



QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

JAN-MAR-2024

HIGHLIGHTS

- 5,000 Earthquake-affected Vulnerable HHs Received Food (Cash) Assistance
- Provided Technical and Logistical Support to VFUs
- 40 Para-Vets Graduated from DCA Charikar and Herat VTSCs
- Farmers Training Through Extension Groups
- Launched a Six-Month Training Course For 40 New Para-vets
- Established 97 Stop Shops
- Distributed Churning Machines & Mineral Blocks to Vulnerable Women-headed HHs
- 500 Pastoralists and Local Households Practiced Lamb Fattening
- Established Three New Milk Collection Centers
- Conducted Four Farmer's Field Days
- Income Generation Through Establishment of Backyard Poultry Farms
- 224 Farmers Received Training and Fodder Crops Packages
- Animal Welfare

VISION:

Food security and food safety in Afghanistan are supported through the provision of livestock services in the private sector in coordination with other stakeholders such that livestock owners/keepers have access to veterinary care and livestock extension services, and they can increase their income by applying improved animal production and product processing practices.

MISSION:

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



Earthquake-affected Households, Injil District, Herat Province, January 2024.

5,000 Earthquake-Affected Households Received Food (Cash) Assistance in Herat Province

During this quarter, DCA conducted a survey in three targeted districts (Injil, Robat Sangi, and Gulran) of Herat province. They identified a total of 5,000 earthquake-affected, highly vulnerable, and eligible households. After a thorough evaluation and verification, 1,000 households were selected from Injil, 2,000 from Robat Sangi, and 2,000 from the Gulran districts. Each affected household received \$75 equivalent to AFN 5,540 in the mentioned districts, totaling \$375,000 distributed to 5,000 households. The project aims to improve the food security of households seriously affected by the earthquake, making them extremely vulnerable and in urgent need of emergency food support. The distribution took place in a secure and well-organized environment with the presence of DCA's senior management, ANDMA representatives, DFAs, CDCs, and PSCs. The distribution was successfully completed with a focus on individuals who have chronic illnesses and disabilities.



Cash Distribution to Earthquake-Affected Households, Injil District, Herat Province, January 2024.

Support to the Veterinary Field Units (VFUs)

The DCA-Livestock Programs under IFAD and EU-funded projects are aimed at enhancing the profitability of on-farm activities and addressing the needs of vulnerable farm households.

A total of 512 existing veterinary field units (VFUs) were provided with continuous in-kind and technical support and 22 existing VFUs were refurbished in the targeted provinces.

During the quarter, a total of 1,749,115 sick animals were treated, 2,054,931 animals were vaccinated, and 445,823 different species of animals were dewormed by the mentioned VFUs on a fee basis.

Additionally, 900,155 small ruminants were vaccinated and 337,058 animals were dewormed through the subsidized vaccination campaigns. Furthermore, in January 2024, 191 vaccinators and 199 drenchers were distributed to 199 existing veterinary field units (VFUs) in 14 targeted provinces for their further support.

In addition, the DCA-Livestock Programs under the EU-funded project has established 40 new Veterinary Field Units (VFUs) in Herat, Badghis, Ghor, Balkh, Samangan, Faryab, Nangarhar, Kandahar, Helmand, Laghman, Bamyan, Nimroz, Badakhshan, Takhar, Ghazni, and Kabul



DCA's Staff Monitoring VFUs, Targeted Provinces, January 2024.

provinces. These newly established VFUs are committed to providing fee-based veterinary services in their home districts.

40 New Veterinary Paraprofessionals/Paravets Graduated from DCA-Charikar and Herat Veterinary Training and Support Centers

In January 2024, DCA organized a graduation ceremony for the 40 new veterinary paraprofessionals/paravets in Kabul and Herat provinces, who had completed the six-month intensive practical and theoretical course as part of DCA's EU/Afghanistan Essential Services and Livelihoods Stabilization Program (AESLSP) project. The inclusive veterinary kits, motorbikes, and other necessary equipment were distributed to freshly graduated trainees to provide and deliver quality veterinary services to pastoralists and local herders in the unserved and remote areas of the country. They were happy to return to their home provinces and districts to provide quality animal health and veterinary services to vulnerable pastoralists and local herders. They appreciated DCA for delivering and facilitating such an opportunity.



