

ANNUAL REPORT 2020



Colophon

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DCA Livestock Programs

Active since 1988, officially registered in 1994,
Netherlands Chamber of Commerce, # 41246751

Registered in Afghanistan as international NGO
under the name DCA since 2005, # 119

Seat:	Amersfoort, the Netherlands
Main office:	Kabul, Afghanistan
Working area:	Afghanistan
Focus:	Animal Health, Production, and Welfare

Staff members:	116
Board:	five members
Chairman of the Board:	Theo Lam
Advisory Council:	six advisors

Mission: to reduce poverty and increase food security for the people of Afghanistan by improving the health and production of their livestock





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1. Preface



DCA's project implementation in 2020 was very much influenced by the COVID-19 pandemic. Afghanistan was seriously impacted by the virus and lock downs do not work properly in a country where many poor people must go out daily for work to earn a little income in order to buy food for their families. Several of our DCA staff became ill with the Corona virus, but luckily everybody recovered completely.

In all projects in 2020 implemented by DCA, extension was provided on the prevention of COVID-19 to all beneficiaries involved.

Normally I would be visiting the main office in Kabul, and some project sites once or twice per year. In 2020 it was planned that our chairman Theo Lam would join me but due to the pandemic this had to be postponed. Despite the difficult circumstances, however, our executive director Dr Raymond Briscoe remained at his post for nearly the whole year.

As shown in this annual report, the DCA Afghan staff has been very busy again during the year; despite the challenging security situation and the COVID-19 restrictions they have worked hard to ensure that the project implementation is as successful as possible. What is less successful is the acquisition of new projects. In addition to the problems of the pandemic, there is the unstable political and security situation in Afghanistan. The donor community seems to be reluctant to start up activities in Afghanistan until the future is clear. In 2020, the project portfolio of DCA amounted to about 3,5 million \$ which is less than the year before.

The turnover is mainly determined by a few large multi-year and successful projects such as CLAP-Kuchi and Brooke, but also the UNODC BADILL project that unfortunately was completed at the end of the year. We do regret that this project came to an end in 2020, because it contained many interventions that are at the core of our work:

- increasing and improving primary livestock production through animal health care and extension services from Veterinary Field Units to the female livestock owners
- organizing value chains for their products (milk and eggs) by supporting several female entrepreneurs to set up collection and processing centres
- stimulate interest and build linkages to the local regional markets to increase incomes and food security of the rural population
- in summary: improving animal health and production to reduce rural poverty.



Ab Emmerzaal
Secretary General

2. Afghanistan now



Security

The year 2020 started with a promising event: the reaching of the agreement in Doha, Qatar, between the USA and IEA (Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan, known as “the Taliban”) on 29 February. Both sides committed to important issues, like reduction of foreign troops, release of prisoners, and preventing groups like al-Qaida to use the soil of Afghanistan as a base. The present Afghan Government had, however, no part in this agreement.

Security-wise, the agreement had a mitigating effect in the beginning of the year, but the second half year witnessed a serious increase of incidents even in previously relatively safe areas like Herat Province. Incidents involved mostly the Afghan army and the Taliban, but as “collateral damage” over 10,000 civilians were either killed or maimed in 2020. The highest level since the fall of the Taliban. This surely stresses the urgent need for an intra-Afghan political settlement, as the only viable solution for Afghanistan.

Livestock sector

In Afghanistan, with only some 15% of its geographical area being arable land, the availability of land suitable for grazing has made animal husbandry an important part of the economy. Today the livestock sector is an important pillar of the economy. Some 75% of the Afghan population live in (remote) rural areas, and a large majority of them are livestock owners. Most commonly kept livestock are sheep, goats, cattle, and poultry. In addition, donkeys are often used as working animals, e.g., in the brick making industry, and for transport (see p.11 Brooke project). DCA’s Brooke project pays particular attention to this group, the working animals.

There are two main types of animal husbandry in Afghanistan: sedentary, farmers raising both animals and growing crops on their own land; and (semi-)nomadic, migratory livestock owners known as Kuchi (Pastoralists). Although the Kuchi constitute only 5% of the Afghan population, they own about 50% of the Afghan livestock, especially small ruminants. Owning some hundreds of sheep or goats each, the Kuchi family groups migrate between the lowland pastures for winter and spring, and the highland pastures of central Afghanistan for summer. Due to serious droughts and armed conflicts, many Kuchi lost part of their herds and took on a marginal sedentary life (see p.10 CLAP-Kuchi project).

The latest census of the Afghan livestock population (ALCS 2016-2017) counted 22 million sheep, 10 million goats, and 3.7 million cattle. However, livestock numbers have since severely decreased due to the devastating drought that hit the country in 2018. FEWS NET stated that nomadic and poor sedentary households lost about 50 percent of their livestock. Thanks to the favourable wet season 2018/2019, animal numbers are slowly recovering again. This stresses the importance of the private sector animal health and production services that DCA is strengthening in Afghanistan through the VFU-network, including vaccination, disease prevention and control, and the introduction of efficient and hygienic production techniques.

