

# ANNUAL REPORT 2012



DUTCH COMMITTEE FOR AFGHANISTAN – VETERINARY PROGRAMMES



افغانستان لپاره د هالنډ کمیته  
کمیته هالنډ برای افغانستان



# COLOPHON

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**DCA-VET's Mission statement:**

DCA-VET's mission is to reduce poverty and improve food security for the people of Afghanistan by improving the health and production of their livestock



**VFU**

Veterinary Field Unit, staffed by DVM, VA or paravet

**DVM**

Doctor of Veterinary Medicine, veterinarian, high-level animal health provider

**VA**

Veterinary Assistant, graduate of Agricultural and Veterinary Institute

**Paravet**

Paraveterinarian, intermediate-level animal health provider

**BVW**

Basic Veterinary Worker, part-time animal health provider, working in areas where no VFU staff is available

## **Public-private partnership**

During the year 2012, in all DCA-VET projects public-private partnership played a pivotal role. Well-functioning public-private cooperation is essential for quality veterinary services to the livestock owners in Afghanistan. For many years, the Afghan Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock (MAIL) and livestock NGOs like DCA-VET have been working together on animal health and production. This fruitful cooperation will be of much importance in the future as well. For even in countries with relatively well-organized veterinary services prevention of diseases and optimization of animal production needs continuous attention.

Private veterinary service providers function as the eyes and ears of government veterinary services in monitoring and surveillance of diseases. When required they also assist in performing vaccination campaigns. The government should guide all private veterinary service providers, veterinarians, veterinary assistants and paravets, and should also develop and implement regulations. Veterinary legislation is in process to define the roles of all veterinary professionals in the country. This legislation is also essential for surveillance of emerging diseases, zoonosis and public health, which remain the responsibility of the Ministry.

## **Outreach to communities**

Extension is an increasingly important component of livestock projects implemented in Afghanistan. By means of messages and training sessions farmers are informed on best practices in livestock husbandry and management. Through this community outreach the livestock sector in Afghanistan becomes familiar with livestock husbandry methods and agribusiness as practised abroad. Of course the information is adjusted to the local context and to the needs of the farmers.

In community outreach, private and public services work closely together. Specially trained extension workers distribute extension messages to livestock owners. This activity is implemented through the network of Veterinary Field Units (VFUs) under supervision of the staff of governmental veterinary services in provinces or districts. The DCA-VET core team of veterinarians and extension specialists im-

plements its role by giving technical support to the veterinary service providers and extensionists in the field. All of these efforts are in order to improve animal production, to prevent (animal and human) diseases, and to improve the situation in the rural areas of Afghanistan.

## **DCA-VET organization ready for the future**

To be ready for a challenging but also promising future, DCA-VET invited two consultants to assess the organizational structure and recommend improvements to build the capacity of our staff. Several training workshops were organized, and a first outline of a strategic plan for 2013-2017 was developed. Suggestions for the organizational structure resulted in a new Program Management Unit and some reshuffling in the management team. Raymond Briscoe, previously DCA-VET's Country Program Director, has become Executive Director to lead the implementing responsibilities of the Afghan core management team. Ab Emmerzaal now serves as Secretary General, and is the intermediary between the Executive Director and the DCA-VET Board, which holds final responsibility for DCA-VET policies and activities.

## **25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

In September 2013, DCA-VET will celebrate its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary. For this occasion, we are organizing a high level informative event for governmental officials in Kabul, where we will evaluate the achievements and lessons learned from the years behind us and look forward to the challenges and opportunities of the years to come.

*Ab Emmerzaal, Secretary General*

# 6 OUR ORGANIZATION

*Founded in the Netherlands in 1988, DCA-VET is an animal health and development NGO which focuses exclusively on livestock projects in Afghanistan. Our staff is composed of 98% Afghan nationals. Nevertheless, DCA-VET remains strongly rooted in the Netherlands thanks to its Dutch Board and Advisory Council.*

## Why

Livestock are often the most valuable assets of the Afghan families and farmers, especially for the rural poor. DCA-VET's mission is to improve the value of this important resource by introducing quality animal health care. By increasing the health and production of the animals, we intend to make a significant difference in the livelihoods of the Afghan rural population.

