

# ANNUAL REPORT 2019



Dutch Committee for Afghanistan – Livestock Programs



# Colophon

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## DCA Livestock Programs

Active since 1988, officially registered in 1994,  
Netherlands Chamber of Commerce, # 41246751

Registered in Afghanistan as international NGO  
under the name DCA since 2005, # 119

<b>Seat</b>	Amersfoort, the Netherlands
<b>Main office</b>	Kabul, Afghanistan
<b>Working area</b>	Afghanistan
<b>Focus</b>	Animal Health, Production, and Welfare

<b>Staff</b>	120
<b>Board</b>	six members
<b>Chairman of the Board</b>	Theo Lam
<b>Advisory Council</b>	six advisors

**Mission: to reduce poverty and increase  
food security for the people of Afghanistan  
by improving the health and production of  
their livestock**







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# 1. Preface



In a secondary school, kids just received extension leaflets from the DCA CLAP-Kuchi project; Kuchi families learn through their children.

## Permanent education

As we all know, education is an essential part of life. Capacity building through training is an essential part of DCA: where possible, DCA encourages learning within and by her organization. This for further capacity building of our own staff, but also for training (new) para-veterinarians (paravets) and offering working paravets refresher courses. Training and extension of beneficiaries is an important component in all our projects.

Recently, three of our Afghan senior staff members visited the Netherlands for meetings with the DCA Board and DCA Advisory Council. They presented their projects to the Advisory Council and received advice on how to improve their methodology and approach in preparation and implementation of projects. During their stay, they also followed a three-day-course in how to write winning proposals for applying for new projects. With this new knowledge, the senior project managers hopefully will be successful in acquiring some new projects. A lot of development work still has to be done in Afghanistan and DCA urgently needs some projects to guarantee continuity of the Veterinary Field Unit (VFU) network and the quality of private veterinary services.

## Training and the VFU network

There is a particular need for a project to strengthen and improve the VFU network in Afghanistan. Over the last 30 years, DCA has trained 1,400 paravets in its various training centres and supported them to start up a VFU. Paravets, working in VFUs, regularly require further training and refresher courses. A permanent education system for paravets is essential to keep the quality of

the private veterinary services up to standard. Also, replacement of VFU staff at e.g. retirement, requires an operational training facility for new paravets.

The DCA training facilities, supplying refresher courses and trainings for new paravets, are the heart of our NGO and deserve priority. This is underlined by the results of the VFU assessment that DCA performed in the second half of 2019 (see Chapter 4).

**Ab Emmerzaal**, Secretary General





## 2. Afghanistan now



### Safety and economic situation

The war in Afghanistan has led to more than 147,000 casualties since 2001. Based on figures released by the United Nations in October 2019, 8,239 civilians have been killed or injured only in 2019, which is the highest ever level of civilian casualties recorded since the fall of Taliban in a single year. Every day on average 30 - 40 Afghan security forces are killed in combat. Hopefully, the peace talks with the Taliban will have a positive influence.

In spite of these bad circumstances, there have been positive developments in Afghanistan since the fall of Taliban in health care, education, economic growth, government reforms, and participation of women in the social and political arena; the developments, however, have not been inclusive and constructive enough. There is a vast rural-urban divide in terms of infrastructure, women's rights, education and health facilities, and security. 70% of the population is illiterate. Unemployment rate is 60%, and more than 55% of the population lives below the national poverty line.

### Livestock sector

In Afghanistan, the availability of land suitable for grazing has traditionally made animal husbandry an important part of the economy. Some 30 million ha (45%) of the country's geographical area consist of rangeland, although a large part is currently overgrazed. Nevertheless, also today the livestock sector is an important pillar of the food system as well as the economic sector in Afghanistan.

In 2019, some 75% of the Afghan population lived in

(remote) rural areas. In a survey over 2019 by the Asia Foundation, 57% of the respondents said they owned livestock; among the rural respondents this was 71%. Mean number of animals per household was four (not including poultry). Most commonly held livestock are sheep, goats, cattle, and poultry. In addition, donkeys are often used as working animals, e.g. in the brick industry and as means of transport. There are two main types of animal husbandry in Afghanistan: sedentary, by farmers raising both animals and crops; and nomadic, by animal herders known as Kuchi. Although the Kuchi constitute only 5% of the Afghan population, they own about 50% of the Afghan livestock. Herding some hundreds of sheep or goats, the Kuchi family groups migrate from the highlands of central Afghanistan in summer to the lowland pastures in winter. In the last twenty years, however, due to serious droughts and continuous wars, many Kuchi lost their herds and took on a marginal sedentary.

The most recent census of the Afghan livestock population (ALCS 2016-2017) revealed 22 million sheep, 10 million goats, and 3.7 million cattle. However, livestock numbers have been severely decreased due to the devastating drought that hit the country in 2018. FEWS NET states that nomadic households lost nearly 50 percent of their livestock and poorer sedentary households even 60 to 70%. Thanks to the favourable wet season 2018/2019, animal numbers are slowly recovering again. This underlines once more the importance of the private animal health and production services that DCA is strengthening in Afghanistan through the VFU-network, including vaccination, disease prevention and control, breed improvement, and the introduction of efficient and hygienic production techniques.



# 3. Gender



## Position of women in Afghanistan

Having financial independence for a woman in a rural family is still a dream in Afghanistan. The general state of mind in Afghanistan towards women, resulting in a wide range of measures laid upon them, has affected their well-being thoroughly. The basic rights and freedom of women have been violated and their status and position were considered insignificant for a long time.