3. Gender



The status of women in Afghanistan

Despite the significant progress made since the fall of the Taliban regime in 2001, the situation of women in Afghanistan remains grim. The 2017 Gender Inequality Index ranked Afghanistan 153rd of 160 countries listed. Major efforts are still needed to improve the situation of women in political and economic terms, as well as their position in society in general.

While women play a critical role in agricultural and livestock value chains, accounting for nearly 43% of the sector's labour force, their work is often unpaid and unrecognized. Women are limited in their mobility due to social-cultural restrictions. Nevertheless, women's role in livestock management is often equal or larger compared to that of men. Women are generally responsible for taking care of young stock and sick animals, collecting drinking water, feeding livestock, milking, and processing dairy products.

Investing in women's empowerment has proven to be a powerful and effective tool in increasing household income, food security, health, and education within the household. It is commonly recognized that women's economic empowerment, particularly in rural areas is key in tackling rural poverty, stagnating rural economy and unemployment. Evidence shows that the loss of women's income more adversely affected children and caused generations of families to remain in the poverty trap compared to the loss of men's earnings.

Poultry keeping and dairy farming have proven to be viable and relevant income generating opportunities



for women. DCA is working on developing gender sensitive value-chains to stimulate women's economic empowerment. This includes the provision of direct women to women extension and training as well as animal healthcare services. Furthermore, DCA ensures that inputs for poultry and dairy husbandry address women's specific needs and are suitable for use by women.

This approach has been successful in increasing women's income, status and well-being. Several case studies throughout this report will illustrate DCA's successful approach.



Female equine owner trainings



4. Approach



You may have seen this photo on the DCA website (www.dca-livestock.org). It illustrates the changes Brooke brings to the lives of animals and the equine owners. The animal owner and donkey on the left side show the poor animal welfare and poor relations between the animal and the owner. While on the far-right the picture shows better animal welfare and animal/owner relations. The people standing in the middle are Brooke project staff, private service providers, and government staff who are involved in making these changes. The children with the RED T-shirts are volunteer animal owners who support that change and ensure sustainability. It is this kind of change that DCA is working on for many years.

In 2019, we committed ourselves to redefining the changes we intend to make by approving the Strategy Plan 2020-2024. To underscore our ambitions, we developed a new format for the Annual Workplan and Budget. This will support DCA's daily management to follow our five-years strategy plan alongside implementing donor-agreed projects by monitoring the overall program-indicators and often donor-defined project indicators.

Based on the VFU-assessment completed in 2019, a concept note was developed outlining the ambitions for a nationwide VFU-network in Afghanistan. The expected outcomes re-iterate the four pillars of DCA's work:

- Development of a quality veterinary service provision countrywide
- Providing the farmers extension on livestock health and production
- Developing the value chains for processing and trading of livestock products

- Maintaining strong links with local and national private and public partners.

In addition, DCA aims to sustain the VFU-network in terms of economic viability and institutional independence through self-governance, accreditation, and continued education. The network forms a valuable part of the National Veterinary Services, in partnership with the public sector.

DCA also provided a concept note on One Health. It urges government and international donors to improve human, animal and environmental health, using a comprehensive and collaborative approach involving multiple stakeholders. DCA has a role to play when it comes to creating and promoting an enabling environment for One Health and developing and delivering public education and awareness on One Health issues.

Similar to the initiatives taken above the Charikar Veterinary Training and Support Centre finalized a five-years strategy plan, which entails a more autonomous position from DCA, diversification of training programs, and compliance of the training of veterinary para-professionals in line with international standards. In addition, offering continued professional education, supporting a future accreditation system for VFU staff, and exploring the establishments of satellite training centres were all part of the strategic plan. With these changes made at an organisational level, DCA aims to consolidate the changes made by the projects you read about in this annual report, with initiated improvement of healthy livestock, sustainable animal production, and resilient livelihoods of the Afghan population.

5. Projects in 2020



Projects 2020 in brief

DCA started in 2020 with a portfolio of five projects. Among these are two long-term, multi-million-dollar projects, being CLAP- Kuchi and the Brooke project.

CLAP-Kuchi focuses primarily on animal health care and livestock extension services for the pastoralists of Afghanistan.

The Brooke project entered in its third year, focusing on equine welfare and livelihoods using a One Welfare approach. Meetings with the donor are held regularly about the progress, possible extension, and broadening of activities.

The BADILL and FAO project ended on 31-Dec-2020.

The implementation of the PUR project is progressing very well, regular meetings are held between the project manager and representatives of the French donor.

One small project funded by the US Department of State focused on the combat of the tick-borne disease CCHF, and the FAO project on input distribution with COVID awareness to the poorest beneficiaries.

Geographic scope

In 2020, the DCA projects collaboratively covered 17 provinces.

