Unit (VFU) system, our approach to provide a sustainable system of veterinary services for the country. I had hoped that this now more or less privatized system would be allowed to develop and mature for two or three more years, without too much external disturbances. That way, the country could hopefully end up with a sustainable system of clinical veterinary services for its vast numbers of livestock, without financial burden to the government.

Nature indeed provided an additional challenge, next to the already existing numerous challenges – about which I wrote a year ago. It was however inspiring to learn that our joint fieldworkers' force managed to create a turnover of 2.9 million US\$, in fees, medicines and vaccines, and this in spite of the difficult economic conditions. Many of our field workers provided credit to livestock owners, from their own pocket, for which we in turn should give them credit!

All-in-all can be said that our VFU staff becomes more and more a stable and commercially balanced cadre and it is gratifying to note that also the major donor, USAID, appreciates and stimulates this development. The additional and extended funding of our biggest project, ASAP, now also including more commercial activities like the Cashmere Harvesting Campaign, is a clear sign of this.

The present Annual Report provides an overview of the ongoing activities of DCA-VET. Next to the already mentioned veterinary programme, other projects are described, like establishing an intensive animal health programme in the far outlying region of Badakhshan and an animal production programme in Baghlan Province that includes reviving the local cheese production plant.

The project in Badakhshan, implemented in collaboration with PRB in a subcontract from PADCO/AECOM, was threatened to be closed prematurely, but fortunately its activities could be continued under the ASAP extension.

The Baghlan project, centred on the Baghlan Cheese Factory, had a difficult year due to a limited supply of milk by the farmers (the drought also affected this province). The coming year will be crucial for this project, as the factory is scheduled to become financially independent by the end of this year. A promising start has been made with product diversification, and new technical improvements are being installed at the time of writing. So let's hope it will rain abundantly in Baghlan Province as well!

A special section in this Report is dedicated to the commemoration of the 20-years existence of DCA's Veterinary Programme. As some of you may recall, DCA started its veterinary programme as early as September 1988 in Peshawar. The impressive developments that took place in those two decades warranted some reflection and we spent a full day both in Lelystad and Kabul looking at the past, the present and the future, together with friends, colleagues and other work related contacts.

It was a memorable event, not in the least for me, as it was also the occasion where I took leave of my position as Director of DCA-VET. My successor, Ab Emmerzaal, took over as from thereon. Dr. Emmerzaal has been Member of our Board for about 14 years, and has as such visited the country on several occasions. Due to this and his extensive working experience, it is with full confidence that I have handed over the challenging task to bring our Mission to a good end. I know he will be assisted by a highly qualified team of professional experts and other co-workers, many of whom had joined DCA already in the Peshawar time!

With thanks to the whole DCA-VET team, and my other friends and colleagues!

Bram Schreuder, former Director





Afghan Livestock

Livestock husbandry is an integral part of agriculture in Afghanistan, providing livelihoods to 80% of the population. Around 75% of the land in Afghanistan is capable of supporting (only extensive) grazing.

The pre-war herd was estimated at almost 5 million cattle and around 27 million small ruminants, with additional smaller numbers of horses, donkeys and camels. In 1988, after a decade of war, it was estimated that 50% of the cattle and 70% of the small ruminants had been lost. In the early 1990s, however, livestock numbers and productivity increased again. The most recent estimate of livestock numbers comes from the FAO Census of 2003¹, recording 3.7 million cattle and 16 million small ruminants. Nowadays, both droughts and diseases are the major constraints to the livestock population. In the reporting year 2008, especially the Northern regions of the country suffered from serious shortage of rainfall.

There are two major livestock production systems in the country: semi-nomadic and irrigated sedentary. The semi-nomadic Kuchis, who account for 7 to 10% of the Afghan population, are raising 33% of the sheep, 39% of the goats and 5% of the cattle in the country on open access grazing lands (IDEA,

2003)². The remaining livestock population is kept by smallholder farmers under an irrigated system where cattle dominate the herd structure. Livestock is contributing to food security of the Afghan community both through primary food products (meat, milk, and eggs), as well as by increasing cultivated area through animal traction, production of organic fertilizer and transport. Livestock therefore is a vital part of the life of communities in rural areas and their farming systems.

Within this context, private veterinary services, including paravet-managed Veterinary Field Units (VFUs), are of ultimate importance to reduce livestock diseases and to increase livestock numbers and productivity. Preventive actions like vaccination against diseases such as Anthrax, Blackleg, Enterotoxaemia, Sheep-Pox, Peste des Petits Ruminants, Foot-and-Mouth Disease, and New-Castle Disease are important components of the animal health and production services, as well as the everlasting battle against parasitic diseases. The latter group of affections appears to gain importance whenever the condition of the livestock is weakened by scarcity of feed. It is therefore evident that animal health, production as well as husbandry issues should be addressed simultaneously and in conjunction with each other.

¹ FAO (2003) "Afghanistan National Livestock Census".

² International Development Economics Associates, 2003 "State of Afghan Agriculture".

About DCA-VET

The Dutch Committee for Afghanistan started its livestock oriented activities in 1988 by establishing the Veterinary Training and Support Centre (VTSC) in Peshawar (Pakistan). The aim was to provide basic veterinary care for the Afghan livestock population remaining after the Soviet invasion.

From the beginning, training, the establishment of veterinary field units (VFUs) and vaccine and medicine delivery are major components of the DCA-VET programmes. During the first period, funding was provided by the government of the Netherlands, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the European Community.

In 2004, the major donor agency for our programmes became USAID. Thanks to the USAID-supported project, *Rebuilding Agricultural Markets in Afghanistan Program* (RAMP), DCA-VET experienced a period of significant build-up of its manpower and facilities. In 2006, the DCA/RAMP consortium with AVA and PRB was working in 24 provinces with 400 VFUs staffed by 600 (para)veterinarians. From 2006 onwards, the main target areas of DCA-VET are in the North of Afghanistan, ranging from Herat in the Northwest to Badakhshan in the Northeast.

Training

In 2008, DCA-VET runs three training centres: in Herat, Mazar-i-Sharif and Charikar. In these centres, DCA-VET trains new paravets and Basic Veterinary Workers (BVWs) and provides refresher training courses for (para)veterinarians.

The paravet course takes 24 weeks. Participants are recruited by monitors, in consultation with the shuras, in villages with a need for veterinary care. The training curriculum is based on a problem-oriented approach with emphasis on practical aspects. Topics are prevention, diagnosis and treatment of frequently occurring animal diseases, animal production and business development. After finishing their training, the paravets return to their villages to start animal health care services.

The BVW training is a four- to five-week course on the major veterinary treatments. BVWs are taught to vaccinate animals on their own and to perform the most basic veterinary care.

Since its inception, DCA-VET has trained more than 750 paravets and over 600 BVWs for DCA-VET's own field programme as well as for other organizations.

VFUs

Originally, a VFU was a group of veterinary personnel covering most of a district. A typical VFU comprises one (para)veterinarian-in-charge, usually in the district centre, two to four paravets stationed elsewhere in the district, and additional BVWs covering remoter areas. The (para)vet-in-charge acts as a liaison between the service providing agency and the field unit for supply and reporting purposes. At present, the wording VFU is indicating a separate working location for one or two paravets or other veterinary staff.

DCA-VET supports the VFUs with the necessary veterinary equipment, a starting supply of vaccines and medicines, a refrigerator on solar energy, and a motorbike for visiting the farmers in the rural areas. To ensure self-sustainability of the VFUs, a system of cost recovery and fee for service was launched several years ago. To improve sustainability, the coming years the focus will be on diversification of services provided by the VFUs, and on marketing and extension campaigns to enhance the farmers' awareness of the benefits of the VFUs.

Vaccine delivery

From 1995, DCA-VET has implemented several vaccine delivery projects. Till now, DCA-VET distributed a total of more than 110 million doses of different vaccines. To improve cold chain facilities, refrigerators, cool boxes, and icepacks were provided for. Under the USAID-supported ASAP project, DCA-VET explores the possibility to establish a private, for-profit wholesaler and distributor of veterinary vaccines and medicines in Afghanistan, called VetServ, to ensure delivery of quality drugs after NGO support has ceased.

Animal distribution

Additionally to this standard package of training and support, in some projects DCA-VET has distributed poultry, small ruminants or dairy cattle to returning refugees or poor families to enable them to build up a living again. All beneficiaries received proper animal husbandry training.

