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**DUTCH COMMITTEE FOR
AFGHANISTAN (DCA)
LIVESTOCK, HEALTH,
PRODUCTION AND MARKETING
PROGRAM FINAL REPORT**

Report for RAMP-CLIN 0002-JO#13 -DCA

RAMP/DCA

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DUTCH COMMITTEE FOR AFGHANISTAN

کمیته هالند برای افغانستان



FINAL PROJECT REPORT

USAID/RAMP

Livestock Health, Production and Marketing Program

January 6, 2004 through June 30, 2006

Submitted by

Dutch Committee for Afghanistan (DCA)

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Livestock Health, Production and Marketing Program

- 1. Job Order Number: 013-00**
- 2. Dutch Committee for Afghanistan (DCA)**

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- 4. Reporting period: January 6th 2004 through June 30th 2006**
- 5. Total budget: \$11,994,873**
- 6. Key Summary of Project Activities and Impact**

Executive Summary:

USAID has made a substantial investment in animal health care delivery in the private sector in Afghanistan through the RAMP project as implemented by the Dutch Committee for Afghanistan (DCA) and its partners, the Afghan Veterinary Association (AVA) and Partners in Revitalization and Building (PRB). The results of this effort have been impressive in terms of the infrastructure established, the services delivered and the impact on animal health and the lives of people who depend on animals in Afghanistan.

The VFU system developed by DCA through RAMP can serve as a model for the rapid restoration of animal health care to rural communities in post conflict situations leading to the development of a nationwide, robust, privatized veterinary service delivery system.

Through the activities of the RAMP project, DCA and its partners have firmly established the foundation of privatized, fee for service, animal health care delivery at the district level throughout most of Afghanistan. The accomplishments can be summarized as follows:

- Private sector veterinary service is now being provided by 600 animal health care workers at 403 VFU locations in 278 districts in 31 provinces
- This network has administered 18.48 million vaccinations, 9.36 million treatments and .64 million other veterinary interventions from April, 2004, when field activity under RAMP was initiated, through the project closure on June 30, 2006.

- All of this work has been performed on a non-salaried, cost recovery, fee for service basis to promote sustainability of the private sector veterinary enterprise. This approach is now widely accepted and embraced by the livestock owning public
- VFU staff have received basic veterinary tools, refrigeration equipment for maintaining vaccine cold chain, and motorcycles to increase their opportunities for field work to better serve livestock owning communities and generate more income to make their practices viable.
- Benefit to cost ratio for animal health interventions through the VFU system has been calculated to be between \$5-10 return per dollar invested in terms of reduced mortality and increased productivity of livestock depending on the animal species and farming system involved.

USAID RAMP can be proud of these achievements. The significance of these accomplishments for the people of Afghanistan was independently verified by Dr Roger Windsor, a senior veterinary consultant for the European Commission, who after a one year consultancy in Afghanistan stated the following at his closing workshop in June of 2006:

“I have worked in 38 countries in Africa, Asia and South America and it is my opinion that livestock owners in Afghanistan are getting better access to quality veterinary services through the privatized VFU system than livestock owners in any of the other countries I have worked in”

Introduction:

At the start of the DCA-RAMP project in April 2004, livestock farming in Afghanistan began to recover from a very hard period of struggle through twenty years of war and several years of serious drought. Cattle and sheep populations in particular had suffered a lot, while many farmers had to leave their homes and lands and many herders were not able to take their livestock to the spring and summer pastures in the mountains. As recently as 2004, livestock owners had to face still another winter season with insufficient rain and snow fall. Fortunately the rains and snowfall in the winters of 2005 and 2006 were much better resulting in green, lush pastures in many places of the country.

Two years after the end of the Taliban period the overall economical and security situation in Afghanistan was still weak and instable. However during the period of RAMP, starting in 2004, notable achievements were made to strengthen the political and government structures in Afghanistan. President Hamid Karzai was overwhelmingly elected as the first president of Afghanistan, while a new Parliament was established after successful elections in September 2005. Even one paravet, called Mr. Noor Mohammed Kafil from Nijrab district in Kapisa province was elected as a member of the Upper House of Parliament on the basis of the excellent trust he has from the communities he has been serving through his Veterinary Field Unit. In the Lower House of Parliament there is a DVM graduate, Dr. Khodai Nazar, an ethnic Baluch who was once governor of Nimroz province. See annex Beneficiary story - 2.

The security situation in the country has been a big constraint for the DCA-RAMP staff to implement and monitor the program activities, especially in the border provinces with Pakistan in the East and South and with Iran in the Southwest. The VFU system, staffed by paravets who originate from the local communities they serve, is the best basis to deliver animal health care to the farmers in these remote areas during times of insecurity. Nevertheless, it can be said with a mixture of relief and pride that the VFU system has been able to operate in all 31 provinces where it is established without any harm to staff.

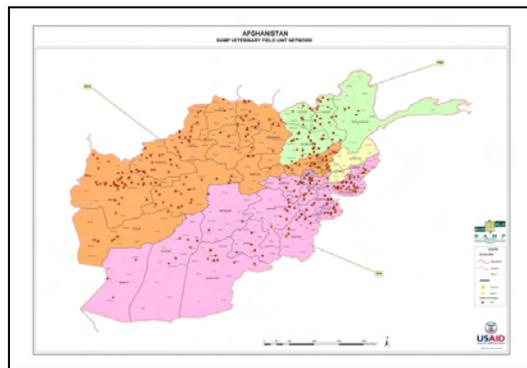
Due to the long years of war, drought and insufficient animal health services the various livestock diseases were very common all over Afghanistan, resulting in high mortality rates for young and older ruminants. Realizing that 80 percent of the local population depends for their living on livestock in the rural areas, this resulted in a very bad economic situation for most livestock holders and no new investments were done.

At start of the DCA RAMP project there were still about 100 VFUs operational with 300 staff members. In the western region, these were the VFUs established and supported by DCA-Herat office over the preceding 10 years. In other parts of the country, the existing VFUs were mainly those that had been supported by the FAO until the beginning of 2002. Among these VFUs there were many staff that had had no support during the two bridging years between the closure of FAO and the onset of RAMP but who had managed to continue to generate their own income from veterinary field services with no external support. Many VFU staff members had lost their instruments and materials during the years of violence and insurgency, while many VFUs facilities were destroyed by the war violence. When RAMP begun, none of the VFUs had a refrigerator for the proper storage of vaccines. Only a few VFUs had still a motorbike that was donated to some of them during the FAO Veterinary project and some VFUs had their own bicycle purchased.

Inputs to and Outputs from the Veterinary Field Units (VFU):

The implementation of the DCA-RAMP project was done by the Dutch Committee for Afghanistan (DCA) along with two local Afghan partner organizations: the Afghan Veterinary Association (AVA) and PRB (Partners in Revitalization and Building).

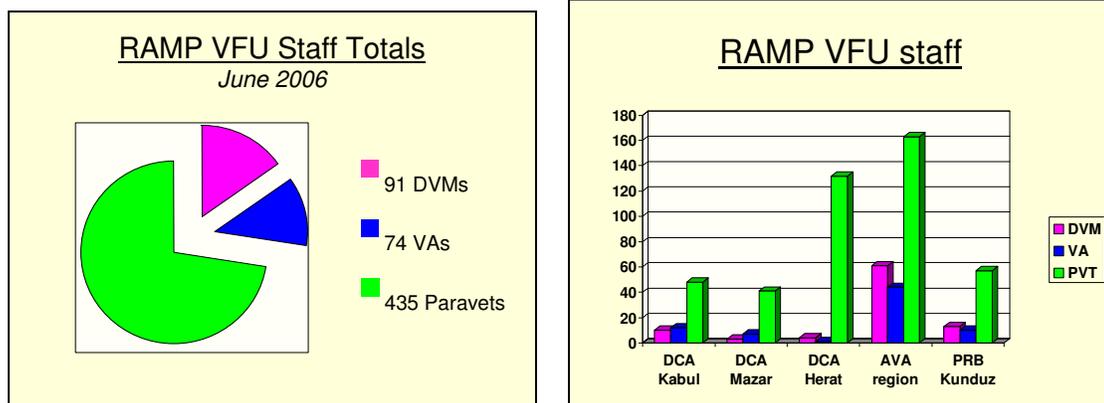
| | Provinces | Districts | VFU Locations | VFU Staff members |
|---------------|-----------|------------|---------------|-------------------|
| DCA Kabul | 4 | 33 | 60 | 70 |
| DCA Herat | 4 | 45 | 123 | 137 |
| DCA Mazar | 5 | 38 | 50 | 51 |
| PRB Kunduz | 4 | 42 | 49 | 87 |
| AVA Regions | 14 | 120 | 121 | 255 |
| Totals | 31 | 278 | 388 | 600 |



By its end, the DCA-RAMP project had a nationwide coverage of 31 provinces subdivided into five working regions:

1. DCA Kabul: Parwan, Kapisa, Panjshir and Bamyan provinces
2. DCA Herat: Herat, Ghor, Badghis and Farah provinces
3. DCA Mazar: Balkh, Jawzjan, Samangan, Faryab and Saripul provinces
4. PRB Kunduz: Kunduz, Balkh, Takhar and Badakshan provinces
5. AVA Region: Kabul, Logar, Ghazni, Helmand, Kandahar, Khost, Kunar, Laghman, Nangahar, Nimroz, Paktika, Paktya, Zabul and Uruzgan provinces.

