AFGHANISTAN

Hard to Reach Districts

Map Collection
South Region

January 2020

OCHA

REACH Informing more effective humanitarian action

TABLE OF CONTENTS

CONTEXT AND METHODOLOGY 3
COVERAGE MAP 4
HILMAND 5
BAGHRAN DISTRICT 5
DEH-E-SHU DISTRICT 6
GARMSER DISTRICT 7
LASHKARGAH DISTRICT 8
MUSA QALA DISTRICT 9
NAD-E-ALI DISTRICT 10
NAHR-E-SARAJ DISTRICT 11
NAWZAD DISTRICT 12
REG-E-KHAN NISHIN DISTRICT 13
SANGIN DISTRICT 14
KANDAHAR 15
ARGHESTAN DISTRICT 15
GHORAK DISTRICT 16
KHAKREZ DISTRICT 17
MAIWAND DISTRICT 18
MARUF DISTRICT 19
NESH DISTRICT 20
REG DISTRICT 21
SHAH WALI KOT DISTRICT 22
SHORABAK DISTRICT 23
ZHERAY DISTRICT 24
URUZGAN 25
CHINARTO DISTRICT 25
CHORA DISTRICT 26
DEHRAOUD DISTRICT 27
KHAS URUZGAN DISTRICT 28
SHAHID-E-HASSAS DISTRICT 29
TIRINKOT DISTRICT 30
ZABUL 31
ARGHANDAB DISTRICT 31
DAYCHOPAN DISTRICT 32
KAKAR DISTRICT 33
MIZAN DISTRICT 34
SHAH JOI DISTRICT 35

CONTEXT AND METHODOLOGY

Overview

The Hard to Reach (HtR) assessment aims to identify and regularly monitor humanitarian needs and vulnerabilities of populations in districts with high levels of innaccessibility. The specific objective of this assessment is to provide an evidence-base to support humanitarian actors' understanding of needs across all areas of Afghanistan, irrespective of access constraints, in order to inform adequate humanitarian targeting and programming. It is important to note that inaccessibility does not necessarily translate into greater need, rather, innaccessibility means that information on needs in inaccesbible area is scarcer. This booklet presents the first and second round of mapping and data collection, on the basis of which, REACH will conduct continuous monitoring rounds of needs assessments in the 120 most inaccessible districts in Afghanistan, every 4 months.

In order to ensure broad coverage of areas and populations in each HtR district, each district was mapped and divided into Basic Service Units (BSUs). REACH enumerators conducted Key Informant Interviews (KII) and participatory mapping sessions with community representatives, in order to identify and map out BSUs. These were defined as geographic areas that have common demographic/socio-economic features and in which settlements rely on the same basic services and facilities, such as health facilities, markets, and schools.

This map collection contains BSU maps for all 120 districts covered in the first and second round of the needs assessment. It is complementary to the Hard to Reach needs assessment factsheet booklet.[1] The mapping activities aimed at providing a comprehensive source of location data to be able to (1) provide a geographic reference for the location of government schools, health services and big markets; (2) inform the humanitarian response in Afghanistan at an operational level; (3) provide a simple visual medium to share with partners to verify and cross-check the accuracy of the data collected.

Methodology

The mapping of the 120 districts was done in three phases: 70 districts were mapped in August 2018, 30 districts were mapped in August 2019 and 20 districts were mapped in December 2019.

The mapping component of the assessment consisted of the following consecutive activities: (1) map settlements and update the settlement list available for each district; (2) identify the presence and access of services for each settlement; (3) identify settlements belonging to each BSU. The mapping was based on discussions with Key Informants (KI) and meetings with representatives of district shuras and ministries.[2] Given the high level of inaccessibility conditions of the districts targetted (presence of non-government armed groups, roads/winter conditions, conflict activities, etc.) three mapping scenarios were identified in order to ensure the availability of the KI and the safety of the enumerators.

Mapping scenarios:

Since each HtR disctrict has differing risk and accessibility levels, three methodology scenarios were developed to map districts and ensure that data collected could be tracked.

For each scenario, the first step was to determine the availability of shura and ministries within the districts. Selected profiles that could be contacted as KIs to provide preliminary information on settlements and basic services were (people working in) village administration, Community Development Councils, the Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development, civil society associations, district education departments, health shura representatives, district health department representatives, shura or education district principles, and community-based educators.

Scenario 1: Participartory mapping with shura representatives

Security allows for a participatory mapping excercice in the district center; the availability of the shura representatives fits into the timeframe of the assessment, and KIs accept to travel to the discussion location without compensation.

Scenario 2: Participartory mapping with KIs

Security allows for a participatory mapping excercice in the district center; but shura representatives are not available during this time frame and other type of KIs are found (government representatives, village leaders, teachers, doctors, etc.) who are willing to travel to the discussion location without compensation. In this case, the enumerator ensures to have representatives of different parts of the district present in the participatory mapping exercise.

Scenario 3: No participatory mapping possible. Individual visit of shura representatives and/or KIs

Security does not allow for a participatory mapping excercice, therefore enumerators visit representatives of the shura or representatives of the government individually to gather information until he/she is able to update all settlements and map all basic services and BSU boundaries. The representatives are not in the district center and therefore the enumerator has to travel around the district.

Activities:

(1) Settlement update:

The first step of the mapping exercice was to collect information at district government level to update the Afghan Geodesy and Cartography Head Office (AGCHO) settlement database and determine: (1) if the settlement exists or not; (2) if the settlement name is spelled correctly; (3) if the location of the settlement is correct; (4) if there are any settlements missing.

(2) Basic service mapping:

The second step was to collect information on the availability and location of services at the settlement level. The settlement services that were mapped were: government schools; major mosque (friday mosque); small markets (< 20 shops); major markets (> 20 shops); madrassa (religious schools); hospitals; clinics (Basic Health Clinics (BHC) and Community Health Clinics (CHC)).

(3) BSU boundaries mapping:

After the identification of the location of basic services within districts (step 2), participatory mapping sessions with community representatives were held to determine the areas of support of these services (i.e. which settlements share which services), indicating the boundaries of the BSUs within the district.

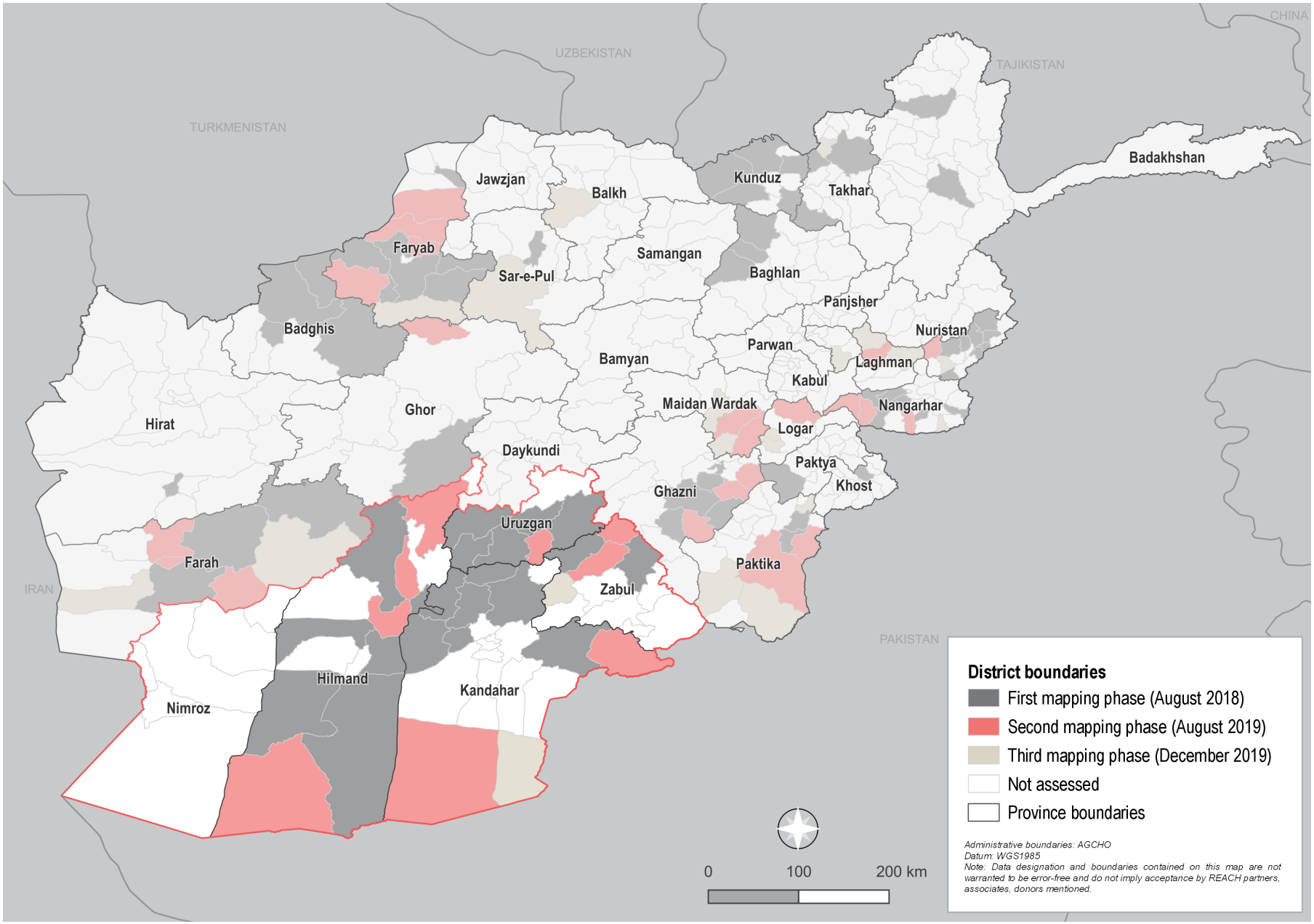
Limitation

The methodology for the mapping has evolved with each round of data collection even though efforts to harmonize the methodology throughout have been made. It is therefore possible to see discrepencies on how BSUs are defined in different districts; this does not affect the validity of the data regarding the location of basic services. Further, the data has not been verified yet through secondary sources and is based solely on this REACH assessment. The findings should therefore be considered as indicative only.

1 Link to the round 1 Hard to Reach needs assessment available **here.**
2 Shuras are local councils composed of village leaders, elders, representatives. More information on shuras **here**.

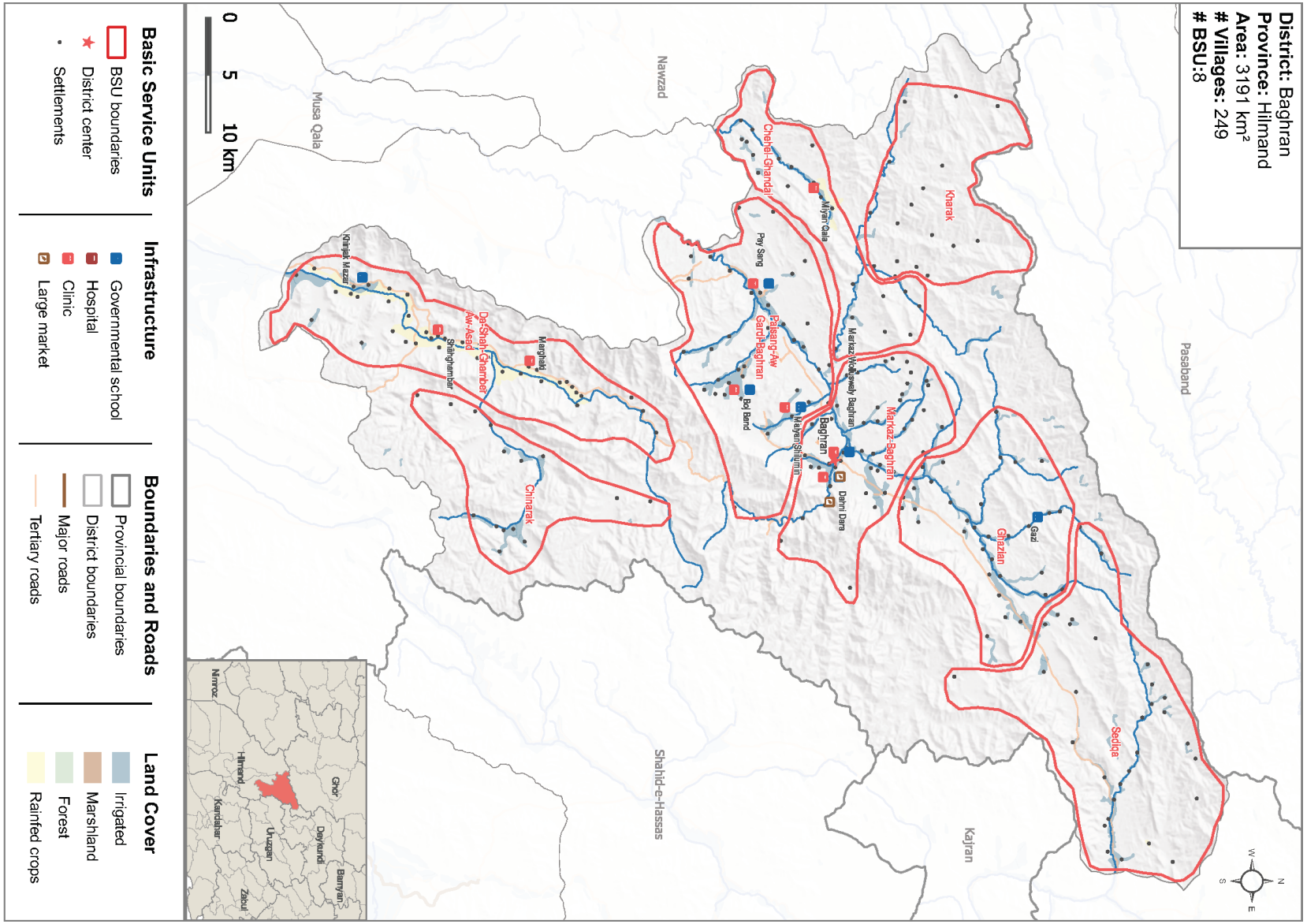
COVERAGE MAP

HTR | 2019
AFGHANISTAN



HILMAND
BAGHRAN DISTRICT

HTR | 2020
AFGHANISTAN



Projection: WGS84
Data sources: Afghan Geodesy and Cartography Head Office (AGCHO): Administrative boundaries, Land cover, DEM and hydrography
REACH: Basic Service Units boundaries, settlements, health services, education facilities and markets. Open Street Map (OSM): Roads
Note: Data, designations and boundaries contained on this map are not warranted to be error-free and do not imply acceptance by the REACH partners, associated, donors mentioned on this map.

