

## **DCA and RADP-S: Expanding Services to Kandahar and the South**

RADP-S (Regional Agricultural Development Program – South) is DCA’s newest project in 2014, and provides both a new coverage area for DCA to expand its programmes of providing veterinary services, extension training, livestock support for farmers, and value chain development for men and women animal owners in 4 of the southern provinces and 26 districts.

RADP-S is a broad agriculture project funded by USAID, and includes the provinces of Kandahar, Helmand, Uruzgan and Zabul. Our contractor is Chemonics International, and we will work with 4 key local implementing partners. These are ADA (Afghan Development Association), CHA (Coordination of Humanitarian Assistance), AMMC (Afghan Management and Marketing Consultants), and Equal Access. The project will be for 5 years with a budget of just under \$7 million USD.

DCA has previously worked in Uruzgan, but this is the first time DCA will be working in a comprehensive manner in these 4 southern provinces. To meet this challenge, DCA is creating a new regional office in Kandahar, a new Training Center – also in Kandahar, and 3 provincial offices in Uruzgan, Helmand and Zabul.

DCA will be implementing the animal health and livestock component of this major project to improve the food and economic security of rural Afghans in the designated area. DCA will accomplish this by evaluating and supporting the existing VFUs (Veterinary Field Units), training and equipping up to 75 new Paravets and up to 100 VFUs to meet farmers needs, providing extension training to farmers to improve their methods, supporting women working with animals, increasing value of animal products to enhance value chain development, and building market links.

DCA’s success relies on having local knowledge, meeting local needs, and training and using local staff for maximum effectiveness. DCA has many Pashto speakers on staff who have good familiarity with the area, and will form the core of the managerial and training staff. Many skilled local individuals will also become part of the DCA team.

In addition to meeting the needs for veterinary service in the South, RADP-S in combination with other DCA projects, ensures that a coordinated approach through a DCA supported VFU network is now able to meet the demand for high quality veterinary care in the majority of the country.



VFUs staff in Kandahar