Project	Donor	Budget \$	Focus	Timeline 2019 - 2022			
				19	20	21	22
CLAP-Kuchi	IFAD	10.7 M	Kuchi, value chain				
Brooke	Brooke-UK	2.7 M	Equine welfare, livelihoods and food security				
BADILL	UNODC	1.7 M	Dairy, poultry and vegetable value chains				
PUR Breeding	PUR Project	0.45 M	Breeding cashmere goats				
BEP II CCHFV	US DoS	0.41 M	Early Laboratory Detection				
BEP III CCHF	US DoS	0.12 M	CCHF mitigation and control				
FAO FSAC	FAO	0.2 M	Food Security and Agriculture				

5a. CLAP-Kuchi project



Achievements:

- 169 VFUs supported
- 2,241,776 vaccine doses executed
- 7,641 household directly benefited
- 5,616 Kuchi households provided with COVID-19 special emergency preventive kits
- 8 youths provided with sustainable job
- 515 Kuchi women provided with home-made job by SHG
- 1,284,614 deworming doses executed
- 1,111,368 animals treated
- 2,448 men & women assisted in meat value chain
- 33 para-vets received refresher trainings
- 7,641 households directly benefitted
- 3,130 male & female poorest Kuchi trained and provided with 50 Kg concentrate feed
- 5 special target group (4 Butcher and 1 Milk Collection Centre) trained and equipped



The CLAP-Kuchi project, contracted by MAIL (Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock) and funded by IFAD (International Fund for Agricultural Development), was awarded to DCA as an implementing partner in 2014. The aim of this MAIL project implemented by DCA is to provide animal health related services and home-based business opportunities to the pastoralist and agro-pastoralist Kuchi in 10 provinces of Afghanistan. This aim contributes to the overall goal of the Community Livestock and Agriculture Project (CLAP) to reduce poverty in rural Afghanistan. More specifically, the project objective is to improve food security of 50,000 rural households in selected districts of Kabul, Parwan, Logar, Baghlan, Balkh, Herat, Nangarhar, Khost, Paktia by increasing agriculture and livestock productivity.

Likewise, the project in 2020 along with the planned activities with close coordination of MAIL to mentor and raise the capacity of pastoralist and agro-pastoralist Kuchi, started COVID-19's Public Awareness Campaigns within the targeted provinces namely Kabul, Parwan, Logar, Herat, Balkh, Baghlan, Nangarhar, Khost, Paktia and Laghman. Furthermore, to assist poor families to save their little assets as e.g., livestock, the DCA/CLAP-Kuchi project with its existing opportunities supported them to keep their livestock with them rather than selling them; even more emphasis has been given to improving the income of female Kuchis through provision of small income generating schemes as the Self Help Groups (SHG), lamb fattening, milk and wool processing.

Adela, a lady who lives with her 9 children, of which most of them are girls. Having more girls in the family means having more responsibilities in Afghanistan, especially in Kuchi communities who are far away of basic knowledge and education. As she said: "we do not have more boys to work and support the family, I started to do some small work to make a small income! I was doing some wool spinning work by hand which was difficult to do with low income! Luckily, DCA/CLAP-Kuchi project staff provided us a wool spinning machine, which not only made my work easy, but resulted in gaining more income. I would like to thank DCA/CLAP-Kuchi project for providing us such a great machine and opportunities and the project staff for giving us the instructions. Now me and other village women know about the modern technics of wool spinning and we have our SHG groups and saving boxes which helps us to improve our small home based businesses, it's a dream that came true."

5b. Brooke project



Achievements:

- 153 animal first aid workers trained/mentored
- 60 paravets refreshed/mentored
- 847 male groups supported
- 339 female groups supported
- 954 children groups supported
- 6,511 animal stables improved
- 27,800 in-kind project inputs demonstrated to farmers



The main objective of the Brooke project is to promote sustainable equine welfare and livelihoods through improved husbandry practices, community engagement, networking, and better access of the poor equine owners/users' communities to the affordable and quality veterinary/welfare service.

Other objectives are:

- Equine owners (male, female & children) have access to the quality vet and welfare services that are available, accessible, acceptable and affordable which sustain
- The community level networks and linking them with the local service providers have provided opportunity for their participatory planning and collective actions for their mutual benefits.

Project planning, implementation and M&E was under full engagement of the project beneficiaries and in close coordination with the veterinary departments, DCA program and the other potential stakeholders. It tried to consider a gender balance among project staff and beneficiaries to acceptable levels.

Mrs Ruqia (34 years old equine owner) belongs to a very poor farmer family. She has 6 children and lives in a remote down-hill village "Mamorak", Bamyan province. Both Ruqia and her husband are illiterate while their children go to school and their eldest daughter to University. A donkey, 5 sheep, 3 chickens and a small piece of land are the whole property of the household.

The DCA/Brooke project started its interventions in Mamorak two years back. Livestock and potato production are the main income sources for the residents. They were very poor and had no source of emergency supports, establishing saving schemes under the equine welfare group was part of the project intervention. Their total saved amount in the first year was 20,200 Afghani.

The group leader gave Mrs Ruqia 10,000 Afghani as a loan so she could buy potato seeds, fertilizer and give some amount to her elder daughter for her education expenses. Besides Ruqia and her husband cultivated their small piece of land, they worked as agriculture labours and from the wage they could manage their life. When they harvested the potatoes, they returned the loan back to the group leader.

