

Pilot FAO/DCA FMD project

Donor: FAO - Afghanistan

Budget : USD 390,054

Period: May 2016 – April 2017

Project Target Area: (Kabul, Logar, Parwan, Wardak, Nangarhar, Baghlan, Kunduz, Balkh, Kandahar and Herat)

In 2015-2016 DCA implemented the FAO PPR (Peste des Petits Ruminants) project for the Kuchi pastoral community in three provinces of Afghanistan. As a result of this successful collaboration with FAO, in May 2016 DCA was awarded the FAO FMD (Food and Mouth Disease) vaccination program in ten provinces. For this program, 48 VFUs were contracted, which are currently engaged in the provision of vaccination and extension services. This is a pilot research project.



Under this project two major outcomes are expected to be achieved:

(A) cattle belonging to livestock owners of the dairy cooperatives are protected against FMD and consequently will not suffer of any loss in milk productivity due to this disease;

(B) livestock keepers have an improved knowledge on the benefit of applying preventive FMD vaccination for their animals using the recommended protocols.

To protect the cattle (outcome A), during the spring vaccination campaign 42,000 cattle were vaccinated against FMD, followed by a booster dose to increase immunity. The vaccinated animals were assessed through the random collection of 270 blood samples (90 samples from each of the following age categories: 6-12 months; 12-24 months and older than 24 months).



For assessing the vaccine efficacy, 90 serum samples were collected from the same sampled and vaccinated animals of the 6-12 months age group. The collected samples were submitted to the Central Veterinary Diagnostic and Research Laboratory for identification of FMD relevant antibody production.

To raise awareness among the livestock owners (outcome B), livestock farmers were targeted and organised in intensive extension groups. Since the beginning of the project 48 farmer extension groups were established with active participation of 900 dairy farmers. Before and during the vaccination campaign, the project staff and VFUs are extensively disseminating relevant extension messages on FMD prevention to the targeted beneficiaries.