It is obvious, that women in remote villages and from poor families in spite of this have always played a vital role in every aspect of daily life whether it is in family protection or in economic sectors.

Women take care of animals, work on the farm, in agriculture, gardening and other small businesses to support their family's income.

## DCA's role in women empowerment

One of DCA's objectives is to support the women in Afghanistan in gaining more respect and reaching a higher level of economic independence.

DCA implements different projects in which women are involved. Project activities include improving the health of their livestock, and backyard poultry farming. Also, training in safer and hygienic ways of collecting and processing their products to build and sustain a small and almost permanent source of income for them.

Another key point to DCA's women empowerment is the presence of female staff in all projects of DCA, whom can work closely with women in the villages without crossing

One of the beneficiaries of BADILL project is Ms Sabzpari, a 25-year old poultry farmer. She is a high school graduate and the eldest daughter of the family. Her father passed away and she is living with her mother, two sisters, and three small brothers. She started as an entrepreneur in August 2018 with the small-scale business of backyard poultry farming. She was trained in poultry basic management and linked with the nearby market and Milk and Egg collection centre. She quotes *"In the past, I had a bad experience of poultry rearing because of the high mortality rate, but fortunately due to the application of good training, management and timely vaccination, prevention and treatment, my 40 pullets are in a good healthy condition with excellent production and no cases of mortality"*.

Furthermore, she adds that she had the skill of weaving jackets, socks, hats etc. but because of her poor economic situation, she was not able to purchase raw material for the continuation of this occupation. Now from selling eggs she has once again started weaving various items in her free time.

the cultural boundaries in society. The activities of DCA have brought impressive changes in living conditions, health, and livelihoods of the rural population and especially of women.





*Ms. Sabzpari is teaching the other village women*



*Because of her increased income Ms. Sabzpari is able to purchase raw material for her knitting.*

# 4. Approach



## Way of working

From 1988, DCA continues to help the Afghan people by boosting the health and production of their livestock. Healthier and more productive animals increase food security and are a source of extra income for rural families. DCA believes development work has to start with the people themselves. Therefore, all DCA projects are based on the needs and demands of the local community. The main problems encountered by the local livestock farmers are rampant livestock diseases; lack of knowledge on animal husbandry, nutrition, and production; and lack of market opportunities for livestock products. To work on solutions to these problems, DCA is using the following approach:

- Developing of quality veterinary service provision countrywide;
- Offering the farmers extension on livestock health and production;
- Developing of value chains for processing and trading of livestock products;
- Maintaining strong links with local and national private and public partners.

## VFU Assessment

In 2019, a nationwide VFU Assessment has been performed. This VFU Assessment was suggested by HE Minister of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock. It was supported by the General Directorate of Animal Health and Production, and the Animal Health Directorate

Provincial Veterinary Authorities across Afghanistan. The overall design, implementation and monitoring of the assessment was under supervision of Dr Fakhri, Program Director at DCA Livestock Programs. A total of 994 persons acting as Veterinary Field Unit (VFU) staff in 302 (out of 399) districts were interviewed for this study. Two-third are livestock owners trained as Veterinary Para-professional (VPP) while 33% are graduated DVMs or Veterinary Assistants (VAs).

The results show that VFUs are at 12 km distance and VFU staff cover 20 villages on average. The estimated average number of livestock heads that receive service is 13,200 per VFU. VPPs are stationed in the more remote areas compared to DVMs and VAs.

All VFU staff interviewed plan to continue their work at the VFU and ask for support through continued education and training in new techniques. Additionally, they indicate the need for technical support (feedback) by the Animal Health Directorate (AHD) on technical issues as well as government support in disease outbreak reporting, surveillance and investigation through a Public Private Partnership model where needed.

Based on the outcome of this assessment, a project proposal will be prepared to raise funds for sustainable improvement of the VFU services in Afghanistan.

## Strategic Plan

In August 2019, the Board of DCA Livestock Programs has approved the Strategic Plan for 2020-2024. DCA aims to have an impact on Afghan society, in particular the rural communities. The main objectives are:

- Improved food security, income and well-being for the people of Afghanistan, particularly the rural communities;
- Improved services for animal health and productivity, public health and welfare;
- Financially independent private VFUs, integrated into the national network of veterinary services;
- For DCA Livestock Programs to be a key-networking institution with public, private and donor communities on livestock-related projects and programs;
- For DCA Livestock Programs to be managing and sharing information, innovation and evidence-based yet practical approaches for veterinary paraprofessionals in VFUs.



# 5. Projects in 2019



## Projects 2019 in brief

DCA started in 2019 with a portfolio of six projects. Among these are two long-term, multi-million-dollar projects, being CLAP Kuchi and the Brooke project. CLAP Kuchi focuses primarily on animal health care and livestock extension services for the pastoralists of Afghanistan. The Brooke project entered its second year of a three-year contract; focusing on equine welfare and livelihoods using a One Welfare approach. Meetings with the donor are held regularly about the progress and possible extension and broadening of activities.

The RADP-N project ended on the 26<sup>th</sup> of May 2019. The BADILL project is progressing very well; the original end date was 30<sup>th</sup> June 2019, but the project was awarded an

extension till 31<sup>st</sup> of July 2020. The implementation of the PUR project is also very successful, regular meetings are held between the Project Manager and representatives of the French donor. Two smaller projects funded by the US Department of State are focused on the combat of the tick-borne disease CCHF. The first CCHF project aimed at the mitigation and control, while its successor is more focused on early laboratory detection of the CCHF virus. Discussions are ongoing for a further follow-up.

