



DUTCH COMMITTEE FOR AFGHANISTAN

کمیته هالند برای افغانستان



VETERINARY PROGRAMMES



Annual Report 2007

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Annual Report 2007

Dutch Committee for Afghanistan

Veterinary Programmes

Lelystad, the Netherlands



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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

It is with great pleasure that I am introducing here our Annual Report for the year 2007. It describes all our currently implemented projects, like the USAID funded ASAP (by far DCA-VET biggest project supplying private veterinary services in Central, North and West Afghanistan), the World Bank veterinary training component, an intensive animal health programme in the far outlying province of Badakhshan, and an animal production programme in Baghlan province that includes reviving a local cheese production plant. Especially the latter witnessed an interesting period, with broadening its array of products and improving its market outlet. It is hoped that in a few years a farmers' cooperative will take over main responsibility for this small but exciting project.

The report deals with a number of projects and activities, out of which the core-business of DCA-VET, the establishment of the paravet based Veterinary Field Unit (VFU-) system, is still clearly outstanding.

About this VFU system, the DCA-VET approach to provide a sustainable system of veterinary services for the country, I wrote a year ago: *"If this (now more or less privatised) system would only be allowed to develop and mature for two or three more years, without too much external disturbances, the country could hopefully end up with a sustainable system of providing clinical veterinary services to its vast numbers of livestock, without financial burden to the government."*

However, there are presently external factors that delay the growth to self-sustainability for the system. These are mainly linked with the relative abundance of donor funds coming into the country, which obviates the need for creating economically sound systems that can survive also in the absence of external funding. It would be regrettable if progress towards privatization and sustainability is slowed down by – undoubtedly – well-meant initiatives to supply vaccines and medicines at subsidized or at no cost.

After all, the veterinary services providing system as established by DCA-VET and several other NGOs, in collaboration with FAO, has clearly proven its value.

DCA-VET started its veterinary programme as early as 1988/89, at a time when the Central Government had a span of control of say 10 kms around the major cities, and when the Soviet air raids rendered

most of the country side highly risky and almost unbearable to function. It was through cross-border operations that DCA could start its very first VFUs, in 1989, at a modest scale. Throughout the nineties, this system was gradually expanded, together with several NGOs and especially after FAO joined forces.¹

The paravet-centred VFU system, with presently an almost full rate of cost-recovery for its services, survived the full decade of fierce civil war and the subsequent dark years of Taliban regime. The fact that livestock and its related services are perceived by any faction and authority as "politically neutral", has helped a lot in this.

But it was only in recent years, that DCA-VET was enabled by big donors, like USAID, to make the change from a mainly regionally and emergency oriented programme, to an almost nationwide development oriented programme.

And it is my sincere hope that policy makers in agriculture and animal husbandry in Afghanistan will realise the importance of self-sustainability in the long term. After all, the VFU network, staffed with over 700 veterinary personnel (mainly paraveterinarians or "paravets"), has become the single largest provider of clinical veterinary field services, able to operate at minimal support cost, and providing also valuable information to the Afghan government and other institutions involved in disease surveillance.

It is therefore gratifying to note the intensive coordination effort that is taking place between Government (MAIL), various donors like World Bank, USAID and EC, all of them supporting large livestock projects, and the various NGOs involved in these projects, in the monthly meetings of the Joint Steering Committee, under the Chairmanship of the Deputy Minister of MAIL.

For us, DCA-VET, this past year has been again a challenging but rewarding period – like it was for Afghanistan!

Bram Schreuder, Director

With thanks to the whole DCA-VET team!

¹ *Afghanistan and the development of alternative systems of animal health in the absence of effective government* (B.E.C. Schreuder & D.E. Ward. Rev.sci.Off.int.Epiz., 2004, 23 (1), 285-295)



About DCA-VET

The beginning

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

Essentials of the programme are an integrated package of training, deployment and technical support, resulting in a village-based, preventive animal health programme. Close monitoring and a parallel extension service have proven valuable components of the programme.

Funding

Initially, both the training and the field programme were financed by the Government of the Netherlands. From 1989 onwards, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) financed the major part of the field programme. Also the European Community contributed to the work of DCA.

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 witnessed

a period of significant build-up of its manpower and facilities.

Training

DCA-VET has a 20 year history of training new paraveterinarians and Basic Veterinary Workers (BVWs), and of providing refresher training courses for (para)veterinarians in Afghanistan.

Training activities started at the VTSC in Peshawar in Pakistan in 1988. The first VTSC in Afghanistan was established in 1994 in Herat. In 2007, DCA-VET runs three training centres: in Herat, in Mazar-i-Shariff and in Charikar. The Charikar VTSC includes a special training/demonstration farm.

The paravet training runs 24 weeks. Participants come from villages all over Afghanistan. They are recruited by special DCA-VET monitors in consultation with the village shura (village council), in villages with a need for veterinary care. The training curriculum is based on a problem-oriented approach with emphasis on practical aspects. The most frequent occurring veterinary diseases, the diagnoses thereof, and the matching treatments are being taught theoretically as well as in practice. Recently, a seminar on business development has been incorporated. After finishing their training, the paravets return to their villages to start a veterinary field unit.

The BVW training is a 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 700 paravets and over 400 BVWs, for DCA-VET's own field programme, and for other organisations engaged in veterinary programmes.

In recent years, DCA-VET has started training nomadic pastoralists (Kuchies) as BVWs, as they have no regular access to veterinary help during their migration.

Field programme

To affect a full coverage of Afghanistan with veterinary services, veterinary field units (VFUs) are put in place. A VFU is staffed by one or two paravets, veterinarians or veterinary assistants. The staff can be consulted by local farmers and is also carrying out vaccination campaigns.

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 to be able to visit the local farmers.

With sustainability in mind, a cost recovery system was launched. By now, the VFUs recover 100% of the medicine and vaccine costs from the farmers. In addition, part of the income for the veterinary field staff is obtained by farmers' contribution (service fee).

Target areas

After having been operational in the east for more than five years, the DCA-VET field programme was handed over at the end of 1995 to the UNDP/FAO umbrella project. DCA-VET subsequently shifted its fieldwork to the previously largely untouched north-western region of Afghanistan, around Herat.

This situation lasted until 2004, when, in coordination with its implementing partners AVA and PRB, DCA-VET made great strides in establishing a national network of VFUs. By the end of the year, the DCA/RAMP Livestock project was working in 24 provinces with 400 distinct VFU locations in 182 districts, staffed by 600 paravets, veterinary assistants and veterinarians.

