



DACAAR

Annual Report 2012

TABLE OF CONTENTS

ABOUT DACAAR	1
BASIC FACTS	1
MISSION, VISION AND VALUES	2
DIRECTOR'S INTRODUCTION	3
DACAAR'S BENEFICIARIES	4
DACAAR'S COMMUNITY BASED APPROACH	4
STRATEGIC CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES	4
DACAAR'S ACTIVITIES IN AFGHANISTAN	5
DACAAR'S APPROACH AND AREAS OF INTERVENTION	7
WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE (WASH)	9
NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT (NRM)	11
SMALL SCALE ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT (SSED)	13
WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT (WE)	15
NATIONAL SOLIDARITY PROGRAMME (NSP)	17
ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT	19
USE OF FUNDS	20
THE FUTURE	22

ABOUT DACAAR

DACAAR is an apolitical, non-governmental, non-profit humanitarian/development organisation that has been working to improve the lives of the Afghan people since 1984.

DACAAR works in rural areas and aims at improving rural livelihoods through sustainable activities that engage Afghan communities to be agents of their own development process.

DACAAR employs a holistic approach to all rural development activities in order to ensure long-term viability of projects.

Approximately nine million Afghans across 28 of Afghanistan's 34 provinces have benefited from DACAAR development activities since its establishment.

BASIC FACTS

Organisation name: DACAAR (Danish Committee for Aid to Afghan Refugees)

Established: 1984

Governing Board:

Danish People's Aid (DPA) Allan Vokstrup
Danish Refugee Council (DRC) Shanna Jensen

Activities:

- Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)
- Natural Resources Management (NRM)
- Women's Empowerment (WE)
- Small Scale Enterprise Development (SSED)
- National Solidarity Programme (NSP)

Staff: 650 Afghan employees plus 11 international employees

Director: Gerry Garvey

Main Office:

Paikob-e-Naswar, Wazir Abad, District 10, P.O. Box 208, Kabul, Afghanistan

Tel : +93 (0) 20 223 0752

+93 (0) 20 223 0753

Mobile: +93 (0) 700 288 232

E-mail: dacaar@dacaar.org

Regional Offices:

Mazar-e-Sharif, Kishem, Jalalabad, Herat, Maimana and Kabul.

Secretariat in Denmark:

c/o Danish Refugee Council, Borgergade 10, 1300 Copenhagen K, Denmark

Tel: +45 33 735 000

E-mail: copenhagen@dacaar.org

Website: www.dacaar.org



Group photograph , Annual Meeting 2012

MISSION, VISION AND VALUES

Internal Vision:

DACAAR is a well-known and respected NGO with a strong anchorage in the Afghan society. It is a transparent development organisation with clear and up to date policies and strategies and with committed and experienced female and male Afghan staff, increasingly in key management positions.

External Vision:

Women and men in rural Afghan communities are in an effective and sustainable way managing local resources to improve their livelihoods. As part of a strong civil society and with support from governmental institutions, local community organisations and individual women and men have access to knowledge, education, training and social services and are able to effectively improve their quality of life and to withstand periods of calamity and stress.

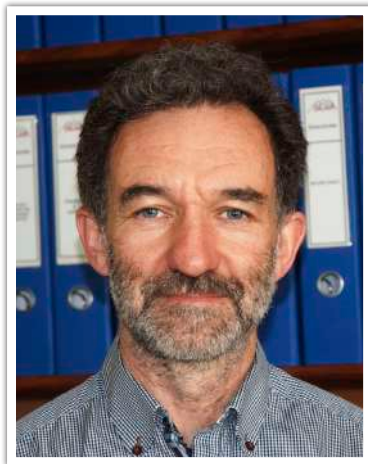
Mission:

DACAAR is a Danish non-governmental, developmental/humanitarian organisation that supports sustainable development in Afghanistan through the ability of local communities to decide upon and manage their own development process. Activities are implemented in cooperation with civil society organisations, the private sector and governmental institutions with a particular emphasis on poverty eradication and assistance towards the return and re-integration of returnees and internally displaced people.

Values:

Efficiency | Honesty | Participation | Equity | Quality | Transparency

DIRECTOR'S INTRODUCTION



2012 was a challenging yet successful year for DACAAR in many ways.

The new organisational structure introduced at the beginning of 2012 was fine tuned during the year and continued the process of Afghanisation within DACAAR. The Director is now the only expatriate in a line management position and all four departments (Fundraising & Communications; Programme; Finance & Administration; and Human Resources) are headed by Afghans.

The merging of the two former programmes, namely Rural Development Programme and Water, Sanitation & Hygiene Programme, into one Programme was successfully consolidated during the year with a thematic focus in four areas, namely: water, sanitation & hygiene; natural resources management; small scale enterprise development; and women's empowerment. In addition, DACAAR continued to be a facilitating partner of the National Solidarity Programme.

The partnership was strengthened between DACAAR's Water Expertise and Training Centre (WETC) and the Centre for Affordable Water and Sanitation Technology (CAWST) in the fields of training, water quality testing and applied research, including a new publication in DACAAR's Best Practices Series, this one on Biosand Filtration for Household Water Treatment.

Geographical focus was consolidated on a regional basis in the North; North East; East; West; North West; and Central regions of Afghanistan with DACAAR working in 58 districts and 11 provinces. The mainstreaming of gender, started in 2009, was broadened during 2012 to encompass Age, Gender & Diversity as a cross-cutting issue. More focus was also placed on Disaster Risk Reduction and Conflict Sensitivity.

Our thanks are extended to all our donors for funding project expenditure during 2012 in the amount of approximately USD 14 million, enabling us to reach out to around 910,544 people in rural areas. Five donors accounted for 91 percent of our expenditure, namely: the Royal Norwegian Embassy (39%); the Danish International Development Assistance (29%); the European Commission's Humanitarian Office (9%); the Swedish International Development Agency (8%) and the National Solidarity Programme (6%). Seven other donors accounted for the remaining 9%.