## Geographic scope

The geographical scope in 2018 was 34 provinces but this has decreased in 2019 to 19 provinces. This was mainly due to the ending of both the EU and RADP-N projects (respectively in 2018 and 2019).

Project	Donor	Budget \$	Focus	Timeline 2018 - 2022				
				18	19	20	21	22
CLAP Kuchi	IFAD	10.7 M	Kuchi, value chain	█	█	█	█	█
RADP-N	USAID	3.1 M	VFUs	█	█	█	█	█
Brooke	Brooke	2.7 M	Equine welfare	█	█	█	█	█
BADILL	UNODC	1.7 M	Dairy, poultry, vegetables	█	█	█	█	█
PUR Breeding	PUR Dev	0.45 M	Breeding cashmere goats	█	█	█	█	█
CCHF	US DoS	0.41 M	CCHF mitigation and control	█	█	█	█	█
CCHFV	US DoS	0.12 M	Early Laboratory Detection	█	█	█	█	█



# 5a. CLAP Kuchi project



### Achievements:

- 9 new paravets trained
- 138 refresher trainings
- 128 VFUs supported
- 20,000 households benefitted
- 999 males in meat value chain
- 428 females in meat value chain
- 247 females in wool value chain



Since January 2014, DCA has been implementing the sub-component Livestock Development among Kuchi of the IFAD-funded CLAP Kuchi Program in three provinces, Kabul, Parwan and Logar. The overall goal of the CLAP Kuchi Program is “to reduce poverty in rural Afghanistan”. More specifically, the project objective is to improve food security of 223,000 poor rural households.

The program is organized around three mutually reinforcing components: community development, livestock and agriculture development, and policy support.

Since May 2018, with additional financing, the original

closing date of 31 December 2019 has been extended to 31 December 2022. At the same time, the successful livestock activities have been expanded to four additional provinces: Nangarhar, Balkh, Herat and Baghlan. Also, the routes of Kuchi beneficiaries during the winter in Laghman and Khost provinces, and during the summer season in Paktia, Panjsher and Kapisa provinces are covered now.

In the last years, even more emphasis has been given to improving the income of settled female Kuchi through small income generating schemes as lamb fattening, poultry, milk processing and wool production.

### Success story Ms Gulnar

Ms Gulnar, a 45-years old woman with ten children, is a member of a DCA/CLAP Kuchi Extension group in Kabul Province. She tells her story as follows: “I remember the poor days and the miserable condition we had, as my husband was not able to find work as daily-wage worker to earn money and pay for our daily home-base necessities. In the family it was me who, with wool spinning in the traditional way, earned a

little money for my family to survive. When I became a member of the Extension group, I learned a lot during the wool spinning training sessions. With my wool spinning machine, provided by the CLAP Kuchi project, I am now able to produce a lot of wool and earn a good living. I am really pleased and thankful to the CLAP Kuchi project team for their tireless efforts of providing such an opportunity for vulnerable Kuchi Women in the very remote areas.”



## 5b. Brooke project




**Achievements:**

- 18 new paravets trained
- 101 VFUs supported
- 26,624 households benefitted
- 18,996 poorest farmers trained
- 1384 male groups supported
- 339 female groups supported
- 228 children groups supported
- 4,597 stables improved




The DCA/Brooke partnership started in 2008 and is still in progress. We are in the second year of a 3-year project at the moment and are working in six provinces to ensure better livelihoods for 50,000 animal owners through improving the welfare status of their 150,000 working equines in a way that sustains.

The DCA/Brooke partnership is mainly tuned to improve the welfare of the working equines (horses, donkeys and mules) with a focus on enhancing the livelihoods of their owners. Studies have shown that more than 85% of the animal welfare issues, which adversely affect the performance/production of animals, are owner related and are preventable. Capacity building and stimulating behaviour changes among farming households (males, females and children), animal health/welfare service providers, community influencers and policy makers are the main fields of our intervention.

DCA promotes some 'minimal standard practices' among the potential stakeholders with the aim to improve the welfare of animals through better care by their owners, at the same time improving livelihoods and food security of the farming households. These minimal standards include proper housing, feeding, watering, disease treatment/prevention, humane animal

### Five Freedoms

The guiding principles of animal welfare are known as the 'Five Freedoms'. These outline five aspects of animal welfare under human control:

1. Freedom from hunger and thirst
2. Freedom from discomfort
3. Freedom from pain, injury and disease
4. Freedom to express normal behaviour
5. Freedom from fear and distress.

There is a strong relationship between animal welfare, animal health and animal production/performance and so, practices that promote good animal welfare will often lead to improvements in animal production/performance and thus also improve the livelihoods of the owners of the animals.

handling/hobbling, friendly harnessing and animal shoeing.

Animals can experience emotions such as pain, fear or joy. Therefore, any animal kept by humans must, at least, be protected from unnecessary suffering. The most severe animal welfare problems caused by abuse, neglect or bad management, and other harmful treatments are unacceptable and should be corrected immediately.



