Annual Report
2022

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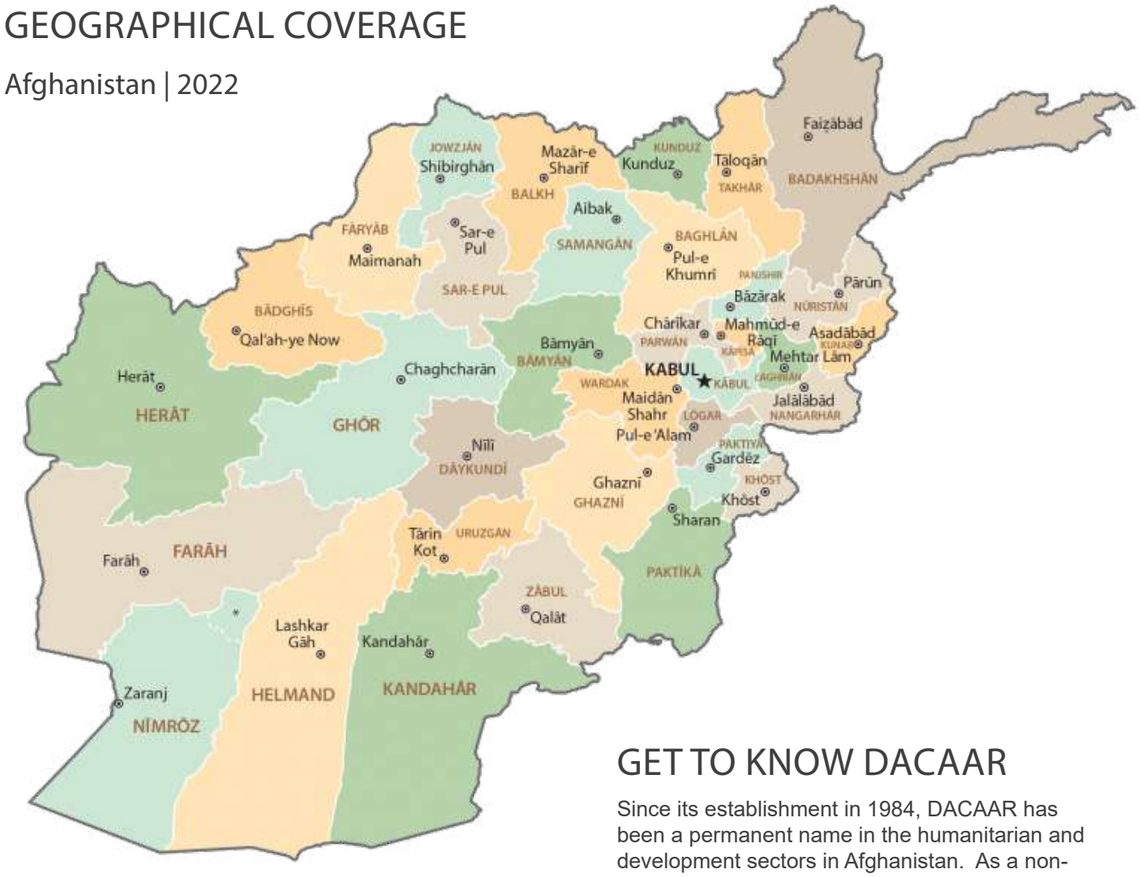
GEOGRAPHICAL COVERAGE

Afghanistan | 2022



DACAAR's activity coverage

East	Central	North
Nangarhar	Kabul	Balkh
Laghman	Kapisa	Kunduz
Kunar	Parwan	Takhar
	Ghazni	Badakhshan
	Wardak	Baghlan
	Khost	Samangan
	Logar	Jawzjan
	Paktia	
	Paktika	
	Daikundi	

North-West	West	South
Faryab	Herat	Kandahar
	Farah	Helmand
	Badghis	Zabul

GET TO KNOW DACAAR

Since its establishment in 1984, DACAAR has been a permanent name in the humanitarian and development sectors in Afghanistan. As a non-political, non-governmental, 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 and returning refugees 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.

