FAO – PPR project

Donor / contractor	FAO
Period	October 2016 – October 2017
Area	20 provinces

After a successful pilot project, conducted in 2015/2016, this FAO-PPR project aimed to bring Afghanistan to stage 2 of the progressive control/eradication pathway for PPR, as outlined in the FAO and OIE Strategy. Reaching stage 2 means that the country is implementing targeted control activities in productive sectors that are considered for the national economy or key for disease control purposes.

Main target animals of the project were the sheep and goats belonging to the nomadic pastoralists of Afghanistan (the Kuchi). Kuchi play an important role in mutton and goat meat production in Afghanistan and their livestock is a potential source of infectious diseases because of their nomadic way of living.
The project produced the following two outcomes:
• Small ruminants of the Kuchi were protected against PPR and did not suffer of any loss in terms of mortality or reduced production attributable to this disease;
• The Kuchi gained an improved awareness on the most important infectious diseases of their livestock, and the benefit of applying preventive vaccination.

DCA selected 323 VFUs to be engaged in the PPR vaccination campaigns and the delivery of extension services. During the first year, the VFUs vaccinated 1,515,500 animals in the targeted Kuchi flocks. In the second year, 2,893,00 livestock were vaccinated. In total, 30,115 Kuchi households benefitted from the vaccination campaigns against PPR.

In addition, the VFUs created special extension groups of 10-15 pastoralists per group that met twice a month. In the extension meetings, clinical signs of infectious and zoonotic diseases were illustrated, and awareness on the need for preventive vaccinations has been raised. Some 19,450 beneficiaries were reached, organised in 1,292 rotating extension groups.

To assess the efficacy of the vaccine, the VFUs took 1,583 blood samples. To assess the baseline prevalence of PPR blood samples of three different age levels were tested: 0-12 months, 12-24 months, and older than 24 months. 512 animals of 0 to 12 months were selected for the post-vaccination sampling 30 days after vaccination. All serum samples were tested by the Central Veterinary Diagnostic and Research Laboratory in Kabul. The results reported by CVDRL indicated a marked production of PPR specific antibodies in the serum samples, which is a good indicator of vaccine efficacy.