



DUTCH COMMITTEE FOR AFGHANISTAN

کمیته هالند برای افغانستان



VETERINARY PROGRAMMES



Annual Report 2004

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# Annual Report 2004

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 24, 1994, by members of the board of the already longer existing Dutch Committee for Afghanistan (founded in 1979, 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 para-veterinarians (paravets) or 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.

This choice for specialisation apparently is paying off as can be gathered from the present report.



DCA Office Kabul



DCA Office Herat



DCA Office Mazar-e-Shariff

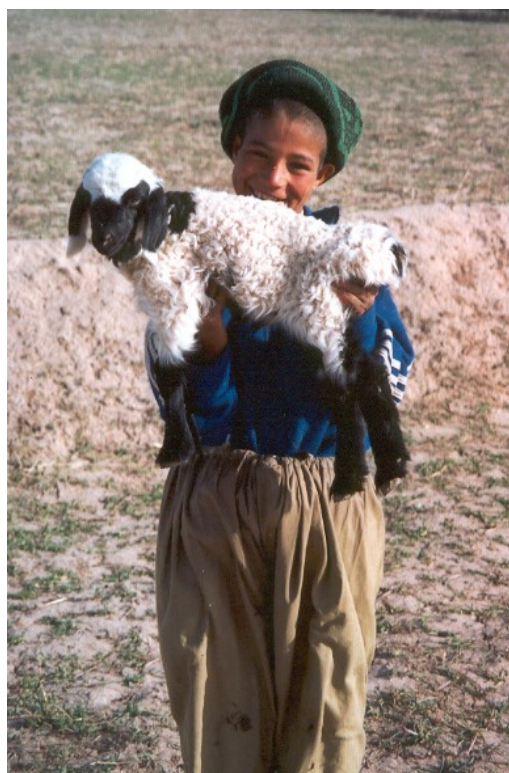
## Director's Introduction

*The year 2004 was a crucial year for Afghanistan, and so it was for the Dutch Committee for Afghanistan (DCA). For the country, the question 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. For DCA, 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. This involved making use of the 15 odd years of previous experience in which it 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 programmes now became USAID, providing a 12 million US\$ funding for 2½ year. Thanks to this new USAID-supported programme, DCA witnessed in 2004 a period of significant build-up of its manpower and facilities. Among others, in the course of 2004, 5 new expatriate staff were recruited for the performance and extension of our activities to a greater part of Afghanistan. Offices of DCA-VET were already situated in Kabul and Herat. A new office was opened in Mazar-i-Sharif. Our Training Centre in Charikar, which was originally founded in the pre-Taliban era, but never completely finalised, was renovated and formally opened in May 2004. Altogether, 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 fact that field activities in our Herat working region were not disrupted, in spite of a prolonged absence of donor funding, has undoubtedly contributed to this, providing the USAID-supported programme with a flying start.*

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



Our focus, our target

## History<sup>1</sup>

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 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. 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, i.e. after the withdrawal of the Soviet army. In the company of several other NGOs, DCA has tried to fill in the gap created by the war and the reluctance or impossibility for specialised UN-agencies to start operations in the absence of a recognised central Government. Having their bases in either Peshawar or Quetta, these NGOs operated mainly in the eastern, central and southern parts of Afghanistan. The level of their achievements was recognised by two independent UNDP-missions (Scott/Cossins, Cossins/Baker, 1993), which proposed the "southern approach" to serve as a model for a nation-wide system of animal health service. Details of this NGO-UNDP/OPS developed model will be presented below (under Field

programme). The same model still forms the core of the present community-based animal health services supported by DCA-VET.

### Training

One of the essentials of the DCA/VTSC programme is training: at the VTSCs, intermediate-level veterinary auxiliary staff (paraveterinarians, or paravets, and previously also vaccinators) are trained, 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.

Since its inception, DCA has trained over 200 BVWs and more than 600 paravets, partly for DCA's own field programme, partly for other organisations engaged in veterinary programmes. DCA still is the only organisation involved in training of paraveterinarians and is presently serving the country's needs with training centres in Herat, Kabul/ Charikar (70 kms north of Kabul) and Mazar-i-Sharif.



Training class

### Field programme

To affect a full coverage of a district in Afghanistan with veterinary services, veterinary field units (VFU) are put in place. In the original concept, an average VFU comprises one veterinarian or paravet in charge, 2-4 paravets, and additional (depending on need) basic veterinary workers (BVWs). BVWs are not paid a regular salary, and cover remoter areas. The (para)vet in charge should act as a liaison between the service providing agency and the field unit, for supply and reporting purposes.

In recent years, DCA has also engaged itself in training nomadic pastoralists (Kuchies) as

<sup>1</sup> 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)

BVWs, as they have no regular access to veterinary help during their migration.

In addition, with sustainability in mind, a first attempt was made in 1991, to introduce a cost recovery system on medicines. This was mainly on the instigation of UNDP-OPS and later on 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. Vaccines are still subsidised; cost recovery varied in 2004 from 40% to 60% depending upon the actual cost of the vaccine, and whether the vaccine was imported or not.

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. This part of the DCA programme had involved 35 veterinarians, 100 paravets and 250 unpaid vaccinators and BVWs. The project covered 56 districts in 10 provinces in Afghanistan and together accounting for 6 million interventions annually (mainly vaccinations and anthelmintic treatments). DCA subsequently shifted the emphasis of its fieldwork to the previously largely untouched provinces of the North-western region of Afghanistan.



1<sup>st</sup> DCA/RAMP VFU-clinic in Jawzjan province

### Other activities

In 1992, DCA conducted a survey to assess the impact of the veterinary programme after three full years in action, by comparing districts covered by the programme with districts where no veterinary interventions took place for a decade. 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 1:5<sup>2</sup>

Regular participatory monitoring and evaluation exercises undertaken since then have triangulated these results. In 1993, DCA/VTSC started to implement an extension programme to make farmers in the working areas of DCA aware of the benefits of preventive veterinary actions and other management practices. At the same time, the programme aimed at intensifying the relation between the farming community and the field staff to facilitate the transition to total privatisation. The extension programme has also a training component for BVWs in Afghanistan and up to recently a programme especially for women in the refugee camps round Peshawar, funded by the Dutch Foundation for Refugees (SV). The latter programme was relocated to inside Afghanistan in early 2003, to Karabagh district (discussed under "current projects").

From 1995 to 2000, DCA 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 European Union. In a tripartite agreement between the EU, the FAO and DCA, the latter signed in 1995 a contract with EU-DGI (AFG/73020/94/066-01) to purchase and deliver to the FAO field offices in Afghanistan 18 million doses of vaccines, to be distributed by the FAO. A comparable project was implemented in 1997 and 1998, with DGVIII and again in 2000 through EuronAid. These projects were successfully completed with over 48 million doses of various animal vaccines being provided.

From 2000 to 2004, the European Union continued its financial support to DCA-VET for realisation of the importation and distribution of veterinary vaccines (see also under completed projects).

<sup>2</sup> 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)



### Symposium 2003

In October 2003, DCA-VET organized a symposium entitled "*The Future of Animal Health Care in Afghanistan: Next 3 Years*". This workshop was held on October 20-21, 2003 at the Intercontinental Hotel Kabul, and was attended by local officials, members of the Veterinary Faculty and other NGO's representatives.



Deputy Minister of Agriculture  
Eng. Ghulam Mustafa Jawad

The objective of the symposium was:

*To formulate a common strategy on animal health care delivery, keeping in mind that the Government does not have sufficient funds available to pay for the salaries of veterinary personnel, and keeping in mind that veterinary personnel are already available over large parts of Afghanistan, albeit of an intermediate technical level.*

Changes in the political climate in Afghanistan made that suddenly many funds became available for non-governmental and international organisations. All kinds of initiatives in different fields mushroomed, unfortunately many of these poorly co-ordinated with existing activities. In principle, the Government has the responsibility to co-ordinate initiatives and to formulate policies as guidance for existing and new programmes. In 2004, for obvious reasons it did not yet have the capacity to do so.

