Address to the Advisory Committee on Voluntary Foreign Aid, October 1, 2003

USAID Administrator Andrew S. Natsios

Reconstructing Iraq & Afghanistan

Iraq: USAID Accomplishments

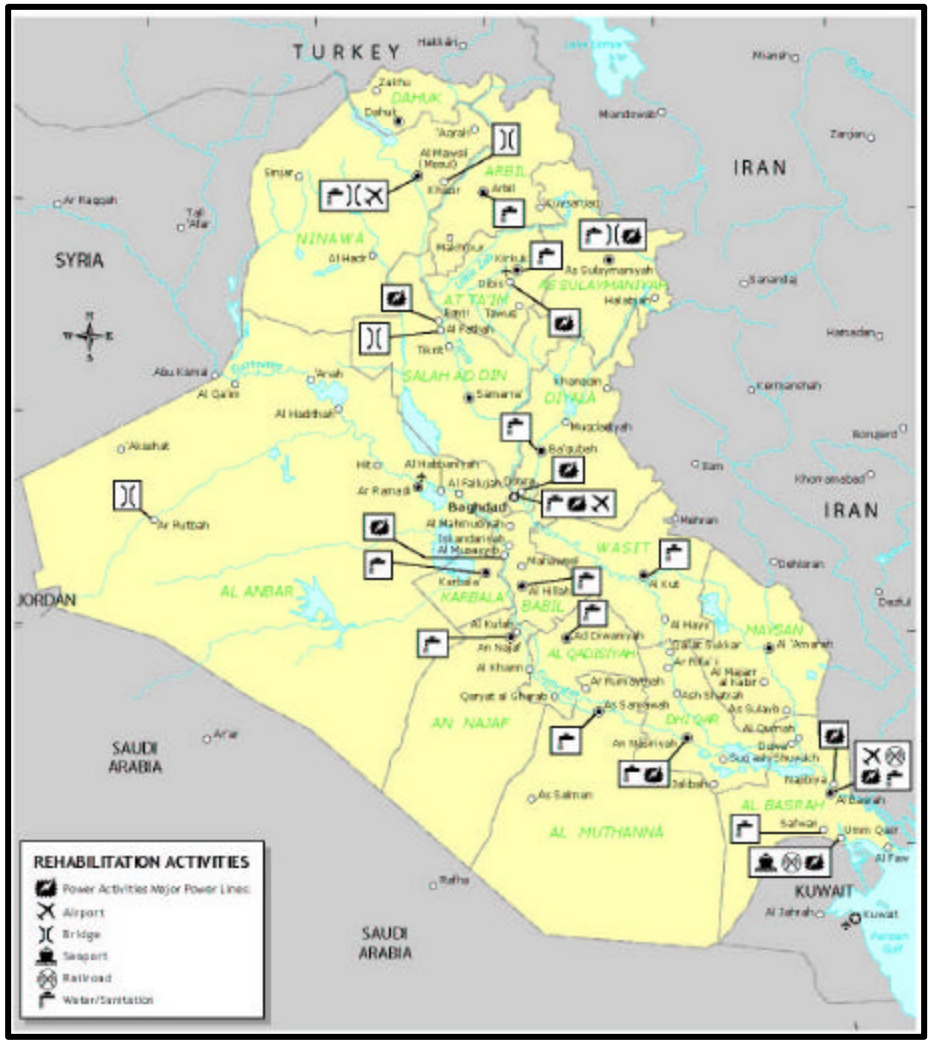
- pre-positioned food and supplied more than $400 million to ensure no humanitarian crisis would ensue;
- sent the largest DART ever to Iraq to assess conditions and fine-tune our strategy;
- put some 55,000 Iraqis to work;
- set up Mission headquarters in Baghdad and offices in Hillah, Basra, Mosul, and Arbil; and
- issued 45 grants and contracts to American NGOs and private firms and specialized UN agencies in less than five months.

USAID's economic governance projects are:

- working in 17 priority areas, including the new currency, small business credit, commercial legislation, a national employment program, banking, tax policy, administration, micro-lending, and budget planning.