By year end the Governing Board endorsed the Strategic Programme Framework (2013 - 2016) which will guide DACAAR over the next four years.

I wish you an enjoyable read.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read "Gerry Garvey". The signature is stylized and written in a cursive script.

Gerry Garvey

DACAAR'S BENEFICIARIES

DACAAR's main beneficiaries are Afghanistan's most vulnerable rural communities, in particular returnees, Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs), and vulnerable host communities with a particular focus on female, disabled and youth headed households, who are among the people most at risk.

Female-headed households are particularly vulnerable in that the absence of a male provider or guardian limits their ability to provide for their families, in addition to the general social and mobility restrictions they face.

For Afghanistan's many returnees and IDPs, who often have no other option than to settle in unoccupied rural areas, these problems are

worsening their already critical situation. According to UNHCR, since 2002, more than 5.7 million Afghan refugees have returned from Pakistan and Iran, and in addition, there are more than 480,000 internally displaced persons in Afghanistan.

In 2012, DACAAR improved the lives of 910,544 women and girls, men and boys, aged and disabled through its projects implemented in 58 districts of 11 provinces.

DACAAR'S COMMUNITY BASED APPROACH

DACAAR's community based approach ensures sustainability of interventions and a long-term impact by engaging local community structures such as Community Development Councils, Village Shuras and District Development Assemblies from the beginning and throughout the intervention.

This approach ensures community ownership enabling them to steer the intervention towards meeting their real needs and priorities and enabling them to acquire capacity for long-term continuation of the activities after DACAAR has left.

Tripartite agreements are signed involving communities structures, and local authorities and maintenance

committees are established and trained during the project to take over the responsibility for operation and maintenance after DACAAR has phased out.

Targeted capacity building and well thought-out exit strategies ensure that at project end communities already own, drive and have acquired the capacity and means to continue activities reaping the benefits on a sustainable basis.

All interventions implemented follow the applicable National Priority Programmes (NPPs) and other national plans and are widely discussed and coordinated with central and local authorities throughout interventions.

STRATEGIC CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES

During the year 2012, DACAAR ensured integration of the following cross cutting issues into its programming with an eye to ensure higher impact on the communities.

Efforts started in the previous years on **mainstreaming Gender** both at organisational and programmatic levels continued. Efforts to include dimensions of age and diversity were also started with the hiring of an Age, Gender, Diversity and Women's Empowerment Adviser thus paving the way for an integrated **Age, Gender and Diversity (AGD)** approach to DACAAR's work.

Projects implemented during the year maintained a **humanitarian focus** in relation to vulnerabilities. WASH projects focused on bringing safe drinking water and hygiene education to IDPs, returnees and vulnerable host communities. Focus on assisting most vulnerable groups such as women, youth and disabled headed household under the NRM, SSED and WE components also continued.

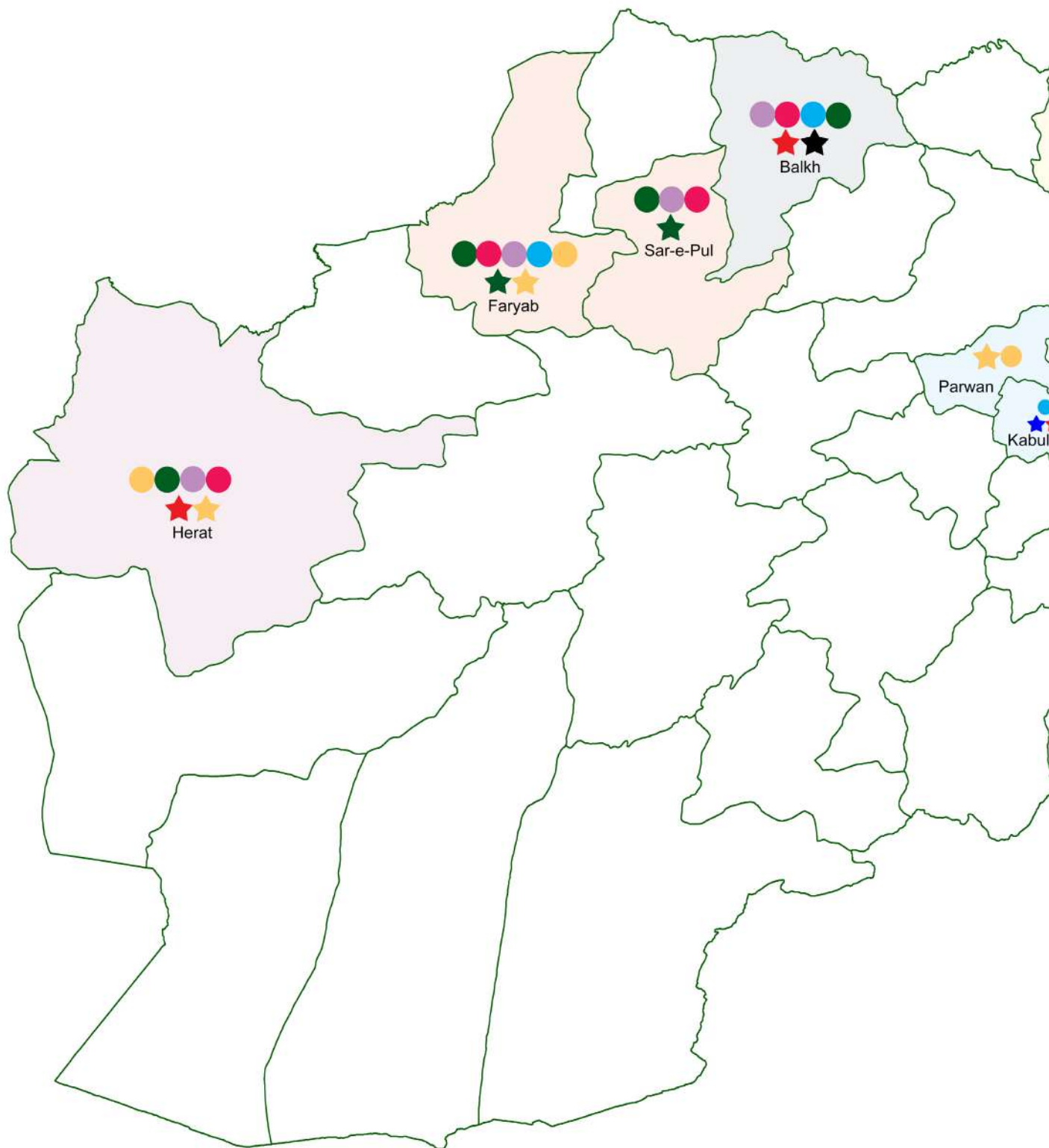
Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) has been included in WASH projects in a more systematic manner helping build community resilience against disasters.

