



DACAAR

Annual Report

Side by Side with the Afghan people

www.dacaar.org

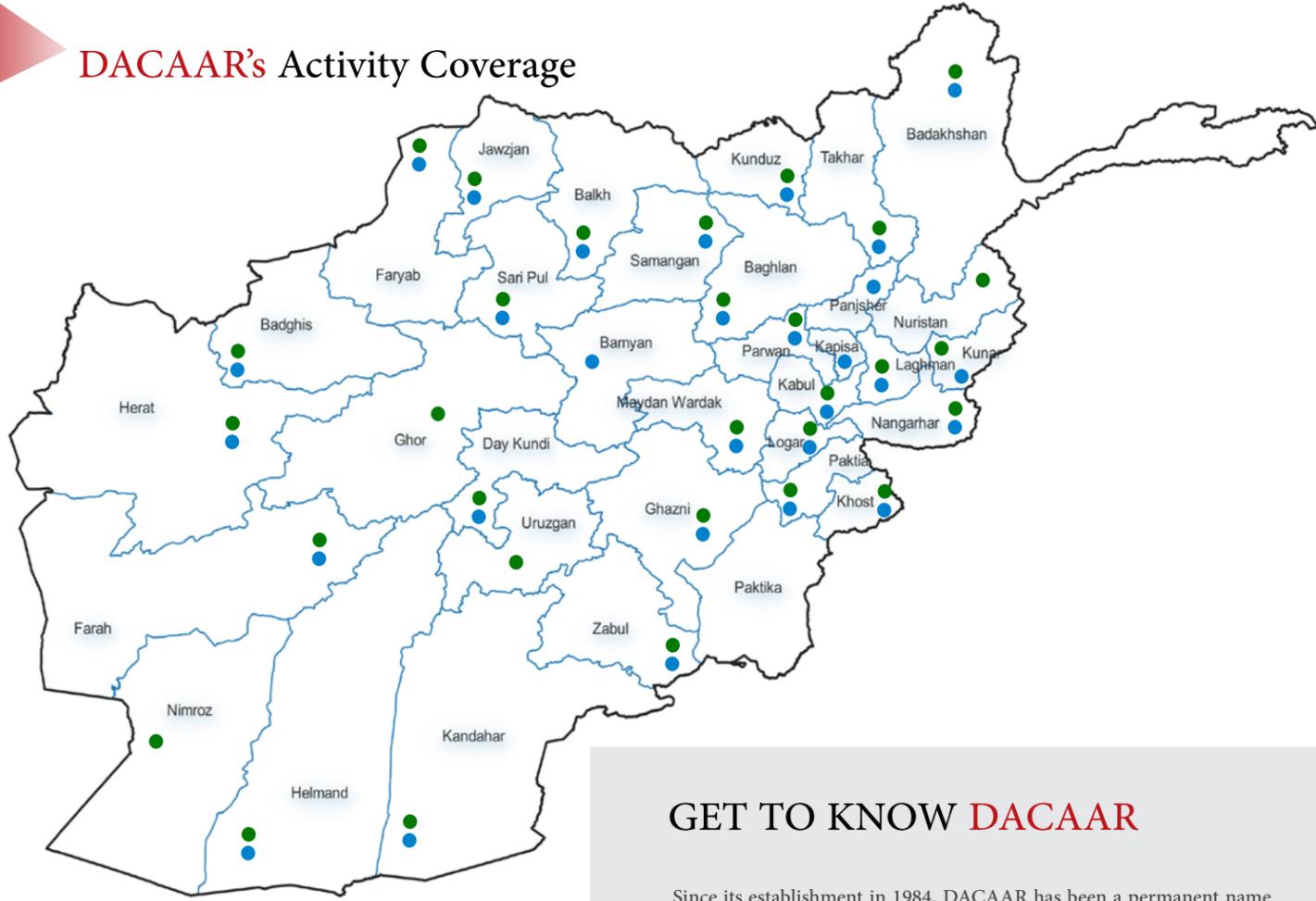
2024



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1 DACAAR's Activity Coverage



DACAAR's Coverage Provinces

- DACAAR's projects
- DACAAR's Ground Water Monitoring (GWM) activities

GET TO KNOW DACAAR

Since its establishment in 1984, DACAAR has been a permanent name in the humanitarian and development sectors in Afghanistan. As an apolitical, non-governmental, and non-profit organization. It works to improve the lives of the Afghan people by addressing the acute needs of the most vulnerable and supporting early recovery and sustainable development for all.

DACAAR's emergency response interventions aim at life-saving in early stages of a crisis targeting internally displaced people, returning refugees, and communities affected by conflicts and natural disasters. Over the past years, DACAAR has endeavored to be among the first responders to people affected by shocks across Afghanistan.

DACAAR's early recovery and developmental interventions are aimed at building resilience, enhancing capacity and improving livelihoods for protracted internally displaced people, returnees and their vulnerable host communities. We apply a holistic and integrated approach to our interventions with an emphasis on sustainability and real and positive changes for our beneficiaries. We consider our beneficiaries as the most important stakeholders and the main drivers of our interventions.

While maintaining our Danish roots, we are deeply embedded in the Afghan society and have access and long-term relationships with thousands of communities across all 34 provinces of Afghanistan.

2 WHAT DACAAR STANDS FOR

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 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.

