

DCA-VET starting up new EU project



After having successfully completed a previous EU project for Animal Health the 30rd of November 2013, DCA-VET is now starting a new EU project – Phase II. The contract for this project, “**Support to the Development of Agriculture Private Sector: Animal Health**” was signed the 18th of December 2013. The implementation period will be for four years, and the total budget amounts to € 6,9 million. The project covers sixteen provinces in all regions of Afghanistan. 86 staff will be involved in implementation of the project.

The main objectives of this new EU project are:

1. To improve the overall animal health status nation-wide through strengthening of service provision and linking between public and private sectors,
2. To increase quality and quantity of products of animal origin through improved animal husbandry and animal health,
3. To establish and maintain a consistent Monitoring & Evaluation system endorsed by all stakeholders; evaluating all results achieved under the support of the animal health private sector programme and providing relevant recommendations for future development of public-private partnerships.

This EU project will play a key role in the DCA programme for several reasons:

- The project will allow DCA-VET to fill the gaps in the existing VFU (Veterinary Field Unit) animal health network in Afghanistan,
- DCA-VET will be working on change management and uniformity, developing and documenting best practices relevant to the local context, that are to be shared with other stakeholders,
- DCA-VET will play a leading role in communication with the public sector,
- By organizing workshops, seminars, conferences and meetings DCA-VET will take the lead in communication between all stakeholders in the livestock sector, thus building a platform to share knowledge on livestock issues,
- Part of the project is the establishment of an Afghan Advisory Committee on livestock issues.

This large and important project will provide new challenges that DCA will succeed in meeting. On the one hand it will offer DCA-VET ample possibilities to realize its mission to improve health and production of Afghan livestock for the benefit of livestock farmers. And on the other hand, DCA-VET will be challenged to maintain its role as an innovative and leading development organization in the livestock sector.



Treatment of a cow by a para-veterinarian