



Side by Side with the Afghan
People Since 1984

Annual Report 2017

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ABOUT DACAAR

We are a non-political, non-governmental, non-profit humanitarian and developmental organisation working to improve the lives of the Afghan people since 1984.

We address to the acute needs of the most vulnerable and support early recovery and sustainable development for all Afghans. We align our work to the specific needs and priorities of the Afghan communities. Our emergency response is aimed at life-saving in early stages of a crisis. We target recent internally displaced people and returning refugees, and communities affected by conflicts and natural disasters.

Our early recovery and developmental interventions are aimed at building resilience, enhancing capacity and improving livelihoods for protracted internally displaced people and returning refugees, and their vulnerable host communities. We adopt a holistic and integrated approach with an emphasis, particularly on sustainability in terms of real and positive changes in the lives of our beneficiaries.

All our work considers the specific needs of most-at-risk groups such as women- or youth-headed households, the disabled, the elderly and others marginalised by society. While maintaining and cherishing our Danish roots, we are deeply embedded in the Afghan society. We are registered with the Afghan Ministry of Economy and enjoy unprecedented access to Afghan communities.

Historically, over ten million Afghans have benefited from our interventions since we started working in Afghanistan.

MESSAGE FROM DIRECTOR JOHN MORSE



Completing my third year as Director, I am happy with the direction DACAAR has taken. Although one always must be cautious, I do think we are on the right track.

With the raising insecurity and the increasing number of returning refugees and Internally Displaced People, we not only manage as first responders to fill the gap where the afghan government is still developing its own capacity, but we also bridge the gap to more sustainable solutions.

We merge our development work with humanitarian aid to ensure meeting not only the immediate life saving but also longer term developmental needs of our beneficiaries. This enables us to work with a broad spectrum of interventions that also has a 'do no harm' outlook and target all segments of the communities based on their specific needs.

Better coordination, information and links

With large scale global needs, the humanitarian donor funds are decreasing here in Afghanistan. We need better co-ordination, information and links to other places in need of intervention. This has to be incorporated into our work as standard practice and we work very hard to do so.

The Government of Afghanistan is still facing a challenge in reaching many of the areas where we are working. This makes our mission ever more pertinent and the need for co-ordination with other NGOs even more vital. We know this is not always easy particularly in addressing the needs in hard to reach communities.

Ownership revisited

In early 2017, with the help of a consultant, DACAAR looked into the ownership of the organisation with special focus on becoming fully nationalised and the support from our Board and Headquarter.

With feedback from our staff, donors and other NGO partners, the best way forward was discussed. It was agreed that we have made great progress becoming nationalised. With the strong national Senior Management Team and well qualified staff for our thematic areas, we were assured that we are going in the right direction.

We are going to stay on this path, keeping our international identity and strengthening our Headquarter to give specific strategic support where needed. This will keep us closer to our donors and their directions. It will also give us more transparency and strengthen our association with our long term Danish foundations. This has already begun with the expansion of our board from two to three members, and the opening of an independent secretariat in Copenhagen on new premises.

Expanding field offices

I have tried to visit the field as much as possible to make sure that I do not forget why we are here and how we need to support our strong field teams in their difficult tasks.

This has been even more important as we have expanded into new areas in the South West, strengthening our footprint in the Kandahar field office and expanding with Herat supporting Farah and Nimroz.

In the South East, Jalalabad is getting bigger and supporting our Citizens Charter partnership in Nooristan, Laghman and Kunar.

Our Faryab office is receiving good reports from the Government and donors. Our North office is growing and taking on extra responsibilities in Kunduz and Takhar, and our Central Region is expanding with the growing need around Kabul.

Dedication, courage and thanks

In the south, Logar and Khost are not areas that are the most accessible and this tests our important close connection to the local community even further.

This reminds me of how difficult it is to work in the less secure areas. As I have stated in the last years, it is dedication and courage that I am humbled to represent and admire greatly.

I believe with the help of the international community, there is only an 'Afghan fix' for Afghanistan, and I think our staff is proving that correct.

Thanks a lot to DANIDA, Norwegian MFA, Dutch MFA, ECHO, UNOCHA& the donor partners of Common Humanitarian Fund, UNODC, UNICEF, UNHCR , the EU, DFID and our consortium partners in making it possible for DACAAR to continue to work with the people of Afghanistan. You are reinforcing DACAAR's commitment in getting the job done.



Notebooks printed with hygiene messages distributed to school girls, Dihdadi district, Balkh province.