WHAT DACAAR STANDS FOR

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.

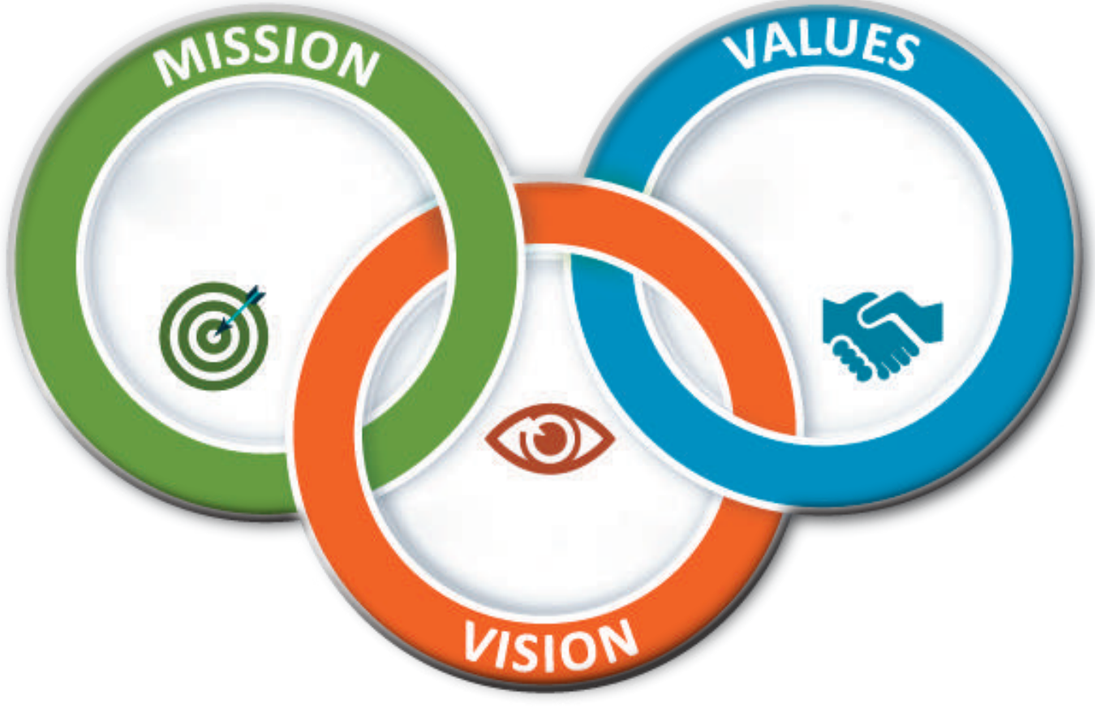


Photo by: Fawad Hakimi

MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

DACAAR wishes to continue to help the Afghan people as long as they need our help and it is very clear. As the country undergoes a significant transition, marked by gaps in long-term on-budget funding and a growing humanitarian crisis, our position to continue that support is very important. Through this year of transition, we are thankful that the humanitarian fund for DACAAR increased this year. However, we were cautious to ensure that this increase did not compromise beneficiary selection and the quality of our interventions. Our priority is to fulfill our promises while also reaching those who haven't been reached before. We strive to maintain the effectiveness and impact of our aid, ensuring it benefits those in need and supports their well-being.

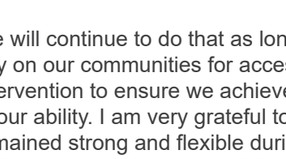
But, at the end of this year, we are very aware that humanitarian interventions are not the solution. Although many donors have been flexible in letting us complete longer-term solutions and in so helping more people than we have ever before, we are very aware longer-term cooperation, where more development-type programs are implemented, needs to be a transition to work towards.

As always, the dedication of DACAAR's staff and their hard work under a very difficult and changing working environment, along with the close coordination with the community we wish to help, has supported our work and quality of our interventions. This focus on implementation will continue to support our good reputation, not promising what we cannot achieve, and making sure as many Afghans as possible get the help they need.

