

A Survey of the Afghan People



AFGHANISTAN IN 2008



The Asia Foundation

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Preface

Afghanistan has been through increasingly difficult times in the 12 months since The Asia Foundation conducted its last survey of Afghan public opinion in the summer of 2007. Amidst slow but steady gains in vital basic amenities and services and some successes in reconstruction efforts across the country, the conflict resulted in significantly higher civilian and military casualties; food shortages in many regions became severe, with several million Afghans facing near-starvation this coming winter; and inflation and unemployment continued to rise. The country and the international community now confront presidential and other elections in 2009 and 2010.

In this context, The Asia Foundation conducted its fourth annual nationwide survey of Afghan public opinion in summer 2008. The aim, as with the other nationwide surveys that were conducted in 2006 and 2007 and the more limited survey in 2004, was to gather first-hand opinion of a large sample of Afghan citizens on a variety of contemporary governance and development-related issues such that the information generated is useful for policy makers and opinion shapers in government, the international community, and the broader Afghan public. Every effort is made to ensure that the questions asked and the information collected on public opinion is actionable and, with each passing year, these surveys have become more acceptable and wider used both as a valid and reliable barometer of public opinion in Afghanistan as well as a public policy tool.

The Asia Foundation's first nationwide survey was conducted in 2004 primarily to assess the knowledge and attitude of the electorate regarding the country's first national elections (presidential elections) held in October 2004. The objective then was to equip the Foundation and other non-governmental organizations with accurate data to help design and deploy voter education messages and campaigns. The 2004 survey covered 804 respondents from 29 of the then existing 32 provinces of the country. This survey helped argue the case for a larger annual survey effort that could gauge and analyze public opinion in a more differentiated manner at regional and provincial levels. This, in turn, led to the larger surveys conducted in 2006, 2007, and now in 2008, with the support of the U.S. Agency for International Development.

The survey conducted in 2006 was the first of the large annual surveys. It collected the opinion of 6226 respondents from 32 of the 34 provinces of the country. The 2006 survey provided significant policy-relevant data and established a baseline for measuring public perceptions on subjects such as democratic governance and values, role of political parties, civil responsibilities and rights, the place of religion in the evolving polity, women's rights, and other issues. In 2006, in addition to the basic survey report, the Foundation also released a follow-up analytical volume titled *State Building, Political Progress, and Human Security in Afghanistan* that contained papers by experts who looked at the survey in greater and comparative detail on issues such as democratic progress, levels of trust in institutions, and the advancement of women in Afghan society.

The 2007 survey used a sample of 6263 people from all 34 provinces of the country. The survey came halfway through the term of the incumbent government in a year when anti-government forces were expected to mobilize in large numbers and the country was coming off a record year in poppy cultivation. These circumstances presented a special opportunity to gauge public opinion.

The 2008 survey interviewed 6593 Afghans from each of the 34 provinces of Afghanistan. The security situation in some provinces was not very conducive to survey work at the time of the fieldwork and there was some risk of not reaching respondents in these areas. Fortunately, however, the field teams were prepared to use alternate sampling points and adjust for insecurity and logistical difficulties in order to cover all the provinces and obtain a representative sample of views.

The 2008 and previous surveys use a standard questionnaire for comparability, which combines questions on Afghanistan that are relevant to policy makers, social researchers, and donor organizations with tried and tested questions that have been used in other countries across the world in well-known surveys like the *East and South Asia Barometers* and the *Latin Pop Surveys* as well as other Asia Foundation surveys in Bangladesh, Cambodia, Indonesia, Philippines, and Nepal. Each year, some questions are added to cover new areas of interest and other less significant or less salient questions are removed. Feedback received from each year's survey is used to further fine-tune the survey instruments. For 2008, the survey questionnaire was first revised in-house and then sent to select experts, stakeholders, and donors for review and suggestions. Acknowledging the intense focus on sub-national governance and the upcoming 2009 elections, relevant questions in these subject areas were added to the basic questionnaire. Some standard questions were rephrased wherever it was felt that clearer and more useful responses could be obtained.

Some design changes were also made to the sampling to increase the spread of the interviews to a larger area and counter any cases of homogeneity in responses due to closely-clustered samples. In a significant adjustment to fieldwork this year, additional quality control measures were built in to improve on the accuracy of the data collection: interview back-check teams from the Foundation's own staff supplemented the standard back checks conducted by field-team supervisors.

As in previous years, the Foundation continued its emphasis on using the survey program to help improve Afghan capacity in conducting research of this kind. Over the past two years, the Foundation's fieldwork partner, the Afghan Center for Socio-economic and Opinion Research (ACSOR), has been able to build a team with the capacity to undertake extremely large, diverse, and sensitive surveys across the country. In 2008, a total of 543 interviewers (up from 494 interviewers used in 2007) were used for data collection.

Among its other capacity-building activities, the Foundation also supports a research internship program that trains apprentices, and places students from Kabul University. In

2007-2008, 12 students underwent a Foundation-sponsored internship with ACSOR, following which several interns were placed at Foundation cost with research organizations in Kabul. Current capacity-building activities also include training in the Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) for personnel from the Afghan government's Central Statistics Organization (CSO), ACSOR, the Foundation, and other interested partner organizations.

The initial analysis and write-up of the 2008 survey report was provided by Sudhindra Sharma and Pawan Sen from Inter-Disciplinary Analysts (IDA), the Foundation's partner research group from Nepal. The Foundation's Ruth Rennie completed the analysis and write-up of the final version of the survey report. The Foundation's Sunil Pillai and Najibullah Amin managed the overall survey project in Kabul.

Following the release of this survey report, the Foundation will release a companion analytical volume in December that reflects on the 2008 findings of Afghan public opinion. Like the companion volume produced in 2006, this year's effort will add expert commentary to the findings, discuss trends in a comparative light with other countries in the region and from other data sources, and draw policy-relevant conclusions.

