



ANNUAL REPORT 2015-2016
THE DANISH AFGHANISTAN
COMMITTEE

ÅRSBERETNING 2015-2016
DEN DANSKE AFGHANISTAN
KOMITÉ

DAC Board

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 Medical Public Health Officer/Embedslæge Marie Brasholt
 Head Nurse/ Oversygeplejerske: Elin Petersen
 Cand.Jur./Master of Laws: Giti Shahabi

DACs Bestyrelse

lingvarsten@hotmail.com Tel: +45 45 25 85 84 99
 olejuliussiemssen@gmail.com Tel: +45 35 42 08 23
 mette_va@hotmail.dk Tel: +45 61 31 18 57
 alexander.schultz@rikshospitalet.no Tel: +47 22 73 22 44
 marie.dialogos@gmail.com Tel: +45 60 88 06 72
 elin.petersen@mail.dk Tel: +45 66 15 72 52
 giti-shahabi@hotmail.com Tel: +45 50 42 21 37

Substitute Members

Senior Master/Lektor: Andrea Rømer Lauritsen
 Mathilde Frey
 Nurse/Sygeplejerske: Annie Fjord

Stedfortrædere

andrearomer43@gmail.com Tel: +45 59 46 29 19
 mathilde.frey@yahoo.com Tel: +45 28 79 82 45
 fjordgarvey@gmail.com Tel: +45 30 42 37 56

DAC, Herat

DAC Office Coordinator/Kontor Koordinator: Lutfudin Osmani
 DAC, Telecommunications street, across Kahkashan Sharq University, Herat

DAC, Herat

admin@afghan.dk
 Tel: +93 79 92 10 48 9

DAC, Copenhagen

Project Coordinator/Projektkoordinator: Neela Farhat Kabir Noori

DAC, København

projectcoordinator@afghan.dk

Web: dac@afghan.dk

Mail: www.afghan.dk

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/dendanskeafghanistankomite>

Adress: Nørrebrogade 52c, 2 TV, 2200 København

Tel: +45 81 73 67 27

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 Neela Farhat Kabir Noori

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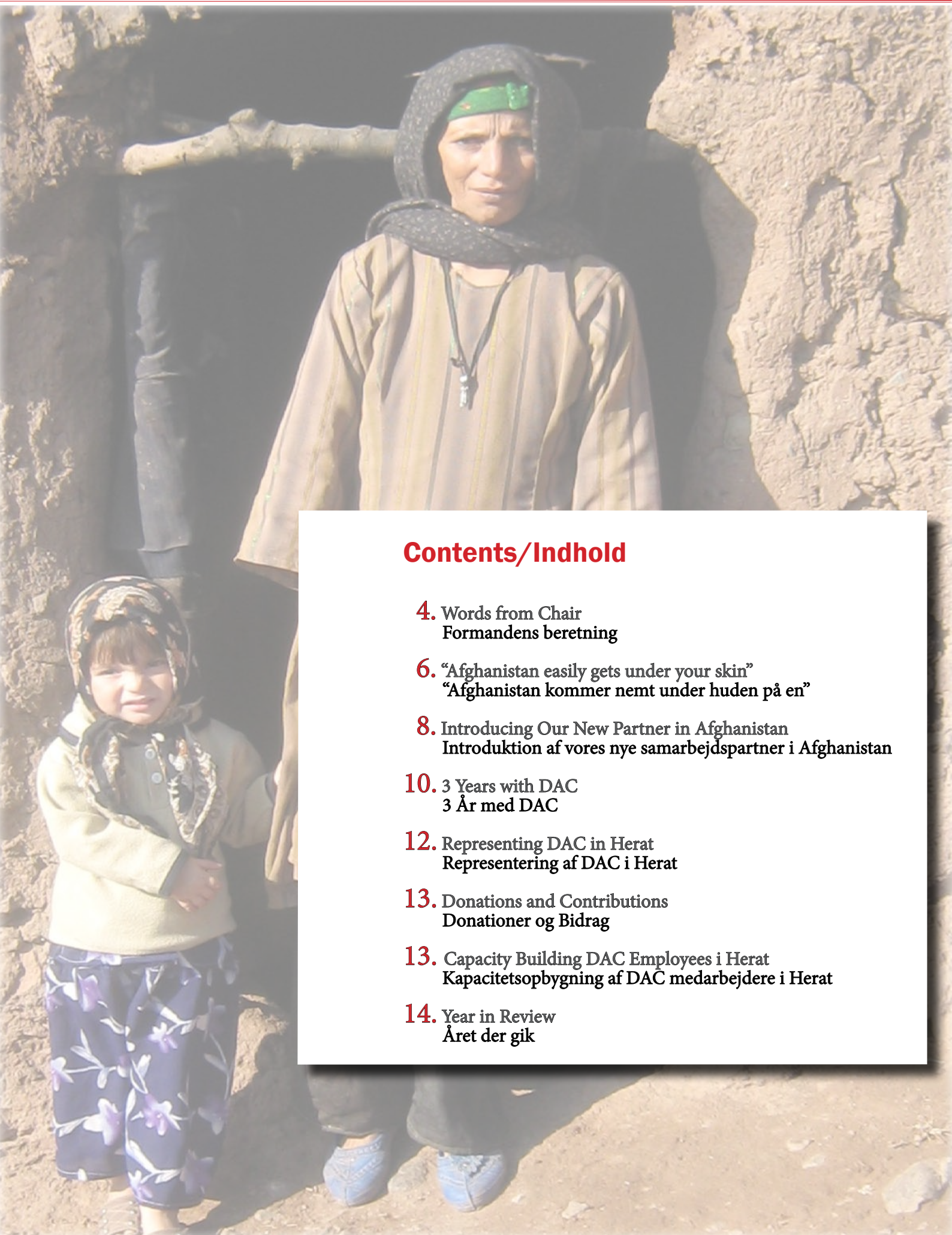
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 Siems Jørgen Siemssen



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Words from Chair

2015 became the year when Danish Afghanistan Committee (DAC) finally had to end its long-standing efforts in providing healthcare services to the people of Gozarah, Pashtoon Zarghoon and Obeh districts in Herat province.