In the field of animal health care delivery, many organisations are involved. It was to be expected that also in this field additional funds would become available (*as indeed was the*

*case in the beginning of 2004, see RAMP programme*). It is of utmost importance that programmes evolving from these funds are well co-ordinated with existing ones and that activities are in line with a common policy. The final aim is to build an animal health care delivery system based upon a common policy that can work on a self-supporting base, but in line with government directives and control, in future. To a certain extent standardisation in working procedures is needed. The Symposium was aiming at providing guidance to all this.

The conclusions and recommendations of the symposium focussed on use of paraprofessional personnel in the delivery of clinical veterinary field services, and the role of Government to play herein. There was consensus among participants that clinical service delivery can and should occur in the private sector and on the use of paraprofessionals, including paravets, in clinical service delivery.

The full text of the Conclusions and recommendations section is listed as Annex IV.



Organising team David Sherman, Bram Schreuder, Gert-Jan Duives, John Woodford (sitting)

## Current Projects

### Introduction

The year 2004 was marked for DCA by substantial changes in its geographical working area as well as changes in terms of funding. DCA from its inception had relied on Dutch Government for 7 years, followed by a decade of EU-support, but then found itself faced in the autumn of 2003 with acute shortage of donor funds for its field programme. Possibilities to obtain new EU support were still more than 6 months ahead, which induced us to a very receptive attitude when USAID-funded programmes appeared possible. Apparently because of its long and solid history in the animal health field, coupled with some highly relevant international publications, DCA was actually approached and invited by the USAID-contractor, Chemonics Inc., to play a role in a major nation-wide livestock programme. Negotiations lasted till the beginning of 2004, when DCA-VET was subcontracted by Chemonics Inc. in the framework of the USAID Rebuilding Agricultural Markets in Afghanistan Program (RAMP) to be the leading party in the *Livestock Health, Production, and Marketing Improvement Project*. The goals and objectives are the following:

- The immediate goal of the project includes prevention of further deterioration of the animal health services system partially still in place (VFU-system), after more than a decade of development but now at risk to collapse due to withdrawal of external support and the extended period of drought.
- The mid-term focus of the project is on business development and strengthening the organizational structure that would enable the system to grow ultimately towards an independent system.
- The long-term focus of the project is to reach the required degree of self-sustainability for the service network system that it can operate largely or totally independent of external support. DCA-VET subcontracted two other parties to realise the goals of this project, those being the Afghan Veterinary Association (AVA) and Partners in

Revitalization and Building (PRB). The first annual progress report on this project is incorporated in this report.

Furthermore, DCA-VET continued the project activities in the framework of the *Rural Extension, Animal Health and Production Program for Refugees Returning to Afghanistan*, which is funded by Stichting Vluchteling in The Netherlands. The objectives of this project are

- Improvement of food security of refugees and returning families to Afghanistan, through increased contribution of livestock to their rural livelihood.
- Reduce pressure from the urban areas especially Kabul, through rural reconstruction and development activities.

The progress report 2004 on this project is also incorporated in this report.



Children of Afghanistan



## Rebuilding Agricultural Markets in Afghanistan Program (RAMP) Livestock Health, Production, and Marketing Improvement Project

Jan 2004- July 2006 Funded by USAID, Washington, USA

In January 2004, DCA signed a contract with the American consulting firm, Chemonics to become the lead subcontractor in the USAID-funded Livestock Health, Production and Marketing Project under the umbrella of USAID's Rebuilding Agricultural Markets Program (RAMP). The RAMP project supports Afghanistan's agricultural redevelopment in several key areas: road and canal infrastructure rehabilitation; rural financial services; agricultural technology and market development for horticulture products; wheat seed and plant multiplication; and, animal health, production and marketing.

The USAID RAMP Livestock Health, Production and Marketing Program is the largest and longest running project ever implemented by DCA and is currently the largest single animal health programme in Afghanistan. The original contract made US\$ 7.6 million available for project implementation through June of 2005. Then, in February of 2005, RAMP extended the DCA contract for another full year through June of 2006 and provided an additional US\$ 4.3 million to expand program activities for a total project length of 30 months and a budget of US\$11.9 million. DCA has two implementing partners in this project, the Afghan Veterinary Association (AVA) and Partners in Revitalization and Building (PRB), both of which are indigenous Afghan organizations. The implementation of this project is conducted with the approval of government and under the terms of a specific protocol between DCA and its implementing partners and the Veterinary Department in the Ministry of Agriculture and Animal Husbandry.

### The Veterinary Field Unit (VFU) System and Privatization

The main thrust of the RAMP Livestock Health, Production and Marketing project is the creation of a national network of veterinary field units operating in the private sector to

provide preventative and therapeutic interventions for livestock owners on a fee-for-service basis.



Livestock owner paying for services

There is a strong emphasis on privatization in the project implementation, with a focus on providing VFU staff with the resources they need to earn their livelihood directly through the delivery of community based animal health services without the unsustainable need of salary payments from an external organization. In support of privatization, VFU staffs currently receive the following:

- Transportation in the form of a bicycle or motorcycle.
- Basic furnishings for the VFU including a sign board, desk, chairs, storage cabinet, propane heater for sterilization of instruments, etc.
- Limited grants for remodelling and repair of clinic buildings.
- Monthly in-kind support in the form of vaccines and medicines up to 1,550 Afghani in value.
- Veterinary equipment and supplies for carrying out routine activities such as vaccinations, injections, topical spraying, castrations, wound repair.



Basic veterinary equipment

Several important, additional initiatives are underway that will support the overall privatization effort and support sustainability including:

- Development of a practical business skills course for training in veterinary practice management for VFU staff
- Development of extension and outreach materials for use by VFU staff to generate demand among farmers for animal health care services and promotion
- Provision and distribution of conventional or solar powered refrigerators to ensure proper maintenance of cold chain for vaccine storage at the district level.

In 2004, in coordination with its implementing partners, AVA and PRB, DCA made great strides in establishing a national network of district based Veterinary Field Units. By the end of the year, the RAMP Livestock project was working in 24 Provinces with 247 distinct VFU locations in 182 districts, staffed by 381 paravets, veterinary assistants and veterinarians.



VFU Dawlatabad

Collectively, these 247 VFUs provided livestock owners in their respective areas with 4.35 million vaccinations against common livestock diseases, 2.18 million preventive or therapeutic treatments against parasitic, infectious and metabolic diseases, and 136,000 other animal health interventions such as wound repair, castration and obstetrical assistance.

The rapid expansion of veterinary field units derived from three sources: i) existing

veterinary field units that have been operating independently but welcome the assistance of the RAMP support package in return for complying with disease and activity reporting requirements; ii) vets, veterinary assistants, or paravets located in a district requiring veterinary services who have been inactive because they did not have the resources to initiate or return to clinical service activity following a loss of business related to the earlier drought; iii) contact with communities requiring veterinary service and selection by the community of a candidate for paravet training. These candidates are trained by DCA, provided with starter kits for veterinary work and return to the community to open a VFU with a support package from DCA as described earlier. Since government still operates veterinary clinics in various districts in each province, the selection of sites for RAMP supported clinics is done in consultation with government Provincial veterinarians around the country.

The VFU system is managed and supported through a network of regional offices. DCA has its main office in Kabul where the central storehouse for vaccines is maintained and overall project administration occurs. DCA also has regional offices in Herat to serve the north/north west region and in Mazar to serve the north central region. The central region of Parwan, Kapisa and Panshir provinces is served by the DCA Kabul central office.

The Afghan Veterinary Association (AVA) is not only an implementing partner in this project. It is also the veterinary professional member service organization for veterinarians and veterinary paraprofessionals in Afghanistan. AVA maintains its head office in Kabul for general administration and for support to VFUs in Kabul, Wardak, Ghazni and Loghar provinces. AVA also has a regional office in Jalalabad to serve Nangahar and Kunar provinces and a third regional office in Gardez to serve provinces of Paktia, Paktika, and Khost. While DCA provides the vaccines for the overall project, AVA procures and distributes the medicines used in the VFUs and maintains a central store in Kabul.

Partners in Revitalization and Building (PRB) is an indigenous, long-established Afghan NGO

with a diversified program that includes animal health care delivery. PRB maintains a headquarters in Kabul and, among others, a regional office in Kunduz which serves the PRB animal health program in Kunduz, Baghlan, Badakshan and Takhar provinces.