As I have mentioned before, we need to continue with open and honest dialogue with all parties at all levels and work on that inclusion to find the best path forward. This has never been more important, and with the help from our staff and close coordination from our Copenhagen HQ, I am sure we can work through all challenges that we will come across.

Again, I would like to end by confirming how honored I am to still hold the position as Director of DACAAR, representing the strong Afghan DACAAR team standing side by side with the Afghan people.

We will continue to do that as long as they need us and rely on our communities for access, inclusion, and quality intervention to ensure we achieve our goals to the best of our ability. I am very grateful to the donors who have remained strong and flexible during this transition period, and I extend my thanks to all those supporting us along the way, including the extra hard work put in by all the DACAAR staff to achieve this.



DACAAR Country Director
John Paul Morse

DACAAR INTERVENTIONS IN BRIEF

We carry out a variety of emergency relief, early recovery and developmental interventions in Afghanistan. We tailor these to the needs and priorities of each targeted community, delivering activities in an integrated way ensuring best outcomes for our beneficiaries. We currently work in the following sectors:

WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE

With more than three decades of experience, we are renowned as one of the largest Water, Sanitation and Hygiene providers in Afghanistan.

NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

Our Natural Resources Management interventions are primarily agriculture and livestock focused.

SMALL-SCALE ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT

Our interventions are aimed at promoting business development and employment opportunities among youth and farmers.

WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT

Our interventions are aimed at promoting business development and employment opportunities among female youth and farmers.

2022 IN BRIEF

Photo by: Oriane Zerah

Direct Beneficiaries	Male Beneficiaries	Female Beneficiaries
1,234,095	597,538	636,557
IDPs	**Returnees**	**Host Communities**
557,148	101,145	575,802

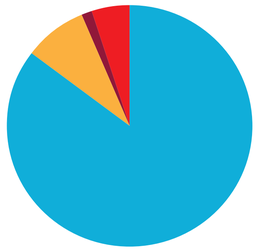
FUNDS SPENT PER SECTOR (%)

73.8 % WASH

7.3 % NRM

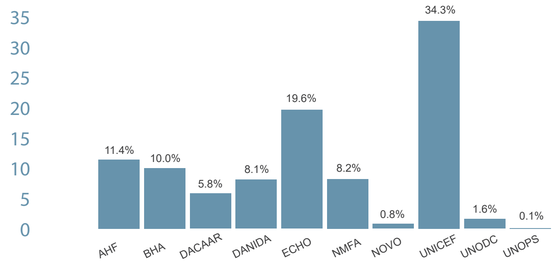
1.1 % SSED

4.3 % WE



- WASH: Water Sanitation and Hygiene
- NRM: Natural Resources Management
- SSED: Small Scale Enterprise Development
- WE: Women's Empowerment

DONOR CONTRIBUTIONS (%)



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

Key achievements 2022

Visitors and patients have easy access to handwashing station constructed by DACAAR and funded by UNICEF in Dobandi clinic, Parwan, Jabal Seraj district.
Photo by: Oriane Zerah

DACAAR planted Agro Forestry plot in Faryab, Bilcheragh district
Photo by: Fawad Hakimi

TVET (Technical vocational and educational training) graduate who started his own shop after receiving seven months of Vocational Training in Faryab, Qaisar district.
Photo by: Fawad Hakimi

Female beneficiary supporting her family through selling eggs of the hens, provided by DACAAR in Nangarhar, Kama district.
Photo by: Oriane Zerah

Key achievements 2022

Construction of solar-powered pipe scheme project in Nangarhar, Pacheragam district.
Photo by: Oriane Zerah

Establishment of pistachio orchard in Faryab, Sherentagab district.
Photo by: Oriane Zerah

DACAAR hygiene promoter delivering hygiene messages in a session held in Mangaladi village, Kapisa provincial center.
Photo by: Oriane Zerah

Access to safe drinking water, pipe scheme project in Nangarhar, Pacheragam district.
Photo by: Oriane Zerah

Photo by: Oriane Zerah

WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE (WASH)

DACAAR's WASH interventions aim at improving health and quality of life among Afghan communities. Limited access to safe water for drinking and household use, coupled with a lack of knowledge of good hygiene practices and unavailability of proper sanitation facilities are major causes of waterborne diseases and COVID-19 in Afghan households, resulting in serious illnesses, depletion of scarce household assets, and even mortality among children and other at-risk groups.