Integration of private and public care

From the start, DCA-VET is addressing the issue of cooperation of private and public veterinary care. In a national animal health system, paravets and BVWs should play an important role in day-to-day veterinary care. DCA-VET's ultimate goal is a system in which private and public veterinary services work successfully together for the benefit of the Afghan livestock, farmers and consumers without any additional support by NGOs.



Collect an ID-card at the entrance



A cup of coffee and a chat



The Afghanistan picture exhibition



Peter de Leeuw, chairman of DCA Board



Raymond Briscoe, Country Programme Director



Bram Schreuder reviewed 20 years DCA



He definitely put a spell on the audience

DCA-VET 1988-2008, Lelystad

On September 5, 20 years of DCA-VET veterinary programmes were celebrated together with the farewell party of Bram Schreuder, the Executive Director of DCA-VET who was involved from the start in Peshawar in 1988. He proved to be very committed to the well-being of the Afghan people. Fortunately, he will continue applying his expertise to the benefit of DCA-VET for he accepted a seat in the Board of DCA-VET.



Time to say goodbye as CEO



Henk Arends, Gert-Jan Duives, Akke vd Zijpp



Rianne and Bram Schreuder



Some visitors at the reception



Buffet was served for all attendants



Ab Emmerzaal and Peter de Leeuw



Saying farewell



Celebration at Wedding Hall in Kabul



Preparations are ongoing



David Sherman introduced Bram Schreuder



Bram Schreuder reviewed 20 years DCA



Cake cutting ceremony



Then it's time for relaxation



Some traditional dancing

DCA-VET 1988-2008, Kabul
 The celebration in Afghanistan took place on October 15. Many officials, visitors from the Netherlands, and all in country DCA-VET staff were invited and a lot of them joined the festivities. Speeches were held, music was played, and cake was served as well as a tasty lunch. Bram Schreuder was honoured for his contributions during the past 20 years. Also gifts were presented to all staff for their loyalty and services.



More lectures after the break



Food is being served



All participants enjoyed their meal



Bram received a '20 years of service' award



And a beautiful Afghan tapestry



All DCA personnel received a memento



Gert-Jan Duives thanked the DCA team



Current Projects

ASAP – Accelerating Sustainable Agriculture Project – Broad-based livestock development

Term: December 2006 – March 2010
 Total budget: US\$ 7,010,184
 Funded by: USAID/Chemonics
 Programme Director: Dr. Raymond Briscoe
 Project Manager: Dr. David Sherman

Background

ASAP is a multi-target programme, boosting livestock and agricultural development, agricultural marketing and so-called value chains aimed at the production and sales of high valued products as cashmere and wool.

The ASAP broad-based livestock component focuses on expansion, strengthening and diversification of the VFU system, established under the USAID *RAMP Livestock Health, Production and Marketing Program* in the years 2004 - 2006. Unlike RAMP, which had an almost nation-wide coverage, ASAP is a regional programme, concentrating on 19 provinces in the North, Northwest and Central parts of Afghanistan.

Targets

The main objectives of the ASAP livestock component are:

- Complete the network of VFUs
- Improve and increase the animal health care services that VFUs can provide
- Diversify the range of services that VFUs provide to farmers
- Active VFU participation in development of selected value chains in the livestock sector

The development approach for VFUs in 2008 was a shift away from last year's focus on paraveterinary training towards VFU business sustainability. This year, the VFUs aimed at increasing net income of their private enterprises to become more and more sustainable.

Achievements 2008

Veterinary Field Units

The ASAP programme continued to support the expansion of the VFU network during 2008. This year, 24 new VFUs were established in the provinces of Herat, Ghor, Parwan, Badghis, Faryab, Bamyan, Farah, Balkh and Takhar, bringing the total number of VFUs operating in the ASAP region of 190 districts in 19 provinces to 350. This number amply meets the objective of one VFU per district,

and provides a broad coverage area of animal health services to livestock owners.

The number of VFUs established under ASAP in the past two years now stands at 62. All new VFUs received instruments, motor bikes, solar powered refrigerators and equipment to enable the VFU staff to provide reliable and quality services to the livestock owners in their own communities.

See page 11 for a map of all ASAP VFUs. Note: the provinces of Takhar and Badakhshan are not indicated on the map, while the provinces of Wardak, Logar and Ghazni are unjustly indicated.

VFU awareness campaigns

In order to raise their net income, VFUs strived to increase the use of their services and the sales of their goods. They did so through awareness campaigns to promote the importance of livestock disease control among the local farmers. A skilled veterinary extension unit was established that developed a strategy for extension work through the VFUs. By means of campaigns and other extension methods the VFUs are teaching the farmers on animal health and productivity and are promoting the use of the VFU quality veterinary services and products.

In 2009, the PRT/Agribusiness Development Teams at Bagram will develop a radio and extension campaign for the provinces of Parwan, Panjshir, Bamyán and Kapisa. This campaign will promote awareness of the control of livestock diseases and of diseases transmittable between animals and people.

VFU Branding

To strengthen the VFUs, branding is in preparation. A special VFU-logo was developed for recognition of all Afghanistan VFUs. As a first step towards a joint approach by the VFUs, a small ruminant herd health package was prepared. This package emphasizes that preventive medicine



leads to increased livestock productivity in addition to better animal health. The herd health package is expected to increase sales and veterinary services at VFUs. In the coming year other herd health packages will be developed, among which a cattle and a poultry package.

VFU vaccinations and treatments

In 2008, VFU administered some 6,800,000 vaccinations and around 4,600,000 medications. So 60% of the 11.4 million veterinary interventions were vaccinations. DCA-VET exceeded its target for the number of vaccinations and medications administered by 43%. On average, each VFU accounted for some 2500 interventions per month.

VFU sales

The ASAP programme also developed a survey tool to collect verifiable data from the VFUs on 'gross sales' through vaccinations, medications and other veterinary services. The survey has already yielded valuable information, notably that although activities concentrate on vaccinations, most income is derived from medications (treatments). While vaccinations accounted for 60% of the veterinary interventions, they accounted for only 30% of the gross sales. For this reporting period, the VFUs under ASAP reached a total gross sales figure of 2.9 million US\$.

VetServ

DCA-VET is currently the sole legally authorized importer and supplier of quality vaccines in Afghanistan. As part of an exit strategy for DCA-VET, the creation of VetServ, an Afghan private sector entity that could take over responsibility for the procurement and distribution of quality-controlled vaccines and medicines to the VFUs, is being investigated. A business concept paper for the creation of VetServ was developed and Flag International has been asked to conduct a full business appraisal. The investor Afghan Growth Finance has shown interest in VetServ and ASMED has expressed keen interest in providing logistical support to this project. In the beginning of 2009, Flag International will prepare a business plan and possible business partners will be discussed.

Mr. Bashir Ahmad, a paravet of the Veterinary Field Unit (VFU) in Kuhsan district of Herat province, says he enjoys his job, "I'm happy serving the local farmers and sharing my knowledge with them." He remembers one story in particular.

"Once I was asked by a farmer to come and see his sick cow. When I arrived at the farmer's home, I saw that he had already brought a butcher to slaughter the cow. The animal's condition was getting worse. I told the farmer that the cow would get well and I sent the butcher home. I successfully managed to treat the cow, which made the farmer really happy. I'd saved his cow and saved the farmer a lot of money."

Source: ASAP Annual Report 2008

Success Story

In August 2008, Herat Province reported an outbreak of CCHF - a disease transmitted to humans via tick bites and the blood of infected animals. At that time there were 16 known human cases resulting in three deaths. The Governor of Herat Province asked DCA-VET to help control the outbreak. DCA responded rapidly by conducting tick control campaigns in the villages at risk. Over the following week, DCA treated 4,300 animals for ticks by injection and sprayed 300 animal houses. DCA Regional Director, Dr. Abdul Qader Fakhri, participated with other agencies in CCHF prevention awareness campaigns on television and radio. Messages focused on how to reduce exposure to ticks and infected blood when slaughtering animals.

There has been only one additional suspected case since the end of August, and the disease is considered to be under control.

The district-level presence of the trained VFUs and DCA-VET's ability to rapidly stock and distribute quality drugs and insecticides all contributed to averting further human deaths.

Cashmere value chain

The VFUs played an important role in the 2008 ASAP Cashmere Harvesting Campaign in eight Northern provinces of Afghanistan. In this campaign ASAP trained 267 VFU staff on cashmere harvesting and quality awareness. These VFU staff, in their turn, trained more than 44,000 male and female goat farmers and herders how to harvest quality cashmere. To promote the campaign and increase the farmers' awareness of the value of cashmere, radio messages, posters and fact sheets were distributed to the VFUs and directly to farmers.