In late spring 2015, the Afghan Ministry of Public Health's lengthy procurement process for outsourcing the operation of the public healthcare system in Herat province completed. The Afghan NGO, Bakhtar Development Network Global (BDN), which had already delivered healthcare services in different districts of Herat province for several years, which were not a part of DAC's target area, had won the tender.

DAC, therefore, at the end of June 2015 handed over the operation of a district hospital, two comprehensive health clinics, 16 basic health clinics and 179 health posts to the organization. The majority of our employees transferred employment under BDN, but unfortunately there were also people who had to look for other employment opportunities - and DAC's staff in Herat have done everything possible to help them on track. DAC's longtime project director Sumitra Mukherjee made a great effort to help all the employees on to new jobs or other income generating activities. Even Sumitra found new challenges at the Danish Demining Group in Kabul.

In April 2015, chair Lene Ingvarsten, vice chairman Ole J. Siemssen and treasurer Mette Vestergaard Andersen visited DAC's health project in Herat. The visit was spent on meetings with new potential partners within Afghan NGO community, meetings with employees and informing them about the closure of the health project and its consequences for the staff as well as a party to celebrate the good results that DAC had achieved over the years in Herat and - especially - to pay tribute to the staff who made it all possible. A total of 130 men and women attended the party, where certificates were handed out to all the employees for their efforts.

Formandens beretning

2015 blev året, hvor Dansk Afghanistan Komité (DAC) endeligt måtte afslutte sin mangeårige indsats med at levere sundhedsydelser til befolkningen i Gozarah, Pashtoon Zarghoon og Obeh distrikterne i Herat provinsen.

I det sene forår 2015 afsluttede det afghanske sundhedsministerium en langtrukken udbudsproces om udlicitering af driften af sundhedssystemet i Herat provinsen. Den afghanske NGO Bakhtar Development Network Global (BDN), som allerede i en flerårig periode havde leveret sundhed i de distrikter i Herat provinsen, som ikke blev varetaget af DAC, havde vundet udbuddet.

DAC overleverede derfor ved udgangen af juni 2015 driften af et distriktshospital, to comprehensive health clinics, 16 basic health clinics og 179 health posts til denne organisation. Størstedelen af vores medarbejdere overgik til ansættelse under BDN, men desværre var der også medarbejdere, der måtte se sig om efter anden ansættelse - og DACs ansatte i Herat har gjort, hvad de kunne for at hjælpe dem godt på vej. DACs mangeårige projektdirektør Sumitra Mukherjee gjorde en stor indsats for at hjælpe alle disse medarbejdere videre til nye job eller anden form for indkomstskabende virksomhed. Selv fandt Sumitra nye udfordringer hos Danish Demining Group i Kabul.

I april 2015 besøgte formand Lene Ingvarsten, næstformand Ole J. Siemssen og kasserer Mette Vestergaard Andersen DACs sundhedsprojekt i Herat. Besøget blev brugt på møder med nye, potentielle samarbejdspartnere i form af afghanske NGO'er, møder med medarbejderne med orientering om afslutning af sundhedsprojektet og konsekvenserne for medarbejderstaben samt en fest for at fejre de gode resultater, som DAC har opnået igennem årene i Herat og - ikke mindst - for at hylde de medarbejdere, som gjorde det muligt. I alt 130 mænd og kvinder deltog i festen, hvor der blev uddelt certifikater for indsatsen til alle medarbejdere.

Danida gave DAC authorization to extend the 2015 grant until the 31st of December 2015 to make it possible for DAC to sustain Afghan administrative staff to ensure completion of handover process and closing of all project assets and agreements as well as reporting to the Regional Ministry of Public Health and Ministry of Economic Affairs in Herat, Danida and other relevant bodies.

Since the decision of the Afghan Ministry of Public Health was known, DAC board made a decision to continue the work of the Committee and aim to establish new projects. Simultaneously, the board decided to use a part of the organization's private funding to maintain an office in Herat and in Copenhagen for one year. Two employees were therefore maintained in Herat; Lutfudin Osmani as Office Coordinator and Ghulam Sakhi as a logistician, driver and guard. In Denmark, Neela Farhat Kabir Noori's position was extended to the end of September 2016. At the same time and as a part of an ongoing organizational development the board established a number of working groups to carry out the development of such new projects and initiatives.

In November 2015 the chair, Lene Ingvartsen, vice chairman Ole J. Siemssen, treasurer Mette Vestergaard Andersen and project coordinator Neela Farhat Kabir Noori visited Herat again together with an external consultant, Nicolai Houe. The purpose of the visit was to conduct a final supervision of the HSP project and hand over process. During this visit DAC had also the opportunity to meet with the Afghan NGO, Norwegian Project Office / Rural Rehabilitation Association for Afghanistan (NPO / RRAA) to jointly explore whether there was a basis for partnership and a joint project on strengthening the health rights of the Afghan people. The meeting was so successful that DAC and NPO / RRAA could submit an application to CISU on December the 15th, 2015.

In Denmark, in 2015, DAC continued its information work through the association's webpage, articles, blog and social media, such as Facebook with the aim to spread awareness about Afghanistan and DAC. This resulted in a number of events: Presentations at Rejsby European Boarding School with focus on the association's health projects, a tent on The People's Political Festival on Bornholm with focus on the rights of Afghan women and a presentation at Sind Ungdom (Youth Association) Aarhus on Afghan women's social, rights and health challenges.

