

Increasing Crimea Congo Haemorrhagic Fever (CCHF) Detection, Mitigation, and Prevention Efforts in Afghanistan'

Donor/contractor	US Department of State/CRDF Global
Period	1 May 2018 – 31 August 2019
Area	6 Provinces (36 villages in each province)

The CCHF project to mitigate the incidence of CCHF in Afghanistan has been awarded to DCA Livestock Programs by the U.S. Department of State. This project is part of the Biosecurity Engagement Program (BEP). May 1st, 2018, DCA commenced the implementation of this project, entitled 'Increasing Crimea Congo Haemorrhagic Fever (CCHF) Detection, Mitigation, and Prevention Efforts in Afghanistan'. The project would end on March 31st, 2019 but has been extended to August 31st, 2019.

The tick-borne viral disease CCHF has been an increasing problem in Afghanistan over the past years. It causes a severe disease in humans with a high fatality rate. During the BEP project, DCA will empower the Zoonotic Committee of Afghanistan to develop a sustainable and holistic approach to mitigate this disease. In addition, DCA will build the capacity of the Central Veterinary Diagnostic and Research Laboratory on identification and in-depth knowledge of the vector tick species. Last but not least, DCA will increase the awareness of the communities at risk on the prevention of CCHF.



Overall aim of this project is to decrease the incidence of CCHF. Key objectives are:

- Increased awareness of communities at risk
- Improved understanding of vector species, modes of transmission, and epidemiology of the disease
- Identification of geographical high-risk areas

To this aim, DCA will implement the following activities:

- Conduct an initial and a final workshop with all stakeholders
- Conduct tick surveys in six provinces to identify higher risk areas
- Raise awareness among livestock owners, butchers, traders, veterinarians and vet students, and the general public

To support DCA in these tasks, the renowned tick expert Lieve Lynen († 2019) was hired, who trained the relevant stakeholders in CCHF epidemiology, tick sample collection and preservation of ticks, started a tick reference library, and produced a training manual on the identification of ticks.

Important deliverables were:

- A curriculum module on CCHF for the Veterinary Faculty
- Tick surveillance and awareness raising in Kandahar, Bamyán, Nangarhar, Kabul, Balkh, and Herat (36 villages in each province)
- 90,000 stables improved through plastering, ventilation, and spraying