



DACAAR

Side by Side with the Afghan
People Since 1984

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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 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.

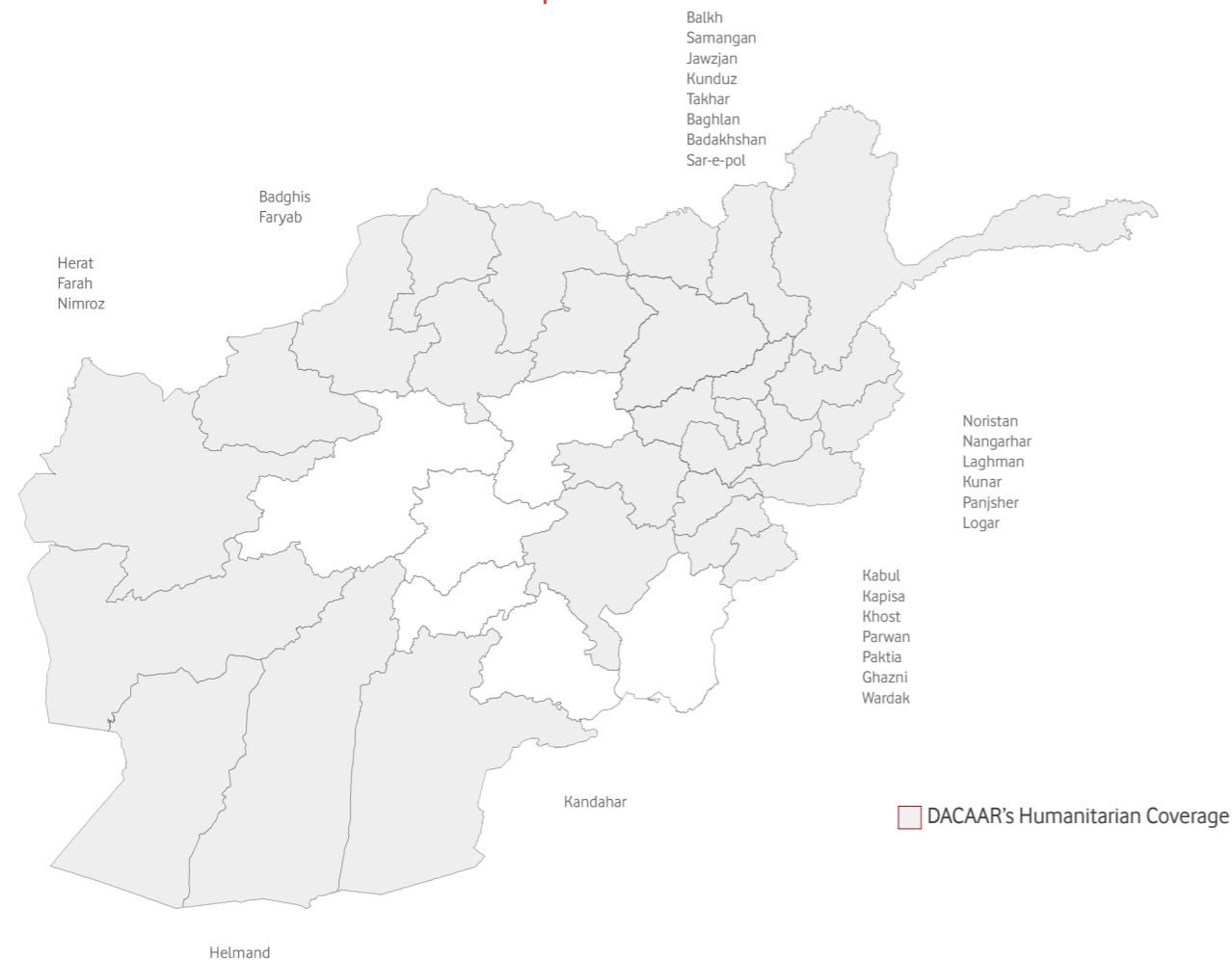
Our emergency response is aimed at life-saving in early stages of a crisis. We target internally displaced people and returning refugees, and communities affected by conflicts and natural disasters. Speed is key when responding to emergencies and we endeavour to be one of the first in responding to crisis in our targeted areas.