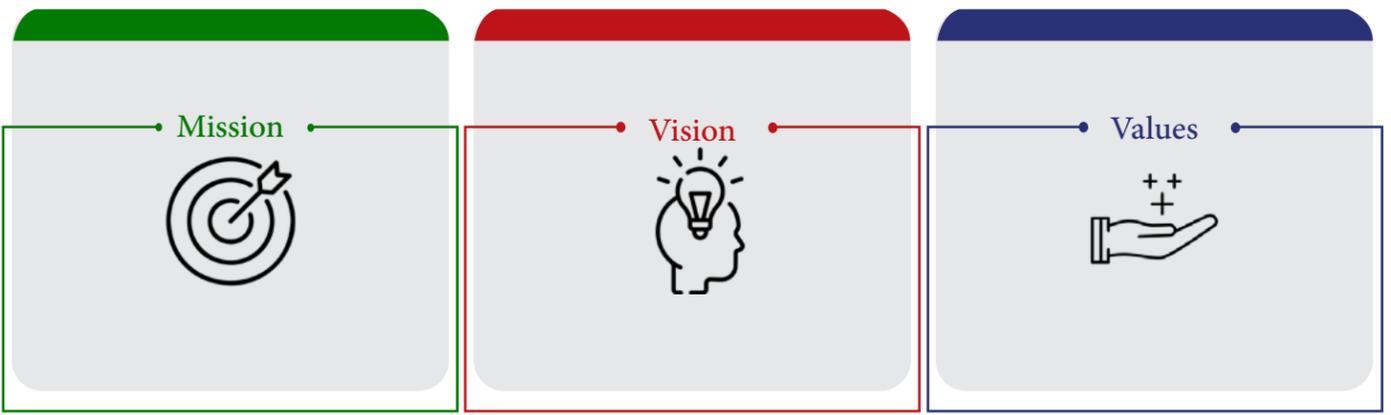
Our Values

Efficiency | Honesty | Participation | Equity | Quality | Transparency

Our Community Based Approach

DACAAR works directly with Afghan communities through Mosque/Masjid Committees, Community Working Groups, 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.

DACAAR





Message from the Secretary General

This Annual Report signifies a significant milestone for DACAAR, marking our 40th year of impactful presence in Afghanistan. Established in 1984 in response to the refugee crisis, our journey has evolved into a remarkable success story within the international humanitarian landscape.

Over the past decade, both international and national NGOs have faced unprecedented challenges due to shifting contexts and external factors, complicating service delivery for development projects and humanitarian responses. Despite these global adversities, DACAAR has demonstrated resilience and adaptability, expanding our outreach to vulnerable communities across Afghanistan.

In 2024, we successfully implemented programs in over 30 provinces, exemplifying the collective efforts of our dedicated team, generous donors, and resilient communities. These three pillars are integral to the success of DACAAR's country program. Our interventions have yielded tangible, long-term impacts, empowering communities to enhance their living conditions and fostering hope for a better future in partnership with DACAAR and local entities.

Looking forward, DACAAR is prepared to develop a comprehensive strategic plan for 2025-2027, currently underway. This strategy will address the urgent challenges confronting the Afghan population, maintaining a continued focus on our WASH programs, advancing Natural Resource Management in agricultural initiatives, and expanding Enterprise Development Projects designed to provide secure livelihoods for marginalized groups, including women and youth, throughout the program cycle.

DACAAR will also prioritize Climate Change Resilience and Adaptation. In conjunction with these thematic areas, DACAAR will undertake a

comprehensive review of its internal systems to enhance accountability and operational efficiency.

DACAAR remains committed to supporting the Afghan returnee process, implementing both short-term and long-term projects in close coordination with stakeholders.

DACAAR extends its heartfelt gratitude to all its donors and supporters, without whom DACAAR could not achieve its mission. Our meaningful partnerships with various organizations, both within and outside Afghanistan, ensure that our resources are utilized effectively.

My hope for Afghanistan is that, despite the numerous challenges it faces, stability, poverty alleviation, and improved living conditions for all Afghans will ultimately become a reality.

DACAAR Secretary General
Klaus Løkkegaard

DACAAR INTERVENTIONS IN BRIEF

DACAAR implements a range of emergency relief, early recovery, and development interventions in Afghanistan. These initiatives are tailored to the specific needs and priorities of each targeted community, allowing DACAAR to deliver activities in an integrated manner that ensures the best outcomes for beneficiaries. Currently, DACAAR operates in the following sectors:



WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE

With nearly four decades of experience, DACAAR is recognized as one of the major providers of Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene services in Afghanistan.



NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

DACAAR's Natural Resource Management interventions primarily focus on agriculture and livestock.



SMALL-SCALE ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT

DACAAR's interventions focus on promoting business development and enhancing employment opportunities for youth and farmers.