## What

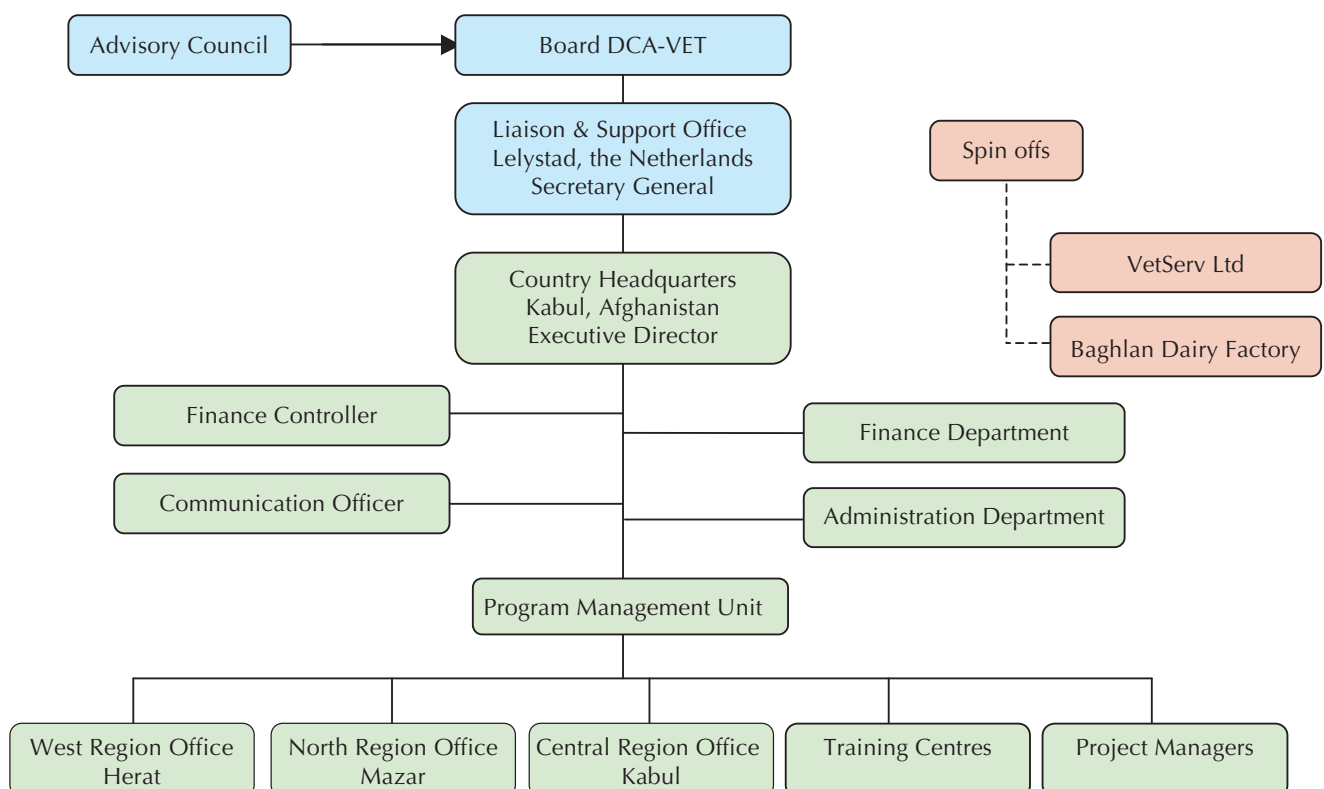
DCA-VET is a Dutch NGO. In 1988 we started our livestock oriented activities in Afghanistan and since 1994, DCA-VET is registered as a foundation at the Chamber of Commerce in the Netherlands. Being a foundation, DCA-VET has a Board that holds responsibility for operational activities and overall policy. In Afghanistan, DCA-VET has been registered as the INGO DCA since 2005.

## Where

DCA-VET is mainly active in the western and northern provinces of Afghanistan. Here three regional offices are located: the primary office in Kabul and two regional offices in Herat and Mazar. A number of additional provincial offices accommodate project staff working in the field. Our primary training centre is located in Charikar, north of Kabul. In the Netherlands, a small Dutch staff works from the Liaison and Support Office in Lelystad, the town where DCA-VET was founded.

## Who

In December 2012, DCA-VET employed 183 people in Afghanistan, almost exclusively Afghan professionals and support staff. Only the Executive Director and three other staff members are expats. Of the total staff, about 30 are women, who work at all levels in the organization. In the Netherlands, three people are employed, among whom is the Secretary General, the liaison between the Board and the Executive Director.



# WHAT WE STAND FOR

*For almost a quarter of a century DCA-VET has committed itself to the support of Afghan farmers. Over the course of time DCA-VET's mission may have broadened somewhat, but its essence remains the same: improving animal health and production to reduce rural poverty in Afghanistan.*

## **Improving farmers' lives**

Many people in Afghanistan own several farm animals, especially goats, sheep, cattle and poultry. These animals offer the farmers an important source of food, traction (pulling power), dung and income. However, malnutrition and contagious diseases each year levy a considerable toll among the Afghan livestock. Hence improving the health and productivity of the farm animals is a major step towards a better life for the Afghan rural people. By training and supporting the Afghan veterinary service providers and facilitating Veterinary Field Units (VFUs), DCA-VET strives to provide quality animal health care delivery for Afghan livestock owners. This way we help farmers to gain more benefit from their livestock and to improve their livelihood.

## **Delivering a veterinary system that works**

To provide a well-functioning veterinary system one has to listen carefully to the needs of the local community. The DCA-VET VFU system has always been grounded at grassroots village level. Trainees for our veterinary training courses are chosen in close collaboration with the local Shura (village council), and services are constantly adjusted to meet community requirements. Being operational for almost 25 years, the VFU system, as launched by DCA-VET, has proven its value. It has become a template for a successful and sustainable veterinary system all over Afghanistan. To be responsive to the changing needs of communities and to new developments in the livestock sector, we continuously work on new and innovative approaches.

## **Raising awareness**

Farmers can only change their lives if they are aware of the opportunities they have. DCA-VET develops extension packages of 'best practices' to show the farmers what they can do themselves to improve the health and productivity of their animals. Promoting the services of VFUs is but one of the recommendations. Extension materials are also made available to other stakeholders, so these best practices can have an impact beyond our own projects.

## **Developing value chains**

The term 'value chain' refers to the steps where value is added from raw material to a marketable product. DCA-VET supports the development of value chains for animal products, like milk, other dairy products, meat, wool, and cashmere. Our goal is to help farmers to make more money from their livestock operations. We advocate good harvesting methods and hygienic measures, link producers to buyers, and encourage farmers to increase the quality of their products.

## **Joining forces with government**

DCA-VET cooperates with local and federal governments to achieve a fruitful collaboration between private animal health care (provided by VFUs) and public services. We have regular contact with central and regional government officials and staff to develop support and capacity building. Many VFUs are contracted by government to participate in the Sanitary Mandate Contracting scheme whereby the private sector implements disease control and regulation measures. Through participating and engaging in government meetings at all levels, and by presenting a strong voice for both veterinary professionals and the livestock industry, we intend to contribute to the development of government livestock policies.



