



Annual Report 2015-2016

**Cover photo:**

Village elders together with DACAAR staff lay foundation stone for a protection wall in Islamabad village of Alishing district of Laghman province, June 2016.

# CONTENTS

|   |    |
|---|----|
| ABOUT DACAAR                              | 1  |
| BASIC FACTS                               | 1  |
| MISSION, VISION AND VALUES                | 2  |
| DIRECTOR'S INTRODUCTION                   | 3  |
| DACAAR'S BENEFICIARIES                    | 4  |
| DACAAR'S COMMUNITY BASED APPROACH         | 4  |
| WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE (WASH)      | 5  |
| NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT (NRM)        | 9  |
| SMALL SCALE ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT (SSED) | 11 |
| WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT (WE)                  | 13 |
| NATIONAL SOLIDARITY PROGRAMME (NSP)       | 15 |
| ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT                | 17 |
| USE OF FUNDS                              | 18 |
| THE FUTURE                                | 19 |
| APPRECIATION LETTERS GRANTED              | 20 |







DACAAR staff celebrate Women's Day on 8 March

## ABOUT DACAAR

DACAAR is a non-political, non-governmental, non-profit humanitarian/development organization working to improve the lives of the Afghan people since 1984.

We work in rural and peri urban areas, and aim at improving rural livelihoods through sustainable activities that engage Afghan communities to be agents of their own development process.

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

Over 10 million Afghans across 29 of Afghanistan's 34 provinces have benefited from our humanitarian/developmental activities since DACAAR was established.

## BASIC FACTS

### Organisation name:

Danish Committee for Aid to Afghan Refugees (DACAAR)

### Established:

1984

### Governing Board:

- Peter Torning (Danish People's Aid)
- Claus Larsen (Danish Refugee Council)

### Director:

John Morse

### Staff:

- 609 Afghan employees (13% female)
- 6 international employees

### Thematic Areas of Intervention

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

### Main Office:

Golayee Wazir Abad, District 10, P.O. Box 208, Kabul, Afghanistan

Tel: +93 (0) 20 223 0752

+93 (0) 20 223 0753

Mobile: +93 (0) 700 288 232

E-mail: [dacaar@dacaar.org](mailto:dacaar@dacaar.org)

### Regional Offices:

- Mazar-e-Sharif
- Taluqan
- Jalalabad
- Kabul
- Herat
- Maimana

### Secretariat in Denmark:

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

Tel: +45 33 73 50 00

E-mail: [copenhagen@dacaar.org](mailto:copenhagen@dacaar.org)

Website: [www.dacaar.org](http://www.dacaar.org)

## Mission:

DACAAR is a Danish non-governmental, development/humanitarian organization 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 organizations, 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.

## Vision:

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

## Values:

Efficiency, Honesty, Participation, Equity, Quality, Transparency and Anti Corruption

## DIRECTOR'S INTRODUCTION

As the current operating environment becomes increasingly challenging, DACAAR has taken the time to review its achievements over the longer term in order to better assess its position within the Afghanistan NGO community and also to reaffirm its commitment towards making Afghanistan a better place for its citizens. Sadly, over the past two years we have seen a rise in insecurity, significant growth in the number of IDPs facing protracted displacement, and an increase in returning refugees. In addition, the existing and hosting population is increasingly being put under growing pressure with all aspects of their daily life and needs due to the additional strain being placed upon their resources from the large displaced population.

DACAAR is now a stronger partner in its humanitarian support following this assessment, but based on our long-term development experience and ability to see all sides, we are concerned about the change in security, in funding direction, and in a government that is still finding it hard to reach out and support its most needy. As a result, we seem to be helping in the short term and not reaching the broader requirement for longer-term solutions.

As I have seen many times in my stay here, our colleagues, partners and friends have stood strong and worked hard to overcome all the challenges in front of them, with the bravery and strength needed just to travel to and from programmes, regional, and field offices in order to reach the most needy people, not only for our programming but also for assessments and in daily life. This is something that I do not take for granted but admire and appreciate from all.

I am pleased that DACAAR has managed to strengthen its position within the NGO community outside the direct implementation of programming: we are working hard to support many components and working groups, helping coordination, reinforcing best practices, giving input to integration strategies, advocating support for land allocation, access to beneficiaries in insecure areas and supporting CDCs and local community representation gain strength and assist where needed. Our WASH sector work still forms the basis of our interventions and this has proved to be an increasingly good link, not only to the community and beneficiaries and access to them, but also allowed us to build on them, forging closer links to all the other interventions within the programme and also with other partners.

As before, in achieving the above I would like to thank the support and hard work of my Senior Management Team. I believe the future strength and security of DACAAR is with this team and the continued direction in sustaining strong national staff members. This team has worked very hard in planning ahead to make sure we are in as good a position as possible for the coming year, and I believe the position DACAAR finds itself in now going into 2017 shows the hard work that has been put in by the strong SMT and this



team being supported by our hardworking HQ staff. But of course this would not be possible if it was not for our regional colleagues that have worked hard on the front line of our activities, ensuring that high-quality results are still being achieved despite enduring hardships. This dedication proves that DACAAR is still doing well, and I would like to thank all of you, too.

