

AFGHANISTAN

Hard-to-Reach Assessment - Round One

North-Eastern Region

March 2018



Cover photo: Village in Western Afghanistan © REACH, April 2018

About REACH

REACH is a joint initiative of two international non-governmental organizations - ACTED and IMPACT Initiatives - and the UN Operational Satellite Applications Programme (UNOSAT). REACH aims to strengthen evidence-based decision making by aid actors through efficient data collection, management and analysis before, during and after an emergency. By doing so, REACH contributes to ensuring that communities affected by emergencies receive the support they need. All REACH activities are conducted in support to and within the framework of inter-agency aid coordination mechanisms. For more information please visit our website: www.reach-initiative.org. You can contact us directly at: geneva@reach-initiative.org and follow us on Twitter [@REACH_info](https://twitter.com/REACH_info).

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Context and Background

The Government of Afghanistan continues to struggle to obtain full control over its national territory, with the Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction (SIGAR) considering some 45 districts of Afghanistan as fully or partially under the control of Armed Opposition Groups (AOGs) and a further 118 district as contested and regularly falling in and out of government control¹.

In addition to sustained levels of conflict in a number of districts of the country, the displacement situation remained unstable in 2017 after unprecedented levels of displacement were observed in 2016. Since January 2017, approximately 286,000 undocumented Afghans have returned from Pakistan and Iran² and an estimated 202,109 people have been displaced internally as a result of the ongoing conflict³. Sustained levels of internal displacement have been observed across the 34 provinces of Afghanistan.

A Hard-to-Reach (HTR) district can be defined as such from a security perspective as well as a terrain perspective – where access is limited due to remoteness or hostile terrain. Most generally however, given the Afghan context, a HTR district has been defined as a district where access by humanitarian actors is limited due to active fighting that poses a security risk for humanitarian workers and beneficiaries, or due to the presence of Armed Opposition Groups that actively limit access to the district through constraints such as checkpoints. Limited delivery of core services such as electricity and telecommunication services also hinders humanitarian actors' ability to properly operate in such areas. Approximately 20% of all displaced persons are believed to be residing in HTR areas².

Due to limitations associated with HTR areas, conventional data collection techniques (face-to-face/telephone interviews) are not

always possible, generating a lack of reliable data, and therefore reducing the adequacy of on-the-ground response. As a result, there is a lack of regular monitoring of these Hard-to-Reach communities which has undermined the ability to track the needs and vulnerabilities to ultimately inform the response, both operationally and strategically. These areas are thus twice marginalised: a lack of information ranging from basic population figures to needs and vulnerabilities in these areas feeds into a lack of inclusion of these areas into humanitarian planning.

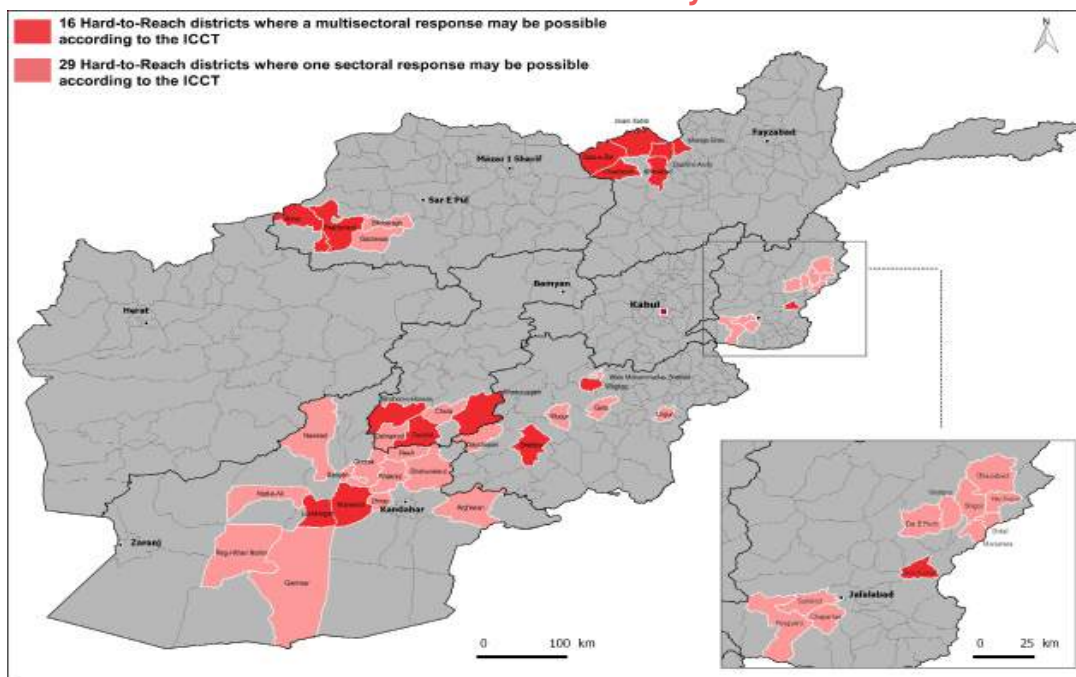
To remedy this lack of adequate understanding of HTR districts, Hard-to-Reach districts was made the priority under the 2017 Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) which stated that “with the official IDP petition system largely or completely out of reach for those living in non-government held areas, in addition to the limited coverage of disease and food insecurity early warning systems, the capacity of humanitarian partners to detect or respond to the most acute needs may have been considerably weakened over the past six months, resulting in less IDPs being reported despite intensified conflict”⁴.

In collaboration with the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) and the Humanitarian Access Group, REACH is implementing the Afghanistan Hard-to-Reach Assessment (AHTRA) REACH conducted the first quarterly round of needs assessment in 45 districts classified by the Inter-Cluster Country Team (ICCT) as Hard-to-Reach under OCHA's 2017 Second Allocation of the Common Humanitarian Fund.

Footnotes:

- (1) Al Jazeera (citing SIGAR), 24 January 2017
- (2) 2017 Displacement Tracking Matrix, International Organisation for Migration, 2017
- (3) Afghanistan Humanitarian Needs Overview, OCHA, 2017
- (4) Afghanistan Humanitarian Response Plan, OCHA, 2017

Map of all assessed 45 Hard-to-Reach districts determined by the ICCT



Methodology

Research Objectives

The Afghanistan Hard-to-Reach Assessment aimed to capture two types of data in all assessed Hard-to-Reach districts:

- Basic Service Unit (BSU) boundaries – BSUs are defined as a geographic area populated by a group of people having particular common demographic and socio-economic features and sharing the same services and facilities (water sources, health/education facilities, and/or a common market).
- Data on multi-sector humanitarian needs and access information collected on a quarterly basis at BSU-level based on the boundaries identified during the BSU mapping.

More broadly, the objectives of the needs assessment component of the AHTRA included contributing to the development of the Humanitarian Needs Overview and Humanitarian Response Plan, as well as contribute to facilitating humanitarian interventions in Hard-to-Reach areas through the data collected.

Coordination Framework

The AHTRA was established and designed at the institutional level with the HAG and the Inter-Cluster Country Team (ICCT), while all technical review is channeled through the Humanitarian Assessment Working Group, which is co-led by REACH and OCHA. The assessment directly supports the Second Allocation CHF strategy's first Coordination and Common Objective: to "Strengthen humanitarian actors' response through coordinated multi-sector assessments to inform humanitarian programming, strategic decision-making and improve understanding of critical humanitarian needs"¹.

Key Informant Selection

Key Informants were selected on the basis of their Area of Knowledge and categorised according to a sectoral Key Informant grid. REACH sought out non-governmental, neutral profiles such as school teachers, doctors, nurses, community elders, or maleks (village chiefs). This ensured a degree of separation from the government authorities yet maintained a certain degree of sectoral knowledge about the community.

Data Collection Summary

All core village and topographical data were compiled and edited based on Afghan Geodesy and Cartography Department data and REACH's own work in January 2018. The BSU mapping tool was piloted at the end of January. All

remaining mapping data was collected between 11 February and 15 March 2018 in all assessed districts. The BSU mapping identified 399 BSUs in total in the assessed Hard-to-Reach districts.

The Response Analysis Framework workshop was held with all Clusters in Kabul on 7 February 2018, enabling REACH to finalise the research questions and associated indicators. After testing the tool, the needs assessment was launched on 8 March and the first phase of data collection took place between 11 and 29 March 2018 in all assessed districts.

Data Analysis

The BSU mapping was conducted using group discussions in each district where participants were asked to associate each village in the district to a BSU as well as associate a number of services to each BSU (see tool in Annex III).

For the needs assessment, the average number of interviews per BSU was three with the most common KI profile being village chief, doctor and schoolteacher. Given the average number of interviews per BSU as well as the coherence of responses given by each KI per BSU and the lack of any significant outlier in the data collection, KIs were treated with similar levels of confidence in the aggregation.

After individual KI responses were aggregated into one response per BSU, the analysis team was able to conduct district-level aggregation of data using an SPSS syntax drafted for that purpose which was aimed at aggregating each BSU's responses within a district and provide an aggregated overview of findings for each category (WASH, education, shelter, etc.) for each district.

Limitations

- Findings rely on the knowledge of KIs responding on behalf of their communities. The findings are therefore indicative and may not always reflect fully with 100% accuracy the situation on the ground.
- The village data is based on established villages with at least 25 households meaning smaller areas with less than 25 households are not represented on the maps.
- Estimating displacement groups other than internally displaced populations was deemed too complex for KIs during the Response Analysis Framework workshop due to the time-sensitive framework associated to more specific displacement statuses.
- The data cannot be used for direct beneficiary selection.

Footnotes:

(1) 2017 CHF Second Standard Allocation, OCHA, 2017

Comparative Overview by District

Provinces	Districts	Summary		Markets (% of BSUs) ¹			Basic Services (% of BSUs) ¹				Food (% of BSUs) ¹	Shelter (% of BSUs) ¹	WASH (% of BSUs) ¹		Protection (% of BSUs) ¹		
		Total number of BSUs	Estimated Total Population according to Key Informants	No market	Small market	Large market	Access to financial services	Access to telecom services	Access to educational facilities	Access to health facilities	Decreased availability of food over past 30 days	Fear of eviction	% of BSUs reporting majority of population residing in makeshift shelter	Access to drinking water	Access to latrine	Presence of landmines/ERW	Occurrence of military airstrikes in past 30 days
Faryab	Almar	14	67,533	0	43	57	94	100	100	100	7	0	0	93	100	100	93
	Bilcheragh	4	30,347	0	50	50	48	79	100	57	100	75	25	5	0	64	95
	Gurziwan	9	255,417	50	25	25	44	89	100	44	38	83	0	89	89	83	44
	Pashtun Kot	23	369,717	47	20	33	17	49	100	39	0	48	0	30	65	52	25
Ghazni	Giro	7	80,052	0	100	0	0	11	100	8	71	0	0	100	90	0	0
	Muqur	9	97,944	11	56	33	70	0	100	22	0	0	0	0	0	3	0
	Waghaz	7	183,467	14	86	0	83	54	100	20	0	16	0	100	100	68	0
	Wali Muhammadi Shahid	6	37,582	0	100	0	0	17	100	23	67	88	0	78	82	74	4
Hilmand	Garmser	7	294,833	0	0	100	100	0	100	100	57	43	0	0	0	100	43
	Lashkar Gah	9	118,145	14	57	29	15	25	86	50	43	67	0	78	78	51	31
	Nad Ali	3	33,751	25	75	0	5	4	100	100	100	8	75	100	100	95	100
	Naw Zad	16	329,813	0	63	37	9	3	31	94	75	6	13	91	91	84	59
	Reg (Khansin)	6	32,433	0	50	50	83	0	100	100	0	0	0	100	100	71	25
	Sangin	9	153,483	13	50	37	37	3	20	78	63	48	0	89	89	89	35
Kandahar	Argistan	7	78,500	0	86	14	0	19	43	14	0	5	43	67	86	14	0
	Ghorak	6	18,283	50	33	17	0	0	100	72	17	28	0	83	89	22	89
	Khakrez	6	25,373	83	17	0	0	4	100	42	50	71	0	21	83	100	79
	Maywand	11	255,363	27	64	9	11	22	9	17	0	33	0	13	2	97	55
	Nesh	4	62,210	0	75	25	100	0	0	0	100	100	0	0	0	100	45
	Shah Wali Kot	8	40,126	0	100	0	0	25	0	42	100	8	0	96	92	4	0
	Zhari	5	33,607	20	40	40	0	16	100	77	20	8	0	92	88	72	24
Kunar	Bar Kunar	5	39,908	20	60	20	0	40	100	60	100	7	0	65	100	100	0
	Dara-I-Pech	6	109,167	0	86	14	17	100	100	100	0	0	0	100	100	100	94
	Ghaziabad	7	75,336	0	86	14	0	43	100	52	0	3	0	95	100	26	44
	Khas Kunar	6	92,083	17	83	0	0	94	100	57	33	17	17	67	75	11	11
	Marawara	4	75,617	75	25	0	0	70	100	75	50	45	50	14	12	59	0
	Shaygal	9	106,300	0	89	11	11	30	100	30	0	0	0	0	96	19	0
	Shital	3	34,000	0	100	0	0	33	100	33	0	19	100	0	67	100	76
	Wata Pur	8	117,567	0	100	0	4	93	100	91	0	3	0	96	100	78	49
Kunduz	Chahar Dara	17	90,500	47	53	0	0	86	100	32	82	88	6	94	41	64	91
	Dashte Archi	10	159,875	60	30	10	5	35	100	90	44	3	0	68	90	10	0
	Imam Sahib	24	331,667	31	54	15	8	53	100	28	0	6	0	29	52	3	27
	Khanabad	8	59,483	83	17	0	0	75	100	44	0	38	0	0	75	53	38
	Qalay-I-Zal	6	125,939	0	100	0	0	92	100	100	17	56	0	86	83	0	19