Over the years 2021 and 2022, we had to continually improve ourselves to meet the growing need for WASH services across the country economic crisis, pocket area conflicts, COVID-19 pandemic, an epidemic situation of Acute Watery Diarrheal (AWD) disease with severe dehydration, natural disasters caused great suffering and displacement. We had to exponentially expand our emergency WASH services to cater to the immediate needs of large numbers of IDPs, returnees, and most vulnerable host communities affected by economic shock, conflicts, natural disasters, and disease outbreaks.

During this period, access to remote and hard to reach areas was a major challenge, however, with due commitment of our staff and firm support from our partner communities, the Emergency WASH team was able to reach beneficiaries in 23 provinces of the country.

After August 2021, the financial transactions crisis and market distortions adversely affected DACAAR's response capacity to ensure a timely supply of vital WASH items to our project areas as such causing some delays in the delivery of assistance.

The main emergency WASH project activity components were improving water sources and installation of emergency baths and latrines during emergency situations. Besides, delivering hygiene messages and supplying kits door-to-door was also an important part of our WASH interventions to support improvements in the health and well-being of Afghan families, particularly women, children, persons with disability, and other at-risk persons. Following the takeover of the country by IEA, door-to-door interventions were banned in some areas affecting our ability to reach these groups, however, this problem was by-in-large resolved later.

Despite the above challenges, DACAAR remained the largest NGO provider of WASH services in the country. Likewise, we remained at the forefront of efforts to improve WASH interventions in the country, by continuing to co-lead the WASH Cluster together with UNICEF, participating in other national and sub-national WASH working groups as well as by conducting regular training seminars on sector best practices at our Water Expertise and Training Center (WETC).

Direct Beneficiaries	Male Beneficiaries	Female Beneficiaries
1,108,928	539,656	569,272
IDPs	**Returnees**	**Host Communities**
532,285	88,714	487,928

WASH ACHIEVEMENTS DURING 2022:

- Construction of 190 tube wells fitted with quality hand pumps.
- Construction of 10,087 house connection stand posts.
- 2,566 Non-functional water points were rehabilitated (operation and maintenance of community water points).
- 1,514 Bio-sand filters (BSF) distributed.
- 20,288,98 liter water distributed through tankering.
- Construction of 6,187 baths and latrines.
- Hygiene education disseminated to 163,166 families.
- 134,704 kits distributed.
- 4,128 wells chlorinated.
- Construction of 6,087 water points.

WASH SDGs

Provinces Covered

• Kabul	• Wardak	• Takhar	• Kandahar	• Pakteya
• Khost	• Nangarhar	• Badakhshan	• Herat	• Paktika
• Logar	• Laghman	• Jawzjan	• Badghis	
• Kapisa	• Kunar	• Balkh	• Zabul	
• Parwan	• Kunduz	• Faryab	• Daikundi	
• Ghazni	• Baghlan	• Helmand	• Farah	

