



Annual Report 2011

Colophon

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Preface

2011 was a good year for DCA-VET. As you can read in this Annual Report, many successful projects were and are being implemented. It is quite a challenge for the management and the organization of an NGO to work on so many different projects alongside each other. Each project has its own characteristics and each donor has specific conditions and requirements which have to be met. For each project, a DCA-VET project manager is made responsible to control the direct implementation and to look after the quality of the work and the reporting. The project manager is supported by a finance manager with the specific task to control the budget of the project concerned.

Also the focus of the work is slightly broadening: in addition to the veterinary work the VFUs are becoming more and more involved in extension on improving animal production. This requires extra skills of the VFU staff but also of the DCA-VET trainers, who have to (re-)educate them permanently, before and after graduation. Also the role of the DCA-VET monitors/evaluators who control, coach and support the VFU staff in the fieldwork has become more intensive. The VFUs are small businesses and the (private) veterinary professionals are the acting entrepreneurs with extended series of tasks.

DCA-VET is very pleased that the private veterinary sector becomes more and more involved in public veterinary tasks. Besides improved communication at provincial level with official veterinary staff under the Ministry of Agriculture, the central Ministry is developing Sanitary Mandates: private veterinary professionals will get official tasks in the battle against emerging animal diseases like Foot and

Mouth Disease and Brucellosis. They may support the government in sampling and/or preventive measures, like vaccinations. For this reason, all VFUs currently are officially registered.

Alas, security situation has worsened in Afghanistan this year. Fortunately, most of the DCA-VET projects could go on rather undisturbed, only the DCU2 project in Uruzgan experienced some problems in implementation of monitoring activities and in transporting of staff. However, explosions at the British Council neighboring the DCA-VET Headquarters in Kabul caused severe damage, also to three cold stores of VetServ, loaded with vaccines. DCA-VET and VetServ staff worked very hard to repair all the damage and luckily most of the vaccines could be saved in an emergency cool store.

The people at the picture above are members of the Board of VetServ and they look quite happy because of the successful start up of VetServ from the 1st of January 2011. VetServ is now an independent company, grounded by DCA-VET to take over the import and distribution of veterinary vaccines and medicines in Afghanistan. This was done many years by DCA-VET as an NGO. The VetServ Board consists of three DCA-VET representatives: from left to right on the picture Dr. Abdul Qader Fakhri, Mr. Fazal Hafeez, and Dr. Ab Emmerzaal. The Board member on the right side is Dr. Daad Mohammed Amir. He is also the Chief Executive (and Managing) Director of the company VetServ.

Ab Emmerzaal,
Executive Director of DCA-VET



Context

Livestock

Livestock is a vital source of livelihood and income of the rural communities in Afghanistan. According to the National Risk and Vulnerability Assessment 2007/8 some 68% of all 3.4 million Afghans have any kind of livestock. Among the nomadic Kuchi population, even 94% own livestock. Of the sedentary rural households 79% raise animals. Ruminants are most widespread; on average 63 animals per Kuchi household and 9 per rural household. The overall number of ruminant livestock is 30 million animals. Poultry is mainly raised by sedentary households.

The main constraints to the livestock system are no or inadequate counteractions to harsh weather situations, prevalence of contagious diseases and parasites and poor herd management.

Since the mid 1980s, considerable progress was made in improving the health and productivity of the Afghan livestock. However, there are still farmers having no access to animal health and production services, and not all animal health service providers can survive without international support yet. So the aims for the coming years will be to fill the gaps in the veterinary system, to increase the awareness of the farmers on how to keep their animals healthy and productive, also in unfavorable weather conditions, and to enhance the sustainability of the veterinary services.

Security situation

In 2011, the security situation in Afghanistan has been deteriorating compared to previous years. The insurgent activities spread to the formerly relatively safe northern and western parts of the country as well. There was a rise in civilian casualties due to increased use of Improvised Explosive Devices, more complex suicide attacks (e.g. Intercontinental Hotel, 28 June; US Embassy, 13 September) and

targeted killings of government officials (e.g. Professor Burhanuddin Rabbani, former President of Afghanistan, 22 September).

Most of DCA-VET's activities were not seriously hindered by the deteriorating safety situation. With the exception of Uruzgan, where most districts are not accessible, activities continued as usual, including monitoring of the VFUs. However, DCA Country Headquarters in Kabul were severely damaged as a result of the blast on the neighboring British Council on 19 August. Total damage losses were estimated at US\$ 125,000, including three cold stores with vaccines owned by VetServ that are still situated on DCA's premises.

Public-private cooperation

DCA-VET envisages a future in which public and private veterinary services are working closely together for the benefit of the Afghan animal health. In such a public-private veterinary system, the private animal health care is in charge of clinical services, like diagnosis and treatment of animal diseases, vaccination to prevent contagious diseases, and advice on animal health and production. The government is responsible for the (legal) public services, like disease surveillance, investigation and control, and regulation on importation and quality of vaccines and medicines. Based on Sanitary Mandates, private veterinary staff can assist government in disease surveillance and control.

Presently, DCA-VET maintains good relationships with national, provincial as well as local government. Each time a new project is awarded, project details are extensively discussed with the government and local shura. Besides, DCA-VET actively participates in various technical working groups. And where needed, DCA-VET takes care of capacity building of veterinary officers by means of refresher training.



Profile

DCA-VET

For more than twenty years, DCA is offering veterinary aid to Afghanistan. Livestock oriented activities started in 1988 by establishing a veterinary training centre in Peshawar (Pakistan). Since then, DCA has developed into a well-known and valued development aid organization with some 200 Afghan staff and a handful of expats.

Vision

DCA-VET envisages a future in which:

- All livestock owners in Afghanistan have easy and affordable access to veterinary care and livestock extension services
- Animal health care is sustainable, which means VFU staff can practice veterinary services without donor funding
- Private and public veterinary services are working closely together to the benefit of the livestock owners

Mission

Through its veterinary programmes DCA wants to achieve the following mission:

Poverty reduction and increasing food security for the population of Afghanistan by improving the health and productivity of their livestock

Approach

In order to realize its mission, DCA-VET is committed to establish a sustainable network of Veterinary Field Units (VFUs) all over Afghanistan. Four main activities make the pillars of the veterinary programs of DCA-VET, i.e.:

- Training of veterinary staff
- Establishment and support of VFUs
- Supply of quality veterinary vaccines and medicines
- Extension to increase awareness of farmers on animal husbandry and veterinary services

Training

In Charikar DCA-VET's main veterinary training centre is located, with regional centres in Herat and Mazar-i-Sharif. Here paravets are trained during a six-month course that includes diagnostics and treatment of animal diseases, but also business skills. Also refresher courses take place in the training centres. Basic Veterinary Workers (BVWs) are trained on the spot. In a five-week course they learn to perform vaccinations and basic veterinary treatments. During 2011, DCA-VET trained 60 new paravets, and conducted 1600 refresher trainings.

