

DCA and IFAD sign Contract for Kuchi Project

The Kuchi are Afghanistan's nomadic pastoralists. Living primarily in the rural areas of the country, and migrating with their herds or animals over vast tracts of the country's rangelands, the Kuchi are a vulnerable population, but one which contributes significantly to the livestock sector. The livestock sector in Afghanistan is estimated to contribute 26% to the national GDP, with the Kuchi livestock comprising a significant portion of that total.

On 26 January 2014, DCA signed a contract funded by IFAD (The International Fund for Agricultural Development) and MAIL (Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock) to implement a \$5 Million, 6 year project to enhance the livelihoods of the Kuchi by providing increased access to veterinary services, improved feeding for animals and better knowledge and awareness of animal owners – male and female – to increase the health and production of the animals and contribute to value chain development.

Targeting 27,000 plus households, in 24 Districts, of 3 central Afghan provinces – Kabul, Parwan, Logar, the project will impact more than 1,000,000 animals. DCA was awarded this contract, which is part of the larger Community Livestock and Agriculture Development Project (CLAP) based on its long and successful track record of training Paraveterinarians and creating and supporting Veterinary Field Units (VFUs) in a sustainable manner for rural villages throughout Afghanistan. This contract award also recognizes DCA's ongoing development of new and innovative training and support methods for farmers, work with women, and emphasis on adding value for livestock products with increased animal owners' access to markets for overall improved livelihoods.

DCA will build on its successful approaches while developing new support methods, mobile VFUs, etc., that will be unique to the challenges associated with the nomadic Kuchi population. As a result, "best practice" models will be developed which will contribute to the long term sustainability of the Kuchi and their animal based livelihoods.



Launching Ceremony of the Community Livestock and Agriculture Development Project (CLAP) in Kabul