Finally, I would like to thank members of DAC, the board, DAC's employees in Copenhagen and Herat, donors, collaborative partners and all others who have contributed to and supported DAC during the year.

Lene Ingvartsen,
Chair

Danida gav DAC tilladelse til at forlænge 2015-bevillingen til d. 31. december 2015, således at DAC kunne fastholde afghansk administrativt personale til at sikre overdragelse, afslutning og lukning af alle projektaktiver og –aftaler samt rapportering til det regionale sundhedsministerium og økonomiministerium i Herat, Danida samt andre relevante instanser.

Da beslutningen fra det afghanske sundhedsministerium var kendt, tog bestyrelsen i DAC en beslutning om at fortsætte arbejdet i komitéen og arbejde på at etablere nye projekter. Samtidigt besluttede bestyrelsen at anvende en del af foreningens egenkapital på at fastholde et kontor i Herat samt i København i 1 år. To medarbejdere blev derfor fastholdt i Herat; Lutfudin Osmani som Office Coordinator og Ghulam Sakhi som logistiker, chauffør og vagt. I Danmark blev Neela Farhat Kabir Noori forlænget til udgangen af september 2016. Samtidigt og som led i en fortsat organisationsudviklingsproces etablerede bestyrelsen en række arbejdsgrupper til at varetage udviklingen af sådanne nye projekter og initiativer.

I november 2015 besøgte formand Lene Ingvartsen, næstformand Ole J. Siemssen, kasserer Mette Vestergaard Andersen og projektkoordinator Neela Farhat Kabir Noori igen Herat sammen med eksternt konsulent Nicolai Houe. Formålet var at foretage en endelig supervision af HSP projektets sidste overleveringsproces samt at mødes med den afghanske NGO Norwegian Project Office/Rural Rehabilitation Association for Afghanistan (NPO/RRAA) for sammen at afsøge, om der var grundlag for et partnerskab og et fælles projekt om styrkelse af befolkningens sundhedsrettigheder. Besøget var så vellykket, at DAC og NPO/RRAA kunne indsende en ansøgning til CISU d. 15. december 2015.

I Danmark fortsatte DAC i 2015 sit oplysningsarbejde igennem foreningens hjemmeside, artikler, blogindlæg samt sociale medier som Facebook med det formål at udbrede kendskabet til Afghanistan og til DAC. Dette resulterede i en række arrangementer: Oplæg på Rejsby Europæiske Efterskole med fokus på foreningens sundhedsprojekter, et telt på Folkemødet på Bornholm med fokus på de afghanske kvinders rettigheder og foredrag i SIND Ungdom Århus om de afghanske kvinders udfordringer både socialt, rettigheds- og sundhedsmæssigt.

Til sidst vil jeg gerne takke DACs medlemmer, bestyrelsen, DACs ansatte i København og Herat, donorer, samarbejdspartnere og alle andre, der i årets løb har bidraget til og støttet DAC.

Lene Ingvartsen,
Formand

“Afghanistan easily gets under your skin”

In the autumn 1991, I got a phone call from my old friend, and former fellow student, Ole Siemssen. He asked if I would like to go to Pakistan as a surgeon and head of DAC's hospital for Afghan refugees. Having travelled most of Afghanistan for a couple of months as a backpacker in 1976, I was already fascinated by the country and the people. So the offer sounded like a fantastic opportunity to once more experience this part of the world.

In the beginning of January 1992, I flew with the anaesthetist-nurse and my wife to Chitral vally on the border of Badakshan, the North Eastern province of Afghanistan. Here, DAC ran a hospital for Afghan refugees (some 20-30.000 in the valley) and wounded coming over the border. The hospital was mainly established in old military tents, which also housed the Operation Theatre, OT. The rest of the medical staff, apart from the legendary Danish nurse Inge Hansen, were Afghan medics. Men with, mostly, some years of training. Very efficient and hard working. Long queues every day at the OPD, and high turn over in the in-patient departments, both surgical and medical.

Among countless memorable cases, some stands out. Late night in the winter, freezing cold and the snow falling heavily, a thin and anaemic, ghostly looking woman in labour was admitted in a terrible condition. The labour had stopped, and it was obviously an intra abdominal catastrophe. She was put directly on the table, and a caesarean performed. Getting out a meagre, tiny and half dead baby-boy. While Janne was working on the woman giving anaesthesia and infusions, Inge managed to keep the boy alive and made an incubator of an old cardboard box, cotton and aluminium folia. The woman had several intestinal perforations from typhoid, causing severe infection. And needing extensive surgical removal of the sick gut. The operation proceeded while the roof of the tent came further and further down as the load of heavy snow grew rapidly, making it increasingly difficult to operate.

Some of the boys worked on the snow, while the driver Mullah, went to the Bazaar to fetch blood donors. Mullah was very tall and big, with Russian made steel teeth, and much respected and feared for his record of brutal killings in the war. Very few would refuse to give blood asked by him! Hours later, operation finished, blood infusion running, and both mother and child still alive, I went outside in the dark, quiet night. The snow had stopped, and the sky had cleared and was covered with billions of stars. An unforgettable experience and moment.



“Afghanistan kommer nemt under huden på en”

I efteråret 1991 blev jeg ringet op af min gamle ven og tidligere medstudent Ole Siemssen. Han spurgte om jeg kunne påtage mig opgaven som kirurg og leder af DACs feltsygehus for afghanske flygtninge i Pakistan. Jeg havde rejst over det meste af Afghanistan som ”backpacker” et par måneder i 1976 og var fascineret af landet og folket. Så tilbuddet lød som en fantastisk mulighed for igen at opleve denne del af verden.

