



QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

JAN-MAR-2025

HIGHLIGHTS

- Provided Technical and Logistical Support to 350 VFUs
- 2,341 FEGs Train 40,343 Farmers
- 220 Herders Benefit from 10 Urea Treatment Sessions
- 10 Female Self-Help Groups Established
- Constructed Rural Dairy Processing Plants (RDPPs) in four Provinces
- Households Received Milking Goats, Concentrated Feed, Feeders, Drinkers, Barley, Corn, and Training
- Strengthening 60 Newly Established VFUs Via DCA Internal VSP Project.
- Animal Welfare

VISION:

Empowered and resilient Afghan farmers and pastoralists, driving sustainable and climate-friendly livelihoods.

MISSION:

Reduce poverty and increase food security and safety by creating and protecting the livelihood assets and building resilience.



Fodder Crop Package Distribution Process, Kandahar Province, March 2025.

Support to the Veterinary Field Units (VFUs)

Under the European Union (EU) AESLSP-funded project, the DCA-Livestock Programs seek to meet the needs of vulnerable farm households while also increasing the profitability of on-farm activities.

During the quarter, 90 of the 350 existing veterinary field units (VFUs) received continuous technical and in-kind support. The project's support includes refresher training and technical advice to help para-vets 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 350 VFUs provided fee-based vaccinating services to 1,404,129 various species of animals and treated 1,325,036 sick animals. Additionally, through subsidized vaccination campaigns, 328,622 small ruminants were vaccinated against sheep pox, PPR, and enterotoxemia, while 184,872 animals were dewormed.

In addition, DCA, under the UNODC-funded Strengthening Counternarcotics Capacities project, conducted a livestock deworming campaign across targeted districts (Shahwalikot, Arghistan, Khakrez, and Ghorak) of Kandahar Province. In coordination with community elders, 307 livestock owners received awareness training on animal health and deworming practices. Four para-veterinarians received refresher training to support service delivery. The campaign dewormed 57,000 animals, enhancing livestock health and productivity for rural households dependent on them for food, income, and agricultural work.



During Deworming Campaigns, Kandahar Province, March 2025.

Farmers Training Through Extension Groups

Providing education and training is the primary focus of projects supported by the EU international donor agency. These efforts include sharing best practices in farming and animal care, promoting hygiene, and raising awareness about common animal diseases.

In this quarter to date, 2,341 Farmer Extension Groups (FEGs), including 745 new and 1,596 existing groups, with 2,267 men and 73 women, have been established across the 16 targeted provinces.



During a training session for female farmers, Herat Province, March 2025.

The groups have provided in-depth extension training on livestock-related topics to 40,343 farmers (38,631 men and 1,712 women).

Demonstration of Urea Treatment Practices

Urea treatment is the process of adding urea, a compound high in nitrogen, to low-quality feed like straw and hay. This helps increase the protein content and makes the feed easier for animals to digest. It's an important method for improving the health and productivity of livestock, especially in places where good-quality feed is hard to find.



Urea Treatment-Making Process to Farmers, 2025.

Through the quarter, DCA, under the EU-funded project, successfully conducted 10 urea treatment-making demonstration sessions in Badakhshan, Takhar, Faryab, Balkh, and Helmand provinces for 220 farmers.

These sessions equipped farmers with the skills and knowledge to produce urea treatment independently, enabling them to implement effective feeding strategies at home. Participants praised the low-cost, high-digestibility solution that can be easily integrated into livestock diets.

10 Female Self-Help Groups (SHGs) Established

A self-help group (SHG) is a grassroots community organization where individuals facing similar challenges come together to support one another. These groups pool their resources, such as finances and skills, to address shared problems and pursue collective goals. In rural areas, SHGs often emphasize economic self-sufficiency by encouraging savings, providing loans, and investing in initiatives like small businesses or agriculture and livestock. This approach significantly empowers members, particularly women, fostering financial independence and contributing to overall community development.

DCA, under the EU-AESLSP-funded project, aimed to establish 100 SHGs with a target of 2,000 active members across 16 provinces in Afghanistan. During this quarter, 10 new SHGs were successfully formed: three in Helmand, one in Samangan, three in Ghazni, and three in Kandahar. Each group received essential startup capital to facilitate their initial activities and businesses.



Female Self-Help Groups, Receives Equipment, Helmand Province, March 2025.

This initiative not only enhances economic opportunities for participants but also strengthens social ties within the community, paving the way for sustainable development. Continued support and monitoring will be crucial to ensure the long-term success of these groups and to maximize their impact on community resilience.

RDPPs to Boost Dairy Production in Four Provinces

Under the EU-AESLSP project, DCA is establishing four Rural Dairy Processing Plants (RDPPs) in Badakhshan, Helmand, Ghazni, and Laghman provinces to meet the growing demand for high-quality, hygienically processed dairy products. These plants aim to enhance the local dairy value chain by transforming raw milk into high-value products such as cheese, butter, and yogurt, improving farmers' livelihoods and boosting local economies.