## 5c. BADILL project



### Achievements:

- 3 new paravets trained
- 17 VFUs supported
- 1471 improved stables
- 527 male participants extension
- 2990 female participants extension
- 3517 dairy/poultry value chain
- 1100 backyard poultry established



On December 1st, 2017, DCA started implementing the BADILL (Boost Alternative Development Intervention through Licit Livelihoods) project. This project is funded by the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC). The main goal of the project is to establish small enterprises in dairy, backyard poultry, and vegetables in order to reduce dependency on illicit crops. The project approach is market-driven and based on the needs and opportunities of the target communities.

The project aims at providing job opportunities and more income to local farmers and producers, particularly women. This will lead to an improved economic status of the targeted projects participants. Target areas are selected districts in the provinces of Bamyan, Pansjhir, Wardak and Parwan.

Initially, the project budget was 600,000 USD and the project would end the 30<sup>th</sup> of June 2019. However, in January 2019, at the request of DCA the donor extended

the project to reach more beneficiaries. As a result, the budget was raised to 1,860,000 USD and the project will last until 31<sup>st</sup> of July 2020.

### Support local entrepreneurship/job creation

The project is designed to create conditions for the establishment of vibrant production clusters. The main beneficiaries of this project are women thereby addressing the cross-cutting theme of gender. Local entrepreneurs have been trained in developing and running a successful business. Additional interventions include artificial insemination, development of livestock feed banks, establishment of milk and egg collection centres, and selection of local investors for the small-scale enterprises. The district-based milk and egg collection centres generate market opportunities for both the milk or egg producing farmers and the local milk collectors/processors. Thus, these collection centres contribute to a rise in employment possibilities and an increase of the level of income of the local population.

Backyard poultry farming is an easy and manageable small business form for the women-headed households living in the rural areas. To support small scale layer poultry enterprises and empowering farm

women through a backyard poultry farms, 600 poultry farms were established, and the farmers were provided with managerial and proficient services and facilities for the successful operation of their business.



# 5d. PUR project



### Achievements:

- Breeding farm for Elite flocks established
- 2019: 180 Female goats
- 2019: 6 male goats
- 2019: 86 offspring, with 40 males
- 2022: 220 bucks from Elite flock
- 2022: 220 households benefited



On 16<sup>th</sup> of February 2018, DCA Livestock Programs and PUR Development Pte. Ltd. signed a 4-year contract for the design and implementation of a cashmere goat breeding program in Afghanistan. This project is part of a bigger project which is implemented by Oxfam and PRB, and DCA is part of the overall Project Management Unit.

The aim of the breeding program is to support goat herding communities involved in the cashmere value chain in Afghanistan by introducing high quality cashmere goats in Herat and Balkh provinces. A team of DCA staff is assisting, developing, and monitoring a centralized Elite Flock of cashmere goats in Herat province in order to selectively breed high quality goats with improved cashmere quality, dairy and meat production traits.

The breeding farm has been prepared to face the winter period; also, winter feed has been stored to keep the flock in good condition during the winter.

At the end of 2019, the flock existed of 180 female goats and 6 bucks. From the offspring of in total 86 goats, a number of 40 males were raised and examined for distribution.

The cashmere goat breed improvement farm has been established in Herat. Here 180 female goats, 6 male goats and 86 kids are living, from which 40 kids are male. From those 40 young males, samples are taken for testing. When test results are positive, in the middle of 2020, the bucks will be distributed to farmers in three districts in Herat and two districts in Balkh province. In 2019, we have distributed only three bucks in one village in Karukh district of Herat Province. The total number of beneficiaries of this project is not defined in the project plan. However, during the total project we will distribute 220 bucks which means that at least 220 households will directly benefit.

DCA will be responsible for the distribution of the high-quality bucks from the centralized Elite Flock at the breeding farm in Herat to 20 villages in Balkh and Herat provinces to create 20 Elite Sub-Flocks in collaboration with the National Partner at village level. The bucks from the Elite Sub-Flocks will be used for mating with females from other flocks in the villages to spread improved genetic material amongst cashmere goat populations in these areas.



# 5e. CCHF project



### Achievements:

- 60 VFUs supported
- 240 BVWs supported
- 17,730 households benefitted
- 17,455 male participants extension
- 2,655 female participants extension
- 201 improved stables
- 3,374 special materials distributed



A total of 5,318 ticks were collected from Kabul, Nangarhar, Kandahar, Herat, Balkh and Bamyan provinces to morphologically identify the genus and species of vector ticks by stereoscope. From the same area 1,172 blood samples were collected for Enzyme Linked Immuno Sorbent Assay (ELISA) immunochemical screening tests to detect the IgG and IgM antibodies for diagnosis of CCHF disease in ruminants.

As a result, the Hyalomma, Rhipicephalus, Dermacentor and Haemaphysalis genus of ticks were identified as the vector of CCHF disease in the six regions of Afghanistan. The ELISA tests revealed that overall 43% of ruminants were exposed to CCHF disease in the above-mentioned provinces of the country.

The CCHF project to mitigate the incidence of CCHF disease in Afghanistan was awarded to DCA Livestock Programs by the US Department of State. This project was part of the Biosecurity Engagement Program (BEP). May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2018, DCA commenced the implementation of this project, entitled 'Increasing Crimean Congo Haemorrhagic Fever (CCHF) Detection, Mitigation, and Prevention Efforts in Afghanistan'. The project would end on March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2019 and was awarded a no cost extension to August 31<sup>st</sup>, 2019.