I begyndelsen af januar 1992 fløj jeg sammen med anæstesi sygeplejerske og livsledsagerske til Chitral dalen på grænsen til Badakshan, den nordøstlige provins i Afghanistan. Her havde DAC etableret et sygehus for afghanske flygtninge (omkring 40.000 i dalen) og sårede, der kom over grænsen. Sygehuset bestod, i hovedsagen, af gamle militærtelte, hvoraf et husede OT, en relativt veludstyret operationsafdeling. Resten af den medicinske stab var, bortset fra den legendariske danske sygeplejerske Inge

Hansen, afghanske medics. Mænd som, for det meste, havde et par års medicinsk træning. Alle dygtige og hårdt arbejdende. Hver dag var der lange køer foran OPD (Out Patient Department), og der var stor aktivitet både på den medicinske og den kirurgiske afdeling.

Blandt mange exceptionelle tilfælde er der nogle som står stærkt i hukommelsen. En sen vinteraften, det var isnende koldt og sneede tæt, ankom en afmagret og anæmisk kvinde i fødsel i en elendig forfatning. Veerne var standset, og det var oplagt en intra-abdominal katastrofe. Hun blev lagt direkte på operationsbordet, og bughulen blev åbnet i et kejsersnit. Vi fik en lille, tynd og halvdød dreng ud. Medens Janne arbejdede med at give infusioner og narkose, klarede Inge at holde drengen i live og lavede en kuvøse af en gammel papæske foret med metalfolie og bomuld. Kvinden havde flere perforationer i tarmen, forårsaget af tyfus, med voldsom infektion i bughulen. Det var nødvendigt med omfattende kirurgi. Operationen skred frem, medens de hurtigt øgende snemasser på taget af OT-teltet fik det til at synke mere og mere sammen over operationsbordet og gøre operationen stadig mere besværlig.

Nogle af drengene arbejdede intenst med at redde teltet fra at falde sammen, medens Mullah kørte til Basaren et par kilometer borte for at finde blodgivere. Mullah var meget stor og kraftig, med et vildt sort skæg og russisk producerede ståltænder. Han var respekteret og frygtet af alle for sine talrige brutale drab på modstandere under krigen. Meget få ville afslå at give blod, når de blev spurgt af Mullah! Timer senere, operationen færdig, blodtransfusionerne løb og både mor og barn i live, gik jeg udenfor i den mørke,

In May 1993, Ole Siemssen and I were on our way to Herat. The communist regime had fallen a year earlier. But the expected peace and collaboration of the mujahidin factions had never come. Instead a fierce fighting for power between the different commanders had taken over immediately, beginning the next years' devastating destruction of the country.

One of the few regions with stability was the Herat province and our mission was to find an appropriate activity for DAC's support of the rebuilding of the country. It was still too dangerous to set up a project in the rural areas. The regional hospital, General Hospital (GH) in Herat, a huge concrete building constructed by the East Germans, was, however, in a bad condition. And the medical staff definitely needed support and input on some surgical aspects. When visiting the hospital, we were quite surprised to see the activity in the huge OT, where operations were performed on 3 tables at the time. Around the walls in the OT, the next patients to be operated sat with small plastic bags with medicaments, infusions etc. that they had bought in the bazaar on instruction, as the hospital was lacking funding. Wide eyed they followed the surgeries, like amputations of legs, while they waited for their turn to be put on the table. Our recommendation to DAC was to send in a surgical team for support. And for the next couple of years a number of surgeons, anaesthetists and OT nurses did a great job in Herat GH.

Finally, in 1996 after the take over by the Taliban in Herat in 1995, the security situation was improved, and DAC could start the project of developing a complete health care system, including a district hospital in the Gozarah district. Eventually also including Obekh and Pashtoon Zarghoon districts, with a population of 500.000 altogether.

Working in Gozarah District Hospital together with the Afghan doctors and medics has always been among the best experiences in my professional life. In spite of war and poverty, they have kept a high spirit and a well-developed black humour. In numerous monitoring missions, and missions as a surgeon, many of the DAC staff have become friends.

Afghanistan easily gets under your skin, and few persons who have worked there will not be fascinated by that proud and, to some extent, crazy people.

Alexander Schultz,
Board Member

stille nat. Det var holdt op med at sne, himlen var klart helt op og var dækket af en milliard stjerner. En uforglemmelig oplevelse og et uforglemmeligt øjeblik.

Maj 1993, Ole Siemssen og jeg var på vej til Herat. Kommunismeregimet var faldet et år tidligere. Men den forventede fred og samarbejdet mellem mujahidin grupperne var udeblevet helt. I stedet var det umiddelbart kommet til intense kampe mellem rivaliserende commanders. Med en katastrofal ødelæggelse af store dele af landet og usikkerhed for befolkningen til følge.

Et af de få områder med stabilitet var Herat provinsen, og vor opgave var at finde et passende sted for DACs videre støtte til genopbygning af landet. Det var fortsat for usikkert at etablere noget uden for Herat by. Regionshospitalet, Herat General Hospital (GH), en stor betonbygning rejst af Øst Tyskland, var imidlertid i en elendig forfatning, og den medicinske stab trængte til al den hjælp den kunde få. Ikke mindst i den kirurgiske sektor. Da vi besøgte sygehuset, blev vi noget forbløffede over at se aktiviteten på den enorme operationssal, hvor der blev opereret på 3 borde samtidig. Langs med væggene i operationssalen sad de næste patienter, som skulle opereres. De havde små plastposer med medikamenter, infusionsflasker og andre remedier til operationen, som de havde fået besked om at købe i basaren, eftersom sygehuset manglede resurser. Med store øjne fulgte de operationerne, som f.eks. amputationen af et ben, mens de ventede på deres tur til at blive lagt på bordet. Vores anbefaling til DAC blev at sende et kirurgisk hold med læger og sygeplejersker til støtte og oplæring af personalet. Og gennem de næste par år gjorde de udsendte sygeplejersker, anæstesi læger og kirurger et fremragende arbejde ved Herat GH.

