

# ANNUAL REPORT 2017



Dutch Committee for Afghanistan – Livestock Programs

# Colophon

## Contributions

Raymond Briscoe, Ab Emmerzaal,  
Ria Heuckeroth, Marjolein Munsterman

## Pictures

Roger Leo (cover)  
Staff of DCA Livestock Programs

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## DCA Livestock Programs

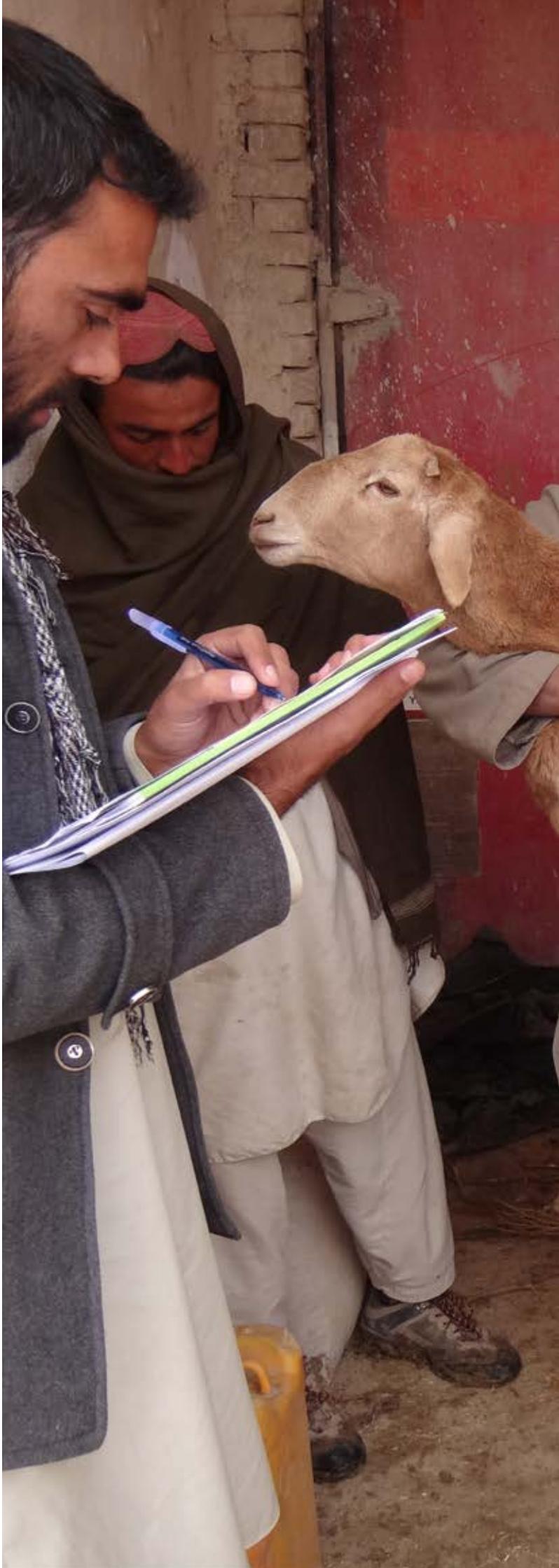
Active since 1988, officially registered in 1994,  
Netherlands Chamber of Commerce, # 41246751

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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>	160 (December 2017)
<b>Board</b>	six members
<b>Chairman of the Board</b>	Peter de Leeuw (until December 2017)
<b>Advisory Council</b>	four 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



This annual report paints the picture of the 29<sup>th</sup> year of DCA's existence. While the chapter 'Afghanistan now' tells the story of ongoing war and conflicts during this period, the project implementation of DCA Livestock Programs is successful and makes good progress. The VFU (Veterinary Field Unit) network is functioning well all over the country, supporting the livestock owners in improving income and livelihood. It offers an important contribution to the economic growth and quality of human life in Afghanistan. Moreover, the DCA livestock programs provide good value for the invested money as you can read in the chapter on impact.

## Project implementation

Besides three smaller livestock projects and the Brooke project on equine welfare, four large projects, mainly on VFU support, value chains, and Kuchi, were implemented for our three main donors: EU, USAID and IFAD. Unfortunately, the USAID RADP-South project came to an end too soon. However, the total turnover for 2017 amounted to 6.7 million US\$. The DCA Board highly values the input of DCA staff in the country, who are working in very challenging circumstances. Their security is of ongoing concern and all measures necessary to mitigate risks continuously are and will be taken.

## New chairman

An important event for DCA Livestock Programs in the

year 2017 was the departure of our chairman Dr Peter de Leeuw. Dr de Leeuw was chairman from 2003 onwards and in fact the second chairman of DCA during its existence of 30 years. The DCA Board will surely miss Dr de Leeuw's knowledge, experience and amiability. We thank him for his long and fruitful commitment to DCA and wish him a pleasant and joyful retirement. The successor of Dr de Leeuw has already been identified. He probably will join the Board in September of 2018. In the meantime, Gert-Jan Duives is acting chairman.

## Productive visits

The picture on this page shows my Afghan colleagues and myself during a farm visit in the Netherlands in the beginning of 2018. It is very relevant for their work to learn how a sheep farm in the Netherlands is managed, because the productivity in Afghanistan still must be improved significantly. DCA senior staff from Afghanistan are invited to the Netherlands once or twice a year for meetings with the Board to discuss the strategy and policy of our INGO in the coming years. Their presence offers an invaluable source of in-depth knowledge and information of the Afghan context. In addition, their input is indispensable for designing an efficient and effective DCA strategy.

**Ab Emmerzaal**  
*Secretary General*

## 2. Afghanistan now

### Poverty

After almost 30 years of ongoing war and conflicts, Afghanistan is one of the poorest and least developing countries in the world. In 2016, the country ranked 169 out of 188 developing countries in the UNHDP Human Development Index, close to Yemen (168), and even higher than the war-torn country of Syria. Of the population of 36 million inhabitants 56% are living in poverty, experiencing severe deprivations in education, health, and living standards. In the rural areas, the situation is even worse: here 64.7% of the population is suffering due to poverty (OPHI).

