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کمیته هالنډ برای افغانستان



Annual Report 2010



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Preface

On behalf of the Board and all staff of DCA-VET, I am delighted to present to you our Annual Report 2010. Last year, DCA-VET received the highest amount in donor funds ever, i.e. 6 million US dollars. The increase in funds was mainly achieved by contracting some “new” donors.

An important new donor to DCA-VET is the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD). With a grant to the Afghan Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock, IFAD enables the implementation of the Rural Microfinance and Livestock Support Programme in which DCA-VET is subcontracted for the veterinary project. This project is very important for the further development of the public-private partnership in veterinary services in Afghanistan. Another new donor to DCA-VET is GIZ (Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit). Unfortunately, funding of two of the three GIZ projects will not be continued.

In 2010, USAID funds again facilitated the largest part of DCA-VET's achievements. Via subcontracts with Chemonics and ACDI/VOCA, good progress was made in the improvement of (access to) private veterinary services. VFUs can become small

business units and thanks to the introduction of value chains, business development of the livestock owners is encouraged as well. To improve extension on livestock health and production, Herd Health Packages on large and small ruminants, poultry and gender (focusing on the role of women in livestock health and production) were successfully introduced. The EU project also pays attention to gender with the introduction of female extension workers.

Another great achievement is the start of VetServ as an independent wholesaler of veterinary vaccines and drugs. DCA-VET has devoted many years on the separation of the import and distribution of vaccines and medicines activities from the NGO activities. Since April 2010, VetServ operates more or less independently, and on 1 January 2011 the DCA-VET Foundation in the Netherlands enabled VetServ to become an independent private company. During 2010, VetServ developed several new stores and I was honoured to open the new store facility in Herat, as the picture above shows.

Ab Emmerzaal, CEO DCA-VET



Profile

DCA-VET

The Dutch Committee for Afghanistan (DCA) commenced its humanitarian assistance in Afghanistan in 1980, shortly after the Soviet invasion. Livestock oriented activities started in 1988 by establishing the Veterinary Training and Support Centre (VTSC) in Peshawar (Pakistan). In 1994, the DCA Board decided to focus entirely on veterinary and directly related livestock programmes and founded Dutch Committee for Afghanistan – Veterinary Programmes (DCA-VET).

Context

Livestock is a vital part of the life of communities in rural areas in Afghanistan. The FAO Census of 2003, still being the most recent estimate of Afghan livestock numbers, is recording 3.7 million cattle and 16 million small ruminants. Over 80% of the Afghan population lives of farming, which includes the raising of cattle, sheep and goats. Animals are used not only for meat, milk, wool and leather but also for traction power during planting and harvesting, for fertilizer and as a source of fuel, in the form of dried dung. Several wars and severe droughts have

levied their toll on Afghan livestock populations. Although numbers are recovering now, productivity of the Afghan livestock is still very low. The principal causes are inadequate winter nutrition, poor herd management and a lot of diseases. Serious and emerging contagious diseases as well as many parasitical infections are prevalent in Afghanistan.

For over twenty years, international NGOs like DCA-VET as well as the Afghan government have successfully been striving to improve health and productivity of the Afghan livestock. Considerable progress has been made, but there are still technical and geographical gaps to be filled, and the final challenge will be to make progress in livestock production sustainable.

Mission Statement

The mission statement of DCA-VET is:

“To offer aid and assistance to the population of Afghanistan by improving the health and productive output of the local livestock”

Objective and Activities

The main objective of DCA-VET is to establish a nationwide structure of veterinary field units (VFUs) in Afghanistan, staffed with qualified personnel able to protect and improve the health and production of the local livestock.

To realize this objective, DCA-VET has developed programmes to:

- Train paraveterinarians (paravets) and basic veterinary workers (BVWs)
- Offer continuous capacity building and technical support to (para)veterinary professionals
- Establish district-based veterinary field units throughout Afghanistan
- Facilitate import and distribution services of veterinary equipment, medicines and vaccines
- Support the sustainable delivery of animal health services to individual livestock owners
- Enhance livestock production, food security and food safety
- Enhance the sustainability of VFUs
- Support the integration of public and private veterinary services

General Approach

From the early beginning, training of veterinary staff, the establishment of veterinary field units (VFUs), vaccine and medicine delivery, and extension are major components of the DCA-VET programmes. All programmes are aimed at one goal: establishing private veterinary enterprises run by professional staff all over Afghanistan, thereby enabling all Afghan farmers to have easy access to quality animal health care.

Training

Training of veterinary staff is an essential part of the work of DCA-VET. In Charikar the main DCA-VET Veterinary Training Centre is established, and in the regional DCA-VET offices in Herat and Mazar-i-Sharif regional Veterinary Training Centres are present. Appropriate curricula as well as practical education are very important elements of the training of both paravets and basic veterinary workers. The six-month paravet curriculum includes diagnostics and treatment of common animal diseases, but also business skills. After graduation, paravets are supposed to attend several refresher courses to extend and improve their capacity. BVWs are trained in a five-week course to perform vaccinations and basic veterinary treatments.

Field programme

To provide for easily accessible animal health services, almost 800 VFUs have been developed

country-wide. DCA-VET has given or still gives support to many of them.

Each VFU is staffed by one or more veterinary professionals, often a paravet, sometimes assisted by several BVWs working in remote areas of the district. The VFU staff and the BVWs take care of vaccinations and treatments of the livestock in the surroundings.

To reach self-support of the VFUs, a system of cost recovery for vaccines and medicines and fee for service was launched several years ago. To improve sustainability, the focus is now on diversification of services provided by the VFUs, and on marketing and extension campaigns to enhance the farmers' awareness of the benefits the VFUs have to offer them.

Vaccine delivery

The vaccines and medicines to be used by the VFUs were formerly imported and distributed by DCA-VET itself, taking care of supplying high quality biologicals and pharmaceuticals for optimal results. The necessary cold chain facilities for storing the vaccines were put in place by distributing refrigerators, cool boxes, and icepacks to the central stores and the VFU staff.

Since 1 January 2011, DCA-VET has transferred responsibility of this vaccine delivery to VetServ, an independent commercial wholesaler of veterinary vaccines, drugs and equipment. The presence of three DCA-VET members in the Board of VetServ enables DCA-VET to guide VetServ through this starting-up phase.

Extension

To make the farmers aware that the services of the VFUs can increase the health and productivity of their livestock and thereby their own income, the



VFU staff is actively engaged in extension, especially in propagation of the so-called Herd Health Packages that are developed for different livestock species. These HHPs consist of a series of services in livestock health and management that the (para)veterinarian can offer to the farmers.



Projects

Ten projects

In 2010, DCA-VET implemented ten different projects: a record! One of these projects, the AECID project, was preliminary ended because of lack of funding of the donor, while on the other hand three new projects started off this year. Most of the projects consisted of the well-tested integrated package of training, field work through VFUs, and technical support in animal health and production. Exceptions to this approach are the Brooke project, aiming at equine welfare, the World Bank project, focusing on training only, and the Baghlan Dairy project, operating a dairy factory.