Veterinary Paraprofessionals/Paravets Graduation Ceremony, Kabul, January 2024

Farmers Training Through Extension Groups

One of the key activities under IFAD and EU-funded projects is awareness, education, and training which provides awareness and education on common animal diseases, hygiene, and animal husbandry best practices.

A total of 1,312 Farmer Extension Groups (1,219 male and 93 female) have been established so far. These FEGs have provided in-depth extension training on livestock-related topics to 25,976 farmers (24,106 male and 1,870 female). Additionally, the extension services have helped strengthen connections between farmers and local service providers (VFUs), leading to increased demand for their services.



Farmers Training Via Extension Groups, DCA's Projects Targeted Provinces, January, 2024.

Launched a Six-Month Veterinary Paraprofessional/Paravet Training Course For 40 New Trainees

In February 2024, DCA conducted a training course for 40 new veterinary paraprofessionals (VPPs) in Charikar and Herat Veterinary Training & Support Centers (VTSCs). The training course will span for six consecutive months, and the new 40 VPPs were selected from 16 different provinces including Herat, Badghis, Ghor, Balkh, Samangan, Faryab, Nangarhar, Kandahar, Helmand, Laghman, Bamiyan, Nimroz, Badakhshan, Takhar, Ghazni, and Kabul. A specific curriculum aligned with OIE/WOAH standards and principles will be used to train the participants. The trained VPPs are expected to continue providing veterinary services in their respective provinces and districts in the future.



Veterinary Paraprofessionals/Paravets Inauguration Ceremony, DCA-Herat-VTSC, February 2024.

Established 97 Stop-Shops/Sales Points in 24 Targeted Provinces

During this quarter, under IFAD and EU-funded projects, DCA has selected, trained, equipped, established, and provided capital to 97 Stop-Shops/Sales Points throughout the targeted provinces. These Stop-Shops are the main point of contact for all stakeholders involved in the supply chain of animal products, such as cashmere, wool, and milk. These stakeholders include sales point owners, stop-shop owners, herders, pastoralists, middlemen, and businessmen. The training program aimed to provide them with practical expertise in processing, marketing, and management of animal products, along with various aspects of the business. In addition, 1,492 (402 male & 1092 female) herders were trained in animal husbandry and business skills and were provided with vouchers for their livestock inputs. These sales locations would link the relevant stakeholders to improve and strengthen the whole chain and facilitate the proper market for animal main and by-products. They will sell their main and by-products at a reasonable price to nearby-stop shops.



DCA Trained, Equipped, and Established 97 Stop Shops/Sales Points in Targeted Provinces, Jan-Mar, 2024.

Churning Machines Were Distributed To 410 Vulnerable Women-Headed Households, and 1,098 Farmers Received Mineral Blocks

This quarter, the DCA distributed 410 manual churning machines to 410 vulnerable women-headed households in Balkh, Badakhshan, Takhar, Kabul, Nangarhar, and Bamyan provinces. This initiative is a crucial step towards promoting economic empowerment and gender equality in the livestock industry. These churning machines will enable vulnerable women to process and produce hygienic and high-quality dairy products, thereby contributing to the growth of the dairy sector. Additionally, one mineral block was distributed for demonstration purposes to each of the 1,098 farmers in 55 farmer extension groups.



DCA Distributed 200 Churning Machines & 1,098 Mineral Blocks to Vulnerable Farmers, Jan-Mar, 2024.