The Asia Foundation
Kabul, Afghanistan
October 2008

1. Executive Summary

1.1 Key Findings

- Although on a declining trend since 2006, 38 percent of survey respondents say the country is moving in the right direction, while 32 percent say it is moving in the wrong direction, and 23 percent have mixed views. There is a clear trend towards greater pessimism over the last two years.
- The security situation is both the main reason respondents give for saying the country is moving in the right direction and the main concern for those who say the country is moving in the wrong direction. The proportion of respondents who cite insecurity as a reason for pessimism has increased by one-fourth in the past year.
- The biggest problems faced by Afghanistan as a whole are identified as security (36%), economic issues including unemployment (31%), high prices (22%), poor economy (17%), and corruption (14%).
- Overall, the proportion of respondents who have a positive view of the security situation in their local area has decreased in most regions since 2007. Respondents report an improvement in security conditions in the Central Hazarajat, West, and East regions but a consistent degradation in security conditions since 2006 in the South West, South East, and Central Kabul regions (see Appendix 4 for a reference map).
- A large majority of respondents (82%) are against poppy cultivation; however, attitudes have evolved in markedly different ways between regions since 2006. The proportion of respondents who say that poppy cultivation is wrong has increased sharply in Central Hazarajat and the North East, whereas the proportion who disapprove of poppy cultivation has decreased in the South East and East.
- Unemployment is seen as a major problem at both local (28%) and national (31%) levels. Seventy-eight percent of respondents say that the availability of jobs in their local area is very low. Only seven percent of respondents report any improvement in employment opportunities over the last two years.
- The most important local problems relate to lack of basic infrastructure such as electricity (30%), water (22%), and roads (18%). The availability of electricity is considered particularly bad in the North East, East, and South West.
- The biggest problems faced by women in Afghanistan continue to be the lack of education and illiteracy (45%) for the third year running.

- The most widely enjoyed amenity is the availability of education for children which is judged by 70 percent of respondents to be good. Forty-four percent of respondents report improvements in access to schools in the last two years.
- The proportion of respondents who say they are more prosperous today than they were under the Taliban government has decreased significantly since 2006 (from 54% to 36% in 2008), while those who say that they are less prosperous now has increased from 26 percent in 2006 to 36 percent in 2008.
- Two-thirds of respondents (67%) give a positive assessment of the performance of central government, although the proportion of those saying that the government is doing a bad job has almost doubled since 2007. The government's performance is judged most positively with respect to the provision of education and healthcare. Respondents are least positive about government performance in the economic arena and in combating corruption.
- At the local level, respondents are most satisfied with the performance of provincial government (74%) followed by district authorities (67%). Respondents are least satisfied with the performance of municipal authorities (50%). Satisfaction with government at all levels has fallen since 2007.
- Public opinion about the justice system, both informal and formal, remains positive. Respondents continue to have a higher level of trust and confidence in traditional dispute resolution mechanisms than they do in the modern state justice system, particularly in rural areas. Satisfaction with shura and jirga mechanisms is higher than that for state courts in terms of accessibility (76% vs. 68%), fairness and trustworthiness (70% vs. 50%), their effectiveness in following local norms and values (69% vs. 50%), and delivering justice (69% vs. 52%). Both systems are judged least positively on the timeliness of their procedures (50% vs. 38%).
- Again in 2008 the most common definition of democracy mentioned by respondents is freedom, followed by peace. The proportion of respondents who mention fundamental principles of democracy, such as government of the people and rights and law, has fallen consistently since 2006.
- More than two-thirds of respondents (68%) say that they are satisfied with the way democracy is working in Afghanistan; however, significant levels of dissatisfaction are recorded in the South West (44%), South East (35%), and East (33%) of the country.

- Local representative bodies, both formal and informal, enjoy the confidence of around two-thirds of respondents including shura and jirga (69%), Community Development Councils (65%), and Provincial Councils (65%).
- Nearly half of rural respondents (47%) and a quarter of urban dwellers (23%) are aware of a Community Development Council (CDC) in their locale. Across the country as a whole, awareness of CDCs has risen from 37 percent of respondents in 2006 to 42 percent in 2008.
- Just over half of respondents (53%) are aware of the forthcoming 2009 elections and just under half (48%) say they know how to register to vote. Around three-quarters of respondents (77%) say they are likely to vote. However, positive responses on all these issues are significantly higher amongst men than women.
- Seventy-two percent of respondents express some level of confidence in the Afghan government to manage a free and fair election process in the future. The most important challenge is seen to be insecurity followed by weak government and corruption.
- Fifty-one percent of respondents use the radio as their main information source for national news, and twenty-one percent use television. Television is the preferred information source for over half of the respondents in urban areas. .

1.2 Summary

Thirty-eight percent of survey respondents say that the country is moving in the right direction, while 32 percent say it is moving in the wrong direction, and 23 percent have mixed views. However, there is a clear trend towards greater pessimism over the last two years: the number of those saying that the country is moving in the right direction has decreased steadily since 2006 whereas the number of those who say the country is moving in the wrong direction has increased.

Security issues are identified as the biggest problem in Afghanistan as a whole and are the major factor shaping both optimistic and pessimistic views of the direction of the country. However, it is clear that security issues in Afghanistan have a predominantly localised dimension. The survey finds that in 2008 the security situation in Afghanistan is becoming more polarized, with respondents in some places feeling secure most of the time and others experiencing relatively constant levels of insecurity. Overall, the proportion of respondents who have a positive view of the security situation in their local area has decreased in most regions since 2007. Respondents report an improvement in security conditions in Central Hazarajat,

West, and East regions but a steady degradation in security conditions since 2006 in the South West, South East, and Central Kabul regions. Both the proportions of respondents who say they ‘often’ fear for their safety and those who report ‘never’ fearing for their security have increased since 2007, further emphasising the clumping of deteriorated security conditions in different parts of the country.

As in previous years, the survey finds that compared to their level of fear for personal safety, respondents’ actual experience of violence and crime is relatively low. When respondents were asked about the kinds of violence and crime they had experienced, interpersonal violence or threat of violence is the most significant overall followed by property crimes. The experience of different kinds of crime in 2008 is largely similar to that recorded in previous years, except in the South West and South East, where it has risen significantly making these the most crime-prone regions in the country.

The survey finds that most respondents would feel safe to participate in a range of public activities that happen within their community, such as resolving problems at the community level or voting in a national election. However, they are significantly more fearful of engaging in public political actions, such as participating in a peaceful demonstration or running for public office. Women are more fearful than men about participating in resolving problems in the community or in a peaceful demonstration. However, there is no significant difference in the proportions of men and women who say they would fear voting in a national election or running for public office.

As in previous years, the Afghan National Army (ANA) and Afghan National Police (ANP) enjoy the highest levels of public confidence of all government institutions. However, respondents express significant concerns about the capacity of these institutions to operate effectively without external assistance considering them unprofessional and poorly trained. The proportion of respondents expressing these concerns has decreased since 2007 suggesting that there is a perception that ANA and ANP capacity is improving.

A large majority of respondents are against poppy cultivation; however, attitudes have evolved in markedly different ways among regions since 2006. The proportion of respondents who say that poppy cultivation is wrong has risen sharply in Central Hazarajat and the North East, whereas the proportion who disapprove of poppy cultivation has fallen in the South East and East. Those who approve of poppy cultivation do so principally for economic reasons such as employment creation and profitability for farmers and workers, which is consistent with concerns about

unemployment as one of the most important national and local problems. Those who oppose poppy cultivation do so mostly for religious reasons (because it is forbidden in Islam). A significant proportion of respondents mention the link between poppy cultivation, terrorism, corruption, and crime. Only a tiny proportion say they oppose poppy cultivation because it is against the law.