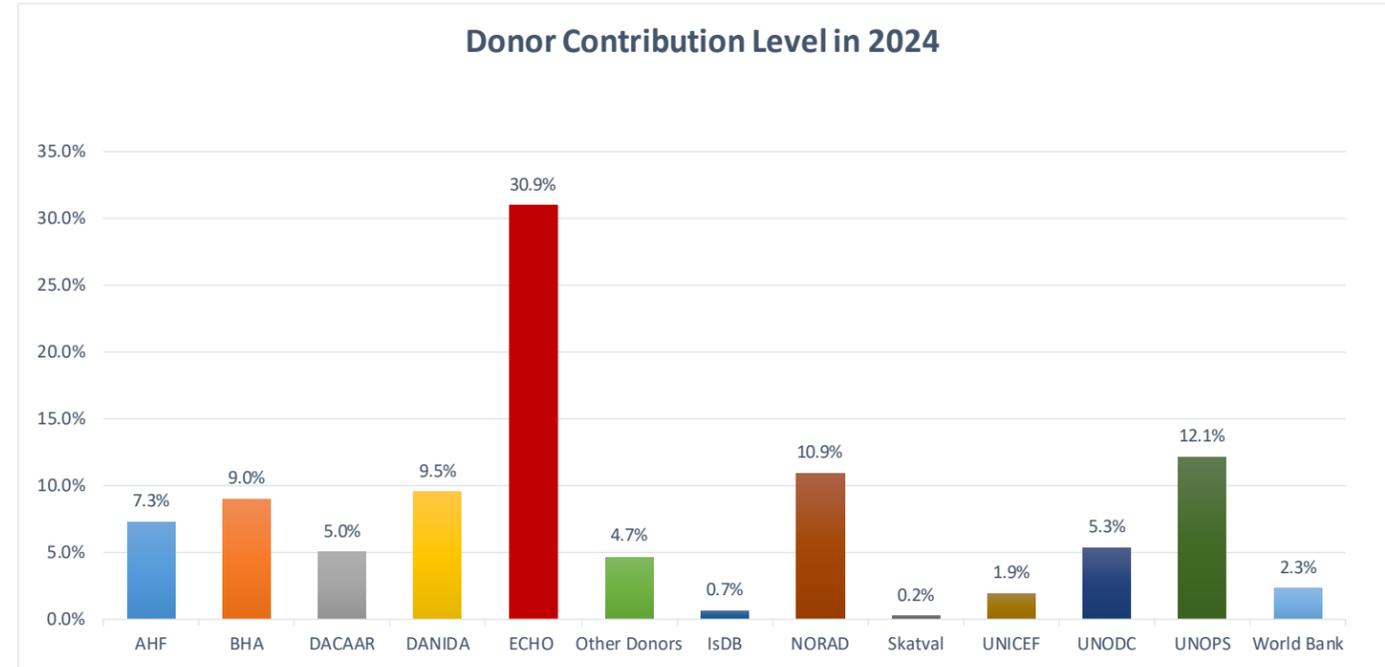


WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT

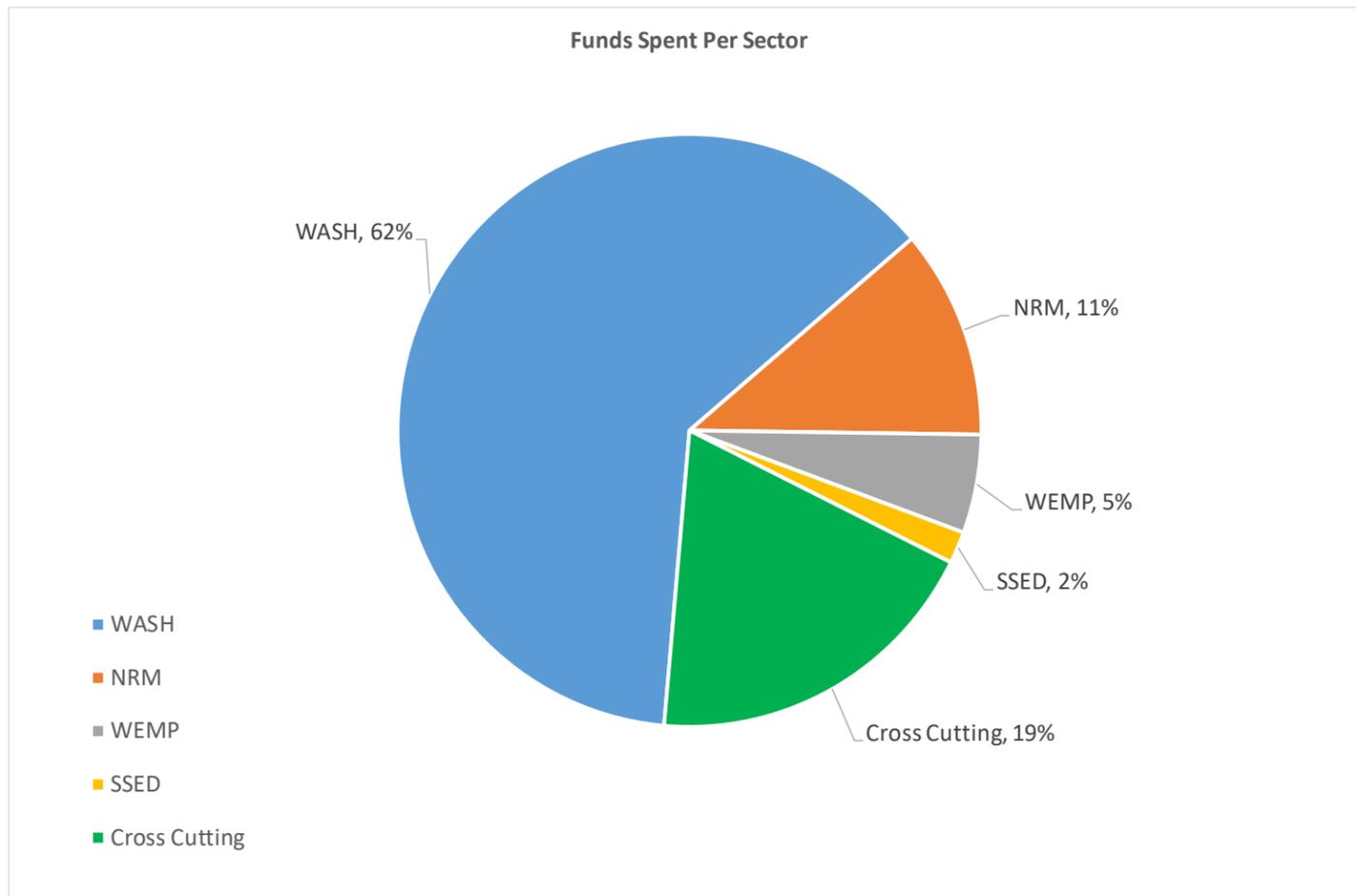
DACAAR is committed to providing critical support to vulnerable women and women-headed families, enabling them to secure sustainable livelihoods and actively participate in their communities' economic growth.



2024 IN BRIEF



Funds Spent Per Sector



- AHF: Afghanistan Humanitarian Fund
- BHA: Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance
- DACAAR: DACAAR Reserve Fund
- DANIDA: Danish International Development Agency
- ECHO: European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations
- IsDB: Islamic Development Bank
- NMFA-Norad: Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- UNICEF: United Nation's International Children's Emergency Fund
- UNODC: United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
- UNOPS: United Nations Office for Project Service

| Direct Beneficiaries | Male Beneficiaries | Female Beneficiaries |
|----------------------|--------------------|-------------------------|
| 1,487,062 | 734,912 | 752,150 |
| IDPs | Returnees | Host Communities |
| 59,482 | 29,742 | 1,397,838 |



Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

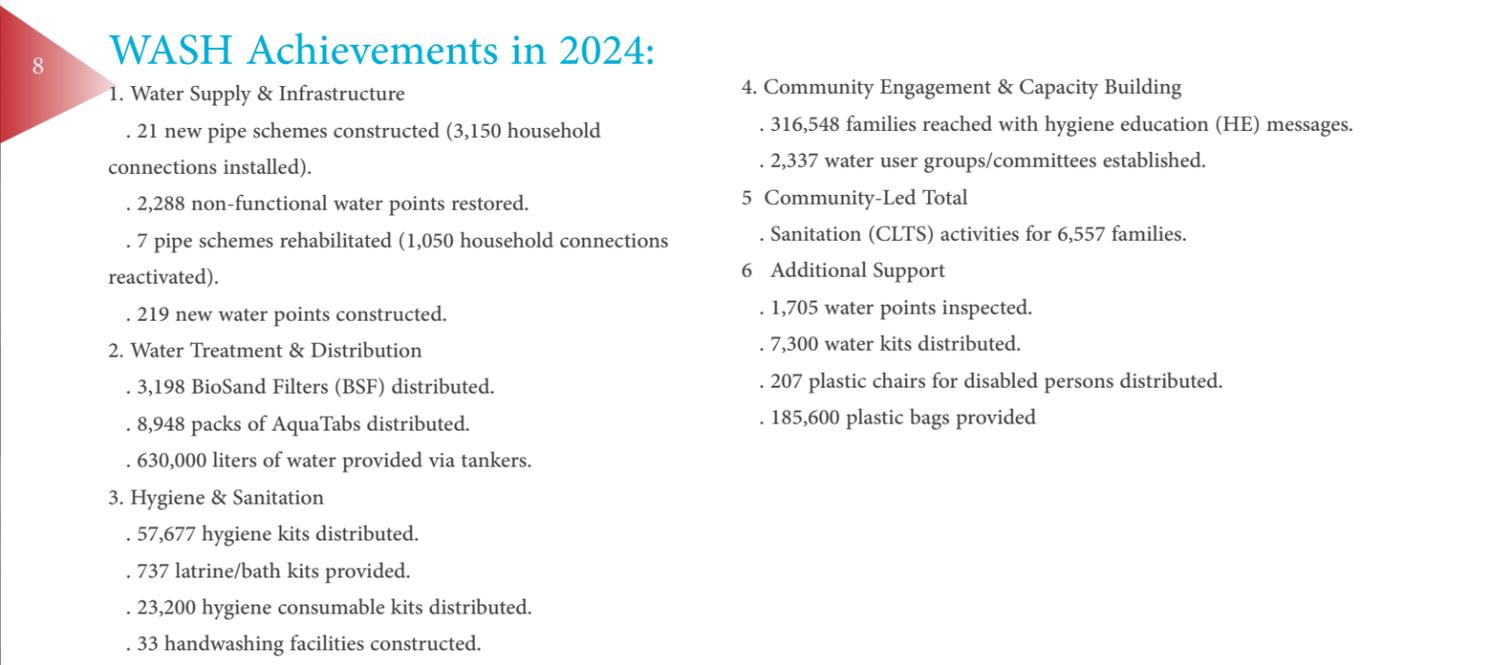
Providing access to safe drinking water, hygiene and sanitation are vital to human health and well-being. Safe WASH is not only essential to health, but it also contributes to livelihoods, school attendance and dignity and helps to create robust communities living in safe and healthy. DACAAR WASH Interventions aim at improving health and quality of life among Afghan communities. Limited access to safe drinking water for households, combined with a lack of knowledge about good hygiene practices and the unavailability of proper sanitation facilities, is a major cause of waterborne diseases in Afghan households. This leads to serious illnesses that disproportionately affects children and other at-risk groups. Throughout 2024, DACAAR worked tirelessly to meet the growing demand for WASH services across the country. Due to escalating needs, DACAAR significantly expanded its WASH interventions to assist large numbers of natural disaster-affected host communities, returnees, and to some extent of IDPs facing economic hardship. DACAAR successfully completed WASH project in hard to reach area. However, due to the unwavering commitment of DACAAR staff and strong support from partner communities, the WASH team successfully reached beneficiaries in 29 provinces in Afghanistan.

DACAAR's main project activities focused on providing access to safe drinking water, hygienic bathing facilities, and improved latrines.

In addition, delivering hygiene messages and distributing hygiene kits door-to-door were key components of DACAAR's WASH interventions, aimed at improving the health and well-being of Afghan families—particularly women, children, persons with disabilities, and other at-risk groups.

DACAAR maintained its position as a leading WASH service provider in Afghanistan. It continued to play a key role in improving WASH interventions by co-leading the WASH Cluster with UNICEF, participating in national and sub-national WASH working groups, and conducting regular training seminars on sector best practices at our Water Expertise and Training Center (WETC).

| Direct Beneficiaries | Male Beneficiaries | Female Beneficiaries |
|----------------------|--------------------|-------------------------|
| 485,040 | 232,488 | 252,552 |
| IDPs | Returnees | Host Communities |
| 19,402 | 9,700 | 455,938 |



WASH Achievements in 2024:

- Water Supply & Infrastructure**
 - . 21 new pipe schemes constructed (3,150 household connections installed).
 - . 2,288 non-functional water points restored.
 - . 7 pipe schemes rehabilitated (1,050 household connections reactivated).
 - . 219 new water points constructed.
- Water Treatment & Distribution**
 - . 3,198 BioSand Filters (BSF) distributed.
 - . 8,948 packs of AquaTabs distributed.
 - . 630,000 liters of water provided via tankers.
- Hygiene & Sanitation**
 - . 57,677 hygiene kits distributed.
 - . 737 latrine/bath kits provided.
 - . 23,200 hygiene consumable kits distributed.
 - . 33 handwashing facilities constructed.
- Community Engagement & Capacity Building**
 - . 316,548 families reached with hygiene education (HE) messages.
 - . 2,337 water user groups/committees established.
- Community-Led Total**
 - . Sanitation (CLTS) activities for 6,557 families.
- Additional Support**
 - . 1,705 water points inspected.
 - . 7,300 water kits distributed.
 - . 207 plastic chairs for disabled persons distributed.
 - . 185,600 plastic bags provided

