

AFGHANISTAN

Sustained Rural Development Programme Phase IV

Baseline Assessment

Findings from Household and
Key Informant Interviews in
Northern Afghanistan

April 2019

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AGORA

**Leveraging local capacities
Promoting settlement approaches
Enabling integrated response**

AGORA, a joint initiative of ACTED and IMPACT Initiatives, was founded in 2016. AGORA promotes efficient, inclusive and integrated local planning, aid response and service delivery in contexts of crisis through applying settlement-based processes and tools.

AGORA enables more efficient and tailored aid responses to support the recovery and stabilization of crisis-affected communities, contributing to meet their humanitarian needs, whilst promoting the re-establishment of local services and supporting local governance actors. AGORA promotes multi-sectoral, settlement-based aid planning and implementation, structured around partnerships between local, national and international stakeholders.

AGORA's core activities include community mapping, multi-sector and areabased assessments, needs prioritisation and planning, as well as support to area-based coordination mechanisms and institutional cooperation.

This baseline exercise represents a key product within a global AGORA program supported by the Norwegian Foreign Ministry, targeting cities in crisis to inform area-based response and recovery plans, and provide support to information management and coordination efforts.

SUMMARY

Context

Afghanistan has been experiencing a protracted, complex crisis over the last four decades; episodes of conflict and natural disaster continue to limit the population's access to basic services and livelihoods and contribute to the destabilisation of communities, particularly in agriculture-dependent provinces such as Faryab, Jawzjan, Balkh, and Samangan. Many humanitarian actors have provided assistance to these populations, often using the administrative framework provided through formally recognized local governance structures (e.g. districts, villages). Alternatively, humanitarian actors seeking to operate through community-based networks have worked through the national-government established Citizen Charter district programme, in which villages are grouped together under a formal “charter” and villages within these charters are treated as a single administrative unit through which services are provided.¹ These structures have been established without necessarily taking into consideration the organic local community organization, and hence might miss opportunities to engage with local structures that already exist and may provide a more effective pathway through service provision to communities throughout Afghanistan.

Assessment

Since 2008, ACTED has implemented the Sustained Rural Development Program (SRDP), now in its fourth round, aiming to promote participatory, resource-based development planning, improve governance, and support inclusive rural development at the munteqa level. In the framework of the project, communities have been grouped into munteqas, a social and territorial unit of rural Afghanistan composed of a cluster of villages which share a common central resource, particularly water sources or markets, which then shapes solidarity amongst the local population. Munteqas do not have administrative recognition, meaning NGO programming has targeted services for these groups through district or village interventions. The purpose of this assessment is to establish a baseline against which the longitudinal socio-economic effect of ACTED's SRDP IV programming on the populations residing within areas of intervention can be evaluated.

The SRDP IV aims to promote participatory, resource-based development planning by: enhancing agricultural livelihoods and access to markets, improving government accountability and basic service delivery, and improving access to education and strengthening off-farm income opportunities. This research also prioritized these themes, specifically: socio-economic status of households, basic services delivery, and community engagement in planning processes. This assessment sought to measure the impact of munteqa-centred SRDP IV interventions within these themes by answering the following three research questions:

1. What is the current socio-economic situation of the assessed households?
2. To what extent do households have adequate access to basic services in their respective areas, and to what extent are they satisfied with them?
3. What are the perceptions of households regarding their level of engagement in and ability to contribute towards local development in their areas?

Three composite indicators were created to support answering the research questions above: household income security, household satisfaction with basic services, and household access to basic services. Indicators within each index took on different weights based on their estimated proportional contribution to the index measure. Specified thresholds were then applied to the weighted sum of each index, to establish a measurement scale i.e. income insecure to income secure (see Annex 3 for details of composite indexes).

Following an initial participatory mapping assessment between November and December 2018 when all munteqas were mapped out by community members, data collection for this assessment occurred in April and May 2019. This AGORA assessment conducted research in 58 of 64 munteqas in the four northern districts of Balkh, Faryab, Jawzjan, and Zamangan, that the SRDP IV intervention has targeted. The 58 assessed munteqas

¹ According to the Afghanistan Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation & Development, the “Citizens’ Charter National Priority Program (CCNPP)...is one of the key national priority programs of the National Unity Government (NUG) aiming to reduce poverty, improve socio-economic conditions for communities and out-migration of young people. Spread over ten-years, and divided into 3 phases, the Citizens’ Charter is a contract between the Government and its citizens over a basic set of Minimum Service Standards (MSS) that will be provided by the Government to all communities in the country.”



were stratified into six exclusive typologies, to account for structural influences across four dimensions²: urban/rural, Citizen Charter/non-Citizen Charter, livestock/crop-cultivation, and irrigated agricultural land/Rainfed agricultural land. Both quantitative and qualitative methodologies were employed, in the form of 2809 household surveys and 401 key informant interviews with community representatives, including: Qumandans (the village leader), village elders, Maliks (a local mediation specialist), Mirabs (a water specialist who determines the use of water among a community), Mulas (religious leader), and CDC Representatives.³

Key Findings

Socio-economic status

- **Urban and Citizen Charter manteqas were more income secure than rural, non-Citizen Charter manteqas.** Income was reported to be higher in urban and Citizen Charter manteqas, and over half of households in Urban, Non-Citizen Charter (UNCC) (52%) and Rural Citizen Charter (RCC) (52%) manteqa types reported that they were able to repay loans in the next 6 months.
- **Rural, Non-Citizen Charter, Irrigated Agriculture manteqa (RNCC:Irrigated) households had the lowest income security of all manteqa types.** Nearly half of households (46%) in these types of manteqas had poor income security, while only 4% had good security.
- **Households in Rural, Non-Citizen Charter Rainfed Agricultural manteqas (RNCC:Rainfed) are significantly more income secure than those in RNCC:Irrigated manteqas.** Compared to other manteqa typologies, these two types are the extremes when it comes to poor income security: RNCC:Rainfed had the lowest proportion of households with poor income security (6%), and RNCC:Irrigated the highest (46%).
- **Female-headed households were a particularly vulnerable population group, regardless of manteqa type;** 33% of these households had poor income security compared to 19% of male-headed households.
- **The inability to repay loans had a large bearing on income security.** UCC manteqas reported the lowest capacity for loan repayment (90%) despite reporting the highest total cash income of all manteqa types, and less than one-fifth of households having poor income security. This is likely a symptom of urban communities' greater reliance on a market economy compared to rural settings.

Basic Services

- **Basic services were least accessible in RNCC:Irrigated manteqas;** particularly transportation, and education. The recent drought and ongoing conflict has impacted security and livelihoods, yet service access is uniquely low in these manteqas, suggesting a need for intervention beyond emergency response.
- **Access to services was greater for households in urban and Citizen Charter manteqas;** over 60% of households in these manteqa types have acceptable or high access to services (UNCC 65% ; RCC 63% ; UCC 61%). This suggests that the additional government services provided through Citizen Charter projects are having a positive effect on community development. Reported satisfaction with basic services was also generally higher in urban manteqas, likely linked to the fact that services were more widely accessible in these manteqas.
- **Hospitals are difficult to access,** particularly in rural areas; one in four households in rural manteqas reported access to hospitals, and 29% of households overall reported access. Beyond a lack of access to facilities, **there is a lack of supplies and resources in medical facilities that can be accessed.**

² See [table 1](#) for detailed descriptions and acronyms on manteqa typologies

³ Representatives of the Community Development Councils (CDCs) established as part of the Afghan National Unity Government (NUG)'s Citizens' Charter National Priority Program (CCNPP), otherwise referred to as the 'Citizens' Charter Program'.



- **Use of lower quality fuel sources, like dung, appeared to be related to lower overall satisfaction with basic services.** Community dissatisfaction may stem from the types of fuel households are forced to use. Often, this is dried animal dung, which does not dry out entirely before use and was identified as a health concern by KIs.

Community engagement in development processes

- **Households in every manteqa type had confidence that feedback mechanisms were effective in holding people in charge to account.** Across all manteqas, of households reporting awareness of feedback mechanisms (45%), over three quarters reported confidence that these mechanisms were excellent or effective at holding those in charge accountable for their actions.
- **Overall, security was the most significant priority for development, and particularly for rural agriculture-based manteqas.** Conflict and insecurity can limit livelihood potential, restricting access to farmlands, employment, and markets, particularly for rural households, which is likely the reason why many rural households reported security to be a top priority. Key informants from rural manteqas, however, did not prioritize security in their reporting of development priorities, identifying a **need for more engagement and communication between populations and authorities**, to ensure development plans accurately reflect and address community concerns.
- **CC and Rural, Non-Citizen Charter, Pastoral Livestock manteqa households have the highest engagement and confidence in community planning processes**, likely due to the CC programs which encourage community development and participation.

Conclusions

Findings of the report revealed three main trends that can guide ACTED's SRDP IV programming in identifying opportunities for enhancing agricultural livelihoods, improving basic service delivery, and promoting active participation of local authorities and citizens in community-driven initiatives at the manteqa level. First, communities in **RNCC:Irrigated manteqas are most vulnerable and in the greatest need of intervention.** Income security is lowest, basic needs and service access are not being met, and additional support through sustainable development initiatives is needed. Second, **communities in urban and CC manteqas are more secure, better serviced and thus have more advanced intervention needs.** They are also better aware of what these needs are to improve their communities, and how they may be best implemented. Last, **female-headed households are in greater need of support than male-headed households, regardless of manteqa typology.** This population strata has a unique set of challenges regarding development and engagement that may be eased with targeted interventions in development planning and engagement. Across these three trends are similar rates of high or low indicators, suggesting a correlation between inclusive governance and socioeconomic status and service provision.



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List of Acronyms

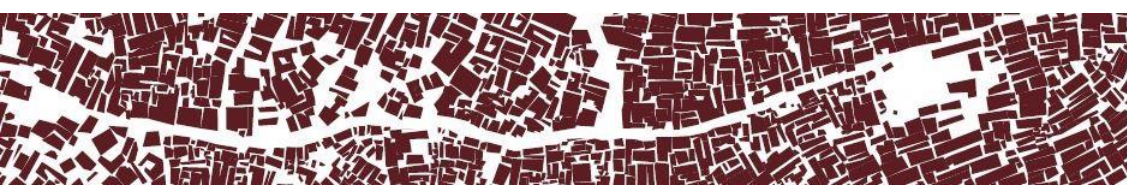
AFN	Afghan Afghani (currency)
AMEU	Appraisal, Monitoring and Evaluation Unit
CC	Citizen Charter
KII	Key Informant Interview
LPG	Liquefied Petroleum Gas
RCC	Rural Citizen Charter
RNCC	Rural Non-Citizen Charter
SRDP IV	Sustained Rural Development Program, fourth round.
UCC	Urban Citizen Charter
UNCC	Urban Non-Citizen Charter

Geographical Classifications

Manteqa a social and territorial unit of rural Afghanistan composed of a cluster of villages where solidarity is shaped amongst the local population

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INTRODUCTION

Afghanistan has been experiencing a protracted, complex crisis over the last four decades; episodes of conflict and natural disaster continue to limit the population's access to basic services and livelihoods and contribute to the region's destabilization. These phenomena have had several consequences, including migration driven by conflict and a diminished resource base resulting in a depleted socio-economic environment, as well as local conflicts over resources, particularly in agriculture-dependent provinces such as Faryab, Jawzjan, Balkh and Samangan.

Many humanitarian actors have provided assistance to these populations, often using the administrative framework provided through formally recognized local governance structures created following the 2001 Loya Jirga meeting, which established the current administrative framework. Alternatively, many humanitarian actors seeking to operate through more community-based networks have worked through the national-government established Citizen Charter district programme, in which villages are grouped together under a formal "charter" and villages within these charters are treated as a single administrative unit through which services are provided.¹ These structures have been established without necessarily taking into consideration the organic local community organization, and hence might miss opportunities to engage with local structures that already exist and may provide a more effective pathway through service provision to communities throughout Afghanistan.²

In addition to the Citizen Charter (CC) division, the government and international organizations have for years targeted interventions within official administrative units – at the village, district, or provincial levels – which may not be sufficiently addressing the needs of populations who often identify themselves and their communities within more social- and territorial- defined boundaries. Furthermore, decades of conflict and population movement have shifted community dynamics and social networks; as a result, historical boundaries have changed and new geographically-defined areas have emerged. A need for new approaches to aid delivery in Afghanistan is clear, yet research is lacking on the effectiveness of multi-sectoral, participatory, area-based approaches for sustainable development at a community level.