Endelig, i 1996, efter at Taliban havde fået fuld kontrol med provinsen i 1995, var sikkerhedssituationen så god, at DAC kunde begynde på etableringen af et komplet sundhedssystem, omfattende et distrikthospital i Gozarah district. Efterhånden også omfattende Obekh og Pashtoon Zarghoon distrikterne, i alt en population på ca. 500.000.

At arbejde på Gozarah Distrikt Hospital sammen med afghanske læger, sygeplejere, jordmødre og alle andre på sygehuset har været blandt de bedste oplevelser i mit professionelle liv. Til trods for krig og fattigdom har de holdt en høj faglig moral og haft en fantastisk sort humor. På talrige tilsynsrejser og ophold som kirurg, er mange af dem blevet at regne for venner.

Afghanistan kommer nemt under huden på en, og de færreste, som har arbejdet der, undgår ikke at blive fascinerede af dette stolte og, til dels, vanvittige folk!

Alexander Schultz,
Bestyrelsesmedlem

Introducing Our New Partner in Afghanistan – NPO/RRAA Introduktion af vores nye partner i Afghanistan - NPO/RRAA



The Organisation

Norwegian Project Office/Rural Rehabilitation Association (NPO/RRAA) for Afghanistan was established by Norwegian Embassy in 1986 to provide humanitarian aid for Afghan refugees in Peshawar, Pakistan and began operating in Afghanistan since 1993. The non-profit, non-political and non-governmental organisation has since established four regional offices in Herat, Kabul, Jalalabad and Mazar provinces and is operating in 14 different provinces in primarily rural areas with 234 male and female employees. NPO/RRAA has operated in Herat since 1993 with 68 employees and working with 375 communities. The organisation consists of a general assembly composed of 19 (regional, community and headquarter members) voting members acting as the highest decision maker body, and a steering committee composed of 8 members (external and internal) acting as second highest decision maker.

Organisationen

Norwegian Project Office/Rural Rehabilitation Association (NPO/RRAA) for Afghanistan blev etableret af den norske ambassade i 1986 for at yde humanitær bistand til afghanske flygtninge i Peshawar, Pakistan, og har opereret i Afghanistan siden 1993. Denne non-profit, upolitiske og ikke-statslige organisation har siden etableret fire regionale kontorer i henholdsvis Herat, Kabul, Jalalabad og Mazar provinserne og arbejder i 14 forskellige provinser, i primært landområder, med 234 mandlige og kvindelige medarbejdere. NPO/RRAA har opereret i Herat siden 1993 med 68 ansatte og arbejder med 375 lokale communities. Organisationen består af en bestyrelse på 19 stemmeberettigede medlemmer (regional, community og headquarter medlemmer), der fungerer som den højeste beslutningstager, samt af en styregruppe bestående af 8 medlemmer (eksterne og interne), der fungerer som næsthøjeste beslutningstager.



Vision & Mission

NPO/RRAA's vision is "Empowered Communities – Progressive Society". The mission of NPO/RRAA is to create "A sustainable and committed organization to effectively facilitate the process of community development".

Vision & Mission

NPO/RRAAs vision er "Styrkede Communities – Progressive Samfund". NPO/RRAAs mission er at skabe "En bæredygtig og engageret organisation til effektivt at lette processen med udvikling af lokalsamfundet".



Activities

NPO/RRAA engages in humanitarian and development work, applying integrated and participatory community development approach within following objectives:

Sustainable Community Development: increasing community awareness and empowerment on democratic norms, implementing National Solidarity Programme through Community Development Councils to empower them in decision-making and participation in all stages of their own development.

Health: improving health status to reduce mortality and morbidity rates in target communities through supporting health facilities, hospitals, implementing nutrition initiatives, capacity building female and male community health workers, traditional birth attendants and midwives as well as sanitation conditions by developing a sustainable and preventive health care with particular focus on women and children.

Sustainable Livelihood/Poverty Alleviation: improving livelihood in rural communities through establishment of drinking water supply, agriculture and livestock practices with focus on resource poor farmers with a view to increase their productivity and conserving natural resource and bio-diversity, improvement of hygiene and construction of roads and bridges, and with strengthening civil society through capacity building of civil society institutions such as community development councils (CDC)/shuras.

In the years 2014, 2015 and 2016 nearly 45,000 families in need have benefited from NPO/RRAA's projects and programs.

Collaborative project

DAC and NPO/RRAA's partnership was established in November 2015. On September the 1st 2016 both organisations embarked on a first collaborative project supported by the Civil Society Fund (CISU) "*Strengthening the foundation for implementation of health rights in Herat, Afghanistan*". The project aims to address a severe need for increased awareness on health rights amongst the local population to increase their understanding of their basic health rights. Significant factors such as discrimination due to gender, ethnic, social status or religious belonging as well as health personnel's misconduct and neglect of duties towards local people will likewise make up a significant focus of the project objective. Capacity building of NPO/RRAA will also be a significant part of the project objective in order to improve their capacity in applying Human Rights Based Approach (HRBA). The HRBA will be applied by NPO/RRAA in implementing the project amongst 10 local communities of Injil district in Herat province in order to increase their understanding and enable them to advocate for their own health rights.

