

Successful CCHF campaign in Herat

In spring 2014, Herat was struck by an outbreak of Crimean Congo Haemorrhagic Fever (CCHF), as also occurred in 2012 and 2013.

CCHF is a viral disease, transferred from animals to people by ticks, with a mortality rate of up to 50% in humans. From December 2013 through June 2014, 13 suspected cases of CCHF patients were identified. Like in 2012 and 2013, the European Union made funds available for DCA-VET to implement a CCHF control and awareness campaign.

The campaign was organized by a team of 35 staff of Herat Department of Public Health (DoPH), Herat Department of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock (DAIL), DCA-VET, and veterinary field staff. Joint teams of DoPH, DAIL, and DCA went into the field to raise the awareness of farmers, spray stables and treat animals. The control and awareness raising activities were implemented by 755 male and 544 female staff, coordinated by one male and one female DCA extension specialist. The campaign covered 36 villages in 6 districts of Herat. It lasted for around one month and was finalized the 9th of August 2014.

The campaign covered 3,154 families; the activities included:

- Direct meetings with and distribution of extension materials to all 3,154 families
- Spraying of 3,123 stables with Tri-Chlorophon, distributing hygienic kits and 36 spray pumps
- Treating of 3,806 cows and 29,908 sheep and goats with Ivermectin.

Staff engaged in other projects implemented by DCA in Herat joined the campaign as well. 27 DAIL extension workers in the AAEP conveyed the awareness messages to 540 farmers in Herat, and 12 staff members of the SPS project carried out an CCHF awareness program with 120 farmers.

Besides these farmers, 50 butchers and 50 slaughters from Herat slaughterhouses were trained on CCHF awareness and on their individual protection. All of them received special hygienic kits preventing them from CCHF infection and transmission. DCA and DAIL also worked together with RTA making a one hour TV program on CCHF showing awareness and demonstration activities in the field. This program was broadcasted through Herat TV, reaching ten thousands of farmers.

Thanks to this campaign the number of CCHF incidents in Herat decreased significantly. Through five CCHF control campaigns conducted by DCA-VET over the past 15 years, it can be concluded that CCHF campaigns are very effective. In the villages where previously control measures were implemented there have been less or no CCHF cases, due to improved farmer awareness.