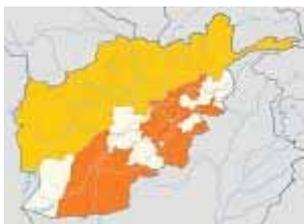
Almost entire Afghanistan

As in 2009, all projects together enabled DCA-VET to extend its training and VFU programme over the entire Northern half of Afghanistan, from the provinces of Farah and Herat in the West to Badakhshan in the East. However, on request of the USAID/ASAP project, this year DCA-VET as a subcontractor covered a large part of the Southern provinces as well. So for the first time since its foundation the veterinary programmes of DCA-VET reached almost entire Afghanistan (see the map at the inside of the back cover).

Timetable of DCA-VET programmes

Orange = ongoing projects, light orange = (probable) extension of project, green = funding by DCA-VET

	2010	2011	2012	2013
AECID	Mar			
USAID/ASAP	December 06 – April 11	Jul		
GIZ projects	June 10 – May 11	Aug		
World Bank		Nov 10 – Dec 11		
USAID/IDEA-NEW	April 10 – March 12			
EU	October 09 – September 12			
Brooke	April 08 – March 12		Ext – March 13	
RNE/DCU	April 09 – March 13			
IFAD/RMLSP		August 10 – March 13		
Baghlan Dairy	Apr10 RNE	May-Nov 10 DCA	Mr11 GIZ	1yr extension? GIZ
				DCA



Term	1 December 2006 – 31 July 2011
Provinces	See map: orange = present target provinces, yellow = other ASAP provinces
Total budget	US\$ 8,948,299 + US\$ 246,090
Donor	USAID/Chemonics
Project manager	Dr. Resham Prasad Acharya (till April 10) Dr. Chalachew Niguse (since June 10)

ASAP

Accelerating Sustainable Agriculture Program – Broad-based livestock development

Background

The ASAP livestock project is part of a larger program, funded by USAID, aiming at accelerating market-led agriculture in Afghanistan by providing new economic opportunities to the Afghan farmers. The livestock project focuses on veterinary services as well as on cashmere harvesting. The ASAP program encompassed seventeen provinces in Northern Afghanistan.

Although originally the project was supposed to end the 31st of March 2010, the livestock project is now granted an extension of one year to strengthen the existing VFU network and continue the cashmere harvesting program. In addition, ASAP strongly insisted on expanding the VFU project to eight provinces in the South and East of Afghanistan; a new challenge for DCA-VET that until now has been operating only in the more secure Western, Central and Northern parts of Afghanistan.

During the year, several provinces in the North of Afghanistan were transferred gradually from the ASAP project to projects funded by other donors, to ensure support after the ending of ASAP funding.

Aims

- **VFUs North West Central:** to strengthen the 383 VFUs by introduction of the Herd Health Packages, diversification of services and the establishment of VetServ for vaccine delivery.
- **Cashmere:** to train some 80,000 farmers in proper harvesting techniques.
- **VFUs South and East:** to establish and/or renovate up to 70 VFUs in eight provinces.

Results

- **383** VFUs in the North were supported in delivering veterinary and extension services
- **12.5 million** vaccinations and medications were administered, yielding **US\$ 3 million** gross sales
- **175,000** herders were reached with the Small Ruminant Herd Health Package
- **88,000** farmers in all 17 provinces were trained in cashmere harvesting
- **68** VFUs engaged in the government disease surveillance (sanitary mandate contracts)
- **66** existing and new VFU locations in the South were identified for support by DCA-VET and some in partnerships with other NGOs
- **7** provincial coordinators were recruited and deployed in Southern provinces
- **7** paravets from Ghazni graduated in August



Female farmers improve winter feed reserves

As the winter approaches, DCA-VET advises on improvement of winter feed reserves through urea treatment. Dr. (Ms.) Zubaida Popal of DCA-VET demonstrated to hundreds of female farmers how to treat wheat straw. Dr. Zubaida: "Given that women are responsible for the daily household food and childcare, they are highly enthusiastic to learn

and work on winter feed reserves; they would like to ensure that the cows and goats produce more milk for the children." The female farmers are very grateful to DCA-VET, as the contribution of this activity to the local livelihood is immense. Urea treatment is a cheap method to improve the nutritive value of dry feed by a factor 3.



Term	a) 1 May 2008 – 30 April 2010 b) 15 Nov. 2010 – 31 March 2011
Provinces	Baghlan
Total budget	a) € 467,987 / b) € 173,571
Donor	a) Dutch government / b) GIZ
Project manager	Erick Gerstner
Operations manager	Zubair Haqani

Baghlan Dairy

Dairy development in Baghlan province

Background

2010 has been a transitional year for the Baghlan Cheese Factory. The funding by the Dutch government that started in 2006 came to an end the 30th of April 2010. From that time onwards BCF was financially supported by DCA-VET itself, until a new donor, GIZ (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit), provided funding from the 15th of November onwards.



The factory started in 2007 with Gouda Cheese as the primary product, but during the years soft cheeses and other dairy products became more and more important. During the period of Dutch funding, BCF reached a milk intake of 250,000 litres and a sales value of almost US\$ 100,000, both annually. In 2010 however, milk intake was deliberately lowered in order to reduce the costs for DCA-VET.

Aims

The aims for 2010 were to improve the quality of the milk received, the hygiene at the factory, the cost effectiveness as well as the marketing of the Baghlan dairy products.

It was realized that Baghlan Cheese Factory cannot do without a donor yet, but will need another two or three years support to render into a profitable business operation. Therefore, during the year a serious quest for a new donor was undertaken, focusing at a sustainable future for the factory. At the same time, a partnership with some promising business men was investigated, and a consultant was asked to develop a business plan and marketing strategy for BCF.

Results

- Milk intake in 2010 was **100,000 litres**, sales amounted to **US\$ 60,000**
- A **Baghlan dairy website** was launched
- A promising **new market** was opened in Mazar
- **Yoghurt** accounted for **77% of the sales**, so the factory was renamed **Baghlan Dairy Factory**
- In GIZ, a new short-term **donor** was found, enabling the factory to invest in cold trucks, equipment and packing materials for the yoghurt line as well as in marketing and training of the farmers. Negotiations with GIZ are ongoing for a longer-term follow-up funding.
- **Two promising business men** were identified. Alas, although being interested, both of them did not step in as partner of BCF.
- A **business plan** was developed by consultant Mary Munnik. The conclusion of this study is that if production and marketing strategy are strongly improved the factory will be able to run with a profit in a couple of years.