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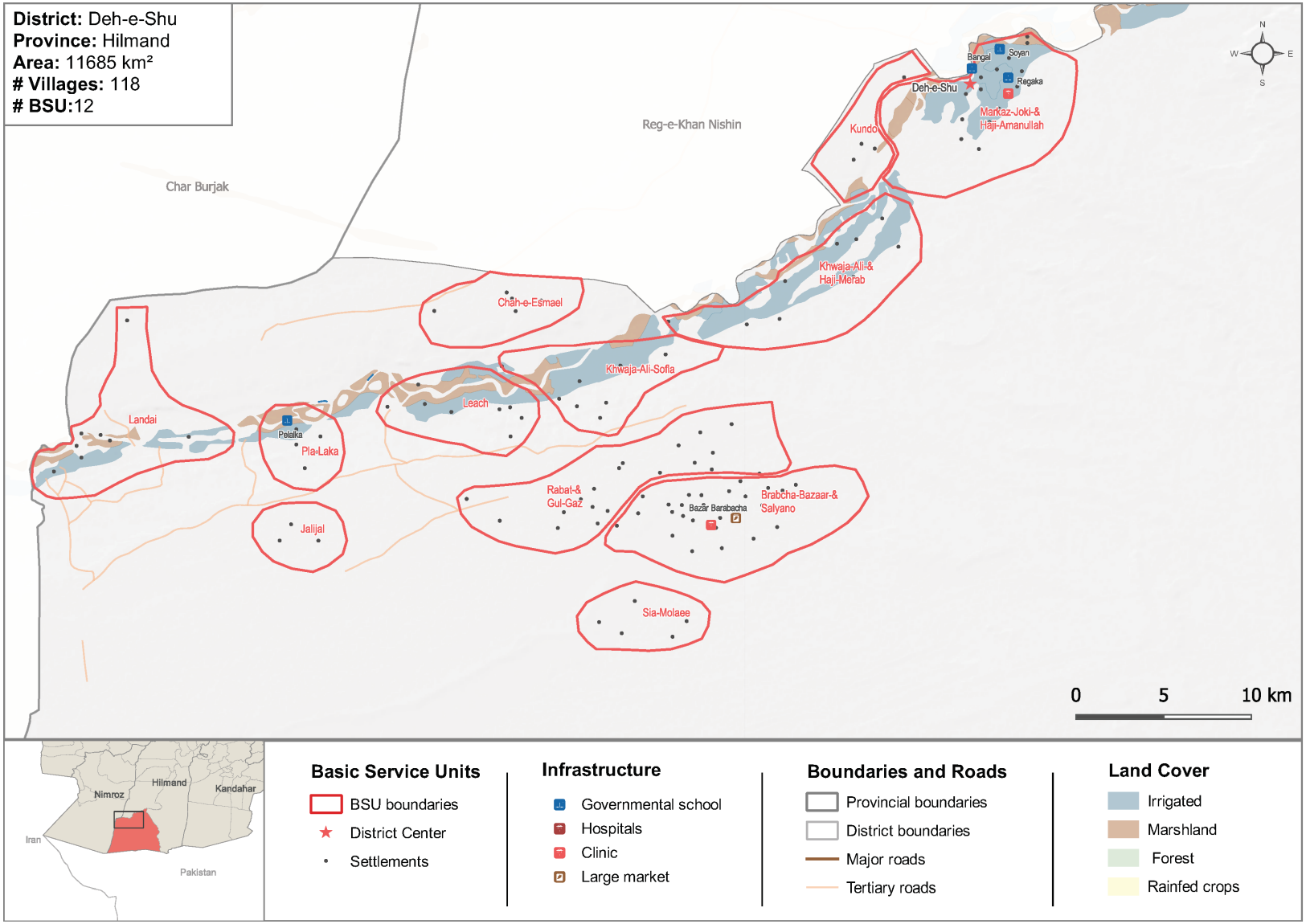
HILMAND
DEH-E-SHU DISTRICT



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HILMAND
GARMSER DISTRICT

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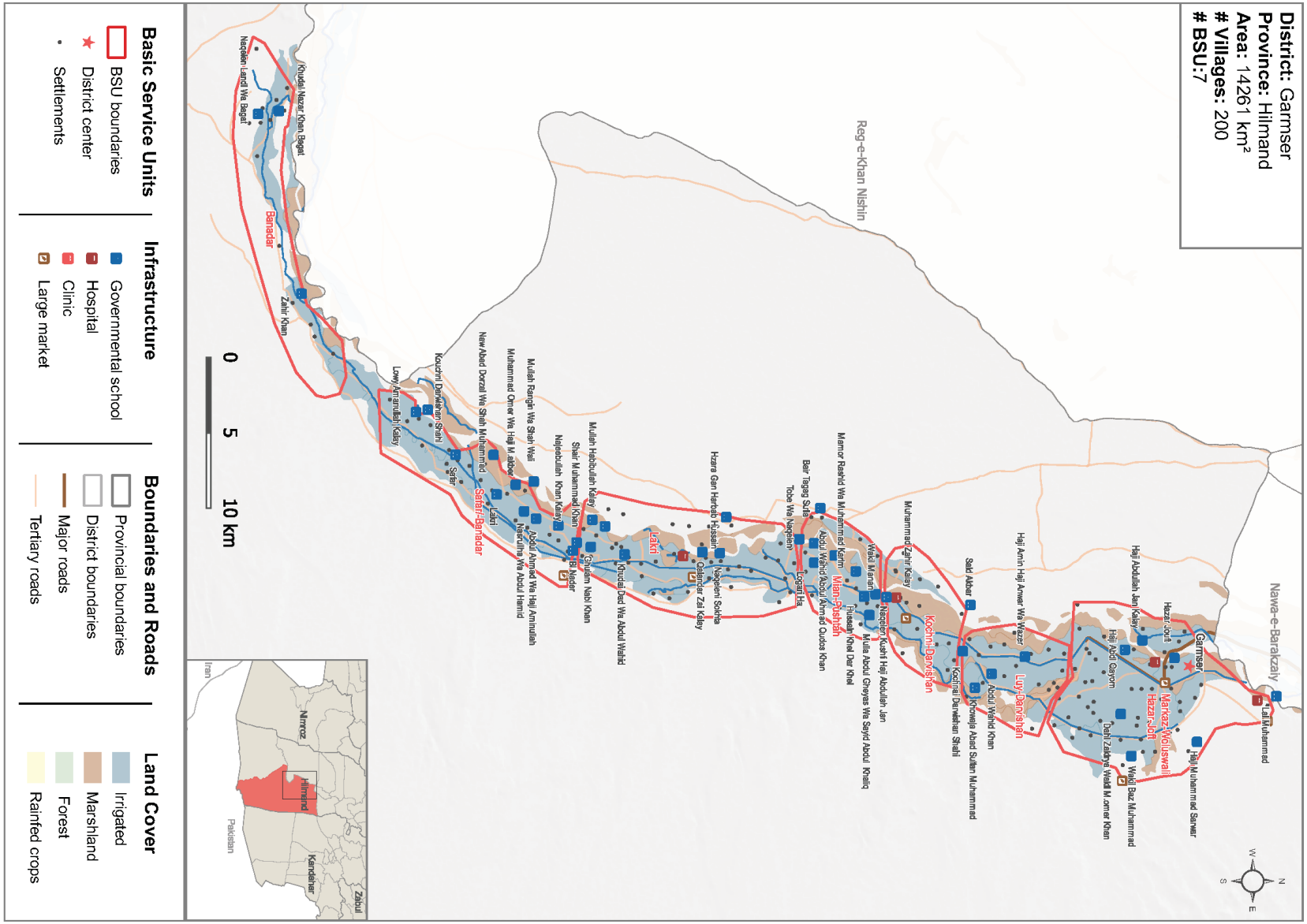

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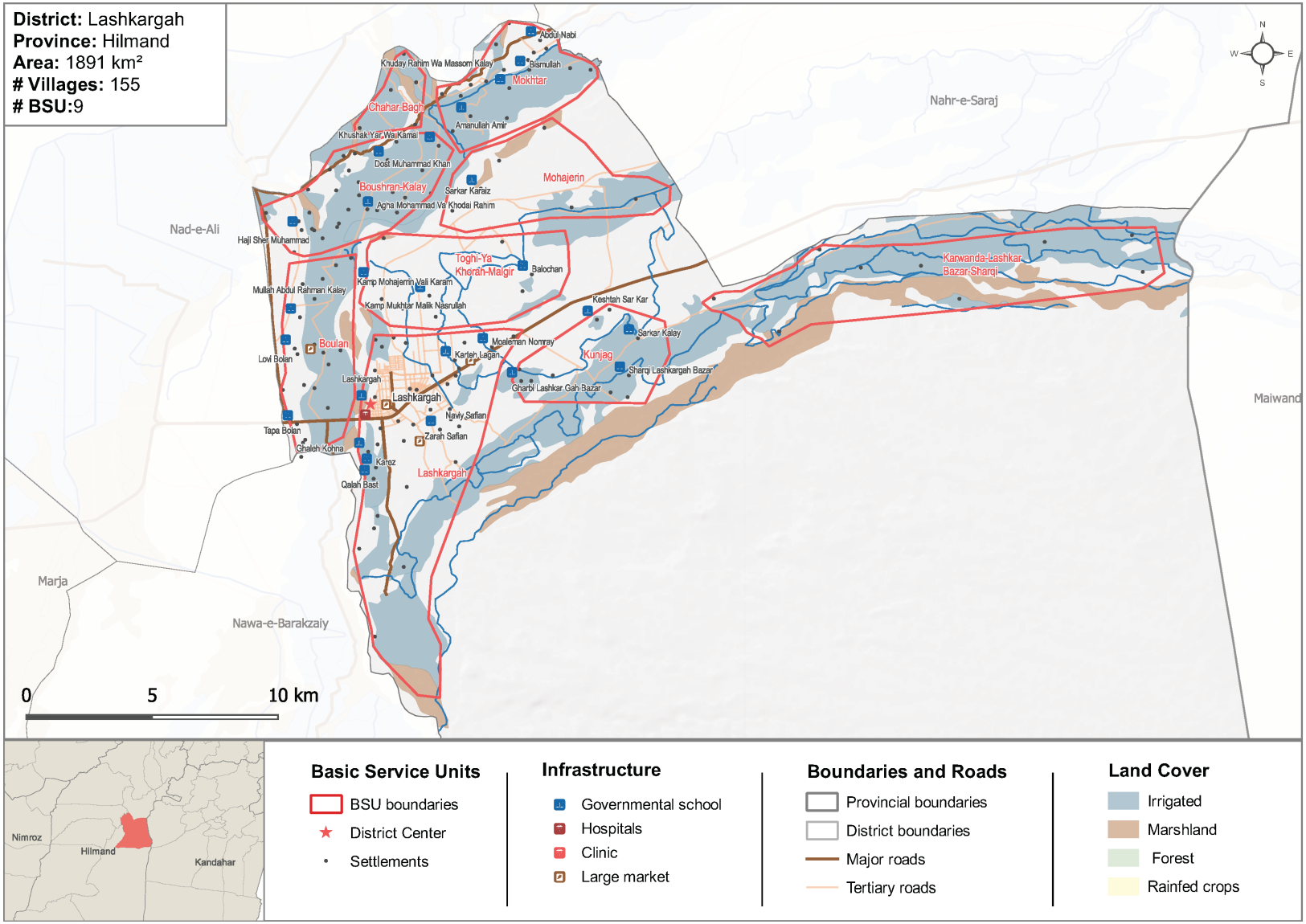
LASHKARGAH DISTRICT



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MUSA QALA DISTRICT

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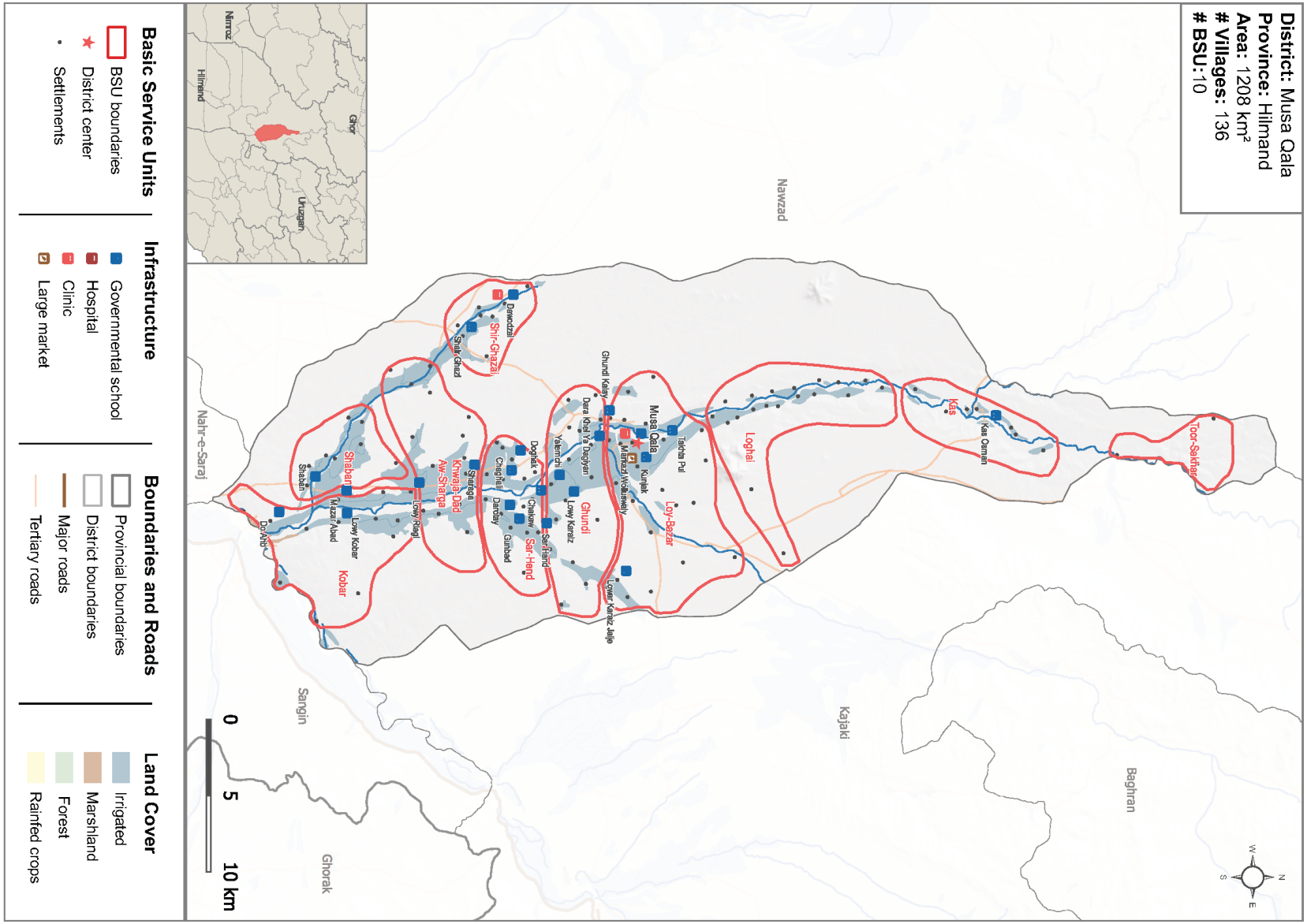

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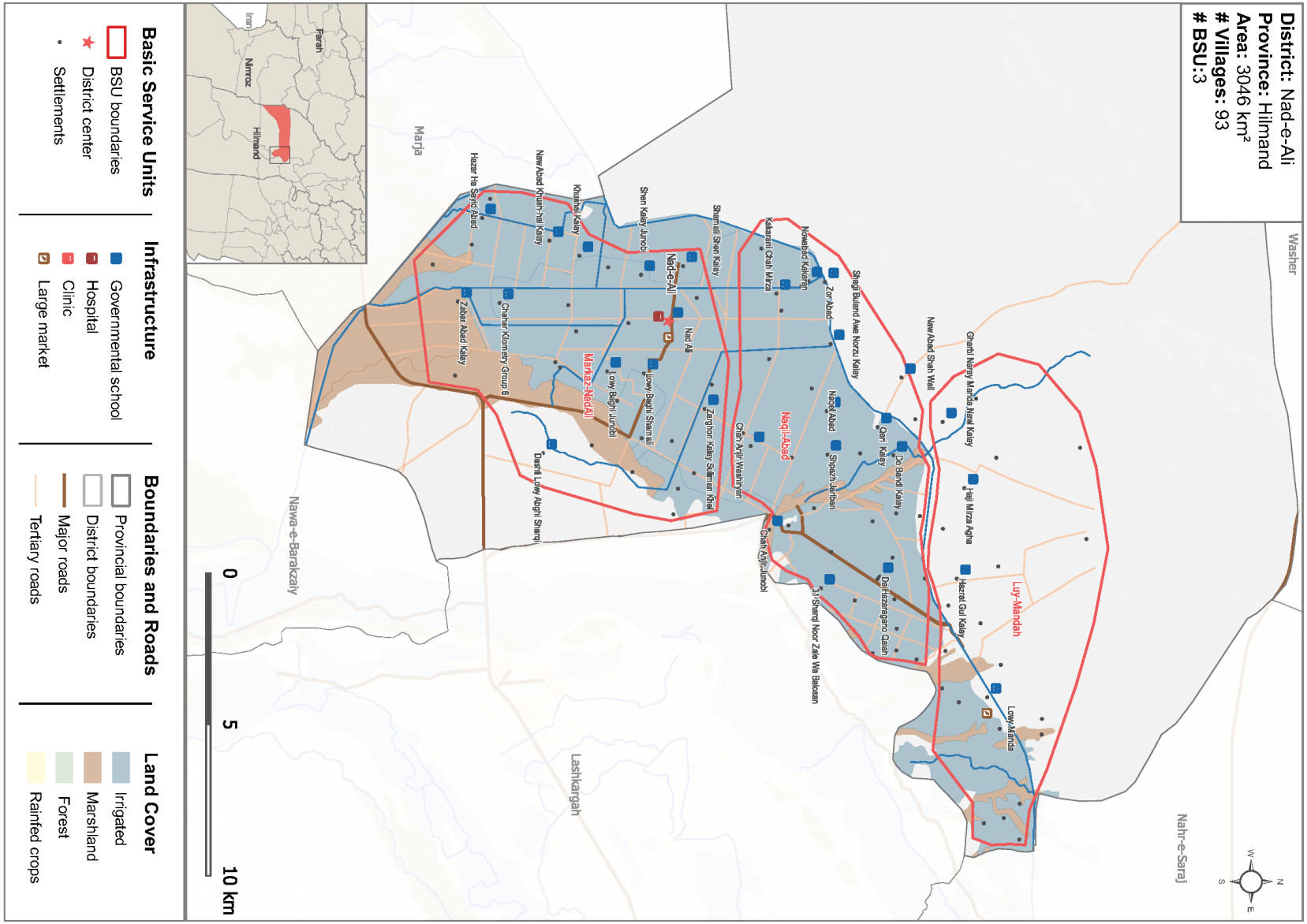
NAD-E-ALI DISTRICT