Since 2008, ACTED has implemented the Sustained Rural Development Program (SRDP), now in its fourth round (lasting from 2018 – 2021), to address the root causes of instability and poverty in districts in these key provinces. The SRDP IV aims to create a conducive environment for the active participation of local authorities and citizens in community-driven initiatives at the *manteqa* level, a social and territorial unit of rural Afghanistan composed of a cluster of villages which share a common central resource, particularly water sources or markets, which then shapes solidarity amongst the local population³. *Manteqas* do not have administrative recognition and, as a result, NGO programming has targeted services and interventions for these groups at the formal district of village levels.

The SRDP IV research component, AGORA,⁴ aims to gain a robust understanding of how populations identify their communities and related boundaries. Within this scope, it aims to understand community dynamics, socio-economic vulnerabilities, and available resources and services within these *manteqas* in order to inform an area-based approach to inclusive and sustainable development. With this knowledge base, the SRDP IV can better identify interventions relevant for the populations in need, including planning for vocational training, business support, and agricultural interventions. The purpose of this assessment is to establish a baseline against which the longitudinal socio-economic effect of ACTED's SRDP IV programming on the populations residing within areas of intervention can be evaluated.

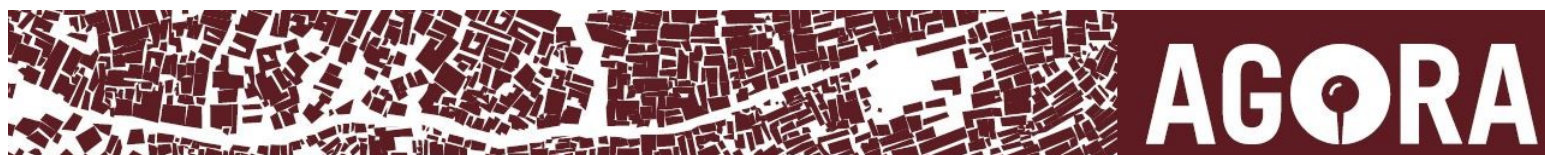
¹ According to the Afghanistan Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation & Development, the "Citizens' Charter National Priority Program (CCNPP) is one of the key national priority programs of the National Unity Government (NUG) aiming to reduce poverty, improve socio-economic conditions for communities and check out-migration of young people. Spread over ten-years, and divided into 3 phases, the Citizens' Charter is a contract between the Government and its citizens over a basic set of Minimum Service Standards (MSS) that will be provided by the Government to all communities in the country."

² Mielke and Schetter, "Where Is the Village? Local Perceptions and Development Approaches in Kunduz Province", (ASIEN 104, 71-87, 2007)

³ Favre, R. "Interface between state and society in Afghanistan: Discussion of key social features affecting governance, reconciliation and reconstruction." (AIZON, 2005)

⁴ AGORA is an interagency initiative of IMPACT Initiatives and ACTED, and promotes the stabilisation of fragile crisis-affected areas by strengthening local crisis response capacities and enabling inclusive recovery efforts. AGORA's work is structured around two pillars: synergies between local actors and exogenous aid stakeholders and the use of settlements as the territorial unit for the planning, coordination and provision of aid and basic services.

Additional information about AGORA is available from <https://www.impact-initiatives.org/what-we-do/agora/>



This research prioritized the same themes as the SRDP IV, specifically: socio-economic status of households, basic services delivery, and community engagement in planning processes. This assessment sought to measure the impact of manteqa-centred interventions under SRDP IV by answering the following three research questions:

1. What is the current socio-economic situation of the assessed households?
2. To what extent do households have adequate access to basic services in their respective areas, and to what extent are they satisfied with them?
3. What are the perceptions of households regarding their level of engagement in and ability to contribute towards local development in their areas?

Three composite indicators were created to support answering the research questions above: household income security, household satisfaction with basic services, and household access to basic services. Indicators within each index took on different weights based on their estimated proportional contribution to the index measure. Specified thresholds were then applied to the weighted sum of each index, to establish a measurement scale i.e. income insecure to income secure.

This baseline assessment follows an initial participatory mapping assessment that took place between November and December 2018, in which all manteqas in 14 districts of Balkh, Faryab, Jawzjan, and Samangan were mapped out by community members. Through FGD mapping exercises, community members were asked about the locations of shared basic services (i.e. public water sources, health facilities, education facilities, marketplaces, religious institutions, cemeteries, agricultural land) within the district, and to identify the villages, as well as their population sizes, that access each of these basic services. From these exercises, maps and manteqa profiles were produced showing the actual boundaries of each manteqa around shared services.⁵ Some of these mapped manteqas were then identified for this baseline assessment.

Manteqas

The post-2001 administrative boundaries of Afghanistan follow three main divisions: provinces, districts, and villages. However, Afghans themselves often identify their location and origin according to a historical, social and territorial unit: the manteqa. This informal but precise geographic delineation lies between the village level and the district level. Manteqas are generally centred on a shared service or resource, such as irrigation canals, communal water resources, markets or agriculture, and encompass all villages that rely on this central point. Over time, these manteqas have taken on additional historical, social, and cultural meanings, forming a broader community to which all those living in them relate. As such, it is an organic organizing principle that defines a community in rural Afghanistan⁶. Map 1 (on the next page) shows the division of manteqas in the North of Afghanistan, the assessment area for this report.

Despite the importance and relevance of manteqas, few development actors, including the government and the international community, use them as a gateway to work with rural communities, and, therefore, there is little research on them. Scholars have distinguished the manteqa from other area delineations, stressing that the manteqa is the missing interactive link between districts and hamlets, but does not investigate specific profiles across manteqas.⁷ Others have studied at the village-level to understand how village-level governance impacts service provision, and if variations between villages can be used to inform programme design.⁸ ACTED, through the AGORA initiative, has conducted initial participatory mapping assessments of manteqa boundaries between November and December 2018. Yet, there remains a gap in understanding service provision and resource sharing within manteqas, specifically.

This report first outlines the quantitative and qualitative methodology for this baseline assessment before providing a detailed discussion of the findings. The findings are organized into three sections: socio-economic status; access to and satisfaction with basic services; and community engagement and inclusivity of services.

⁵ ACTED. "Sustained Rural Development Programme Phase IV: Manteqa Profiles." (Kabul 2020).

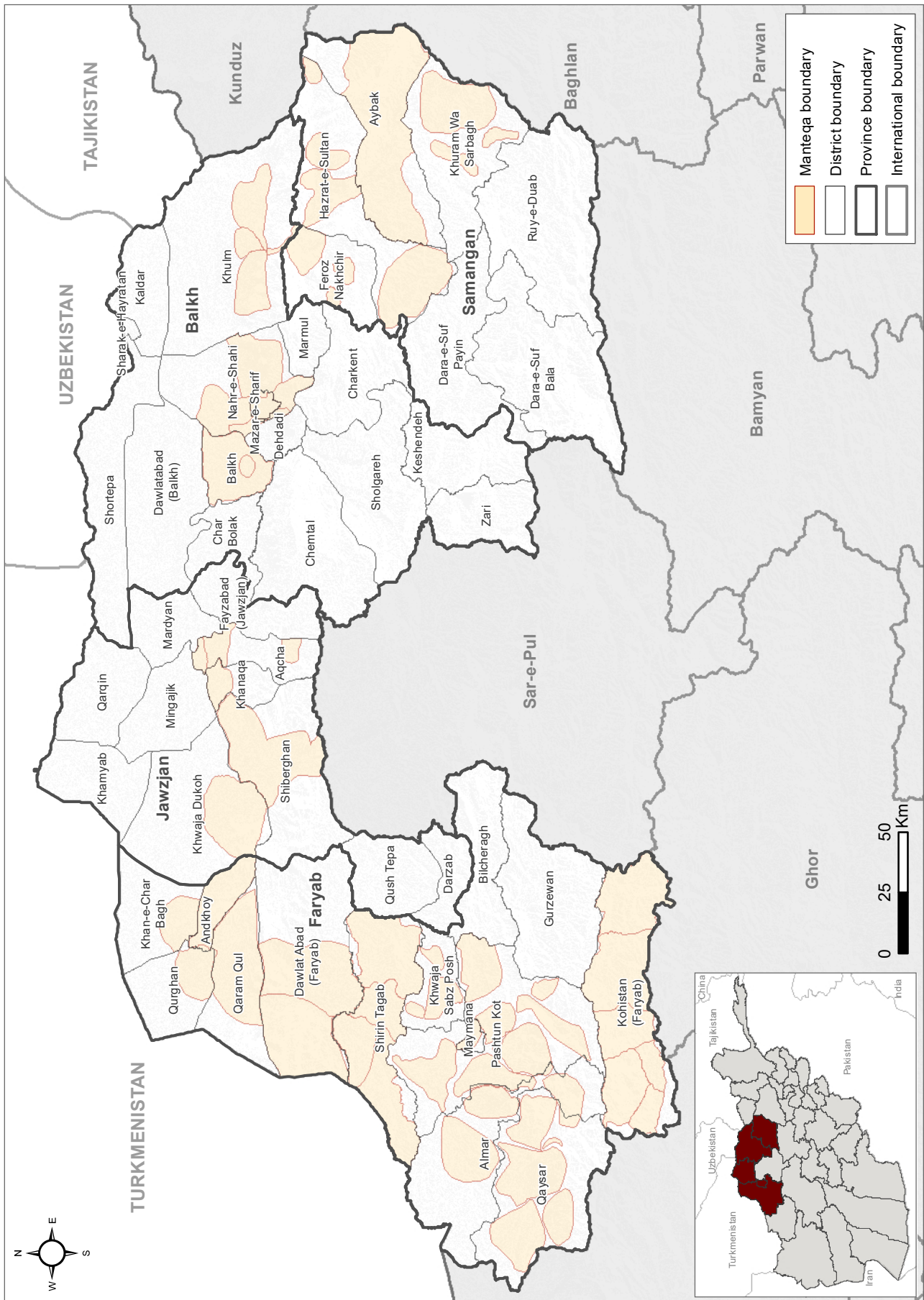
⁶ Favre, R. "Interface between state and society in Afghanistan: Discussion of key social features affecting governance, reconciliation and reconstruction." AIZON (2005).

⁷ Ibid

⁸ Pain, A. "Using village context analysis in Afghanistan: methods and wider implications." Secure Livelihoods Research Consortium (London 2016).



Map 1: Manteqas in Balkh, Faryab, Jawzjan, and Samangan, North Afghanistan



METHODOLOGY

Data collection for this baseline assessment occurred in April and May 2019, employing both quantitative and qualitative methodologies in the form of a household survey and key informant interviews (KIIs). Household interviews were used to capture the perceptions of the community’s own socio-economic needs, use of basic services, and inclusion in development planning for their areas. KIIs were used to triangulate household-level findings, and add detail to perceptions manteqa residents reported on public services, community engagement, and socio-economic opportunity.

Manteqa typologies

This assessment conducted research into 58 of 64 manteqas that the SRDP IV intervention has targeted in the four northern districts of Balkh, Faryab, Jawzjan, and Samangan. Six of the manteqas were not included due to insecurity that prevented assessment teams from accessing them directly. The 58 assessed manteqas were stratified into six exclusive typologies based on demographic, geographical, and socio-economic factors, which account for structural influences across four dimensions: urban/rural, Citizen Charter/non-Citizen Charter, livestock/agriculture, and irrigated agricultural land/Rainfed agricultural land. The structure showing how these typologies were determined and classified can be found in Figure 1 and Table 1, below. Locations of each of the manteqas and their typologies can be found in Annex 1. This stratification allowed the research to account for structural factors that may influence the impact of the SRDP IV activities.