Factory boosts dairy farming in Baghlan
Since the Baghlan Cheese Factory started its production many farmers in Baghlan became again interested in dairy farming, as they know that there is a market for their milk. Therefore, more and more farmers are purchasing cows now. Some of them are even buying special cattle breeds from Pakistan that can produce 20 liters per cow per day. Dairy farming is a profitable business, so the Baghlan Dairy project has a very positive impact on the people living around the factory. Also the customers are very content with the Baghlan Dairy products. According to owners of supermarkets in Mazar, their clients are favoring Baghlan yoghurt: only when no Baghlan yoghurt is available customers will buy the other brands of yoghurt.



Term	1 April 2009 – 31 March 2013
Provinces	Uruzgan
Total budget	€ 1,823,038
Donor	Royal Netherlands Embassy
Project manager	Eng. Lutfullah Assady
Provincial coordinator	Dr. Moin Khan

DCU2

Improving basic services and capacity building in Uruzgan - Animal health and production

Background

Dutch Consortium for Uruzgan (DCU) is a group of five Dutch Non Governmental Organizations in development aid (Save the Children, Cordaid, ZOA, HealthNet-TPO and DCA-VET). These NGOs joined forces to improve basic civil services in Uruzgan, focussing on physical and mental health care, capacity building, education and children's rights, rural development, and animal health and productivity. In the DCU2 project, DCA-VET and its implementing partner are supporting nine VFUs that are providing veterinary services and artificial insemination to the Uruzgan livestock. As Uruzgan hosts a large population of Kuchi nomads, special efforts are devoted to reach these livestock owners as well. Local partner of DCA-VET is AVA (Afghanistan Veterinary Association) that has been working in Uruzgan in the years preceding DCU2.

Aims

The main aim of the DCA-VET component is to improve animal health and production of Uruzgan livestock by enhancing the basic veterinary service level. To improve animal health, DCA-VET is strengthening the existing veterinary facilities in all districts. Basic veterinary workers are trained to treat animals in remote areas and to perform basic animal health care to the migrating flocks of Kuchi. Animal productivity is enhanced by artificial insemination of cows to improve the local breed. As in winter animals may die of malnutrition, winter feed is distributed to help the animals through this harsh season.

Results

- **7** paravets attended a refresher course
- **10** new BVWs were trained
- **6** new Kuchi BVWs were trained
- All trained BVWs received the necessary equipment as well as vaccines and medicines
- **3 VFUs** received laboratory facilities and **2 VFUs** artificial insemination (AI) facilities, so all VFUs can perform diagnostic analyses and AI now



- **Extension** on the Small Ruminant Herd Health Package started in Uruzgan
- **656,000** animals were vaccinated and **460,000** treated, including Kuchi livestock
- **692** cows were serviced through artificial insemination from April 2010 through March 2011 and **257** calves were born
- **179 metric tons** of winter feed were distributed in Tarin Kowt, Chinartoo, Ghezab, Chora and Dehrawood in January 2011

Curing of sheep convinces Kuchi

Hajie Khoudaidad, a Kuchi coming from Gazni province to spend winter in Uruzgan, tells: "I have fifty sheep, but all were sick and one of them even died. Then I brought the liver and lungs of the dead sheep to the VFU in Tarin Kowt, where the lab technician examined the organs. He told me that my sheep had died due to worms in the liver. Learning that, I was surprised how such small

worms can kill sheep; I thought that it would be another serious disease, but the doctor gave me medicines for de-worming and after I applied these to my sheep, they all became healthy again. I was very happy that by spending very little money all my other sheep were cured. Since then, I always contact the VFU staff if I face any problems or diseases with my animals, and I advised other Kuchi to do the same."



Term	1 October 2009 – 30 September 2012
Provinces	Farah, Herat, Badghis and Ghor
Total budget	€1,736,843
Donor	European Union
Project manager	Dr. Abdul Qader Fakhri

EU

Support to animal health in Afghanistan, with focus on the Western region

Background

Throughout large parts of Afghanistan, the USAID-funded RAMP and ASAP projects have firmly established a system of privatized, fee for service, animal health care delivery. This is the system for the four target provinces of the EU project. At termination of the ASAP project, the VFU network is not fully sustainable yet and not all livestock owners have easy access to the veterinary services. Especially Kuchi, women and farmers in remote areas still have difficulties in obtaining professional care for their livestock.

Aims

The main aim of the EU project is to enhance the livelihood of the rural population by improving the health and production of the livestock in the target area. Specific objectives are to stimulate the sustainability of the VFU system and to improve access opportunities of farmers to animal health services. To increase VFU sustainability the quality of clinical services will be improved and the range of available services will be enlarged. To expand access to services, additional paravets will be



From housewife to paravet

Ms. Tahera and Ms. Marzia were only housewives before they attended the paravet course in 2009. After graduation they started working in a VFU that covered almost ten villages, delivering veterinary services to many farmers. They also created some women farmers groups for extension programs. On their own initiative, they

educated, including female paravets, and new VFUs established. Besides, Kuchi basic veterinary workers will be trained to provide animal health care to Kuchi livestock. To reach female farmers in remote areas, female extension workers will be trained. For optimal paravet training and to broaden the range of topics of training, the facilities of the Charikar Veterinary Training Centre will be further improved. Last but not least, an important objective is to strengthen relationships between public and private sectors, to ensure the embedding of the VFU structure in a nationwide public-private veterinary system.

Results

- **17** paravets graduated in 2010 among whom **2** were female, and **20** paravet trainees started their education this year
- **56** VFU staff received refresher training
- **11** new VFUs were established
- **7** female VFU staff are active in the target area
- **1** VFU cooperative, called 'Ibn-Sina cooperative', with **146** members was registered
- **126** VFU staff participated in Large Ruminant HHP training
- **49,000** farmers were reached by the VFU staff with extension messages on livestock health and productivity (Small and Large Ruminant HHP)
- **20** VFU staff were contracted by AHDP/MAIL for a 3-month pilot on sanitary mandates
- **4** issues of the quarterly newsletter 'Malamut' have been published and distributed

bought two small hatchery incubators that are hatching hundreds of chicks many times every year. Since they are working there are some positive changes in their livelihood, and one of them has bought a piece of land. Although they face some challenges because of the social and cultural constraints, they are happy with their work and they continue their excellent services to the community.