VFUs were also trained in how to procure and store the cashmere and encouraged to become local buyers of the product. A purchasing system with incentives was set up to ensure that harvested cashmere was purchased from the farmers. VFUs later sold the cashmere to the Afghanistan Cashmere Supply Company (ASCS), a new company established with ASAP's support to serve as a regional trader.

The first two weeks of June 2008 were a peak period for cashmere harvesting and sales, coinciding with the relatively short season in which cashmere is shed from goats. By the end of the month, over 3000 kg cashmere was brought by VFU

staff to Mazar for sale to ACSC and other traders in Mazar. A number of VFU staff showed a remarkable keenness and entrepreneurial spirit in cashmere collection while others remained uninvolved. One paravet in Jawzjan Province managed to collect 240 kg cashmere.

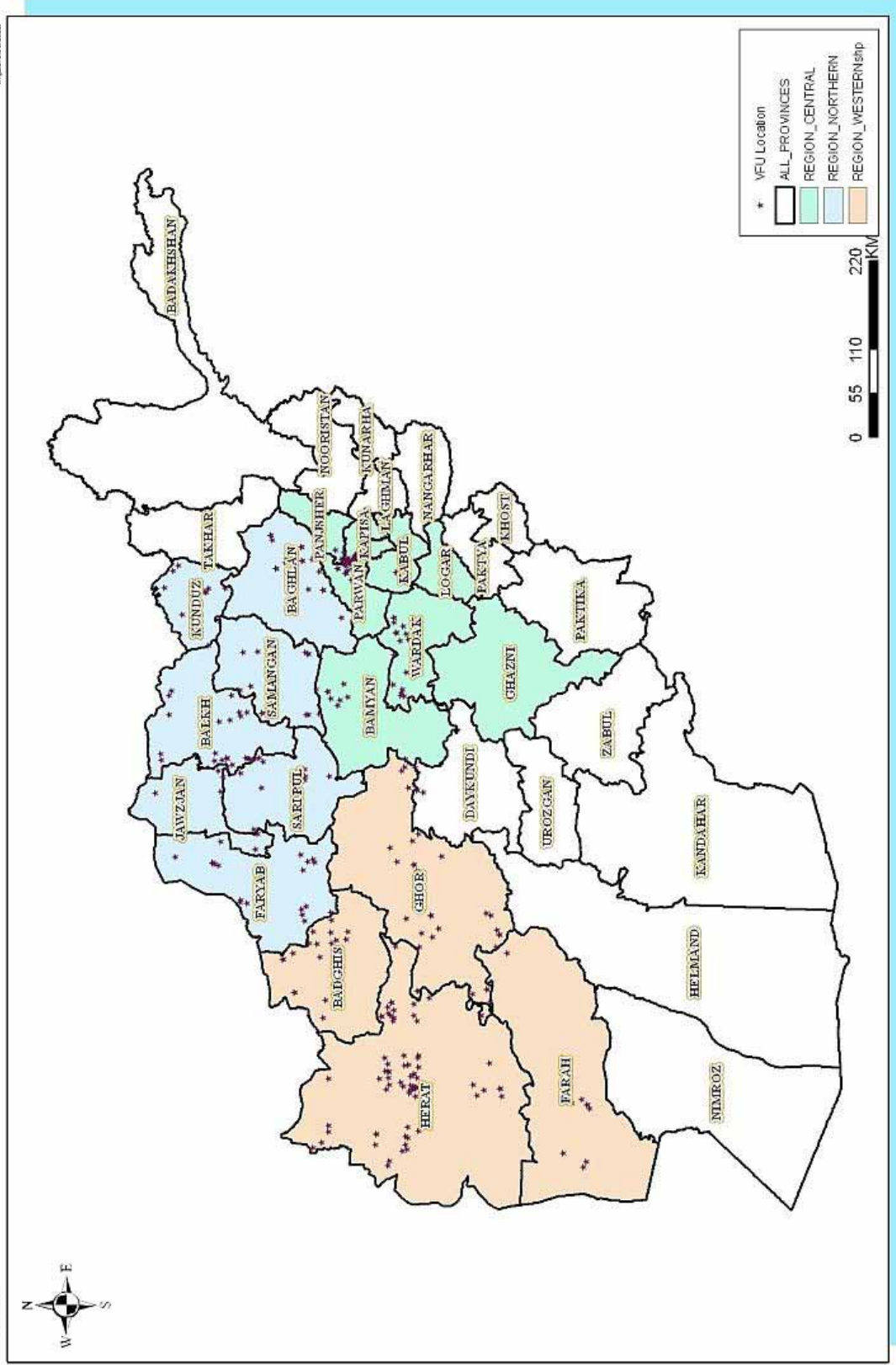


By the end of the 2008 cashmere harvesting season, ACSC had purchased 5,759 kg of raw cashmere through the VFU network. ACSC sold this cashmere to CashmereFine, an Italian company specialized in cashmere processing. In the near future, CashmereFine intends to establish its own cashmere processing plant in Balkh Province.

During the 2009 cashmere harvesting season, the lessons learned in 2008 will be implemented. The ASAP target for 2009 is to extend the Cashmere Harvesting Campaign. Therefore, some 750 VFU staff, trained on cashmere harvesting and quality awareness, will train 80,000 farmers on the same topics. VFUs will function as local traders of cashmere later in the harvesting season in 2009. This will provide them an additional opportunity to gain income. In fact, the Cashmere Harvesting Program is directly linked to ASAP's objective of expanding income streams for VFUs.



Afghanistan Map (ASAP Provinces) VFU Location





World Bank Horticulture and Livestock Project – Training portion of veterinary component

Term: October 2007 – March 2010

Total budget: US\$ 1,223,000

Funded by: World Bank

Training coordinator: Dr. Naqibullah Durani

Curriculum Development: Dr. Abdul Ghafor Torylai

Background

The World Bank has designed the veterinary component of the *Horticulture and Livestock Project* (HLP) in order to integrate public and private sectors in veterinary medicine and to create a comprehensive, national veterinary service in Afghanistan.

In the past twenty years, EU, USA and national donors have enabled NGOs like DCA-VET, AVA, PRB, Madera and Mercy Corps to build up a thriving network of private veterinary services. In the meantime, only limited financial resources were available to the public veterinary services to recover from 25 years of war and civil unrest. This has resulted in a separate development of the private and public veterinary sector with public veterinary facilities lagging behind.

Through the World Bank HLP project, a selected number of public veterinarians are now encouraged by the government to transfer to a privatized clinic. Meanwhile, existing private VFU staff is going to be trained to participate in contractual work for the control/surveillance of the major diseases present in Afghanistan, particularly the OIE listed diseases.

The veterinary part of the HLP project is contracted to AVA. DCA-VET is responsible for the veterinary training programme as a sub-contractor to AVA.

Targets

The training programme of HLP is aimed at improving the technical capacity of Afghanistan's veterinary professionals and paraprofessionals.

The programme consists of three separate components:

- Refresher training for government veterinarians transferring to privatized clinics (120 vets)
- Training of VFU staff to broaden their scope of activities to livestock owners (1,500 staff)
- Training of selected VFU staff to properly undertake Sanitary Mandates (400 vets)

Achievements 2008

The project started in October 2007 with the assessment of the training needs, identification and approval of specific course topics, curriculum development and recruitment of participants. All training courses took place at the DCA-VET Charikar VTSC. The training methods are based on DCA-VET's successful approach, combining classroom teaching with practical demonstrations and hands-on clinical activities. Close student-trainer contact and periodic assessment of progress by written and practical examination are essential elements of the DCA-VET training courses.

Privatization courses

In order to assist development of the curriculum of the Privatization Training for Government Veterinarians, one hundred potential trainees fulfilled a competency examination. The participants also proposed topics that they considered important for their training. Based on this assessment, DCA-VET prepared the curriculum for an 8-week course to prepare the veterinarians for entry to the private sector.

During 2008, 80 government veterinarians, veterinary assistants and paravets attended the privatization course. Under the HLP contract, AVA supports the government veterinary staff in the process of privatizing by supplying the necessary office furniture, veterinary equipment, motorcycles, cold chain equipment and veterinary vaccines and medicines. AVA monitors regularly visit the VFUs to monitor performance and provide advice to the staff. The training for Government Veterinarians entering the Private Sector will be completed in May 2009.