The GPS coordinates were recorded for nearly all VFU locations in Afghanistan, and on the basis of these coordinates, the Chemonics/RAMP GIS Unit produced and maintained a continuously updated map of the RAMP VFU locations in the different working areas of DCA, AVA and PRB (above right).



Besides the VFUs supported by DCA-RAMP, there are still about 120 government veterinary clinics in the country and the President of the Animal Health and Production Department of the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation (MAI) has expressed his intention to privatize these government clinics with financial and logistical support from the veterinary sub-component of the new World Bank Horticulture and Livestock Project (HLP) which is to begin in the autumn of 2006.

There are several other NGOs active in supporting and providing veterinary field services in rural areas of Afghanistan. The two EU-funded NGOs, Madera and Mercy Corps, follow more or less a similar program in privatizing the VFUs in their respective working areas. One international NGO, Solidarités, handed over their veterinary field activities in Bamyan province in April 2005 to DCA-RAMP in a very cooperative and successful way to be managed by the DCA Kabul office. See the beneficiary story – 1 in the annex.

More problematic have been the working relation with those NGOs (Agha Khan Foundation (AKF), BRAC and Afghan Aid) that are still paying salaries to VFU staff in their working areas, and providing free veterinary services to livestock owners, including vaccination campaigns. This is causing a lot of problems in those provinces and districts

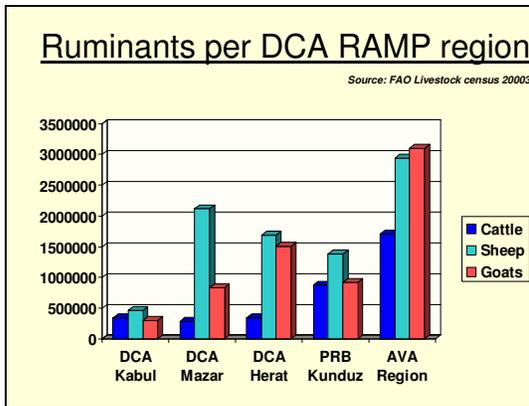
that are both supported by the DCA-RAMP project and these other NGOs. Efforts to sit together and to solve the different approach and support via Ministry of Agriculture Steering Committee meetings and the NGO monthly ACBAR Animal Health Working Group meetings were not very successful.

During the implementation of the DCA-RAMP, the number of VFU staff members doubled from about 300 in June 2004 to exactly 600 VFU staff members by June 30, 2006.

About 73% of all the VFU staff members have the status of paraveterinarian, while Doctors of Veterinary Medicine (DVMs) contribute only 15% to the total. The remainder are Veterinary Assistants. The Western and Southern provinces in particular depend completely on the services provided by paraveterinarians who were recruited and are supported from their own local communities. Without the presence of all these paraveterinarians many animals and their owners would have no access at all to veterinary services. It will be many more years before the University system will produce sufficient, properly trained DVMs who will work as a veterinary practitioner in the different remote areas of Afghanistan. In the meantime, paraveterinarians, trained by DCA must remain an integral part of the veterinary service delivery system.

Another problematic group relative to reliable access to quality animal health care is the nomadic herders, or Kuchis, who migrate with their animals to the spring and winter pastures in the mountains. During the DCA-RAMP project, the first representative of the Kuchi community was trained and supported in his veterinary field work: Mr. Mohammad Gul, from Gulran district in Herat province. In the last half of 2005, 11 newly recruited paravet trainees originating from Kuchi communities around the country joined the 24-week training courses at the DCA VTSCs in Charikar and Mazar-e-Sharif. Recruitment of more candidates from Kuchi communities will continue in the coming years, as well as from remote districts where there is no veterinary field service, such as Badakshan province.

Another notable milestone in the project is the training of the first female paraveterinarian, originating from Badakshan. She is currently attending the new Paravet training course at the DCA VTSC in Charikar, along with her brother. It is expected that, in the coming years, more young women will be interested to be trained at the paraveterinarian level, because they have much more easily access to the many women in the villages who are actively involved in livestock production. In the gender issue survey carried out by AVA during the DCA-RAMP project, it is very clear that women play a very important role in the recognition and caring of diseased livestock. See in the annex the PowerPoint presentation on Gender Issues given by Dr. Safi of the AVA at the DCA-RAMP Closing Conference of 28 July, 2006.



Livestock numbers per VFU staff
 Average Calculated

- 7,000 heads of cattle
- 16,000 heads of sheep
- 13,000 heads of goats
- 3,000 heads of donkeys
- 250 heads of horses
- 300 heads of camels
- 20,000 heads of chickens

In the left table above the numbers of ruminants (cattle, sheep and goats) are indicated for the five working regions of DCA-RAMP: 1.1 million heads in DCA-Kabul, about 3.3 million heads in DCA Mazar, DCA-Herat and PRB Kunduz regions each, and 7.7 million heads in the AVA region. In the table on the right, the average calculated numbers of each livestock species per VFU staff number is presented. However it should be recognized that in most regions, only 25% of the livestock receive regular vaccinations and medications from VFUs. In order to reach a larger proportion of livestock owners, the DCA-RAMP project developed marketing materials for use by VFU staff, including a promotional brochure and 17 Farmer Fact Sheets on common, preventable diseases for which the VFUs can provide cost effective interventions. All have been translated into Dari and Pashto. The English texts of these Farmer Fact Sheets are included as an attachment to this report

As mentioned in the introduction, most VFUs were in a very deplorable state at start of the DCA-RAMP project. See annex Beneficiary Story 3 about the metamorphosis of the Mr. Samaruddin's VFU in Fayzabad district of Jawzjan Province.

The RAMP project was aimed at rebuilding the agriculture/livestock markets of Afghanistan, on the basis of sustainability and privatization. Consistent with this objective, DCA had as a cornerstone of its VFU program to not make VFU staff dependent on a fixed, regular income by paying salaries. Instead, the approach of DCA-RAMP was to give the VFU staff the tools they needed to generate their own income, namely, suitable veterinary equipment, quality vaccines and medicines, and a motorcycle to travel out to villages where the animals are concentrated.

RAMP VFU Support

No Salaries paid

One-Time inputs

- Tools for daily veterinary work
- Clinic refurbishment / reconstruction
- Promotion of Veterinary Activities
- Transport for consulting farmers
- Cold Chain for vaccines

RAMP VFU Support

- Set of 56 Veterinary Instruments 575 \$
- Set of Clinic furniture, utensils 140 \$
- Signboard and cattle crush 100 \$
- Motorbike 1240 \$
- Solar powered refrigerator 2800 \$
- Cool box and icepacks 50 \$
- Monthly Goods in kind: vaccines, medicines 900 \$
- Subsidy in Clinic Rent/Reconstruction 300 \$

TOTAL COSTS 6105 \$

The material support consists first of all in the distribution of 565 sets of veterinary instruments to nearly all VFU staff members in the DCA, PRB and AVA regions. Each set consists of 56 different veterinary instruments for the various treatments given to livestock. Six items were imported from the Dutch veterinary instrument company, Instruvet in Boxmeer. These are instruments that are used very frequently and therefore must be of a very high quality, including vaccination guns, drenchers, spray apparatus and castrators. The other instruments were all imported from one of the very best suppliers in Pakistan, Kurdson in Lahore.

Most VFU buildings are rented rather than owned and are usually one-room facilities located near the livestock bazaar in district town centers. The average rent per month varies between 300 and 1500 Afs (6 to 30 US\$ per month). The DCA RAMP project had no budget line for construction of new clinics. Instead there was a budget line only to give a subsidy for the monthly rent (6 to 16 US\$ per month). All VFU locations received a set of furniture and utensils for the daily veterinary and administrative work. Some locations received a subsidy (maximum of 50%) to reconstruct, repair or remodel the VFU building; mainly for VFU buildings that were privately owned by the VFU staff member.

Every VFU location received a large-sized signboard with the name of the RAMP-USAID project on it, plus logos and pictures of animals to draw attention to its presence and function. Another point of recognition of VFU locations is the presence of a cattle crush (trawa), for examination and treatment of animals, usually prominently placed in front of the VFU.