Term	1 June 2010 – 31 May 2011
Provinces	Kunduz, Takhar, Baghlan, Badakhshan
Total budget	€ 781,330
Donor	GIZ (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit)
Project manager	Dr. Zia Formuly

GIZ Livestock

Strengthening of livestock production in the North East provinces of Afghanistan

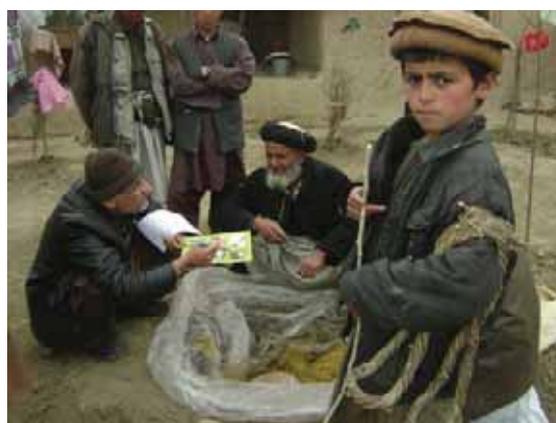
Background

Animal health services in Takhar, Kunduz, Badakhshan and Baghlan have been provided through an existing VFU network, previously supported by ASAP. However, there is a need for bringing more capacity and knowledge to VFU staff, more awareness of the benefits of VFU services to livestock owners, and expansion of the VFU network to areas where currently no animal health care exists. Two complementary projects, both implemented by DCA-VET, are tackling this goal, i.e. the GIZ project and the RMLSP project. In the GIZ project, DCA-VET works closely together with PRB (Partners in Revitalization and Building), a national NGO. The GIZ project focuses on strengthening the livestock production by improving sustainability of VFUs. Extension and training in animal husbandry to the farmers through the VFU staff as well as through local extension workers are the main activities. The veterinary work in the field and the training of new VFU staff are supported by the complementary RMLSP project.

Aims

The GIZ project is designed to support an increase in livestock production through enhancing the knowledge of the VFU staff and selected extension workers on livestock extension practice and strategies. The extension messages also encourage the farmers to purchase the quality vaccines and medicines from the VFUs for their livestock. To strengthen the existing VFUs, the staff receives refresher training to improve their skills in animal health and production as well. The project aims are

to improve animal production in quantity and quality, and to maintain sustainable VFUs.



Results

- **2** DCA-VET (and PRB) sub-offices were established in Pul-i-Khumri and Taloqan besides the two already existing offices in Kunduz and Badakhshan
- **30** local livestock extension workers (25 male + 5 female) were recruited and trained
- Each extension worker is supporting **10** villages, where he/she is training **5** selected farmers per village. Besides, practical demonstrations for all farmers of the village are organized
- **100** VFU staff and **30** extension workers were provided with refresher training on different topics in animal health and production

A 'coupled' job

In most of the provinces of Afghanistan, female paravets and extension staff experience large constraints in practicing their jobs, as they cannot travel through the countryside without having an escort or Moharam (a male family member who accompanies the female staff during her visits to clients). However, within the GIZ project a married couple solved this problem effectively as they are

both trained as livestock extension and human hygiene workers. So now Ms. Yasameen and her husband Mr. Nimatullah are travelling together to villages in Badakhshan province, where she teaches the female farmers and he trains the male farmers on livestock issues and basic human hygiene. A couple with the same job: an excellent solution to the female travelling constraint.



Term	1 June 2010 – 31 May 2011
Provinces	Kunduz, Takhar, Badakhshan
Total budget	€ 410,785
Donor	GIZ (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit)
Project manager	Dr. Mohammad Zaid Hares

GIZ Poultry

Improve livelihoods for women and the poor through a sustainable poultry development and management programme

Background

Poultry production constitutes a good source of cash income for the poor village women in the region and in many cases is their only income source. The present beneficiary training shows that 93% of the village chicken ownership is in hand of the women; the small income they earn from this sector is e.g. being used to purchase pencils and notebooks for the children. Local breed chickens and low input / low output lead the production system. Low productivity, high chicken mortality, lack of access to suppliers, lack of markets, lack of access to poultry health services, and little technical knowledge are severe constraints to the poultry producers. Experiences show that an improved cross breed bird can produce four times more eggs compared to the local breed ones.

Aims

The GIZ poultry programme helps women to secure their livelihoods by improving food and income security through a better way of backyard poultry keeping with a higher productivity. At the same time, the programme aims at empowering the women, making them more self confident and less dependent on their husbands by offering them the opportunity to start their own small scale business. Focus is on the establishment of small scale poultry units that are owned and maintained by the local women, with market oriented egg production. Several activities have to be implemented in order to build up flourishing poultry businesses.



One of the DCA-VET poultry trainers constructing a poultry coop with beneficiaries

Results

- 1 project coordinator, 3 poultry community workers and 3 poultry trainers were appointed
- 30 villages were selected, 10 in each province
- 600 poor women (20 per village) were selected to start a small poultry farm
- 30 Village Poultry Women Associations were established
- 30 complete gas incubators as well as poultry equipments were distributed to the Associations
- 12,000 three months old pullets were distributed.
- 30 female poultry BVWs were trained
- Training curriculum and messages on poultry husbandry for beneficiaries were developed

A swift start for the Poultry BVWs

In November 2010, there were no women BVWs working for poultry in the target area. DCA/GIZ responded rapidly by contacting 30 women who were interested in poultry vaccination and treatment. The DCA/GIZ Poultry Project Coordinator started training the 30 Poultry BVWs at once, in order to ensure the sustainability of the future women poultry businesses.

After graduation, the BVWs were linked with the new Women Poultry Associations, their future clients. This was an important stimulant to the beneficiaries. Ms. Dil Jan: "We couldn't even maintain the hardy local chicken, let alone introducing new breeds. However, when I realized that the project has several integrated components such as a poultry doctor (BVW), training, feed and housing etc, I thought it is worth trying."



Term	1 April 2010 – 31 March 2012
Provinces	Faryab, Jawzjan, Sari-Pul, Balkh, Samangan
Total budget	US\$ 1,917,737
Donor	USAID / ACDI/VOCA
Project manager	Dr. Nico Noorman/ Dr. Mir Alam Darwish

IDEA-NEW

Strengthening of livestock production in the Northern provinces of Afghanistan

Background

Thanks to the RAMP and ASAP projects, a network of veterinary field units has been established in the northern region that is currently functioning in nearly each district of every province. Through this network, livestock owners have reliable access to basic veterinary services provided by trained (para)professionals. However, despite the existence of these VFUs a considerable proportion of livestock owners still are either not aware of, or have no access to, these VFUs.

Through the IDEA-NEW project, DCA-VET addresses these constraints and ensures that all livestock owners in the targeted provinces are aware of the VFUs, have greater access to veterinary services through the VFU system, and are more likely and able to avail themselves of those services.