With a pleasant smile, Mrs Ruqia says: "I am proud of being member of the saving scheme in my village as with small deposits, we could reduce poverty of a household! In the case we have bigger amounts, we can support more families. Even if I have no money, I will sell the eggs from my chickens and pay for my share"! Saving money gave me the sense of self-confident", says Ruqia.

5c. BADILL project




Achievements:

- 17 VFUs supported
- 5 Milk & egg Collection Centres (MCCs) established
- 1 community based livestock feed bank established
- 4,476 female participants extension
- 428 male participants extension
- 1,383 improved stables
- 6 Artificial Insemination Centres (AICs) established, equipped, paravets trained
- 2,170 cows were artificially inseminated
- 475 calves have been born and registered



2020 was the third and last year for the BADILL project. The interventions managed to support 5,000 direct (90% women, 10% men) and 30,000 indirect beneficiaries, with improved access to markets, animal health, breed improvement, inputs and information. These activities have been successful in enhancing the income from the licit livelihoods and awareness raising of the households regarding drug abuse. This has resulted in increased and stable incomes from small-scale poultry and dairy businesses. Due to poor market linkages before the start of the BADILL project, a very limited number of farmers were selling the surplus milk in the nearby markets. They also experienced a high mortality rate among the poultry with very poor production being marketed.

From the start of the BADILL project, 78 jobs (17 MCCs, 17 VFUs, 38 female BVWs, and 6 feed banks) have been created through local entrepreneurship and potential value chains. Furthermore, as a result of the established

income generation opportunities to women communities, the project has contributed to the empowerment of women in terms of economics, social status and decision making.

The project team was able to respond rapidly to the COVID-19 pandemic by mobilizing the VFU/BVW network in delivering public awareness campaigns on COVID-19. In addition to the distribution of basic hygiene kits (PPE) and leaflets to 9,000 households, particular attention was given to raising awareness about the importance of preventive measures, such as proper hand washing and social distancing, in the 6 targeted provinces.

By using the community-based interventions and market-driven approach such as livestock feed banks, the establishment of Milk & egg Collection Centres, VFUs, support to local enterprises and entrepreneurship, raising community awareness on harmful practice of poppy cultivation and drug addiction, extension training, the project enabled farmers to establish and boost production around dairy and poultry value chains.

5d. PUR project



Achievements:

Breeding farm for Elite flocks established

- 2019: **180** female goats
- 2019: **6** male goats
- 2019: **86** offspring, with 40 males
- 2020: **33** new does purchased
- 2020: **246** adult does, 7 bucks, 141 kids



On the 16th of February 2018, DCA Livestock Programs and PUR Development Pte. Ltd (PUR Project) signed a 4-year contract for the design and implementation of a cashmere goat breeding program in Afghanistan. This project is part of a bigger project which is implemented by Oxfam and PRB, and DCA is part of the overall Project Management Unit.

The aim of the breeding program is to support goat herding communities involved in the cashmere value chain in Afghanistan by introducing high quality cashmere goats in Herat and Balkh provinces. A team of DCA staff is assisting, developing, and monitoring a centralized Elite Flock of cashmere goats in Herat province in order to selectively breed high quality goats with improved cashmere quality, dairy and meat production traits.

DCA is responsible for the distribution of the high-quality bucks from the centralized Elite offspring of the flock at the breeding farm in Herat to 20 villages in Balkh and Herat provinces to create 20 Elite sub-flocks in collaboration with the National Partner at village level. The bucks from the Elite sub-flocks will be used for mating with females from other flocks in the villages to spread improved genetic material amongst cashmere goat populations in these areas.

The cashmere goat breed improvement farm has been established in Herat. Here the carefully selected top breeding Cashmere goats (246 adult does, 7 bucks, and 141 offspring) are currently kept. We collected samples from 88 male and female yearling kids from our own farm and tested them in a specialised lab. On positive lab results the following distributions were made:

- 36 male yearlings were distributed to 10 sub-flocks in 8 villages in Pashtun Zarghun district and in 2 villages in Zandajan district of Herat province
- 35 female yearlings were added to the stock for breeding.

DCA has 141 male and female kids in 2020 from our stock which we will collect samples from for testing in March 2021. This activity of buck distribution and adding females to the flock will be repeated during the year.

In 2020, DCA started the high-quality buck's distribution and in 2021 we can observe the first results from the field on their offspring in the herds where they were used for mating. By the end of 2020, the flock existed of 246 adult does, 7 bucks and 141 kids.

DCA is assisting sub-flock shepherds with some incentives, feed for bucks and stable remodelling as well as training.

