

DUTCH COMMITTEE FOR AFGHANISTAN

Q U A R T E R L Y N E W S L E T T E R

November 2023

● HIGHLIGHTS

- Support of Existing and New VFUs
- Animals Treatment, Vaccination & Deworming
- Significant Rise in Business of Wool and Cashmere
- Animal Welfare
- Cash Distribution
- IFAD-Mission Visit

VISION

To reduce poverty and increase food security for the people of Afghanistan through improved animal health, welfare, production & value chain measures which sustains.

MISSION

- Food security and food safety in Afghanistan are enhanced through good collaboration between private and public livestock services such that livestock owners/keepers have access to veterinary care and livestock extension services, and they can increase their income by using improved animal production and product processing practices;
- The private national network of VFUs completely covers Afghanistan and individual VFUs are financially self-supporting and institutionally independent. The network is monitored, supervised and supported by public veterinary services through a sanitary mandate scheme.



SUPPORT OF EXISTING AND NEW VFUs

DCA-Livestock Programs, under its EU-funded project, aims to target and respond to the needs of vulnerable farm households and increase the profitability of on-farm activities. In 16 project-targeted provinces, a total of 302 existing veterinary field units (VFUs) were assessed and interviewed. Out of these, 250 eligible VFUs were selected and contracted. A total of 1,047,196 sick animals were treated, and 1,518,998 animals were vaccinated. The subsidized vaccination campaign was officially inaugurated in all 16 target provinces. Through this vaccination campaign, 1.2 million small ruminants (sheep and goats) were vaccinated against two important contagious diseases: sheep & goat pox and the Peste des Petits Ruminants (PPR).



A training course for veterinary paraprofessionals (VPPs) was conducted for 40 new VPPs in Herat and Charikar Veterinary Training & Support Centers (VTSCs). The training course will continue for six consecutive months, and the new 40 VPPs were selected from 16 different provinces. The trainees will be trained based on a particular curriculum that is aligned with the OIE/WOAH standards and principles. The trained VPPs are expected to continue their veterinary services in their relevant provinces.



Furthermore, during the last three months, 455 male and female farmer extension groups were established, and 23,779 male and female farmers were provided with extensive extension training on livestock-relevant topics.

Animals Treatment, Vaccination & Deworming

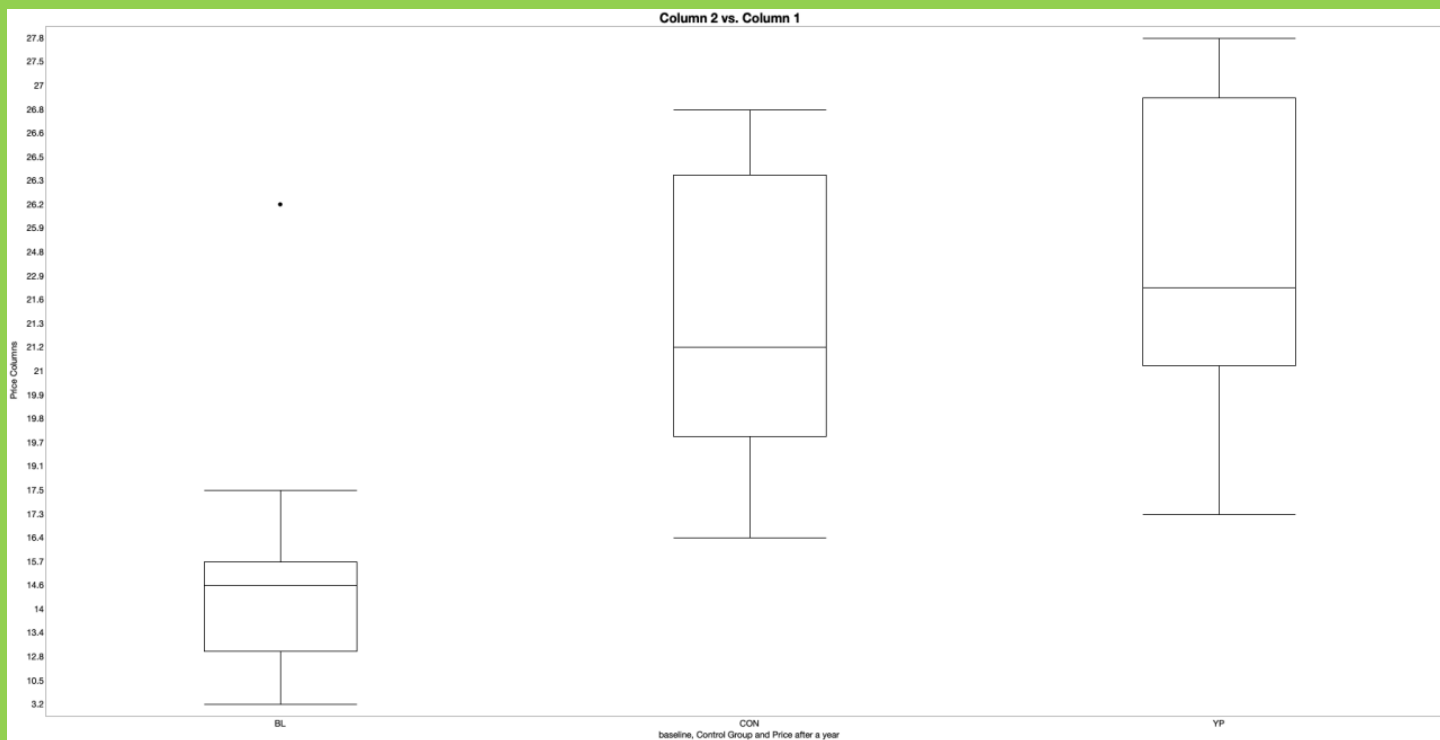
As part of the Crisis Response Initiative (CRI) project, 200 VFUs (Veterinary Field Units) were supported. In addition, 591,930 sheep and goats in 15 provinces were vaccinated, dewormed, and treated. 1,074 of the poorest farmers, both male and female, were trained and provided with vouchers, while 12,206 farmers were trained on various extension topics. Furthermore, 4,347 churning machines were distributed to herders in 15 provinces. The project also covered 3,881 households under the lamb fattening practices and supported 1,500 households through the distribution of pullets.