**20** Provinces  
**198** Districts  
**3950** Villages  
covered in **2012**



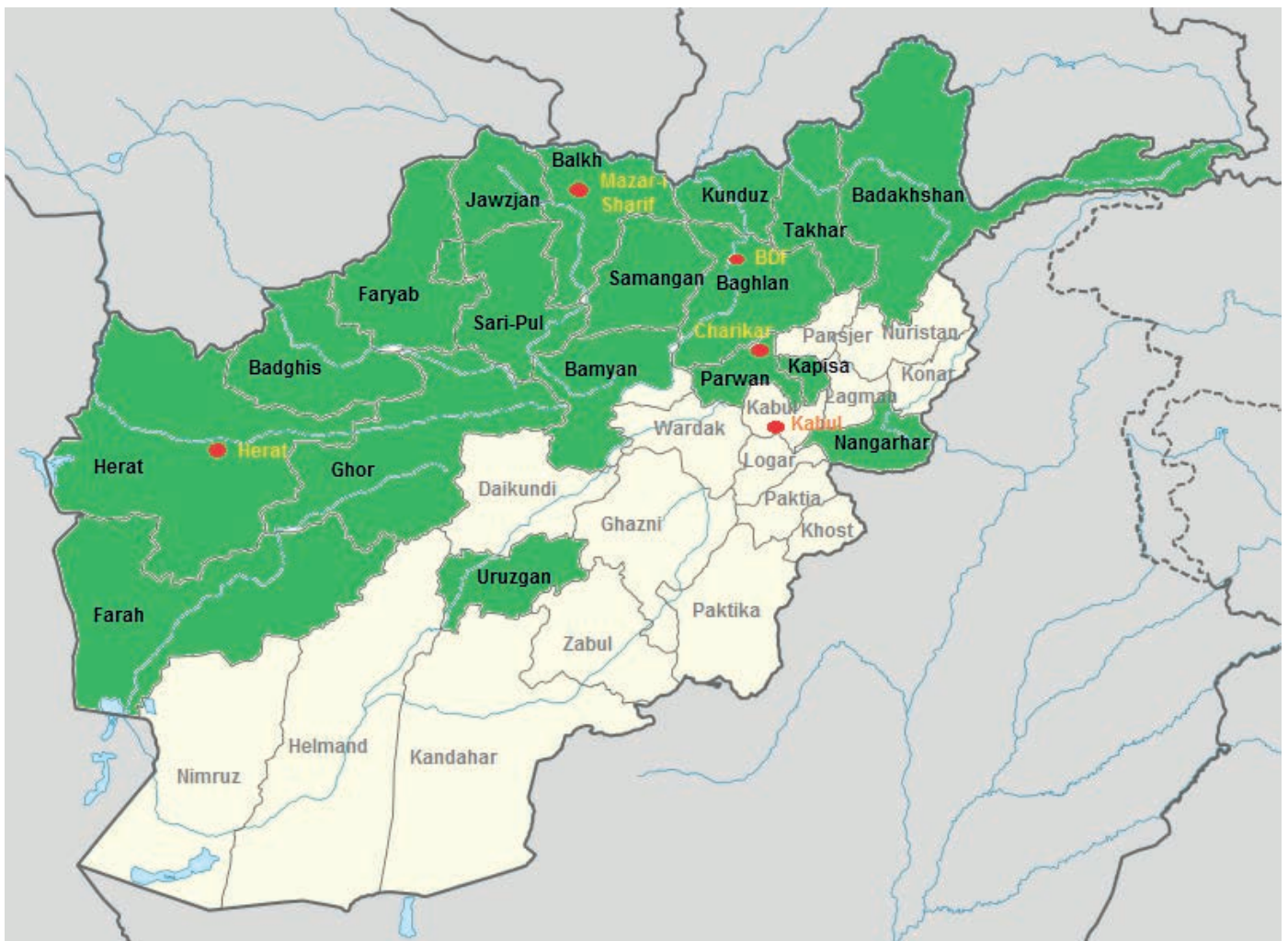
# OUR PROJECTS IN 2012

*Despite the significant decrease in overall donor funding for Afghanistan in 2012, DCA-VET remained well positioned, thanks to the professional and dedicated team and our track record of successful programs and reliable implementation. Long-term projects continued in 2012, and other new projects commenced this year.*

## Geographic Coverage

DCA-VET's main working area in 2012 covers more than half of Afghanistan, with a focus on the western and northern provinces. These provinces have comprised our

core geographic area for many years, so we can continue to build on previous achievements.



## Projects in 2012

DCA-VET implemented five projects with multi-year funding, seven small-sized (1 or 2 year) projects, and five short-term services (1-3 months) in 2012. About ten donors were involved, some of them funding more than one project. Most projects focused on animal health, livestock production, veterinary services and/or livestock extension. Some specialized projects dealt with equine

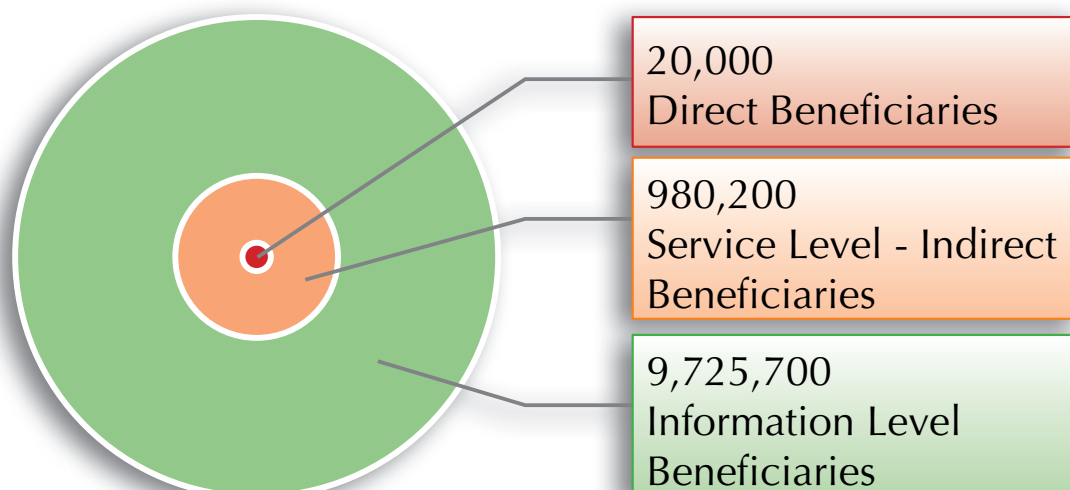
health, poultry farming for women, and dairy production. DCA-VET was also invited to participate in two small projects on disease surveillance and control – Brucellosis, and CCHF (Crimean-Congo Hemorrhagic Fever) in Herat. Of the five longer term projects originally scheduled to close in 2012, four were extended for another year.

