

ANNUAL REPORT



2024



Dutch Committee for Afghanistan – Livestock Programs

 www.dca-livestock.org

Colophon

Contributions

Dr Raymond Briscoe, Chalachew Agonafir, Dr Abdul Qader Fakhri, Dr Shapoor Basiri, Dr Faridoon Sherullah, Eng. Lutfullah Assady, Dr Naqibullah Durani, Mohammed Yama Azimi, Ali Reza Ahmadi, Masih Aslamy, Ab Emmerzaal, Cobi Grevelink, Aimal Barakzai

Pictures:

Staff of DCA Livestock Programs

Lay-out and Production Dutch Edition

uNiek-Design

Almere, The Netherlands

www.uniek-design.nl

Production Afghan Edition

Saadat Printing Co. Ltd

Kabul, Afghanistan

saadatipp@gmail.com



DCA Livestock Programs

Active since 1988, officially registered in 1994, Netherlands Chamber of Commerce, # 4124675
Registered in Afghanistan as an International NGO under the name DCA since 2025, # 119

Seat:

Amersfoort, the Netherlands

Main Office:

Kabul, Afghanistan

Working Area:

Afghanistan

Focus:

Livestock Health, Production, and Welfare

Staff Members:

346

Board:

5 members

Chairman of the Board:

Theo Lam

Advisors of the Board:

Ellen Geerlings & Chris Bartels

Advisory Council:

5 advisors

Mission: To reduce poverty and increase food security for the people of Afghanistan by improving the health and production of their livestock.





Contents

1. Preface	4
2. Afghanistan Today	5
3. The current position of DCA and its approaches	6
4. Projects, Success Stories and Major Achievements	7
a. Major Achievements-2024	7
b. EU-Livelihoods Support	8-9
c. CRI	10-11
d. DAI-ACEBA	12-13
e. SFA	14
f. AHF	15
g. TDS	16
5. Organisation	17
6. Board and Advisory Council	18
7. Partnerships	19
8. Finance	20
9. The way forward	21
Abbreviations	22
DCA on the Map	23



Vaccination Campaign, Kabul Province

1. Preface

In the various chapters of this report my colleagues in Afghanistan talk about the successful implementation of rural projects. DCA works towards sustainability: cooperation with the communities in the villages are essential elements in the projects of DCA- Livestock Programs. Details are provided like the selection of candidates for paravet training, the location for the VFU, and also when a milk collection center or feed bank is established and set up within the community. The community benefits and monitors the progress and the results. All projects aim to improve human and animal health with food security for the people.

The year 2024, like the two previous years, was a good year. In the last three years, DCA has been allowed to spend an average of \$8-11 million per year from various donors. The main donors in those years were USAID, EU and IFAD.

At the time of writing, we have heard through news sources that many donors, including USAID, may cease to exist, restrict their geographic focus, and/or change their funding approaches. It seems almost certain therefore that the next few years will be somewhat leaner. This is unfortunate because DCA's work in Afghanistan is not finished. There is still a need for

Ab Emmerzaal Secretary General DCA



new VFUs and training of new paravets, and there is still a lack of food, especially among poor people. DCA will intensify its acquisition strategy.

The DCA board has also decided that some internal projects can be implemented, funded from DCA's Reserve Fund. The Veterinary Training and Support Centre in Charikar needs refurbishment, and there are also 60 newly graduated paravets who will get support that was no longer possible from a project.

A VFU assessment will be carried out, particularly to assess the quality of the VFU's and paravets, and be informed where improvements are needed.

A very important issue here is whether the cold chain facilities such as solar fridges are working properly. A vaccine must remain refrigerated from producer to consumer to guarantee efficacy. The VFU is an important link but not the only one. Importers and distribution channels must also be in order. There is some room for improvement, and we hope to address this problem.



Water Reservoir, Bamyan Province

2. Afghanistan Today

At the international level, while the government has not yet received formal recognition, many countries have strengthened diplomatic ties and reopened embassies, marking a shift from isolation. Some Afghan embassies have restricted visa issuance, especially in parts of Europe, but many continue to offer visas for expatriates and tourists.

Several international airlines, including Fly Dubai, Turkish Airlines, and Air Arabia, have resumed flights, while Afghan carriers like Ariana Afghan Airlines and KamAir have expanded their operations. Humanitarian organizations such as UNHAS, ICRC, and PACTEC maintain air services, with PACTEC also providing VSAT internet services. Although the Afghan currency was stable for much of 2024, it has recently started to weaken.

Despite financial challenges, government infrastructure projects continue, including the Qosh Tepa Canal, road and dam construction, energy production, and major initiatives like the gas pipeline, power transmission, fiber optic expansion, and railway development. Mining contracts for petroleum, talc, marble, copper, lithium, and gold have been awarded to national and international companies, and private sector investment in essential materials has increased due to improved security. Independent media outlets still operate, although they face restrictions and financial difficulties. Meanwhile, the situation for migrants and returnees has become worse, with forced deportations from Iran and Pakistan often occurring under harsh conditions. Restrictions on women's employment and education have expanded, affecting schooling for girls

Dr. Abdul Qader Fakhri
Deputy Executive Director



over 13 and limiting access to health education. The stricter enforcement of the Propagation of Virtue and Prevention of Vice (PVPV) law has further impacted daily life for both men and women.