All implementing partners support field monitors located at their various regional offices who provide oversight, guidance and support to VFU staff. Monitors make scheduled monthly visits to all VFUs (weather and security permitting) to collect activity and disease reports, bring news, discuss problems, and convey needs back to regional offices.

Monitors are also involved in extension and outreach activities providing support to VFU staff to raise awareness concerning the value of animal health care services for the community served. This extension and outreach role will be expanded during the coming year under the RAMP program as part of the effort to create demand for animal health services through better understanding of their value and thereby increase the activity of VFUs and improve their livelihood.

### Training

Since the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan, the shortage of veterinarians has been a critical obstacle to animal health care. The training of veterinary paraprofessionals, including paraveterinarians and basic veterinary workers to partially fill this gap has long been a hallmark activity of DCA. Under the RAMP project, DCA has had the opportunity to expand its critical training activities. In May of 2004, DCA inaugurated the re-opening of its Veterinary Training and Service Center in Charikar, Parwan Province, about one hour north of Kabul. The training center had been previously operative but was vacated for several years as a result of armed conflict in the area and damage to the facility.

With support from RAMP, the facility was refurbished and reopened and in October of 2004, work was begun to expand the facility to include livestock housing to maintain animals for practical clinical training, and a demonstration poultry farm. Training activities previously conducted at the DCA office in

Kabul have now been fully relocated at the Charikar VTSC.



Charikar VTSC after refurbishment

Following the opening of the new DCA regional office in Mazar in August of 2004, efforts began for establishment of the Mazar Veterinary Training and Service Center to expand DCA's overall training capacity. Remodeling and refurbishment of office space was undertaken to prepared accommodation and classroom facilities and efforts initiated to recruit a high quality training staff. The first paravet training course in Mazar is scheduled to begin in March of 2005.

The DCA Herat Training and Service Centre, which has been operational for over a decade, continues to conduct paravet training courses, basic veterinary worker training courses and refresher courses for paravets, veterinary assistants and veterinarians.

By the end of 2004, under the RAMP project, DCA trained 95 new basic veterinary workers, initiated 5 month training courses for 14 new paraveterinarians at the Herat VTSC and 21 new paraveterinarians at the Charikar VTSC, and provided refresher training for 41 paraveterinarians.



Practical training group (BVWs)

The main thrust of paraveterinary training for DCA under RAMP is to develop competent

new staff to operate new VFUs in the RAMP project area. However, in addition to training paravets for its own program, DCA also provides training to other NGOs who need paravets for their animal health care programs. Beneficiaries of DCA training include Oxfam, Solidarites, the Aga Khan Foundation, and Madera.

### **Vaccine and Drug Distribution**

DCA has a long tradition of importing quality vaccines into Afghanistan to prevent losses from common infectious livestock diseases. Under the RAMP Project, DCA's capacity for vaccine importation has been increased, with US\$1.8 million available for vaccine purchase. By the end of 2004, DCA had purchased, imported and distributed 7,924,595 doses of vaccine, with permission of the government Veterinary Department. Vaccines procured included hemorrhagic septicemia, anthrax, peste des petit ruminants, sheep and goat pox, blackquarter, enterotoxemia and rabies for use in ruminant animals and camels, and Newcastle disease and Gumboro disease for use in poultry.

Vaccines are purchased at full cost, but were sold to VFU staff in 2004 at a subsidized but increasing rate of 40 to 60% including a 5% handling charge. It is intended that in support of the privatization effort, this subsidy will be gradually eliminated over the course of the RAMP project so that VFU staff will ultimately pay full cost for vaccines. This underscores the importance of the program activity related to outreach and extension to ensure that farmers and livestock owners fully understand the benefit to cost ratio of preventive vaccination for their animals, which is most favourable even at full purchase cost for vaccine.

During 2004, DCA also imported quality medicines into Afghanistan including antibiotics and anthelmintics for supply to VFU staff at full cost. Towards the end of the year, a decision was reached for DCA to discontinue the importation of medicines and turn that responsibility over fully to the project implementing partner, Afghan Veterinary Association, which already had, as part of its member service activity, an active program for procurement, distribution and sale of veterinary medicines.

One important goal of the RAMP project is to develop an indigenous, sustainable mechanism for reliable procurement of quality animal vaccines and medicines at competitive prices which will persist beyond the life of the project and allow veterinary field staff in the private sector to have reliable access to the supplies they need to provide dependable service and earn a decent income. Towards that end, DCA is working to help create a new corporate/cooperative entity to be known as VetServ which will draw on the experience and talent of Afghans involved in the procurement and distribution of veterinary medicines and vaccines.

A first critical step in the development of VetServ was the hosting of a Workshop on December 12-13, 2004 entitled "Future Supply and Distribution System of Veterinary Medicines, Vaccines and Equipment in Afghanistan". Stakeholders from government, non-governmental organizations, the commercial sector and the public were represented from all regions of Afghanistan. There was active and enthusiastic participation by the 75 attendees and some very useful perspectives were affirmed. There was a clear demand for high quality medicines and vaccines; a recognition of the need for commerce in vaccines and medicines to be a competitive, private sector activity; a serious concern for the occurrence of low quality and counterfeit medicines and vaccines in the marketplace; and, a call for government to strengthen its regulatory role in ensuring that only properly handled, quality medicines and vaccines reach Afghanistan and its animal health providers.

In the coming year, the structure of VetServ will be further defined and implemented.

### **Outreach and Extension**

Once again, this is an area where DCA has a long tradition of involvement, but the resources available from RAMP will allow DCA to expand its activities in outreach and extension. As mentioned earlier, a key aspect of ensuring the future of privatization of clinical veterinary service in Afghanistan is to make sure that farmers and livestock owners appreciate and understand the services available from district based VFUs and recognize that relatively low

cost interventions in preventive care can yield big dividends in terms of disease reduction, increased productivity and fertility, improved survival of newborns, greater numbers of animals marketed and increased income for livestock owners.

In November of 2004, DCA hired a senior Afghan veterinarian with strong extension background as National Field Extension Coordinator. He will train the field monitors of DCA and its implementing partners on the collection of animal health and production information from farmers and marketing information from regional livestock markets. This information will be utilized to develop benefit to cost ratios for animal health interventions. Meetings will be held with farmers and VFU staff to help strengthen the relationship of the VFU and the community, to determine the animal health constraints of livestock owners, and to sensitize VFU staff as to the kind of problems farmers face and the type of services that are in demand. As a result of these field activities, outreach and marketing materials will be developed that can be utilized by VFU staff to encourage farmers to use their services such as vaccination and deworming by providing realistic information on the economic benefits of animal health interventions.

### **Disease Reporting**

As part of their contract with the RAMP Project, in return for their support package, VFU staff are required to keep records of activities and diseases seen. The disease reporting includes a monthly summary report collected by the field monitor as well as an Early Warning Disease Report which relates specifically to the occurrence of highly contagious diseases such as foot and mouth disease. VFU staff are expected to notify regional offices and government veterinarians as soon as is practical when they identify such a suspected highly contagious disease outbreak. This is to ensure that an early response can be coordinated and implemented to reduce the impact of such diseases.

It is an important objective of the RAMP project to foster a cooperative and mutually beneficial relationship between the government veterinary authorities and the national VFU

network. Developing standards and mechanisms for collection and reporting of disease information is one key area where fruitful cooperation can be developed. In a country such as Afghanistan with limited transportation and communication infrastructure, VFU staff present in outlying districts may be the first to hear about highly contagious diseases. As such, they can serve as the eyes and ears of the government regulatory veterinary authorities, bringing information from the field to allow government vets to more rapidly investigate and potentially control highly contagious diseases. The VFU staff also represent a human resource for government to mount disease control campaigns, providing community contact for dissemination of information and additional labour for conducting extensive vaccination campaigns.

### **Conclusion**

It will be evident that the USAID-funded DCA/RAMP programme has enabled DCA to successfully disseminate its field approach with the cooperation of especially AVA and PRB, to various regions in the country. It was therefore gratifying to note that also the second phase of the programme, the optional final year, has been granted by the donor. The positive Impact Assessment study, carried out by RAMP technical advisors, will have contributed to this (see Annex II).