5e. CCHF(V) projects



Achievements:

- 317 blood samples were collected for diagnostic purpose
- 1,296 ticks samples collected for identification
- 13 CVDRL staff trained on ELISA and PCR CCHF diagnostic tools
- 8,838 people made aware on prevention and control measures of CCHF
- 9,268 educational and awareness materials distributed for the purpose of education and awareness on CCHF disease
- 1,217 family hygiene kits distributed
- 6,030 face masks distributed for prevention and control of CCHF and COVID-19 diseases
- 5,397 various species of livestock treated for prevention and control of ticks
- 2,260 stables treated for the purpose of prevention and control of ticks

The CCHFV project named 'Early Laboratory Detection to Reduce Biological Sample Proliferation Threat in Afghanistan Resulting in Minimized Sample Generation of Crimean Congo Haemorrhagic Fever Virus (CCHFV)' was awarded to DCA Livestock Programs by the US Department of State. This project is part of the Biosecurity Engagement Program (BEP). A no cost extension was awarded to the end of 2021 due to the COVID-19 emergency and crisis.

As a follow up, in October 2020 the 'Enhance the Safe and Secure Detection of Crimean Congo Haemorrhagic Fever in Afghanistan' project started. This project focuses on important gaps that were found in the previous project and works towards a nationwide approach to fill these gaps in detection, prevention, and control strategies of the CCHF disease. Specific activities include raising public awareness, identify vectors collected from the field, and mapping high-risk locations. In addition, diagnostic and testing capacities at the Central Veterinary Diagnostic and Research Laboratory (CVDRL) for CCHF disease in animals are provided, and education on vector identification at the Regional Laboratories. Finally, the variables that increase the threat of CCHF disease in a geographical area will be statistically correlated. Based on technical and scientific studies of CCHF disease, various potential

species of tick vectors have been identified. As a result, the CVDRL now can identify the different species of tick vectors morphologically. In addition, the CVDRL technical staff, Nangarhar, Herat, and Balkh regional laboratory staff, Kabul and Nangarhar veterinary faculty technical lab staff, and the National Central Public Health Laboratory (NCPHL) staff were trained on Enzyme Linked Immuno Sorbent Assay (ELISA) tests; now they have the capacity to diagnose CCHF disease through using the ELISA test method.

Furthermore, due to the scientific study findings that 41.5%- 43% CCHF antibodies were present in large and small ruminants, more work on prevention and control of CCHF disease is needed. Due to a proper public awareness campaign in the project targeted areas, the education and knowledge of CCHF disease among the farmers has improved.

Previously, the farmers were collecting the ticks manually by their hands, but now they are aware and avoid the manual collection of ticks and maintain hygienic measures in terms of livestock and stable treatment for the purpose of the prevention and control of ticks. Based on findings and evidence from the project areas, no CCHF positive case has been reported in humans from our project coverage area.

5f. FAO-FSAC project




Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

Achievements:

- **3,499** vulnerable Kuchi HHs benefitted from Livestock Protection Package (LPP)
- **7,338** vulnerable people and Kuchi benefitted from Unconditional Cash Transfer (UCT)
- **343** females trained in farming community training and awareness
- **5,890** males trained in farming community training and awareness
- **8,749** HHs received PPE Kit



The FAO/OSRO/GLO/o17/CHA was an emergency project that started on the 5th of June 2020, and ended successfully on the 31st December 2020, implemented in 7 provinces namely Kabul, Faryab, Balkh, Herat, Nimroz, Nangarhar, and Kandahar. The project was funded by FAO with DCA as the implementing partner (IP).

The objective of the project was to prevent the transmission of COVID-19 through agricultural activities and food value/supply chains, functioning and responding to the impact of COVID-19 outbreak on food security.

DCA achieved and delivered the following outputs:

- Protect agricultural and livestock-based livelihoods of most vulnerable Kuchi households. To reach this, DCA surveyed and identified 3,499 vulnerable households (HHs) for a livestock protection package (100Kg animal concentrated feed/HHs, deworming of targeted HHs' animals). In addition, the targeted beneficiaries received awareness on preventive measures of COVID-19, and animal husbandry best practice. Further, they also received personal protection packages (PPEs)

- Awareness raising and prevention measures to avoid the spreading of COVID-19, especially in the 17 main targeted agriculture, live animal/livestock, and poultry related produce markets, and at village level. The targeted individuals for the intervention were 27,750 individuals, representing a population of approx. 194,250 people. The interventions reached 43,365 individuals representing a population of approx. 303,555 people at the project end
- Training, information dissemination and awareness building - using appropriate IEC materials - in the villages to prevent or minimize transmission of the COVID-19 not only within the households and local communities/villages but also when going to the agricultural and other markets. The target was set at 5,005 individuals in the LoA, and at the end of the project the actual achieved was 6,233
- Mitigate the negative impact of the crisis on vulnerable households' incomes and support productive safety nets including unconditional cash transfers (UCT). 7,338 vulnerable people and Kuchi households were surveyed and identified as eligible for the intervention. Each HH received USD 50 equivalent to AFs 3,850.

6. Impact



In 2020, due to the COVID pandemic we adapted our approach to minimise the risk of virus spread to and between beneficiaries, and also to protect our own staff. Biosecurity measures as advised by the Ministry of Health and World Health Organisation were put in place in all our interventions.

