



QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

APR-JUN-2025

HIGHLIGHTS

- Provided Technical and Logistical Support to 350 VFUs
- 834 FEGs Train 14,265 Farmers
- Four Farmer's Field Days Conducted
- Four Rural Dairy Processing Plants Established and Successfully Installed
- 350 VFUs Linked to Reliable Veterinary Medicine and Vaccine Suppliers
- 112,650 kg Balanced Poultry Feed Distributed to 751 Backyard Households
- 50 Vulnerable Households Received Beekeeping Packages
- 800 Farmers Linked to VFUs and 660 to One-Stop Shops
- 5,000 Liters of Anthelmintic Distributed to 350 VFUs
- Construction of Water Reservoir
- FMD Supportive Treatment and Antiparasite Campaign
- 160 Farmers Supported Through Pulse Plant Production Initiative
- Strengthening 92 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.



Successful Installation of Rural Dairy Processing Plants, Helmand Province, June 2025.

Support to the Veterinary Field Units (VFUs)

DCA, through the EU-funded AESLSP project, supports vulnerable farming households by strengthening livestock programs and promoting the profitability of on-farm livelihoods.

During the quarter, 350 existing Veterinary Field Units (VFUs) were monitored, and all received continuous technical and in-kind support. Among them, 70 para-vets received refresher training to enhance their knowledge, skills, and abilities in providing quality veterinary services.

As mentioned above, the 350 VFUs provided fee-based vaccination services to 1,929,207 animals of various species and treated 1,420,346 sick animals. Additionally, through subsidized vaccination campaigns, 34,070 small ruminants were vaccinated against enterotoxemia, while 232,841 animals received deworming treatment. Furthermore, as part of an FMD supportive treatment and antiparasitic administration campaign, 9,829 cattle, sheep, and goats received FMD-related care.

Additionally, under the UNODC-funded Strengthening Counternarcotics Capacities project, DCA conducted a livestock deworming campaign across the targeted districts of Shahwalikot, Arghistan, Khakrez, and Ghorak in Kandahar Province. The campaign dewormed 68,365 animals belonging to 490 selected beneficiaries, thereby improving livestock health and productivity for rural households that rely on them for food, income, and agricultural labor.



During Vaccination Campaigns, Herat Province, June 2025.

Farmers Training Through Extension Groups

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

To date, 834 Farmer Extension Groups (FEGs), including 777 for men and 57 for women, have been established across the 16 targeted provinces. These groups have provided in-depth extension training on livestock-related topics to 14,265 farmers (13,211 men and 1,054 women).



During a training session for female farmers, Bamyan Province, June 2025.

Four Farmer's Field Days Conducted

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.

Throughout the quarter, the DCA, under its EU-AESLSP-funded project, organized and conducted four farmer's field days in Nangarhar, Kandahar, Badakhshan, and Faryab provinces. Over 600 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.



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

Rural Dairy Processing Plants Boost Local Economies

During the quarter, under the EU-AESLSP project, DCA established and officially opened 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 were formally handed over to beneficiaries and local communities. They aim to strengthen the local dairy value chain by transforming raw milk into high-value products such as cheese, butter, and yogurt, thereby improving farmers' livelihoods and boosting local economies.



Official Opening of Rural Dairy Processing Plants, Helmand Province, June 2025.

The RDPP sites were selected in collaboration with local communities, who contributed land and labor, while DCA supplied processing equipment and a 10-kW solar power system for each facility. Construction of all RDPPs has been completed, with all equipment installed. Each plant will employ five trained staff members to manage daily operations. These centers are expected to increase dairy production, create employment opportunities, and support rural economic growth.

Enhancing Animal Health by Linking 350 Veterinary Field Units with Reliable Suppliers

With support from the EU, DCA has linked 350 Veterinary Field Units (VFUs) across 16 provinces to reliable suppliers of veterinary medicines and vaccines. This helps ensure VFUs have regular access to quality products needed for animal care.

The project identified reliable suppliers and improved delivery systems. As a result, VFUs can now get medicines and vaccines on time, even in remote areas. This effort goes beyond short-term needs. It builds lasting connections between VFUs and suppliers. These links help create a steady and sustainable supply of veterinary products.



VFUs Linkage to Reliable Suppliers, Target Provinces, May 2025.

Stronger VFUs mean healthier animals and better disease prevention. This directly benefits herders, pastoralists, and rural communities who rely on livestock. By linking VFUs with reliable suppliers, DCA is improving animal health services and supporting local livelihoods across the region.

Backyard Poultry Farms

Backyard poultry farming is a key value chain under the EU-AESLSP-funded project, implemented by DCA. The project aims to support small-scale layer poultry enterprises and empower farm women through sustainable backyard poultry farming.

