



DACAAR

Annual Report

2025

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Get to Know **DACAAR**

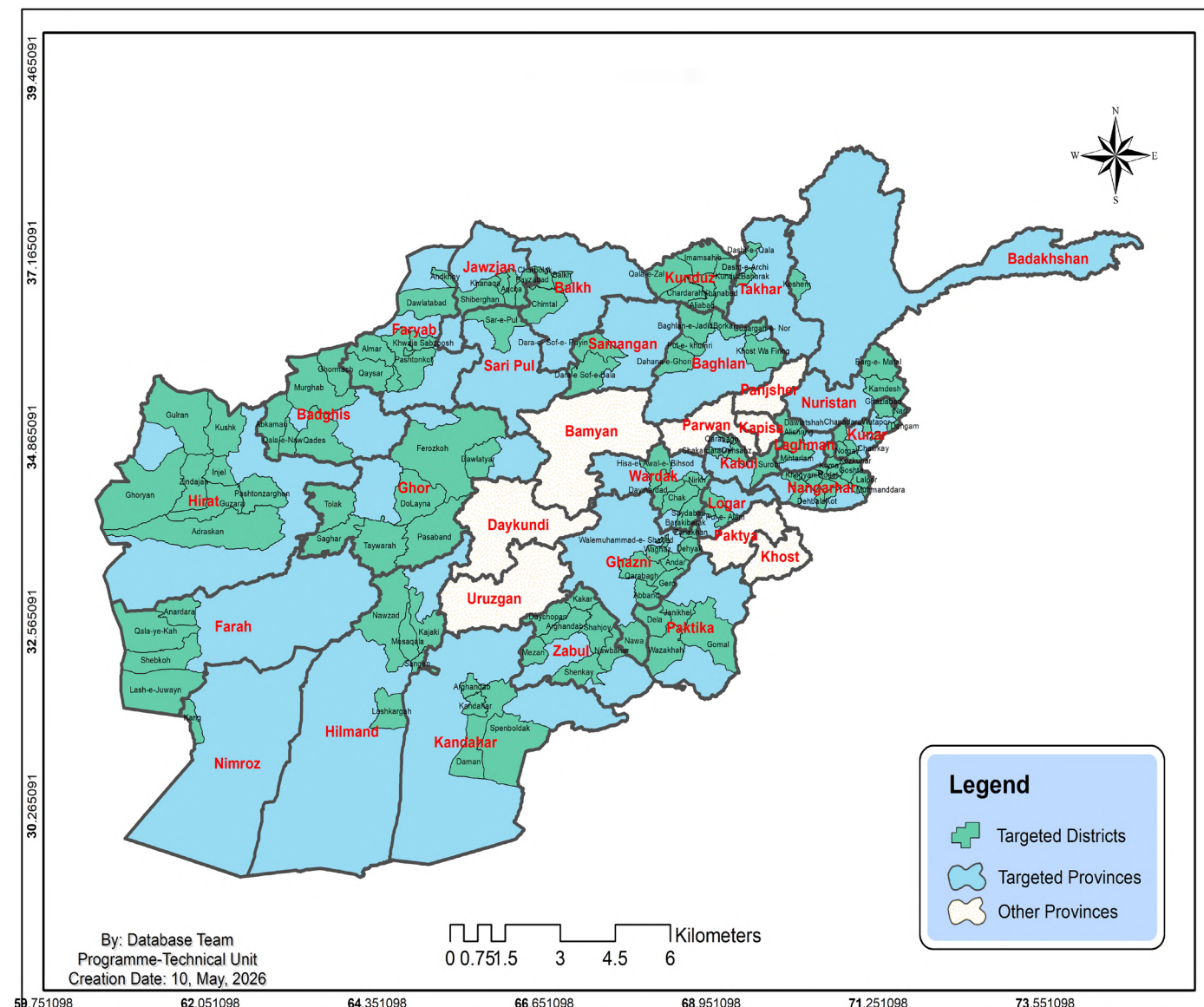
Since its establishment in 1984, DACAAR has been a permanent name in the humanitarian and development sectors in Afghanistan. As a non-political, non-governmental, non-profit organization, it works to improve the lives of the Afghan people by addressing the acute needs of the most vulnerable and supporting 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.

Geographical Coverage 2025



What **DACAAR** Stands For

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 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 Values

Efficiency | Honesty | Participation | Equity | Quality | Transparency

Our Community Based Approach

DACAAR works directly with Afghan communities through Mosque/Masjid Committees, Community Working Groups, 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.

Principles

The core principles outlined below are supported by DACAAR's existing policy environment. The organization's comprehensive policy framework, including the PSEA Policy, Protection Guidelines, Conflict Sensitivity Policy, Environmental Policy, and Anti-Terrorism and Sanctions Compliance Policy, operationalizes these principles across all areas of programming and internal governance. This alignment ensures that DACAAR's 3-Year Strategy is grounded in ethical, inclusive, and rights-based approaches, while maintaining operational integrity, legal compliance, and community trust in Afghanistan's complex and high-risk context.

- Humanitarian Principles (Humanity, Neutrality, Impartiality, Independence)
- Gender Equality and Social Inclusion
- Accountability to Affected Populations
- Safeguarding and Protection
- Conflict Sensitivity and Do No Harm
- Data Security and Privacy



Message from the Country Director

The year 2025 saw a continuation of DACAAR’s long-standing commitment to the people of Afghanistan while adapting to a rapidly evolving operational and strategic environment. The leadership structure was strengthened through the appointment of Secretary General Mr. Klaus Løkkegaard, replacing the previous position of Head of Secretariat. This organiza-tional change reflects DACAAR’s ambition to further consolidate its governance, enhance strategic coordination, and position the organization strongly for the years ahead.