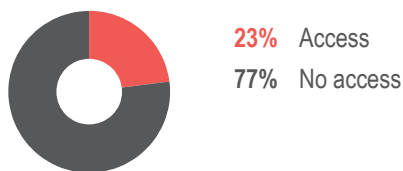
(1) Percentages of Key Informants indicating access or availability to a given good/service in their community - aggregated at district level

Comparative Overview by District (Continued)

Summary				Markets (% of BSUs)			Basic Services (% of BSUs)			Food (% of BSUs)	Shelter (% of BSUs)	WASH (% of BSUs)		Protection (% of BSUs)			
Provinces	Districts	Total number of BSUs	Estimated Total Population according to Key Informants	No market	Small market	Large market	Access to financial services	Access to telecom services	Access to educational facilities	Access to health facilities	Decreased availability of food over past 30 days	Fear of eviction	% of BSUs reporting majority of population residing in makeshift shelter	Access to drinking water	Access to latrine	Presence of landmines/ERW	Occurrence of military airstrikes in the past 30 days
Nangarhar	Chapahar	14	77,610	0	30	70	5	69	100	45	0	31	0	40	71	40	0
	Khogayani	11	423,273	0	64	36	12	80	100	100	9	67	0	21	95	44	18
	Surkhrud	12	196,667	50	50	0	0	36	100	51	13	21	50	59	56	0	0
Paktika	Urgun	5	74,950	25	50	25	80	30	100	25	50	0	0	73	80	53	5
Takhar	Kwaja Ghar	8	151,992	50	25	25	0	100	100	41	63	11	0	0	100	8	0
Uruzgan	Chora	3	53,057	0	100	0	0	29	100	44	100	95	0	95	95	37	81
	Dihrawud	8	6,575	0	75	25	19	3	100	50	100	3	0	47	19	34	6
	Khas Uruzgan	10	28,975	0	0	100	83	3	100	98	0	93	70	100	100	98	33
	Shahidi Hassas	10	9,188	60	40	0	3	3	70	30	60	12	20	36	10	24	4
	Tirinkot	7	8,700	0	75	25	0	7	100	54	75	7	0	21	39	54	43
Zabul	Daychopan	8	24,083	0	100	0	0	0	0	19	0	4	0	97	0	28	7
	Shahjoy	14	38,583	7	86	7	7	36	0	36	7	4	0	86	4	64	18
Total		399	5,109,071														

Key Service Access across all assessed Hard-to-Reach Districts

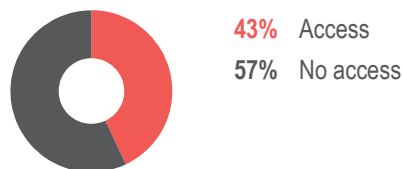
Access to Financial Services
(aggregated across all Hard-to-Reach Districts¹)



Access to Food over past 30 days
(aggregated across all Hard-to-Reach Districts¹)



Access to Telecommunication Services
(aggregated across all Hard-to-Reach Districts¹)

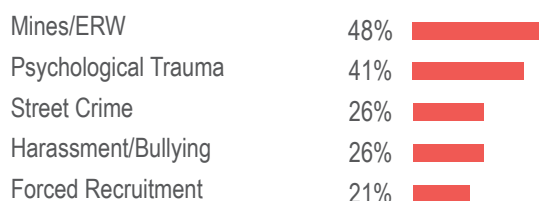


Access to Market
(aggregated across all Hard-to-Reach Districts¹)

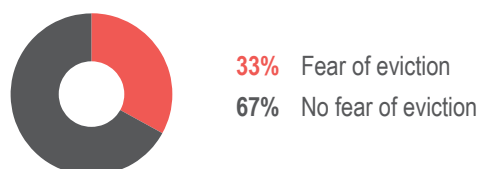


Key protection Concerns across all assessed Hard-to-Reach Districts

Main Protection Concerns reported by KIs
(aggregated across all Hard-to-Reach Districts¹)

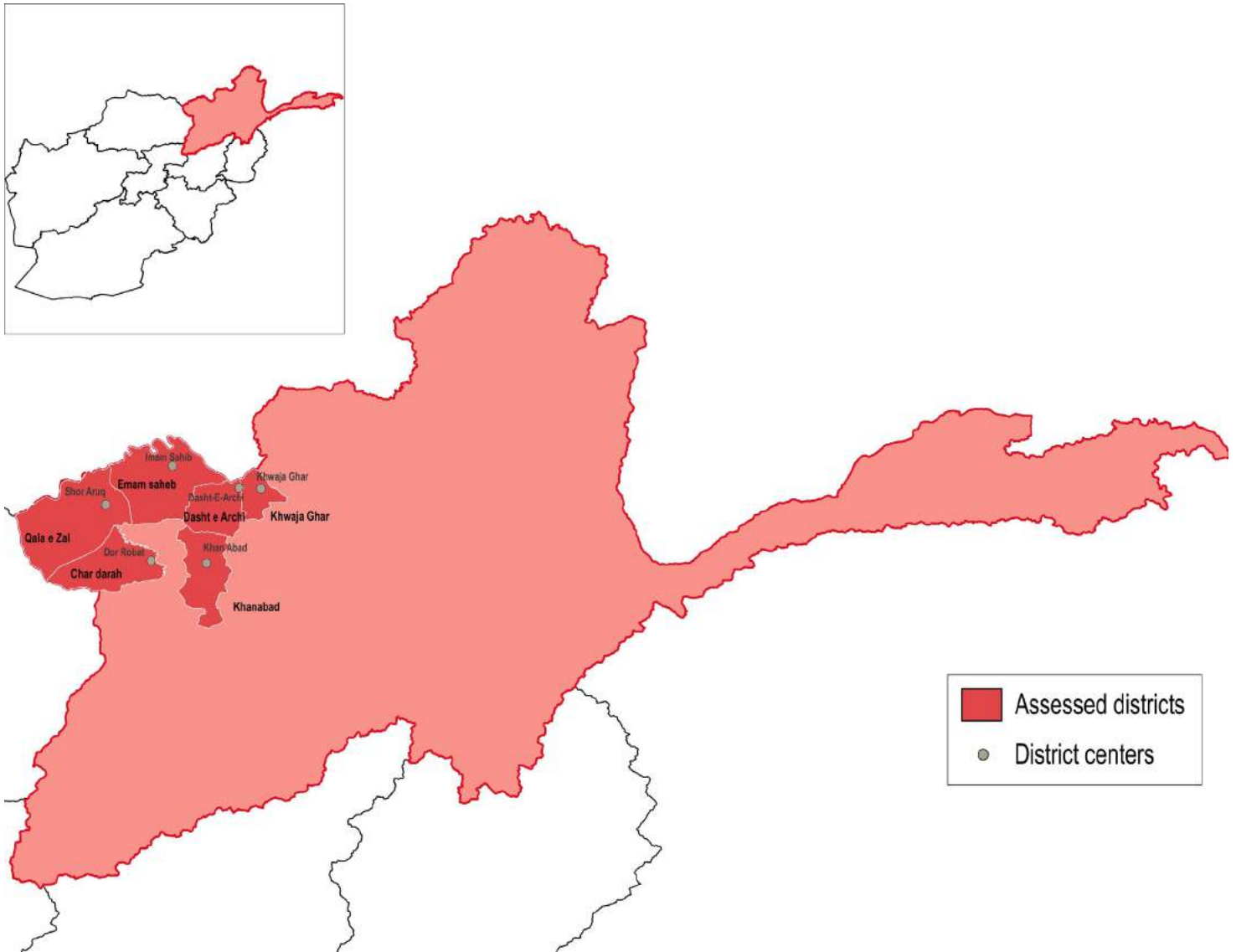


Fear of Eviction amongst BSU inhabitants
(aggregated across all Hard-to-Reach Districts¹)



(1) Percentages of Key Informants indicating access or availability to a given good/service in their community - aggregated across all assessed Hard-to-Reach districts

North-Eastern Region¹ District Factsheets



Note

For practical reasons, the original booklet has been divided into regional booklets. You can visit the REACH Resource Centre to access the other regional booklets (<http://www.reachresourcecentre.info/countries/afghanistan>) or consult the full report here : <http://bit.ly/2lIQboy>.

¹OCHA regional boundaries

Chahar Dara District Profile

Kunduz Province



District Information

Total number of BSUs identified in the district:	17
Number of Key Informants interviewed in the district:	34
Key Figures	
Estimated total population in the district by KIs:	90,500
Est. % of female population (of total pop.):	46%
Est. % of IDPs (of total pop.):	3%
Est. % of people with disabilities (of total pop.):	2%
Primary market type in the district:	Small markets
Average monthly income in the district (AFN ¹):	9,833

Demographics

Composition of the district based on KI estimates, by age:

Please note that due to the indicative nature of KI data, gender-disaggregated age groups are not measured in this assessment.

60+ years	5%	<div style="width: 5%;"></div>
19-59 years	31%	<div style="width: 31%;"></div>
5-18 years	39%	<div style="width: 39%;"></div>
0-4 years	25%	<div style="width: 25%;"></div>

Movement Intentions

Movement intentions of BSU populations in the next 3 months (aggregated at district level, % of BSUs):

Remain	53%
Displace temporarily	35%
Displace permanently	12%



Humanitarian Assistance

Main assistance received in past 30 days:	None (68% of BSUs)
Main barrier to assistance:	Remote locations (68% of BSUs)
Humanitarian vehicle access:	Accessible (100% of BSUs)

Protection Concerns

Main concerns of BSU populations (% of BSUs)²:

Mines/ERW	59%	<div style="width: 59%;"></div>
No concerns	35%	<div style="width: 35%;"></div>
Arbitrary arrests	8%	<div style="width: 8%;"></div>
Street crime	3%	<div style="width: 3%;"></div>

Priority Needs

Priority needs of the district population:

- 1 Education
- 2 Agriculture support
- 3 Employment

Key Findings

Summary of key findings and needs by sector:

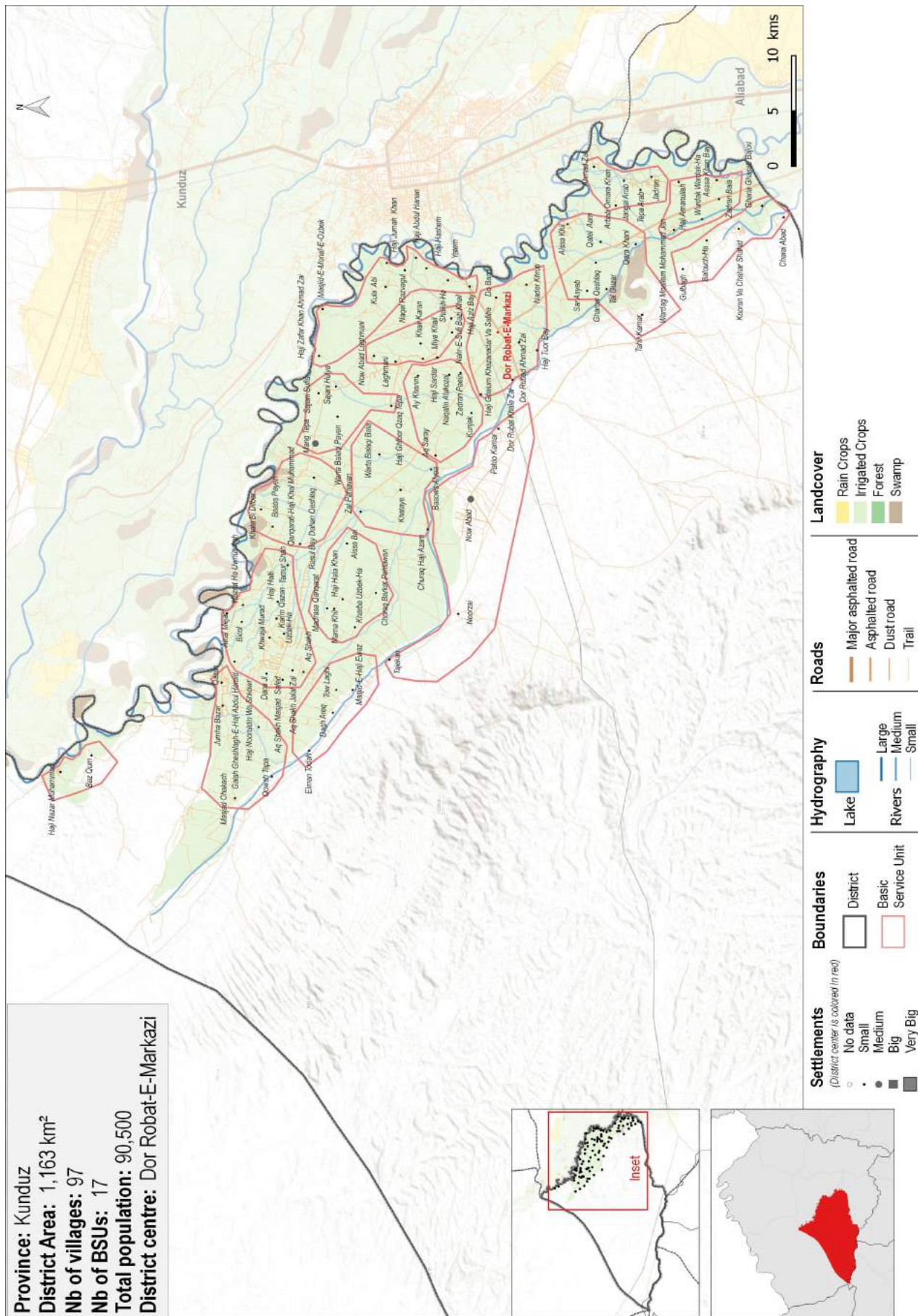
The severity ranking below is based on a set of indicators measuring the severity of each sector: 0= No severity to 4 = Extreme severity.

Sector	Severity	Key findings
Livelihoods and Essential Services	2.5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Main sources of income are cash crop and livestock farming, unskilled/skilled daily labour, loans Financial services are not available. KIs reported no access to legal and civil documentation services. Department of Refugees and Repatriation never operated in the district. Main source of electricity is solar energy, with occasional power cuts. Access to telecommunication services, with hourly shortages in service.
Protection	2.5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Main protection concerns as reported by KIs: landmines/ERW. No civilian resources have reportedly been used for military purposes. Landmines are a protection concern, with KIs reporting no markings in hazardous areas and no mine risk education. Other safety concerns include occasional military airstrikes. The majority of KIs reported psycho-social support mechanisms were not sufficiently available in the district. No particular group is reportedly prevented from accessing services. Women and girls mostly have a more limited access to services. The majority of KIs did not report any particular child-friendly spaces in the community, nor separate living spaces for women.
Food Security	2.5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Access to food at BSU level has reportedly decreased over the past 30 days according to the majority of KIs. KIs reported their communities typically have food stocks for less than one week. Main types of food for members of the community is cereals, tubers and dairy products. The majority of KIs reported no boys and girls relying on breastfeeding as source of food in their communities. Main coping strategies are to borrow food and rely on help from friends and family, restrict adult consumption, and send male children to work.
Shelter	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The main shelter type that the majority of the population live in is permanent mudbrick houses according to KIs. The majority of the population own their homes according to KIs, but there is a fear of eviction. The average number of rooms in shelters is 5 and the majority of the population reportedly keep livestock separate. KIs reported most shelters in their communities are damaged but partially renovated despite construction materials not easily available in the market.
WASH	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Most communities rely on access to private handpumps as primary source of drinking water. KIs reported sufficient access to drinking water and a clean, undamaged source. The majority of KIs reported waste is collected within their communities. Latrines are easily accessible. KIs reported family pit latrines without slabs and flush to sewer toilets to be the main latrine types, with some areas lacking latrines.
Health	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> KIs reported their communities did not have access to medical facilities. There have been no facility closures over the past 30 days but a shortage of medication. KIs reported no threats against medical staff.
Education	2.5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Main education facilities types: government schools and madrassas Overall schools did not incur much damage and are functioning normally. The main barrier to male student attendance is having to stay and help at home while for female students it is distance according to KIs. A concern is the lack of facilities, which was flagged as the main challenge in providing education in the district.

(1) 1 United States Dollar = 69.6 Afghanis (05/04/2018) - source: Afghan Central Bank

(2) KIs were asked to select more than one option for their BSU

Basic Service Unit Mapping - Chahar Dara District



Sources:
 Settlements: Afghan Geodesy and Cartography Head Office (AGCHO), REACH
 BSUs: REACH
 Hydrography: OCHA, REACH
 Roads: AGCHO, Open Street Map, REACH
 Landcover: AGCHO

Dashte Archi District Profile

Kunduz Province



District Information

Total number of BSUs identified in the district:	10
Number of Key Informants interviewed in the district:	30
Key Figures	
Estimated total population in the district by KIs:	159,875
Est. % of female population (of total pop.):	49%
Est. % of IDPs (of total pop.):	3%
Est. % of people with disabilities (of total pop.):	0%
Primary market type in the district:	No markets
Average monthly income in the district (AFN ¹):	2,592

Demographics

Composition of the district based on KI estimates, by age:

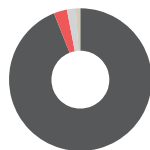
Please note that due to the indicative nature of KI data, gender-disaggregated age groups are not measured in this assessment.

60+ years	2%	<div style="width: 2%;"></div>
19-59 years	36%	<div style="width: 36%;"></div>
5-18 years	35%	<div style="width: 35%;"></div>
0-4 years	27%	<div style="width: 27%;"></div>

Movement Intentions

Movement intentions of BSU populations in the next 3 months (aggregated at district level, % of BSUs):

Undecided	94%
Displace permanently	3%
Remain	2%
Displace temporarily	1%



Humanitarian Assistance

Main assistance received in past 30 days:	None (83% of BSUs)
Main barrier to assistance:	Perceived lack of need (39% of BSUs)
Humanitarian vehicle access:	Accessible (96% of BSUs)

Protection Concerns

Main concerns of BSU populations (% of BSUs)²:

Street crime	67%	<div style="width: 67%;"></div>
No concerns	23%	<div style="width: 23%;"></div>
Killing and maiming	18%	<div style="width: 18%;"></div>
Psychological trauma	17%	<div style="width: 17%;"></div>

Priority Needs

Priority needs of the district population:

- 1 Security
- 2 Employment
- 3 Agriculture support

Key Findings

Summary of key findings and needs by sector:

The severity ranking below is based on a set of indicators measuring the severity of each sector: 0= No severity to 4 = Extreme severity.

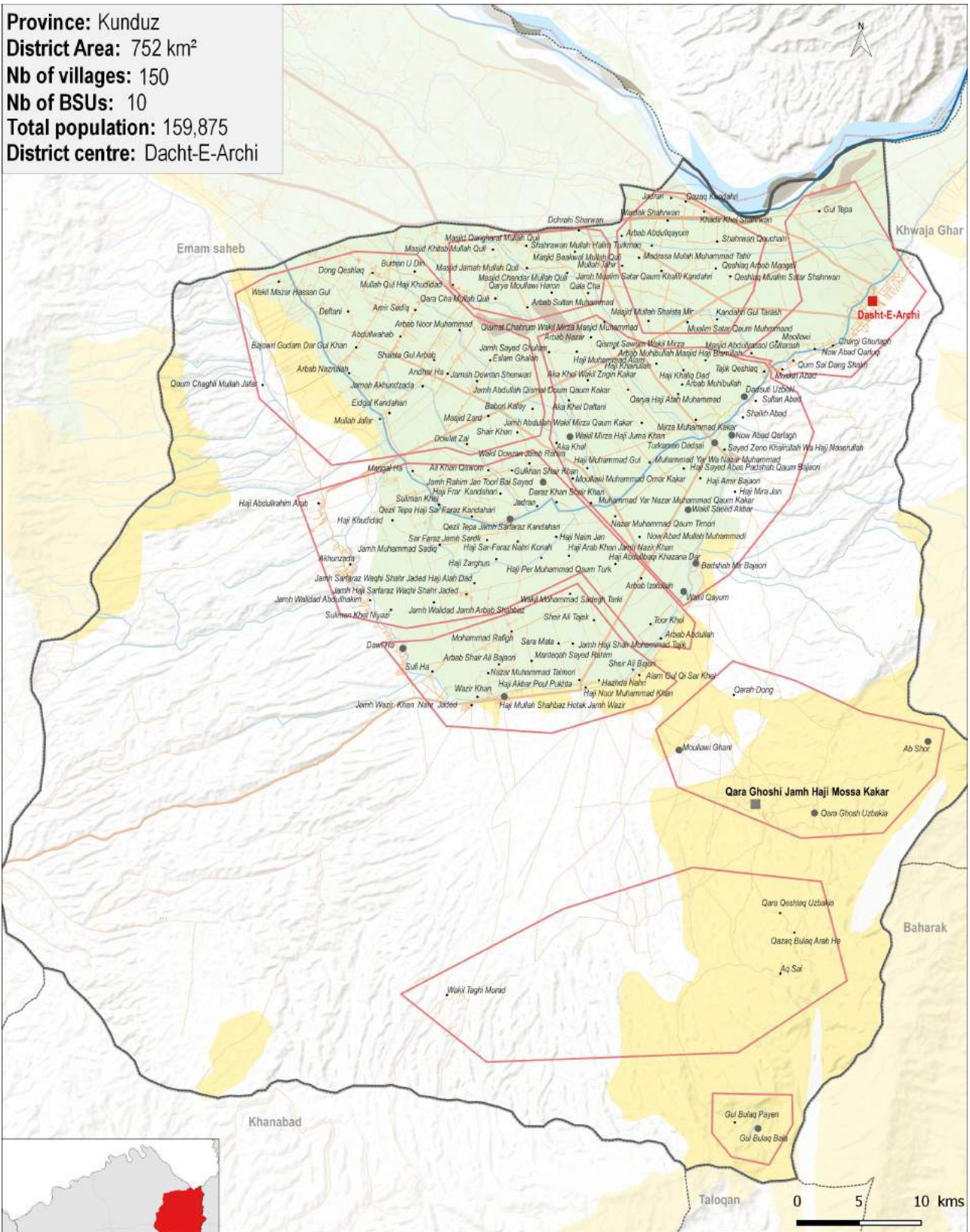
Sector	Severity	Key findings
Livelihoods and Essential Services	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Main sources of income are cash crop and livestock farming, unskilled/skilled daily labour, loans Financial services are not available. KIs reported no access to legal and civil documentation services. Department of Refugees and Repatriation never operated in the district. Main source of electricity is solar energy, with most KIs reporting no power cuts. Access to telecommunication services is limited, with hourly shortages in service.
Protection	1.5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Main protection concerns as reported by KIs: street crime. No civilian resources have reportedly been used for military purposes. The majority of KIs reported landmines are not a protection concern. Communities in this district do not appear to suffer from military airstrikes. The majority of KIs reported psycho-social support mechanisms were not sufficiently available in the district. No particular group is reportedly prevented from accessing services. Women and girls are reported to not have a more limited access to services. The majority of KIs did not report any particular child-friendly spaces in the community, nor separate living spaces for women.
Food Security	1.5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Access to food at BSU level has reportedly decreased over the past 30 days according to the majority of KIs. KIs reported their communities typically have food stocks to last over three months. Main types of food for members of the community is cereals/tubers, pulses/nuts, vegetables, fruits, meat/fish and dairy products. The majority of KIs reported there are boys and girls relying on breastfeeding as source of food in their communities. Main coping strategies are to rely on less preferred/expensive food, borrow food and rely on help from friends and family, and limit portion sizes at mealtimes.
Shelter	0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The main shelter type that the majority of the population live in is permanent mudbrick houses according to KIs. The majority of the population own their homes according to KIs. The average number of rooms in shelters is 5 and the majority of the population reportedly keep livestock separate. KIs reported most shelters in their communities are undamaged.
WASH	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Most communities rely on access to public handpumps as primary source of drinking water. KIs reported sufficient access to drinking water and a clean, undamaged source. The majority of KIs reported waste is buried within their communities Latrines are easily accessible. KIs reported family pit latrines with slabs and ventilated improved latrines to be the main latrine types.
Health	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> KIs reported their communities have access to at least one public clinic, with no apparent damage to the facilities. There has been no decrease in available medical staff, with the facilities remaining sufficiently staffed. There have been no facility closures over the past 30 days but a shortage of medication. KIs did not know of threats against medical staff.
Education	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Main education facilities types according to KIs: government schools and madrassas Overall schools did not incur much damage. The main barrier to both male and female student attendance is school closure according to KIs. A concern is the lack of facilities, which was flagged as the main challenge in providing education in the district.