Other activities

Vaccine delivery

From 1995 onwards, DCA-VET has assisted in the implementation of vaccine delivery projects. The

initial provision of vaccines to the VFUs was made possible by financial inputs from the EC. Later on, USAID/RAMP invested considerably in the purchase and distribution of quality vaccines as well. This enabled us to distribute a total of more than 100 million doses of different vaccines in the country from 1995 till now. Also refrigerators, cool boxes and icepacks were provided for, in order to expand and improve cold chain facilities.

Animal distribution and training on animal husbandry

From 2003 onwards, the Stichting Vluchteling (SV) funded a project in Qarabagh district on livestock and poultry raising for refugees returning to Afghanistan. DCA-VET took care of the establishment of stable Village Organisations and introduced a micro credit system for buying animals (cattle, small ruminants, poultry). Training courses for BVWs were organized as well as training on animal and poultry husbandry for both men and women. DCA-VET also started its own poultry farm for raising chicks for distribution free of cost to very poor returnee women. This project was continued throughout 2007 (see page 14). Distribution of sheep and milking cows, combined with animal husbandry training, is also one of the components of the Baghlan project (see page 9).

Integration of private and public veterinary care

In October 2003, DCA-VET organized a symposium entitled '*The Future of Animal Health Care in Afghanistan: Next Three Years*'. The objective of the symposium was to formulate a common strategy on animal health care delivery, in line with government directives and control.

In June 2005, DCA-VET hosted an international follow-up symposium, entitled '*Privatization of Clinical Veterinary Services: Opportunities and Challenges*'. This symposium focussed on the role of paravets in privatized clinical veterinary field service.

Throughout our current programmes, DCA-VET is continuously addressing the integration issue. This is especially evident in the World Bank project, where government veterinarians are trained to start a private clinic, while on the other hand private VFU personnel is trained how to undertake governmental sanitary mandates.

DCA-VET's ultimate goal is to create an environment in which private and public veterinary services work successfully together for the benefit of the Afghan people, especially the livestock owners.



Current Projects

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

December 2006 – May 2009
 Funded by USAID/Chemonics
 Programme Director: Dr. Raymond Briscoe

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 veterinary component is a follow-up of the USAID *RAMP Livestock Health, Production and Marketing Program*, which was executed by DCA-VET from January 2004 through July 2006. The RAMP project has been the largest single animal health programme in Afghanistan ever.

The achievements of RAMP were impressive:

- 400 VFUs were established
- the VFU-staff was doubled from 300 to 600
- 18,500,000 animals were vaccinated against 16 different diseases

- 9,500,000 animals received medications such as antibiotics and anti-parasitic treatments

The ASAP veterinary component focuses on expansion, strengthening and diversification of the VFU system, established under RAMP. Unlike RAMP, which had an almost nation-wide coverage, ASAP is a regional programme, concentrating in the North, Northwest and Central Provinces of Afghanistan.

Objectives

The main objectives of the ASAP livestock component are:

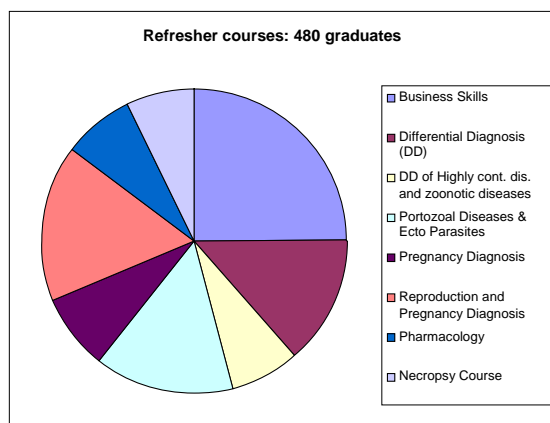
- Complete the network of VFUs
- Improve and increase the animal health care services that VFUs can provide
- Diversify the range of services that VFUs provide to farmers
- Active VFU participation in development of selected value chains in the livestock sector

Special attention is given to nomadic pastoralists by setting up of a veterinary field service programme for them.

Achievements 2007

Training

ASAP paravet training courses were conducted in all three DCA-VET training centres. During 2007, 42 ASAP paravets graduated. Two of the graduates were female, from the districts of Gozarah and Engil in Herat Province. One of these ladies achieved the distinction of best student.



Besides, refresher courses were given to 480 ASAP trainees, especially paravets. The most frequented refresher course was the one on business skills. New services included training courses on pregnancy and necropsy. See the figure above for details.

In 2007, DCA-VET managed to improve the quality of training by rotating field monitors and trainers through the regions. This has encouraged the flow of information and development of new ideas.

Veterinary Field Units

In total, the ASAP VFU network covers 130 districts in 13 provinces. 270 VFUs are active under ASAP, staffed by 280 veterinary personnel.

In 2007, 38 new VFUs have been established. This is less than targeted (52 VFUs), but in January 2008 17 new ASAP paravets will graduate and start their own practice in a VFU in their native village.

All new and existing VFUs received instruments, motor bikes, solar powered refrigerators and equipment to enable them to provide reliable and quality services to the livestock owners in their own communities.

A new VFU reporting system has been introduced. This reporting not only covers the usual valuable technical data but also the number of clients seen monthly, and their gender breakdown. This enables DCA-VET to assess the activities, to improve services, and to achieve sustainability.

Vaccinations and medical treatments

Almost 5,000,000 vaccinations have been administered and around 3,000,000 medications were given. Most important disease outbreaks were FMD, Sheep & Goat Pox, Enterotoxaemia and NDV.

DCA-VET exceeded its target for number of vaccinations and medications administered by 13%.

Veterinary services for pastoral nomads

In Afghanistan, traditionally the nomadic Kuchis roam the rural pastures. To increase the Kuchi population's access to veterinary services, DCA-VET conducted a survey of Kuchi migration routes. This was overlaid with a map of existing VFUs to identify critical gaps in service coverage and establish new VFUs in these areas. In addition, DCA-VET trained 10 Kuchis as Basic Veterinary Workers (5 in Herat and 5 in Mazar).



Participation in AgFairs

In 2007, ASAP organized several AgFairs, large agricultural exhibitions, to expand business opportunities in the agricultural sector and to demonstrate new technologies and practices.

DCA-VET participated successfully in the AgFairs in Kabul, Herat and Mazar-i-Sharif. This participation not only enabled DCA-VET to inform the public on the activities and objectives of the Veterinary Field Unit system but also provided a forum for learning to young as well as older visitors.