Donor	Program	Project	Region	Period (months)
EU		Animal health	West	12
IFAD / MAIL	RMLSP	Veterinary services	North-East	36
USAID / ACIDI/VOCA	IDEA-NEW	Livestock production	North	30
Royal Netherlands Embassy	DCU2	Veterinary services	Uruzgan	48
The Brooke UK		Equine health	5 provinces	12
World Bank / MAIL	HLP	Veterinary services	National	8
GIZ		Livestock production	North-East	18
GIZ		Poultry	North-East	18
GIZ	BAP	Dairy	Baghlan	20
USDA	AAEP	Livestock extension	3 provinces	12
USAID / DAI	IDEA-NEW	Livestock extension	Badghis	24
JICA		Livestock development	Bamyan	12
French Embassy	Pole de Stabilité	Livestock chain assessment	Kapisa	3
Massey University	CIP	Brucellosis surveillance	Herat	1
EU	AHDP	Emergency control CCHF outbreak	Herat	1
British Embassy		Foundation Regional Artificial Insemination Centre	Kabul	1
British Embassy		Capacity Building DCA Training staff	Kabul, Herat, Mazar	1

## Beneficiaries

More than 10 million rural families, farmers, and VFU staff benefited from DCA projects – either directly or indirectly. Direct beneficiaries totalled around 20,000, similar to previous years, and included individuals who were selected for training, provided equipment, participated in extension training, or directly received value chain development support. Due to the far reaching impact of our projects, the number of total beneficiaries is much larger.

Almost a million farm families experienced service level (indirect) beneficiary impacts, meaning they had access to veterinary services provided by VFUs, or other DCA-VET activities; and an estimated 10 million rural Afghans (information level beneficiaries) received messages about caring for their livestock via extension messages broadcasted by radio, and through farmer field days.



# SHERIN GUL, PARAVETERINARIAN

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*“If today I have reached one step ahead on the ladder of success in my life, I have no doubts in saying that I owe it to Dutch Committee for Afghanistan.”*

Sherin Gul, living in the remote and traditional village of Folladi in Bamyan province, has established herself as an important person for the community. She is in charge of the village’s VFU, provides direct care for the farmers’ animals, and earns enough income for her family – mother and siblings.

She learned about the DCA-VET paravet training program after completing a math degree at Bamyan University, at a time when she determined to take control of her future following her father’s death. Her father was a farmer, but encouraged his children to pursue higher education and self-sufficiency. Sherin Gul faced criticism and was made fun of when she sat for the DCA-VET entrance exam, but succeeded in passing the initial exam and graduated from the six-month training course. Her success demonstrates motivation and determination in a province where few women work in careers outside the home.

After graduation, she was initially without resources, but DCA-VET provided a small clinic facility behind her home equipped with vaccination supplies, medicines,

and other necessary equipment. She now treats and vaccinates all kinds of animals against infectious and zoonotic diseases. Her training and knowledge correspond with the health needs of the livestock in her practice area.

In addition to the income she earns working as a paravet, Sherin Gul is doing unpaid outreach work in farmer training campaigns over a three-village area. The outreach programs provide education on hygiene and feeding of animals, and protect both people and animals against contagious diseases.

Her work is respected by the village residents. Her personal success and the improvement in animal health and economic livelihood of her village have created an optimism that her village will be able to reduce chronic disease and poverty.

Sherin Gul’s life and work reflect her comments that *“this world is not our place of dreams but we can make it beautiful by mutual trust and hard work. We know that we don’t have the omnipotent power but we can make it by bold living, truth and profound life.”*





**477** VFUs

**104** Basic Veterinary Workers

**10,293,107** Animals vaccinated and treated  
(**60%** vaccinations, **40%** treatments)

# DEVELOPING THE VFU NETWORK 13

*In Afghanistan, more and more Veterinary Field Units are being established to offer livestock farmers quality animal health care within close proximity. Thus, the nation-wide VFU network is further developed with the potential to serve millions of animals.*

## **Livestock services at grassroots level: the VFU system**

To ensure that as many Afghan farmers as possible have access to quality animal health care the system of Veterinary Field Units was introduced to Afghanistan. Nationwide, VFUs, staffed with paravets, veterinary assistants (VAs) or veterinarians (DVMs), are developed in districts where there is a need for veterinary services. Each VFU serves a livestock population of more than 25,000 head. Where feasible, VFUs are established near Kuchi migratory routes to serve these Afghan nomads as well. Each VFU supports several Basic Veterinary Workers, who take care of the animals in remote areas.

Funded by international donors, several NGOs are engaged in building and supporting the VFU network. DCA-VET is, and has been, one of the main organizations promoting the development of this system of animal health care in Afghanistan.