### Agriculture and livestock

In Afghanistan, about 74% of the population live in rural areas, being dependent on farming and animal husbandry for their livelihood. In terms of Gross Domestic Product (GDP), agriculture is of vital importance, contributing 31% of the GDP, 40% of the national labour force, and a major share of the current exports. The Government of Afghanistan sees the agriculture sector as the largest contributor and driver of economic growth, job creation, and poverty reduction and is committed to encourage comprehensive development of the sector. The livestock sector presently contributes to the national export by a limited number of products like skins, cashmere and wool. On the other hand, imports of live animals, dairy products, meat and eggs account for a much higher value. However, in the 1960s and '70s the situation was quite different: the country was self-sufficient in meat, milk and eggs, and a well-known exporter of wool, carpets, and leather products. Expanding the depleted livestock herds and development of livestock value chains could directly improve the livelihoods of Afghan farmer families and significantly contribute to economic growth.

### Gender

Afghanistan is a patriarchal society, in which women experience all kinds of social and economic exclusions. Although women account for nearly 43% of the labour force in the agricultural sector, they receive little credit, let alone remuneration, for their efforts, neither do they have any decisive power. Men usually cultivate the lucrative crops, or travel with livestock herds around the country, while women are family-based, growing vegetables for



household use, and taking care of the small livestock around the house. Development of gender inclusive livestock value chains, supporting of women initiatives, and advocating gender equality, will greatly enhance women empowerment as well as giving a boost to the rural economy.

### Kuchi

Kuchi are Afghan nomads, roaming the country with their large herds of small ruminants and camels, travelling from summer mountain pastures to winter lowland 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. Nowadays, Kuchi are the most marginalised group in Afghanistan. Migrating Kuchi make up around 9% of the total population, however, 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 Gross Domestic Product.

# 3. Our approach

## Mission and main topics

Since the start of DCA in 1988, our mission has been to **reduce poverty and increase food security for the people of Afghanistan by improving the health and production of their livestock.**

To this aim, the DCA livestock programs are based on three core topics:

- **Improving the livelihood of rural Afghans and guaranteeing their food security.** DCA's main and first goal is that all rural Afghans have enough food and income to meet their basic daily needs.
- **Creating more jobs in the livestock sector and increasing the income generated by livestock and livestock products.** Especially women and youth should be empowered to have a paid job, earning enough money to do some savings for future investments.
- **Enhancing the veterinary infrastructure** to realise that all livestock owners have easy access to affordable, quality livestock health and production services. To create an effective and sustainable nationwide veterinary system, the private sector, supported by DCA and other NGOs, and the public sector should work closely together.



## What we do

DCA's approach is built upon four major pillars: veterinary services, extension, value chain development, and institutional work. Together, these four fields of activity constitute a powerful mix to strive after our mission.

- **Veterinary services:** DCA supports Veterinary Field Units (VFUs) all over Afghanistan. The paraveterinarian staff of these VFUs are trained in one of DCA's three training centres. The VFU staff receive in-kind support, like veterinary equipment, quality vaccines and medicines, a refrigerator and a motorcycle, as well as regular advice and refresher training. After two years of support a paravet should be able to run the VFU independently.
- **Extension:** To increase the awareness of farmers on veterinary services and animal husbandry, extension sessions are organised by VFU staff or specialised DCA extension workers. Sound basis of these sessions are specially developed extension packages that provide background information for the extension worker as well as extension leaflets for the farmers.
- **Value chain development:** In a value chain, production, processing and marketing of products are optimised to yield more income for all people involved in the chain. Livestock value chains that DCA is supporting are for instance those of dairy, backyard poultry, cashmere, and meat.
- **Institutional work:** DCA 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.

## Guiding principles

**Gender equality** is a fundamental guiding principle in our own organisation as well as in our programs. By using a woman-to-woman approach and developing special income generating activities for female beneficiaries, DCA is committed to empower women in all its projects.

Another guiding principle in DCA's programs is the multidisciplinary **One Health Approach**, to attain optimal health for people, animals as well as the environment. For instance, hygienic handling of milk and meat, and control of zoonoses, animal diseases that can easily be transmitted to humans, are important elements of our work.

# 4. Projects in 2017



## Projects in 2017

In 2017, DCA implemented four multi-million projects and four smaller ones. Of the larger projects, the CLAP Kuchi project focusses especially on Kuchi, the Afghan nomads. Topics are veterinary services, value chains, and alternative livelihoods for settled Kuchi. The EU project (18 provinces) has its focus on VFUs, livestock products, and monitoring. The RADP-South project, wended up prematurely in November 2017, significantly increased the number of VFUs in the previously deprived provinces of southern Afghanistan. In RADP-North, DCA takes care of support of the VFU staff and extension to the farmers.

Among the smaller projects, DCA for the tenth time facilitated the annual project of Brooke on equine