As a follow up, in September 2019 the 'Early Laboratory Detection to Reduce Biological Sample Proliferation Threat in Afghanistan Resulting in Minimized Sample Generation of CCHF' project started. This project focuses on the serious gaps that were found in the previous project in the technical aspects, the laboratory workforce capacity, and the necessary diagnostics testing, and the current knowledge of CCHF virus and transmission dynamics within the technical community in Afghanistan. The project works towards the adoption of a nationwide approach to identify gaps in detection, prevention and control strategies of the CCHF disease.

Specific activities include raising public awareness, work to identify vectors collected from the field, and mapping high-risk locations for presence of the virus. In addition,

diagnostic and testing capacities at the Central Veterinary Diagnostic and Research Laboratory (CVDRL) for CCHF disease exposure in animals are provided, with education and vector identification at the Regional Laboratories. Finally, the variables that increase the threat burden from CCHF disease in a geographical area will be statistically correlated.

### Scientific Research

A comprehensive technical and scientific research study was conducted on CCHF disease prevalence and epidemiology for the purpose of tick identification and CCHF disease exposure in ruminants. This was made possible through the technical assistance and consultation of external experts and support of the CVDRL.



## 6. Impact



In 2019, the DCA program covers 17 provinces, out of 34, but our coverage goes beyond this as we are operating through a network, which supports the collective efforts of a high number of private VFUs (the services of which go deep into the village level and reach the poorest communities).

Quality, responsibility, accountability, professionalism and sustainability are the main values for our organization. Our result-based management strategy has been helping us to reach our short-term and medium targets that are strong and fundamental steps towards our long-term organizational objectives. Some of our outcome/impact level achievements are:

- Our farmer beneficiaries consider the basic preventive measures and practice regular vaccination and deworming.
- Reduction in morbidity and mortality rates that have resulted in a considerable increase in flock uptakes which in turn have positively affected the livelihoods of the animal owner communities.
- Community groups are of great value in terms of community empowerment (women in particular), peace building, poverty reduction, improved nutrition, participatory planning and collective actions.
- Improvements in the body condition and welfare of working equines have enhanced the performances and productivity of the working equines, which have positively impacted in better livelihoods and comfort of the household, the children and the female members of the households in particular.
- Awareness and husbandry skill developments among beneficiaries have shown progressive reductions in zoonotic diseases.
- Establishment and supporting of community groups have enabled the farming communities to successfully operate their saving boxes and the feed-banks, which have positive effects on the resilience of our beneficiaries (e.g. drought, flooding and other natural disasters).
- The establishment of Self-Help Groups (SHG) and farmer producer groups, district-based small-scale local milk and egg collection centres, backyard poultry farms and all related training and capacity building have resulted in increased employment and local entrepreneurship opportunities. This also had an impressive impact on the position of women in society.
- Capacity building in animal health and welfare and breed improvement have encouraged more customers to utilize the quality and diversified services which in turn impact the One Health situations.
- Improved uptake and application of affordable livestock new technologies by farmers have resulted in an increase of their income.
- The development of meaningful Public Private Partnership (PPP) systems for disease surveillance (both passive and active), vaccination campaigns, awareness raising, but also e.g. collecting data on livestock numbers, productivity and production.



# 7. Organisation

DCA Livestock Programs is a Dutch foundation, implementing veterinary and livestock projects in Afghanistan since 1988. In 1994, the organisation was officially registered as DCA-VET at the Chamber of Commerce in the Netherlands. During recent years, DCA became increasingly engaged in livestock extension and livestock value chains. DCA decided to change its focus and its scope from a merely veterinary organisation carrying out veterinary projects to a livestock organisation implementing a wider range of projects related to animal production. This new profile asked for a new name: since 2017 DCA-VET is called DCA Livestock Programs.

Being a foundation, DCA Livestock Programs has a Board that outlines the DCA policy. An Advisory Council provides the Board (bi)annually with support and advice.

## Afghanistan

The DCA team in Afghanistan consists of some 120 staff, mainly Afghan nationals, with only one expat. The national staff represent all different ethnic groups. About 25% of the staff are women. The staff take care of implementation of projects, monitoring and evaluation of