WASH SDGs



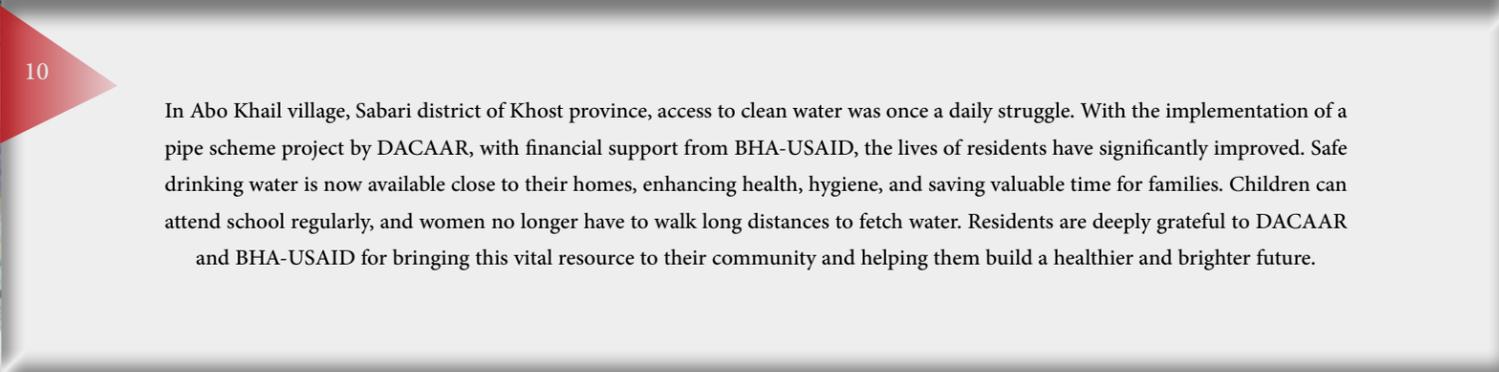
Provinces Covered

- Kabul
- Kunar
- Nangarhar
- Laghman
- Nooristan
- Nimruz
- Parwan
- Ghazni
- Wardak
- Dykundi
- Khost
- Logar
- Paktia
- Paktika
- Kunduz
- Takhar
- Baghlan
- Samangan
- Balkh
- Farah
- Jawzjan
- Faryab
- Sar-e-pul
- Herat
- Badghis
- Kandahar
- Helmand
- Zabul
- Ghor



Access to clean water has transformed the lives of residents in Lamatak village, Narang district, Kunar province. Previously, families struggled daily to obtain safe drinking water, and many children suffered from waterborne diseases.

With financial support from DANIDA, DACAAR's intervention has provided the community with a reliable solar-powered water supply system. Now, clean water flows directly to their homes, significantly improving health, hygiene, and overall well-being.



In Abo Khail village, Sabari district of Khost province, access to clean water was once a daily struggle. With the implementation of a pipe scheme project by DACAAR, with financial support from BHA-USAID, the lives of residents have significantly improved. Safe drinking water is now available close to their homes, enhancing health, hygiene, and saving valuable time for families. Children can attend school regularly, and women no longer have to walk long distances to fetch water. Residents are deeply grateful to DACAAR and BHA-USAID for bringing this vital resource to their community and helping them build a healthier and brighter future.

Water Expertise and Training Center

DACAAR WET Center played a very important role in building the capacity of the DACAAR and other WASH stakeholders as well as assuring access to safe quality of water through conducting different physical, chemical and bacteriological tests of water points. The great achievements of DACAAR WET Center during 2024 were the following:

- In 2024, DACAAR WET Center conducted 22 different water supply, sanitation and health promotion training workshops and as a result 561 employees of WASH service providers received updated training on WASH.
- Through the WET Centre's Water Quality Testing Laboratory, DACAAR conducted a total of 3,882 physicals, 3,858 bacteriological, and 1,050 chemical water quality tests for DACAAR rehabilitated and constructed water points, groundwater monitoring well, and as well as external constructed or rehabilitated water points by other WASH support providers.
- Seventy-nine (79) technical and consulting support (via phone, email, meetings, and site visits) provided to 39 different organizations (INGOs, NGOs, UN, Government, and individuals/students) working in the WASH sector.
- The action research conducted on the performance of DACAAR implemented solar-power water supply system was shared with programme management and staff for learning purposes.
- The water expertise and Training Center participated in 35 different meetings and seminars including participation in 7 WASH Cluster meetings, 2 Water TWG meetings, one Water and Sanitation Group meeting, 16 miscellaneous meetings and 10 international webinars.

Groundwater Monitoring

Groundwater monitoring plays a critical role in ensuring the long-term sustainability and safety of one of the world's most important natural resources. In addition, groundwater monitoring provides essential data for managing water resources wisely. Understanding how groundwater levels fluctuate with seasons, droughts, or heavy precipitation helps decision-makers plan for water use during shortages and protect against over-extraction. Long-term monitoring is also important for studying the impacts of climate change on groundwater systems, ensuring that policies and conservation strategies are based on accurate and up-to-date information.

In 2024, DACAAR monitored 426 groundwater wells on a monthly basis. These wells were distributed across 29 provinces. The objective of this study was to assess fluctuations in groundwater levels and to evaluate the physio-chemical and biological properties of water in selected monitoring wells. In addition to groundwater monitoring, DACAAR Hydrogeology Team has conducted groundwater studies using geophysical investigations and hydrogeological studies in the provinces of Farah, Nimroz, Badghis, and Jawzjan. Geophysical investigations involve estimating the physical properties of the subsurface by measuring, analyzing, and interpreting electrical and electromagnetic fields at the ground surface. Using these methods, the team has identified potential locations for groundwater development and the construction of water supply networks for targeted communities in rural Afghanistan. It has been observed that the long-term groundwater levels across the country are decreasing. This decline is due to prolonged drought, over-exploitation, poor water management, and loss of vegetation cover and root system. As a result, most of the Karezes (traditional water supply systems), springs, handdug wells, and even tube wells have dried up.



