



DUTCH COMMITTEE FOR AFGHANISTAN

کمیته هالند برای افغانستان



VETERINARY PROGRAMMES



Annual Report 2005-2006

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Dutch Committee for Afghanistan
Veterinary Programmes

Lelystad, the Netherlands

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About DCA-VET

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. 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”

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 veterinary 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 delivery of animal health services at community level
- Support activities that enhance livestock production.

The present report summarizes the activities of DCA-VET during the years 2005 and 2006.



Sheep are everywhere

Director's Introduction

In front of you, you find the combined annual report for the years 2005 and 2006, two years in which DCA-VET was extremely productive. Was the year 2004 a crucial year for Afghanistan and for the Dutch Committee for Afghanistan (DCA-VET), so were the following two years. In 2004, the question for the country was whether, with massive external support, it could start to make a recovery from the almost 25 years of war and internal conflicts resulting in tremendous destruction in almost all aspects of infrastructure and society. The country did indeed make a start with its recovery.

For DCA-VET, the question was whether it could manage to make the change from a mainly regionally and emergency oriented programme, to an almost nationwide development oriented programme. Well, we managed!

It involved making use of the fifteen odd years of previous experience in which DCA-VET had developed, together with others (in particular the FAO), an approach to deliver basic veterinary services at field level with a certain degree of sustainability. After years of support from the Dutch Government, UNDP and the EU, the major donor agency for our veterinary programmes now had become USAID, providing a 12 million US\$ funding for two and a half year. Thanks to this new USAID-supported programme, DCA-VET had witnessed in 2004 a period of significant build-up of its manpower and facilities. It took almost half a year before both the team and the facilities were fully complete and operational, but from then on momentum was rapidly gained. The years 2005 and 2006 subsequently became years of intense activities, both in the field, in training and in policy development.

A successful and rapid expansion of field operations resulted in an almost nation-wide coverage with district based Veterinary Field Units (VFUs), which for a large part operate almost at full cost-recovery – at least those that had been given a reasonable time to establish their businesses. The VFU network, staffed with over 600 veterinary personnel, is presently 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.

Other highlights are also 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.

For us, DCA-VET, these last two years have been a challenging but rewarding period – we hope, and believe, it has been the same for the country!

*Bram Schreuder, Director
With thanks to the total DCA-VET team!*



Three generations with lamb

DCA-VET before 2005

History¹

The beginning

With the assistance of the Government of the Netherlands, the Dutch Committee for Afghanistan (DCA) started its livestock oriented activities in 1988 by establishing the Veterinary Training and Service 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.

Initial 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. This was done first through its Operation Programme Services (OPS) and through the Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO) since July 1994, when the co-ordination of veterinary programmes was handed over to them. FAO itself was already involved in a comparable programme in the northern region since 1990. DCA and other NGOs operated mainly in the eastern, central and southern parts of Afghanistan.

2004: a new Afghan government

The year 2004 was a crucial year for DCA-VET, and so it was for Afghanistan. After almost 25 years of war and internal conflicts, the Afghan people could start to build up the country again. President Hamid Karzai was overwhelmingly elected as the first president of Afghanistan, while a new Parliament was established after successful elections in September 2005. Even one DCA-VET paravet, called Mr. Kafil Noor Mohammed, was elected as a member of the Upper House of Parliament. See the story *Veterinarians in Afghan National Assembly* below.

Veterinarians in Afghan National Assembly

18 September 2005 was a historic day for post-war Afghanistan: elections were held to establish a democratically elected Parliament. During the nationwide elections, 249 members were elected for the Lower House of Parliament. The Upper House of the National Assembly consists of 100 parliamentarians.

In the Upper House of Parliament seats one paraveterinarian from Kapisa province: Mr. Kafil Noor Mohammed from Nijrab district. He was trained by DCA as a paraveterinarian about ten years ago at the Veterinary Training Centre in Peshawar, Pakistan. For many years he was a very active staff member of the Nijrab district Veterinary Field Unit. The main reason why Mr. Kafil Noor Mohammed got elected by voters in Kapisa province is because of his excellent reputation among local farmers for his veterinary field work!

In the Lower House a veterinary university graduate is seated, Dr. Khodai Nazar Baluch, from Nimroz province. He was not active within the DCA-VET RAMP project, because he left veterinary profession already several years ago.

Both parliamentarians visit regularly the DCA-VET Kabul office to discuss veterinary matters in Afghanistan. They underline the importance of good quality veterinary field services in a privatized system with fee-for-services. As members of the National Assembly they will deal with new legislation in Afghanistan, and from their own field experiences they can contribute positively to an integration of private and public veterinary services.

¹ See *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)

2004: a new donor agency for DCA-VET
DCA-VET in 2004 had to make the change from a mainly regionally and emergency oriented programme, to an almost nationwide development oriented programme. After years of support from the Dutch Government, UNDP and the EC, the major donor agency for our programmes became USAID. Thanks to this new 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

Training Centres

The Dutch Committee for Afghanistan (DCA) has an 18 year history of training new paraveterinarians, and providing refresher training courses for paraveterinarians, veterinary assistants and 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 2002, DCA-VET moved their main office to Kabul along with training facilities and closed down the office in Peshawar. In May 2004, the construction of a new VTSC including a training and demonstration farm in Charikar, the capital of Parwan province, north of Kabul, was completed. The same year, a new regional office and VTSC were established in Mazar-i-Sharif, in the northern province of Balkh.



The President of Department of Agriculture Mazar-i-Sharif and DCA-VET country director, David Sherman, opening the first paravet course at Mazar-i-Sharif

Training curriculum

The training curriculum is based on a problem-oriented approach and with emphasis on practical aspects. To guarantee the

sustainability of the programme, students are selected from the region where they will be posted after graduation.

Achievements

Since its inception, DCA-VET has trained over 200 BVWs and more than 700 paravets, for DCA-VET's own field programme, and for other organisations engaged in veterinary programmes.

In recent years, DCA-VET has also engaged itself in training nomadic pastoralists (Kuchis) as BVWs, as they have no regular access to veterinary help during their migration.

Field programme

Veterinary Field Units

To affect a full coverage of Afghanistan with veterinary services, Veterinary Field Units (VFU) are put in place.



Veterinary Field Unit Dawlatabad

Originally, a VFU was a combined group of veterinary personnel meant to cover most of a district. A typical VFU comprises one veterinarian or paravet in charge, two to four paravets, and additional (depending on need) basic veterinary workers (BVWs). BVWs are not paid a regular salary, and cover remoter areas. The (para)veterinarian in charge should act as a liaison between the service providing agency and the field unit, for supply and reporting purposes. At present, the wording VFU-location is more in use, indicating a separate working location for one or two paravets or other veterinary staff.

Cost recovery

In addition, with sustainability in mind, a first attempt was made in 1991 to introduce a cost recovery system on medicines, also instigated

by FAO. By the end of 1993, DCA recovered 100% of the medicine costs from the farmers. In addition, part of the income for the veterinary field staff is obtained by farmers' contribution (service fee). Vaccines are still partially subsidised: cost recovery varied in 2004 from 40% to 60%, but this has gone up in early 2006 to 80% and is at the time of writing a full 100%.

1995: new target areas

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

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-VET RAMP Livestock project was working in 24 provinces with about 250 distinct VFU locations in 180 districts, staffed by almost 400 paravets, veterinary assistants and veterinarians (see 'Current Projects').

Other activities

In 1992, DCA conducted a survey to assess the impact of the veterinary programme after three full years in action. The results showed a significant reduction of the animal mortality and a cost-benefit ratio for the whole programme of 1:2.4 to almost 1:5². Regular participatory monitoring and evaluation exercises undertaken since then have triangulated these results.

Vaccine delivery

From 1995 to 2000, DCA-VET has assisted in the implementation of vaccine delivery projects. In this period, the provision of vaccines to the VFUs, including those of the FAO was only possible with financial inputs from the EC. These projects were successfully completed with over 48 million doses of various animal vaccines being provided.

² See *A benefit-cost analysis of veterinary interventions in Afghanistan based on a livestock mortality study* (B.E.C. Schreuder, H.A.J. Moll, N. Noorman, M. Halimi, A.H. Kroese, G. Wassink. *Prev.Vet.Med.*26 (1996) 303-314)

From 2000 to 2004, the EC continued its financial support to DCA-VET for importation and distribution of veterinary vaccines. In the last phase, this enabled DCA-VET to provide a total of 18.6 million doses of different vaccines to the various players in the country. Also cool boxes and icepacks were provided for, in order to expand and improve cold chain facilities.



Inside of VFU-location: store for vaccines and medicines

Supporting of returning refugees

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. 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 the trained returnee women. This project was continued throughout 2005 and 2006 (see 'Current Projects').