In total 512 new motorbikes were distributed to VFU staff members as a mean of transport for their veterinary field work: 261 motorbikes in the three DCA regions, 201 in AVA region and 50 in the PRB region. On top of this several old motorbikes were rehabilitated and returned to the respective VFU staff under the DCA-RAMP project. The VFU staff members take care of their own associated daily operating expenses such as fuel and maintenance, so this needs to be financed from their income generating veterinary activities.

257 Solar powered refrigerators and 18 refrigerators operating on public electricity have been purchased and distributed to VFUs for the proper storage of vaccines at a temperature between 2 to 8 degrees Celsius. Beside cold chain facilities in the VFUs each staff member received a cool box with ice-packs for carrying vaccines with them on their motorcycles when visiting farmers and other villages. This capacity to bring quality vaccine from international markets to the Afghan farmer with proper maintenance and storage to ensure efficacy is a major achievement of the DCA RAMP project. Such capacity has never existed before in the country.

Every VFU staff member was entitled to receive monthly for a value of 1500 Afs (30 US\$) vaccines and/or medicines as goods in kind. The idea behind it is that most VFU staff members do not have enough capital yet to finance all their monthly vaccine and

medicine needs and by actively working in the field, they could convert these in kind goods to cash to buy more vaccines and medicines. This was especially important for newly graduated paravets, who had no starting capital at all in most cases. With this in mind, new graduates received upon graduation vaccines and medicines at no cost valued at 10,000 Afs (200 US\$), followed by a monthly in kind support of vaccines and medicines valued at 5,000 Afs (100 US\$) for a maximum period of 12 months following graduation. Then the support dropped to 1500 Afs (30 US\$). On top of all the vaccines and medicines given monthly as goods in kind most VFUs purchased substantial amounts of vaccines and medicines on a monthly basis on top of what they received as in kind support, according to the local needs and demand for service in their work area.

Monthly Vaccinations Reported by VFUs

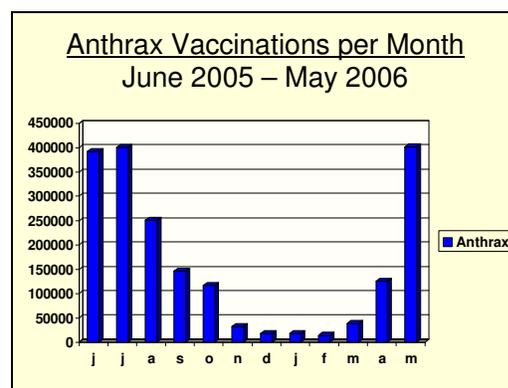
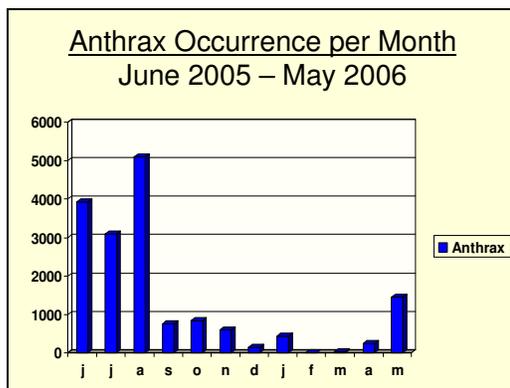
Vaccinations

| | ASV | ETV | BQV | HSV | CCPP | FMD | SPV | NDV | PPR | Rabies | Others | Total |
|---------|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|-----|-----|-----|-----|--------|--------|-------|
| Cattle | | ■ | | | ■ | | ■ | ■ | | | | - |
| Sheep | | | | | | | | ■ | | | | - |
| Goat | | | | | | | | ■ | | | | - |
| Equine | ■ | | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | | | - |
| Dogs | | ■ | | | | | | | | | | - |
| Poultry | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | - |
| Total | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | - |

Monthly Disease Occurrence Reported by VFUs

Disease Occurrence: numbers of animals showing the clinical symptoms of

| | Anthrax | Brucella | Black fly | Haemorrhagic | CCPP | FMD | Sheep fly | SCPP | PPR | Rabies | Others | Total |
|---------|---------|----------|-----------|--------------|------|-----|-----------|------|-----|--------|--------|-------|
| Cattle | | | | | ■ | | | ■ | ■ | | | - |
| Sheep | | | | | | | | ■ | | | | - |
| Goat | | | | | | | | ■ | | | | - |
| Equine | | | | | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | | | - |
| Camel | | | | | | | | ■ | ■ | | | - |
| Poultry | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | - |
| Total | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |



Part of the contractual agreement between the VFUs and the DCA-RAMP project is that each VFU staff member has to report monthly on his activities carried out during the past reporting month. A standard form has been developed to report on four items: number of different vaccinations, numbers of medications, numbers on other veterinary services and the number of cases of each type of disease seen, all per animal species. For each monthly report submitted, the VFU staff member received an incentive of 300 Afs (6 US\$) as a compensation for the time and travel costs associated with report submission.

All these data from monthly reports were summarized at the regional offices and finally at the DCA Kabul main office. These summaries were sent monthly to the main contractor of DCA-RAMP, Chemonics, as well as to the President of the Veterinary Department of the Ministry of Agriculture. In several cases the information was also

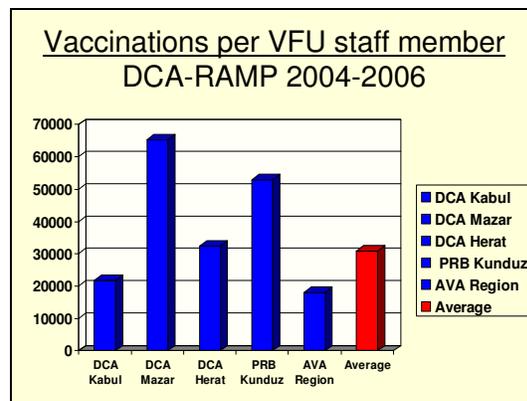
shared with Provincial authorities such as the President of the Agriculture Department and the Provincial veterinarian. In addition to this monthly reporting, DCA-RAMP developed a form for immediate reporting of highly contagious diseases such as rabies, foot and mouth disease, peste des petits ruminants, and avian influenza to the local Provincial Government Veterinarian, the so-called Disease Early Warning System.

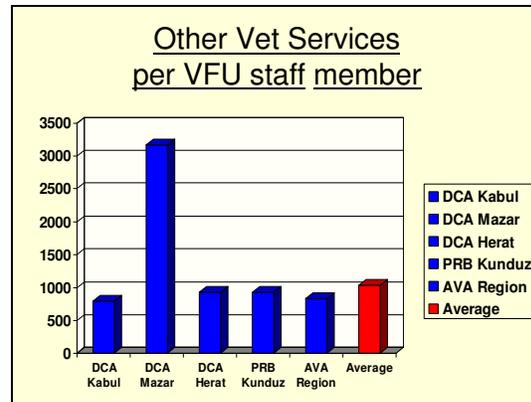
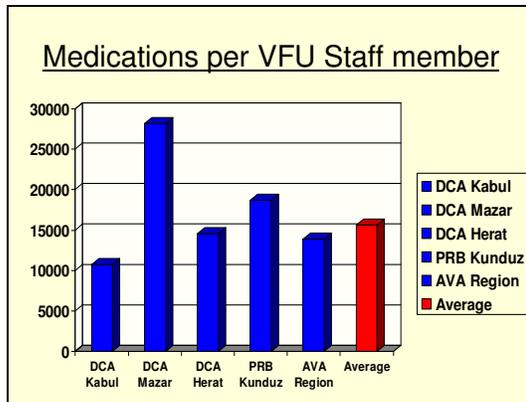
In each DCA-RAMP regional office, a team of veterinary field monitors supported the VFU staff members by regular visiting and advising the VFUs. The average ratio was 25 VFUs to be monitored per DCA-RAMP field monitor. Another important assignment for field monitors was to identify new locations where there was a need for more veterinary field services and to recruit good qualified candidates from the local communities for training as paraveterinarians. A third assignment for field monitors was to assist the VFU staff members in making their VFUs more sustainable in financial and technical operations.

The DCA-RAMP project also had a project component for assessing the impact of veterinary interventions on local livestock production and animal health related performance indicators such as mortality rates. For the collection of retrospective and prospective data, 290 farmers were selected in 29 villages across the five DCA-RAMP regions: 12 villages in Herat province of the western region, 9 villages in the central region, 4 villages in the northern region, 2 villages in the eastern region and 2 villages in the southern region. Also, 8 livestock markets were visited monthly for collection of data on livestock prices. Results of this survey are included in the annex as Dr. Sayed Aga's presentation at the DCA RAMP Closing Conference held on June 28, 2006.