Photo by: Oriane Zerah

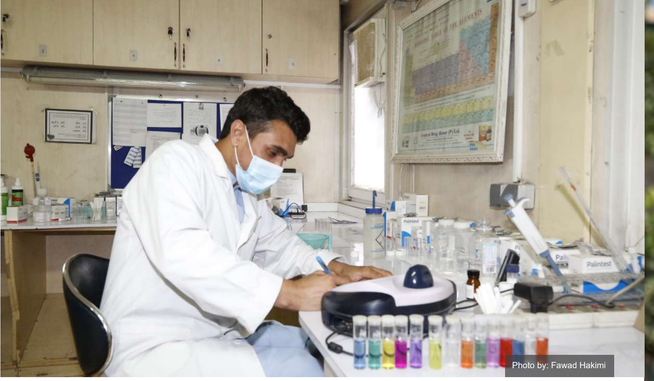


Photo by: Fawad Hakimi

WATER EXPERTISE AND TRAINING CENTER

Capacity of 856 employees of WASH service providers. was built on topics such as drinking water quality testing, well construction, solar-powered water supply, water safety plan implementation, community health promotion, COVID-19 and AWD/Cholera WASH Response, etc. In addition, the center supported both DACAAR projects and other WASH providers through its Drinking Water Quality Testing Laboratory. In total the lab performed 3,816 physical, 3,820 bacteriological and 709 chemical tests.

GROUNDWATER MONITORING

The national groundwater monitoring wells network indicates the quantitative and qualitative concerns in groundwater. The quantitative concerns may be caused by a continuous decrease in groundwater levels, and depletion of natural groundwater storage, and the quality concerns will gradually worsen the chemical, physical, and biological parameters of water, which could potentially become a real threat to the human health, agricultural activities, and even environmental security.

Currently, the 426 GWM wells in 29 provinces are active and regularly monitored by the four mobile teams on a monthly basis.

We are enjoying our life with easy access to clean waterinside our houses we are no more obliged to fetch water from far distance.

Photo by: Oriane Zerah

Not having access to safe drinking water was a big problem for us; our children used to bring water from the distanced Masjid well. DACAAR rehabilitated our next door well, so now our children and women can fetch water anytime without any fear.

Photo by: Oriane Zerah

Photo by: Oriane Zerah

Photo by: Fawad Hakimi

NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT (NRM)

In Afghanistan, most of the population is involved in subsistence farming, family-run agricultural and/or livestock farming. In many cases, they produce barely enough to sustain their family needs, let alone selling excess produce to make an income. The absence of enough water to sustain farming activities, recurrent droughts, climate change and decades of conflict have dramatically reduced the capacities of the farming families to be self-sufficient.

Our 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;

a) Distribution of certified and improved inputs (seeds, saplings, tools, fertilizers, pullets, goats, medicine, stable improvement etc). Quality inputs increased yield and productivity of farmers and herders.
b) Season long hands-on training to build farmers' capacity on improved farming techniques to get more yield.
c) DACAAR targeted those farmers which have changed from illicit crops to licit crops (high value crops and livestock's).
d) Follow up support to help farmers deal with farming challenges while they put their newly gain knowledge and skills into practice on their own farms.
e) Improving access to and community-based management of irrigation water resources for farming by constructing/ rehabilitating small-scale irrigation structures.
f) Support herders/farmers on construction of check dams and ponds to recharge ground water table, irrigated their fields, watering for their livestock and protect the soil from erosion.
g) Supporting farmers on processing, packaging, branding and finding sustainable markets (local, regional national and international) for their products.

Given the far-reaching consequences of climate change in an already fragile context, DACAAR pays extreme attention to the environmental consequences of its projects, hence the preference for home-based kitchen gardening, small scale farming, traditional grape-drying houses, drip irrigation system are the examples of climate smart agriculture.

Direct Beneficiaries	Male Beneficiaries	Female Beneficiaries
123,300	56,869	66,431
IDPs	**Returnees**	**Host Communities**
24,660	12,330	86,310

NRM ACHIEVEMENTS DURING 2022:

1,423 farmers received agriculture, livestock and poultry training and inputs through:

- 60 farmers graduated from Cereal Crop (Paddy) Farmer Field Schools (FFS)
- 103 farmers received training and inputs for greenhouses, fruit orchards and vineyards.
- 7 farmers received training and support with grape-drying houses.
- 7 hectares of land was cultivated with pistachio to promote agroforestry.
- 205 women received training and inputs for home-based poultry
- 1,041 farmers received training, inputs and support for establishing dairy farms, artificial insemination, improved stables and good livestock farming.