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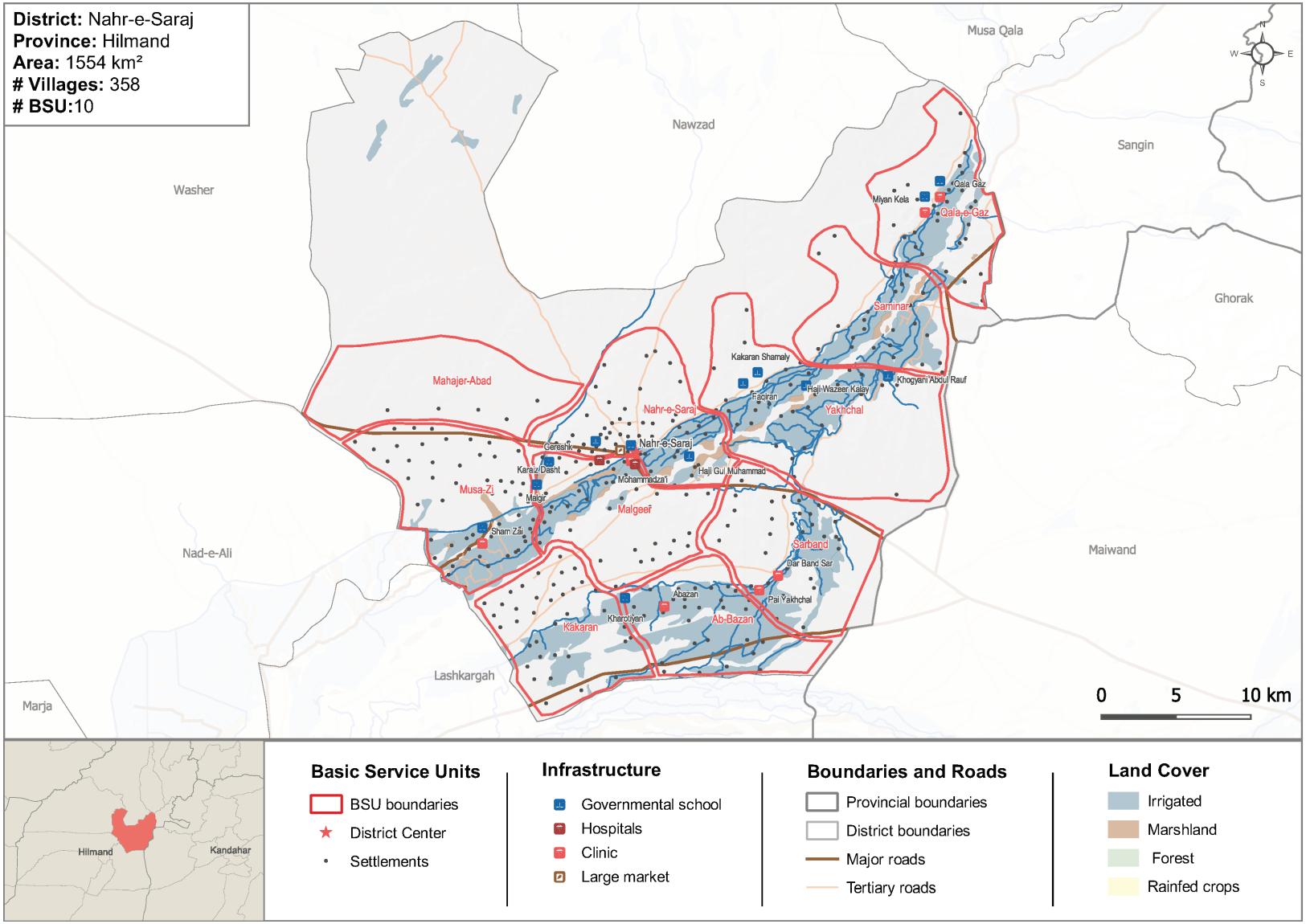
NAHR-E-SARAJ DISTRICT



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HILMAND
NAWZAD DISTRICT

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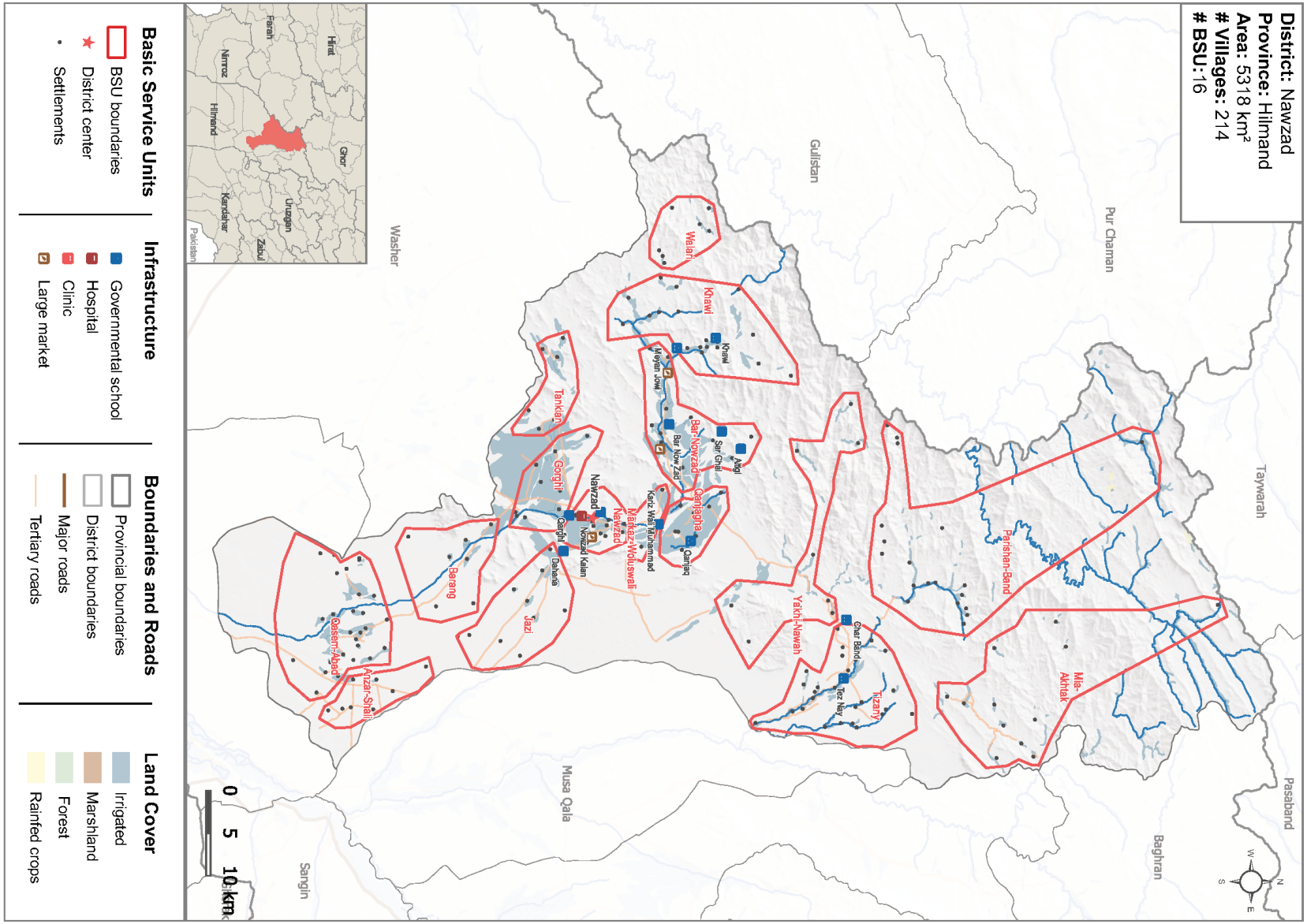

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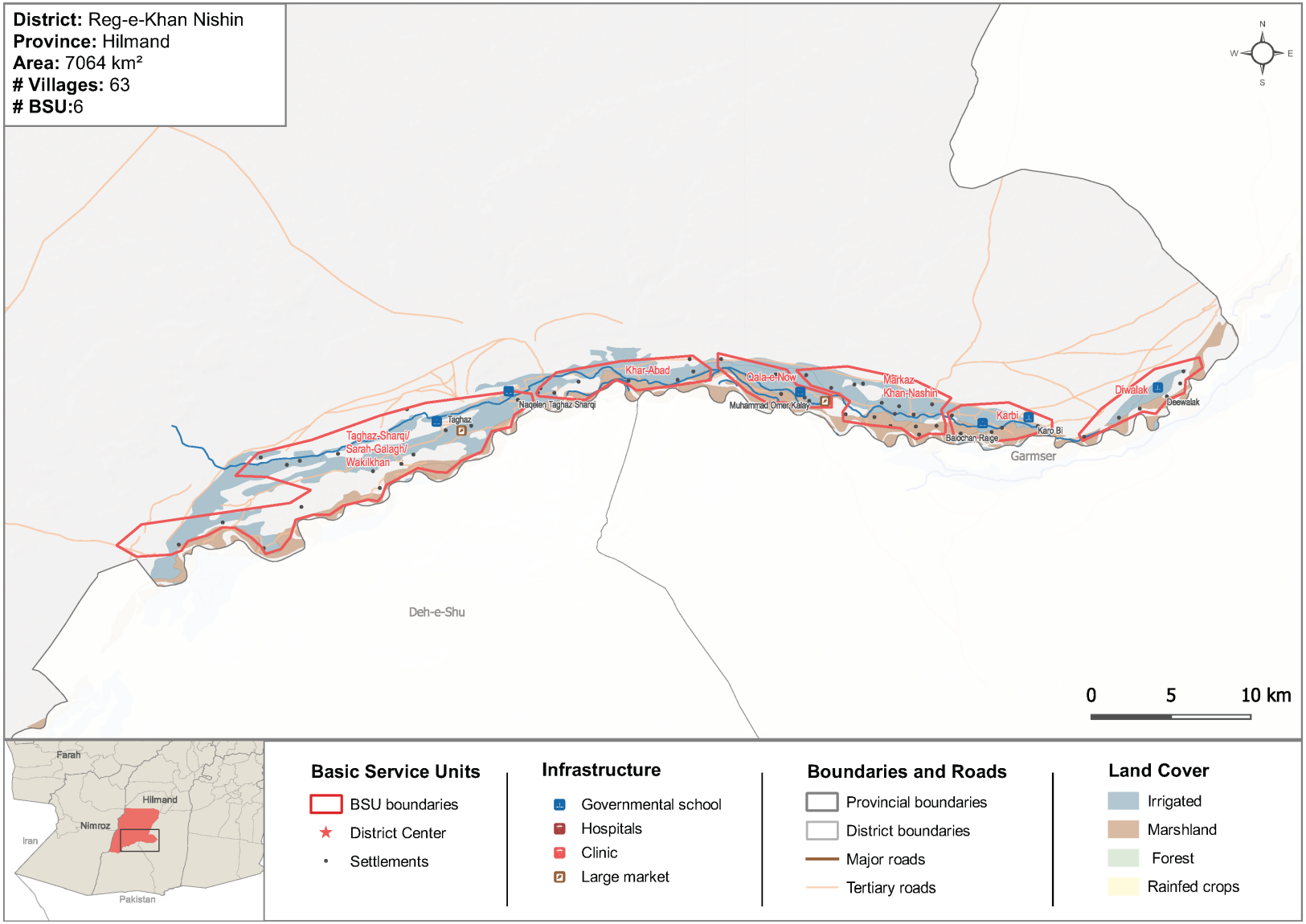
HILMAND
REG-E-KHAN NISHIN DISTRICT



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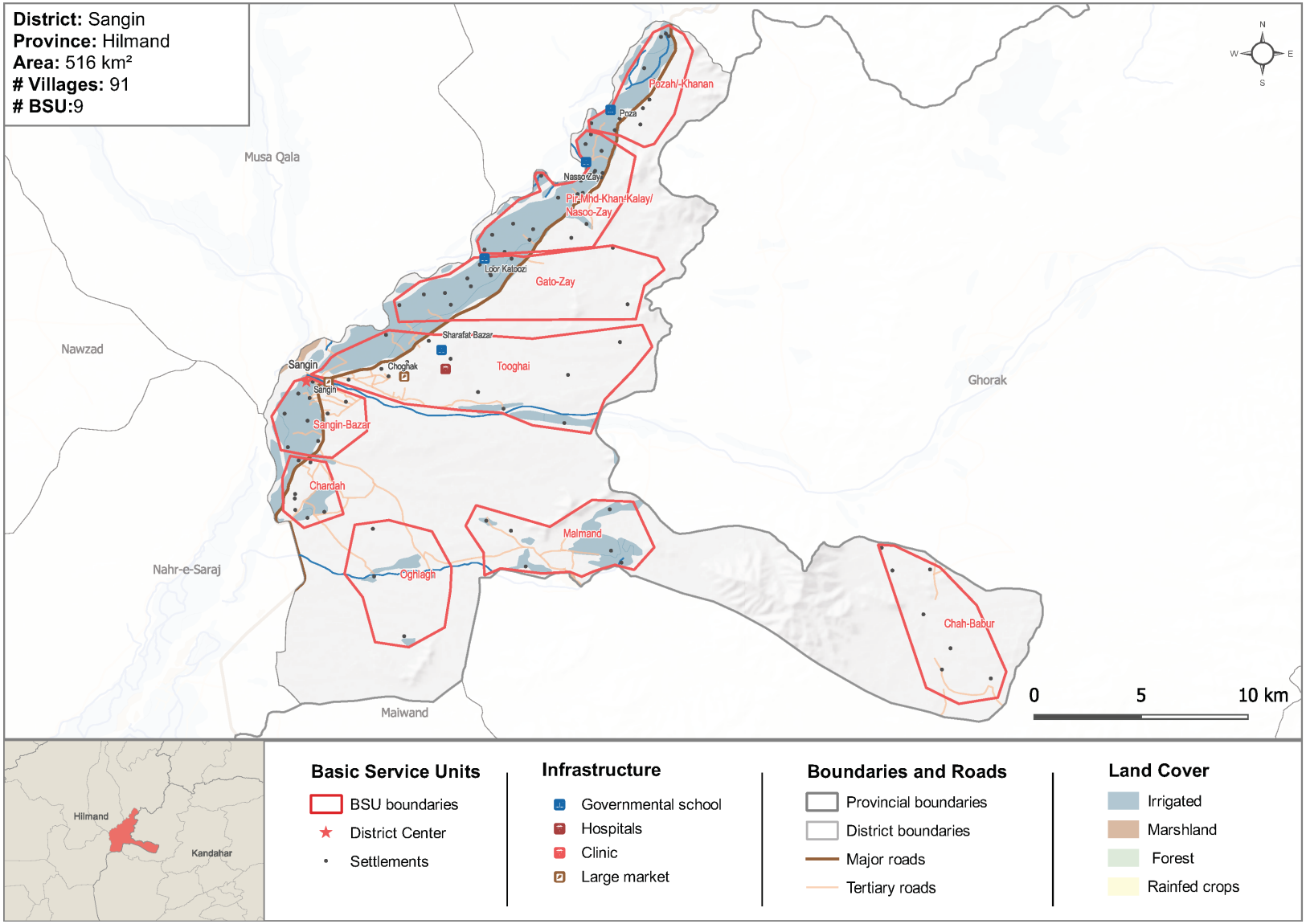
HILMAND
SANGIN DISTRICT