2017 IN BRIEF



Beneficiaries Targeted

659,602



Female
332,630



Male
326,972



Badakhshan, Baghlan, Balkh, Farah, Faryab, Herat, Ghazni, Jawzjan, Kapisa, Kabul, Kandahar, Khost, Kunar, Kunduz, Laghman, Logar, Nangarhar, Nimroz, Parwan, Samangan, Takhar and Wardak



- CCAP-Afghan Gov.
- DANIDA
- DFID
- DRC
- Dutch MFA
- ECHO
- EU
- Halo Trust
- Landel Mills- ADB
- Norwegian MFA
- UNHCR
- UNICEF
- UNOCHA(CHF)
- UNODC

Despite the insecurity and access problems, DACAAR was able to achieve all its planned targets for 2017.

Access was increased particularly for the emergency response interventions, which increased our target provinces from 19 to 23.

DACAAR worked closely with the Government of Afghanistan and relevant humanitarian organisations and developmental actors in order to ensure effectiveness, improve sustainability, and to avoid duplication of work and thus wasting of resources.

A Memorandum of Understanding was signed with all relevant line Ministries; MAIL, MoLSAMD, MoRR, MoED, MoPH, MRRD and MoWA¹. The co-ordination, collaboration and information sharing with Ministries in Kabul, paved the way for working with relevant Provincial Line Directorates. All new projects were registered with the Ministry of Economy and reported on semi-annually.

Active in ACBAR, clusters, teams and working groups

DACAAR is a long-time member of Agency Coordinating Body for Afghan Relief and Development (ACBAR) and supports advocacy efforts undertaken by the organisation on humanitarian and developmental issues, including issues affecting Internally Displaced People and returnees. In 2017, the organisation continued to be a member of the Humanitarian Access Group, which discusses best practices for reaching beneficiaries in hard to reach, insecure areas in addition to being a member of the Durable Solutions Working Group.

DACAAR continued to fulfil its role as the Co-leader of the WASH Cluster, leader of the Water Technical Working Group and remained an active member of the Water Sector Group and Hygiene and Sanitation Group. The organisation was also

active in the Humanitarian Country Team that co-ordinates humanitarian activities in Afghanistan to ensure coherence in achieving common objectives, avoiding duplication and ensuring areas of need are prioritised.

Furthermore, the organisation participated in the Food Security and Agriculture Cluster and in three technical working group meetings organised by Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock, focusing on Irrigation, Saffron, and Cereal Crops. To co-ordinate activities, discuss operational challenges and prevent overlapping at sub-national level, DACAAR engaged various stakeholders on the ground through direct dialogue and in various fora.

Strong relation with donors

DACAAR was highly successful in raising funds during 2017. Several project agreements were signed with various donors including UNICEF, Dutch MFA, UNODC, DFID, UNHCR, ONOCHA, Halo Trust, CCAP, Lindel Mills, EU, ECHO, etc.

Additionally, DACAAR entered into several consortium arrangements during 2017, which has enabled the organisation to gather the collective strength from these consortiums to deliver holistic programming and increase its geographical scope.

Challenges in 2017

Insecurity continued to impact the programme implementation. While, fortunately, no DACAAR staff or assets were affected directly, the insecurity caused some delays and uncertainty particularly for implementing activities in the field. Access to the beneficiary communities by NGOs has become more restricted during 2017, a trend that may carry on in 2018. From January to the end of September 2017, a significant 105 incidents affected NGOs assets, programmes and staff members. They included the killing of 15 national and one international member of staff. Furthermore, 20 national members of staff and one international were abducted.

The conflicts around the country have displaced large numbers of Afghans during 2017. Delays in response to emergencies due to a bureaucratic Government run petition system sometimes slowed down response efforts to Internally Displaced People across the country.

Delay in the procurement system was a problem too for project materials and supplies due to inability of suppliers and contractors to deliver goods and services in time and with the agreed quality.

Retention of qualified staff in remote areas was a challenge. Some staff left their stations immediately after deployment citing worries regarding the security situation. This has caused additional work for our human resource personnel to replace them.

¹ Ministry Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock, Ministry of Labor, Social Affairs, Martyred and the Disabled, Ministry of Refugees and Repatriation, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Public Health, Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development, Ministry of Women's Affairs.



Women food processing training (making tomato paste), Injil district, Herat province.

OUR BENEFICIARIES

We design our interventions based on the specific vulnerabilities, needs and priorities of our beneficiaries. Our beneficiaries are some of the most disadvantaged and vulnerable women, men and children of Afghanistan. Although, we select our beneficiaries based on a broad vulnerability criteria, the specific selection criteria for each components of our program are slightly different considering the specific demands of the activities and where (urban, peri-urban and rural) they are undertaken.

Life-saving emergency response

Our emergency response interventions are aimed at life-saving in early stages of a crisis and target recent IDPs and returnees, and communities affected by conflicts and natural disasters. Speed is the key in responding to emergencies and we endeavor to be one of the first in responding to crisis in our targeted areas.