On a personal note, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to all DACAAR staff, partners, and stakeholders for the ex-ceptionally warm welcome I received upon assuming my position as country director on 1 August 2025. From my very first day, I have been met with openness, commitment, and an impressive level of professionalism across the organization. It has been both humbling and inspiring to join a team with such deep experience, resilience, and dedication to serving communities throughout Afghanistan.

Throughout the year, considerable time and effort were also devoted to the development of DACAAR’s new three-year Strategic Framework for 2026–2028. The process has involved broad consultations and valuable contributions from staff and partners at all levels of the organization. The new framework aims to provide a clear strategic direction for DACAAR in an increasingly complex context, while reaffirming our core values and commitment to sustainable development, community resilience, and principled humanitarian action. The launch of the localization policy in 2025 marked an important step towards stronger inclusion of Afghan stakeholders. DACAAR’s long-standing presence and the trust we have built across Afghanistan place us in a unique position to help nurture genuine partnerships with local and national civil society organizations. These relationships will not only strengthen community-level ownership of programs but also contribute to a more sustainable, Afghan-led development ecosystem.

At the same time, DACAAR strengthened its own capacity on climate change and became a member of the Climate Action Network for South Asia (CANSAs). Lastly, to support all strategic objectives, DACAAR embarked on a reform of its MEAL system and implemented an internal staff capacity-building program.

As we move into 2026, I remain confident that DACAAR’s strength lies in its people, its long-standing presence in Afghanistan, and its ability to adapt while staying true to its mission. I look forward to continuing this important work together with colleagues, partners, donors, and the communities we serve.

Peder Thorning
Country Director, DACAAR

DACAAR INTERVENTIONS IN BRIEF

DACAAR implements a range of emergency relief, early recovery, and development interventions in Afghanistan. These initiatives are tailored to the specific needs and priorities of each targeted community, allowing DACAAR to deliver activities in an integrated manner that ensures the best outcomes for beneficiaries. Currently, DACAAR operates in the following sectors:



WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE

With nearly four decades of experience, DACAAR is recognized as one of the major providers of Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene services in Afghanistan.



NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

DACAAR’s Natural Resource Management interventions primarily focus on agriculture and livestock.



SMALL-SCALE ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT

DACAAR’s interventions focus on promoting business development and enhancing employment opportunities for youth.



WOMEN’S ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY

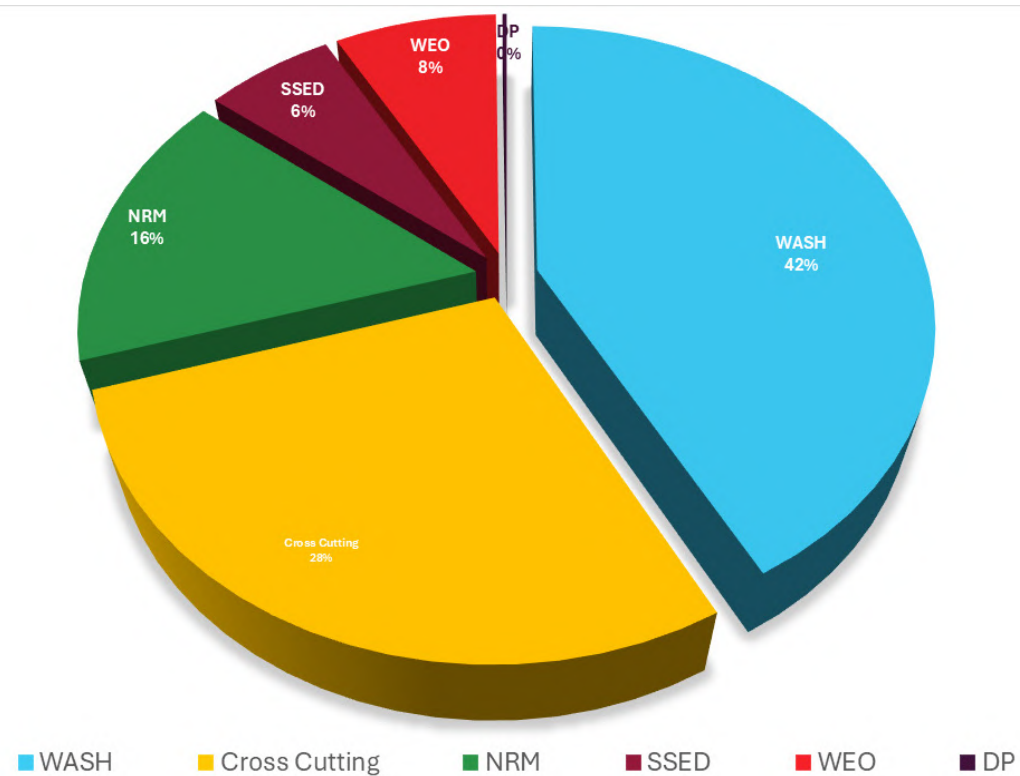
DACAAR is committed to providing critical support to vulner-able women and women-headed families, enabling them to secure sustainable livelihoods and actively participate in their communities’ economic growth.



