

# ANNUAL REPORT 2016



Dutch Committee for Afghanistan – Veterinary Programmes



# Colophon

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## DCA-VET

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

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

<b>Seat</b>	Lelystad, the Netherlands
<b>Main office</b>	Kabul, Afghanistan
<b>Working area</b>	Afghanistan
<b>Focus</b>	Livestock health and production

<b>Staff</b>	300
<b>Board</b>	5 members
<b>Chairman of the Board</b>	Peter W. de Leeuw
<b>Advisory Council</b>	4 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

## Transition from 'DCA-VET' to 'DCA Livestock Programs'

This Annual Report describes a double transition. The format of the report differs to the usual past reports, and also the organisation is broadening its development activities in Afghanistan. Afghanistan is now nearly completely covered with Veterinary Field Units (VFUs), staffed by DCA-VET trained paraveterinarians delivering veterinary services. In addition, these VFUs provide extension messages developed by DCA-VET to make those working in the livestock sector more aware and proficient. Following this approach, a better quality and quantity of livestock products became available, which resulted in an increased sales value. International donors are giving the right response to this development by designing projects to create value chains for agricultural products. This is important for Afghanistan, because up to now considerable amounts of livestock products are imported, and to boost its national production the country needs more processing industries and agribusinesses.

DCA-VET has adopted its new focus from the beginning of 2017, without losing attention for the veterinary services and livestock extension activities. From now on, our broadened INGO DCA Livestock Programs will bid on all kind of projects aiming at further development of the livestock sector in Afghanistan.

## DCA VFU model

DCA is very pleased that in a recent VFU conference organised by the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock the model for Veterinary Field Units as implemented by DCA-VET since 1988 was accepted as the standard model for the future. The DCA-VET method is to select candidates from their own region and give them a mainly practical and basic training by Afghan veterinarians using a well-tested curriculum. After the training, the paraveterinarians are supported in establishing a VFU with cold chain facilities and a starter kit with quality veterinary instruments to develop their business.

## Project portfolio

As outlined in the project chapter of this report some larger projects implemented by DCA-VET are coming to an end soon. However, in recognition of our reputation and thanks to effective lobbying by our staff, new projects are in the pipeline. Together with our partners and donors we are in the process of designing innovative projects for the livestock sector in Afghanistan. The main subjects are animal health, animal production, value chains and One Health. DCA Livestock Programs is ready for the future.

**Ab Emmerzaal**  
*Secretary General*



## 2. Afghanistan now

### Poverty

Since ISAF (International Security Assistance Force) left Afghanistan in 2014, the interest of the international public for Afghanistan severely declined. The violent, devastating civil war in Syria and the fight against IS are focal topics in the media now. Fortunately, the international donors and the development organisations have not forgotten Afghanistan. For Afghanistan still needs funding and support from the international community to overcome poverty and to rebuild the country. Although the UNHDP Human Development Index of Afghanistan steadily rose in 2016, the country still ranks 169 out of 188 developing countries. Of the population of 32 million inhabitants 60% are living in poverty, experiencing severe deprivations in education, health, and living standards. Of the Afghan people 27% are undernourished, having not enough food to meet the daily needs.

### Livestock

Afghanistan has a surface area of 65 million hectares, of which only 12% is arable land and 45% consists of rangelands, offering ample opportunities for livestock grazing. Livestock raising is common in Afghanistan; 73% of the Afghans live in rural areas and are dependent on animal husbandry and farming for their daily needs. In addition, livestock products are an important component of the local economy. Recent livestock counts are not available, but the FAO Livestock Census of 2003 estimated a livestock population in Afghanistan of 16 million sheep and goats, 3.7 million cattle and 12 million poultry (not including the relatively large livestock herds owned by pastoralists). Current estimates assume some 30 million livestock are being kept in Afghanistan now. So, livestock can be considered as the engine of the Afghan rural economy. Improvements in animal health and production directly impact quality of life of the Afghan farmer families as well as the economy of the region.

### Women

Life of women in Afghanistan is hard. Education levels of Afghan women are low; about 85% of Afghan women cannot read or write. And only one out of six women has a paid job. Due to cultural traditions many women are forced to stay at home, without opportunities to



contribute to the household income. Here, among other tasks, they take care of the livestock around the house. This offers great opportunities to empower women by involving them in livestock value chains within the safe environment of their homes.