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 on sustainability in terms of real and positive changes of our beneficiaries' lives.

While maintaining our Danish roots, we are deeply embedded in the Afghan society. We are registered with the Afghan Ministry of Economy and have unprecedented access to Afghan communities. Over 11 million Afghans have benefited from our interventions since we started working in 1984.

Cover Photo
DACAAR's newly constructed tap, Injil district of Herat province.
Photo by: DACAAR/Zohal Nasrat

Geographical coverage Afghanistan



DIRECTOR'S INTRODUCTION



Photo by: DACAAR/ Jan Kjaer

John Morse

In 2018 I was immensely honored passing the 4th year milestone as director of DACAAR. By all accounts, the year was one of the most successful periods for our organisation. The reason why, I will try to describe below in brief;

I will start by mentioning the new grant agreements ensuring DACAAR continual support from Danida and the Royal Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The funding will meet the longer term humanitarian and developmental needs of our beneficiaries. I believe this support represents the trust and confidence of these two important donors in our staff and programming. Our ECHO funded Emergency Response Mechanism (ERM) project was also extended to consolidate our long-term partnership and to help ECHO reach the increasing number of IDP's WASH needs. The number has increased due to the conflict and natural disaster.

During the year, we enjoyed the continuation of the important partnership with UNICEF which has helped both of our organisations lead the way for the WASH sector by co-leading the WASH Cluster and by providing technical capacity building to the Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (MRRD), NGO partners and the private sector.

As a shift in our approach, we have now moved into consortiums as well. This move entails both benefits and challenges. I would like to thank our partners, DRC, NRC, Halo Trust and ACTED whom we have worked hard together with to make these joint ventures successful and a learning experience. I would also like to thank our donors, EU, DFID, The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands and UNOCHA (AHF) for supporting these initiatives. I know I have not mentioned all our donors, but I would like to take this opportunity to thank them all for their continued support for our programs.

Very sadly, 2018 saw a significant deterioration in the security situation. In fact, after spending many years in Afghanistan, this year, with the added confusion of the parliamentary elections, has left me very concerned by the uncertainty we will face in 2019. What makes me hopeful though is that by working with the communities that need our help and maintaining their support, they will help us in getting to the more insecure areas and will contribute to our staff's safety. This of course cannot be achieved without our staff, their hard work, courage and commitment, and I would like to reiterate that I do not take this for granted - DACAAR is our staff, and they are achieving great things for their country.

Last but not least, I would like to thank our Governing Board, and our Secretariat in Copenhagen for supporting us and for improving DACAAR's foot print in CPH, and among other things, organising the very successful "Waiting for Hope" exhibition and conference. My thanks also go to our National Senior Management Team and I would like to emphasize that nationalisation is just as important for DACAAR as it has ever been. A strong national management team supported by our small, but strong international team, is still the focus and considered the strength of DACAAR. This has proven to be the best way forward for access and continuity, trust from the donors, local elders, and the beneficiaries. It is the future for DACAAR staying and supporting Afghanistan's reconstruction for a long time to come.

The challenges are not over. The challenges may be even greater, but we are strong and will achieve our aim of building the foundations for a better Afghanistan.

2018 IN BRIEF



Direct Beneficiaries

983,508

498,620 Female | 484,888 Male

- Badakhshan
- Badghis
- Baghlan
- Balkh
- Farah
- Faryab
- Ghazni
- Herat
- Helmand
- Jawzjan
- Kabul
- Kandahar
- Kapisa
- Khost
- Kunar
- Kunduz
- Laghman
- Logar
- Nangarhar
- Nimroz
- Noristan
- Paktia
- Panjsher
- Parwan
- Samangan
- Sar-e-Pol
- Takhar
- Wardak

- DANIDA
- DFID
- Dutch MFA
- ECHO
- EU
- Halo Trust
- Landel Mills
- MRRD
- Norwegian MFA
- UNHCR
- UNICEF
- UNOCHA
- UNODC



DACAAR's emergency response in Qala-e-Now district of Badghis province, funded by ECHO/ERM.

In 2018, DACAAR assisted almost a million beneficiaries. This is a significant increase compared to 2017 where the number was 659,602. Helping the drought victims and addressing other emergencies are the main reasons for the increase.

