**Preventing and responding to the impact of COVID-19 outbreak on food security**

Output1:

Protect the livestock-based livelihoods of 3,500 vulnerable Kuchi households (24,500 people) in Balkh, Faryab, Kandahar and Herat provinces through provision of livestock protection package (comprising 100 kg of animal feed and veterinary care supplies) as well as information dissemination and awareness building – using appropriate Information, Education and Communication (IEC) materials – to prevent/minimize transmission of the COVID-19.

Under this subsector, FAO will provide concentrated animal feed and deworming to 3500 vulnerable smallholder pastoralist families (Kochis) in order to feed their animals.

The livestock feed inputs will be procured as per FAO standard procurement procedures from national suppliers. These standards require that feed is sent to certified international laboratories for testing, and those results are shared with the FAO livestock team.

Equitable distribution of livestock feed will be determined by district-level committees comprised of DAIL staff, ANDMA staff, Kochi Directorate,  the Governor’s office, FAO, and DCA, all of whom will review the pre-identified Kochi communities  and make decisions about the allocation of inputs depending on need.

Once a list of beneficiaries is finalized, DCA will obtain the district-level committee’s endorsement. DCA will submit a report from their own inception workshop, along with the list of proposed beneficiaries, to FAO. After FAO staff perform field visits to verify the decision (where security permits), the feed will be dispatched to designated DCA warehouses in the field. Each beneficiary household will receive a livestock protection package. This package will include 100 kg of animal feed and dewormer medicine, which is enough to sustain at least seven animals for two month.

Beneficiaries will be given information about how to use flexible feeding rates. Beneficiaries will be advised to ensure that their feed storage containers are sanitized to minimize the risk of contamination or deterioration.

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|  Donor/Contractor | Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) |
|  Period | June 1st 2020 – December 31st 2020 |
|  Area | 7 Provinces |

**Output 2:** Promote social distancing and hygiene related practices to be adopted at 17 main markets for agriculture produce/inputs, livestock and live animals in Herat, Kabul, Nimroz, Balkh, Faryab, Kandahar, and Nangarhar provinces. The intervention will target key stakeholders of the main agricultural input and produce, livestock and live animals markets (i.e. market managers, traders, vendors, agriculture department officials, law enforcement and security personnel, farmers, herders, transporters, loaders, and customers in the provinces of Herat, Kabul, Nimroz, Balkh, and Faryab – the top five provinces that are at the highest risk due to their greater connectivity to outbreak provinces in Iran – plus the provinces of  Kandahar and Nangarhar due to their strategic position close to the border with Pakistan). In total 27,750 individuals – including key stakeholders in the each 17 main markets– representing a total population of approximately 194,250 people, will directly receive awareness messages and information, education and communication (IEC) materials on appropriate preventive practices pertaining to minimizing the transmission of COVID-19, including measures to adopt at the markets like social distancing at all stages of agriculture produce/input handling while loading/unloading, appropriate spacing between stalls, space and movement planning for customers, meetings for market management, and information dissemination and awareness building. DCA will organize and facilitate meetings with key stakeholders of the main agricultural input and produce markets and livestock and live animals markets on adoption of pertinent practices at the markets to control the transmission of COVID-19 in Herat, Kabul, Nimroz, Balkh, Faryab, Kandahar, and Nangarhar provinces targeting 27,750 individuals. DCA will undertake information dissemination and awareness building – using appropriate IEC materials, on site broadcasting of public announcements, radio/TV broadcastings – to customers, traders, vendors, and loaders – on practices to follow and measures to adopt at the markets like social distancing at all stages of agriculture produce/input handling at the market while loading/unloading, appropriate spacing between stalls, space and movement planning for customers, meetings for market management in targeted markets of in Herat, Kabul, Nimroz, Balkh, Faryab, Kandahar, and Nangarhar provinces. DCA will provide training, information dissemination and awareness building – using appropriate IEC materials, on site broadcasting of public announcements, Radio/TV broadcastings – at the market as well as at the UCT sites and in the villages to prevent/minimize transmission of the COVID-19 not only within households and local communities / villages but also when going to the agriculture produce/inputs and other markets. DCA will provide appropriate IEC materials and disinfectants, sanitizers and protective equipment (masks, gloves, caps) for the loaders, vendors, market administrators, and such in these 17 markets. FAO will procure and provide these protective materials to DCA for distribution to market stakeholders.

**Output 3:**

5,250 vulnerable landless and/or marginal farmer households (36,750 people) will be targeted in Herat, Nimroz and Nangarhar provinces with unconditional Cash Transfers (Cash for food and/or agriculture inputs). 2,250 out of 5,250 are women-headed household i.e. 43 percent of total beneficiary HH.

5,250 beneficiaries will be selected to receive unconditional cash transfers based on the criteria.

Beneficiaries will be selected using a method which involves a community wealth-ranking procedure in which all HHs in the community self-select themselves into three groups according to their assets and livelihood condition: very poor/vulnerable, not so poor, and better off. The very poor and vulnerable will be carefully reviewed by the community in order to select the most vulnerable beneficiaries.  Amongst this pool, the final beneficiaries identification method relies on the criteria set forward by FAO. DCA will share with FAO the final beneficiaries’ database for endorsement before distribution.

In order to have the community involved at all stage of the project, awareness raising meetings with the population and its representatives will be organized to present the whole project and introduce the criteria of selection of the beneficiary villages’ representatives and CDCs will provide a potential list of beneficiaries. Nevertheless, the accuracy of the selection by the community will be checked by DCA staff through home visit of all selected beneficiaries’ households. During the beneficiaries’ selection and meeting process the Covid 19 precautionary measures to be strictly followed.

Each beneficiary will receive USD 50 (or equivalent amount in Afghanis) unconditionally once during the project cycle. This amount is in line with the FSAC standards and aims to cover the 50% of the food expenditure basket costs.

Also 5,250 vulnerable landless and/or marginal farmer households will be targeted for information dissemination and awareness building – using appropriate IEC materials – to prevent/minimize transmission of the COVID-19 within their households and local communities / villages and when going to the agriculture markets.

**Deliverables**:

* Distribution of livestock protection package to 3500 vulnerable house holds in four provinces.
* Undertake information dissemination and awareness building – using appropriate Information, Education and Communication (IEC) materials – with the 3,500 Kuchi households (receiving the inputs) to prevent/minimize transmission of the COVID-19. The following table details out this awareness raising coverage
* Awareness raising in 17 food and livestock animal markets in 7 Provinces In total 27,750 individuals representing a total population of approximately 194,250 people.
* 5,250 vulnerable landless and/or marginal farmer households (36,750 people) will be targeted in Herat, Nimroz and Nangarhar provinces with unconditional Cash Transfers (Cash for food and/or agriculture inputs). 2,250 out of 5,250 are women-headed household i.e. 43 percent of total beneficiary HH.