Symposium 2003

In October 2003, DCA-VET organized a symposium entitled *The Future of Animal Health Care in Afghanistan: Next Three Years*. This workshop was attended by local officials, members of the Veterinary Faculty and other NGO's representatives. In the field of animal health care delivery, many organisations are involved. The objective of the symposium was to formulate a common strategy on animal health care delivery, in line with government directives and control.

Current Projects

Introduction

By far the largest project implemented by DCA-VET in this reporting period, was the RAMP Livestock Health, Production and Marketing Improvement Project, representing at the same time DCA-VET's core business. DCA-VET was approached in August 2003 by the USAID main contractor, Chemonics Inc., to take the lead in implementing this challenging task, and we accepted it in order to save the already established VFU network under FAO from further collapsing. This animal health services delivery system was partially still in place, but, after more than a decade of development, now at risk to collapse due to the rather sudden withdrawal of external support and the extended period of drought.

From the present report, it will be evident that the USAID-funded DCA-VET RAMP

programme has enabled DCA-VET to successfully revive this system, and even, with the cooperation of especially AVA and PRB, to most regions in the country, resulting in an almost nation-wide coverage of the VFU-network. It was also gratifying to note that most of the longer established VFUs survived half a year without any external support, indicating that they are close to being self-supporting.

Other projects that will be dealt with in this report are the already ongoing Rural Extension, Animal Health and Production Program for Refugees Returning to Afghanistan, the new Animal Health and Production Programme in Baghlan Province, funded by the Dutch PRT and the Dutch Government, and the also new PADCO/ALP Livestock Disease Control Program in Badakhshan, funded by USAID. The latter can be considered an intensification of the RAMP project in a specific province – albeit not the easiest of all places!



Wonderfully painted VFU with proud owner, the artist-paravet!

RAMP Livestock Health, Production, and Marketing Improvement Project

Part of the Rebuilding Agricultural Markets in Afghanistan Program

January 2004 - July 2006, funded by USAID, Washington, USA

The overall main contractor for the RAMP programme was the US-based company Chemonics International Inc., Washington. DCA-VET has been subcontracted the implementation of the animal health and production component. The USAID *RAMP Livestock Health, Production and Marketing Project* is the largest project ever implemented by DCA-VET and has been the largest single animal health programme in Afghanistan. Extension of the original contract provided for a total project length of 30 months and a budget of US\$ 11.9 million.

Background

Afghanistan recovering from war and drought

At the start of the DCA-VET RAMP project in April 2004, livestock farming in Afghanistan had just begun to recover from twenty years of war and several years of serious drought. Cattle and sheep populations in particular had suffered a lot, while many farmers had to leave

their homes and lands, or could not take their livestock to the summer pastures in the mountains.

Veterinary Field Units surviving without support
From 1990 onwards, DCA-VET and FAO had realized hundreds of Veterinary Field Units (VFUs) all over Afghanistan. At the start of the DCA-VET RAMP project, there were still about 100 VFUs operational with 300 staff members. The VFU staff was not supported during the two bridging years between the closure of FAO and the onset of RAMP, but some had managed to continue their veterinary field services. However, many VFU staff members had lost their instruments, refrigerator and motorbike during the years of violence and insurgency, while a number of VFU facilities were destroyed by the war violence.

Other NGOs working in the field

There are several other NGOs active in supporting and providing veterinary field services in rural areas of Afghanistan. One international NGO, Solidarités, handed over its veterinary field activities in Bamyan province in April 2005 to DCA-VET RAMP. See the story *Bamyan – ‘the place of shining light’*.

Some NGOs are still paying salaries to their VFU staff, and are providing free veterinary services to livestock owners. This is causing

Bamyan – ‘the place of shining light’

One of the most interesting historical places in Afghanistan is the central province of Bamyan. Its written history goes as far back as the late fourth century, when Chinese monks traveled to India and Persia via the ‘Snowy Mountains’ of Bamyan. They reported about several thousand Buddhist monks living in caves dug into cliffs and of two huge, beautiful decorated Buddha statues, also excavated in the steep cliffs of Bamyan. However, in March 2001 the world was shocked by the Taliban dynamiting of the two ancient Buddha statues, being on the UNESCO World Heritage list.

The French NGO Solidarités was the most active one in providing veterinary relief services to livestock owners in six districts of Bamyan and Samangan provinces. Their team of fifteen (para)veterinarians were providing veterinary services for free at start; later on they introduced some fees for services. At the beginning of 2005, they requested DCA-VET to take over their veterinary field activities.

Alas, none of the fifteen veterinarians wanted to start a private veterinary field practice in Bamyan. DCA-VET recruited one of them as regional veterinary field monitor. Within one month, four (para)veterinarians applied for a job. All of them were positive on the DCA-VET RAMP concept of fee for veterinary services and they were confident that they could generate a reasonable income. By June 2006, the number of Veterinary Field Units supported by the DCA-VET RAMP project has increased to a total of fourteen. None of the farmers complain about the fees they have to pay these days to the VFU staff members. Most important for them is that there are high quality vaccines and medicines available to protect their valuable livestock.

problems in those areas that are also supported by the DCA-VET RAMP project. The two major EC funded NGOs involved in veterinary programmes, Mercy Corps and MADERA, largely follow the same approach as the DCA-RAMP consortium was doing.



Afghan herder

Implementing partners

The implementation of the DCA-VET RAMP project was done by the Dutch Committee for Afghanistan (DCA-VET) along with two local Afghan partner organizations: the Afghan Veterinary Association (AVA) and PRB (Partners in Revitalization and Building).

AVA

The Afghan Veterinary Association was established with the support of the FAO about ten years ago as a professional association to support veterinarians and paraveterinarians working in Afghanistan. One main objective in creating AVA was to ensure a steady and continuous supply of quality medicines for VFU operators. Through RAMP, AVA has also been actively involved in the development and support of VFUs. AVA has its main office and store in Kabul. Five regional offices in the eastern and southern provinces participated in the DCA-VET RAMP project.

PRB

The local NGO PRB was involved in the FAO project that ended by April 2002. Under the FAO project, PRB constructed and operated veterinary clinics and also provided technical and administrative support for many years. Based on this experience, PRB was invited by DCA-VET to join them as an implementing partner in the DCA-VET RAMP project. The PRB veterinary staff operated from their regional office in Kunduz.

Veterinary Field Units network

One of the main objectives of the RAMP project was the establishment of a nationwide network of Veterinary Field Units (VFUs) in Afghanistan. The VFUs are run by veterinary staff members providing preventative and therapeutic veterinary interventions on a fee-for-service basis.

Five working regions

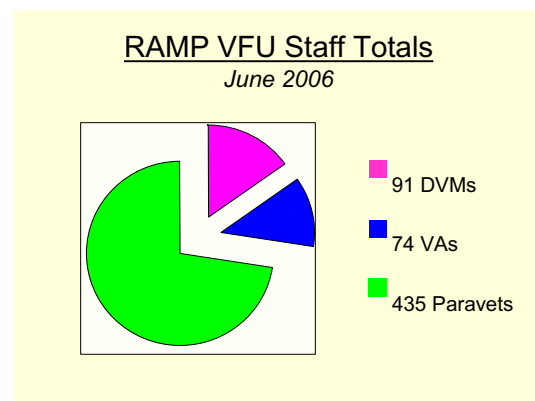
At the end of the project, DCA-VET RAMP had a nationwide coverage of 31 provinces subdivided into five working regions:

- DCA Kabul: Parwan, Kapisa, Panjshir and Bamyan provinces
- DCA Herat: Herat, Ghor, Badghis and Farah provinces
- DCA Mazar: Balkh, Jawzjan, Samangan, Faryab and Saripul provinces
- PRB Kunduz: Kunduz, Balkh, Takhar and Badakhshan provinces
- AVA Region: Kabul, Logar, Ghazni, Helmand, Kandahar, Khost, Kunar, Wardak, Nangahar, Nimroz, Paktika, Paktya, Zabul and Uruzgan provinces.