I am still very proud to be the Director of DACAAR and would again like to reiterate my thanks to every member of DACAAR, not forgetting our hard working small team of international staff, too, both here in Afghanistan and in our support secretariat office in Copenhagen. This report represents achievements made under all the insecurity we are facing but still manage to accomplish helping the Afghan people, showing both courage and strength, and which has ultimately put DACAAR where it is today.

Lastly, I would like to thank the commitment of DACAAR's main donors, Danish International Development Assistance (DANIDA), Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (National Solidarity Programme), European Commission Humanitarian Organization (ECHO), and the United Nations offices of UNOCHA, UNODC, UNHCR, and UNICEF as well as our other donors, the Afghan government, and the communities in which we work in supporting DACAAR in these achievements.

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read 'J. Morse'.

---

John Morse  
Director





Farmers Field School, Qarghayee District, Laghman Province, 2015.

## DACAAR'S COMMUNITY BASED APPROACH

Following its tried and tested community based approach, DACAAR continued to engage and closely collaborate with local community structures such as Community Development Councils (CDCs), Village Shuras, District Development Assemblies and other local CBOs to ensure sustainability and long-term impact of its interventions. The approach encourages strong ownership of the interventions among the benefiting communities by involving them in all stages of the intervention. All interventions included a robust capacity building component to enable communities to not only preserve but also to sustainably reap benefits from their projects once DACAAR has left.

Further, DACAAR's interventions continued to align with and supported the Afghan Government's National Priority Programmes (NPPs) and in doing so close collaboration was ensured with various Government departments and line ministries both at national and sub-national level.

## DACAAR'S BENEFICIARIES

Over the course of 2015-2016 Afghanistan saw an unprecedented increase in the number of IDPs. In 2016 alone, approximately 600 thousand people were internally displaced due to conflicts and natural disasters. The situation was further worsened when in 2016 an additional 618,300 Afghans spontaneously returned from Pakistan and Iran further straining the already stretched resources available to the country. In addition to this, tens of thousands of refugees from the tribal areas of Pakistan continued to remain in Khost and Paktika as conditions for their safe return could not materialize.

DACAAR continued to focus on the most vulnerable rural and peri-urban Afghan communities delivering life-saving, early recovery and long-term developmental interventions in support of IDPs, returnees and their host communities. Most at risk groups such as female-headed and youth-headed households and the disabled were particularly targeted as these are faced with major disadvantages due to their additional vulnerabilities. Interventions were also undertaken in support of Pakistani tribal refugees in Khost province.

During 2015-2016, DACAAR's interventions improved the lives of 584,367 beneficiaries (292,800 men, 291,567 women).



## WATER SANITATION AND HYGIENE



Hygiene Education Session, Qarghaee District, Laghman Province, 2015



Beneficiaries Targeted

**545,232**



Female  
**282,715**



Male  
**262,517**



Baghlan, Balkh,  
Faryab, Herat,  
Kabul, Kandahar,  
Khost, Kunar,  
Kunduz, Laghman,  
Logar, Nangarhar,  
Paktia, Takhar, &  
Wardak



- DANIDA
- DFATD
- ECHO
- Norwegian MFA
- SDC
- SIDA
- UNOCHA
- UNICEF

Access to safe drinking water and proper sanitation facilities continues to be a main problem in Afghanistan. Contaminated water, lack of basic hygiene and unsafe disposal of human excreta are main drivers of various diseases affecting the health and wellbeing of Afghan communities especially women, children and the elderly.

DACAAR uses various adaptable techniques to provide safe potable water to its beneficiaries. These include establishing gravity pipe networks, solar powered pipe schemes, wells fitted with hand pumps, as well as traditional water systems such as Kanda and Yakhdan, and household filtration systems such as bio-sand filters (BSF). All these technologies are based on community needs and geographical locations, making each intervention specifically tailored to the individual needs of a community.

To enhance the effect of safe drinking water, DACAAR combines it with provision of sanitation facilities and hygiene education. Hygiene Education (HE) is the key element that links the provision of water with improved sanitation as it ensures beneficiaries understand proper sanitation and correct use of the clean water to maintain their benefit into the future. DACAAR uses a mixture of several approaches (door to door visits, group discussions, Children's Hygiene and Sanitation Training, Participatory Hygiene and Sanitation Transformation and Community Led Total Sanitation) depending on each community's individual needs and context.

DACAAR's Water Point Inspection Teams (WITs) regularly monitor water points across the country and ensure that all technical and social components of the maintenance system are functioning. Inspection visits to each water point are done at least twice a year where the team meets with the caretaker, the mechanic/water system operators, as well as the user group or water management committee. DACAAR's Ground Water Monitoring programme collects information about ground water fluctuations and data on ground water quality.

In addition to the developmental WASH activities, DACAAR delivers life-saving WASH response to IDPs and returnees. This involves provision of safe drinking water through trucking alongside distribution of emergency hygiene kits and latrine kits in the immediate aftermath of conflicts and/or disasters.

DACAAR is a co-chair to the WASH Cluster and actively participates in all WASH related groups and fora at national and sub-national level including the Water Sector Group, Sanitation Technical Working Group, Hygiene Technical Working Group, etc.