## **Empowering the VFU staff**

Most VFU staff do not have the start-up capital needed to begin a private VFU practice. DCA-VET provides them with an initial standard set of basic veterinary equipment, including a motorbike for transport to farms, a (solar-powered) refrigerator for proper storage of vaccines, and a package of vaccines and medicines. During the first one or two years, DCA-VET provides tangible support for a new VFU staff, and in future years DCA field monitors continue visiting the VFUs once in a month to provide guidance and coaching. After a few years the VFU should be financially self-sustaining, having enough clientele to earn a living, and to replenish medicines and supplies.

## **VFU services in 2012**

Main services provided by the VFU staff were vaccinations and treatment of local livestock. Highly contagious diseases are still prevalent in Afghanistan, so timely vaccination can save the lives of many animals. In 2012, 477 VFUs were supported by DCA-VET, including 12 VFUs staffed by women. 104 DCA-VET supported BVWs took care of vaccinations and simple treatments in the outlying regions. Together, VFU staff and BVWs administered more than 10 million vaccinations and treatments. Sixty percent of these were vaccinations, indicating the importance of preventive health care veterinary services for Afghan livestock herds.

## **The impact revealed**

To assess the beneficial effects these VFU services have on animal health and production, DCA-VET regularly conducts impact studies. In 2012, an impact assessment for the current EU project was carried out. In two studies, a comparison was made between farmers who utilized VFU services and those who did not. The results corroborated that the farmers using VFU services experienced 20% to 35% reduced mortality for their goats and sheep, and a 10% increase in animal off take (extra animals able to be consumed, sold, or given away). The quality of service provided by the VFUs and the willingness of farmers to utilize those services made a dramatic difference for animal production and farmer livelihood.

Impact Assessment	Youngstock mortality	Adult mortality	Off-farm movement
Study 1	- 35%	- 20%	+ 10
Study 2	- 30%	- 20%	+ 10



84 Local Female Extension Workers

17,910 Farmers (5,080 women)

Trained in Livestock Management

*Many farmers are still using traditional methods to care for their animals. They gain new knowledge and improved skills when they receive training in best practices for herd health management. VFU staff actively advise farmers on animal husbandry issues and animal production, as do specially trained extension workers, and LFEWs (Local Female Extension Workers).*

## **Herd Health Packages**

DCA-VET has developed special Herd Health Packages for use in outreach training of farmers. There are four of these packages, three on the most important animal species in Afghanistan: sheep and goats (Small Ruminant Package), cattle (Large Ruminant Package), and Poultry, and one especially for female farmers. More innovative packages on other livestock topics are under development. We aim at developing a series that offers a set of best practices for each animal species / farming situation that farmers need to know for optimal care of their animals.

## **Outreach to farmers**

To reach as many farmers as possible, VFU staff organize meetings on livestock management. During these meetings special topics of the Herd Health Packages are discussed and practically demonstrated, depending on the need and capacities of the participants. Sometimes, single meetings are held dealing with only one topic, sometimes regular sessions are planned to consistently train the farmers in proper herd health management. To reach female farmers as well, LFEWs trained by DCA-VET are brought into action.

## **2012 Outreach results**

Many donors acknowledge the importance of outreach of best practices to farmers as a means to improve the health of the livestock herds. In 2012, donor support enabled DCA-VET to train almost 18,000 farmers how to improve the nutrition, housing, and daily care of their animals. Among those farmers were 5,000 women that were educated by 84 LFEWs.

For example, many animals are still housed in dark and humid barns, which are a breeding place for parasites. Simple measures, like installing windows, plastering walls, introducing proper feeding troughs and water bowls, and spraying for parasites, improve the health and well-being of stabled animals considerably.

## **Farmer Field Days and Farm Festivals**

During Farmer Field Days and Farm Festivals farmers can exchange their experiences in an informal atmosphere. Progressive farmers are invited to share their ideas in a farmer-to-farmer approach and create more awareness about best practices among their community.





**947** Animal Health Professionals trained

**15,600** Training days



To guarantee quality animal health care DCA-VET has its own training facilities. Over the years, DCA-VET has trained more than 1,000 paravets and more than 750 BVWs and conducted hundreds of refresher courses. At present, DCA-VET is the primary organization in the country involved in applied (para) veterinary training.

### Training of para-professionals

Even now, with 1,100 VFUs located throughout Afghanistan, too many farmers have no access to veterinary care. To serve these livestock owners and to replace retired VFU staff, training of new paravets remains important. To identify motivated trainees, DCA staff visit villages and in consultation with the local Shura choose a trainee for the 25-week paravet training course. The curriculum of the paravet training includes diagnosis and treatment of frequently occurring diseases, vaccination of animals, training in outreach of best practices in animal husbandry to farmers, and business skills. For animal health care in the more remote areas BVWs are trained to perform the most basic services. The BVW course takes five weeks.

### DCA-VET training centers

DCA-VET runs three training centers, located in the northern half of Afghanistan, in Charikar, Mazar-i-Sharif, and Herat. Training center facilities include class rooms, a laboratory, a veterinary library, and animals for hands on, practical experience. As most of the trainees are coming