Despite these challenges, UN agencies, the EU, the World Bank, and other donors remain operational, ensuring continued humanitarian and development aid. Their presence allows national and international NGOs to support vulnerable communities.

DCA-Livestock had a productive year, implementing donor-funded projects across 30 provinces. We thank our donors and team for their dedication. Our community-driven approach, leveraging customary institutions and the Extension for Community Healthcare Outcomes (ECHO) model, has strengthened engagement, particularly with women. DCA-Livestock's contributions were recognized in the IFAD report "Rebuilding Livelihoods in Afghanistan." Through active engagement with key stakeholders, we secured two ongoing projects from UNODC, and additional projects are set to launch, including TDS (starting mid-2025), Brooke (starting early 2025) and IFAD project (starting late 2025). Looking ahead, we remain optimistic about expanding our work, including securing certification for Afghan cashmere and obtaining a new EU-funded project by the end of 2025. Despite the challenges, we remain committed to strengthening livelihoods and making a lasting impact in Afghanistan.



Deworming Campaign, Bamyan Province

3. The Current Position of DCA and Its Approaches

This year has been a very good one for us with a number of projects implemented. We need however to assess our portfolio for the coming year because a number of short-term projects are ending but the future is still looking bright with some donors extending their grant period for a longer time, and some past donors considering to return to work with us.

I am very happy to say that our organization is still making a difference within many communities throughout the country. Our work has diversified and the focus is very much on livelihoods bringing added value to farmers on their livestock and agricultural products and by products thereby creating additional income and jobs. Together with this market driven approach we transform the lives of our beneficiaries and communities both in improved health and also welfare.

Dr. Raymond Briscoe
External Relations
Consultant



The focus is definitely on a One Health/One Welfare approach respecting the rights of all individuals especially women, the youth, and the disabled. The work on AMR (Antimicrobial Resistance) is particularly important going forward.

We look forward to continuing our work to make a difference in a country that needs a strong development approach to be built on the many humanitarian interventions now taking place. It is very important therefore for us to remain engaged and welcome new innovative approaches to mitigate climate change, and protect the environment.



Extension Training, Kandahar Province

4. Projects, Success Stories and Major Achievements

4a. Major Achievements-2024

Provinces Covered	30	Feed Banks Established	10
Districts Covered	340	Lamb Fattening Practices	7,170
People Impacted	3,923,591	Sales Points/Stop Shops Established	329
Trained, Established, and Supported PVs and VFUs	597	Beekeeping Farms Established	225
Animals Vaccinated	10,949,238	Fresh Graduates Internship	57
Animals Dewormed	2,999,133	Pasture Management Committees Established	34
Animals Treatment	6,683,199	Households Reached Through Cash Distribution	5,000
Milk Collection Centers Established	49	Wool Washing Pools Established	15
Milk Processing Centers Established	5	Herders Trained on Fibre Quality, Under SFA Standards	5,300



Beekeeping Practical Training, Herat Province

4b. EU-Livelihoods Support Project

The Afghanistan Essential Services and Livelihoods Stabilization Program (AESLSP), funded by the EU and implemented by the Dutch Committee for Afghanistan, Livestock Programs, runs from December 2022 to December 2025 across 16 provinces and 136 districts. It aims to address challenges like drought, poor harvests, COVID-19, and economic collapse, focusing on improving income, employment, and food security for farming communities reliant on agriculture and livestock. The program targets 350,000 households, including marginalized groups such as youth, women, IDPs, and the disabled, fostering economic growth and resilience in rural Afghanistan. Key achievements in 2024 include providing employment to 2,309 individuals, establishing 80 VFUs, 32 Milk Collection Centers (MCCs), 56 one-stop shops, 1,000 backyard poultry farms, 225 beekeeping

initiatives, and 90 Self-Help Groups (SHGs). These VFUs benefited 287,160 households by improving livestock health and boosting incomes. MCCs and one-stop shops generated income for local producers, with a focus on women's empowerment through female-led enterprises in poultry farming and beekeeping. The project trained over 16,920 farmers, conducted 845 extension demonstrations, and strengthened market linkages for 30,520 farmers. It improved access to rangelands, pastures, and water resources for pastoralists through training 475 farmers and establishing 18 Pasture Management Committees (PMCs). Water management infrastructure was enhanced, benefiting over 670 households. Despite challenges like the ban on women's work, the project exceeded its target, reaching 5,060 female beneficiaries via the ECHO model.

Inspiring Path to Success in Mosa Qala District of Helmand

Mohammad Hashim's story is one of resilience. Living in the Mosa Qala district of Helmand province, he faced hardships after conflict left him without a stable income. *"I lost everything during the war,"* he shared. Starting over, he sold dairy products from a small cart, earning about 600 AFN a day by buying milk from six local farmers. His determination caught the attention of the DCA field team working on the EU-funded project. They recognized his potential and invited him to join the program. *"When they approached me, it changed everything,"* he said. With their support, including essential tools and the establishment of a Milk Collection Center (MCC), Mohammad Hashim was able to grow his business. He now works with 25 farmers and earns 2,500 AFN a day, improving his family's well-being and investing in his children's education.