260,725 of our beneficiaries were Internally Displaced People, 250,826 returnees, 1,007 refugees and 470,950 from host communities.

The list of interventions are quite impressive.

- 45,547 families (318,829 individuals) received hygiene education and hygiene kits, as part of WASH emergency response.
- 25,000 drought victims had access to safe drinking water distributed by water trucks.
- 479 new tube wells were constructed and fitted with hand pumps benefitting 128,345 individuals.
- 6,446 previously constructed water points were inspected for functionality.
- 622 water groups and 176 disaster management committees were formed.
- 4,275 farmers received training.

- 176 Farmer Field Schools were set up.
- 9 solar powered drinking water pipe schemes were installed in the Injil district in the Herat province. There was no drinking water before, and now more than 1,200 families have access to water.
- For the first time, saffron cultivation was successful in Khost province, the third province after Herat and Faryab.

In 2018, we again put great efforts into being active in a number of working groups, clusters and teams in order to network, share important information and improve the co-ordination.

We became a member of the Technical Advisory Committee for the drought response. We continued to be a very active member of the Agency Co-ordination Body for Afghan Relief and Development (ACBAR) and continued to be the Co-leader of the WASH Cluster, providing a dedicated person for this position. DACAAR also participated in Food Security and Agriculture Cluster meetings.

Director John Morse was again selected

to be a member of the Humanitarian Country Team as a NGO representative.

DACAAR is an active member of the Water and Sanitation Sectorial Group and is chairing the Water Technical Working Group.

We are also active in the Hygiene Education Technical working group, Sanitation Technical working group, the Gender Group, a member of the Humanitarian Access Group, and we are part of a team looking for sustainable solutions for returning refugees and Internally Displaced People (IDPs).

The challenges

The security situation in Afghanistan remains challenging. In 2018, we faced access problems due to the unstable security situation. Also, it is difficult to retain qualified staff in the unstable provinces. Non-professional contractors and suppliers, and lack of quality materials continue to be a problem in Afghanistan.

Sustainability of some of the projects is difficult to achieve, because of the prevailing security situation that leads to destruction of infrastructure, displacement of the populations and the communities not having the means to sustain the programmes and the government not having the will.

Funds spent 16 Million USD

Funds spent per donor

- European Commission Humanitarian Organization - ECHO 18%
- Danish International Development Agency - DANIDA 15%
- UN International Children's Emergency Fund - UNICEF 13%
- Department For International Development - DFID 12%
- UN Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs - UNOCHA 7%
- Citizen's Charter Afghanistan Project - CCAP 7%
- Other - visit www.dacaar.org/whowere 28%

Funds spent per thematic area, management and administration

- Water, Sanitation and Hygiene - WASH 51%
- Natural Resources Management - NRM 16%
- Small Scale Enterprise Development - SSED 12%
- Women's Empowerment - WE 3%
- Citizens' Charter Afghanistan Project - CCAP 7%
- Management and Administration 11%

Photo by: DACAAR/Zohal Nasrat



WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE

Injil district of Herat province.

“Before DACAAR had constructed this new well we suffered from different diseases like cholera and diarrhea. But after we received safe drinking water and hygiene education, we learned how and when to wash our hands, keep food safe from flies, and how to keep our children safe and treat them with hydration salts when they have diarrhea.”

Mr. Ghulam Rabani
Resident of the Ali Abad district of Kunduz province.
After the construction of the new well and receiving hygiene education, diseases have been reduced to almost zero in the community.

DACAAR's Water, Sanitation and Hygiene programme contributes to the following Sustainable Development Goals (SDG):



With more than three decades of experience, we have become known for being one of the largest Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) providers in Afghanistan and it is still our cornerstone programme.

In 2018, 618,499 Afghans (51% women) benefitted from our developmental and emergency WASH interventions.

During the year, Kama was the fifth district in Afghanistan to be open defecation free because of Community Led Total Sanitation (CLTS) managed by DACAAR. 6,815 traditional latrines were improved and 1,193 latrines newly built. All villagers, including children, use them properly and they know the importance of washing their hands. The CLTS interventions focus on behavioral change, so the community members avoid transmitting diseases such as diarrhea, cholera, malaria, typhoid, hepatitis etc.