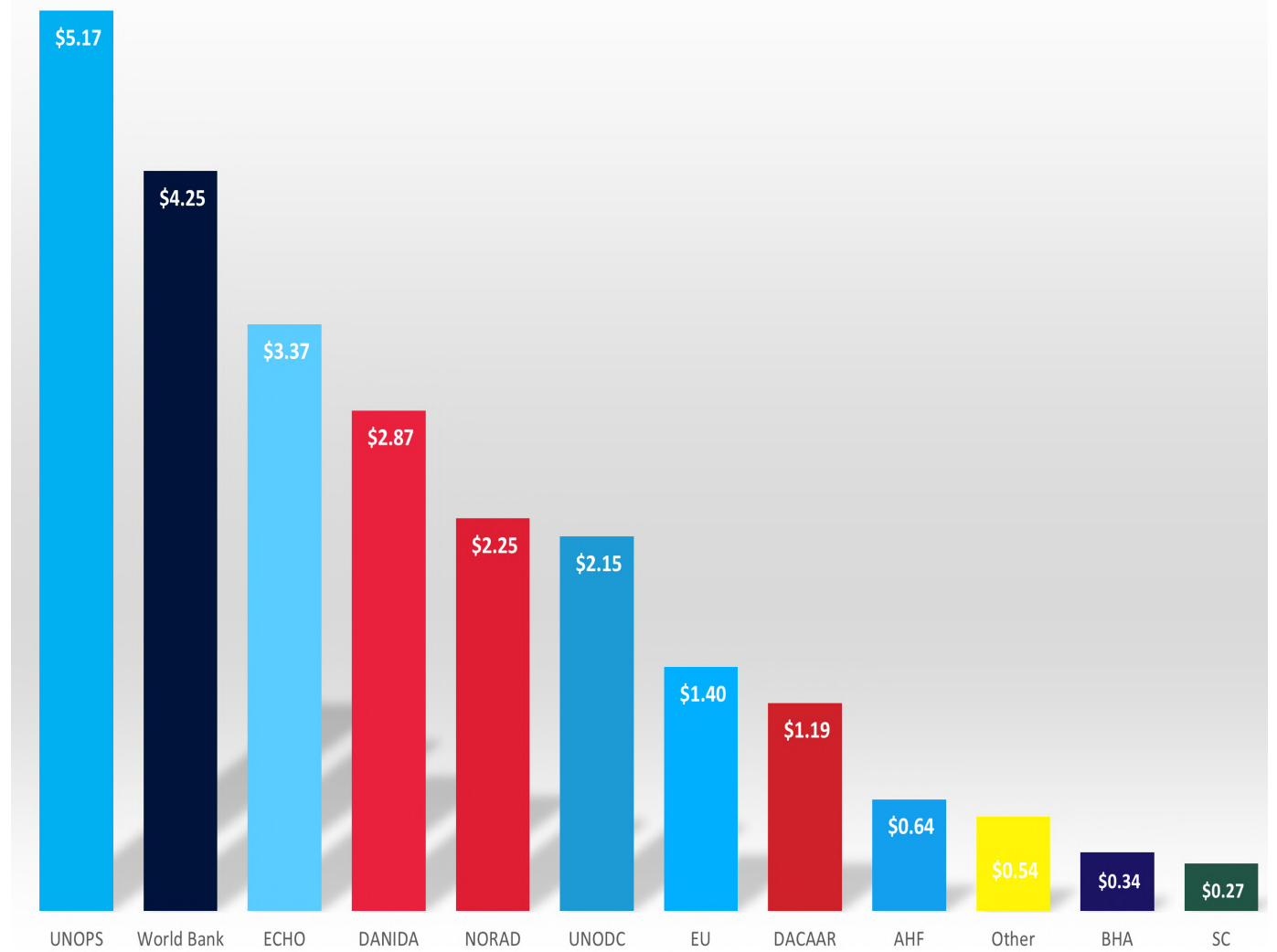


2025 IN BRIEF

Expenditures by Thematic Area in 2025



Expenditures by DONOR and DACAAR's Contribution in 2025



- UNOPS: United Nations Office for Project Service
- ECHO: European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operation
- DACAAR: Danish Committee for Aid to Afghan Refugees
- DANIDA: Danish International Development Agency
- Norad: The Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation
- UNODC: United Nation Office on Drugs and Crime
- World Bank
- SC: Solidarity Committee
- EU: European Union
- AHF: Afghanistan Humanitarian Fund
- BHA: Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance

Direct Beneficiaries	Male Beneficiaries	Female Beneficiaries
1,029,131	506,978	522,153
IDPs	Returnees	Host Communities
72,039	51,457	905,635



Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

Providing access to safe drinking water, hygiene, and sanitation is fundamental to human health and well-being. Safe WASH services are not only critical for preventing disease but also contribute to improved livelihoods, increased school attendance, enhanced dignity, and stronger, more resilient communities. DACAAR's WASH interventions aim to improve the health and overall quality of life of Afghan communities.

Limited access to safe drinking water, combined with inadequate knowledge of proper hygiene practices and the lack of appropriate sanitation facilities, remains a major cause of waterborne diseases in Afghanistan. These conditions often lead to serious illness, particularly among children and other vulnerable groups, and contribute to long-term health and socio-economic challenges.

Throughout 2025, DACAAR continuously adapted and strengthened its capacity to respond to the growing demand for WASH services across the country. The organization significantly expanded its interventions to address the urgent needs of communities affected by natural disasters, returnees, and a smaller number of internally displaced persons facing economic hardship. Despite major challenges in accessing remote and hard-to-reach areas, the strong commitment of DACAAR staff and the cooperation of partner communities enabled the WASH team to deliver services across 28 provinces.