Mohammad Hashim's journey highlights the positive impact of community support in rebuilding lives through the 32 milk collection centers (MCCs) in conflict-affected Afghanistan. His success story demonstrates the power of targeted initiatives in helping individuals overcome challenges and contribute to their communities. The DCA-EU-funded project focuses on improving livelihoods, reducing poverty, and creating economic growth across Afghanistan, exemplified through Hashim's transformation.

With support from the EU, DCA trained 40 Paravets chosen by community leaders, bringing the total to 80 Paravets trained in 2023 and 2024 across 16 provinces and 59 districts.

These Paravets have now set up Veterinary Field Units that provide community services on a fee-for-service basis.



Para-Veterinarian Graduation Ceremony, Kaubl Province



Backyard Poultry, Paktia Province

4c. CRI Project

The Crisis Response Initiative (CRI) project, funded by IFAD, aims to support livelihoods by focusing on improving food security, generating employment, and promoting gender equality, benefiting 176,638 households. Through strengthening livestock value chain activities, the project enhances production, processing, and marketing efforts. It collaborates with local and pastoralist herders, smallholder milk producers, processing plants, and sales points, providing essential services such as veterinary care, animal feed, and improved market access.

Key activities in 2024 included training 230 para-vets, vaccinating 8,624,824 animals, treating 2,122,140

animals, and establishing 17 milks collection centers (MCCs). Extension services reached 32,990 farmers, with 115 sales points established and 7,800 churning machines distributed. The project also supported 5,700 households with drought emergency response packages, and provided in-kind vouchers to 12,000 vulnerable households. Additionally, 1,350 female herders were trained on extension topics using the Extension for Community Healthcare Outcomes (ECHO) model, and 1,500 female-headed households were provided with 30-layer pullets for poultry farming. Stakeholder coordination and continuous monitoring ensured alignment with the project's goals.

Backyard Poultry Farms a New Hope for Rural Women

Afghanistan, long ravaged by decades of conflict, has left its citizens grappling with poverty and hardship. During this devastation, the story of Mrs. Feroza from Seyed Khel village, Mosaye district, Kabul province stands out as a testament to resilience and transformation.

For years, Feroza's family struggled with food insecurity and economic hardship. With an unemployed husband and six children to care for, she found herself in a constant battle for survival. Yet, despite the dire circumstances, Feroza remained hopeful for a brighter future.

That hope was realized when the Dutch Committee for Afghanistan (DCA) provided her and 1,500 other women with 30 backyard pullets and the tools to build a chicken coop. This simple yet powerful support sparked a remarkable change. Armed with determination, Feroza embarked on her journey as a poultry farmer. Her backyard, once a place of despair, soon became a thriving source of income.

Each day, Feroza collects 20-25 eggs, using some to nourish her family and selling the rest at local markets. This steady income has transformed her life, increasing her monthly earnings from nothing to AFN 2,500–3,000. Feroza proudly declares, *"I am growing stronger financially and can now meet my familys basic needs."*

But her success goes beyond financial gain. Feroza's achievements have inspired women in her community to believe in their own potential for independence and success. Her journey is a powerful reminder that small acts of support can ignite lasting change, not just for individuals but for entire communities.

The IFAD and DCA partnered to strengthened Afghanistan's livestock-dairy industry by training para-vets, vaccinating over 4.5 million animals, and supporting vulnerable herders with and business skills.

It also promoted market access through community feed banks, milk processing facilities, and empowered women through the ECHO model targeting training, improving food security, employment, and gender equality in rural areas.



Deworming Campaign, Kabul Province



Sorting Cashmere, Nimroz Province

4d. DAI-ACEBA Project

The Dutch Committee for Afghanistan (DCA) received support for the project titled Afghanistan Competitiveness of Export-Oriented Businesses Activity (ACEBA) grant support to strengthen the supply of natural fibers to the carpet and cashmere industries through the stop-shop network, as well as promote the creation of spin-off cottage industries, specifically for women. The project targets 21,000 households across the 27 provinces of Afghanistan. The project established 854 stop-shops (827 district-level and 27 hub shops) and constructed 15 washing

pools, benefiting 22,013 individuals, 32% of whom were women. Additionally, 5,013 women received business skills training, PPE kits, and spinning machines, while 6,820 herders (5,620 men, 1,000 women) received Business and Entrepreneurial Skills (BES) training focused on fiber production. These efforts resulted in 5,013 skilled jobs for women, increased incomes from fiber-related business activities, and improved livestock health and productivity, leading to higher household incomes. The project also enhanced market linkages, boosting economic stability in the communities.