Clinical inspection can be a valuable tool

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

February 2003 to January 2005 *Funded by Stichting Vluchteling, the Netherlands*

### Background information

Qarabagh is a district of Kabul province and is located north of Kabul city, about 100 km from the DCA office. In the past, the region around the Qarabagh bazaar was the most densely populated area in the district. The life of a great majority of the people depended on agriculture in which fruit culture and livestock raising were the principle means of livelihood. The ultimate aim of this project is to provide reconstruction for the latter means of income. Livestock existed of cows for milk, oxen, sheep, goats, donkeys and chickens. Women (like in other regions of the country) took responsibility for rearing the small ruminants and chickens. The farm size was in average small (0.2 – 5 acres) and most of the land was involved in fruit production. There were two types of livestock ownership: static and semi nomadic. Of the families who led a nomadic life, some of their family members including women stayed in the mountainous and hilly pastures with their flocks for about six months.

### Target area and needs assessment

At the start of the project more than 50% of the former inhabitants of Qarabagh districts stayed in Kabul city. To reduce the burden from Kabul city, residents were encouraged to return and this was reached by starting activities to achieve the basic requirements of the people. DCA is contributing livestock, poultry housing and also the possibility for keeping animals. Some income generation programmes like poultry-raising at both backyard and small-scale commercial level are being developed. To make the program sustainable and mobilize the community, a rural extension programme has been organized and this improves awareness of the people about rural rehabilitation, livelihood improvement and also how to enhance livestock production. By extension and training, free distribution of healthy and quality chicks for the most vulnerable families, providing poultry and large animal housing.

Farmers will be assisted in livestock restoration and enhancing animal products, for consumption and also for the market in Charikar and Kabul city.



Few day old chicks for distribution to beneficiaries

### Target beneficiaries

Target beneficiaries are farming families returning from refugee & IDP camps. Widows, those who are disabled and those of very low income are designated the most vulnerable and would be entitled to get benefits from this project. 400 families (women) each received poultry training and 10 chickens, with necessary materials for two years.

### Progress report 2003/2004

In the first project year, villages were selected and Village Organisations (VOs) were established. At the end of the first project-year and the beginning of the second, micro-credits were provided to stable VOs. All year long the work of the project staff existed mainly of frequent visits to VOs and participant groups within the VOs. During these visits the project staff supported participant groups within the villages in various ways. Training and extension was provided to different groups of people: women learned how to raise and keep poultry, men were taught how to keep animals, a few especially selected people received Basic Veterinary Worker training. But even more important was to explain over and over to the VO participants, the long-term benefits of revolving loans, being the basis of the program. This investment in time turned out to be very beneficial: at the end of the project year the 5 VOs that should refund the loan by that time, really did so!





Signing of contract between Dr Jaheed Ezatullah (DCA) (without hat) and the chairman of the VO

From the evaluation of the first project-year, it became clear that more investments should be made in explaining the program to the participants and in motivating them to work according to the preset plan. Serious attention should be given to improvement of specific skills of the project staff, as they are the key persons in the success of the project. In May and November 2004 visits were made by DCA-VET board member (Dr. G.J. Duives) focussing on training of the project staff. In addition, a specialist in community building and micro-finance schemes was hired to strengthen the skills of the project staff needed for establishing stable VOs.

The project as a whole exists of 4 main components:

1. Establishment of stable Village Organisations (VOs);
2. Training and extension;
3. Micro-finance scheme;
4. Poultry production, raising and distribution.

### 1. Establishment stable VOs

To guarantee the right use of financial inputs into a community, a stable VO is necessary. The process of establishment of the VOs started in the first project year, and needs continuously attention of the project staff. Repeatedly, the programme must be explained to the participants in a VO and a great deal of the work of some staff exists in motivational visits to the VO participants. The staff received additional training by an expert in community building and micro-finance schemes. The frequent visits and additional training turned out to be beneficial, as all VOs that should refund their loans by the end of the project year, really did so.

## 2. Training and extension

Training and extension was given before and after the provision of financial inputs and is meant to increase knowledge and skills regarding animal husbandry and public health of the participants within the micro-finance schemes.

### *Basic veterinary workers (BVW)*

Twenty persons (10 male and 10 female) were trained in 10 villages of Qarabagh district as BVW and received a basic veterinary worker kit per person. During the course, the trainees were given the opportunity to perform practical work in the field as well. Within the communities, BVWs will be the first to be consulted in case of animal husbandry problems and/or veterinary problems.



Day of graduation for 5 female BVWs; they receive their kits with equipment and medicines

### *Extension training on animal husbandry*

A total of 303 returnee women in 10 villages of the Qarabagh district (Lab-a-darya, Betani, Qarqool, Qala-a-Aghamama, Sardarbeg, Panjqala-Galabanan, Zerachinar, ILogary) received training on animal husbandry and health education. In Qala-a-Logary 33 women were trained. In all other villages 30 women were trained.

The Afghan female trainers trained these women in their respective villages. For each training centre in the village, one trainer was responsible.

During the running time of the course about 40 cattle were vaccinated against Hemorrhagic Septicemia (HSV) and 342 small and large animals were treated against different diseases including external parasites.

*Training on poultry husbandry*

200 Returnee women received training on poultry husbandry in the area and each trainee was given around 5 two-months-old chickens (a total of 1110 chickens) free of cost. In addition, 3,125 chickens were vaccinated against New Castle Disease (NDV). Apart from that, the female trainers trained an additional 57 returnee women in poultry husbandry for ORA (an international NGO) in district 8 of Kabul city (Karta-i-Now).

**3. Micro finance scheme**

The micro finance scheme exists of the provision of micro financial inputs to stable VOs and the follow up, being repayment of the funds, so that the inputs can be reused by others within the same VO.

*Micro finance*

For 173 returnee families, a total of 267 small ruminants and 1,353 two-months-old chicks were given as a revolving loan fund during the project year.

Five VOs that received animals as loans in the year 2003/2004 repaid the loan and the money involved was reinvested for a second time among new clients: 142 new clients (families) received a total of 185 animals as a loan. The plan was to distribute another 3,000 chicks to the clients in the year 2004. But due to unavailability of the fund at that time, and arrival of the cold season (winter), it was not possible to achieve the aim.

In preparation of the provision of loans to the communities, all elementary steps towards implementation of the project such as establishment of the VOs, motivation of the community and holding regular meetings with each VO (at least 3-4 meetings per month with each VO) had to be completed.

It is considered a success that the animal loans were revolved among the new clients in time, and that the result is fully in agreement with the objectives that we were expecting.

*Revolving of the loan fund for the second turn*

For the Afghan and Dutch project staff it was good to hear that the loans really revolved for a second turn among the clients, and thus the RLF project achieved the objectives of the MF project successfully.

Five VOs that received animals as a revolving loan fund (RLF) in the year 2003/2004

revolved their loans among the new clients in their related villages. They worked according to the rules and paid back the loans with agreed profits and savings within the specific time fixed for the loan.

The remaining 5 VOs received their loans less than 1 year before the end of the project year, and were therefore not obliged yet to refund these loans.

The repaid fund constitutes 30-40 percent of the whole loan given to the clients so far. Efforts for the repayment of the fund that has not passed its full duration yet, are going on. The progress is going to be reported on its refunding time. The revolving money was used to purchase a number of small ruminants on the local market. The animals were given to the new clients as loans.

**4. Poultry production, raising and distribution**

One of the objectives of the program was to distribute chicks for free to extremely poor people (mainly widows) to give them the opportunity to improve their economic dependency.

Chicks are not always available in Afghanistan and on average have a poor quality. Therefore the construction of a farm was planned to produce and raise chicks for distribution. In the first project year a farm was hired in Charikar city. This farm had to be left because of raise in rent. The construction of an own farm took much more time than foreseen, so a house had to be rented for the parent stock and to place the incubators. In the mean time (April 2005) the farm has been constructed at the premises of the project office in Charikar.

For housing the chickens and animals distributed or purchased, coops and stables were needed. The participants were motivated to invest themselves - financial and by work labour- as much as possible in the construction of these. DCA helped them in planning and if needed by providing material assistance.

*Poultry Farm*

A poultry farm that was started in 2003 with 200 chickens as a parent stock in Charikar city was shifted to a rented house in Qarabagh town. The eggs produced by the chickens were used either for hatchery or sold out and the money gained was returned to the office. The eggs used for the hatchery, produced enough

chicks for free distribution to the legible returnee women in the area.