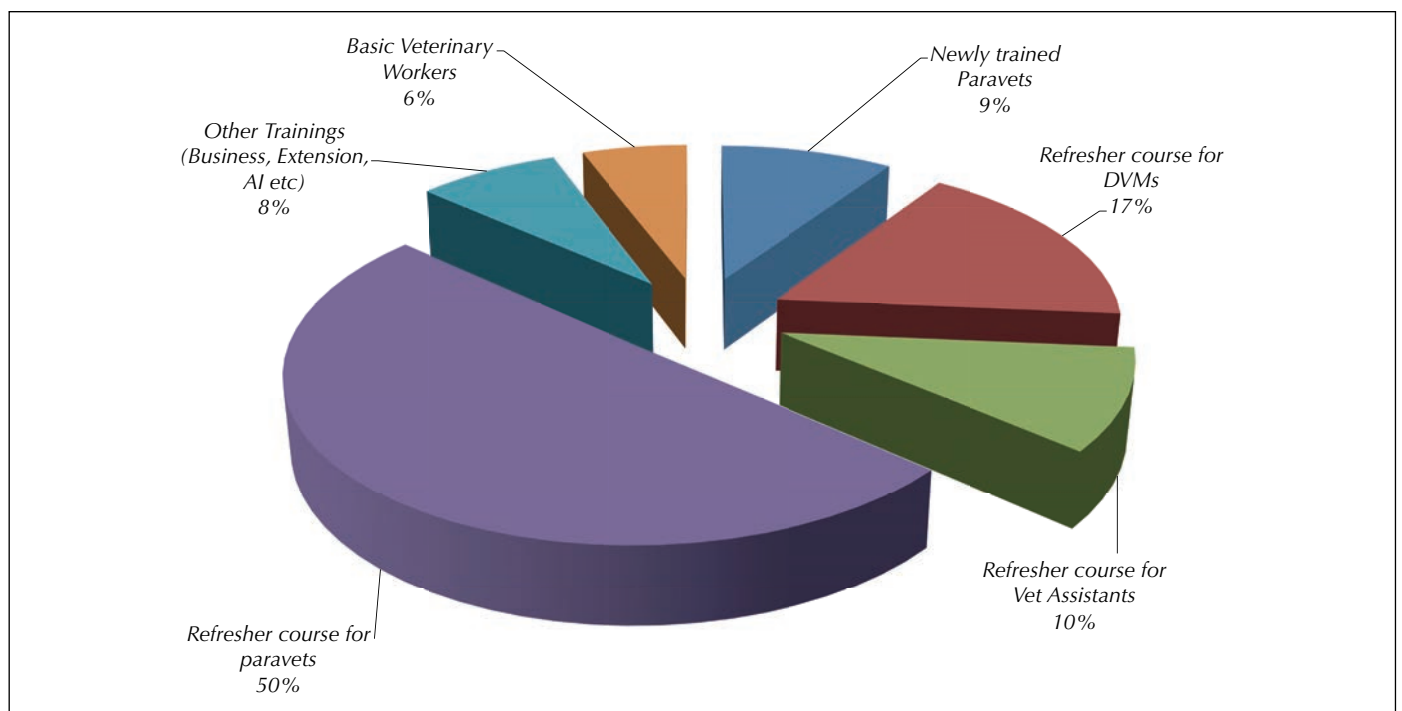
from far distances, several bedrooms and facilities are available for accommodation and the students are provided full board and lodging.

### Enabling ongoing education

The DCA-VET veterinary training focuses on life-long capacity building of veterinary professionals and para-professionals. Therefore, VFU staff are regularly invited for refresher courses on topics like artificial insemination, poultry husbandry, and laboratory skills. Also government veterinarians may participate in these courses. In addition, DCA-VET organizes tailor-made courses at the request of other animal health organizations.

### Training in 2012

Many of our 2012 projects contained a training component: educating new paravets or BVWs, or updating the knowledge of the existing VFU staff. In total, almost 950 veterinary professionals were trained at the DCA-VET training centers. The majority of these (77%) were for refresher courses to update knowledge and skills.



# 18 **MR. ABDUL DAYAN, KUCHI LIVESTOCK OWNER**



The Kuchi are Afghanistan's nomadic pastoralists. Their lives and livelihoods are changing as does the rest of the country, with some Kuchi becoming 'settled' and others continuing to follow the patterns of seasonal migration of their ancestors. But regardless of settled or nomadic lifestyles, the vast majority of the Kuchi population retain their historic dependence on livestock as the primary, or even only, source of livelihood and income. Mr. Abdul Dayan is a Kuchi farmer from Baghlan province who has benefited from VFU services, subsidized deworming campaigns, and knowledge gained through extension training via the DCA-VET Herd Health Packages.

His experiences with veterinary services are similar to that of another Kuchi client who states "I have referred 120 of my relatives and acquaintances to the VFU because I have experienced the benefits of quality medicines and vaccines for my animals."

Abdul Dayan's seven-member family income is fully dependent on their livestock. Prior to the establishment

of the VFU in Choraq e Hasantal village, the animals suffered from a high level of morbidity and mortality due to the lack of good quality medicine or vaccine. Supplies purchased from the local bazaar were not effective, and the family lost many newborn kids and lambs. Since the VFU was established in January of 2012, the entire flock has been healthier, newborn deaths have dramatically decreased, and the village and family have grown relatively more prosperous. An important component for the success in this area has been extension training for farmers, so that they now know the best time of year to vaccinate their animals to achieve maximum benefit.

Two years ago, Mr. Dayan owned 35 sheep, and his total family income was about 25,000 Afs (approximately US\$ 500) and the flock suffered a large number of sheep deaths. In the summer of 2012, after the establishment of the local VFU, he was able to purchase 50 additional sheep. The family income for 2012 increased to 120,000 Afs (US\$ 1,200) – a 240% increase in two years' time.