Apart from some of the impressive achievements mentioned in the "2018 in brief chapter", 444 non-functional water points were rehabilitated benefitting 85,734 Afghans, 1,934 Biosand filters were distributed providing safe drinking water to 13,538 individuals and 1,111 stand posts were constructed, supported by 12 solar powered pipe schemes networks.

Despite insecurity and other challenges, we managed to conduct quality work and achieve the planned targets for all projects.

Emergency WASH

During the drought in 2018, DACAAR played a key role in providing emergency WASH assistance to affected Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in Herat, Badghis, Farah, Kandahar, Helmand and other parts of the country.

DACAAR provided support to around 4,000 drought affected IDPs in Herat.

Water is the most important component of DACAAR emergency WASH response. DACAAR's Emergency Response Mechanism (ERM) teams provided around 109,415,100 liters of safe drinking water through water trucking to 76,868 individuals – far above our target of 47,773 individuals.

Where possible and permitted by the government DACAAR constructed 27 tube wells to provide durable access to water for the above IDPs.

WASH challenges

The major challenges in 2018 were: The unstable security situation in all of DACAAR's working areas, increasing fighting between armed opposition groups and Afghan security forces, staff turnover and delayed and cumbersome processes of Memorandum of Understandings with government entities. In addition, we experienced long procurement processes of project material delaying project activities. Some goods and materials needed to be imported because they cannot be found in-country - or the quality is poor.

In 2018, snow caused roads to be blocked which delayed the supply of project material to the target regions.

Our emergency response has furthermore been challenged by lack of proper co-ordination of assessments by partners, which in some cases led to a delayed WASH response or no response at all.

Land issues were a challenge while planning the WASH response for the drought affected IDPs. Most land is private property and owners did not allow DACAAR to construct wells. We had to use water trucks longer than planned.

Direct Beneficiaries
618,499
317,703 Female | 300,796 Male

- Badakhshan
- Badghis
- Baghlan
- Balkh
- Farah
- Faryab
- Ghazni
- Herat
- Helmand
- Juzjan
- Kapisa
- Kabul
- Kandahar
- Khost
- Kunar
- Kunduz
- Laghman
- Logar
- Nangarhar
- Nimroz
- Noristan
- Paktia
- Panjsher
- Parwan
- Samangan
- Sar-e-Pol
- Takhar
- Wardak

- DANIDA
- DFID
- ECHO
- Halo Trust
- Landel Mills
- Norwegian MFA
- UNOCHA
- UNICEF

■ Groundwater Monitoring

DACAAR is not only leading in WASH interventions in Afghanistan, but also in technology.

In 2018, we started piloting a reverse osmosis and ultra-filtration system in Kabul to remove salinity and chemical content from groundwater. If successful, this will become a system of choice for many communities in Afghanistan who suffer from groundwater salinity and harmful chemical content.

550 water samples from Groundwater Monitoring Wells (GMWs) were collected and water quality analyses were performed.

90 new GMWs were selected and modified in Herat, Farah, Badghis, Kandahar, Zabul, Helmand, Jawzjan Kunduz, Sarepol, Balkh, Baghlan, Takhar, Samangan and Badakhshan provinces.

Our WASH approach combines safe water, proper sanitation and hygiene education. It has proved to be highly effective in reducing mortality from water-borne diseases and in enhancing overall quality of life. Through the WASH programme:

- 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 condition by constructing and maintaining environmentally friendly and sanitary latrines and by improving hygienic behavior and standards.
- 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.

■ Water Expertise and Training Centre

In 2018, DACAAR provided 28 different WASH related training sessions for government employees, NGOs and staff from other organisations. Around 450 individuals participated.

To ensure the quality of the construction of rural water supply systems, DACAAR developed two new training packages (solar-powered water supply, and quality guidelines and construction materials specifications) and updated the two existing ones. All training material was translated into the local languages.

Another major success was the piloting of the Water Safety Plan (WSP) for three different water supply technologies (borehole fitted with hand pump, solar-powered pumping water supply system and gravity-fed piped water supply network). All three pilots were successfully implemented in cooperation with ongoing Community Led Total Sanitation (CLTS) projects.

The experiences and lessons learned were presented at the SACOSAN-7 conference in Islamabad, Pakistan.