Improving quality of life for most-at-risk groups

Our early recovery and developmental interventions are aimed at building resilience, enhancing capacity and improving livelihoods and quality of life for protracted IDPs and returnees, and their vulnerable host communities.

All our interventions consider the specific needs of most-at-risk groups such as women-headed households, youth-headed households, the disabled, the elderly and others marginalized by the society.

OUR COMMUNITY BASED APPROACH

With consent of the relevant national and local authorities, DACAAR works directly with the Afghan communities through Community Development Councils (CDCs), Village Shuras, District Development Assemblies (DDAs) and/or any other existing and relevant community structures in order to mobilize, organise and support communities to own and drive interventions, identifying needs, setting priorities and acquiring skills and capacity by being an integral part of project planning and implementation.

This approach is not only aimed at ensuring ownership and sustainability of interventions but also accountability towards end beneficiaries and a long-term impact. The basis for the partnership is often a tri-lateral agreement signed between DACAAR, the community structure and local authorities.

Community based structures

Depending on the nature of activities, various forms of management/maintenance committees are established and trained throughout the project implementation. These will then take over the responsibility for proper management, operation and maintenance of the project from the time DACAAR hands over the project to the community. Targeted capacity building and well-planned, and often phased, 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.



Beneficiaries collect safe drinking water from a DACAAR constructed water point, Behsud district, Nangarhar province.

WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE



Beneficiaries Targeted
293,838



Female
149,618



Male
144,220



Badakhshan, Baghlan, Balkh, Farah, Faryab, Herat, Ghazni, Juzjan, Kapisa, Kabul, Kandahar, Khost, Kunar, Kunduz, Laghman, Logar, Nangarhar, Nimroz, Paktia, Parwan, Samangan, Takhar, & Wardak



- DANIDA
- ECHO
- Norwegian MFA
- UNOCHA
- UNICEF

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) continues to be DACAAR's biggest programme, by far.

The major developmental trends in this area, are water safety planning and commercialisation of community water points operations and maintenance systems.

We also see an increasing Community Led Total Sanitation Approach (CLTS) applied for the hygiene and education components of WASH projects. DACAAR got the first position among all Afghanistan CLTS actors.

In 2017, we also managed to connect households with the Solar Water Supply Systems to provide safely managed drinking water in the Internally Displaced People's Settlements in Herat according to the new Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) targets. Previously, DACAAR was applying Millennium Development Goal (MDG)s targets.

494 tube wells were fitted with hand pumps, 128 stand-posts supported by 6 pipe schemes were constructed, and 576 non-functional water points were rehabilitated. 500 bio-sand filters constructed and distribute to populations in need.

8,924 previously constructed water points were inspected for functionality, and information about

them were included in a centralised database.

10,288 Families received hygiene education and 9,860 hygiene kits were distributed.

622 water user groups were established and 622 caretakers were trained for sustainability of community water points. In addition, two hand pump mechanics were also trained.

DACAAR chaired the Water Technical Working Group meetings as part of the Water Sector Group, attended the Hygiene Technical Working Group meetings, and was part of the Sanitation Technical Working Group.

DACAAR continues to co-lead the WASH Cluster meetings and attend all WASH Sector meetings.

The major challenge to the programme is the deterioration of the security situation in the cities and rural areas of Afghanistan.

Drought continues to affect the water sources, e.g. wells and springs, and so does the high salinity level of the ground water.

Read more about the Community Led Total Sanitation approach here http://www.dacaar.org/functions/pages/5th_ODF_Afghanistan.php

Our approach to WASH follows that of the Afghan 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 overall quality of life.

Through the WASH component;

- We deliver life saving water, sanitation and hygiene assistance in the immediate aftermath of man-made and natural disasters
- We ensure sustainable availability and usage of safe drinking water through establishment of wells and pipe networking

systems and introducing household water treatment technologies.

- We provide communities with support to improve overall sanitation conditions by constructing, maintaining and replicating environmentally friendly and sanitary latrines and by improving hygienic behavior and standards through culturally appropriate hygiene education.
- We build capacity at national level through our involvement in various national WASH fora and through capacity building and research that we undertake in our Water Expertise and Training Centre and Groundwater monitoring unit.



Hygiene kit distribution site, Kandahar province.

Emergency WASH

The Emergency WASH part of the programme is playing a more substantial role due to the increase in the number of conflicts across Afghanistan resulting in a growing number of displaced people.

We stockpile WASH supplies to be able to act fast, but we also put great efforts into providing durable solutions, beyond emergencies, where needed.

In 2017, we were able to provide WASH assistance in 23 of 34 Afghan provinces. We managed to distribute 18,820,341 liters of safe drinking water through water tankers for emergency projects, repair 102 water points and distribute 530 bio-sand filters for emergency water supply, and construct 2,080 emergency latrines.

