

Support to Animal Health in Western and Central Afghanistan

Donor / contractor	European Union
Budget	€ 838,858
Period	October 2012 – November 2013
Area	Provinces Herat, Badghis, Farah, Ghor, Faryab, Kapisa, Parwan and Sar-e-Pul

From October 2009 through September 2012, DCA-VET successfully implemented the EU project "Support to Animal Health in Afghanistan, with focus on the Western region". From October 2012 onwards DCA-VET was awarded with a one-year follow-up project "Support to Animal Health in Western and Central Afghanistan". While the first project targeted the provinces of Herat, Badghis, Farah and Ghor, the working area of the second project was expanded over the provinces of Faryab, Kapisa, Parwan and Sar-e-Pul. The overall objectives of this EU project were:

1. Increasing the self-sustainability of VFUs
2. Expanding the target area of the running project with four new provinces
3. Increasing the public awareness on health hazards related to animal husbandry and food of animal origin

In the target area 228 VFUs were active, taking care of the animals of some 450,000 farmer families. More than 7 million animals were vaccinated and treated against different diseases. To improve the performance of the VFUs, 130 VFU staff received refresher training in topics like extension on nutrition and pharmacology.

70 Local Female Extension Workers (LFEWs) were trained, who provided extension services to more than 9,050 women farmers and schoolgirls. 70 farmer women received a churning machine for making cheese of surplus milk. Male field trainers and VFU staff reached almost 70,000 male farmers with their extension training. Part of this training were demonstrations on the improvement of stables, including the distribution of windows, a ventilation pipe and a water trough.

Two new Herd Health Packages (HHP) were developed: the Kuchi Introductory Package, and the Veterinary Public Health Package. Awareness campaigns of meat hygiene and zoonoses were conducted, and veterinary public health groups were established.

Partnership between the private and public sector was enhanced by training 20 VFUs in investigation and reporting of contagious diseases. 30 DAIL extension workers were trained in disseminating the messages of the Extension Packages.

To extend messages to other interested groups five issues of the Veterinary Malamut newsletter were published, containing 70 scientific and informative articles and many short messages for farmers.

An impact assessment in 2011 and 2012 comparing farmers using VFU services with farmers not doing so, showed:

- 20% less mortality in adult sheep and goat
- 30% less mortality in lambs and kids
- 10% more off-take of lambs in kids

However, as data between years varied greatly, more research will be needed to verify the effects of veterinary services.