DACAAR's WET Centre provides quality WASH training and technical support to the WASH sector in Afghanistan and undertakes action research and best practice studies in order to help enhance the effectiveness of WASH programmes in the country.



## Achievements:

During 2015-2016 DACAAR provided WASH assistance to 545,232 persons through the following interventions:

**1,716**

New water points were constructed. This included 1,427 tube wells, 287 stand posts supported by 11 pipe schemes and 2 yakhdans (traditional reservoirs).

**13,325,350**

Litres of safe drinking water was distributed among recent IDPs and returnees through tankering.

**19,946**

Previously constructed water points were inspected for functionality and information included in a centralized database. Out of this, 1,263 non-functional water points were rehabilitated.

For proper operation and maintenance of community water points, 11 water management committees and 1,738 water user groups were established while 11 water system operators, 5 hand pump mechanics, and 1,714 caretakers were trained.

**5,449**

Biosand filters for household water treatment were produced and installed. For each biosand filter, a female member for each benefiting household was trained to properly operate and maintain the filters.

**7,832**

Latrines were constructed, which included 4,065 for non-emergency and 3,767 for emergency projects.

**3,683**

Emergency baths were constructed.

**5,549**

Hand washing facilities were installed.

**50,872**

Families were provided with hygiene education and 54,246 hygiene kits were distributed.

**130**

Community-based Disaster Management Committees were established, trained, and linked at district level to build their resilience to natural disasters.

In addition to the above DACAAR continued to play an active role in the following forums:

Supported the WASH Cluster as a co-lead and attended all WASH Sector meetings held by the Cluster, including at sub-national level.

Chaired the Water Technical Working Group (WTWG) Meetings as part of the Water Sector Group (WSG).

attended the Hygiene Technical Working Group (HTWG) meetings chaired by MOPH.

Actively took part in the Sanitation Technical Working Group (STWG) chaired by MRRD.

*"One day my son noticed that I had not washed my hands as we had been taught in the DACAAR hygiene training session and he scolded me for it. I immediately washed my hands again :)"*

### Shehzad

54 year old, fled fighting in Acheen district of Kunar Province. Currently residing in Shiekh Messri camp, Nangarhar province



Shehzad and his son with his newly constructed emergency latrine

## Water Expertise and Training Centre (WETC)

The DACAAR Water Expertise and Training (WET) Centre was established in 2010 in close collaboration with a Canadian NGO, Centre for Affordable Water and Sanitation Technology (CAWST). The WET Centre aims at increasing access to and use of safe drinking water and improved hygiene and sanitation in Afghanistan through supporting the capacity of WASH actors to implement high quality projects.

The WET Centre activities include delivery of high quality formal training workshops on a variety of WASH subjects to practitioners at national and sub-national level. It also undertakes action research, best practice studies and learning exchanges in support of the WASH sector in Afghanistan, in addition to practical consulting and technical support to WASH implementers.

The fully equipped WET Centre Water Quality Testing Laboratory provides clients with water quality testing services.

WET Centre training workshops and technical and consulting support helped local implementers to start, scale-up, sustain and improve their WASH projects. Based on the WET Centre 2015 Annual WASH Survey, client organizations of the WET Centre have reported implementing WASH projects benefitting 1,217,901 people.

### The WET Centre achieved the following in 2015 and 2016:

**1,202**

Employees (222 female, 980 male) of government, UN Agencies, NGOs and the Private Sector were trained in WASH subjects.

**43**

Senior members of NGOs, Private Sector, Government and other stakeholders of the WASH sector attended 1 WASH Learning Exchange held in Kabul in December 2015.

**6**

Counts of action research studies were completed and results were shared as part of the WASH Learning Exchange.

**80**

Counts of WASH related technical consultations were provided to 25 organizations, including UN Agencies, Government of Afghanistan, Private Sector and Local and International NGOs operating in the WASH sector in Afghanistan.

**414**

Public school teachers (205 females, 58 males) and 151 school female students attended WASH awareness sessions.

Samples of drinking water for water points for DACAAR projects, NGOs, UN Agencies and the private sector were tested in the DACAAR Water Quality Testing Laboratory. This included:

- 4,034 physical tests
- 3,963 bacteriological tests
- 1,224 chemical tests



### Key findings of WET Centre 2015 Annual WASH Survey:

**83%**

Level of satisfaction among training participants.

**80%**

Level of satisfaction for consulting support.

**82%**

Level of satisfaction on the usefulness of education materials.

## HYDROGEOLOGY

Data collected from the Groundwater Monitoring Wells, in addition to WASH project data, was shared in three presentations during 2015 and 2016. A presentation on "Causes of groundwater contamination in the Urban and Rural areas of Afghanistan" was delivered at the NORPLAN National Groundwater Conference in Kabul on 8th June 2015, and thereafter at the International Hindu Kush Conference held at the Polytechnic University in Kabul on 29 September 2015.

