

Disaster Risk Reduction in Fragile Settings: The Case of Afghanistan

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Working with Communities

In 2003, the National Solidarity Program (NSP) was established with the aim to create:

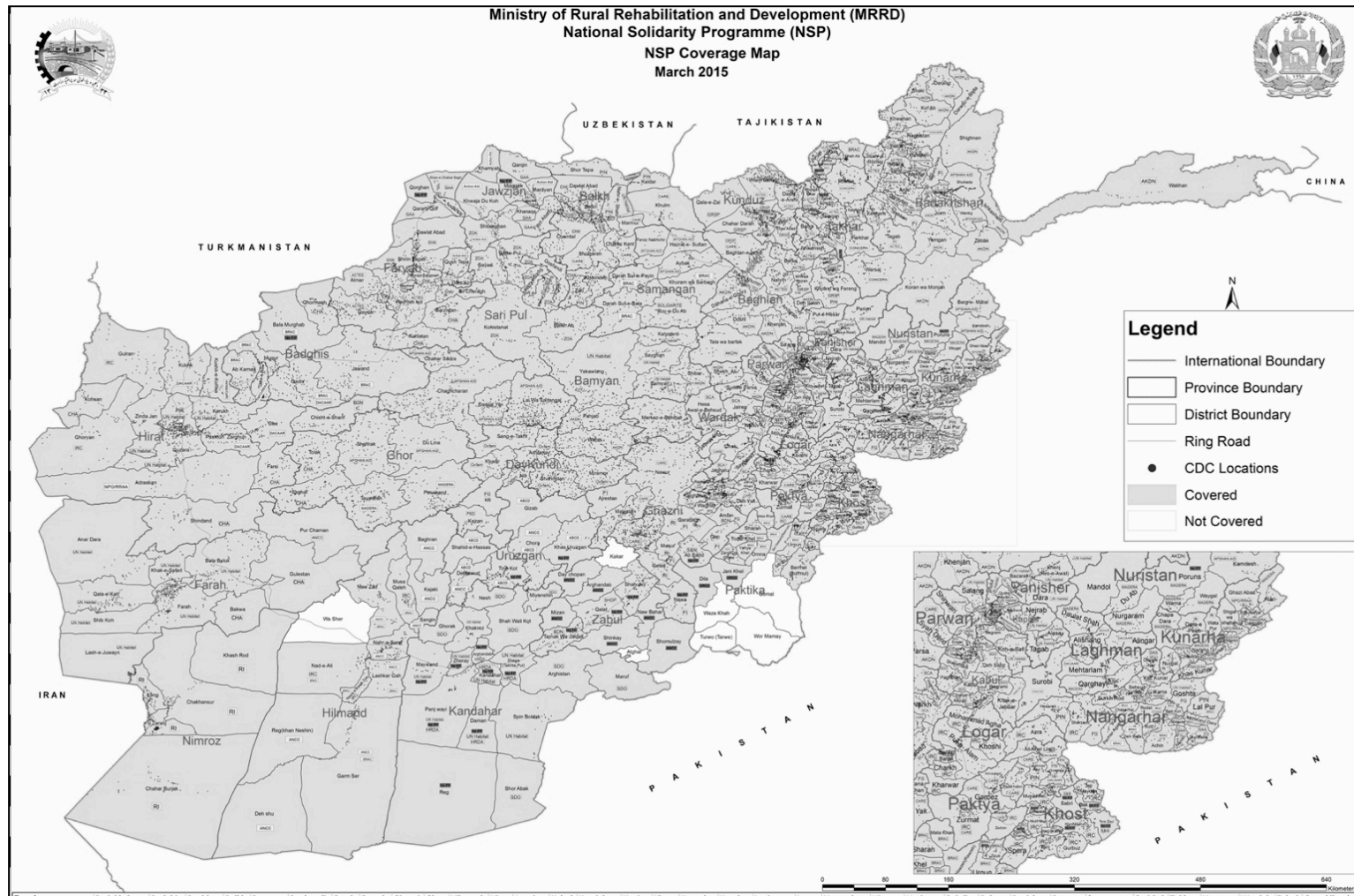
- Gender-equitable elected Community Development Councils (CDCs) with a mandate to:
- Identify, prioritize and implement basic infrastructure projects in areas of drinking water, access roads, electricity, schools, health centers and etc.
- Lay the foundation for good governance at local level for development interventions

Working with Communities

By 2016 - over 35,000 CDC (80% of rural Afghanistan) are established, who implemented nearly 80,000 Sub-projects

- Intensive engagement with CDCs to work through participatory processes in selecting and implementing projects
- build their capacity to account upward and downward
- mobilize communities into collective action to work for development above and beyond the funds they receive
- makes plans for risk reduction and mitigation
- build resilience of communities over time

CDCs distribution



Working with Communities

CDCs are the only community institutions through which Government reduces and mitigates disaster risk at the grass-roots level, examples include

- the Badkakhshan Landslides of 2014
- the Khost Floods of 2014
- the Badkakhshan Earthquake of 2015
- WFP apply CDC beneficiary lists to distribute food aid resulting from droughts and floods
- WHO – MoPH run the vaccination campaigns through CDCs

Disaster Risk Reduction: What value?

“For every dollar invested in DRR, between two and four dollars are returned in terms of disasters avoided or impacts reduced. And more effective disaster prevention strategies save not only tens of billions of dollars, but also tens of thousands of lives.”

“If anything like the level of funds currently spent on intervention and disaster relief could be channelled instead to enhancing equitable and sustainable development, that process would of itself further reduce the risk of conflict and disaster.”

Tasks ahead (1)

Integrating a DRR Lens into Development

- Mainstream DRR considerations in development planning and budgeting processes at all levels and in project design
- Build capacity of CDCs to reduce risk, plan for and mitigate disasters
- Update infrastructure development planning and approval guidelines to reflect hazards and risks
- Strengthen risk assessment and management skills of planners and project approval bodies
- Develop simple DRR and DRM checklists to guide planners, development agencies and monitoring bodies

Policy and Strategy decisions for donor partners

- **Increase investment in DRR** as an effective measure to reduce the disaster vulnerability of the poor and thereby improve overall economic development.
- Strengthening adaptation to moderate the potential for harm in the drive for economic growth

What limits investment in DRR?

“Building a culture of prevention is not easy. The costs of prevention have to be paid in the present, but its benefits lie in the future.

“And the results of this kind of investment are not tangible: they are disasters that do not happen.”