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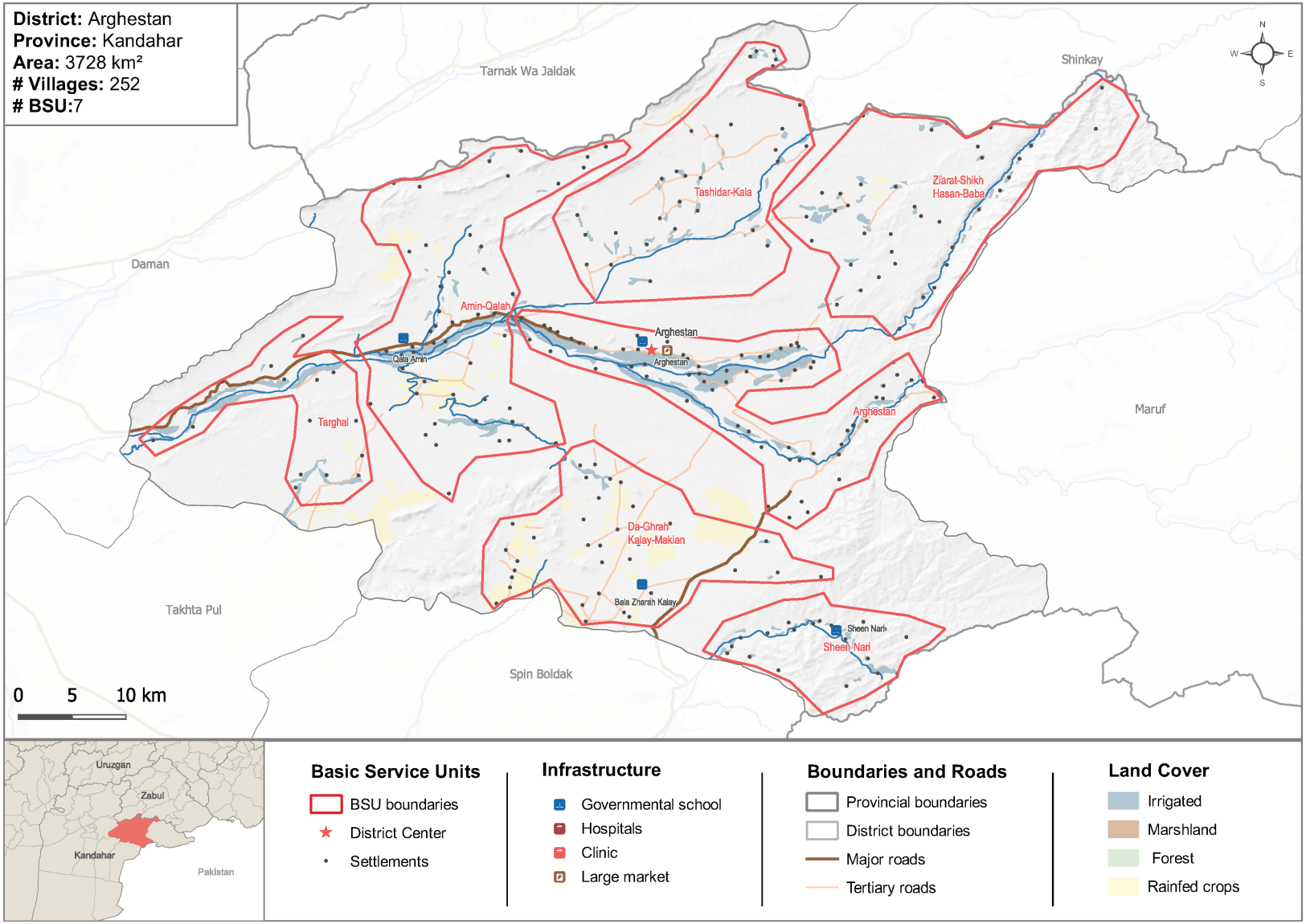
KANDAHAR
ARGHESTAN DISTRICT



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KANDAHAR
GHORAK DISTRICT

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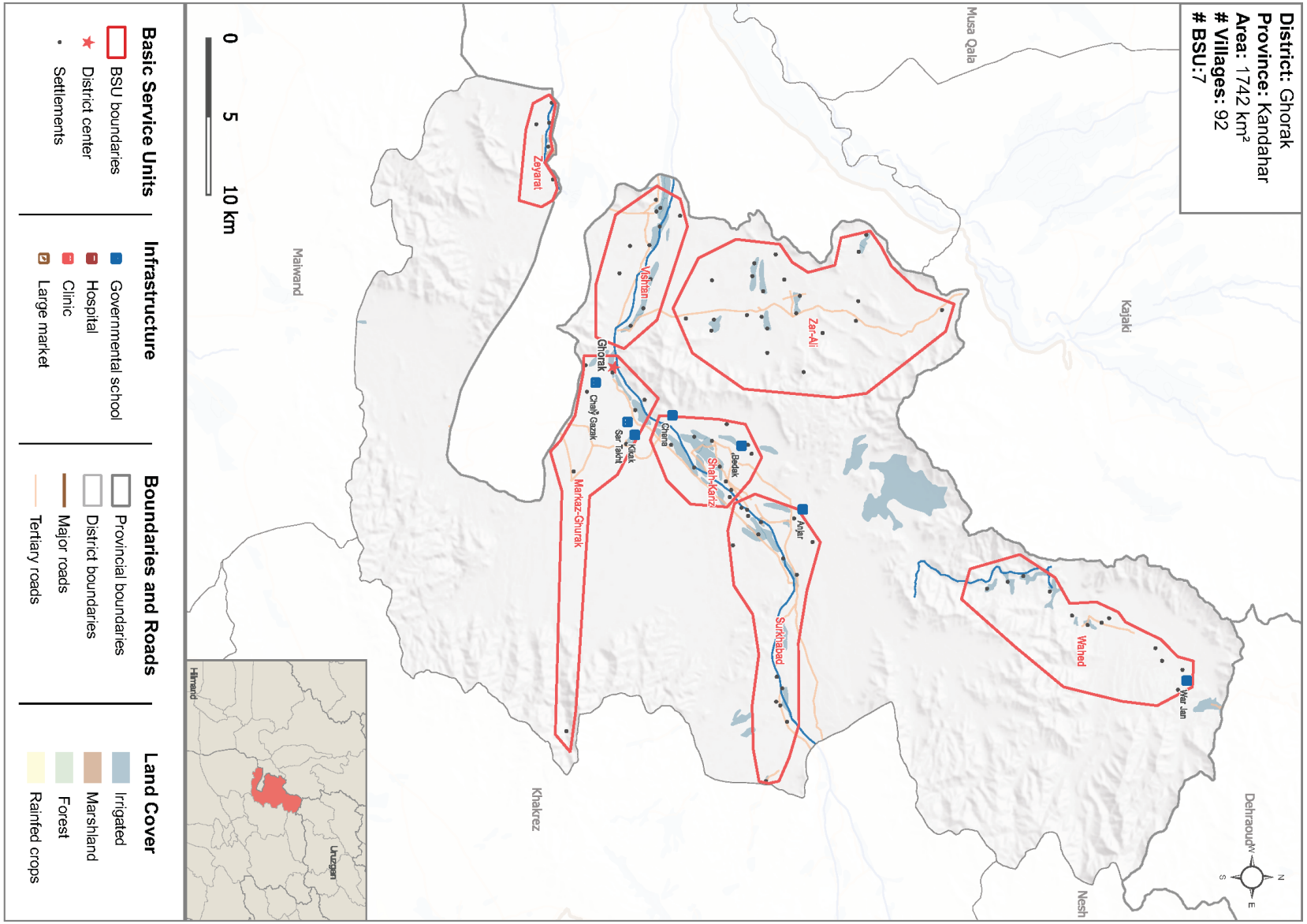
AFGHANISTAN



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KANDAHAR
KHAKREZ DISTRICT

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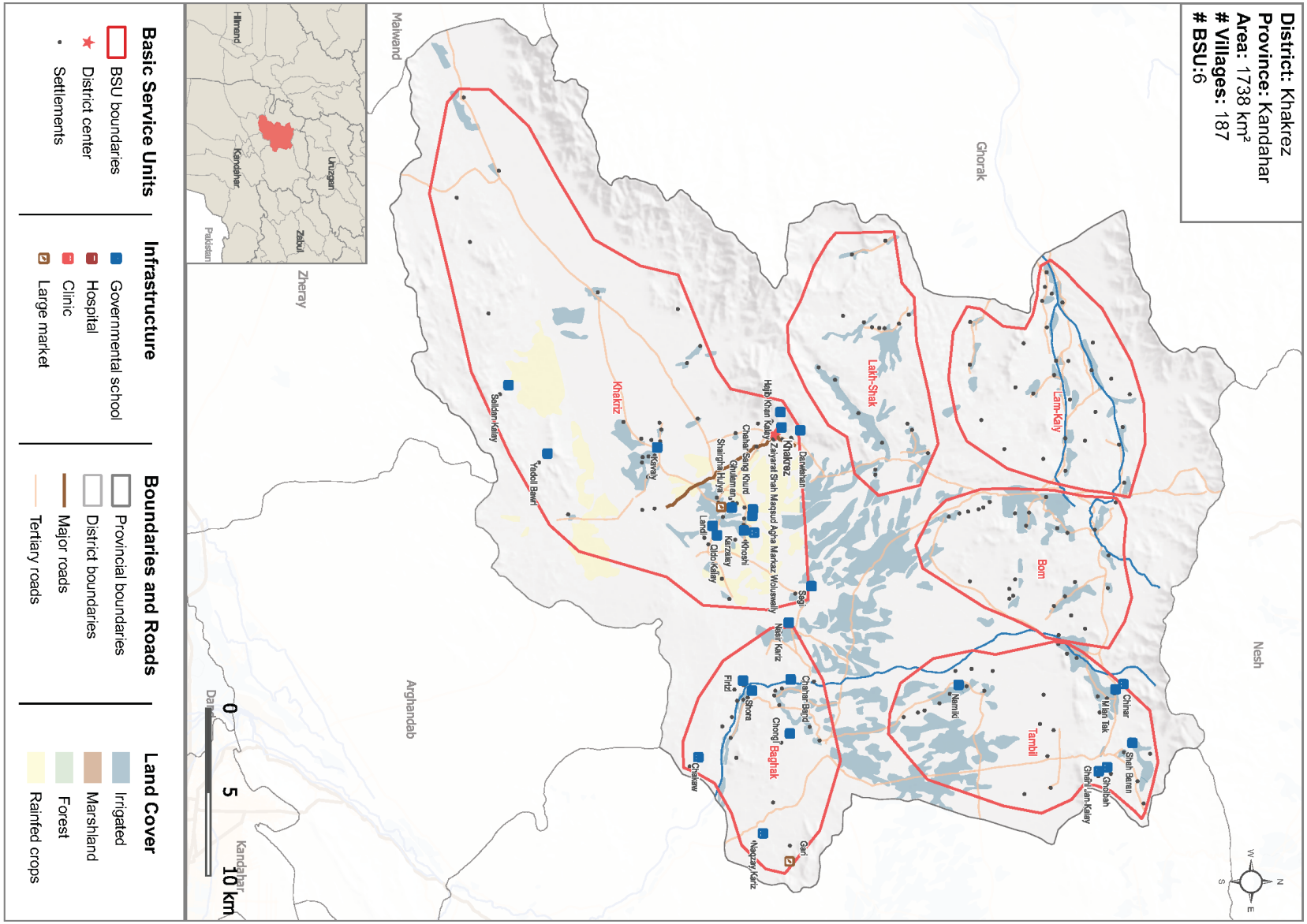

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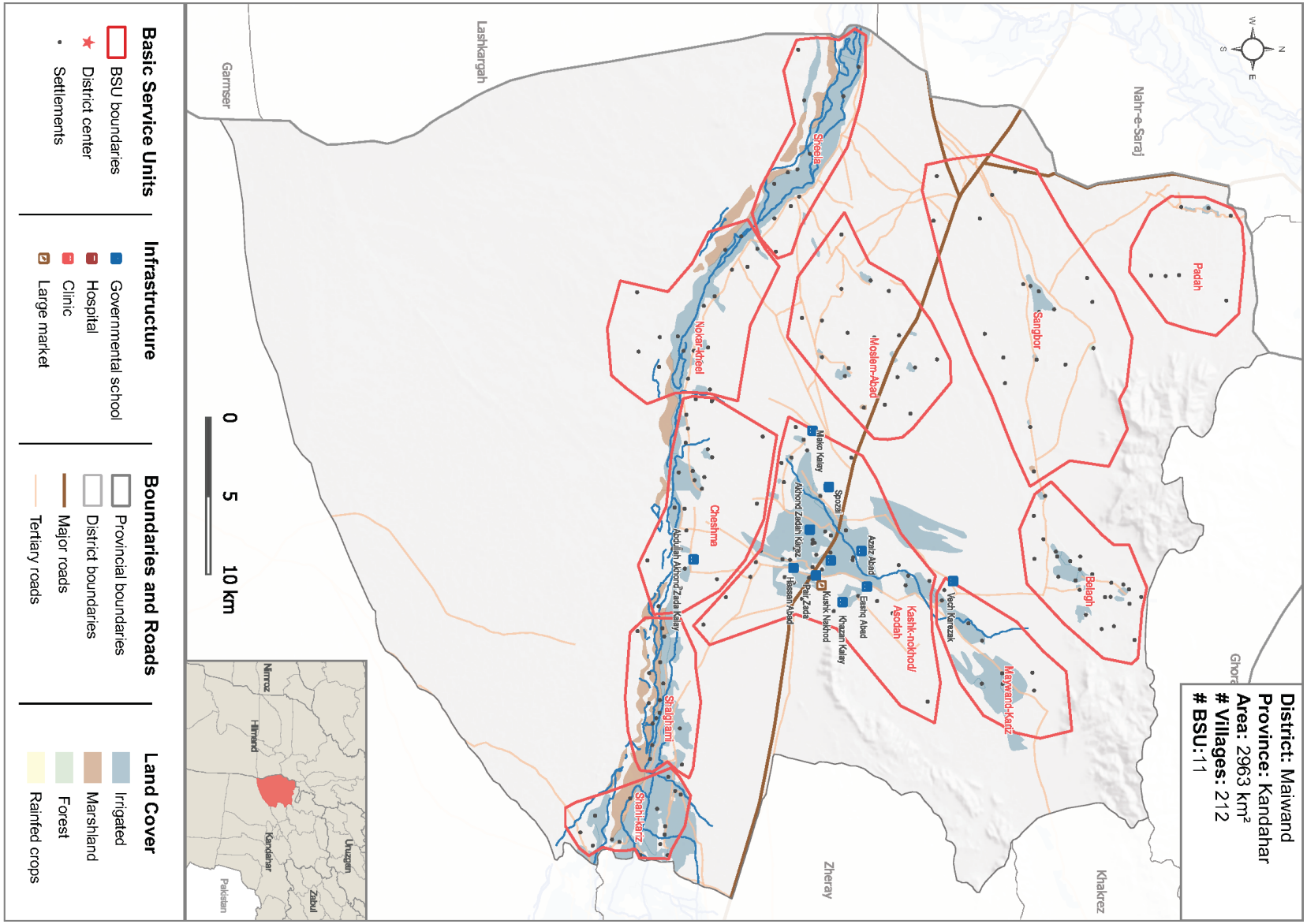
KANDAHAR
MAIWAND DISTRICT