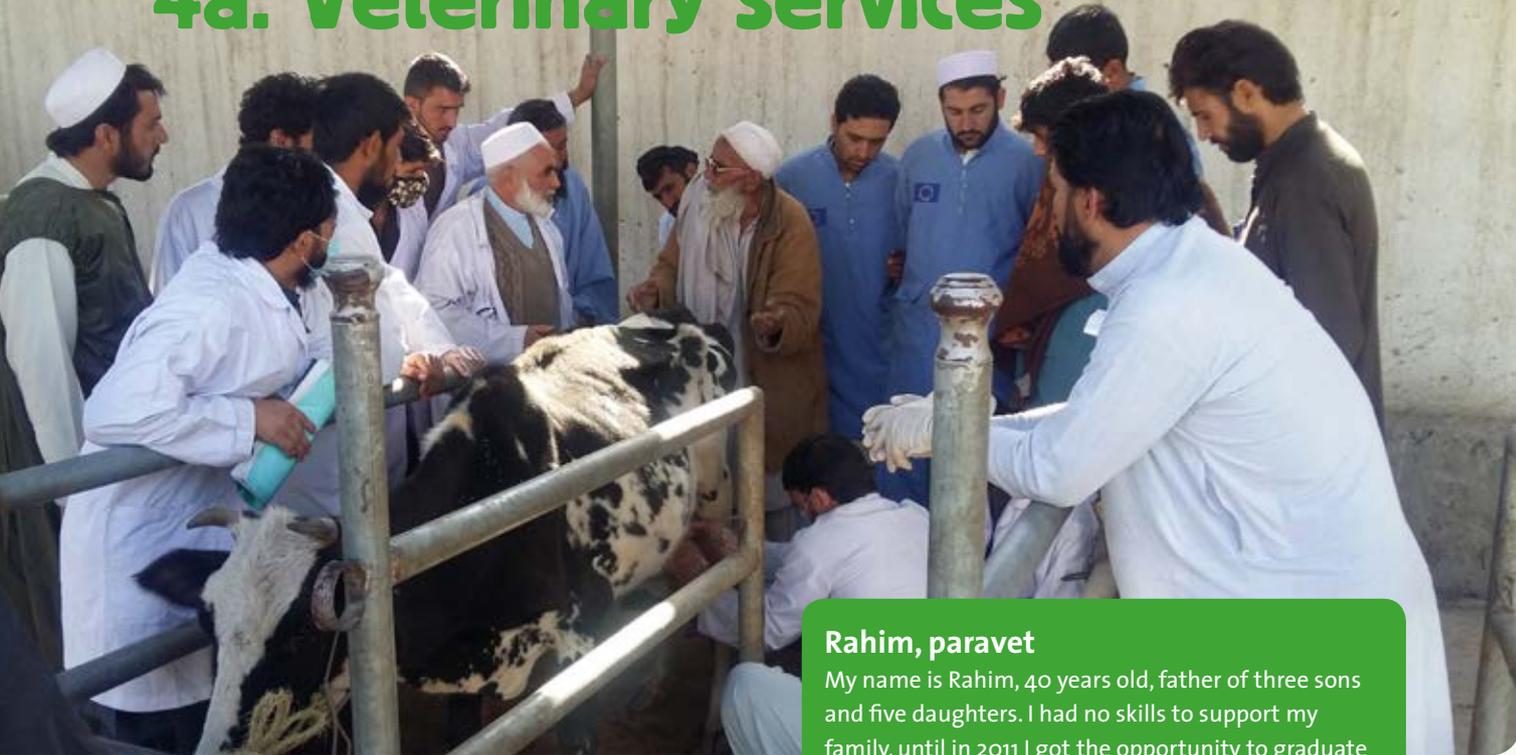
welfare. The FAO-funded PPR (Peste des Petits Ruminants) vaccination and awareness campaign, conducted in twenty provinces, yielded good results, as did the FAO FMD (Foot and Mouth Disease) vaccination scheme among cattle of Afghan dairy cooperatives. In December 2017, a fourth small project started, funded by UNODC. Here, DCA is involved in supporting women in setting up small enterprises.

## Geographic scope

In the first three quarters of 2017, DCA covered almost entire Afghanistan, implementing projects in 30 out of 34 provinces. Due to closure of the RADP-South project, at the end of 2017, 26 provinces remained. Hopefully, in the near future the southern provinces will be covered by livestock projects once again.

Project	Donor	Funding (million)	Focus	Timeline 2014 - 2019					
				14	15	16	17	18	19
CLAP Kuchi	IFAD	\$ 5.0	Kuchi, value chain						
EU II	EU	€ 6.9	VFUs +						
RADP-S	USAID	\$ 4.9	VFUs, value chain						
RADP-N	USAID	\$ 3.1	VFUs						
Brooke	Brooke	\$ 0.6	Equine welfare						
PPR II	FAO	\$ 1.0	PPR control						
FMD	FAO	\$ 0.4	FMD control						
BADILL	UNODC	\$ 0.6	Dairy, poultry, vegetables						

# 4a. Veterinary services



## Rahim, paravet

My name is Rahim, 40 years old, father of three sons and five daughters. I had no skills to support my family, until in 2011 I got the opportunity to graduate as paravet and start my own veterinary clinic. Attracting customers was a hard job: I contacted many people, also in neighbouring villages. I served the farmers well and provided them with good quality vaccines and services. At first, they thought my services would be for free, but now they understand they must pay for it. Currently, I have many clients and can make a decent living for my family.

## VFUs

In Afghanistan, Veterinary Field Units (VFUs) are responsible for the preventive and curative health care of the livestock of rural farmers and pastoralists. In 2017, 893 Veterinary Field Units provided veterinary services, 601 of which were supported by DCA. Other NGOs involved in animal health care are the Aga Khan Foundation, MADERA and Relief International. Each VFU serves about 2,500 households and takes care of 10,000 to 15,000 livestock. So, the 601 DCA-supported VFUs together reached more than 1.5 million families and 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

A considerable part of the services offered by VFUs to the Afghan livestock farmers consist of vaccinations, treatments, and deworming. In 2017, DCA-supported VFUs administered about 15.5 million vaccinations and 8 million medications, while 347,000 livestock were dewormed. Some subsidised vaccination and deworming campaigns were held to promote the VFU services. In addition, 2,300 poorest farmers participated in animal health training, also receiving a voucher for a free visit to a VFU.

## Training

The staff of the VFUs are mainly paravets, receiving a six-months training in one of DCA's three training centres in Charikar, Herat, and Mazar. DCA is the primary organisation in Afghanistan involved in applied veterinary training. Over the years, DCA has trained more than 1,000 paravets to staff the nation-wide network of VFUs, not only for its own projects but also for other NGOs. In 2017, 40 new paravets graduated, while 20 paravets started their education in November of this year. In addition, 769 VFU staff (688 male and 81 female) attended refresher courses on topics like business skills, extension, pharmacology, nutrition, clinical diagnosis, and pregnancy testing to enhance their knowledge and skills. DCA always propagates continuous capacity building of veterinary (para)professionals.