### Kuchi

A special group of livestock owners in Afghanistan are the Kuchi, the Afghan pastoralists. They roam the country with their large herds of small ruminants and camels, travelling from summer pastures to winter rangelands and back. Since the 1960s, the number of migrating Kuchi decreased by 40% due to droughts and wars. Many Kuchi had to take on a sedentary life and are living in the outskirts of the cities now. Although the migrating Kuchi constitute only 9% of the livestock farmers, they own 50% of all small ruminants in Afghanistan. So, addressing the challenges that Kuchi face not only improves Kuchi livelihoods, but also has a strong impact on the Afghan rural economy.

# 3. DCA-VET approach

For the last 28 years, the mission of DCA-VET has been **‘to reduce poverty and increase food security for the people of Afghanistan by improving the health and production of their livestock.’** Our approach started as a veterinary programme, built upon four pillars:

- Training of paraveterinarians
- Facilitation of VFUs (Veterinary Field Units)
- Supply of quality vaccines and medicines
- Outreach to the farmers

## Veterinary services

Training of paraveterinarians (paravets) takes place at the main DCA-VET training centre in Charikar. Carefully selected trainees receive a 5-months training, and then return to their villages to start a VFU. Once settled, the VFU staff (mostly paravets, and some Veterinary Assistants or DVMS) participate regularly in one- or two-week refresher courses for enhancing their knowledge and skills on specific topics. The DCA-VET training approach is practical, participatory and problem-oriented to be most effective.

After graduation, DCA-VET supports the paravet in finding a VFU location in his/her village. In addition, DCA-VET provides veterinary equipment, vaccines and medicines, a solar-powered refrigerator for storage of vaccines, furniture, a cattle crush, and a motorbike for visiting the farmers in the field. As long as project funding allows,

DCA-VET monitors and supports the paravet. But in principle, after two years the paravet should be able to sustainably run the VFU by himself/herself. Since 2011, DCA-VET privatised its import and distribution of quality veterinary drugs and vaccines to a commercial wholesaler, called VetServ. For safeguarding the quality of the sensitive vaccines, VetServ ensures proper cold chain facilities from producer to client.

## Extension and outreach

DCA-VET’s extension programme has increased significantly over the years. Herd Health Packages (HHPs) are developed, focussing on specific animals (e.g. small ruminants), beneficiaries (e.g. women), or topics (e.g. hygiene in animal handling). These HHPs provide background information for the extension worker as well as extension leaflets for the farmers. Extension is provided by special extension workers or by VFU staff. Sometimes it is a one-time event, but also regular group meetings are organised (e.g. Farmer Field Schools or Women Extension Groups). All extension activities are based on the needs and demands of the rural community involved.

Since some years, DCA-VET also implements extension activities with a more commercial focus. Some examples:

- **Feed-banks** are developed to provide more and better fodder, especially in the winter period;
- **Women Self-Help Groups** are supported to encourage women to start small businesses for more self-confidence and extra income;
- **Value chains** are developed to add more value to the livestock products, creating higher returns for the families of the farmers.

Recently, the DCA-VET programme also embraced the One Health approach. Here many disciplines work together to attain optimal health for people, animals and the environment. One Health topics related to livestock are hygienic handling of animals and animal products, and control of zoonoses, animal diseases that can easily be transmitted to humans.

## Public-private partnership

DCA-VET strongly cooperates with the Afghan Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock (MAIL), guaranteeing that the private VFUs always operate within the public framework set by MAIL.





# 4. Projects in 2016



## Geographic scope

For the third year in a row, the DCA-VET veterinary programme covered almost the entire country of Afghanistan. The only provinces without DCA-VET inputs were Nimruz, Daikundi, Nuristan and Kunar. Here, except for Daikundi, MADERA and Relief International are supporting the regional network of VFUs. Implementing projects in 30 out of 34 provinces, DCA-VET has by far the largest coverage of all livestock development organisations in Afghanistan.

## Projects in 2016

DCA-VET's project portfolio in 2016 amounted to six multi-million long-term projects, and four smaller one-year ones. The IFAD-funded RMLSP and CLAP Kuchi projects focus especially on the poorest Afghans, including women and

Kuchi. In the USAID-funded RADP projects the value chain concept is leading, while the EU project is broad-based with respect to focus as well as geographical area (18 provinces). The RMLSP project ended in July 2016, after six years of implementation with quality impact results. Quite unexpectedly, the RADP-West project ended prematurely in August 2016.

Among the smaller projects, Brooke is a faithful partner of DCA-VET since 2008, implementing annual projects on equine welfare. The pilot FAO-funded PPR (Peste des Petits Ruminants) vaccination and awareness campaign of 2015-2016 was followed by a new one-year PPR project in twenty provinces. FAO also started an FMD (Foot and Mouth Disease) vaccination scheme among cattle of Afghan dairy cooperatives.