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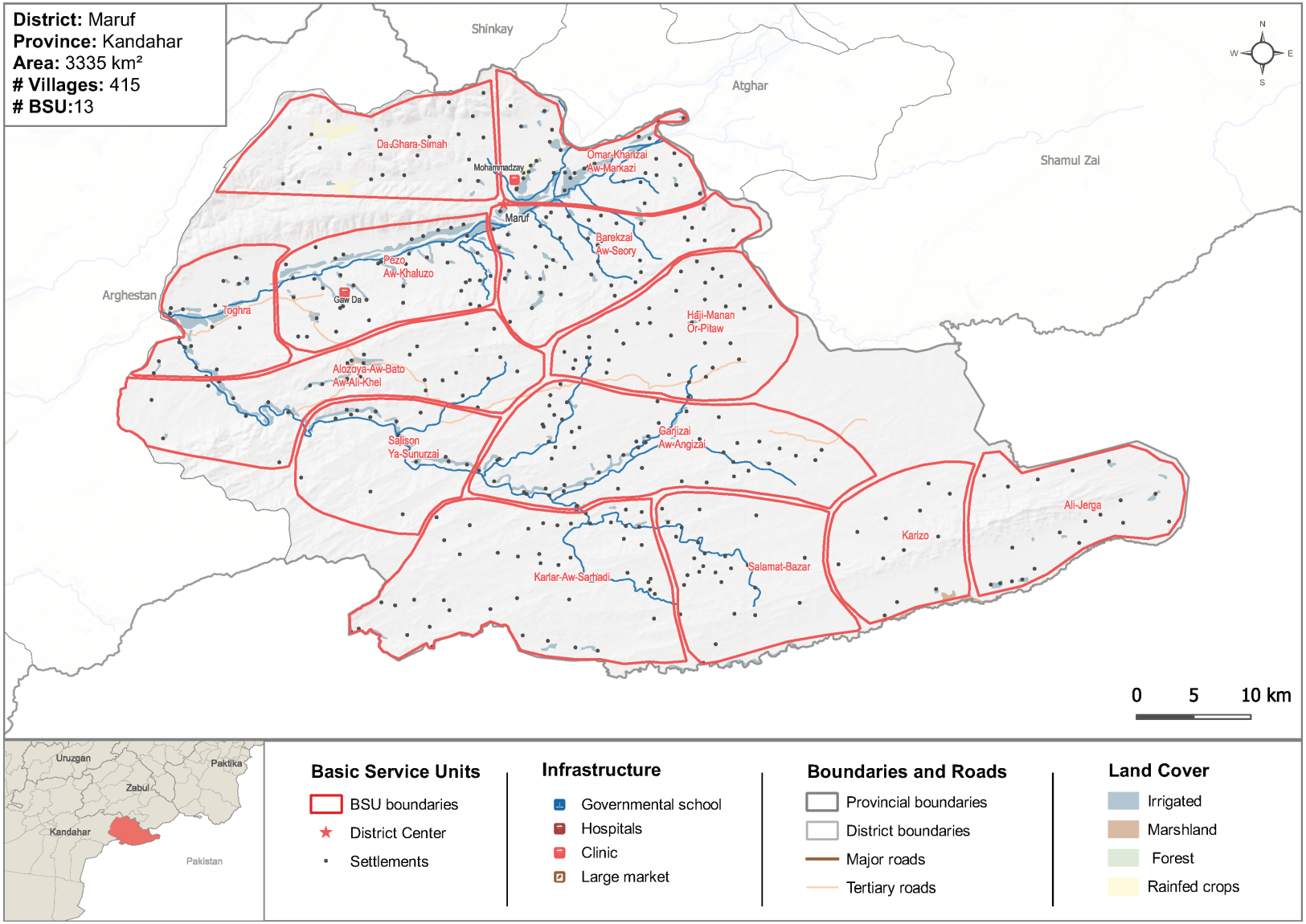
KANDAHAR
MARUF DISTRICT



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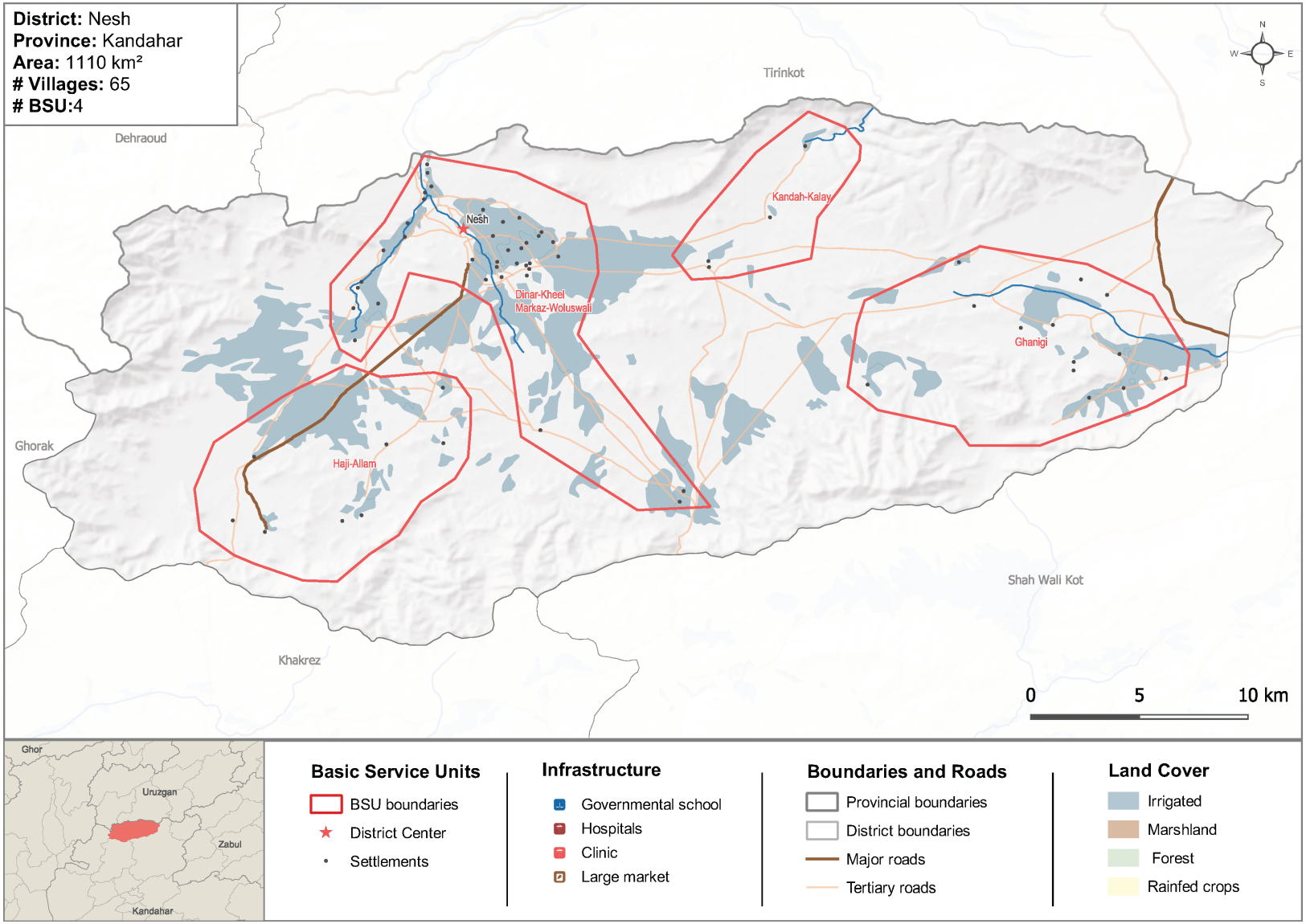
KANDAHAR
NESH DISTRICT



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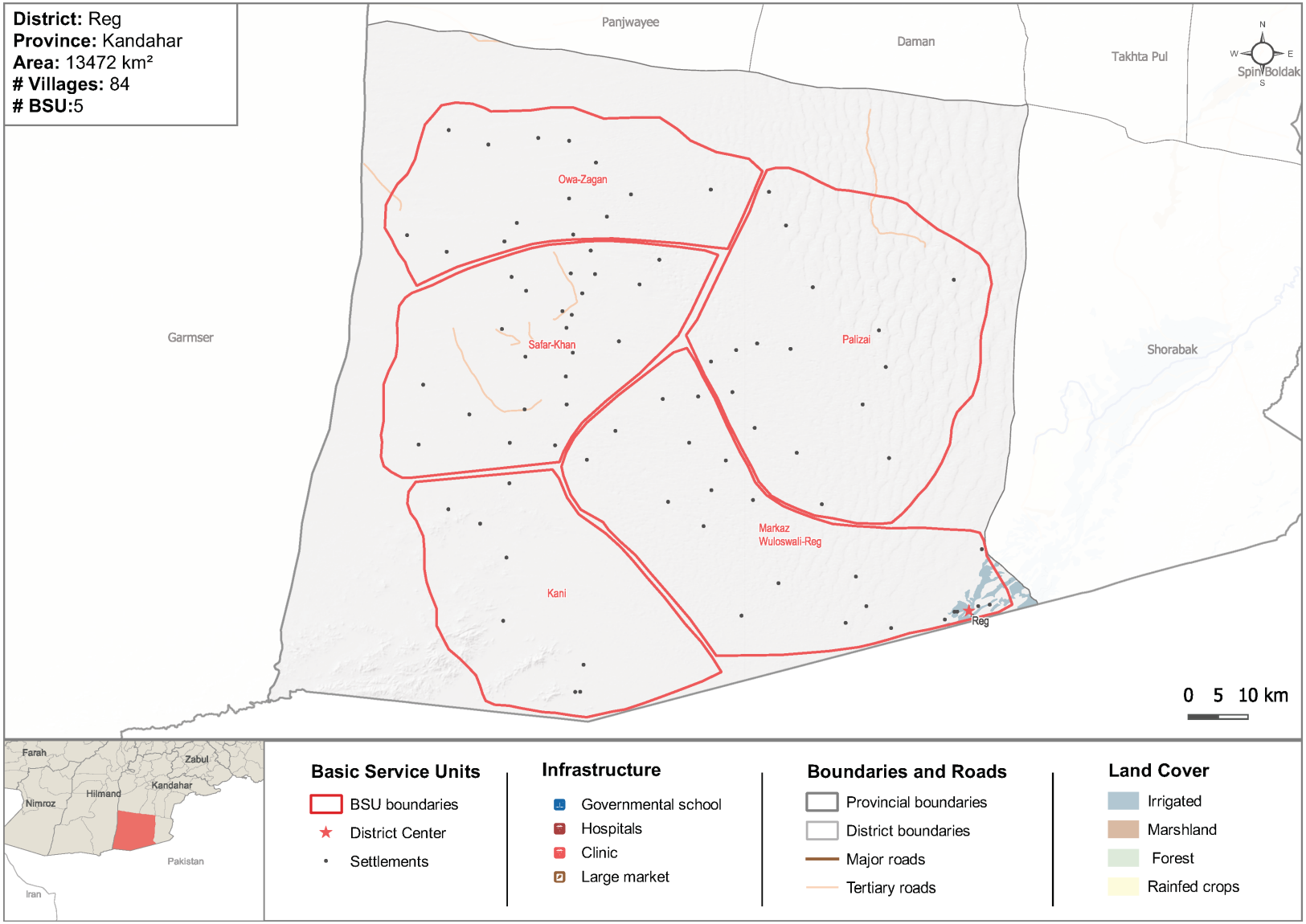
KANDAHAR
REG DISTRICT



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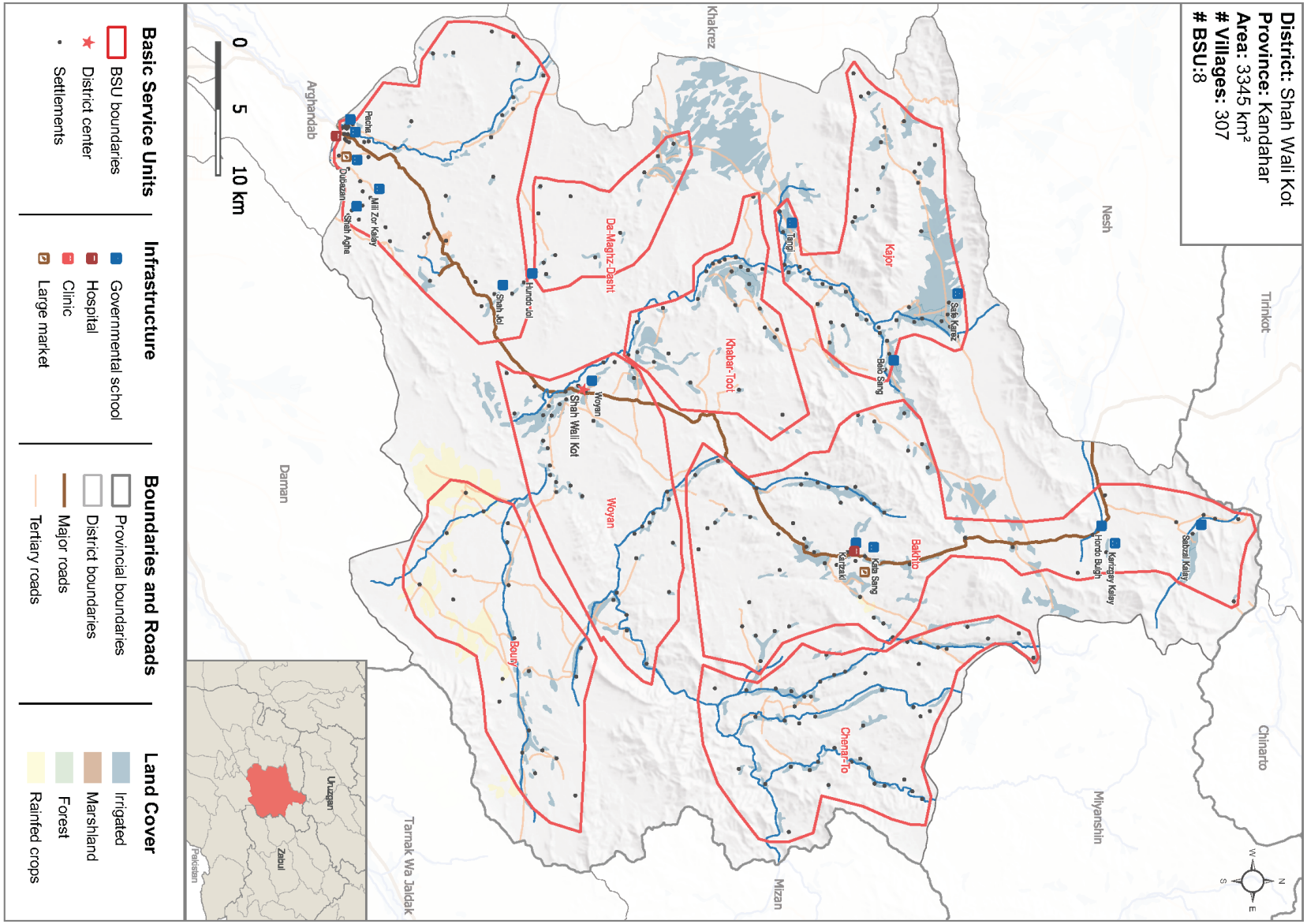
KANDAHAR
SHAH WALI KOT DISTRICT