Cashmere value chain

In the second quarter of 2007, DCA-VET conducted a cashmere quality survey in 32 provinces. The objective was to document the quality of Afghan cashmere for marketing purposes and assess the benefits of combing versus shearing.



In December 2007, DCA-VET started an extension course for monitors, especially aimed at enhancing the farmer's awareness of the new cashmere harvesting techniques and marketing opportunities, but also of the benefits of vaccination, and the use of quality vaccines and medicines (broad based livestock extension activities). These monitors will, in their turn, train the VFU staff in the effective transmittance of extension messages.

Cost recovery strategy

DCA-VET stimulates full cost-recovery of veterinary services by making livestock owners pay for veterinary services and by enhancing the public awareness that subsidies by the Government and international aid organizations cannot be sustained. This strategy is paying off, because many farmers are quite willing to pay for veterinary care and quality medicines provided by the VFUs.

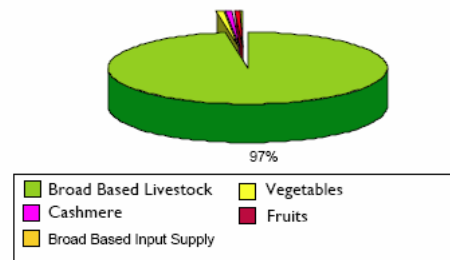
However, a main threat to this strategy has been the increased availability of poor quality vaccines and

medicines in the bazaars. These are improperly stored, sometimes counterfeit, and always far cheaper than the quality product. DCA-VET prepared a draft paper on the need of legislation to regulate the importation of all veterinary drugs into Afghanistan and submitted it for review.

Success story

In 2007, ASAP generated US\$ 58,867,200 in economic benefits – more than 2.5 times the programme budget spent (\$22.7 million). Of all ASAP activities, the livestock programme is the single largest contributor to economic impact and number of households benefiting (97%, see figure below ¹⁾). This tremendous result is accomplished by DCA-VET with a budget of US\$ 1,463,200, only 2.5% of the total ASAP budget over 2007, and reflects the high returns to investment in animal health services and the vast programme reach at the district level.

Increased Economic Value of Licit Afghan Ag- Related Products and Services (Result: \$58,867,188)



¹⁾ Source: *Accelerating Sustainable Agriculture Program, Annual Report 1: November 22, 2006 – December 31, 2007*, Chemonics International Inc., Washington, USA



Mobile #: 077 210 248 5
077 244 795 8

Dr. Iqballuddin
Syagard Animal Paraveterinary Clinic
Belongs to Nahre-shahee district
Balkh province, Always for the servant of beloved Farmer

Address: Syagard Veterinary Clinic

State-of-the-art equipment entering Afghan VFUs

Dr Iqballuddin, paravet in one of the ASAP/DCA-VET VFUs in Mazar-i-Sharif, had business cards printed to give out to clients. See the card alongside. Many farmers now have mobile phones, and Dr Iqballuddin receives many calls.

He informed DCA-VET also that he averages US\$200 monthly clear of expenses for himself. This is an excellent performance having been in business only 10 months!



Animal Health and Production Programme in Baghlan Province

December 2005 – May 2008
 Funded by the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs – Development Cooperation
 Project manager: Nikaj van Wees until March 2007, John de Wolff from July 2007 onwards

Background

From 2004 till 2006, a Dutch Provincial Reconstruction Team (PRT) has been present in Baghlan Province, Afghanistan. The PRT assisted in reformation of the security sector and in rebuilding of the province. The Director of DCA-VET took his share in rebuilding the province by proposing an Animal Health and Production Programme aimed at developing animal husbandry and rebuilding the previously existing cheese factory in Baghlan. His initiative was rewarded with a contract and funds by the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs – Development Cooperation.

Targets

Through supporting private sector development in animal husbandry and milk processing activities, this project will contribute to a sustainable economic development and improve food security in Baghlan Province.

The project consists of the following four components:

- Establishment of a small cheese factory
- Distribution of productive animals (150 dairy cattle and 500 sheep)
- Provision of rural extension and animal husbandry training for selected families
- Extension of the veterinary network by building ten new VFUs.

Achieved in previous period

In 2006, a new Baghlan Cheese Factory was built, adjacent to the old factory. Ten Milk Collection Centres were established, where farmers can deliver their milk to the factory. Cheese production started in December 2006.

Our partner PRB (Partners in Revitalization and building) distributed 500 pregnant sheep to 250 vulnerable families in Baghlan and made a start with the provision of dairy cows.

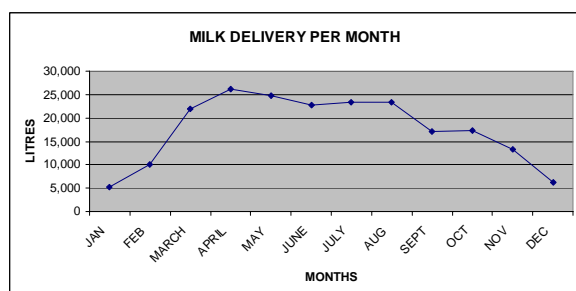
The extension and training part of the project has also been subcontracted to PRB. In 2006, PRB started training all sheep and cow beneficiaries. Besides, six female BVWs and four male BVWs were trained. Five Baghlan paravets started their course in Charikar VTSC.

At the end of 2006, DCA-VET identified the location of ten new VFUs and placed an order with PRB to build the first seven units.

Achievements 2007

Dairy production

Daily around 220 farmers were delivering their milk to the Milk Collection Centres. The milk delivery varied per month, being highest in summer and lowest in winter (see figure below).



The milk is processed in the factory by three cheese makers under supervision of an Afghan dairy expert. Due to various reasons cheese quality varied widely, especially in the beginning of the year. The staff has been working hard to produce a uniform, high quality product, with promising results.

During the first months of 2007, only Gouda cheese has been produced. With the arrival of a new project manager in 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 last five months of 2007.

Milk utilization (in litres)	
Product	litres milk
Gouda	46,528
Pizza cheese	13,300
Yoghurt	3,794
Pasteurized milk	1,357
Cream	1,161
Mozzarella	623
Quark	22

Sales and marketing

The dairy products are partly brought on the market locally in Baghlan (19%), but mainly in Kabul (81%). Here, the dairy products are sold to restaurants, hotels, supermarkets and private customers. For the latter target group, a special Cheese Store has been opened in Kabul in May 2007.