The core components of DACAAR's WASH interventions included improving access to safe drinking water and providing safe bathing and sanitation facilities. In addition, hygiene promotion-through awareness campaigns and door-to-door distribution of hygiene kits-played a key role in improving public health outcomes. These efforts particularly targeted women, children, persons with disabilities, and other at-risk groups. Although restrictions-especially those affecting women's participation-temporarily limited door-to-door activities in some areas, these constraints were largely resolved over time. Despite these challenges, DACAAR remained a leading NGO in the delivery of WASH services in Afghanistan. The organization continued to play a key role in strengthening the sector by co-leading the WASH Cluster alongside UNICEF, actively participating in national and sub-national coordination platforms, and delivering regular technical training through its Water Expertise and Training Center (WETC).

Outcome and Impact: The WASH interventions implemented in 2025 contributed to significant improvements in access to safe water, sanitation facilities, and hygiene practices across targeted communities. Access to safe drinking water increased considerably from baseline levels of 1–36% to approximately 99% by the end of the project period. Similarly, the proportion of villages declared open defecation free increased from 4% to between 96% and 99%. Household latrine usage also improved substantially, rising from 28% to 72%, while reported diarrhoea cases decreased notably in several areas, including reductions from 84% to 16%.

The interventions also reduced the average time spent collecting water from as much as 75 minutes to less than 15 minutes, particularly benefiting women and children. Hygiene awareness and practices improved significantly, with widespread adoption of handwashing and safe water handling practices. Overall, these efforts contributed to better health conditions, lower medical expenses, time savings, and an improved quality of life for community members, with a very high level of beneficiary satisfaction reported across project locations.

WASH Achievements in 2025:

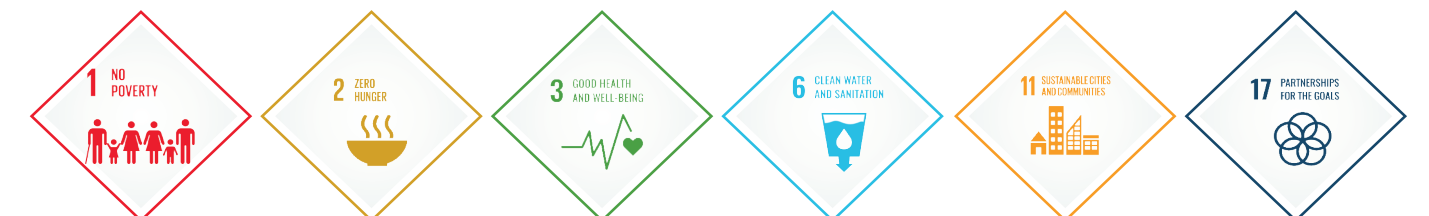
- ◆ A total of 22 new piped water supply schemes constructed, providing 3,597 household connections
- ◆ A total of 5 piped schemes rehabilitated, restoring 878 household connections
- ◆ A total of 848 nonfunctional water points rehabilitated.
- ◆ A total of 144 new water points constructed
- ◆ A total of 4,200 bio-sand filters distributed.
- ◆ A total of 3,262 water points chlorinated
- ◆ A total of 34,100 hygiene kits distributed
- ◆ A total of 1,480 latrine and bathing facility kits distributed
- ◆ A total of 34,100 hygiene consumable kits distributed
- ◆ A total of 39,071 families reached with hygiene education messages
- ◆ A total of 1,212 water user groups and water management committees established
- ◆ A total of 2,204 water points inspected
- ◆ A total of 404 plastic defecation chairs distributed for persons with disabilities
- ◆ A total of 4,530,300 liters of water supplied through water tankers
- ◆ Community-led total sanitation (clts) activities implemented, reaching 2,814 families

DACAAR's WASH Earthquake Response in Kunar:

Following the earthquake in Kunar Province in 2025, emergency WASH interventions were implemented to support affected communities and address urgent humanitarian needs. Through these interventions, a total of 99,846 people (52,338 females and 47,508 males) benefited from access to safe water, sanitation, and hygiene services. The response included the distribution of 3,000 hygiene kits, provision of 1,897,500 liters of safe water through water trucking, chlorination of 510 water sources, rehabilitation of 20 water sources and 4 water networks, as well as the installation of emergency sanitation facilities and provision of defecation chairs for vulnerable individuals. These efforts contributed to reducing public health risks and improving living conditions for earthquake-affected households.



WASH SDGs



Direct Beneficiaries
548,042
IDPs
38,363

Male Beneficiaries
263,410
Returnees
27,402

Female Beneficiaries
284,632
Host Communities
482,277



Water Expertise and Training Center (WETC)

The Water Expertise and Training Centre (WETC) of DACAAR continued to strengthen the capacity of WASH sector actors across Afghanistan in 2025, contributing directly to SDG 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation). Through its integrated services, capacity building, technical support, water quality testing, and knowledge sharing, the Centre supported NGOs, government relevant technical institutions, UN agencies, and private sector partners to implement high-quality and sustainable WASH interventions.

In 2025, WETC trained 302 professionals through 18 workshops at national and sub-national levels, enhancing participants' technical knowledge, practical skills, and adherence to quality standards in water supply, sanitation, and hygiene promotion. Additionally, the Centre provided 48 technical consultations to 24 organizations, strengthening sector-wide performance.

Water quality monitoring remained a key focus, with over 3,784 laboratory analyses conducted for DACAAR projects and external clients, ensuring safe drinking water and informed decision-making. The Centre also advanced action research on hand pump technologies and updated essential training materials, including climate-resilient WASH approaches. WETC maintained active coordination and partnerships with national and international stakeholders, contributing to sector platforms and technical discussions. Despite challenges such as delays in project approvals and limited research funding, WETC achieved its 2025 targets and reinforced its position as a trusted technical resource. Moving forward, the Centre aims to further improve service quality, upgrade laboratory facilities, expand training resources, and mobilize funding to sustain and scale its impact.

