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Tourism Sector in Times of High Uncertainty

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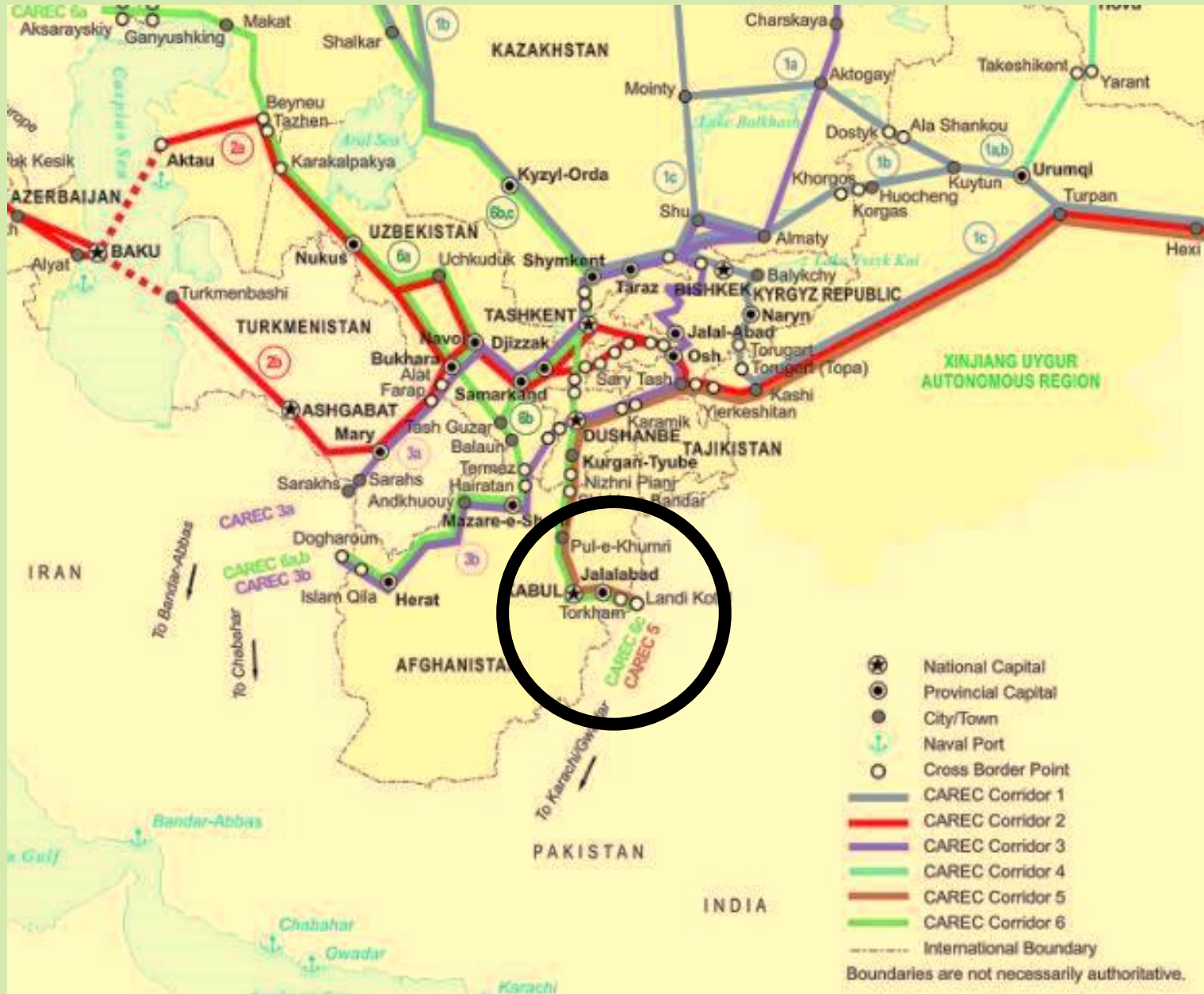
COVID-19 IMPACT ON THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF CITIES OF CENTRAL ASIA: THE CASE OF KABUL