At present, total sales are not enough to cover the expenses. The sales of Gouda cheese are stabilizing at 400 – 500 kg a month. Of all revenues,

65% is generated by selling Gouda cheese. Pizza cheese and yoghurt appear to be promising products for increasing sales in future.

Contacts have been made with wholesalers for import of cheese to India and for sales of dairy products to the US Army in Afghanistan. Negotiations are still ongoing.

Farmers cooperative

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. PRB has been asked to coordinate the process of establishment of the cooperative. A limited company will be registered in which 25% of the shares are owned by the farmers and 75% are by DCA-VET. After five years, the farmers will have 75% and DCA-VET 25%.



Cattle distribution

In the beginning of 2007, 142 head of cattle have been distributed. Animals were bought on the cattle market in Kunduz. Farmers paid 30% of the purchase price and the project 70%. At the end of 2007, another 35 milking cows have been purchased and distributed. So the total number of beneficiaries of this project component is 177.

For a proper documentation of the cow distribution, of each farmer an ownership document and a picture of himself with his new cow are stored in the project files.

Training

PRB is employing three trainers/extension officers for the Baghlan project, one male and two female. The male trainer is teaching the farmers who have received sheep on sheep husbandry and production. The female trainers are educating the wives of the dairy farmers. Women play a crucial role in the dairy cattle husbandry, for most of the animals are kept either on a tethering or zero

grazing system and are looked after by the women of the house.

One day a week the women of the dairy farmers are receiving a training/extension session in one of their houses. Training subjects are for instance hygiene, cow feeding, animal housing, cow diseases, breeding and the future ownership of the Baghlan Cheese Factory. Female attendance to the training sessions is high.

Veterinary Field Units

During the first months of 2007, seven new VFUs have become operational.

The VFUs offer a valuable contribution to animal health services in the rural areas. Moreover, the VFU reporting system provides a good monitoring system of various endemic outbreaks like Anthrax, FMD and other highly contagious livestock diseases.

Extension proposal Baghlan Cheese Factory

At the end of the project, in May 2008, the Baghlan Cheese Factory will not have reached profitability and sustainability yet. Two years are not enough to establish an economic, market-oriented and thriving company. Still a lot of work has to be done before DCA-VET can leave the factory to the Baghlan participants.

Most important focus points for the coming years are:

- Improving and stabilizing of the production process
- Increasing the sales considerably
- Investigating and confining of a profitable range of products
- Gradually retreating of DCA-VET and handing over of the factory to a cooperative of farmers.

For a proper finalization of the Baghlan Cheese Factory project, an extension proposal has been designed and submitted to the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs – Development Cooperation.



Boy bringing milk to the Baghlan Cheese Factory before going to school



Livestock Disease Control Program in Badakhshan

July 2006 – January 2009
 Funded by USAID/PADCO
 Project manager: Erik Simonides

Background

In Badakhshan, 80% of farming families depend on livestock for income. More than half a million animals are kept in the area, mainly goats, sheep and cows. Only two government veterinary clinics existed in the province, and six paravets were supported by PRB (Partners in Revitalization and Building). So there was an obvious need for strengthening of veterinary services.

In 2006, funds became available for veterinary support when PADCO developed the *Livestock Disease Control Program in Badakhshan*. This programme was launched under the USAID *Alternative Livelihoods Program* (ALP), intended to provide economic alternatives to the production of poppy in Afghanistan. DCA-VET is executing the Badakhshan livestock programme together with its implementing partner PRB.

Targets

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

The following targets have been formulated:

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

Achieved in previous period

During the second half year of 2006 the first nine new paravets were selected. They started their training course at the Charikar VTSC. The six operating PRB paravets joined the project and assisted in the disease control programme. In total, 5000 farmers in 1000 villages were visited. The paravets vaccinated 60,000 animals and treated some 20,000 goats, sheep and cows.

Achievements 2007

Training

Two groups of paravets have been trained, and they graduated in 2007. The first group of 19 paravets, trained at the Charikar VTSC, graduated in March, while the second group of nine paravets completed their education at the Mazar-i-Shariff VTSC in December.

From May onwards, six BVW-courses have been conducted in different parts of the province. In each course, male as well as female BVWs have been trained. So during 2007, 50 male and 40 female BVWs started working in their villages.

Veterinary Field Units

The first paravets had to work from rented shops, because the building of new VFUs did not have a swift start. Around June/July 2007 the first three newly constructed VFUs were completed and by the end of the year thirteen VFUs were finished, eleven VFUs were awarded or under bid and the locations of the last six were selected.

In September, twelve solar fridges were taken in operation at the new VFUs. Also the fridges from the existing PRB VFUs (established under RAMP) were checked and if necessary repaired, bringing the total number of fridges working in the province to 22. In December, an inquiry for a quotation for the remaining 18 solar fridges has been made.

Vaccinations and medical treatments

From the temporary store in the PRB/DCA compound the required vaccines and medicines were monthly distributed to the paravets.

The Badakhshan paravets operated from eleven VFUs (January till March) to 25 VFUs (in December). They proved to be very productive: each VFU staff vaccinates on average 1500 animals per month.

Total achievements in 2007 were:

- 410,000 animals vaccinated
- 125,000 animals treated against various diseases
- 5,000 animals received other veterinary services
- 20,500 farmers in 5,500 villages visited.

Provincial Veterinary Centre

The construction of a new Veterinary Centre has entered its last phase. Some final corrections have to be made and purchase of furniture and laboratory equipment has started already. The Provincial Centre will be named after Bashir, the highly esteemed DCA-VET driver, who sadly died in a car accident in October 2007.

Close cooperation with public sector

During the first months of the project, the Inspector of the Veterinary Department, when controlling the local veterinary drug dealers, regularly came across medicines and vaccines that were expired or kept under wrong conditions. However, after appropriate action, this is hardly the case anymore. Shopkeepers are now seeking active advice of DCA-VET on how to manage their shops properly.

The contacts with the governmental Head of Agriculture are very constructive. He is advising in the selection of VFU locations and where to conduct BVW training, and playing an active role in persuading people from the extreme remote places to join the program.

The Head of Agriculture even asked to add two extra paravets to the program. Thanks to budget savings this request could be granted by PADCO.





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

March 2006 – April 2007 and July 2007 – June 2008
 Funded by Stichting Vluchteling, the Netherlands
 Project managers: Dr. Jaheed and Dr. Jabarkheil

Background

This project, aiming at Afghan refugees returning to the district of Qarabagh, started in 2003 and was prolonged annually till June 2008.