Groundwater Monitoring (GWM)

Groundwater monitoring remains essential for sustainable water resource management, providing critical data on seasonal fluctuations, recharge conditions, and long-term aquifer trends to support evidence-based planning and drought mitigation. In 2025, DACAAR monitored 426 groundwater wells across 29 provinces, conducting regular measurements to track groundwater levels, seasonal variations, and long-term changes. Selected wells were also tested for water quality to ensure safe and suitable use. Complementary groundwater assessments, including field measurements and well discharge testing, improved understanding of aquifer productivity and recharge. Geophysical investigations using STEM and electromagnetic methods further strengthened hydrogeological analysis by identifying subsurface formations, estimating aquifer characteristics, and locating potential water-bearing zones—enhancing the accuracy of well siting and design. The Hydrogeology Team also provided ongoing technical support to field staff on well construction, ensuring adherence to best practices. In addition, DACAAR promoted knowledge sharing by providing technical data to government institutions and academic researchers. In 2025, six technical reports were produced covering key groundwater studies across multiple provinces. These efforts, supported by the World Bank, ECHO, DANIDA, AHF, and Norad contributed to improved groundwater management and sustainable WASH planning across Afghanistan.

Provinces Covered

- Badakhshan
- Badghis
- Baghlan
- Balkh
- Farah
- Faryab
- Ghazni
- Ghor
- Herat
- Kabul
- Kunduz
- Kunar
- Laghman
- Logar
- Nangarhar
- Nimroz
- Nuristan
- Paktika
- Samangan
- Sar-e-Pul



In 2025, through the “Rural Development in Faryab and Jawzjan Provinces” project funded by Norway, DACAAR improved access to safe drinking water and sanitation services in Etihad Bori village of Qaisar district, Faryab province. A solar-powered water supply system was installed, providing clean water to 248 households. Alongside the infrastructure support, Community-Led Total Sanitation (CLTS) activities and Family Health Action Groups (FHAGs) helped raise awareness about hygiene, environmental cleanliness, and disease prevention, contributing to healthier living conditions for the community.







Natural Resource Management (NRM)

The rural population in Afghanistan is heavily dependent on natural resources for their livelihoods. A large proportion of the population relies on agriculture and livestock not only for daily food consumption but also for income generation. DACAAR's Natural Resources Management (NRM) interventions aim to provide sustainable solutions that help communities increase production and productivity, enabling them to meet household needs and generate income from surplus produce.

DACAAR supports communities through the distribution of improved agricultural and livestock inputs, including seeds, saplings, fertilizers, livestock, poultry, irrigation equipment, and veterinary support to enhance productivity and strengthen sustainable livelihoods.

Capacity building through practical, farm-based learning is a key component of DACAAR's NRM program. Through Farmer Field Schools, farmers and herders gain skills in climate-smart agriculture, including sustainable crop production, orchard and livestock management, greenhouse techniques, and cultivation of high-value crops, along with processing and packaging methods to improve market access.

DACAAR improves irrigation and water management through the construction and rehabilitation of small-scale irrigation systems and the promotion of water-saving techniques to support sustainable crop and livestock production.

DACAAR promotes climate-resilient agriculture to improve food security and income through orchards, greenhouses, agroforestry, and high-value crop cultivation. Farmers receive training and support in orchard management, drip irrigation, pest control, composting, and cultivation of crops such as pistachio, citrus, roses, and off-season vegetables to diversify livelihoods.

Cereal and industrial crop production is encouraged to further diversify agricultural activities and improve household food security. Farmers are supported in cultivating crops such as maize, paddy, cotton, and saffron, using climate-smart techniques that increase resilience to environmental stressors. Focus is placed on selecting high-value, drought- and pest-resistant crops that align with climate adaptation goals.

DACAAR integrates watershed and environmental management into all NRM activities through soil and water conservation, rangeland rehabilitation, and erosion control measures. Interventions such as check-dams, ponds, terracing, contour bunding, and agroforestry help restore ecosystems, improve soil fertility, enhance water retention, and reduce vulnerability to droughts and floods.

Market linkages and value chain support are essential components of NRM programming. Farmers and herders are assisted in processing, packaging, branding, and accessing sustainable local, regional, national, and international markets. DACAAR particularly encourages women's participation in value addition and home-based small-scale enterprises, promoting economic empowerment and food security.

Inclusive community engagement ensures equitable access to natural resources and decision-making processes. Special attention is given to women and vulnerable groups, who are supported through home-based kitchen gardening, small-scale farming, greenhouse cultivation, and fruit and vegetable processing. These activities strengthen household food security and increase resilience to climate change. Also, through integrated interventions in agriculture, watershed management, and community engagement, DACAAR's NRM activities improve livelihoods, strengthen resilience to climate risks, and promote environmentally sustainable development.

The NRM program contribution on outcomes and impact changes is very substantial. The NRM interventions in 2025 significantly improved livelihoods, productivity, and food security. Access to agricultural training and inputs increased from 15% to 85%, contributing to 78% of beneficiaries reporting higher production and notable income growth. The proportion of households able to meet their food needs rose from 34-42% to 60-66%, while food shortages declined from 61% to 39%. Improved irrigation access (e.g., 29% to 71%) further supported agricultural expansion. Women's economic participation also increased markedly, with working hours rising from 21 to 50 hours per week which shows the increase in women economic activities in the community. Overall, these interventions led to improved living conditions, with negative perceptions reduced to very low level, reflecting stronger resilience and sustainable livelihoods.