Project	Donor	Funding (million)	Focus	Timeline 2013 - 2019							
				13	14	15	16	17	18	19	
RMLSP	IFAD	\$ 5.4	VFUs +								
CLAP Kuchi	IFAD	\$ 5.9	Kuchi, value chain								
EU II	EU	€ 6.9	VFUs +								
RADP-S	USAID	\$ 7.0	VFUs, value chain								
RADP-N	USAID	\$ 3.1	VFUs								
RADP-W	USAID	\$ 0.54	VFUs, value chain								
Brooke	Brooke	\$ 0.70	Equine welfare								
PPR I	FAO	\$ 0.16	PPR								
PPR II	FAO	\$ 1.0	PPR								
FMD	FAO	\$ 0.39	FMD								

## 4a. Veterinary services



### Ahmad, a paravet

“My name is Ahmad, and I am from a family of 12 members, solely maintained by my father’s income that was not enough for our basic needs. However, since I attended the DCA paravet training and started a VFU our life significantly changed. I initiated a farmer extension group and introduced my VFU through local radio, so my number of clients grew steadily. Now my economic situation has greatly improved, and I can buy proper school uniforms, bags and notebooks for my sisters. In some years, I intend to start my own small farm with two cows and a dozen of sheep.”

### Training

Over the years, DCA-VET has trained more than thousand paravets to staff the nation-wide network of VFUs. Training of new paravets remains necessary to fill in the gaps in regions with insufficient coverage, and to replace VFU staff that retired or resigned. In 2016, DCA-VET trained 69 new paravets, 60 for its own projects and 9 for other NGOs. Among these 69 paravets were only 7 women. In most regions of Afghanistan, it is not possible for a woman to meet non-family males or go into the fields to treat livestock, so selection and training of women is challenging. In addition, 38 new Basic Veterinary Workers were trained to conduct basic veterinary services in areas where no VFU is present. Refresher courses offer VFU staff the possibility to extend and improve their knowledge. This ongoing education is an important aspect of the DCA-VET approach. In 2016, VFU staff attended 565 refresher courses to enhance their knowledge and skills on topics like Extension, Pharmacology, Nutrition, Surgery, Artificial Insemination, etc.

### VFUs

In 2016, DCA-VET supported 592 of the 800 VFUs

in Afghanistan. As each VFU serves about 2,500 households, the DCA-VET supported VFUs together reached almost 1.5 million families. The number of animals that are taken care of by one VFU amounts to 10,000 to 15,000 head. The 592 DCA-VET supported VFUs were responsible for the health and well-being of 6 to 9 million animals, equalling 20 to 30% of the assumed livestock population in Afghanistan.

### Services

The main veterinary services offered by VFUs are vaccinations, treatments, and deworming. In 2016, DCA-VET VFUs administered about 9 million vaccinations and 6.5 million veterinary treatments, while 525,000 livestock were dewormed. For very poor farmers, subsidised vaccination and deworming campaigns were held, with the farmers also receiving a voucher for consultation of the VFU.

592  
VFUs

6 - 9 million  
animals

16 million  
measures



## 4b. Extension



### Aisha, female farmer

“I am Aisha, mother of seven children, from Zabul. We lived on my husband’s income and selling of goat kids, but our income was low. Then I entered a DCA Farmer Extension Group and learned the benefits of vaccination and deworming, proper housing, and nutritious feeding. I was encouraged to sell my goats and buy a Holstein-breed cow for higher profits. Currently, I have a cow with one calf and sell dairy products in the city, earning 750 Afs a day. Our economic problems are solved now and I even plan to buy a new Holstein cow next year.”

### Extension activities

Extension is provided by VFU staff or special extension workers, informing livestock owners on seasonal vaccination calendars, common diseases, nutrition, animal husbandry, etc. Local Female Extension Workers (LFEWs) play a very important role in forwarding outreach messages to women. Extension activities vary from single meetings or practical demonstrations on a specific topic, to monthly sessions to train farmers in proper herd health management. In 2016, some 32,000 men and 7,200 women took part in extension sessions.

### Feed banks

The feed bank concept was developed in the RMLSP project. A cooperation of farmers cultivates fodder plants and prepares dried mixed fodder to store for periods of shortage, when no fresh food is available. Some 7 new feed banks were developed in 2016, resulting in a total number of 35.