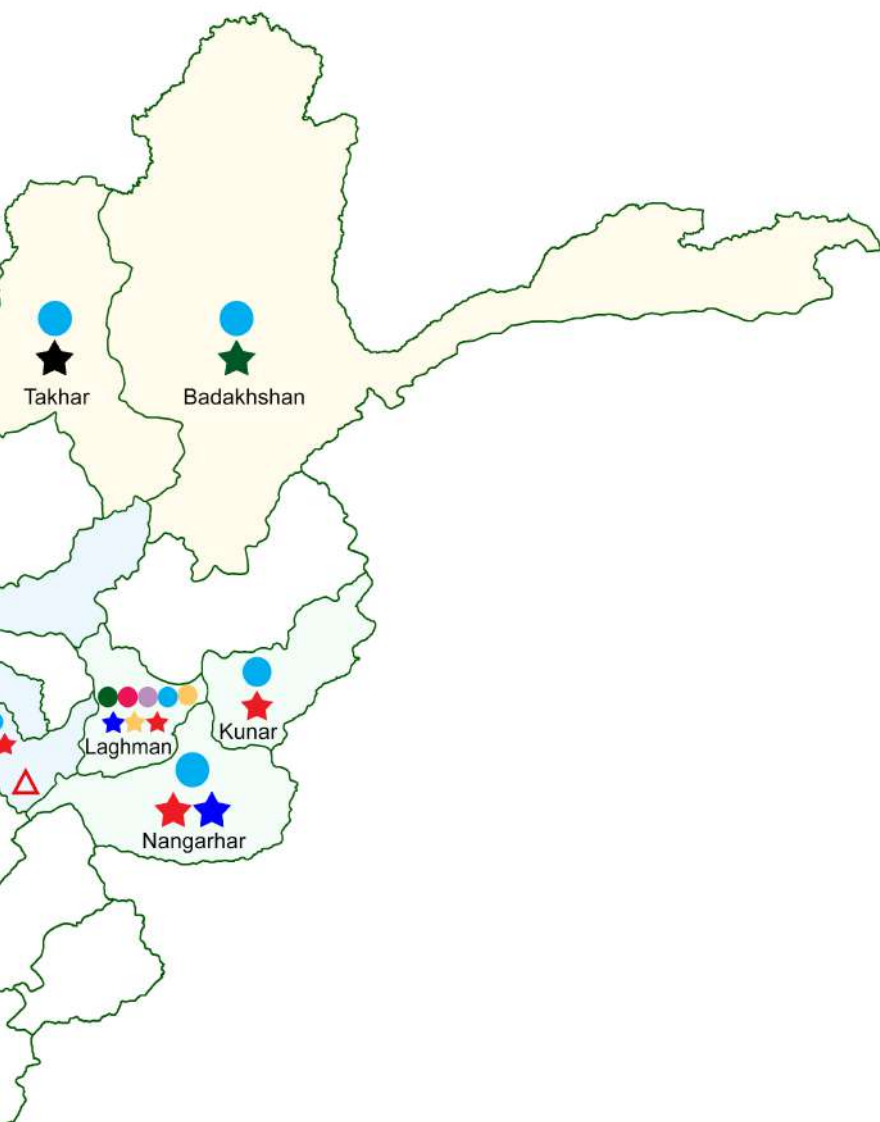
Environmental management and protection remained a high concern and included in the project design and implementation.

Promoting **good governance / anti-corruption** remained at the core of DACAAR's work.

Conflict analysis and sensitivity assessment was carried out in support of projects and key staff were trained on **Do No Harm** approach.

DACAAR'S ACTIVITIES IN AFGHANISTAN





Geographical Coverage

Main Office: 

Regions:

-  North
-  North East
-  East
-  West
-  North West
-  Central

Top Five Donors

-  RNE
-  DANIDA (ROI/HUM)
-  ECHO
-  SIDA
-  MRRD/NSP

Note:
DACAAR also utilised funds from the following seven other donors in 2012: CIDA/CAWST, ICCO, NORPLAN, NTC/JICA, OFID, UNODC and UNOPS.

Thematic Areas

-  Water, Sanitation and Hygiene
-  Natural Resources Management
-  Small Scale Enterprise Development
-  Women's Empowerment
-  National Solidarity Programme

DACAAR'S APPROACH AND AREAS OF INTERVENTION

Lack of access to safe drinking water, hygiene and sanitation, food insecurity, insufficient income, and social constraints on and seclusion of women from social, economic and political spheres of life are some of the most fundamental poverty problems leading to poor livelihoods, health and quality of life for a large percentage of rural population in Afghanistan.

To address this complex and interlinked set of problems in an effective manner, DACAAR focuses its activities on the following four thematic areas of intervention identified based on its current areas of competence and implemented in an integrated manner taking advantage of the potential for synergies between them in order to meet its overall objective of contributing to the equitable and sustainable livelihoods for rural Afghans with a particular focus on vulnerable groups.