Figure 1: Manteqa typologies

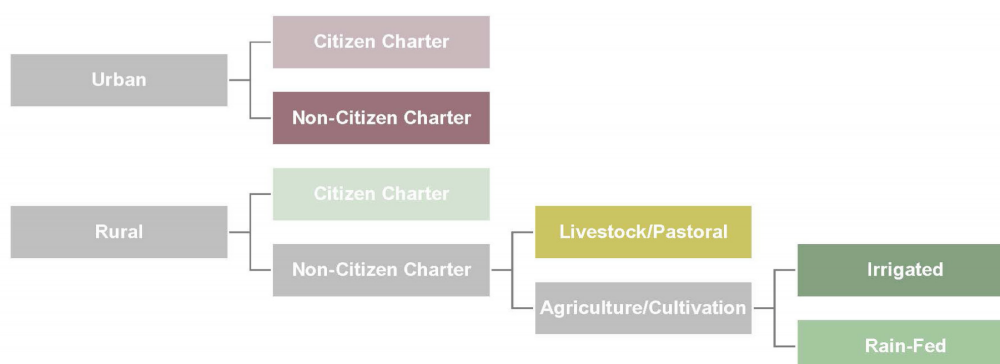


Table 1: Manteqa typology definitions

Urban, Citizen Charter (UCC)	Urban: >=50% of manteqa population resides within the boundaries of a provincial capital Citizen Charter: >=50% of the manteqa area is within a district covered by the Citizen Charter project
Urban, Non-Citizen Charter (UNCC)	Urban: >=50% of manteqa population resides within the boundaries of a provincial capital Non-Citizen Charter: <50% of the manteqa area is within a district covered by the Citizen Charter project
Rural, Citizen Charter (RCC)	Rural: <=50% of manteqa population resides within the boundaries of a provincial capital Citizen Charter: >=50% of the manteqa area is within a district covered by the Citizen Charter project
Rural, Non-Citizen Charter, Livestock (RNCC: Livestock)	Rural: <=50% of manteqa population resides within the boundaries of a provincial capital Non-Citizen Charter: <50% of the manteqa area is within a district covered by the Citizen Charter project Livestock: Population relying on livestock as part of their income > population relying on agriculture as part of their income, as indicated by initial KIIs

<p>Rural, Non-Citizen Charter, Agriculture, Irrigated (RNCC: Irrigated)</p>	<p>Rural: <=50% of manteqa population resides within the boundaries of a provincial capital Non-Citizen Charter: <50% of the manteqa area is within a district covered by the Citizen Charter project Agriculture: Population relying on livestock as part of their income < population relying on agriculture as part of their income, as indicated by initial Key Informant Interviews Irrigated: Agricultural land area within the manteqa not irrigated by canals or rivers < agricultural land area within the manteqa irrigated by canals or rivers</p>
<p>Rural, Non-Citizen Charter, Agriculture, Rainfed (RNCC: Rainfed)</p>	<p>Rural: <=50% of manteqa population resides within the boundaries of a provincial capital Non-Citizen Charter: <50% of the manteqa area is within a district covered by the Citizen Charter project Agriculture: Population relying on livestock as part of their income < population relying on agriculture as part of their income, as indicated by initial Key Informant Interviews Rainfed: Agricultural land area within the manteqa not irrigated by canals or rivers > agricultural land area within the manteqa irrigated by canals or rivers</p>

Quantitative Household Survey

A quantitative household assessment was conducted with 2,809 households across 12 of the 58 manteqas of intervention between 1 and 21 April, 2019. For each manteqa typology, households were randomly sampled to achieve representative findings to a 95% level of confidence and a 5% margin of error at the manteqa level. Two manteqas from each of the six typologies were selected, so that twelve manteqas in total were assessed. These twelve manteqas were trusted to be representative of the 58 total manteqas of intervention. Half of the necessary interviews (approximately 384 per typology) were conducted in each manteqa, so that when assessed together, each typology was representative at the required confidence and margin of error. To ensure representation across the entire assessment area, manteqas were drawn from all four provinces covered by the SRDP IV project. See Annex 2 for a breakdown of sampling for interviews and surveys per manteqa.

Prior to all data collection stages, extensive training on the tool was provided in ACTED’s office in Mazar-e-Sharif to all Senior Field Officers, who were then responsible for conducting training to all district-based enumerators. To ensure randomisation of household selection in the field, enumerators were provided with the precise sample size for the manteqa they were visiting. They then approached the centre of the area of intervention, picked a random direction (i.e. by spinning a pen and following the direction in which the pen points) and then walked in that direction to the boundary of the Manteqa, counting either the number of minutes or number of houses passed. The minutes or number of houses were then divided by the number of interviews to be completed, with the enumerator approaching every n-number house for data collection.

Eighty-two AGORA-trained enumerators conducted the household interviews, speaking with the head of household or in his/ her absence, any other adult household member over the age of 18 that was available at the time of data collection and knowledgeable about the household’s affairs. If the household was willing to participate, and there was an adult household member available, the interview was completed. If the household was unwilling to participate in the interview or there are no adults present to do the interview, the enumerator asked a member of this household where the nearest household was, and completed the interview there if that household was willing to participate and there was an adult present. The enumerator then returned to the original location and continued the randomisation process.

Data was downloaded by the AGORA Data Unit and cleaned each day, to ensure timely feedback to enumerators and cross-checking of any errors in the reporting. Data was then weighted, to allow for aggregation of the data to national level, to then allow for comparisons of findings across various disaggregations, including the sex and age of the head of household, as well as manteqa typology. Data was analysed using R software, which was then reviewed and validated by headquarters in Geneva.



To better understand specific needs and perceptions of the assessed community, AGORA, in coordination with the SRDP IV team, developed a number of composite indexes comprised of multiple indicators to evaluate:

1. Household income security
2. Household satisfaction with public services
3. Household access to basic services

Indicators within each index were given different weights based on their estimated proportional contribution to the index measure. Specific thresholds were then applied to the weighted sum of each index to establish a measurement scale running from 0 (income insecure) to 1 (income secure). A detailed overview of how each composite index was developed can be found in Annex 3.

Limitations

Data was collected throughout day-time hours, when heads of households were typically working. Thus, some interviews may not have been conducted with the head, though all efforts were made to come at a time when they would be available. If it was not possible to speak with the head of household, the interview was conducted with the secondary decision maker in the household.

It is possible that findings regarding household needs may be inflated due to self-reporting bias, as respondents may have felt this would increase their likelihood of receiving assistance. To mitigate this, all household-level interviews were conducted in person and began with a clear explanation that the assessment does not guarantee any form of assistance.

With heads of households being predominantly male in Afghanistan, questions about the situation of women were commonly answered by male respondents. The needs and vulnerabilities of women may accordingly be misrepresented. However, the scope of the assessment allowed for generalizable findings and comparisons between male and female-headed households to a 95% confidence level and a 5% margin of error.

Twenty percent of respondents overall were not the heads of household. As a result, there may be slight discrepancies in how data was reported on behalf of the household, as compared to if a head of household had responded directly.

Qualitative Key Informant Interviews

A total of 401 KIIs were conducted across 54 of the 64 mantedas mapped, with the number of KIIs per manteda adjusted according to population size; the purpose of which was to provide supplementary qualitative information to the data gathered through the household assessment. They were also designed to capture indicators which were not possible to address at a household level. Community representatives included: Qumandans (the village leader), village elders, Maliks (a local mediation specialist), Mirabs (a water specialist who determines the use of water among a community), Mulas (religious leader), and CDC Representatives⁹.

KIIs were purposively sampled, drawing from a database of individuals in village leadership positions constructed during the initial manteda mapping exercise by the AGORA team. Within this list, KIIs were then randomly selected per manteda. The number of KIIs conducted for each manteda was adjusted according to population size, ranging from 3 (population of less than 4,000) to 12 (population of more than 120,000) (see Table 2). Between 10 and 24 April, the AGORA team conducted 401 KIIs across 54 of the 64 mantedas where the SRDP IV programme is being implemented. Of the 401 KIIs surveyed, 22% were located in Balkh, 54% were in Faryab, 12% were in Jawzjan, and 12% were in Samangan.

Ten mantedas were not included due to inaccessibility as a result of the security situation and/or seasonal floods. In areas identified as having a high security risk, the KIIs were conducted via phone. For a breakdown of the target number of KIIs per manteda, based on the above sampling frame, see Annex 2.

⁹ Representatives of the Community Development Councils (CDCs) established as part of the Afghan National Unity Government (NUG)'s Citizens' Charter National Priority Program (CCNPP), otherwise referred to as the 'Citizens' Charter Program'.



Table 2: KII sampling frame according to manteqa population size

Population Size	Number of Key Informant Interviews
Less than 4,000	3
4,001 - 10,000	4
10,001 - 15,000	5
15,001 - 23,000	6
23,001 - 36,000	7
36,001 - 46,370	8
46,371 - 60,000	9
60,001 - 80,000	10
80,000 - 120,000	11
More than 120,000	12

Enumerators used KoBo forms to record the interviews, and were debriefed by a field coordinator at the end of each day. As with the household level surveys, the KII data was collected and reviewed by the AGORA Data Unit on a daily basis, to ensure timely feedback to enumerators and cross-checking of any errors in the reporting. Data was then entered into an analysis matrix developed for this specific tool, to facilitate comparison of KI findings across various disaggregations. No additional weighting of KI responses was undertaken during analysis. Qualitative data was then triangulated with the household-level survey analysis to contextualise findings.

Limitations

The KIIs were conducted across all four provinces and twenty-four districts where SRDP IV activities were being implemented. The AGORA team aimed to survey at least 10% of 3,800 potential KIs. As the population figures per manteqa range widely, from 1,530 to 229,151 individuals, the number of KIIs to be conducted per manteqa was scaled between 3 and 12. Using this scaling system, 444 key informants were targeted for interview (12% of the total). However, due to a combination of security issues and challenges posed by seasonal flooding, only 10.5% (401 KIs) of the total potential KIs were interviewed for this assessment.

Findings from KI data are susceptible to interviewer biases. Interviews were completed by multiple interviewers and it is possible that they may have asked questions in the wrong order, used slightly different question phrasing, or influenced the respondent in another way. Biases introduced by the interviewer can directly affect the validity and reliability of the ultimate findings of the study.

FINDINGS

This section of the report examines the main findings from the baseline AGORA assessment across three subjects, exploring patterns amongst and between manteqa types as reported by households and triangulated with associated findings and comments from KIs. First, it examines the socio-economic standing of households in Northern Afghanistan by analysing income, employment types, and capacity for loan repayment. It then analyses household basic service access, including transportation, education and energy, as well as satisfaction with those services. Finally, community engagement in development planning is explored through reported awareness and participation in community development planning meetings, perceived inclusivity of these processes, awareness and use of feedback mechanisms, and priorities for development

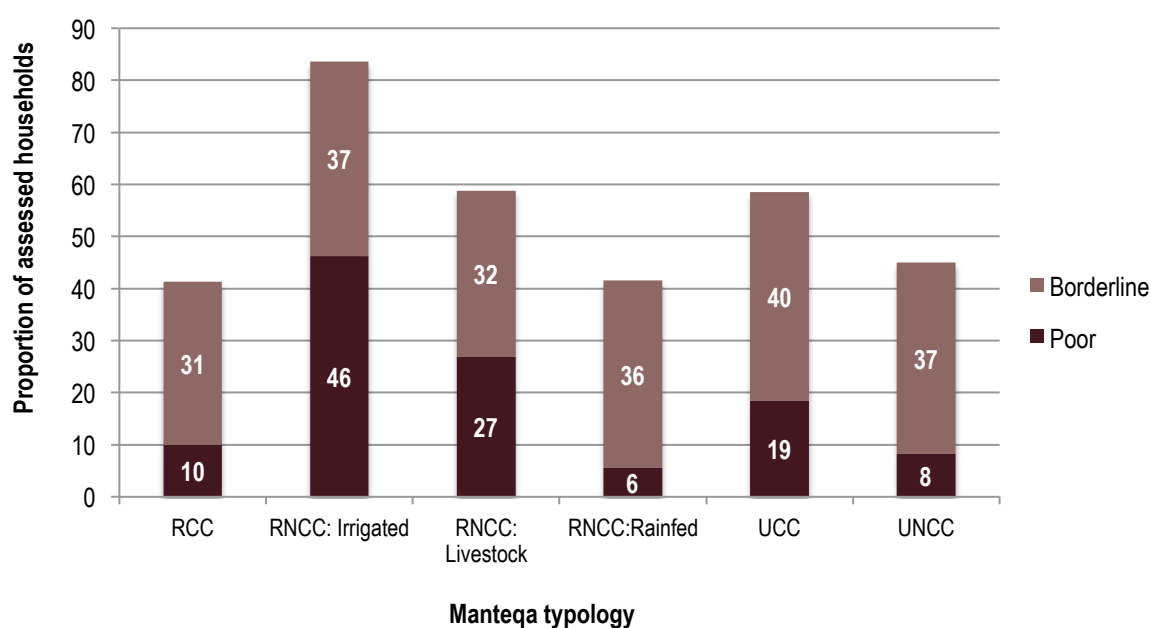
Socio-Economic Status

To better understand the current socio-economic situations of assessed households, a composite index comprised of multiple indicators was developed to evaluate income security by manteqa typology (see Annex 3). This subsection presents the findings of said index, as well as the contributing indicators: cash income, capacity to repay loans, employment agreements, primary income source, and employed individuals.

Income Security

Urban and Citizen Charter (CC) manteqas were more income secure than rural, non-CC manteqas (see Figure 2). Income was reported to be higher in these manteqa types, and over half of households in Urban, Non-Citizen Charter (UNCC) (52%) and Rural Citizen Charter (RCC) (52%) manteqa types reported that they were able to repay loans in the next 6 months. Households in Urban Citizen Charter (UCC) manteqas were an anomaly, as they reported earning the highest income of all manteqa types for 30 days prior, yet also reported high incapacities to repay loans (90% unable to repay), which may rationalize the larger proportion of households with poor and borderline income security in UCC manteqas. Households in urban and CC manteqas reported the highest proportions of formal employment and skilled labour as a primary income source. In addition, households reported high proportions of formal employment agreements for breadwinners and low proportions of short term agreements (less than one month).