From Tradition to Transformation: Revitalizing Nimroz's Cashmere Industry

Masoud shares that his family has had deep ties to the cashmere business in Zaranj city of Nimroz province for more than 60 years. *"We got this work from my dad and grandad. It's more than work to us, a treasured part of our family."* DCA under the DAI-ACEBA-funded project marked a big change for Masoud's company. *"It made our working knowledge better and linked us to more local wool farmers,"* says Masoud. The program taught them skills like sorting and provided them with the necessary resources. This helped make their business work better and more accurately. Masoud says the herders received technical training from DCA. They learned about how cashmere's value can help the economy, and currently, they are producing more cashmere here. That helps our business and lets us earn more from our shop. Our Shop has a close team including my dad, three brothers, and me. Four of us, including myself, always work in the shop. There are also over 40 women who work with us as a team, but not inside the shop. They sort the cashmere and make yarn. These women are very important, and their jobs and new skills matter a lot. Masoud runs a business that built relations with herders in three districts of Nimroz province, where many people raise cashmere goats. *"We make deals with almost all the herders and often buy their products,"* Masoud states. Masoud also made his business reach out to people in Herat and Ghazni provinces. *"Our work goes on with two spots in Herat and Ghazni,"* he shares. Masoud deals with a group of cashmere traders in Herat. Ghazni is where he finds people selling wool. Even with problems like not being able to sell wool to Pakistan, Masoud's company keeps doing well. He changes his plan to keep up with the new ways the market works. Since the cashmere gathering season commenced about two months back, Masoud's Shop has seen great outcomes. *"My Shop has bought close to 1.8 tons of cashmere and 5,000 kilos of wool,"* Masoud says with pride. *"This shows that we are succeeding."* Masoud's Shop is a good example of how traditional businesses can do well if they get the right help and learn new things. DCA under the DAI-ACEBA-funded project changed how they do business and made their community stronger, turning Masoud's shop into a shining example of achievement in Nimroz province.

Under the DCA-DAI/ACEBA project, 5,013 Afghan women across 13 provinces gained skills and jobs, transforming wool into yarn for the carpet industry and earning an average of 250 AFN daily.

Their stories highlight improved livelihoods, financial independence, and hope for a better future through business training, PPE kits, and spinning machines.

“With the skills I gained and the spinning machine provided, I can now produce yarn daily, which has helped me earn an income to support my family. This opportunity has given me financial independence and hope for a brighter future.”

Fatima Hassan

Transforming wool into yarn, Balkh Province





Abdul Karim, Herder, Herat Province

4e. SFA Project

The project is funded by SFA-DAI and focuses on eight districts in Herat province. The primary aim of this initiative is to introduce and implement the SFA standard in Afghanistan, ensuring the sustainable growth and long-term viability of the cashmere sector. The project aims to enhance the capacity of targeted herders, equipping them with the skills and knowledge necessary to meet international quality standards and improve the production of cashmere. Additionally, it seeks to build the capacity of Afghan exporters, particularly by helping them align with global market requirements and standards, thereby facilitating investment in their business processes to boost

competitiveness. The project successfully trained 5,300 herders in the enhancement of fiber quality, which represents a fundamental aspect of the SFA standards, 36.32% of whom were female. In addition, 16 pasture management committees were established and received capacity-building support, while 15 cashmere traders and processors participated in training sessions regarding SFA standards. Moreover, a total of 4,091 combs were distributed to herders and village group leaders (VGLs) to facilitate the collection of best-quality cashmere. Finally, 16 shopkeepers were trained on the SFA standards to ensure compliance and enhanced understanding of the guidelines.

AFCERT Training Empowers Afghan Herder and Inspires Communities

Abdul Karim, a goat herder from Sar Jahr village, Adraskan district, Herat province, struggled with livestock management and lost many goats due to harsh winters and poor care. Additionally, he wasted the valuable cashmere his goats produced because he didn't know the right techniques for collecting and preparing it.

Everything changed when he attended AFCERT's training program. He learned essential skills in herd management, such as proper feeding, vaccinations, and identifying signs of illness. He also discovered how to care for his goats during winter to prevent diseases and improve their health. The training also focused on cashmere production, teaching Abdul Karim how to comb, not shear, his goats to collect high-quality cashmere without harming them. With this new knowledge, Abdul Karim saw a significant improvement in his herd's health. His goats were healthier, and the cashmere he collected was cleaner and of higher quality. This boosted his income, as he was able to sell his cashmere at a better price.

"I have learned so much about cashmere and its collection," Abdul Karim says. «Now, I comb my goats carefully, making sure not to harm them. If any issues arise, I treat them immediately. This way, I collect better-quality cashmere, which is easier to sell.»

Abdul Karim's success didn't stop there. He became a leader in his village, sharing what he learned with other herders. His story inspired many in his community to adopt the same practices, improving their herds and livelihoods.

Today, Abdul Karim's farm is thriving, and his family enjoys greater financial stability. His transformation shows how AFCERT's training can change lives, not only improving individual livelihoods but also benefiting entire communities.



Earthquake Effected Household, Herat Province

4f. AHF Project

The Afghanistan Humanitarian Fund (AHF)-funded project seeks to enhance the food security of households that have been severely affected by the earthquake in Herat province. These households, already highly vulnerable, are in urgent need of emergency food support. The project targets 5,000 food-insecure households across the districts of Kushk, Gulran, and Injil, aiming to address their critical food needs and provide immediate relief. By offering cash assistance, which covers two-thirds of the food

basket, the initiative helps improve food availability for these households, enabling them to purchase food and meet their essential needs.

As a result of project implementation, a total of 31,776 individuals, including men, women, boys, and girls, from 4,986 earthquake-affected and destitute households directly benefited from this cash-based intervention, each valued at \$75 per household. This cash assistance was distributed across Gulran, Koshk (Robot Sangi), and Injil districts within the Herat province.

Overcoming Adversity: Morad's Journey to Hope

In the remote village of Kariz Nasir, Herat Province, Morad Ali, a 46-year-old disabled man and father of six, faced overwhelming challenges. For years, chronic back problems left him paralyzed and unable to provide for his family. The earthquake in Herat worsened the situation of the family making them lose their assets, livelihoods, and shelter. However, everything changed when Morad became a beneficiary of the DCA project, funded by AHF of UNOCHA.