Aktiviteter

NPO/RRAA engagerer sig i humanitært arbejde og udviklingsarbejde ved at anvende en integreret og deltagerorienteret tilgang til samfundsudvikling ud fra følgende målsætninger:

Bæredygtig udvikling af lokalsamfundet: at øge samfundsbevidsthed og styrke demokratiske normer, implementering af The National Solidarity Programme gennem lokale udviklingsråd for at styrke de lokale samfunds beslutningsprocesser og deltagelse i alle faser af deres egen udvikling.

Sundhed: at forbedre befolkningens sundhedstilstand for at reducere dødelighed og sygeligheds niveauet i samfundet ved at støtte sundhedsfaciliteter og hospitaler, ved implementering af ernæringsinitiativer, ved kapacitet-sopbygning af kvindelige og mandlige sundhedsarbejdere, traditionelle fødselshjælpere og jordemødre samt gennem udbygning af sanitære forhold for at udvikle en bæredygtig og forebyggende sundhed med særligt fokus på kvinder og børn.

Bæredygtige levevilkår/fattigdoms- bekæmpelse: forbedring af levevilkårene i landdistrikterne gennem etableringen af drikkevandsforsyningsanlæg, landbrugs- og husdyrhold med fokus på ressourcefattige bønder. Dette for at øge produktiviteten og bevare naturressourcer og biodiversitet. Forbedring af hygiejne og konstruktion af veje og broer. Styrkelse af civilsamfundet gennem kapacitet-sopbygning af dets institutioner, i samarbejde med de lokale udviklingsråd (CDC)/shuraer.

I årene 2014, 2015 og 2016 har knap 45.000 familier nydt godt af NPO / RRAAs projekter og programmer.

Samarbejdsprojekt

DAC og NPO/RRAAs partnerskab blev etableret i november 2015. Den 1. september 2016 indledte begge organisationer deres første samarbejdsprojekt støttet af civilsamfundspuljen (CISU): "*Styrkelse af grundlaget for gennemførelse af sundhedsmæssige rettigheder i Herat, Afghanistan*". Projektet har til formål at løse et nødvendigt behov for øget bevidsthed om sundhedsmæssige rettigheder blandt den lokale befolkning. Dette for at øge befolkningens forståelse af dens basale sundhedsrettigheder. Væsentlige faktorer - diskrimination på grund af køn, etnicitet, social status eller religiøse tilhørsforhold samt sundhedspersonalets forsømmelse af pligter over for den lokale befolkning – vil der ligeledes blive sat skarpt fokus på i projektet. Kapacitet-sopbygning af NPO/RRAA vil også være en væsentlig del af projektets mål, med henblik på at forbedre kapaciteten til at anvende en menneskerettighedsbaseret tilgang (HRBA). HRBA vil blive anvendt af NPO/RRAA i gennemførelsen af projektet i 10 lokalsamfund i Injil-distriktet i Herat-provinsen. Dette for at øge befolkningens forståelse for og evne til at advokere for egne sundhedsrettigheder.



Marie Brasholt, Board Member/Bestyrelsesmedlem

3 years with DAC

After 3 years with DAC board, the time has come to hand over the position to another candidate. And it is time to take stock of what has happened in the past 3 years. Let me say it right away: it's not trifles!

At the time I entered the board, DAC had substantial means from Danida to run the healthcare system in a significantly large part of the Herat province. The project grant was plenty and the wish for continuing likewise. On the contrary, it was unfortunate that DAC did not succeed in winning the tender on outsourcing of the healthcare services, despite much efforts made. DAC came in at an excellent second position – an admirably excellent second position in fact. How many other small NGOs could have managed to do so? Not many I know of.

Since then a reorganization of the association has been well under way. Maybe it's not visible from the outside, but from the inside, it could be clearly sensed. There have been plentiful discussions regarding, which direction we wanted to take, given we were not going to run a healthcare system anymore. Many project ideas have been mentioned, discussed and presented to potential donors, and compromises had to be made, because DAC was forced to become otherwise than what it was, as an organization, not so long ago. The harsh reality is that a small organization without own resources is forced to adjust to donor conditionalities – also the conditionalities you do not necessarily agree with and are not easy to meet.

Seen from the outside, within the last three years, DAC has been reduced from an association with a substantial budget and many employees in Afghanistan to having only a small project under 5 percent of what we had before, and a single employee. But, DAC is also an association that has in less than three years managed to create a new platform.

3 år med DAC

Efter tre år i DACs bestyrelse er tiden kommet, hvor jeg vil overlade pladsen til en anden. Og tiden er kommet til at gøre status for, hvad der er sket på de tre år. Og lad mig sige det med det samme: Det er ikke småting!

Da jeg trådte ind i bestyrelsen havde DAC Danida-midler til at drive sundhedsvæsenet i en god del af Herat-provinsen. Projektpengene var store og ønsket om at fortsætte ligeså. Sådan skulle det desværre ikke gå, selvom der blev lagt mange kræfter i at vinde udbuddet, da driften af sundhedsvæsenet blev udliciteret. DAC kom ind på en flot andenplads - en meget flot andenplads faktisk. Hvor mange andre små NGO'er kunne mon have gjort det? Ikke ret mange jeg kender til.

Siden har en omlægning af foreningen været i gang. Og det kan godt være, det ikke kan ses udefra, men indefra har det kunnet mærkes. Der har været talrige diskussioner om, hvor vi gerne ville hen, når vi nu ikke længere skulle drive et sundhedsvæsen. Mange projektideer er blevet vendt, drejet og præsenteret for potentielle donorer, og kameler har måttet sluges, fordi DAC er tvunget til at være noget andet end det, foreningen var for ikke så længe siden. Den barske virkelighed er, at en lille organisation uden egne midler er nødt til at tilpasse sig donorerens krav - også de krav man ikke nødvendigvis er enig i, og som ikke er lette at opfylde.