A number of our outcome/impact level achievements are:

- Establishment and development of “feed banks” leading to improved access to quality feed in times of scarcity, and better production parameters. This innovative intervention also influenced a better community involvement and social cohesion which contributes to a sustainable outcome
- Dairy and meat value chains developed in both settled and pastoralist communities resulting in farmers having more quality produce to sell, more income and job opportunities especially for women and the youth
- Improvements in the health, production, and welfare of livestock which resulted in lower mortality, improved fertility, and added value to livestock products
- Knowledge of the SARS-CoV-2 virus, and the measures required to mitigate risk in and between communities. This was achieved through special awareness sessions, and the distribution of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) based on advice from the Ministry of Health and the World Health Organisation
- Risk protection and community engagement resulting in protecting both health and livelihoods
- Integrating our interventions so as to have a real holistic approach to common problems

- Leveraging women’s empowerment through a focus on interventions on business development, employment, education, and value chains such as dairy, meat, and poultry
- More knowledge on specific Zoonoses, their transmission and control such as Crimean Congo Haemorrhagic Fever (CCHF), together with education on all matters related to food safety and nutrition
- Improved public/private sector communication and coordination
- Creation of sustainable jobs (employment).



7. Organisation

DCA Livestock Programs is a Dutch foundation, implementing veterinary and livestock projects in Afghanistan since 1988. In 1994, the organisation was officially registered as DCA-VET at the Chamber of Commerce in the Netherlands. During recent years, DCA became increasingly engaged in livestock extension and livestock value chains. DCA decided to change its focus and its scope from a merely veterinary organisation carrying out veterinary projects to a livestock organisation implementing a wider range of projects related to animal production. This new profile asked for a new name: since 2017 DCA-VET is called DCA Livestock Programs.

Being a foundation, DCA Livestock Programs has a Board that outlines the DCA policy. An Advisory Council provides the Board (bi)annually with support and advice.

Afghanistan

The DCA team in Afghanistan consists of around 116 staff, mainly Afghan nationals, with only one expat. The national staff represent all different ethnic groups. About 22% of the staff are women. The staff take care of the implementation of projects, monitoring and evaluation of

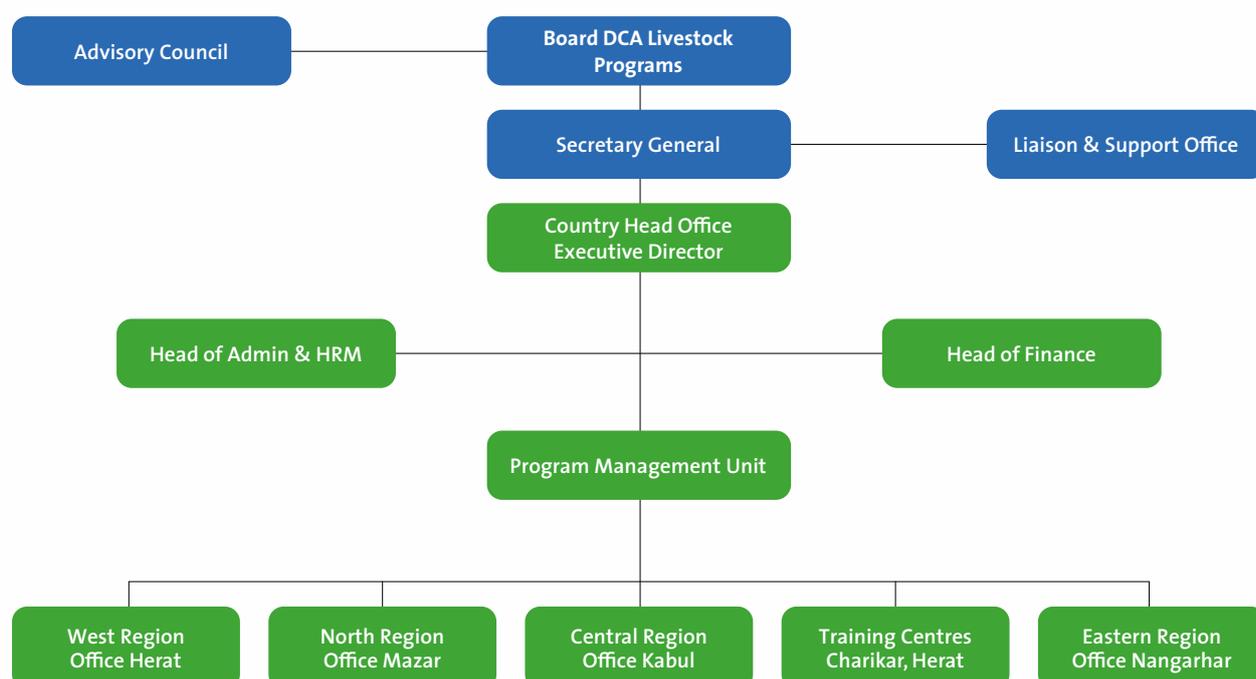
projects, financial affairs, administration, HRM, M&E, and facilitation of services.

The Executive Director, Raymond Briscoe, is in charge of the daily management, the acquisition of new projects, and the communication with donors, Afghan government and stakeholders. The Program Director, Dr Abdul Qader Fakhri, manages all project implementation. A Decision Management Team (DMT) consisting of the ED, PD and two senior project managers serves as primary planning body for the preparation and implementation of DCA projects in Afghanistan.