### Self-Help Groups

Self-Help-Groups (SHGs) mainly consist of women, who are encouraged to start a small business at home for additional income generation. In 2016, DCA-VET supported 49 female SHGs (1,080 women) and 4 male SHGs (115 men). All groups received business training and each group decided by mutual agreement what kind of business the members would start. Popular selections were lamb fattening, dairy cattle rearing, dairy production, and poultry farming.

### Value chains

Value chains add extra value to livestock products by improving production and processing methods, and by linking producers to input providers and to the markets. Some 850 female beneficiaries received lambs and were trained on lamb fattening to improve production in the lamb meat value chain, and as such increased their income. For the cashmere value chain, DCA-VET trained about 6,000 male and 1,300 female farmers on the most profitable cashmere harvesting methods and provided them with special cashmere combs. Manual churning machines were distributed to 150 female Kuchi to increase hygiene and processing speed in the dairy value chain.

### One Health

DCA-VET trained over 10,000 female dairy farmers in milking hygiene to avoid contamination of the milk and spread of diseases. Some 1,100 butchers, VFU staff, key farmers and government staff participated in training on how to avoid zoonotic diseases that can be transmitted from meat to humans.

## 4c. Institutional level



In addition to its practical development assistance, DCA-VET works with the Afghan government and other stakeholders to create a well-functioning public-private veterinary system and develop an effective livestock policy and legislation.

### Sayed, male farmer

“My name is Sayed, married and having five children. In spring 2014, my four new-born lambs died, as did my two calves. Then I joined the local Farmer Extension Group, attending training for fourteen months. Here I learned a lot about cattle and sheep management and production. I now have five dairy cows, three heifers and forty sheep. I bought a churning machine for processing milk that I sell to our village shop. I now have a good income from my small farm and intend to sell fifteen sheep to buy my sons a motorbike to go to school.”

### Public-private partnership

For more than 25 years, DCA-VET has partnered with the Afghan government to realise the shared goal of a coherent system of public and private veterinary services. To this aim, DCA-VET always operates within the framework of the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock (MAIL) and coordinates all its projects with the national and local authorities. Nowadays, many donors have their livestock projects managed through MAIL, thus creating a direct, project-based link between government and NGO. Since

2015, VFU staff are licensed by MAIL and the certificates of newly graduated paravets are officially signed by a representative of MAIL. Both developments are important steps towards legal recognition of paravets and VFUs. On a district level, DAIL Veterinary Officers in coordination with DCA-VET staff regularly monitor the activities of DCA-VET supported VFUs. And all VFUs are engaged in monthly disease surveillance and outbreak reporting, also shared with local government. For a more formalised outbreak reporting, some 75 VFUs are contracted under the Sanitary Mandate Contracting Scheme. Paid by government, they collect samples of diseased animals and submit these to the Provincial Veterinary Officer. In 2017, DCA-VET will prepare a concept note to strengthen this Scheme and have more VFUs contracted. On national and local level, DCA-VET is engaged in capacity building of government staff. In the EU project for instance, 32 public sector extension workers were trained.

### Policy and legislation

In February 2016, DCA-VET's Program Director Dr Fakhri contributed significantly to the organisation of the first National Livestock Strategic Conference to develop a five-year livestock strategy. In 2017, Dr Fakhri will take up reviewing the draft for this livestock strategy. In the new legislation on animal health there is a role for the Afghan paravets. However, this legislation still must be worked out in secondary legislation and regulations. Therefore, DCA-VET continuously stimulates to hasten ratification of livestock legislation and regulatory systems that improve animal health and production.