Set udefra er DAC i de sidste tre år skrumpet ind fra at være en forening med et stort budget og mange ansatte i Afghanistan til kun at have et enkelt lille projekt med et budget på under fem procent af, hvad vi havde før, og en enkelt ansat. Men DAC er også en forening, der på mindre end tre år har formået at skabe sig en ny platform.

En platform, hvor der måske ikke er så mange penge at gøre godt med som tidligere, men hvor der er grundlag for

A platform where there may not be enough money as previously, but where there is a foundation to develop new projects. The new projects are the proof of the fact that we have succeeded. And the development of other projects is a proof of the fact that the opportunities are plenty and the wish to make a difference in Afghanistan are very much present. It is also a platform where the relations to Afghanistan will become closer and equal in the future, because we no longer have employees, but partners we will collaborate with. And it is a platform, wherefrom the board can discover more people who would like to contribute.

I am glad that I have contributed with creating the platform that DAC now stands upon. I believe and hope that it is the right one, despite the fact that it looks much different than what any of us had imagined for three years ago. Good luck to DAC in the future!

at udvikle en ny type projekter. Det nye projekt er beviset på, at det er lykkedes. Og andre projekter i støbeskeen er beviset på, at mulighederne er mange, og at et ønske om at gøre en forskel i Afghanistan i høj grad stadig er til stede. Det er også en platform, hvor relationerne til Afghanistan måske fremover bliver endnu tættere og mere ligeværdige, fordi vi ikke længere har ansatte men samarbejdspartnere. Og det er en platform, hvorfra bestyrelsen kan få øje på flere, der gerne vil være med til at bidrage.

Den platform, som DAC nu står på, er jeg glad for at have været med til at skabe. Jeg tror og håber, at det er den rigtige, selvom den ser anderledes ud end nogen af os måske havde troet for tre år siden. Held og lykke til DAC fremover!

DAC visiting of NPO/RRAA in Herat (November 2016)

DAC besøger NPO/RRAA i Herat (November 2016)



Representing DAC in Herat

Since 2015 DAC reduced from a major healthcare provider with over 300 employees to a small organization with only two employees in Herat. The level of activities has likewise reduced significantly in 2016. However, DAC's ambitions have not decreased, yet increased in the pursuit of improvement of Afghan people's awareness and access to their health rights.

DAC has sustained a strong and respectful reputation amongst the local population, civil society organizations and local authorities, who all welcome DAC's future projects in Herat province.

I am very happy and delighted that DAC's presence in Herat will remain for the upcoming years and we can continue our work with new health related projects.

It has been a privilege working with DAC for the past 7 years. During these years I have not only gained substantial working experience, but also received trainings in Security, Administration, Logistic and Project Management with support from DAC.

I am also pleased by the fact that I have been working with DAC as Office Coordinator for the past year, where I have had the opportunity to represent DAC in establishing a new partnership with NPO/RRAA, strengthening and maintaining good and healthy relations with local Afghan authorities as well as DAC's network. It has indeed been a great experience for me on how to conduct research, collect information and cooperate on a daily basis with the Copenhagen Office as well as DAC's new partner organization and local health authorities, which I think has been a very successful process.

It has been a good year with its share of challenges as well as achievements of significant milestones for the future work of DAC in Herat.

I would like to express my sincere thanks to the local authorities, NPO/RRAA, the Diabetes Centre at the Regional Hospital in Herat, Mrs. Sumitra Mukherjee, previous DAC employees and other friends, who cooperated, supported and assisted DAC in preparing the project proposals.

Thank you!

Lutfudin Osmani
Office Coordinator, Herat

Repræsentation af DAC i Herat

Fra 2015 gik DAC fra at være en stor sundhedsserviceyeder med over 300 ansatte til at være en lille organisation med kun to medarbejdere i Herat. Niveauet af aktiviteter er ligeledes væsentligt reduceret i 2016. Imidlertid er DACs ambitioner ikke blevet mindre. De er steget i takt med DACs stræben efter at forbedre det afghanske folks bevidsthed om og adgang til dets sundhedsmæssige rettigheder.

DAC har bibeholdt et stærkt og respektfuldt omdømme i den lokale befolkning, civilsamfundsorganisationerne og de lokale myndigheder, der alle hilser DACs fremtidige projekter i Herat-provinsen velkommen.

Det glæder mig, at DAC fortsat vil være tilstede i Herat i de kommende år, således at vi kan fortsætte vores arbejde med nye sundhedsrelaterede projekter.

Det har været et privilegium at arbejde med DAC i de sidste 7 år. I disse år har jeg ikke kun opnået betydelig erhvervs erfaring, men har også modtaget kurser i sikkerhed og administration. Jeg har også fulgt kurser i logistik og Project Management med støtte fra DAC.

Jeg er ligeledes glad for at have arbejdet med DAC som kontor koordinator i det forløbne år, hvor jeg har haft mulighed for at repræsentere DAC i etableringen af et nyt partnerskab med NPO/RRAA, samt at styrke og vedligeholde gode og sunde relationer med de lokale afghanske myndigheder og med DACs netværk. Det har været en berigende erfaring for mig personligt, hvor jeg har erhvervet indsigt i, hvordan man udfører undersøgelser, indsamler oplysninger og samarbejder på daglig basis med kontoret i København, med DACs nye partnerorganisation samt med de lokale sundhedsmyndigheder. Det, mener jeg, har været en meget vellykket proces.

Det har været et godt år med såvel udfordringer som væsentlige resultater for det fremtidige arbejde i DAC i Herat.

