

# URBAN SOLIDARITY

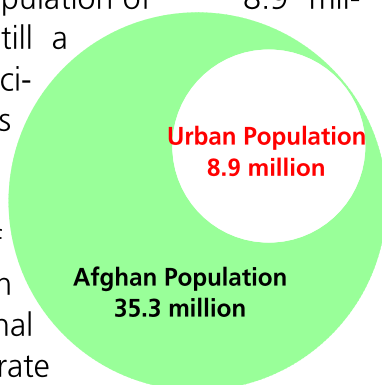


**Institutionalizing People's Process**

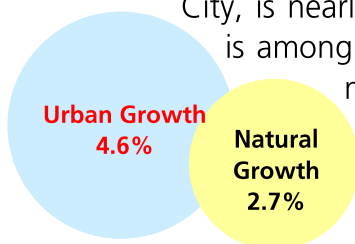
## Sustainable Urbanization Improving Afghan Cities



With an estimated total population of 35.3 million people and an urban population of 8.9 million,\* Afghanistan is still a predominantly rural society. But Afghanistan is rapidly urbanizing with an annual urban population growth rate of 4.6% which is much higher than the national population growth rate (2.7%).



The population growth rate in regional cities such as Herat and Mazar-e-Sharif, and including Kabul City, is nearly 5% per year. This rate is among the highest in Asia, and means that Afghan cities are currently expanding with over 400,000 people per year.



\*Reference: World Bank Afghanistan

UN-Habitat has laid emphasis on strengthening community-municipal partnerships through integrating community and municipal administrative structures. It is vital to mobilize citizens to take responsibility for their development, and to build trust and solidarity between citizens and local governments with the shared goal of effective local governance.

With financial support from the Government of Japan, UN-Habitat has applied its hands-on experience of the Kabul Solidarity Programme to other regional cities - Herat, Mazar-e-Sharif and Bamyan - through the Urban Solidarity Programme. It supports the improvement of living conditions and the quality of life of urban citizens through enhancing community solidarity, strengthening municipal institutions and improving service delivery.

## Livable Cities

### Urban Solidarity Programme

Funding:	Government of Japan
Period:	March - December 2012
Cities:	Herat, Mazar-e-Sharif, Bamyan
Target:	Over 130,000 beneficiaries 10,000 plots of land registered



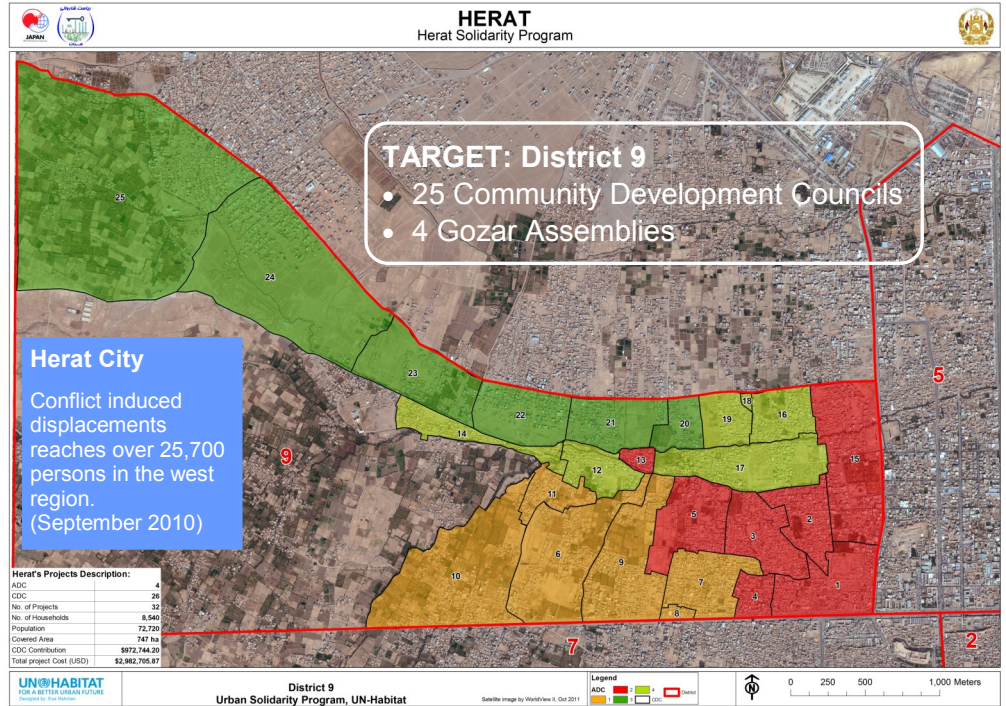


# Enabling Urban Community

## Herat

In District 9 about 100,000 people benefit from improved community infrastructure and basic services through community-driven projects with over 30% of their own contributions in cash or in-kind. Close collaboration has developed between the municipality and its citizens, and is well recognized by the government.

UN-Habitat has in addition helped the municipality to improve its financial revenues, so it can deliver services to citizens in a sustainable manner through the registration of 10,000 plots of land.



