

## Documentation

### Dataset A14. Village Histories in Nimroz province

Collection of village histories for 50 villages in Nimroz province, Afghanistan. These village histories capture the changing social and political conditions, the drug economy and the presence of armed groups in the borderlands of Afghanistan, from the perspective of people who live there. These village histories are complemented by a household survey carried out in the same villages.

Dataset owner: Organization for Sustainable Development and Research (OSDR)

#### Context

In Afghanistan, the goal of the research is to develop a robust and dynamic understanding of the actors, commodities and events that shape the borderlands of Nangarhar and Nimroz, in particular with regards to opium production, trade and use. Afghanistan is the global leader in opium production through a combination of factors: the land produces opium poppies with a high morphine content, chronic insecurity and institutional weakness have meant no, or inadequate, regulation, and poor infrastructure and poverty prevent the development of alternative livelihoods.

#### Methodology

Village histories were captured through group interviews. One group interview was held per village, with 3-5 elder people knowledgeable about the village, that were contacted through the Community Development Council (CDC) or shura. Interviews used a standard list of questions / topics.

The questions focused on:

- village history governance since the 1970s through different political periods
- history of agricultural production
- history of manufacturing, factories and industries
- cross-border trade affecting the village
- main development programmes affecting the community
- major population movements over time
- major events and natural disasters affecting the community
- central state intervention in the community in different periods
- history of militia and tribal self-defence groups in the village

Twelve or 13 villages were selected in each of four districts of Nimroz province. Half were chosen randomly, the other half based on criteria for population, geographical location, agriculture and drug history to ensure variation. In the same 50 villages a household survey was carried out with 975 households.

**Location**

Nimroz province, Afghanistan: districts Zaranj, Khashrod, Kang and Charborjak

**Time period**

October – November 2021