(1) 1 United States Dollar = 69.6 Afghani (05/04/2018) - source: Afghan Central Bank

(2) KIs were asked to select more than one option for their BSU

Basic Service Unit Mapping - Dashte Archi District

Province: Kunduz
District Area: 752 km²
Nb of villages: 150
Nb of BSUs: 10
Total population: 159,875
District centre: Dacht-E-Archi



Sources:
 Settlements: Afghan Geodesy and Cartography Head Office (AGCHO), REACH
 BSUs: REACH
 Hydrography: OCHA, REACH
 Roads: AGCHO, Open Street Map, REACH
 Landcover: AGCHO

Imam Sahib District Profile

Kunduz Province



District Information

Total number of BSUs identified in the district:	24
Number of Key Informants interviewed in the district:	30
Key Figures	
Estimated total population in the district by KIs:	331,667
Est. % of female population (of total pop.):	53%
Est. % of IDPs (of total pop.):	0%
Est. % of people with disabilities (of total pop.):	2%
Primary market type in the district:	Small markets
Average monthly income in the district (AFN ¹):	10,487

Demographics

Composition of the district based on KI estimates, by age:

Please note that due to the indicative nature of KI data, gender-disaggregated age groups are not measured in this assessment.

60+ years	12%	<div style="width: 12%;"></div>
19-59 years	47%	<div style="width: 47%;"></div>
5-18 years	22%	<div style="width: 22%;"></div>
0-4 years	18%	<div style="width: 18%;"></div>

Movement Intentions

Movement intentions of BSU populations in the next 3 months (aggregated at district level, % of BSUs):

Remain	90%
Undecided	8%
Displace temporarily	2%



Humanitarian Assistance

Main assistance received in past 30 days:

Main barrier to assistance:

Humanitarian vehicle access:

None (96% of BSUs)
No perceived difficulties (93% of BSUs)
Accessible (100% of BSUs)

Protection Concerns

Main concerns of BSU populations (% of BSUs)²:

No concerns	31%	<div style="width: 31%;"></div>
Arbitrary arrests	17%	<div style="width: 17%;"></div>
Harassment	15%	<div style="width: 15%;"></div>
Mines/ERW	13%	<div style="width: 13%;"></div>

Priority Needs

Priority needs of the district population:

- 1 Agriculture support
- 2 Security
- 3 Employment

Key Findings

Summary of key findings and needs by sector:

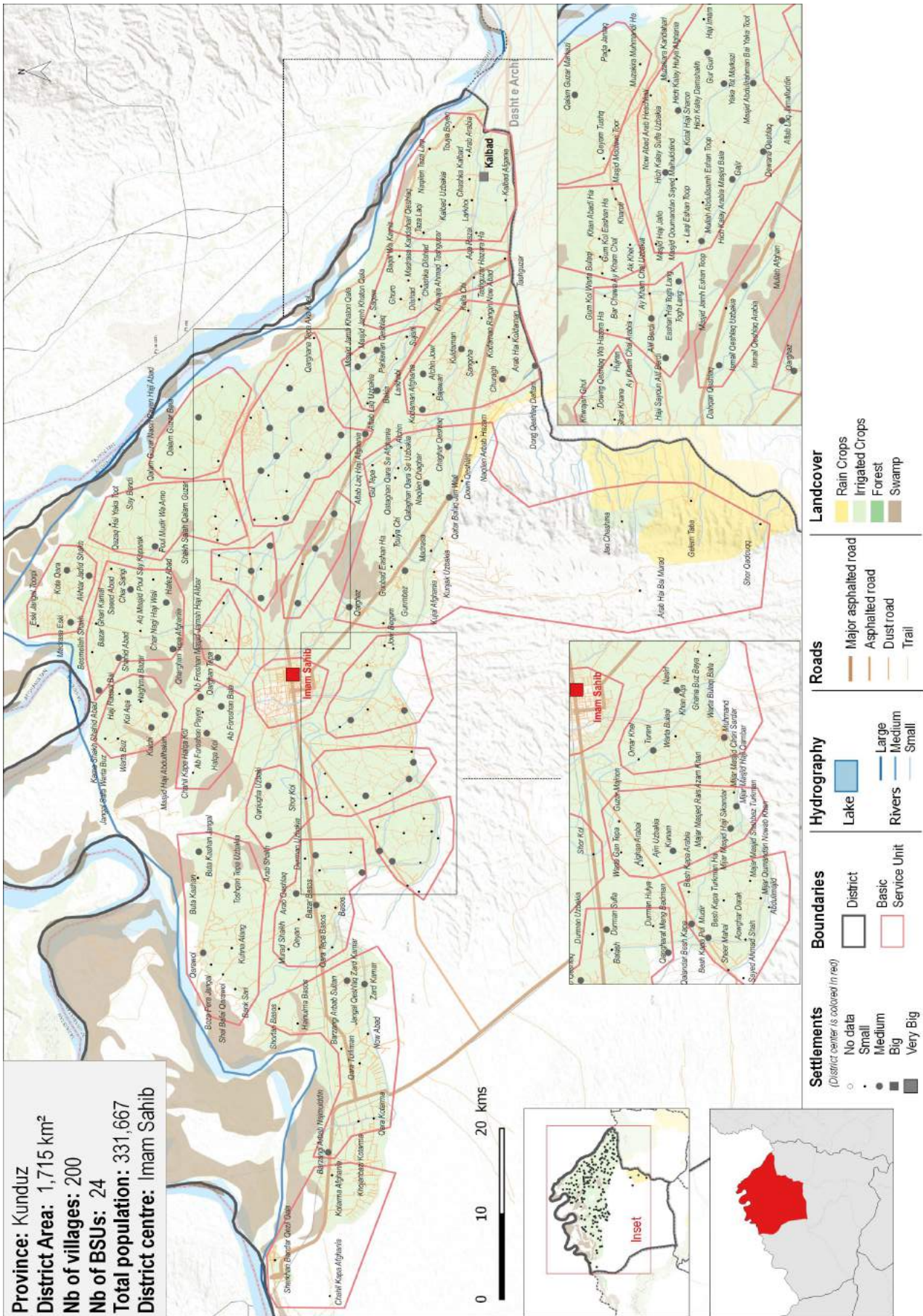
The severity ranking below is based on a set of indicators measuring the severity of each sector: 0= No severity to 4 = Extreme severity.

Sector	Severity	Key findings
Livelihoods and Essential Services	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Main sources of income are cash crop and livestock farming, unskilled/skilled daily labour, loans Financial services are not available. KIs reported no access to legal and civil documentation services. Department of Refugees and Repatriation never operated in the district. Main source of electricity is solar energy, with most KIs reporting no power cuts. Access to telecommunication services, with hourly shortages in service.
Protection	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> KIs did not report any specific protection concern in their communities. No civilian resources have reportedly been used for military purposes. The majority of KIs reported landmines are not a protection concern. Other safety concerns include occasional military airstrikes. The majority of KIs reported psycho-social support mechanisms were not sufficiently available in the district. No particular group is reportedly prevented from accessing services. Women and girls mostly have a more limited access to services. The majority of KIs did not report any particular child-friendly spaces in the community, nor separate living spaces for women.
Food Security	1.5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Access to food at BSU level has been relatively constant and did not change over the past 30 days. KIs reported their communities typically have food stocks to last up to three months. Main types of food for members of the community is cereals, tubers, vegetables, fruits, meat and fish. The majority of KIs reported no boys and girls relying on breastfeeding as source of food in their communities. Main coping strategies are to rely on less preferred/expensive food, borrow food and rely on help from friends and family, and restrict consumption by adults.
Shelter	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The main shelter type that the majority of the population live in is permanent mudbrick houses according to KIs. The majority of the population own their homes according to KIs. The average number of rooms in shelters is 5 and the majority of the population reportedly keep livestock separate. KIs reported most shelters in their communities are damaged but partially renovated despite construction materials not easily available in the market.
WASH	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Most communities rely on access to private handpumps as primary source of drinking water. KIs reported sufficient access to drinking water despite a damaged source. The majority of KIs reported waste is burned within their communities. Latrines are easily accessible. KIs reported community latrines as well as family pit latrines with and without slabs to be the main latrine types.
Health	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> KIs reported their communities did not have access to medical facilities. There have been no facility closures over the past 30 days and no shortage of medication. KIs reported no threats against medical staff.
Education	2.5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Main education facilities types according to KIs: government schools and madrassas Overall schools did not incur much damage and are functioning normally, with the main barrier to both male and female student attendance being distance according to KIs. A concern is the lack of qualified teaching staff, which was flagged as the main challenge in providing education in the district.

(1) 1 United States Dollar = 69.6 Afghanis (05/04/2018) - source: Afghan Central Bank

(2) KIs were asked to select more than one option for their BSU

Basic Service Unit Mapping - Imam Sahib District



Sources:
 Settlements: Afghan Geodesy and Cartography Head Office (AGCHO), REACH
 BSUs: REACH
 Hydrography: OCHA, REACH
 Roads: AGCHO, Open Street Map, REACH
 Landcover: AGCHO

Khanabad District Profile

Kunduz Province



District Information

Total number of BSUs identified in the district:	8
Number of Key Informants interviewed in the district:	19
Key Figures	
Estimated total population in the district by KIs:	59,483
Est. % of female population (of total pop.):	53%
Est. % of IDPs (of total pop.):	8%
Est. % of people with disabilities (of total pop.):	1%
Primary market type in the district:	No markets
Average monthly income in the district (AFN ¹):	6,512

Demographics

Composition of the district based on KI estimates, by age:

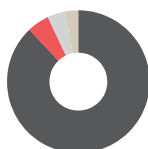
Please note that due to the indicative nature of KI data, gender-disaggregated age groups are not measured in this assessment.

60+ years	8%	<div style="width: 8%;"></div>
19-59 years	41%	<div style="width: 41%;"></div>
5-18 years	34%	<div style="width: 34%;"></div>
0-4 years	15%	<div style="width: 15%;"></div>

Movement Intentions

Movement intentions of BSU populations in the next 3 months (aggregated at district level, % of BSUs):

Remain	88%
Displace temporarily	5%
Undecided	4%
Displace permanently	3%



Humanitarian Assistance

Main assistance received in past 30 days:

Main barrier to assistance:

Humanitarian vehicle access:

None (100% of BSUs)
 No government presence (80% of BSUs)
 Accessible (100% of BSUs)

Protection Concerns

Main concerns of BSU populations (% of BSUs)²:

Street crime	60%	<div style="width: 60%;"></div>
Arbitrary arrests	53%	<div style="width: 53%;"></div>
Mines/ERW	49%	<div style="width: 49%;"></div>
Kidnapping	19%	<div style="width: 19%;"></div>

Priority Needs

Priority needs of the district population:

- 1 Security
- 2 Employment
- 3 Shelter

Key Findings

Summary of key findings and needs by sector:

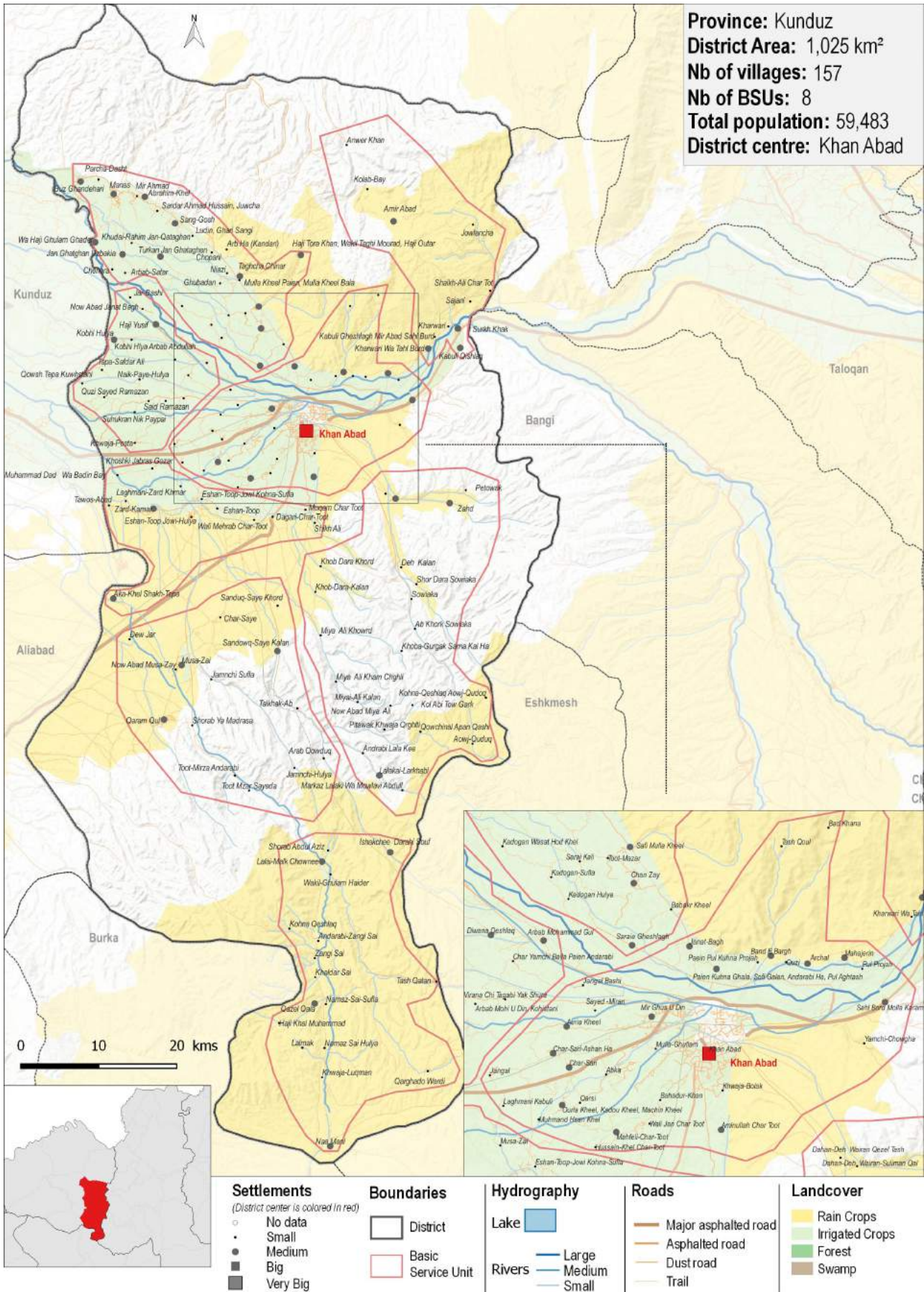
The severity ranking below is based on a set of indicators measuring the severity of each sector: 0= No severity to 4 = Extreme severity.

Sector	Severity	Key findings
Livelihoods and Essential Services	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Main sources of income are cash crop and livestock farming, unskilled/skilled daily labour, humanitarian assistance Financial services are not available. KIs reported no access to legal and civil documentation services. Department of Refugees and Repatriation never operated in the district. Main source of electricity is solar energy, with daily power cuts. Access to telecommunication services, with daily shortages in service.
Protection	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Main protection concerns as reported by KIs: landmines/ERW, street crime and arbitrary arrest/detention. No civilian resources have reportedly been used for military purposes. Landmines are a protection concern, with KIs reporting no markings in hazardous areas and no mine risk education. Other safety concerns include occasional military airstrikes. The majority of KIs reported psycho-social support mechanisms were not sufficiently available in the district. KIs reported community outsiders are prevented from accessing services. Women and girls mostly have a more limited access to services. The majority of KIs did not report any particular child-friendly spaces in the community, nor separate living spaces for women.
Food Security	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Access to food at BSU level has been relatively constant and did not change over the past 30 days. KIs reported their communities typically have food stocks for one to three weeks. Main types of food for members of the community is cereals and tubers. The majority of KIs reported no boys and girls relying on breastfeeding as source of food in their communities. Main coping strategies are to rely on less preferred/expensive food, borrow food and rely on help from friends and family, and send male children to work.
Shelter	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The main shelter type that the majority of the population live in is permanent mudbrick houses according to KIs. The majority of the population own their homes according to KIs, but there is a fear of eviction. The average number of rooms in shelters is 3 and the majority of the population reportedly keep livestock separate. KIs reported most shelters in their communities are damaged but partially renovated despite construction materials not easily available in the market.
WASH	2.5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Most communities rely on access to public handpumps as primary source of drinking water. KIs reported insufficient access to drinking water and a damaged source. The majority of KIs reported waste is buried within their communities Latrines are easily accessible. KIs reported family pit latrines with and without slabs to be the main latrine types, with some areas lacking latrines.
Health	1.5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> KIs reported their communities have access to at least one public clinic, with no apparent damage to the facilities. There has been no decrease in available medical staff, with the facilities remaining sufficiently staffed. There have been no facility closures over the past 30 days and no shortage of medication. KIs reported no threats against medical staff.
Education	2.5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Main education facilities types according to KIs: government schools. Overall schools did not incur much damage and are functioning normally. The main barrier to both male and female students is security concerns in travelling according to KIs. A concern is the lack of facilities, which was flagged as the main challenge in providing education in the district.

(1) 1 United States Dollar = 69.6 Afghanis (05/04/2018) - source: Afghan Central Bank

(2) KIs were asked to select more than one option for their BSU

Basic Service Unit Mapping - Khanabad District



Sources:
 Settlements: Afghan Geodesy and Cartography Head Office (AGCHO), REACH
 BSUs: REACH
 Hydrography: OCHA, REACH
 Roads: AGCHO, Open Street Map, REACH
 Landcover: AGCHO

Qalay-I-Zal District Profile

Kunduz Province



District Information

Total number of BSUs identified in the district:	6
Number of Key Informants interviewed in the district:	19
Key Figures	
Estimated total population in the district by KIs:	125,939
Est. % of female population (of total pop.):	52%
Est. % of IDPs (of total pop.):	1%
Est. % of people with disabilities (of total pop.):	1%
Primary market type in the district:	Small markets
Average monthly income in the district (AFN ¹):	11,073

Demographics

Composition of the district based on KI estimates, by age:

Please note that due to the indicative nature of KI data, gender-disaggregated age groups are not measured in this assessment.

60+ years	13%	<div style="width: 13%;"></div>
19-59 years	37%	<div style="width: 37%;"></div>
5-18 years	34%	<div style="width: 34%;"></div>
0-4 years	16%	<div style="width: 16%;"></div>

Movement Intentions

Movement intentions of BSU populations in the next 3 months (aggregated at district level, % of BSUs):

Remain	41%
Displace temporarily	25%
Undecided	19%
Displace permanently	15%



None (95% of BSUs)

Remote locations (63% of BSUs)

Accessible (100% of BSUs)

Humanitarian Assistance

Main assistance received in past 30 days:

Main barrier to assistance:

Humanitarian vehicle access:

Protection Concerns

Main concerns of BSU populations (% of BSUs)²:

No concerns	61%	<div style="width: 61%;"></div>
Street crime	40%	<div style="width: 40%;"></div>
Forced recruitment	31%	<div style="width: 31%;"></div>
Kidnapping	26%	<div style="width: 26%;"></div>

Priority Needs

Priority needs of the district population:

- 1 Security
- 2 Employment
- 3 Agriculture support

Key Findings

Summary of key findings and needs by sector:

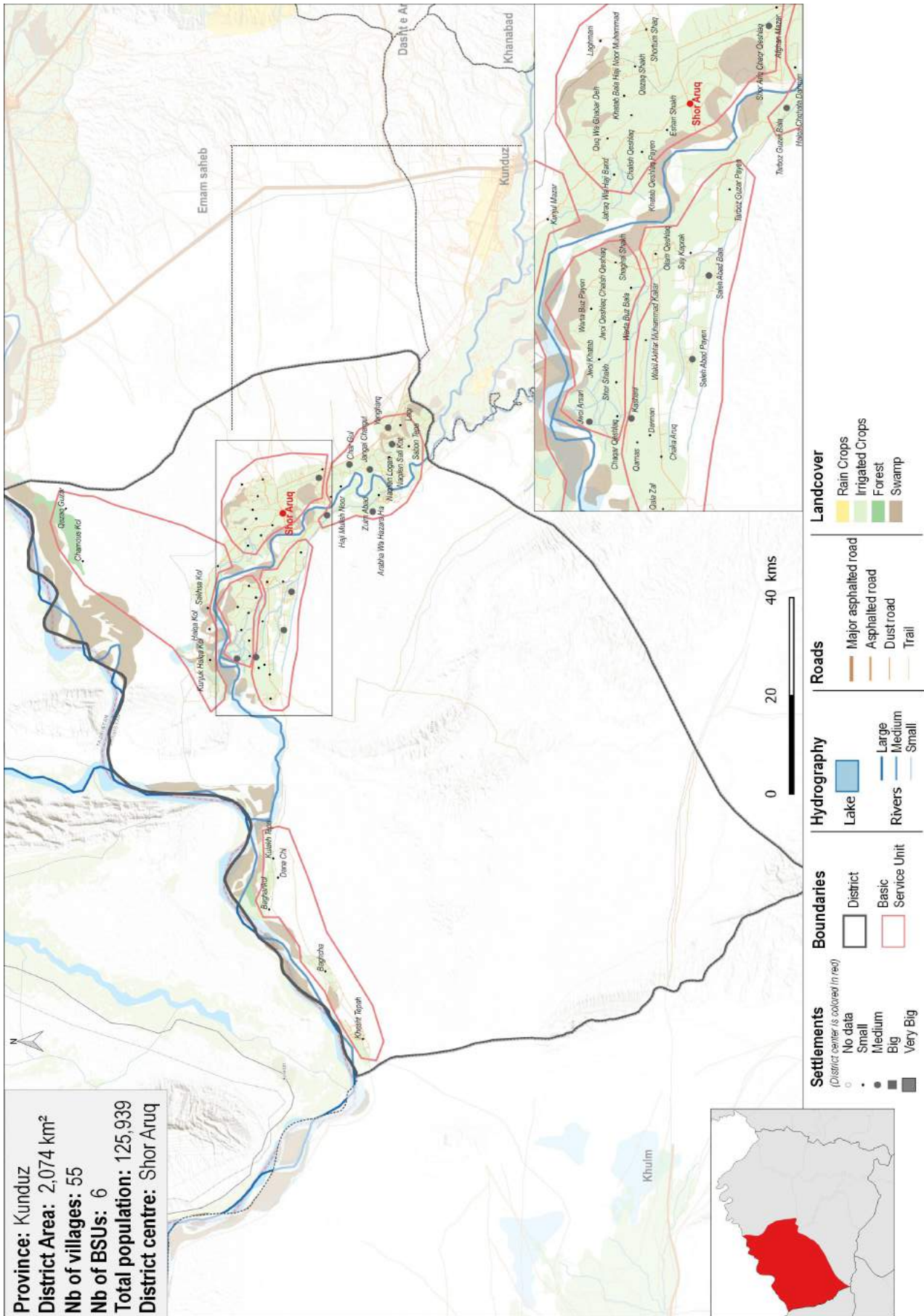
The severity ranking below is based on a set of indicators measuring the severity of each sector: 0= No severity to 4 = Extreme severity.