In 2008, economic issues have gained prominence as major national problems compared to 2007, particularly the issue of high prices related to the global crisis in food prices, unemployment, and poor economy. Since 2006, there has been a significant fall in the proportion of respondents who say that they are more prosperous today than they were under the Taliban government indicating that respondents feel a higher level of dissatisfaction with the economic situation of their families in 2008 than they have done in previous years.

Unemployment is identified as a major problem at the local level, and there is seen to have been very little improvement in employment opportunities over the last two years. Expectations of future improvement are lowest in this area, and a significant proportion of respondents expect availability of jobs to be even lower in the coming year.

The other most important local problems identified by respondents concern basic infrastructure, such as access to electricity, water, and lack of roads and essential public services such as healthcare and education. Electricity supply remains one of the most problematic local amenities and emerges as the top development priority in 2008. Access to electricity varies widely between urban and rural areas and among different regions. On the other hand, the majority of respondents judge the availability of clean drinking water to be good in their local communities and continued improvements are expected in this area in the next year.

The biggest problem faced by women in Afghanistan continues to be lack of education and illiteracy for the third year running. Lack of women's rights and lack of job opportunities for women also feature high on the list.

The most widely enjoyed amenity is the availability of education for children. Education has fallen to fifth place amongst development priorities in 2008 probably because respondents report significant improvements in this area in the last two years. Nevertheless, respondents also have high expectations for improvements in this area in the coming year.

The majority of development programmes are seen to be targeting priority development issues such as education, reconstruction, building of roads and bridges or

water supply, and healthcare. The Afghan government is seen as the primary agency responsible for economic development initiatives, supply of public amenities such as electricity and water, and the provision of basic public services. Across the country, around one-fifth of respondents are aware of the government-led development plan for their province although awareness differs widely between provinces. Of those who know about the government-led development plans, nearly two-thirds have some knowledge of the type of development activities proposed for their province.

Overall assessments of the performance of central government are positive particularly with respect to the provision of basic public services. The government's performance is judged most positively with respect to the provision of education and healthcare but least positively in the economic arena and in combating corruption. At local level, respondents are most satisfied with the performance of provincial government followed by district authorities and are least satisfied with the performance of municipal authorities. However, satisfaction with government at all levels has decreased since 2007.

One of the issues affecting satisfaction with government is corruption which continues to be perceived as a major problem at all levels. The perception of the prevalence of corruption tends to strengthen as the distance of the institution from people's daily lives increases. Corruption is also more often perceived to be increasing at higher levels of government. The perceived prevalence of corruption should be a source of significant concern since institutions in which survey respondents frequently report corrupt practices also register particularly low levels of public confidence.

Another issue affecting respondents' satisfaction with government is increasing disenchantment with the responsiveness of elected representatives in addressing local problems that are important to people. Positive assessments of the performance of parliament in addressing the country's major problems has fallen since 2007 and the same is true of assessments of the performance of members of parliament (MPs) in addressing the major problems of their constituencies.

Local representative bodies, both formal and informal, including Provincial Councils, Community Development Councils, and traditional shura and jirga enjoy the confidence of the majority of respondents. Awareness of the existence of Community Development Councils (CDCs) continues to rise, particularly in rural areas where they primarily operate. As in previous years, membership of CDCs is principally perceived to include influential local leaders but there are also significant

indications of the representation of less powerful social groups such as ordinary farmers, landless agricultural workers, and women. The vast majority of those who are aware of the local CDC are satisfied with its performance.

The survey also contains other indications of widening social participation in decision-making. Two-thirds of respondents feel that they are able to influence government decisions to some significant degree. This represents a significant increase in confidence in personal efficacy since 2006. In addition, there has been a rise since 2006 in the proportion of respondents who say religious leaders should be consulted in public decision-making.

The survey finds that respondents assessed both traditional dispute resolution mechanisms and modern state justice system positively in terms of their accessibility, fairness and trustworthiness, and their effectiveness in following local norms and values, and delivering justice; but least positively on the timeliness of their procedures. Levels of satisfaction are higher for shura and jirga across all domains. Views are mixed on the ability of the formal justice system to address crime by bringing the guilty to justice. The survey finds a slight preference for using state courts to resolve land disputes and divorce cases particularly amongst women.

Informal justice mechanisms are also frequently approached to help address local problems, to report crime, or to resolve disputes particularly in rural areas. Recourse to informal justice mechanisms is highest in the East and South East whereas those in the North East and in Central Kabul prefer to use formal structures. Levels of satisfaction are considerably higher amongst those who have taken their cases to local shura/jirga than those who have taken their cases to the state courts, and this difference has grown since 2007. The survey findings demonstrate that formal and informal justice mechanisms are not seen as opposites but rather as part of a continuum of institutions available to assist with addressing crimes and disputes.

Again in 2008 the most common definition of democracy mentioned by respondents is freedom followed by peace. And these are also the most commonly mentioned personal benefits that respondents think democracy will bring indicating that achieving peace and freedom for its citizens will be the acid test for many Afghans of the success of the current system of democratic government. By contrast, the proportion of respondents who mention fundamental principles as the definition of democracy such as government of the people and rights and law has been decreasing consistently since 2006. The proportion of respondents who believe that democracy challenges Islamic values has also been decreasing steadily since 2006 although this view is still held by a quarter of respondents particularly in rural

areas, in low income households, or among those who have never gone to school. Overall, the majority of respondents say that they are satisfied with the way democracy is working in Afghanistan; however, significant levels of dissatisfaction are recorded in the South West, South East, and East regions of the country.

The survey finds increasing ambivalence about freedom of action for political parties. The majority of respondents agree that the government should allow peaceful opposition. However, support for allowing parties to hold meetings in local areas has decreased steadily since 2006. The survey also shows that tolerance and acceptance of different political viewpoints has diminished since 2006 as a higher proportion of respondents say that different party affiliations would end their friendship with others. Public confidence in political parties remains low suggesting that the political party system has not yet been established as a key component of democratic political processes in Afghanistan.