During the Taliban regime, four million Afghans fled from their homeland. Since the Taliban regime toppled from power in 2001, 3.5 million refugees returned to Afghanistan. Qarabagh was one of the districts with the highest returnee rates. During the war, the frontline of fighting was running right through Qarabagh, so the majority of its inhabitants had left for Pakistan or the outskirts of Kabul.

To help the returnees to build up their lives again, DCA-VET started a livestock extension project that is funded by Stichting Vluchteling, a Dutch Foundation that is targeting at emergency aid to refugees and returnees all over the world. In this project, DCA-VET implements a micro credit system for purchasing cows and poultry and teaches the beneficiaries how to take care of their animals.

Targets

Specific targets for the year 2007 were:

- Introduction of a micro credit system for buying cows and poultry in four new villages
- Supply of poultry for free to vulnerable families
- Training of all beneficiaries in animal and/or poultry husbandry
- Training of ten Basic Veterinary Workers (BVWs)
- Establishment of two dairy cooperatives

Achieved in previous period

Within the district of Qarabagh, DCA-VET established in twenty villages so-called Village Organizations (VOs). When these VOs proved to be motivated for animal and poultry husbandry, they received a micro credit for buying livestock. This micro credit is a revolving loan and has to be repaid by the beneficiary including about 16% interest, after which the money is put at the disposal of a following beneficiary. The amount of micro credit per VO varied between US\$ 220 (for chicken) and US\$ 5,000 (for cows).

From 2003 till 2007, micro credits have been used to purchase 3,900 chickens, 950 sheep and 120 dairy cows. Besides, 3,300 chickens (10 per family) were distributed for free amongst the most vulnerable families of the VOs. For the distribution of chickens

within the VOs, a poultry farm was constructed in 2005, housing a breeding stock of 570 birds.

To all beneficiaries, training on animal husbandry and extension was provided. Until January 2007, 530 women received poultry training and 1,000 women participated in livestock training. In each VO, two inhabitants (male and female) were trained as BVWs to provide the necessary veterinary care to the animals in their village.

The DCA-SV staff provided veterinary care as well: they treated about 4,000 animals and vaccinated 4,800 heads of livestock and poultry from 2003 through 2006.

Gap between two project years

The project has been financed year by year. In 2007, for various reasons, the transition between one contract and the other was somewhat delayed, creating a gap of two months between the two successive projects. During this period, the SV staff continued their daily work of visiting the VOs, training beneficiaries in animal (or poultry) husbandry, and distributing chicken for free. However, no micro credits could be awarded then.

External evaluation

In January 2007, Frauke de Weijer performed an external evaluation of the project. Main conclusions were that the returns to the community were very high, that the DCA-SV team is very motivated and dedicated and that the strong focus on training of women may be an example to many NGOs.

Some weak points are the high reliance of the VOs on the project staff for veterinary care and motivation of the villages, and the lacking of a clear exit strategy for the loan program.

Therefore, for the 2007/2008 programme DCA-VET added to the list of objectives:

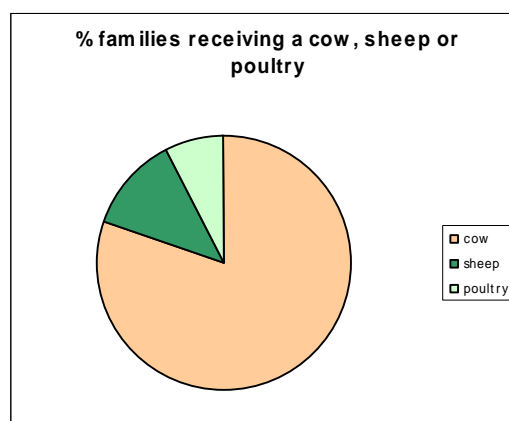
- To implement a phase out strategy, leading the VOs to independency and making the micro credit sustainable.

Achievements 2007

Micro credit

In six VOs, the micro loans received in 2006 were repaid in 2007 and handed over to new beneficiaries. Some 80 families benefited from these loans by buying a cow, two sheep or 40 to 50 chickens. Especially cows were very popular (see figure next column), thanks to the high financial returns.

In total, 65 cows with 22 calves, 20 sheep and 280 chickens have been procured during the year 2007.



All beneficiaries received proper animal or poultry husbandry training. The SV staff conducts regular visits to the VOs for motivation and encouragement of the clients and monitoring of the micro credit activities.

In 2007, four new VOs were established. Due to the unfavourable season at the time of establishment, they will receive their micro loans for procuring cows in spring 2008.

Training

The animal and poultry husbandry training are given by female trainers and attended by female beneficiaries. In Afghanistan, the women traditionally take care for the animals when they are not in the field. In 2007, 150 women received animal husbandry training and 80 women learned how to take care of poultry. Almost 30 women engaged in refresher training sessions on animal husbandry.

Basic Veterinary Workers

In each of six VOs, among which the four established in 2007, two BVWs have been trained for providing basic veterinary services in their VOs. Eight of the BVWs trained are female, four are male. The BVWs perform the necessary vaccinations and simple medical treatments of the population of livestock and poultry in their village.

Establishment of two dairy cooperatives

The two dairy cooperatives have been established but can't generate enough income yet. They still need a lot of support through training and advice.

Poultry for free / poultry farm

In the four new VOs about hundred of the most vulnerable families received five to seven chicks for free. This 'backyard poultry' will empower the women to have a small income of their own.



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

October 2007 – November 2009
 Funded by World Bank
 Training coordinator: Dr. Naqibullah Durani
 Curriculum Development Specialist: Dr. Abdul Ghafor Torklai.

Background

In Afghanistan, 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.

The World Bank has designed the veterinary component of the *Horticulture and Livestock Project* (HLP) in order to integrate the public and private sectors in veterinary medicine and to create a comprehensive, national veterinary service. Public veterinarians are encouraged to transfer to a privatized clinic. This veterinary World Bank project will be executed by AVA, while DCA-VET will be

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 parts:

- 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 2007

The project started in October 2007 with preparations on the training courses, especially concerning organization and budgeting, curriculum development and recruitment of participants.

An assessment paper was developed, and given to those Government Veterinarians that were identified to become privatized. The results will be used to develop the curriculum for an 8 week course to prepare them for entry to the private sector.

All training courses will take place at the DCA-VET Charikar VTSC. The training methods will be based

on DCA-VET's successful approach, combining classroom teaching with practical demonstrations and hands-on clinical activity. Close student-trainer contact and periodic assessment of progress by written and practical examination are essential elements of the DCA-VET training courses.