Figure 2: Proportion of households with poor or borderline income security, by manteqa



Rural, Non-Citizen Charter, Irrigated Agriculture (RNCC:Irrigated) manteqa households are the least income secure. Nearly half of households (46%) had poor income security, while only 4% had good security. In addition, these households reported the lowest average income earned during the 30 days prior to data collection (950 Afghan Afghani (AFG)¹⁰), likely creating an incapacity to repay loans in the next 6 months (88% reportedly unable to repay). Household breadwinners in this manteqa type reported informal agreements (e.g. verbal contract, day-to-day) (66%) and short-term agreements (written contract, less than 1 month) (20%) most frequently of all manteqa types, both considered to be ‘insecure’ in the security index. The recent drought affecting the North-east of the country, discussed below, is likely reflected in household reporting.

Afghanistan experienced a severe drought from 2017-2018, with a 70% decrease in precipitation in the traditional wet season, which has devastated the agricultural sector in the East and North of the country, fueling conflict, and reducing incomes by half.^{11,12,13} Food security reports identify that the drought caused a 28% drop in production in rainfed areas in 2018, with Faryab and Jawzjan among the worst affected provinces, and indicate that the resulting lack of seeds will likely impact the 2019 season. In addition, pastoralists reported higher rates of mortality amongst livestock herds, with the loss of feed and pasture likely also impacting 2019 productivity.¹⁴ REACH’s 2018 Multi Sector Needs Assessment¹⁵ reported that, across Afghanistan, one quarter of households reported drought affecting livelihoods in the 6 months prior to data collection, while the Humanitarian Needs Overview 2019¹⁶ reports that one quarter of rural households have left their homes for urban centers as a result of the drought.

Focusing, then, on these drought-affected agriculture-based manteqas specifically, **households in RNCC:Rainfed manteqas are significantly more income secure than those in RNCC:Irrigated manteqas.** These two manteqa classifications are the two extremes for poor income security, RNCC:Rainfed having the lowest proportion of households with poor income security (6%), and RNCC:Irrigated the highest (46%). Households in RNCC:Rainfed manteqas reported more reliable sources of income (e.g. 73% work in farming, vs 9% of RNCC:Irrigated households) while households in RNCC:Irrigated were more likely to report earning an income through unreliable work (57% work unskilled labour, vs 10% of RNCC:Rainfed). Finally, households in RNCC:Rainfed manteqas reported earning, on average, 175 AFN more than households in RNCC:Irrigated manteqas in the 30 day prior to data collection, which might explain why three times more households in RNCC:Rainfed manteqas reported the capacity to repay loans in the next 6 months (36%) than those in RNCC:Irrigated manteqas (12%). Income diversification practices and the ways in which drought affects each farming method, explored below, can offer insight into the income security findings for each manteqa type.

Past livelihood studies in Afghanistan have shown that rural households have a greater variation in income sources, making it incorrect to assume that each household in manteqas labeled as RNCC is working solely in farming.¹⁷ One study in Faryab province concluded that just because households live in rural areas does not equate to them being farmers, and warned “Beware the myth of the small farmer – poor people may be poor and have little or no land but they have complex livelihoods and may derive a significant portion of their livelihood from non-agricultural activities.”¹⁸ As most rainfed land is household-owned, it is possible that households in this manteqa type are involved in one or several more lucrative businesses while at the same time farming for their basic needs, creating better income security.

Households working in irrigated agriculture, however, may have a difficult time adapting their livelihoods. Unlike rainfed farmers, who often diversify incomes outside of farming, farmers of irrigated land often diversify income by growing second crops.¹⁹ With the recent drought still inhibiting water supply and irrigation, this type of

¹⁰ 1 USD = 78.49 Afghan Afghani (AFN) as of October 28th, 2019. See xe.com.

¹¹ United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA). “[Humanitarian response plan \(January 2018 – December 2021\) – 2019 update.](#)” (May 2018)

¹² United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA). “[Afghanistan: Humanitarian needs overview \(2019\).](#)” (2018)

¹³ Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). “[Afghanistan emergency livelihoods response plan 2019.](#)” (Rome 2019)

¹⁴ Ibid

¹⁵ REACH. “[Whole of Afghanistan multi sector needs assessment.](#)” (Kabul, 2018)

¹⁶ United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA). “[Afghanistan: Humanitarian needs overview \(2019\).](#)” (2018)

¹⁷ Maletta, H. & Favre, R. “Agriculture and food production in post-war Afghanistan: A report on the winter agriculture survey 2002-2003.” (Kabul 2003)

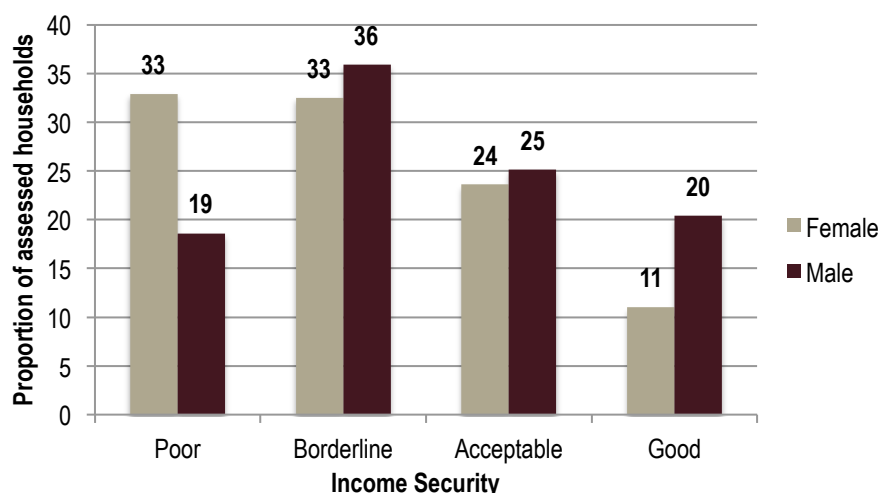
¹⁸ Pain, A. “Livelihoods under stress in Faryab Province, Northern Afghanistan. Opportunities for Support. A Report to Save the Children (USA).” Pakistan / Afghanistan Field Office (Islamabad, 2001)

¹⁹ Central Statistics Organization “[Afghanistan Living Conditions Survey 2016-17.](#)” (Kabul, 2018)



diversification is also not lucrative. In times of drought it is often not possible to irrigate land due to constraints in irrigation infrastructure, water supply and water management.²⁰ The lack of water reduces yields, which in turn reduces the number of seeds farmers have to plant the next year, fueling a dangerous cycle of poverty and food insecurity likely reflected in the income security reporting here. Irrigation agriculture proves a challenging livelihood in Afghanistan regardless of drought. The irrigation infrastructure in Afghanistan is lacking and considered a primary barrier to agricultural prosperity,²¹ and fragmentation of irrigated land due to population growth means farmers have less land to produce outputs, increasing the likelihood of households falling below the poverty line.²² Thus, the chasm between income security in RNCC:Irrigated and RNCC:Rainfed mantaqas might be due to income diversification practices of farmers, and the different ways drought affects infrastructure for each farming method.

Figure 3: Income security of male- and female-headed households



Female-headed households (n=258) were a particularly vulnerable population group; 33% of these households had poor income security compared to 19% of male-headed households (see Figure 3). They rely primarily on loans as their primary income more often (13%) than male-headed households (2%), and hold more informal employment agreements than male-headed households. This adds context to why female-headed households reported earning an average of 136 AFN less per month than male-headed households. The findings bolster those from other agriculture and gender assessments which found that women working in agriculture specifically often work in roles requiring little skills or training, such as weeding, harvesting, or minimal processing²³, hence the high rate of informal agreements reported in this baseline. Further socio-economic limitations also impact female-headed households' income security, including the inability to interact with men or to own land²⁴, leading to the lower likelihood of female-headed households having a reliable income and ability to support themselves.

Contributing indicators

Capacity to repay loans

The inability to repay loans had a large bearing on income security (see Figure 4). UCC mantaqas reported low capacities for loan repayment (90%) despite reporting the highest total cash income of all mantaqas types, and less than one-fifth of households having 'poor' income security. This is likely a symptom of urban communities' greater reliance on a market economy compared to rural settings, where subsistence agriculture and employment in smaller industries tend to lower actual household expenditure on basic needs. Rural economies tend to be less reliant on markets for their basic needs (e.g. food), whereas urban communities must buy items that meet basic needs. In addition, urban settings are more likely to have a higher cost of living, further depleting a household's financial resources and thus income security.

²⁰ Maletta, H. & Favre, R. "Agriculture and food production in post-war Afghanistan: A report on the winter agriculture survey 2002-2003." (Kabul, 2003)

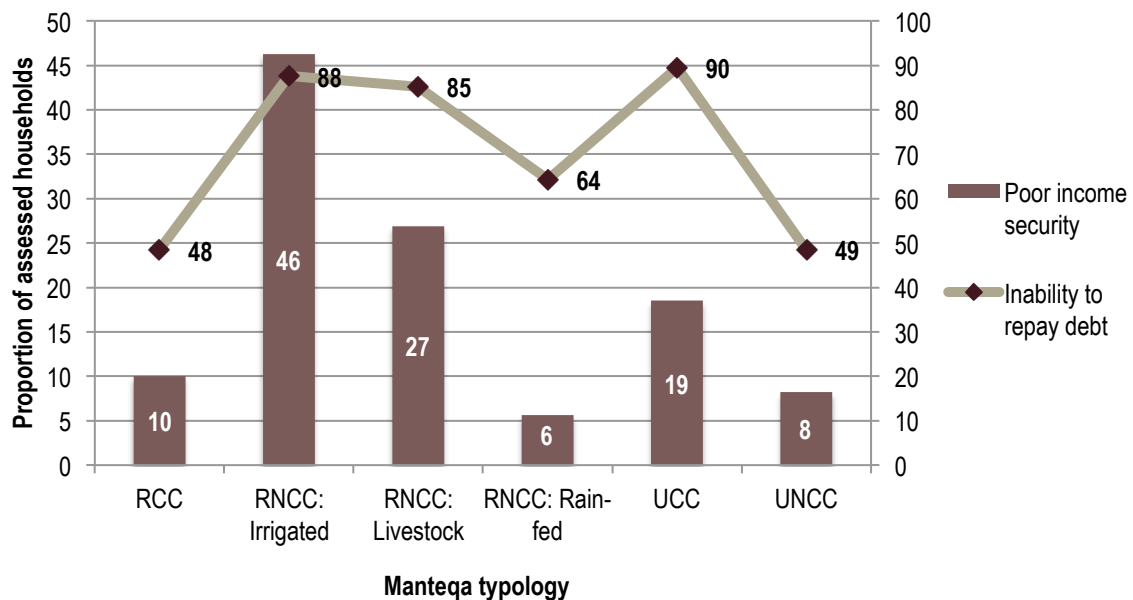
²¹ Civil-Military Fusion Centre. "The decision to plant poppies: Irrigation, profits and alternatives crops in Afghanistan." (2012)

²² Central Statistics Organization "Afghanistan Living Conditions Survey 2016-17." (Kabul, 2018)

²³ FAO & MAIL. National Strategy on Women in Agriculture 2015–2020. (2015)

²⁴ Ibid

Figure 4: Households with 'poor' income security vs household inability to repay debt

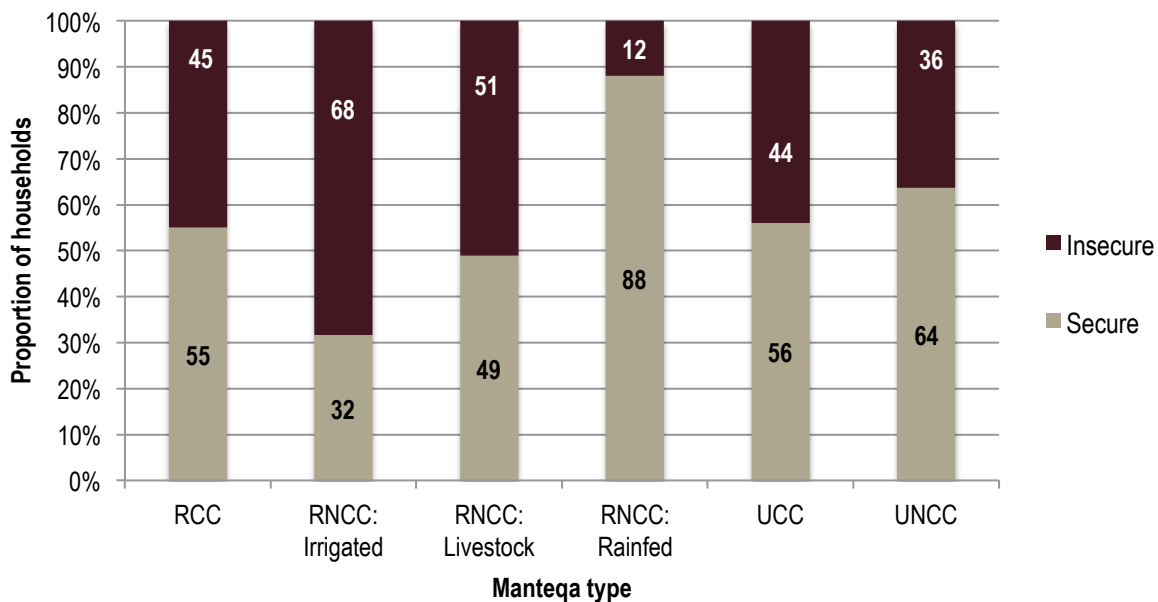


Income

Reported income is highest amongst CC manteqas, indicating the positive impact CC programs have on participating communities. Income in the 30 days prior to data collection was reported as 1,351 AFN on average for households in UCC manteqas, and 1,279 AFN on average for households in RCC manteqas. Both manteqas report largely similar sources of income and employment agreements. Yet, there are nearly double the proportion of households with poor income security in UCC manteqas (19% in UCC vs 10% in RCC). Again, this is likely related to the market-based economies and high cost of living in urban areas.