DCA provided \$75 (5,540 Afghanis) in cash assistance to Morad's family and similar victims of 5,000 households, offering immediate relief and stability. With this support, they were able to purchase essential food items, ensuring their survival for up to three months. This assistance gave Morad and his family the hope he desperately needed. Thanks to the AHF and DCA, Morad and his family emerged from hardship to build a better future, proving that even in difficult times, determination and support can lead to hope and new beginnings.

But Morad knew that lasting change required more than short-term aid. Motivated by a desire to improve his family's future, he sought further support from DCA and its partners to start farming, specifically planting wheat.



Donkeys Transporting Water and Villagers, Bamyán Province

4g. TDS Project

The Dutch Committee for Afghanistan (DCA), in partnership with The Donkey Sanctuary (TDS), implemented the Progressive Equine Welfare Improvement Project to improve the welfare of working equines in Bamyán, Takhar, and Badakhshan provinces. The project aimed to enhance the well-being of 2,100 donkey owners and 3,150 donkeys and mules through improved husbandry and welfare practices as well as knowledge creation.

Key outputs included training 46 local service providers, including 16 para-veterinarians, 3 farriers, and 9 harness makers, and linking 576 donkey

owners to trained professionals for affordable, high-quality care. The project also engaged over 100 local stakeholders, including religious leaders in advocacy efforts, reaching 24,000 people advocating mainly on the freedoms of animal. Additionally, 40 graduates were trained to manage equine welfare cases, ensuring sustainability and strengthening the local welfare system. Key outcomes included improved health and welfare of donkeys, strengthened networks of private service providers, and increased access to affordable veterinary care, ensuring long-term, sustainable welfare for working equines.

Donkeys as Lifelines

In Kaj Gara-Gara Village, Yakawlang District, Bamyán Province, Zohra, a 32-year-old mother of two, faces daily challenges due to limited access to clean drinking water. The village, along with six others, relies on a fountain 3-4 kilometers away and a river 2 kilometers from the village as their only water source. Zohra and her neighbors depend on their donkeys to make several trips daily to fetch water for drinking, washing clothes, and other household needs. *“Without our donkeys, we couldn’t survive,”* says Zohra.

For years, donkeys in the village were neglected due to cultural practices that overlooked their care. However, when the DCA-TDS partnership began its work in the area, things started to change. The project introduced training on proper donkey welfare, offering education on feeding, watering, and safe harnessing practices. Awareness campaigns emphasized the importance of donkeys to the community’s daily survival, helping to move attitudes and behaviors. *“We didn’t understand the importance of good care before,”* Zohra recalls. *“Now, we make sure they’re healthy, well-fed, and treated with respect.”* The training has greatly improved the donkeys’ health, leading to better productivity and less strain on the villagers.

This initiative has helped strengthen resilience in the region, impacting not only Bamyán but also Takhar and Badakhshan Provinces. *“Thanks to DCA-TDS, we now truly value these animals. They are vital to our survival,”* Zohra adds.

5. Organisation

DCA Livestock Programs is a community driven organisation based in the Netherlands and Afghanistan, implementing different projects funded by several donors in Afghanistan since 1988. In 1994, the organisation was officially registered as DCA-VET at the Chamber of Commerce in the Netherlands.

DCA’s mission is built upon 4 pillars: food/nutrition security, livelihoods, and job creation; extension services; livestock products value chain development and institutional capacities to engage the Public Private Partnership. This new profile asked for a new name: since 2017 DCA-VET is called DCA Livestock Programs. DCA Livestock Programs has a Board that outlines the DCA policy. An Advisory Council provides the Board (bi)annually with support and advice.

Afghanistan

The DCA team in Afghanistan consists of around 346 staff, mainly Afghan nationals, with two expats. The national staff represent all different ethnic groups. The staff work on the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of projects, financial affairs, administration, HRM, and facilitation of services.

The Executive Director Chalachew Agonafir supported by the External Relations Consultant, Raymond Briscoe and Deputy Executive Director Dr Abdul

Qader Fakhri oversee the strategic management, the acquisition of new projects, communication with donors, the Afghan government, and stakeholders. The Program Director Dr Faridoon Sherullah, manages all project implementation.