1. Water Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)
2. Natural Resources Management (NRM)
3. Small Scale Enterprise Development (SSED)
4. Women's Empowerment (WE)

In addition to this; DACAAR is a facilitating partner in the Afghan Government's National Solidarity Programme (NSP).

WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE (WASH):

DACAAR approach to WASH follows that of the Afghanistan's Government's Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (MRRD) combining safe water, proper sanitation and hygiene education. This approach has proved to be highly effective in reducing mortality and morbidity from water-borne diseases and in enhancing quality of life.

NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT (NRM):

DACAAR's NRM activities have proven highly effective in improving rural livelihoods by increasing agricultural productivity and production through the application of environmentally sustainable approaches.

SMALL SCALE ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT (SSED):

In order to increase rural income, DACAAR promotes small scale business development by supporting the creation of producer associations and small individual businesses.

WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT (WE):

DACAAR's Women's Empowerment interventions aim at increasing rural women's sense of self worth, their right to make choices, their rights to have access to opportunities and resources, their right to have the power to control their own lives, and their ability to influence social change.

NATIONAL SOLIDARITY PROGRAMME (NSP):

DACAAR is a facilitating partner in the Afghanistan Government's National Solidarity Programme. Launched in 2003, the programme aims at promoting inclusive local governance and rural reconstruction and alleviating poverty. The NSP is recognised as an effective mechanism for delivery of rural infrastructure.

DACAAR's WASH interventions:

- Ensures availability and usage of safe drinking water through establishment of wells and pipe networking systems, and introducing household water treatment technologies to, and building the capacity of and organising communities to operate and maintain them on a sustainable basis
- Improves sanitary conditions through support to communities in establishing, maintaining and replicating environmentally friendly and sanitary latrines
- Improves hygienic behaviour and standards through culturally appropriate hygiene education
- Builds the capacity of WASH sector through training, sharing of information and research, and participating in WASH sector policy formulation



DACAAR's NRM interventions:

- Increases agricultural productivity and production, and rural income through enabling farmers to increase crop cultivation on dry and irrigated land
- Organises farmers to address farm production and marketing effectively and increase productivity and income through establishment of farmers associations
- Enables communities to achieve improved livestock productivity and production through improved animal husbandry



DACAAR's SSED interventions:

- Raises income levels among rural communities through establishment of producer associations and building their capacity in business management and technical skills
- Increases business competitiveness through support to association members in product quality, market linkages and promoting their involvement in value chain
- Increases opportunities for employment and income among the most vulnerable through the development of vocational skills and establishment of small scale individual businesses



DACAAR's Women's Empowerment interventions:

- Organises and builds the capacity of rural women to gain income and promote their participation in community decision making through establishment of Women's Resource Centres (WRCs)
- Increases rural women's basic education and awareness of rights and health through delivery of literacy courses, and rights and health awareness
- Supports and builds the capacity of rural women to develop women-led businesses through formation of collectives and businesses and building the capacity of the women on business management skills
- Raises women's income through providing opportunities to develop technical skills in traditional and non-traditional trades



National Solidarity Programme DACAAR:

- Helps communities establish female and male CDCs through a democratic process
- Strengthens the capacity of CDCs for planning and community management
- Supports communities with linkages to resources and provides them with technical support to implement projects



WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE

Access to safe drinking water and proper sanitation facilities continues to be a main problem in Afghanistan. Contaminated water and unsafe disposal of human excreta are main drivers of various diseases, compounded by poor hygiene practices affecting the health and life quality of rural communities. The high rate of water-borne diseases is especially affecting those most vulnerable such as women and children.

DACAAR's WASH intervention provides safe drinking water through the establishment of wells and other water systems such as gravity pipe networks, solar powered pipe schemes, and biosand filters for household water treatment. DACAAR also undertakes extensive water quality testing and ground water monitoring in support of the WASH sector in Afghanistan.

To ensure maximum health impact, DACAAR's WASH intervention combines provision of safe drinking water with improved sanitation and hygiene education. This approach follows the WASH policy of the Government of Afghanistan and has proven highly effective in improving health and quality of life among the beneficiaries.

The approach includes support for the construction of three environmentally sustainable latrines per water point and delivery of hygiene education and hygiene kits by hygiene promotion couples through three visits per targeted household.

Key Facts

Beneficiaries Targeted	Total 217,069 (106,364 women and 110,705 men)
Geographical Areas Targeted	Badakhshan, Balkh, Faryab, Takhar, Kabul, Kunar, Laghman and Nangarhar
Donors	CIDA/CAWST, ECHO, JICA/NTC, OFID, RNE, ROI, SIDA, UNOPS

DACAAR puts strong effort on equal access to water and works to ensure that at least 30% of all locations for water points are selected jointly by women and men. Furthermore, women are central in the hygiene component as they are usually the ones collecting and handling water in the households, as well as in charge of cooking, cleaning, raising children, and handling waste.

To mitigate the effects of natural or manmade disasters and to enhance community resilience, DACAAR is increasingly introducing Disaster Risk Reduction measures into its WASH activities, through establishment of community-based disaster risk reduction management committees and linking them at district and provincial level as well as with the relevant local authorities.

With almost three decades of experience in implementing WASH projects, DACAAR also plays a key role in building capacity of WASH sector actors and in influencing policy formulation at national level.



