



Dutch Committee for Afghanistan  
Livestock Programs

## Kuchi women's participation in livestock management!

In most rural areas of Afghanistan, Kuchi women make a significant contribution towards the rearing of livestock. The intensive participation of women in livestock management activities is productive in the way that it saves money that would otherwise be spent in hiring labor. Under the CLAP-Kuchi project, contracted by MAIL (Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock) and funded by IFAD (International Fund for Agricultural Development), Kuchi women are managing their livestock to improve food security of rural households in selected districts in targeted provinces by increasing agriculture and livestock productivity.

Ms. Zarka, a 45 years old Kuchi woman and a mother of 5 children which includes two sons and three daughters, is a beneficiary of the CLAP Kuchi program. She lives in Hotaki village - community Qara, Bagh district of Kabul and joined the CLAP Kuchi program in 2017.

Despite the role of women in livestock production and management, this has been underestimated, undervalued and widely ignored in most of the rural areas of Afghanistan. Ms. Zarka is a powerful Kuchi woman, who showed to the men and women of Kuchi community that women can manage their livestock as well as earn money and expand their business in livestock products.

Ms. Zarka's life was in a very difficult situation as her husband did not have any specific job. He works in the village/community on a daily basis to earn at least money for providing food for his family members. Despite many efforts, they could not succeed to save money which her husband earns via his daily base job to solve at least some of their life problems.

After joining the self-help group, she has started buying a lamb with assistance of the CLAP Kuchi project which cost her 4500AFN (3000 from CLAP Kuchi program and 1500AFN of her own money) together with 50-100AFN of saving in the save box package.

Three month later, she sold the lamb for 8000 AFN and thus got 3500AFN of gross benefit. This gave her a great incentive to buy a calf now at 12,000 AFN price (8000 AFN of the sold lamb + 4000AFN of self-help group monthly membership fee); then after four month she sold the calf at 15,000 AFN price and received 3000 AFN benefit.



*"The thing that made me so happy is that in the traditional Kuchi community I was able to successfully manage my livestock and lead my husband on animal husbandry, and now with my husband we have invested and own 15 calves"*

She continued this way and bought another calf at 13,000 AFN price plus a lamb at 2000 AFN price and then sold the calf at 17,000 price and the lamb at 4500 AFN, this time she had around 6500 AFN gross benefit

She adds "at the end of 2017 the MAIL and CLAP Kuchi program gave me 13 chickens and I was more motivated by raising chickens and developing the poultry and lamb farming method and now I have increased the number of chickens by selling eggs and having 80-layer chicken. On average, I collect 50 eggs daily and market them to pay enough for my family's expenses. I really benefited from the CLAP Kuchi program package. That's why now I can manage my livestock products properly, where I spend about 50% of my family's expenses on egg sales. The income I get from the sale of lambs and calves are clearly positive changes in my life, considering the situation I had before 2017."

- In addition, what is important in Zarka's success story are her achievements, which are:
- \* In addition to raising lambs, calves and poultry, she has also received professional training in animal husbandry, livestock disease and sanitation, all of which have motivated her to continue her family business.
- \* Previously she had no income until she joined the self-help group of the CLAP Kuchi project; she now earns monthly an amount of 2000 to 3000AFN, and 24,000 to 36,000 AFN in one year.
- \* Her capital has gone up to 216,000 Afghanis from 4,500 Afghanis, including 3,000 donated by the Ministry of Agriculture.
- \* Her monthly income has gone up from 2 to 3,000, which is on average 24,000 to 36,000 AFN per year.

*In the future, I have plan to create a larger joint farm with my husband and continue to expand the business in the future to achieve more*