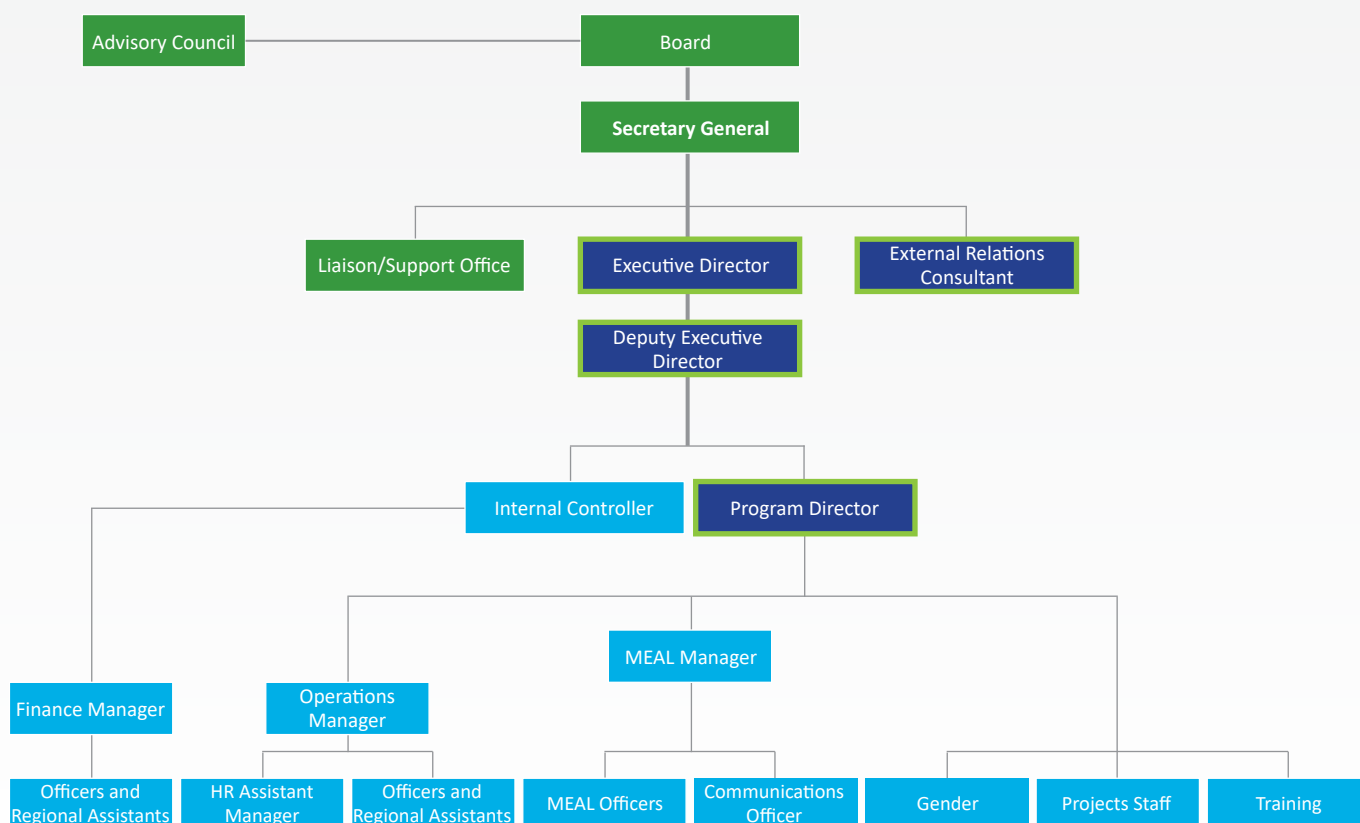
Decision Making Team consists of ED, DED, External Relations Consultant, and PD.

The Senior Management Team on the other hand is represented by the DMT, Internal Control, MEAL, Finance, and Operation departments.

In 2024, DCA offices are in Kabul with regional offices in Herat, Nangarhar, Kandahar, and Balkh, with sub-offices in each region, the main training centre is situated in Charikar center of Parwan province.

Netherlands

The Directors in Afghanistan work closely with the Board in Holland through the Secretary General, Ab Emmerzaal. In Holland, the Liaison and Support office facilitates the support to projects, finances, and the facilitation of the regular Board meetings.



6. Board and Advisory Council



Theo Lam
DVM, PhD Chairman



Gert-Jan Duives
DVM Secretary



Romke Steensma
CA Treasurer



Bram Schreuder
DVM PhD Member



Kees van Maanen
DVM PhD Member



Ellen Geerlings
MSc PhD, Board Advisor



Chris Bartels
DVM, MSc, PhD, Board Advisor

Board

As in previous years, in 2024 DCA was governed by a Board with its seat in the Netherlands. The Board comprises of 5 committed volunteers who devote their expertise to the benefit of DCA. The Board has two advisors, Ellen Geerlings and Chris Bartels. The Board met ten times in 2024, including two meetings with the Advisory Council (AC).

Advisory Council

In 2024, the DCA Board met twice with the Advisory Council, discussing the current dynamics and the future of DCA's program, the strategy under the current circumstances in Afghanistan, and DCA's lobbying policy. At the second Advisory Council meeting the management team from Kabul also participated. For years, the DCA Advisory Council has consisted of five members.

Members of the Advisory Council



Peter de Leeuw
DVM, PhD



Frauke de Weijer
DVM BA MPA



Lucy Maarse
MSc



Henk Jan Ormel
DVM



Hedwig Bruggeman
MSc

7. Partnerships

Partnership is an important aspect of DCA’s operation because it allows an integrated, and multidisciplinary approach. Partnership stimulates communication, coordination, trust, avoids duplication, and fosters a sharing of knowledge. For partnerships to flourish we need funding, and an understanding of the roles each play.

Government

We work with and report to many Government Departments of different Ministries at Central, Regional, Provincial and District levels. The Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock (MAIL) is our principal partner.

DCA partners recent work has been with the Ministry of Public Health where we collaborate on One Health bringing awareness to rural communities on animal, human and environmental health. Our training centre at Charikar is registered with the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs (MoLSA), and we report regularly to the Ministry of Economy.