Achievements during 2012 included

- 28,737 families were provided with safe drinking water through the construction of 764 tube wells fitted with hand pumps and 388 stand-posts supported by 14 pipe schemes (of which seven were solar powered)
- Biosand filtration for household water treatment was successfully introduced in 2,650 households, with women trained to operate and maintain the filters in each household
- To ensure operation and maintenance of community water supplies, 14 water management committees and 1,152 water user groups were established while 15 water system operators, seven hand pump mechanics, and 1,152 caretakers were trained
- 11,201 previously constructed water points were inspected
- 215 water points were rehabilitated benefitting 4,300 families
- 3,474 dry vault and pit latrines were constructed
- 28,484 families received hygiene education and 26,599 hygiene kits were distributed
- Four pre and four post Knowledge, Attitude and Practice (KAP) studies were conducted, identifying the impact of the WASH activities on the beneficiaries
- Capacity of 1,067 employees (98 women and 969 men) of NGOs, government, and private sector as well as school teachers and DACAAR staff was enhanced through provision of formal trainings on WASH subjects
- A report on "Water resources potential, water quality problem, challenges and solution in Afghanistan" was shared, and a presentation on natural groundwater and water quality problem in Afghanistan was made to MRRD and Afghanistan National Standard Authority (ANSA)
- A best practice on Biosand Filtration was completed and in connection a learning exchange conference was conducted involving 42 participants of Government, UN Agencies and WASH sector actors

Water Expertise and Training Centre (WETC)

To accelerate capacity building in the WASH sector, a Water Expertise and Training Centre was established by DACAAR in 2010, as a hub for data, information and research as well as a vehicle for training and technical support to government agencies, NGOs and the private sector.

Through training and follow-up support, the centre builds capacity for planning, implementation and evaluation of WASH activities.

The WETC provides an opportunity for DACAAR to draw directly on its long experience of implementing WASH activities. Through action research this experience is systematised and turned into knowledge which is then disseminated.

Through the WETC, DACAAR is piloting and testing new technologies, such as biosand filtration and solar-energy powered pumping.

Also embedded in the WETC is a fully equipped and modern Drinking Water Quality Testing Laboratory, providing drinking water quality testing solutions in support of DACAAR WASH projects and the WASH Sector as a whole.

Groundwater monitoring

Supported by a specialised software, DACAAR's ground water monitoring system provides important data and information for water related planning in support of DACAAR projects and the WASH sector as a whole. Information generated by the system relate to ground water quantity and quality, receding water table, etc.



...“Now that we have a well and have received hygiene messages, a lot of changes have been brought to our village and house. Before, we only used to wash our hands with water and we did not think much more about that until we got the hygiene messages. Now everyone, especially women and girls, pays special attention to washing hands with soap, and if someone gets diarrhea in our house we cure them using easily prepared and homemade ORS (Oral Rehydration Salts). People in the village and in our house are less ill now and this has also helped our economic condition.”

Nasrin,
30 years old,
Four children
Sholgara District
Balkh province



NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

Afghanistan continues to be a subsistence-based economy with 80 percent of families depending primarily on agriculture and animal husbandry for their livelihoods. Despite a huge potential, the sector has been neglected over many years of conflict and destruction. Pasture land and irrigation systems have been degraded negatively effecting animal husbandry and agriculture, increasing vulnerability to environmental hazards such as moving sand and natural disasters.

Rural populations are often gripped with extreme difficulties in accessing resources and producing sufficient food to feed the families, thus causing widespread malnutrition. This problem is compounded by a general lack of knowledge among farmers regarding management of natural resources.

Following the Community Based Natural Resources Management (CBNRM) approach, DACAAR improves rural livelihoods by increasing agricultural productivity and production through involving and building the capacity of rural communities in more efficient and sustainable irrigated and rain-fed farming methods and practices, effective management of natural resources, management of water resources including improvement of irrigation infrastructure, and animal husbandry. All natural resources management interventions are carried out with a strong focus on implementing environmentally sustainable activities.



Key Facts	
Beneficiaries Targeted	Total 92,651 (63,396 women and 56,255 men)
Geographical Areas Targeted	Balkh, Faryab, Herat, Laghman, Sar-e-Pul
Donors	ICCO, HUM, RNE, ROI, UNODC

Achievements during 2012 included

62,952 people benefitted from NRM activities. This included:

- 39,815 farmers benefitted from DACAAR’s activities in relation to rain-fed farming. This included; cultivation of 1,400 hectares of land, protection of land from moving sands by cultivation, creation of water harvesting structures, cultivation of pistachio and almond saplings, establishment of greenhouses and drip irrigation, cultivation training and processing of saffron, conducting of field days for farmers, bio-engineering, and water management practices.
- 11,700 farmers benefitted from DACAAR’s activities in relation to irrigated land farming. This included; cultivation of 496 hectares of land, establishment of fruit, non-fruit and vegetable nurseries and orchards, training on pruning and budding, training in safe use of agro-chemicals, training on horticulture and agriculture methods, wheat seed multiplication, agro-forestry, and conducting of field days for farmers.
- 11,437 community members benefitted from DACAAR’s activities on animal husbandry. This included; artificial insemination of livestock, training of farmers on epidemic preparedness, establishment of demonstration stables, establishment of mobile sheep dip basins, training on urea treatment, construction of stable units, training on animal feeding, and training on basic veterinary (Basic Veterinary Worker).
- In addition to this, DACAAR constructed 151 small scale irrigation structures (canal linings, culverts, water divider), supporting irrigation of 32,288 hectares of land benefitting the above-mentioned farmers as well indirectly benefitting the communities at large.
- Moreover, 42 female and 351 male Government employees were trained on NRM subjects and a national workshop on exchange of experience and implementation of NRM activities was held with the participation of employees of DACAAR, NGOs and Government.

Morad, a farmer with 3 acres of agricultural land in Faryab province, which he was unable to farm, had decided to sell the land to use the profit to buy food and other essential items for him and his family's daily needs.

... "I wanted to cultivate my land, but I could not afford it. I was so poor and the only way I could think of making money for food was to sell my land, but when DACAAR came to our village I realised that with their help there was a way to keep my land and start to farm it. DACAAR provided me with almond saplings and showed me how to grow almonds. Now I can provide for my family and have started extending my orchard further because I am making a profit from the almonds trees."