Respondents demonstrate continued confidence in the efficacy of voting to bring about change. However, nearly twice as many respondents believe that voting should be based on community preferences rather than individual preferences. Just over half of respondents are aware of the 2009 elections and just under half know how to register to vote. Around three-quarters of respondents say they are likely to vote. However, positive responses on all these issues are significantly higher amongst men than women suggesting that the gender disparity in electoral participation seen in the 2004 and 2005 elections could be replicated in the elections in 2009. The most common reason for not voting in the next elections is security. Furthermore, the proportion of respondents who report having no interest in the elections continues to rise. Disenchantment with elections is further emphasised by the significant proportion of respondents who say that they will not vote because the elections will not make any difference. A quarter of female respondents who are unlikely to vote in next year's election say that this is because they will not be permitted to do so. This figure is nearly twice as high as the proportion of women who reported that they were not permitted to vote in elections in 2004 and 2005. A worrying trend if it translates into practice.

The majority of respondents express some level of confidence in the Afghan government to manage a free and fair election process in the future. The most important challenge in this regard is seen to be insecurity followed by weak government and corruption.

The percentage of respondents who say that there is freedom of expression in their area has been decreasing steadily since 2006. The survey finds that physical security conditions are at least as important as the legal guarantee of freedoms in ensuring that Afghan citizens enjoy freedom of expression. The proportion of respondents who mention bad security conditions as the main constraint on their freedom of expression has increased significantly in the past two years.

The vast majority of respondents express support for the principle of equal rights under the law regardless of their gender, ethnicity, or religion. This extends to high levels of support for gender equality in educational participation but to a much lesser degree to equal opportunities for women to work outside the home. A slight majority of respondents, both men and women, have no objection to being represented by a woman on any governance body although women have a much stronger belief in equality of representation at political leadership level than do their male counterparts. Levels of support for gender equality are systematically higher amongst those with higher levels of education. There has been no substantial change in responses regarding women working outside the home or having equal opportunities in education since 2006. This is not particularly surprising as evolution in social attitudes to gender equality is a process that takes place over much longer time periods. However, respondents' views on women's participation in elections are clearly correlated with their other views on gender equality. This demonstrates that encouraging the increased participation of women in political and social affairs depends on broad-based change in attitudes towards gender equality.

Radio continues to be the most commonly used medium of communication in both rural and urban areas and the main source of information for national news making it still the best medium to reach the widest audience in Afghanistan. However, access to most other media sources is much higher in urban rather than rural areas. Use of print media is less common and is largely confined to those with higher levels of education, particularly men whose literacy rate is twice that of women, and those living in urban areas. Around half of the respondents use meetings in the community and meetings or sermons at mosques for getting news and information about current events. However, men are much more likely to get information in this way than women which indicates the continuing challenges for communicating important information to women in Afghanistan using formal media or community fora.

2 The National Mood

2.1 Direction of the country

For the third year running the survey sought to gauge how people assess the overall situation in Afghanistan. Respondents were first asked whether they think the country is moving in the right direction or the wrong direction. The most common view, held by 38 percent of respondents, is that the country is moving in the right direction. However, a sizeable proportion (32%) say it is moving in the wrong direction. About a quarter of respondents (23%) have mixed views on the overall direction the country is taking.

Overall, women have a slightly more positive view, with 40 percent saying that the country is moving in the right direction, compared to 35 percent of men. Respondents in urban areas have a more negative view than those in rural area, with 37 percent of urban dwellers saying the country is moving in the wrong direction as compared with 31 percent of respondents living in rural villages.

There are also significant differences in opinion across the regions (see Appendix 4 for reference map). More people living in the North East (56%), East (47%), and North West (46%) are optimistic about the overall situation of the country than those living in other regions. Views are particularly negative in the South of the country where only around a quarter of respondents (25% in the South West and 23% in the South East) say that the country is moving in the right direction.

Though the overall mood of the country continues to be optimistic, there has been a clear trend towards greater pessimism over the last two years. The proportion of respondents saying that the country is moving in the right direction has declined steadily, from 44 percent in 2006 and 42 percent in 2007 to 38 percent in 2008. Similarly, fewer people report having mixed feelings about the direction the country is taking, falling from 29 percent in 2006 to 23 percent in 2008. On the other hand those who say the country is moving in the wrong direction have increased from a fifth (21%) in 2006 and a quarter (24%) in 2007 to nearly a third of respondents (32%) in 2008.

Generally speaking, do you think things in Afghanistan today are going in the right direction, or do you think they are going in the wrong direction? (Q-9, Base 6593)

COMPARISON BETWEEN 2006, 2007 AND 2008

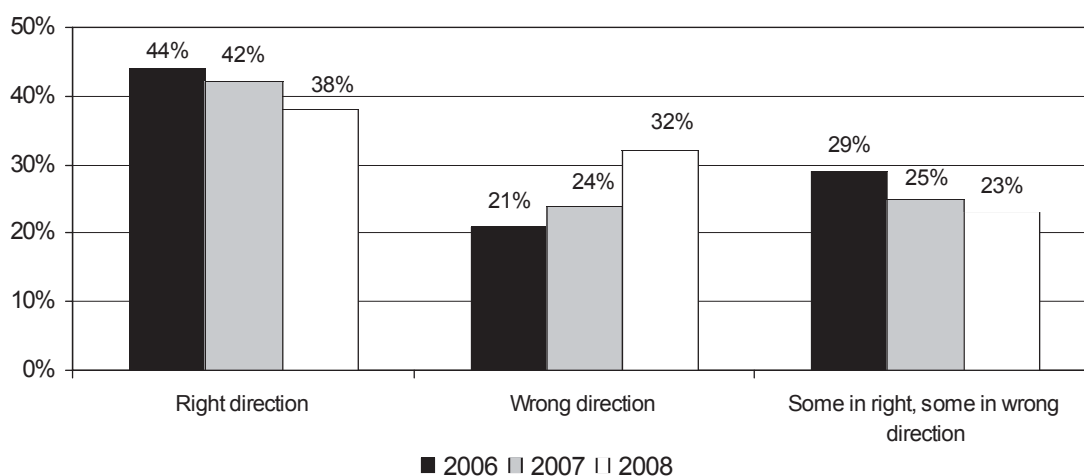


Fig 2.1

2.2 Reasons for optimism

Respondents who say that things are moving in the right direction (38% of all respondents) were then asked to give the two most important reasons why they think this is so. The most commonly mentioned reasons included good security (39%) and peace and the end of war in the country (21%). Improvements in security are particularly mentioned by respondents in urban areas (45%). Development issues are also given high priority including reconstruction and rebuilding taking place (32%) and the opening of schools for girls (19%) which is particularly emphasised by women (23% as compared to 15% of men). Around one respondent in ten mentioned improvements in governance as a factor for optimism, including good government (9%) and freedom, including freedom of speech (9%).