- Worked closely with Amb. Bremer and the CPA;

Iraq: Infrastructure Rehabilitation Activities



Iraq: Infrastructure Accomplishments

- dredged and repaired Umm Qasr port, which opened June 17;
- began repairs on rail links to Umm Qasr;
- assured Basra its first reliable electricity in many years;
- brought electrical output back to 3,927 megawatts on September 28;
- provided water and sanitation support for 14.5 million Iraqis, helping repair 1,700 pipe breaks in Baghdad and increasing water flow by 200,000 cubic meters per day;
- rehabilitated 70 of Baghdad's 90 waste pumping stations and installed 28 generators;
- completed major infrastructure work on Baghdad International Airport:
- completed the bypass for Al-Mat Bridge and 36 bridge assessments; and
- begun restoring telephone and communications throughout the country.

Iraq: Food, Agriculture & Local Governance Accomplishments

In food and agriculture, we are:

- working with CPA to ensure nation-wide food deliveries continue smoothly;
- encouraging greater domestic food production; and
- completing an assessment of the feasibility of restoring the southern marshes.

Our work in support of local governance includes:

- helping establish more than 200 neighborhood advisory councils, representing more than half the country's population and all 88 Baghdad neighborhoods;
- awarding over 830 Rapid Response Grants, worth $40 million, to foster Iraqi participation in local governance and civil society;
- providing more than 40 "ministries in a box," including Iraq's Ministries of Justice, Irrigation, Foreign Affairs, Labor, Health and Finance; and
- organizing 74 community associations which focus on sewage repair, neighborhood clean-up, road repairs, school renovation, water and sanitation, medical facilities and hospital renovation.

Iraq: Education & Health Accomplishments

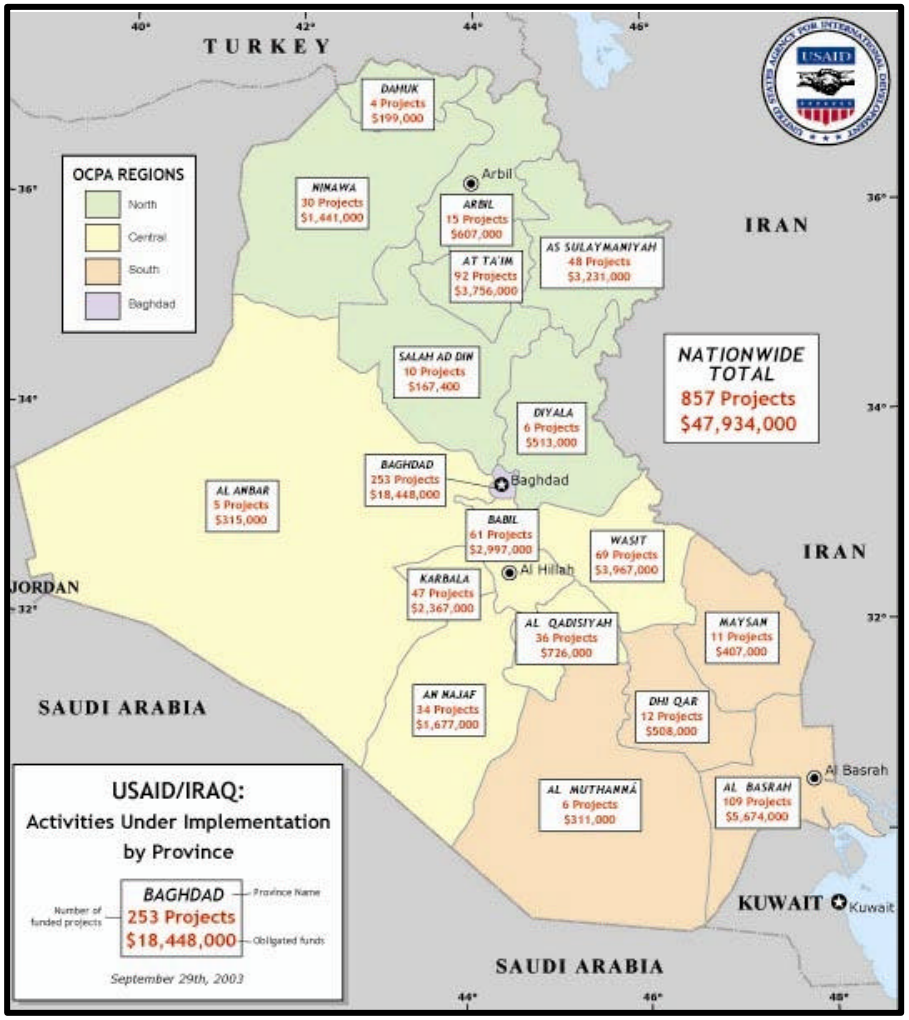
Our work in education includes:

- inventorying, with the Iraqi Ministry of Education, 3,900 secondary schools;
- renovating 1,200 schools and supplying 5.6 million new math and science texts by opening of new school year – October 4; and
- furnishing 1.5 million secondary student supply kits.