Poultry farm

The hatchery started with four incubators (each with 400 eggs capacity) on an interval base. In total 2,939 chicks were produced during this project year. Out of these 1,110 were given for free of cost to returnee women, 1,228 were sold out on the revolving loan fund project's clients in the targeted areas and 601 chicks died due to different causes.

The new poultry training and demonstrative farm in Charikar city will be completed by April 2005. The delay in its constructional work was due to:

- A long negotiation that took place with the local authorities for constructing the farm on the governmental land beside the DCA training centre in Charikar.
- Arrival of cold season (winter).
- Less commitment of the contractor than promised by him.

Mortality rate of the new born chicks was about 20 percent. This high percentage is probably due to the unsuitable accommodation in the rented house and unavailability of the different types of vaccines (e.g. S.pullorum, Coryza, Poultry pox).

A good accommodation will be provided by completion of the new farm, but the supply of the vaccines depends on imports from abroad.

#### *Farm income*

1,228 chicks, 4,313 eggs and 140 chickens were sold during the project year resulting in a total sum of Afs 74,140. This money is kept as a special fund and might be used for the future needs of the farm.

#### *Free distribution of chicks*

Procurement of chicks for the supply of 2,000 chicks for vulnerable families constitutes a part of the proposed project activities in the area. Eventually 1,110 chicks (out of 2,939 chicks that were produced by our own hatchery) were distributed free of cost to the legible trained returnee women in the area.

Actually, the plan was to produce more chicks for free distribution to the legible families in villages co-operating with DCA-VET. Unfortunately, limited space and limited facilities for hatching in the house rented as a farm, made it impossible to achieve this aim.

#### *Cow sheds and coops (chicken houses)*

After an accurate survey and verification of the vulnerable families in the area, those returnee families that were planning to raise 2-4 animals or 30-50 chickens and lacked sources /cash to construct new sheds or coops for their animals, were identified. If needed, they could benefit from DCA material assistance through which they could rehabilitate or reconstruct wracked sheds or coops for the animals.

After proper verification of the legible families in the area, 50 cow sheds and 200 chicken houses were either reconstructed or rehabilitated.

In addition, seven sheds in the area were sprayed out for eradication of disease agents.

Project team SV and Bram Schreuder at Charikar



## Completed Projects

### Assistance to Returnees, Internally Displaced People (IDPs) and Local Communities in Afghanistan and Veterinary Training and Support Services (NW Region)

March 2001 – September 2003 *funded by the European Union (AFG/B73020/RELEX/2000/2034-3)*

This EU project was running from March 2001 to September 2003 (30 months) with as target areas the provinces Herat, Badghiz and Ghor, Farah (part). The main objective of the project was the protection of remaining livestock and increase livestock production through delivery of animal health services at village level.

#### Objectives of the project in detail

- To train intermediate and lower level veterinary auxiliary personnel.
- To provide refresher courses and in service training to veterinary field workers.
- Establish extension service to provide relevant information to farmers and to intensify relation between farming community and field staff.
- To improve animal health and livestock productivity through the implementation of district based veterinary field units (VFUs).
- To protect livestock in VFU working areas against the most prevailing diseases.
- To control parasitic diseases in livestock in the project working area, by providing anthelmintics on a 100% cost recovery basis.
- To provide curative treatments for animals on demand.
- To provide veterinary equipment to VFUs.
- To facilitate travelling in the working areas of the VFU.
- To monitor and evaluate all field activities.
- To establish in the Herat Veterinary Training and Support Centre an organisational structure, capable to organise, manage and control the programme.

#### Summary of Achievements between 1<sup>st</sup> March 2001 – 30<sup>th</sup> November 2003

- 13 new paravets trained
- 19 paravets attended upgrade/refresher courses
- 37 BVWs given refresher training
- 169 AHW/BVW trained including 85 women
- 37 undergraduates given 1 month training
- 36 VFU supported
- 3 VFU opened
- at least 1,208,240 animals vaccinated
- at least 276,102 animals de-wormed
- at least 172,225 animals treated

The final outcome of the program has been more successful in its implementation due to improved political stability and better communication. The poor output in Year 1 failed to meet targets and objectives, delayed the whole project cycle, and lead to the request for a 6 month no-cost extension. Thanks to improved political stability most of the project targets were finally met during this extension period, and overall a positive result was realised from what appeared to be a very inauspicious start. Gratitude is expressed to all those DCA employees who continued their work during very difficult times during and after the Taliban regime. We all look forward to continued improvements in the country as a whole and particularly of course for the livestock keepers.



Veterinary Field Unit in Herat

## Animal Vaccine Supply and Cold Chain Facilities in Afghanistan

September 2002 – March 2004 *funded by the European Union (AFG/AIDCO/2002/0423/3)*

The EU vaccine project was running from September 2002 to March 2004 (18 months). The objectives of the project were to protect Afghan livestock against infectious diseases, through:

- Supply of different animal vaccines for major animal diseases, to regional stores of FAO/UVSA and DCA in Afghanistan, or directly to NGOs
- Expand and improve cold chain facilities partially installed under previous project phases

### Achievements

All objectives and outputs were achieved. A total of 18,605,000 million doses of vaccine against the major infectious diseases in livestock in Afghanistan were supplied through the project. This is well beyond the project target of 15 million doses! The vaccines provided were:

- |                             |               |
|-----------------------------|---------------|
| ○ Peste des Petit Ruminants | 2.0 million   |
| ○ Enterotoxaemia            | 6.0 million   |
| ○ Anthrax                   | 2.0 million   |
| ○ Black Quarter             | 0.5 million   |
| ○ Haemorrhagic Septicaemia  | 1.0 million   |
| ○ Newcastle Disease         | 2.5 million   |
| ○ Sheep pox                 | 2.5 million   |
| ○ Gumboro Disease           | 0.1 million   |
| ○ Rabies                    | 0.005 million |

Under the arrangements of a tri-partite agreement with EU, DCA-VET and FAO, this project provided the means for the field staff in the former FAO-implemented nation-wide Animal Health and Livestock Production programme, to carry out preventive vaccination programmes for these diseases in over 200 districts in Afghanistan. This was in addition to supporting DCA's own field programme in the four western provinces covered under AFG/B7-3020/RELEX/-2000/2034-3.

The project also greatly assisted in bridging the gap till vaccine shipments from the USAID funded RAMP project got underway.

### Cold chain facilities

The following cold chain material was ordered and provided for:

20 transport cool boxes RCW8 supplied with 10 ice packs each

30 transport cool boxes RCW25 supplied with 24 icepacks each



Storage of the vaccines before shipment



Transport to Schiphol Airport



One of the destinations in Afghanistan

## Concluding remarks

DCA has been in Afghanistan to serve the livestock owners of the country with animal health care information and services for over 16 years. For the bulk of that time, DCA, like other humanitarian agencies, has been working in a relief context, providing assistance during the prolonged era of armed conflict and civil strife. Now, with peace at last and a stable government in place, DCA has the opportunity to work in Afghanistan in a development context.

The RAMP project gives DCA the opportunity to consolidate its efforts in privatized, community based animal health care delivery through support for district based VFUs operated on a fee for service, cost recovery basis. Through RAMP, DCA and its partners will strive to ensure that VFU staff has the tools, training, mentality and resources they need to thrive in the private sector and that communities appreciate, understand and enthusiastically utilize the services of the VFUs. It is hoped that Government and also international donors, agencies and NGOs all will realise that a harmonised approach in this respect is essential: heavily subsidised - usually short-term- programmes next to

(semi-)privatised programmes are detrimental to the latter! For this reason, DCA intends to bring together in Kabul in the course of 2005 an international forum of experts on privatisation issues regarding livestock programmes.

Through its training programs, DCA will continue to provide rigorous, high quality training to paravets selected by their own communities to ensure that those communities have access to basic veterinary services for years to come. Through the VetServ initiative, DCA and its implementing partners will develop a mechanism to ensure that high quality medicine and vaccines are reliably available to animal health care providers in the country at competitive prices. The consecutive EU-funded vaccine delivery projects have paved the way for this initiative.

Taken together these initiatives should significantly reduce the constraint that animal diseases have imposed on Afghanistan's livestock owners and make it possible for them to rebuild their herds and their livelihoods by ensuring reliable access to high quality animal health care services available at the community level by privatized animal health care providers.