Training of VFU staff for expanded services

Following consultation with relevant organizations, four topics were identified for refresher training courses on expanded services. These topics are:

- *Differential diagnosis of highly contagious diseases and zoonoses*
- *Protozoal diseases + Common ecto- and endoparasites*
- *Proper use of antibiotics, anthelmintics + Common poultry diseases*
- *Dairy health, production, nutrition + Necropsy techniques*

In 2008, almost 400 trainees from different provinces attended the 2-week refresher courses. In the last quarter of 2008 a new course on *Equine Health* was developed in cooperation with The Brooke Hospital. This refresher course will be introduced in January 2009.

Sanitary Mandates

In 2008, no training on the Sanitary Mandates could take place, because the government had not yet finalized the legal base and the specific topics of the Sanitary Mandates. DCA-VET already developed an introductory module: *The basic skills of disease control*. Included in this module are courses like: *Disease surveillance system, Disease prevention and control schemes, Sanitary Mandate contracting scheme* etc. Specific topics for the Sanitary Mandate courses will be related to the final version of the mandates.

In order to accomplish all training objectives as planned, in 2009 DCA-VET will use its training centres in Mazar and Herat in addition to Charikar.





Livestock Disease Control Program in Badakhshan

Term: July 2006 – December 2008
 Total budget: US\$ 1,043,460
 Funded by: USAID/PADCO
 Project manager: Erik Jan Simonides

Background

By 2005, only two government veterinary clinics and six paravets were present in Badakhshan Province. These (para)vets had to take care of no less than 700,000 animals. In 2006, funds became available for strengthening of the veterinary services when PADCO developed the *Livestock Disease Control Program in Badakhshan*. This programme was launched under the USAID *Alternative Livelihoods Program* (ALP, later ADP: *Alternative Development Program*), intended to provide economic alternatives to the production of poppy in Afghanistan. DCA-VET has been executing the Badakhshan livestock programme together with its implementing partner PRB (Partners in Revitalization and Building).

Targets

The project aimed at strengthening the existing veterinary facilities in Badakhshan and at expanding veterinary services into areas with large animal populations.

The following targets have been formulated:

- Establishment of a Governmental Provincial Veterinary Centre
- Construction of 30 VFU buildings
- Training of 30 paravets and at least 150 BVWs (Basic Veterinary Workers)
- Procurement and distribution of veterinary vaccines, medicines and equipment
- Strengthening of public veterinary sector as well as support to the private veterinary sector.

Achievements 2008

Training

In previous years, already 27 paravets were trained. In January 2008, the last five paravets started their training at the Mazar-i-Sharif VTSC, where they graduated in July. In August, the new paravets could start their veterinary services: clinics were rented and furnished, and veterinary kits, solar powered refrigerators and motorcycles were handed over. From 2006 to 2008, 32 paravets were trained: two more than targeted at the request of the Head of Agriculture in Badakhshan.

From January 2008 onwards, several BVW courses have been conducted in different parts of the province. In each course, male as well as female BVWs were trained. In 2008, 106 BVWs graduated, among whom 61 men and 45 women. In total, the Badakhshan project delivered 196 BVWs, who are all performing basic veterinary services in their

home villages. By conducting the BVW courses with our own DCA-VET staff instead of external trainers we saved a considerable amount of the BVW budget line. This enabled DCA-VET to train 46 extra BVWs on top of the proposed number of 150.

Veterinary Field Units

The first paravets had to work from rented shops, because the building of new VFUs did not have a swift start and proceeded rather slowly. The reason may be that PADCO ordered the contractors to use fire brick and concrete instead of the commonly used mud brick, to make the VFUs more durable and earthquake resistant. These unfamiliar building materials posed problems for the contractors during the construction of the VFUs.

By January 2008, 13 VFUs were ready, so the other 17 VFUs had to be constructed in 2008. Only in October 2008, the last VFU was finished, furnished and equipped for animal health care. By then, all paravets could carry out veterinary services from a new, durable VFU. Alas, the paravets do not own the VFUs by themselves, as was intended; the government considers itself owner of the VFUs, because most VFUs are built on government land.

Vaccinations and medical treatments

The required vaccines and medicines were monthly distributed to the paravets from the temporary store in the DCA-VET/PRB compound in the capital of the province. In December 2008, the cold store could be transferred to its permanent location, the Provincial Veterinary Centre.

Demand for vaccines and other assistance from the paravets was high; every paravet who graduated started to work immediately at his full capacity.

In the table below, the veterinary services delivered in 2008 and during the whole project are shown, as well as the numbers of villages and farmers visited.

	2008	Total project
Vaccinations	905,000	1,315,000
Medications	236,000	360,000
Other services	2,500	7,500
Villages visited	7,000	12,500
Farmers visited	30,000	51,000

Roughly speaking, during the project, each paravet performed on average 4,000 vaccinations and 600 treatments per month. In total, more than 50,000 farmers benefited from the project.

In October 2008, a massive vaccination campaign was launched at a reduced price. It resulted in five times as many animals offered for vaccination as usual. This shows that the potential for vaccinations in Badakhshan is much higher than the paravets normally experience. More extension work is needed to convince the farmers of the benefit to have all their animals vaccinated.

Provincial Veterinary Centre

The construction of the new Veterinary Centre was ready in October 2007. However, the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock (MAIL) did not want to accept the building, because there still was no staff available, in particular no guards.

In the meantime, the purchase of laboratory equipment for the Provincial Centre and of a veterinary insert (a kind of mobile laboratory) for a disease investigation vehicle continued steadily. It took until October 2008 before the equipment for the Centre arrived and was installed.

At October 26th, 2008, the official handover of the Provincial Veterinary Centre and the veterinary investigation vehicle to the MAIL took place, in the presence of the American ambassador and the Badakhshan governor; a memorable event!



Premature termination of the programme

On August 26th, 2008, DCA-VET received a letter from PADCO, informing us that the ADP budget was inadequate to complete all planned activities in the 4-year ADP/N Program and Work Plan. The implication was that the livestock project had to end on 31 October 2008 instead of 31 January 2009. Fortunately, DCA-VET was awarded a two months extension period with a reduced budget to finalize the project. In these last two months, November and December 2008, DCA-VET could continue and finalize its veterinary vaccine and medicine store activities and the monitoring of the VFU activities and could train another 32 Badakhshan BVWs.



The Baghlan Cheese Factory:

(1) Animal Health and Production Programme in Baghlan Province

and

(2) Dairy Development in Baghlan Province

Terms: (1) December 2005 – April 2008 and (2) May 2008 – April 2010
 Total budget: (1) € 1,150,361 and (2) € 467,587
 Funded by the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs – Royal Netherlands Embassy Afghanistan
 Project manager: John de Wolff

Background

From December 2005 onwards, DCA-VET has been implementing the Animal Health and Production Programme aimed at developing animal husbandry and rebuilding the previously existing cheese factory in Baghlan. In 2006, the new Baghlan Cheese Factory (BCF) was built and cheese production started in December of that year. By the end of 2007, it became clear that the project period was not long enough to build up a thriving company. Therefore, an extension proposal was submitted, which has been rewarded by the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The new project, Dairy Development in Baghlan Province, which started in May 2008, is especially aimed at reaching a profitable and sustainable dairy plant.

Targets

Both projects intend to contribute to a sustainable economic development in Baghlan by boosting the milk production and offering the cattle farmers an outlet for surplus milk.

Specific targets are:

- Preparing the grounds for a financially sound and sustainable dairy industry in Baghlan
- Improving the milk supply, especially during winter
- Training the Baghlan Farmers' Cooperative to run the factory by itself

Achievements 2008

Dairy production

In total, 596 farmers delivered milk to the factory. Total milk supply in 2008 was more or less the same as in 2007, ranging from 5,000 litres per month in December and January, to 33,000 litres in August. Milk supply was lower than expected, partly because of the dry spring and summer conditions. Besides, some 50% of the local milk was sold by the farmers to private milk traders working for ice cream shops that can afford to pay a higher price than the factory does and do not test the milk.

At the start of the factory, only Gouda cheese was produced. Since July 2007, the factory is aiming at a

more diverse production. The table below shows the amounts of milk used for various products during the year 2008. Gouda cheese, pizza cheese (also called fresh breakfast cheese) and mozzarella are the top 3 products. Gouda cheese has a good storage potential, so it can be produced in summer and sold in winter when milk supply and thus dairy production is rather low. However, Gouda cheese is not very popular in Afghanistan. A promising product is Afghan yoghurt, which is highly demanded. In 2009, equipment for a special yoghurt line will be installed, enabling large scale production of yoghurt.