Rural areas rely most on unskilled labour as a primary source of income (e.g. domestic work, manual labour), often manifesting as unstable forms of employment, which in turn might fuel higher rates of income insecurity. Half of assessed households in RNCC: Irrigated (57%) and Rural, Non-Citizen Charter: Pastoral Livestock (RNCC:Livestock) (50%) reported unskilled labour as the primary source of income, common for largely agricultural-based communities and likely related to the seasonal and short term work needed to support planting and harvesting seasons. These two manteqa types also had the highest proportion of households anticipating being unable to repay loans in the upcoming 6 months, as well as the highest proportion of households with poor income security, indicating some of the negative consequences of labour markets being reliant on unskilled and temporary work.

Figure 5: Secure and insecure income sources, by manteqa



Households in RNCC:Rainfed households have the most secure income sources (see Figure 5); they reported by far the greatest proportion of work from secure income sources (88%) (i.e. farming/agriculture, private/public sector, livestock production, small business, and skilled labour). Specifically, households in RNCC:Rainfed manteqas reported the highest rates of employment in farming (73%) and livestock production (10%) of all manteqa types, and the lowest proportion of unskilled labour (10%). Yet, the reported income for the 30 days prior to data collection was just slightly below average (1,125 AFN). These findings speak to several characteristics of rainfed farming. First, to the diversified livelihoods of rural communities presented earlier, the findings suggest that many households may have at least one source of income, amongst many, considered ‘secure’, which is increasing the income security in RNCC:Rainfed manteqas. It may also speak to land ownership; in Afghanistan, a higher proportion of the agricultural land is dedicated to rainfed farming than to irrigated farming, indicating more employment opportunities in rainfed agricultural regions.

Employment agreements

Manteqas where informal agreements are more common are also less income secure. For the income security index, employment agreements were either secure (i.e. business ownership, formal/written contract for one month or longer) or insecure (i.e. informal/verbal day-to-day contract; short-term contract (less than 1 month), and no agreement). For example, households in RNCC:Irrigated manteqas reported the low rates of business ownership (6%) and formal employment agreements (5%), while also reporting the high rates of informal employment agreements (66%), further contextualizing the high proportion of households that had poor or borderline income security.

To summarize, patterns in income insecurity here indeed suggest the lingering impact of last year’s drought. Employment type, debt repayment, and employment agreements appear to be inextricably linked, forming an unstable rural economy that is highly vulnerable to shocks like drought or conflict. Those manteqa types with higher reporting of these instabilities ultimately were found to have a lower income security. Urban and CC manteqas were more income secure, while rural manteqas had varying security with fluxuating reports of employment types, agreements, and monthly wages. Yet, large amounts of short term employment agreements, the majority of households reporting unskilled labour as a primary income source, and the inability to repay debt persisted across all manteqas to varying extents.

Basic Services

In this subsection, household and KI data are discussed to understand the availability and accessibility of basic services for households in assessed areas, and to what extent households are satisfied with these services. These questions are explored through two composite indicators: access to basic services and satisfaction with

basic services (see Annex 3). Availability and use to specific service (transportation, education, healthcare, and energy) are also examined.

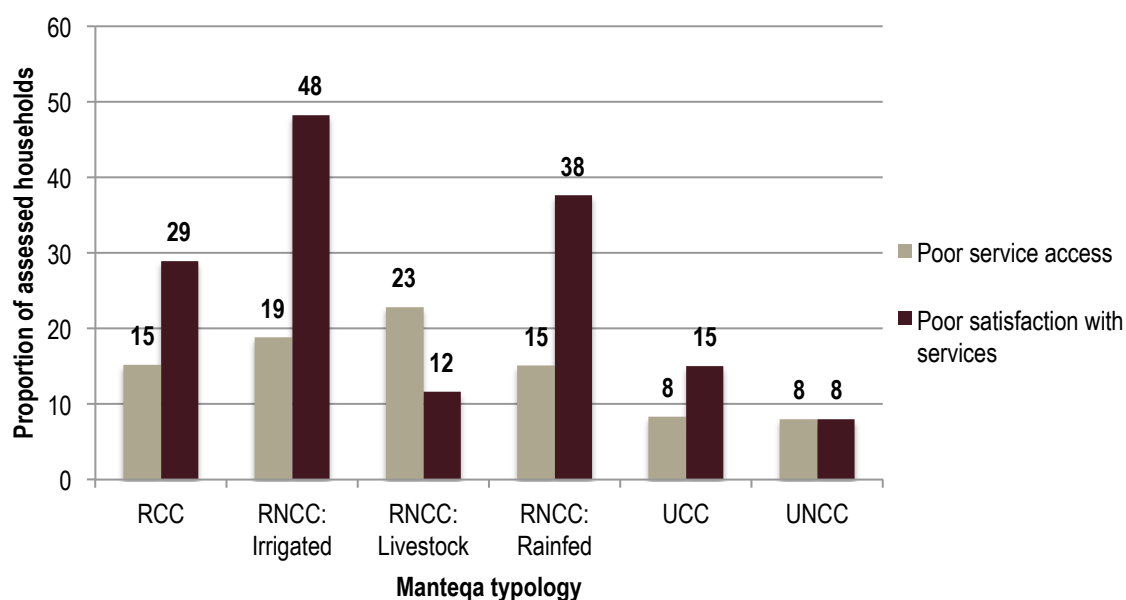
Access to Basic Services

Service access was most reported in urban and CC manteqas, as it is easier to provide services to urban manteqas; over 60% of households in these manteqa types had acceptable or high service access (UNCC 65% ; RCC 63% ; UCC 61%). Naturally, services are easier to provide in urban areas where populations are clustered together, and governments have unchallenged authority. Households in these manteqas report more transport services available, as well as greater access to and use of these services, particularly in urban manteqas. There is better access to education for girls specifically; as households reported better access for girls to primary and secondary education. These access-related findings align with the high income security reported earlier, indicating that the **additional government services provided through CC projects seem to be having a positive effect on community development.**

Basic services are least accessible in RNCC:Irrigated manteqas; 58% of households had poor or moderate access (score of 0.49 or lower in the index). With the fewest accessible services, it is unsurprising that households in these manteqas also had low satisfaction with them (73% had poor or moderate satisfaction). Despite being well connected to other districts by road networks (82%), only 1% of households reported access to and use of transportation services. Access to education for boys in any institution was reported as the lowest of all manteqas (56% Community ; 74% Primary ; 74% Secondary) while access for each insitution was over 90% overall. Households in RNCC:Irrigated manteqas also reported particularly low access to community-led schools for girls (45% vs 82% overall). Lack of access to services such as transportation likely exacerbate income insecurity, deemed highest in these manteqas, as breadwinners struggle to travel to work, while a lack of access to education for some also limits employment opportunities for future breadwiners.

Households in rural manteqas were less satisfied with the basic services available to them. Figure 6 shows that for most manteqas, far more households scored lower satisfaction with basic services despite having moderate to high access to them. This suggests that, while services are often available in some capacity for rural households, the quality or maintenance is poorer than those in urban areas. These findings are expected, as service provision and maintenance is challenging in rural areas where households are scattered and infrastructure difficult to maintain. RNCC: Livestock manteqas had the lowest access to services, yet had higher satisfaction with them. This is likely related to two key services linked to satisfaction: higher access to hospitals and higher rates of fuel access, including low-cost dung.

Figure 6: Proportion of households with low service access and low satisfaction with services, per manteqa type



Contributing Indicators

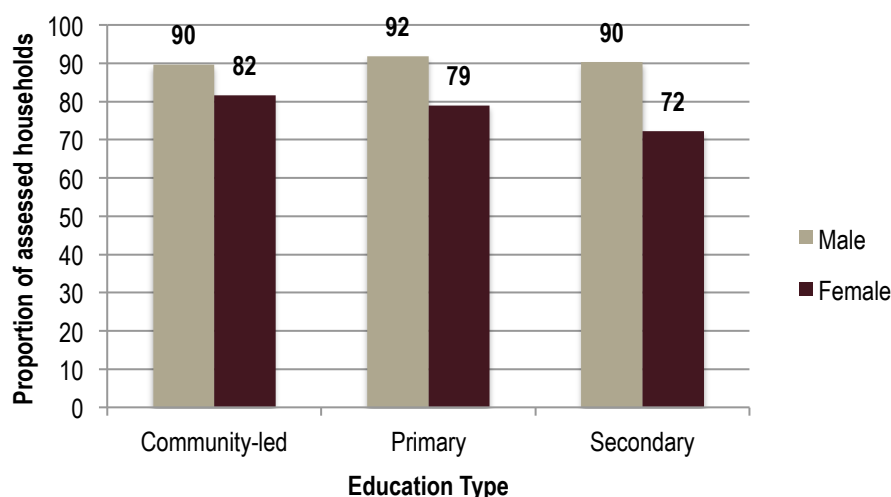
Transport

Rural and urban households reported similar connectivity by road to other districts in their area, yet urban households reported access and use of transportation services more than twice as often as rural households (63% urban vs 27% rural). Investigating the rural context further, there are only a few transportation services available for RNCC:Irrigated and RNCC:Rainfed, thus very low reports of use and access. Some KIs from rural manteqas described road conditions as too poor to be usable: “the roads are very damaged”, “our street is not asphalted”, and “the roads are [muddy] and used”. Others acknowledged transportation services have difficulty operating given the poor infrastructure available, while others reported a lack of services entirely in their villages: “[No] availability of transportation is the major problem of Kohistan district”. The lack of transportation services in some rural manteqas influenced the findings in the composite index, as rural households cannot report use of nor satisfaction with a service that is not available. The Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) classified three of the 4 provinces in this baseline assessment as some of the ‘worst-affected provinces by flash floods’²⁵, disasters which may also impact road quality and accessibility, and which hence may be reflected in the reported low levels of access to and satisfaction with transportation services in rural areas.

Education

There are unique security challenges preventing girls from attending school, particularly in rural manteqas. Households reported lower access to education services for girls than boys at primary, secondary and community-led facilities (see Figure 7), and rural households in particular reported lower rates of access to girls education than their urban counterparts. KIs gave context to the difficulties girls face in getting an education; twelve KIs in rural areas described girls attending school in another village, requiring daily travel. Another KI from an RNCC:Irrigated manteqa described the concerns surrounding girls travelling to attend school: “Because of the security problems and the distance of the school, the students, especially girls, have ... difficulty [accessing educational services].” The UNHCR Humanitarian Needs Overview reported that violence, including intimidation, cross-fire, and election-based violence, has closed schools and disrupted access to an education, particularly in Faryab province²⁶. These concerns about security may be keeping girls from attending school in rural manteqas.

Figure 7: Overall access to education for boys and girls, by education type



There is less access to education services in RNCC: Irrigated manteqas due to lack of facilities and services. Community schools in particular are less accessible for households in this manteqa, both for boys (56% access vs 90% overall) and girls (45% access vs 82% overall). Seven KIs, all from Meyan Dari (RNCC:Irrigated), explained that there are facilities where both boys and girls attend the same ‘mixed’ school; one gender in the morning, and one in the afternoon. As a result fewer children, boys and girls, are permitted to attend these facilities: “There [are] mixed schools for girls and boys; [it] causes fewer girls and boys go to school”.