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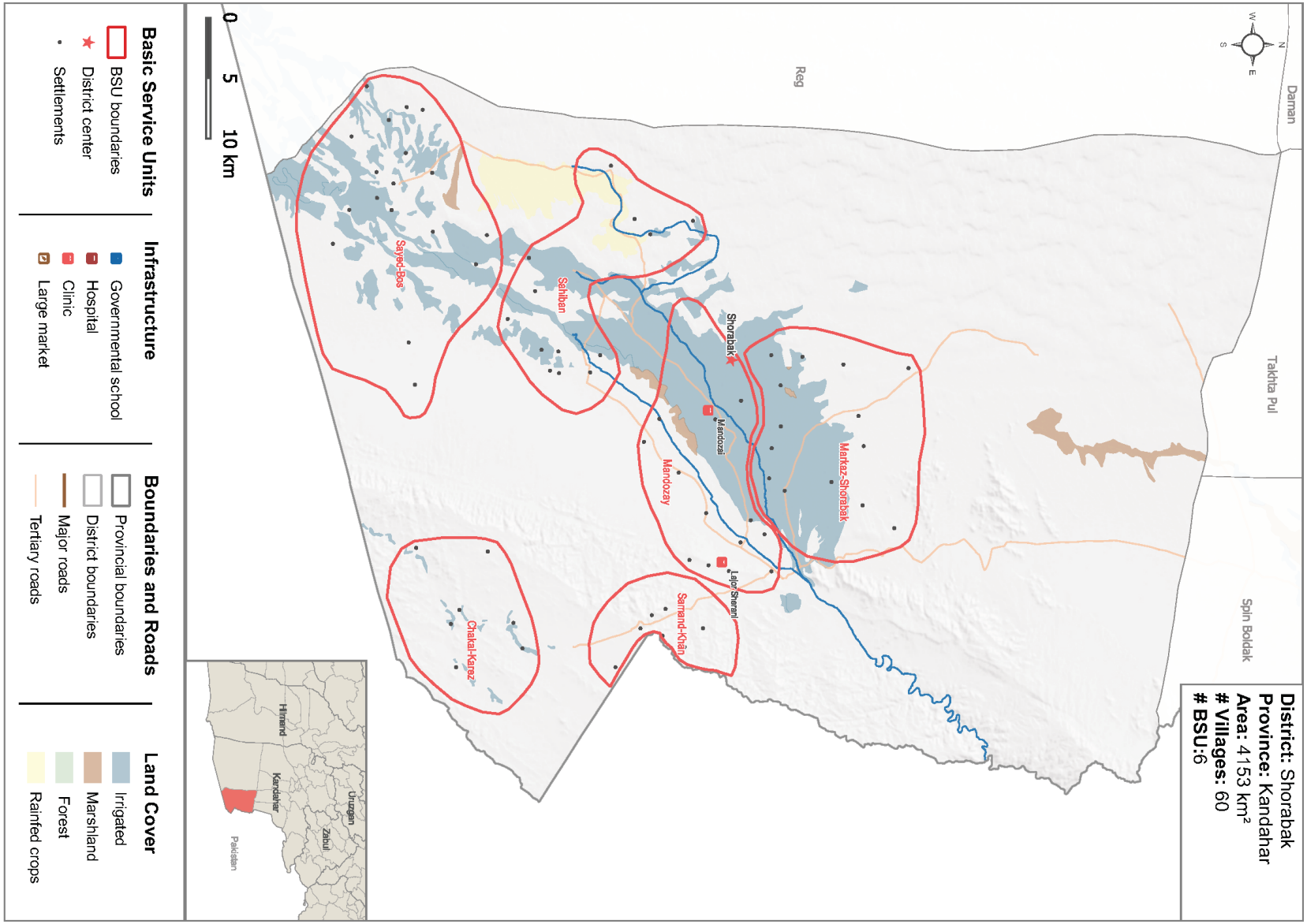
SHORABAK DISTRICT



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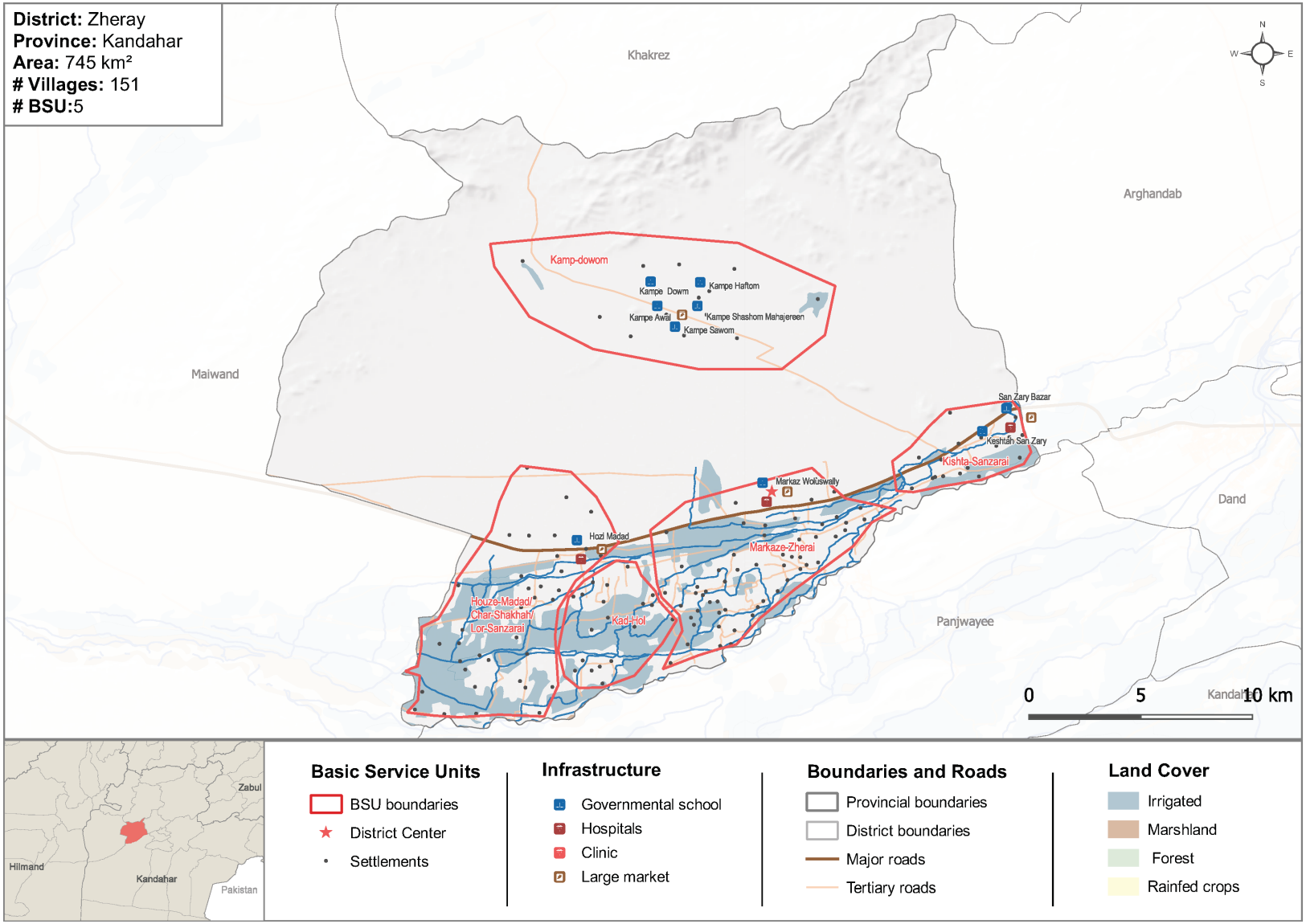
KANDAHAR
ZHERAY DISTRICT



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URUZGAN
CHINARTO DISTRICT

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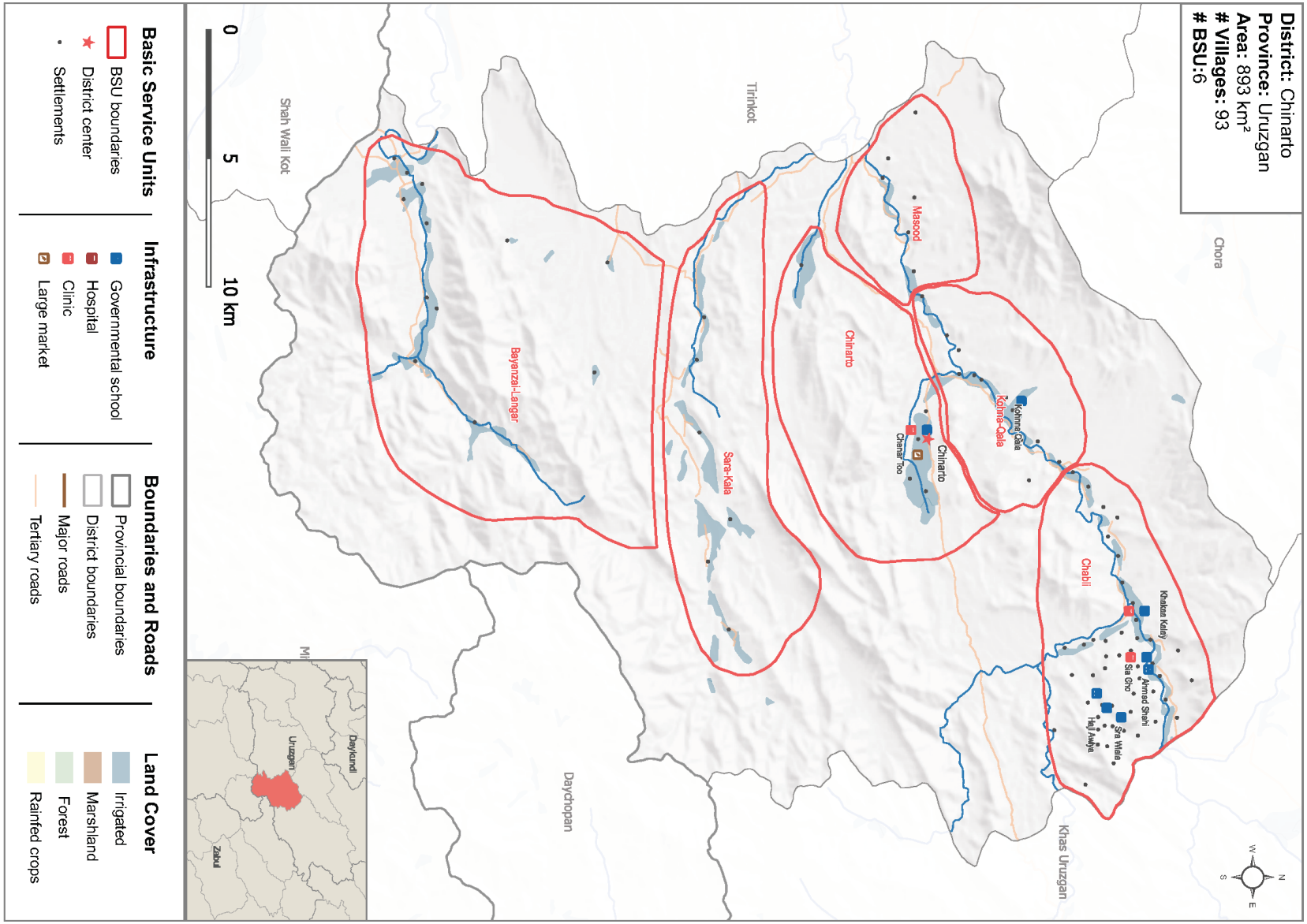
AFGHANISTAN



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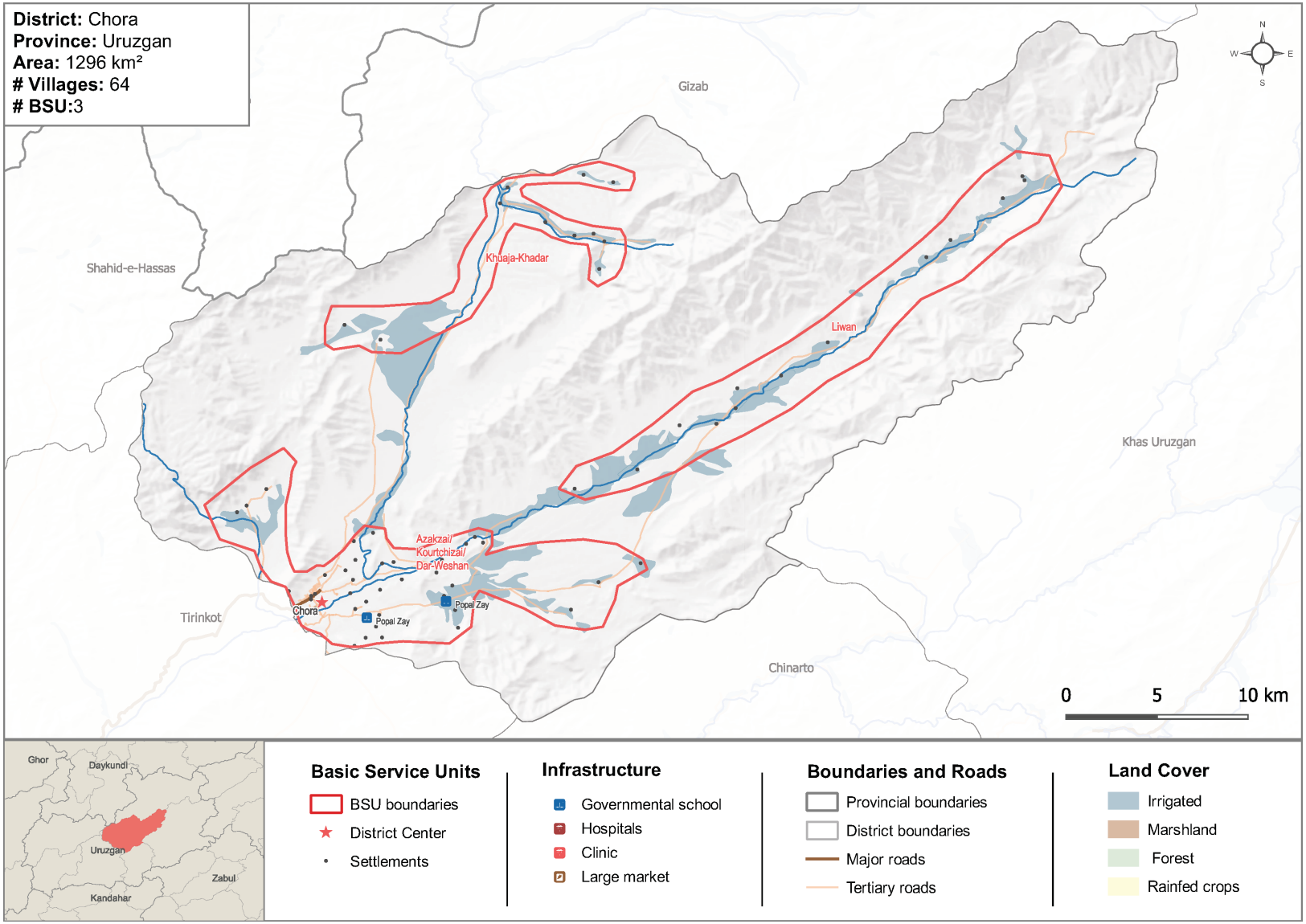
URUZGAN
CHORA DISTRICT



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URUZGAN
DEHRAOUD DISTRICT

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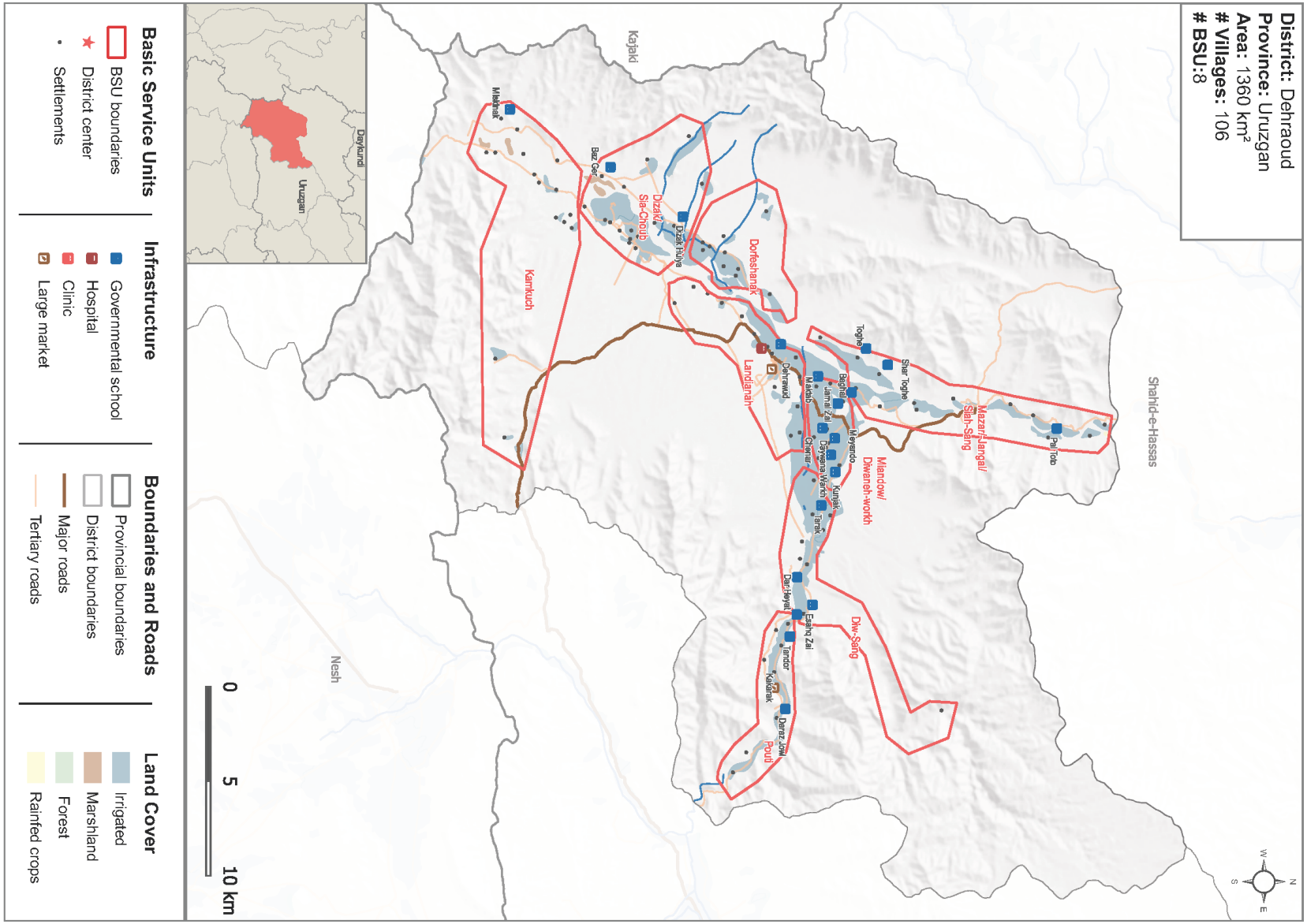