Photo by: Fawad Hakimi

I earned a substantial amount from the greenhouse that DACAAR built for me. Now, I have helped my brother to replicate the same method and he has built a greenhouse three times larger for himself and earn even more than me.

NRM SDGS

Provinces Covered

- Nangarha
- Juzjan
- Faryab
- Helmand

Photo by: Fawad Hakimi

“My husband has a disability and I was the breadwinner of my family working in the offices as a cleaner and washing people’s clothes. DACAAR helped us by constructing a greenhouse for us inside our house. Now, myself, my husband, and my children work for oursleves and earn a good income and have sufficient food for us. We are living the best days in our life.”

Photo by: Fawad Hakimi

Photo by: Fawad Hakimi

Photo by: Oriane Zerah

SMALL SCALE ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT (SSED)

With a burgeoning young population, job creation stands as one of Afghanistan's most pressing challenges. The economic situation in the country has been further exacerbated by years of conflict, the COVID-19 pandemic, significant political changes post-August 2021, and subsequent international sanctions, all of which have added to the fragility of the existing context.

Over the years, DACAAR has been actively supporting the Afghan market by providing vocational training to the country's youth in various skills and facilitating the establishment of small and medium enterprises.
DACAAR employs a center-based approach for its vocational training program, aiming to optimize peer knowledge exchange and create a comfortable learning environment for trainees. The selection of training programs is based on a comprehensive market assessment to avoid redundancy and oversaturation of the local market.

Upon completion of the vocational training at these centers, the young individuals are presented with opportunities to either start their own enterprises or join existing vocational skill shops.

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 and Medium Scale Enterprise Development (SSED) by facilitating the establishment of Producers Associations. These associations 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
290	270	20
IDPs	**Returnees**	**Host Communities**
58	29	203

I was a jobless youngster and had no positive activity to fill my time with. I felt bad that I couldn't help my family in anyway despite I wanted to do so. DACAAR's training has enabled me to acquire beneficial skills and at the same time earn an income to support my family. I am extremely delighted and thankful to DACAAR.

Photo by: Oriane Zerah

SSED ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2022:

A total of 290 small businesses were supported with skills, inputs and business management education by:

- 140 youth (20 women) graduated from DACAAR's vocational training program and received small grants, toolkits and coaching and mentoring for starting own small enterprises.
- 40 retailers receiving incentives to purchase farmers products.
- 3 Producer Associations involviong 150 members provided with 3 BP (Business Plan) and training, small grants, tools and mentoring.

SSED SDGS

Provinces Covered

- Nangarhar
- Juzjan
- Faryab

Photo by: Oriane Zerah

Women's Empowerment

DACAAR continued to help and support rural Afghan women by utilizing the Women Resource Centers (WRCs) established. These self-organized collectives provided opportunities for women to engage in income-generating activities, targeted education, and capacity-building programs. WRCs served as the primary platform for women's empowerment, offering a culturally accepted environment for rural women to come together. They trained, learned, developed leadership skills, participated in small businesses, shared knowledge, and supported each other. The centers also provided life skills training, literacy courses, safe motherhood programs, and rights awareness training.

In cases where cultural constraints prevented women from attending WRCs, DACAAR's female staff provided training and input in kitchen gardening, animal husbandry, tailoring, carpet weaving, and other different types of home-based businesses directly in their homes, to increase vulnerable women's social and economic engagement and build their capacity for income-generating activities.
Literacy courses were very successful, as many Afghan women and girls are illiterate and were out of from formal education, there were many reasons for a lack of access to formal education. For example; the ban on girl's and women's education, continued conflict in the country, and cultural limitations.