The Public Private Partnership is very important for

both sectors to work together towards a sustainable outcome to the benefit of both parties.

Donors

We would like to express our appreciation to the donors who fund our various projects because we rely exclusively on them for the work we do. We acknowledge our current donors: IFAD, European Union, DAI-ACEBA, UNODC, AHF, Department of State, the Brooke, PUR Project, Sustainable Fibre Alliance (SFA), The Donkey Sanctuary (TDS), NGOs, other International Organisations and Clusters.

The communication and coordination we have with other NGOs is very important to us. We acknowledge the support given by such organisations as Agha Khan Foundation (AKF), Relief International (RI), Afghanaid, PRB, ICARDA, Concern Worldwide, Care International and MISFA to name but a few.

We are a member of the Afghanistan Food Security and Agriculture cluster (FSAC), of the UN-FAO, Afghanistan Humanitarian Fund (AHF)/OCHA, and the Agency Coordinating Body for Afghan Relief and Development (ACBAR).



8. Finance

Expenditures in 2024

The expenditures of DCA Livestock Programs to keep the overall program and individual projects running in 2024 amounted to USD 8.6 million.

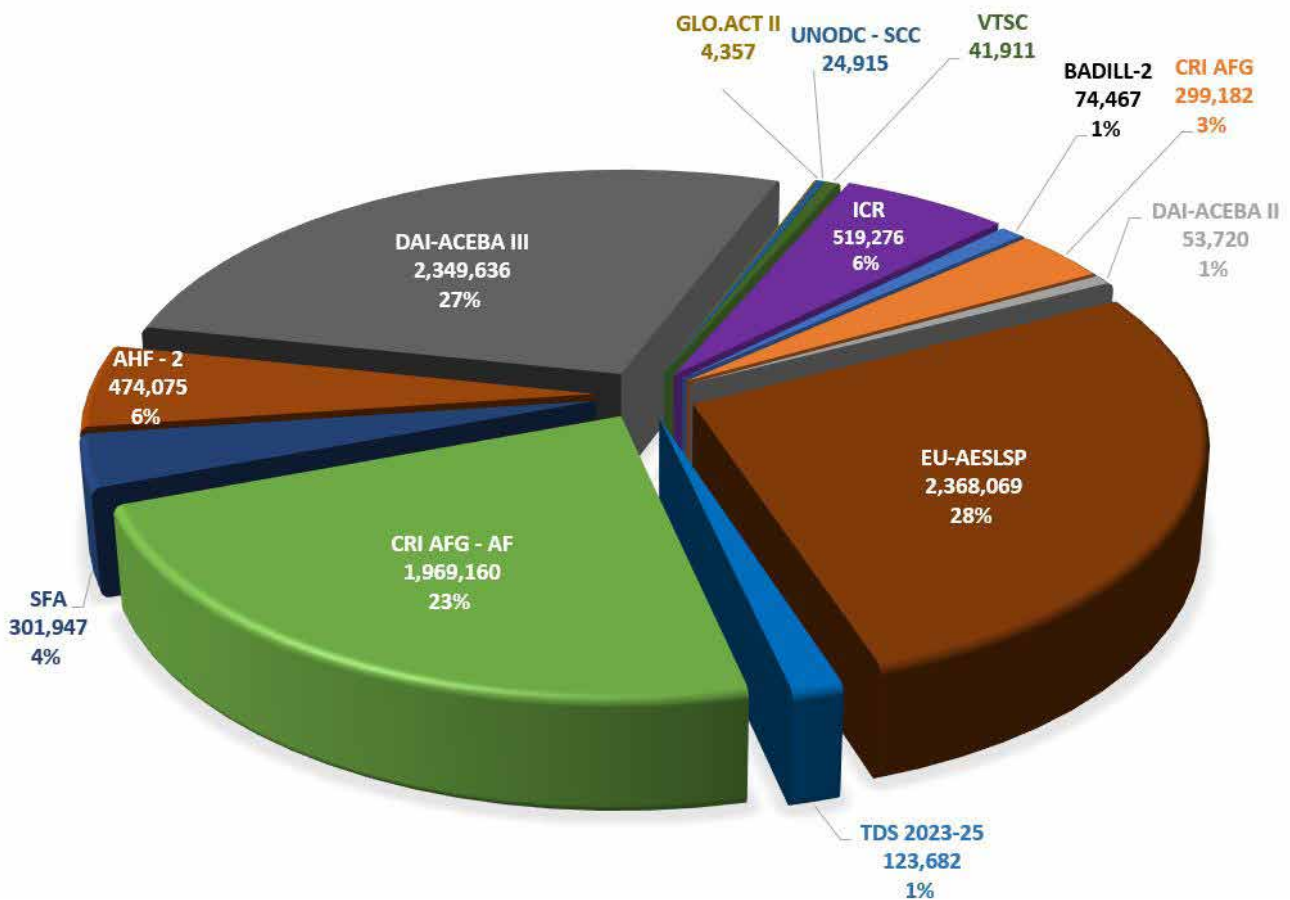
DCA received its funding from:

- DAI Global, supporting the ACEBA II and ACEBA III projects.
- UNODC, funding the BADILL-2, Food Security, and Livelihoods Protection projects and UNODC-SCC.
- IFAD (International Fund for Agricultural Development), providing funds for CRI AFG and CRI AFG – AF projects.

