

Success story of a paravet in Ghorian district

Rahim is one of the many owners of a Veterinary Field Unit (VUF) in Herat province. He says: "I am a 40 years old, married man, with three sons and five daughters. After I graduated from high school in Ghazni province, due to economic challenges I headed to Iran. After several years I returned Afghanistan and settled in Ghorian District."

"It was in 2011, I guess, when I heard through the Community Council that Dutch Committee for Afghanistan, funded by EU, was in search of someone to participate in a six-months training course on veterinary services. This person would get the chance to receive education and work as a paraveterinarian in the community. I registered for the course and fortunately I was selected to participate in the training. At the end of the course I took the graduation exam and I successfully passed that."

"Before starting my own clinic, I had no major skills to support my family financially, but thanks to DCA I learned techniques about how to attract the attention of customers. Because the DCA trainers told me that being a veterinarian is relatively easy, but becoming useful to the community is much more difficult. So, I did my best, I contacted many people, I travelled to neighbouring villages, I was honest with farmers, and I provided them with good quality vaccines and services. Thanks to these efforts the farmers came to me for consultations of their livestock, vaccines and other veterinary services. And after a while, I managed to make a decent living for my family."

"Now I make enough money to be financially self-sufficient. I have my own clients; they call me every day and ask me for my services. At first, they thought the services would be for free, but after a while they learned that asking for free services is not an appropriate demand."

"I would like to thank DCA/EU for providing me the chance to get educated and to make a living for my family and for changing my life tremendously."