VFU programme

Since the 1990s, almost 800 VFUs have been developed country-wide. Each VFU is staffed by one or more (para)vets, sometimes assisted by BVWs working in the remote areas. VFU staff provide fee-for-service animal health care to livestock owners. During 2011, 475 VFUs were supported by DCA-VET through in-kind equipment and facilities, expert-advice, training etc.

Vaccine delivery

To supply the VFUs with quality vaccines and medicines, DCA-VET imported and distributed these products itself. Since 1 January 2011, DCA-VET has transferred these activities to VetServ, a private wholesaler of veterinary vaccines, medicines and equipment. With three DCA-VET staff in the Board of VetServ, DCA-VET guides VetServ through the first years of operation.

Extension

Through extension, the VFUs arouse farmers' awareness on how to increase health and productivity of their livestock and thereby their own income. During the previous years, DCA-VET developed four so-called Herd Health Packages for different livestock species that can be used by the VFU staff as powerful extension tool.



Projects

Changing scales

Like the year before, in 2011 DCA-VET had an array of about ten projects to cover. DCA-VET's largest project, ASAP, was finalized this year in September 2011. This was a milestone in the DCA-VET project history, as it meant the end of the large-scaled programmes, starting with the onset of the nationwide RAMP programme in 2004, and continuing through the ASAP project in the Northern half of Afghanistan in 2006. Presently the livestock projects implemented by DCA cover maximally five provinces. Project term is generally speaking also shorter now. There still are some long-term (3- or 4-year) projects, but now there is also a tendency for shorter and smaller projects of 1 or 2 years duration, often without perspective for follow up period.

Coverage area

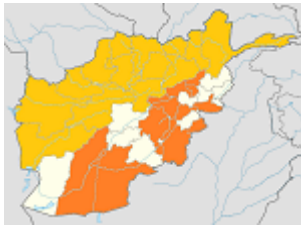
In 2010, the ASAP project offered DCA-VET the challenging opportunity to expand its working area from the Western, Central and Northern part of Afghanistan over the Southern provinces as well. With the end of ASAP, DCA-VET retreated to its traditional coverage area in the Northern half of Afghanistan again. Here, DCA-VET can rely on and continue the VFU infrastructure built in the previous ten years; In the Southern half of Afghanistan only the VFUs in the province of Uruzgan remain under the support of a project implemented by DCA-VET, as partner of the Dutch Consortium for Uruzgan.

See the map at the inside of the back cover for an overview of DCA-VET's working area in 2011.

Timetable of DCA-VET programmes

Dark blue = ongoing projects, **light blue** = (probable) extension of project

	2011	2012	2013
ASAP	Dec 06 – Sept 11		
Baghlan Dairy	Mar	July 2011- March 2012	May 2012 – December 2013
Brooke		April 2011 – March 2012	April 2012 – March 2013
DCU2	April 2009 – March 2013		April 2013 – March 2017
EU	October 2009 –September 2012		October 2012 - September 2013
GIZ Livestock	June 2010 – April 2012		
GIZ Poultry	June 2010 – April 2012		
IDEA-NEW	April 2010 – June 2012		July 2012 – July 2013
IDEA-NEW Badghis		October 2011 – September 2013	
RMLSP	August 2010 – July 2013		Aug 2013 – July 2015
World Bank/AVA	November 2010 – December 2011		
WorldBank		May 2012 – December 2012	



Term	1 December 2006 – 30 September 2011
Provinces	See map: orange = targeted area 2011, curry = other ASAP provinces 2010
Total budget	US\$ 9,193,576
Donor	USAID/Chemonics
Project manager	Dr. Chalachew Niguse (since June 2010)

ASAP

Accelerating Sustainable Agriculture Program – Broad-based livestock development

Background

For five years, the ASAP program focussed at improving production, increasing sales and exports and creating new jobs in the agricultural sector in Afghanistan. ASAP started in 2006 in 19 provinces in the Western, Central and Northern regions and in 2010 expanded over the Southern and Eastern areas as well, covering all 34 Afghan provinces. In 2011, the ASAP program came to an end. Over the years, the DCA-VET livestock development project proved to be one of the major components of the ASAP program, generating large sales and creating numerous new jobs.

Aims

The ASAP livestock component aimed at creating a broad-based, market-lead livestock production.

Three tracks led to this goal:

1. Implementation of livestock development activities through the VFU network
2. Development of animal product value chains
3. Development of a private/public extension system

Activities

Core activities of the project included establishment and support of VFUs, (refresher) training of paravets, BVWs, and farmers, extension, development of a cashmere value chain, and coordination with and capacity building of government staff.

Results from 2006 through 2011

- 450 VFUs supported in 25 provinces, among which 82 newly established
- 165 new paravets trained
- 230,000 farmers trained in cashmere harvesting, half of whom are women

- 4 extension packages developed: on large ruminants, small ruminants, poultry, and the role of women in animal husbandry
- 420,000 farmers received extension training
- 460 full time jobs for VFU staff, 82 newly created
- Gross sales of VFUs 10.5 million USD

The VFU activities and sales increased tremendously over the years as a result of extension efforts and continuous training of VFU staff.

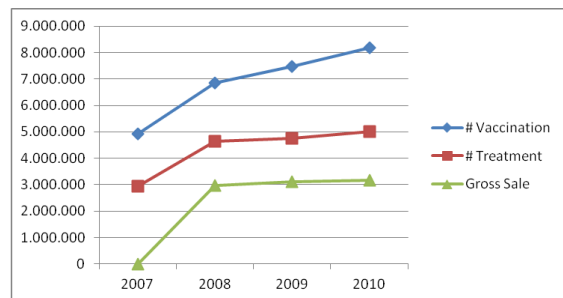


Fig. VFU activities and sales over the years

An impact survey showed that 95% of the farmers have access to veterinary services now and 95% learned about cashmere through DCA-VET.

Closing workshop on ASAP's VFUs

A final review workshop on ASAP's livestock component was held on 13th September 2011 to share the key lessons learned of the project with stakeholders. The 38 participants comprised government, donors, private sector and NGOs.

In a speech on the future of veterinary services in Afghanistan, three important keys of the way forward were depicted:

- Listen carefully to the needs of the farmers
- Create enough earning capacity for VFUs
- Maintain a reliable public-private partnership

Impact

The income of the farmers improved enormously thanks to increased production of their livestock, realized through prevention and treatment of major diseases by the VFU staff. Besides, livestock products marketing was greatly enhanced through continuous extension and value chain developments. And VFU staff earned a proper living as well.