DCA offices are established in Kabul (headquarters), Herat, and Mazar-i-Sharif, and the main training centre is situated in Charikar. Smaller regional offices can be found in the capitals of eight provinces.

Netherlands

The Executive Director works closely with the Board in Holland through the Secretary General, Ab Emmerzaal. In Holland, the Liaison & Support office takes care of monitoring and supporting of projects and finances, and of facilitation of the Board meetings.



8. Board and Advisory Council

Members of the Board



Theo Lam, DVM PhD
Chairman



Gert-Jan Duives,
DVM
Secretary



Romke Steensma,
CA
Treasurer



Bram E.C. Schreuder,
DVM PhD
*Delegated Board
Member*



Kees van Maanen,
DVM PhD
Member

Board

As in previous years, in 2020 DCA was governed by a Board with its seat in the Netherlands. The Board exists of 5 committed volunteers who devote their expertise to the benefit of DCA. The Board met ten times in 2020, including one meeting with the Advisory Council.

Advisory Council

During 2020, the DCA Board met once with the Advisory Council, discussing topics like the follow up on the VFU-assessment made in 2019, One Health and DCA's lobbying policy. Since 2019, the DCA Advisory Council consists of six members; Akke van der Zijpp, Cees de Haan, Henk Moll, Frauke de Weijer, Lucy Maarse and Peter de Leeuw, previous chairman of the DCA Board.

Members of the Advisory Council



Akke van der Zijpp,
Prof. PhD
*Animal Production
Systems*



Cees de Haan, Ir.
*Senior Livestock
Advisor*



Henk A.J. Moll, PhD
*Agricult. Developm.
Economy*



Frauke de Weijer,
DVM BA MPA
Development policy



Lucy Maarse, MSc
*Livestock &
Livelihood*



Peter de Leeuw,
DVM PhD
Previous CVO of NL

9. Partnerships

Partnerships are important because they allow an integrated, and multidisciplinary approach. They stimulate communication, coordination, trust, and bring a sharing of knowledge.

For partnerships to flourish we need funding, and an understanding of the roles each play.

Government

We work with and report to many Government Departments of different Ministries at Central, Regional, Provincial and District level.

The Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock (MAIL) is our principal partner, and we implement a large Pastoralist project on their behalf. Our recent work has been with the Ministry of Health where we have collaborated on bringing awareness to rural communities on Zoonoses. Our training centre at Charikar is registered with the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs (MoLSA), and we report regularly to the Ministry of Economy. The Public Private Partnership (PPP) is very important for both sectors

in order to work together towards a sustainable outcome to the benefit of both parties.

Donors

We would like to express our appreciation to the donors who fund our various projects because we rely exclusively on them for the work we do.

We acknowledge our current donors: International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), Brooke UK, FAO, UNODC, PUR, and the US Department of State.

NGOs, Other International Organisations and Clusters

The communication and coordination we have with other NGOs is very important to us. We acknowledge the support given by such organisations as Oxfam, Health Security Partners, Agha Khan Foundation, Relief International, PRB, ICARDA, and MISFA to name but a few. We are a member of the Afghanistan Food Security and Agriculture Cluster (FSAC) of the FAO.



EUROPEAN UNION



HEALTH SECURITY PARTNERS



10. Finance

Expenditures in 2020

The expenditures of DCA Livestock Programs to keep the overall program and the individual projects running in 2020 amounted to USD 3,509,378.

DCA received for the larger part funds from:

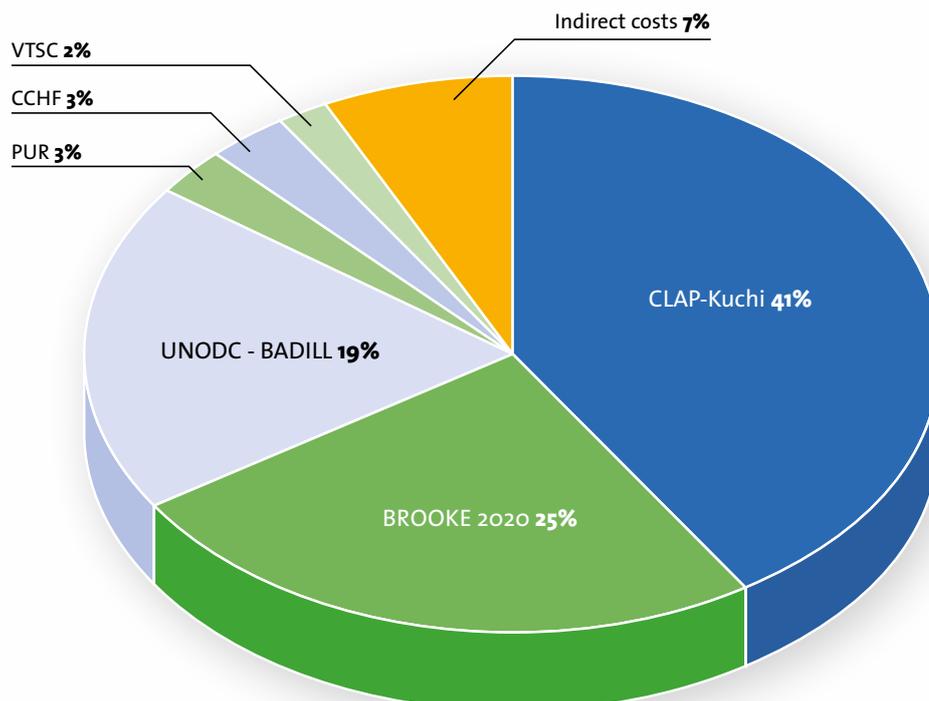
- IFAD (International Fund for Agricultural Development) that provided funds for the continuation and expansion of the CLAP-Kuchi project
- Brooke (The Brooke Hospital for Animals), for continuation of the 3-year project on 'Sustainable equine welfare improvement in Afghanistan' that started in 2018
- UNODC, for the implementation of the BADILL project that aims at enhancing the livelihoods of people.