It took time to complete the WSP booklets for three different water supply technologies. However, the final booklets turned out great and were well received by the communities and the CLTS promoters and played a major role in the communities during the WSP pilot implementation.

“In Afghanistan, DACAAR is the only organisation which can enhance the knowledge of the engineers at the Agha Khan Foundation.”

Mr. Rameen Aryan

An engineer working for Agha Khan Foundation in Baghlan province, attended the solar powered water supply network training workshop at DACAAR.

Training at DACAAR's WET Centre in Kabul



Photo by: DACAAR/WASH



Photo by: DACAAR/WASH

NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT



Direct Beneficiaries

4,754

987 Female | 3,767 Male

- Balkh
- Farah
- Faryab
- Herat
- Kabul
- Kandahar
- Khost
- Kunduz
- Nimroz

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



Training in saffron harvesting in Shirin Tagab district of Faryab province.

Photo by: DACAAR/NRM

Drought was a major challenge for the Natural Resources Management programme in many provinces in 2018.

Around 30% of the fruit tree saplings in newly established orchards dried out in Herat, Kunduz and Khost provinces. The saplings were replaced and replanted. Around 80% of haloxylon, atriplex and tamarix saplings dried out in the Nimroz province.

Apart from the drought, the programme was successful. We improved the relation between farmers and the local markets and as a result, the farmers were able to get good prices on the market for their produce.

New types of orchards were established. For instance, sweet orange orchards were successfully planted in the Khost province.

For the first time, we constructed grape drying houses in Herat and Faryab provinces.

There were new developments concerning livestock. We constructed silage bunkers in Faryab province in order to conserve fodder.

The Farmer Field School (FFS) programme achieved the following in 2018:

5 vegetable, 5 cereal crop, 8 orchard, 5 saffron, 5 livestock and 3 poultry FFSs were implemented in Herat and Kunduz provinces. A total of 1,240 farmers participated.

7 vegetable, 4 saffron and 2 orchard FFSs were implemented in Khost province reaching 260 farmers.

3 vegetable, 2 cereal crop, 1 saffron, 2 orchard, 1 fruit and non-fruit tree nursery and 2 livestock FFSs were successfully implemented in Balkh province covering 220 farmers.

Furthermore, we established 32 greenhouse with drip irrigation structures, rehabilitated or established 563 orchards and vineyards and provided training to 192 pistachio farmers.

3 small scale irrigation structures, 3 canal linings and 6 water dividers were constructed in Kabul and in Balkh.

Integrated home-based farming and food processing activities were implemented in Herat and Kandahar, covering a total of 910 beneficiaries

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

- 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 stabilisation 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.

“ I was a gardener before DACAAR’s intervention. I cultivated grapes, apricots and peaches in one orchard. DACAAR taught me not to cultivate all of them in one field to enable better pest control. Every tree has its own pest. Water usage was another area, I learned a lot in. Some trees need more, others less water. Some trees are good in one climate, others are not. With those instructions, I am keeping my orchards separate now. For example, I am planting peaches and apricots in different orchards. ”

Amir Khan

From Naw Abad district of Kunduz province.

DACAAR’s Natural Resources Management programme contributes to the following Sustainable Development Goals (SDG):



Waiting for hope

'Waiting for Hope', a collaboration between DACAAR and the Danish Refugee Council, gave voice to the vulnerable and marginalised in Afghanistan through a photo exhibition, conference and a public debate. The event took place in Copenhagen, Denmark, September 10th to 15th 2018.

French photographer, Sandra Calligaro officially opened the "Waiting for Hope" exhibition. She visited nine provinces in Afghanistan to describe the lives of the displaced and vulnerable Afghan people and to document humanitarian aid efforts.

'Waiting for Hope' also reached an audience that are new to Afghanistan and Danish development aid; 90 young students and teachers at the creative academy AFUK listened to DACAAR's Director John Morse explaining how DACAAR, despite the volatile situation, is able to assist hundreds of thousands of Afghans.

A debate meeting about the media coverage of Afghanistan was held with 45 participants and an all-female panel of five women.

The suffering of the Afghan people should not be forgotten and humanitarian aid should be increased. These were some of the headlines at the 'Waiting for Hope' conference focusing on what works and what doesn't in Afghanistan.