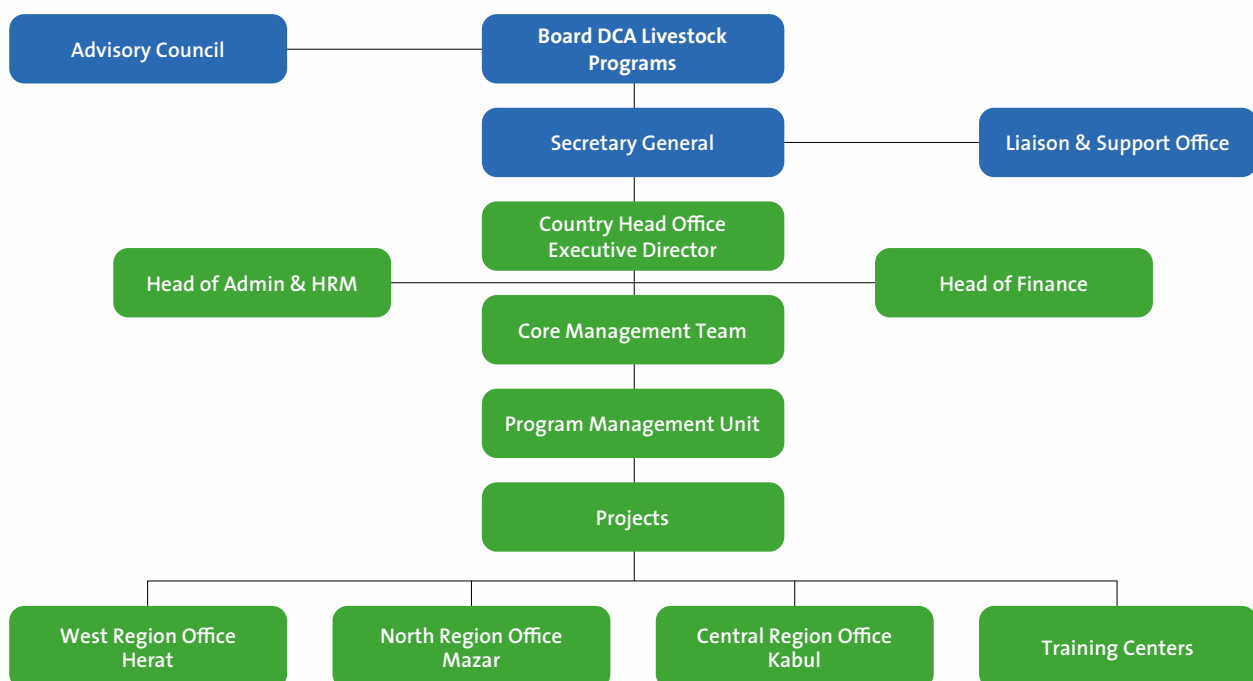
projects, financial affairs, administration, HRM, M&E, and facilitation of services.

The Executive Director, Raymond Briscoe, is in charge of the daily management, the acquisition of new projects, and the communication with donors, Afghan government and stakeholders. The Program Director, Dr Abdul Qader Fakhri, manages all project implementation. A Core Management Team (CMT) of six Afghan senior managers supports them. The CMT serves as primary planning body for the preparation and implementation of DCA projects in Afghanistan.

DCA offices are established in Kabul (headquarters), Herat, and Mazar-i-Sharif, and the main training centre is situated in Charikar. Smaller regional offices can be found in the capitals of ten provinces.

## Netherlands

The Executive Director works closely with the Board in Holland through the Secretary General, Ab Emmerzaal. In Holland, the Liaison & Support office takes care of monitoring and supporting of projects and finances, and of facilitation of the Board meetings.





# 8. Board and Advisory Council

## Members of the Board

---



**Theo Lam, DVM PhD**  
*Chairman*



**Gert-Jan Duives,**  
**DVM**  
*Secretary*



**Romke Steensma,**  
**CA**  
*Treasurer*



**Bram E.C. Schreuder,**  
**DVM PhD**  
*Delegated Board  
Member*



**Ruairaidh Petre, MSc**  
*Member till April  
2019*



**Kees van Maanen,**  
**DVM PhD**  
*Member*

### Board

As in previous years, in 2019 DCA was governed by a Board with its seat in the Netherlands. The Board exists of committed volunteers who devote their expertise to the benefit of DCA. This year we had to say goodbye to our well-respected Board member Ruairaidh Petre. The Board met eleven times in 2019, including two meetings with the Advisory Council.

### Advisory Council

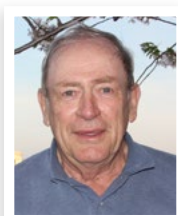
During 2019, the DCA Board met twice with the Advisory Council, discussing topics like DCA's lobbying policy and the preparation of the Strategic Plan 2020-2024. Since in 2019 two new members were appointed, the DCA Advisory Council now consists of six members, Akke van der Zijpp, Cees de Haan, Henk Moll, Frauke de Weijer and newly appointed Lucy Maarse and Peter de Leeuw, previous chairman of the DCA Board.

## Members of the Advisory Council

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**Akke van der Zijpp,**  
**Prof. PhD**  
*Animal Production  
Systems*



**Cees de Haan, Jr.**  
*Senior Livestock  
Advisor*



**Henk A.J. Moll, PhD**  
*Agricult. Developm.  
Economy*



**Frauke de Weijer,**  
**DVM BA MPA**  
*Development policy*



**Lucy Maarse, MSc**  
*Livestock  
& Livelihood*



**Peter de Leeuw,**  
**DVM PhD**  
*Previous CVO of NL*



# 9. Partnerships

For successfully realizing its mission, DCA is dependent on the collaboration with an array of different partners. DCA has become a renowned and valued livestock organisation in Afghanistan, thanks to the close coordination with the national and regional Government, the continuous funding by international donors, the joined cooperation with other NGOs, and the quality inputs by its commercial partners.

## Government

In collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock (MAIL) in Afghanistan, DCA performed a nationwide VFU assessment to explore the status of the VFU network, and to investigate which measures have to be taken to extend the VFU network and to improve the quality of the services provided by the VFUs. Possibly, a project supported by MAIL will be rolled out when funding becomes available.

## Donors

DCA would like to thank all donors for funding the implementation of the projects that were implemented in 2019. DCA is especially grateful to the donors that funded the organisation for many years already, like EU, USAID, IFAD and Brooke. Also, the awarding of projects by UNODC (United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime), PUR Projet, and the US Department of State (DoS), are very much appreciated, especially because they focus on new opportunities for broadening of the DCA program to specialised areas.

## NGOs

DCA's main NGO partners in 2019 were Relief International (RI), MADERA, and the Aga Khan Foundation (AKF). Coordination between NGOs is of great importance to share information and knowledge, and to learn from each other's best practices and lessons learned. In addition, NGO cooperation also contributes to harmonization of the VFU approach by all livestock NGOs.