The first refresher course for VFU personnel has been from 13th till 24th of January 2008. The topic of

this course is: *The recognition and differential diagnosis of highly contagious livestock diseases and important zoonotic diseases.*

An overview of the refresher courses planned for the second quarter of 2008 is shown below.

Overview of World Bank refresher courses in the second quarter of 2008

Dutch Committee for Afghanistan
Charikar VTSC
Training Component - World Bank/HLP (AVA/MOA/594/SSS) - VFU Refresher Courses
Training Work Plan for the 2nd Quarter of 2008

Topics	Period	Start date	End date
Diff.Diagnosis of Highly contagious diseases and important Zoonotic Diseases	2 Weeks	6-Apr-08	16-Apr-08
Protozoal Diseases + Common Ecto & Endo Parasites	2Weeks	6-Apr-08	16-Apr-08
Proper Use of Antibiotics, Anthelmintics, and Common Poultry Diseases	2Weeks	20-Apr-08	30-Apr-08
Protozoal Diseases + Common Ecto & Endo Parasites	2Weeks	20-Apr-08	30-Apr-08
Dairy Health, Production, Nutrition+Necropsy Techniques, Sample Collection, Follow up	2Weeks	4-May-08	14-May-08
Diff.Diagnosis of Highly contagious diseases and important Zoonotic Diseases	2Weeks	4-May-08	14-May-08
Dairy Health, Production, Nutrition+Necropsy Techniques, Sample Collection, Follow up	2Weeks	18-May-08	28-May-08
Proper Use of Antibiotics, Anthelmintics, and Common Poultry Diseases	2Weeks	18-May-08	28-May-08
Refresher Course for DVMS going to be Privatized	8Weeks	31-May-08	24-Jul-08
Proper Use of Antibiotics, Anthelmintics, and Common Poultry Diseases	2Weeks	1-Jun-08	11-Jun-08
Dairy Health, Production, Nutrition+Necropsy Techniques, Sample Collection, Follow up	2Weeks	15-Jun-08	25-Jun-08



Prospects

Twenty years ago, DCA started its veterinary activities in Afghanistan as emergency aid; not realizing that in the twentieth century DCA would still be involved in veterinary development projects in this country. However, the need for international support in developing a sound country-wide veterinary network is still evident.

The network of veterinary field clinics has become rather extensive already and the foundation of a private clinical service delivery in Afghanistan is quite well established.

At present, the focus is shifting from training paravets and establishing VFUs to assisting the VFUs in reaching self-sustainability by means of training courses 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, all five current projects will be continued by DCA-VET.

Accelerating Sustainable Agricultural Program

For the year 2008, the ASAP project has adopted a new vision, focussing on increasing sales of agricultural products. For the VFU program the

changed view implicates that the VFUs will expand sales of veterinary services, serve as assembly points for cashmere and facilitate other livestock related business transactions. ASAP supports the establishment of VetServ, a private company that imports and distributes of good quality vaccines.

Livestock Disease Control Program in Badakhshan

The Badakhshan project is going according to plan and will be ended in January 2009. However, perhaps an extension of this project is feasible. A project proposal for another period of three years has been submitted to USAID/PADCO.

Animal Health and Production Programme in Baghlan Province

This programme has been finalized in March 2008, two months before the official closing date. In May 2008, an extension project has started, focussing on the Baghlan Cheese Factory. This project is named *Dairy Development in Baghlan Province* and covers a period of six years, with donor funding by the Royal Netherlands Embassy during the first two years. After these six years the factory has to be a profitable and sustainable enterprise, owned by a cooperative of farmers. In the coming years, the factory will expand from a 2,500 litre unit tot a 4,000 litre unit, diversify its range of products and improve its marketing strategy. In the meantime, a farmers' cooperative will be established. This cooperative will receive a growing part of shares in the enterprise.

Rural extension, Animal Health and Production Program for Refugees Returning in Afghanistan

After five fruitful years, this project, founded by Stichting Vluchteling, will come to an end in June 2008. In this period, DCA-VET had successfully supported refugees to build up their lives again by providing them with ruminants and poultry and the skills to take care of these animals. The micro credits, provided to the Village Organizations as a revolving fund, will continue to be transmitted to new beneficiaries.

World Bank Horticulture and Livestock Project

The training courses of the World Bank project had just started in January 2008 and will continue throughout 2008 and 2009. For the first half of 2008 refresher courses have been planned on *Differential diagnosis of highly contagious diseases, Protozoal diseases, Dairy health and production, Proper use of Antibiotics* as well as a *Refresher course for Veterinarians going to be privatized*.

Overview of ongoing project activities of DCA-VET

Project	2006	2007	2008	2009
Refugees Quarabagh	March 2006 - April 2007		July 2007 – June 2008	
Livestock Disease Badakhshan	July 2006 - January 2009			Possible extension till January 2012
ASAP	December 2006 – May 2009			
World Bank HLP	October 2007 – November 2009			
Animal Health Baghlan	December 2005 - March 2008		May 2008 – December 2009	

Obituary Dr. Abdul Azim Nasser

On September 23d, 2007, the DCA-VET staff was shocked by the news that Dr. Nasser passed away.

Dr. Abdul Azim Nasser was one of Afghanistan's most accomplished and respected veterinarians. He was an honoured member of the DCA staff for many years already, when he was appointed as Deputy Director Training and Extension in December 2006. He was a true professional who dedicated his extensive knowledge and veterinary skills to the Afghan farmers and their livestock. His contributions to the DCA-VET training of paravets and basic veterinary workers were of vital importance. In our memory, Dr. Nasser will live on as a talented veterinarian, a true gentleman and a good friend.

Obituary Abdul Bashir

On Wednesday 31st of October 2007, Abdul Bashir was killed in a tragic car accident on a field trip in a remote area in Badakhshan.