NRM Achievements in 2025:

A total of 8,097 farmers including women received agriculture, livestock, and poultry training and inputs through:

1. Infrastructure Development

- » 59 small-scale structures built (canal linings, culverts, dividers, aqueducts, intakes)
- » 4 check dam/reservoirs established
- » 3 grape drying houses (Kishmish Khana) established

2. Livestock & Poultry and Dairy Development

- » 2,000 farmers received artificial insemination support for cows
- » 160 farmers trained in improved dairy animal health & nutrition
- » 100 cows' stables upgraded
- » 370 farmers supported dairy processing.
- » 4 veterinary field unit (VFU) supported.
- » 4 milk collection center (MCC) supported.
- » 60 heifers distributed to farmers.
- » 80 women farmers supported in poultry.

3. Crop Production & Horticulture

- » 12 agroforestry plots established
- » 540 fruit orchards planted.

- » 106 fruit & non fruit nurseries plots established.
- » 248 fruit orchards equipped with drip irrigation system.
- » 8 farmers supported in establishing citrus orchards.
- » 100 farmers (women) supported and trained in citrus processing
- » 18 new pistachio orchards developed
- » 10 pistachio budding/grafting plots improved
- » 5 asafetida cultivation plots established
- » 17 greenhouses installed.
- » 910 vegetable cultivation plots established
- » 150 rose flower plots were established.
- » 150 exist rose flower plots rehabilitated.

4. Cereal crop & Industrial crop production.

- » 1,280 maize crop plots established.
- » 100 paddy crop plots established
- » 240 cotton cultivation plots were established.
- » 120 saffron cultivation field/plots established
- » 240 cotton cultivation plots were established.
- » 120 saffron cultivation field/plots established

NRM SDGs



Provinces Covered

- Nangarhar
- Kunar
- Kunduz
- Laghman
- Nuristan
- Helmand
- Herat
- Wardak
- Faryab
- Jawzjan

Direct Beneficiaries
56,679

IDPs
3,968

Male Beneficiaries
28,339

Returnees
2,833

Female Beneficiaries
28,340

Host Communities
49,878

Sowella, a beneficiary of DACAAR's agriculture project supported by DANIDA, has seen positive changes in her family's livelihood through greenhouse farming. Her husband, Mohammad Moquim, who also works in the greenhouse, says their seasonal income increased from around 20,000 AFN from wheat farming to 50,000–70,000 AFN through tomato cultivation, bringing positive changes to their family's living conditions.







Small-Scale Enterprise Development (SSED)

Young people are a big force for change in crisis situations. This is even more true of a country like Afghanistan, where almost two third of the population are below the age of 24. However, youths are among the groups most affected by crises and often struggle to find jobs due to a lack of education, experience, or in-demand skills. As a result, they become vulnerable targets for human traffickers and drug dealers, who exploit them for illegal immigration or drug use.

Over the years, DACAAR has been actively supporting the Afghan market by providing vocational skills training pro-grams to the country's youths in various market-driven vocational skills and facilitating the establishment of small-scale enterprises. DACAAR conducts both center-based and apprenticeship approaches vocational skills training program, aiming to optimize peer knowledge exchange and create a comfortable learning environment for the (VST) program trainees. The selection of vocational skills is based on a rapid market assessment to avoid redundancy and oversaturation of the local market. Upon completion of the vocational skills training program at these centers, the young individuals are provided with the business start-up toolkits and business start-up grants to either start their own small enterprises or join existing vocational skills shops in the local market. 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-Scale Enterprise Development (SSED) by facilitating the establishment of Producer and Service Union / Enterprise groups. These indicated groups 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.

Outcome achievement: In 2025, the SSED program significantly improved beneficiaries' livelihoods and quality of life, with a clear shift toward positive living conditions. Most vocational training graduates secured employment or started businesses, leading to increased income and an improved ability to meet basic household needs. Participants gained practical skills, improved market access, and strengthened financial stability. Participants gained practical skills, improved market access, and strengthened financial stability. The program also enhanced empowerment, particularly for women and youth, through greater participation in household decision-making. Support to producer groups further improved market linkages and profitability. Overall, SSED achieved high beneficiary satisfaction and contributed to stronger, more resilient, and self-reliant communities.

SSED Output Achievements in 2025:

- 2,682 trainees are graduated from the vocational skills training program (909 female and 1,773 male).
- DACAAR supported three saffron unions by providing business plan assistance for the purchase of saffron corms from their union members. As a result, 196 farmers benefited from this initiative.

Direct Beneficiaries
18,774

Male Beneficiaries
12,411

Female Beneficiaries
6,363

IDPs
1,314

Returnees
939

Host Communities
16,521

SSED SDGs



Provinces Covered

- Kabul
- Faryab
- Jawzjan
- Wardak
- Nangarhar
- Kunduz
- Logar
- Helmand
- Kandahar

Through the Rural Development Program funded by the European Union (EU), DACAAR is supporting vulnerable communities in Wardak province through vocational training and livelihood opportunities. In Ahmadkhil village, Tela Mohammad completed mobile phone repair training and, with support from a DACAAR-established savings group, opened a small repair shop to support his family.

"My shop may be small, but it has changed my life. I work with dignity, earn honestly, and wake up every day with hope." says Tela Mohammad.







Women's Economic Opportunity (WEO)

DACAAR remains committed to supporting rural Afghan women and women-headed households through community-based initiatives that provide skills training, livelihood opportunities, and essential education. These efforts create safe and culturally appropriate spaces where women can access resources, engage in income-generating activities, and strengthen mutual support networks, ultimately enhancing their resilience and self-reliance.