601  
VFUs

6 - 9 million  
animals

23.5 million  
treatments

## 4b. Extension



### Extension activities

Extension is a crucial element of the DCA livestock projects, on the one hand for promotion of VFU services, on the other hand to train farmers in best practices in animal husbandry. Important topics dealt with during extension sessions are the vaccination seasonal calendar, prevention and treatment of diseases, nutrition, improved stable conditions, and breeding. Involved in extension are VFU staff and special DCA extension staff. They may provide extension gatherings as single events, but also as a series of monthly sessions (Farmer Extension Groups). In addition, Farmer Field Days offer an excellent opportunity to share best practices among the farmers. In 2017, 38,500 male and 6,000 female livestock owners benefited from the DCA extension services. In the Brooke project, also 1,800 children were trained in good animal handling practices, obviously with their parents' permission and outside school hours.

### Extension packages

As guiding materials, the DCA Extension Unit has developed extension packages, containing background information for the extension professional, as well as illustrated posters and information sheets for the many illiterate farmers. In 2017, six extension packages were already available, i.e. on small ruminants, cattle, poultry, role of women in animal health and production, dairy, and veterinary public health (zoonoses, meat inspection, food safety and hygiene). In addition, this year a new package on Kuchi pastoralism has been published and shared with the Kuchi beneficiaries of the DCA projects.

### Zahra, poultry farmer

I am Zahra, 45 years old, living with six family members. My husband has no job, so I had to make a living for my family. Therefore, I joined the IFAD/DCA Extension Group in my village. After a useful training, we received a dozen of pullets for rearing. Together with my children I took care of them. Day by day we saw the pullets growing and I will never forget the day they laid eggs for the first time. Now they lay eight to ten eggs per day, and I am determined to learn more about poultry and start my own family poultry business.

### Feed banks

As quality winter feeding is a major problem in Afghanistan, in several projects feed banks are established and farmers are trained in producing, mixing and storing of quality feed. A special community committee takes care of administration and selling of the concentrate feed. In 2017, DCA established 8 new feed banks and supported a total of 33 feed banks.

### One Health

To prevent the spread of zoonoses during dairy activities, DCA trained hundreds of female farmers in local milk processing, and distributed special hygiene kits to the trainees, containing a bucket, soap, gloves, etc. Butchers were also made aware of the dangers of transmission of zoonoses through meat, and DCA instructed 85 butchers in safe meat handling and processing.

## 4c. Value chains



### Sonya, member of Self-Help Group

I am Sonya, 30 years old, mother of four children. Besides being a housewife, I take care of our animals, twelve sheep and two cows. After I participated in DCA extension training, the members of this course started a Self-Help Group. Each member monthly saved AFS 100, and seven months later we purchased silkworm cocoons. After two months of nurturing, we sold them and received a nice profit of 22%. We also started a fodder bank to feed our animals in winter. This year, we gained more self-esteem and more respect from our family, as we now contributed to family finances.

### Renewed DCA focus

On January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2017, DCA-VET adopted a new name, DCA Livestock Programs. This coincides with extending our focus from merely veterinary programs to a broader livestock sector approach also including business development and job creation. In the renewed focus, livestock value chains play a central role. In value chains, from product to market, extra value is added, and new jobs are created by enhancing production, processing and marketing practices. In 2017, DCA continued its value chain activities from previous years, and in addition aimed at acquiring new projects that match with its broadened profile. DCA's present value chain activities are mainly focussed at female livestock farmers and include support of so-called female Self-Help Groups (SHGs).

### Self-Help Groups

SHGs are small saving groups, where women are encouraged to start their own livestock business, supported by DCA through training and in-kind inputs. The members of the groups decide themselves which business to develop. All groups receive training on business skills and adding value to their products. Popular businesses are lamb fattening, dairy production, and backyard poultry. In 2017, DCA supported 70 female SHGs, with some 1,400 participants.

### Value chain activities

DCA empowered 284 women of Kuchi SHGs to start a lamb fattening business. In total, 880 lambs were fattened and sold with a net profit of AFS 3000 per lamb.

Most of the women indicated they had full control over the money they earned and that they were eager to continue lamb fattening after the project ended. In SHGs of settled Kuchi women, 46 households were provided with backyard poultry opportunities and are now earning an income of AFS 500 by selling eggs. In addition, some 460 individual women received churning machines. These machines yield a higher quality product and thus more income for the women.

### Acquiring of value chain project

During the year, DCA has been vigilant for new project opportunities on value chain development and presently is in the race to participate in a livestock value chain project, starting in 2018. For this project, DCA engaged some experts to analyse the most promising value chains in the target area.

## 4d. Institutional level



DCA not only is engaged in implementation of livestock projects, it also cooperates with the Afghan Government and other stakeholders to create a powerful public-private veterinary infrastructure and to develop an effective livestock policy and legislation.

### Public-private cooperation

Since its inception in 1988, DCA has partnered with the Afghan Government to strive after developing of a sustainable veterinary infrastructure. Within the framework of the Government and supported by international donors, DCA and other NGOs established and still expand and maintain the nationwide system of private VFUs. To train the Government to guide and monitor the VFU network, DCA offers capacity building to government officers. Moreover, all VFUs monthly report their activities and the occurrence of contagious diseases to the district Veterinary Officer. An important linking mechanism in the public-private cooperation is the Sanitary Mandate Contracting Scheme (SMCS). Under this SMCS, VFUs are paid by the Government for outbreak reporting, sample collection, and controlling of highly contagious diseases. Presently 300 VFU staff are contracted under the SMCS.