Ulla Tørnæs, Danish Minister for Development Cooperation, said that Afghanistan will need international backing for many years to come in terms of humanitarian assistance, development co-operation and security support: "The international community will need to be persistent and patient in order to consolidate progress - to the benefit of the Afghan people, but also to the benefit of Denmark and Europe. Denmark is strongly committed to this," she said.

Irene Horejs, Head of Unit at ECHO, said that for the EU, Afghanistan is the most important recipient of bilateral aid, and there is a need to tell the public what work is being carried out. "We must keep Afghanistan visible," she stressed.

Read more about the Waiting for Hope week here: https://www.dacaar.org/functions/pages/4_W4H_Week.php



SMALL SCALE ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT



Direct Beneficiaries

1,914

928 Female | 986 Male

- Balkh
- Farah
- Faryab
- Herat
- Kabul
- Kandahar
- EU
- DANIDA
- DFID
- Dutch MFA
- Khost
- Kunduz
- Laghman
- Nimroz
- Noristan
- Norwegian MFA
- UNHCR
- UNODC



DACAAR's trainee who opened his own carpentry workshop in Bagrami district of Kabul province.

In 2018, one of the major achievements in this programme was the completion of the data base that enables us to follow up on our training participants to see how they benefitted from the vocational training.

A total of 1,366 unemployed male and female individuals graduated from the vocational skills training programme and received toolkits and business startup grants. The following vocational skills training were taught: tailoring, curtain making, motor bike repairing, embroidery, carpet weaving, carpentry, mobile phone repairing and sewing of bags.

More than 80% of the graduates have started their own businesses and receive a monthly income.

DACAAR trained 548 members of the Producer Associations on Community Management, Good Governance, Business Plan Development, Marketing and the Formation of Associations.

The key challenges in 2018 were delays in starting the vocational training programmes in Kandahar and Herat because the coordination with relevant governmental departments at provincial level did not work as planned.

In Faryab province, insecurity affected our vocational training programmes and stopped activities for a while and in Nuristan province programme implementation was delayed because we could not gain access.

DACAAR assists rural farmers and youths to engage in small businesses.

We help farmers establish Producer Associations in order to engage in collective production, processing, packaging and marketing.

We deliver market driven vocational trainings to unemployed and unskilled youths, male and female.

We support graduates with toolkits, business start-up grants and follow up technical support in order to start their own small businesses or find employment.

“ Before the training, I was working for about 300 Afs per day, and it was not enough, so my family had a lot of economic problems. As part of the vocational training, I learned carpentry skills. After 6 months I graduated and got a certificate. Now I earn between 1,000 to 1,500 AFs per day. And I have trained two students as apprentices who are working for me now. ”

Mr. Ajab Khan

is a returnee from Pakistan who lives in a household with 14 family members, 6 females and 8 males. They live in Haji Munji, a small village in the Bagrami district, Kabul province.

DACAAR's SSED programme contributes to the following Sustainable Development Goals (SDG):



Photo by: DACAAR/Zohal Nasrat



WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT

DACAAR's beneficiaries packing and selling their home-made cookies and cakes, Injil district of Herat province.

“ I now grow my own vegetables in my kitchen garden. I know the temperature of the greenhouse, how to control diseases and pests, and how to use different types of liquid fertilizers. I will continue growing vegetables inside and outside the greenhouse. My future plan is to expand my greenhouse and encourage other women to grow their own vegetables and thus support their families.

Last year was good. We sold one bag of cucumbers (9 kg each) for 120 Afs, but this year we could sell one bag only for 30 to 40 Afs because the security situation was not good, and we have no storage facilities.

Mrs. Kaftar
A woman with six family members started growing cucumbers in a greenhouse that was installed by DACAAR. The family lives in the Zoreya village in the Farah province. With the money earned from the sale of the produce, she has been able to pay back all her debts, as well as, purchase some sheep.

In 2018, programme enabled the female participants of the Farmer Fields Schools to find markets to sell their produce. With more income, women are empowered.

The women were taught new techniques. 160 women, for example, were trained in home-based poultry production. In addition, 120 women received training and inputs in food and income generation.

The green house activities were successful and women were able to grow produce during all four seasons. In the Herat province, some women are now linked to a company called Chime Kishawarz and are cultivating Aloe Vera. Now they are earning up to 40,000 Afs each season.