# 4d. Impact



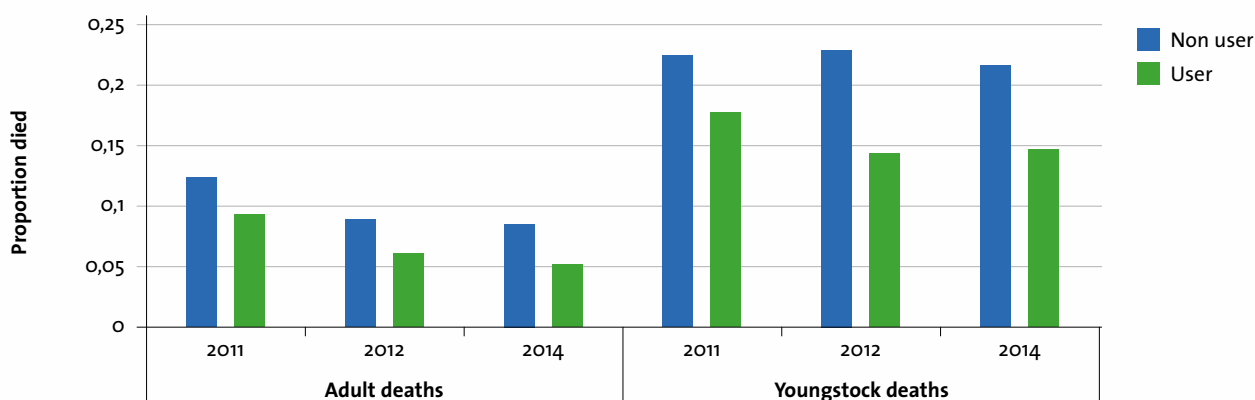
## The impact chain

The final goal of the DCA-VET programme is increased food security and reduced poverty for the Afghan people. This envisioned impact is reached through a chain of steps, triggered by DCA-VET activities. The principal DCA-VET activities are training, and facilitation and monitoring of VFU staff. Through these activities ‘outputs’ are generated to bring quality veterinary services and livestock extension services. These services produce the following medium-term ‘outcomes’: increased knowledge and awareness of the farmer, improved livestock husbandry, decreased livestock mortality and morbidity, and increased production and productivity. Finally, in the long term, these ‘outcomes’ lead to the desired impact, i.e. improved income, food security, and livelihood (health, education, housing, employment, etc.) for the families of farmers.

## Impact studies

Verification of the outcomes and impact of the DCA-VET programme is conducted through annual outcome surveys, KAP (Knowledge, Attitude and Practice) studies, and special impact studies. The first impact studies by DCA-VET focussed on mortality rates of animals with and without access to veterinary care, also assessing the cost-benefit ratio. In the 1990s, a cost-benefit ratio of \$1 : \$5 was assessed, so for every dollar invested in the project, the farmers earned five dollars thanks to reduced livestock mortality. The cost-benefit ratio of the 2006 RAMP project, also including increased productivity, even reached 1\$ : \$11. From 2011 to 2014, a new mortality study was performed, comparing mortality of sheep and goats between farmers in Herat who were using veterinary services, and farmers who did not. In all three study years, mortality in adult animals and youngstock was considerably higher for livestock deprived of animal healthcare. However, in addition to these studies, of course the success stories of beneficiaries truly show how the DCA-VET programme significantly impacts the lives of the Afghan population.