Aims

The project has the following objectives:

- To extend the program into the more remote districts, by training more paravets and BVWs
- To expand the services provided by the VFUs in order to achieve higher livestock productivity, by refresher training on nutrition, pregnancy diagnosis etc.
- To increase livestock productivity through improved herd management by campaigns on the Herd Health Packages
- To develop value chains for livestock products (cashmere, karakul)

Results

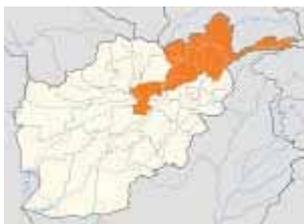
- **293,000** households have benefited from the IDEA-NEW animal health care programme
- **US\$ 739,000** gross sales were reached by 109 VFUs
- **103** VFU staff attended a refresher course
- **15** new paravets were trained and **15** new VFUs were established
- **35** new BVWs were trained
- **45,000** farmers attended training sessions on the Herd Health extension packages
- **73,000** farmers were informed by VFU staff on herd health management
- **4** feed banks were established



Veterinary practice in a sea-container

Nico Noorman, project manager: "For the first time we had three female students in our paravet course in Mazar. They all graduated successfully. One of them is Ms. Mozghan who lives in a small village close to Mazar. Of course she wanted to start a VFU. Although the family fully supported her to become a paravet, a VFU within the house where they are living

was not considered an ideal situation. All these farmers and animals in their garden was not an attractive idea to the rest of the family. So we came with the solution to buy a sea-container for her. We placed the container outside the premises so that farmers have easy access to this special VFU without disturbing the rest of the family. In this way she was able to start her own VFU close to her house."



Term	1 September 2010 – 31 March 2013
Provinces	Kunduz, Takhar, Baghlan, Badakhshan, Bamyan
Total budget	US\$ 3,003,000
Donor	IFAD (International Fund for Agricultural Development)
Project manager	Dr. Raymond Briscoe / Dr. Faridoon

RMLSP

Rural Microfinance and Livestock Support Programme – Veterinary services in the Northern region

Background

The overall objective of RMLSP is to strengthen the livestock production systems of poor rural households, by developing their marketing opportunities. This programme is financed by a grant from IFAD to the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan. The programme consists of a backyard poultry project, a dairy scheme project, a dairy goat project, a micro credit project and a veterinary project. DCA-VET implements the latter one in close cooperation with the Ministry of Agriculture.



The five provinces targeted in RMLSP were supported through the ASAP project till September 2010. Since June 2010, DCA-VET is also implementing a GIZ project in four of these provinces. The emphasis of the IFAD project is on veterinary services, while the GIZ project focuses on animal production and extension. The project activities support and complement each other.

Aims

The general objective of the RMLSP veterinary project is to strengthen the system of animal health service provision on a sustainable basis, so as to improve livestock production and productivity. Special focus will be on the poor, women as well as Kuchi livestock owners. To reach the main objective, the number of VFUs will be increased from 103 to 128, additional BVWs will be trained, a marketing and awareness campaign will be launched, and value chains will be developed.

Results

- 5 paravets, among whom 1 woman, were in training in 2010 and graduated in March 2011
- 8 Kuchi BVWs were selected for training in February 2011
- 30 VFUs were painted and 10 VFUs were selected for reconstruction/refurbishment
- Cold storage facilities were established at province level
- 3,000 poor farmers have access to quality animal health care now
- 5,440 farmers were trained on topics such as deworming, feeding, vaccination, infectious diseases and ecto/endo parasites
- 3,000 farmers are aware of the value of good quality cashmere and of the appropriate cashmere harvesting methods

Extension pays off

Mr. Abdul Khalil is the paravet in charge of the Saighan VFU in Bamyan Province. When he started a veterinary clinic, he did not earn enough income to support his family of ten relatives and he was about to give up his VFU. But then the DCA support program trained him in using extension packages to increase the farmers' awareness regarding disease prevention through vaccination and deworming. Thanks to

extension his income increased and now Khalil earns enough money to support his family. The farmers in the area are benefitting very much because of the reduced mortality and increased production of their livestock. Khalil states: "I am trying to expand the extension services to other villages to have more clients, which is good for my work. I am making more money now, and my status in society has increased as well."

Other projects



The Brooke/DCA Partnership on Equine Animal Welfare

As in previous years, the Brooke Hospital for Animals and DCA-VET worked together to improve the welfare of working equine animals in Afghanistan. As a partner, DCA-VET is facilitating the activities of the Brooke in Afghanistan.

Brooke activities are ongoing in the provinces of Kabul, Herat, Balkh and Nangarhar. A survey started in Jalalabad recently. The activities were considerably extended during the year 2010. The objective of the Brooke is to upgrade equine owners' awareness of preventive management practices, and to enhance better access of equines to animal health and welfare service providers.



14 paravets and 11 key farriers received refresher training on equine care; during the year they served 11,000 animals and trained 2,200 equine owners (900 men, 900 women and 400 children) on equine husbandry. Awareness raising materials were developed and distributed, welfare support tools were demonstrated, and animal stables were improved with ventilation. In total 45 community groups were established and/or supported.

The partnership is proceeding very satisfying and a new contract for the period of April 2011 through March 2012 has been signed.

VetServ

In 2009, the DCA-VET Foundation in The Netherlands decided to transfer the activities on procurement and distribution of good quality veterinary vaccines and medicines in Afghanistan to a private enterprise, called VetServ. VetServ was expected to start its activities in the beginning of 2010, but due to delay in official registration this was postponed. VetServ completed official registration at AISA (Afghanistan



Investment Support Agency) on 1 January 2011. During 2010, VetServ operated as a 'business unit' under responsibility of DCA-VET.



The two chief executive directors, Dr. Daad Mohammad Amir (technical director) and Avikshit Saras (commercial director) ran the business with enthusiasm and skill: the stores in Kabul, Herat and Mazar were refurbished; new vendors in Turkey, India and Iran were identified; vaccines were ordered in accordance to demand, and over US\$ 1.35 million sales were reached.

AECID

On 3 April 2010, the AECID 'Integrated Livestock Sector Development Program in Badghis Province' was terminated prematurely by the donor due to lack of adequate budget. During the term of this project 10 paravets were educated, several paravets received refresher training and 640 women were trained in poultry husbandry, each of them receiving 15 chickens. After closure of the AECID project, the VFUs in Badghis were supported through the EU project.

World Bank

From October 2007 through December 2009, DCA-VET implemented the veterinary training programme of the 'Horticulture and Livestock Project' (HLP). From 1 November 2010 onwards, this programme was extended for another thirteen months. DCA-VET will organize training sessions within four main categories of education:

- Refresher training for 80 government veterinarians transferring to the private sector
- Training of 400 VFU staff contracted by MAIL to conduct sanitary mandates
- Refresher courses of 520 VFU staff to broaden their scope of private veterinary service delivery
- Disease reporting training of 200 selected VFU staff

Training activities were developed in 2010 and started full swing in February 2011.



Prospects 2011-2012

Successful projects

DCA-VET is very proud to present you the picture above: our Deputy Director Field Operations Dr. Abdul Qader Fakhri (right) together with his Excellency Asif Rahimi (left), the Minister of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock of Afghanistan, are signing the contract of the Rural Microfinance and Livestock Support Programme, funded by the International Fund for Agriculture Development. DCA-VET is implementing the RMLSP component 'Veterinary services in the Northern region' from the 1st of September 2010. The project covers the Northeastern provinces and is managed by DCA-VET Country Program Director Dr. Raymond Briscoe. The project underlines the constructive cooperation between DCA-VET and the Ministry. The perspectives of this 3-year project are very good and maybe there will be more funds made available by IFAD for Afghanistan, where DCA-VET could play a role.