Term	a) 15 November 2010 – 31 March 2011 b) 15 July 2011 – 31 March 2012
Provinces	Baghlan
Total budget	a) € 173,571, b) € 89,949
Donor	GIZ (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit)
Operations manager	Zubair Haqani

Baghlan Dairy

Dairy development in Baghlan province

Background

In 2007, funding of the Royal Netherlands Embassy enabled DCA-VET to rebuild the Baghlan Cheese Factory in Baghlan province. As the demand for Gouda cheese was not as high as expected, gradually the production changed to other dairy products as well. Presently yoghurt is the main product of the factory, and Baghlan Cheese Factory is now called Baghlan Dairy Factory (BDF).

During 2011, the German donor GIZ supported the Baghlan Dairy Factory with two short projects.

Aims

Both GIZ projects focussed on dairy extension, to improve livestock nutrition, health and production in the Baghlan area, and on marketing and distribution, to improve the market position of the factory. The first project included some investments in equipment as well, in order to increase capacity and efficiency of the yoghurt production line.

The final goal for the Baghlan Dairy Factory is that in some years' time it will be a self-sustainable, Afghan managed, commercial dairy enterprise that does not need external support any more.

Activities

In the first project, dairy extension activities included distribution of winterfeed and training of farmers in proper dairy cattle husbandry and the importance of regular vaccination and deworming of their animals. To increase the market position, a business plan was prepared and cold trucks for local distribution were purchased. Besides, various equipment was ordered to develop a proper yoghurt line.

In the second project, among other activities female cattle owners were trained on business skills as well as on dairy health and husbandry.

Results

- Milk intake in 2011 was 110,000 liters, sales amounted to US\$ 80,000
- 18 000 kg winter feed distributed
- 97 farmers trained in dairy cattle feeding, housing and health
- Yoghurt cup sealing machine purchased
- Cold storage facility installed
- 2 Cold trucks purchased
- New logo developed
- 2 Women Business Self-Help groups established (42 women involved)

Next year

On 31 March 2012, the activities of the second GIZ project are completed, i.e. a new cooperative of dairy farmers is established, milk collection has been improved, and female business groups are further developed. Besides, as a first step towards commercialization, a Baghlan Dairy Company has been registered at AISA (Afghanistan Investment Support Agency). From May 2012 through December 2013 GIZ offers BDF new funding to increase milk production through dairy extension, fodder improvement and improved organisation.



Impact

(1) Increased productivity of livestock around the factory, (2) increased income to target beneficiaries, reducing winter related risks, (3) increased awareness on animal health and production among target beneficiaries, (4) improved efficiency of the overall dairy processing facility.



Term	1 April 2011 – 31 March 2012
Provinces	Herat, Balkh, Kabul and Nangarhar
Total budget	US\$ 468,231
Donor	The Brooke Hospital for Animals
Project manager	Eng. Haroon Nessar

Brooke

Equine welfare and health in Afghanistan

Background

The Brooke is a UK registered charity, founded in 1934. The Brooke's main aim is to create a sustainable improvement in the welfare of working equine animals in the poorer countries. As The Brooke is not registered with the Afghan government it is working in Afghanistan through DCA-VET. The DCA/Brooke partnership started in 2008 with two staff members. By the years, the scope of the project significantly increased and presently fourteen staff are involved. For 2011/2012 four target provinces (Herat, Balkh, Kabul and Nangarhar) were chosen, based on equine numbers, security and accessibility, and demand.

Aims

The overall objective of the project is to bring about a gradual and sustainable improvement in the welfare of Afghanistan equines. The specific target for this year was to improve the welfare and living conditions of 7,330 equine animals. Four tracks lead towards the annual goal, i.e.:

- Capacity building of equine professionals
- Increase in awareness and equine friendly behaviour of equine owners
- Increase in demand for services
- Influencing of government and key institutions

Activities

Paravets, farriers and traditional healers are trained on how to treat equines and improve their welfare. Equine owners are educated in day-to-day equine husbandry; they receive useful welfare supporting tools like grooming brushes and hoof picks, and stables are improved for a proper housing of the animals. To increase demand and to influence government and key institutions, stakeholder coordination workshops are organized and equine owner groups are established.

Results

- 90% of the trained service providers (paravets, farriers, traditional healers) remained on duty and 70% continued with supplying services to the minimum standards of friendly handling
- 1,100 animal stables were modified for better ventilation (plastered and provided with windows)
- 2,000 owners are organized in 50 community groups for better affordability/ accessibility of the veterinary and welfare services

Next year

A new contract for the period April 2012 through March 2013 has been signed already and first activities started in April 2012. New elements of this year's project are the involvement of a female veterinarian to reach the female equine owners, the training of paravets, farriers and traditional healers to reach better access of equines to quality welfare services, the development of a DCA-VET extension package on equine health and welfare, a saddle training program to prevent saddle wounds, the introduction of a jull (blanket to keep the animal warm), and of welfare support tools.



Impact

The welfare of 7,330 working equine was sustainably improved through accessible and affordable quality welfare services and through the enhanced knowledge, skills, practices and improved attitude of their owners.



Term	1 April 2009 – 31 March 2013
Provinces	Uruzgan
Total budget	€ 1,782,725
Donor	Royal Netherlands Embassy
Project manager	Eng. Lutfullah Assady
Provincial coordinator	Dr. Aminullah Karimi

DCU2

Improving basic services and capacity building in Uruzgan - Animal health and production

Background

In the Dutch Consortium for Uruzgan (DCU), DCA-VET is working together with four Dutch NGOs (Cordaid, HealthNet-TPO, Save the Children and ZOA) to the benefit of the Uruzgan people. The 4-year DCU2 programme was developed alongside the posting of the Dutch military in Uruzgan. The programme intends to improve basic services in Uruzgan, with a focus on rural development, physical and mental healthcare, children's welfare, education, capacity building, and animal health and production.

Aims

The main objective of the animal health and production component is to enhance quality veterinary services in Uruzgan for sedentary farmers as well as nomadic Kuchi. A second objective is to improve animal production and to decrease dying of animals due to malnutrition. These aims contribute to the overall goal to improve income and livelihoods of the livestock owners.

Activities

Local partner of DCA-VET is AVA (Afghan Veterinary Association) that has been working in Uruzgan before DCU2 started. Together with AVA, DCA-VET is supporting the nine VFUs that are providing veterinary services to the Uruzgan livestock. To increase the number of VFU staff and replace staff that retired, new paravets are trained. Additionally, Basic Veterinary Workers (BVWs) are trained for basic animal health care in remote areas and to Kuchi livestock. As the paravets faced problems in procuring quality vaccines and medicines from Kandahar, a VetServ store was established in Tarin Kowt. Animal production is enhanced by artificial insemination. And to improve winter survival winterfeed is distributed.