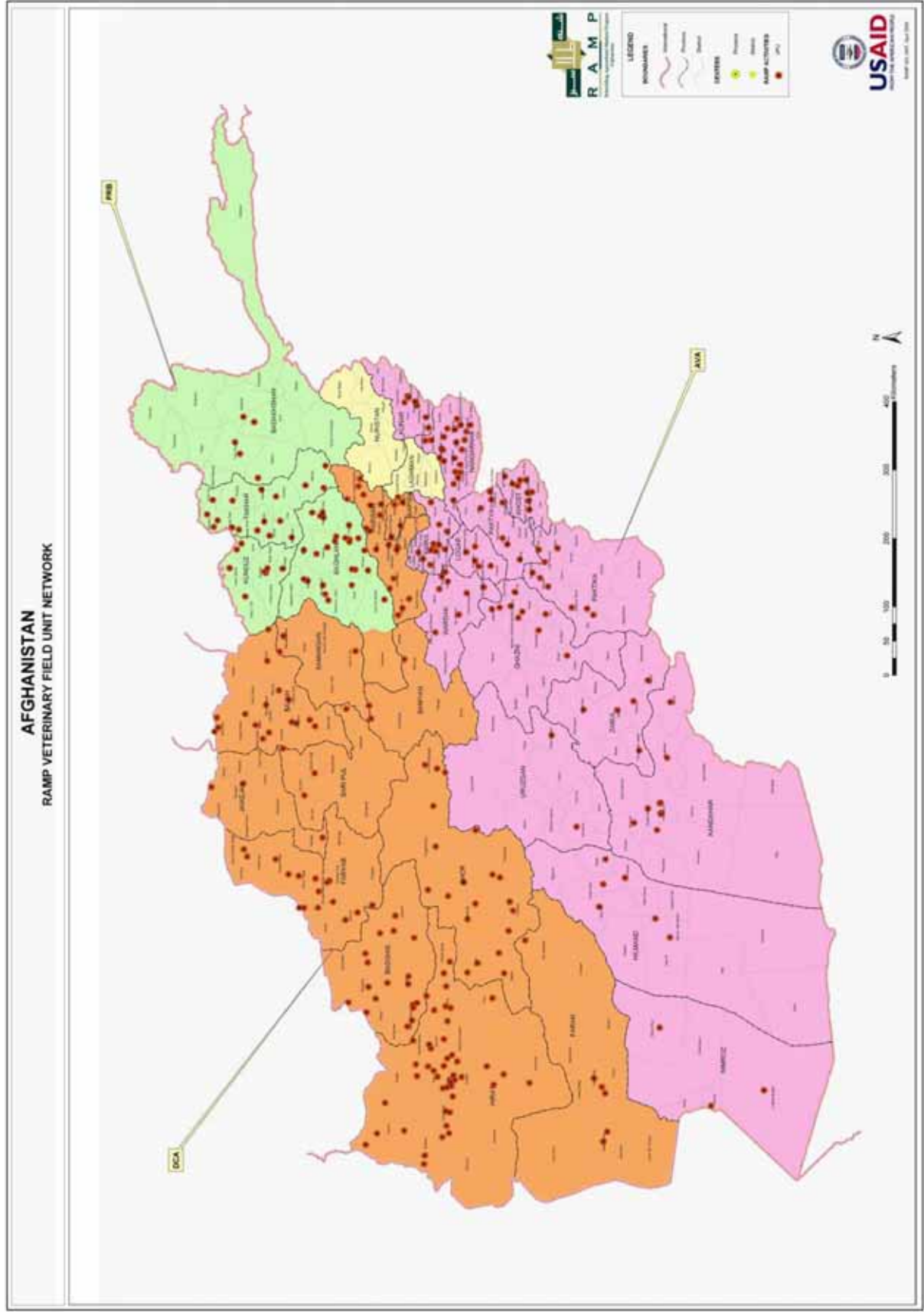
For an overview of all 400 VFUs under the RAMP project, see the map of the RAMP VFU locations in the different working areas of DCA, AVA and PRB on the next page.

VFU staff

During the implementation of the DCA-VET RAMP project, the number of VFU staff members doubled from about 300 in June 2004 to 600 VFU staff members by June 30, 2006.



About 75% of all VFU staff members are graduated paravets. The remainder consists of Doctors of Veterinary Medicine (DVMs) and Veterinary Assistants (VAs). See graph above.



In the table below, the average calculated numbers of each livestock species per VFU staff member is presented. However, it should be recognized that in most regions only 25% of the livestock receive regular vaccinations and medications from VFUs.

Livestock numbers per VFU staff

Average calculated

- 7,000 heads of cattle
- 16,000 heads of sheep
- 13,000 heads of goats
- 3,000 heads of donkeys
- 250 heads of horses
- 300 heads of camels
- 20,000 heads of chickens

Privatization support

The RAMP project was aimed at sustainability and privatization of the Afghan agricultural markets. For that reason, DCA-VET has not been paying any salaries, but instead has given VFU staff the necessary tools to start generating their own income. These tools are:

- Veterinary equipment: a set of 56 veterinary instruments
- Clinic refurbishment and reconstruction: furniture and utensils for daily veterinary and administrative work
- Cold chain facilities: a refrigerator, mostly solar powered, and cold boxes



Solar power shield for refrigerator

- A motorcycle: to travel out to villages where the animals are concentrated
- Quality vaccines and medicines: every VFU staff member received monthly vaccines and/or medicines for a value of 1500 Afs (US\$ 30) as goods in kind. This

was especially important for newly graduated paravets, who had no starting capital in most cases.

Achievement of VFUs

During the period of January 6, 2004 through June 30, 2006 the following achievements have been made:

- 30,000,000 doses of 16 different animal vaccines distributed to regional stores
- 18,500,000 vaccinations were given to animals against 16 different diseases
- 9,500,000 medications such as antibiotics and dewormers were administered
- 650,000 other veterinary services such as castrations and pregnancy testing were performed.



Vaccinating and deworming of sheep

Veterinary field monitors

In each DCA-VET RAMP regional office, a team of veterinary field monitors supported the VFU staff members by periodic visits and by advising the VFUs. Field monitors also identified new locations for VFUs and recruited candidates from the local communities for training as paraveterinarians.

Monitoring VFU activities

Each VFU staff member had to report monthly on his activities: vaccinations, medications and other veterinary services. In addition, DCA-VET RAMP developed a form for immediate reporting of highly contagious diseases to the local Provincial Government Veterinarian, the so-called Early Warning System.

Training activities

Training Centres

At the start of the DCA-VET RAMP project, DCA-VET operated two Veterinary Training

and Service Centres (VTSCs) in Afghanistan, one in Herat and one in Kabul. During the DCA-VET RAMP project the reconstruction of the new VTSC in Charikar, north of Kabul, was completed. A training and demonstration farm with different kinds of farm animals and a unit for poultry reproduction has also been built at the Charikar VTSC. A fourth VTSC was established at the DCA Regional office in Mazar-i-Sharif.

Training courses

Over the course of the RAMP project, DCA-VET conducted ten new paravet training courses, three refresher courses for DVMs, sixteen refresher courses for paravets (PVT) and Veterinary Assistants (VA) and 22 VFU Business Skills seminars (see next column).



Paravet training class

In addition, eight courses for new Basic Veterinary Workers (BVWs) were conducted on behalf of other NGOs. See the table below for an overview of DCA-VET training.

Overview DCA-RAMP Training

# persons trained	Charikar	Herat	Mazar	Totals
New Paravets Training	92	54	65	211
PVT Refresher Course	100	99	14	213
DVM Refresher Course	53	0	1	54
VA Refresher Course	5	0	6	11
Business Skill Seminar	196	83	62	341
BVW Training	29	108	0	137
Totals	475	344	149	967

VFUs are small enterprises and need to run properly as private businesses. Therefore, a new training curriculum *VFU Business Skills* was developed. This seminar was intended for existing VFU staff as well as for the new paravet training curriculum.

New target groups

The Afghan nomadic herders, or Kuchis, have only irregular access to quality animal health care. During the DCA-VET RAMP project, the first Kuchi was trained and supported in his veterinary field work. In the last half of 2005, eleven newly recruited Kuchi trainees joined the paravet courses. Recruitment of more Kuchi candidates will continue in the coming years.



Kuchis, Afghan nomadic herders

Another notable milestone in the project is the training of the first female paraveterinarian. It is important that in the coming years more young women will be trained, because they can reach the many women in the villages who are actively involved in livestock production and caring more easily.



New target group: women

Vaccine and medicine distribution

Vaccines

Several kinds of vaccines have been distributed by DCA-VET for several years, some procured locally, others imported from abroad.

During the RAMP years several vaccines were added to the list of vaccines demanded from the field, notably some poultry vaccines and FMD vaccine.

See the tables below for the doses distributed of each vaccine.