Why do you say that things are moving in the right direction? (Q-10a&b combined, Base 2473)

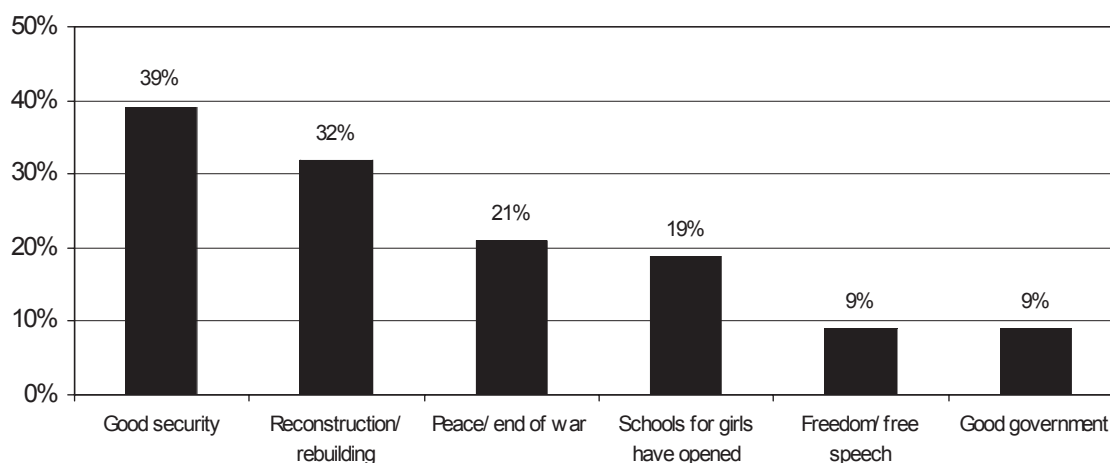


Fig 2.2

Good security is the most frequently cited reason in the West (41%), North West (49%), North East (38), Central Kabul (45%), and Central Hazarajat (37%). In the South of the country, where security issues are still a major concern, reconstruction is the most commonly given reason for optimism (28% of respondents in the South East, 33% in the South West). Respondents in the Eastern region give equal importance to both factors (41%). Good government is most often cited in the Western region (19%) and freedom or freedom of speech in the North West (16%) and Central Hazarajat (16%). At least one in ten respondents in the West (12%) and Central Hazarajat (11%) also mention elections as a reason for optimism. International assistance is also mentioned by around one in ten respondents in the Central Kabul (11%) and South East (11%) regions.

*Table 2.1: Reasons given by those saying things are moving in the right direction
(Q-10a&b combined, Base 2473) BY REGION*

	Central/ Kabul	South East	East	North East	North West	West	South West	Central/ Hazarajat
Base: Right direction	434	159	300	540	431	337	183	90
Good security	45%	23%	41%	38%	49%	31%	30%	37%
Reconstruction / rebuilding	37%	28%	41%	33%	30%	24%	33%	19%
Peace / end of the war	19%	23%	13%	21%	39%	21%	8%	7%
Schools for girls have opened	17%	22%	23%	23%	11%	16%	28%	21%
Freedom / free speech	9%	6%	2%	8%	16%	13%	2%	16%
Good government	11%	10%	11%	5%	5%	19%	8%	4%
Democracy / elections	5%	3%	7%	8%	4%	12%	4%	11%
International assistance	11%	11%	3%	2%	5%	6%	8%	1%

Since 2006, good security had consistently been identified as one of the most important reasons why respondents say that the country is headed in the right direction, surpassed only in 2007 when more respondents identified reconstruction as the primary cause for optimism.

*Why do you say that things are moving in the right direction? (Q-10a&b combined, Base 2473)
COMPARISON BETWEEN 2006, 2007 AND 2008*

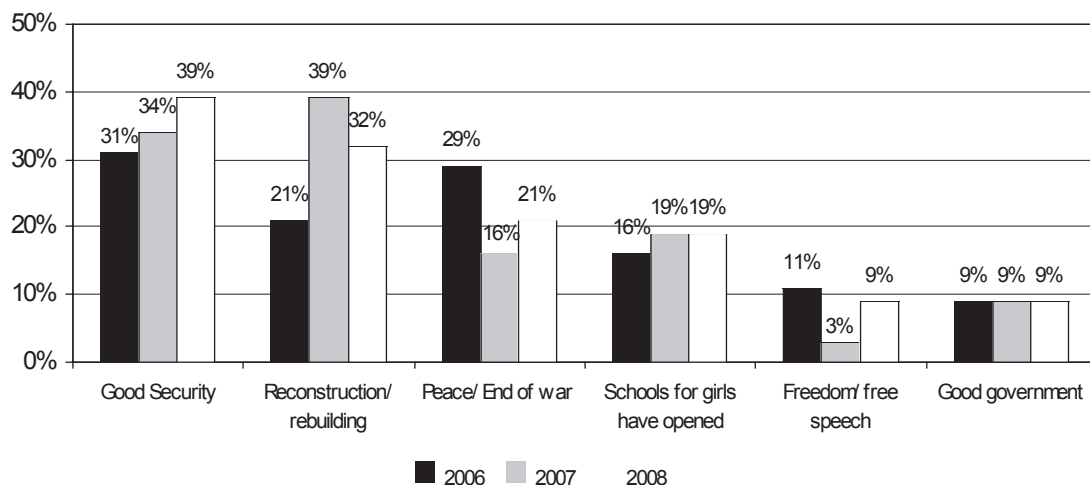


Fig 2.3

2.3 Reasons for pessimism

Respondents who say that things are moving in the wrong direction (i.e. 32% of all respondents) were also asked to give the two main reasons for their view. Insecurity is cited by half of respondents (50%), making it by far the most important reason for pessimism. Economic problems are often mentioned, including a bad economy (17%), unemployment (15%) and high prices (10%), particularly by respondents in urban areas who are nearly twice as likely to mention economic issues as those in rural settings. Governance issues also feature strongly amongst the reasons why people think that things are moving in the wrong direction, including corruption (19%), bad government (12%) and administrative corruption (9%). Corruption is mentioned nearly twice as often by men than by women.