Furthermore, 12,750 water kits were prepositioned in seven strategic locations of which 6,514 water kits were released to WASH cluster partners for emergency response. In addition, 3,310 latrine kits were prepositioned in seven strategic locations.

17,771 Families received hygiene education and 18,633 hygiene kits were distributed.

Security is also a major challenge to our WASH emergency. As a result, we experience staff turnover that sometimes affect our WASH emergency interventions. Unavailability of competent and qualified vendors of WASH supplies is a challenge too.

Groundwater Monitoring

For many years, we have been conducting groundwater monitoring in Afghanistan through the construction of Ground Water Monitoring Wells.

In 2017, we expanded the scope Groundwater Monitoring Wells from 272 to 363 wells and from 22 to 28 provinces. We now cover approximately 85 percent of the river basins of the country.

92 water samples from the wells were collected and we performed water quality analyses.

Another great achievement during the year was the commencement of digitalization of the first ever hydro-geological and hydro-chemical maps of Afghanistan based on the available national data.

In addition, geo-physical investigation was begun by DACAAR in Takhar and Saripul provinces for the first time.

DACAAR submitted a concept note to The International Association

of Hydrogeology and was successfully accepted. Therefore, DACAAR will represent Afghanistan in the association's 45th Annual Congress in South Korea in 2018.

We also upgraded hydro-geology systems (e.g. Aquifer Test, Hydrogeo Analyst and Aquachm) from version 2005 to the latest 2017 version, and established our very first Management Information System and Geographic Information System, which was made possible under the UNICEF fund.

Due to the deterioration of the security situation in rural areas, our teams could not collect updated data in some areas.

There is also a lack of qualified technical staff in this field, and we face fast turnover of staff.

Furthermore, there is a lack of capacity building services for the engineers of this field, because universities either do not provide courses or their curriculum is too old to adapt into these modern technologies.

Water Expertise and Training Centre

The DACAAR Water Expertise and Training Centre (WET Centre) continues to deliver high quality services independently. We have gained high credibility and a good reputation in the country, and we have become the organisation to consult for training and technical support for WASH project implementers in Afghanistan.

Together with the training workshops, the technical and consulting support help local implementers to start, scale-up, sustain, and improve their WASH projects.

During 2017, the Centre trained 335 male and 62 female government employees, UN agencies, NGOs and the Private Sector. Four new training packages were developed and three existing ones were updated.

1,703 physical, 1,650 bacteriological and 454 chemical analyses were conducted for DACAAR, external clients water points, and groundwater monitoring wells.

One Water Safety Plan as well as informational booklets and training package was developed, finalized and printed. Community Led Total Sanitation promoters were trained and in the Kama district of Nangarhar province under the UNICEF project, the Water Safety Plan pilot implementation was completed.

Independent funds for the Centre was not raised in 2017, but enough funding was secured for 2017 and 2018 through existing

donors, not least the UNICEF two-years funding for government staff capacity development and Water Safety Plan pilot implementation, secured the Centre.

Unfortunately, two experienced and validated trainers, who worked with us for more than four years, left us during 2017.

Another challenge for the Centre, is the delay that the DACAAR Logistics Unit faces when purchasing water quality testing reagents and equipment from outside of Afghanistan.

5 WASH awareness campaigns undertaken for 112 male and female students and teachers of public school.

Water Expertise and Training Centre benefitted 1,316,419 people in 2017

Based on the result of the 2016 Key Performance Indicator (KPI) annual survey conducted in 2017, client organisations of the WET Centre, have reported that implementing WASH projects have benefitted 1,316,419 people. 793,566 people got access to safe water and 522,853 people received better sanitation. This illustrates the multiplier effect of the DACAAR Centre's support to different clients. (<http://www.cawst.org/about-us/results>).



Practical training on Bio-sand filter construction, Kabul.



DACAAR staff illustrates Saffron processing to a group of farmers, Dawlat Abad district, Faryab province.

NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT



Beneficiaries Targeted
4,275



Female
572



Male
3,703



Balkh, Farah,
Faryab, Herat,
Kabul, Kandahar,
Khost, Kundoz,
Nimroz



- DANIDA
- DFID
- Dutch MFA
- Halo Trust
- Norwegian MFA
- UNHCR
- UNODC

In 2017, the major developmental trends in the Natural resource Management Programme was to scale up activities in quantity, improve quality and adapt to quick impact crops and good livestock management practices.

Activities were extended to new provinces - Khost, Kunduz, Kandahar, Farah and Nimroz - and new crops (e.g. saffron) were brought to some of these locations, for the first time.

Orchards were established to achieve quick impact and a precocious varieties of fruit crops so that it start bearing fruits within one or two years.

We witnessed successful implementation of Producer Field Schools as part of Integrated Home Based Farming for Internally Displaced People in Herat and Kandahar.