Another multi-regional field survey was carried by a team of women veterinarians recruited by the AVA, entitled "Women's Survey Program on the Role of VFUs to Afghan Women" which documented the important role of women in the livestock sector and underscored their potential role in animal health. The results of this survey are included in the annex as Dr. Safi's presentation at the DCA-RAMP Closing Conference June 28, 2006.

| | Vaccinations | Medications | Other Vet Services | Vaccine doses Delivered |
|------------------------|-------------------|------------------|--------------------|-------------------------|
| DCA Kabul | 1,528,297 | 750,299 | 55,442 | 4,173,597 |
| DCA Herat | 4,439,464 | 1,996,711 | 126,620 | 3,492,600 |
| DCA Mazar | 3,324,587 | 1,438,707 | 161,186 | 4,102,080 |
| PRB Kunduz | 4,589,719 | 3,547,906 | 212,117 | 3,985,150 |
| AVA Region | 4,602,873 | 1,623,611 | 80,661 | 3,722,500 |
| Other NGOs, Government | Unknown | Unknown | Unknown | 9,841,068 |
| Totals | 18,484,940 | 9,357,234 | 636,026 | 29,316,995 |





During the period of January 6, 2004 through June 30, 2006 the following achievements have been made:

- 29,316,995 doses of 16 different animal vaccines distributed to regional stores
- 18,484,940 vaccinations were given to animals against 16 different diseases
- 9,357,234 medications such as antibiotics and dewormers were administered
- 636,026 other veterinary services such as castrations and pregnancy testing
- 600 VFU staff members are actively working at 403 VFU locations
- Veterinary field services are being provided in 278 districts of 31 provinces

A lot of detailed data has been collected from VFU locations. This information includes: the number of vaccinations per vaccine type and per species; the different kinds of medications per species; and, the other types of veterinary services per species that were provided. Reliable information also has been collected on the occurrence of the most important livestock diseases per species monthly. This data provides the opportunity to analyze the epidemiology of many animal diseases as well as the impact of veterinary interventions on disease occurrence. Such analysis have been initiated by Dr. Daad Mohammad Amir, Senior Livestock Specialist for Chemonics-RAMP office in Kabul and Dr. Wim Tondeur, DCA Deputy Program Director in Kabul. Using the field data, an effort has been made to estimate the monthly net income per VFU staff member. As shown below, the average net monthly income per VFU staff member has been calculated to be US\$ 147 per month. During field visits most VFU staff reported to have an income between US\$ 100 to 200 per month, with higher, peak periods of income occurring in the spring and early summer season. In contrast, government veterinarians working at government clinics have monthly salaries in the range of US\$ 60-70 per month.

On the basis of our own calculations using monthly data received from the most active VFU staff members, some of these individuals are earning more than US\$ 500 per month, a significant income for rural Afghanistan. These calculations have been confirmed by interviews with the concerned persons. However we have also noticed that some VFU staff members earned below average net income and looked for other side-incomes like from teaching and farming. Only very few (less than 10 during the past year) VFU staff members left their post and took a paid job with salaries above US\$ 250 per month, indicating a relatively high salary threshold to induce people to leave VFU work.

Average Income
per VFU staff member

- 15,000 vaccinations per year
3 Afs profit per vaccination = 45,000 Afs
- 7,600 medications per year
5 Afs profit per medication = 38,000 Afs
- 500 other vet services per year
10 Afs profit per service = 5,000 Afs
- Total Income/year: 88,000 Afs = 1762 \$
- Monthly Income: 7,333 Afs = **147 \$**

Finally DCA and its implementing partners AVA and PRB have noticed a big change in the mentality of VFU staff members: at the beginning of the program, many VFU staff complained to monitors about the non-payment of salaries in the program. However, they quickly realized their earning potential from fee for service work and the interactions with monitors changed from complaints about lack of salary to requests for for a reliable cold chain system, provision of motorcycles to visit farmers in the villages and in the field and most importantly, for greater quantities of high quality vaccines and medicines to increase their field activities. Other good indicators that the private sector delivery of veterinary services is working is that most VFU staff members prefer the more expensive enterotoxaemia vaccine from Syva-Lab in Spain with a broader spectrum of protection against various clostridial infections, over the cheaper and narrower-spectrum Enterotoxaemia vaccine from Jordan. This means that VFU staff are able to recognize differences in quality and efficacy and successfully market higher quality products to farmers even when the price is higher.

Another example relates to foot and mouth disease (FMD) vaccine. DCA directors were very worried about achieving full cost-recovery of the recently imported FMD-vaccines from the Russian Pharmaceutical Company Arianh, especially because of the high costs of this multivalent vaccine: about 18 Afs (US\$ 0.35) per cattle dose and 6 Afs per sheep/goat dose. However, demand was so high and the results of vaccination so evident to farmers that, within 4 months after the start of the distribution, more than 50% of this FMD vaccine has been applied to ruminants, especially sheep despite the high cost. Only in the Western region of Afghanistan was the demand for FMD-vaccination by VFU staff low. This was due to the availability in the bazaar of illegally imported FMD vaccine from Iran at a lower price than the DCA-RAMP FMD vaccine. Even there however, effective outreach to farmers convinced them that the VFU supplied vaccine was better because it was properly stored at cool temperatures whereas the vaccine from the bazaar was kept on the shelf at room temperature and rendered ineffective.

Government and Inter-Agency Relations - Activities and Impact:

Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation (MAI) - DCA interacted on a regular basis

with the Ministry of Agriculture during the course of the project. Notable activities related to MAI (formerly MAAHF) and their impact include the following

Participation in the MAI Joint Steering Committee for the Livestock Sector – this committee was established at the end of October 2004 to improve communication and coordination amongst donors and major implementing agencies in the livestock sector, including animal health and animal production. DCA and its partners, AVA and PRB have regularly attended these monthly meetings from the inception of the committee to the end of the project. This helped to create visibility for the VFU privatization effort and appreciation of its effectiveness and utility amongst donors and Ministry officials

Provision of disease reports – DCA and its partners regularly collected reports of diseases seen by VFU staff on a monthly basis and also on an emergency basis when newly occurring or highly infectious diseases were newly being observed in a VFU location. These disease reports were shared with the MAI Veterinary Department so they could have information on general disease trends as well as information on the occurrence of highly contagious diseases which which required an emergency control response by government. The provision of these reports by the VFU system through RAMP have had an enormous impact on convincing government on the value of the VFUs in effective disease surveillance and control in a country with limited communication and transportation infrastructure. The network of district based VFUs throughout the country can serve as the eyes and ears of the government veterinary service for early warning and early response in effective disease control efforts. Recognition of this fact has served as the basis for current initiatives on the development of contractual relationships between the MAI Veterinary Department and the private sector VFUs. This contractual relationship is being supported through the FAO Regional Transboundary Animal Disease Control Project, the EU Animal Health Development Project, and the upcoming World Bank Horticulture and Livestock Project.

Provision of training - Government veterinarians are invited to attend refresher short courses offered by DCA through its three Veterinary Training and Service Centers. As continuing education opportunities have been sorely lacking in Afghanistan over the last 25 years, these opportunities for short term refresher training have a positive impact on the professional capacity of government veterinarians.

Provision of vaccines – DCA has been an approved importer of veterinary vaccines into Afghanistan for many years preceding the RAMP project. During RAMP, government requested the assistance of RAMP for the importation of high quality vaccines for government to allow them to undertake emergency vaccination efforts to control diseases affecting the public good. DCA responded during the RAMP project by importing rabies vaccine, foot and mouth disease vaccine and avian influenza vaccine on behalf of government. This created significant good will and helped to control these important diseases.

Participation in working groups – During RAMP, the MAI initiated an effort to evaluate VFU activities. DCA played an active role in helping to develop an objective and

constructive approach to this field evaluation effort in terms of helping to define the composition of a balanced evaluation team representing government and NGOs and in developing an objective survey instrument for evaluation to ensure consistency in the evaluation process.

Through the Joint Steering Committee, a working group on Livestock Training Needs has been established and DCA actively participates in that working group.

Other Ministries – DCA, as an NGO has had to deal with the Ministry of Economics in order to register as an NGO during the course of the RAMP project. Also, in order to import vaccines, DCA must go through a complicated approval procedure each time a shipment of vaccines arrives at Kabul Airport. This procedure involves visits to and documents from the Ministry of Agriculture, the Ministry of Commerce and the Ministry of Finance. Regrettably, the impact of these interactions is negative in that it has repeatedly delayed the release of vaccine from the Airport. During the warmer weather, this has posed a risk to the quality of imported vaccine, as delays of several days can easily occur and there has been no cold storage facility at the airport to protect these vaccines against spoilage. There is an urgent and legitimate need to streamline the procedure for release of vaccines from the airport.