## Community Enabling Process

Community Identification

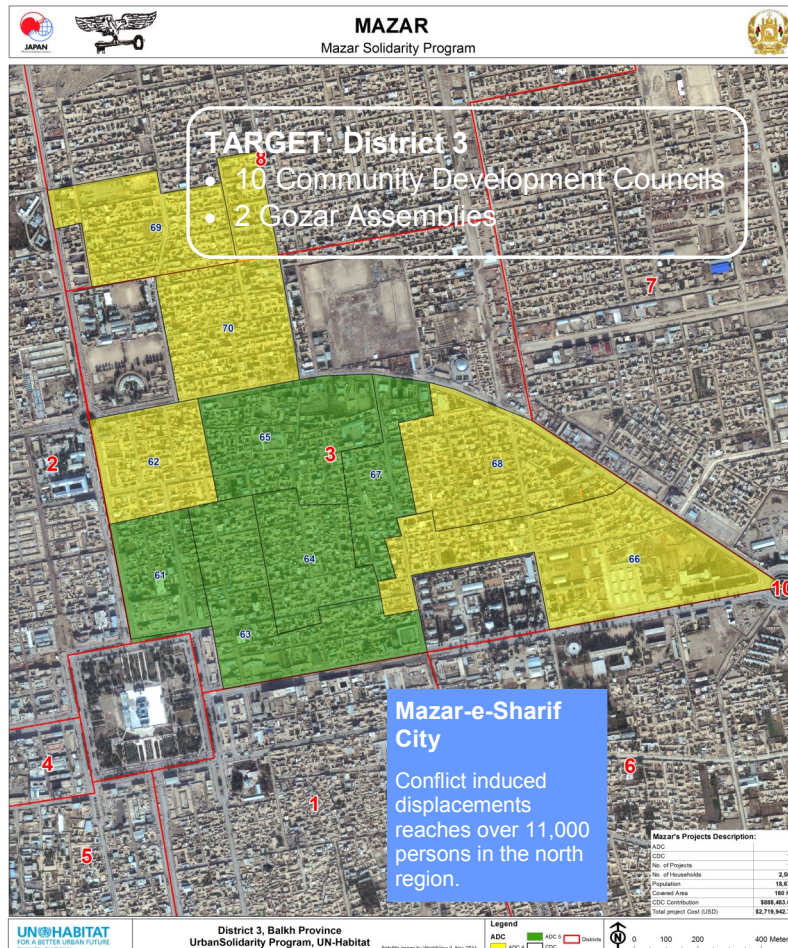
Community Mobilization & Staff Training

Community Election

Community Action Plan

Development of Community Project Proposal

Project Implementation



## Mazar-e-Sharif

Pavement of roads and improving drainage has made it possible for more than 30,000 citizens to have easier access to their homes. With the creation of job opportunities through the implementation of community-driven projects, community members realize that their immediate needs have been met, and that their ownership and contribution to the projects have been acknowledged by the municipality.

One of the successful approaches has been to encourage community members to be at the centre of implementation. Community Development Councils are formed as vital structures that respond to the needs of individual members and families.

The people's contribution is evidence of the community-driven methodology of bringing people together with ownership, and with their active involvement in neighbourhood upgrading. Not only has more than 30% of community contributions in cash and in-kind been recognized, but also solidarity and unity amongst the community members have increased.



# Road Ahead: Regularizing Informal Settlements

Regularization of informal settlement will not only increase tenure security but will also allow the Municipalities to raise property related taxes. UN-Habitat has assisted the Municipalities of Kandahar, Lashkar Gah and Herat in registering over 28,000 plots, 11,000 plots and 10,000 respectively

Door-to-door surveys in informal settlements



Recording information of occupancy and properties



Informal settlement  
Loya Wala, Kandahar City

GIS technology is employed to register land ownership



Careful measuring of properties is important for recording and registering by the municipality



UN-Habitat will continue supporting Municipalities with surveying and registration of informal settlements, and with management of collected taxes and transparent and accountable use of revenues

All registered plots are documented and maintained by the municipality



A Sanitation Book (registry book) is provided for each plot of land and property





# Urban Governance & Service Delivery

UN-Habitat continues helping to increase the capacity of local governments to practice good urban governance, promote transparency and encourage accountability with close community engagement. It has contributed to raising awareness and to advocating for good urban governance in Afghanistan with a focus on the needs of the urban poor. UN-Habitat assists in helping local governments to build institutional capacity and identify urban governance priorities, including settlement upgrading strategy and improving the quality of people's life.

UN-Habitat in addition promotes the involvement of women and the youth in decision making at all levels, recognizing that women are crucial for positive change in society and community. Women play a key role in the community governance, ensuring that their needs, and those of their children, are reflected in the development of new municipal services.



Community elders at Mazar-e-Sharif Municipality, Balk Province

## Inclusive Cities

A key part of the planning process involves community elders meeting with municipal officials

to discuss priorities and challenges. The municipality needs to prepare for delivering important services in response to local needs. Only if both the citizens and municipality work in close partnership can they achieve success and meet the needs of the local population.

### *Roads to more learning opportunities*

The Aysh-e-Afghan female school is located in District 3 of Mazar-e-Sharif City with more than 2,000 students coming from its neighbours. The principal and some teachers, who also live in the same district, are now very happy to see the students coming to school with clean clothes and shoes. "This is because of new roads with concrete and functional-drainages improved by community members," said the principal.



With financial support from the Government of Japan, UN-Habitat helped to mobilize community members to get together and discuss their needs among themselves for implementation. With 30% of

community cash and in-kind contributions citizens have generously supported the construction of beautiful roads and drainages with mosaic-sidewalks, providing them not only with clean access and an improved living environment but also building solidarity by working together.

"With such a good practice and lessons learnt, we will have an in-class presentation on the importance of environmental protection and cleanliness with our students," promised the principal.

UN-Habitat has been working in partnership with communities across Afghanistan since 1992. The organization has invested in providing basic services, including shelter, potable water and skills training. It has worked closely with the Government of Afghanistan and local governments on a wide range of ambitious projects, strengthening institutional capacity and addressing clear priorities.



**UN HABITAT**  
FOR A BETTER URBAN FUTURE

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