



Success story EU project Herat

Mrs. Laila is a Paravet operating a Veterinary Field Unit (VFU)/animal health clinic in Herat province. She says: "I am a 32 years old, married woman, having two sons and one daughter. In addition to being a housewife, I am running an animal health clinic where I provide veterinary services to the community and make a living for my family. Being a paravet, I am respected now by the community members in our village."



"In our village, I heard about a veterinary training course and I became very interested to participate in the training since we had deep concerns in our family with regards to our economic condition. My husband earns a small income working on a rickshaw and he cannot afford all our family expenses alone."

"There were four ladies considered and the village Shura/Community Development Council selected me as the candidate to participate in the 6-month new Paravet training. The training covered both practical and theoretical aspects and I learned quite a lot. Further, I was encouraged by the trainer and other classmates to establish my own clinic after graduation. When I participated in the training, I was confident that a better life would be waiting for me soon. After graduation, with the support of the project I opened my own clinic where I started to serve the people of my community that had little livestock services, expecting to make extra money for my family."

"At the beginning, I had almost no clients requesting my services. No one knew about my clinic or my new skills. With the support from extension groups established in my neighbourhood by DCA as well as its monitoring team, those days were over quickly. I accompanied the team and delivered extension messages to extension group members of surrounding villages. There, I delivered extension messages introducing that I am running an animal clinic, and once this was known female livestock owners highly welcomed my services. In addition, they promised that they would introduce my clinic to family and friends and would encourage other women to utilise the services."

"Gradually people started trusting me because they were using and appreciating my services. Before I established my clinic, I had almost no income, but now I earn about 6,000 to 8,000 Afghanis per month, and 35 to 40 clients visit my clinic every month. Around 10 villages in two districts are currently benefitting from my services. Now, the economic situation of my family has become better and I am happy that I can contribute to the household finances."

"My life has changed immensely since I became involved in DCA activities in Herat. I would like to thank the EU-DCA project for providing extension training and establishing my animal clinic; I really learned a lot about livestock keeping."