DCA also interacted with the Ministry of Higher Education and its Kabul University Veterinary Faculty in its effort to reestablish a clinical teaching program for Kabul University veterinary students at its reconstructed but dormant Teaching Clinic in Daralaman. Through DCA efforts, the clinic was reopened and now, for the first time in over 15 years, veterinary students are getting hands-on practical training in clinical diagnosis, case management and therapeutics. This initiative will have an enormous long term impact on the quality of veterinary professionals being produced by Kabul University and will increase the opportunity for qualified veterinarians to enter the private sector through the VFU system.

Local and Provincial Government - As the RAMP VFU network extends to 31 Provinces, there has been a good deal of interaction with local authorities at both the district and provincial levels. In general, these interactions have been positive and the result has been a greater awareness at the provincial level among government authorities about the value of the VFU system and the veterinary clinical service privatization effort. There was one notable conflict in Parwan where the Governor wished to demolish the DCA Charikar Veterinary Training and Service Center (VTSC) to build a new road just north of the facility. The conflict was successfully resolved. US Army Engineers, responsible for the road building were able to reroute the road so that it could be successfully completed without having to move or damage the VTSC.

ACBAR - The Agency Coordinating Body for Afghan Relief has been serving as the umbrella organization for NGOs working in Afghanistan since 1988. ACBAR has supported an Animal Health Coordination Group almost since its inception and the Group was historically an effective forum for NGOs and donors to communicate and collaborate on veterinary programs. At the time of the beginning of the RAMP project however, the

Animal Health group was moribund. Through the efforts of DCA, the group has been reinvigorated and has been meeting monthly now since July of 2004. The new Chairman of the group is Dr. Zia Formuly, is the senior veterinarian in PRB, one of DCAs implementing partners in the RAMP. The group has once again become the focus for discussion of issues affecting the NGO animal health community with exchange of information on field activities, coordination of effort, discussion of implementation problems and resolution of problems.

Individual NGOs - DCA, through RAMP, has been able to provide two key services to other NGOs working in the animal health field – provision of vaccines and training. Training has included the training of new paraveterinarians, new basic veterinary workers, and refresher training for existing staff in subjects such as differential diagnosis of common disease syndromes, ruminant reproduction and business skills. The impact of these material and educational resources to other organizations has been to improve the general level of animal health care available through NGOs around the country and has elevated the status of DCA as the premier training organization in Afghanistan for animal health care. Agencies served include, *inter alia*, Mercy Corps, Madera, Afghan Aid, and the Aga Khan Foundation,

Donor and Technical Agencies – The work and experience of DCA has become known to many donor and technical agencies through its field programs, its conferences and workshops and through its participation in the MAI Joint Steering Committee. As such, DCA has had considerable opportunity for input into the programs and activities of these other organizations in the animal health field. Most notable have been interactions with the EU and the World Bank. DCA has worked closely with consultants from the EU Animal Health Development Project in the MAI to discuss and develop opportunities to strengthen the interaction and interdependency of the government regulatory veterinary service and the private sector clinical service delivery system in veterinary medicine in Afghanistan. An excellent working partnership has developed to ensure that the ADHP team in the MAI will continue to advocate strongly for the further strengthening of the VFU system and linking it to the government veterinary service, especially in the areas of disease surveillance and control .

The relationship with the World Bank evolved to the point that the Country Director of DCA became a key advisor on the development of the World Bank's Horticulture and Livestock Project (HLP). As a result, the animal health sub component of the World Bank Project includes funds to privatize government veterinary clinics and outfit those privatized government clinics to the same standard as RAMP VFUs. The HLP also provides funds to support contract work by VFU staff on behalf of government for selected disease control programs, thus directly supporting the development of the desired public-private partnership in veterinary medicine. The World Bank HLP is due to start in September, 2006.

Training Activities:

The Dutch Committee for Afghanistan (DCA) has an 18 year history of training new

paraveterinarians and providing refresher training courses for paraveterinarians, veterinary assistants and veterinarians in Afghanistan. Initially the training activities started at a training center in the city Peshawar in Pakistan in 1988. The first Veterinary Training and Service Center (VTSC) in Afghanistan was established in 1994 in Herat by DCA. Four years ago DCA moved their main office to Kabul along with training facilities. The DCA office in Peshawar was closed down soon after the start of training activities by DCA in Kabul. The construction of the new VTSC in Charikar, the capital of Parwan province, north of Kabul, was completed during the DCA-RAMP project. A training/demonstration farm has been established at the Charikar VTSC with different kinds of farm animals and a unit for poultry reproduction with 400 imported Bovans Nera parent-stock hens. Recently an expansion of the dormitory and classrooms facilities at Charikar was initiated under RAMP due to an urgent need for more space to allow parallel training courses due to increased demand.

| <u>New-Paravet Training Curriculum</u> |
|---|
| 24 weeks course |
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Entrance Interviews and Examination 2. Theoretical Classes 3. Demonstration and Practical Classes 4. Practical Work in Training Clinics 5. Practical Work in the field 6. Externship of 1 week at a good VFU 7. Excursion to VFUs, farms, stores 8. Business Skills Training modules 9. Final Exams (Theoretical) 10. Final Exams (Practical) Graduation & Certificates |

| <u>VFU Business Skill Seminar</u> |
|--|
| 8 modules |
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Starting a new VFU: criteria for success 2. Financial Management 3. Planning and Administration 4. Stock and Inventory Management 5. Sales and Activities 6. Prices and Fees calculations 7. Marketing and Promotion 8. Relations and Behaviour with clients Final session, Evaluation |

During the DCA-RAMP, a new VTSC was established at the DCA Regional office in Mazar-i-Sharif, in the Northern Province of Balkh. By March 2005, VTSC Mazar-i-Sharif was ready to start with the first new-paravet training course with 21 participants and a new team of 3 trainers.

DCA is currently the only organization in Afghanistan that has permission from the government to organize a training program of 24 weeks for newly recruited paravets. These trainees are recruited from regions where there is need for more veterinary field services. During the DCA-RAMP project the present training curriculum has been revised by adding a one-week externship to provide hands-on practical training for each new paravet at an established and active VFU, preferably closely to his home region. In addition, the newly developed “VFU Business Skills” seminar was added to the new paravet training curriculum. The paravet training course manuals have been revised and all of them have been prepared electronically in the Dari language.

Within the framework of privatization of the veterinary field services, a new seminar was developed under the title “VFU Business Skills” with a duration of 7 teaching days to be delivered to VFU staff already working in the field. This was in recognition of the fact that VFUs are small businesses and need to run properly as businesses. Up until RAMP, the paravet training focused only on technical veterinary topics, but the need to prepare VFU staff as small business operators became increasingly apparent.

Over the course of the DCA-RAMP project, DCA conducted a total of 10 new paravet training courses, 3 refresher courses for DVMs, 16 refresher courses for paravets and veterinary assistants and 22 VFU Business Skills seminars. In addition, 8 courses to train new Basic Veterinary Workers were conducted on behalf of other NGOs that use BVWs in their field programs. For more details of the training activities, see the annex: DCA-RAMP project - Training Activities Summary.

Vaccine and Medicine Distribution:

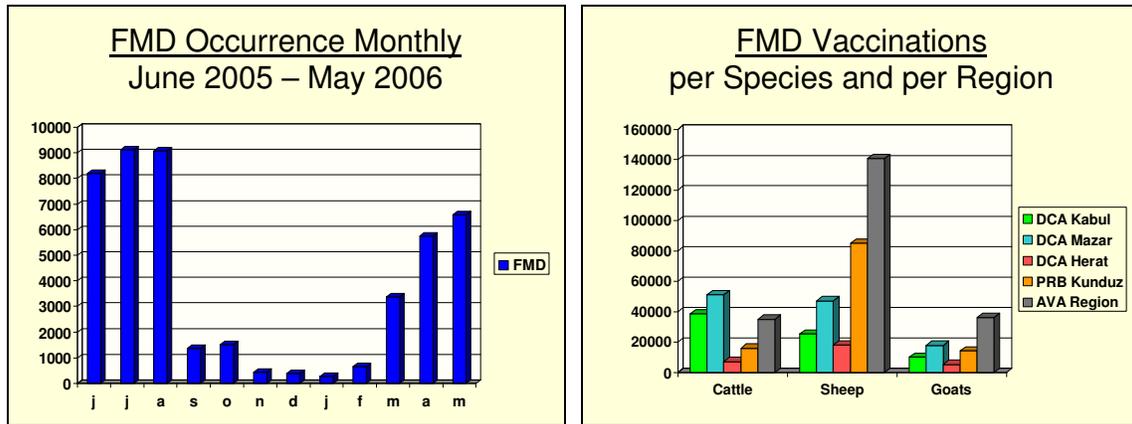
For many years preceding the RAMP project, Dutch Committee for Afghanistan (DCA) has been the sole organization authorized by the Ministry of Agriculture to procure and import animal vaccines into the country. Two kinds of vaccines have been procured and distributed successfully for several years by DCA: anthrax spore vaccine (ASV) obtained from the Afghan Vaccine Production Lab in Kabul and enterotoxaemia vaccine (ETV) imported from abroad.