While cultural and current political constraints limit women's access to Women Resource Centers, DACAAR delivers a range of skills training directly at the household level. These include kitchen gardening, greenhouse establishment, animal husbandry, home-based poultry, food processing, saffron cultivation and processing, handicrafts, tailoring, dairy processing, and other home-based business skills. These interventions aim to strengthen women's economic participation and improve their capacity for sustainable income generation.

Through its Vocational Training Program, DACAAR further enhances women's employment prospects by equipping them with practical skills, technical knowledge, and necessary inputs to pursue viable career pathways. In addition, literacy training plays a vital role in improving women's social standing within their families and communities, particularly in a context where access to formal education remains restricted.

Women's empowerment is systematically integrated across all interventions. DACAAR ensures that women's needs are prioritized in both emergency and long-term development programs. For example, female staff conduct door-to-door hygiene awareness sessions, delivering essential health messages directly to women. Hygiene kits distributed to households also include items that support menstrual hygiene management. Female community mobilizers play a key role in implementing Community-Led Total Sanitation (CLTS) approaches, contributing to the achievement of Open Defecation Free (ODF) status.

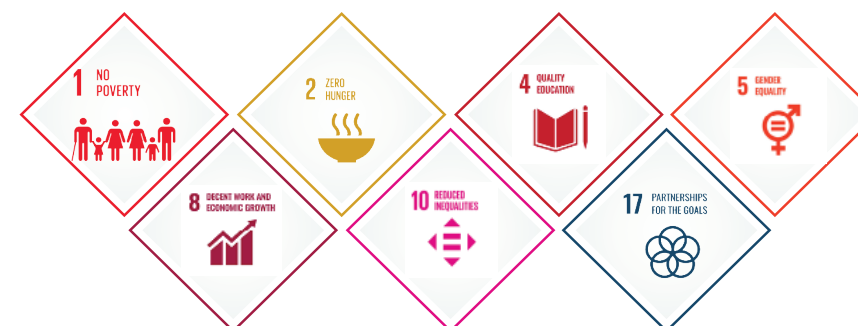
DACAAR's WASH interventions contribute to improved health outcomes and quality of life, while its Natural Resource Management (NRM) activities recognize and strengthen women's roles within their households and communities. In 2025, the Women's Economic Opportunities (WEO) program achieved significant improvements across all key indicators, demonstrating strong impact on livelihoods and empowerment. Negative perceptions of quality of life dropped from about 45% at baseline to 0% at endline (100% reduction), while positive ratings increased to over 40%. Income generation rose substantially, from 6–30% at baseline to 70–94% at endline, with 85% of beneficiaries earning through project-supported activities and 100% reporting their income meets household needs. Women's Economic Opportunity (WEO) also improved markedly, with independent decision-making increasing from 11% to 89%, while reliance on male-only decision-making declined from 100% to 2%. Beneficiary satisfaction remained very high, with 85–95% reporting being happy or very happy.

WEO Achievements in 2025:

With generous support from DANIDA, UNODC, EU, UNOPS, and Norad, 13,620 vulnerable women in Faryab, Jawzjan, Nangarhar, Nuristan, Laghman, Wardak, Kunduz, Herat, and Helmand provinces received training in agriculture, live-stock management, and poultry farming, along with essential farming inputs to establish small businesses, including home-based food processing ventures. These initiatives have significantly enhanced their economic self-reliance and strengthened community resilience, as outlined in the below points:

- * Capacity building provided to 50 members of two Women Resource Centers in Herat (Ghoryan and Zendajan districts).
- * 320 women received economic growth training in Faryab and Jawzjan provinces.
- * 803 vulnerable young women participated in market-driven vocational training programs.
- * 803 toolkits distributed to vocational training graduates.
- * 2,398 women trained and supported in home-based poultry production.
- * 430 vulnerable women supported with livestock (200 heifers and 230 goats).
- * 95 farmers received training and inputs on saffron processing and marketing.
- * 9 greenhouses established for 28 women farmers, with training on pre- and post-harvest and off-season production.
- * 790 kitchen gardens established for 205 women farmers, with related agricultural training.
- * 226 women trained and supported in home-based food processing.
- * 3,067 women trained in dairy processing and live-stock management.
- * 17 fruit orchards established for women, with training and equipment provided.
- * 446 women's groups established and supported with training and equipment.
- * 290 women trained and equipped in citrus and rose processing.
- * 200 women entrepreneurs received business training and toolkits.
- * 4,259 women received food assistance and cash support in Nangarhar, Nuristan, and Laghman provinces.

WEO SDGs



Provinces Covered

- Nuristan
- Nangarhar
- Jawzja
- Kunduz
- Laghman
- Faryab
- Hilmand
- Herat
- Wardak

Direct Beneficiaries
95,340

Male Beneficiaries
47,670

Female Beneficiaries
47,670

IDPs
6,674

Returnees
4,767

Host Communities
83,899

Shazia, a beneficiary of DACAAR's Agro-Business Project supported by UNODC, says the training center brought hope back into her life during a difficult period. Unable to continue her education due to current restrictions and facing financial hardship at home, she says the practical skills training and monthly 4,000 AFN support helped ease her family's burden and gave her confidence for the future. "This training center gave me hope again. Alongside learning practical skills, the financial support also helped my family. I dream of starting my own business one day and hope more girls like me can benefit from such opportunities."







Direct Beneficiaries 310,296	Male Beneficiaries 155,148	Female Beneficiaries 155,148
IDPs 21,721	Returnees 15,515	Host Communities 273,060

Provinces Covered			
• Nangarhar	• Kunar	• Nuristan	• Laghman

The Community Resilience and Livelihood Program (CRLP)

The Community Resilience and Livelihood Project are an initiative supported by the World Bank, the Afghan-istan Reconstruction Trust Fund (ARTF), and the International Development Association (IDA), with United Nations Office for Project Services as the Implementing Partner. The project was implemented by (DACAAR) under Lot 6 in the eastern provinces of Nangarhar, Laghman, and Nuristan. The main objective of the project was to provide short-term livelihood opportunities, strengthen community resilience, and support vulnerable households through Cash for Work (CFW), social grants, women’s economic activities, and community train-ing programs.