During the reporting period, in Nangarhar, Balkh, Herat, Takhar, and Kandahar provinces, emphasis was placed on promoting good poultry management practices that reduce disease occurrence and mortality while improving productivity. Farmers were trained in essential husbandry practices, including coop hygiene, ventilation, sunlight exposure, regular cleaning of drinkers and feeders, and daily health assessments. These practices contribute to the long-term success and sustainability of the backyard poultry sector.



Balanced Poultry Feed Distribution, Kandahar Province, May 2025.

To enhance household-level poultry production, the project distributed a total of 112,650 kg of balanced poultry feed to 751 backyard poultry households across these provinces. Each household receives 150 kg of quality feed to meet the nutritional needs of their flocks. These households had previously participated in the project and actively engaged in poultry rearing.

This intervention aimed to improve poultry health and egg production, contributing to better household food security and income. By addressing the challenge of limited access to affordable and nutritious feed, the project strengthens the livelihoods of targeted rural families.

Beekeeping Initiative Expands to Support More Households and Sustainability

DCA, under the EU-funded AESLSP project, continued its efforts to support income diversification and improve livelihoods through beekeeping in Nangarhar province (Rodat district) and Herat province (Injil district). During this quarter, 50 new vulnerable households in these districts received comprehensive beekeeping packages designed to establish and strengthen their honey production capacity.

Each beneficiary received a complete package that included four bee colonies with hives, one empty beehive, and essential tools such as a smoker, protective clothing, headgear, gloves, wax sheets, brush, spray pump, honey extractor machine, wax cutter, feeder, a bottle of honey, barrel, saw, tent, wire, pliers, and sugar. These materials aim to provide new beekeepers with a solid foundation to launch viable and sustainable honey production operations.



Beekeeping Package Distribution, Herat Province, May 2025.

To further strengthen the sector, DCA distributed 200 additional bee colonies to 100 experienced beekeepers in Nangarhar (Kama, Rodat, Dari Noor districts) and Herat (Guzara, Injil, Karokh districts) provinces, enabling them to expand production and increase household income. This support builds on previous investments to improve productivity and ensure long-term sustainability.

The initiative also promotes the formation of cooperatives in both provinces, aiming to support the continued development of beekeeping as a sustainable small business. This reflects DCA's ongoing commitment to empowering rural communities through viable livelihood opportunities.

Linking Farmers to VFUs, Stop Shops, and MCCs Enhances Livestock Health and Income

DCA, under the EU-AESLSP-funded project, has focused on linking farmers to Veterinary Field Units (VFUs) to improve access to quality animal health services. VFUs provide essential care such as vaccination, deworming, and disease treatment, significantly reducing livestock mortality and boosting animal productivity.

In addition to veterinary services, capacity-building programs educate farmers on disease prevention, proper feeding, and livestock management. Healthier animals result in increased milk production, better meat quality, and higher market value, directly increasing farmers' incomes.

VFUs also raise community awareness about zoonotic diseases, enhancing public health and fostering sustainable partnerships between farmers and veterinary professionals.

During this quarter, 800 farmers were linked to VFUs and 660 to one-stop shops across 59 districts in 16 provinces.

This initiative remains crucial for improving livestock productivity and advancing the project's goals.



Linking Farmers to Stop Shops, Helmand Province, May 2025.

Livestock Deworming Campaign Protects Vulnerable Farmers' Animals

The DCA Livestock Program, under the EU-AESLSP-funded project, has planned to deworm four million livestock animals belonging to vulnerable farmers across 136 districts in 16 targeted provinces. This initiative aims to safeguard livelihoods in remote communities with limited access to quality veterinary and animal husbandry services.

Technically, livestock should be dewormed at least twice a year. However, due to limited knowledge and economic challenges, many farmers often neglect this essential practice.

The project's baseline survey, interviews, and livestock disease seasonal calendar highlighted internal parasites as a major cause of weak animals and reduced productivity, as reported by Veterinary Field Units (VFUs) and farmers.

During the reporting period, 5,000 liters of anthelmintic were distributed to 350 VFUs across the targeted provinces and districts, enabling them to deworm approximately 450,000 small and large ruminants. The provision of quality dewormers is expected to significantly improve livestock health and productivity.



Anthelmintic Distribution to VFUs, Takhar Province, May 2025.

New Irrigation Initiative Launches to Provide Clean Water and Support Livestock

New Irrigation Initiative Launches to Provide Clean Water and Support Livestock DCA, under the EU-funded project, is setting up eight low-technology irrigation systems in watershed areas to improve surface and rainwater availability.

These systems will be managed by community-elected water groups. Once built, the land will be used for growing fodder and plants that benefit livestock and herders, promoting local empowerment and sustainable resource management.

Recently, a water reservoir was completed in Kandahar province. Previously, a small spring provided contaminated water, which posed health risks to both animals and humans.