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Donor: AHF
Number of Rehabilitated Wells: 130
Location: Kunduz - Afghanistan



Natural Resource Management (NRM)

The rural population in Afghanistan is dependent on the country's natural resources for their livelihood. An estimated 70% of the country's population is totally relying on agriculture, animal husbandry for their daily survival. DACAAR Natural Resources Management (NRM) interventions are aimed at providing sustainable solutions to farmers to increase production and productivity to enable them to not only meet the daily household needs but also to be able to make an income out of selling excess produce. The above is achieved through a combination of interlinked activities as follows;

- Distribution of improved and certified inputs (seeds, saplings, fertilizer, pullets, goats, medicine, vaccines, artificial insemination, equipment, tools and irrigation structures). Quality inputs increased the production and productivity of farmers and herders in the targeted communities.
- Capacity-building program changes the farmer's/herders' behavior via updated knowledge and skills development, to focus on high-value crops and livestock.
- Follow-up support to help farmers deal with farming challenges while they put their newly gained knowledge and skills into practice on their own farms.
- Improving access to and community-based management of irrigation water resources for farming by constructing/ rehabilitating small-scale irrigation structures.
- DACAAR works closely with communities that have switched from illicit crops (poppy cultivation) to high value alternative crops, the module has been changed from subsistence farming to semi-commercial farming and focused on high-value crops which are alternatives to poppy cultivation.
- Support communities on watershed management practices, especially in the upper catchment areas to protect the soil from erosion and make check dams and ponds to recharge the water table, irrigate their fields, and water their livestock and in finding sustainable markets.
- Supporting farmers/herders in processing, packaging, branding, and finding sustainable markets (local, regional, national, and International) for their produce. Given the recent consequences of climate change in an already fragile context, DACAAR pays extreme attention to the (climate-smart agriculture) environmental consequences of its projects, hence the

preference given to those crops that are drought-resistant, resistant to pests, and high-yielding. In this way, DACAAR can also provide much-needed aid and support to vulnerable women who might not be in a position to help their families (home-based kitchen gardening, small-scale farming, traditional grape- drying houses, and greenhouse for off-season). Irrigation water is a crucial element in farming; as such we help rehabilitate or reconstruct small-scale irrigation structures and build the capacity of farmers in community-based operation and maintenance ensuring an improved and strong supply of water for farming. In areas where irrigation water is not available, we support farmers in dry-land farming. The introduction of drip irrigation techniques is another method we have been promoting in regions where irrigation water is scarce. We primarily employ a Farmer Field School approach to our interventions. These practical farm-based schools bring together a common interest group of farmers to engage in collective learning, skills development, and knowledge sharing over an entire agricultural season. They receive updated knowledge and skills in best practices from our technical staff at the field level. Upon graduation, farmers receive toolkits and equipment to replicate their learning on their own farms while they receive follow-up technical advice and support from our specialists. Likewise, Farmer Field Schools are organized on a variety of specialized high-value subjects (new and rehabilitation of existing orchards, cereal crops, off- season vegetables, and livestock management based on market demand to ensure that farmers/herders increase their income and pay attention to their daily consumption and balanced diet.

| Direct Beneficiaries | Male Beneficiaries | Female Beneficiaries |
|----------------------|--------------------|----------------------|
| 46,566 | 25,565 | 21,001 |
| IDPs | Returnees | Host Communities |
| 1,863 | 931 | 43,772 |

NRM Achievements during 2024:

5,816 farmers received agriculture, livestock, and poultry training and inputs through:

- 1. Infrastructure Development**
 - . 58 small-scale structures built (canal linings, culverts, dividers, aqueducts, intakes).
 - . 5 grape drying houses (Kishmish Khana) established
- 2. Livestock & Dairy Development**
 - . 1,200 farmers received artificial insemination support for cows
 - . 100 farmers trained on improved dairy animal health & nutrition
 - . 245 cows stables upgraded
- 3. Crop Production & Horticulture**
 - . 12 agroforestry plots established
 - . 120 fruit orchards planted
 - . 226 framers supported in establishing citrus orchards
 - . 15 new pistachio orchards developed
 - . 6 pitachio budding/grafting plots improved
 - . 10 asafetida cultivation plots established
 - . 13 greenhouses installed

NRM SDGs



| Provinces Covered | |
|-------------------|-------------|
| • Helmand | • Nooristan |
| • Nangarhar | • Jawzjan |
| • Kunar | • Faryab |
| • Laghman | |



Donor: NMFA/Norad
Number of Constructed Greenhouses: 23
Location: Faryab and Jawzjan



Donor: UNODC
Number of Established Orchards With Drip Irrigation System: 226
Location: Nangarhar and Laghman



Small Scale Enterprise Development (SSED)

Youths are a big force for change in crisis situations. This is even more true of a country like Afghanistan, where almost two third of the population are below the age of 24. However, youths are among the groups most affected by crises and often struggle to find jobs due to a lack of education, experience, or in-demand skills. As a result, they become vulnerable targets for human traffickers and drug dealers, who exploit them for illegal immigration or drug use.

Over the years, DACAAR has been actively supporting the Afghan market by providing vocational skills training programs to the country's youths in various market-driven vocational skills and facilitating the establishment of small-scale enterprises. DACAAR conducts a center-based approach vocational skills training program, aiming to optimize peer knowledge exchange and create a comfortable learning environment for the (VT) program trainees. The selection of vocational skills is based on a rapid market assessment to avoid redundancy and oversaturation of the local market. Upon completion of the vocational skills training program at these centers, the young individuals are provided with business start-up toolkits and business start-up grants to either start their own small enterprises or join existing vocational skills shops in the local market. Moreover, in addition to its support for youth through vocational training, DACAAR plays a pivotal role in promoting collaboration between Natural Resource Management (NRM) and Small Scale Enterprise Development (SSED) by facilitating the establishment of Producer and Service Associations / Enterprise groups. These indicated groups empower farmers and producers by leveraging their collective strength, not only in terms of enhancing the quality and packaging of their products but also by facilitating advantageous negotiations for better market prices.

| | | |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Direct Beneficiaries | Male Beneficiaries | Female Beneficiaries |
| 390 | 370 | 20 |
| IDPs | Returnees | Host Communities |
| 16 | 8 | 366 |



SSED Achievements in 2024:

- 80 individuals graduated from four VTCs in motorbike repairing.
- 60 individual graduated from mobile repairing vocational training program
- 40 individuals graduated from tailoring and Hijab and dress making vocation training centers.
- 40 individuals graduated from Zarang repairing vocational training centers.
- DACAAR supported four saffron associations with providing business plan support for
- Purchase of saffron corm from the member of association and as a result 389 farmers benefited from the business plan.
- A total of 220 toolkits were distributed to the granduated trainees.