*Donor funding is the fuel of the DCA-VET project implementation. In 2012, DCA-VET was again generously supported by various international donors. More than 88% of the donor funds received in 2012 were used for financing the direct costs of our projects.*

### Our donors

In 2012, DCA-VET implemented several large projects and a number of smaller ones. These projects were funded by ten international donors. This year the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) was our largest donor, financing the further implementation of the RMLSP-project in northern Afghanistan. Second in line was the German Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) that funded small projects on livestock and poultry in north-eastern Afghanistan, and gave indirect support to the Baghlan Dairy Factory by funding a dairy development project in Baghlan. The EU funded a supplementary year to the three-year project that started in 2009, covering western Afghanistan. The Royal Netherlands Embassy (RNE) provided funds for the ongoing DCU project in Uruzgan. USAID projects (through contractors such as ACDI/VOCA and DAI) were successfully continued in the north and northwest of

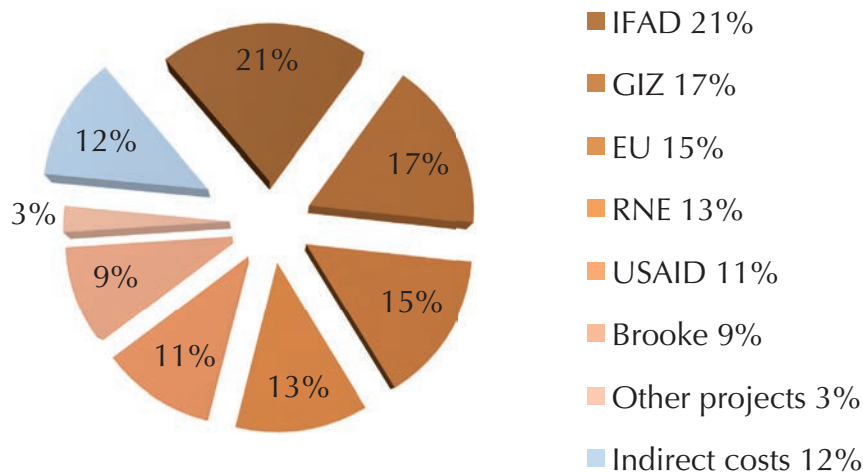
Afghanistan. Last but not least to mention is The Brooke Foundation, which in the past five years has grown to be a loyal donor for activities in the field of equine welfare and health. Smaller projects were funded by the British Embassy, Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), the French Embassy, and USDA (through University of California, Davis USA).

The role of the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock (MAIL) in funding of DCA-VET projects is becoming increasingly important because the large donors like IFAD, EU, and World Bank channel their funds and project management via the Ministry.

### Expenses in 2012

DCA-VET's total expenditures in 2012 amounted to US\$ 6,065,851, of which 88% was spent on direct program costs.

**Expenditures DCA-VET 2012 in USD**



# 20 STRONGER THROUGH PARTNERING

*In the livestock sector, many stakeholders are active. By partnering with them, DCA-VET can be more effective in achieving its goal of reducing poverty through healthy and productive animals. Therefore, DCA-VET is developing and maintaining successful alliances with a variety of partners. This paragraph presents some of the most important stakeholders.*

## **VetServ, wholesaler of quality vaccines**

One of the main threats to the VFUs are cheap, low quality vaccines and medicines that are sold in local bazaars. To provide farmers quality drugs, DCA-VET links VFUs with VetServ, a private wholesaler of veterinary vaccines and medicines. VetServ is a spin-off company from DCA-VET. We used to import vaccines ourselves, but in 2011 privatized this activity through the formation of the VetServ Corporation. Once farmers experience that high quality VetServ vaccines and drugs have a recognizable benefit in terms of animal health and production, they usually prefer these to the cheap, and frequently counterfeit drugs found in bazaars.

## **Traders and Businesses, partners in value chains**

DCA-VET not only supports the farmers in improving the production of their livestock, but also helps them to gain more profit from this production. To this aim, value chains for animal products are developed from producer to buyer, e.g. value chains of meat, wool or milk. Here, traders and other business entrepreneurs enter the picture. Examples include butchers, buyers of wool for the carpet industry, and dairy enterprises like the DCA-VET spin-off Baghlan Dairy Factory. DCA-VET has great experience in implementing of cashmere and dairy value chains. Innovative chains for other animal products are in development.

## **Fellow NGOs, our co-workers**

Partnering with other NGOs, active in the same sector, can significantly scale up our geographical reach and range of activities. DCA-VET works together with national as well as international NGOs to offer more farmers the benefits of quality animal health care. This cooperation offers a worthwhile opportunity to exchange ideas and experiences between the NGOs and learn from each other's best practices.

## **Government as public service provider**

Public and private veterinary services are complementary and enforce each other. Private, fee-for-service animal health care provided by the VFUs comprise the day-to-day clinical veterinary services for local livestock owners. These services include diagnosis and treatment of animal diseases, vaccination to prevent contagious diseases, and advice on animal health and production. Public tasks by the Afghan government, Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock (MAIL), focus on disease surveillance and control, regulation of importation and quality control of vaccines and medicines, and policy making. This system of public-private partnership for animal health care is still in development, and DCA-VET is actively working together with MAIL and other stakeholders to shape the conditions for a thriving cooperation between private and public services. From our side, we provide government staff refresher trainings for capacity building, engage with public sector in policy dialogue, and support VFU staff participation in government campaigns on disease surveillance and control. In the coming years, DCA-VET will strengthen its networking and partnership with the government and all relevant stakeholders for the sake of the Afghan livestock owners.

## MRS. DIL JAN, POULTRY FARMER

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*“As my knowledge about poultry production increases, so does my confidence of improving my livelihood through scaling up the farm.”*

Mrs. Dil Jan, mother of ten children, is one of 600 women (and families) who benefited from the poultry component of a DCA-VET project in remote Badakhshan. Due to the failure of other projects, she was first reluctant to participate, but *“...when I realized that this project has several supporting components such as series of trainings, a poultry doctor (BVW), feed and housing, I thought it is worth trying.”*

DCA-VET field staff, in coordination with the provincial Department of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock (DAIL) established 30 village women poultry associations of 20 members each.

The supply package included 18 layer pullets and 2 roosters of hybridized ‘Rhode Island Red’, 100 kg feed for each family, egg trays and baskets, feeders, drinkers, and a gas powered egg incubator for each association. The training package included poultry farm management, training of a poultry BVW for each association/village, and additional poultry extension. The new chickens as

well as all those in the village were vaccinated to reduce diseases.