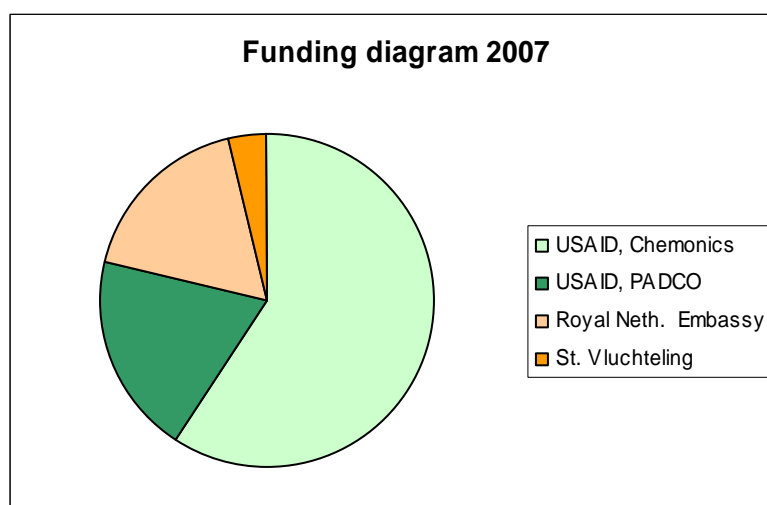
Abdul Bashir was appointed as DCA-VET driver for the Livestock Disease Control Program in Badakhshan in July 2006. In that rather barren Afghan province he managed to transport the other DCA-staff safely, even over extremely bad roads and through harsh climatic circumstances. Because of his friendly and open character, he became a friend to all of the Badakhshan staff and especially to Erik Simonides, the project manager. In our memory, Abdul Bashir will live on as a skilful driver, an esteemed staff member and a true friend.

Funds

The table below presents an overview of the projects DCA-VET has been implementing in 2007, the funding agents and the budget of the project as a whole.

Funding agent	Project	Budget total project
USAID/Chemonics	Accelerating Sustainable Agriculture Program (ASAP) <i>January 2007 – May 2009</i>	US\$ 4,124,719 <i>(29 months)</i>
USAID/PADCO	Livestock Disease Control Program in Badakhshan <i>July 2006 – January 2009</i>	US\$ 1,543,024 <i>(30 months)</i>
Royal Neth. Embassy	Animal Health and Production Programme in Baghlan Province <i>December 2005 – May 2008</i>	US\$ 1,390,258 <i>(30 months)</i>
World Bank	Horticulture and Livestock Project – Training portion of veterinary component <i>October 2007 – November 2009</i>	US\$ 1,233,000 <i>(26 months)</i>
Stichting Vluchteling	Rural Extension, Animal Health and Production Program for Refugees Returning to Afghanistan - Qarabagh district <i>March 2006 – April 2007</i>	€ 125,229 US\$ 151,536 <i>(14 months)</i>
Stichting Vluchteling	Rural Extension, Animal Health and Production Program for Refugees Returning to Afghanistan <i>July 2007 – June 2008</i>	€ 75,505 US\$ 100,406 <i>(12 months)</i>

During the year 2007 the total amount of grants that DCA-VET received amounted to US \$ 2.470.186. More than three quarter of the annual income was coming from USAID; the other quarter was originating from Dutch grants (Royal Netherlands Embassy and Stichting Vluchteling). ASAP, one of the USAID funded projects, accounted for more than half of the DCA-VET budget.



Organization

The general management of DCA-VET lies in the hands of the Executive Director, Bram Schreuder, who runs DCA's headquarters in the Netherlands, together with office manager Ria Heuckeroth, and Marjolein Munsterman. From here, the DCA-VET programmes in Afghanistan are supervised and supported. Being a foundation, DCA-VET has a Board that outlines the DCA-VET policy. An Advisory Board provides the Board for support and advice.

At the head office, all necessary action is taken to have the projects in Afghanistan run as smoothly as possible. This means from ordering equipment to recruiting expatriate staff; from contacting possible donors to keeping close track of the financial situation.

In Afghanistan, DCA-VET Country Programme Director is Raymond Briscoe. In the framework of

the ASAP project, he is supervising the Afghan DCA-VET staff. He coaches the Deputy Director Field Operations (Daad Amir), the Head of General Services (Zubair Kerami), the Finance Controller (Fazal Hafeez), and finally the Regional Programme Directors at Herat and Mazar-i-Sharif.

The projects in Baghlan, Badakhshan and Qarabagh are managed by separate project managers: Nikaj van Wees / John de Wolff (Baghlan), Erik Jan Simonides (Badakhshan) and Dr. Jaheed and Dr. Jabarkheil (Qarabagh).

The Afghan staff of DCA-VET currently exists of about 140 people, among whom are four expats.

The members of the DCA-VET Board and Advisory Board are listed below. An overview of the organization is shown on the next page.

Board of DCA-VET 2007

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. Ab Emmerzaal DVM	Specialist in Large Ruminant diseases / Consultant; member of the board since 1995