Another successful project in the North is the subcontract with ACDI/VOCA for the USAID funded IDEA-NEW project 'Strengthening of livestock production in the Northern provinces of Afghanistan'. This project is covering the five provinces around Mazar-i-Sharif and is in the second (and last) year of implementation. Dr. Nico

Noorman, who acted as DCA-VET Regional Program Director already during the USAID/RAMP project, is now appointed in Mazar. Together with the Afghan staff he is responsible to meet the IDEA-NEW project targets of expanding the VFU services and increasing livestock production including the development of value chains for livestock products.

In the West of the country the four provinces around Herat are covered by the EU project 'Support to animal health in Afghanistan with a focus on the Western region'. This project is managed by Dr. Fakhri, who in addition to his role as DCA-VET Deputy Director is also Regional Program Director of Herat. Like all DCA-VET projects, the EU project is focusing on private veterinary services. In the Herat area, developments go faster than elsewhere in the country: a VFU cooperative is operational; several female paravets have started, but also female extension workers are introduced now. The EU contract will continue another year and an extension is expected until 31 December 2012.

For already three years DCA-VET has cooperated with the Brooke in the field of equine health and equine welfare. As the Brooke expanded its activities in Afghanistan successfully to Mazar and Herat in 2010, the Board of the Brooke in London

decided to increase the budget of the Brooke/DCA partnership in 2011 and once again in 2012.

A few challenges

As mentioned in the preface, the USAID funded ASAP project contributed heavily to the DCA-VET income in 2010. At the moment of writing an ASAP extension with very limited funding is planned until the 31st of July 2011, but then this project will definitely end. DCA-VET started its ASAP activities in the South and East of the country only a year ago and the support to the VFUs in those provinces really needs to be continued to reach a sustainable result. However, up till now DCA-VET did not find a new donor to fund the support to the Southern and Eastern VFUs.

Another big challenge is that the GIZ funding will come to an end shortly. DCA-VET is implementing a GIZ livestock project and a smaller poultry project (for the benefit of women) in synergy with the IFAD project in the same provinces in the Northeast. In collaboration with the donors, the projects were designed for a three years duration complementary to each other. The IFAD project focuses on private veterinary services with special attention to the poorest farmers, while the GIZ livestock project focuses on animal production. It really is a pity for the livestock owners that the GIZ projects will come to an end so early.

The official registration of VetServ Ltd. was foreseen to be finalized within a few months, but finally registration took a full year. Juridical procedures in Afghanistan appeared to be rather time consuming. For the just appointed VetServ staff it was a very challenging period, also because of the risk of losing funding promised to be paid at registration. Fortunately, registration was formalized at the beginning of 2011.

The privatization of governmental clinics as organized by AVA in the World Bank 'Horticulture and Livestock Project' is not entirely proceeding according to plan. Too many governmental vets do not want to go for complete privatization. However, the training courses as conducted for the World Bank in 2008 and 2009 in a subcontract to AVA finally could continue at the end of 2010.

One of the biggest challenges of course is that many of the DCA-VET staff have to perform their daily work in conflict areas. There are always risks while travelling and some regions even cannot be visited by NGO staff. Because DCA-VET monitors/facilitators are supporting and controlling VFUs in remote and/or unsafe places the communication is often very difficult. The DCA-VET Board just has approved new security guidelines for national and international staff in Afghanistan. Hopefully, we will never need the emergency part of it.

DCA-VET is urgently awaiting legislation on the veterinary profession and official recognition of paravets. The relevant laws are drafted already, but it is unclear when they will come into force.

Our future strategy

Obviously, all future plans of DCA-VET will be based on the mission statement of the Foundation:

"To offer aid and assistance to the population of Afghanistan by improving the health and productive output of the local livestock."

The coming years DCA-VET will focus on the following subjects:

- In Afghanistan a large number of staff is working very hard to achieve the targets of the mission statement. The DCA-VET organization is very valuable and the targets are not fulfilled yet. So efforts are ongoing to find donor funding to continue the DCA-VET activities in the line of the current projects.

- DCA-VET will further work towards "Afghanization" of staff and Board. Only a few expats are working now in Afghanistan, but the organization cannot yet do without expatriate support. The Board and staff in the Netherlands are still all non Afghan.

- Already for many years DCA-VET runs a good functioning veterinary training centre in Charikar. Almost all paravets in Afghanistan have been educated and graduated in this training centre or in similar training facilities in Herat and Mazar-i-Sharif. New paravets are continuously trained here, and many refresher courses are given to veterinary professionals of all levels. A mission statement solely for the training activities of DCA-VET is in preparation.

- The decision of transferring the import and distribution of veterinary vaccines and medicines from DCA to a private business is already made and the coming years the private business VetServ will be further supported.

Based on an evaluation of these subjects the DCA-VET Board and Directors will define a strategy for the future in their policy meetings, wherefrom the DCA-VET staff will work in the period to come.





Some DCA-VET staff members, including CEO and CPD, during a visit to Herat region

Organization

Being a foundation, DCA-VET is governed by a Board that outlines the DCA-VET policy. Chairman is Peter de Leeuw, former CVO of the Netherlands. An Advisory Board of four professionals on livestock production and development aid provides the Board for support and expert advice.

The Chief Executive Officer Dr. Ab Emmerzaal is responsible for implementation of the DCA-VET policy and monitoring of the programme, while the

Country Programme Director Dr. Raymond Briscoe is responsible for the day-to-day management of all DCA-VET projects. He supervises the Afghan staff, in 2010 consisting of over 200 people, including 30 professional Afghan women. In 2010, nine expats were employed by DCA-VET.

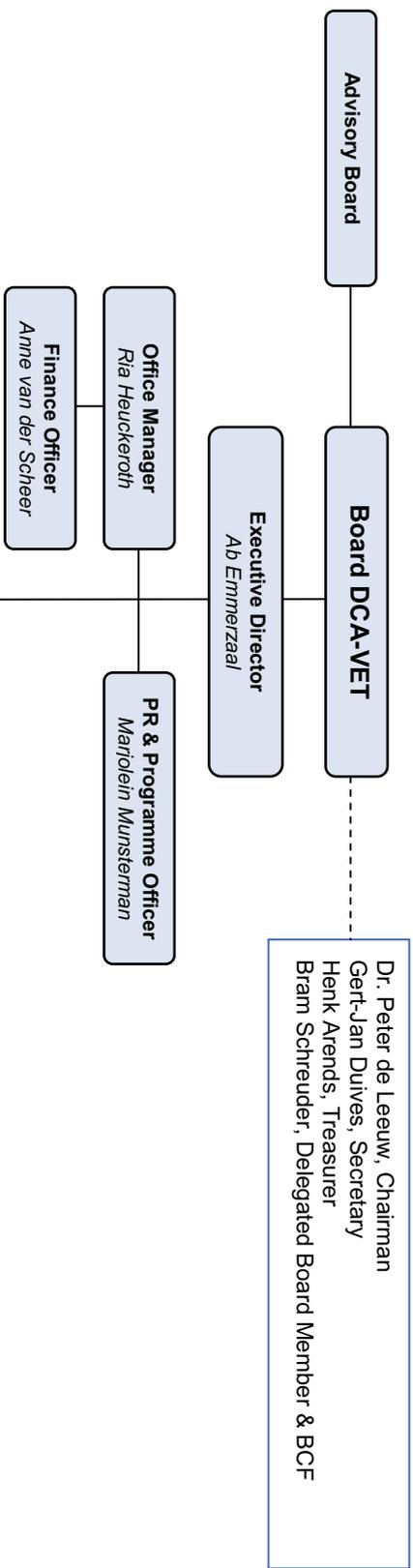
Overall Headquarters are situated in Lelystad, the Netherlands, and Country Headquarters in Kabul, with regional offices in Herat and Mazar-i-Sharif.