For smaller projects, from:

- US Department of State, for increasing CCHF detection, mitigation and prevention in Afghanistan and Laboratory Diagnosis
- PUR Development PTE. LTD, for management of a breeding program to improve cashmere quality, meat production, and reproduction of cashmere goats
- Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO).

The below graph shows the expenditures per project expressed in percentages. DCA spent around USD 72,000 dollars on the Veterinary Training Centre in Charikar. From the graph, it can be concluded that 93% of all expenditures are used for project implementation and training.

Total Expenditures 2020



11. Looking forward



The COVID-19 pandemic is the greatest health, economic, and social crisis in a long time. We have needed to adapt and innovate to bring changes in the way we work but has not changed the work that we do.

We will focus on the recovery, rebuilding, and the resilience of communities. Increased productivity of small-scale producers is key, as will be improved market access, value chain development, welfare, gender empowerment, and access to basic services. These will be key elements for us going forward.

Livestock owners need more quality service access, so we will strengthen the VFU-network, increase capacity, and strengthen the Public Private Partnership (PPP).

Humanitarian needs are critical, but it will be important to integrate those interventions with development initiatives. Too often there is a separation of sectors where it has been shown that working together produces more success, and sustainable outcomes.

There is one very crucial point that this pandemic has brought into focus, and that is the subject of One Health. It has been a real time case study of the importance and urgent need for a coordinated approach. It has shown why the recognition of a connection between humans, animals and their shared environment is key to ensuring a healthy and sustainable future. A lot has been talked about the subject, but we need now to commence the work. Our focus therefore will be to initiate collaboration and coordination with and between all stakeholders.

We hope for a peaceful healthy future for Afghanistan, it's people, and our dedicated staff.

**“If we winter this one out,
we can summer anywhere”**

(Quote by Seamus Heaney, Poet Laureate)

Dr Raymond Briscoe
Executive Director



Abbreviations



AFs	Afghanis (currency)	IEC	Information, Education & Communication
AKF	Aga Khan Foundation	IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
AIC	Artificial Insemination Centre	IP	Implementing Partner
ALCS	Afghanistan Living Conditions Survey	Ir.	Engineer
BA	Bachelor of Arts	LoA	Letter of Agreement
BADILL	Boost Alternative Development Intervention through Licit Livelihoods	LPP	Livestock Protection Package
BEP	Biosecurity Engagement Program	M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
BVW	Basic Veterinary Worker	MAIL	(Afghan) Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock
CA	Chartered Accountant	MCC	Milk & egg Collection Centre
CCHF(V)	Crimean Congo Haemorrhagic Fever (Virus)	MISFA	Microfinance Investment Support Facility for Afghanistan
CLAP	Community Livestock and Agriculture Project	MoLSA	Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs
CVDRL	Central Veterinary Diagnostic and Research Laboratory	MPA	Master of Public Administration
DCA	Dutch Committee for Afghanistan	MSc	Master of Science
DMT	Decision Management Team	NCPHL	National Central Public Health Laboratory
DoS	Department of State, USA	NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
DVM	Doctor of Veterinary Medicine	PCR	Polymerase Chain Reaction
ED	Executive Director	PD	Program Director
ELISA	Enzyme Linked Immuno Sorbent Assay	PhD	Doctor of Philosophy
FEWS NET	Famine Early Warning System Network	PPE	Personal protection package
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations	PPP	Public Private Partnership
FSAC	(Afghanistan) Food Security & Agriculture Cluster	PRB	Partners in Revitalisation and Building
OSRO	Office for Special Relief Operation FAO	PUR	PUR Project
HHs	Households	RI	Relief International
HRM	Human Resource Management	SHG	Self-Help-Group
ICARDA	International Centre for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas	UCT	Unconditional Cash Transfer
IEA	Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan	UK	United Kingdom
		UNODC	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
		USA	United States of America
		USAID	US Agency for International Development
		VFU	Veterinary Field Unit
		VPP	Veterinary Para-professional

DCA on the map



Map of coverage of DCA livestock Programms in 2020



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