URBAN DEVELOPMENT & HUMANITARIAN SHELTER IN KABUL: Current Issues and Next Steps

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SESSION
OBJECTIVES

• Provide an OFDA View of Settlements
• Provide an Overview of Conditions in Afghanistan
• Provide an Overview of OFDA Activities, and
• Identify/Discuss Opps for Engagement.
SOME CONTEXT: Settlements are the “Where?” of “Our” Mandate
Where Settlements are located, How they have developed, How rapidly they grow, How strong their economies are, and How well they are managed, esp. in times of crisis...

Will largely determine whether they become the sites of future disasters -- and possible USG responses
The **TRENDS** Affecting Settlements Are Many, and Include...

- **The Future Is Urban.** Global population will increase from 6.2 billion to 8.3 billion, ’03-’30; equiv. of **100%** located in the cities of developing countries, increasing pop. from 2 to 4 billion!

- **Increasing Poverty.** Over 2.8 billion people -- nearly half of humanity -- survive on per capita incomes of no more than $2/day, up from 2.5 billion in 1987. Millions more earn only slightly more.

- **Increasing Strains** on Basic Social Services and Institutions

- **Growing Environmental Decline,** *Coupled with Limited Economic Growth*

- **HIV/AIDS, Bird Flu, Pandemic Influenza,** *etc.* increasingly a feature of settlements
AN EXAMPLE: ANYONE SEE

slumdog millionaire

• Conditions depicted are experienced by nearly 1 of every 6 human beings
• By 2030, nearly 1 of every 4!!!
Implications for OUR Work...

- Context: 2X urban pop., 3X urban land; LOTS of issues with growth
- Chronic and acute needs are merging more and more every day
- Disasters/crises accelerate and exacerbate the urbanization process, and
- How to reconcile, given need to develop a strategy?
Getting Oriented

> 30 mill people; 251,772 sq. mi.
(nearly 20% larger than France)
A Landscape of Hazards and Conflict
Years of Conflict, and it Could Get Hotter Soon, and Possibly Generate Significant Displacement
Natural Disasters in Afghanistan

- Earthquakes
- Flooding
- Droughts
- Landslides
- Extreme winter conditions,
- Avalanches
- Sand storms
- Pests (e.g. Wheat Rust Ug99, Locusts)
- Epidemic
Hydrometeorological Hazards

- Droughts
- Floods
  - Landslides
  - Mudflow
- Avalanches
- Extreme Temperatures
  - Cold waves
  - Heat waves
- Environmental Issues:
  - Water scarcity
  - Soil degradation
  - Deforestation
Settlements Often Feature Flash Flood Risk
THE IMPACTS OF “HYDROMET” DISASTERS ARE NOT TRIVIAL

- From ’98–’07, 2.77 billion people affected worldwide, or 98.8% of total affected by natural disasters
- 2.77 billion = approx. 46% of global pop.!
- 640,000 people killed, or 62% of total killed by natural disasters
- $805 billion in damages, or 85% of total caused by natural disasters

Source: WDR 2008, IFRCC
Generalized Seismic Hazards of Afghanistan

Warm colors show higher hazard, and cool colors show lower hazard. The strongest expected shaking is concentrated on major active faults in eastern and northeastern Afghanistan.
# Largest Earthquakes (M7+)

## Afghanistan and Vicinity

(28 from 1902-2002, and most significant recent events NOT on list)

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M7=

- 20 billion kilos of TNT
- Enough energy to heat NYC for one year!
- Can be detected all over the world
Why be concerned about SEISMIC HAZARDS?