Results

From October 2010 through September 2011:

- 9 new paravets started training in October 2011
- 10 new BVWs and 6 new Kuchi BVWs trained
- VetServ store established in Tarin Kowt
- Hundred thousands of Uruzgan livestock were vaccinated and treated
- 417 cows were serviced through artificial insemination, and at least 200 calves were born
- 179 metric tons of winterfeed were distributed in January 2011
- 30 paravets and officials were trained in the Small Ruminant Herd Health Package (SRHHP)
- 2400 farmers informed on topics of the SRHHP

Next year

During year 4, several new activities will be implemented. Five new VFUs will be established and additional staff trained. To increase the awareness of the farmers the extension activities will be expanded, and vaccination and deworming campaigns will be organized. A central laboratory will be established in Tarin Kowt, a pilot poultry project will be conducted, and a VFU cooperative will be founded.



Impact

In the insecure environment of Uruzgan it is difficult to monitor the impact of the animal health activities. However, the present VFU staff is highly dedicated to improve the health and productivity of the Uruzgan livestock. And thanks to the extension activities more and more farmers are finding their way to the clinics and benefit from the animal health care.



Term	1 October 2009 – 30 September 2012
Provinces	Farah, Herat, Badghis and Ghor
Total budget	€1,736,843
Donor	European Union
Project manager	Dr. Abdul Qader Fakhri

EU

Support to animal health in Afghanistan, with focus on the Western region

Background

Before the start of the EU project in the North-western part of Afghanistan, former EU projects, as well as the USAID funded RAMP and ASAP projects had already laid a firm fundament under the animal health care in these provinces. However, there still remained considerable work to do in order to improve and complete the VFU network and to guide the VFUs towards sustainability. The EU funding for this region, started in October 2009, enabled DCA-VET to continue its valuable support to the VFUs in this region.

Aims

The first objective of the EU project is to assure that all farmers, and especially Kuchi, women and farmers in remote areas, have easy access to animal health care. A second aim is to improve the quality of the VFU services provided by the VFUs, and to expand the range of services on offer. Good and varied services enhance the sustainability of the VFU system. And finally the project focuses on strengthening of the relationship between public and private animal health care.

Activities

To reach these aims, a large array of activities is implemented. In the four provinces all VFUs receive monthly support, new paravets and BVWs are trained, refresher courses for paravets are conducted, and quality vaccines and medicines are procured from a regional VetServ store. Female paravets, BVWs and extension workers are trained to reach female livestock owners. And for veterinary services to Kuchi, Kuchi paravets and BVWs are educated. To improve the cooperation with public services, DCA-VET participated actively in all sectoral meetings and trained several VFU staff to assist government in control of contagious diseases.

Results

- 38 new paravets trained
- Number of VFUs increased from 145 to 157
- 8 women-owned VFUs present in the region
- 49 local female extension workers (LFEW) trained, reaching more than 1000 female farmers
- 4 Kuchi BVWs trained
- 3 extension packages launched, on small and large ruminant herd health and on the role of women in animal husbandry
- A regional VFU cooperative with 146 members established and working well
- VetServ store, selling high quality vaccines and medicines established by the VFU cooperative
- 15 staffs were trained and commissioned in emerging disease outbreak reporting

Next year

In 2012, the project will continue along the same lines as in 2011. For follow-up of this project, which ends 1 October 2012, a proposal has been submitted to the European Union, including additional extension and advice to the livestock owners, as well as expansion to four new provinces, Faryab, Sar-e Pul, Kapisa and Parwan.



Impact

The disease outbreak reports showed a clear decrease in mortality and morbidity due to vaccination and deworming. An accurate impact assessment is going on by a threefold approach: a continuous project performance study, a baseline and end study conducted with 40 farmers, and surveys before and after implementation of each Herd Health Package.



Term	1 June 2010 – 30 April 2012
Provinces	Kunduz, Takhar, Baghlan, Badakhshan
Total budget	€ 1,412,358
Donor	GIZ (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit)
Project manager	Dr. Zia Formuly

GIZ Livestock

Strengthening of livestock production in the Northeast provinces of Afghanistan

Background

Despite the large population of livestock in North-east Afghanistan, the products obtained from these animals cannot satisfy the local demand. This is highly attributed to the lowered productivity of the animals. Poor husbandry practices, lack of awareness among the farmers, inadequate access to veterinary services and little access to potential markets are the main factors behind this problem. The GIZ Livestock programme addresses these main factors of lowered animal productivity in the four Northeast provinces, in combination with the complementary sister project funded by IFAD/MAIL (see RMLSP). While the IFAD funded project focuses on veterinary services, the main aim of the GIZ project is to enhance animal production.

Aims

To stimulate livestock productivity, the GIZ Livestock project is committed to:

- Improve the skills of VFU staff in animal production
- Create awareness among farmers on how to increase the productivity of their livestock
- Increase the number of VFUs so all farmers have easy access to animal health services
- Build ties with the public sector

Activities

Activities included capacity building refresher training for VFU staff, formation of provincial offices to support VFUs, selection and training of extension workers, training of groups of farmers on animal nutrition and production, and training of VFU staff for participation in disease surveillance.

Results

- All 115 VFU staff participated in refresher courses, e.g. on animal nutrition, livestock

pregnancy and cashmere harvesting

- 40 extension workers (29 male, 11 female) were recruited and trained
- 1725 selected farmers (1450 men and 275 women) and 3086 interested farmers (2593 male and 493 female) received intensive training on the four Herd Health Packages and related extension materials
- The trained farmers share their experiences with other villagers and are copied by them
- 300 male and 55 female self help groups were formed for support of the farmers
- Self help groups were linked with service providers and dairy traders and received equipment for dairy processing and marketing
- 6 new VFUs buildings were constructed
- 28 VFU staff participated in the epidemiological investigations of the government

Next year

The 21st of October 2011 a contract for an extension of the project through 30 April 2012 has been signed, increasing the total budget from US\$ 781,330 to 1,412,358. The project focus was on extension and on animal production.



Impact

Nearly 90% of the trained farmers stated that better husbandry practices have increased milk production and improved body condition of their animals. The improved knowledge and skills, the self help groups and the network between producers and service providers and traders will sustain and have a lasting impact on the livelihood of the local society.



Term	1 June 2010 – 30 April 2012
Provinces	Kunduz, Takhar, Badakhshan
Total budget	€ 410,785
Donor	GIZ (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit)
Project manager	Dr. Mohammad Zaid Hares

GIZ Poultry

Improve livelihoods for women and the poor through a sustainable poultry development and management programme

Background

The poorest rural households in Afghanistan are those who do not own sufficient farmland or backyard irrigation. For those households, small stock animal husbandry such as poultry production is an ideal intervention to bring them out of poverty. Poultry production in Afghanistan is traditionally practiced mainly by women at the homestead. This gives a window of opportunity to improve the status of women through economic empowerment. The GIZ Poultry project was implemented in three of the four provinces that were also covered by the GIZ Livestock project.

