G. Minoia W. Mumtaz A. Pain

…”Why differences amongst villages matter?”
Access and assessment

➔ Donors intervention leads to disparities between provinces
➔ More secure provinces have generally attracted higher levels of funds
➔ Even in a programme meant to work on a standard template - the National Solidarity Programme (NSP) - agencies tended to work in more accessible areas first, confounding assessment of its impact (Pinney & Ronchini 2007)

Why a method to characterize villages?
➔ village differences’ do matter
➔ identifying key village variables account for village behaviour and explains how this links to potential or actual service delivery
Methodology to assess village context analysis

Initial observations derived from the application of a method to characterize village context in rural Afghanistan

• Pilot conducted in October 2013 > 10 villages in 2 provinces
• Sample 100 villages in 2 contrasting provinces

Key variables identified to be analyzed with statistical techniques:

1. Position of the village in relation to the outer world
2. Village economy and resources distribution
3. Customary institutions structure and performance
4. Newly introduced institutions after 2001
5. Evidence of services provision
Role of customary institutions and CDCs

It has been assumed the NSP would have built accountable governance capacity through the establishment of Community Development Councils (DCDs)...

Evidence from previous studies (Pain & Kantor 2011) confirmed by the pilot test (October 2013) and by the implementation of the method in 50 villages (November 2013) shows that customary institutions are still playing a vital role in service delivery, not only in villages.
CDCs holding a mixed identity

• CDC members are often representatives of village elite and highly ranked in customary relations
• Given the NSP played a role since 2003 in providing services to the community, influential figures kept their status within the community while joining CDCs.
• Mullahs and the Mosque are still pictured as vital to community welfare
• Mantequas remain village source of identity holding key role in conflict resolution on land and water disputes
Which future for NSP?

Now receiving scrutiny for the post 2015 – perspectives from the two major actors involved – WB and MRRD

• Will CDC turn into VC?

• Which will be the role of District Coordination Councils who’s profile has been recently outlined?

• Will it be affordable to sustain the programme?

• Looking backward…which phases could have been differently designed?