SSED SDGs



Provinces Covered

- Helmand
- Jawzjan
- Faryab
- Nangarhar



My name is Abdul Rahman, from Chaparhar district, Nangarhar province. Before, I worked as a daily laborer, but I struggled to meet my family's basic needs, and my children could not attend school. Thanks to DACAAR's support, I received training in solar system repair. Today, I am not only able to repair solar equipment, but also televisions and mobile phones. My monthly income has increased to 10,000–12,000 AFN. Now, I can provide for my family, and my children have the opportunity to attend school. I am grateful to DACAAR for empowering me with skills that changed my life and my family's future.



Donor: DANIDA
Number of Vocational Training Beneficiaries: 60
Location: Nangarhar



Women's Empowerment

DACAAR remains committed to supporting rural Afghan women and women-headed families through community-based initiatives that provide skills training, livelihood opportunities, and essential education. These efforts create safe and culturally appropriate spaces where women can access resources, develop income-generating activities, and strengthen mutual support networks to improve their resilience and self-reliance. Whereas cultural and current political barriers hinder women's access to Women Resource Centers, DACAAR provides various skills training directly within their homes, such as kitchen gardening, installation of greenhouses, animal husbandry, tailoring, bag sewing, carpet weaving, home-based businesses, and other skills to boost their social and economic involvement and enhance their capacity for income-generating endeavors. DACAAR supports women in the Vocational Training Program to enhance their employment prospects and income-generating activities. These programs aim to equip women with the knowledge, skills, inputs, and practical experience needed to excel in their chosen career paths and enter the workforce as skilled professionals. Also, DACAAR emphasizes literacy training and plays a crucial role in improving the societal standing of women within their families and

communities, particularly in light of obstacles such as restrictions on girls' and women's education and restricted access to formal education as a result of political and cultural difficulties. Moreover, DACAAR consistently integrates women's empowerment into its wide range of interventions and programs, ensuring their voices are heard and needs are prioritized. DACAAR also addresses the specific requirements of women in emergencies and long-term development programs across all sectors. For instance, hygiene awareness sessions are delivered by female DACAAR employees through door-to-door visits, delivering essential health and hygiene messages to women. Furthermore, hygiene kits distributed to households include items that support women's menstrual hygiene. Female promoters also play a vital role in implementing Community-Led Total Sanitation (CLTS) approaches in the field, contributing to the achievement of Open Defecation Free (ODF) status in communities. The DACAAR's WASH intervention aims at improving health and quality of life among Afghan communities. Additionally, the organization also acknowledges women's significant contributions to natural resource management (NRM) activities, recognizing and reinforcing their roles within communities and families.

| | | |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Direct Beneficiaries | Male Beneficiaries | Female Beneficiaries |
| 2,086 | - | 2,086 |
| IDPs | Returnees | Host Communities |
| 83 | 42 | 1,961 |

WE Achievements in 2024:

With generous support from DANIDA and NMFA, 2,086 vulnerable women in Faryab, Jawzjan, and Nangarhar provinces received training in agriculture, livestock management, and poultry farming, along with essential farming inputs to establish small businesses, including home-based food processing ventures. These initiatives have significantly enhanced their economic self-reliance and strengthened community resilience, as outlined in the following points:

- Financial support was provided for operational costs to 5 existing Women Resource Centers in Faryab. Each WRCs has 80 members, which are located in Pashtun kot, Daulatabad Qaysar, Maimana, Khwaja Sabpush (Total WRCs members 400).
- 200 women are provided economic growth training to enable them to increase their income in Faryab & Jawzjan Provinces.
- 121 vulnerable young women are provided with market-driven and center-based vocational training programs.
- 121 supporting tool kits were distributed to 121 graduated vocational trainees.
- Through the project's support 400 women provided training and input on backyard poultry farming.
- A total of 452 vulnerable women were supported with (262) Heifer and (190) goats.
- A total of 30 farmers are provided training and inputs on saffron processing and marketing.
- A total of 13 greenhouses are established for 20 women farmers, and they are provided training on pre and post-harvesting and off season vegetable production.
- A total of 205 open field vegetable production (kitchen gardening) is established for 205 women farmers, and they are provided training on pre and post-harvesting and off season vegetable production.
- A total of 100 women are provided training and input on home-based food processing.
- A total of 380 women are provided training on the effective management of dairy cows, goats, and chickens.
- A total of 120 women are provided a 9-month-long literacy and numeracy education.

WE SDGs



- Provinces Covered**
- Nangarhar
 - Kunar
 - Faryab
 - Jawzjan



“Before, I was just a housewife, taking care of my children and the home. I had no job, no skills, and no opportunities. With DACAAR's support, I began working with my husband in saffron farming. It wasn't easy — there were many restrictions on women, and at first, I had to work in secret to inspire others. Gradually, DACAAR helped us establish the Pashtoon Zargon Women Saffron Association in 2017. Today, we are more than 400 women strong. Like me, many women can now earn an income, meet their families' needs, and send their children to school. We are truly grateful to DACAAR for making this possible.”
 — Shafiqa Attai, Leader of the Pashtoon Zargon Women Saffron Association



Donor: NMEA
Distribution of Homebased Poultry for 190 women headed households
Location: Faryab, Jawzjan Afghanistan





Community Resilience and Livelihood Program (CRLP):

The Afghanistan Community Resilience and Livelihoods Project is an initiative supported by the World Bank, the Afghanistan Resilience Trust Fund (ARTF) and the International Development Association (IDA). The Project has a total budget of US\$ 419 million with the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) as its Implementing Partner (IP). Actual ground-level Project support is provided by non-governmental organizations contracted as Facilitating Partners (FPs) for three Components, and through private sector infrastructure contractors for the urban component.