The new reservoir, along with concrete water taps for animals, ensures access to clean, safe water, reducing the risk of waterborne diseases. This development will benefit pastoralists and provide clean water for thousands of sheep, goats, and wild animals.



Constructed Water Reservoir, Kandahar Province, June 2025.

FMD Supportive Treatment and Antiparasite Campaign

As part of efforts to address the recent Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) outbreak and improve animal health, a one-month supportive treatment and antiparasitic campaign was launched on June 15 across 16 provinces under the DCA-implemented and EU-funded AESLSP project.

The campaign targets 1,225,000 animals, including 300,000 large ruminants and 925,000 small ruminants, directly benefiting over 83,000 rural households. In addition to supportive treatment for FMD, Ivermectin is being administered to help control vectors of Crimean-Congo Hemorrhagic Fever (CCHF).

Key veterinary supplies include 25,000 vials of Penstrep LA and Oxytetracycline LA, 7,000 vials each of multivitamins and Meloxicam, 3,500 bottles of OTC spray, 39,000 disposable syringes, and 20,000 vials of Ivermectin.



FMD Treatment and Antiparasite Campaign in 16 Provinces, June 2025.

Alongside treatment, awareness campaigns are informing livestock owners about FMD symptoms, transmission, prevention, and the importance of early action. The campaign aims to reduce livestock mortality, boost productivity, and strengthen rural livelihoods and food security across Afghanistan.

Enhancing Livelihoods Through Pulse Plant Production

DCA, under the UNODC-funded Strengthening Counternarcotics Capacities project, has launched a pulse plant production initiative in Shahwalikot, Arghistan, Ghorak, and Khakrez districts of Kandahar province. Based on predetermined selection criteria and in coordination with community elders and other project stakeholders, 160 farmers were selected to participate in bean plant production as part of an alternative livelihood effort.

To build their technical capacity, all selected beneficiaries received a one-day training focused on essential agricultural practices, including land preparation, row planting, fertilizer application, irrigation, disease control, optimal harvesting time, product packaging, storage, and marketing. Following the training, each farmer was provided with 20 kg of bean seeds and 25 kg of DAP fertilizer to support their cultivation efforts.



Farmers Receive Inputs, Kandahar Province, June 2025.

By providing practical agricultural support and resources, this project contributes to counternarcotics goals by offering communities viable alternatives to illicit crop cultivation. Through such targeted interventions, DCA continues to support rural livelihoods and strengthen community resilience in Kandahar province.

Strengthening Afghanistan's Livestock Health through VSP Project

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

DCA's network of 420 Veterinary Field Units (VFUs) across 29 provinces supports rural Afghanistan. The VSP focuses on strengthening 60 newly established VFUs to sustainably deliver essential veterinary services. By training and equipping licensed para-veterinarians (PVs), the project ensures quality care for livestock, improving animal health and food security.

During the quarter, these VFUs conducted six extension training sessions for 5,953 farmers representing 120 extension groups from 15 provinces. Farmers received training on livestock management, disease prevention, and improved farming techniques, enhancing productivity and livelihoods.

Veterinary interventions included vaccination of 264,906 animals against diseases such as FMD, PPR, Anthrax, and others. Additionally, 109,164 animals received medical treatment, and 117,471 were dewormed to prevent parasites. These services were provided by contracted VFUs, strengthening rural livestock health.

DCA conducted refresher training for 92 contracted VFUs, focusing on pregnancy diagnosis and differential diagnosis, basic surgery, capacity building, and other veterinary skills to strengthen quality service delivery.

In May, a one-day training on Crimean Congo Hemorrhagic Fever (CCHF) and ectoparasite control reached 1,316 farmers across seven provinces. Neguvon Powder was distributed to help control ectoparasites and reduce CCHF risks, especially during Eid slaughtering.

This quarter's achievements solidify the foundation for sustainable livestock management and increased rural resilience in Afghanistan.



Conducting the Pregnancy Diagnosis Training Course at Herat Training Center, May 2025.

Animal Welfare

Throughout the quarter, under the TDS-funded project, DCA trained 2,323 donkey owners on proper animal care practices. In addition, 16 individuals were equipped with skills to provide first aid to donkeys. The project also reached 3,485 community members with key extension messages promoting the compassionate treatment of donkeys.

On May 08, 2025, we celebrated World Working Donkey Day with the active participation of 290 stakeholders from various sectors.

The TDS project team improved 60 animal stables, provided high-quality veterinary and welfare services to 3,485 donkeys, and monitored the performance of 48 Private Local Service Providers (PLSPs).

Overall, the project continues to make significant progress in raising awareness, building local capacity, and improving the well-being and welfare of working donkeys.



Celebrating World Working Donkey Day, Yakawlang One District, Bamyan Province, May 2025.



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