



QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

OCT-DEC-2024

HIGHLIGHTS

- Provided Technical and Logistical Support to 583 VFUs
- 36,428 FEGs Train 2,532 Farmers
- Improved 266 Livestock Stalls/Stables for Better Animal Health and Productivity
- 2,050 Milk Cans Distributed to farmers
- Three Farmer's Field Days Conducted
- 20 Farmers Receive Training and Fodder Crop Packages
- 58 Self-Help Groups Established
- 135 Urea Treatment Demonstration Sessions Conducted
- 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.



Female Self-Help Group (SHG) Receives Equipment, Herat Province, October 2024.

Support to the Veterinary Field Units (VFUs)

The DCA-Livestock Programs, funded by the EU, aim to address the needs of vulnerable farming households while enhancing the profitability of on-farm activities.

351 existing active veterinary field units (VFUs) received continuous technical and in-kind support. The projects' support includes refresher training and technical advice to help paravets improve their knowledge, skills, and abilities in providing quality veterinary services. These professional-oriented trainings and guidance are designed to enhance, refresh, and update their expertise in the field.

As mentioned above, the 351 VFUs provided fee-based vaccinating services to 1,415,798 various species of animals and treated 1,212,277 sick animals.

Additionally, through the subsidized vaccination campaigns, 866,220 small ruminants were vaccinated, and 149,099 animals were dewormed.



During Subsidized Deworming Campaigns, Faryab Province, December 2024.

Farmers Training Through Extension Groups

The main focus of the EU-funded project, under the DCA, is to provide education and training, alongside other activities. This includes sharing best practices in farming and animal care, promoting hygiene, and raising awareness about common animal diseases.

To date, 36,428 Farmer Extension Groups (FEGs) have been established across the targeted provinces, consisting of 34,368 male and 2,060 female members. These FEGs have conducted in-depth training on livestock-related topics for 2,532 farmers, including 2,436 males and 96 females.



Female Farmers Training Through Extension Groups, Herat Province, October 2024.

Improving Livestock Stables Stability for Better Animal Health and Productivity

Enhancing the stability and quality of livestock stables is crucial for animal health, productivity, and well-being. Well-maintained stables create a safe, comfortable environment that reduces stress and prevents diseases.

Key improvements include better ventilation to control humidity and prevent respiratory issues, proper roofing and wall sealing, efficient waste management to limit infections, non-slip flooring for injury prevention, and adequate bedding for warmth. Proper lighting and designated feeding and watering areas also promote healthier animals.

During the reporting period, the DCA, under the EU-funded project, improved 266 stables across Nangarhar, Laghman, Balkh, Samangan, Faryab, Ghazni, Kandahar, and Helmand, including three model stables in Faryab and Samangan. The project provided each beneficiary with a window, water tap, lime for painting, roof sealing fabric, and a ventilator.



Improved Livestock Stables, Balkh Province, October 2024.

Dairy Initiative Boosts Afghan Farmers with New Milk Collection Centers

The Dutch Committee for Afghanistan (DCA) has successfully implemented a dairy initiative funded by the EU-AESLSP project. Over the reporting period, 32 village-level milk collection centers were established and are functioning well across 10 targeted provinces: Badakhshan, Balkh, Ghazni, Helmand, Herat, Kabul, Kandahar, Laghman, Nangarhar, and Takhar.

The project aims to enhance the dairy value chain and increase the income of dairy producers in these provinces. In a significant boost to efficiency, 2,050 milk transportation cans were distributed to as many beneficiaries already connected to the village-level milk collection centers. The distribution was as follows: 300 in Nangarhar, 400 in Helmand, 350 in Herat, 100 in Takhar, 300 in Kabul, 400 in Kandahar, and 200 in Ghazni provinces. This distribution allows farmers to transport surplus milk while maintaining hygiene standards.



Distribution of Milk Transportation Cans Process, Helmand Province, October 2024.

The program not only supports local farmers but also enhances their market access, contributing to the region's economic growth. With these centers continuing to thrive, the future looks promising for Afghanistan's dairy industry.

Three Farmer's Field Days Conducted

Throughout the quarter, the DCA under its EU-AESLSP-funded project, organized and conducted three farmer's field days in Balkh, Takhar, and Badghis provinces. Over 350 individuals including farmers, herders, NGO representatives, DFA representatives, customary leaders, DCA staff, processing companies, stop-shop owners, and local media, attended the events.

The events aimed to share knowledge, experience, and best practices, 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, introduction of new extension materials, demonstration of various improved veterinary equipment, tools and kits, and providing networking opportunities for the community.



Farmer's Field Day Event, Laghman Province, November 2024.

Farmers Received Training and Fodder Crops Packages

Fodder crops are plants grown to feed animals. They can be used as hay (dried green plants), silage (fermented under sealed conditions), or forage (freshly cut green plants). Animals can also get energy from seeds and sprouts if they are fed up with them.

Through the EU-funded project, DCA provided basic training and fodder crop kits to 20 eligible and valuable farmers in Nangarhar province. The kits included improved fodder seeds, fertilizer, a shovel, a crony, and rope.



Farmers Received Training and Fodder Crops Packages, Nangarhar Province, October 2024.

58 Female Self-Help Groups (SHGs) Established

A self-help group (SHG) is a community organization where individuals facing similar challenges pool resources to address shared issues and achieve collective goals. In rural areas, SHGs focus on economic self-sufficiency through savings, loans, and initiatives like small businesses and agriculture, empowering members—especially women—towards financial independence and community development.

As part of the EU-AESLSP-funded project, DCA aimed to establish 100 SHGs with 2,000 members across 16 Afghan provinces. In this quarter, 58 SHGs were formed across various provinces, receiving startup capital for their activities. This initiative boosts economic opportunities, strengthens social ties, and contributes to sustainable development. Ongoing support is essential for the long-term success of these groups and their impact on community resilience.



Female Self-Help Group (SHG) Functionality, Faryab Province, December 2024.

Farmers Empowered Through Urea Treatment Demonstrations

Urea treatment is a process used in animal husbandry to improve the nutritional value of low-quality forages and crop residues, such as straw and hay. By adding urea, a nitrogen-rich compound, the protein content and digestibility of these materials are enhanced, benefiting livestock.

Through an EU-funded project, DCA conducted 135 urea treatment demonstration sessions across 11 provinces, including Kabul, Takhar, Herat, Ghor, Nimroz, and Badghis, reaching over 2,834 farmers. The goal was to equip farmers with the knowledge and skills to produce urea-treated feed independently, thereby improving livestock feeding practices at the household level.



Field Urea Treatment-Making Practices, Badghis Province, October 2024.

Urea treatment offers benefits like low cost, high digestibility, and ease of application. By actively participating in these sessions, farmers gained hands-on experience, empowering them to implement effective feeding strategies. The initiative also fostered collaboration and knowledge-sharing among livestock herders, enabling farmers to optimize feed resources and improve livestock health and productivity. This project underscores the importance of continuous education and support in advancing livestock farming practices and promoting community development.

Animal Welfare

During the quarter, DCA, through the TDS-funded project, trained 2,100 donkey owners on proper animal care.

Additionally, 13 individuals were trained to provide first aid for donkeys. The project also reached 4,600 community members with key messages promoting the compassionate treatment of donkeys.

The DCA team improved 123 animal stables, provided high-quality veterinary and welfare services to 3,771 donkeys, and monitored the performance of 46 Private Local Service Providers (PSPs). Overall, the project continues to make significant progress in raising awareness, building local capacity, and improving the welfare of working donkeys.



During Training, Bamiyan Province, December 2024.



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