Why do you say that things are moving in the wrong direction? (Q-11a&b combined, Base 2111)

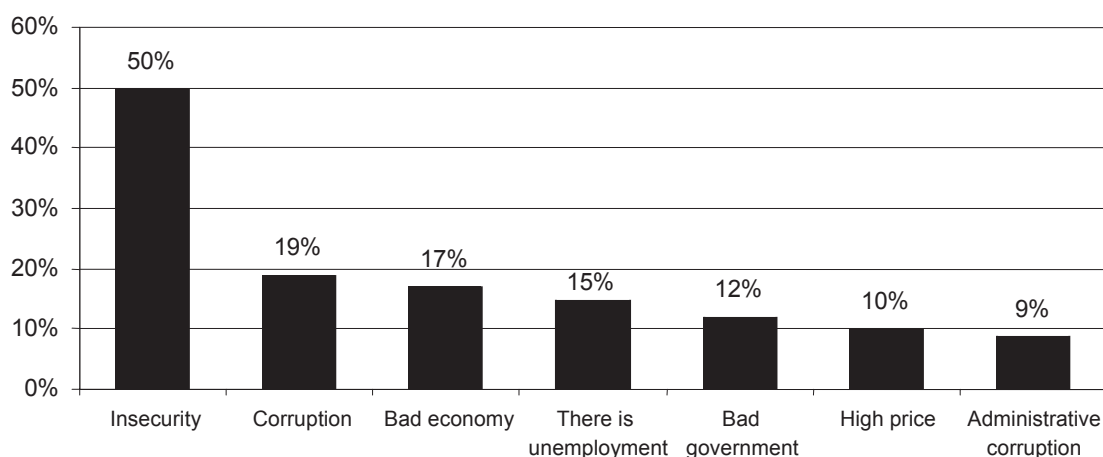


Fig 2.4

There is considerable regional variation in the reasons cited for believing that the country is moving in the wrong direction. Although insecurity remains the most common reason given in all regions, a considerably higher proportion of people feel this is a problem in the South West (71%), South East (65%), West (51%), East (50%) and Central Kabul (49%) as compared to the other regions. Corruption is of particular concern to respondents in Central Hazarajat (18%) and the South East (17%).

Table 2.2: Reasons given by those saying things are moving in the wrong direction
(Q-11a&b combined, Base 2111) BY REGION

	Central/ Kabul	South East	Eastern	North East	North West	Western	South Western	Central/ Hazarajat
Base: Those saying wrong direction	559	262	179	290	201	261	299	59
Insecurity	49%	65%	50%	31%	39%	51%	71%	23%
Bad economy	20%	7%	14%	16%	27%	23%	7%	17%
There is unem- ployment	21%	9%	8%	12%	15%	20%	12%	17%
Bad government	10%	8%	10%	15%	17%	17%	8%	5%
Corruption	18%	15%	28%	27%	23%	14%	15%	24%
No reconstruc- tion has happened	4%	5%	11%	11%	13%	6%	8%	9%
High prices	15%	9%	5%	13%	7%	6%	6%	5%
Presence of Taliban	9%	5%	4%	11%	4%	6%	15%	5%
People disenchanted with the government	5%	5%	3%	7%	2%	6%	4%	9%
Administrative corruption	7%	17%	11%	6%	11%	3%	5%	18%

As in 2007, insecurity is the major reason given by those who believe that the country is moving in the wrong direction. Moreover, the proportion of respondents who say this has risen by a quarter in the last year indicating that security is an increasingly key concern for Afghans and a critical factor by which they judge the progress and direction of their country's development. Corruption and administrative corruption continue to be cited as reasons for pessimism by almost a third of respondents (28%). In 2008, economic problems gained greater prominence compared to 2007, particularly the issue of high prices, probably related to the global crisis in food prices, which are mentioned by one respondent in ten (10%).

Why do you say that things are moving in the wrong direction? (Q-11a&b combined, Base 2111)
COMPARISON BETWEEN 2006, 2007 AND 2008

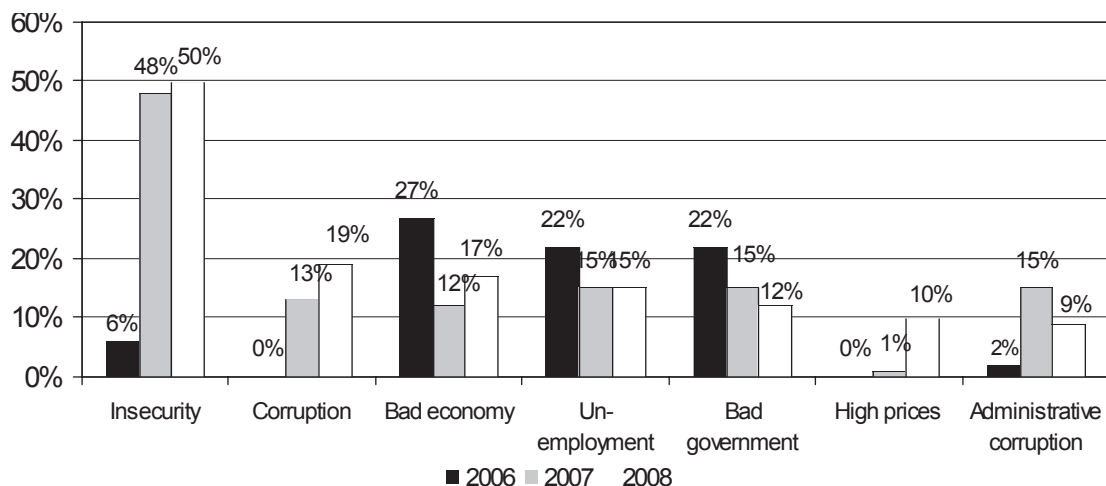


Fig 2.5

2.4 Afghanistan's biggest problems: National level

The survey sought to document public opinion regarding the biggest problems facing Afghanistan as a whole. The problems identified are all closely related to the issues mentioned by respondents in judging the progress and direction of the country. Security issues (including attacks, violence and terrorism) are identified as the biggest problem in Afghanistan by over a third of respondents (36%) and the presence of the Taliban is mentioned by 13 percent, most frequently in the North East (18%), North West (16%), East (14%), South West (13%), and Central Kabul (13%). Economic issues are also given significant priority including Unemployment (31%), high prices (22%), and poor economy (17%). Corruption again features highly amongst the country's major problems being mentioned by 14 percent of respondents.