### Policy and legislation

DCA proactively supports the Government in development of its livestock legislation and policy. In 2016, DCA together with MAIL and FAO co-organised the Conference on the National Livestock Strategy, and presently it is engaged in drafting of this strategy. Since

### Kuchi Shura

In 2017, DCA/CLAP Kuchi project established a district level Shura in Paghman and Shakardara districts of Kabul. The Shura was established through joint efforts of DCA, the Kuchi Directorate of Kabul, and the Kuchi district representatives. Around 60 representatives of every Kuchi tribe (Khail) were invited to a meeting held in the Government office. The participants nominated four representatives as a grass root Shura to voluntarily coordinate Kuchi issues with DCA, Government, and CLAP Kuchi project. Through DCA capacity building of the members, the Shura will be able to play a sustainable role in the development of Kuchi affairs at district level.

2016, paravets working in VFUs are licensed by the Government, which is a first step towards formalisation of their role in the Afghan animal health care system. Paravets are also mentioned in the Animal Health (Veterinary) Act, ratified in 2016.

### OIE Conference on paravet training

In December 2017, the OIE, World Organisation for Animal Health, held a regional conference on veterinary paraprofessionals in Asia. As speakers from Afghanistan, Dr Raymond Briscoe - DCA Executive Director -, and Dr Jahangir Miakhail - Director General for Animal Health and Production in Afghanistan - were invited. The latter however was unable to attend; Dr David Sherman of OIE spoke on his behalf. Both promoted the core curriculum used by DCA for paraprofessional training, and the private sector VFUs within the public veterinary framework as being valuable examples to other regional countries.

# 5. Impact



## Output, outcome, and impact

Do the DCA livestock programs achieve the results the organisation aims at? Do we succeed in helping the Afghan people out of poverty and increasing food security? Giving an answer to these questions - or in other words determining the impact of our work - is difficult as it requires thorough, long-term socio-economic research. For measuring the success of its work, DCA mainly relies on assessments of the direct and intermediate results of its activities. Direct results, called outputs, are for instance numbers of paravets trained, numbers of women participating in Self-Help Groups, etc. Intermediate results, outcomes, show the medium-term effects of the outputs, e.g. improvement of animal husbandry practices, or reduction in livestock mortality.

## Results of 2017

DCA assesses these outputs and outcomes in annual outcome surveys, KAP (Knowledge, Attitude and Practice) studies, external evaluations, and scientific studies. In 2017, an external evaluation study of the RADP-South project showed that for farmers making use of VFU services, livestock mortality was 39% (small ruminants) respectively 52% (large ruminants) less than for farmers not doing so. A KAP survey of the IFAD CLAP Kuchi project indicated that the percentage of Kuchi using VFU services increased from 11% in 2014 to 63% in 2017. In the same period, overall animal mortality declined from 15% to 6.2%.

## Scientific study

In 2017, the results of a DCA impact study were published

## Appreciation letters

In Afghanistan it is good practice among the district-level government to show its appreciation of effective NGO activities. This is done in a well-attended ceremony by handing over a special appreciation letter. In 2017, DCA received three such letters for its fruitful livestock work, from the governments of Parwan, Samangan, and Logar (see below).

*“As the governor and director of DAIL in Logar, we would like to offer this letter of appreciation of DCA’s successful and honest efforts to develop the Kuchis’ livestock situation to Dr. M.I.F. We wish him and DCA success in their future endeavours in the country.”*

in Preventive Veterinary Medicine <sup>1)</sup>. The results show that farmers using animal health services experienced significantly lower goat and sheep mortalities than those who did not (adult stock 27% respectively young stock 23% less mortality). This study thus clearly underlines the importance of the VFU system for livestock health in Afghanistan.

## DCA-wide indicators

DCA donors are all using different indicators to assess the results of their projects. To measure the overall success of its program, DCA will identify some frequently used indicators. One of our advisors, together with the new M&E Manager, will guide the process. Once identified, DCA will regularly monitor these organisation-wide indicators to get a complete picture of the results of our activities.

1) Bartels, C.J.M., Fakhri, A.Q., Shams, M.H., Briscoe, R.P., Schreuder, B.E.C., 2017. Livestock mortality and offtake in sheep and goat flocks of livestock owners making use of services offered by paravets in West Afghanistan. *Prev. Vet. Med.* 146, 79-85.

# 6. Organisation

## DCA registrations

DCA is a foundation, registered at the Netherlands Chamber of Commerce under the name of DCA-VET in 1994, but implementing veterinary programs in Afghanistan since 1988 already. In 2017, the organisation changed its name into DCA Livestock Programs, in line with extension of its profile towards a livestock sector approach. In Afghanistan, the organisation is registered as DCA at the Ministry of Economy since 2005.