- Devastating earthquakes can have lasting social, economic, and political effects.
  - Threaten health and safety
  - Widespread destruction has short-term and long-term economic impacts
  - Slow or inadequate responses can have political consequences
  - Full recovery takes many years
- Earthquakes can destroy years of reconstruction efforts in seconds, and
- There is a history of large earthquakes occurring in Afghanistan, and future earthquake activity is expected.
GLOBALLY, Kabul ranks 3 to 8 among cities most at risk of a major earthquake. A large event on the Chaman Fault might:

- Affect 80 percent of houses, with 40 percent uninhabitable, generating shelter needs for at least 2.7 million people.
- Generate 55k-110k fatalities, and 280k-560k injuries.
- Destroy/damage large portion of critical infrastructure inoperable (hospitals, civil defense, government buildings, airport facilities, bridges, roads, warehouses, etc.).
- Destroy/damage/disrupt communication and electrical services.
- Destroy/damage/disrupt water and sanitation services.
- Generate fires.
- Overwhelm limited emergency services, and
- Render already vulnerable people even more so.
Years of Conflict and Disasters Have Undermined Resiliency

- Merging of chronic and acute needs, whether in conflict zones or not
- Six droughts in 7 years, increasing vulnerability over time
- "Winterization" for past 7 years (e.g., cold weather deaths)
- Decline in coping mechanisms
- Migration as one of remaining coping mechanisms: "economic" or "survival"?
- Development questions as well as humanitarian issues
Urban Growth, Led by Kabul, Has Been Significant Yet Stealth Since 9/11

- Kabul Area Population has grown from 1.5 mill to 4.5 mill since 9/11
- Kabul represents approx. 50% of national urban population
- Urban share of national pop. approx. 30%
- Urban growth accounted for approx. 40% of national total, 9/11 to present, yet
- Until last year, only a handful of orgs worked in cities. No needs???
Urban “HA”: Kabul, ‘02-’07

- 398 Districts in Country
- 2 Accounted for 21% of Returns
Kabul, ‘00-’06: 3X Pop., 4X Area

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Composition of Recent Change in Kabul Suggests Need to Re-Think “HA” and “DA” Policies

- Again, population has grown from 1.5 mill to 4.5 mill since 9/11
- “Returnees” = 1.2 mill (40%) of 3.0 mill change
- Net natural growth = 0.5 mill (17%) of change
- Jurisdictional expansion = 0.1 mill (3%) of change, and
- Net in-migrants = 1.2 mill (40%) of change
- Q: Are migrants “economic” or “survival”?
How Migrant Question Answered Determines Assistance

• Heretofore, “economic”, and thus a development issue. Until recently, however, limited focus on urban meant limited assistance

• If “survival”, few humanitarian actors can cope, and don’t have staff and resources

• If no one can cope with macro-level coping, what to do?
ISSUE: Significant Destruction, and Limited Rebuilding
ISSUE: Drainage & Sewerage
ISSUE:
Nine Feet of Garbage “Found” Between Buildings!
ISSUE: Hillside Development
ISSUE: Services
ISSUE: Precarious Living on a Good Day
ISSUE: Shelter
Children in Abandoned Buildings, Kabul
Tent Occupants, Central Kabul, Last Winter
Living Rough...
The USAID/OFDA Mandate

• **Mandate**: Save Lives, Reduce Suffering, and *Reduce the Economic and Social Impacts of Disasters*

• **Standing Disaster Declaration**
  a means of responding

  *(28 DDs in 30 years!)*
USAID/OFDA Funding in Afghanistan by Fiscal Year

Fiscal Year

FY 00 FY 01 FY 02 FY 03 FY 04 FY 05 FY 06 FY 08

$0 $20,000,000 $40,000,000 $60,000,000 $80,000,000 $100,000,000 $120,000,000 $140,000,000

$6,903,439 $12,485,791 $24,536,631 $3,606,345 $1,500,598 $17,018,394

$1,500,598 $3,606,345 $9,946,870 $24,536,631 $12,485,791 $6,903,439

$114,427,834
• Since FY 2002, USAID/OFDA has provided more than **$170 million** in humanitarian assistance to Afghanistan

• USAID/OFDA programs are benefiting **2.4 million internally displaced and other vulnerable persons** in 10 of Afghanistan’s 34 provinces in FYs ‘08 and ‘09