Sector	Severity	Key findings
Livelihoods and Essential Services	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Main sources of income are cash crop and livestock farming, trade, unskilled daily labour, formal employment Financial services are not available. KIs reported no access to legal and civil documentation services. Department of Refugees and Repatriation never operated in the district. Main source of electricity is solar energy, with most KIs reporting no power cuts. Access to telecommunication services is limited, with occasional shortages in service.
Protection	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> KIs did not report any specific protection concern in their communities. No civilian resources have reportedly been used for military purposes. The majority of KIs reported landmines are not a protection concern. Communities in this district do not appear to suffer from military airstrikes. The majority of KIs reported psycho-social support mechanisms were not sufficiently available in the district. No particular group is reportedly prevented from accessing services. Women and girls are reported to not have a more limited access to services. The majority of KIs did not report any particular child-friendly spaces in the community, nor separate living spaces for women.
Food Security	2.5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Access to food at BSU level has been relatively constant and did not change over the past 30 days. KIs reported their communities typically have food stocks for less than one week. Main types of food for members of the community is cereals/tubers, pulses/nuts, and dairy products. The majority of KIs reported there are boys and girls relying on breastfeeding as source of food in their communities. Main coping strategies are to borrow food and rely on help from friends and family, restrict adult consumption, and send male children to work.
Shelter	0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The main shelter type that the majority of the population live in is permanent mudbrick houses according to KIs. The majority of the population own their homes according to KIs. The average number of rooms in shelters is 4 and the majority of the population reportedly keep livestock separate. KIs reported most shelters in their communities are undamaged.
WASH	2.5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Most communities rely on access to private handpumps as primary source of drinking water. KIs reported sufficient access to drinking water and a clean, undamaged source. The majority of KIs reported waste is collected within their communities. Latrines are not easily accessible. KIs reported community latrine and family pit latrine without slabs to be the main latrine types, with some areas lacking latrines.
Health	1.5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> KIs reported their communities have access to at least one public clinic, with no apparent damage to the facilities. There has been no decrease in available medical staff, with the facilities remaining sufficiently staffed. There have been no facility closures over the past 30 days and no shortage of medication. KIs reported no threats against medical staff.
Education	2.5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Main education facilities types according to KIs: government schools and madrassas Overall schools did not incur much damage and are functioning normally, with the main barrier to both male and female student attendance being distance according to KIs. A concern is the lack of resources and equipment, which were flagged as the main challenges in providing education in the district.

(1) 1 United States Dollar = 69.6 Afghani (05/04/2018) - source: Afghan Central Bank

(2) KIs were asked to select more than one option for their BSU

Basic Service Unit Mapping - Qalay-I-Zal District



Sources:
 Settlements: Afghan Geodesy and Cartography Head Office (AGCHO), REACH
 BSUs: REACH
 Hydrography: OCHA, REACH
 Roads: AGCHO, Open Street Map, REACH
 Landcover: AGCHO

Khwaja Ghar District Profile

Takhar Province



District Information

Total number of BSUs identified in the district:	8
Number of Key Informants interviewed in the district:	30
Key Figures	
Estimated total population in the district by KIs:	151,992
Est. % of female population (of total pop.):	51%
Est. % of IDPs (of total pop.):	2%
Est. % of people with disabilities (of total pop.):	1%
Primary market type in the district:	No markets
Average monthly income in the district (AFN ¹):	11,180

Demographics

Composition of the district based on KI estimates, by age:

Please note that due to the indicative nature of KI data, gender-disaggregated age groups are not measured in this assessment.

60+ years	10%	<div style="width: 10%;"></div>
19-59 years	39%	<div style="width: 39%;"></div>
5-18 years	33%	<div style="width: 33%;"></div>
0-4 years	19%	<div style="width: 19%;"></div>

Movement Intentions

Movement intentions of BSU populations in the next 3 months (aggregated at district level, % of BSUs):

Remain	85%
Displace temporarily	12%
Displace permanently	3%



Protection Concerns

Main concerns of BSU populations (% of BSUs)²:

Harassment	82%	<div style="width: 82%;"></div>
Street crime	58%	<div style="width: 58%;"></div>
Arbitrary arrests	43%	<div style="width: 43%;"></div>
Psychological trauma	10%	<div style="width: 10%;"></div>

Humanitarian Assistance

Main assistance received in past 30 days:	None (97% of BSUs)
Main barrier to assistance:	Political interference (90% of BSUs)
Humanitarian vehicle access:	Accessible (100% of BSUs)

Priority Needs

Priority needs of the district population:

- 1 Security
- 2 Agriculture support
- 3 Water/sanitation

Key Findings

Summary of key findings and needs by sector:

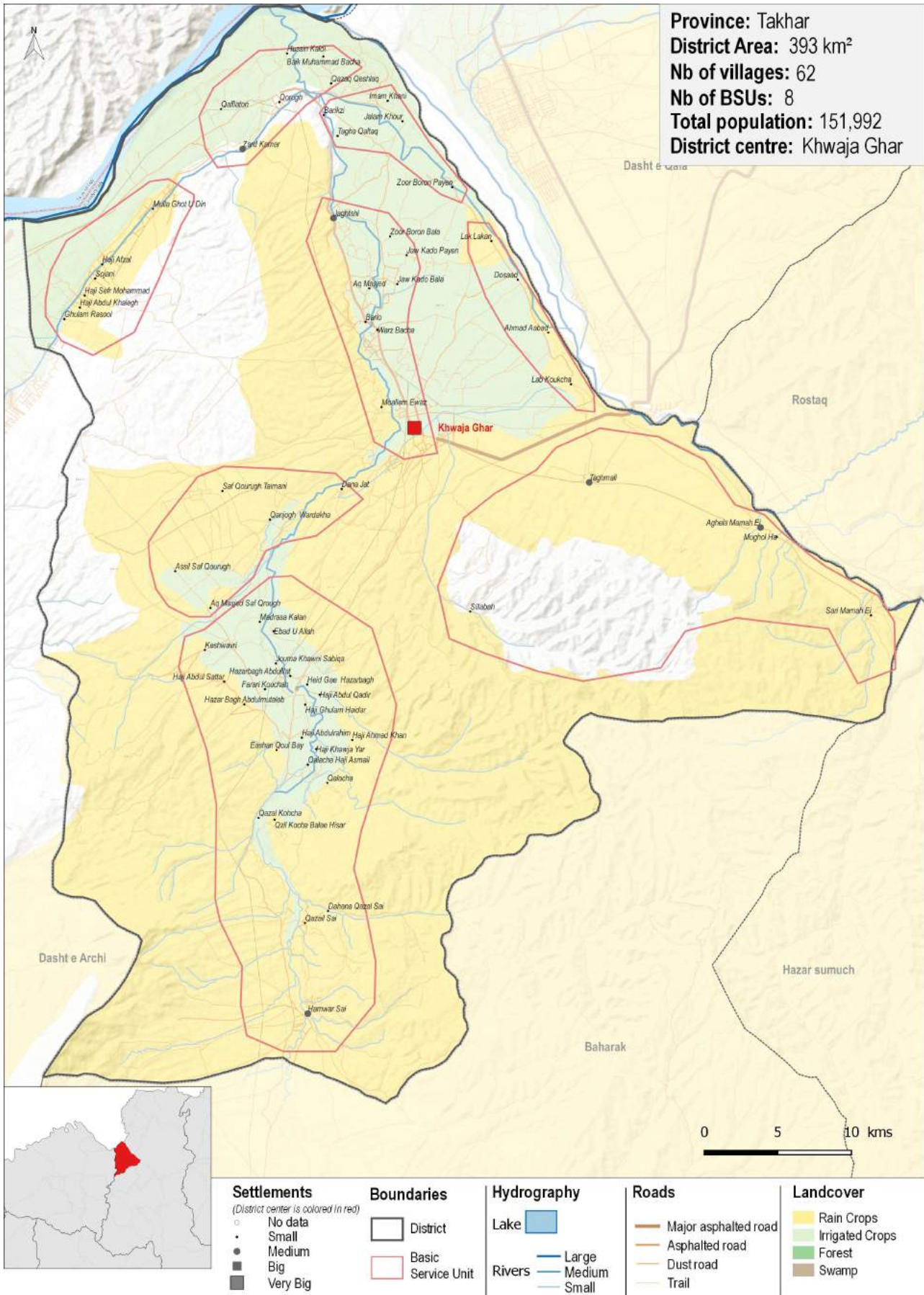
The severity ranking below is based on a set of indicators measuring the severity of each sector: 0= No severity to 4 = Extreme severity.

Sector	Severity	Key findings
Livelihoods and Essential Services	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Main sources of income are cash crop and livestock farming, unskilled/skilled daily labour, loans Financial services are not available. KIs reported no access to legal and civil documentation services. Department of Refugees and Repatriation never operated in the district. Main source of electricity is solar energy, with KIs reporting hourly power cuts. Access to telecommunication services, with hourly shortages in service.
Protection	1.5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Main protection concerns as reported by KIs: harassment and street crime. No civilian resources have reportedly been used for military purposes. The majority of KIs reported landmines are not a protection concern. Communities in this district do not appear to suffer from military airstrikes. The majority of KIs reported psycho-social support mechanisms were not sufficiently available in the district. No particular group is reportedly prevented from accessing services. Women and girls mostly have a more limited access to services. The majority of KIs did not report any particular child-friendly spaces in the community, nor separate living spaces for women.
Food Security	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Access to food at BSU level has reportedly decreased over the past 30 days according to the majority of KIs. KIs reported their communities typically have food stocks for less than one week. Main types of food for members of the community is cereals and tubers. The majority of KIs reported there are boys and girls relying on breastfeeding as source of food in their communities. Main coping strategies are to rely on less preferred/expensive food, borrow food and rely on help from friends and family, and send male children to work.
Shelter	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The main shelter type that the majority of the population live in is permanent mudbrick houses according to KIs. The majority of the population own their homes according to KIs. The average number of rooms in shelters is 2 and the majority of the population reportedly keep livestock separate. KIs reported most shelters in their communities are damaged but partially renovated despite construction materials not easily available in the market.
WASH	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Most communities rely on access to surface water as primary source of drinking water. KIs reported insufficient access to drinking water and a damaged source. The majority of KIs reported waste is collected within their communities. Latrines are easily accessible. KIs reported family pit latrines with and without slabs as well as ventilated improved latrines to be the main latrine types.
Health	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> KIs reported their communities did not have access to medical facilities. There have been no facility closures over the past 30 days but a shortage of medication. KIs reported no threats against medical staff.
Education	2.5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Main education facilities types according to KIs: government schools. Overall schools did not incur much damage and are functioning normally. The main barrier to male student attendance is having to stay and help at home while for female students it is distance according to KIs. A concern is the lack of qualified teaching staff, which was flagged as the main challenge in providing education in the district.

(1) 1 United States Dollar = 69.6 Afghanis (05/04/2018) - source: Afghan Central Bank

(2) KIs were asked to select more than one option for their BSU

Basic Service Unit Mapping - Khwaja Ghar District



Sources:
 Settlements: Afghan Geodesy and Cartography Head Office (AGCHO), REACH
 BSUs: REACH
 Hydrography: OCHA, REACH
 Roads: AGCHO, Open Street Map, REACH
 Landcover: AGCHO

Annex I - Glossary of Terms

Basic Service Unit (BSU)

A geographic area populated by a group of people having particular common demographic and socio-economic features and sharing the same services and facilities, namely the same health and education facilities, the same Kariz (groundwater sources), and/or participating in the same funeral ceremonies. BSUs also tend to be structured around a common market place.

Clinic

Healthcare institution primarily focused on outpatient care. Clinics can be public or private. They typically cover the primary healthcare needs of populations in local communities, in contrast to larger hospitals which offer specialised treatments and admit inpatients for overnight stays

District

A pre-defined administrative area within each province, identified by the government of Afghanistan.

District (Hard-to-Reach)

A district that is typically not accessible to humanitarian actors due to ongoing active conflict - which poses a security threat to humanitarian workers and beneficiaries alike - or due to the presence of Armed Opposition Groups that actively limit access to the district through constraints such as checkpoints and limited delivery of core services such as electricity and telecommunication services.

Family Pit latrine - with slab / covered

A variation of a toilet, using no flush mechanism. Usually a dug trench in the earth which is closed off once full. In this case, a latrine is owned and used by an individual family and has a stone slab to cover the top of the pit.

Family Pit latrine - without slab / uncovered

A variation of a toilet, using no flush mechanism. Usually a dug trench in the earth which is closed off once full. In this case, a latrine is owned and used by an individual family but does not have a stone slab to cover the top of the pit.

Family Ventilated improved pit latrine

A ventilated improved pit latrine, used by an individual family, is a pit latrine in which a vent pipe is fitted to the pit and a fly screen is positioned at the top of the outlet of the pipe.

Flush Toilet to sewer system

A mechanised toilet with a flush system, removing waste directly through a sewage system. This is the most hygienic system.

Government School

A school that is maintained at public expense for the education of the children/young children of a community and that constitutes a part of a system of free public education commonly including primary, secondary and high school.

Hospital

Health care institutions that have an organised medical and other professional staff, and inpatient (overnight) facilities. They deliver medical, nursing and related services 24 hours per day, 7 days per week.

Handpump (pumped well)

A manually operated pump: a tool with which uses human power and basic mechanisms to move liquid (usually water) from one place to another.