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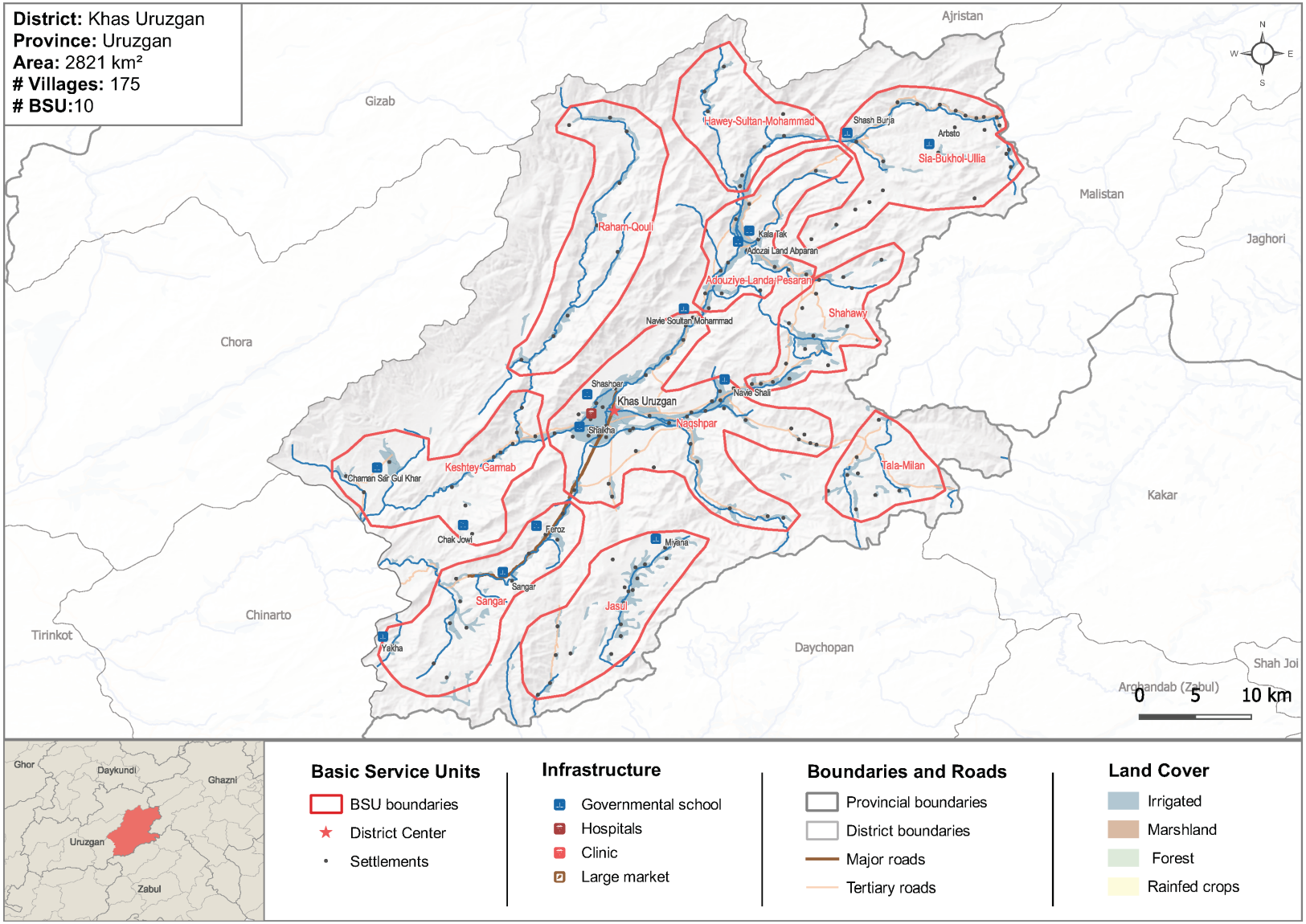
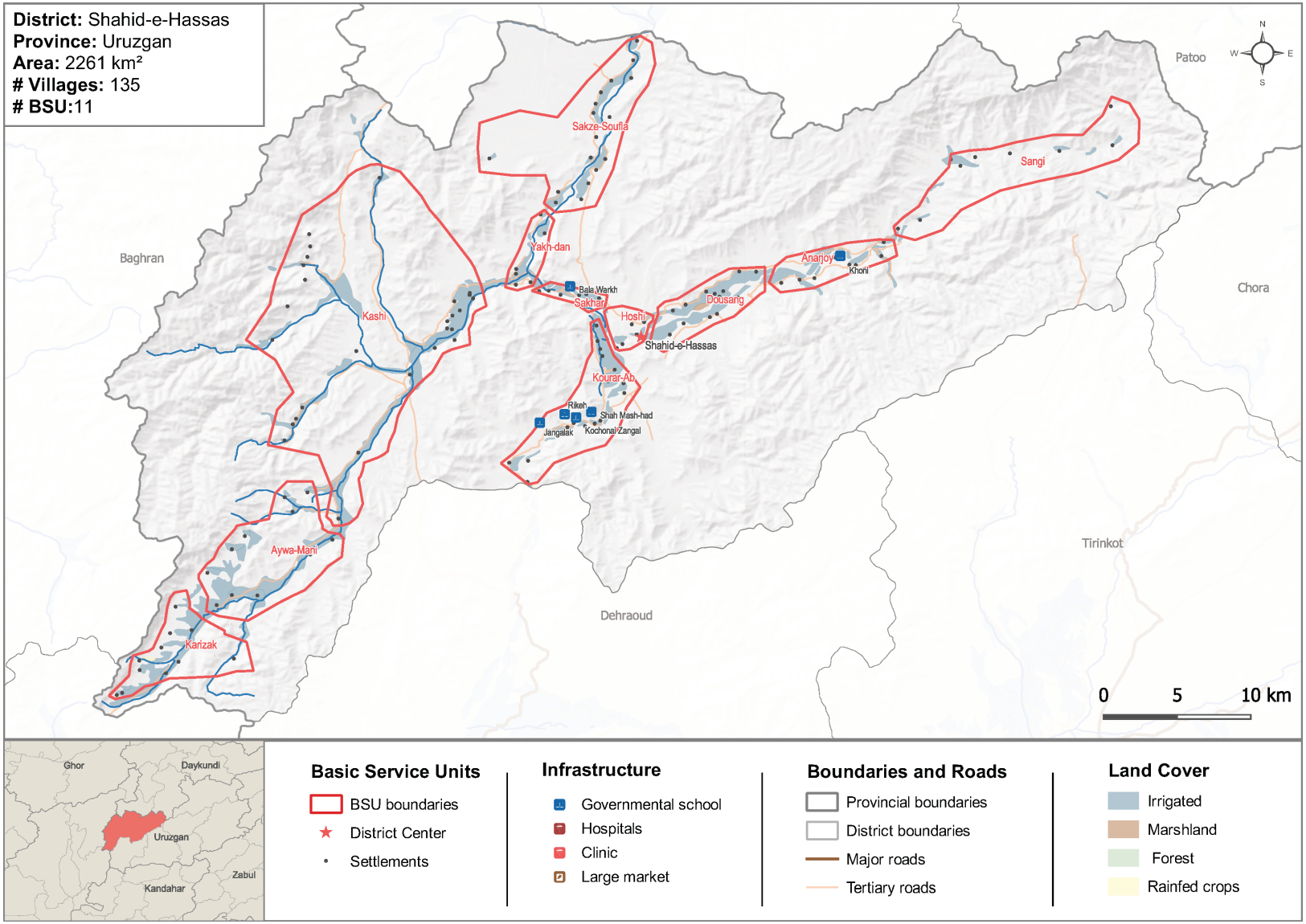
URUZGAN
KHAS URUZGAN DISTRICT



Projection: WGS84
Data sources: Afghan Geodesy and Cartography Head Office (AGCHO): Administrative boundaries, Land cover, DEM and hydrography
REACH: Basic Service Units boundaries, settlements, health services, education facilities and markets. Open Street Map (OSM): Roads
Note: Data, designations and boundaries contained on this map are not warranted to be error-free and do not imply acceptance by the REACH partners, associated, donors mentioned on this map.

URUZGAN
SHAHID-E-HASSAS DISTRICT



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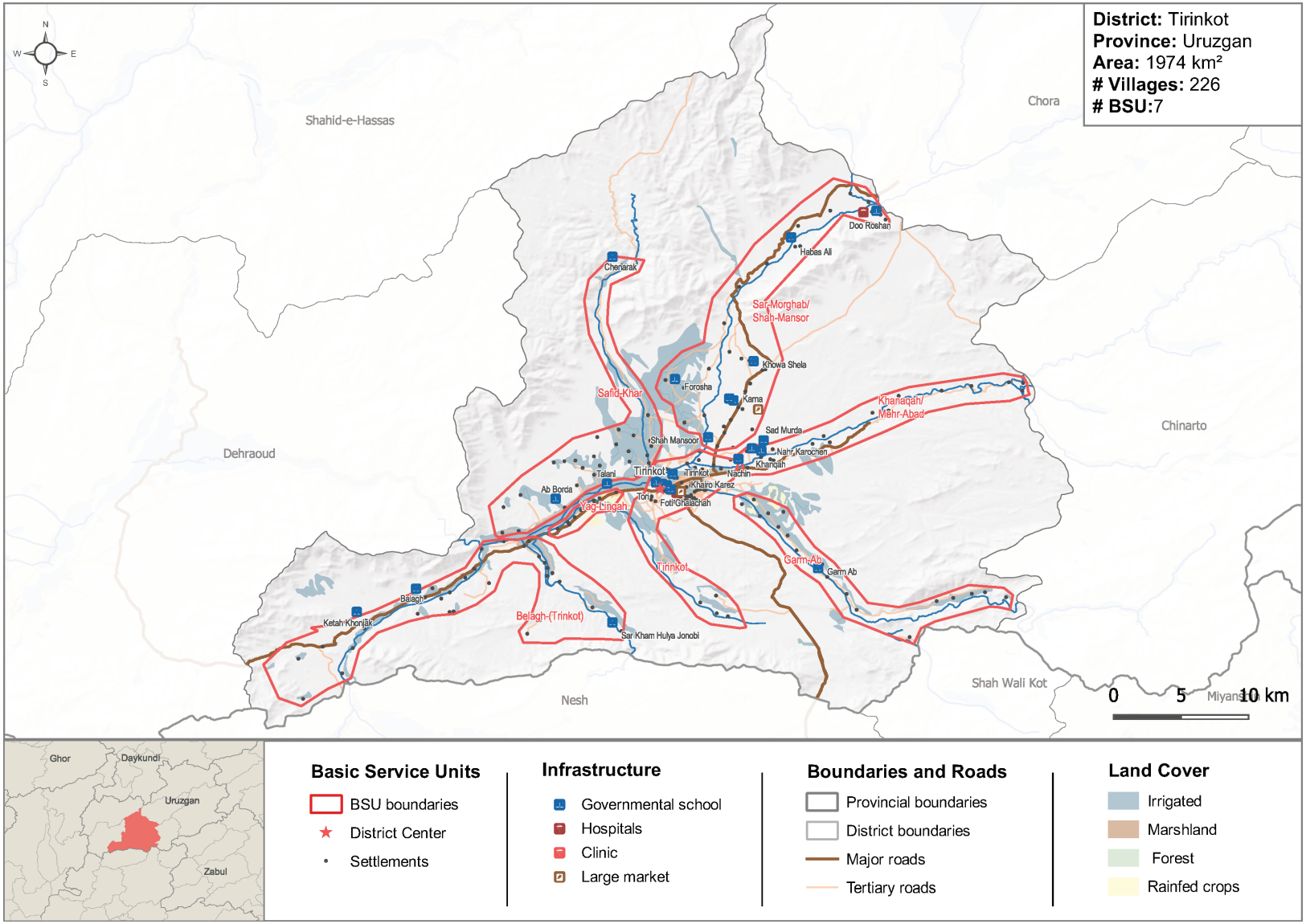
URUZGAN
TIRINKOT DISTRICT



Projection: WGS84
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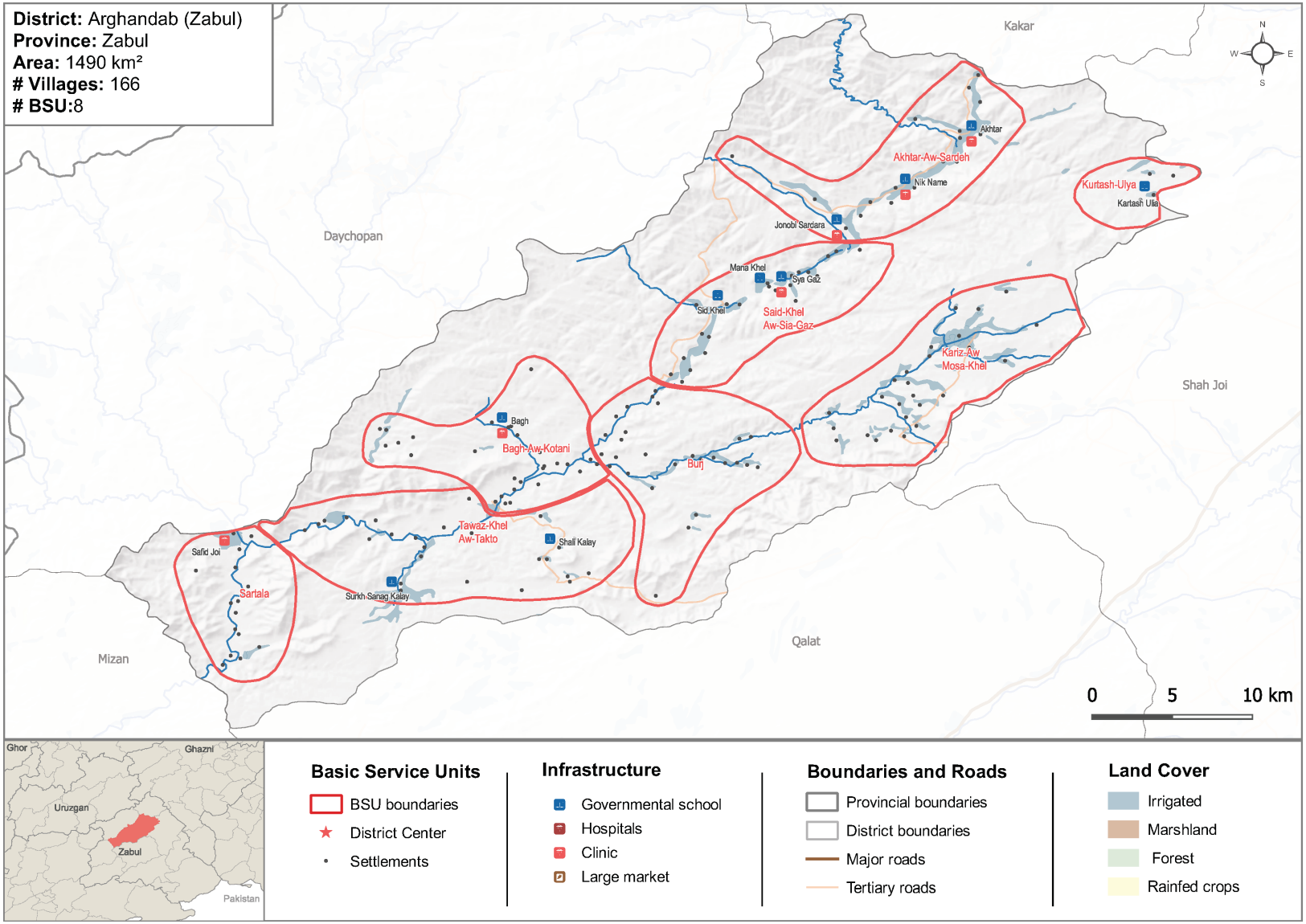
ZABUL
ARGHANDAB DISTRICT