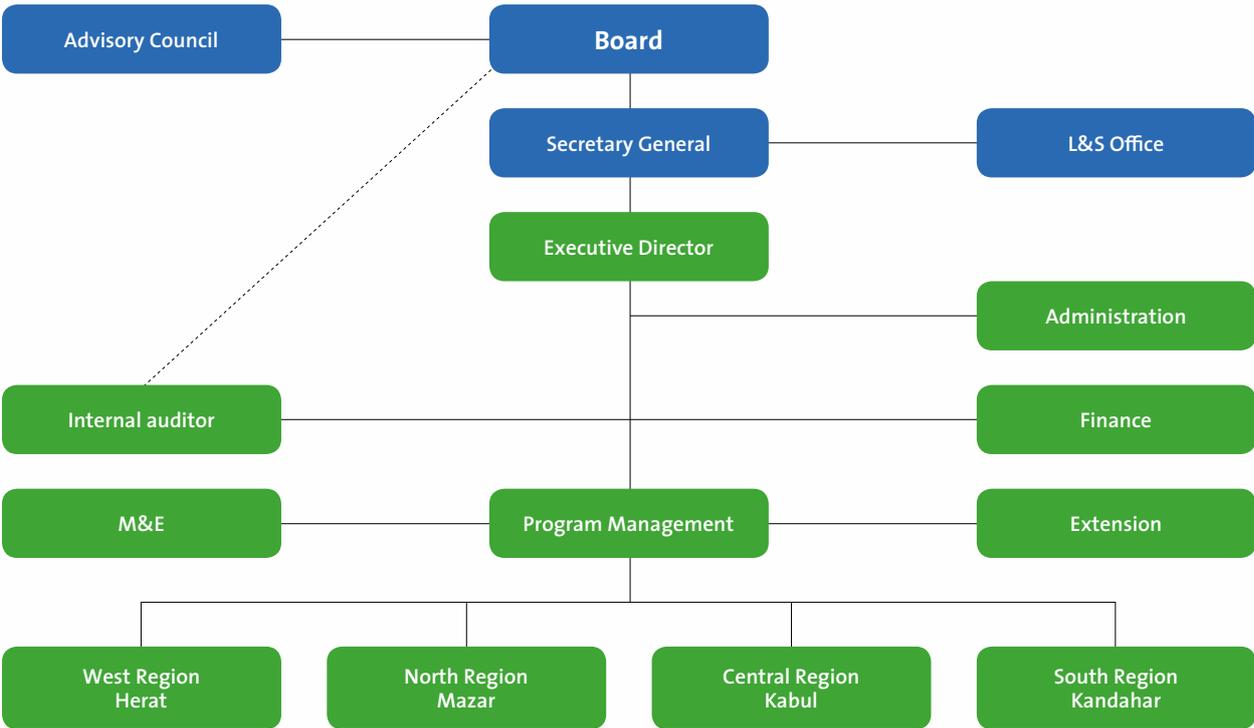
## Board and Management

Being a foundation, DCA Livestock Programs has a Dutch Board that monitors the policy of the organisation and keeps an eye on financial resources and project implementation. The Board receives expert advice from an Advisory Council of four livestock and development professionals. In the Netherlands, the Secretary General, Ab Emmerzaal, is the link between the Board and the organisation in Afghanistan, assisted by a small Liaison and Support office in Lelystad. At DCA Headquarters in Kabul, the Executive Director, Dr

Raymond Briscoe, and the Program Director, Dr Abdul Qader Fakhri, manage all project implementation by the Afghan staff, supported by a Core Management Team of six key staff.

## Staff

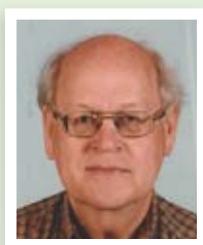
Until November 2017, the team of Afghanistan staff amounted to about 250 people. These were working from Kabul Headquarters, Charikar Training Centre, our regional offices in Herat, Mazar-i-Sharif, and Kandahar, or one of the ten provincial offices. From November onwards, also because of closing of the RADP-South project, the DCA workforce was severely diminished to 160 staff. Of the staff, 98% were Afghan nationals, representing all different ethnic groups. Only three expats were employed by DCA. Around 16% of the staff were female, working at the same terms and conditions as their male colleagues. This percentage does not meet DCA's target of 25% female employees, as women often leave the organisation once married. However, DCA continuously strives to recruit and maintain female staff.



# 7. Board and Advisory Council

## Members of the Board

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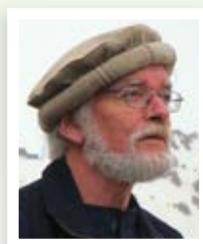
**Peter W. de Leeuw, DVM PhD**  
*Chairman*



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



**Romke Steensma, RA**  
*Treasurer*



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



**Ruairaidh Petre, MSc**  
*Member*



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

### Board

In 2017, two changes in the composition of the Board of DCA Livestock Programs were realised. Henk Arends, who had been Treasurer since 2004, retired as Board member per 1 January 2017 and was succeeded by Romke Steensma, financial professional, RA (chartered accountant). In August 2017, Kees van Maanen, expert of equine viral diseases at the Dutch Animal Health Service, joined the Board. Kees van Maanen brings along a vast experience in (developing) countries all around the world. The Board met ten times in 2017, professionally presided over by its chairman Peter W. de Leeuw, former Chief Veterinary Officer of the Netherlands.

### Advisory Council

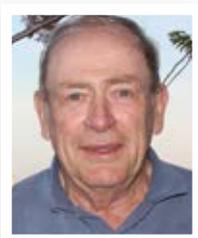
Like the previous year, the DCA Advisory Council consisted of Akke van der Zijpp, Cees de Haan, Henk Moll, and Frauke de Weijer. These experts, with their vast experience and knowledge on animal production, livestock programs, international donors, development economics, and Afghanistan livestock policies, are of great support to DCA. During 2017, the DCA Board met once with the Advisory Council in January, asking their strategical advice on topics like DCA's transition from mere veterinary orientated programs towards a more general livestock production focus.

## 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 Weijer, DVM BA MPA**  
*Development policy*

# 8. Partners

DCA always cherishes the cooperation with its partners, whether they are donors, national and local government, other NGOs, or commercial partners. Without our partners, we would not be able to reach our goals. All of them, large or small, contribute significantly to the success of our programs.

## Donors

First, we are grateful to our donors that provided the financial means and the framework for implementing our livestock activities. All donors had their own focus, the EU on strengthening of the VFU network, USAID on value chain development, IFAD on supporting of the Kuchi, FAO on control of contagious diseases, and Brooke on equine welfare. Together, our donors offered DCA the opportunity to cover the most pressing topics of the livestock sector in Afghanistan.

## Government

DCA's contacts with the Afghanistan Government are manifold. More information on this public-private partnership has been given in section 4d, see page 11.

## NGOs

In Afghanistan, other international NGOs, like Relief International (RI), MADERA and Aga Khan Foundation (AKF), carry out livestock activities as well, sometimes even in the same provinces as DCA is working. Coordination is then of direct importance to avoid duplication of activities. Close cooperation is also beneficial for harmonising of the VFU approach, sharing of knowledge and experience on best livestock practices, and joining forces for lobbying purposes. In this respect, it is good to note that all paravet VFU staff, also those of other NGOs, receive their education in DCA training centres.