Shepherd and his flock in Dasht-e-Laili, Maimana

## Board of DCA-VET 2004

P.W. de Leeuw DVM PhD Chairman	CVO The Netherlands; chairman since mid 2003
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
Henk J. Arends Treasurer	Accountant; member of the board since October 2003
Ab Emmerzaal DVM	Specialist in Large Ruminant diseases/Consultant; member of the board since 1995



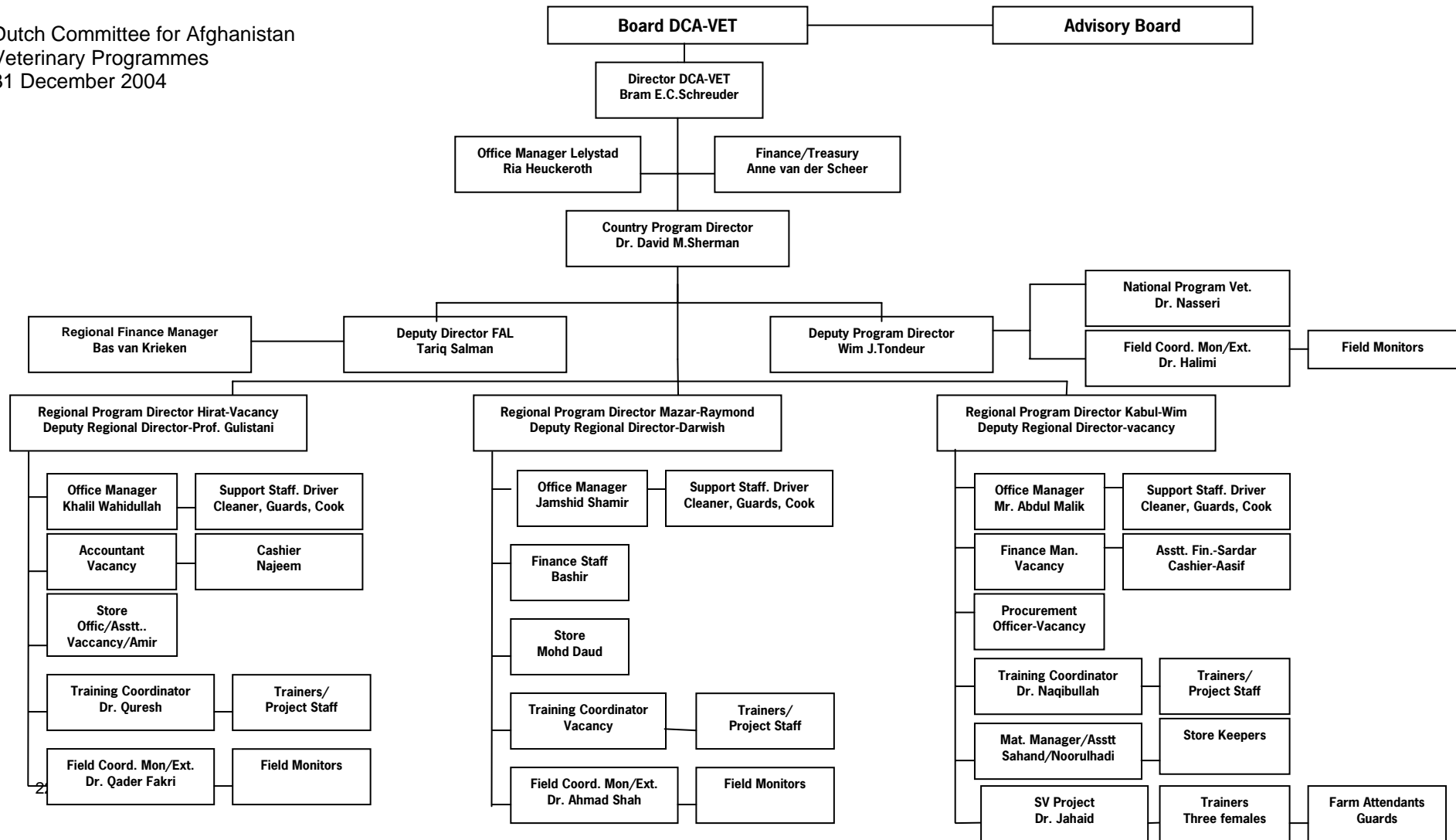
Peter de Leeuw, Gert-Jan Duives, Ab Emmerzaal, Henk Arends  
Bram Schreuder, Ria Heuckeroth

## Advisory Board of DCA-VET 2004

Mr. C. de Haan	Senior Livestock Advisor World Bank Washington
Dr. ir. H.A.J. Moll	University Lecturer Agricultural Development Economics, University of Wageningen, the Netherlands
Prof. Dr. Ir. A.J. van der Zijp	University Lecturer Animal Production Systems University of Wageningen, the Netherlands
Prof. Dick Zwart († 2005)	Formerly Professor Tropical Animal Health & Production, University of Wageningen, the Netherlands

*In the beginning of 2005 we were shocked by the sudden death of our esteemed member of the Advisory Board, Professor Dick Zwart. We will sincerely miss his valuable contributions.*

Dutch Committee for Afghanistan  
 Veterinary Programmes  
 31 December 2004





## ABBREVIATIONS

AFG	Afghanistan
AVA	Afghan Veterinary Association
BVW	Basic Veterinary Worker
CPD	Country Program Director
DCA	Dutch Committee for Afghanistan
DG	Directorate General
EU	European Union
FAO	Food and Agricultural Organisation
IDP	Internally Displaced People
MADERA	Mission d'Aide au Développement des Economies Rurales
NGO	Non Governmental Organisation
OPS	Office for Project Services
PRB	Partners in Revitalization and Building
RAMP	Rebuilding Agricultural Markets in Afghanistan Program
RLF	Revolving Loan Fund
RPD	Regional Program Director
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



In 2004 the drought was surely over



Flock in Dasht-e-Laili



Donkey transport



Market in Jebel-Seraj

**DCA Project Overview 1988 –2004****1988/1989**

Dutch Government (DGIS)	Establishment of Veterinary Training and Support Centre (VTSC) in Peshawar. (The project's main aim was to provide basic veterinary services in rural areas of Afghanistan. Essentials of the programme were an integrated package of training, deployment and technical support, resulting in village-based preventive animal health programme) (AF/90/901)	Dfl.	910,734
UNDP/OPS	The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) started to finance the major part of the field programme (AFG88/A01/DCA/APP/63)	US\$	200,000

**1990/1991**

DGIS	Veterinary Training and Support Centre September 1990 – September 1991 (AF/90/905)	Dfl.	1,076,362
UNDP	Extension of project DCA/APP/63 April 1990 – April 1991 DCA/90/02	US\$	320,000
UNDP/OPS	Veterinary Services in Afghanistan 1990 Bridge funding DCA/90/02	US\$	566,838
		US\$	19,957

**1992/93**

DGIS	VTSC Peshawar (AF 001501)	Dfl.	1,182,333
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**1994/1995**

DGIS	VTSC Peshawar (AF 001502)	Dfl.	999,490
UNDP/FAO	Animal Health and Livestock production programme for Afghanistan (AFG/93/004) July 1994 – December 1996	US\$	450,000
EU	Vaccine Supply and Cold Chain Facilities	Ecu	965,545

**1996/1997**

DGIS	VTSC Afghanistan AF 004401 & AF 004402 Bridge funding	Dfl.	244,677
UNDP/FAO	Food Security - Capacity Building in Animal Health – Afghanistan Animal Health and Livestock production programme (FAO/AFG/96/007) 1996 - 2001	US\$	209,000
EC/EuronAid	Animal Vaccine supply and cold chain facilities in Afghanistan for 1997 (project AF/DAV/96/175)	Ecu	1,012,400
Stichting Vluchteling	PAK-96.5 Refugee camp for women in Nasir Bagh PAK-97-5 Refugee camp for women in Nasir Bagh	US\$	23,013
NOVIB	Veterinary training project in Parwan province of Afghanistan	US\$	115,000

**1998**

EC	Community based Animal Health Services delivery system in the North-western region of Afghanistan (Project AFG/B7-2120/IB/97/0625)	US\$	600,000
CIDA	Nasir Bagh Poultry Training Project for New Afghan Women Refugees January – December 1998	Rs	680,000