Aims

The overall goal of the project was to empower women, making them more self confident and economically less dependent through small scale poultry businesses. Focus has been on the establishment of small-scale poultry units that are owned and maintained by the local women, with market oriented egg production.

Activities

In each province target villages for the poultry breeding were identified. In those villages, beneficiary women were selected, minding to select poor women who were motivated to be trained and to start a small poultry business. Village based associations of poultry breeders were developed for sharing of experiences and mutual empowerment of the women. Each woman was provided with the necessary equipment as well as with three 3-month old pullets. For vaccinations and veterinary care of the chickens BVWs were trained.

Results

- 600 women were selected in 30 villages
- Pullets (12 000), feed, feeders and drinkers as

well as wire mesh were distributed

- All 600 women (plus 355 volunteers) were trained in poultry management
- Beneficiaries were supported in coop building
- 30 poultry associations were developed
- 30 BVWs were trained, one for each village
- The Poultry HHP was introduced
- 30 small gas incubators were distributed
- 10 feeding mills and some revolving fund were provided to the poultry associations
- Egg packaging facilities were distributed to avoid breaking of eggs

Next year

GIZ offered a no-cost extension of the project through April 2012. The objective of the extension is to enhance impact and sustainability of the project through consolidating the technical capacity of the beneficiaries and the institutional set up of the poultry women groups. The women receive additional training on poultry management and business skills. Gas incubators are used to enhance hatching. A vaccination campaign is organized in the surroundings to avoid spreading of diseases from neighbouring towns.



Impact

Egg production doubled, and income of poultry breeding women and BVWs rose considerably. Women from surrounding villages are asking the beneficiaries for advice on avoiding poultry diseases and increasing poultry production.



Term	1 April 2010 – 30 June 2012
Provinces	Faryab, Jawzjan, Sari-Pul, Balkh, Samangan
Total budget	US\$ 1,917,737
Donor	USAID / ACIDI/VOCA
Project manager	Dr. Mir Alam Darwish/Dr. Zia Formuly from July

IDEA-NEW

Strengthening of livestock production in the Northern provinces of Afghanistan

Background

Since 2004, DCA-VET has developed a comprehensive network of VFUs in the five Northern provinces of Afghanistan. Since its inception in the USAID funded RAMP project (2004-2006), the VFU network has been very successfully expanded under the ASAP project, funded by USAID as well. The focus under ASAP was to move from creation of new VFUs to strengthening of existing VFUs. The VFU system has significantly reduced the threat of contagious livestock disease, and established a population of healthy livestock. However, there was still a need to further consolidate the VFU network. Fortunately, USAID again offered funding, this time through the IDEA-NEW project.

Aims

The overall objective of the project is to increase livestock production and hence improve the livelihood of the farmers. Specific objectives are:

- To ensure that all livestock owners have access to animal health care
- To increase livestock productivity
- To strengthen the links between public and private veterinary sectors
- To support economic growth by the development of value chains for livestock products

Activities

Under IDEA-NEW, new paravets and BVWs were educated and new VFUs were established. Refresher courses were provided to the VFU staff in order to expand their services. The VFU staff were trained in extension work (training the farmers on Herd Health Packages), to show farmers how to avoid animal diseases and increase animal production. The existing cashmere value chain was further expanded and the karakul value chain was developed.

Results

- 15 new paravets graduated in January 2011
- 15 new VFUs were established
- 52 new BVWs were trained
- 25 feed banks were established
- Monthly around 3500 farmers received extension training
- Over 2 million vaccinations and treatments were conducted
- 20 Government staff attended refresher courses
- A silk value chain was started
- Karakul value chain was delayed, but VFU staff took care of the sheep of 2 karakul farms
- Cashmere harvest went well

Next year

The project is extended from 1 April 2012 through 30 June 2012. Activities implemented focus on strengthening of the silk, karakul and cashmere value chains. A second extension is expected through 31 July 2013. Besides activities on the value chains, the focus will be on extension and on gender by developing Business Self Help Groups for women and for men.



Impact

Mortality among livestock was reduced, especially in the remote areas where previously animal health care was absent. Social status of women trained on livestock extension has been increased. Capacity of government staff was upgraded through the refresher courses that were provided to them by DCA-VET, based on their need.



Term	1 October 2011 – 30 September 2013
Provinces	Badghis
Total budget	US\$ 149,494
Donor	USAID / DAI (Development Alternatives, Inc)
Project manager	Dr. Abdul Qader Fakhri

IDEA-NEW Badghis

Farmer Field Training in Badghis Province

Background

In the second half of 2011, IDEA-NEW started new agricultural programming in the province of Badghis. As livestock play a key role in the livelihood of Badghis rural population, DCA-VET was asked to develop a two-year plan on how to support the Badghis farmers through the existing VFUs. To this end, DCA-VET developed a proposal for extension training of Badghis farmers to encourage the farmers to adopt new herd health strategies in order to improve the productivity of their livestock.

Aims

The overall objective of the project is to increase the income of farmers, the level of livestock production, the profitability and sustainability of VFUs, and to involve women in development of the livestock sector. The specific goal of the project is to promote farmers' awareness and improve farmers' abilities to take care of their herds. The improved herd care will directly result into reduced mortality and morbidity, increased fertility and production, and greater yields of milk, meat, eggs, cashmere etc.

Activities

For the implementation of the project two male and two female extension workers are trained. The male extensionists are working in two districts of Badghis. In each district they selected ten villages and in each village they will train two groups of ten farmers in monthly sessions. The female extensionists will do the same with groups of female farmers. And in addition they will train ten LFEWs (local female extension workers) per district. The farmer training sessions are based on the four Herd Health Packages on small ruminants, large ruminants, poultry and gender. Topics covered include information on preventive vaccination and de-

worming schedules, basic nutrition, winter feeding, reproductive management, housing, sanitation, etc.

Results

From October to December 2011, two male and two female extension workers were appointed and trained. The female extensionists selected and trained twenty LFEWs. The female extensionists also choose 400 beneficiaries in 20 villages and started the extension training programme. The male extension workers did the same, selecting 460 beneficiaries in 23 villages. In all villages, demonstration sessions on vaccination and/or deworming have been carried out.

Next year

The coming year the monthly training of the present 400 male and 400 female farmers will be completed. Several demonstration vaccination and deworming campaigns will be organized to show the livestock owners the benefits of these veterinary interventions on the health of their livestock population. In October 2012, a second group of 400 male and 400 female beneficiaries will be selected and will start their monthly extension training.



Impact

As the project has run for only three months in 2011, project time has been too short to bring about any impacts. However, it is promising that the number of villages selected is higher than planned. This shows that the farmers are highly interested to take part in the farmer field training in order to improve health and productivity of their livestock.