In your view, what is the biggest problem facing Afghanistan as a whole? (Q-12a&b combined, Base 6593)

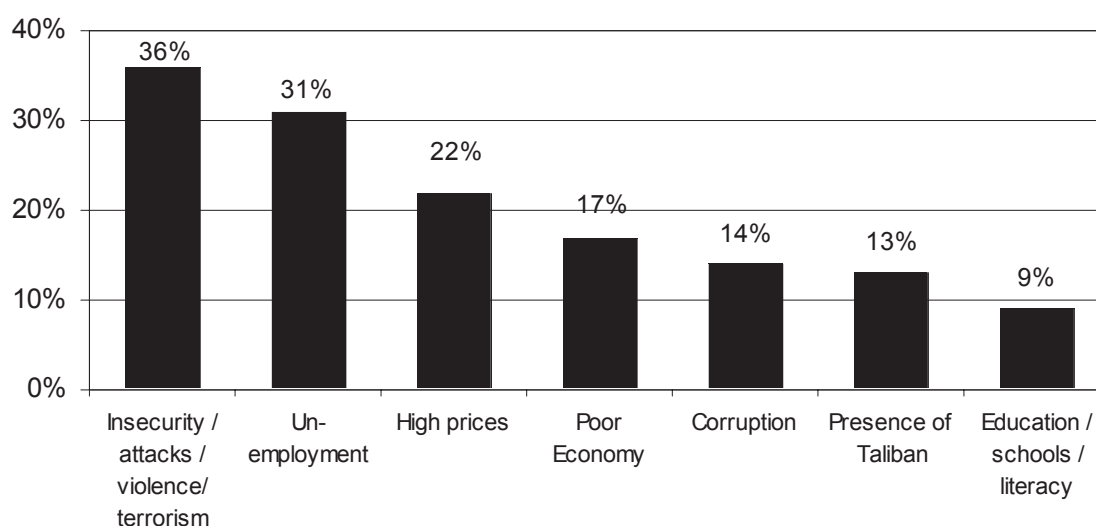


Fig. 2.6

There have been some shifts in priority in the identification of major national problems over the last two years. While security remains the single most important problem, the overwhelming concern that was evident in 2007 has given way to greater emphasis on economic problems in 2008. The proportion of respondents identifying insecurity as the biggest problem in Afghanistan fell from 46 percent in 2007 to 36 percent in 2008. However, the issue of high prices has shot into prominence to become one of the biggest problems for Afghanistan in 2008 just behind unemployment which has replaced the emphasis respondents had given in previous years to general concerns about the poor economy and issues like corruption.

In your view, what is the biggest problem facing Afghanistan as a whole? (Q-12a&b combined, Base 6593) COMPARISON BETWEEN 2006, 2007 AND 2008

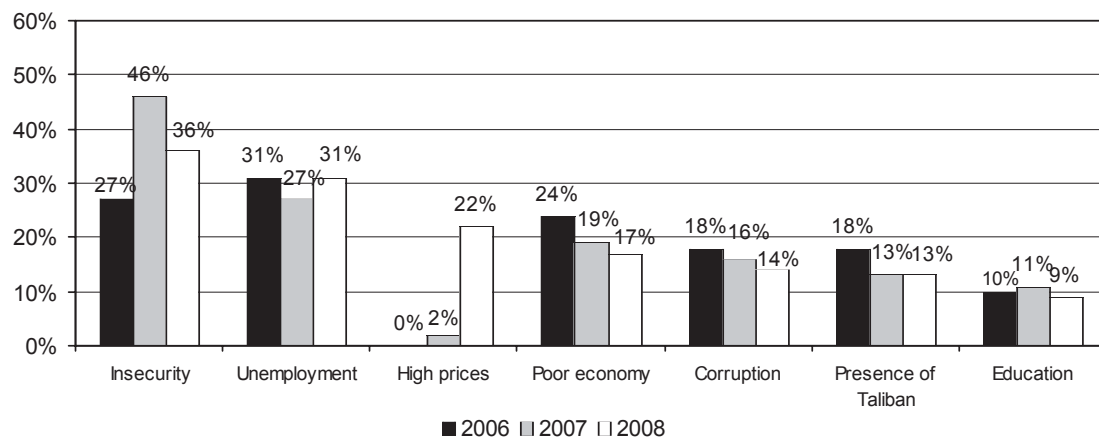


Fig 2.7

2.5 Afghanistan's biggest problems: Local level

The most important problems identified by respondents at the local level are quite different from those mentioned at the national level. The survey asked respondents about the biggest problem in their local area and invited them to mention two. As in previous years, across the country as a whole it is development rather than security or governance issues that dominate priorities at the local level. The problem most often mentioned by respondents is access to electricity (30%). Around one in five identify other basic infrastructure such as water (22%) and lack of roads (18%). Basic infrastructure problems are significantly more often highlighted as priorities in urban areas than in rural settings.

Unemployment is identified as a major problem at the local level by a similar proportion to those who see this as a major national problem (28% compared to 31%); however, it is given significantly greater priority by respondents in rural areas (30%) as compared to those in urban areas (23%).

Basic public services such as health care (15%) and education (14%) are mentioned by around one in seven respondents, particularly women and those living in rural areas.

Only 14 percent of respondents nationally mention insecurity as a major problem in their local area; however, this is clearly a very significant local problem in the South West (44%) and the South East (25%).

What is the biggest problem in your local area? (Q-13a&b combined, Base 6593)

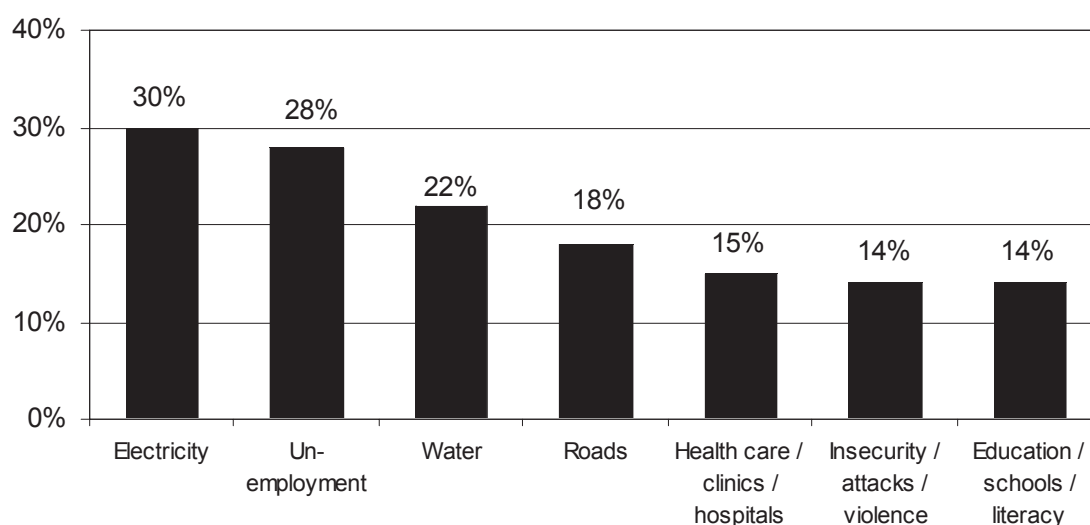


Fig. 2.8

Priorities related to problems at the local level vary across regions. Lack of electricity is identified as the biggest problem in the East (41%), North East (37%), North West (34%), and Central Kabul (36%). Unemployment is given priority in the South East (44%) and West (29%). Poor access to education is identified as the major problem in Central Hazarajat (29%), while insecurity is the most frequently mentioned problem in the South West (44%).