| <u>RAMP DCA Vaccines</u> Ruminants | | <u>RAMP DCA Vaccines</u> Non-Ruminants | |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------|---|-------------------|
| Anthrax (ASV) | 7 million doses | Rabies (ARV) | 25,000 doses |
| Enterotoxaemia (ETV) | 10 million doses | Newcastle Disease I ₂ (NDV) | 3 million doses |
| Small Ruminants Pest (PPR) | 4,5 million doses | Gumboro Disease D ₇₈ (IBDV) | 1,5 million doses |
| Sheep/Goat pox (SPV) | 2,5 million doses | Fowl Pox | 1,050,000 doses |
| Pasteurellosis (HSV) | 2,5 million doses | Fowl Coryza | 250,000 doses |
| Blackleg (BQV) | 750,000 doses | Avian Influenza - H ₅ N ₂ | 460,000 doses |
| Goat pneumonia (CCPP) | 1,1 million doses | Dog Distemper + Leptospirosis | 200 doses |
| Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) | 1 million doses | Feline Distemper | 100 doses |

During the pre-RAMP years the following additional vaccines were requested by livestock owners in the field: sheep and goat pox vaccine (SPV), peste des petits ruminants vaccine (PPR) and Newcastle disease vaccine (NDV). At the start of the DCA-RAMP project the following vaccines were added to the list of vaccines demanded from the field: pasteurellosis vaccine (both bovine and ovine), black quarter vaccine (BQV) and contagious caprine pleuropneumonia vaccine (CCPP). Due to disease outbreaks among poultry, additional poultry vaccines were also added, namely Gumboro disease (IBD), fowl pox and fowl coryza.

During RAMP, the Afghan government requested DCA to assist in the control of outbreaks of highly contagious diseases and to procure vaccines on government's behalf. The first request concerned the high incidence of rabies during the end of the winter season of 2004-2005. DCA-RAMP procured 15,000 doses of rabies vaccine from the Dutch pharmaceutical company, Intervet. Of these, 10,000 doses were donated to the Ministry of Agriculture for emergency vaccinations in areas with high number of rabies

cases, especially in the central and northern provinces of Afghanistan. DCA-RAMP distributed the other 5,000 doses via their regional stores to the privatized VFUs. Recently DCA-RAMP received a new batch of 10,000 doses of rabies vaccine, because rabies remains common and endemic in many parts of Afghanistan, posing a serious threat to the public health.



Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) is another disease of government concern. Numerous reports came to the DCA-RAMP regional offices about the spread of FMD during spring and summer seasons through the VFU Disease Early Warning System. Some sampling has been done for lab testing and serotyping by other agencies and three main serotypes are identified as being present in the country: O, A and Asia-1. FAO runs a trans-boundary disease surveillance program, but the project had no funds for control, eradication or vaccination. In joint discussions between the Ministry of Agriculture, FAO and DCA it was decided that DCA-RAMP would procure 1 million doses of trivalent FMD vaccine with the main objective to reduce the economical losses caused by FMD. The distribution of this FMD vaccine is in hands of the DCA-RAMP project and is on the basis of a 100% cost-recovery policy. It was for DCA the first time to distribute such a costly vaccine to livestock owners: US\$24.50 for 70 cattle doses, or 35 cents per dose, almost 10 times the cost of other common animal vaccines. However, within four months after the start of selling this high quality FMD vaccines to VFUs, more than 500,000 (cattle) doses has been applied to ruminants in the field with full payment by farmers.

Recently the Afghan government and FAO requested the DCA-RAMP project to assist in controlling the global threat of avian influenza. First of all, field sampling of poultry and wild birds was conducted with the participation of VFU staff. This represented an important and significant development in the cooperation of the public and private sectors in veterinary medicine for organized disease control activities. Then, on request of government 460,000 doses of the Intervet avian influenza strain H₅N₂ vaccine was imported and sold to the government for its national program to control avian influenza in Afghanistan. The aim is to use this vaccine for immunization of all poultry breeding stock in Afghanistan and for rearing pullets before distribution to backyard and family poultry farms.

The main constraint in a successful distribution of vaccines is how to maintain the necessary cold chain infrastructure at all levels from importation, through distribution to use in the field. However at the start of the DCA-RAMP project, the cold chain facilities were present only in a rudimentary stage after the hardship years: For example, only some chest freezers were available at the regional stores. Through RAMP, 10 walk in cold rooms and 1 freezing room were procured for the different store locations, along with stand-by generators for the main and the regional stores of DCA-RAMP. In addition, 251 solar powered and 17 electrical powered refrigerators were placed in 268 district VFUs. Each VFU staff member was provided with a cold box and some icepacks for the transport of vaccines from the district VFUs for application in livestock in the field and at farms. In addition, through RAMP, the AVA purchased two refrigerated trucks to transfer vaccines from their central store to the regions so that a complete, vertically integrated cold chain was created for proper handling of animal vaccines in the country.

| <u>RAMP Cold Chain Storage</u> | <u>Medicine Distribution to VFUs</u> |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 Main store in DCA Kabul office <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2 big cold rooms (2 - 8 degrees Celsius) 1 freezing room (minus 20 degrees Celsius) • 8 Regional stores <ul style="list-style-type: none"> each with one cold room (2 – 8 degrees Celsius) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ DCA in Kabul, in Herat, in Mazar-e-Sharif ✓ PRB in Kunduz ✓ AVA in Kabul, in Jalalabad, in Ghazni, in Kandahar • 2 Sub-stores in Maimana and Bamyan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> chest freezer, solar powered refrigerator • 268 district VFU stores <ul style="list-style-type: none"> solar powered or electrical refrigerator + cold box | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AVA <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Norbrook, Ireland - Different Pakistani Companies - Feed supplements • DCA <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Eurovet, the Netherlands - EU project leftovers - Different Pakistani Companies • Local Pharmacies in Bazaar <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Pakistan, Iran, China |

The procurement of veterinary medicines such as antibiotics, minerals, vitamins, anthelmintics, and ectoparasitocidal drugs was done both by DCA and its implementing partner, Afghan Veterinary Association (AVA). Beside the purchase of these procured medicines by DCA and AVA. Unfortunately, many farmers, rather than going to the VFU for assured quality, purchased counterfeit, poor quality and deceptively marketed products from the bazaar which provided little or no effective therapeutic effect for their animals. Similarly they purchase vaccines from the bazaar that are improperly stored or outdated and provide no protective value. This availability of medicines and vaccines of dubious quality in the bazaars is a major threat to the VFU privatization effort and it has become critically important that the government establish a regulatory program for the control of inferior and detrimental veterinary products in Afghanistan.

One of the project targets of DCA-RAMP project was to establish a sustainable vaccine and medicine distribution network in Afghanistan for all the privatized VFUs. Very good achievements have been made and now it is time to run a privatized, commercial vaccine and medicine distribution system (called VetServ), that will take over the procurement and distribution of vaccines and medicines from DCA and AVA, with a working capital from the cost-recoveries derived from the sales of vaccines under DCA-RAMP.

The creation of VetServ as a private sector procurement and distribution business that

would be operational by the end of the RAMP was not achieved. However, a genuine commitment to establish VetServ exists and a plan for moving forward to make VetServ operational has been developed. A Statement of Intent to form VetServ signed by the principal parties, DCA and AVA is included as an Annex of this report.

RAMP Regional Activities:

DCA Kabul main office

The DCA Main office is located in the Kart-e-Parwan district of Kabul city. There are two buildings rented on an annual basis: one is for the administrative offices of senior management staff, and the second building is where the two cold rooms and the freezer rooms are located, plus the team involved in monitoring, extension and outreach. The DCA regional store is located in a shopping mall not far from the DCA Main office. The basement in this shopping mall has been rented as a DCA warehouse for storage of purchased project goods before distribution, like motorbikes, solar refrigerators, and veterinary instruments.

