

FAO – FMD vaccination campaigns

Donor / contractor	FAO
Period	18 May 2016 - 17 May 2017
Area	20 provinces

This FAO FMD project aimed to protect large ruminants, in particular cattle of the dairy cooperatives, against Foot-and-Mouth Disease (FMD). In addition, the project intended to bring awareness to dairy cattle keepers on the importance and benefit of preventive vaccination. The project was implemented in 10 provinces of Afghanistan.

During the project, DCA undertook two successive vaccination campaigns with a 6 months interval in between. For these campaigns, DCA instructed 49 VFUs in the target provinces to vaccinate cattle belonging to members of dairy cooperatives against FMD. In the first campaign, 51,540 cattle were vaccinated, and in the second round 70,688 animals. The number of households involved were 7,837 respectively 9,607.

In addition, the VFUs established 98 extension groups where 1,960 farmers attended various extension trainings on relevant livestock management topics. All 1,960 farmers received milk hygiene kits, among others consisting of a milk bucket, nail cutter, gloves, Dettol soap, and a plastic chair.

To assess vaccine efficacy, the VFUs also collected 720 blood samples from vaccinated animals to be tested for the presence of FMD antibodies before and after vaccination. These samples were tested by the Central Veterinary Diagnostic and Research Institute (CVDRL) in Kabul and showed a marked production of FMD specific antibodies which is a good indicator of vaccine efficacy.