Term	1 September 2010 – 31 July 2013
Provinces	Kunduz, Takhar, Baghlan, Badakhshan, Bamyan
Total budget	US\$ 3,003,000
Donor	IFAD (International Fund for Agricultural Development)
Project manager	Dr. Raymond Briscoe / Dr. Faridoon Qaumi

RMLSP

Rural Microfinance and Livestock Support Programme – Veterinary services in the Northern region

Background

RMLSP stands for the Rural Microfinance and Livestock Support Programme. The Livestock Support component consists of four projects: Poultry production, Integrated dairy schemes, Dairy goats, and Livestock services. DCA-VET is responsible for the last project. In four of the five provinces, DCA-VET is also implementing a GIZ project to strengthen livestock production. Both projects are so designed as to complement each other and to avoid duplication. The focus of the RMLSP project is on veterinary services, while the GIZ project aims at animal production and extension.

Aims

The overall objective of this sub-project is to strengthen the system of animal health service provision in five target provinces in the North on a sustainable basis, so as to improve livestock production and productivity, and to help livestock owners retain greater value for their livestock products. The focus is on developing models that allow poorest households, women, nomadic Kuchi and communities living in remote locations, to access essential animal health services.

Activities

To increase the access to services, additional VFUs are established and extra paravets and BVWs are trained, including Kuchi trainees. Training programmes for the poorest farmers are developed and carried out. Farmers are trained in extension sessions, and farmer groups are developed to manage fodder banks. And finally, a cashmere value chain has been developed.

Results

- 114 VFUs were supported in delivering veterinary and extension services

- 178,000 households benefited
- 2.5 million animals were vaccinated and treated
- 1500 farmers were trained in cashmere harvesting using the combing method
- 34,000 herders were reached with the Large Ruminant Herd Health Package
- 5 feed banks were established
- 153 VFU staff and government staff attended refresher courses
- 30 VFUs were painted and 20 VFUs were reconstructed/refurbished.
- 12 new paravets trained (3 Kuchi and 1 female)
- 30 new BVWs trained (8 Kuchi, 8 female)
- 326 groups of poorest farmers are trained (3000 farmers participated)
- Farmer Field Days were held in Bamyan, Takhar, Badakhshan, Baghlan and Kunduz

Next year

In 2012, 7 new VFUs will be built, 18 will be painted and 6 will be reconstructed. 28 new BVWs will be trained and 1000 poorest farmers will receive extension training. The gender extension package on the role of women in livestock husbandry will be introduced.



Impact

The poor, women, and Kuchi received improved access to veterinary services and thereby enhanced their livelihood, income and food security. The VFU network was strengthened through targeted extension activities, value chains development and skills building. And the capacity of the public sector staff was increased through training.



Term	1 November 2010 – 31 December 2011
Provinces	All provinces of Afghanistan
Total budget	US\$ 706,222
Donor	World Bank / Afghan Veterinary Association
Project manager	Dr. Naqibullah Durani

World Bank

Training part of veterinary subcomponent of Horticulture Livestock Project

Background

From October 2007 through December 2009, DCA-VET implemented the training part of the veterinary component of the World Bank Horticulture and Livestock Project, under a subcontract of AVA. During this period, some 116 government veterinarians were trained for entry to the private sector, 1500 (para)veterinarians received refresher training to expand their services and 400 VFU staff were trained in Sanitary Mandates in order to assist the government in the surveillance and control of contagious livestock diseases. From 1 November 2010 onwards, this HLP project was extended for another fourteen months.

Aims

The general aim of the training part is to improve the technical capacity of Afghanistan's veterinary professionals and paraprofessionals through training. General aim of the HLP livestock project is to increase productivity and improve output of the Afghan livestock.

Activities

Curriculum development took place in 2010 and January 2011. Based on those curricula, HLP training courses were delivered in DCA-VET's training centres in Charikar, Herat and Mazar-i-Sharif from February through December 2011. The categories of education were the same as in the previous HLP project with one new category added:

- Privatization courses for government vets (6 weeks)
- Refresher training for VFU staff to broaden their scope of services (2 weeks)
- Training VFU staff in Sanitary Mandate (1 week)
- Disease surveillance and reporting (1 week) and extension (1 week) training for VFU staff (new)

Results

Trainees came from all over Afghanistan, from Nimruz to Badakhshan. In total 1162 (para) veterinarians were trained. Per training category the number of trainees amounted to:

- Privatization course - 46
- Refresher training - 520
- Sanitary Mandate course - 194
- Disease surveillance and reporting course - 199
- Extension training - 203

Targets for all but one category were met; the number of veterinarians attending the privatization courses was 46 instead of 80, due to the fact that not enough trainees could be selected by World Bank HLP.

Prospects

World Bank has the intention to launch a second phase of the HLP project. An 8-month livestock transition project will focus on support of 52 privatized clinics, training of 52 new paravets and various training courses, e.g. on business skills, extension and artificial insemination. DCA-VET expressed its interest in implementing this project.



Impact

For the VFU staff the training courses led to updated knowledge and skills, increased income, as well as involvement in the government Sanitary Mandate schemes. For the farmers, the HLP project resulted in the availability of good quality and continuous veterinary services, improved and safe food provision and an increase in (dairy) production.



Funding

Overview

During the year 2011, DCA-VET was active in eleven projects in the Western, Central and Northern provinces of Afghanistan, as well as in Uruzgan. These projects were funded by seven international donors. Though still our largest donor, USAID funding dropped back by 50% compared to 2010. Fortunately, this decrease was compensated by an increase in funding by other donors.

The total expenditures in 2011 amounted to US\$ 6,467,234. The contribution of each individual donor is shown in the pie chart in the next column.

Project wise

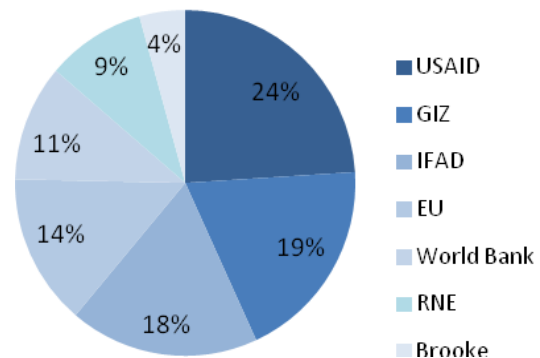
In 2011, USAID continued the financing of the ASAP project, which ended on 30 April 2011, as well as the IDEA-NEW project that has been subcontracted by ACDI/VOCA and will end in April 2012. As part of the overall IDEA-NEW program, DAI subcontracted DCA-VET for the implementation of a two-year project in Badghis province, which project started in September 2011.

The Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) grew out to be our second largest donor for the year 2011 by funding three important projects in the Northeastern part of Afghanistan. These three projects comprise the livestock, poultry and dairy field (with support to the DCA-VET Baghlan Dairy Factory).