The literacy programme was also successful and 125 participants graduated. In addition, 120 women received training and inputs in food and income generation.

On March 8th, 900 DACAAR staff and female stakeholders attended the International Women's Day celebrations.

The challenges are: the security situation, lack of literacy and

education and the local culture which does not always allow women to work outside the home. Many women are not allowed to go to markets to sell their products. Furthermore, men will often have a say in choosing the female beneficiaries for a specific program.

Especially in Faryab province, we are facing security problems, fights are ongoing and our field staff does not have access to some project locations.

In Kabul, there are challenges getting documents signed by the government, delaying the process of registering projects.

In Nimroz province, there are climate and environmental issues impacting the programme. The salty ground water effects agriculture and stormy weather has destroyed greenhouses several times.

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 for women and girls to help increase Afghan women's influence and livelihoods.

The auspices of the Women's Resource Centres are the very core of interventions for women as the self-organised collectives manage to create an abundance

of opportunities for women to participate in income-generating activities as well as targeting educational and capacity building activities.

The centres allow women from rural areas 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, share insights and knowledge and support each other.

DACAAR's Women's Empowerment programme contributes to the following Sustainable Development Goals (SDG):



Direct Beneficiaries

1,511

731 Female | 780 Male

- Balkh
- Farah
- Faryab
- Herat
- Kabul
- Kundoz
- Nimroz

- DANIDA
- DFID
- Dutch MFA
- Norwegian MFA
- UNODC



Direct Beneficiaries

356,830

178,271 Female | 178,559 Male

- Kunar
- Nuristan
- Laghman

- Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (MRRD)



CITIZENS' CHARTER AFGHANISTAN PROJECT

DACAAR working with a community in Kunar province on "Resource Mapping", a tool of CCAP.

Photo by: DACAAR/CCAP

In 2018, one major development was that women's involvement increased in the Citizens' Charter Afghanistan Project (CCAP). As a result, we are now able to have female organisers working with women which has made the outcome more efficient.

However, in some areas women's participation among the beneficiaries still continues to be a challenge. Men were trying to stop women's participation in Nuristan and in some districts of the Kunar province.

DACAAR reached 356,830 beneficiaries in the Laghman, Nuristan and Kunar provinces in 2018.

The coordination of activities is very important as a lot of different organisations and government agencies are participating in the

project. Clustering is a complicated process, but was successfully conducted. We established 112 clusters in the three target provinces.

246 community elections were conducted and 351 community development plans were completed.

Despite the deteriorating security situation in Afghanistan, we managed to expand our activities to new communities, but in other places we were unable to continue our work. DACAAR had to withdraw from 56 Community Development Councils because of the security situation.

DACAAR is a facilitating partner in three provinces in the Citizens' Charter Afghanistan Project, that aims at building united villages, urban communities and cities, improving the relationship between the Government and its people and reducing poverty by providing basic services.

Community Development Councils lead the development process and make sure that all men, women, and children are included in development initiatives and activities.

DACAAR's role is extensive community mobilisation, facilitating the election of Community Development Council leadership and establishment of sub-committees and clusters.

We assist in capacity building on project management, proposal development, conflict resolution, finance & accounting, procurement, monitoring and other relevant areas.

In Afghanistan it is not uncommon for people get into enormous debts in order to pay for big wedding receptions which are traditional and culturally expected. The CCAP is trying to change the attitude in order to mitigate poverty in rural communities.

“ Me and my family have reduced the amount of money spent on wedding parties. My daughter got married and we had a small wedding reception. I also did not want a dowry from the groom. Before CCAP, wedding parties started in the afternoon but my daughter's started in the evening. We did not spend a lot of money on food, because I invited fewer people. After I did that I noticed that others follow the example. ”

Abdul Rahman

Community Development Council (CDC) member in Mehterlam district of Wardak province.

DACAAR's Citizens' Charter Afghanistan Project programme contributes to the following Sustainable Development Goals (SDG):



DEVELOPING DACAAR

At the end of 2018, 1,029 national and 6 international employees worked for DACAAR in Afghanistan, three in Copenhagen. Not the highest number in the organisation's history, but the highest in recent years.