²⁵ Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). “Afghanistan emergency livelihoods response plan 2019.” (Rome 2019)

²⁶ United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA). “Afghanistan: Humanitarian needs overview (2019).” (2018)

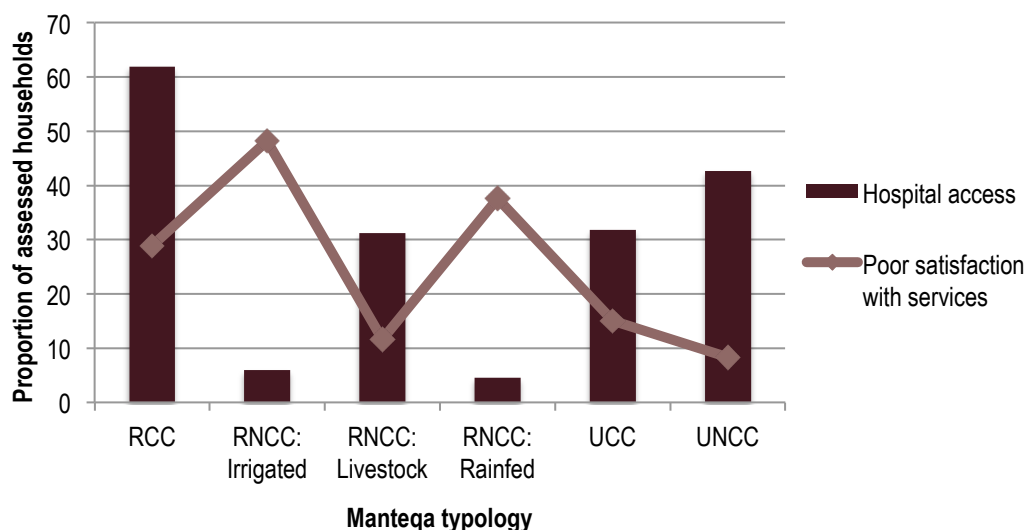
Another consideration is travel distance to schools. Five KIs from two RNCC:Irrigated villages reported no schools in their village, but access in adjacent villages. RNCC:Irrigated manteqas had the lowest transport services available, affecting household access to education if the facilities are not within walking distance.

Health

Hospitals are difficult to access, particularly in rural areas; one in four households in rural manteqas reported access to hospitals, and 29% of households overall reported access to the facilities. Interviews with rural manteqa KIs also indicated that access to health services in rural areas is likely to be more limited than in urban areas: only 22% of KIs reported a functioning health clinic in their community, and only 3% of KIs reported a functioning hospital. Clinics are more accessible than hospitals in rural areas, though almost half of households remain without healthcare access at all. Hospital access appears to be a significant factor in household satisfaction with basic services (see Figure 8). Manteqas with lower access to hospitals specifically also had the highest proportion of households dissatisfied with basic services.

There is a lack of supplies and resources in medical facilities. KIs in rural manteqas explained: “the villagers are not happy because they do not have enough medication for patients and they do not have a good service” and “[satisfaction is] very low because they work 8 hours in a day, low sufficient medication, no sufficient doctors and no bed[s] for patients.” One RNCC:Livestock KI clarified poor services at hospitals: “the hospital [exists] but the doctor[s] are weak”. Another explained how lower clinic access is due to overcrowding at available facilities: “There is a clinic in Bazarjai Kata Qala, and residents of 34 villages are referred to the same clinic for treatment, which has a lot of problems. The clinic does not have enough facilities.” Indeed, KIs went on to report that, of available healthcare services (clinics or hospitals), 84% do not have enough staff, 94% not enough medicine, and 99% not enough beds. So, while there is access to healthcare facilities, it does not guarantee quality care.

Figure 8: Proportion of households able to access hospitals against the proportion of households reporting low satisfaction with basic services, per manteqa type



Energy

Dependency on lower quality fuel sources, like dung, was related to lower overall satisfaction with basic services. With energy, according to KI findings, community dissatisfaction often stems from the types of fuel households are forced to use. Often, this is dried animal dung (reported by 25% of households; the second most commonly reported energy source). Dung often does not dry out entirely before use, which some KIs explained to be health concern: “The excrement dry hardly so its microbes will be causes of various diseases” and “dry dung is bad for health”. These health concerns may have fueled higher reporting of dissatisfaction with basic services.

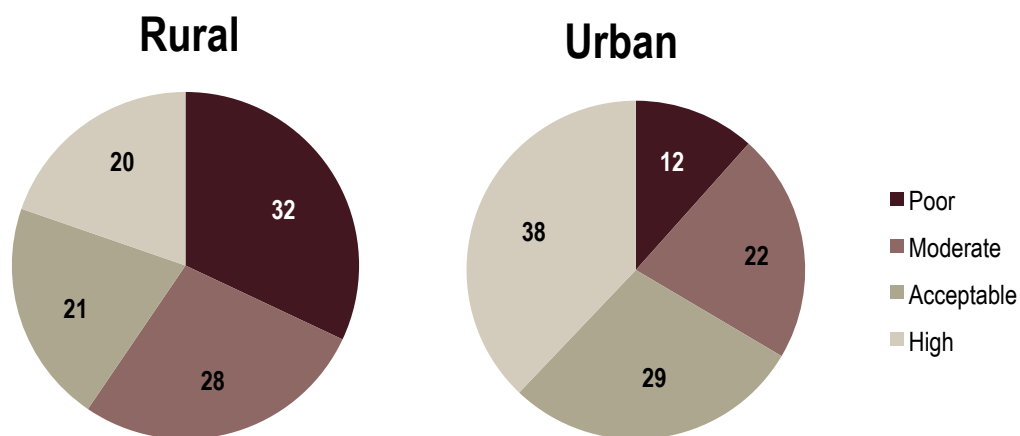
RNCC:Irrigated and RNCC:Rainfed households reported greater use of dung for heating and cooking (28% for both), low use of LPGs (4% and 0% respectively), and high proportions of dissatisfaction (48% and 38% respectively). KIs contextualised that LPG use is low due to the high cost of liquid fuel: “Gas is expensive so they can not buy it”. Other KIs from RNCC:Rainfed manteqas suggest that households that can afford LPGs for fuel do

so, though not every households in the manteqa has that ability: “people use the resource based on their income”. The exception to the rule are households in RNCC:Livestock manteqas. With a large energy source in livestock, households are likely able to secure plenty of this fuel at no additional cost. This livelihood benefit may explain why RNCC:Livestock households had lower dissatisfaction with basic services despite the high use of dung for energy (31%), as KIs from RNCC:Livestock manteqas suggest: “Those who are farmer[s] are satisfied. Others who are working day wages are not happy to buy their fuel.”

Overall satisfaction with services

Satisfaction with basic services is highest in urban areas; Figure 9 shows more than one third (38%) of households were highly satisfied with services in the composite index (vs 20% rural), and only 12% had low satisfaction (vs 32% rural). This scoring mirrors that of urban service access as well; 34% of households have high access, and only 8% poor access, suggesting that the services provided to urban manteqas are functioning and of relatively good quality.

Figure 9: Rates of basic service satisfaction, by manteqa locale



Service availability and quality informs household income security. As demonstrated in this section, households in those manteqas with better service access and higher satisfaction with basic services also had higher income security, with occasional exceptions. Ultimately, these findings suggest that basic services can either bolster or inhibit socio-economic development, as households lacking access or even good-quality services must navigate employment opportunities around these gaps, limiting opportunities.

Community Engagement and Inclusivity of Services

This subsection analyzes household and KI findings related to community engagement and service inclusivity to understand local perceptions regarding engagement in and ability to contribute towards local development. These findings are explored through household reporting of awareness and participation in community development planning processes, confidence in the inclusivity and effectiveness of participation in these meetings, and feedback mechanism awareness and perceived effectiveness. Last, household and KI priorities for development are examined to better understand issues communities are hoping to improve and address moving forward.

Female-headed households are less aware of and less engaged with local mechanisms; Only 12% reported being aware of community-level meetings to discuss local development planning (vs 33% of male-headed). Less awareness amongst female-headed households likely leads to less participation in local discussions regarding development planning, which might in turn mean that their perspectives are not adequately taken into account and their concerns may not be sufficiently heard. Indeed, only a small proportion of female-headed households (5%) reported having the perception that their feedback was taken into consideration and was used to inform local planning. These findings reflect the cultural roles and expectations of women in Afghan

society, mainly that they are not permitted to interact with men, restricted from participating in public and political activity, and expected instead to carry only the domestic burdens of their households.^{27,28}

Female-headed households also reported lower confidence in the inclusivity of these processes. When asked whether local development plans for their mantaqa use community resources in a way that equally benefits everyone in the community, just over one third (38%) of female-headed households knew enough about these plans to respond (vs. 67% male-headed). Of the households that did respond, half did not believe these plans would benefit the community equally (vs 68% male). A greater proportion of female-headed households (54%) reported the perception that these processes rarely or never take community feedback into account (vs 33% male-headed). The low reported confidence female-headed households have in community planning processes might have come from a relatively low faith in the usefulness of these type of processes, or the belief that female-headed households will not be granted an active role in the discussions anyways.

CC and RNCC:Livestock mantaqa households have the highest engagement and confidence in community planning processes, likely due to the CC programs which encourage community development and participation. In these mantaqas, the proportions of households being aware of community-level discussions about local development planning are higher (RCC:52% ; UCC: 52% ; RNCC:Livestock: 46%) than in the other mantaqas (31% overall). Over half of households in these mantaqas reported thinking their mantaqa development plans use community resources in an equally beneficial way. In addition, more households are reportedly participating in the discussions and a greater proportion of households reported feeling their feedback is generally heard (RCC:38% ; UCC: 30% ; RNCC:Livestock: 25% vs. 17% overall). This indicates that more households getting involved in local decision-making will likely lead to higher proportions of households feeling heard, included and trusting of decisions made at a local governance level.

RNCC:Irrigated households are the least engaged and included in community-level discussions; only 6% of households reported awareness of meetings, likely leading to even smaller proportions reporting participation. Only 9% reported confidence that community plans equally benefit the entire community (vs 43% overall), and the majority reported the perception that these processes rarely or never consider feedback from the community.

Households in those mantaqa types with high awareness, involvement and trust in community-led discussions were also more like to plan to attend them in the coming year. Specifically, households in CC and RNCC:Livestock mantaqas were the most aware of these discussions, and thus almost half of households assessed reported planning to attend in the coming year. On the contrary, the limited awareness of discussions in RNCC:Irrigated, RNCC:Rainfed and UCC mantaqas resulted in low reporting of planned future participation (6%, 12% and 14% respectively). Regardless of rates of awareness overall, the vast majority of household who are aware of these meetings plan to attend in the coming year; 31% of households overall are aware of meetings, and 29% reported planning to attend in the coming year.

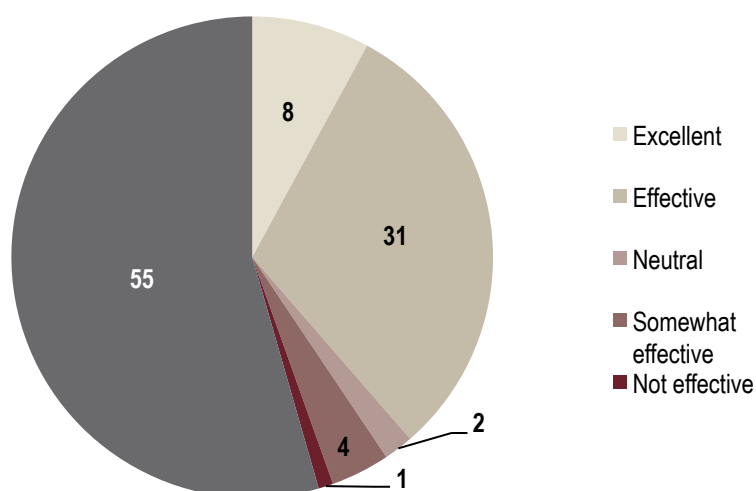
Feedback Mechanisms

Households in every mantaqa had confidence that feedback mechanisms are effective in holding people in charge to account (see Figure 10). While there were clear differences in rates of engagement and confidence in the inclusivity of development planning-processes between mantaqas, there was consensus in regards to feedback mechanism effectiveness. Awareness of mechanisms varied, with higher awareness in rural mantaqas (49% vs 39% urban). Yet across all mantaqas, of households reporting awareness of feedback mechanisms (45%), over three quarters reported confidence that these mechanisms were excellent or effective at holding those in charge accountable for their actions. While there is opportunity to improve awareness of feedback mechanisms in all mantaqas, this finding suggests that the mechanisms themselves are working effectively.