The Rural Microfinance and Livestock Support Program that is financed by IFAD and managed via the Afghan Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock (MAIL) is running very well. Because of the successful course of this project DCA-VET is in a good position to tender for future livestock and poultry projects that will be funded by IFAD.

The European Union continued funding of the EU project in the Western part of Afghanistan that runs through September 2012, and because of the successful implementation DCA-VET may expect a new project, expanding the working area with four adjacent provinces, that will start in October 2012.

Expenditures 2011 in USD per donor



All project income and expenditures are annually audited by KPMG Ltd., Kabul, Afghanistan. The audit over 2011 is expected to be completed in June 2012.

The indirect cost rate is annually reevaluated by Countus, an accounting firm in the Netherlands. DCA-VET is proud to mention that again we managed to keep the overhead rate less than 9%.

Next year

Prospects for new projects look good. DCA-VET is expected to be awarded with some new projects in the course of 2012. The aforementioned IFAD and EU projects are part of these expectations. Also, another WB/HLP training project is part of this.



Prospects

At the time of writing this article, it is not such an easy period for DCA-VET. Several large projects have stopped and there are not always sufficient succeeding projects for an immediate follow-up of the support to the VFU staff in the provinces concerned. There are however several projects in the pipeline, but it is still not certain if contracts for DCA-VET may follow.

Such a period of relatively few projects is complicated to overcome. DCA-VET has many professionals on the payroll and fixed costs are continuing as before. Fortunately, a recent contract with the World Bank Horticulture and Livestock Project delivers a large amount of work for the DCA-VET training staff already for 2012.

At the same time, Afghanistan is again facing a difficult period regarding the political situation and security conditions. This for sure has influenced the choices made by donor organizations and donor countries. However, the World Bank will implement phase 2 of the Horticulture Livestock Project from 2013 to 2018 and the International Fund for Agricultural Development also intends to fund several projects for the benefit of the livestock sector in the coming five years. A very consistent donor to DCA-VET is the European Community and this donor will keep on investing in livestock production as well in the same period. And USAID has launched a big agricultural research and development project .

All donors of the upcoming large projects have the intention to increasingly work together with and through the Afghan Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock. And all the projects will be tendered. This brings about that there will be a huge competition between development aid project implementers: NGOs, but also commercial companies.

The best way to address this situation is yet to proceed with delivering high quality work, but also to be known as a reliable and transparent organization. The latter is certainly the case for DCA-VET and their staff. In 2012, DCA will deploy an additional route to increase the capacity of especially the Afghan staff to further enhance and improve their skills. Moreover, after a professional analysis of training methods, training practices and the trainers themselves, an extensive Train the Trainers program is set up for all DCA training staff. All this capacity building is expensive but certainly contributes to DCA-VET becoming more and more an Afghan organization, with skilled national staff. The number of expats in DCA-VET has been minimal this year and in the coming years will decline even further. Also the quality of the output of DCA-VET is a continuous point of attention. In 2012, studies will be undertaken to measure the impact of several of the DCA-VET projects. Experienced consultants will be employed to evaluate the GIZ livestock and poultry projects as well as the EU project on livestock production.

For the future, DCA-VET will focus more and more on extension to improve animal production. There is a need to increase the agricultural and livestock



production in Afghanistan to make the country less dependent on the import of human food. To increase livestock production, sufficient quality feed production and professional nutrition of animals is essential. Farmers have to learn how to house and handle their animals, nomadic Kuchi have to learn how to improve the output of their herds. But also the development of value chains is a must in order to link the producers of animal products to the consumers. Value chains facilitate the farmers to bring their agricultural products to the market and to the consumer for a reasonable price, but also ensure that the farmers themselves receive a reasonable income and profit. Besides animal food like meat, milk and eggs, also other animal products like cashmere wool and karakul pelts can be marketed through value chains.

VFUs can and will play an important role in increasing animal production and developing of value chains. The staff, originating from the region where they work, have been thoroughly trained in veterinary services, animal husbandry and production, but even more important in how to bring the message to the farmers. In several projects, VFU staff already successfully facilitated the livestock owners in cashmere value chains.

Artificial insemination is coming up slowly in Afghanistan. Skilled inseminators and sufficient liquid nitrogen are preconditions for successful inseminations, but also a practical breeding program is a must. It is recommended to the government of Afghanistan to introduce a Sanitary Mandate on artificial insemination for the VFU staff in order to give such conditions a legal base.

Another very important Sanitary Mandate to be elaborated is a Mandate on extension in animal production. Extension is a main subject in upcoming livestock projects and when organized via a Sanitary Mandate concept the government can keep her leading role in organizing and regulating this extension.

Local Female Extension Workers

A new approach in the extension work to women are the Local Female Extension Workers (LFEWs). In many provinces it appeared to be almost impossible to reach women with extension messages, as it is very difficult to gather a group of women for an extension session. As a solution to this problem several interested, higher educated women are now educated as LFEW in order to transfer simple livestock husbandry extension messages to other women in their village. Often this happens in women to women contacts, but sometimes the LFEWs can gather a small group of friends or interested female farmers to advise them on animal health and production.

Success story of an LFEW

Ms Gulsoom, who is a teacher in Herat province and who is trained as Local Female Extension Worker, told us the following story to show how LFEWs can cure an animal with simple advices:

One day I was at school when a child came and shouted: "Our cow is sick." Her mother surprisingly asked me if I could help, and I told her that I would call the VFU staff to come and see her cow. But I also went with the mother to see the cow, and when I arrived and looked around the cow's stable I asked the family if they gave water to the cow. The mother said they probably did not, as the bucket has been broken 3 to 4 days ago. The children had taken the cow to the canal, but she did not drink because the water was muddy. Then I asked them to bring some clean water and put it in front of the cow, who was laying on the ground. The cow drunk 3 to 4 buckets of water and stood up again. Subsequently I asked to bring some fresh fodder and the cow started to eat. And before the paravet arrived the cow was healthy again, without any medication.





Organization

Board

Being a Dutch foundation, DCA-VET is governed by a Dutch Board that outlines the DCA-VET policy. The Board consists of four members. Chairman to the Board is Peter de Leeuw, former CVO of the Netherlands. In 2011, the Board assembled in nine regular meetings and one policy meeting.

An Advisory Board of five independent professionals on livestock production and development aid provides the Board for support and expert advice. The Advisory Board and Board meet twice a year. Although the Board is not officially obliged to adopt the advice of the Advisory Board, the suggestions of the Advisory Board are surely guiding the DCA-VET policy.