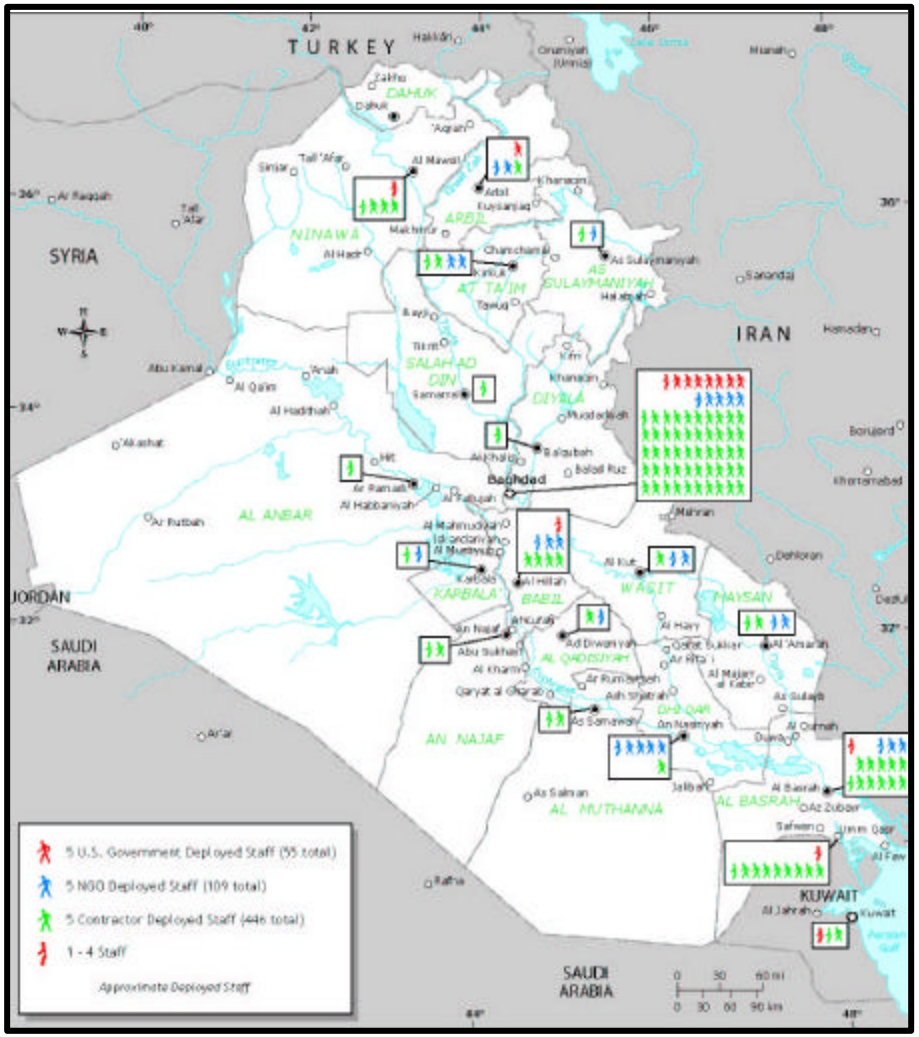
Our work in health has included:

- working with Ministry on national health strategy;
- rehabilitating 20 delivery rooms, serving 300,000 residents of Basra;
- rehabilitating 29 other hospitals;
- re-equipping 600 primary health centers and providing assistance to 168 hospitals and clinics and 82 primary care centers;
- grants to Iraqi doctors and nurses associations;
- distributing 3 million doses of oral re-hydration salts;
- funding 4.2 million vaccinations; and
- training 2,000 health workers to work with malnourished children.