²⁷ CSO & UNFPA. "Socio-demographic and economic survey: Gender – provinces of Kabul, Bamiyan, Daykundi, Ghor, Kapisa and Parwan." (Kabul 2017)

²⁸ FAO & MAIL. National Strategy on Women in Agriculture 2015–2020. (2015)

Figure 10: Proportion of households reporting perceived effectiveness of feedback mechanisms for all manteqas



Priorities for community development

Security is the most commonly reported priority for development across all manteqas, and particularly for rural agriculture-based manteqas (RNCC:Rainfed 92% ; RNCC:Irrigated 87%). The 2018 Whole of Afghanistan Assessment reported that communities in the North were severely affected by drought last year, sparking large-scale violent protests that exacerbated the security threats in the area while reducing access to basic services²⁹. Conflict has made it difficult for households in the North, where agriculture is the backbone of the economy, to maintain livelihoods throughout the year, since an instable security situation can significantly restrict access to farmland, employment, and markets.^{30,31} This prioritization of security for local development is likely in response to the above threats.

KIs from rural manteqas, however, did not prioritize security in their reporting. Instead, healthcare was top priority, followed by employment, water, and girls education. When asked to provide details about their manteqa's specific community plans for development, few mentioned security initiatives or gave further details about security issues that may be concerning households. Households in rural manteqas also reported the lowest awareness, participation and confidence in development planning processes, so this misalignment between household and KI prioritization reflects a need for more engagement and communication between populations and local authorities, to ensure development plans accurately reflect and address community concerns.

Access to drinking water was the first priority for RCC, UNCC, and RNCC:Livestock manteqa households. Each has a large proportion of the population relying on unsafe drinking water sources: 65% of households in RCC manteqas rely on water trucking, 33% of households in UNCC manteqas rely on surface water, and 18% of households in livestock manteqas rely on unprotected kariz. These unsafe water sources are likely the motivators for households identifying better drinking water access as a priority for development.

Education in general (for both genders) was the fifth most common reported priority for development (38%). In urban areas specifically, general education was reported twice as often in Citizen Charter manteqas (52%) than non-Citizen Charter manteqas. Girls education was less prioritized, with only 8% of households overall identifying it as a priority for development.

More than one third (38%) of households in RNCC:Livestock reported access to energy as a priority (vs 18% overall); an interesting finding when many households have direct and inexpensive access to dung as fuel as reported in Section 2. Half of KIs from these manteqas (49%) also reported energy as a development priority, with two KIs specifying needs for electricity, gas or solar energy. While RNCC:Livestock manteqas have ample access to some fuel sources, these findings suggest a desire to transition to healthier, cleaner energy sources.

²⁹ REACH. "Whole of Afghanistan multi sector needs assessment." (Kabul, 2018)

³⁰ FAO & MAIL. National Strategy on Women in Agriculture 2015–2020. (2015)

³¹ Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). "Afghanistan emergency livelihoods response plan 2019." (Rome 2019)

Table 3: Reported primary, secondary and tertiary priorities for development as reported by assessed households

	Primary	Secondary	Tertiary
RCC	Water	Employment	Health
RNCC: Irrigated	Security	Health	Water
RNCC: Livestock	Water	Health	Security
RNCC: Rainfed	Security	Education (general)	Health
UCC	Security	Employment	Education (general)
UNCC	Water	Health	Employment

Urban and CC mantaqas reported access to employment opportunities as a priority for development (see Table 3), yet were also those mantaqas with the highest rates of skilled labour and formal employment agreements. While access to employment opportunities was the fourth most frequently reported factor for development overall (42%), this prioritization may suggest that basic needs (e.g. drinking water, access to healthcare) are better met in Urban and CC mantaqas, leading households in these mantaqas to have elevated development priorities. It may also reflect the higher dependency of urban mantaqas on market economies, and employment is recognized as an effective way to meet households' basic needs in an urban setting. Still, KIs in these mantaqas echoed the prioritization of employment for development planning, with some specifying that the area needed employment opportunities for specific groups, such as women and youth. These mantaqas are also those in which households reported the greatest awareness and participation in development planning processes, so the alignment of priorities for households and KIs was expected.

CONCLUSIONS

The findings of the AGORA baseline report aimed at creating a baseline understanding of the level of access to services, households' socioeconomic status, and community planning inclusiveness in manteqas in which the SRDP IV operates. Findings might benefit the identification of opportunities for active participation of local authorities and citizens in community-driven initiatives at the mantaqa level, an often overlooked delineation of population. This assessment is based on the assumption that an understanding of the interaction of periodic (conflict, drought) and traditional (gender roles) phenomena in Afghanistan with the socioeconomic landscapes of different mantaqa types will further aid shaping development planning. Three patterns persisted throughout the assessment findings, and across them are similar rates of high or low indicators suggesting a correlation between inclusive governance, socioeconomic status, and service provision.

First, findings indicate that **communities in RNCC:Irrigated mantaqas are the most vulnerable compared to other mantaqas, and are most likely to have the greatest needs for intervention.** Socio-economically, households in these mantaqas reported the lowest average income for the 30 days prior to data collection, the highest dependence on loans or humanitarian assistance as a primary source of income, and little capacity to repay these loans in the next 6 months. Basic services are limited in availability and accessibility, and those that are available were perceived to be of poorer quality. RNCC:Irrigated households are also the least engaged and involved in community-level discussions, are more likely to report low confidence that their feedback was taken into account, and are the least likely to attend similar discussions in the coming year. Ultimately, the findings indicate that basic needs and services access are not sufficiently met, suggesting communities need additional support through sustainable development initiatives. Further initiatives to improve awareness of community meetings and feedback mechanisms may also benefit development and community inclusivity.

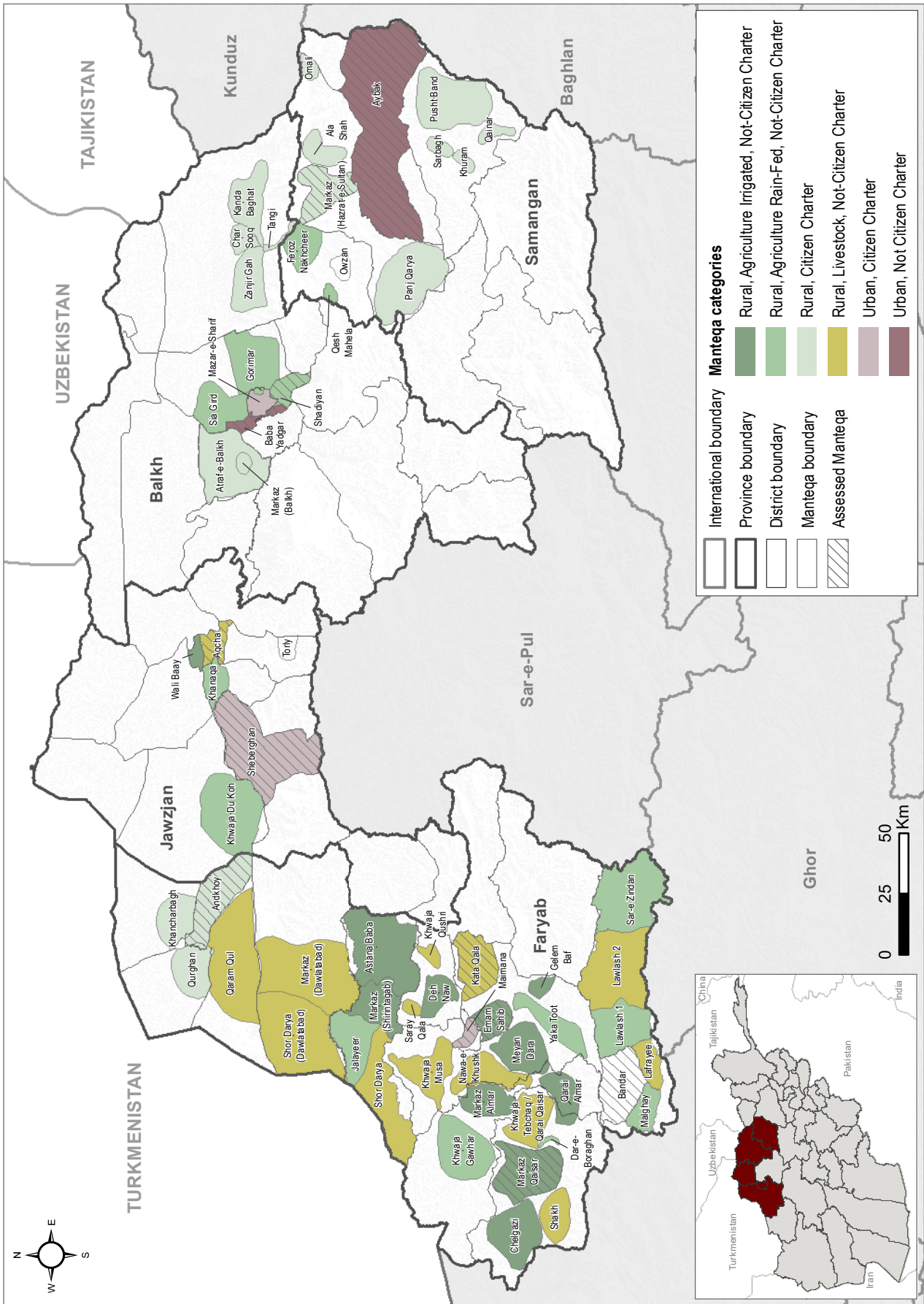
Second, **communities in Urban and CC mantaqas were found to be more secure and have more advanced intervention needs.** These mantaqas were generally more income secure than RNCC mantaqas; the reported income was highest amongst UCC mantaqas, which also had the highest proportions of households in formal employment and skilled labour as well as the highest proportion of breadwinners reportedly working under formal employment contracts. Further, over 60% of households in these mantaqa types had acceptable or high service access. In particular, households in urban and CC mantaqas reported higher rates of access to hospitals, a factor demonstrated to be impactful when determining the service access index. Households were also most aware, engaged and confident in terms of community development planning, suggesting they have more advanced development needs, are better aware of what these needs are to improve their communities, and how they may be best implemented.

Last, **female-headed households were found to be in greater need of support than male-headed households, regardless of mantaqa typology.** Women play an important role in reducing food insecurity, poverty, and natural resource management, yet reported a continued lack of access to resources and opportunities to become more independent, engaged and income secure. In terms of livelihood, nearly twice the number of female-headed households had poor income security compared to male-headed. In addition, female-headed households were less aware of and less engaged with local mechanisms; Far fewer were aware of community-level meetings to discuss local development planning than male-headed households, and they reported lower confidence in the inclusivity and effectiveness of these processes. This population strata faces a unique set of challenges regarding development and engagement, regardless of mantaqa classification, which may be eased with targeted interventions in development planning and engagement.

These themes, and the detailed findings of this baseline report, can be used to support the development of SRDP IV planning for interventions surrounding socio-economic vulnerabilities, available resources and services, and engagement in local planning for communities in Northern Afghanistan. Uniquely, this report has done so at the mantaqa level, an often-overlooked population strata for NGO programming. With this foundation, SRDP IV programming can adapt to better identify interventions relevant for the populations in need based on the communities' own reporting and priorities.