## Commercial partners

The main commercial partner of DCA is VetServ, independent wholesaler of veterinary vaccines, medicines and equipment. DCA used to import and distribute veterinary vaccines itself, but in 2011 established the spin off VetServ to continue this business on a commercial scale. Having such a reliable partner for providing guaranteed high quality veterinary products to the VFUs is crucial for success of the DCA livestock program.



# 9. Finance

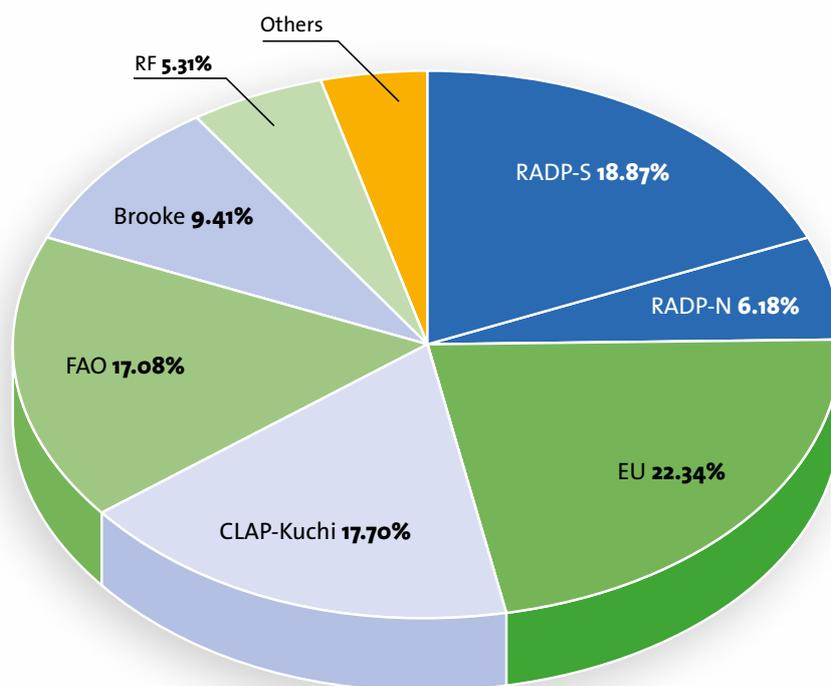
## Expenditures in 2017

DCA Livestock Programs' expenditures to keep the overall program and the individual projects running in 2017 amounted to 6,755,145 US dollars. Our donors in 2017 were USAID (United States Agency for International Development) that funded the RADP-North and RADP-South projects, IFAD (International Fund for Agricultural Development) that provided funds for the continuation of the CLAP-Kuchi project, EU (European Union) that is involved in a nationwide livestock program, FAO (Food and Agriculture Organization) for providing vaccination campaigns against FMD and PPR, and Brooke (The Brooke Hospital for Animals) that provided care for donkeys and horses in Afghanistan. Some challenges were met also in 2017. Regrettably, the major USAID-project RADP-South came to an end quite unexpectedly during 2017. This caused

the closing of our office in the South of Afghanistan, and the farewell to a lot of staff. On the other hand, we were happy to receive a six-months extension of the EU nationwide program till the end of June 2018. In addition, a new project started at the end of 2017, funded by the UNODC (United Nations Office of Drugs and Crime). Some further initiatives for new projects to start in 2018 look very promising. The contributions of our donors are very much appreciated.

The below graph shows the expenditures per project expressed in percentages. DCA Livestock Programs is again proud to say that from the total expenditures only 8.31% have been spent on indirect costs in 2017, which leads to the conclusion that more than 90% of all expenditures are directly used for the implementation of our projects.

## Total Expenditures 2017





## 10. Looking forward

### Current status

The unexpected early closure of the RADP-South project at the end of 2017 made it necessary for us to focus on the consolidation of our program in general. This gave us a good opportunity to review our current activities and projects in the pipeline. It became very clear that due to global trends, donors were also evaluating their strategy on how and where the funds should be spent in Afghanistan. The principal donors are now channelling their funds through Government, and budgets have been reduced.

We are not the only development organisation in Afghanistan facing challenges now. The reduction in funding coupled with a deteriorating security situation is resulting in other NGOs reviewing their activities and reducing their staff.

### The need

We must streamline our work but at the same time diversify into other areas by adding additional staff with differing skills. The area principally identified for diversification is on livestock value chains, particularly the dairy and poultry chains. Our recent project with the UNODC has enabled us to bring on staff, skilled in market gardening.

Also, our program core staff need strengthening, and next year we hope to add an M&E specialist.

### Looking ahead

There are some exciting prospects of new projects coming year, and we are optimistic for the future. It is key that we address and strengthen the partnership with the public sector so that the network of Veterinary Field Units we support nationwide are fully engaged in the Afghanistan-wide veterinary infrastructure. Our beneficiaries continue to grow in numbers and receive the best access to animal health care with an excellent cost-benefit ratio for the work we undertake.

Livestock value chains are becoming a very important component and donors now are interested in investing particularly with regard to adding quality and developing products for export.

Security concerns are raised, and our prime concern is the safety of our staff at all times. We have initiated measures to strengthen our security to minimise risk, and have also improved our communication links with ACBAR, the coordinating body for development organisations in Afghanistan, and INSO, the security agency for Afghanistan. We hope the security situation improves in the coming year.