Iraq: Activities Under Implementation



Iraq: Staff Deployment



Afghanistan: Objectives

- Reconstructing the devastated economy with a focus on agriculture and infrastructure
- Creating the conditions for private investment
- Improving the lives of average Afghans through the provision of basic public services
- Reconstituting the basic institutions of national government
- Promoting democracy and peace
- Contributing to full participation in the new Afghanistan

Afghanistan: Accomplishments

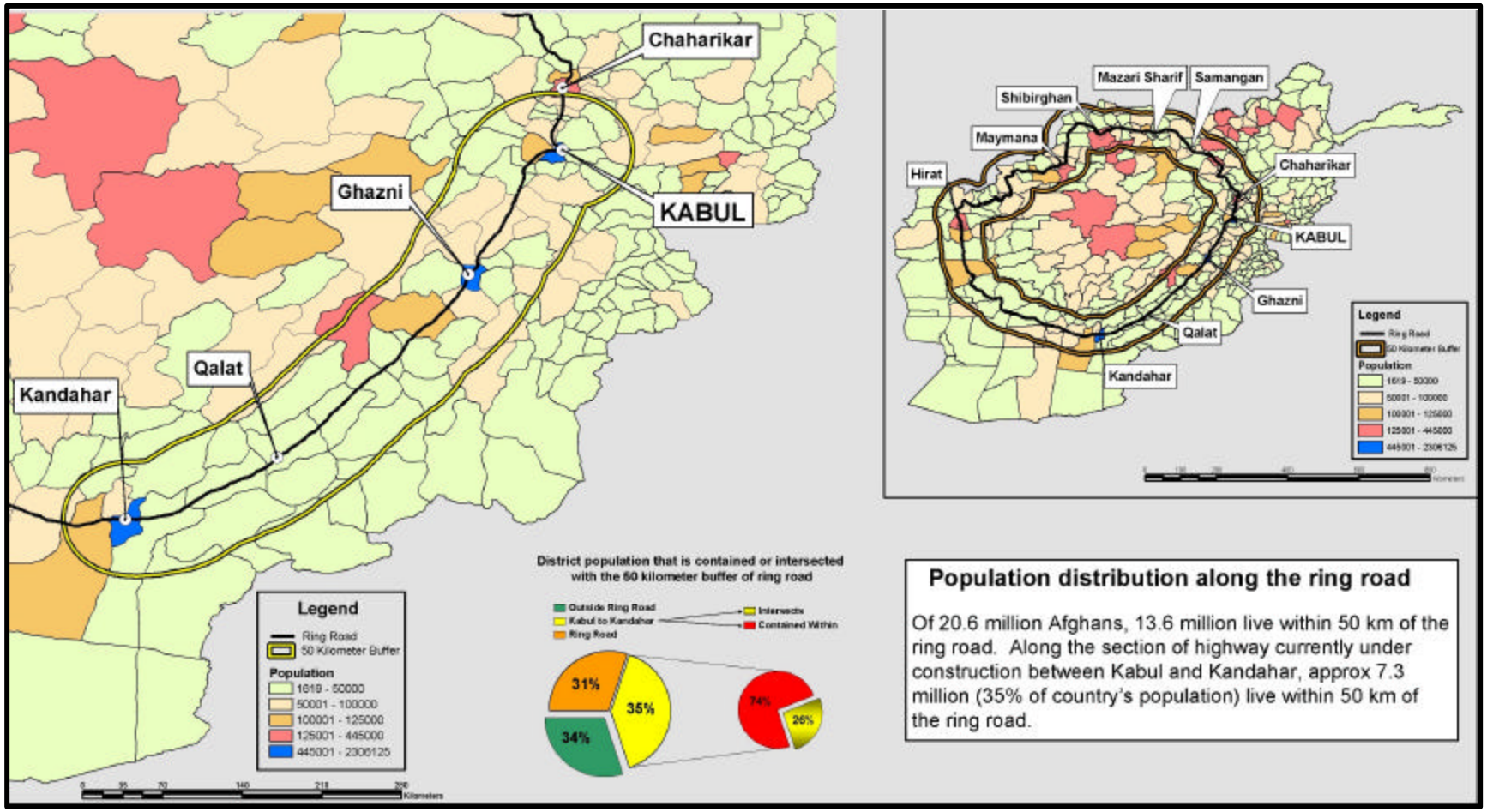
- prevented a major food crisis, furnishing 400,000 metric tons of commodities through Food for Peace after 9/11/2001;
- provided important support for Chairman Karzai's Government;
- helped improve the harvest by 82 percent last year, introducing drought-resistant seeds, clearing and repairing canals and irrigation systems, and rebuilding secondary roads so farmers can get their produce to markets;
- made steady progress on the Kabul to Kandahar road – Chairman Karzai's top priority;
- launched the new Afghan currency and worked with Afghan authorities on the budget, currency and banking reform, investment law, and customs;
- provided 25 million textbooks to Afghan schoolchildren, encouraged girls to attend class, trained thousands of teachers and provided them income supplements, and repaired or rebuilt 203 schools. And we plan to build or fix another 1,000 schools by 2006;