RAMP DCA Vaccines Ruminants

Anthrax (ASV)	7 million
Enterotoxaemia (ETV)	10 million
Small Ruminants Pest (PPR)	4,5 million
Sheep/Goat pox (SPV)	2,5 million
Pasteurellosis (HSV)	2,5 million
Blackleg (BQV)	750,000
Goat pneumonia (CCPP)	1,1 million
Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD)	1 million

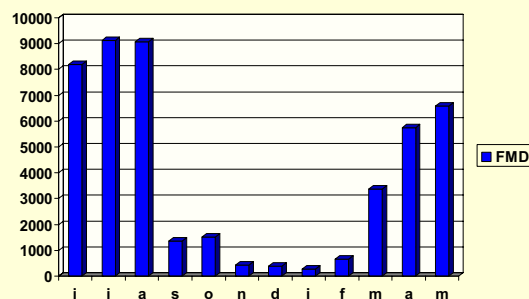
RAMP DCA Vaccines Non-Ruminants

Rabies (ARV)	25,000
Newcastle Disease I ₂ (NDVK)	3 million
Gumboro Disease D ₇₈ (BDV)	1,5 million
Fowl Pox	1,050,000
Fowl Coryza	250,000
Avian Influenza – H ₅ N ₂	460,000
Dog Distemper + Leptospirosis	200
Feline Distemper	100

During RAMP, the Afghan government requested DCA-VET to assist in the control of outbreaks of highly contagious diseases and to procure vaccines on government's behalf. DCA-VET procured 25,000 doses of rabies vaccine and 1 million doses of the high quality, but costly, trivalent FMD vaccine. The spread of FMD during spring and summer seasons was reported through the VFU Early Warning System; see the graph in the next column.

Recently, 460,000 doses of the Intervet avian influenza strain H₅N₂ vaccine were imported for the national programme to control avian influenza in Afghanistan.

FMD Occurrence Monthly June 2005 – May 2006



Medicines

The procurement of veterinary medicines such as antibiotics, minerals, vitamins, anthelmintics, and ectoparasiticide drugs was done both by DCA-VET and its implementing partner, Afghan Veterinary Association (AVA).

Distribution network

One of the targets of the DCA-VET RAMP project was to establish a sustainable vaccine and medicine distribution network in Afghanistan for the privatized VFUs. Good achievements have been made and now the time has come to found a privatized, commercial vaccine and medicine distribution system (called VetServ). A genuine commitment to establish VetServ exists and a plan for moving forward to make VetServ operational has been developed.



A perfect copy, but without the same results!

Conclusions

A nationwide network of VFUs

The DCA-VET RAMP objective to create a nationwide network of privatized, fee-for-service animal health field services has been

firmly achieved. Farmers are in general accepting the concept of payment for the services provided by VFUs. Moreover, many of them prefer a more costly vaccine when this one gives broader protection to their livestock.

VFU staff member income: privatization works!
Using the field data, an effort has been made to estimate the monthly net income per VFU staff member. The average net monthly income per VFU staff member has been calculated to be US\$ 147 per month. During field visits most VFU staff reported to have an income between US\$ 100 to 200 per month. In contrast, veterinarians working at government clinics have monthly salaries in the range of US\$ 60 - 70 per month.

In accordance, DCA-VET and its implementing partners AVA and PRB have noticed a big change in the mentality of VFU staff members. At the beginning of the programme, many VFU staff complained to monitors about the non-payment of salaries in the programme.

However, they quickly realized the advantages of earning their own livelihood and of getting support by means of high quality vaccines and medicines instead of money.

Changed relationship with MAI

During the beginning of the DCA-VET RAMP project the MAI was not very cooperative towards DCA-VET. During the course of the project, DCA-VET invested much effort in communicating its activities to the Ministry and provided assistance through disease reporting and vaccine procurement. This resulted in a positive change in the relationships with the Ministry. This change in attitude was made evident by Minister Obaidullah Rahmin's grateful remarks at the closing conference of the DCA-VET RAMP project on June 28, 2006. Minister Rahmin thanked DCA-VET RAMP for establishing the national VFU network and expressed his commitment to a strong public and private partnership in veterinary medicine in Afghanistan.



An Afghan picnic with Irish touch in Dasht-e-Laili: discussing veterinary programmes and other important things in life!

Post-RAMP period

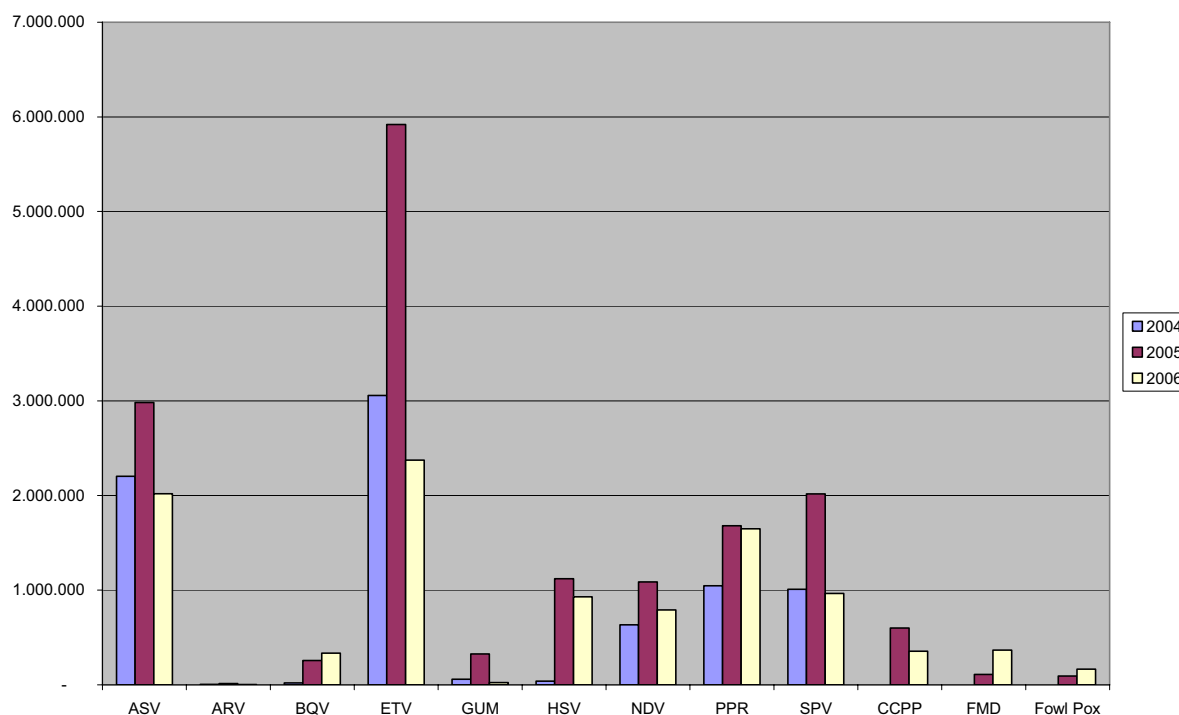
July 2006 – January 2007, supported by DCA-VET core funds

When the RAMP project came to an end, the regular training and field operations needed to continue as usual, and so they did! With limited financial support from DCA-VET's own core funds, the period in between project funding was covered as much as possible. For trainees outside DCA-VET's own working area, a contribution in the training costs was asked, to which most NGOs agreed. In the 15 provinces covered by 245 DCA-VET VFUs, the 288 staff members carried on their work at more or less the same level as during the RAMP period. The output of the field operations over the last six months of the year 2006 is as follows:

- 2,500,000 vaccines administered
- 1,300,000 medicines given
- 80,000 other veterinary services supplied

The graph below shows the amount of vaccines distributed over the years 2004, 2005 and 2006. The apparent reduction in output in 2006, especially concerning ETV, might be related to the increased percentage of cost recovery and the abolishment of the VFU support package after 1 July 2006.

For the other, non-field, staff, the situation during this six months was more problematic, as DCA-VET was not in a position to maintain their normal salary levels, and operational expenditures needed to be curbed down. Fortunately, by the end of the year, the outlook for new USAID project funding under ASAP (Accelerating Sustainable Agriculture Program) finally brightened, and therewith the prospects for DCA-VET to continue its field and training activities in support of the Afghan livestock owners.



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

March 2005 – February 2007, funded by Stichting Vluchteling, the Netherlands
Project managers: Dr. Jaheed and Dr. Jabarkheil

Background information

From February 2003 till February 2005, DCA-VET continued to work on this programme. Out of 4 million refugees in 2001, 3.5 million returned to Afghanistan till January 2005. Within the district of Qarabagh, in twenty villages so-called Village Organizations (VOs) were established and within these the possibilities for livestock keeping were discussed. Special attention was given to the poor people and widows in the community. For 200 women, extension and training on poultry keeping was provided, and they received ten chickens for free to start small scale poultry production. 366 Women received training on animal husbandry and health education. Twenty members of the VOs were trained as Basic Veterinary Workers (BVWs) to provide the necessary veterinary care and husbandry expertise. After the establishment of well functioning Village Organizations, micro credits of US\$ 1,000 maximum were provided to enable the VOs to improve livelihood within the community by means of increasing livestock numbers. Results were promising and beyond expectation, but the success until 2005 depended merely upon the Afghan staff visiting the VOs and advising and motivating the VO members. To make the program sustainable the rural extension program had to be further developed.