## 3 year mortality study 2011-2014



# 5. Organisation

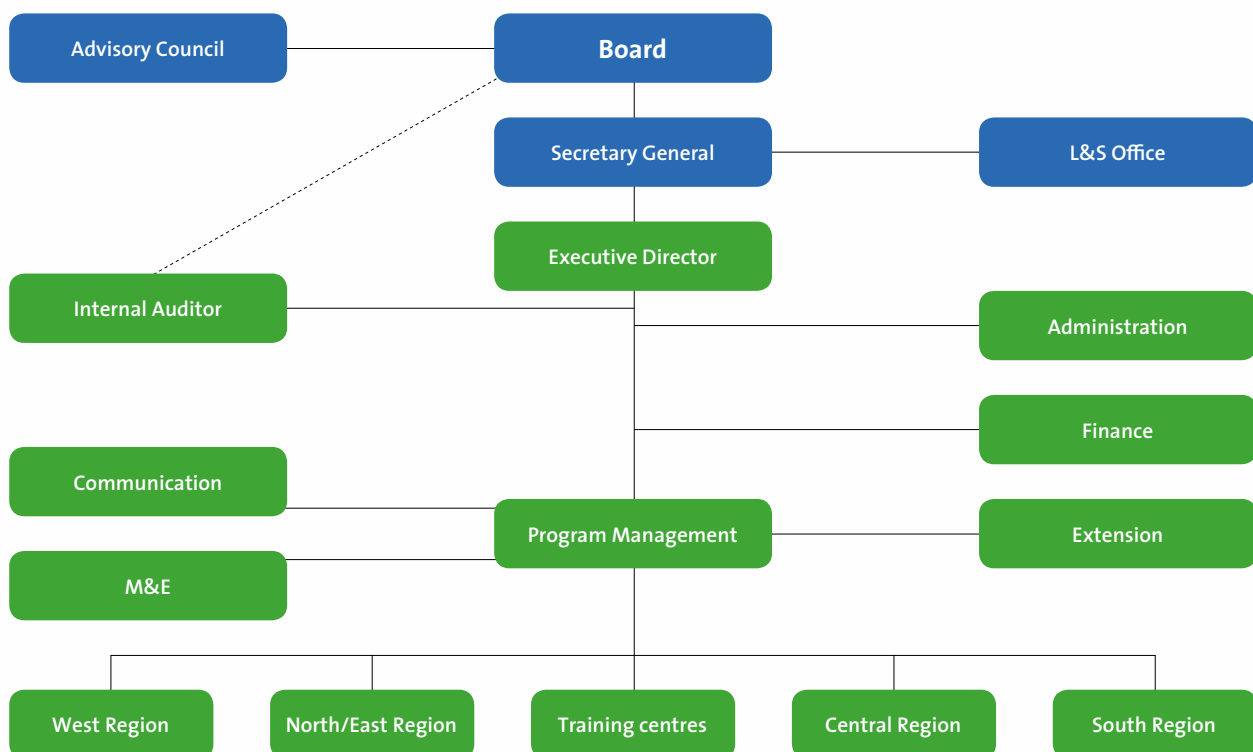
## Structure

DCA-VET is a Dutch foundation, focussing on improving livestock health and production in Afghanistan. Implementing its veterinary programme since 1988, the organisation was officially founded in 1994. DCA-VET has its domicile in Lelystad, the Netherlands. Here, a small Liaison and Support Office supports the DCA-VET Board in monitoring the implementation of the projects, ensuring the financial solvency of the organisation, and developing the general policy. The Secretary General, Ab Emmerzaal, acts as the connecting link between the Board and the Executive Director in Kabul. An Advisory Council provides the Board once or twice a year with valuable advice. In Afghanistan, DCA-VET Country Headquarters is established in Kabul. Here the Executive Director, Dr Raymond Briscoe, resides, and from here general management of all projects takes place. Regional offices in Herat, Mazar-i-Sharif and Kandahar ensure implementation of projects in the western, north(east) ern, and southern regions. The Herat office is home office

of our Program Director, Dr Abdul Qader Fakhri. Spread over the country are 17 small provincial offices, supporting the local DCA-VET activities. DCA-VET veterinary training centres are in Charikar and at the three regional offices.

## Team

In 2016, the DCA-VET team consisted of about 300 staff members, dedicated to make a difference in the lives of poor and vulnerable families in Afghanistan. Among these staff are drivers, cooks, guards, project managers, extension workers, trainers, financial and administrative officers, etc. With the exception of four expats (ED, Programme Manager, Head of Internal Audit, and RADP-N Project Manager) all DCA-VET staff in Afghanistan are Afghan nationals, representing all different ethnic groups. With 17,5% female team members (52 women) the target level of 25% female staff was not reached in 2016, because women tend to leave their job once married. DCA-VET continuously however strives to recruit and maintain female staff.





# 6. Board and Advisory Council

## Members of the Board

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**Peter W. de Leeuw,**  
DVM PhD  
*Chairman*



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



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



**D. Ruairaidh Petre, MSc**  
*Member*



**Henk J. Arends**  
*Treasurer*

### Board

In 2016, the Board was extended with the addition of Mr Ruairaidh Petre, who was Programme Manager at DCA-VET back in 2000. The Board met ten times in 2016, presided over by its chairman Dr Peter W. de Leeuw.

### Advisory Council

This year, the Advisory Council met twice with the Board of DCA-VET. In January 2016, strategic issues of the DCA-VET programme were discussed, and Chris Bartels, livestock epidemiologist, was invited to give

a presentation on Impact Assessment and M&E. In a second, rather historical meeting in October 2016, the Advisory Council recommended that after more than 25 years of veterinary programmes the time was now right to adjust the DCA-VET focus. In line with recommendations by the Afghan staff, the DCA-VET Board was advised to extend its profile towards a more general livestock production programme. The Board took this advice to heart and the first brainstorm sessions on the renewed focus were held at the end of 2016. For more details, see page 16 of this Annual Report.

## Members of the Advisory Council

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



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



**Henk A.J. Moll, PhD**  
*Agricultural Development  
Economics*



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

# 7. Partners

Working in the complex environment of one of the poorest and least developed countries in the world, DCA-VET has difficulty reaching its targets all on its own. Without support from the national and regional governments, generous funding by international donors, united cooperation with other NGOs, and inputs by commercial partners, DCA-VET would not have been able to expand its veterinary programme all over Afghanistan.

## Government

In this Annual Report, the close cooperation between DCA-VET and the Afghan government has been emphasised already several times. The Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation, and Livestock is by far our main partner. Cooperation includes public-private partnership in veterinary services, capacity building of government staff, Sanitary Mandate Contracting Schemes, and advice and lobbying on livestock policy and legislation.