# 10. Finance

## Expenditures in 2019

The expenditures of DCA Livestock Programs to keep the overall program and the individual projects running in 2019 amounted to 4,302,782 US dollars. DCA received for the larger part funds from:

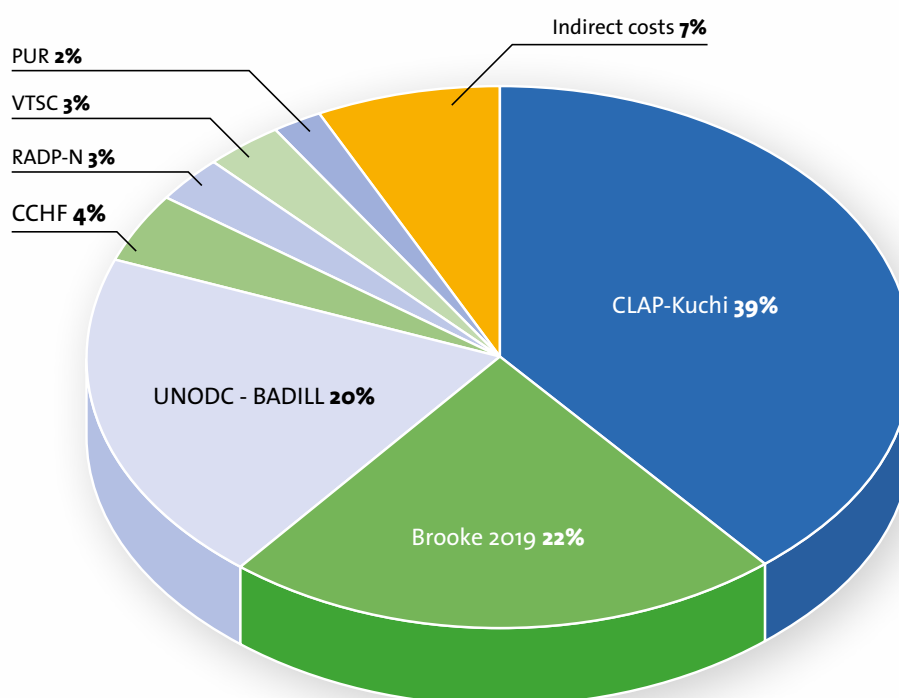
- IFAD (International Fund, for Agricultural Development) that provided funds for the continuation and expansion of the CLAP Kuchi project
- Brooke (The Brooke Hospital for Animals), for continuation of the 3-year project on 'Sustainable equine welfare improvement' in Afghanistan that started in 2018
- UNODC, for implementation of BADILL project that aims at enhancing the livelihoods of people

and for some smaller projects, from:

- CRDF and the US Department of State, for increasing CCHF detection, mitigation and prevention in Afghanistan and Laboratory Diagnosis
- USAID (United States Agency for International Development) that funded the last few months of the RADP-North project
- PUR Dev. Pte. Ltd., for management of a breeding program to improve cashmere quality, meat production, and reproduction of cashmere goats.

The below graph shows the expenditures per project expressed in percentages. DCA spent 133,000 US dollars on the Veterinary Training Centre in Charikar. From the graph, it can be concluded that 93% of all expenditures are used for project implementation and training.

## Total Expenditures 2019





# 11. Looking forward



In many ways the future for our organisation is looking bright but that will depend on the stability and security within the country. Recent elections have taken place and peace talks are continuing with the Taliban, so we all wish for a positive outcome. The donor community is waiting now and not committing further funds to support the aid sector until such time as these processes are resolved.

We as an organisation need to continue to advocate the importance of the livestock sector for food security, job creation, and livelihood development on which a large proportion of the population depend. Links need to be strengthened between the Public and Private sectors in the country, so both understand their roles and responsibilities in building in particular a strong national veterinary service. All livestock farmers should have access to quality and dependable services, and we can only achieve that through working together as a team.

Diseases now are more common due to the global trends in travel and accessible transport links. People are on the move more, so education and information become very important in understanding these diseases; how quickly they are diagnosed and reported in order to implement early prevention and control measures. One Health (Animal, Human, and the Environment) and AMR (Antimicrobial Resistance) are critical areas for intervention requesting a multisectoral and multidisciplinary approach. We look ahead to working on

these issues together with all our public sector partners and other stakeholders.

More emphasis will be placed on support to developing and implementing legislation pertaining to animal health. We will work further on gender, and the environment. We need to educate all, particularly the young, to the dangers of climate change and some of the basic measures we can take to mitigate and decrease its impact within the context of the country.

We look to a bright future, and above all to peace and security for all the people of Afghanistan.