During 2025, DACAAR implemented CRLP activities in 360 rural communities and 42 urban project sites in Jalalabad. A total of 373 sub-projects were completed and handed over to communities. Under the CFW component, 44,328 la-bourers benefited from employment opportunities, generating approximately 751,815 labour days. Social grants were provided to 4,518 rural households through food packages and to 2,625 urban households through cash assistance. In addition, 2,178 women beneficiaries received poultry packages and livelihood training under the Women’s Economic Activities (WEE) component. More than 18,000 community members also participated in training sessions on disaster risk management, resilience, inclusive aid delivery, and self-care.

CRLP Project Achievements:

- ◆ Completion of 373 infrastructure sub-projects
- ◆ Employment opportunities provided for 44,328 labourers
- ◆ Creation of approximately 751,815 labour days
- ◆ Distribution of food assistance packages to 4,518 rural households
- ◆ Distribution of cash grants to 2,625 urban households
- ◆ Poultry package distribution and livelihood support to 2,178 women beneficiaries
- ◆ Conducting over 373 environmental and social safeguard screenings
- ◆ Delivery of OHS and safety awareness training to 45,542 labourers
- ◆ Training of more than 18,000 community members on resilience and community development





Organizational Development

Organizational development remains a top strategic priority for DACAAR, driving efficiency, institutional strengthening, and long-term impact.

In 2025, DACAAR significantly invested in staff capacity development. A total of 847 staff members participated in structured training programs. Of these, 321 staff received Safety, Security, and Accountability training, while 526 staff completed specialized, job-specific training. These covered key areas such as climate change adaptation, environmental and social impact assessment, renewable energy, water systems, leadership and management, procurement, and project management. As a result, staff improved their technical competencies, operational efficiency, and readiness for future responsibilities.

To strengthen financial governance, DACAAR upgraded the SUN finance system, improving reporting accuracy, internal controls, and overall financial management. Additional refinements are planned to further enhance system performance and efficiency.

DACAAR also prioritized inclusive workplace practices by supporting remote female staff with improved communication tools, connectivity, essential equipment, and flexible working arrangements. These measures enhanced productivity, performance, and staff engagement. DACAAR continues to monitor remote working conditions and staff feedback to ensure effective and equitable support.

In addition, DACAAR finalized its 2026–2028 organizational strategy to guide future programming and institutional growth. Developed through a participatory process, the strategy outlines clear priorities, targeted interventions, measurable outcomes, partnership approaches, risk mitigation measures, and a strong monitoring, evaluation, and learning framework. Its implementation will begin in 2026 through a phased approach supported by detailed implementation plans and performance indicators.

Looking ahead, DACAAR will further strengthen remote working by providing targeted training for female staff and ex-panding access to the tools and resources needed for safe and effective remote engagement.

In parallel, the organization will explore the use of artificial intelligence (AI) to optimise process. Potential applications include automating routine tasks, enhancing data analysis, and supporting evidence-based decision-making. This ex-ploration will be guided by clear policies to ensure ethical use, data security, and alignment with organizational priorities.

DACAAR Challenges 2025

Administrative and Regulatory Challenges: Delays in the approval and signing of Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) with relevant ministries affected the timely initiation of project activities, community mobilization, procurement, and implementation across several provinces. Additional revisions to project locations and technical documents further prolonged administrative processes and coordination requirements.

Environmental and Climate-Related Challenges: Technical and environmental factors, including drought, declining groundwater levels, dried water sources, water salinity, and poor water quality, reduced the feasibility of planned water supply interventions and negatively affected agricultural productivity and household resilience in target communities.

Procurement and Supply Chain Constraints: Shortages of construction materials, border closures, transportation difficulties, unstable market prices, and limited access to remote and mountainous areas caused delays in material delivery and increased implementation costs across projects.

Gender and Social Inclusion Challenges: Restrictions on women's participation, limited mobility, and cultural barriers continued to affect women's engagement in training sessions, livelihood activities, hygiene promotion, and community decision-making processes, creating challenges for inclusive programming.

Increasing Humanitarian Needs and Resource Limitations: Widespread economic hardship, drought, unemployment, and large returnee influxes significantly increased community needs and expectations beyond available project resources. This placed additional pressure on project teams and contributed to dissatisfaction among non-targeted households.

Key Financial Challenges in 2025

Banking and Liquidity Constraints: Persistent challenges within the banking sector, including restrictions on international transfers, liquidity shortages, and evolving regulatory controls, affected the timely processing of fund disbursements, vendor payments, and staff salaries. Increased banking fees also contributed to higher operational costs.

Exchange Rate Volatility: Significant fluctuations in foreign exchange rates during the year, including the appreciation of the Afghan Afghani against the US Dollar, adversely affected budget predictability, cost recovery, and financial planning. These movements created additional complexities in managing multi-currency donor-funded projects.



DACAAR
Danish Committee for Aid to Afghan Refugees



Established:
1984

Staff:
Around 1,040
national staff and 6
international staff

Director:
Peder Thorning, Kabul
Secretary General:
Klaus Løkkegaard,
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Thematic Areas:

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH), Natural Resources
Management (NRM), Small Scale Enterprise Development
(SSED) and Women's Economic Opportunity (WEO)

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