Internally Displaced Person (IDP)

Any individual forced to leave his/her home and travel to a different location, whilst staying within Afghanistan.

Large Market

A location where many merchant are established and were people come from a significant distance to acquire goods/foods/services.

Madrassa

An institution for the study of Islamic theology and religious law.

Piped Water

A constructed network of pipes bringing water to households or communities, often created by the government or municipality. When well maintained, this is an advanced and convenient method of water supply.

Private School

Known as independent schools, non-governmental, or non-state schools, are not administered by local, state or national governments. They retain the right to select their students and are funded in whole or in part by charging their students tuition.

Small Market

The location in which household food and items are acquired for daily life, usually through the exchange of money or bargaining.

Returnee

An Afghan national who previously fled his/her home to live in another country and has since returned to Afghanistan.

Returnee (Documented)

Same as a registered returnee. A returnee which was registered with UNHCR upon return to Afghanistan.

Returnee (Undocumented)

Same as an unregistered returnee. A returnee which was not registered with UNHCR upon return to Afghanistan.

Village

The smallest settlement and socio-political unit, it is a small community or group of houses in a rural area.

Annex II - Secondary Data Review

There is a significant lack of information about humanitarian needs and vulnerabilities in Hard-to-Reach areas in Afghanistan, largely due to weak formal systems of governance and protracted conflict between Armed Opposition Groups (AOGs) and Afghan National Security Forces (ANSF) / Afghan National Police (ANP). Sporadic or limited access to these areas make conducting thorough assessments documenting needs and vulnerabilities of all populations in these areas all the more difficult.

This Secondary Data Review annex presents the findings of two assessments previously conducted on Hard-to-Reach areas by consulting firm Assess, Transform and Reach (ATR) consulting on behalf of the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) in 2016 and 2017. It summarises key findings in the districts assessed - both in terms of safety/access as well as in terms of needs - as well as key challenges and lessons learnt from both assessments.

Humanitarian Assessment in Hard-to-Reach Areas Pilot Phase: Kunduz and Paktika – July 2016

ATR conducted a pilot study to the broader “Humanitarian Assessment in Hard-to-Reach Areas” between May and July 2016 in four Hard-to-Reach and two easier-to-access districts of Kunduz and Paktika provinces. The pilot study included a qualitative component and a survey of 800 households across these six districts. The pilot’s research question was “How do humanitarian needs in Hard-to-Reach areas of Afghanistan compare to needs elsewhere?”.

Findings

ATR’s report highlighted the following findings in the districts covered by this Afghanistan Hard-to-Reach Assessment:

o Dasht-e-Archi district: many Taliban checkpoints throughout the district restricting movement into Kunduz City. Shelter and school damage, with up to 30% of the buildings unusable. Roads reportedly covered in mines, limiting access. Access to water was not seen to be a problem in the district, but schools were at times used by Taliban forces and thus unavailable for children. Taliban levy taxes on civilian populations, which include the seizure of crops. No humanitarian organisations were identified as working in the area due to strong Taliban presence.

o Chahar Dara district: both Taliban and government forces were spotted manning roadblocks along the main road to and from Kunduz City. Many buildings were completely destroyed and unusable but some civilian homes, schools, and health clinics had just sustained minor damage. Roads were mined to prevent government forces to move within the district, thus limited access. Access to water was not seen

as problematic. Some schools were used by the Taliban as recruitment centres according to local communities.

Lessons Learnt

- It is necessary to hire enumerators and field researchers from within the targeted districts to ensure access to the Hard-to-Reach areas, thanks to their local network, understanding of local complexities and knowledge of power structures;
- Enumerators and field researchers could be students and graduates from local universities, as well as local residents, madrassa students and religious scholars – in order to ensure they have sufficient networks as well as capacity to move freely in the district;
- Precautions should be taken in the Hard-to-Reach areas to ensure safety of enumerators and field researchers – including changing clothes to reflect the socio-economic status of the surveyed areas, inserting blank sim cards into mobile phones to protect identities and contacts, and restricting movements in the districts to the busier times of the day so as to maintain a low profile;
- Moving around the provincial/district centres was found to be much easier than the remote villages, which were under heavy insurgent control – meaning more time had to be spent in these villages to complete the required number of surveys compared to the district and provincial centres;
- Each district requires its own security plan to work around the changing threat from district to district. This requires careful planning and reliable networks within each district.

Challenges

The main challenges include convincing people to participate in the assessment, finding female participants as well as, in heavily Taliban-held areas, conducting focus group discussions. In some districts, travelling for enumerators was risky and some threats were received from armed groups against enumerators in the field.

Humanitarian Assessment in Hard-to-Reach Areas, January 2017

Published in January 2017, this study builds on ATR’s initial pilot Hard-to-Reach study in four Hard-to-Reach districts and two “accessible” districts in Kunduz and Paktika provinces previously conducted.

For the “Humanitarian Assessment in Hard-to-Reach Areas” study, ATR was commissioned to conduct a multi-sector needs assessment in five provinces containing

both “accessible” and Hard-to-Reach districts, using both quantitative and qualitative methods.

Based on the assumption that the province capital was the safest place in the province, the 20 target districts were chosen according to their level of access to humanitarian actors and their rating in the “2015 Overall Needs Index Report” published by OCHA Afghanistan in 2016. The study interviewed around 10,000 households using a survey.

ATR classified 15 districts as Hard-to-Reach and five (Pul-i-Khumri, Qala-i-Naw, Farah City, Maymana and Qalat) as easier-to-access.

Research Question

The study’s main research question was similar to that of the pilot, namely: “How do humanitarian needs in Hard-to-Reach areas of Afghanistan compare to needs elsewhere?”. The study assessed how needs and priority differ between internally displaced communities in Hard-to-Reach areas and easier-to-access areas across the five provinces referenced above.

ATR used a randomised quota sampling with household surveys in Baghlan, Badghis, Farah, Faryab and Zabul for 10,000 respondents (4,000 in accessible areas and 6,000 in hard to access areas).

Main Findings

The findings of the assessment were presented as follows:

- **Household characteristics:** the study found significantly more persons living in Hard-to-Reach areas with no significant differences between the number of families within households compared to easier-to-access areas. Findings indicate a possible higher child mortality rate in Hard-to-Reach areas due to the higher number of children under five compared to easier-to-access areas – which has a higher rate of children over the age of five.
- **Presence of vulnerabilities:** households in Hard-to-Reach areas were found more likely to report vulnerabilities related to high rates of pregnant women, young children, mental disabilities, drug addiction and conflict-related casualties. In contrast, households in easier-to-access areas were found more likely to report vulnerabilities related to head of households and to chronic disease.
- **Reasons for displacement:** the study found a higher proportion of internally displaced persons in easier-to-access areas compared to Hard-to-Reach areas. For most IDPs, insecurity was the main factor prompting displacement, and better security the main reason for IDPs wanting to remain

in their new locations. Those living in Hard-to-Reach areas mainly expressed a desire to return to their original homes.

- **Socio-economic status:** respondents in Hard-to-Reach areas reported greater numbers of people earning a living in a given household, yet earning less on average per month than those in easier-to-access areas. This could be due to higher rates of employment in low-paid jobs, such as seasonal daily labour. Displaced persons were earning less on average than non-displaced persons, but spending more on a monthly basis – a major factor of vulnerability.
- **Food security:** households in Hard-to-Reach areas were found to face more barriers in accessing markets, primarily due to having to travel longer distances than households in easier-to-access areas. That said, the study also found that households living in Hard-to-Reach areas were more likely to eat three meals a day.
- **Access to WASH:** households in Hard-to-Reach areas were found to face more WASH vulnerabilities than those in easier-to-access areas, namely because they are more likely to use unimproved sources of water and less likely to have water available within their compound. Sanitation facilities were found to be lacking in both hard- and easier-to-access areas, but the lack is bigger in Hard-to-Reach areas.
- **Access to services:** both easier- and Hard-to-Reach areas were faced with a lack of access to services, particularly in Hard-to-Reach areas where corruption and security were flagged as key factors. This triggered distrust in the government and long-term negative impact particularly on children.
- **Nutritional status:** the study attempted a malnutrition assessment, comparing rates of Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM), Moderate Acute Malnutrition (MAM) and Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) amongst children aged 6 to 59 months in easier- and Hard-to-Reach areas. A total of 13,654 children – of which 8,804 from Hard-to-Reach areas, were measured for height, weight, age and middle-upper arm circumference. The assessment faced poor data quality, making reporting on this difficult – primarily due to a lack of trained medical professionals to conduct this assessment.
- **Shelter:** the divide between Hard-to-Reach and easier-to-access areas is less pronounced here. Instead, the division is primarily between displaced and non-displaced households. Non-displaced households were found more likely to own their home and live in a home of adequate standard, while conditions are generally worse for displaced households – particularly in Hard-to-Reach areas, where

households are most likely to live in temporary housing that is at least partially destroyed.

- **Access to education services:** the study found that a higher number of children was enrolled in school in easier-to-access areas compared to respondents in Hard-to-Reach areas – primarily as the main barriers to education in Hard-to-Reach areas were identified as distance and security concerns, compared to those in easier-to-access areas who reported economic reasons and distance.

- **Protection needs:** Threats by armed groups and ongoing fighting between armed opposition groups and the government were identified as major protection concerns in Hard-to-Reach areas compared to easier-to-access areas. Protection concerns for women and girls were higher in Hard-to-Reach areas as well, with a stronger likelihood of forced marriage, gender-based violence and restrictions on movement – with little to no capacity to identify mechanisms to report these issues. Eviction and loss of land was found to be most common in Hard-to-Reach areas, with armed groups forcibly removing people.

- **Humanitarian Assistance:** the study found that the majority of respondents in both easier-to-access and Hard-to-Reach areas have not received any assistance. Of those who have received assistance, food and healthcare is the most likely to have been received. The government and international NGOs were the most likely to provide assistance in easier-to-access areas, while local NGOs were more likely to do so in Hard-to-Reach areas.

The biggest barrier to assistance was found to be corruption and lack of sufficient aid, as well as geographical constraints.

- **Priority needs:** security and health were found to be a priority in both easier-to-access and Hard-to-Reach areas. Food, security and shelter were the main priority for displaced persons in both easier- and Hard-to-Reach areas.

Conclusions

- There are greater humanitarian needs in Hard-to-Reach areas in terms of WASH, shelter, access to services, market and education;
- Households in Hard-to-Reach areas are more likely to report issues of protection including gender-based violence, eviction and unequal distribution of aid;
- Displaced households tend to relocate in easier-to-access areas – 14% of the surveyed population in easier-to-access areas is displaced against 8% in Hard-to-Reach areas. This is likely due to better security and improved opportunities – making them more likely to want to remain in place rather than return home;
- Access for humanitarian assessments and assistance must improve for these needs to be addressed.

Annex III - Tools

BSU Mapping Tool

Following a security review of each district in conjunction with internal security focal points and the International NGO Safety Organisation (INSO) Afghanistan, the use of physical maps to conduct the BSU mapping was ruled out on grounds that it posed a threat to enumerators in the field should they be stopped at a checkpoint. A mobile-based data collection tool was therefore created using KoBo. The tool was then used on a focus group consisting of 5 to 10 Key Informants, primarily from the villages office of the district government.

The tool was structured to incorporate all 5,400 identified villages across all 46 Hard-to-Reach districts under the district each village belongs to. Once the district in which the discussion group is being conducted is selected, the tool requests participants to group all relevant villages associated to a given BSU under the same umbrella, requiring the enumerator to tick all the villages belonging to a given BSU. The group format enabled a discussion to take place between participants should there be disagreement over which village is to be included in which BSU, with the enumerator taking the views of the majority as final.

For each village, the questionnaire in the tool inquired about the following:

- Number of households;
- Number of government schools, private schools, madrassas and training centres
- Number of small and major (masjid jamih) mosques;
- Number of small and major markets;
- Number of clinics and hospitals.

Once visualised, the combination of Basic Service Unit boundaries based on which village belongs to which BSU, and the type of services and infrastructure available in each village provides a strong overview of which services can be accessed at the BSU level and thus shared by members of the same BSU.

Needs Assessment Tool

The needs assessment tool has been designed as a multisectoral and area-based tool to provide a big picture overview of the needs and vulnerabilities of all affected populations in the assessed districts.

Designed entirely with all clusters at capital-level, the tool aims to address the following research questions:

- What is the demographic composition of the community?