Moving sand is a serious problem in some of Afghanistan's provinces, leading to soil erosion often resulting in destruction of land, infrastructure and agricultural crops. Moving sand is affecting the health of inhabitants in these areas causing respiratory diseases. Economically moving sand forces the inhabitants to migrate to other areas as well as neighbouring countries for work or to start to growing poppies.

In 2012, with funding from UNODC, DACAAR successfully completed a sand stabilisation project in Kohsan district of Herat. At completion, the project resulted in the protection of 10,000 ha of land. Land use was increased by 10%, agricultural yield was increased by 35%, moving sand was decreased by 60 %, poppy cultivation was decreased by 93%, and reported cases of respiratory and ocular infections were decreased by 75 %.

SMALL SCALE ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT

Lack of opportunities for employment and income generation is commonplace in the rural areas of Afghanistan. Insecurity, poverty, lack of skills and resources among the rural populations prevent development of rural businesses. This problem is compounded by a generally poor business climate and lack of institutional support that can enable establishment of viable and successful rural businesses.

DACAAR is supporting rural communities through organising them in producer associations and building their capacity in business management and technical skills, and providing them with start-up grant and technical support. To ensure legal status and sustainability, accessing funds and other resources, the associations are registered with the Government of Afghanistan.

Additionally, DACAAR supports the most vulnerable in establishing small individual businesses through development of their vocational skills and provision of inputs for start-up, such as grants and tool-kits.

Socio-economic feasibility surveys are often carried out in support of business initiation and marketing support is provided in finding viable markets for the associations' products .

Key Facts	
Beneficiaries Targeted	Total 2,916 (100 women and 2,816 men)
Geographical Areas Targeted	Balkh, Faryab, Herat, Laghman, Sar-e-Pul
Donors	ICCO, HUM, RNE, ROI, UNODC

Achievements during 2012 included

Six new producer associations were established and registered with Ministry of Justice and Law. In total 1,756 association members and 116 individuals were supported as follows;

- Start-up grants for 12 businesses and training on business plan development, accounting and procurement
- 116 persons were trained in vocational training to promote employment opportunities. This included; mobile phone repairing, TV repairing, bike repairing, tailoring, refrigerator repairing, beauty parlour and metal works.
- Five market linkage workshops involving producer association members, government employees, traders, NGO's and other stakeholders were conducted
- 42 people were trained in marketing and small scale enterprise development
- 1,046 Community Development Councils management committee members received community management skills, accounting and procurement training
- 43 Government staff were trained on project cycle management

...”As members of the Gul-e-Surkh Association, we learnt better methods of nutrition, hygiene, and better use of available resources after taking technical training and receiving livestock messages from DACAAR. Our members have now reached to a total 117 from nine villages and so far, Gul-e-Surkh Association has been able to raise a total fund of 642,000 AFN through membership fees and DACAAR’s grants. We bought and distributed 87 units of sheep in the form of Muzarebat (a type of Islamic financing) to nine vulnerable families who had lost their livestock due to droughts and economic problems. Now the number of the sheep have reached to 126 and our association’s capital has also increased by 56 percent. Gul-e-Surkh Association on one hand helped improve economic conditions of some poor families and on the other hand helped us build our capacity to reach further villages through our increased income.”

*Haji Gul
member
Gul-e-Surkh Association
Ghoryan District
Herat Province*





WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT

Afghanistan has seen considerable progress over the past decade in regard to the situation of women and girls. Legal and institutional frameworks are in place at national level and progress has been made in relation to women's rights, education and participation in political, social and economic spheres. Despite this, huge challenges are still to be overcome in relation to improving women's rights, status and participation especially in the rural areas of Afghanistan. These problems find their roots in several factors including cultural norms, poverty and insecurity.

DACAAR's Women's Empowerment interventions aim at improving social and economic conditions for women, including supporting women's active participation and influence in the society as well as opportunities for education and income generation. To do this, DACAAR organises rural women through the Community Development Councils (CDCs) and Women's Resource Centres (WRCs), and through participation in livelihood and social activities.

DACAAR initiated the establishment of WRCs in 2004 to improve the capacity, role and influence of women in rural communities. WRCs are registered as community based organisations and used as a platform for promoting women's empowerment. WRCs provide women with a safe and enabling environment to come together to learn, train, develop leadership skills, and start up income generating activities at a women only (culturally accepted) centre. Full consent of male members of the community is sought during the establishment of the WRCs.

The aim of the WRCs is to empower women on a self-sufficient and sustainable basis by providing them with life skills through training such as literacy and basic computer skills, awareness of health issues, including safe motherhood, hygiene, sanitation, first aid, conflict transformation, human rights, gender and social organisation. Through WRCs women are also supported to starting women-led businesses. The most vulnerable members are supported with food security packages.

To date DACAAR supported the establishment of 39 WRCs with 25,594 members.

Key Facts

Beneficiaries Targeted	Total 20,961 (20,943 women, 18 men)
Geographical Areas Targeted	Balkh, Faryab, Herat, Laghman, Sar-e-Pul
Donors	ICCO, HUM, RNE, ROI, UNODC

Achievements during 2012 included

DACAAR supported the improvement in the livelihoods and capacity of 20,569 women organised in CDCs and WRCs. This included;

- Establishment of seven new Women's Resource Centres (WRCs), and their registration with the Ministry of Justice and Law and the Ministry of Women's Affairs
- Construction of three WRC buildings
- Support to establishment of 31 women-led businesses under the above seven WRCs
- Organising of three best practice conferences in Herat, Balkh and Faryab with participation of 300 WRC members, Government employees, Women CDCs and DACAAR staff.
- Organising of four exhibitions and best practices discussions involving 80 WRC members
- Five market linkage workshops conducted in Herat, Balkh, Laghman, Faryab and Sar-e-Pul involving 200 WRCs representatives, Government employees, NGOs, local traders and community stakeholders to introduce WRCs activities and products
- Training in leadership, community management skills, human rights, business plan development, bookkeeping, accounting and procurement
- Literacy, English and computer courses
- Hygiene and health messages
- Income generation and vocational training projects such as poultry, carpet weaving, thread production, saffron cultivation, and milk processing.
- Distribution of milking cows and sheep under a revolving fund project
- Kitchen gardening, food security and post harvesting training
- Spinning silk projects