176 Disaster Risk Management Committees were established under this programme and linked at district and provincial levels. A total of 3,547 community members (3,190 males and 357 females) were introduced to this important issue.

4,275 farmer (572 female, 3,703 male) were

trained and provided with inputs for high value vegetable, nursery and saffron production, orchard development, agro forestry, on-farm water management, livestock activities and integrated home-based farming.

255 orchards, 34 greenhouses and 2 nurseries were established.

49 small scale irrigation structures such as water divider, canal, culverts, canal lining and protection walls were constructed, benefiting 18,524 farm families of whom 51% were women.

2017 also saw challenges to the programme. There is a lack of committed and credible suppliers, and lengthy processes of procurements sometimes delay activities.

Insecurity and fluctuation of the security situation in cities and rural areas of Afghanistan delay activities.

Activities are also delayed due to late authorization by the line government directorates and local Government offices to work in their areas.

Our Natural Resource Management interventions have proven highly effective in improving rural livelihoods by increasing agricultural productivity and production and thereby food self-sufficiency and income through application of environmentally sustainable approaches. This is done through:

- Building capacity of farmers and providing them with necessary inputs to increase, improve and diversify agriculture and horticulture production on both dry and irrigated land.
- Land stabilization and soil erosion control, and protection, rehabilitation and proper management of common pasture lands,
- Improving livestock and poultry productivity and production,
- Integrated water management including rehabilitation/reconstruction of small scale irrigation structures to improve availability of water for farming.



Women receive vocational skills training (tailoring), Injil district, Herat province.

SMALL SCALE ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT



Beneficiaries Targeted
1,134



Female
534



Male
600



Balkh, Faryab,
Herat, Kabul,
Kunduz



- DANIDA
- DFID
- Dutch MFA
- Norwegian MFA

In 2017, we saw a significant increase in the number of female vulnerable unemployed youth graduating from the vocational skills training programme. Out of 344 graduates, a majority of 184 were female. In 2015-16 there were only 115 female and 244 males.

In the vocational skills training program the young Afghans are provided with business startup grants to promote employment opportunities. This included motorbike repairing, PVC, curtain making, carpentry and tailoring.

Seven Producer Associations were established and provided with start-up grants and business training. A total of 766 members (346 female, 420 male) of the producer associations were trained on community mobilization skills, good governance, by-law development, business plan, marketing, association formation criteria, benefits of association and ranking of the identified businesses.

We have also been able to reinforce functional literacy and numeracy in the vocational skills training programme and by doing so strengthening life skills of vocational training graduates.

Official uniforms have been given to trainees and employers in order to professionalise the process. The Small Scale Enterprise Development programme also faces challenges.

Corruption in the public sector at all levels is a huge problem. So is the bureaucracy in connecting with government agencies for Memorandums of Understandings (MOUs) or registrations.

Furthermore, there is a lack of government incentive mechanism for Producer Associations or other collective efforts of rural enterprises.

We assist rural farmers and youth to engage in productive small businesses through:

- Help farmers and producers establish Producer Associations in order to engage in collective production, processing, packaging and marketing of their produce (value chain activities).
- Delivery of market driven centre-based vocational training to unemployed and unskilled youth.
- Support vocational training graduates with toolkits, business start-up grants and follow up technical support in order to start their own small businesses or engage in formal and informal employment.



DACAAR staff teaches carpet weaving to female trainees, Herat City, Herat province.

WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT



Beneficiaries Targeted
5,137



Female
4,283



Male
854



Balkh, Farah,
Faryab, Herat,
Kabul, Khost,
Kunduz, Nimroz



- DANIDA
- DFID
- Dutch MFA
- Halo Trust
- Norwegian MFA
- UNHCR
- UNODC

In 2017, there were quite a lot of major achievements in our Women's Empowerment program.

1000 women became member of Women Resource Centres. 700 women received Hygiene Education and Safe Motherhood Orientation. On 8th of March on International Women's Day, our celebrations were attended by 800 staff at the Main Office and its regional offices. Furthermore, 150 males and 250 females received awareness raising information on rights and 350 women trained in conflict transformation human right, gender and social organisation.

Outside the Women Resource Centres, 199 women received training and inputs for income generation and food security. Major projects included clothes weaving, kitchen gardening and food preservation and processing.

We see positive developments in the establishment of Women-Led Producer Associations increasing involvement of women in socio-economic development platforms.

We also managed to engage women in high-value crops production (e.g. saffron and fresh vegetable cultivation in greenhouses).

Poultry and livestock rearing are also an area with significant activity increasing income and mobility of women. During the year, 1,311 women were trained and provided with inputs for poultry production.

Provision of literacy courses and life skill training sessions contribute to increasing social influence of women. In 2017, 275 women graduated from these classes.