Management and training team of SV-project

NB: The information presented below mainly concerns the project period March 1st 2005 till February 28th 2006. While producing this 'Annual Report 2005 and 2006', the project period March 2006 – February 2007 was not completed, so the final results of the project 2006-2007 were not available by that time.

Introduction to the project 2005-2006

From March 2005 till February 2006, the project focused on strengthening the existing VOs and expansion of extension and training in the existing areas. Here, livelihood and livestock production were enhanced by provision of extension and training, provision of micro credits for livestock-needs, subsidized distribution of chicks to the most vulnerable families, and provision of animal and poultry housing.

Objectives of the project period 2005-2006 are:

- Improvement of food security of returning refugees to Qarabagh district, through increased contribution of livestock to their rural livelihood
- Reduction of pressure of numbers of internally displaced persons in the urban areas, especially Kabul, through rural reconstruction and development activities encouraging resettlement by supporting returning refugees
- Strengthening of social structures within the villages involved.

Training and extension

Animal husbandry training

Fifty new female returnees were trained in animal husbandry in the two sub villages of Tamirat village, and 300 women received refresher training on animal husbandry in nine other villages of Qarabagh district during the project period. In six villages, over 100 women received refresher training on poultry husbandry and in the two sub villages of Tamirat 25 returnee women received training on poultry husbandry.

Basic Veterinary Workers trained

Ten persons (five male and five female) from sub villages of Tamirat have been trained as BVW and have received a basic veterinary worker kit with material and veterinary medicines. In eight other villages of Qarabagh district refresher training was provided to 16 BVWs.



Dr. Zubaida in class room

Extension and specific training

All VOs have their own ideas and the availability of knowledgeable and skilled persons varies per VO. The needs are listed and extension and training is adapted to these. The two male DCA-VET staff members (two veterinarians) are involved in training the male VO members. The female DCA-VET staff (two veterinarians, one agricultural extension worker) are teaching the women, who traditionally care for the animals when they are not in the field.

Supply of medicines

Supply of veterinary medicines and vaccines

Veterinary medicines for livestock were supplied to all BVWs trained. Vaccines could be obtained via DCA-VET stores. In addition to that, DCA-VET staff treated and vaccinated animals during the outbreak of contagious diseases and on request of the community. More than 10,000 animals in the area have been vaccinated against different diseases, mainly Foot and Mouth Disease and New Castle Disease. Besides, some 3,000 animals in the area have been treated for a variety of conditions.

Animal distribution and housing

Animals distributed

45 Dairy cows have been distributed from the micro credit budget. The distribution started only in July due to the unavailability of funds earlier. In the winter, animal fodder was distributed for all animals of the microfinance project in the area. Cows were given a ration of 3-5 kg concentrate/animal/24 hrs for three months.

Animal housing

For the Village Organizations of Akakhial, Betani, Qala-a-Bazar and Tamirat, a total of five chicken houses and four cow sheds were constructed for dairy and poultry housing. These so-called community farms are meant to house the animals bought by means of the micro credit program. Fourteen VOs that started in 2004 revolved their loans in 2005, making it possible for other VO members to invest the money.

Supply of chicks

In January 2005, the construction of a poultry farm started at the premises of DCA-VET. Main purpose of the farm is the production of chickens for distribution within the VOs.



Poultry farm

530 Chicks have been distributed free of cost to 53 vulnerable families in four villages, including feedstuff for the first months. Women belonging to these families received poultry training first, and are supported intensively after distribution for a long time. Another 50 families will receive chicks during next year.

Objectives of the project period 2006-2007

For the project 2006-2007 the objectives remain the same as stated for the year 2005-2006. From March 2006 onwards one objective was added:

- To help strengthening social structures within the villages involved, through formation of and cooperation between village organizations.

Animal Health and Production Programme in Baghlan Province

September 2005 – January 2006, funded by the Dutch Ministry of Defence, PRT/CIMIC
 December 2005 – April 2008, funded by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs – Development Cooperation
 Project manager: Nikaj van Wees

Goal and planned activities

Pol-i-Khomri, Baghlan province, November 2004; the Dutch military contingent had only just struck camp, when a brief and informal meeting took place between the Head of CIMIC of the PRT, Col. Jan van der Woerd, and the Director of DCA-VET. At that first meeting the outlines for a new Dutch funded proposal were discussed and right from the beginning a cheese factory was an essential part of this. It took until late 2005 before a formal contract was signed for the full project. The goal of this four-component-project is to contribute to a sustainable economic development, and to improve food security in Baghlan province, through supporting private sector development in animal husbandry and milk processing activities.

To reach this goal the following activities were planned:

- Stimulating a viable dairy industry by establishing a small cheese factory as an outlet for any regional surplus milk
- Stimulating income-generating activities by distributing potentially productive animals (dairy cattle, sheep and poultry)
- Providing rural extension, animal husbandry and health training for selected families
- Strengthening the prevention of livestock diseases by extending the network of Veterinary Field Units (VFUs).

Cheese factory

In 2005, DCA-VET made an inception plan for reviving of the cheese production in Baghlan Sunaty (Baghlan Fabrica, Baghlan province). Meetings with farmers living in a radius of 10 km from the factory revealed that they are eager to improve the health and production of their cows and at the same time improve the outlet for their products.



The destroyed Baghlan cheese factory

For technical reasons, rebuilding the old destroyed cheese factory was not an option. It was decided to use the plot adjacent to the old factory for new construction purposes. Frétec Inc., a Dutch specialised firm in dairy products and systems, designed the layout of the new factory in close cooperation with PRB (Partners in Revitalization and Building). Construction of the cheese factory started on the 8th of May 2006 by AS Construction Co. On the 22nd of May, there was a well attended ceremony for the laying of the first stone. Dutch government was represented by Commander Den Harder of the Dutch PRT (PeK). In the last months of 2006, the construction of the Baghlan Cheese Factory has been completed.



Cheese processing within the new plant

Equipment was purchased from well reputed companies in the Netherlands. Used as well as revised items (as in case of durable equipment) were procured. The equipment was shipped in a 40-feet isolated container, which now serves as store room for the final product. Mr. Fré Etty performed the testing and

assembling of the plant in Baghlan. An Afghan dairy processing specialist, Mr. M.F. Mulhakhail, has been recruited as Technical Manager for the Baghlan Sunaty Cheese Factory.



During the last six months, a marketing survey in Baghlan and Pol-e-Khomri has been done. In Baghlan Province ten shops are willing to sell the products. The survey in Kabul is still continuing, but it is evident that the main market will have to be found in Kabul.

More than 360 families are eager to deliver milk to the factory. Ten Milk Collection Centres (MCCs) were established. DCA-VET trained four new cheese makers and ten milk collectors. For the extension work DCA-VET trained two female extension workers. The extension work contains training about milking and hygiene topics for local women farmers who are taking care of the cows.

Animal distribution

Sheep distribution project

The sheep distribution project was subcontracted to PRB. After selection of the beneficiaries, 500 pregnant sheep, bought in Baghlan province, were procured to them. In six villages, 250 vulnerable and poor families received two pregnant sheep each.

The sheep were vaccinated and medically checked by a paravet from the nearest VFU. A veterinary doctor from PRB started training of the beneficiaries on animal health and

production in May 2006. PRB also distributed the second round of sheep feed (14 kg per family).



Sheep distribution



Milking cow distribution project

PRB is implementing this project as well. Ten villages have been selected, and 25% of the inhabitants of each village will receive a cow. In November, the first cows were bought. The beneficiaries are asked to pay 30% of the procurement value of the cow on distribution.



Milking cow distribution

Training

Poultry school raising

The poultry school raising programme started in September 2005 after signing a contract with PRT/CIMIC. Mr. Otto Wijers was recruited for preparation and implementation of this project – next to preparing the ground for the other project components. DCA-VET started with a ten schools pilot programme, including the construction of poultry houses and the distribution of 1000 cockerels in approximately 50 villages. These pilot activities were completed, but it was decided not to continue beyond the pilot phase, due to practical difficulties and above all: due to the serious threat of Avian Influenza. The combination of chicken and children was just not suitable at that moment in time!



Baghlan beneficiaries

Training and extension project

The contract for the Training and extension project was signed in June 2006. PRB is implementing this project. DCA-VET's local professional veterinarian is working closely with the PRB extension officer in this project. During the summer and early autumn only 20 - 25% of the beneficiaries attended the courses because they were too busy with harvest activities. Later on, the number of attendees increased. PRB hired experienced female veterinary extension workers to train six female BVWs. The newly trained female BVWs will then train the female beneficiaries. Four male BVWs graduated from the BVW course in Pol-e-Khomri and five paravets started their training in Charikar Training Centre. They will graduate in March 2007, and then commence working in their new VFUs.