The primary objective of the Community Resilience and Livelihoods Project (CRLP) was to furnish essential basic services and possibilities for short-term livelihood in both rural and urban communities. Millions of Afghans were first given opportunities for short-term work and income generating through this immediate assistance, which also improved access to essential utilities like safe water and sanitary facilities. Particular assistance was provided to women and vulnerable groups including internally displaced people (IDPs) and those with disabilities (PWDs). The project promoted inclusive growth, sustainability, and long-term resilience through community-level institutions and mechanisms.

During 2024, DACAAR re-established 523 CRGs (Community Representative Groups) with five sub-committees per CRG. 10 capacity building training conducted for each CRG member. totally 685 sub-projects were selected based on the communities' priorities for the 523 CRGs and the technical surveys were conducted. DACAAR prepared 685 proposals for the projects and the projects were successfully completed and handed over to CRG. in all 523 CRGs, a social grant plan was developed for 10% of the most vulnerable households and food packages were procured and distributed to eligible beneficiaries.

CRLP project achievements:

- Construction and rehabilitation of 32 culverts
- Construction and rehabilitation of 1,753 Km retaining walls
- Construction and rehabilitation of 539 Km of tertiary roads
- Construction and rehabilitation of 14 Km pathways
- Construction and rehabilitation of 1,415 km of water canals.
- Construction and rehabilitation of 7 intakes

Donor: UNOPS
Construction of Water Canal and Retaining Wall
Location: Nangarhar and Nuristan



| Direct Beneficiaries | Male Beneficiaries | Female Beneficiaries |
|----------------------|--------------------|-------------------------|
| 952,982 | 476,491 | 476,491 |
| IDPs | Returnees | Host Communities |
| 38,119 | 19,060 | 895,803 |



ORGANIZATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Organizational development is at the top of the organization agenda and it is a strategic approach to promote the organization's efficiency and long term successes. In 2024, DACAAR organized a range of different training programs with the aim of enhancing the capacity and skill of organization staff members. The program included job-specific training and (organizational behavioral and safety related) general training. DACAAR's HR records indicate, out of total 843 participants of training, 343 employees received training on safety, security, organizational accountability and PSEA. While 500 staff members received job related specific training on different subjects including Climate-Smart Agriculture, Community Health Promotion, Financial Management, Food Security and Agriculture, Project Management, Social Organization, Solar-Powered Water Supply System, Photography Skills and orientations. The training programs empowered the employee to perform their job with more efficiency and effectiveness and built their trust and capacity for future opportunities within or outside the organization.

DACAAR also undertook a wide-ranging review of its internal policies in order to ensure the alignment with the current requirements and best practices. These review processes aimed to provide more clear facilities and guidelines for all DACAAR staff to fulfil their tasks and responsibilities in a better way. The review of policies helps to create a structured approach for fulfilling operational procedures. At least 528 staff members received awareness sessions on DACAAR revised policies included, Child Safeguarding Policy, Whistleblowing Policy, Fraud, Bribery, and Anti-Corruption Policy. As part of DACAAR's ongoing commitment to supporting female employees, management approved the establishment of duty station nurseries. This initiative aimed to create a conducive work environment that allows female staff to balance their professional responsibilities with childcare needs.

Also, in the areas where the number of children does not meet the required threshold for a nursery, DACAAR provides a childcare allowance scheme. This allowance enables female employees to access quality childcare services, and also allows them to focus on their duties and responsibilities with greater peace of mind and care. For concrete support, DACAAR also developed a policy on duty station nurseries. The policy outlines the operational guidelines, eligibility criteria and procedures for accessing childcare services and allowances in DACAAR. By fostering a supportive environment for working mothers, DACAAR aims to enhance employee well-being, retention, and overall job satisfaction.

These initiatives not only reflect DACAAR's commitment to gender equality but also contribute to creating a more inclusive workplace where female employees can thrive both personally and professionally.

Challenges faced by DACAAR in 2024

Afghanistan Situation in 2024: In 2024, Afghanistan's humanitarian situation remained dire due to recurring natural disasters and severe economic hardship. Communities struggled to access basic necessities, including safe water, food, and healthcare, exacerbating vulnerabilities across the country.

DACAAR's Commitment and Achievement:

Despite these challenges, 2024 marked a year of significant success for DACAAR, reflecting the organization's unwavering commitment to supporting the Afghan people. However, implementing projects and programs across Afghanistan presented multiple obstacles at various levels:

Operational and Logistical Challenges:

Geographic Expansion: Operating in 29 provinces required extensive coordination and resources, creating major logistical hurdles.

Procurement Difficulties: Finding reliable contractors capable of delivering high-quality goods and services was a persistent challenge.

Community Engagement: Building consensus and secure cooperation from stakeholders, including local authorities, demanded ongoing effort.

Technical and Environmental Obstacles:

Groundwater Depletion: Declining water tables, driven by climate change and unregulated agricultural extraction, threatened the sustainability of water-related projects.

External Interference: During the project design and survey phases, prolonged negotiations with the government affected the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). This delay had the potential to impact the original timeline of project activities.

DACAAR

Danish Committee for Aid to Afghan Refugees



Established:

1984

Staff:

Around 1,000
national staff and 5
international staff

Director:

John Paul Morse, Kabul

Secretary General:

Klaus Løkkegaard,
Copenhagen

Regional Offices:

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Ministry of Economy of Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, Reg # 24

National Danish Register of Companies (CVR), Reg # 29902488

Governing Board:

Peder Kynde Thorning, Danish People's Aid (DPA)

Aase Elin Petersen, The Danish Afghanistan Committee (DAC)

Mads Bugge Madsen, The Danish Trade Union Development Agency
(DTDA)

Astrid Helene Ragn, International Media Support (IMS)

Claus Hélix-Nielsen, Danish Technical University (DTU)

Thematic Areas:

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

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