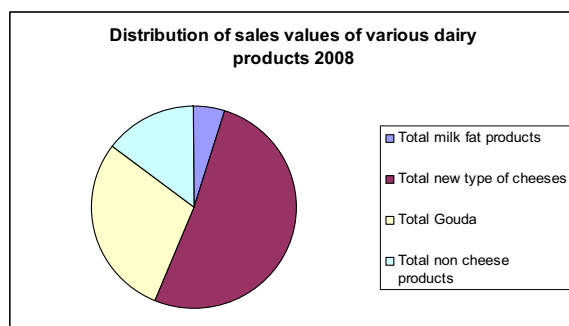
Milk utilization (in litres) in 2008	
Product	litres milk
Gouda	82,000
Pizza cheese	50,000
Mozzarella	37,000
Cumin cheese	10,000
Feta cheese	3,500
Pasteurized milk	23,000
Qurut	3,500
Cream	1,200
Yoghurt	600

Sales and marketing

The dairy products were mainly brought to the market in Kabul (94%). Here, the products were sold to restaurants, hotels, supermarkets and private customers by two BCF Sales Agents.

Compared to 2007, sales increased considerably, i.e. by a factor 3.5. In 2007, sales were US\$ 22,500; in 2008 total sales amounted to US\$ 78,000.

In the graph below is shown that more than 50% of the sales are non-Gouda cheeses. Pizza cheese is one of our most successful products. Mozzarella is also highly demanded.



Despite the increased sales compared to 2007, total sales in 2008 were not enough to cover the expenses. In 2009, the factory intends to increase sales and to reduce costs by lowering the number of (senior) factory staff and by lowering the energy costs.

Additional investments

To expand the milk intake during peak season and to get diversification of products, extra investments have been made in 2008. The remains of the former cheese factory, still present on the plot of the BCF, have been renovated to create more working room for a wide range of products. Extra cooling and refrigerating facilities for fast cooling and storage have been purchased. Also considerable investment was done for setting up a new yoghurt line. Yoghurt is a dairy product with a good market and high profit.

Ownership of the factory

At present, the Baghlan Cheese Factory is owned by DCA-VET. However, the intention is to gradually hand over the factory to a cooperative of farmers in the years to come. The Baghlan Farmers' Cooperative has been established and registered in 2008. The cooperation organized already a vaccination campaign in the neighbourhood and collected samples for Brucellosis testing. An independent Baghlan Cheese Factory Business Unit will be formed, with a board of representatives of DCA-VET and of the farmers' cooperative. After some years DCA-VET intends to retreat and the Baghlan Farmers' Cooperative will attain the full ownership of the Baghlan Cheese Factory.

Hungarian support

The Baghlan Cheese Factory received valuable support from the Hungarian PRT in 2008. Very welcome was the financing of the equipment of the milk laboratory. The PRT also supported two vaccinations campaigns against Brucellosis, furniture for the office of the farmers' cooperative, and a study tour for three farmers and a cheese maker to Turkey (due to visa problems the tour has been postponed to the middle of 2009).

Preview to 2009

The coming year the next challenges will be tackled:

- Increasing the milk supply
- Improving the production process
- Reducing the costs
- Setting up a new yoghurt line
- Establishing the Business Unit
- Increasing the sales

QUOTE

H.E. Ghulam Mustapha Jawad, Acting Minister of MAIL, stated on 19 October 2008: *"I consider this activity (i.e. the Baghlan Cheese Factory) very important for the local farmers."*



Rural Extension, Animal Health and Production Programme for Refugees Returning to Afghanistan

Term: July 2007 – June 2008

Total budget: € 75,505

Funded by: Stichting Vluchteling, the Netherlands

Project managers: Dr. Jaheed and Dr. Jabarkheil

Background

During the Taliban regime, four million Afghans fled from their homeland, of which 3.5 million returned to Afghanistan after the fall of the Taliban in 2001. Qarabagh was one of the districts with the highest returnee rates. To help the returnees to build up their lives again, DCA-VET started a livestock extension project funded by Stichting Vluchteling, a Dutch Foundation aiding refugees and returnees all over the world. This project started in 2003 and was prolonged annually till June 2008. Within Qarabagh, DCA-VET established 29 so-called Village Organizations (VOs). These VOs received training for capacity building, and a revolving micro credit for purchasing cattle, small ruminants and poultry. In addition, the beneficiaries were taught to take care of their animals.

Targets

Because 2007/2008 would be the last project year, the main objective of this period was to implement a phase out strategy. Specific targets were:

- Last 10 VOs function well and independently
- A sustainable loan program
- Fifty-eight BVWs, working without support

- Transfer of knowledge to new beneficiaries
- Evaluation of the revised poultry training

Achievements 2008

VOs and sustainable loan program

Of the ten target VOs, six were established in 2006 already. In 2008, they revolved their micro loans for the first time. 94 new families benefited: 54 received a cow, 36 a sheep and 4 families got 50 chickens. In the other four target VOs, newly established in 2007, 32 families were provided with a cow and her calf.

During their monitoring visits to the VOs, the SV staff stressed that the VOs should soon be able to revolve the loans by themselves. For that reason, the staff gradually changed their rather initiating role to a more coaching one. All 29 VOs that were established from 2004 onwards have been monitored until June 2008. Each VO proved to be perfectly able to pass on the loan to new beneficiaries, also after the period of direct supervision by the SV staff had ended. So the VOs function very well without support.

Basic Veterinary Workers

In November and December 2007, in each of the four new VFUs one male and one female BVW have been trained. In the other 25 VOs, two BVWs are active as well, amounting to a total of 58 BVWs all over Qarabagh. Monitoring visits proved that all BVWs are still on duty, performing basic veterinary services in their villages, whenever one of their fellow-villagers calls for their help.

Transfer of knowledge to new beneficiaries

In 2008, 130 women were trained in animal husbandry. 100 of them received refresher training as well. Poultry training and refresher training were given to 105 respectively 100 women. One of the issues of the refresher training is to transfer the knowledge of animal husbandry to new beneficiaries. As a result, all trained women can pass their knowledge to other women. This is an important condition to support a sustainable loan programme managed by the VOs themselves without any help of NGO staff.

Evaluation of revised poultry training

In 2008, the poultry training curriculum was thoroughly revised and extended with new subjects. Also the duration of the course has been doubled to ensure the trainees have enough time to fully acquire the necessary husbandry skills. Results were very promising: the training reduced mortality of poultry from 70% to 19% and the number of eggs produced per chicken increased from 5 to 14 per month.

It can be safely concluded that the project was ended with a positive result.



Improving Basic Services and Capacity Building in Uruzgan, Inception Phase

Term: July 2008 – March 2009

Total budget: € 184,401

Funded by: the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs – Royal Netherlands Embassy Afghanistan

Project manager: Dr. Raymond Briscoe

Subcontractor: AVA, Dr. Sayed Safi

Background

In 2006, three Dutch NGOs working in Uruzgan joined forces in the so-called Dutch Consortium for Uruzgan (DCU) and came forward with a joined proposal. The first project clearly showed the advantages of working together. In April 2008, two other NGOs, among which DCA-VET, joined DCU that now consists of Save the Children, HealthNet TPO, Cordaid, ZOA-Vluchtelingen zorg and DCA-VET. A second proposal for a large 4-year programme was prepared. In July 2008 the inception phase of this programme started.

DCA-VET subcontracted the Afghanistan Veterinary Association (AVA) for the fieldwork in Uruzgan, because of their previous experience in this province. Because of the fragile security situation only local people can work more or less safely in Uruzgan.

Targets

During this inception phase the main targets were:

- preparing an in-depth analysis of present animal health interventions in Uruzgan
- training of veterinary personnel

- restocking medicine and vaccine stores

Achievements 2008

Analysis of present animal health interventions

A desktop analysis of the veterinary services in Uruzgan revealed that the present animal health system (seven VFUs of Mercy Corps and AVA with together 16 paravets) is not able to serve the total livestock population (some 700,000 animals) in Uruzgan. Extra veterinary personnel have to be trained, and for the existing paravets refresher training on laboratory techniques and Artificial Insemination (AI) would be welcome. VFU facilities and supplies should be improved and extended. There is also a great need for supply of winterfeed and extension on animal nutrition. Special attention should be given to the nomadic Kuchis, travelling all over Uruzgan with their livestock.

Training of veterinary personnel

In September 2008, 10 Uruzgan trainees started their paravet training at the DCA Veterinary Training Centre in Mazar-i-Sharif. These trainees are selected from all over the province to reinforce the staff of existing VFUs or start a new VFU in districts with no veterinary services. In March 2009, they will graduate and return to their home district, where they will be functioning as skilled members of the local VFU staff. All requirements for two new VFUs have been procured. So the total number of Uruzgan VFUs will be nine.