Projection: WGS84
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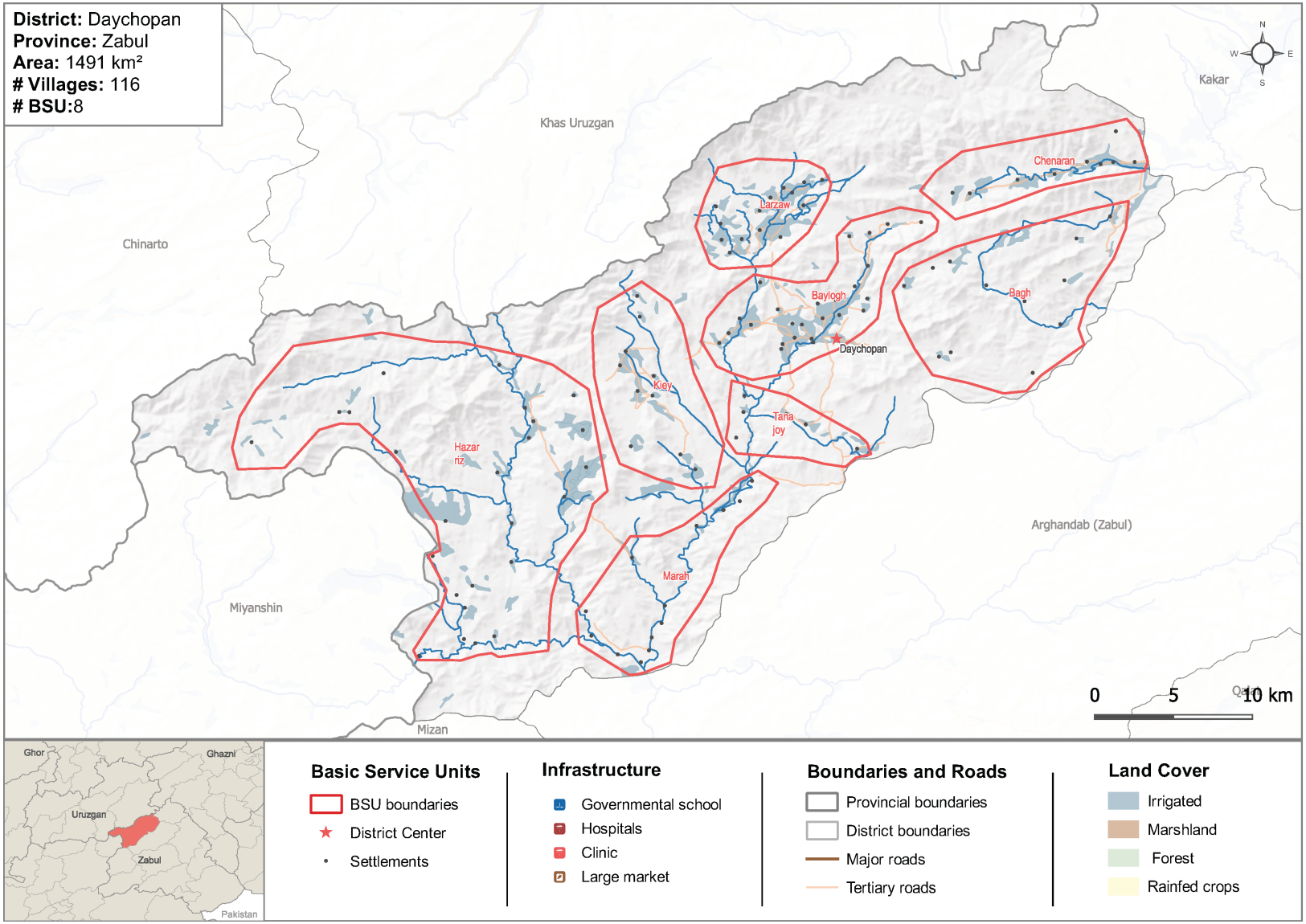
ZABUL
DAYCHOPAN DISTRICT



Projection: WGS84
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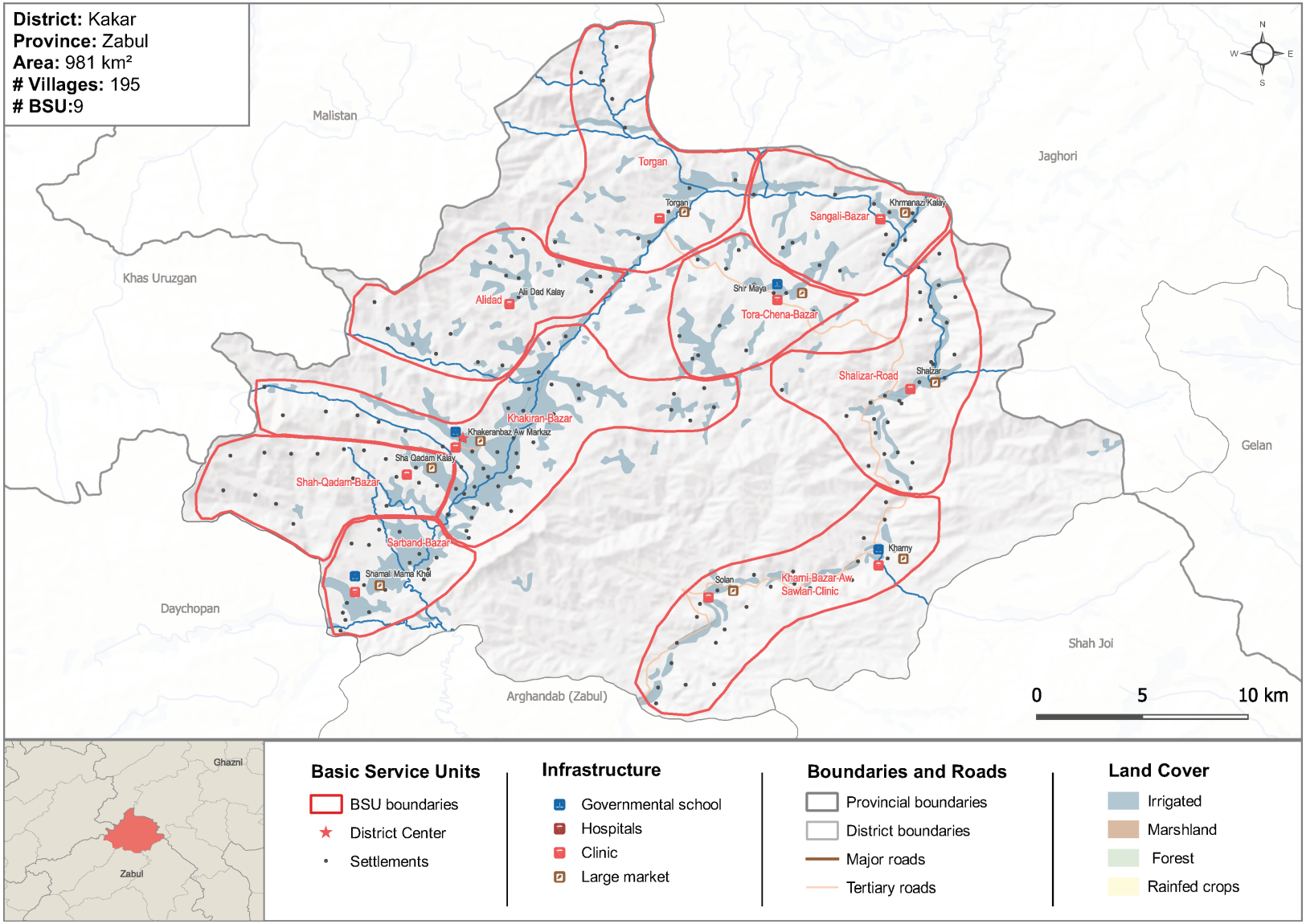
ZABUL
KAKAR DISTRICT



Projection: WGS84
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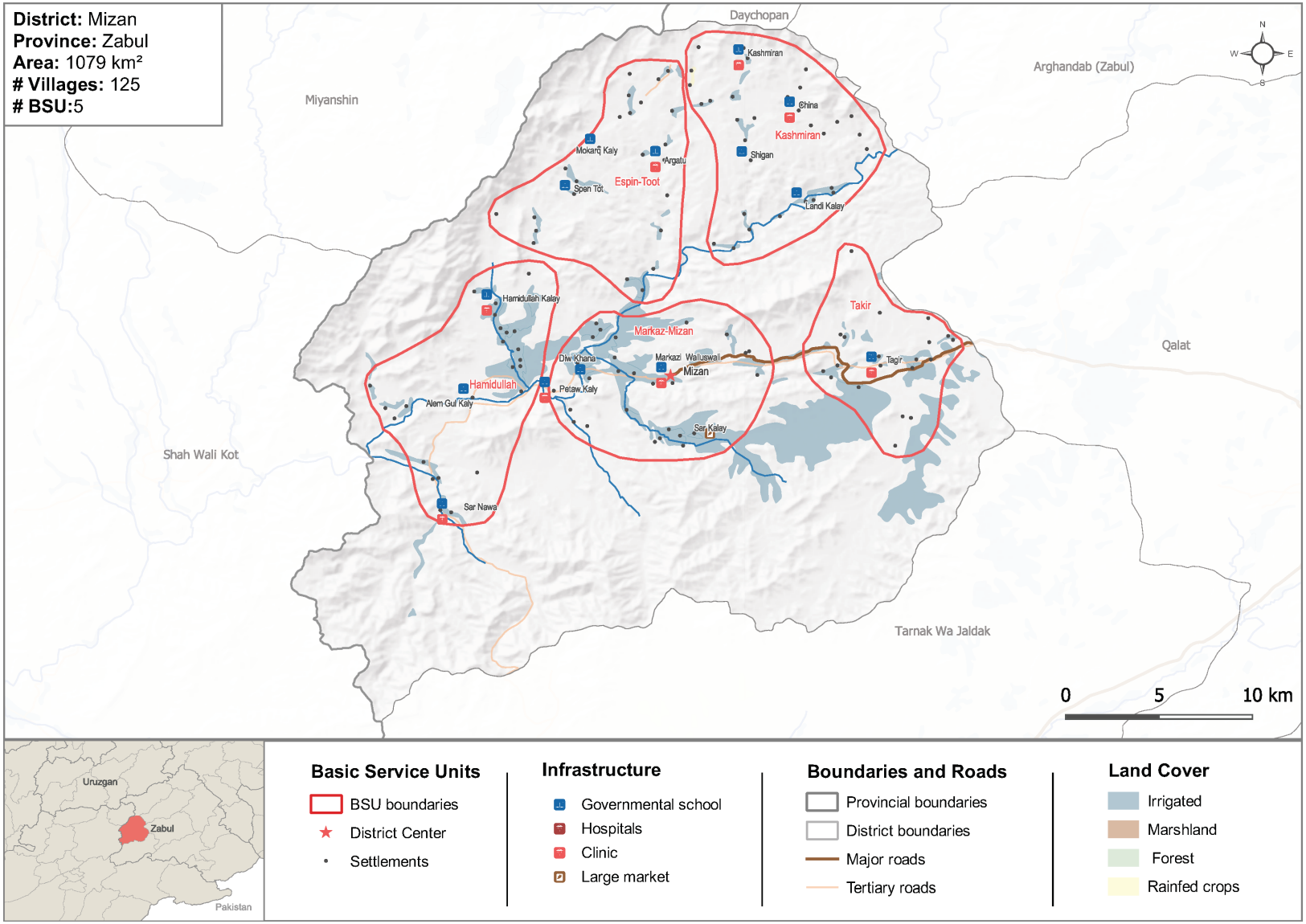
ZABUL
MIZAN DISTRICT



Projection: WGS84
Data sources: Afghan Geodesy and Cartography Head Office (AGCHO): Administrative boundaries, Land cover, DEM and hydrography
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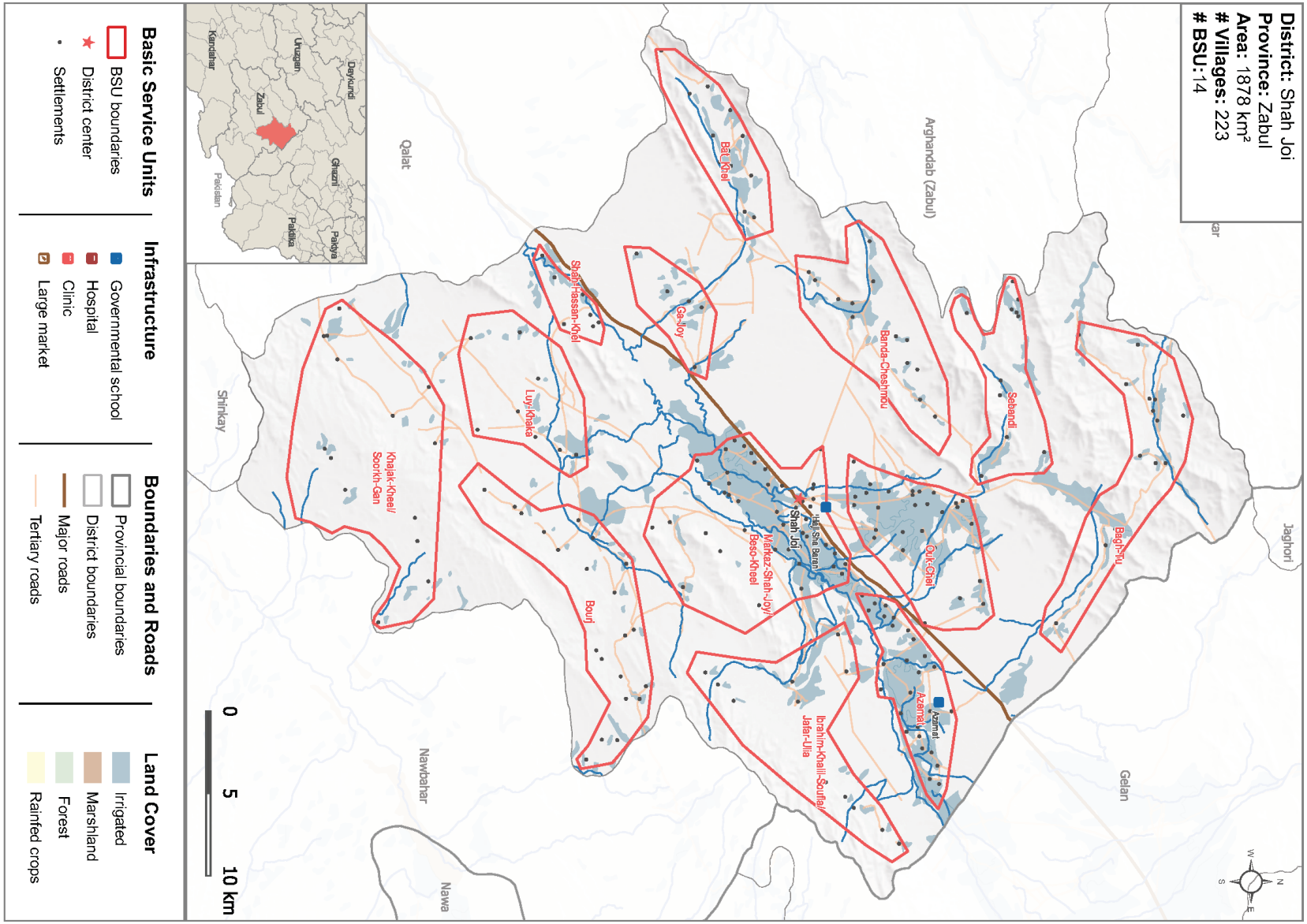
ZABUL
SHAH JOI DISTRICT



Projection: WGS84
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