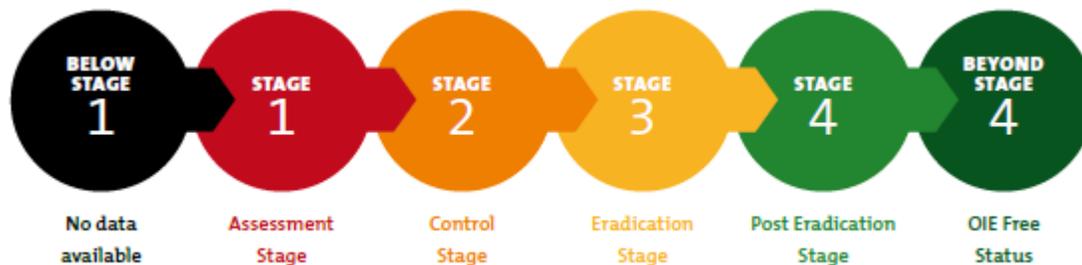


Agreement FAO/DCA PPR Expansion Project signed

On October 9th, 2016, DCA signed an agreement with FAO for the sum of USD 1,035,707 for expansion of the 2015/2016 PPR Project. Peste des Petits Ruminants (PPR) is a highly contagious disease of sheep and goats, and is considered to be one of the most damaging livestock diseases in Africa, the Middle East, and Asia. The new FAO/DCA PPR Program targets small ruminants belonging to nomadic or transhumant pastoralists. It is an expansion of the successful existing collaboration between FAO and DCA in the PPR Pilot Project. The PPR Project is supporting Afghanistan to move higher along the Peste des Petits Ruminants (PPR) control pathway formulated by FAO and the world Organization for Animal Health (OIE). The pathway is embedded into the Global Strategy for the Control and Eradication of PPR. The objective of the intervention proposed under this agreement is to bring the country from level 1 (assessment) to level 2 (control) of the pathway, and assist in moving toward eradication of PPR virus.



Based on the migration routes and movements of the pastoralists, twenty potential target provinces (Kabul, Logar, Parwan, Nangarhar, Balkh, Badakhshan, Takhar, Baghlan, Kunduz, Herat, Badghis, Bamyan, Kandahar, Zabul, Helmand, Uruzgan, Ghazni, Paktia, Paktika and Khost) were selected. In this vast area, approximately **4.5 million** head of sheep and goats will be vaccinated through the work of 288 VFUs.

Two major outcomes are expected to be achieved:

- Small ruminants (sheep and goats) belonging to nomadic pastoralists or transhumant farmers are protected against PPR. Consequently, livestock farmers will not suffer any loss in terms of mortality and reduced production attributable to this disease.
- Nomadic pastoralists will have an improved knowledge on the benefit of applying preventive vaccination against PPR for their animals.

In relation to these outcomes the following outputs will be produced:

- Approximately **4.5 million** small ruminants belonging to **115,000** pastoralists will be vaccinated against PPR. The vaccination will target all animals during the first campaign, and subsequently only the new-born in the second campaign.
- Previous exposure to PPR virus of the animals to be vaccinated will be assessed through the random collection of approximately 180 serum samples from each of the five regions where the vaccination will be carried out (total n = 900).

- Vaccine efficacy will be assessed through the collection of additional serum samples from the same $60 \times 5 = 300$ animals belonging to the 6-12 month age group that will be re-sampled 30 days after vaccination.
- Extension activities and material will be delivered to target **115,000** beneficiaries that will be organised in **1,150** rotating extension groups.