Five of the already qualified paravets ran refresher training on laboratory techniques and their VFUs received special equipment for performing basic laboratory tests. Five other paravets successfully completed the AI refresher course and were provided with AI equipment including 50 semen straws of Holstein breed.

Restocking medicine and vaccine stores

In Tarin Kowt a special regional office was furnished with deep freezers for cold storage of vaccines. A sufficient stock of vaccines and medicines has been stored in the Tarin Kowt regional office as well as in the DCA-VET stores for further supply to the Uruzgan VFU staff. From August through December a total of 72,000 vaccinations were accomplished against a variety of contagious diseases. During this first year vaccinations are for free, but in later years the percentage of cost recovery will be slowly increasing till 100% in order to enhance sustainability of the VFUs.

The 4-year DCU-2 project will start in 2009. Veterinary services will be extended, diagnostic facilities improved and animal production enhanced.



Integrated Livestock Sector Development Program in Badghis Province

Term: December 2008 – December 2010
 Total budget: US\$ 1,037,512
 Funded by: AECID, Spain
 Acting Project manager: Dr. Abdul Qader Fakhri

Background

Livestock production is the backbone of the rural economy in Afghanistan providing nutrition, draft power, assets and income generation. Most people in Badghis rear goats and sheep, but not all of them have the means of feeding the animals properly because of the lack of forage during summer and the long cold season. During last winter, between 5 and 10% of Badghis' livestock died due to lack of food and low temperatures.

Households need to ensure a continuous source of food and income during the year. To fulfill these needs women play a key role, cultivating small kitchen gardens where they can rear poultry as an alternative to goat and sheep production. Poultry is a good source of animal proteins and lipids. With only a small garden, some chickens, and some chicken feed it is possible to get meat and eggs in a short period of time. A small number of families in Badghis rear poultry at home, but because of limited knowledge on poultry husbandry the production yield is very little.

Targets

The programme consists of two separate parts:

- a. VFU strengthening project
- b. Poultry project

The targets for the VFU strengthening project are:

- Enlargement of the VFU network in Badghis
- Establishment of a Provincial Veterinary Support Centre
- To improve skills and knowledge of VFU staff

- To increase farmers' awareness of VFU services

The objectives of the poultry project are:

- To improve food security and to increase income among most vulnerable families by means of poultry rearing
- To empower independence of women by training them in poultry husbandry
- To strengthen women's groups

Achievements 2008

The VFU project started from December 2008 onwards, the poultry project will commence the 1st of January 2009. Therefore, only a few, mainly preparatory, activities took place in 2008.

VFU project

To manage the project, a number of essential staff members were recruited, among whom two field monitors. These monitors started to assess the activities of the existing Badghis VFUs immediately. Besides, twelve paravet trainees (see both photographs on this page) have been selected: nine male and three female, originating from five different districts. They will start the paravet course at the VTSC in Herat in the first week of January 2009.

Poultry project

Dr. Fakhri visited a number of poultry farms in Kabul in order to assess breeds of layers that would be suitable for the poultry project. Some female and male farmer's schools, established by AKF in Baghlan, were visited as well, being good models for Badghis extension programs.

The female extension trainer of the Herat VTSC attended in Kabul a 'Training of poultry trainers' course. A female Community Development Specialist and Poultry and Training Specialist were recruited. Both women are looking forward to commence work on January 1st 2009. The Herat female extension worker will support them.



Other activities

In addition to its regular projects, in 2008 DCA-VET has been engaged in facilitation of three projects of other organizations, i.e.

- The Brooke/DCA project on Equine Animal Welfare
- PRT/USAID Goat cheese assessment in Nuristan
- Mercy Corps training programme

The Brooke/DCA Partnership on Equine Animal Welfare

The Brooke is a UK registered charitable organization, which aims to improve the welfare of working equine animals in developing countries. As a specialist equine welfare organization, the Brooke is able to offer expertise, training and technical support to NGOs working in the field.



From April 1, 2008, till March 31, 2009, The Brooke and DCA-VET are implementing a programme on equine health, funded by the Brooke Hospital (US\$ 66,290).

Two experts, the Brooke/DCA project manager and the Brooke/DCA veterinary advisor, have been recruited to support the implementation of the programme; they are based in DCA-VET Kabul office.

In 2008, specialist equine training courses for DCA-trainers have been conducted to 'train the trainers'.

A special refresher course on Equine Health was developed and in January 2009 this course was introduced as a new topic in the array of World Bank refresher courses.

The Brooke/DCA equine welfare project is now extended by one year until 31 March 2010.

Goat Cheese Assessment – Nuristan Province

In 2008, DCA-VET facilitated the mission of the Dutch cheese and dairy consultant Ben Weijers, who has also been advising on the production process of Baghlan Cheese, to Nuristan. This mission, initiated by the Nuristan PRT and funded by USAID/DAI, was aimed at assessing the production of the traditional Nuristan goat cheese and investigating the marketing possibilities of this product in Kabul and other major Afghan cities. In August/September 2008, the first 3-weeks fact finding mission was executed, which will be followed by a mission on training the shepherds in hygienic goat cheese production methods in spring 2009.

Because of security reasons the consultant could not travel through the province and meet the farmers himself. Instead he invited several shepherds for an interview to a safe place. In these interviews questions on cheese processing, storing and maturation, and hygiene and sanitation were posed. The interviews revealed there is not just one typical Nuristani goat cheese recipe; there are some minor geographical differences. Because the cheese is processed in an artisan way under low standard hygienic conditions, it does not meet the level of food safety for marketing. However, with a few adjustments and small investments, the cheese can easily be upgraded to a uniform, commercial profitable and food-safe product.

At the beginning of the new grazing season (spring 2009), Nuristan cheese makers will be trained in some adaptations in cheese processing and storing methods, and in hygienic and sanitation measures.

Training of Trainers course for Mercy Corps

On request of Mercy Corps, DCA-VET trained a number of Agriculture High School teachers. The topics of these courses were suggested by Mercy Corps. DCA-VET developed a curriculum around these topics within the scope of expertise of the agricultural teachers. The courses, of 10 days duration each, were conducted at the DCA-VET Mazar-i-Sharif VTSC.

In total, DCA-VET conducted two courses on Animal Health and Husbandry with a specific practical based curriculum. The first course consisting of 18 trainees started in October 2008, and the second with 12 trainees in November. All thirty trainees, agriculture teachers from various provinces, graduated from these courses.

Organization

In October 2008, after a long and fruitful period of commitment to DCA-VET, Bram Schreuder retired as Executive Director to become a member of the DCA-VET Board. Ab Emmerzaal, already quite a number of years member of the DCA-VET Board, succeeded Bram Schreuder as Executive Director.

In Afghanistan, DCA-VET's Country Programme Director Raymond Briscoe is supervising the overall Afghanistan staff, consisting of some 140 Afghan nationals, and four expats.

Being a foundation, DCA-VET has a Board that outlines the DCA-VET policy. An Advisory Board provides the Board for support and expert advice.