Afghanistan: Accomplishments (continued)

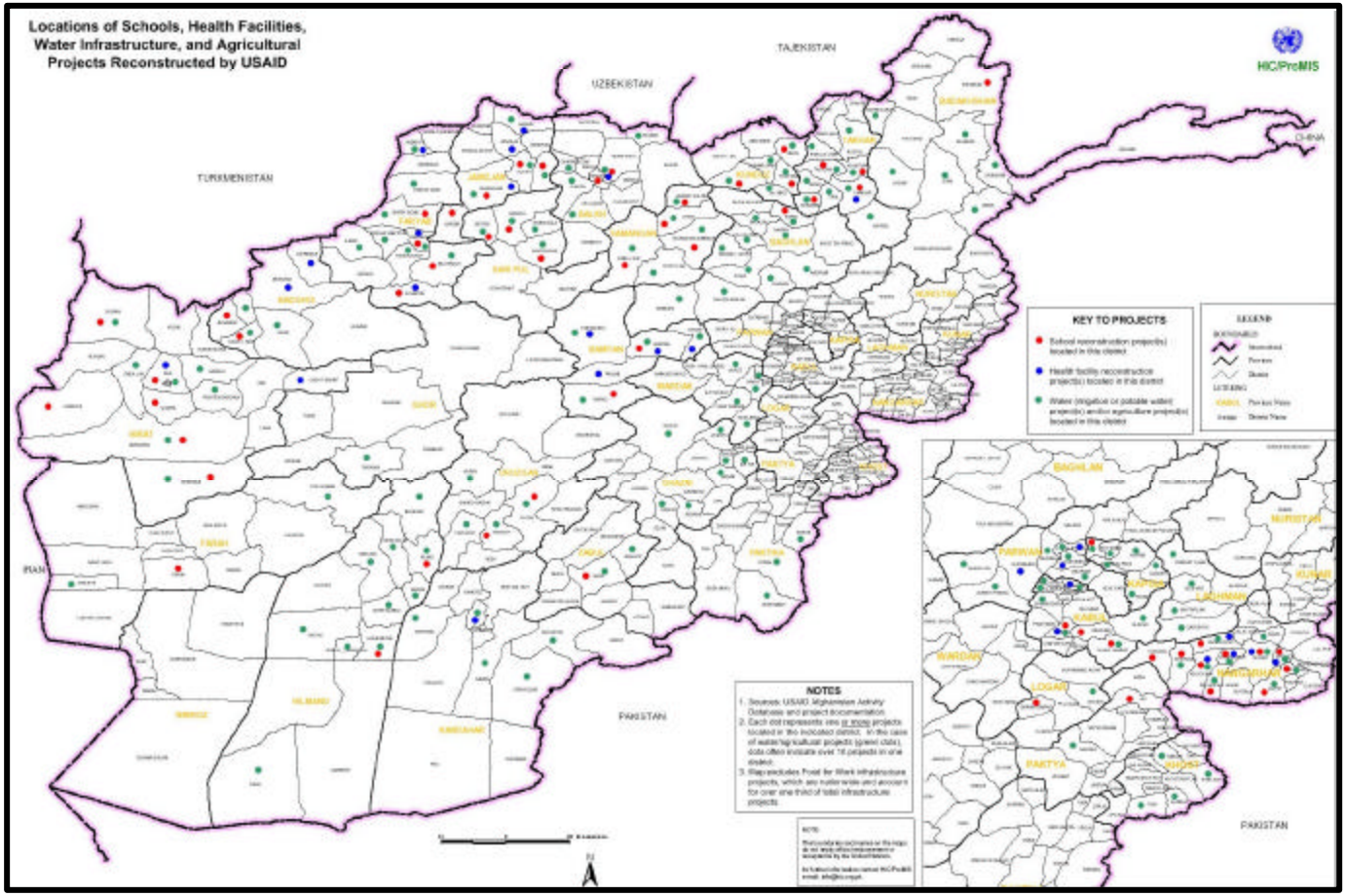
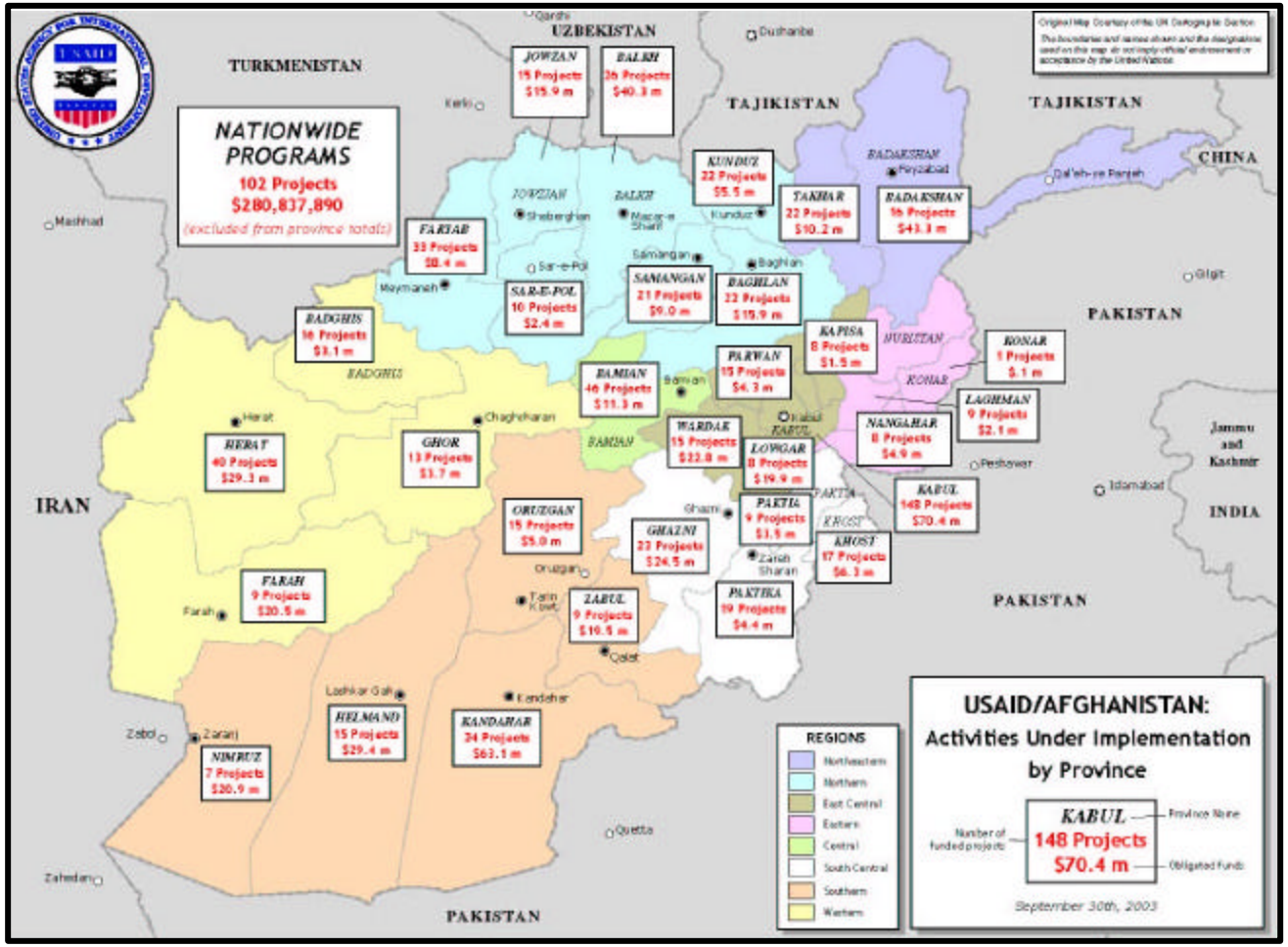
- rebuilt 121 health clinics and facilities. And we will do another 400 over the next three years;
- helped the Ministry of Health prepare the country's first national health survey;
- rebuilt and supplied several Afghan Government Ministries;
- funded 134 technical experts to work with the Afghan authorities;
- helped launch Radio Afghanistan so that last year's Loya Jirga could be heard through the country. New radio stations and newspapers are now appearing throughout the country;
- as per the Bonn Agreement, Judicial and Human Rights Commissions are now in place and a Constitution is being drafted; and
- helped the Ministry of Women's Affairs set up women's centers throughout the country.

Afghanistan: Status & Responsibility of Major Roads

Afghanistan: Ring Road Impact on Population Centers



Afghanistan: Location of Major USAID-financed Projects



Afghanistan: Activities Under Implementation