- Exchange visits among WRCs
- Training on gender mainstreaming to 43 Government staff (25 female and 18 male)

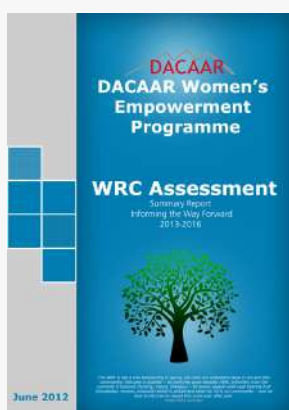
In addition to this, DACAAR undertook an independent assessment of its approach to the Women's Resource Centres. Furthermore, DACAAR's women's empowerment initiatives were presented in two international conferences in Europe organised by European Network of NGOs in Afghanistan (ENNA).

Sharifa is a strong woman wanting the best for her children. For this reason, she engaged her young son of 8 years of age to a respectable young woman of 22 years by name of Majawbin in the village. This was the tradition!

... "It was just good luck that around that time all the WRC Management Committee representatives, of which I am one, were invited for a training on gender and human rights. This was organised with other WRC representatives. This training had great impact on me, so much so that when I returned from the training I went straight to Majawbin's family and asked for the marriage agreement to be cancelled. Majawbin in particular was extremely happy! I just could not live with the feeling that I was committing my son to a marriage that would bind him for the rest of his life. I recognised from the training that my son had equal right to select his bride. I should not take away that right!"

*Sharifa
WRC Management Committee Member
Herat*

An assessment of DACAAR's Women Resource Centres (WRCs) conducted in 2012 confirmed that the concept of WRC is highly accepted and owned by all key stakeholders, most importantly, by the women themselves.



The assessment also confirmed that WRCs established a niche as a "learning theatre" which exposed women to better opportunities for learning new skills which in turn prepared them to engage more productively in a broader range of initiatives.



NATIONAL SOLIDARITY PROGRAMME

As a consequence of many years of war, Afghanistan suffers from a weak system of reconstruction, lack of service delivery and general lack of responsiveness to needs in the rural areas.

As a response to some of these issues the government through the Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (MRRD) in 2003 launched the National Solidarity Programme (NSP).

DACAAR is among the 29 facilitating partners implementing the NSP. The NSP aims to strengthen communities to establish their own democratically elected women’s and men’s CDCs, and works to build their capacity for local governance/community management. When CDCs have been established they are also supported in linking up with government agencies, NGOs and donors in order to improve their access to services and resources.

Key Facts	
Beneficiaries Targeted	Total 576,947 (290,423 women and 286,524 men)
Geographical Areas Targeted	Faryab, Herat, Laghman, Parwan
Donors	MRRD

Achievements during 2012 included

- 458 previously established CDCs were supported representing 576,947 community members
- 1,703 CDC management committee members were provided with training in accounting, procurement, and CDC by-law
- 446 CDCs were provided with technical support in relation to 728 infrastructure projects



...“I am disabled. My wife and sons became ill because they had to walk five kilometres in the burning sun to a place where they could find drinking water. We had severe problems, and all of our village children became ill and we could not afford to treat them. When NSP came to our village, the community proposed a pipe scheme to be established. Once the pipe scheme was established, life in my village changed significantly. Now, every family in the village has access to safe drinking water and we do not get sick as often as we did and do not have to walk long distances to fetch water.”

Qamaruddin
Robat-e-Sangi District
Herat Province



ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

A new Strategic Programme Framework for 2013-2016 was finalised in 2012 that will set DACAAR's strategic direction for the next four years.

DACAAR started 2012 with the implementation of a new organisational structure. The structure was reviewed and fine-tuned throughout 2012 to raise the overall efficiency of the organisation. In line with DACAAR's Afghanisation process, all four Departments in DACAAR are now headed by Afghans.

DACAAR is continually building the capacity of staff members through various formal trainings in areas such as management, finance, communication, safety and security, as well as a number of technical trainings related to all four

thematic areas. In 2012, a total of 684 counts of short-term trainings were provided to staff members. In response to growing insecurity in the country, DACAAR took a number of systematic endeavours to strengthen its safety and security measures. This included upgrading of safety and security protocols, training of staff and a decision to hire dedicated safety officers for each Regional office.

Seven women graduated from DACAAR's Female Graduates Internship Programme during the year, of which one was hired for a full time position in DACAAR. The other six interns were assisted in finding job opportunities elsewhere. Additionally, 12 staff members received financial support to pursue long-term academic studies.

Steps to systematise conflict sensitivity and prevention in programme implementation were taken further with a conflict sensitivity analysis undertaken by an external consultant as well as a Do No Harm training for senior and mid-level staff.



Mariam Saadat
Senior Officer, Women's
Empowerment

... "From the start, I was very interested in the leadership development programme that DACAAR introduced me to. It inspired me a lot, both in my professional and personal life. I used to visit many people at field level. The learning from the programme helped me understand how to change a negative or aggressive interaction during field visits into a positive and inspiring one through leadership traits like tolerance and effective communication."



Ahmad Jan Nawazi
Senior Grants and
Monitoring Officer

... "Good intentions are not enough. If not well thought out, interventions can have serious negative consequences to the communities that we serve and can jeopardise the entire mission. The Do No Harm training, together with shared experiences of participants, provided me with a great insight on how aid and humanitarian assistance can not only strengthen peace but also how poor administration of resources can harm and cause tensions among communities."