Further presentations on this topic included:

- DACAAR's experience on well drilling" - WTWG meeting, January 2015.
- WASH policy relevant challenges and recommendations for sustainable WASH project implementation" - WTWG meeting, February 2015.
- DACAAR's Information Management System and GIS functionality" - GIS conference, UNIP, Kabul University, November 2015.
- GIS Functionality using Hydrogeo Analyst Software" - National Conference on IT Usage in GIS, MRRD (PROVIDE DATE).
- Groundwater monitoring wells network finding and recommendations for sustainability of WASH projects" - December 2015, Kabul
- A presentation on "Arsenic contamination of groundwater in Ghazni and Maidan Wardak provinces of Afghanistan was given during the 6th international congress on arsenic in Stockholm, Sweden, via Skype, in June 2016 as well as in WTWG meeting in July 2016.
- A scientific investigation report regarding arsenic contamination of groundwater in Panjsher Province, Afghanistan was prepared in December 2016.
- 7 Groundwater Monitoring Wells (GMW) drilled, constructed and modified in Faryab, Takhar and Kabul provinces.
- 204 GMWs were kept operational and supervised by three teams in 19 provinces.

In addition to the above, the unit performed various geophysical investigations in multiple provinces which, once evaluated and recorded in the database, provided information and analysis to allow field staff to adjust drilling technical conditions, and to ensure precise site selection of wells. The Hydrogeology team also provided technical support to WASH projects by supervising the drilling and construction of wells.



Performing Geophysical Investigation, Balkh University, Balkh Province, 2015



## NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT



Mr. Jalil Ahmad Payman (DAIL's District Agriculture Officer, Herat) and Agriculture Specialist Gul Rahman Zearmal (DACAAR) examine saltbush saplings at a nursery in Shekeban village, Zindajan district. The nursery was established to support land stabilization in the district as part of a project funded by UNODC, 2016.



Beneficiaries Targeted

**4,567**



Female  
**367**



Male  
**4,200**



Balkh, Farah,  
Faryab, Herat,  
Khost, Laghman,  
Nangarhar, Kabul



- DANIDA
- Norwegian MFA
- UNHCR
- UNODC

Despite considerable progress made over the last decade, a third of Afghanistan's population still remains food insecure. To ensure sustainable solutions to this problem, DACAAR's NRM activities are designed for and aimed at not only tackling short-term food insecurity but also providing the farmers with the skills, knowledge and appropriate inputs to improve their livelihoods in the long-run through engaging in sustainable management of their available natural resources.

To ensure this, various activities are implemented in an integrated manner in line with the needs and priorities of each community and the context. Activities are carried out mostly through the Farmer Field School (FFS) approach bringing together groups of farmers to work together, engage in discussions, reflect on progress and share best practices under the supervision of qualified trainers. FFS are season-long interventions allowing the farmers to go through a full agricultural season. Once graduated farmers are provided with toolkits and materials as well as follow up support to enable them to apply their new found knowledge and skills on their own farms.

Specific activities include on and off-season vegetable production through installation of greenhouses, establishment and management of kitchen gardens, establishment of orchards and nurseries, saffron production, and livestock and poultry farming practices.

Further, given that access to water plays a crucial role in any farming activity, DACAAR supports construction of small scale irrigation structures such as culvert, water dividers, canal lining to prevent water loss and to ensure equal and sustainable distribution of water among farmers. These structures are formally handed over to CDCs and community members are trained in their maintenance and provided with necessary toolkits.

In addition to the above, where appropriate and needed, DACAAR supports communities with land stabilization activities, as well as rainwater harvesting for soil erosion control, soil moisture conservation, forestation, and rehabilitation of rangelands.

## Achievements:

During 2015-2016 DACAAR NRM interventions targeted 4,567 farmers and community members as follows:

**104**

Season long Farmer Field Schools were organized.

**3,034**

Farmers (157 female, 2,877 male) benefited from DACAAR's activities in relation to increased agriculture production.

**1,189**

Farmers (198 female, 991 male) benefited from DACAAR's activities on animal husbandry.

**40**

Greenhouse were constructed including installation of drip irrigation systems.

**2,864**

Community members (411 female, 2,453 male) were provided with NRM related DRR awareness.

**36**

Fresh graduates (8 female and 28 male) participated in DACAAR's agriculture related internship programmes.

**104**

Government employees were trained on NRM subjects.

**124**

Small scale irrigation structures (canal linings, culverts) were constructed benefiting the above farmers as well as an estimated 58,000 other community members (indirect beneficiaries).

*"Thanks to Allah, nowadays I receive enough income from my farm to send my children to school and I am hopeful that in the future all my children will be educated. Working on my four jeribs of land was never enough to feed my family until I started my greenhouse. With the greenhouse, I received a net income of AFN 70,000 (approx. USD 1000) last season while my family have had constant supply of fresh vegetables."*

**Abdul Rauf**

45 years old farmer with disability,  
Qarghayee District, Laghman Province



Sessional crops being grown in greenhouse, 2016.