DCA-RAMP Management Team

- Country Director
Dr. David Sherman
- Deputy Program Director
Wim Tondeur
- Deputy Director Finance, Admin. & Logistics
Tariq Salman
- Regional Finance Manager
Bas van Krieken
- Regional Program Director Mazar-e-Sharif
Raymond Briscoe
- Regional Program Director Herat
Nico Noorman

DCA-RAMP Local Managers

- National Program Veterinarian
Dr. A. Nasser
- National Coordinator Field Monitoring-Extension
Dr. M. Halimi
- Training Coordinator
Dr. Naqibullah Durani
- Material Manager
Dr. Sahand
- Administration Manager
Abdul Malik
- Regional Store Keeper
Faizullah

At the Charikar Veterinary Training and Service Centre (VTSC), the group of trainers has been doubled in the past year, because of the start of parallel training activities and the need for additional training at locations such in Kandahar, Jalalabad and Kunduz for business skills training and refresher courses. Large investments have been made in the construction and equipping of a new dormitory, library, and a practical training and demonstration farm.

In Bamyan, a room has been rented at the compound of the French NGO Solidarités as a sub-office/store to serve all the VFUs in Bamyan province after DCA took over the veterinary field services from Solidarités.

The DCA regional store in Kabul, in addition to serving more than 60 VFU staff members in the field, also assists in the procurement of veterinary medicines, instruments and clinic refurbishment.

The Monitoring, Extension and Outreach Department in the DCA Kabul office worked on the DCA-RAMP component to assess the impact of veterinary interventions on animal

health and productivity and to track livestock market prices. The Report on the Evaluation of Livestock Production Field Monitoring Activities and the Presentation given on this topic by Dr. Sayed Agha at the DCA-RAMP Closing Conference on 28 June 2006 can be found in the annex of this report. This department has also developed one general promotion brochure for VFU activities, plus an additional 17 different Farmer Fact Sheets on common animal health problems. All these brochures and Farmer Fact sheets were developed in English, Dari and Pashto language as marketing tools for VFU staff to promote their services to livestock owners in their region. An extension consultant was recruited to train field monitors in the use of these promotional materials so that they in turn can train the VFU staff in their use.

DCA Herat regional office

The DCA Veterinary Training and Service Centre in Herat was established in Herat about 12 years ago and is DCAs oldest continuously operating activity inside Afghanistan. It is currently accommodated in a rented office building near to Qul Ordu Street in Herat city. For the training activities there is a large classroom in the basement and there are three bedrooms for lodging of about 22 students. For practical training classes, there are two fully operational VFUs in the vicinity of Herat city. The training team consists of three trainers, plus two part-time practical trainers.

In the other part of the basement there are the facilities of the regional store, where VFU staff purchase their vaccines and medicines. A new cold room for the proper storage of vaccines has been installed, along with a standby generator. Herat city has a very regular and reliable power supply.

There is a team of 4 field monitors for a group of 135 VFU staff members. During the past two and half years it was too risky for the field monitors to travel for monitoring to Farah province, while it was very hard for VFU staff members to come to the DCA Herat regional office for reporting and purchase of vaccines and medicines. Still they managed with the security problems to provide veterinary services in their province.

Also under RAMP, DCA has supported the establishment of a VFU on the outskirts of Herat city for the Herat University Faculty of Agriculture in support of their new veterinary training program. This VFU provides important and necessary clinical teaching opportunities for the DVM candidates in this program.

DCA Mazar regional office

The DCA regional office in Mazar-e-Sharif city has been established quickly after the start of the DCA-RAMP project. The office is accommodated in a large rented building which formerly served as the Turkish Consulate. In this building, all DCA-RAMP support activities are accommodated: in the basement there is the regional store for the storage and sales of vaccines and medicines. A cold room for vaccine storage has been installed, with a standby generator. The classroom and dormitory facilities are at the same compound, with a maximum capacity to accommodate 22 students at a time. A new training team has been recruited: two senior trainers, one junior trainer and a part time

practical trainer at the local VFU.

After some initial recruitment difficulties, a qualified new team with 3 field monitors has been established to support and monitor the VFU activities in the five northern provinces. A sub-store has been established in the city of Maimana to serve the newly privatized VFUs in Faryab province. Though the newest training center, Mazar VTSC was able to conduct three complete new paravet courses during the life of the DCA RAMP project and produce a total of 65 new paravets. Mazar also supports 51 VFU staff members at 50 VFUS. All these VFU staff members performed on average much better in their veterinary field service outputs as compared to the four other DCA-RAMP regions.

Implementing Partners:

AVA – Region

The Afghan Veterinary Association (AVA) was established with the support of the FAO about 10 years ago as a professional association to support veterinarians and paraveterinarians working in Afghanistan. One main purpose objective in creating AVA was to have it serve as a buying association for its members to ensure a steady and continuous supply of quality medicines for VFU operators after the FAO VFU support project ended. AVA has continued to do and now through RAMP is itself also actively involved in the development and support of VFUs as a DCA RAMP implementing partner.

AVA has a main office and store in Kabul and with several regional offices: in Jalalabad, Kandahar, Gardez, Ghazni, Herat, Mazar and Kunduz. Only the five regional offices in the Eastern and Southern provinces participate in the support to VFUs under the DCA-RAMP project. In each of these regional offices there is support in monitoring and logistics for the privatized VFU services. Cold rooms and standby generators have been installed for vaccine storage in the AVA regional stores in Kabul, Jalalabad, Kandahar and Ghazni. Two refrigerated trucks have been purchased by AVA for the transport of vaccines from DCA Kabul main store to all the regional stores within DCA-RAMP program.

Through AVA, a team of female DVMs conducted a survey to assess the opportunities and constraints offered by the VFU system for women seeking veterinary assistance for their livestock.. In the annex, as part of the DCA-RAMP Closing Conference, there is a presentation by Dr. Safi of AVA providing the final results of this survey.

Through RAMP, it was possible to recruit a short-term consultant with experience in the management and operation of veterinary professional associations to advise the Afghan Veterinary Association on developing into a dynamic, effective and transparent member service organization. This was a remarkably successful effort leading to the revision of AVA by laws, the election of new officers, and a greater visibility of the AVA in the general community and especially among its membership. As a result of this growth and maturation, AVA has been selected as an implementing partner for the World Bank in the

veterinary sub component of its upcoming Horticulture and Livestock Project due to begin in the autumn of 2006.

During DCA-RAMP, AVA extended their VFU activity into the highly insecure provinces of Helmand, Kandahar, and Zabul with a high degree of success and they deserve special commendation and recognition for their effective effort in this very difficult but important region of the country.

PRB – Kunduz regional office

The local NGO, Partners in Revitalization and Building (PRB) was involved as an implementing partner for the veterinary component of the FAO project that ended by April 2002. Under the FAO project PRB constructed veterinary clinics and also provided technical and administrative support to them. Based on this experience, and their established presence in Kunduz, Baghlan, Takhar and Badakhshan, PRB was invited by DCA to join them as an implementing partner in the DCA-RAMP project.

PRB has a main office in Kabul near the Koala Pashto Road, though for the DCA-RAMP project, the veterinary staff operated from their regional office in Kunduz. Dr. Zia Formuly was the veterinary coordinator for the program, while Eng. Noor Hussein did the general management in his office in Kabul. Dr. Zia was supported by a team of 3 veterinary field monitors.

At the PRB Kunduz regional office a cold room was placed along with a standby generator for the storage and distribution of the different vaccines. PRB field monitors organized regular meetings of VFU staff members with farmers in districts, while they did regular monitoring on the local livestock markets. PRB faced serious conflicts with the NGO AKF (Agha Khan Foundation) in the implementation of the DCA-RAMP project in Baghlan and Badakhshan provinces where AKF persisted in establishing veterinary activities in districts already being served by PRB, sometimes establishing themselves in the immediate vicinity of PRB VFUs .