One of the major developments under this programme is the increasing integration of Women's Empowerment activities into other thematic areas of Water, Sanitation & Hygiene, Natural Resource Management and Small-Scale Enterprise Development.

The main challenge to the programme continues to be the male dominated Afghan society discouraging women participation in decision-making at different levels. As a result of increasing insecurity in the country, it has become even more difficult for women to engage in outdoor activities side by side with men.

Another challenge is the limited access of women producers to the national and large markets.

In addition to targeting women and girls as part of the Water, Sanitation and Hygiene, Natural Resource Management and Small-Scale Enterprise Development programmes, we carry out initiatives, exclusively, targeting women and girls to help increase Afghan women's sphere of influence and livelihoods.

The auspices of the Women's Resource Centres is the very core- of interventions for women as the self-organised

collectives manage to create abundant opportunities for women participation in income-generating and targeted educational and capacity building activities.

The centres allow rural women to come together in a safe women-only environment, which is culturally accepted. The women train, learn, and develop leadership skills, engage in small businesses and income-generating activities, discuss, share insight and knowledge and support each other.



Developing Community Resource Map, Noorgram district, Nooristan province.

CITIZENS' CHARTER AFGHANISTAN PROJECT



Beneficiaries Targeted
355,218



Female
177,623



Male
177,595



Laghman, Kunar,
Nuristan.



• CCAP-Afghan
Gov.

In 2017, the Citizen Charter Afghanistan Programme took over where the National Solidarity programme ended.

During a year, the numbers of beneficiaries we are able to reach through the programme were an astonishing 355,218 individuals (177,623 females and 177,595 males) in 335 communities.

Where DACAAR took part, the general impression is that communities are genuinely interested in the methods and tools used. For example, the tool called 'Leaking pot' shows communities household expenses and income resources during a year. During 2017, 195 communities found out how much their benefit and expenses were and how to prevent extra expenses.

The 'Well being analysis' studies the economical situation and poverty level (lowest, low, medium) in communities. This process has been carried out in more than 274 Community Development Councils in three DACAAR covered provinces of Laghman, Kunar and Nooristan.

In 2017, we successfully established grain banks/ food banks and social inclusion grant for each community to reduce the poverty and hunger at community level.

We also increased women's mobility to participate

in decision making meetings on how to solve their problems and how to express their views regarding social and economic problems at community level.

Where Community Development Councils were closed and seen as problematic under the former National Solidarity Programme, successful mobilization, election and a community development plan preparation have been carried out and new councils established at community level.

The programme also faces challenges.

Insecurity and presence of the armed opposition groups, Taliban and Daesh, in some districts, have been a challenge in 2017. For instance, we had to suspend work with 58 Community Development Councils in the Kunar province, Chawki district, in Dewagal valley under Daesh or ISIS control.

In some communities, women's participation in gatherings have been a problem and so has allowing women to take photos for bank accounts and registration forms.

Coordination and cooperation at provincial and district level could also be better.

DACAAR is a facilitating partner in the Citizens' Charter Afghanistan Project, a national flagship of the Afghan Government that aims at helping low-income communities to receive a minimum level of core services.

Community Development Councils are used as the platform and partner for line agencies to plan, manage and improve local-level service delivery.

The Citizens' Charter aims to build united villages, urban communities and cities improving the relationship between the Government and its people and reducing poverty by providing basic services. By channeling resources and support, the Government ensures the means to develop villages and urban communities and the Community Development Councils lead the development process and make sure that all men, women, and children are included in development initiatives and activities.



DACAAR staff celebrate Women's Day on 8th of March, DACAAR main office, Kabul Province.

DEVELOPING DACAAR

In 2017, DACAAR revised its Strategic Programme Framework (SPF) 2017-2020. This exercise was undertaken with the expertise of an independent consultant.

The lessons learned drawn from the first Strategic Programme Framework 2013-2016 were incorporated into the formation of DACAAR's new SPF for 2017-2020. The revised version incorporated adaptations to strategies and approaches according to changes in social, political, humanitarian, developmental and planning contexts, and challenges and lessons learned from field operations, including emergencies, access and security.

Staff development

Capacity building and staff development remained a priority for DACAAR throughout 2017, with many staff members receiving training over the period, reaching a total of 929 counts of training.

Training subjects included but not limited to fraud and anti-corruption awareness, safety and security, first aid orientation, crisis management, social organisation, durable solutions for IDPs workshop, human resources management, and project design and intervention logic.

Other subjects were leadership of women, food security and livelihood management, general management, project management, hazardous environment awareness, and a wide range of other subjects through on-job mentoring.