## Donors

DCA-VET is grateful for the funding it receives from its donors, whether big or small. Being active in Afghanistan for a quarter of a century, DCA-VET has become a well-known and valued implementing partner of many

international donors. We owe to all our donors in 2016, i.e. the European Union, IFAD, USAID and its prime contractors DAI and Chemonics, Brooke, and FAO, a sincere thank you for their generosity.

## NGOs

Sharing knowledge and experiences with other NGOs in the field of livestock services enables each other to learn best practices and promotes a uniform approach. Cooperation with other NGOs is also important to join all NGOs into one harmonised approach when it comes to lobbying. Our main NGO partners are MADERA, Relief International, Aga Khan Foundation, and Oxfam.

## Commercial partners

DCA-VET cannot do without commercial partners supplying the VFUs and beneficiaries with the necessary inputs. Our main commercial partner is VetServ, a spin-off company of DCA-VET itself, providing the VFUs with quality vaccines, medicines and equipment, all meeting international standards. Commercial partners are also indispensable in livestock value chain development, as inputs suppliers, processors of intermediate products, or traders of end products.





# 8. Finance

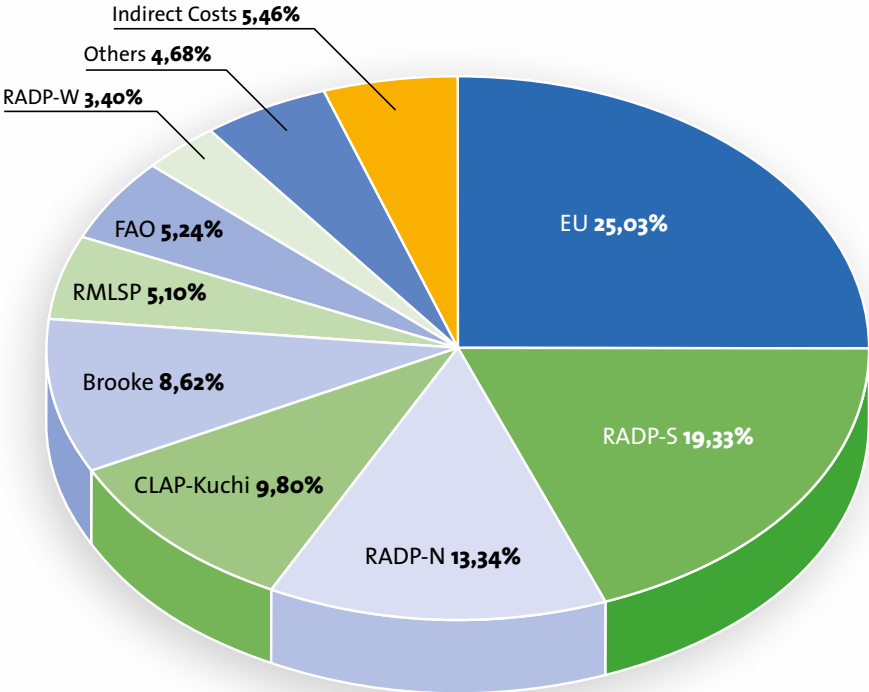
On 1<sup>st</sup> of January 2016, DCA-VET changed the financial administration from cash basis to accrual basis of accounting. The foundation for this new way of accounting was laid during 2015, when in consultation with an external auditing firm the Accounting Manual was updated and approved by the DCA-VET Board. The next logical step in bringing the DCA-VET financial and administrative procedures to a higher level was the appointment of an Internal Auditor from 1<sup>st</sup> of July 2016.

### Expenditures in 2016

In 2016, the total DCA-VET expenditures amounted to 7.5M dollars. Our donors in 2016 were the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) that funded three RADP projects, the International Fund for

Agricultural Development (IFAD) that was accountable for the CLAP-Kuchi and RMLSP projects, the European Union (EU) that funded an almost nationwide programme, the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) that funded two major vaccination campaigns, and finally The Brooke Hospital for Animals (Brooke) that provided care for donkeys and horses in Afghanistan. The contributions of our donors are very much appreciated. The below graph shows the expenditures per project expressed in percentages. DCA-VET is again proud to say that from the total expenditures only 5.5% have been spent on indirect costs in 2016, which implies that 94.5% of all expenditures are directly used for the implementation of our projects.