• USAID/OFDA will provide nearly $29 million in FYs ‘08 and ‘09 to support humanitarian activities in the sectors shown:
Main Categories of OFDA Interventions (FY09 = $29m)

Emergency Response/Preparedness
-- Relief activities including cash for work, asset replacement (livestock), distribution of winter/flooding kits, blankets and stoves
-- Humanitarian coordination, information flow
-- Pre-positioning of stocks to bolster local response capacity in hazard prone areas
-- Potential: Additional air support, emergency response fund, strategically strengthening partners before summer “surge”

Disaster Risk Reduction
-- Seismic hazard awareness and training on seismic resistant construction in Kabul Municipality
-- Community risk reduction in Badakshan and Baghlan (likely to expand)

Integrated Shelter
-- Shelter and Settlements project for up to 12,400 HH/75,500 individuals for displaced, returnees and vulnerable host community in Kabul Municipality, complemented by an urban recovery management capacity building program.
Urban Recovery Management CBP

- Two-year program with Kabul Municipality, providing on-site TA and mentoring/training
- Integrating humanitarian concerns while helping manage recovery of city in crisis
- 3-4 advisors embedded with KM urban development staff
- Challenging!!
SHELTER RESPONSE: Repair, Using Local Labor and Local Materials
RESPONSE: Transitional Shelter
DRR by Design

(at 18% per sq. m. Less than Conventional)
DRR in Action

Stone Foundation!! Training in Block Making and Construction
BRICKS -- and More BRICKS -- as Shelter-Livelihood Link
Significant Livelihood Generation
Settlements Components
“Before” and “After”, Side by Side

- S and S
- Livelihoods
- DRR
Why Is This Important?

• Afghanistan is one of world’s most seismically active regions

• Asia’s fastest growing cities during the 90s

• One of the world’s most rapidly urbanizing countries at present

• Kabul is perhaps the world’s fastest growing city; regional cities are also growing fast

• Urban pop. will at least triple in size by 2020; recent events will likely accelerate rate, and

• Current needs adding to backlog of needs
Some Basic Realities...

• Again, urban areas accounted for approx. 40% of national population growth since 9/11

• Urban areas have accounted for a sizable, though unknown, share of national GDP since 9/11

• Yet only last August was “Urban” recognized formally as a USG concern in Afghanistan

• Urban areas could experience considerable growth as part of coming “surge”, and

• GIROA and international capacity to manage urban change exceedingly limited.
Opps for Engagement...

• USAID a part of civilian “surge” in Afghanistan

• Urban Development identified as needed skill set, and new Mission Director has urban background

• Mission is funding multi-million dollar “municipal governance” (DG) capacity building effort in numerous settlements throughout the country. Can only get bigger, and

• Mission also funding urban-based “cash for work” projects that include service provision (e.g., drainage ditches). A $25 million CFW project was just initiated in Kabul; other cities to follow. UD expertise would be a useful input to program.
Some Common Objectives...

In and out of Afghanistan, for both the “HA” & “DA” communities, key objectives could be:

1. Jointly identifying “Harm’s Way” in at-risk, disaster- and crisis-prone settlements

2. Creating mechanisms and incentives to reduce or prevent occupancy of “Harm’s Way”

3. Reducing risk for those unable to move out of “Harm’s Way”

4. Responding to those affected by disasters and crises in “Harm’s Way” in a creative, appropriate, and cost-effective manner that reduces risk over time, and

5. Incorporating this focus into larger urban sector strategies.
In Summary, We...

• Examined the OFDA view of Settlements
• Discussed Conditions in Afghanistan
• Discussed Current OFDA Activities
• Identified and Discussed Basic Realities, Opportunities for Engagement, and some Common Objectives, and
• Noted numerous natural and human-caused hazards that can have significant social, economic and political impacts. These impacts can be reduced through a DRR-based and urban-“cognizant” development strategy.
Thanks for Coming!

Questions?
Comments?