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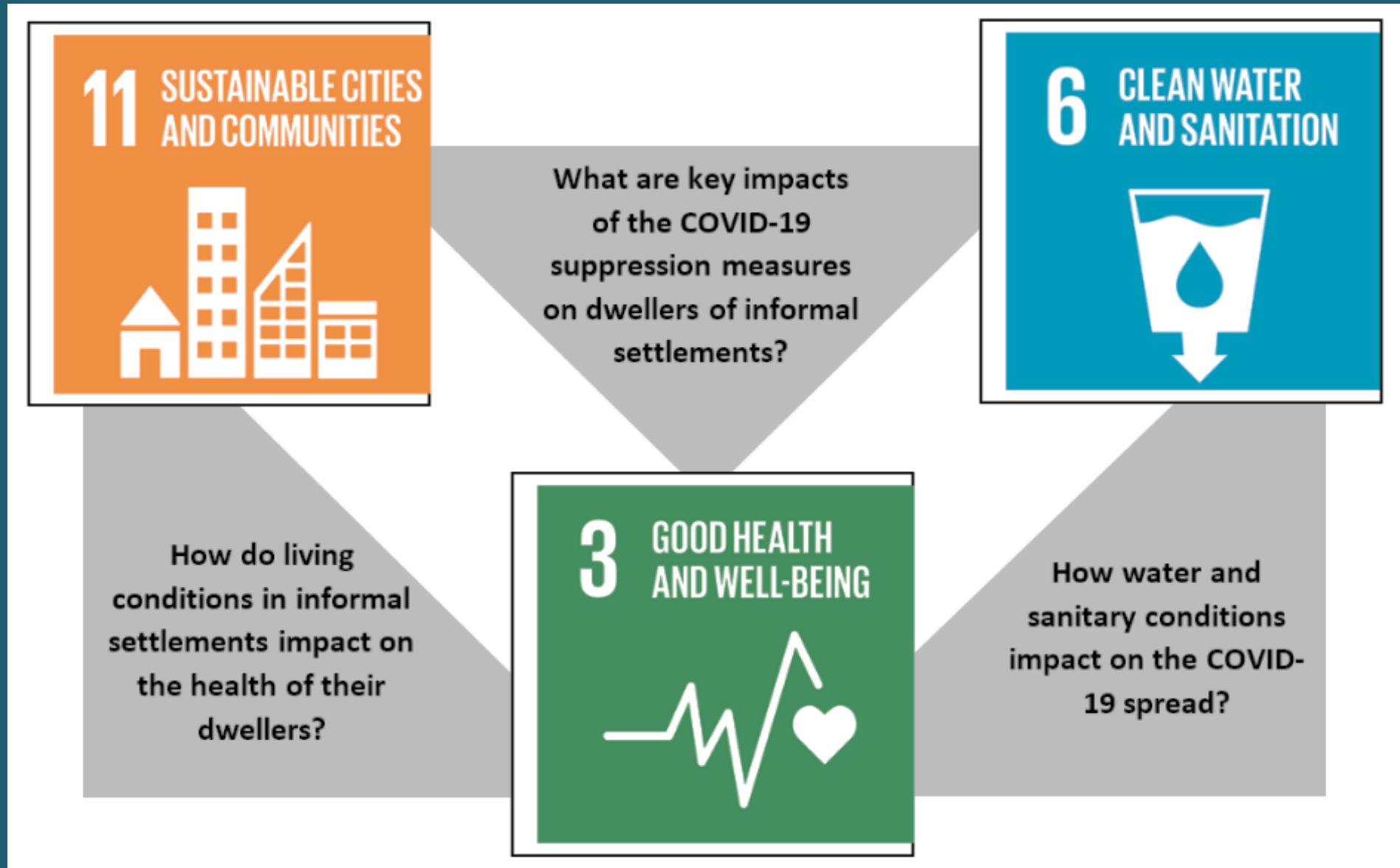
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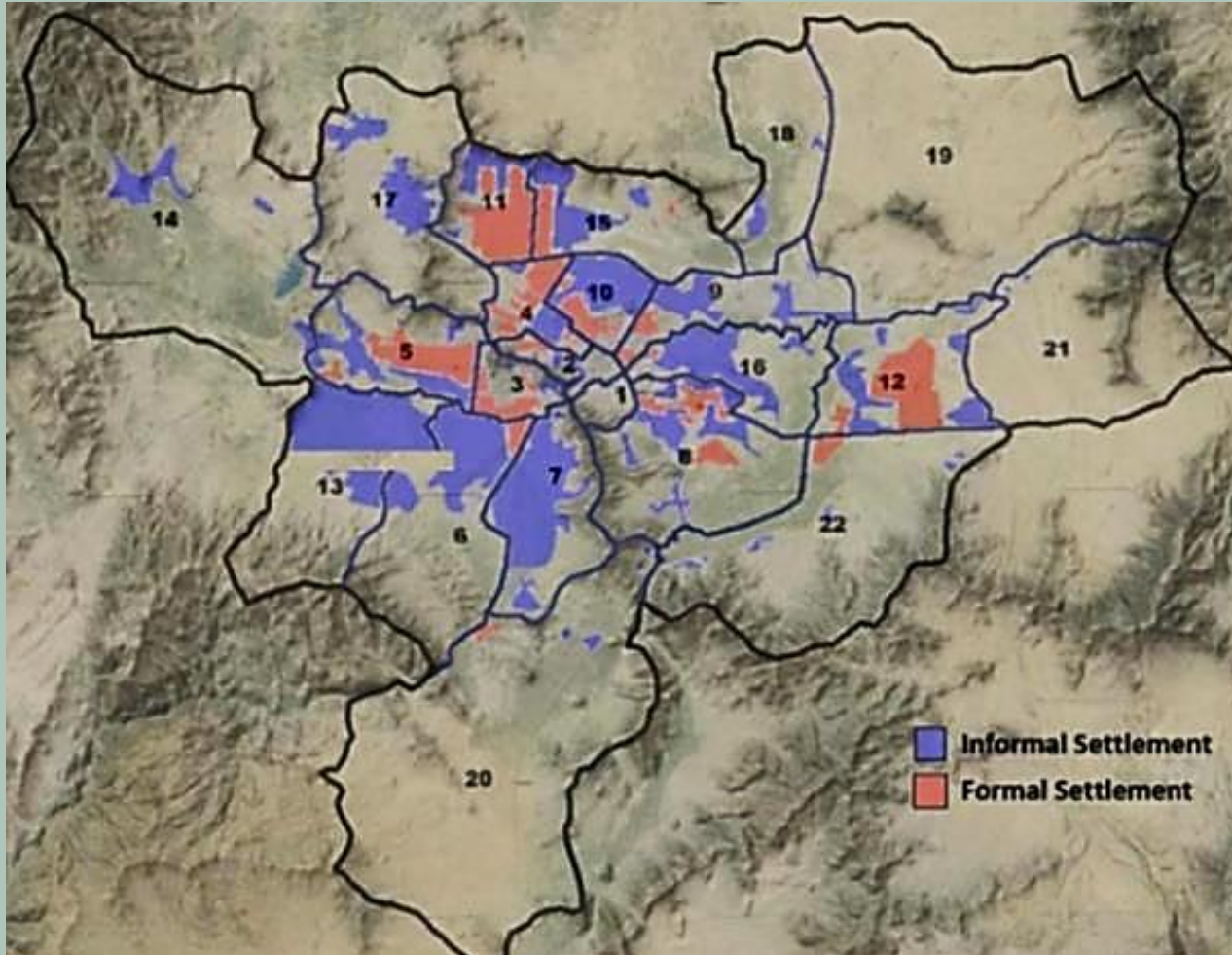
The aim of the study is to assess the urban development of Kabul, focusing on two critical components of sustainable and healthy living revealed by the recent COVID-19 pandemic:

- Urban hygiene and access to water and sanitation;
- Access to housing, land, and property rights.

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK



INFORMAL SETTLEMENTS IN KABUL



- ▶ over 6 million people, approximately 70% of city residents of Kabul, live there with high uncertainties due to weak land rights, low quality housing, and vulnerability to natural disasters;
- ▶ more than 80% of urban residents struggle with access to potable water;
- ▶ the informal settlement's population comprises urban poor, rural migrants, returned refugees, and other people displaced by conflicts or disasters.

THE COVID-19 IMPACT ON RESIDENTS OF KABUL

- The lockdowns, closure of markets and social spaces left the urban poor without the opportunity to earn and afford living even in an informal setting.
- The implementation of handwashing became impractical for informal settlements that do not have adequate access to clean water and poor sanitation.

THE COVID-19 IMPACT ON RESIDENTS OF KABUL

- The social distancing or self-isolation is a luxury for the urban poor living in the densely populated informal settlements, sharing access to basic infrastructure.
- Informal settlements with poor sanitary conditions can become the main hot spots for transmitting the virus to the other parts of the city.

THE MAIN POLICY CHALLENGES IN KABUL'S INFORMAL SETTLEMENTS

- The government and donors continue to be reactive and fighting with the consequences.
- Most government and donor interventions are limited to the simple supply of basic infrastructure, whereas nothing is being done to promote social and behaviour change.
- Many projects' delays were caused by the lack of sufficient technical and managerial capacity and inadequate distribution of roles and responsibilities among key actors.
- There is a lack of reliable data about people residing in informal settlements. There is no documentation of health issues or other evidence to understand the COVID-19 transmission dynamics level.

POLICY PRIORITIES IN INFORMAL SETTLEMENTS

- Policy actions must be evidence-based and rely on sound research to fill the data gap about people living in informal settlements.
- Planning interventions should not be expensive and applicable to the local situation.
- There is a need for an integrated approach to all development dimensions of informal settlement living.

POLICY PRIORITIES IN INFORMAL SETTLEMENTS

- The national government should invest in the Kabul city government's capacity to engage in local partnerships and incentives to cooperate with local stakeholders.
- Local strategies should focus on dwellers by not giving or delegating but sharing responsibilities and working together.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION!