

ANNUAL REPORT 2015



Colophon

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DCA-VET

Active since 1988, officially registered
as a Foundation/NGO at the Chamber of Commerce
in Holland in 1994

Registered in Afghanistan as an international NGO
under the name DCA since 2005

Seat	Lelystad, the Netherlands
Main office	Kabul, Afghanistan
Working area	Afghanistan
Focus	Animal health and production

Staff	310
Board	5 members
Advisory Council	4 advisors

Our mission is 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

DCA-VET programme is growing

The progress and success of the DCA-VET programme focussing on veterinary services and extension related to animal health and production is confirmed by the fact that our Afghan national staff has grown to over 300 members, working in eight different projects during 2015. In spite of the slowly deteriorating security situation in Afghanistan, our staff is able to keep in regular contact with about 600 active Veterinary Field Units (VFUs), located in 29 provinces out of a total of 34 provinces in Afghanistan.

Individuals are the cornerstones

From the start of the DCA-VET programme, almost 28 years ago, candidates for a paravet training course are very carefully selected. Candidates should have a minimum required pre-education level, but very important is that a paravet student as a future VFU operator originates from the district where he or she will work after graduation. It is crucial that the local population, including the village Shurah, accept the paravet as a veterinary service provider and understand that the services provided are fee paying. That enables graduated paravets to build up a successful veterinary business unit, where they can make a living for their families while working for the benefit of many livestock owners and their families. After a small period of financial support in the beginning, paravets operate their businesses without additional funding. DCA-VET facilitators monitor the VFU activities closely and continuously while giving verbal support where necessary. The aim is to keep the quality of the services, vaccines, and medicines at a high level. In addition, the VFU staff facilitate the implementation of DCA-VET extension activities to the livestock owners in their region. Livestock owners learn how to increase the productivity of their animals by for example better nutrition.

Veterinary Public Health

The most recent Extension Package developed by DCA-VET is that on Public Health. This package was born out of the DCA-VET activities in the multidisciplinary One Health approach where animal health, human health, and environmental sectors are integrated. Humans can

suffer from food (of animal origin) borne diseases like food poisoning, but also from zoonotic diseases that can be transmitted from animal to man and/or vice versa. Widespread endemic zoonotic diseases in Afghanistan are e.g. brucellosis, rabies, and the tick-borne Crimean-Congo hemorrhagic fever (CCHF). The Public Health Package contains mainly practical information for livestock owners to learn how to handle and/or prevent the diseases for both themselves and their animals.

Training is key

DCA-VET is operating training facilities from the beginning of its programme. Over the years, the DCA-VET training centres have become an essential part of the veterinary infrastructure in Afghanistan. Not only paravets receive their (refresher) training here, but also Government veterinarians are trained on specific subjects. In 2015, most paravets working in the VFUs have been registered by the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock so these paravets are now legally recognised. The next step will be the certification of the training centre and its curricula which will be undertaken soon.

Ab Emmerzaal
Secretary General



2. Our approach

Empowering Afghan farmers

“Since I learned more about the services of the Veterinary Field Unit (VFU) and about proper feeding my cow, it produces three times as much milk as before.” This quote of a female farmer nicely illustrates the mission of DCA-VET: boosting the livelihood of the Afghan people through animal health care. Four out of five families in Afghanistan live in rural areas and rely on agriculture for their food and income. Livestock is an important means of livelihood for them, mainly sheep and goats but also cattle and poultry. To enhance food security and income generation of the Afghan rural population, DCA-VET implements projects that improve the health and productivity of the Afghan livestock.

DCA-VET Programme

According to DCA-VET’s vision, all livestock farmers in Afghanistan should have easy access to affordable, yet quality animal health, production, and extension services. To this aim, DCA-VET is contributing to a nation-wide network of sustainable private VFUs, staffed by (para) professional veterinarians, and operating within the framework of the public services.

The DCA-VET programme is a well-tried and effective approach, originating from the start of the organisation in 1988. Since then, the programme has been adjusted and has become even more efficacious, but the core elements are still the same: training of veterinary paraprofessionals, facilitation of Veterinary Field Units, supply of quality vaccines and medicines, and extension to livestock farmers.

The six-months’ training of paravets takes place at the DCA-VET training centres in Charikar, Herat, Mazar-i-Sharif, and Kandahar. After graduation, the paravets receive basic veterinary equipment, a motorcycle, and they are supported to start a VFU. Quality vaccines and medicines are currently supplied by VetServ, a private company for the supply of veterinary products. For outreach purposes special extension packages are developed, e.g. those on small ruminants, poultry, and for female farmers. Extension sessions are delivered to the farmers by VFU staff, and also by special extension workers.

The DCA-VET programme is community-based, so in all interventions the needs and demands of the



community involved is the priority. At the same time, DCA-VET operates within the framework of the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock (MAIL) and coordinates all its projects with the national and local authorities.

Extra fields of expertise

During the years, DCA-VET gained experience in additional topics, that overlap with its core business of animal health and production. For a long time, gender focussed activities have been part of the DCA-VET programme. Female farmers are reached with a successful women-to-women approach, and within the organisation DCA-VET is aiming at a female participation of at least 25%. To enhance income generation of farmers the value chain approach is very effective. Extra value is added to the livestock products by improving production and processing methods, and by linking producers to the markets. The One Health approach focuses on the intrinsically linked fields of human, animal, and environmental health. Here, DCA-VET is playing a big role in the control and spread of zoonoses, animal diseases that can be easily transmitted to humans.

3. Our projects



Project portfolio

The project portfolio of DCA-VET for the year 2015 consisted of six large multi-year projects, and four smaller one to two years' projects. Two of these smaller projects, the World-Bank funded NHLP Poultry project and the JICA funded project, ended in 2015. The other two, funded by The Brooke UK and FAO, continued into 2016, and will probably be extended even further. The six large projects were funded by only three donors, IFAD (International Fund for Agricultural Development), USAID (US Agency for International Development) and EU (European Union). The IFAD funded RMLSP and CLAP Kuchi projects focus especially on the Kuchi (Pastoralists), women and poor

beneficiaries. In the USAID funded RADP projects the value chain approach is leading, while the EU funded project is broad-based in focus as well as in geographical area (18 provinces).

Geographic scope

In 2015, DCA-VET covered 29 out of 34 provinces, one more than in 2014. Recently the province of Wardak was added to the target area of the EU project. Not covered are Nimruz, the desert-like, sparsely populated province in the southwest, and Nuristan, Lagman, and Konar in the east. In these three provinces, veterinary services are supported by Madera and Relief International. At the level

Project	Donor	Funding (million)	Focus	Timeline 2010 - 2019																
				10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19							
RMLSP	IFAD	\$ 5.4	VFUs +																	
CLAP Kuchi	IFAD	\$ 4.9	Kuchi, value chain																	
RADP-S	USAID	\$ 6.9	VFUs, value chain																	
RADP-N	USAID	\$ 5.2	Value chain																	
RADP-W	USAID	\$ 2.4	VFUs, value chain																	
EU II	EU	€ 6.9	VFUs +																	
Brooke	Brooke	\$ 0.66	Equine welfare																	
PPR - FMD	FAO	\$ 0,16	PPR / FMD																	
NHLP Poultry	World Bank	\$ 0,67	Poultry																	
JICA II	JICA	\$ 0,18	VFUs +																	

of districts, DCA-VET has been active in 212 out of 398 districts. With its almost nation-wide presence, DCA-VET is by far the livestock development organisation with the largest coverage in Afghanistan.

VFUs and beneficiaries

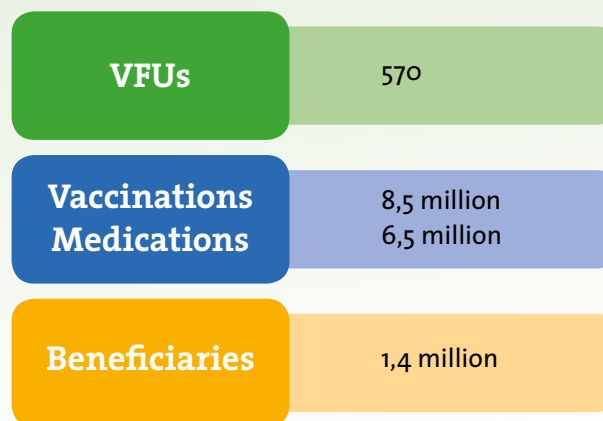
Compared to 2014, the network of DCA-VET supported VFUs has been significantly increased to 570 units. This increase is mainly due to the establishment of 35 new VFUs in the southern area of Afghanistan in the framework of the RADP-S project. The largest part of the DCA-VET VFUs, i.e. 336, is supported by the EU project, covering half of the provinces in Afghanistan. Together, the VFUs delivered 15 million vaccinations and treatments to the Afghan livestock populations. As each VFU can serve 2,500 households, the total number of beneficiaries that are reached by the DCA-VET supported VFUs is 1.4 million families.

Training

To fill the gaps in the VFU network, 75 new paravets were trained. The RADP-S project and the EU project accounted for the largest numbers of paravet trainees, respectively 35 and 20. For the already operational paravets, refresher courses were organised to extend and strengthen their knowledge and skills. In 2015, the total number of refresher course participants was 925 (the same paravet may take part in several courses). In addition to paravets, Basic Veterinary Workers (BVWs) were trained. BVWs deliver the most basic veterinary services, like vaccinations and deworming, often in areas where no VFU is present. This year, the EU project accounted for 36 of the 42 trained Basic Veterinary Workers. In accordance with the results of a need assessment, the BVWs of the EU project were especially trained in poultry services.

Extension

Extension activities vary from single meetings on livestock topics, to monthly sessions to train farmers in proper herd health management. Extension sessions are organized by VFU staff as well as by special extension workers. Short sessions may also include demonstrations, for instance on urea treatment of straw. Another example are farmer field days, where key farmers show their best practices in livestock husbandry to other farmers.



For regular extension purposes, DCA-VET establishes Farmer Extension Groups (FEGs). In 2015, some 12,000 male and 4,000 female farmers participated in these FEGs. Especially for extension services to women, 97 Local Female Extension Workers (LFEWs) were educated. These LFEWs are women of influence, like schoolteachers, that empower the women in their neighbourhood through extension messages on livestock husbandry. Presently over 200 LFEWs are active in 14 provinces. Through all these men and women extension sessions together, thousands of farmers learned how to increase the health and production of their livestock. But even larger numbers, probably some millions, are reached through distribution of notebooks, pens and calendars to the farmers, and by broadcasting of radio messages and TV clips.



RMLSP



PROJECT Rural Microfinance and Livestock Support Programme, Veterinary Services in the Northern Region

TIMELINE September 2010 – July 2016

FOCUS VFUs / Extension / Value chain / Kuchi / Capacity building

DONOR IFAD; contractor MAIL

FUNDING US\$ 5,435,637

BENEFICIARIES 17,500



Background and goals

The project, which already commenced in 2010 is presently DCA-VET's longest running. The goal of this programme is to strengthen animal health service provision in order to improve livestock production and productivity, and to help livestock owners retain greater value for their products. Focal beneficiaries are women, poor, and Kuchi. The programme was due to end in July 2014. However, in order to deliver the maximum impact, the successful project was extended till July 2016. In these last two years, emphasis is on consolidation of current effective activities and on developing of an exit strategy to ensure that these activities and their impact continue beyond the closure of the project.

Activities and results

DCA-VET trained 1,500 female farmers in milking hygiene and distributed 500 milk hygiene kits. In addition, five milk collection centres were established to link 440 dairy farmers to the market. These farmers receive a higher price for their milk than they did at the local market. The successful feed bank concept that is now implemented in other DCA-VET projects as well, has been developed in the RMLSP programme. In 2015, DCA-VET supported ten feed banks under the RMLSP programme, strengthening the cooperatives that manage these feed banks, and

providing feed mixers and chopping machines. Some 1,000 households benefit from the fodder stored in summer to be used during the harsh winter.

OUTCOME / IMPACT

The birth rate of small ruminants increased from 37% at baseline survey to 81% at end-line assessment. In addition, the neonatal death rate decreased from 23% at baseline to 19% at end-line. Adult death rate also decreased from 17% to 11%.



CLAP KUCHI



PROJECT	Community Livestock and Agriculture Project - Kuchi
TIMELINE	February 2014 – January 2020
FOCUS	Kuchi / Value chain
DONOR	IFAD; contractor MAIL
FUNDING	US\$ 4,999,000
BENEFICIARIES	20,000



Background and goals

The nomadic Kuchi are the largest vulnerable population in Afghanistan. For centuries they roamed the country with their large herds, offering an important source of meat, wool and skins to the Afghan population. However, since the 1960s the Kuchi population has shrunk by 40% due to continued wars and droughts. Many Kuchi gave up their nomadic life and live on the outskirts of the cities now. The CLAP Kuchi project aims at enhancing livelihoods and resilience of Kuchi in the target area. Activities focus on access to veterinary services, awareness on best practices in animal husbandry, value chains of dairy, cashmere and karakul, and restocking or alternative livelihoods for settled Kuchi.

Activities and results

To engage the Kuchi community in the project, four grass root Shuras were established that are fully involved in all major project activities. Advised by Kuchi authorities and elders, DCA-VET selected ten Kuchi to follow a paravet course in Kandahar, to be graduated in January 2016. In addition, six Kuchi BVWs were trained, serving 600 Kuchi households with basic veterinary services. To raise awareness on veterinary services, and at the same time support the poorest farmers, subsidized deworming campaigns were conducted. For settled Kuchi women,

DCA-VET developed eight self-help groups (154 women) and encouraged them to establish and operate small lamb fattening businesses. DCA-VET provided business training, and each woman received one lamb.

OUTCOME / IMPACT

All contracted VFUs were refurbished, leading to a steady rise in the number of customers per VFU. Likewise, the income of the paravets increased: an important step towards sustainability of the veterinary businesses.



RADP-South



PROJECT	Regional Agricultural Development Program - South
TIMELINE	January 2014 – October 2018
FOCUS	VFUs / Extension / Value chain
DONOR	USAID; contractor Chemonics International Inc.
FUNDING	US\$ 6,977,108
BENEFICIARIES	1,250



Background and goals

The southern provinces are a relatively new working area for DCA-VET. For this reason, strengthening of private veterinary services is an important element of the RADP-S project. That implies training of new paravets and establishing of new VFUs to improve access to quality animal health services in the target provinces. In 2014, DCA-VET also opened a new regional project office and training centre in Kandahar for administrative, managerial, and technical support of the RADP-S project. Focus of the RADP-S project is on three main intervention areas: livestock health, livestock nutrition, and marketing of livestock and livestock products. In this project, the poultry value chain was chosen for further development.

Activities and results

In 2015, DCA-VET increased the network of 23 VFUs in the four target areas by 150%: 35 extra VFUs were established, staffed by 35 newly trained paravets. The capacity of the existing VFU staff was below DCA-VET standards, so DCA-VET strengthened the knowledge and skills of the staff by 23 refresher courses on various topics. To raise awareness of the farmers on animal health topics, farmer extension groups were developed. In total, 837 farmers (433 men and 404 women) participated in these groups. More farmers were reached

by monthly live radio programmes on livestock issues, monthly listening circle sessions on animal husbandry, and mobile theatre performances.

OUTCOME / IMPACT

Thanks to capacity building of VFU staff, the mortality rate of the livestock of VFU clients was reduced from a baseline value of 16.5% to 9.2% in the first year, and 5.2% in the first seven months of the second year.



RADP-North

PROJECT	Regional Agricultural Development Program - North
TIMELINE	August 2014 – May 2019
FOCUS	Value chain
DONOR	USAID; contractor DAI
FUNDING	US\$ 5,244,291
BENEFICIARIES	6,530



Background and goals

Under the Regional Agricultural Development Program (RADP), USAID and the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock (MAIL) are collaborating to improve economic security for rural Afghans. RADP-N is a five-year programme, focussing on wheat, high value crops, and livestock. The programme has chosen a value chain approach, thus enabling farmers to better market their products and generate more income to their families. RADP-North focuses on:

- Developing the capacity of public and private veterinary services
- Improving market linkages among farmers, agribusinesses, and consumers
- Increasing management and technical capacity of agribusinesses and of local organisations
- Increasing the availability of feed and fodder.

Activities and results

DCA-VET trained 3,000 farmers in proper cashmere harvesting. In addition, it established two new cashmere-collecting points and linked farmers and local buyers to national and international wholesalers. Especially the female farmers were very receptive to incorporate the new cashmere harvesting technique. 1,200 owners of Karakul sheep received a pelt processing training as well as a kit with special processing equipment. The new

drying process improved the quality of the pelts, and thus increased the price the farmers would receive. To enhance hygienic handling and quality of meat, DCA-VET gave 100 butchers a food safety training, including proper slaughtering, hygienic meat processing and storage, and environmental safe waste management.

OUTCOME / IMPACT

Cashmere activities were very profitable: some women achieved incomes of about \$ 50 per family with 15 goats. However, the karakul market appeared to be monopolized by one factory doing both pelt processing and end marketing. So there is no market for processed pelts.



RADP-West



PROJECT	Regional Agricultural Development Program - West
TIMELINE	March 2015 – February 2019
FOCUS	VFUs / Value chain
DONOR	USAID; contractor Chemonics International Inc.
FUNDING	US\$ 2,470,621
BENEFICIARIES	1,000



Background and goals

The RADP-W programme focuses on the livestock value chain of small ruminants. The principal constraints to address in this value chain are animal health and nutrition, especially winter fodder. To that aim, VFU staff and extension workers target livestock farmers with animal health and nutrition messages. For more coverage and greater sustainability, DCA-VET is expanding and strengthening the VFU network. In the value chain, DCA-VET is engaged in three links:

- From farmer to farmer, to increase the use of winter feed by establishment of feed banks
- From service providers (VFUs) to the farmers, to increase animal health and production and transmit extension messages
- From farmer to processor, to improve the markets.

Activities and results

The RADP-W project started with a gross sales assessment of the 16 contracted VFUs, and a farmers' need assessment, interviewing 200 farmers. An extensive series of refresher training sessions followed, building the capacity of VFU staff on value chain approach, livestock extension services, and on diagnosis, prevention and control of livestock diseases. VFU staff also received a business skills course for operating their VFU as a sound and sustainable business. In addition, 25 male and female

farmer extension groups (528 members) were established that met monthly to learn more about animal health and livestock production. To address food safety in winter, demonstrations of urea treatment of straw were given.

OUTCOME / IMPACT

25 LFEWs were trained to spread messages on personal hygiene, zoonotic diseases, and the role of women in livestock farming. In the long run this will contribute to animal and human health, increased quality of food, and improved family livelihood.





PROJECT Support to the Development of Agriculture Private Sector: Animal Health

TIMELINE December 2013 – December 2017

FOCUS VFUs / Extension / Capacity building

DONOR European Union

FUNDING € 6,914,080

BENEFICIARIES 701,000



Background and goals

Main goal of the EU project that started in December 2013, is to enhance the stability and livelihood of rural communities through improved animal health and value chain development. The specific objectives are to:

- Improve overall animal health status through strengthening of quality veterinary services
- Increase quality and quantity of products of animal origin, and
- Establish a monitoring and evaluation system for the private animal health sector.

In addition, the EU project enabled DCA-VET to further develop its One Health approach, in order to safeguard the health of farmers and other people working with animals from zoonotic animal diseases. To this aim, besides farmers, also women and butchers were targeted.

Activities and results

The EU project covers up to 18 provinces and a large number of activities. In 2015, some 336 VFUs were supported. 20 new paravets were trained and 22 new VFUs were established, and another 9 paravets started their training in October 2015. Existing VFUs were improved by reconstruction (70 VFUs), repair of cold chain (41 VFUs), or replacement of the equipment (50 VFUs). In addition to veterinary services, extensive livestock extension services were developed. VFU staff and private

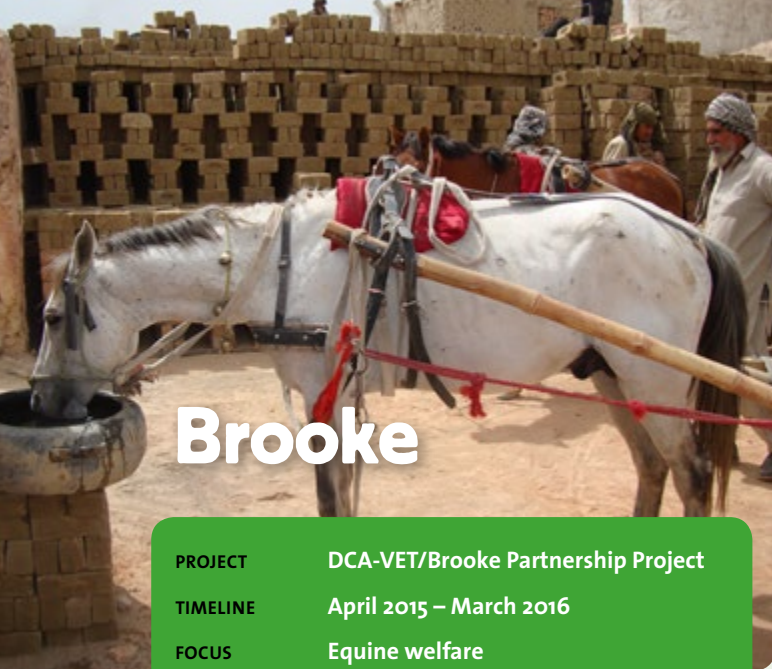
extension workers have established 410 male and female farmer extension groups with over 10,250 participants. To monitor private extension services 44 government extension agents were trained.

OUTCOME / IMPACT

35 VFUs are contracted under the Sanitary Mandate Schemes and are supporting local government in the public surveillance and control of contagious diseases. All 336 VFUs are engaged in outbreak reporting. These activities are pivotal in enhancing the public-private partnership.



Dr Raymond Briscoe, ED DCA-VET, shaking hands with HE Assadullah Zamir, Minister of MAIL



Brooke

PROJECT DCA-VET/Brooke Partnership Project
TIMELINE April 2015 – March 2016
FOCUS Equine welfare
DONOR The Brooke Hospital for Animals
FUNDING US\$ 655,997
BENEFICIARIES 4,014



Since 2008, DCA-VET is facilitating the equine welfare project of The Brooke in Afghanistan. Goal of the project is to sustainably improve the welfare of 72,450 equines through improving awareness on good practices in animal husbandry. In 2015, The Brooke trained 137 animal health and welfare service providers, together reaching 60,650 working equines. In addition, 4,014 families (including 2,700 children) received capacity building and technical support. Trained religious leaders delivered animal compassion related messages to more than 3,500 followers.

FAO PPR

PROJECT FAO PPR project
TIMELINE July 2015 – June 2016
FOCUS Vaccination campaigns
DONOR Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)
FUNDING US\$ 159,476
BENEFICIARIES 1,080



Objective of the FAO PPR project is to vaccinate small ruminants against Peste des Petits Ruminants (PPR) and to bring awareness about PPR and other small ruminant diseases to the Kuchi community. 20 VFUs and BVWs participated in the vaccination and awareness campaign. Almost 200,000 sheep and goats of 1,080 Kuchi households were vaccinated. And 20 livestock extension groups of ten Kuchi each have been established to increase the knowledge on PPR and on how to prevent and control this disease.

OUTCOME / IMPACT FAO PPR

The project results confirmed that the PPR vaccine is very effective in protecting sheep and goat against PPR disease. Efficacy is increased when the seasonal vaccination calendar is followed, and when communities, government, and the Kuchi department are all involved.





JICA II

PROJECT	Livestock Development Project in Bamyar Center
TIMELINE	March 2014 – February 2015
FOCUS	VFUs / Capacity building
DONOR	Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)
FUNDING	US\$ 179,419
BENEFICIARIES	700



The JICA project aimed at enhancing the livelihood of the farmers in Bamiyan through improving the local livestock production. As a result of the project, access of farmers to veterinary services increased from 6% to 81%. Introduction of alfalfa growing, and establishment of feed banks improved winter feeding conditions. Livestock production was further enhanced through introduction of artificial insemination and breed selection. In addition, income generation of the farmers increased through consolidation of value chains of e.g. dairy and lamb growing.

NHLP Poultry

PROJECT	New Horticulture and Livestock Project - Improved Backyard Poultry Project (Charikar and Baghram districts)
TIMELINE	October 2013 – March 2015
FOCUS	Backyard poultry
DONOR	World Bank; contractor MAIL
FUNDING	US\$ 667,661
BENEFICIARIES	834



The Improved Backyard Poultry project was implemented in twelve districts. DCA-VET was responsible for two of these: Charikar and Baghram districts in the province of Parwan. Goal of the project was to increase the social-economic status of poor women. In each district, 417 women received 30 chickens of a highly productive breed, some technical inputs and extensive training on chicken husbandry and management of their small businesses. From August 2014 through March 2015 each household on average produced more than 3300 eggs.

OUTCOME / IMPACT NHLP POULTRY

Backyard poultry improved the nutritional status of the family by direct consumption of the eggs produced. In addition, by selling surplus eggs beneficiaries reached a monthly income of about 4,500 Afs per person. Having an own business improved the social status of the women considerably.



4. Our organisation



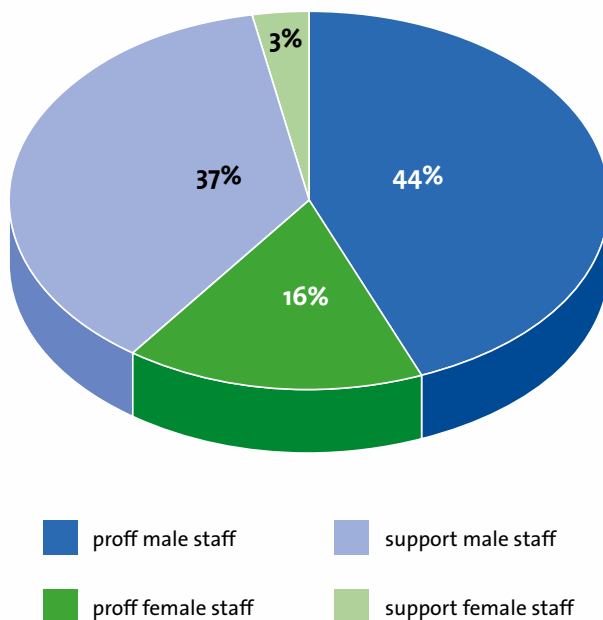
Staff

DCA-VET's staff is essential to all our activities. The Core Management Team, trainers, project managers, extension workers, field monitors, financial and administrative staff, guards, cooks, cleaners and drivers, all these staff members perform their share in making DCA-VET a smooth running organisation. Thanks to their commitment, DCA-VET is able to make a significant difference in the livelihoods of the Afghan rural population.

At the end of 2015, the Afghan team consisted of some 310 employees, mainly Afghan nationals, with only four expats. The Afghan national staff represent all different ethnic groups, such as Pashtun, Hazara, Tajiks, and more. The staff take care of the implementation of projects, monitoring and evaluation, financial affairs, administration, HRM, and general support services.

In concordance with its gender strategy, DCA-VET strives to employ as many women as possible within the cultural context. In 2015 about 20% of the national staff was female, working at all levels of the organisation with equal responsibilities and for equal pay as their male counterparts. Efforts are continuously on-going to increase this percentage.

DCA-VET STAFF 2015



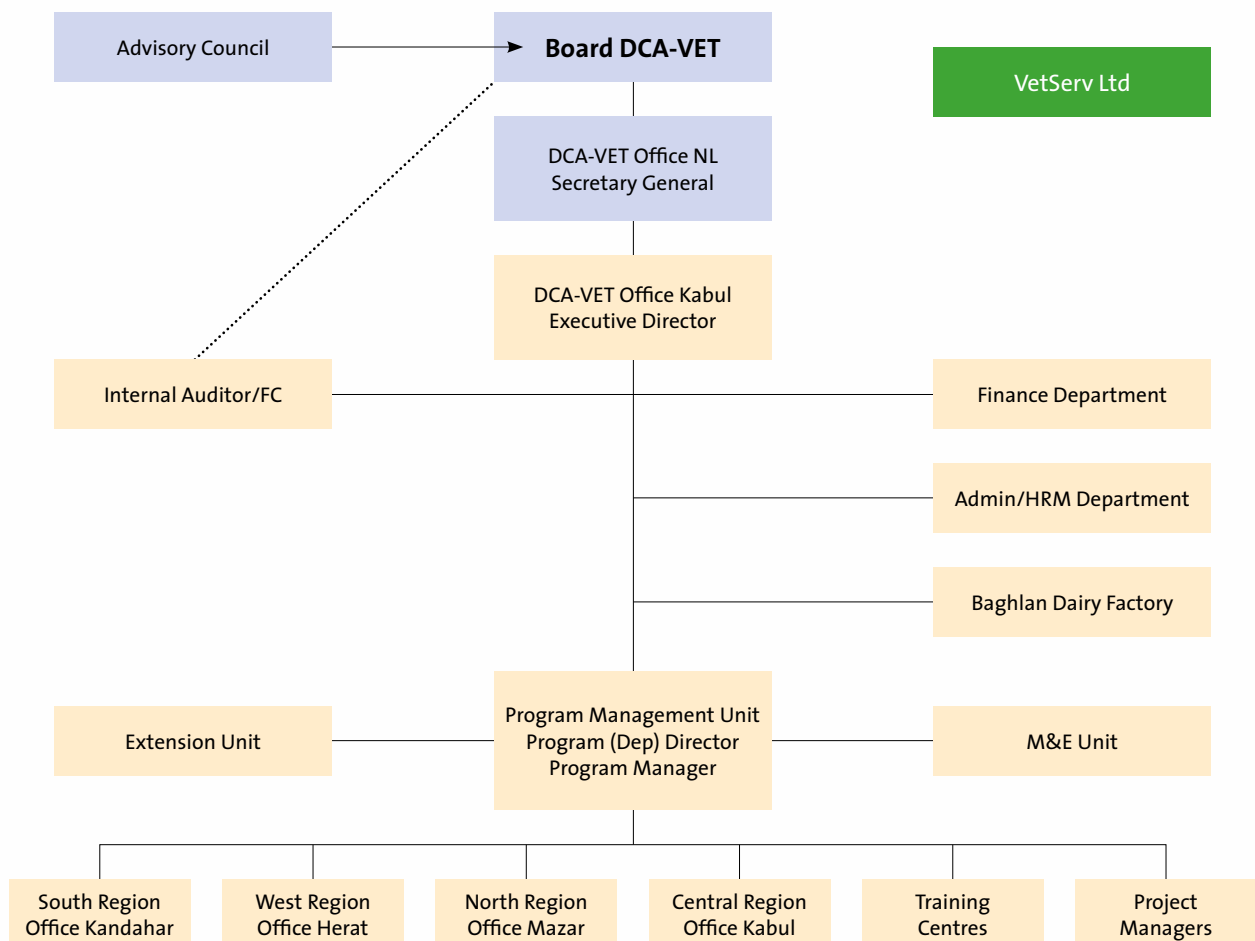
Offices

The head office is situated in Kabul, serving the central and eastern regions. Three regional offices are located in Herat (western region), Mazar-i-Sharif (northern and north-eastern region) and Kandahar (southern region). In 20 provinces, smaller field offices are in place. DCA-VET training centres can be found in Charikar (80 km north of Kabul), and in Herat, Mazar-i-Sharif, and Kandahar. The Dutch Liaison & Support office is located in Lelystad.

Organogram

The organogram shows the main structure of the organisation.

From 1st of May 2015, DCA-VET recruited a fourth expat for filling in the position of Director Program North, who is stationed in DCA-VET's Regional office in Mazar. In 2015, the planned privatisation of Baghlan Dairy Factory could not yet be realised; more technical support from DCA-VET is required to pave the way for a sustainable enterprise. Consequently, Baghlan Dairy Factory is still one of DCA-VET's projects. The spin-off enterprise VetServ Ltd on the contrary is a successful privatised company, supplying veterinary vaccines and medicines of the highest quality to the VFU network, and other organisations including the public sector.



5. Board and Advisory Council

Board

In 2015, the Board was extended with Ms. Ellen Geerlings, bringing the total to five professional members. The Board met ten times in 2015; twice colleagues from Afghanistan were attending.

Advisory Council

In January 2015, the annual meeting with the Advisory Council was held with as special guest Dr Aminuddin Naseri, Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock, Kabul, giving a presentation on *The policy of MAIL in public and private veterinary services and livestock extension.*

Members of the Board



Peter W. de Leeuw, DVM PhD
Chairman



Gert-Jan Duives, DVM
Secretary



Bram Schreuder, DVM PhD
Delegated Board Member



Henk J. Arends
Treasurer



Ellen Geerlings, DVM PhD
Member

Members of the Advisory Council



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

6. Our partners

Donors

Over the past 27 years, DCA-VET built up a well respected reputation among the donor community by successfully implementing its veterinary programme all over Afghanistan. With some of these donors, like the European Union, USAID and IFAD, we have long-lasting funding relations. In 2015, multi-year project donors were EU, USAID, and IFAD; but also smaller projects were funded by The Brooke, FAO, JICA, and World Bank.

Government

The Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation (MAIL) is an important partner of DCA-VET. DCA-VET actively participates in national animal health and One Health programmes, is member of the national veterinary legislation committee, and is also connected to the National Zoonotic Committee. Together with MAIL representatives, DCA-VET is involved in the preparation of the National Conference on Livestock Sector Development, which took place in the beginning of 2016.

Commercial partners

VetServ, one of the main commercial partners, is a spin-off company of DCA-VET and plays a crucial role in supplying the VFUs with quality veterinary vaccines and medicines. In addition, DCA-VET is working together with other commercial partners, like butchers, buyers of cashmere wool, traders of eggs, and dairy producers to achieve good results in growth of the livestock value chains. When linking the livestock farmers to these commercial partners, we support them to gain more income from their animal product.

NGOs

DCA-VET has built a good relationship with national and international NGOs active in Afghanistan. The advantage of good collaboration with the various NGOs is to offer more farmers the benefits of quality animal health care. Moreover, exchanging ideas and experiences with other NGOs offers a major opportunity to learn from each other's best practices. Also, close collaboration may lead to having one voice in policy issues.



7. Finance

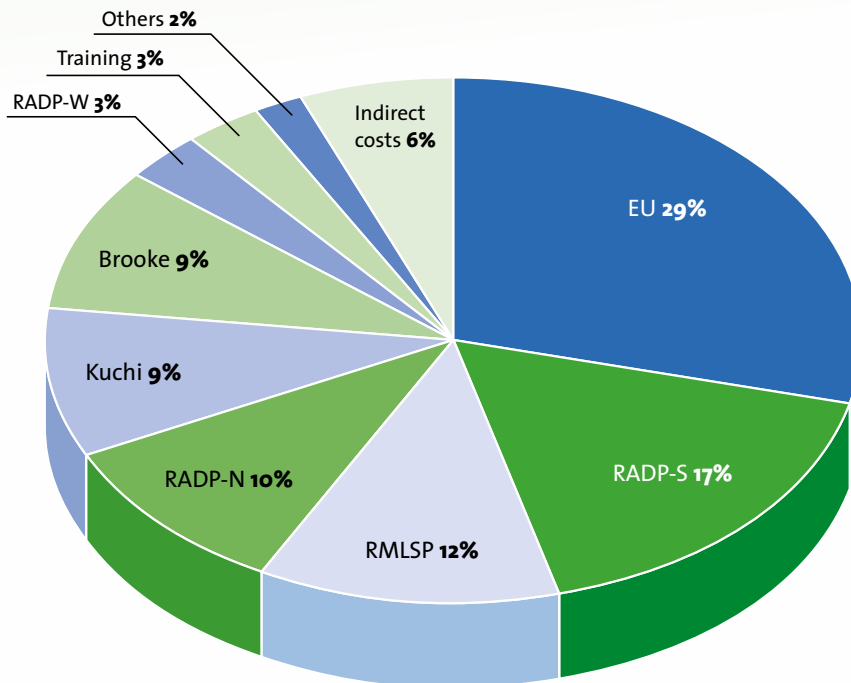
During 2015, a great effort was made to improve the financial organisation and reporting, bringing the DCA-VET financial procedures to a higher level. In the course of 2015, it was also decided to switch from cash-based to accrual-based accounting. An external accounting firm was hired to assess and update the Accounting Manual accordingly, in consultation with the DCA-VET Finance Controller and Head of Finance. The Accounting Manual was realised and approved by the Board at the end of 2015. Per 1 January 2016, DCA-VET started with the accrual basis of accounting.

Expenditures in 2015

Project expenditures in 2015 amounted to almost 7 million dollars. Three RADP projects were funded by USAID, RMLSP and Kuchi projects were funded by IFAD, and EU financed a major project covering half of Afghanistan.

In the graph below the project expenditures are visualised as percentages per project. DCA-VET is proud to say that 94% of all expenditures are directly used for the performance of our programme, and thus only 6% of the total expenditures are spent on indirect costs.

DCA-VET EXPENDITURES 2015



8. Looking forward

Reflection

In order to look ahead we need to take a moment to reflect on the past and present status of our organisation. This year belatedly we celebrated our 25th Anniversary that was carried over from September of last year. An official function was held in Holland, and also in all our regional offices in Afghanistan. The story of DCA-VET written by Dr Bram Schreuder documenting the organisation's work over the 25-year period was published, and presented at the official celebrations in Holland as well as in Kabul and the regions.

Our present portfolio of projects keeps us all engaged and challenged, and with the expansion of our work, staff numbers now exceed 300. The relatively new strands to our programme that are gaining increased attention are respectively working with the Kuchi (pastoralists), and the livestock value chains.

Looking ahead

With the appointment of a new Minister for the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation, and Livestock, his Excellency Assadullah Zamir, our private-public partnership will be further strengthened. We have already been requested

through our Programme Director, Dr Fakhri, by the Minister himself to organize the first National Livestock Strategic Conference to plan for the coming five years. This conference is scheduled for February 2016.

Another important element we will work on is to strengthen the Sanitary Mandate Contracting Scheme, where some functions of the public sector are contracted out to the private sector service providers. We hope with the focus on improving this scheme, laws and regulations will be developed as well as practice standards, certification and licensing for creating an enabling environment for these partnerships to work.

It looks promising now that next year at least two pieces of legislation will be passed into law, one being the 'Animal Health and Veterinary Public Health Act'. This will be the beginning of regulations and procedures necessary for an effective regulatory framework for the animal health and livestock sectors in Afghanistan, which have been long awaited.

Raymond Briscoe,
Executive Director



9. Abbreviations

Afs	Afghanis, currency of Afghanistan	MAIL	(Afghan) Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock
BA	Bachelor of Arts	MPA	Master of Public Administration
BVW	Basic Veterinary Worker	NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
CCHF	Crimean–Congo hemorrhagic fever	NHLP	National Horticulture and Livestock Project
CLAP	Community Livestock and Agriculture Project	NL	the Netherlands
DAI	Development Alternatives Inc.	PhD	Doctor of Philosophy (academic degree)
DCA-VET	Dutch Committee for Afghanistan – Veterinary Programmes	PPR	Peste des Petits Ruminants
DVM	Doctor of Veterinary Medicine	RADP	Regional Agricultural Development Program
EU	European Union	RMLSP	Rural Microfinance and Livestock Support Project
FEG	Farmer Extension Group	US	United States
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development	USAID	US Agency for International Development
JICA	Japan International Cooperation Agency	VFU	Veterinary Field Unit
LFEW	Local Female Extension Worker		



Dr Bram Schreuder presenting the book *'Afghanistan, a 25-years' struggle for a better life for its people and livestock'* to His Excellency Dr Obaidullah Obaid, Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan in the Netherlands

10. Map of DCA-VET coverage



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