Female beneficiaries

Veterinary Field Units

Under RAMP, in each district one or two VFUs could be established. The *Animal Health and Production Programme* offered the opportunity to intensify the network of VFUs in Baghlan Province. Together with Dr. Zia Formuly of PRB, involved with the RAMP project, DCA-VET identified ten new VFU-locations. In November 2006 the contract for the construction of seven VFU-buildings was signed with PRB.



Livestock Disease Control Program in Badakhshan

July 2006 – January 2009, funded by PADCO
Project manager: Erik Simonides

Background

In Badakhshan, 80% of farming families depend on livestock for income. There is an estimated 580,000 animals in the area, mainly goats, sheep and cows. The population of these animals is severely affected by widespread presence of several diseases, among which the most serious are Peste des Petit Ruminants and Food and Mouth Disease affecting 70-80% of the animals.

Only two government veterinary clinics exist in the province, and six paravets are supported by PRB (Partners in Revitalization and Building). So there is an urgent need for strengthening of veterinary services.



Landscape of Badakhshan with horses

ALP and PADCO

In December 2004, USAID launched its Alternative Livelihoods Program (ALP) to provide economic alternatives to the production of poppy in Afghanistan. The program is a key element in the U.S. Government's counter-narcotics strategy, and is designed to accelerate economic growth in Afghanistan's principal poppy-producing provinces. Under this programme, PADCO developed the *Livestock Disease Control Program in Badakhshan*. PADCO is an international development consulting firm with a wide range of expertise and experience. PADCO has worked in more than 100

countries around the world promoting sustainable economic development. DCA-VET will execute the livestock programme together with its implementing partner PRB.

Goals and activities

The goals of this project are:

- Strengthening the existing government and non-government veterinary facilities
- Expansion of veterinary services into areas with large animal populations
- Introduction of a veterinary disease control programme
- Training of paravets and BVWs (Basic Veterinary Workers) to create a pool of trained veterinary staff that will operate their own private veterinary services
- Increasing productivity, food security and revenue to farmers through improved access to animal health care.

To reach these goals the following activities will be executed:

- Establishment of a Provincial Veterinary Centre
- Strengthening of public sector as well as private sector veterinary support
- Establishing of Veterinary Field Units
- Training
- Procurement and distribution of vaccines, medicines and equipment
- Construction and repair of VFU-buildings.



Starting paravet in Veterinary Field Clinic

Monthly progress

July and August

The project started with introductions, finding an office and housing in Faizabad and

selecting of new paravet trainees. The fieldtrips to select paravets were fairly successful. Most of the time the local communities received the DCA-VET project leaders very hospitably.



Community meeting

September

The seven newly selected paravets received their instrument kits and started their training at the VTSC in Charikar. By now, the office in Faizabad was ready to serve as a home base for the newly recruited DCA-VET staff. Five solar refrigerators were installed to be used as a temporary store for vaccines and medicines.



Vaccinating and deworming of cow

October

The first supply of vaccines arrived and the paravets vaccinated 18,000 animals this month. The final construction drawings for three new VFUs and a provincial centre were approved by PADCO. PADCO launched the idea of a new project on microfinance. However, explorations revealed that the idea was not viable at this moment. The DCA-VET staff managed to find six paravets, who are already working in the province, and incorporated them in the project.

November

All existing VFUs received three month supplies of vaccines, so they could continue their veterinary service during winter, when most provincial roads are impassable. PADCO asked DCA-VET to get involved in a demo-farm project at Kishim, however, the project was turned down by USAID in January.



Badakhshan road in winter

December

A constructor was appointed to build the three new VFUs. Work will commence as soon as possible. There was a rocket attack on Faizabad. It might have been aimed at PADCO, as there is almost weekly an attack of some sort at the PADCO guesthouse and compound. The first four Landcruisers for transport in Badakhshan arrived in Kabul.

Achievements

During the first six months the following achievements were made:

- 60,000 animals were vaccinated
- 18,000 animals were treated against various diseases
- 2,500 animals received other veterinary services
- 5000 farmers in 1000 villages were visited.

This is a promising start and, in addition, it is expected that, with the arrival of new graduated paravets, these figures will very well increase in the coming spring.

Other Activities

Symposium 2005

In June 2005, DCA-VET hosted an international veterinary symposium, entitled *Privatization of Clinical Veterinary Services: Opportunities and Challenges*. This symposium focussed on the role of paravets in privatized clinical veterinary field service. It was held in Hotel Intercontinental in Kabul on June 19th 2005. Speakers from MAAHF, OIE, World Bank, Tufts University and DCA-VET elucidated the subject. The symposium was attended by experts in privatization and veterinary services, representatives of NGOs and representatives of the Government. The practical implications of privatization of clinical veterinary services were discussed in a follow-up workshop on June 22nd 2005. This workshop was entitled *Creating an Enabling Environment for the Development of Veterinary Services in Afghanistan* and was organized by the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Food at the FAO Compound in Daralaman.



Panel discussion

Elaboration on previous symposium

The DCA-VET 2005 symposium elaborated on the conclusions of a symposium DCA-VET had organized in 2003, entitled *The Future of Animal Health Care in Afghanistan: Next Three Years*. Participants of this symposium had agreed that clinical veterinary service delivery should occur in the private sector and that paraprofessionals, including paravets, should play an important role in this delivery.

Objectives

The objectives of the 2005 symposium were:

- To bring together international experts on privatisation processes with Afghan decision makers, with the following goals:
 - To promote understanding at decision makers' level for privatization of clinical veterinary services
 - To learn from the experience world-wide and to stress that this is not an Afghan experiment only
- To learn the Government views on privatisation of clinical veterinary services in general
- To assist in defining public and private services and to promote their integration
- To try to determine what is needed for an effective and cost-efficient delivery of services at field level
- To stress the important role for paravets in delivery of clinical veterinary services, especially in Afghanistan
- To review lessons learned from previous efforts towards privatisation.

Lecturers

After Bram Schreuder, director of DCA-VET, had welcomed the participants, the symposium was opened by His Excellency, the Minister of Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Food, Mr. Obaidullah Rahmin.



Dr. Nasser and His Excellency Minister Obaidullah Rahmin

Lectures were given by:

- Dr. Bernard Vallat, Director General OIE, The World Animal Health Organization (*Privatization of clinical veterinary services, the view of the OIE*)

- Eng. Ghulam Mustafa Jawad, Deputy Minister of MAAHF (*Prospects for public private partnership in veterinary services in Afghanistan*)
- Dr. Cees de Haan, Senior Livestock Advisor World Bank (*Privatization of clinical veterinary services, a global perspective*)
- Dr. Philippe Blanc, EU Advisor to the MAAHF (*Creating an enabling environment for the development of veterinary services in Afghanistan*)
- Dr. David Sherman, Country Programme Director, DCA-VET (*Moving forward with integration of the public and private veterinary sectors in Afghanistan: what needs to be done?*)
- Mr. Cees de Haan, Senior Livestock Advisor, World Bank (*Experiences with intermediate level of veterinary personnel in other countries, interaction with Government vets*)
- Dr. Jeffrey Mariner, Tufts University School of Veterinary Medicine (*Participatory disease surveillance*)

Integration of public and private veterinary services

DCA-VET has a long history in training paraveterinarians and establishing Veterinary Field Units (VFUs) all over Afghanistan. These VFUs are operating in the private sector. For a sustainable veterinary system it is of utmost importance that the paravets can earn their livelihood directly from the delivery of veterinary service and are in no way dependent on funds from an external organisation. By now, the foundation of a private clinical service delivery in Afghanistan is well established and the system is working quite sustainable.

The next step is to ensure the ongoing development of quality private clinical practice and to advance the integration of public and private sector veterinary activities in Afghanistan.

To facilitate this process, the 2005 symposium and workshop brought together experts on privatization processes in Afghanistan and elsewhere, with representatives of the Government in order to learn from their mutual experience, exchange views and to create an environment in which private and public veterinary services work successfully together for the benefit of the Afghan livestock owners.



Animal Health Clinic Kabul University

DCA-VET Film Production 2005

In 2005, Nico Noorman, DCA-VET Regional Programme Director in Herat, met an Afghan film maker, Sayed Fahim Hashimy. Fahim Hashimy appeared very interested in the activities and achievements of DCA-VET and proposed to produce a film about this. In agreement with the DCA-VET management and with the assistance of Nico Noorman and an Australian script writer Fahim Hashimy produced the film:

Veterinary Adventures in Afghanistan – The story of the Dutch Committee for Afghanistan 1988 – 2005.