The women contributed by constructing the coops themselves (with technical support from DCA-VET poultry community workers), and supplied wood, stones, mud and other locally available materials. The project supplied mesh wire for window construction to improve ventilation.

The project not only addressed immediate livelihood needs of these communities, but initiated capacity building for the participants to increase their future resilience. Continued sourcing of chicken feed is a challenge, as is the need to further develop markets and value chain components, but the difference the project has already made in the participants’ lives is revealed through Mrs. Dil Jan’s statement: *“No matter how long it may take, I am determined to expand my poultry farm on my small land of 3 Jeribs (0.75 ha) and scale it up to a commercial level.”*



# 22 **LOOKING FORWARD**

*As DCA-VET looks forward to 2013 and beyond, we will continue to build on our strong foundation. Our success is based on sound technical expertise, quality program delivery, and most importantly our relationships with Afghan farmers, and local communities. These are the strengths and attributes that will continue to guide DCA-VET's future work and organizational capacity.*

## **2013 – A pivotal year**

The entire world is observing the situation in Afghanistan as changes in all sectors of the country are occurring prior to the anticipated withdrawal of international military and security forces in 2014. While the media has focused largely on security and governance implications – which indeed affect DCA-VET's ability to work in certain geographical areas – support for aid and development projects continues, albeit in a modified form compared to years past. Continued support for, and development of, a strong and financially secure livestock and agricultural sector is of vital importance for Afghanistan, whose economic base remains agriculture dependant.

## **New relationships with government and project implementation**

For many years, much of DCA-VET's work has been implemented via direct contracts with donors, such as USAID, the European Union and others. Efforts to support and strengthen the capacity of the Afghan Government have changed this funding model. Much project funding, development and oversight are now being channelled through government first. For DCA-VET this means a closer working relationship with MAIL – the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock, and specifically the General Directorate of Animal Health and Production (GDAHP). DCA-VET prioritizes focusing on compliance with all governmental regulations, providing input into policy development and regulation for veterinary services and animal production guidelines, and assisting in advancing the technical skills and capacity of government staff. Simultaneously, we maintain excellent relationship with donor (funding) organizations, providing regular reports documenting project successes and the difference we make in animal health and production, and the lives of people and communities.

## **Plans and projects for 2013 and beyond**

In addition to our current projects, DCA-VET has the enviable position of donors approaching us to explore partnerships. Discussions are ongoing for several potential new projects to expand our geographic coverage, provide ongoing support for the current VFU system, develop a new IFAD funded project working with Kuchi (nomadic pastoralists), and continue support for women working with poultry.

DCA-VET carefully establishes close coordination between projects, partners, government, and donors. This is in order to work towards the DCA-VET's vision of accessible and affordable high quality animal health care for livestock owners in all regions of the country, and a resultant improvement in economics and quality of life for rural Afghans.

Projects are the mechanism by which our veterinary professional and paraprofessional training is provided, VFUs supported, and extension and farmer cooperative groups maintained. The underlying key to DCA-VET's success continues to be our ability to implement projects while working as a unified organization throughout the country and remaining true to our own program organizational vision and mission. DCA-VET also succeeds in meeting donor as well as the Ministry's (MAIL) objectives and goals, and in developing strong links between the private and public sectors.

*Dr. Raymond Briscoe, Executive Director*

## Board

Peter W. de Leeuw DVM PhD	Chairman	Former CVO of the Netherlands, NL, and advisor to FAO, Rome, Italy
Gert-Jan Duives DVM	Secretary	Lecturer in Animal Health, HAS Den Bosch, NL
Henk J. Arends	Treasurer	Retired Accountant, Countus, Emmeloord, NL
Bram Schreuder DVM PhD	Delegated member	Former CEO of DCA-VET, NL

## Advisory Council

Prof. Akke van der Zijpp PhD	Retired Professor and Head of Animal Production Systems Group, Wageningen UR, NL
Cees de Haan	Retired Senior Livestock Advisor, World Bank, Washington DC., US
Henk A.J. Moll PhD	Retired University Lecturer Agricultural Development Economics, Wageningen UR, NL
Frauke de Wijer DVM BA MPA	Policy Officer Development Policy and International Relations at ECDPM, Maastricht, NL

## Abbreviations

ACDI/VOCA	Agricultural Cooperative Development International / Volunteers in Overseas Cooperative Assistance
Afs	Afghani, currency of Afghanistan
BVW	Basic Veterinary Worker
CEO	Chief Executing Officer
CVO	Chief Veterinary Officer
DAI	Development Alternatives Inc.
DAIL	provincial Department of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock
DCA-VET	Dutch Committee for Afghanistan – Veterinary Programmes
DVM	Doctor of Veterinary Medicine
ECDPM	European Centre for Development Policy Management
EU	European Union
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
GDAHP	(Afghan) General Directorate of Animal Health and Production
GIZ	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit
HAS	University of Applied Sciences, Den Bosch, NL
IDEA-NEW	Incentives Driving Economic Alternatives for the North, East and West
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
INGO	International Non Governmental Organization
JICA	Japan International Cooperation Agency
MAIL	(Afghan) Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock
NGO	Non Governmental Organization
NHLP	National Horticulture and Livestock Project
NL	the Netherlands
PhD	Doctor of Philosophy (academic degree)
RADP	Regional Agricultural Development Program
RMLSP	Rural Microfinance and Livestock Support Project
RNE	Royal Netherlands Embassy
UK	United Kingdom
UR	(Wageningen) University and Research centre
US	United States (of America)
USAID	US Agency for International Development
VA	Veterinary Assistant
VFU	Veterinary Field Unit



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