7. Tasks Completed during the Reporting Period of January 2004 – June 2006

- By June 30, 2006, 403 VFUs with 600 staff members were operational under the privatized system operating through a fee for service system.
- DCA-RAMP was active in 278 districts in 31 provinces of Afghanistan
- 35,635,500 doses of 16 different kind of animal vaccines have been procured under the DCA-RAMP project from Afghanistan, Netherlands, Spain, Jordan, Cyprus, India and Pakistan
- 29,316,995 doses of animal vaccines have been distributed from the DCA Main store to the regional stores, other NGOs and government
- 18,484,940 vaccinations were given to animals via the privatized VFUs
- 9,357,234 medications were given to animals via the privatized VFUs
- 636,036 other veterinary services were provided to animals
- One Main store, 8 Regional stores and 2 sub-stores have been established

for the sale and distribution of vaccines and medicines to VFU staff member in the working area of DCA-RAMP

- A proper Cold Chain system is now in place: 10 cold rooms and 1 freezing room for the stores of the main and regional offices, two refrigerated trucks for regional delivery of vaccines, 251 Solar powered refrigerators and one cold box with ice packs for each VFU staff member for carrying vaccines into the field
- A set with 56 different kind of veterinary instruments was given to 565 VFU staff members
- 512 Motorbikes were purchased and distributed to VFU staff member as a mean of transport to go out in the field for veterinary services
- Nearly all 403 VFU locations received a signboard, a cattle crush, a set of furniture and utensils for their clinic
- Every VFU staff member received monthly goods in kind like vaccines and medicines for a value of 30 US\$, as a basic incentive to build up their vaccine and medicine stock
- 211 New-paravets were trained in 10 courses of 24 weeks at the 3 DCA Veterinary Training and Service Centers
- 341 VFU staff members attended one of the 23 Business Skills Seminars
- 54 DVMs were refreshed in 5 courses of 2 weeks
- 213 Paravets and 11 Veterinary Assistants attended one of the 17 Refresher courses
- One new training center has been established at the DCA Regional office in Mazar-i-Sharif
- The construction of the DCA VTSC in Charikar has been completed, including a new dormitory and a demonstration farm
- One general VFU promotion brochure has been developed and distributed to each VFU staff member in sets of 100 copies for each person for distribution to farmers as a marketing tool
- 17 Farmer Fact Sheets on different animal health problems and related products and services have been prepared for distribution to VFU staff for extension and marketing efforts.
- 10 RAMP veterinary field monitors and 290 farmers participated in data collection on animal health and production, while several livestock markets were regular visited to monitor the actual livestock and product prices
- A survey on the gender impact of VFU services has been made by interviewing 2040 women, who visited VFUs in 8 different districts in 4 provinces
- Every VFU staff member reported about disease occurrence in their monthly activity reports as well as via the Early Warning of Diseases for highly contagious diseases like FMD, PPR, rabies, and avian influenza.
- DCA actively participated in a Steering Committee on Livestock production and health under the chairmanship of the Deputy Minister of Agriculture and with participation of all important donors and

- implementing organizations. They had two-monthly meetings.
- DCA reopened the Kabul University Veterinary Faculty Clinic in Daralaman to reestablish the clinical teaching program for DVM degree students at Kabul University after a hiatus of almost 16 years.

8. Lessons learned and Recommendations for Future Activities

- Positive achievements

The DCA-RAMP objective to create a national network of privatized, fee for service animal health field services has been firmly achieved. Farmers are accepting the concept of payment for the services provided by VFUs. Even many of them prefer a more costly vaccine when this one gives broader protection to their livestock, such as multivalent clostridial vaccines and multivalent FMD vaccine. Livestock owners are aware that every dollar invested in preventive vaccinations can result in a benefit to cost ratio of US\$ 5 to 10 return on investment. On basis of calculations as well as interviews with VFU staff members, most of them have an average monthly net income varying from US\$100 to 200 with some exceptionally active individuals generating more than US\$ 500 per month.

- Short-Term Recommendations

The recruitment and training of new paravets from places with no or insufficient veterinary field services should continue, including the recruitment from vulnerable communities like the Kuchi – nomads. There is still a great need to upgrade the technical and business skills of all the current VFU staff members. Many of them had little or no chance to refresh and upgrade their knowledge and skills, especially due to the long war period. The extension efforts to farmers by VFUs should be strengthened as well. More advertising and marketing in order to create greater awareness of services among farmers is highly recommended. The reliable supply of high quality vaccines and medicines should be transferred to a private entity, called VetServ. The links with local and central government should be strengthened to improve their awareness on the privatized VFU system. The current Steering Committee should be maintained in organizational structure, with regular meetings.

- Mid-Term Recommendations

Many VFUs have problems to make sufficient income and capital to invest for a larger stock of vaccines and medicines, and upgrading of their facilities. A good solution is to introduce a credit system via the new VetServ organization or under their professional organization AVA. Another option is to diversify their services to farmers, such as involvement in artificial insemination services, more pregnancy testing, and selling of feed supplements and concentrates.

The system of disease reporting (monthly disease occurrence and Early Warning of OIE list A diseases) should be taken over by the government. On the other hand the government should contract the district VFUs in their disease

surveillance and field sampling programs, especially via sanitary mandates for selected and well trained VFUs. The government should also initiate a VFU monitoring program to guarantee good quality services to farmers in the different regions. NGOs and donors should work on an exit strategy within a certain time frame. There is a need to have the NGO support in animal health services better streamlined and harmonized. The government should stop their activities in veterinary field services and transfer the present government clinics smoothly into the privatization process.

- Long-Term Recommendations

More good educated and qualified DVMs have to start a veterinary practice in rural areas and establish a proper position in the veterinary field network. Related to this there is a need for a proper definition of the professional relationship between the three categories: DVMs, Veterinary Assistants and Paraveterinarians. The professional association AVA should become the real representative of all veterinary professionals and be the legal platform to represent the rights and duties of all veterinary professionals. The government should create and support an environment for privatized veterinary field services to flourish. The government should focus on their public sector responsibilities such as: formulation of new veterinary laws and legislation; food/meat safety and inspection; zoonotic disease control; regulation the quality of vaccines and medicines to be imported and available in the local bazaars; control of highly contagious diseases; animal welfare; disease surveillance and reporting; disease investigation and diagnostic confirmation; emergency response; and, other disease control programs.

9. Summary of Projects Relationship and Coordination with the Islamic State of Afghanistan and Appropriate Ministries during the course of this project

The most critically important relationship that DCA had with government was with the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation, which at the onset of the project was known as the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Food. This relationship evolved in dramatic and significant ways during the life of RAMP. At the beginning of this project, there was deep hostility towards this project from the government side, particularly within the Veterinary Department. There were even overt attempts by the Veterinary Department, through intercession with the Ministry of Planning, now Economics, which was responsible for regulating the NGOs, to have DCA and the project shut down.

There were likely two underlying reasons for this antipathy – first, a mistrust of the overall veterinary privatization effort in a country where historically, veterinary clinical service was conducted through government clinics and second, an intense jealousy that so much funding was going to the private sector through USAID RAMP with no money whatsoever allocated through the project to the government veterinary department. This latter factor was to be ameliorated by the fact that a parallel project with substantial funding, the EU Animal Health Development Project, was supposed to provide resources and activities to the government veterinary department to modernize it and improve capacity. However, the EU project did not begin in earnest until long after the RAMP

project began, so the disparity in funding and support to the private and public sectors was glaring and persisted as a source of irritation.

However, during the course of the project, both the Minister of Agriculture and the President of the Veterinary Department were replaced and the frosty relationship began to thaw. DCA redoubled its efforts to communicate its activities to the Ministry, provide assistance through disease reporting and procurement of vaccines, and to work more closely in general with the Veterinary Department. The eventual arrival of the EU team, with an increase in resources and activities available to the Veterinary Department also contributed to a normalization of the relationship. The sea change in attitude within the Ministry was made evident by Minister Ramin's remarks at the closing conference of the DCA RAMP on June 28, 2006, almost two years to the day that the Veterinary Department summoned DCA to the Ministry of Planning to have DCA shut down. His Excellency Minister Ramin thanked DCA and its implementing partners for their excellent accomplishment in establishing the national VFU network and providing accessible quality animal health care services to livestock owners. He went on to express both his commitment to the privatization of clinical veterinary services in the country and his recognition of the importance of establishing a strong public and private partnership in veterinary medicine in Afghanistan to improve animal health and productivity, improve farmer income and regain lucrative export markets for Afghanistan's animal products. This was a truly gratifying moment to punctuate the successful culmination of the RAMP project.

10. Photographs, Human Interest and Beneficiary Stories

- CD-rom with Presentations of the DCA RAMP Closing Conference held on 28 June 2006 at the Intercontinental Hotel, Kabul
- CD-rom with Presentations of the International Veterinary Symposium on Privatization of Veterinary Field Services, held on 19 June 2005 at Intercontinental Hotel, Kabul
- Beneficiary story - 1 about the transition to privatized Veterinary Field Service system in Bamyan Province
- Beneficiary story - 2 about the Paravet Noor Mohammed from the district VFU in Nijrab, Kapisa Province who is now in the newly elected Parliament
- Beneficiary story - 3 about the transformation of Mr. Samaruddins VFU in Fayzabad in Jawzjan Province
- Map of RAMP Veterinary Field Unit Network, produced by USAID RAMP GIS Unit, version June 2006

11. Performance Indicator Report and other Attachments

- Annex Overall DCA-RAMP Performance Tracker
- Annex Total Monthly Overview of VFU Activities
- Annex Overview of All DCA-RAMP Training Activities
- Annex Overview of all DCA-RAMP Procured Vaccines
- Statement of Intent to Form VetServ
- Farmer Fact Sheets on Preventable Diseases/on CD-Rom