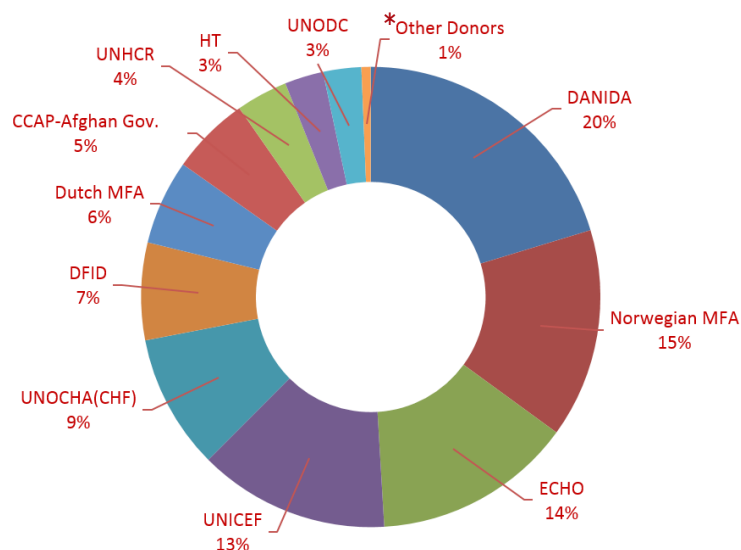
Internship programme

During the period, DACAAR's internship programme continued with 15 interns, each receiving six months of on the job training and coaching. Of these, two females were retained as full-time employees at DACAAR. Others sought employment with other organisations upon graduating from the internship programme.

In addition, four staff members were financially supported to continue their higher education in Business Administration and English Language.

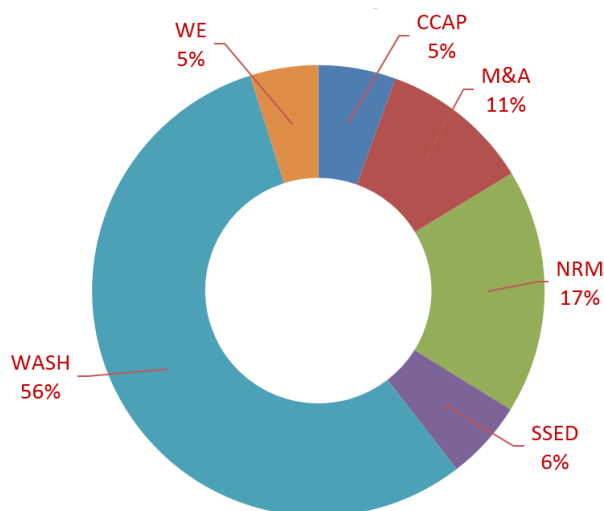
USE OF FUNDS

**Funds spent
during 2017 per donor (%)
(13 million USD)**



- **DANIDA**: Danish International Development Assistance
- **Norwegian MFA**: Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- **ECHO**: European Commission Humanitarian Organisation
- **UNICEF**: United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund
- **UNOCHA CHF**: United Nations Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (Common Humanitarian Fund)
- **DFID**: Department for International Development
- **Dutch MFA**: Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- **CCAP**: Citizens' Charter Afghanistan Project
- **UNHCR**: United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
- **HT**: Halo Trust
- **UNODC**: United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
- *** Other Donors**: Landel Mills, European Union, Danish Refugee Council

**Funds spent
during 2017 per thematic area (%)**



- **WASH**: Water, Sanitation and Hygiene
- **NRM**: Natural Resources Management
- **SSED**: Small Scale Enterprise Development
- **WE**: Women's Empowerment
- **CCAP**: National Solidarity Programme
- **M&A**: Management and Administration



A LOOK INTO THE FUTURE

Insecurity will likely continue to increase during 2018 as the warring sides keep on pushing for expanding their territories. This will continue to impact DACAAR's ability to deliver much needed humanitarian and developmental interventions in hard to reach and insecure areas.

Supply routes to provinces will most likely continue to be threatened by the various armed opposition groups causing delays in timely delivery of project supplies and staff to project sites.

Fundraising and partnerships in focus

The humanitarian and development context in Afghanistan and the suffering endured by the Afghan population warrants continuous delivery of life-saving, humanitarian and developmental assistance. DACAAR will continue to strengthen its fundraising efforts to ensure sufficient resources are available for dignified assistance to our beneficiaries.

DACAAR will also further intensify forging consortiums and partnerships with credible organisations and institutions to enable the organisations to deliver holistic assistance that stems into a widespread coverage of areas that reach the needy Afghans.

Strengthening internal systems and policies

DACAAR will continue to strengthen its internal systems, policies and procedures enabling the organisation to cope with an ever-changing operating environment. Of particular focus will be financial systems and procedures, anti-corruption policies including strengthening of the employee code of conduct to further enhance awareness, streamline reporting procedures and strengthen protection of victims of sexual misconduct in response to the global #metoo campaign.