ANNEXES

Annex 1: Map of manteqa typologies in assessed provinces



Annex 2: Manteqa sampling

Provinces	Districts	Manteqas	Security level	Category	Population	KII sampling	KI interviewed	HH interviewed
Samangan	Hazrat-e-Sultan	Ala Shah	High	Rural, Citizen Charter	11,384	5	6	0
Faryab	Andkhoy	Andkhoy	Low	Rural, Citizen Charter	77,640	7	9	294
Jawzjan	Aqcha	Aqcha	Low	Rural, Livestock, Non-Citizen Charter	80,777	4	20	285
Faryab	Shirintagab	Asiana Baba	High	Rural, Cultivation, Irrigated, Non-Citizen Charter	28,349	7	7	0
Balkh	Balkh	Atraf-e-Balkh	Medium	Rural, Citizen Charter	116,743	12	9	0
Samangan	Aybak	Aybak	Low	Urban, Non-Citizen Charter	200,173	3	5	262
Balkh	Nahr-e-Shahi	Baba Yadgar	Low	Urban, Non-Citizen Charter	133,455	6	15	220
Faryab	Kohistan	Bandar	Medium	Rural, Cultivation, Rain-Fed, Non-Citizen Charter	30,571	7	7	388
Balkh	Khulm	Char Sooq	Low	Rural, Citizen Charter	14,678	12	5	0
Faryab	Qaisar	Chehgazi	High	Rural, Cultivation, Irrigated, Non-Citizen Charter	65,706	8	1	0
Faryab	Qaisar	Dara-e-Boraghan	Medium	Rural, Cultivation, Rain-Fed, Non-Citizen Charter	5,712	11	0	0
Faryab	Khawaja Sabz Posh	Deh Naw	Low	Rural, Cultivation, Irrigated, Non-Citizen Charter	12,204	5	5	0
Faryab	Pashtunkot	Emam Sahib	Low	Rural, Cultivation, Irrigated, Non-Citizen Charter	47,740	11	5	169
Samangan	Feroz Nakhcheer	Feroz Nakhcheer	Low	Rural, Cultivation, Rain-Fed, Non-Citizen Charter	23,206	3	6	0
Faryab	Pashtunkot	Gelem Baf	non acc.	Rural, Cultivation, Irrigated, Non-Citizen Charter	16,458	9	5	0
Balkh	Nahr-e-Shahi	Gorimar	Low	Rural, Cultivation, Rain-Fed, Non-Citizen Charter	123,160	10	12	0
Faryab	Shirintagab	Jalayeer	Medium	Rural, Cultivation, Rain-Fed, Non-Citizen Charter	2,912	6	3	0
Balkh	Khulm	Kanda Baghat	Low	Rural, Citizen Charter	14,360	7	5	0
Faryab	Pashtunkot	Kata Qala	Medium	Rural, Livestock, Non-Citizen Charter	57,808	3	6	180
Jawzjan	Khanaqa	Khanaqa	Medium	Rural, Cultivation, Rain-Fed, Non-Citizen Charter	38,857	7	10	0
Faryab	Khancharbagh	Khancharbagh	Low	Rural, Citizen Charter	28,439	7	0	0
Samangan	Khuram wa Sarbagh	Khuram	Low	Rural, Citizen Charter	17,952	4	7	0
Jawzjan	Khawaja Du Koh	Khawaja Du Koh	Low	Rural, Cultivation, Rain-Fed, Non-Citizen Charter	39,643	8	7	0
Faryab	Almar	Khawaja Gawhar	Medium	Rural, Cultivation, Rain-Fed, Non-Citizen Charter	46,369	6	9	0
Faryab	Pashtunkot	Khawaja Musa	Medium	Rural, Livestock, Non-Citizen Charter	87,539	7	4	0
Faryab	Khawaja Sabz Posh	Khawaja Qushri	Medium	Rural, Livestock, Non-Citizen Charter	2,572	9	7	0
Faryab	Qaisar	Qarat Qaisar	Medium	Rural, Livestock, Non-Citizen Charter	44,545	6	7	0
Faryab	Kohistan	Lafrayee	Medium	Rural, Livestock, Non-Citizen Charter	17,915	6	7	0
Faryab	Kohistan	Lawlash 1	Medium	Rural, Cultivation, Rain-Fed, Non-Citizen Charter	29,240	7	10	0
Faryab	Kohistan	Lawlash 2	Medium	Rural, Livestock, Non-Citizen Charter	24,625	12	7	0
Faryab	Maimana	Maimana	Low	Urban, Citizen Charter	103,887	11	11	168
Faryab	Kohistan	Malghay	non acc.	Rural, Cultivation, Rain-Fed, Non-Citizen Charter	31,110	10	0	0
Balkh	Balkh	Markaz (Balkh)	Low	Rural, Citizen Charter	52,684	11	11	0

Provinces	Districts	Manteqas	Security level	Category	Population	KII sampling	KI interviewed	HH interviewed
Faryab	Dawlatabad	Markaz (Dawlatabad)	Low	Rural, Livestock, Non-Citizen Charter	58,839	5	9	0
Samangan	Hazrat-e-Sultan	Markaz (Hazrat-e-Sultan)	Low	Rural, Citizen Charter	24,840	9	7	139
Faryab	Shirintagab	Markaz (Shirintagab)	Low	Rural, Cultivation, Irrigated, Non-Citizen Charter	46,942	12	8	0
Faryab	Almar	Markaz Almar	Medium	Rural, Cultivation, Irrigated, Non-Citizen Charter	81,572	8	10	0
Faryab	Qaisar	Markaz Qaisar	Low	Rural, Cultivation, Irrigated, Non-Citizen Charter	72,156	10	25	348
Balkh	Mazar-e-Sharif	Mazar-e-Sharif	Low	Urban, Citizen Charter	212,276	4	13	0
Faryab	Pashtunkot	Meyan Dara	High	Rural, Cultivation, Irrigated, Non-Citizen Charter	68,947	9	11	0
Faryab	Pashtunkot	Nawa-e-Khushk	non acc.	Rural, Livestock, Non-Citizen Charter	44,920	11	8	0
Samangan	Hazrat-e-Sultan	Omali	non acc.	Rural, Citizen Charter	2,400	10	0	0
Samangan	Feroz Nakhcheer	Owzan	Medium	Rural, Cultivation, Irrigated, Non-Citizen Charter	1,740	8	1	0
Samangan	Hazrat-e-Sultan	Panj Qarya	non acc.	Rural, Citizen Charter	31,352	4	6	0
Samangan	Khuram wa Sarbagh	Pusht Band	Medium	Rural, Citizen Charter	26,632	8	3	0
Samangan	Khuram wa Sarbagh	Qainar	Low	Rural, Citizen Charter	6,992	9	1	0
Faryab	Almar	Qarai Almar	Medium	Rural, Cultivation, Irrigated, Non-Citizen Charter	38,502	8	9	0
Faryab	Qaram Qul	Qaram Qul	Medium	Rural, Livestock, Non-Citizen Charter	35,740	3	0	0
Samangan	Feroz Nakhcheer	Qesh Mahela	Medium	Rural, Cultivation, Rain-Fed, Non-Citizen Charter	1,530	3	1	0
Faryab	Qurghan	Qurghan	Low	Rural, Citizen Charter	49,899	7	0	0
Faryab	Khwaja Sabz Posh	Saray Qala	Medium	Rural, Livestock, Non-Citizen Charter	20,845	8	6	0
Samangan	Khuram wa Sarbagh	Sarbagh	Low	Rural, Citizen Charter	13,440	6	4	0
Faryab	Kohistan	Sar-e Zindan	non acc.	Rural, Cultivation, Rain-Fed, Non-Citizen Charter	21,695	8	0	0
Balkh	Nahr-e-Shahi	Shadiyan	Low	Rural, Cultivation, Rain-Fed, Non-Citizen Charter	3,250	3	3	43
Faryab	Qaisar	Shakh	High	Rural, Livestock, Non-Citizen Charter	38,510	8	5	0
Jawzjan	Sheberghan	Sheberghan	Low	Urban, Citizen Charter	229,151	12	9	313
Faryab	Dawlatabad	Shor Darya	Medium	Rural, Livestock, Non-Citizen Charter	13,576	5	3	0
Faryab	Shirintagab	Shor Darya	Medium	Rural, Livestock, Non-Citizen Charter	1,628	3	0	0
Balkh	Nahr-e-Shahi	Sia Gird	Medium	Rural, Cultivation, Rain-Fed, Non-Citizen Charter	75,735	7	7	0
Balkh	Khulm	Tangi	Low	Rural, Citizen Charter	4,815	5	4	0
Jawzjan	Aqcha	Torly	Medium	Rural, Citizen Charter	5,035	9	0	0
Jawzjan	Aqcha	Wali Baay	High	Rural, Cultivation, Irrigated, Non-Citizen Charter	37,886	6	0	0
Faryab	Pashtunkot	Yaka Toot	Medium	Rural, Cultivation, Rain-Fed, Non-Citizen Charter	46,398	7	14	0
Balkh	Khulm	Zanjir Gah	Low	Rural, Citizen Charter	22,511	10	6	0

Annex 3: Index composition

Income Security

Relevant questionnaire questions	Questionnaire answer	Weight
What was the total cash income from all sources for your households in the last 30 days (in AFN)?	AFN > 1000 = 1 AFN < 1000 = 0	3
If currently in debt, does your households have the means or capacity to repay this loan in the coming six months?	Yes = 1 N/A (household had no debt) = 1 No = 0	2
What kind of employment agreement does the main breadwinner have?	Owner of business / shop = 1 Formal (written) agreement (1 month or longer) = 1 Informal (verbal) day-to-day agreement = 0 Empty = N/A Other = N/A	2
Does the average monthly (30 days) income from this source stay the same for most times in the past year?	Yes = 1 No = 0	1
What is your household's primary source of income?	Farming/Agriculture = 1 Livestock production = 1 Formal employment: private or public sector employee = 1 Small business / sales / rent = 1 Skilled labour: Carpenter, electrician, mechanic, driver, construction = 1 Unskilled labour: domestic work, manual labour = 0 Borrowing / loans / humanitarian assistance = 0 Other = N/A	1
How many adult household members 25 years and older are earning an income outside of the household AND How many young adult household members 18-25 years are earning an income outside of the household?	DR = (number of all HH members – number of working HH members 18 or older [which is divided into two categories 18-24 and 25 or older]) / (number of working HH members 18 [which is divided into two categories 18-24 and 25 or older]) 0-4 = 0 >5 = 1	1

Calculation of the composite indicator

- Step 1: Multiply the scores of the individual factors by their respective weights
- Step 2: Add up the multiplied scored of all factors
- Step 3: Divide the overall sum by 10
- Step 4: The higher the HH's score, the higher their income security

Ranking

- % of households scored 0 – 0.25 = Poor income security
- % of households scored 0.26 – 0.5 = Borderline income security
- % of households scored 0.51 – 0.75 = Acceptable income security
- % of households scored 0.76 – 1 = Good income security

Access to Basic Services

Relevant questionnaire questions	Questionnaire answer	Weight
<i>Transport</i>		
Is your area connected to other areas of the district by roads? AND Are you able to access and use the transportation services available in your area?	Yes = 1 No = 0 If the access question was skipped because the answer to connection was 'no', the score for transport should be 0	4
<i>Primary education (boys and girls under 18)</i>		
Do boys (under 18) within your household have access to education services? AND Do boys/girls (under 18) within your household have access to primary education services? AND Do boys/girls (under 18) within your household have access to community-led education services?	Yes = 1 No = 0 If the preceding two questions were skipped because no boy in the household had access to primary nor community education, the score for education should be 0 Add the number of the above, if the answer is anything higher than 0, the Primary Education Boys score should be '1', otherwise '0'	1
<i>Secondary education (boys and girls under 18)</i>		
Do boys (under 18) within your household have access to secondary education services? AND Do boys/girls (under 18) within your household have access to education services?	Yes = 1 No = 0 If the preceding question was skipped because no boy in the households had access to secondary education, the score for Secondary education should be '0'	1
<i>Health</i>		
Is the nearest functioning hospital to your household, within walking distance or accessible by transportation services? AND Is the nearest functioning clinic to your household, within walking distance or accessible by transportation services?	Yes = 1 No = 0 Add the number of the above. If the answer is anything higher than 0, the Healthcare score should be '1', otherwise '0'.	4
<i>WASH</i>		
What is the main source of drinking water used by your household?	Handpump – private or public = 1 Piped water – private or municipal = 1 Spring, well or kariz – protected = 1 Spring, well or kariz – unprotected = 0 Surface water (river/stream, irrigation) = 0 Water trucking = 0 Other = 0	4
<i>Energy</i>		
What is the main source of energy used by households for heating and cooking?	Wood = 1 LPG = 1 Electricity = 1 Dung = 0 Coal = 0 Charcoal = 0	4

Calculation for the composite index

- Step 1: Multiply the scores of the individual factors by their respective weight
- Step 2: Add up the multiplied scores of all factors
- Step 3: Divide the overall sum by 20
- Step 4: The higher the household score, the higher their access to basic services

Ranking

- % of households scored 0 – 0.25 = Poor service access
- % of households scored 0.26 – 0.5 = Moderate service access
- % of households scored 0.51 – 0.75 = Acceptable service access
- % of households scored 0.76 – 1 = High service access



Satisfaction with public services

Relevant questionnaire questions	Response options	Weight
How satisfied are you with the quality and availability of road conditions in your area?	1-3 = 0 4-5 = 1	1
How satisfied are you with the quality and availability of transportation services in your area?	1-3 = 0 4-5 = 1	1
How satisfied are you with the quality and availability of education services for boys in these facilities?	1-3 = 0 4-5 = 1	1
How satisfied are you with the quality and availability of education services for girls in these facilities?	1-3 = 0 4-5 = 1	1
How satisfied are you with the quality and availability of healthcare services (hospital or clinic) in these facilities?	1-3 = 0 4-5 = 1	2
How satisfied are you with the quantity/amount of water available from this source?	1-3 = 0 4-5 = 1	1
How satisfied are you with the quality of water available from this source?	1-3 = 0 4-5 = 1	1
How satisfied are you with the quality and availability of energy sources available for cooking and heating in your area?	1-3 = 0 4-5 = 1	2

Calculation of the composite index

Step 1: Multiply the scores of the individual factors by their respective weight

Step 2: Add up the multiplied scores of all factors

Step 3: Divide the overall sum by 10

Step 4: The higher the household's score, the higher their satisfaction with basic services

Ranking

% of households scored 0 – 0.25 = Poor satisfaction with services

% of households scored 0.26 – 0.5 = Moderate satisfaction with services

% of households scored 0.51 – 0.75 = Acceptable satisfaction with services

% of households scored 0.76 – 1 = High satisfaction with services