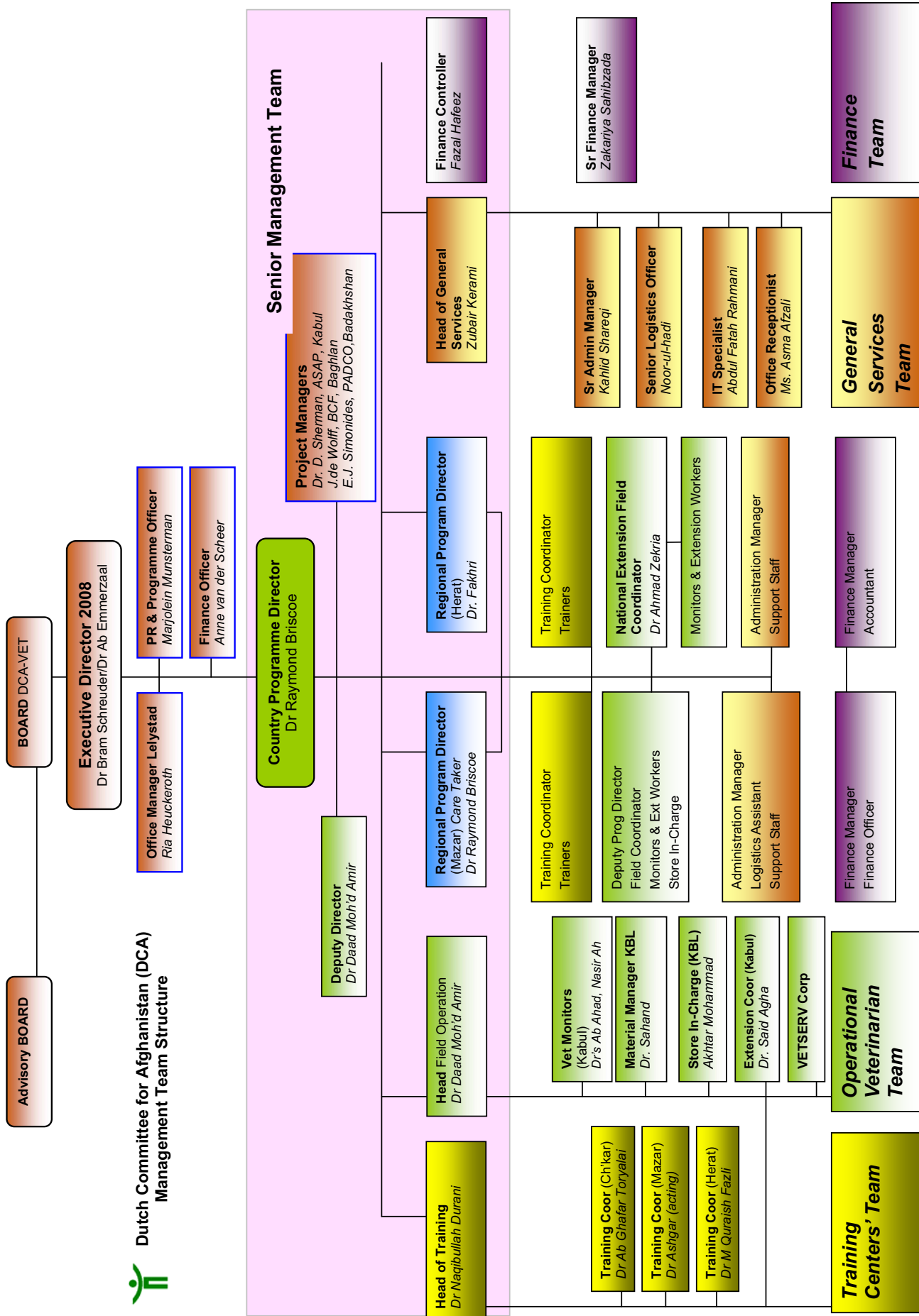
Standing from left to right: Bram Schreuder, Cees de Haan, Gert-Jan Duives, Akke van der Zijpp, Ria Heuckeroth, Peter de Leeuw, Henk Moll; sitting: Ab Emmerzaal, Frauke de Weijer, Marjolein Munsterman; not present: Henk Arends

Board of DCA-VET 2008

Mr. Peter W. de Leeuw DVM PhD Chairman	CVO of the Netherlands; chairman since mid 2003
Mr. Gert-Jan Duives DVM Secretary	Lecturer in Animal Health, Agricultural College, Den Bosch; former Director of VTSC Pakistan; member of the Board since its foundation
Mr. Henk J. Arends Treasurer	Accountant; member of the Board since October 2003
Mr. Bram Schreuder DVM PhD	DCA-VET Executive Director till October 2008; member of the Board since October 2008

Advisory Board of DCA-VET 2008

Mr. Cees de Haan	Senior Livestock Advisor, World Bank, Washington DC., US
Mr. Henk A.J. Moll PhD	Former University Lecturer Agricultural Development Economics, University of Wageningen, the Netherlands
Mrs. Prof Akke J. van der Zijpp PhD	Professor and Head of Animal Production Systems Group University of Wageningen, the Netherlands
Mrs. Frauke de Weijer DVM	Veterinarian / Cultural Anthropologist, currently working as Veterinary Services Monitoring and Coordination specialist, in the EU Animal Health Development Project at the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation & Livestock, Kabul

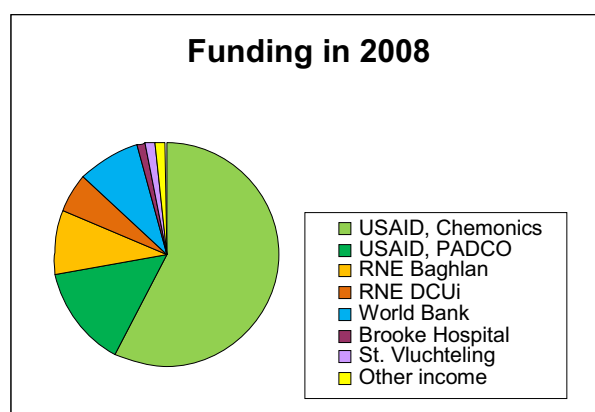


Funding

The table below presents an overview of the projects DCA-VET has been implementing in 2008, the funding agencies and the total budget of the projects.

Funding agencies	Project	Budget total project
USAID/Chemonics	Accelerating Sustainable Agriculture Program (ASAP) <i>December 2006 – March 2010</i> (52 months)	US\$ 7,010,184
USAID/PADCO	Livestock Disease Control Program in Badakhshan <i>July 2006 – December 2008</i> (29 months)	US\$ 1,043,460
World Bank	Horticulture and Livestock Project – Training portion of veterinary component <i>October 2007 – March 2010</i> (30 months)	US\$ 1,223,000
Royal Neth. Embassy	Animal Health and Production Programme in Baghlan Province <i>December 2005 – March 2008</i> (30 months)	€ 1,150,361 US\$ 1,390,208
Royal Neth. Embassy	Dairy Development in Baghlan Province <i>May 2008 – April 2010</i> (24 months)	€ 467,587 US\$ 655,355
Royal Neth. Embassy	DCU-i Improving Basic Services and Capacity Building in Uruzgan, Inception Phase <i>July 2008 – March 2009</i> (9 months)	€ 184,401 US\$ 239,721
Stichting Vluchteling	Rural Extension, Animal Health and Production Program for Refugees Returning to Afghanistan <i>July 2007 – June 2008</i> (12 months)	€ 75,505 US\$ 100,406
Brooke Hospital	DCA/Brooke Partnership <i>April 2008 – March 2009</i> (12 months)	US\$ 66,190
AECID	Strengthening of Veterinary Field Units and Poultry Husbandry Program in Badghis Province <i>December 2008 – December 2010</i> (24 months)	US\$ 1,037,512

During the year 2008, the total income DCA-VET received amounted to US\$ 2,806,105. Nearly three quarter of the annual income was funded by USAID; more than a quarter came from Dutch grants (Royal Netherlands Embassy and Stichting Vluchteling), the World Bank, Brooke Hospital, and some smaller additional funds (other income).





Prospects

During the last years, activities of DCA-VET have developed enormously. International donors are eager to support development projects in Afghanistan focused on improving animal health and livestock production. The programme of DCA-VET in privatization of veterinary services proves to be a successful approach to implement projects (sub) contracted by donors like USAID, the World Bank, the Royal Netherlands Embassy, and other.

The network of veterinary field units (VFUs) has become rather extensive already and expanded to a number of 450 supported by DCA-VET. However, in many provinces the density of VFUs still has to be increased and for that purpose need assessments are carried out. New projects can fill the existing gaps in veterinary services.

Furthermore, the focus of the DCA-VET programme moves from VFU establishment and paravet training to intensive monitoring and support of existing VFUs, including training courses for VFU staff in business skills and diversification of the range of services that VFUs can provide to farmers. Another principal aim of DCA-VET's current efforts in Afghanistan is to enhance integration of public and private veterinary services.

In 2008, the Stichting Vluchteling project came to a definitive end after many years of support to Afghan refugees and returnees. Also the PADCO/USAID Livestock Disease Control Program in Badakhshan stopped at 31-12-2008. However, in 2009, six running projects will continue and a few new projects might be started up.

Accelerating Sustainable Agriculture Program

In November 2008, a contract modification extended the ASAP project through March 2010 with a substantial increase of the budget. This offers an important basis for the DCA-VET activities in the targeted provinces. In the ASAP project, DCA-VET stimulates the commercial activities for VFUs

considerably, including training of the involved (para)veterinarians. This underlines the DCA-VET mission statement to create sustainable private veterinary services in Afghanistan. The delivery of medicines and vaccines by DCA continues, but it is one of the project targets to establish VetServ as an independent enterprise to take over this veterinary drug delivery. In the ASAP project, the VFUs play an important role in Cashmere collection and distribution of (emergency) winterfeed.