The film gives an excellent view of the work of DCA-VET to enhance and expand the private veterinary field service in Afghanistan. It shows the spectator day-to-day practice in Veterinary Training Centres, Veterinary Field Units, and in veterinary fieldwork in rural Afghanistan. Several villagers, paravets, paravet trainees and staff members get the floor, telling about their experiences with the DCA-VET training programme, the VFU-system, the provision of veterinary equipment, medicines and vaccines and the efforts of DCA-VET to integrate public and private veterinary service.

Study Tour 2006

From October 29th till November 3rd 2006, DCA-VET hosted three Afghan guests for a study tour in the Netherlands. In this study tour, the Afghans learned more about the Dutch system on distribution of veterinary drugs and vaccines and the Dutch veterinary infrastructure.

Our Afghan guests were:

- Dr. Sayed Safi, Afghan Veterinary Association (AVA), Kabul
- Dr. Daad Mohammed Amir, Chemonics
- Dr. Nasser, Dutch Committee for Afghanistan (DCA-VET), Kabul



Dr. Daad Mohammed Amir, Dr. Nasser, Dr. Sayed Safi in a typical Dutch setting

During the RAMP project period (2004-2006), DCA-VET and AVA were responsible for distribution of veterinary vaccines and veterinary pharmaceuticals in a large area of Afghanistan. As part of the project a private organization for the distribution of veterinary vaccines and drugs has to be established. The name 'VetServ' has been suggested for this commercial entity. The Afghan guests played an important role in the project, and will be involved in the follow up: proposed foundation of VetServ in Afghanistan.

During the study tour the guests visited, among other organizations, the DCA-VET Dutch office and the Animal Sciences Group in Lelystad, the Chief Veterinary Officer in The Hague, the Royal Dutch Veterinary Organization (KNMvD) in Houten, the Veterinary Faculty in Utrecht and a cooperative enterprise for the distribution of veterinary drugs and vaccines (AUV) in Cuijk. They gathered information on research,

legislation and national policy in the field of veterinary medicine, on veterinary pharmacy and on registration and distribution of veterinary drugs and vaccines.

Evaluation and discussion VetServ

The study tour was concluded with an evaluation, and discussion focussed in particular on the establishment of VetServ. David Sherman, Ab Emmerzaal and Bram Schreuder (all of them DCA-VET) joined Safi, Amir and Nasser in the evaluation.

Concerning the establishment of VetServ the following action points were listed:

1. Mapping the value of available assets
2. Developing a business plan
3. Adjusting the Draft Articles of Confederation
4. Investigating support from EVD (the Netherlands) and/or USAID
5. Looking for joint venture partners.

The participants agreed on working out the first three action points whereupon a go/no go decision will be made.



Newcastle Disease Vaccine

Tender Assistance Landell Mills consortium

In January 2006, DCA-VET, because of its long term experience in the field of private animal health service, was asked by Landell Mills Limited to give assistance in tender preparation and recruitment consultancy in the framework of the Animal Health Development

Programme in Afghanistan. The project concerned is called *Provision of Technical Assistance to the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Husbandry & Food for the Implementation of the Animal Health Development Programme in Afghanistan*, and is funded by EuropeAid.

The aims of the project are:

- A restructured Animal Health & Production Department is established and is working in partnership with private sector animal health service providers at district and village levels.
- The Central Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory (CVDL) and the regional and provincial laboratories are operational. The epidemiology of most animal diseases in Afghanistan is better understood and used to formulate detailed policies and strategies for their control.
- A thorough epidemic-surveillance network is established and allows for early detection and diagnosis of diseases and early reaction of veterinary services resulting in better efficiency of disease control programmes.
- The CVDL is performing quality assurance tests for vaccines against priority livestock diseases produced locally and the vaccine production laboratory operates fully on a commercial basis to satisfy local demand.

The consortium, comprising of Landell Mills Limited (leading organization), ALC Consultants Limited, ID-Lelystad B.V., assisted by DCA-VET, applied successfully for the tender: EuropeAid awarded the project to them. The project will be executed by the first three, and the full international expert team took up assignment in the course of 2006.



Future Projects

2005 and 2006 were fruitful years for DCA-VET. The number of VFU locations augmented by a factor 4, and more than 200 new paravets were trained and started their veterinary services. Fortunately, for 2007 the prospects of DCA-VET to serve the Afghan livestock owners by delivering basic veterinary services are promising.

Two of the current projects will continue in 2007. These are:

- Animal Health and Production Programme in Baghlan Province (*Royal Dutch Embassy/Ministry of Foreign Affairs – Development Cooperation*)
- Livestock Disease Control Program in Badakhshan (*PADCO/USAID*)

It is expected that the project funded by Stichting Vluchteling will receive continuation funding as well. This concerns the project:

- Rural Extension, Animal Health and Production Program (*Stichting Vluchteling*)

In addition, two new projects are in the process of being granted, among which the continuation of RAMP, DCA-VET's largest project during the preceding years. The new projects are:

- ASAP Continuation of the Afghan Veterinary Privatization Effort to Ensure Sustainability of the Veterinary Field Unit System Established under USAID RAMP (*USAID*)
- World Bank Horticulture and Livestock Project – Training portion of veterinary component (*World Bank*).

ASAP Continuation of the Afghan Veterinary Privatization Effort to Ensure Sustainability of the Veterinary Field Unit System Established under USAID RAMP

January 2007 – June 2009, *USAID*

The ASAP project is in a way a follow-up of the RAMP project, which was executed by DCA-VET from January 2004 – July 2006. However, ASAP is a regional programme, while RAMP was a national one.

The focus of ASAP will be on expansion, strengthening and diversification of the VFUs system. The four main objectives are:

- Complete the national 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



Training class

Activities will focus on recruitment of new paravets, training, outfitting of VFUs and paravets, maintaining a national VFU network, establishing a VFU cold chain system of vaccine storage, field monitoring, developing a credit scheme for paravets, and establishing VetServ for vaccine and medicine distribution. The training component comprises paravet training courses, refresher courses and seminars. Special attention will be given to nomadic pastoralists by setting up of a veterinary field service program for them. Besides, DCA-VET's own training and extension capacity will be strengthened. New services include training courses on reproductive management and animal nutrition. Through the provision of services along the value chains, rural income from high valued products such as cashmere, wool, and karakul pelts can be increased. Furthermore, activities are planned to ensure collaboration between public and private extension.

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

January 2007 – December 2009, World Bank

DCA-VET will be responsible for the veterinary training programme of this project, as a sub-contractor to AVA. This programme includes:

- Refresher training for government veterinarians transferring to privatized clinics (100 vets)
- Training for basic principles of disease control (100 vets)
- Training of selected VFU staff to properly undertake sanitary mandates (400 vets)
- Training of existing VFU staff to broaden their scope of activities to livestock owners (1500 sessions).

This programme is still under development.



Sample of Letter of Appreciation

Translation:

The Governor and the Presidency of the Agriculture Department in honor of Farmer Celebration appreciate the activities and projects of the Dutch Committee for Afghanistan (DCA) in terms of development of agriculture and animal health in the northern region.

We wish them success for the development of a new Afghanistan in the future.

Ata Mohammad Noor, Governor of Balkh Province

Kateb Shams, Head of Agriculture Department.

Concluding Remarks

The above report deals with a number of projects and activities, out of which our core-business, the establishment of the VFU-system, is still clearly outstanding. If you allow me to add a personal note to this, with the due amount of reflection: the time of writing these words is end of January 2007, finding myself in Kabul, involved in the preparation of yet another two and a half year long major project.

Going back exactly twenty years in time, to the end of January 1987, I find myself in Peshawar, Pakistan, on the very first feasibility study for livestock projects for DCA. Though it took until September 1988 before the real project started, many of the key items of our present programme, like VTSC, paravet training, VFUs, date back to that very first mission. So apparently they were of some value. With some melancholy I do recall the general feeling amongst NGOs like ours: we sincerely believed that our involvement was required for only two or three years at most! Because after the Soviet army would have gone, it would only be months before FAO and other UN organisations would move in and take the floor.

Nobody would have predicted that twenty years from that we are still deeply involved in rebuilding Afghanistan's basic veterinary field services. This does not imply that DCA-VET is not pursuing routes to hand-over (parts of) its programme or to make it fully self-supporting,

in good consultation with the Afghan authorities. The integration of the public and private good sector in the veterinary field has been high on our priority list during the reporting period, as you may well conclude from parts of the above report. In addition, the DCA-VET RAMP objective to create a national network of privatized, fee-for-service animal health field services has been largely achieved, with farmers now generally accepting the concept of payment for the services provided by VFUs. If this 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.