**1999**

EC DGVIII	Community based Animal Health Services delivery system in the NW region of Afghanistan (incl. paravet training programme at Veterinary Training and Support Centre Herat) (AFG/B7-2120/IB/97/0625) August 1999 – December 2000	€	470,000
CIDA/CARE	Community based Animal Health Services delivery system in the North-western region of Afghanistan (incl. paravet training programme at Veterinary Training and Support Centre Herat) March – September 1999	Rs	1,402,800
CIDA/CARE	Poultry Training Program for Afghan Poultry Farmers October 1999 – September 2000	Rs	670,100
Stichting Vluchteling	Livestock/veterinary and poultry extension programs - Refugee camps NWFP (Pakistan Akora Khatak, Azakhel, Kacha Garie, Nasir Bagh new arrivals)	US\$	56,071

**2000/2001**

EC/EuronAid	Animal Vaccine Supply and Cold Chain Facilities in Afghanistan June 2000 – December 2001	€	392,000
European Union	Assistance to Returnees, Displaced People (idps) and Local Communities in Afghanistan Veterinary Training and Support Services (NW region) March 2001 – August 2003	€	1,415,000
NOVIB	Veterinary training and support centre in the North Central region of Afghanistan (Parwan). Project AFG-032-99-001 January 2000 – March 2000	Dfl.	69,594
Stichting Vluchteling	Veterinary Extension Programme for Afghan Women in Akora Khatak and New Shamshatoo (PAK-00.3 PAK -01.3) February 2000 - January 2002	US\$	46,675
		US\$	44,327

**2002/2003**

European Union	Animal Vaccine Supply and Cold Chain Facilities in Afghanistan September 2002 - March 2004	€	900,000
FAO	Support of the Afghanistan Livestock Census in the provinces of Herat, Badghis, Farah and Ghor (OSRO/AFG/212/ITA). February 2003 – June 2003	US\$	37,050
Stichting Vluchteling	Poultry training, extension and income generation scheme for Afghan refugees in Akora Khatak and New Shamshatoo (PAK-02.3) February 2002 – January 2003	US\$	45,000
Stichting Vluchteling	Rural Extension, Animal Health and Production Program for Refugees Returning to Afghanistan (PAK-03.2) February 2003 - February 2005	€	73,247

**2004**

USAID/Chemonics	Rebuilding Agricultural Markets in Afghanistan Program (RAMP) - Livestock Health, Production, and Marketing Improvement Project Jan 2004 - July 2006	US\$	11,995,453 (2,5 years)
Stichting Vluchteling	Rural Extension, Animal Health and Production Program for Refugees Returning to Afghanistan - Qarabagh district February 2003 - February 2005	€	88,936

## **RAMP: Impact Assessment of Assistance to the Livestock Sub-sector Programme in Afghanistan, May 2005**

### **Summary**

Livestock husbandry is an integral part of agriculture in Afghanistan, providing livelihoods to 80% of the population and generating substantial revenue from export earnings. Benefits from livestock development in particular accrue to the poor and rural women, primarily because they tend to be more associated with livestock production than with crop production. Smallholder livestock production is also more labour intensive than crop production in generating on-farm employment.

As with the livestock sector, the poultry sector is critical for incomes. The major production is free range and traditional in which poultry birds scavenge in backyards for feed. Women almost exclusively deal with village poultry production.

The Dutch Committee for Afghanistan (DCA) and the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO) are the two the principal contractors to RAMP's assistance to the livestock and poultry sub-sector activities. Operating in 24 provinces, the DCA provides vaccinations and treatments against diseases in large and small ruminants, equines, camels and in poultry. The FAO poultry programme works with village women in three provinces to increase poultry production through the distribution of pullets, provision of vaccines, training and market organization. An assessment was undertaken to evaluate the economic benefits of the interventions for the period up to December 2004. The major findings are:

The DCA has provided vaccination to 1.45M cattle and goats (about 72.5% coverage) and treated/medicated 115,622 equines and camels (about 50% coverage). On average each cattle and small stock was vaccinated three times against the common diseases. Mortality rate is expected to fall by 45% for adult cattle and 52 to 54% for adult sheep and goats. Mortality is also expected to fall by 37% for calves, 48% for lambs, and 12% for kids. Assuming a 70% attribution to RAMP, the head value of cattle and small stock saved through the veterinary campaign is US\$6M, and that of equines and camels is US\$0.04M. The annual productivity gain from cattle and small stock covered by the vaccination and treatment campaign is US\$90M; the productivity gain from equines and camels, measured in terms of traction and transport, is US\$16M. The DCA has established 246 field units, of which 123 are run by DCA itself and the rest by its sub-contractors (PRB 40, AVA 83) and trained 51 paravets and a large number of basic veterinary workers (BVWs) to operate in remote villages where veterinary services are unavailable to farmers.

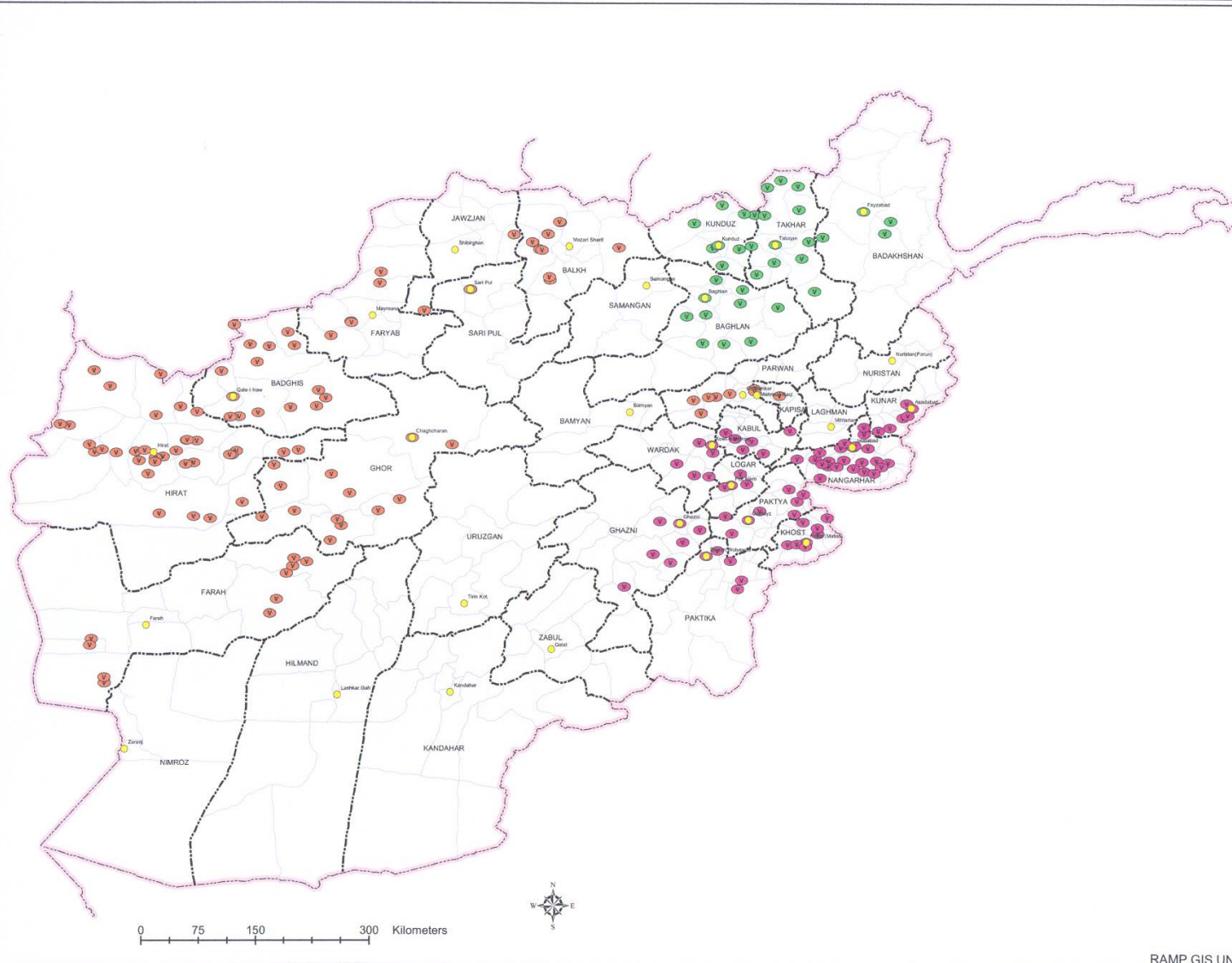
In the poultry sector, the project has distributed 56,000 pullets to about 6,000 women (23% coverage) and provided over 160,000 vaccinations and achieved a 16% coverage against planned target over the "life of the project". Vaccination against common poultry diseases has reduced mortality in poultry to 5% from the current level of 80 to 85%.