The number of female employees continues to rise, and DACAAR is putting great effort into hiring female candidates for any available position in the organization.

During 2018, 16 female interns participated in our female internship programme. Three interns got permanent jobs in the organization.

Interns in DACAAR are working in different areas of the organisation which helps them to start a career in or outside DACAAR.

Capacity building - a corner stone

Capacity building of our employees continues to have a high priority. Applicants often state that DACAAR's training and capacity building is one of the main reasons that they are applying for a job in the organisation.

In 2018, the HR team provided the following trainings:

- Induction/Fraud & Anti-Corruption Policy Awareness
- Effective Communications and Feedback Skills
- Project, Financial and General Management
- Social Organisation
- Monitoring and Evaluation
- Report Writing
- Basic Guard Training
- Safety/Security & First Aid Training
- Basic Medical Trauma handling

Challenges

Due to the lack qualified people and due to the unstable security situation, the Human Resource team had to advertise some of the vacant positions twice, and in some cases even three times.

The security situation as an external factor is still a big challenge for DACAAR and it sometimes prevents us from providing timely support for our beneficiaries. So does lack of experienced suppliers.

Lengthy processing of paper work in the government departments is another challenge.



“We are nine young females in our family and I am the only female who completed education and is working. I have become a role model in my family, and my uncle says to his daughters to study and become like me.”

Roqia Muzafari

One of six women who was hired by DACAAR as intern in September 2018. She is now employed at DACAAR as a Database Assistant.

A LOOK INTO THE FUTURE

For Afghanistan, 2019 will be one of the most challenging years from both a security and political point of view.

Peace talks will continue. Presidential and district council elections will take place and many obstacles are to be expected. The elections as well as the ongoing peace process can be a game changer - to the better or worse. We will continue operating as usual and keep our neutrality and impartiality.

It is predicted that the severe drought, we have seen in 2018 will continue to have an impact, as will other climate change factors make the living conditions further complicated for the Afghans. We will continue to be flexible and agile when operating in these changing environments.

The risk of donor fatigue

For DACAAR, the budget for 2019 is already secured based on our good performance in 2018.

Despite the uncertainties, we will face in 2019, we have already started to work on how we will cope with certain situations and

scenarios and how we can still stay and support the people of Afghanistan. If we continue to get access to areas where the need is, achieve what we have agreed to with the beneficiaries and donors, focus on quality, we have confidence that we will get through another challenging year.

New funding opportunities from international donors and private sector funds will be investigated.

We are aware that Afghanistan's need for continuous support has fatigued the donor countries, but the need has certainly not decreased. On the contrary, DACAAR meets this challenge by keeping relevant and advocating for more assistance to the Afghan people.

New partners

More focus will be on Planning, Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (PMEL), as we want to document and communicate what we have achieved more sufficiently, learn from it and incorporate lessons learned into our programmes.

Possibilities to work with new partners are on the agenda in the next year. Our dialogue with the Danish Technical University started late 2018, and we are working on making it a long-term cooperation to benefit the people in Afghanistan.

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

OUR COMMUNITY BASED APPROACH

DACAAR works directly with Afghan communities through Community Development Councils, Village Shuras, District Development Assemblies and other relevant community structures. Together we mobilize, organise and support communities to take ownership and drive interventions, identify needs, set priorities and acquire skills and capacity in project planning and implementation.

This approach is aimed at ensuring that interventions are sustainable, as well as making the beneficiaries accountable for a long-term impact.

Community based structures, various forms of management committees are established throughout the project implementation. These committees take over the responsibility for the management, operation and maintenance of the project from the time DACAAR hands over the project to the community.



Photo by: DACAAR/Zohal Nasrat

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Secretariat in Denmark:

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BASIC FACTS

Organisation name:

Danish Committee for Aid to Afghan Refugees (DACAAR)

Established: 1984	Staff: 1,029 national staff and 6 international staff (as of end December 2018)	Director: John Morse
		Head of Secretariat: Klaus Løkkegaard

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 Afghanistan 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



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The Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs



Finland
Euroopan Unionin
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United Nations
Office for the
Coordination of
Humanitarian Affairs



UKaid
With the United Kingdom



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UNHCR
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For more information please visit:
www.dacaar.org

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