**Total Expenditures 2016**



## 9. 2017: a renewed focus!



For 28 years now, DCA-VET has implemented its veterinary programme to help the Afghan people out of poverty. In those years, a lot of important achievements have been made. Nationwide today some 2 million households, i.e. some 15 million people, benefit from quality private animal health care, provided by 800 VFUs of which 592 are supported by DCA-VET. As veterinary services expanded and improved during the years, the needs and demands of the farmers changed. No longer is the health of their livestock their main concern, but the farmers became eager to learn more on nutrition, breeding, and on possibilities to make more money from livestock products. To satisfy these changing needs, DCA-VET became more and more engaged in livestock extension as well as in livestock value chains. In addition, the One Health approach became part of its area of work. At the same time, international donors also responded to the new developments in Afghanistan as well as in the international society, gradually shifting their focus towards business development and job creation to prevent migration.

These developments in the Afghan livestock farmer communities and coinciding trends in international funding possibilities compelled the Board and staff of DCA-VET to request advice from the Advisory Council of DCA-VET for their opinion on how we should proceed. At a meeting in October 2016, the Advisory Council

unanimously supported the idea to transition DCA-VET to a more general development organisation in the field of animal production. At the same time, they urged to maintain and further improve the unique paravet network that is so important for livestock health care and that could offer a significant contribution to the extended DCA-VET livestock programme as well.

Presently (2017), DCA-VET is assessing the actions resulting from taking this crucial step in order to extend its profile. We have to clearly define the areas in which DCA-VET wants to play a role, decide which additional expertise will be needed, and assess which partners will be approached for cooperation. In the renewed focus, developing concepts for livestock value chains will take priority. For this purpose, DCA-VET will study the current and future market opportunities in Afghanistan and has to develop an effective and comprehensive value chain approach. At the same time, acquisition will be an important focal point the coming year, to gain new projects that match with DCA-VET's new profile.

A renewed focus asks for a renewed name: from January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2017, DCA-VET is called **DCA Livestock Programs!**



## 10. Looking forward



It would be an understatement to say that 2016 was anything but a normal year. There were quite a few significant events that unfolded globally, which are likely to present a challenge to the development community going forward. Development aid budgets will probably be reduced from their present levels by the main donor countries, and also the areas where these funds will be utilised may be very specific.

We as an organisation must prepare for these developments, and embrace change without compromising our core development success models, the prime one being the Veterinary Field Unit network, which continues to be such a valuable resource for the country.



We need to be innovative in our approach, expand our horizons to areas of key relevance in the world today such as One Health, the environment, strong partnerships, technology, business development, livestock value chains, and use a multi-sectorial approach where appropriate.

Our name has changed to reflect a broader diversification of interest in our field of expertise while still retaining our core skills. This change will bring a new vision, and new skills within the organisation. Important looking ahead will be to improve the ways we measure progress, and invest in drivers like technology, innovation, and partnership to accelerate our impact.

The first piece of livestock legislation called the Animal Health (Veterinary) Law was passed through Parliament which is a very important milestone as it enables critical regulatory functions now to be developed, and a Veterinary Board to be established.

In conclusion, we look forward to strengthening the links with the Public Sector, to build capacity, working together as one to bring a better-quality life for all our beneficiaries, and a future embodied by sustainable development.

**Raymond Briscoe**  
*Executive Director*

# Abbreviations

<b>Afs</b>	Afghanis, currency of Afghanistan	<b>MAIL</b>	(Afghan) Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock
<b>BA</b>	Bachelor of Arts	<b>MPA</b>	Master of Public Administration
<b>CLAP</b>	Community Livestock and Agriculture Project	<b>NGO</b>	Non-Governmental Organisation
<b>DAI</b>	Development Alternatives Inc.	<b>PhD</b>	Doctor of Philosophy (academic degree)
<b>DCA-VET</b>	Dutch Committee for Afghanistan – Veterinary Programmes	<b>PPR</b>	Peste des Petits Ruminants
<b>DVM</b>	Doctor of Veterinary Medicine	<b>RADP</b>	Regional Agricultural Development Program
<b>EU</b>	European Union	<b>RMLSP</b>	Rural Microfinance and Livestock Support Project
<b>FAO</b>	Food and Agriculture Organization	<b>SHG</b>	Self Help Group
<b>FMD</b>	Foot and Mouth Disease	<b>UNHDP</b>	United Nations Human Development Programme
<b>IFAD</b>	International Fund for Agricultural Development	<b>US</b>	United States
<b>IS</b>	Islamic State	<b>USAID</b>	US Agency for International Development
<b>ISAF</b>	International Security Assistance Force	<b>VFU</b>	Veterinary Field Unit
<b>LFEW</b>	Local Female Extension Worker		
<b>M&amp;E</b>	Monitoring and Evaluation		





# DCA-VET on the map



Map of DCA-VET coverage





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