More visibility and better outreach

DACAAR will continue to strengthen its external outreach and visibility efforts including the launch of an upgraded website and an exhibition in Denmark informing the public in Afghanistan, Denmark and globally about our work.



Inauguration of rehabilitated Rubatak gravity fed pipe scheme network, Samangan province.

WHAT OUR BENEFICIARIES SAY

When flash flooding in Samangan destroyed the water reservoir for Rubatak area on 20th of April 2017, 1,350 families lost safe drinking water. They began to use stream water for domestic use causing waterborne diseases and poor hygiene & sanitation. Furthermore, family members had to travel long distances to fetch water.

After an assessment, DACAAR intervened. First with temporary solutions distributing safe drinking water, emergency water kits and emergency hygiene kits.

For the long-term and durable solution, DACAAR performed a technical survey to determine necessary actions for the rehabilitation of the reservoir and pipe scheme system and reconstructed it. 30,352 meters of pipe were laid, 120 stand-posts rehabilitated and a total of 1,400 families (9,800 individuals) now have access to safe drinking water nearby their premises.

On 31st of December 2017, Inauguration Ceremony of Rubatak pipe scheme project was held.

Khair Mohammad is a 43-year-old married man living with wife and seven children in Rubatak village of Namangan Province.

When the water system was damaged, his family suffered a lot. Either they had to buy expensive water or let their children move long distances on a donkey to fetch water from streams not safe

for drinking. Instead of going to school, the children went to fetch water and they were falling sick regularly from water born diseases. "I was beginning to lose hope until I heard that DACAAR was providing free water to this village. When we get drinking water for free, food can be managed."

"Provision of clean water near our homes does not only save our time and energy, but it also keeps our family members safe because we no longer have to trek for hours outside of the village to get water."





Zulaikha, Farmer Field School beneficiary from Aqi bai village, Emam Sahid district, Kundoz province

"I participated regularly in the field school with other women from my area. We learned how to use small patch of land in our yards to grow vegetables. DACAAR also provided us with drip irrigation equipment such as water tanks, pipes, fittings and taps. They also provided us with vegetable seeds and chemical fertilizers. So far I have earned 3000 Afghanis from selling the vegetables I grown in our yard. I used the money to buy clothes for my children and other house necessities such as soap, shampoo and toothpaste. Next time I sell vegetables, I will use the money to buy school uniforms for my three children who attend school."



Abdul Rahman 28 years old, Citizens' Charter Afghanistan Project beneficiary, Takhto village, Dara-e-Pech district Kunar Province.

"As part of the initial work with our Community, one day we were surprised to see DACAAR staff bringing lots of lime with themselves to the meeting. After explanations, they asked us to draw a map of our village. Only when the map was completed, we realized how important this exercise was. It showed existing resources in our village, how they are distributed in the village, who benefited from the previous projects, who are influential people of the village and who needed what services...This program is very beneficial for all people. In fact it is the voice of every man, women and child in our community".



Mohammed Gull, Murad Shykh village in Kundoz Province has spent his life as shepherd. In June 2017, he enrolled at a vocational training centre established by DACAAR. He learns to tailor, also reading and writing. He is now able to write as simple as his name and formation of words

"This was always only a dream in my life because I never thought I would be holding a pen between my fingers."

"DACAAR has changed my fate and future in a positive manner—not only for me but also for my wife and the rest of the family. I request DACAAR to continue their endeavours to train the vulnerable, jobless and uneducated youth keeping them away from fighting, conflict and irregular migration."



Mr. Ajab Gul resident of Nawabad Naqashi village, Kama district heads an 11 member family, five of whom are disabled.

"Earlier we did not know why we became sick so often. With the help of DACAAR Community led Total Sanitation staff and the good pictures and information they showed us, we understood where the problem lied. Now we take care of our disabled children better, trim their nails, change their cloths more often and more importantly, all the family members use the latrine as opposed to defecating outside".



Vegetable Farmer Field School (FFS), Qarghanee district, Laghman province.

MISSION, VISION AND VALUES

Our 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.

Our 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.

Our 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.

Our Values:

Efficiency | Honesty | Participation | Equity | Quality | Transparency

BASIC FACTS

Organisation name:

Danish Committee for Aid to Afghan Refugees (DACAAR)

Established:

1984

Registration:

Ministry of Economy of Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, Reg # 24
National Danish Register of Companies (CVR), Reg # 29902488

Governing Board:

Peder Thorning, Danish People's Aid (DPA)
Ole Frank Nielsen, The Danish Afghan Committee (DAC)
Mads Bugge Madsen, LO/FTF Council

Activities:

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene
Natural Resources Management
Small Scale Enterprise Development
Women's Empowerment
Citizens' Charter Afghanistan Project

Staff:

947 Staff (as of end December 2017)

Director:

John Morse, Main Office in Kabul

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www.dacaar.org