World Bank Horticulture and Livestock Project

The DCA-VET training centre in Charikar is fully occupied with the successful refresher and training courses for (para)veterinarians in the framework of the World Bank HLP project. This project will continue up to 31 March 2010. In order to facilitate sufficient training courses as contracted, in 2009 the DCA-VET training centres in Mazar-i-Sharif and Herat will be involved in this project as well.

Baghlan Cheese Factory

The Baghlan Animal Health and Production project was closed on March 31st, but made a restart on the 1st of May through the project "Dairy Development in Baghlan Province", intended to make the Baghlan Cheese Factory viable. This follow-up project covers a period of six years, with donor funding by the Royal Netherlands Embassy during the first two years. From 2014 onwards, the factory has to be a profitable and sustainable enterprise, owned by a cooperative of farmers. There are still a lot of challenges to tackle, mainly to collect enough milk for the factory and to find sufficient marketing outlet for the products. The project team is working very hard to find sustainable solutions.

The Brooke/DCA Equine Animal Welfare Project

In 2009, DCA-VET will facilitate the team of Brooke for another year to implement their Equine Welfare programme in Afghanistan. A curriculum for training in equine health has been developed and will be part of the training programme in Charikar VTSC.

AECID

AECID stands for an Integrated Livestock Sector Development Program in Badghis Province, supported by the Spanish government. This project is mainly organized by the DCA Regional Office in Herat. From 1 December 2008 to 30 November 2010, two programmes will be implemented. By strengthening the VFU network the project will contribute to increase animal production as well as farmers' income. A second objective is to improve the food security of vulnerable families in a particular district in Badghis. For this purpose, a simultaneous project will assist poor women in raising poultry, but also support the women to take

care of their children's health, nutrition and education.

In Herat VTSC, DCA-VET is training more female paravets: in the course of December 2008, seven female trainees are participating.

DCU

During the inception period of this project in Uruzgan (DCU-i) in 2008, a proposal for the main project, called DCU-2, has been prepared. This 4-year project started in April 2009. Together with the four Dutch consortium partners, DCA-VET has the objective to improve the basic services in the province of Uruzgan. As a subcontractor, the Afghanistan Veterinary Association (AVA) will implement the veterinary services in the field through VFUs. Extra activities in the project are laboratory services, artificial insemination and promotion of the production of winterfeed.

EU

From the EU delegation in Afghanistan DCA-VET has got notice of an EU funded project. During the preparation of the 2008 Annual Report a proposal was submitted to the EU delegation for a 3-year project with a total budget of about € 1.7 million to

be implemented in four provinces in the West (Herat, Farah, Ghor and Badghis). Also the Training Centre in Charikar is involved. The main objectives are not only to continue and improve animal health and welfare services in the four provinces, but also to continue and improve the education of the different animal health service providers.

Another important target is to strengthen institutional and organizational relationships between public and private animal health service providers.

IFAD

During 2008, support was given to design a livestock project for IFAD (a FAO agency). It is expected that this project will be published in 2009 via a tender procedure and that DCA-VET will apply.

IDEA-NEW

USAID has launched another important project for development of agriculture and livestock in North, East and West Afghanistan. In March 2009, this programme has been awarded to DAI (Washington, USA). Besides two subcontractors, DCA-VET is mentioned as a source organization in the DAI proposal. During 2009, it will become clear what role DCA-VET can play in this extensive 5-year project.

Overview of DCA-VET projects

Finalized in 2008: orange; Ongoing projects: green; Possible new projects: blue

	2008	2009	2010	2011
SV	07/07 – 06/08			
PADCO	07/06 – 12/08			
ASAP	12/06 – 03/10			
World Bank	10/07 – 03/10			
Baghlan	- 03/08	05/08 – 04/10		
Brooke		04/08 – 03/09	04/09 – 03/10	
AECID		12/08 – 12/10		
DCU		07/08 – 03/09	04/09 – 05/13	
EU				
IFAD				
IDEA-NEW				

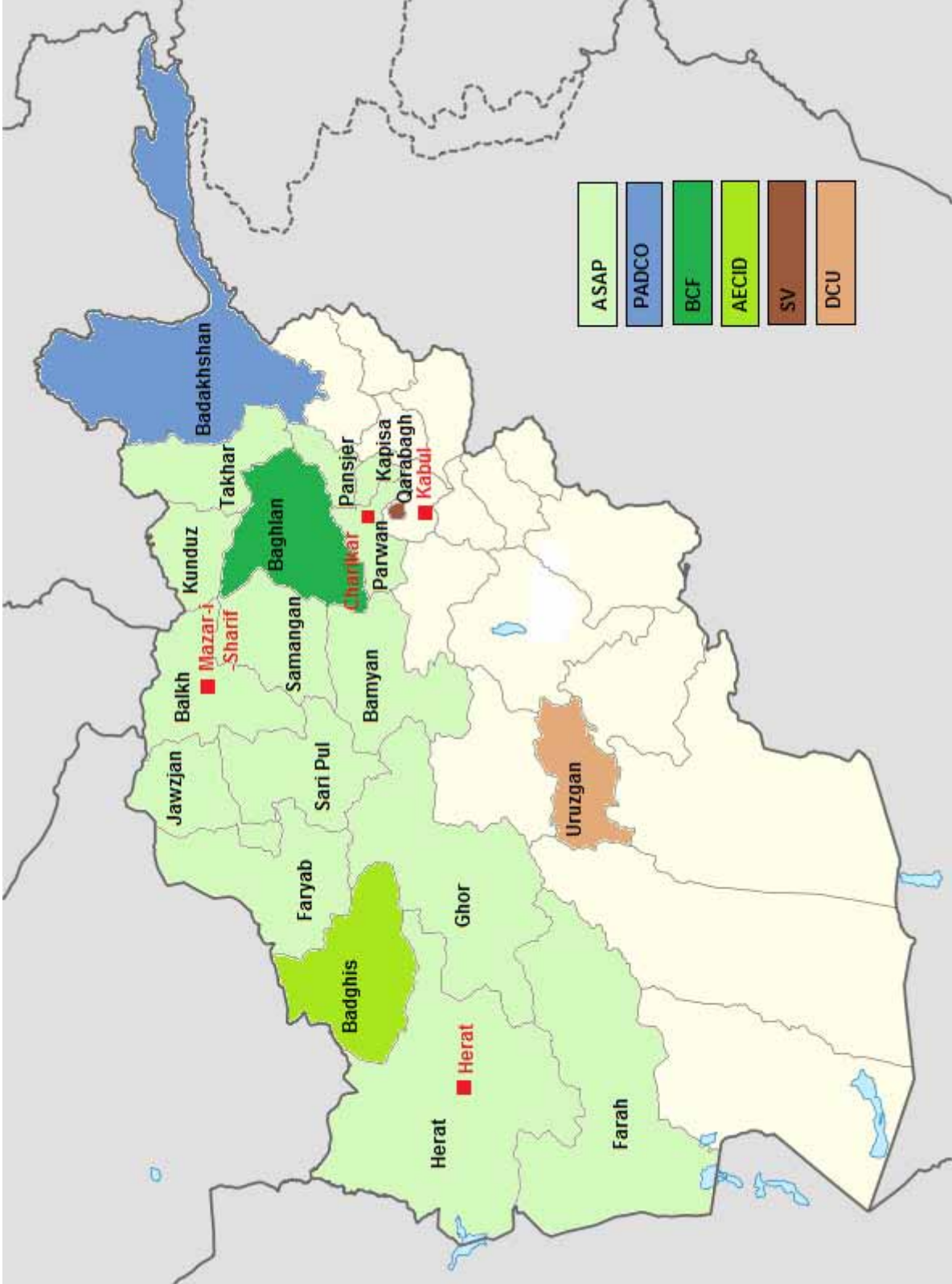
Epilogue

In the preceding chapters an overview was presented of DCA-VET's history, current projects, focus and future plans. I hope you share my feelings of proud and admiration of what has been achieved with a dedicated local team of Afghans, highly motivated expats, competent headquarter staff and continuing support of financiers with vision and compassion. Indeed, the situation has improved and the first discussions about an exit strategy already started. However, DCA-VET's commitment to the

Afghan people is unchanged and the mission is not completed yet.

In 2008, Bram Schreuder resigned as Executive Director of DCA-VET. He initiated the activities 20 years ago and provided many years of powerful leadership. We are glad he will remain active within our Board. Our new director, Ab Emmerzaal, has considerable experience and visited Afghanistan frequently. We are confident that he will be successful in his new position.

Peter de Leeuw, Chairman DCA-VET Board





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