*A sustainable system, about which **Dr. Roger Windsor**, senior veterinary consultant for the European Commission, in June of 2006, after a one year consultancy in Afghanistan, made the statement:*

"I have worked in 38 countries in Africa, Asia and South America and it is my opinion that livestock owners in Afghanistan are getting better access to quality veterinary services through the privatized VFU system than livestock owners in any of the other countries I have worked in."

*Bram E.C. Schreuder
Director DCA-VET*



A typical Afghan view: life resumes next to the remnants of the past

Organization

Board and Advisory Board DCA-VET

Board of DCA-VET 2006

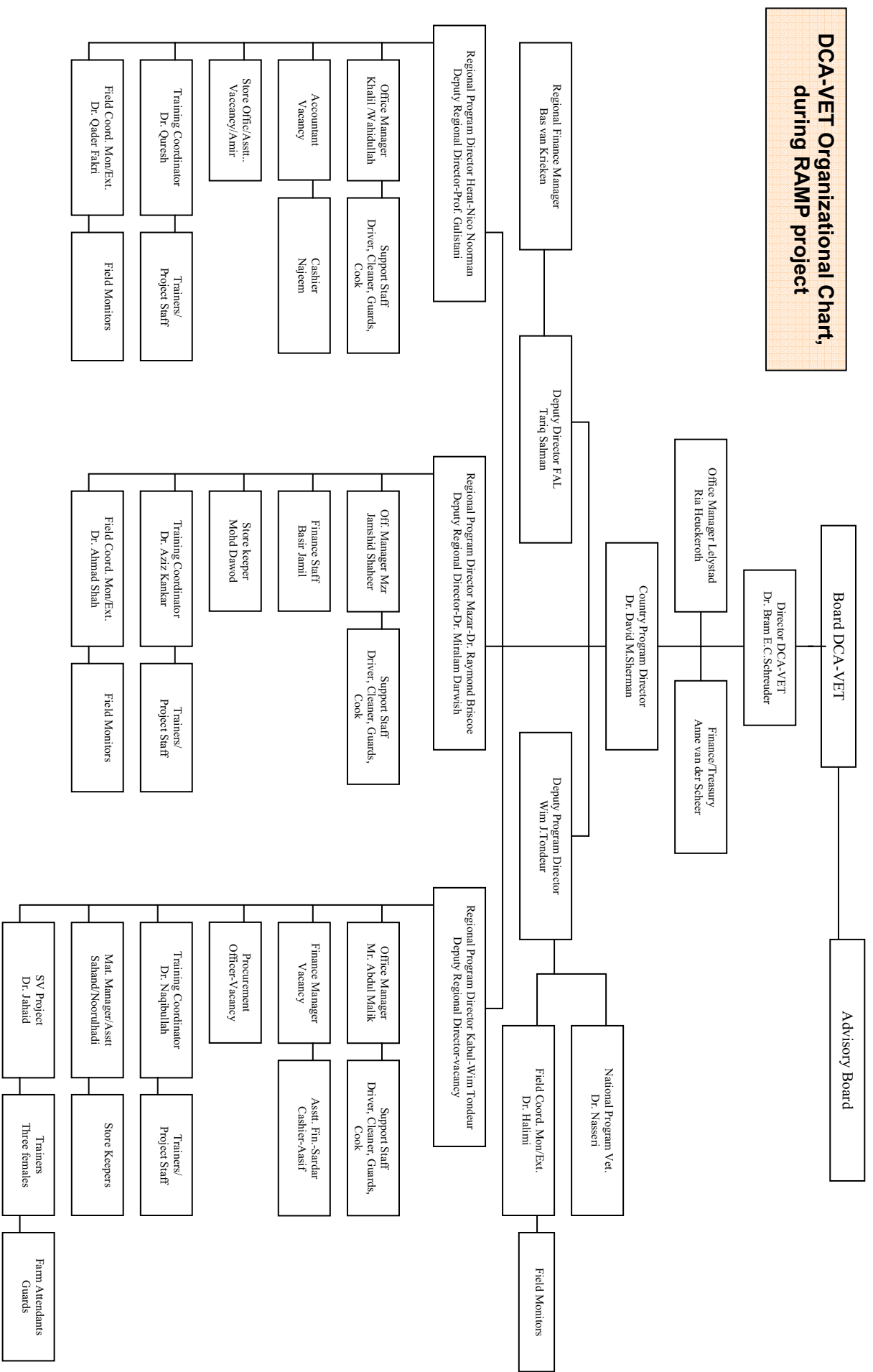
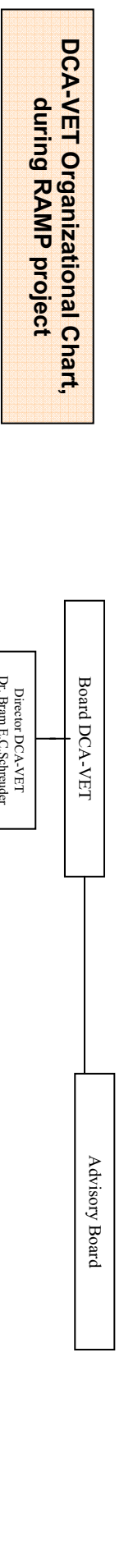
Mr. Peter W. de Leeuw DVM PhD Chairman	CVO the Netherlands; chairman since mid 2003
Mr. Gert-Jan Duives DVM Secretary	Lecturer in Animal Health, Agricultural College, Den Bosch; former Director of VTSC Pakistan; member of the Board since its foundation
Mr. Henk J. Arends Treasurer	Accountant; member of the board since October 2003
Mr. Ab Emmerzaal DVM	Specialist in Large Ruminant Diseases, Consultant; member of the board since 1995



Peter de Leeuw, Gert-Jan Duives, Ab Emmerzaal, Henk Arends
Bram Schreuder, Ria Heuckeroth

Advisory Board of DCA-VET 2006

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



Abbreviations

ASAP	Accelerating Sustainable Agriculture Program
ACBAR	Agency Coordinating Body for Afghan Relief
AVA	Afghan Veterinary Association
BVW	Basic Veterinary Worker
CIMIC	Civil Military Cooperation
DCA	Dutch Committee for Afghanistan, 1979 – 1994
DCA-VET	Dutch Committee for Afghanistan – Veterinary Programmes, 1994 onwards (in Afghanistan the acronym DCA is still in use)
DVM	Doctor of Veterinary Medicine
EU	European Union
FAO	Food and Agricultural Organisation
MAI	Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation
NGO	Non Governmental Organisation
OPS	Operation Programme Services
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



ANNEX 1

Overview of Ongoing and Planned Project Activities of DCA-VET

	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
RAMP Livestock Health, Production, and Marketing Improvement Project	January 2004 - July 2006				
ASAP Continuation of the Afghan Veterinary Privatization Effort to Ensure Sustainability of the Veterinary Field Unit System Established under USAID RAMP			January 2007 – June 2009		
Baghlan Animal Health and Production Programme in Baghlan Province, Afghanistan	November 2005 - January 2007 First phase		January 2007 – May 2008		
PADCO Livestock Disease Control Program in Badakhshan		July 2006 - January 2009			
Stichting Vluchteling Rural Extension, Animal Health and Production Program for Refugees Returning to Afghanistan	March 2005 - February 2006	March 2006 - February 2007	Follow-up till Febr 2008 (??)		
World Bank Horticulture and Livestock Project – Training portion of vet component			January 2007 – December 2009		

Ended projects / Running projects

ANNEX 2

Overview of Project Funding 2005 – 2006

Funding Agent	Project	Total Project Budget
USAID/Chemonics	Rebuilding Agricultural Markets in Afghanistan Program (RAMP) - Livestock Health, Production, and Marketing Improvement Project <i>Jan 2004 - July 2006</i>	US\$ 11,995,453
Stichting Vluchteling	Rural Extension, Animal Health and Production Program for Refugees Returning to Afghanistan - Qarabagh district <i>March 2005 – February 2006</i>	€ 85,520
Stichting Vluchteling	Rural Extension, Animal Health and Production Program for Refugees Returning to Afghanistan <i>March 2006 – February 2007</i>	€ 125,229
Dutch Ministry of Defence, PRT/CIMIC	Animal Health and Production Programme in Baghlan Province, Poultry school raising <i>September 2005 – January 2006</i>	US\$ 40,000
Royal Dutch Embassy – Min. of Development Cooperation	Animal Health and Production Programme in Baghlan Province <i>December 2005 – April 2008</i>	US\$ 1,390,258
USAID/PADCO	Livestock Disease Control Program in Badakhshan <i>July 2006 – January 2009</i>	US\$ 1,543,024



Part of DCA-VET staff and consultants in front of head office in Kabul



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