Jeg vil gerne udtrykke min oprigtige tak til de lokale myndigheder, NPO/RRAA, Diabetes Centeret på Regionshospitalet i Herat, Fru Sumitra Mukherjee, DACs tidligere medarbejdere og andre venner, som har samarbejdet, støttet og hjulpet DAC i forberedelsen af projektansøgningerne.

Tak!

Lutfudin Osmani,
Kontorkoordinator, Herat

Donations & Contributions

Donations and contributions made to DAC by members or other contributors have a significant importance for DAC's continuous work and projects in Herat, Afghanistan.

We would like to thank all our members for their generous yearly donations made to DAC.

We would also like to thank Jacob Jensen and Komtesse Elisabeth Danneskiold- Samsøes Familie og Funktionærlegat for their generous contributions.

Donationer & Bidrag

Donationer samt bidrag til DAC fra medlemmer eller andre bidragsydere har en stor betydning for DACs fortsatte arbejde og projekter i Herat, Afghanistan.

Vi vil gerne takke alle vores medlemmer for deres gavmilde årlige donationer til DAC.

Vi vil også gerne takke Jacob Jensen og Komtesse Elisabeth Danneskiold- Samsøes Familie og Funktionærlegat for deres generøse bidrag.

Capacity Building DAC Employees in Herat



Kapacitetsopbygning af DAC medarbejdere i Herat

“I recently completed my bachelor’s degree in Public Administration from Eshraq Institute of Higher Education in Herat with support from DAC.”

“Jeg har for nylig afsluttet min bachelor i offentlig administration fra Eshraq Institute of Higher Education i Herat med støtte fra DAC.”

(Lutfudin Osmani)

“With DAC’s support I recently completed a three months’ literacy course together with two previous DAC employees in Herat City”

“Med støtte fra DAC har jeg sammen med to af DACs tidligere medarbejdere fuldført 3 måneders literacy kursus i Herat by.”

(Ghulam Sakhi)



Year in Review

Året der gik

September/October 2015

15th of September: Mette Vestergaard Andersen resigns from her position as DAC's Project Coordinator and Neela Farhat Kabir Noori occupies the position.

1st of October: Rikke Barner occupies the position as Office Assistant.

15. september: Mette Vestergaard Andersen slutter som DACs projektkoordinator efter 3 år, og Neela Farhat Kabir Noori indtræder i stillingen.

1. oktober: Rikke Barner bliver ansat som projekt kontorassistent.

November/December 2015

2nd of November: DAC's final HSP supervision trip to Herat.

8th of November: DAC and NPO/RRAA become partners and sign the partnership agreement.

14th of December: DAC and NPO/RRAA submit a project proposal for a health rights project in Herat to Civil society Fund (CISU).

29th of December: DAC arranges an event for Sing Ungdomin Aarhus.

31st of December: Rikke Barner resigns from her position as Office Assistant.

2. november: DAC tager på endelig HSP- tilsynsrejse til Herat.

8. november: DAC og NPO/RRAA bliver samarbejdspartnere og underskriver en samarbejdsaftale.

14 december: DAC og NPO/RRAA indsender ansøgning til Civilsamfundspuljen (CISU) om projekt vedrørende sundhedsrettigheder i Herat.

29. december: DAC afholder et arrangement for Sind Ungdom i Århus

31. december: Rikke Barner stopper som projekt kontorassistent.

January/February 2016

4th of January: Ida Mønsted Vestergaard starts as intern in DAC Copenhagen.

25th of January: Lutfudin Osmani (Office Coordinator) completes his bachelor degree in Public Administration.

29th of February: 3 of DAC's current and previous illiterate employees complete literacy courses financed by DAC to improve their job opportunities.

4. januar: Ida Mønsted Vestergaard starter som praktikant i DAC, København.

25. januar: Lutfudin Osmani (Kontorkoordinator i Herat) fuldfører sin bachelor grad i Public Administration.

29. februar: 3 af DACs tidligere og nuværende medarbejdere afslutter Literacy kurser finansieret af DAC. Dette for at forbedre deres fremtidige jobmuligheder.

Year in Review

Året der gik

March/April 2016

2nd of March: DAC arranges a volunteer event for those interested in DAC's work and Afghanistan.

10th of March: DAC arranges an event in Vartov, Copenhagen with the former female Afghan politician Malalai Joya in collaboration with KVINFO, AYAD, SNABLANTEN and NASIM.

1st of April: DAC and NPO/RRAA resubmits the project proposal to CISU for the health rights project in Herat.

2. marts: DAC afholder sit første møde for frivillige, der interesserer sig for DACs arbejde og for Afghanistan.

10. marts: DAC afholder et arrangement i Vartov, København med den tidligere kvindelige afghanske politiker Malalai Joya i samarbejde med KVINFO, AYAD, SNABLANTEN og NASIM.

1. april: DAC og NPO/RRAA genindsender ansøgning til Civilsamfundspuljen (CISU) om projekt vedrørende sundhedsrettigheder i Herat.

June 2016

13th of June: DAC and NPO/RRAA receives grant approval from CISU for the health rights project in Herat

15th of June: DAC submits a project proposal to the World Diabetes Foundation for a new Diabetes project at the General Hospital in Herat.

13. juni: DAC og NPO/RRAA modtager bekræftelse fra CISU på bevilling til projektet vedrørende sundhedsrettigheder i Herat.

15. juni: DAC indsender ansøgning til World Diabetes Foundation om bevilling til et diabetes projekt på General Hospital i Herat.

September 2016

1st of September: The health rights project starts in Herat in partnership with NPO/RRAA

1. september: DAC starter i samarbejde med NPO/RRAA projektet vedrørende sundhedsrettighed i Herat.

DAC

Den Danske Afghanistan Komité
The Danish Afghanistan Committee