Board of DCA-VET 2010

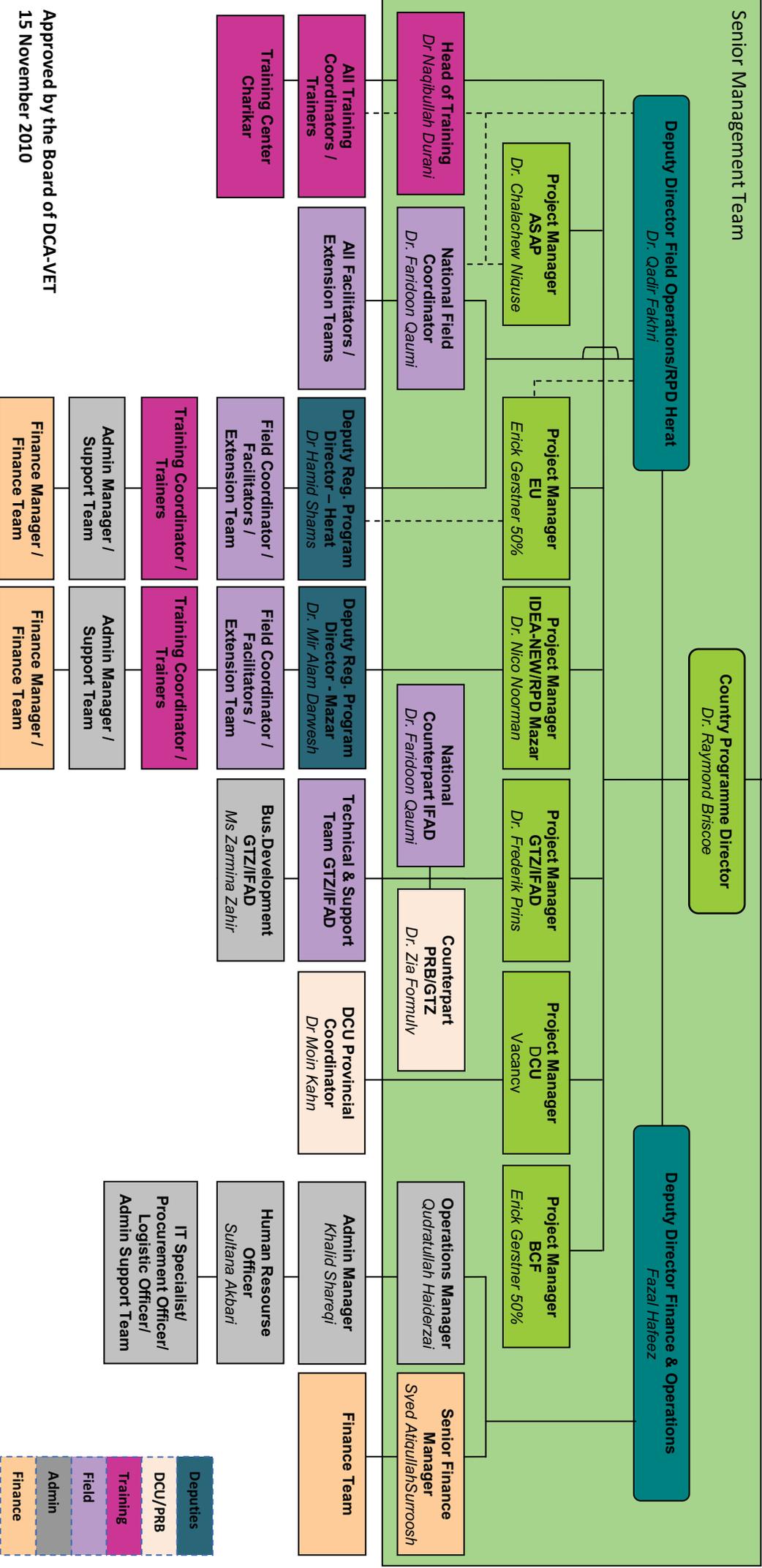
Mr. Peter W. de Leeuw DVM PhD	Chairman	Former CVO of the Netherlands; currently advisor to FAO, Rome
Mr. Gert-Jan Duives DVM	Secretary	Lecturer in Animal Health, HAS Den Bosch; former Director of VTSC Pakistan
Mr. Henk J. Arends	Treasurer	Retired Accountant, Countus Accountancy, Emmeloord
Mr. Bram Schreuder DVM PhD	Delegated Board Member	Former DCA-VET CEO

Advisory Board of DCA-VET 2010

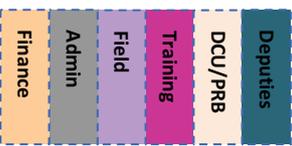
Mr. Cees de Haan	Retired Senior Livestock Advisor, World Bank, Washington DC., US
Mr. Henk A.J. Moll PhD	Retired University Lecturer Agricultural Development Economics, Wageningen UR, the Netherlands
Ms. Prof. Akke J. van der Zijpp PhD	Retired Professor and Head of Animal Production Systems Group, Wageningen UR, the Netherlands
Ms. Frauke de Weijer DVM	Veterinarian / Cultural Anthropologist, part time advisor to the Minister of Agriculture in Afghanistan in Kuchi related developments



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Approved by the Board of DCA-VET
 15 November 2010





Funding

Financial highlights

During the year 2010, DCA-VET executed twelve projects throughout Afghanistan; these projects were funded by seven international donors.

Total expenditures in 2010 amounted to US\$ 5,065,044 (for the contributions of each individual donor see chart in next column).

USAID, as our biggest donor, approved the extension of the ASAP project from 31 March 2010 through April 2011, and granted the two-year budget for the IDEA-NEW project, which started in April 2010.