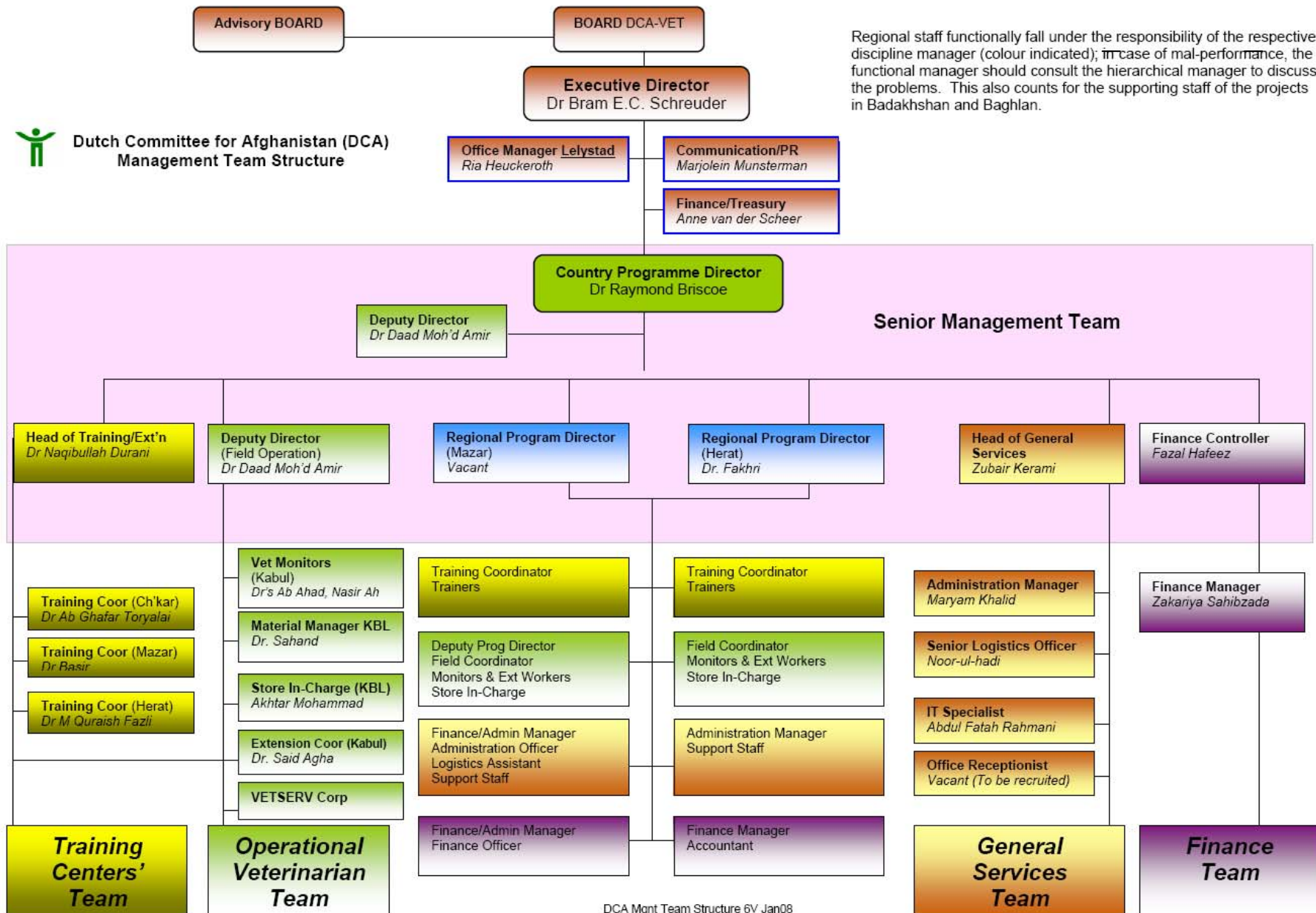
Advisory Board of DCA-VET 2007

Mr. Cees de Haan	Senior Livestock Advisor, World Bank, Washington DC., US
Mr. Henk A.J. Moll PhD	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

During the joint meeting of the Board and Advisory Board on 23rd of January 2008, Mrs. Frauke de Weijer DVM, Developer ASAP Cashmere Value Chain in Afghanistan, has been welcomed as new member of the DCA-VET Advisory Board.

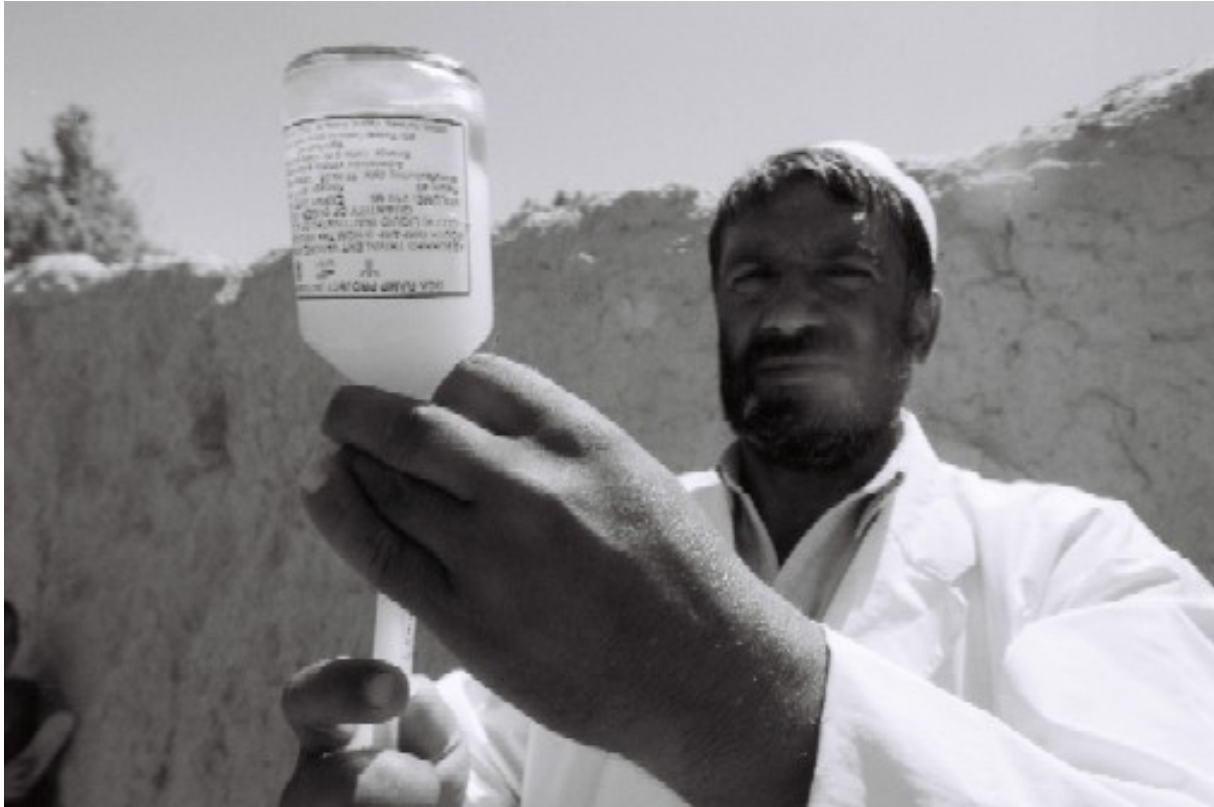


**Dutch Committee for Afghanistan (DCA)
Management Team Structure**



Regional staff functionally fall under the responsibility of the respective discipline manager (colour indicated); in case of mal-performance, the functional manager should consult the hierarchical manager to discuss the problems. This also counts for the supporting staff of the projects in Badakhshan and Baghlan.

DCA Mgnt Team Structure 6V Jan08



Abbreviations

ALP	Alternative Livelihoods Program
ASAP	Accelerating Sustainable Agriculture Program
AVA	Afghan Veterinary Association
BVW	Basic Veterinary Worker
CVO	Chief Veterinary Officer
DCA & DCA-VET	Dutch Committee for Afghanistan – Veterinary Programmes
DVM	Doctor of Veterinary Medicine
EC	European Community
EU	European Union
FAO	Food and Agricultural Organisation
HLP	Horticulture and Livestock Project
MAIL	(Afghan) Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation & Livestock
NGO	Non Governmental Organisation
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)
UNDP	United Nations Development Program
USAID	US Agency for International Development
VFU	Veterinary Field Unit
VO	Village Organisation
VTSC	Veterinary Training and Service Centre



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