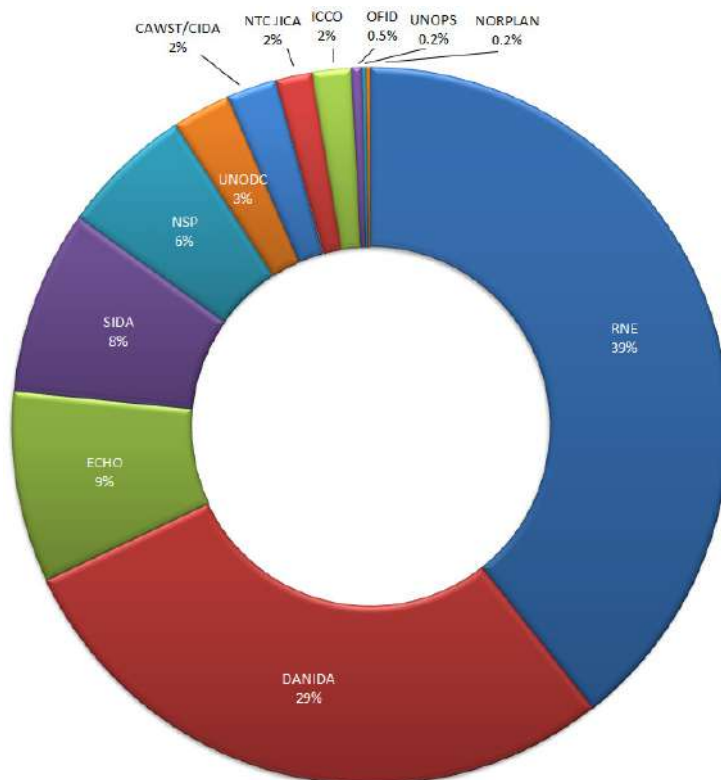


Karima Hamidi
Receptionist

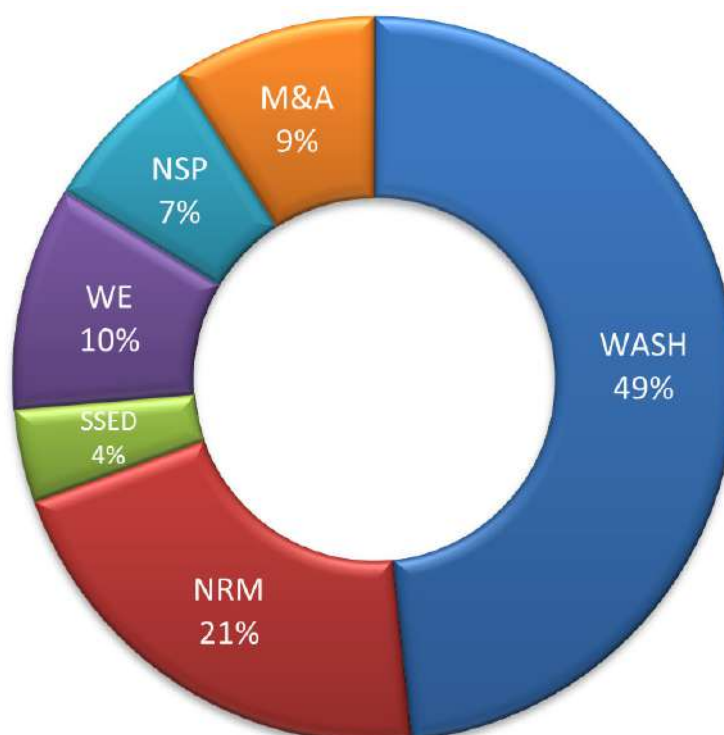
... "Representing DACAAR to external visitors is an important part of my job. DACAAR's training workshop on effective communication skills helped me in this role."

USE OF FUNDS

Funds spent during 2012 per donor (%)
(USD 14 million)



Funds spent during 2012 per thematic area (%)



*Management and Administration

Appreciation letters granted to DACAAR during 2012



From the Provincial Governer, Faryab



From Balkh district authorities, Balkh



From Obe district authorities, Herat



From Dehdadi district authorities, Balkh



From Gurziwan district authorities , Faryab



From Nahr-e-Shahi district authorities, Balkh

THE FUTURE


As in previous years, insecurity continued to provide a major challenge for DACAAR in implementing its development activities during 2012 and this is expected to continue in the year ahead. To meet this increasing challenge, we will be strengthening our safety and risk management systems during 2013 and will further build the capacity of our staff in these areas.

Competences will be further enhanced in our four thematic areas: water, sanitation & hygiene; natural resources management; small scale enterprise development; and women's empowerment through capacity building of staff and evaluation of our work. In this regard, an external evaluation will be conducted of our Royal Norwegian Embassy funded project, Enhanced Safe Water Supply

and Natural Resource Protection based Rural Development in Northern Afghanistan (2010-13) and lessons learned incorporated into future work.

A new and enhanced DACAAR website will be launched in 2013 based on DACAAR's Strategic Programme Framework (2013 - 2016). The framework will be formally presented to our donors and partners and will guide the strategic direction of DACAAR over the next four years as well as confirming our long term commitment to the people of Afghanistan in the challenging years ahead.





DACAAR MAIN OFFICE KABUL
Paikob-e-Naswar, Wazirabad
PO Box 208, Kabul, Afghanistan

Phone: +93 (0) 20 223 0752
+93 (0) 20 223 0753
Mobile: +93 (0) 700 288 232
E-mail: dacaar@dacaar.org

DACAAR SECRETARIAT COPENHAGEN
c/o Danish Refugee Council,
Borgergade 10, 1300
Copenhagen K, Denmark

Phone: +45 33 73 50 00
E-mail: copenhagen@dacaar.org

Website: www.dacaar.org