- What are the internal and external displacement trends in the community?
- What is the level of access to a functional market?
- What is the average price of key goods, as well as the price fluctuation?
- What is the level of access to essential needs?
- What are the main protection concerns for the community?
- What other safety concerns does the community experience?
- Are psycho-social support services available to the community?
- What is the ease of mobility and is there equal access to services in the community?
- What is the level of physical harm experienced in the community due to conflict?
- Are specific spaces dedicated to women and children in the community?
- What is the level of access to food items?
- What is the level of access to shelter?
- What is the level of access to safe water and sanitation?
- What is the level of access to education?
- What is the level of access to health services?
- What type of assistance has been received or is currently being received?

To facilitate comparability with existing nation-wide assessments – such as the 2017 Multi-Cluster Needs Assessment (MCNA) as well as the 2017 Joint Education Needs Assessment (JENA) – the AHTRA tool has aligned a number of its indicators on relevant indicators from these assessments.

As it provides a big-picture overview of a given district, this tool is not an emergency tool and does not replace the Household Emergency Assessment Tool (HEAT tool), a tool widely used by the humanitarian community in Afghanistan to assess emergency needs following a shock.

The tool is area-based, not household-based. It cannot be used for direct beneficiary selection, but rather to measure trends in livelihoods, markets and needs, as well as identifying hotspots for intervention. Finally, it is not a displacement tracking tool.

Annex IV - Severity Score Ranking

The matrix below was used to assign a sector-specific severity score to the humanitarian situation and needs in each assessed district. For each sector, available information on the situation and needs of the civilian population was arranged according to the grid below. A sector-specific severity score was then assigned based on the severity category into which the majority of information fell.

In cases where available information fell evenly between two severity grades, or where some information was missing, the final severity score was decided on a case-by-case basis. As such, it is important to note that if an area is assigned a certain score, not all the indicators described below necessarily correspond to that area.

It is also important to note that this matrix refers to the situation of the general, civilian population, and not that of individuals affiliated with armed groups, who in some cases experience very different conditions and needs.

	No severity (0)	Minor severity (1)	Moderate severity (2)	Major severity (3)	Extreme severity (4)
Livelihoods					
Livelihoods enough to meet the need	Livelihoods bring in sufficient income to meet essential needs.	Livelihoods generally bring in sufficient income to meet essential needs.	Livelihoods may not bring in sufficient income to meet essential needs.	Livelihoods bring insufficient income to meet needs.	No real livelihood opportunities exist.
Availability of financial services	The population has access to multiple means with which to send and receive money.	The population has access to at least once mean with which to send and receive money.	The population may not always have access to at least one mean with which to send and receive money.	The population does not have access to at least one mean with which to send and receive money.	No financial services are available.
Availability of legal and civil documentation services	The population has access to legal and civil documentation services.	The population generally has access to legal and civil documentation services.	The population may not always have access to legal and civil documentation services.	Legal and civil documentation services are sporadically available.	No legal and civil documentation services are available.
Availability of electricity	The population has access to electricity without cuts.	The population has access to electricity with infrequent cuts.	The population has access to electricity but suffers regular power cuts.	The population does not have access to electricity or suffers daily cuts.	No electricity available.
Availability of telecommunication services	The population has access to telecommunication services without cuts.	The population has access to telecommunication services with infrequent cuts.	The population has access to telecommunication services but suffers regular service cuts.	The population does not have access to telecommunication services or suffers daily cuts.	No telecommunication services available.
Availability of heating during the winter	The population has sufficient financial resources to afford heating material for the winter.	The population has financial resources for heating material during the winter.	The population may not always have sufficient financial resources for heating material but can access some form of heating materials (e.g. wood, etc.)	The population does not have sufficient financial resources for heating material and/or does not have access to a market to purchase them.	No heating materials.
Protection					
Exposure to protection concerns	The population does not have any protection concerns.	The population mostly fears petty crime and harassment/bullying.	The population is faced with at least one form of non-state actor taxation against them as well as moderately severe protection concerns (petty crime, harassment/bullying, trauma).	The population is faced with at least one form of non-state actor taxation against them as well as more severe protection concerns (mines, detention, etc.).	Non-state actors control fully the area and the population fears killing/maiming as well as forced recruitment.
Presence of landmines	No mines are present in inhabited areas or their surroundings.	No mines are present in inhabited areas, and those present in surrounding areas are marked. Population received mine risk education.	Reports of mines in inhabited areas, but no consistent marking of areas due to poor mine risk education.	Mines reportedly present in significant portions of inhabited areas with no marking. No mine risk education.	Mines reportedly present across the majority of inhabited areas, with no markings and no mine risk education.
Other safety concerns	No military airstrikes or suicide bombings in the past 30 days in inhabited areas or their surroundings.	Military airstrikes occur infrequently and no suicide bombings in the past 30 days.	Reports of frequent (weekly) military airstrikes and/or population experienced suicide bombings in the past 30 days with minor impact on population's access to services.	Reports of daily military airstrikes and/or population experienced suicide bombings in the past 30 days which prevented them from	Daily military airstrikes and frequent suicide bombings, preventing the population from accessing services.
Psycho-Social Support	Men, women, boys and girls have access to psycho-social support and make use of the service when needed.	Men, women, boys and girls generally have access to some psycho-social support and generally make use of it when needed.	Men and boys may have more access to psycho-social support than women and girls. Support services may not always be used when needed.	Men, women, boys and girls have limited access to psycho-social support services - which may not always be professional. They do not always make use of it.	No psycho-social support services.
Equal access to services	Men, women, boys and girls have equal access to services. There is no exclusion on the basis of belonging to a given group.	Men, women, boys and girls generally have equal access to services, with little exclusion based on belonging to a given group.	Women and girls may be more restricted in their movements and not be able to fully access services. Reports of some groups excluded from certain services.	Women and girls are more restricted in their movements and cannot access services on equal footing as men and boys. Reports of certain population groups excluded from	Women and girls cannot access services. Entire population groups prevented from accessing services.
Women and child-friendly spaces	Houses have separate spaces for women. Children can enjoy recreational activities in dedicated child-friendly spaces.	Houses generally have separate spaces for women. Children can enjoy some recreational activities in dedicated child-friendly spaces.	Houses may not have separate spaces for women. Children have more limited recreational activities, not always in dedicated child-friendly spaces.	Houses do not have separate spaces for women. Children have limited recreational activities with no dedicated spaces for them.	No separate spaces for women and no recreational activities for children.
Food Security					
Food quantity	Food is widely available. KIs report people in their BSU have stocks lasting for	Enough food is generally available and KIs report people in their BSU have weeks worth of stocks.	Food is generally available and KIs report people in their BSU have limited stocks.	Limited food is available. No stocks.	Very limited to no food is available. No stocks.
Food price	Food prices are lower or same as they were the previous month.	Food prices are slightly higher than they were in the previous month.	Food prices are higher than they were in the previous month.	Food prices are high.	Food prices are much higher than they were in the previous month.
Reported coping mechanisms	No coping strategies are used to deal with a lack of food.	Some minor coping strategies may be used to deal with a lack of food.	Coping strategies are used to deal with a lack of food through depleting savings or taking on debt.	Negative coping strategies are used to deal with a lack of food: those affect future productivity and the development of human capital (e.g. reducing the number of meals a day or selling productive assets).	Crisis coping strategies are used to deal with a lack of food: these are very difficult to reverse (e.g. selling property) and represent limited available options (e.g. going periods without
Markets	Markets are large, stocked and accessible.	Markets are relatively well stocked and accessible to sustain basic needs.	Few large markets are accessible but smaller markets sustain basic population needs.	Few markets are accessible, restrictions prevent access.	Very few to no markets are accessible.

Annex IV - Severity Score Ranking

Shelter					
Availability of safe shelter	Ample and solid shelter is available. Livestock do not share the same living space as household members and there is a low fear of eviction.	Solid shelter is available with sufficient rooms to accommodate the needs of the population. Livestock do not share the same living space as household members and there is a low fear of eviction.	Shelter is more precariously built (e.g. tent) with a small number of rooms. Livestock may share the same living space as household members and there is a moderate fear of eviction due to precarious tenure status.	precariously-built with a small number of rooms. Livestock may share the same living space as household members, and there is an increased fear of eviction due to unstable tenure status.	Almost all homes are precariously-built with a small number of rooms. Livestock share the same living space as household members and there is a high fear of eviction.
Damage to shelter	There is no reported damage to housing by KIs.	Some housing has reportedly sustained minor damage according to KIs.	A minority of houses has reportedly sustained minor to moderate damage according to KIs.	The majority of housing has reportedly sustained damage according to KIs.	The vast majority of housing has sustained substantial damage
WASH					
Water availability	Drinking and non-drinking water is sufficiently available to meet the population's needs.	Drinking and non-drinking water is generally available to meet the population's needs.	Drinking and non-drinking water is sometimes not sufficiently available to meet the population's needs.	Limited drinking and non-drinking water is available to meet the population's needs.	Very limited to no water is available.
Water sources	Private/public handpumps, piped water and/or protected spring water is the main source of water for the population.	Public handpumps, municipal piped water and/or protected spring water is the main source of water for the population.	Population relies on municipal piped water and/or spring water - which may or not be protected.	Population relies on tankering/water trucking and/or surface water and/or unprotected spring water.	No available source of water.
Water safety	Available water source is clean and undamaged.	Available water source is generally clean and may or not have minor damage.	Available water source is not always clean and there is minor damage to the water source.	Available water source is unclear and has more substantial damage.	Available water source is dysfunctional.
Waste management	Waste is collected and disposed of hygienically.	Waste may be collected but also buried.	Waste may be buried or burned.	Waste is burned or thrown outside.	There is no waste management system.
Latrines availability	Latrines are available. Latrine types: ventilated family latrine, flushed toilet, and/or latrine connected to	Latrines are available. Latrine types are mainly family latrines that may or not be ventilated.	Latrines are available but are mainly latrine pits with slabs, open family pits and/or communal latrines.	Communal latrines only are available.	No latrines available - open defecation.
Health					
Staff and equipment availability	The availability of medical staff and equipment is ample.	The availability of medical staff and equipment is generally sufficient to meet population needs.	The availability of medical staff has reduced due to threats against staff. Equipment for non-emergency care is unavailable (e.g. IT equipment, beds).	The availability of medical staff has reduced due to threats against staff. Equipment for emergency care (e.g. first aid, xray machines, surgery tools) is unavailable.	The availability of medical staff and equipment is very low or not available at all.
Access to healthcare facilities	Healthcare facilities are available and accessible. No forced closures or forced occupation.	Healthcare facilities are available and generally accessible to the population. No forced closures or forced occupation.	The availability of healthcare facilities has reduced recently and some access obstacles exist.	The availability of healthcare facilities has significantly reduced in recent date and facilities are not easily accessible to the majority of the population. There may be some forced closures or	Very limited to no healthcare facilities are available. There may have been forced closures or occupation.
Availability of medication	All required medical is available.	The majority of required medication is available.	Some required medication is available - some such as supplements or mental health medication may not be.	Limited medication available to the population.	Very limited to no medication is available to the population.
Affordability of healthcare	Healthcare is widely available and the population does not need to use family resources for healthcare instead of other essential	Healthcare is available and the majority of the population does not need to use family resources for healthcare instead of other essential commodities.	Some healthcare is available: a significant portion of the population need to use family resources for healthcare instead of other essential commodities.	Healthcare is limited and the majority of the population need to use family resources for healthcare instead of other essential commodities.	Very limited to no healthcare and the vast majority of the population need to use family resources for healthcare instead of other
Damage to health facilities	Healthcare facilities are not damaged at all.	Some healthcare facilities have sustained minor damage but continue to function.	Damage to some healthcare facilities has reduced their ability to function.	Significant damage to healthcare facilities has reduced their functionality.	High levels of damage to healthcare facilities has severely reduced or halted their functionality.
Education					
Availability of schools	Schools are widely available, well staffed, and easily accessible to all children. No reported occupation by fighters.	Schools are available and accessible to the majority of children - strong staff attendance rates. No reported occupation by fighters.	Schools are available but challenges such as shortage of staff or equipment remain.	Schools are available only to a minority of children due to lack of access, equipment or staff. There may be some forced closures or occupation.	No schools are available. There may have been forced closures or occupation.
School attendance (girls/boys)	All school-aged children attend school.	Majority of school-aged children attend school.	Children face some security risks attending school, particularly girls, or do not attend to help at home.	Children face high security risks attending school or do not attend due to family pressure.	The vast majority of school aged children do not attend school.
Damage to schools	Schools are not damaged at all.	Some schools have sustained minor damage but continue to function.	Damage to some schools has reduced their ability to function.	Significant damage to schools has reduced their functionality.	High levels of damage to schools has severely reduced or halted their functionality.