500 Pastoralists and Local Households Practiced Lamb Fattening

It is essential to provide high-quality feed to fatten lambs quickly for profitable sale and to support local and pastoralist households. In January 2024, DCA under an EU-funded project reached a total of 500 local and pastoralist households and 2,000 lambs across ten provinces, including Badakhshan, Takhar, Herat, Badghis, Bamyan, Laghman, Samangan, Faryab, Kandahar, and Ghazni. Each household received 100 kg of high-quality feed.

Additionally, each beneficiary received four carefully selected, weighed, and marked lambs to ensure accuracy. As a result, these households achieved a 50% to 60% increase in the weight of their lambs over 50 days compared to traditional lamb fattening practices, leading to profitable outcomes. The beneficiaries are pleased with the results of the program, as it has increased their income and improved their livestock farming practices.



Shows the lamb fattening program's weight recording, Herat Province, January 2024.

Established Three New Milk Collection Centers

During this quarter, the DCA under IFAD and EU-funded projects worked together to establish and equip three milk collection centers (MCCs) in Laghman and Samangan provinces. One of three MCCs was led by a female project beneficiary. These MCCs are crucial for local pastoralists and herders as they help sustain and improve their livelihoods through milk collection, simple milk processing, and selling dairy products. Each milk collection center is expected to collect 200–250 liters of milk per day. These MCCs are linked with the herders for milk collection and with the dairy markets and Milk Processing Centers (MPCs) for marketing their milk, thus strengthening the linkages of the whole value chain.



Milk Collection Center Run by Woman, Samangan Province, March 2024.

Conducted Four Farmer's Field Days

In March 2024, the DCA, under its IFAD-funded project, organized and conducted four field days in Kunduz, Nangarhar, Kunar, and Khost provinces. A total of 325 individuals including farmers, herders, DFA representatives, traditional leaders, DCA staff, processing companies, and stop-shop owners attended the events. The events aimed to share knowledge, establish linkages, and promote community development among local and pastoralist herder communities. The Farmers Field Day featured various activities and speeches, including farmers-to-farmers exchange visits, delivery of essential livestock-related messages, sharing project information, creating links between livestock keepers and their respective veterinary field units, introducing new extension materials, and providing networking opportunities for the community. Additionally, awareness-raising campaigns are essential for enhancing the wool supply chain and marketing.



Farmers' Field Day Celebration, Laghman Province, March 2024.

Income Generation Through Establishment of Backyard Poultry Farms

The DCA under its EU-funded project, the backyard poultry enterprise is one of the key value chains in the project components. These backyard poultry farms empower women and support small-scale layer poultry enterprises. During the reporting period, farmers received

training on how to maintain the cleanliness of the chicken coops as well as the importance of ventilation, sunshine, cleaning feeders and drinkers, and regularly assessing the pullets. In four provinces (Balkh, Kandahar, Nangarhar, and Takhar), backyard poultry farms produced a total of 149,747 eggs in March 2024. Out of those eggs, 76,770 were consumed at home by farmers, and 72,977 were sold, resulting in a total of AFN 670,023. It is noteworthy that women run the established farms.



Backyard Poultry Farm, Nangarhar Province, March 2024.

224 Farmers Received Training and Fodder Crops Packages

The fodder crops are plant species grown and collected for animal feed. The feed can be provided in the form of hay (dehydrated green fodder), silage (kept under anaerobic conditions), and forage (cut green and fed fresh). Animals can benefit from both the plant's and the seed's energy if they are fed the seeds and sprouts. The EU-funded project provided basic training and fodder crop kits to 224 interested and eligible farmers in Kabul, Kandahar, and Faryab provinces. The kits included fodder seed, fertilizer, shovel, crony, and rope.



Farmers Received Training and Kits, Kabul Province, Kalakan District, March 2024.

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 this quarter, the project has successfully selected and trained 576 donkey owners, raised awareness through messages among 7,400 people about the compassion behavior change, and monitored 46 Private Local Service Providers (PLSPs).



Farmers Received Training and Kits, Kabul Province, Kalakan District, March 2024.



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