*Dairy Processing Equipment Successfully Installation,
Badakhshan Province, March 2025.*

The RDPP sites have been selected in close collaboration with local communities, with land and labor contributions from them, while DCA provides processing equipment and a 10 kW solar system to power the facilities. The construction of RDPPs in Badakhshan, Ghazni, and Laghman provinces has been completed, with machinery and solar systems successfully installed. Each plant will employ five trained staff members to manage daily operations.

Construction of the RDPP in Helmand is underway and is expected to be completed within a month. These facilities will significantly improve dairy production and create new opportunities for local farmers, further supporting the development of Afghanistan's rural economy.

DCA Expands Livestock Support and Training in Southern Afghanistan

The Dutch Committee for Afghanistan (DCA), through the UNODC-funded GLO.ACT project made significant progress this quarter in supporting vulnerable communities in southern Afghanistan. The initiative focused on livestock distribution and awareness-raising activities aimed at improving food security and resilience among populations at risk of human trafficking and migrant smuggling.

DCA identified and supported 130 female-headed households across Kandahar province in the Dand, Daman, and Panjwai districts, as well as in Helmand province in the Nawa, Marja, and Garmsir districts. These households received 260 milking goats, 13 metric tons of concentrated feed, 130 feeders, 130 drinkers, and 150 kilograms of barley and corn.

Beneficiaries were also provided with detailed guidance on the proper use of the distributed feed and livestock care practices.

In addition to livestock and feed, households received comprehensive milking and sanitation kits, which included stainless steel buckets, Dettol soap, face masks, gloves, antiseptics, milk filters, scrubbing brushes, churning machines, aluminum pots, cotton fabric, and gas cylinders. Essential veterinary medicine was also distributed, and beneficiaries were trained in its proper use, along with best practices in goat management, housing, feeding, and disease prevention.



During Animal Feed Distribution, Kandahar Province, March 2025.

To further strengthen community resilience, 1,354 individuals, 671 in Kandahar and 683 in Helmand, participated in one-day training sessions. These sessions addressed livestock management, with a focus on goat nutrition, milking techniques, housing, and biosecurity. They also raised awareness on the dangers of human trafficking and migrant smuggling, reaching host communities, internally displaced persons (IDPs), and returnees.

This initiative is part of DCA's broader commitment, in partnership with UNODC, to promote sustainable livelihoods and protect vulnerable populations in Afghanistan through practical support and targeted education.

Strengthening Afghanistan's Livestock Health through VSP Project

The Veterinary Field Units Support Project (VSP), an internal initiative by the Dutch Committee for Afghanistan (DCA), made significant progress in this quarter, enhancing veterinary services and improving livestock health across 15 provinces.

DCA's network of 420 Veterinary Field Units (VFUs) across 29 provinces plays a vital role in supporting rural Afghanistan. The VSP focuses on strengthening 60 newly established VFUs to ensure they can sustainably provide essential veterinary services. By equipping licensed para-veterinarians (PVs) with training and resources, the project ensures these VFUs meet the growing needs of local farmers. As a result, livestock owners gain access to quality care, leading to healthier animals and increased food security.



VFU, During Monitoring, Kabul Province, Bagrami District, January 2025.

Each of the 60 VFUs established two Farmers' Extension Groups (FEGs), reaching 6,648 farmers with essential training on livestock management, disease prevention, and improved farming practices. This knowledge empowers farmers to enhance animal health and farm productivity, ensuring more stable incomes and improving livelihoods.

Veterinary interventions had a direct impact, with 80,221 animals vaccinated against diseases like PPR, FMD, and Anthrax. Additionally, 80,841 animals received medical treatment, and 71,329 were dewormed. These efforts reduce disease outbreaks, improve herd productivity, and ensure better health outcomes, ultimately benefiting rural communities.

The VSP's success this quarter lays a strong foundation for sustainable livestock management and enhanced rural resilience across Afghanistan.

Animal Welfare

The Donkey Sanctuary Project (TDS) aims to improve the welfare of donkeys. It works by educating people in three targeted provinces about how to care for them. This includes training extension workers, religious leaders (Mullahs), and volunteer teachers to spread important messages. The campaign focuses on providing enough space, good food, clean water, and proper hygiene for donkeys, all to enhance their well-being and diversify their diet.

Throughout the quarter, under the TDS-funded project, DCA trained 2,321 donkey owners on proper animal care practices. In addition, 12 individuals were equipped with skills to provide first aid to donkeys. The project also reached 3,750 community members with key extension messages promoting the compassionate treatment of donkeys.



During Practical Refresher Training, Bamyan Province, April 2025.

The TDS project management team improved 55 animal stables, provided high-quality veterinary and welfare services to 3,444 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 well-being and welfare of working donkeys.



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