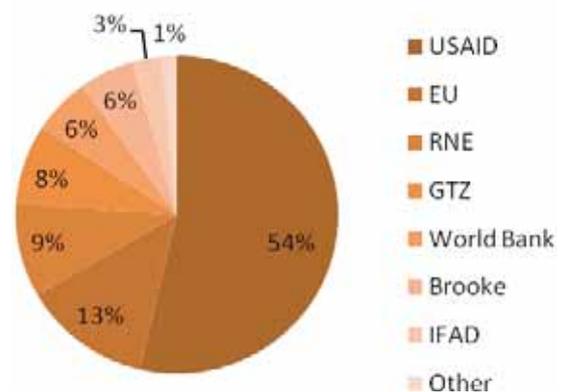
The European Union is the second donor in line; followed by the Royal Netherlands Embassy that finances the DCU2 project.

New donor in 2010 is the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH that finances two projects in four northern provinces, which both started in June 2010.

Another new donor is IFAD that funds the Rural Microfinance and Livestock Support Programme of the Afghan Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock (MAIL). DCA-VET is subcontracted by MAIL for the implementation of the veterinary component of the programme.

The World Bank and the Brooke continued their support to our projects.

Expenditures 2010 in USD per donor

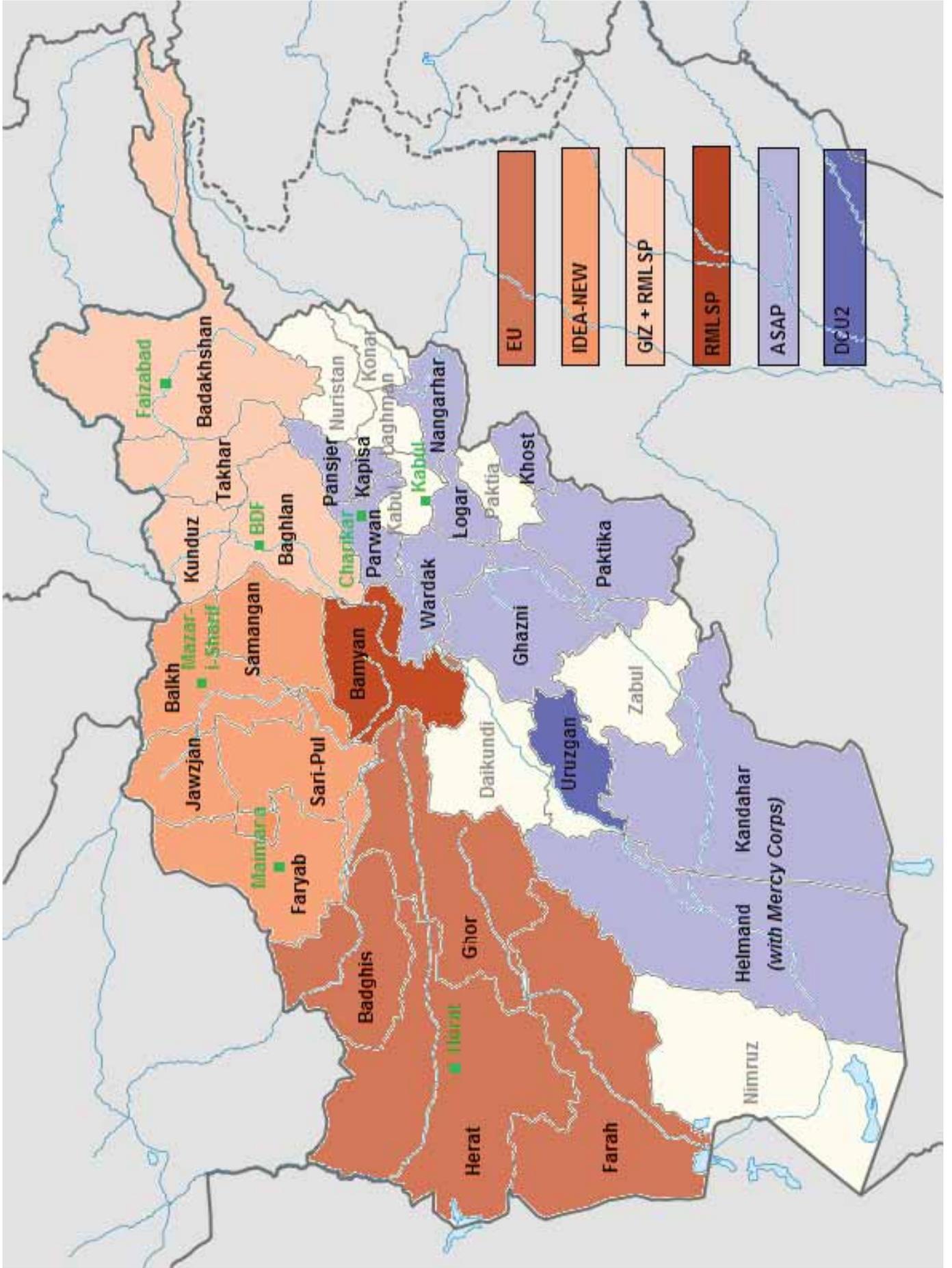


All project income and expenditures are annually audited by KPMG Ltd, Kabul, Afghanistan.

The indirect cost rate is annually reevaluated by Countus, an accounting firm in the Netherlands, and till now DCA-VET kept that rate less than 9%.

Abbreviations

ACDI/VOCA	Agricultural Cooperative Development International / Volunteers in Overseas Cooperative Assistance
AECID	Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation
AHDP	Animal Health Development Project
AI	Artificial Insemination
AISA	Afghanistan Investment Support Agency
ASAP	Accelerating Sustainable Agriculture Program
AVA	Afghanistan Veterinary Association
BCF	Baghlan Cheese Factory
BDF	Baghlan Dairy Factory
BVW	Basic Veterinary Worker
CEO	Chief Executive Officer
CPD	Country Programme Director
CVO	Chief Veterinary Officer
DCA & DCA-VET	Dutch Committee for Afghanistan – Veterinary Programmes
DCU	Dutch Consortium for Uruzgan
DVM	Doctor of Veterinary Medicine
EU	European Union
FAO	Food and Agricultural Organization
GIZ (former GTZ)	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit
HAS	University of Applied Sciences, Den Bosch, the Netherlands
HHP	Herd Health Package
HLP	Horticulture and Livestock Project (World Bank)
IDEA-NEW	Incentives Driving Economic Alternatives for the North, East and West
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
MAIL	(Afghan) Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock
NGO	Non Governmental Organization
PhD	Doctor (of Philosophy)
PRB	Partners in Revitalization and Building
RAMP	Rebuilding Agricultural Markets in Afghanistan Program
RMLSP	Rural Microfinance and Livestock Support Programme
RNE	Royal Netherlands Embassy
TPO	Transcultural Psychosocial Organization
USAID	US Agency for International Development
VFU	Veterinary Field Unit
VTSC	Veterinary Training and Support Centre
ZOA	ZOA Refugee Care, member DCU Consortium





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