The productivity gain from poultry, measured in terms of the value of eggs produced, is about US\$0.2M. With multiplication, the poultry population has increased by a further 452,000 chicks (valued at US\$1.4M), enough to benefit 38,000 more women at the current rate of distribution. The project has established 291 producer groups (58% achievement) and one feed processing unit against the planned target of 5.

The total gain from animals saved through the veterinary and poultry programmes and the productivity gains made during this period is US\$113M.

# AFGHANISTAN

## RAMP VETERINARY FIELD UNIT PROJECTS



**LEGEND**

**BOUNDARIES**

- International
- Province
- District

**CENTERS**

- Province

**VFU PROJECT**

- AVA
- DCA
- PRB



RAMP GIS UNIT

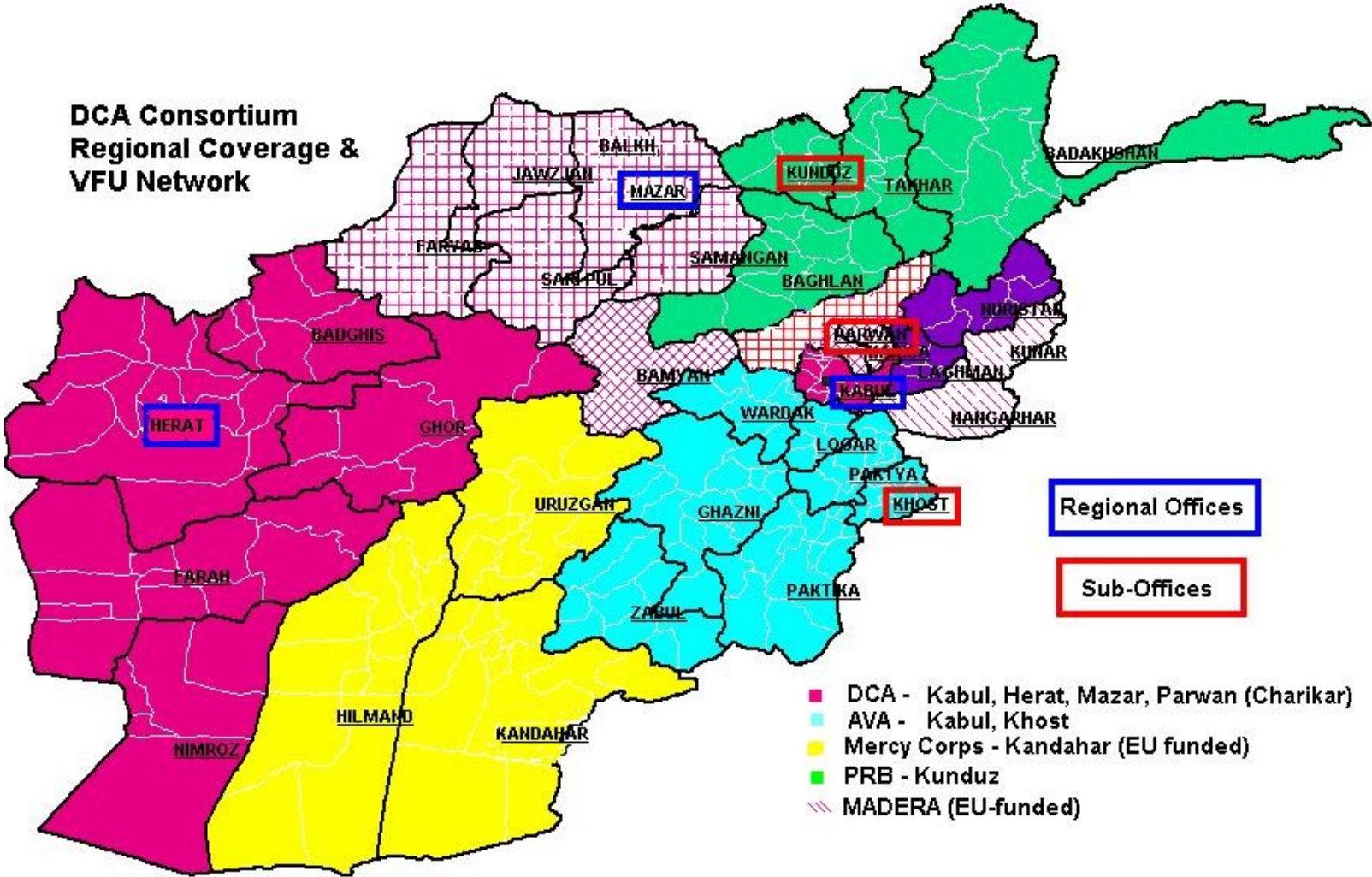
## **Symposium: The Future of Animal Health Care in Afghanistan, Next 3 Years**

### **Conclusions and recommendations**

1. The current veterinary service delivery system is severely degraded but certain valuable services continued to be provided most notably clinical service delivery in hard to reach rural areas and for nomadic Kuchies. The existing NGO/government, be expanded into a full-fledged clinical veterinary service for the nation.
2. There is consensus among participants that clinical service delivery can and should occur in the private sector, though there are concerns that the economic situation in Afghanistan at present will not support private sector veterinary service. In the short term, incentives must be developed and offered to attract trained veterinary cadres, both professional and paraprofessional, back into the veterinary sector. These incentives could be educational, logistical, or economic.
3. There is consensus on the use of paraprofessionals, including paravets, in clinical service delivery. There is general agreement that the paravet performs of a high level of competency and can successfully perform a wide range of clinical services. Nevertheless the need remains to set standards of performance, define conditions of supervision and establish regulatory requirements.
4. There is a need of government to know about all veterinary activities in the country to be able to coordinate efforts and resources. Sharing of information in both directions is essential to building partnerships and improving the efficiency of veterinary service delivery in a time of limited resources. A mechanism to accomplish these needs have to be identified.
5. The current status of veterinary resources is not clearly known and there is confusion about the numbers of active clinics and available veterinary personnel. Nevertheless, there is general consensus that there is a major need to train additional personnel. A national inventory of personnel and facilities needs to be conducted as soon as possible. Based on this inventory and needs assessment, candidates for paravet training will be selected from underserved areas by the Veterinary Department in consultation with Dutch Committee and then trained by the Dutch Committee. The recommendation that practical training of Kabul Veterinary Faculty students could be conducted through the Dutch Committee also merits consideration.
6. There is recognition by government of the important public good services that it must provide, including disease surveillance, mass vaccination, quarantine, public health, food hygiene, movement control, and diagnostic investigation. However, to accomplish these objectives, there are major needs for equipment, training and augmentation of government salaries to attract qualified personnel back into government service. Training should include refresher courses for all levels of veterinary personnel as well as advanced training for veterinary professionals to meet the specialized requirements like epidemiology, diagnostics, research, etc.
7. There is a need for a clear development plan to set priorities and allocate resources for veterinary service delivery in the country. Setting policy is the job of government, but sound policy depends on input from all stakeholders. Policy must be balanced so that the consumer is protected, but healthy business activity is not unduly restricted.
8. New legislation governing the veterinary sector should be carefully designed with input from stakeholders and with advice from legal experts. Due to the potential for dramatic changes in the resources and structure of veterinary medicine in Afghanistan in coming years, there should be flexibility in the legislation. This means that the law itself should simply assign authority for drafting rules and regulation. The rules and regulations themselves should include the necessary details and also be subject to change as needed.



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Map of working area DCA-RAMP



A good lamb crop is the promise for a good year for everybody in Afghanistan

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