Board of DCA-VET 2011

Mr. Peter W. de Leeuw DVM PhD	Chairman	Former CVO of the Netherlands; currently advisor to FAO, Rome
Mr. Gert-Jan Duives DVM	Secretary	Lecturer in Animal Health, HAS Den Bosch; former Director of VTSC Pakistan
Mr. Henk J. Arends	Treasurer	Retired Accountant, Countus Accountancy, Emmeloord
Mr. Bram Schreuder DVM PhD	Delegated Board Member	Former DCA-VET CEO

Advisory Board of DCA-VET 2011

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

Staff

DCA-VET is headed by Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Dr. Ab Emmerzaal and Country Programme Director (CPD) Dr. Raymond Briscoe. The CEO is responsible for implementation of the DCA-VET policy, while the CPD is taking care of the day-to-day management of the DCA-VET programmes and the acquisition of new projects.

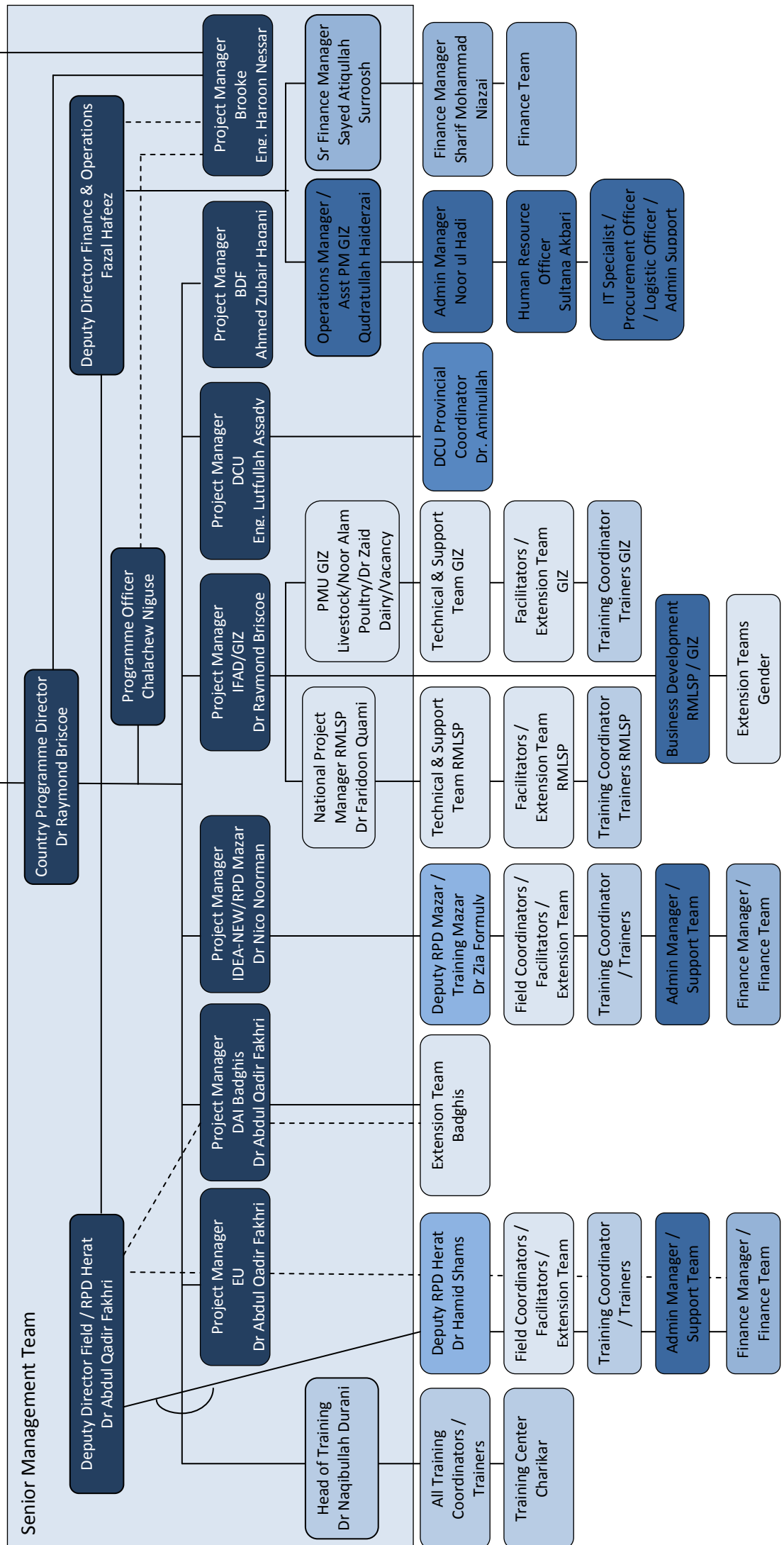
In Afghanistan, a dedicated and qualified staff of around 200 local professionals (veterinarians, extensionists, trainers, finance and administrative staff, facilitating staff) guarantees an adequate implementation of the DCA-VET projects. Among the staff are 30 professional Afghan women and four expats from Europe, Africa and Asia.

APPROVED by the DCA Board
30 January 2012

— hierarchical line
 - - - functional line

Dr Peter de Leeuw, Chairman
 Mr. Gert-Jan Duives, Secretary
 Mr. Henk Arends, Treasurer
 Dr Bram Schreuder, delegated Board Member & BDF

The Brooke
 London UK



Abbreviations

ACDI/VOCA	Agricultural Cooperative Development International / Volunteers in Overseas Cooperative Assistance
AISA	Afghanistan Investment Support Agency
ASAP	Accelerating Sustainable Agriculture Program
AVA	Afghanistan Veterinary Association
BDF	Baghlan Dairy Factory
BVW	Basic Veterinary Worker
CEO	Chief Executive Officer
CPD	Country Programme Director
CVO	Chief Veterinary Officer
DAI	Development Alternatives Inc.
DCA & DCA-VET	Dutch Committee for Afghanistan – Veterinary Programmes
DCU	Dutch Consortium for Uruzgan
DVM	Doctor of Veterinary Medicine
ECDPM	European Centre for Development Policy Management
EU	European Union
FAO	Food and Agricultural Organization
GIZ	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit
HAS	University of Applied Sciences Den Bosch, the Netherlands
HHP	Herd Health Package
HLP	Horticulture and Livestock Project (World Bank)
IDEA-NEW	Incentives Driving Economic Alternatives for the North, East and West
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
LFEW	Local Female Extension Workers
MAIL	(Afghan) Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock
NGO	Non Governmental Organization
RMLSP	Rural Microfinance and Livestock Support Programme
RPD	Regional Programme Director
SRHHP	Small Ruminant Herd Health Package
UK	United Kingdom
UR	(Wageningen) University and Research Centre
USAID	US Agency for International Development
USD	United States Dollars
VFU	Veterinary Field Unit
VTSC	Veterinary Training and Support Centre
WB	World Bank
ZOA	ZOA, Partner DCU Consortium