- EU, contributing to the AESLSP project.
- The Donkey Sanctuary, supporting the TDS 2023-2025 project.
- UN-OCHA, for AHF-2.
- Sustainable Fiber Alliance, funding the SFA project.
- Various other contributors, including support for projects like, GLO-ACT II, VTSC, and ICR.

The chart below shows the expenditures per project as a percentage of the total. From this, it can be concluded that 94% of all expenditures were used for project implementation, reflecting DCA’s commitment to efficient fund utilization and impactful programming.

Total Expenditures in 2024





Vaccinating Chicken, Herat Province

9. The way forward

In 2024, despite significant challenges—drought, flooding, restrictions on women and girls, forced returnees, and ongoing insecurity—DCA made remarkable progress in Afghanistan. Reaching over 3,923,591 individuals across 30 provinces and 340 districts, our interventions focused on vulnerable groups such as women, youth, IDPs, and people with disabilities. Central to our efforts were livestock production, welfare initiatives, private sector service provision, and marketing.

Our programs administered millions of vaccinations and dewormed many livestock, while establishing new Paravets and milk collection centers to enhance food security and boost rural incomes. Initiatives like communal rangelands, feed banks, high-value crop cultivation, and start-up capital for new businesses have helped strengthen the resilience and economic empowerment of local communities. One standout example is our work with over 5,000 women in 13 provinces, empowering them through capacity-building in livestock fiber production, entrepreneurship, and value chain development—equipping them to transform their livelihoods and contribute to local economies. Looking ahead, 2025 will see DCA’s programs expand both in scope and impact. We will deepen our focus

Chalachew N. Agonafir Executive Director



on community empowerment, gender transformation, economic resilience, and long-term self-sufficiency, particularly in remote areas and hardest hit by climate change.

Sustainability will remain a top priority as we strengthen local institutions, promote climate-resilient practices, and enhance market access for micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs), with a special emphasis on women-led businesses. As we near the completion of cashmere certification, securing additional funding will be crucial to scaling up our efforts. The One Health approach, which integrates animal, human, and environmental health, will continue to guide our work. Additionally, we will strengthen disaster preparedness and response systems, further enhance our Veterinary Field Units (VFUs), upgrade our training centers, and finalize our strategic plan for 2025–2029.

These successes would not be possible without the unwavering trust of our donors, the continued support of local institutions, and the dedication of DCA’s team. Here’s to a successful and impactful 2025, and a Happy New Year!



Vaccination & Deworming Campaign, Kabul Province

Abbreviations

AC	Advisory Council	MoLSA	Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs
AR	Annual Report	MoPH	Ministry of Public Health
ACBAR	Agency Coordinating Body for Afghan Relief and Development	MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
AHF	Afghanistan Humanitarian Fund	MPA	Master of Public Administration
AKF	Aga Khan Foundation	MSc	Master of Science
ED	Executive Director	NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
DED	Deputy Executive Director	PAIL	Provincial Agriculture, Irrigation, and Livestock
COVID-19	Coronavirus Disease 2019	PD	Program Director
CRI	Crisis Response Initiatives	PRB	Partners in Revitalisation and Building
DAI/ACEBA	Development Alternatives, Inc./ Afghanistan Competitiveness of Export-oriented Businesses Activity	PhD	Doctor of Philosophy
SFA	Sustainable Fibre Alliance	PPP	Public Private Partnership
DCA	Dutch Committee for Afghanistan	PPE	Personal Protective Equipment
DMT	Decision Making Team	PUR	PUR Project
DVM	Doctor of Veterinary Medicine	RI	Relief International
ERC	External Relations Consultant	SMEs	Small and medium enterprises
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations	TDS	The Donkey Sanctuary
FSAC	(Afghanistan) Food Security & Agriculture Cluster	ToT	Training of Trainers
FS	Food Security	UN	United Nations
HH	Household	UNOCHA	UN Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
HRM	Human Resource Management	UNODC	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
ICARDA	International Centre for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas	USAID	US Agency for International Development
IDPs	Internally Displaced People	VC:	Value Chain
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development	VFU	Veterinary Field Unit
LH	Livelihoods	VTSC	Veterinary Training and Support Center
LSP	Local Service Provider	EU	European Union
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation	AESLSP	Afghanistan Essential Services and Livelihoods Stabilization Program
MAIL	Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation & Livestock	MCC	Milk Collection Center
MISFA	Microfinance Investment Support Facility for Afghanistan	MEAL	Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability and Learning
MoEC	Ministry of Economy	ECHO	Extension for Community Healthcare Outcomes
MPC	Milk Processing Center	PV	Para Vet
		IPC	Integrated Food Security Phase Classification



Dutch Committee for Afghanistan – Livestock Programs

Country Headquarters Kabul, Afghanistan

*House 18 & 16, Street # 5 of Silo, near Karwan
University, District 3, Kabul, Afghanistan*

T: +93 (0) 794 898 879

E: info@dca-af.org

Chalachew Agonafir, Executive Director

Liaison and Support Office, The Netherlands

Postal address: P.O. Box 457, 3800 AL Amersfoort

Location: Arnhemseweg 2, 3817 CH Amersfoort

T: +31 (0) 6 42 635 182

E: info@dca-livestock.org

Ab Emmerzaal, Secretary General