SIGNIFICANT RISE IN BUSINESS OF WOOL AND CASHMERE

Training has been provided to 503 existing and 430 new female beneficiaries under the DAI-ACEBA project, in order to enhance the knowledge and skills of local herders, with a focus on disease prevention, proper housing and feeding, deworming, endo and ectoparasites, as well as promoting wool and cashmere businesses. Additionally, 315 existing and 98 new beneficiaries received extension training through the Extension Community Healthcare Outcomes (ECHO) Model, aiming to ensure increased productivity and create sustainable livelihood opportunities. Another significant achievement of the DAI-ACEBA project is the purchase of 159,963 Kg of wool and 5,491 Kg of cashmere across the country.





Plot box: Cashmere Price trend 2022 to 2023 Baseline, control and after year prices

Moreover, Experience Sharing Events were held in Sari-Pul, Jawzjan, Faryab, Baghlan, and Takhar provinces, showcasing the experiences and achievements of the DAI-ACEBA project, promoting knowledge exchange among participants, and exhibiting the importance of sustainable practices in wool and cashmere production. These events received positive feedback from participants and facilitated the exchange of knowledge among herders, farmers, and stop-shop owners. Lastly, 150 new stop-shops have been identified and selected in the target districts and provinces of the country.

Animal Welfare

The Donkey Sanctuary Project (TDS) aims to raise awareness about animal welfare, particularly for donkeys. The project intends to spread the message through extension workers, religious leaders (Mullahs), and volunteer teachers in 3 targeted provinces. The awareness campaign covers topics such as providing proper space, feed, water, hygiene, and environment for livestock to save their lives and diversify their food intake.

In the last three months, the project has successfully trained 720 donkey owners, selected 571 new donkey owners, raised awareness among 4,200 people about animal welfare, and monitored 46 Private Local Service Providers (PLSPs). The project has also improved 140 donkey stables as of now.



CASH DISTRIBUTION

The primary objective of the Afghanistan Humanitarian Fund (AHF) was to improve the food security of households affected by multiple shocks. DCA successfully achieved the ultimate goals of providing cash distribution to vulnerable households in need of food assistance for a period of 10 months. This was done in three installments to a total of 1,113 food-insecure households, comprising of 8,365 men, women, boys, and girls in Darayem, Fayzabad, and Jorm Districts of Badakhshan Province. Each household received an equivalent of AFN \$72 per month, which means they received a total of \$432 in cash for food assistance over 6 months through the Hawala System.



IFAD-Mission Visit

The DCA recently hosted a visit by IFAD to monitor and evaluate the completion of the Rural Poor Stimulus Facility (RPSF) and the progress of Crisis Response Initiative (CRI) projects. The IFAD country director for Afghanistan and technical consultant were present physically, and the finance and procurement consultants who participated remotely formed the team for this mission. During the visit, the team conducted kick-off meeting with the senior team of DCA followed by site visits to project activities in Kabul, Logar, and Parwan provinces. They directly observed and evaluated the progress of the project, and after the visits, they assessed the project's performance and achievements as 'satisfactory'. They also provided some productive recommendations to improve the projects' implementations.



A Validation Workshop was conducted on the IFAD-DCA project 'Rural Poor Stimulus Facility' (RPSF) on validation, completion, and closure of the project. The workshop aimed to provide information on the RPSF project's completion and closing, achievements, outreach, and outcomes. It also aimed to collect feedback from project stakeholders on project relevance, efficiency, effectiveness, impacts, sustainability, lessons learned, and knowledge management. As part of the debriefing after the validation workshop, the technical, finance and procurement consultants presented their draft evaluation results assessing DCA's performance as 'satisfactory'.



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