**Raymond Briscoe**  
*Executive Director*



# Abbreviations

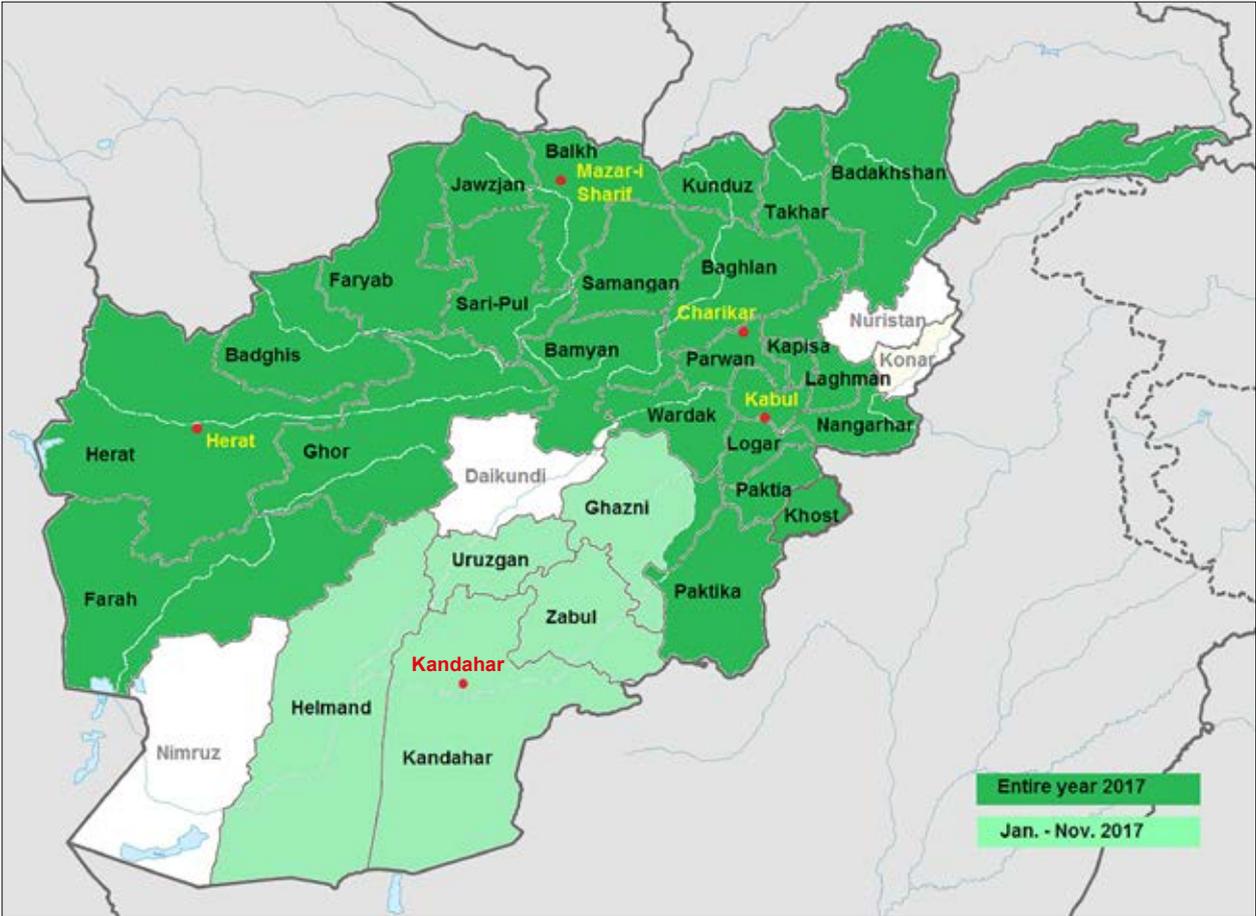
<b>ACBAR</b>	Agency Coordinating Body for Afghan Relief and Development	<b>MADERA</b>	Mission d'Aide au Développement des Economies Rurales en Afghanistan
<b>AFS</b>	Afghanis, currency of Afghanistan	<b>MAIL</b>	(Afghan) Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock
<b>AKF</b>	Aga Khan Foundation	<b>MPA</b>	Master of Public Administration
<b>BA</b>	Bachelor of Arts	<b>MSc</b>	Master of Science
<b>BADILL</b>	Boost Alternative Development Intervention through Licit Livelihoods	<b>NGO</b>	Non-Governmental Organisation
<b>CLAP</b>	Community Livestock and Agriculture Project	<b>OIE</b>	Office International des Epizooties - World Organisation for Animal Health
<b>DAI</b>	Development Alternatives Inc.	<b>OPHI</b>	Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative
<b>DCA</b>	Dutch Committee for Afghanistan	<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>RA</b>	Register Accountant
<b>EU</b>	European Union	<b>RADP</b>	Regional Agricultural Development Program
<b>FAO</b>	Food and Agriculture Organization	<b>RI</b>	Relief International
<b>FMD</b>	Foot and Mouth Disease	<b>SHG</b>	Self Help Group
<b>GDP</b>	Gross Domestic Product	<b>SMCS</b>	Sanitary Mandate Contracting Scheme
<b>IFAD</b>	International Fund for Agricultural Development	<b>UNHDP</b>	United Nations Human Development Programme
<b>INGO</b>	International Non-Governmental Organisation	<b>UNODC</b>	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
<b>INSO</b>	International NGO Safety Organisation	<b>US</b>	United States
<b>KAP</b>	Knowledge, Attitude and Practice	<b>USAID</b>	US Agency for International Development
<b>M&amp;E</b>	Monitoring and Evaluation	<b>VFU</b>	Veterinary Field Unit



# DCA Livestock Programs on the map



Map of coverage of DCA Livestock Programs





## Dutch Committee for Afghanistan – Livestock Programs

### Country Headquarters Kabul, Afghanistan

House 152, Road 5 of Syloo

District 5, Kabul

T: +93 (0) 79 9375552

E: [info@dca-af.org](mailto:info@dca-af.org)

Dr Raymond Briscoe, Executive Director

### Liaison and Support Office, the Netherlands

Postal address: P.O. Box 72, 8200 AB Lelystad

Office location: Meentweg 1A, Lelystad

T: +31 (0) 320 417 216

E: [info@dca-livestock.org](mailto:info@dca-livestock.org)

Ab Emmerzaal, Secretary General

