

Women Veterinary Workers Graduated in Bamyan

The Dutch Committee for Afghanistan trained 8 women Basic Veterinary Workers (BVWs) for 3 weeks in Bamyan. BVWs provide basic animal health services such as de-worming, vaccination, parasite treatment, basic operations such as wound treatment, and livestock extension. The participants were selected from Kahmard, Yakawalang, Provincial Center, and Ghandak shibar districts. Selection was done based on pre-set criteria such as experience with animals related works, interest in basic animal health services, lack of veterinary services in the area, educational background and consent of the village shura.

The BVWs were equipped with basic veterinary kits, medicines and vaccines as a start up capital at their graduation. They provide their services on a fee-for-service. They are linked with the Veterinary Field Units (VFUs) for supply of medicines, vaccines and equipments.

Mrs. Habiba Sorobi (the provincial Governor), the General Director of the Provincial Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock as well as the Director of the Livestock department have visited the field practices of the training and appreciated the activities.

The graduation ceremony was covered by Bamyan Local Radio and Azadi Radio.



In Afghanistan, women farmers look after the chickens, are milking animals (cows, does and ewes), and take care of animals that remain in the villages - usually sick animals when the rest migrate in search of pasture and water. This particular group of animals need veterinary attention more than anything. But the women cannot report to the male animal health workers even if they are in their doorsteps due to the cultural/religious barriers. Women BVWs are therefore ideal solutions to address these problems.

Bamyan is one of the provinces of Afghanistan characterized by long winter and extensive mountainous rangelands. Hence, the livelihood of the community is largely dependent on livestock husbandry.

So far, DCA has trained and deployed more than 100 female BVWs and more than 20 female owned veterinary field units in the Central, Northern and North-Eastern Provinces.

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