**Dr Raymond Briscoe**  
*Executive Director*





*A classroom in the Veterinary Training Centre in Charikar*



*Children are educated to support their parents*



# Abbreviations



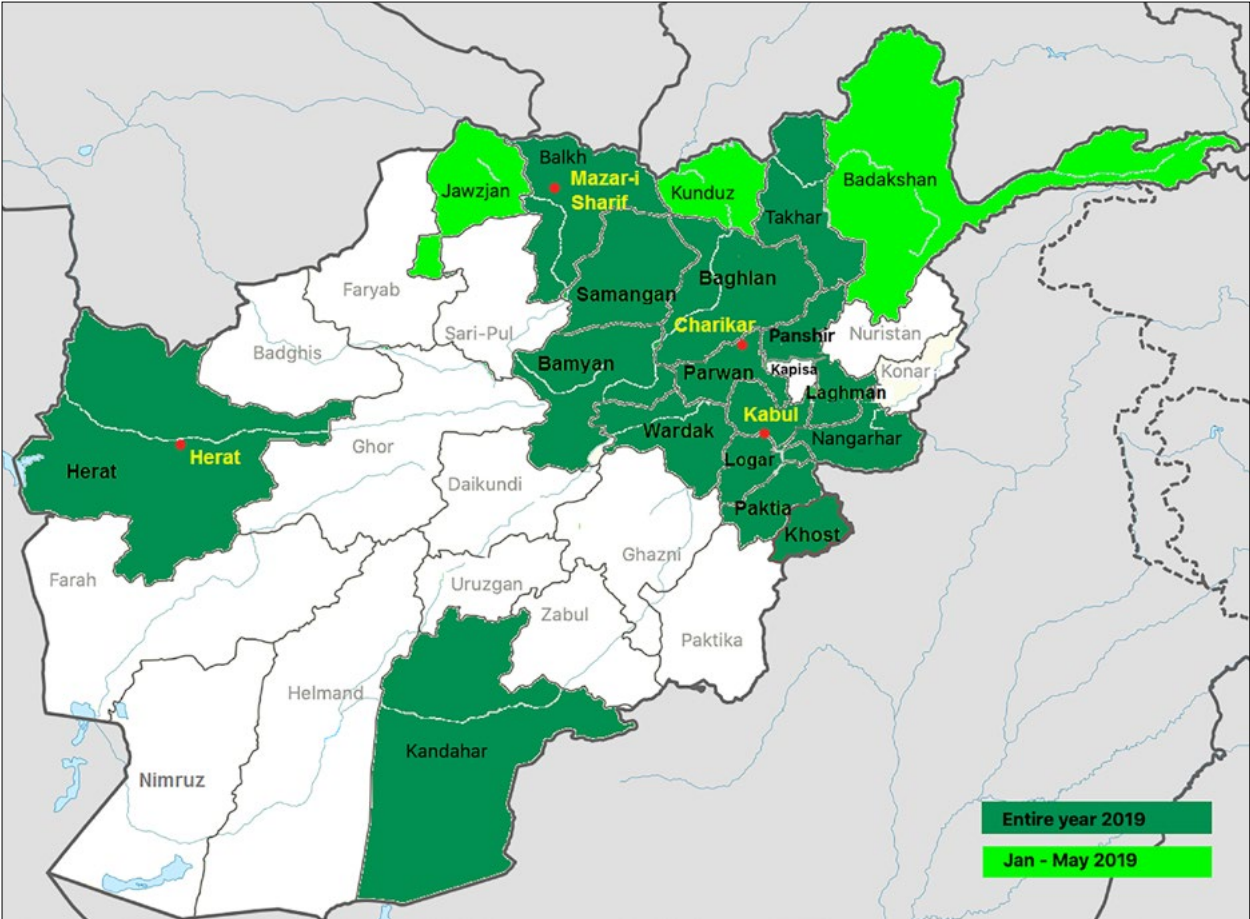
<b>AHD</b>	Animal Health Directorate	<b>HRM</b>	Human Resource Management
<b>AKF</b>	Aga Khan Foundation	<b>IFAD</b>	International Fund for Agricultural Development
<b>ALCS</b>	Afghanistan Living Conditions Survey	<b>M&amp;E</b>	Monitoring and Evaluation
<b>AMR</b>	Antimicrobial Resistance	<b>MADERA</b>	Mission d'Aide au Développement des Economies Rurales in Afghanistan
<b>BA</b>	Bachelor of Arts	<b>MAIL</b>	(Afghan) Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock
<b>BADILL</b>	Boost Alternative Development Intervention through Licit Livelihoods	<b>MPA</b>	Master of Public Administration
<b>BEP</b>	Biosecurity Engagement Program	<b>MSc</b>	Master of Science
<b>CA</b>	Chartered Accountant	<b>NGO</b>	Non-Governmental Organisation
<b>CCHF(V)</b>	Crimean Congo Haemorrhagic Fever (Virus)	<b>PhD</b>	Doctor of Philosophy
<b>CLAP</b>	Community Livestock and Agriculture Project	<b>PPP</b>	Public Private Partnership
<b>CMT</b>	Core Management Team	<b>RADP</b>	Regional Agricultural Development Program
<b>CRDF</b>	Global independent nonprofit organization	<b>RI</b>	Relief International
<b>CVDRL</b>	Central Veterinary Diagnostic and Research Laboratory	<b>SHG</b>	Self-Help-Group
<b>DCA</b>	Dutch Committee for Afghanistan	<b>UNODC</b>	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
<b>DoS</b>	Department of State, USA	<b>US</b>	United States
<b>DVM</b>	Doctor of Veterinary Medicine	<b>USAID</b>	US Agency for International Development
<b>ELISA</b>	Enzyme Linked Immuno Sorbent Assay	<b>VA</b>	Veterinary Assistant
<b>EU</b>	European Union	<b>VFU</b>	Veterinary Field Unit
<b>FEWS NET</b>	Famine Early Warning System Network	<b>VPP</b>	Veterinary Para-professional
<b>HE</b>	His Excellency		



# DCA on the map



Map of coverage of DCA Livestock Programs







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