## SMALL SCALE ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT



Vocational skills training on tailoring for Pakistani tribal refugees, Maton District, Khost Province, 2015



Beneficiaries Targeted

**1,762**



Female  
**297**



Male  
**1,465**



Balkh, Faryab,  
Kabul, Herat,  
Khost, Laghman,  
Nangarhar



- DANIDA
- Norwegian MFA
- UNHCR
- UNODC

Lack of opportunities for income generation and employment is common particularly in the rural areas of Afghanistan. Communities often not only lack access to appropriate resources but also skills to start successful rural businesses. The generally poor business climate and lack of institutional support further discourages establishment of rural businesses.

DACAAR's Small Scale Enterprise Development interventions are aimed at building the capacity of and supporting farmers and unemployed youth to engage in sustainable business ventures and employment. To ensure availability of markets as a key pre-requisite to successful businesses, DACAAR undertakes detailed market analysis in all locations where SSED activities are implemented to enable the beneficiaries to choose the most appropriate and viable business opportunities.

DACAAR's SSED programmes do not only include technical training but also other equally essential subjects including business plan development, basic bookkeeping, literacy and numeracy thus equipping graduates with skills that are crucial to the effective running of any business as well as for employment.

DACAAR's SSED programme includes two main components:

1. The centre-based vocational training programme targets unemployed and unskilled youth in rural and peri-urban areas of Afghanistan. The programme follows the curricula and approach developed by the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs, Martyred and Disabled (MoLSAMD) and each successful graduate is provided with a MoLSAMD endorsed graduation certificate. In addition to this, each graduate is provided with follow up support in the form of a small business start up grant and toolkit as well as access to a qualified mentor for a period of six months.
2. Producer Associations (PAs) bring together groups of farmers to engage in value chain activities allowing them to pool together produce, and process and package them for sale in their local and regional markets. The PAs are registered with the Ministry of Justice and Law (MoJL) as formal CBOs. Management Committees for PAs are elected by the members and each PA will have their own By-Laws that are signed by each member for agreement. DACAAR's support to PAs include technical and business training as well as provision of a block grant to enable the PA to rent a venue and purchase necessary equipment. Each PA will receive up to two years of technical support from DACAAR subject matter experts.



## Achievements:

**During 2015-2016, DACAAR Small Scale Enterprise Development interventions supported 1,762 vulnerable youth, farmers and community members as follows:**

**359**

Vulnerable youth (115 female, 244 male) successfully graduated from 20 market-driven Vocational Skills Training programmes and were provided with business startup grants. The vocations taught included motor bike repair, PVC, carpentry and tailoring.

**1,403**

Members (182 female, 1,221 male) of Producer Associations were provided with training on community management skills, good governance, by-law development, business plan development, marketing, association formation criteria, benefits of association, and ranking of identified businesses.

**11**

Existing producer associations were provided with start-up grants covering 1,403 members.

**14**

Market linkage training workshops were conducted involving Producer Association members, vocational training beneficiaries, government employees and traders.

*"I thank DACAAR for providing me the opportunity to learn two skills of mobile repairing and literacy which has enabled me to become a private business enterprise owner and give myself and my household hope for a better livelihood. "In previous years I was a recipients of charity, but now I am able to provide charity to others."*

**Ahmad Zahir**

Vocational Training beneficiary (Mobile Repairing)  
Dawlatabad district, Faryab Province



Ahmad Zahir in his mobile repairing workshop

## WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT



Saffron Processing Session, Ghoryan District, Herat Province, 2015



Beneficiaries Targeted

**5,667**



Female  
**4,490**



Male  
**1,177**



Farah, Herat,  
Laghman, Kabul,  
Nangarhar, Balkh  
and Faryab



- DANIDA
- Norwegian MFA
- UNODC

Despite considerable progress over the last decade, women in Afghanistan face tremendous challenges in their daily lives. Women in the rural areas are especially disadvantaged as their fundamental rights are constantly challenged by the male dominated society. These women often lack access to education, health as well as economic and social opportunities.

DACAAR's Women's Empowerment interventions aim to improve the social and economic situation of women in the rural and peri-urban areas of the country as a means to improving their participation and influence in the society.

Most of DACAAR's WE activities are implemented under the umbrella of Women's Resource Centres (WRCs). WRCs are established as self-sustaining collectives of women who come together in women-only premises to engage in learning and capacity building, exchange ideas and insight and engage in productive activities for the benefit of the members.

WRCs are established as formal CBOs, registered with the Ministry of Justice and Law (MoJL) and linked with the Ministry of Women's Affairs (MoWA). Each WRC brings together up to 500 interested women from five villages. Leadership Committee members for the WRCs are elected.

Each WRC is assisted financially and technically by DACAAR for the first two years while only technical support continues for the third year as well. Once established and operational, WRCs serve as a platform for the members to engage in forging market linkages, network with other organizations, develop projects and engage in fundraising.

WRC members have access to considerable social and economic activities including literacy courses, rights and health awareness workshops, life skills training, business plan development, business management skills training, food security packages, vocational training, etc. Once trained, WRC members are encouraged to form women-led businesses, engage in income generating activities (food processing, home-based poultry farming, tailoring, etc) enabling members to improve their livelihoods as well as contribute to the running cost of the WRCs.

The process for establishing WRCs is long and complicated often requiring tireless mobilization efforts. Afghanistan is a patriarchal society therefore any activities focused on women will have to be first endorsed by the men in the community for them to be sustainable. Where a community is not ready to establish a WRC, DACAAR's above activities are implemented in close coordination with CDCs and focused on individual vulnerable women.

## Achievements:

During 2015-2016, DACAAR's WE interventions supported 5,667 vulnerable persons as follows:

**3,460**

Individuals (2,295 female, 1,165 male) from the 17 existing WRCs attended awareness raising sessions on women's rights, conflict transformation, human rights, gender, social organization, do no harm, conflict sensitivity, safe motherhood, hygiene behavior change and health issues.

**17**

WRC management committees received training sessions on community management skills, developing WRC vision, mission and goal, and developing sustainable business plans.

**1,020**

Women graduated from adult literacy classes.

**10**

Exchange visits were organized among WRCs with the aim of exposing members to new agricultural production methods, packaging and processing and marketing for products such as saffron, vegetables and dairy.

**1,146**

Vulnerable women outside WRCs were provided with inputs and skills for food and income generation. This included; animal husbandry, silk production, wool weaving, home-based poultry, kitchen gardening, saffron production, farming skills, milking cows and food processing.

**41**

Government employees (29 female, 12 male) participated in 2 awareness raising workshops on women's empowerment.

One of the recipients of the Zindajan WRC is Maryam, a 32-year-old woman who is the breadwinner for her household. There are eight people living in her household: four sisters, one brother, her parents, and herself.

Before joining the WRC in Zindajan district, she worked only as a daily labourer on other peoples' farms, which is very dependent on the cultivation seasons – meaning she could only work a few seasons out of the years. As such, despite her hard work she was not able to provide sufficient financial support to her family.

In 2015, she found the opportunity to join the WRC in their village and soon received training on her demand-driven business idea of dessert and jam making (pastry project). DACAAR provided business training and initial inputs for her to get her pastry project off the ground.

In only five months, Maryam managed to start her business and after household expenses are accounted for, on average she is earning AFN 150 per day net income. She is happy with her business and thinking about expanding her business to open new shops in the centre of Herat city.

### Maryam

32 year old

Member of Zindajan WRC, Herat province



Maryam's packaging her produce for sale in the WRC, 2016



## NATIONAL SOLIDARITY PROGRAMME



Road Construction, Kundagal Ulia Village, Alinigar District, Laghman Province, 2015



Beneficiaries Targeted

**27,139**



Female  
**3,696**



Male  
**23,443**



Faryab & Laghman



• MRRD

As a large scale rural reconstruction and development programme, the NSP has two primary goals: to strengthen local governance to foster rule of law and to lay the foundations of community managed sub-projects comprising reconstruction and development. The reconstruction efforts are aimed at improving access of rural communities to social and productive infrastructure and services. The programme has been instrumental in generating employment and initiating the rehabilitation of rural infrastructure devastated by severe drought and more than three decades of conflict.

DACAAR has been a facilitating partner in the NSP from the start of the programme in 2003. During 2015 and 2016 the DACAAR's NSP programme completed 295 sub projects in five sectors, namely roads, irrigation, power, WATSAN and buildings.

These subprojects were based on each community's individual needs and therefore included such diverse activities as building culverts, retaining walls, bridges and footpaths, constructing aqueducts, water reservoirs and water retaining walls, as well as work performed on hospitals, clinics, schools and community centres.

## Achievement:

During 2015-2016, DACAAR's NSP programme supported 27,139 vulnerable persons as follows:

**295**

CDCs successfully completed their priority projects. Their subproject final status reports were submitted to PRRD/ PMU which resulted in 66 of these CDCs being handed over to PRRD/ PMU.

**66**

New sub project proposals on infrastructure development for transport, irrigation, building, power and WASH were approved by the Provincial Management Unit.

**1,952**

CDCs comprising 27,139 community members (23,443 male, 3,696 female) were trained on Participatory Community Empowerment (PCE), office bearer, accounting, procurement, Community Participatory Monitoring (CPM), and planning and management.

**1**

DRR pilot project (protection wall to address disaster risk reduction issues) was implemented in partnership with Afghan Aid in Islamabad Village of Alishing District in Laghman Province.

### CASE STUDY

#### Helping a village to help itself

Community involvement is a key component of the NSP process, and as such, community representatives are involved in all stages of the programme. This allows for changes to be made throughout the process, depending on each individual community's needs, such as with the Yamachi Khana road improvement project.

One of the most serious problems facing the village of Yamachi Khana was the lack of roads. The road connecting the village with the main Andkhoy road was approximately 1.5 kilometers long and unpaved, as were all other roads in the village. Unpaved roads are easily flooded following rain or snow, turning them into a sea of mud and water. This makes the roads impassable and therefore it was not possible for village residents to reliably traverse them to get to the mosque or the school, or even to the hospital if there were a medical emergency.

The community chose road repair for its second round of CDC projects, with selected roads to be stabilized through poured concrete and gravel. DACAAR engineers surveyed the roads and designed the plan. The CDC reviewed the design and discovered that the budget for the project only allowed for a maximum width of four meters while the community preferred a five meters wide road. To tackle this issue the community met and agreed to increase the community contribution from 10% to 30%.

This allowed for the road to be built to the community's required specifications while also giving them ownership of the process, which ultimately is the goal of the NSP.

"Now our problems are totally solved, and thanks be to Allah that our roads are in a very good condition so all vehicle can access to our village easily which saves our time and money," said Hajji Muhammad Nazar, Chief of the Yamachi Khana CDC.



New roads in Yamachi Khana village, Faryab Province, 2015

## ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT



DACAAR Strategic Planning Workshop, 2016

DACAAR went through a steep learning curve through the implementation of its Strategic Programme Framework (SPF) 2013-2016. A mid-term review of the SPF was undertaken with the help of an independent consultant and revised accordingly.

Further, the lessons drawn from the first SPF were incorporated into the formation of the next SPF 2017-2020, which is in the process of being developed and will be in place in early 2017. The revised version of the SPF incorporates adaptations to strategies and approaches in line with changes in social, political, developmental and planning contexts, and challenges and lessons learned from field operations, including access and security.

Capacity building and staff development remained a priority for DACAAR throughout 2015 and 2016, with many staff members receiving trainings over this period, reaching a cumulative total of 2,033 trainings received by

DACAAR staff. Training subjects included project management, financial management, procurement and contracting, women's leadership, gender awareness, report writing and a wide range of other subjects.

DACAAR's female internship programme continued during the period with 12 interns each receiving six months of on the job training. Of these 12, two were retained as full-time employees at DACAAR and four found immediate employment with other organizations upon graduating from the internship programme.

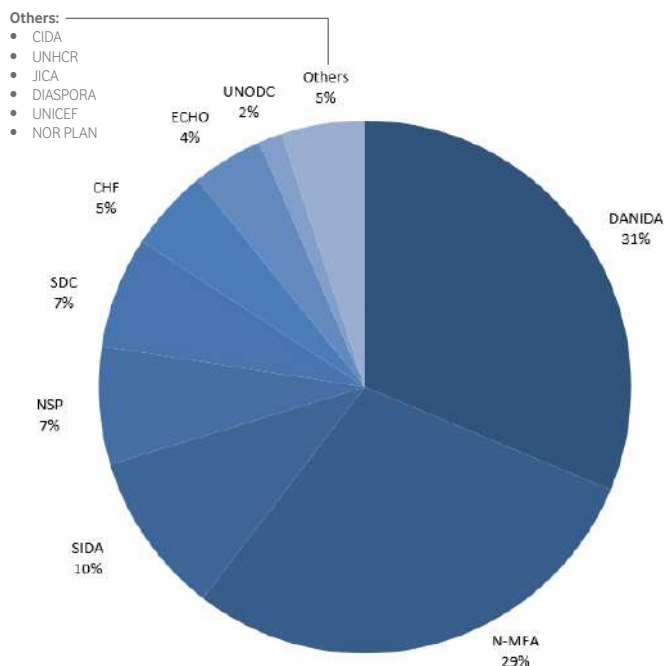
In addition to the above, 10 staff members were financially supported to continue their higher education.



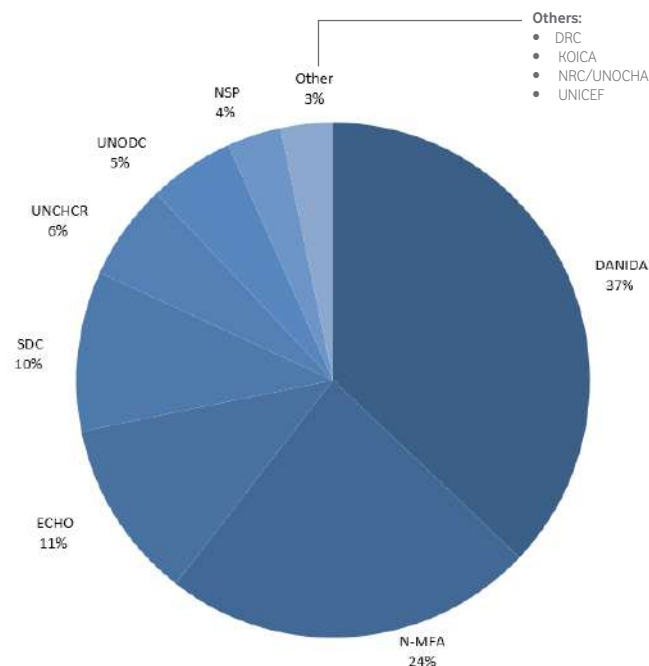
# USE OF FUNDS

## Funds spent (USD 27 million)

### During 2015 per donor (%)



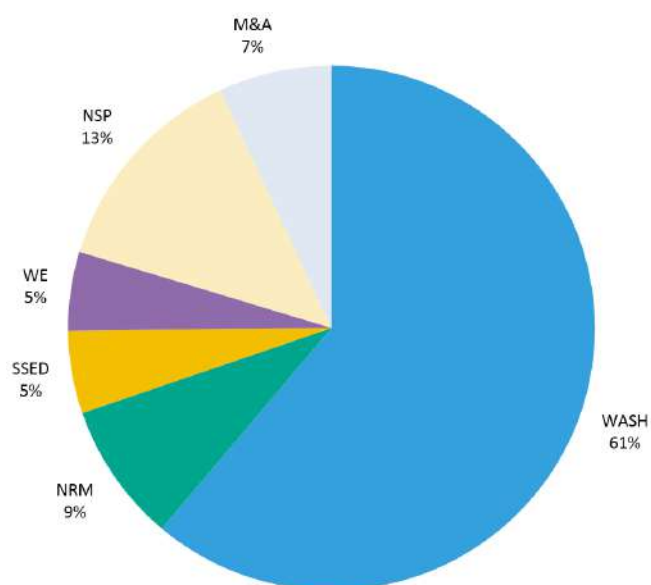
### During 2016 per donor (%)



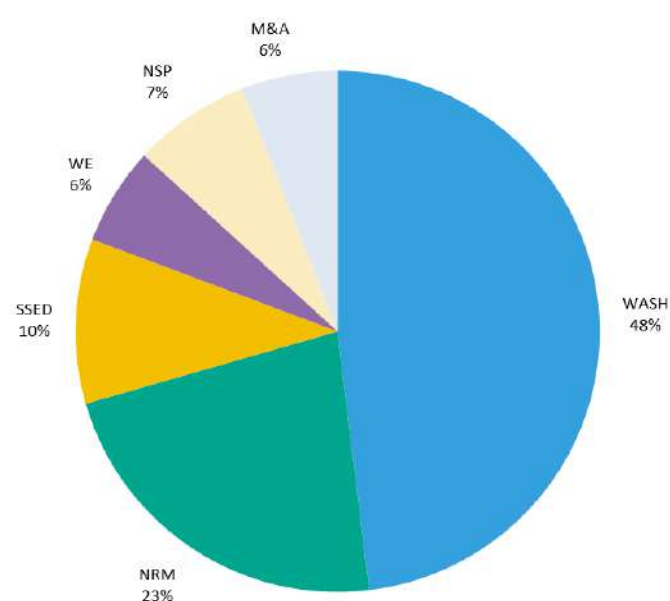
- **DANIDA** : Danish International Development Assistance
- **N-MFA**: Norwegian MFA
- **MRRD/NSP**: Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development / National Solidarity Programme
- **SDC**: Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation
- **ECHO** : European Commission Humanitarian Organisation
- **CHF**: Common Humanitarian Fund (UNOCHA)
- **UNODC**: United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
- **UNICEF**: United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund
- **UNHCR**: United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
- **SIDA**: Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency
- **CIDA/CAWST**: Canadian International Development Assistance / Centre for Affordable Water and Sanitation Technology)
- **JICA**: Japan International Cooperation Agency
- **DRC**: Danish Refugee Council
- **NORPLAN**

## Funds spent

### During 2015 per thematic area (%)



### During 2016 per thematic area (%)



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

## THE FUTURE



Sorobi District, Kabul Province.

The funding landscape has shifted markedly, with the amount of funds available drastically reduced and primarily focused on emergency relief and halting mass migration, leaving fewer funds for other humanitarian and development projects.

In order to survive financially, DACAAR realizes that a diversified funding base is necessary so the organisation has moved from relying on a few large donors to taking on more programmes from a wider variety of funding partners, such as upcoming projects with DFID, Dutch MFA, UN agencies, and others. 2017 will also see DACAAR continuing to play a larger role in the DG ECHO Emergency Response Mechanism, a harmonised approach to emergency response where duplication of efforts is avoided at all possible times due to ERM partners coordinating with each other regularly and continuously.

Another diversification strategy is that by forming partnerships/consortiums the opportunity exists for potential projects funded by new donors with whom DACAAR has not yet worked. Consortia where partners complement each other both thematically and geographically will allow for DACAAR to expand into new areas and potentially new thematic areas as well. This process has already begun with DACAAR participating in several new consortia expected to materialize in 2017.

DACAAR is taking a more flexible approach to geographic coverage including expanding into areas where the organisation hasn't historically worked on our own, in addition to within consortiums/partnerships. This wider view will allow us to implement emergency WASH in a wide range of areas across Afghanistan where the need is greatest, rather than restricting operations to our traditional coverage area.

In addition to expanding our geographical coverage, in 2017 DACAAR is also expanding into new types of programming such as Quality Control/Quality Assurance on external projects falling within our thematic areas of expertise, with the implementation of a project with UNICEF where DACAAR is performing third-party monitoring of WASH projects undertaken by other implementing partners and the Afghan government.

# APPRECIATION LETTERS GRANTED TO DACAAR DURING 2015 - 2016



From Department of Rural Rehabilitation and Development, Faryab



From Department of Refugees and Repatriations, Baghlan



From the Chinari Village CDC, Chawki District, Kunar



From Directorate of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock, Balkh



From the Chamtala CDC, Surkhrod District, Nangarhar



From the Shaikh Meseri CDC, Surkhrod District, Nangarhar



DACAAR MAIN OFFICE KABUL  
Golayee, Wazirabad  
PO Box 208, Kabul, Afghanistan

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

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

Phone: +45 33 73 50 00  
E-mail: [copenhagen@dacaar.org](mailto:copenhagen@dacaar.org)