However, by promoting literacy, DACAAR helped to improve women's position within their families and communities.
It is worth mentioning that DACAAR integrates women's empowerment across all its interventions and thematic areas, to ensure their voices and needs are recognized and addressed. DACAAR pays specific attention to women's demands in both emergency situations and long-term development programs across all areas. For example, hygiene awareness is provided through female employees of DACAAR who conduct house-to-house visits to deliver health and hygiene messages to women. Additionally, specific items that support women's menstrual hygiene are included in the hygiene kits distributed to relevant households.
To enhance safety, DACAAR provides torchlights to IDP women and girls, enabling them to access sanitation facilities, fetch water, or feed their children at night. This initiative aims to ensure the safety and well-being of women and girls in challenging situations.
Similarly, DACAAR supports women in Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) which is convened for unemployed and unskilled female youth to improve employment opportunities and income-generating activities. Also, in Natural Resource Management (NRM) activities, acknowledge women's valuable contributions and the opportunity to support their roles within communities and families.

Direct Beneficiaries	Male Beneficiaries	Female Beneficiaries
721	0	721
IDPs	**Returnees**	**Host Communities**
144	72	505

WE Achievements in 2022:

A total of 721 vulnerable women were supported as follows:

- 60 women graduated from vocational training centers.
- 13 women-run greenhouses were constructed.
- 268 women were supported with dairy cows/goats.
- 30 women were supported with Saffron cultivation, processing and marketing
- 130 women were supported with vegetable production
- 140 women graduated from 9-month long literacy and numeracy classes.
- 20 women received training and inputs for home-based food processing.

Photo by: Fawad Hakimi

I had a small piece of land available in my yard which I could not utilize before. DACAAR helped me by making a kitchen garden in my house. Now I have a lot of activities during the day while gardening and this helps me stay physically and mentally involved. Besides, I harvest the products from the garden and ensure my family has enough food. I also sell some of the vegetables to the neighboring shopkeepers.

WE SDGS

Provinces Covered

- Nangarhar
- Faryab
- Juzjan

Photo by: Fawad Hakimi

Photo by: Fawad Hakimi

ORGANIZATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

In 2022, DACAAR continued its female internship program admitting 14 newly graduated women into a six-month long practical learning program. The aim of the internship program is to improve employability for aspiring female graduates by giving them the opportunities to pair up and work as interns with the experienced DACAAR staff in various departments and to participate in organized training opportunities in DACAAR.

During the 2022, DACAAR started its initial stages of developing an internal information management system. The system is consisting of a database where DACAAR can store all its project related data on the server. The TOR was made and the procurement process completed with the signing of the contract. It is expected that the system will be fully operational in 2023.

Throughout the years 2022, in total 873 staff participated in various training workshops. Topics included; financial management, general management, social organization, project management, prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA), basic safety and security, agriculture and market value chains, etc.

DACAAR CHALENGES DURING 2022

DACAAR faced many challenges in 2022, but despite this, the organization achieved its planned targets.
The main challenges faced in 2022 was getting cash transfered from our head office and donors to Afghanistan, mainly due to high cost of transfer fees. Additionally, limited bank operations in Afghanistan created challenge to effect payments. Beside this, most suppliers were not willing to accept cheque as banks were not providing them with cash, due to their poor liquidity status.
There was scarcity of supplies, materials and equipment in the market related to our field operation. There were also many challenges related to the quality and price fluctuation of those supplies and materials.
Finally, in the December of 2022, DACAAR female staff activity was suspended due to government policy. The organizations normal activities providing services to women in communities was affected as a consequence of the ban.

Food package distribution:
Distribution of food packages to the 8000 most valnurable families, including IDPs, returnees, female breadwinners and the host communities in Faryab and Jawzjan provinces. The purpose was to strengthen the local communities through their struggle against hunger and poverty.

BASIC FACTS

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

Established:	**Staff:**	**Director:**
1984	Around 1,000 national staff and 4 international staff	John Morse, Kabul **Head of Secretariat:** Klaus Løkkegaard, Copenhagen

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)
Elin Petersen, The Danish Afghanistan Committee (DAC)
Mads Bugge Madsen, The Danish Trade Union Development Agency (DTDA)

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

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