What is the biggest problem in your local area? (Q-13a&b combined, Base 6593) BY REGION

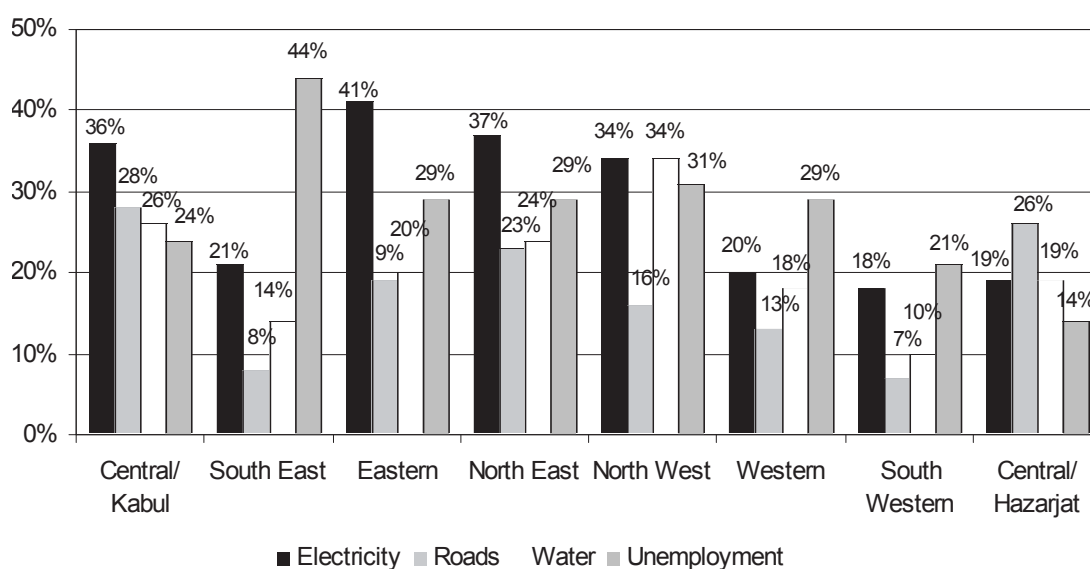


Fig. 2.9

The most striking trend visible in 2008 is the greater priority accorded to the issue of high prices (13% in 2008 compared to 7% in 2007 and 1% in 2006) and the fall

in priority of education which is consistent with respondents' judgement that the availability of education for children is the best of all basic amenities (*see Chapter 4, 4.3 - Availability of basic amenities*) and that government performance is rated most highly in this area by survey respondents (*see Chapter 5, 5.2 - Performance of central government*)

What is the biggest problem in your local area? (Q-13a&b combined, Base 6593) COMPARISON BETWEEN 2006, 2007 AND 2008

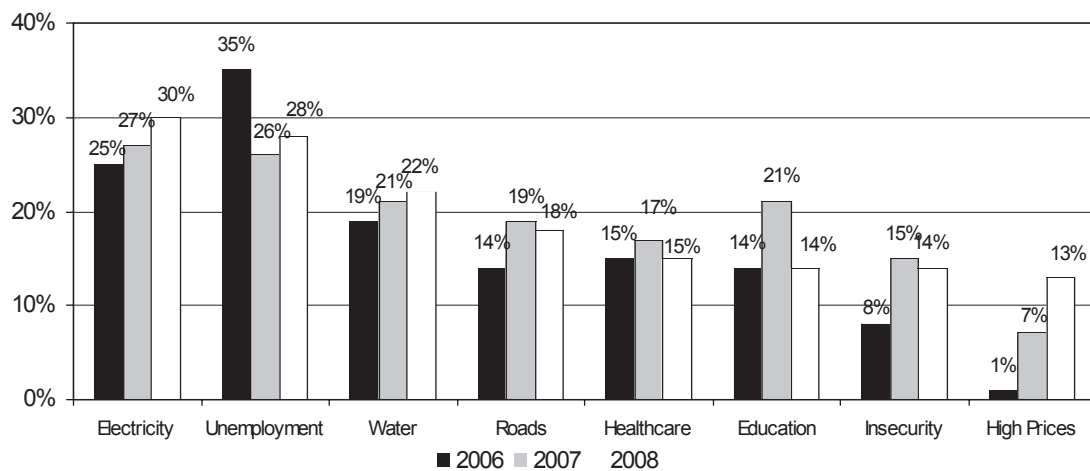


Fig 2.10

2.6 Trust in individuals

The survey also sought to examine more general social attitudes that have an impact on people's outlook such as levels of interpersonal trust. The majority of respondents show considerable reticence in trusting others. Levels of trust are likely to have been significantly influenced by the 30 years of armed conflict in Afghanistan's recent history. In response to the question 'Generally speaking, would you say that most people can be trusted or that you need to be very careful in dealing with people?', 60 percent of respondents say that you need to be very careful with people while only around a third (34%) think that most people can be trusted. People living in rural areas are slightly more trusting than their urban counterparts. Thirty five percent of rural residents say that most people can be trusted compared to 30 percent of urban residents. Levels of trust are highest in the North East, North West, and Central Hazarajat regions where more than 40 percent of respondents say that most people can be trusted. However, more than a third of respondents say that you need to be careful dealing with people in the South West (73%), West (65%), East (64%), and Central Kabul (69%) regions.

In general, respondents also have little confidence in the altruism of Afghan society. Only one in three respondents believe that people try to help others (31%) whereas two out of three believe that people only think about themselves (65%). This is comparable with the 2006 and 2007 data. Again, more rural residents (33%) than urban residents (27%) think that people try to help others; whereas more urban residents (72%) than rural residents (63%) say that people think only about themselves.

2.7 Confidence in specific institutions and organizations

Confidence in government and public institutions is a powerful indicator of the ability of public institutions and authorities to guide the development of society. Respondents were asked about their trust in different public institutions and organizations. A list of institutions/organizations was read out and respondents were asked to state how much confidence they have in each to perform their jobs. Responses indicate that the highest levels of public confidence are enjoyed by the Afghan National Army (89%) and the Afghan National Police (82%).

Representative bodies enjoy the confidence of around two thirds of respondents including community shura and jirga (69%), Community Development Councils (65%), and Provincial Councils (65%).

Confidence in the media is high. More than three quarters of respondents (76%) express confidence in broadcast media such as radio and television and 63 percent in newspapers and print media. Considerable public confidence is also expressed in Non Governmental Organisations, both international (64%) and national (62%).

Respondents show greater ambivalence towards governmental institutions. Only a little over half of respondents (55%) express confidence in the public administration to do its job. This falls to 42 percent in the case of municipalities. Only a slightly higher proportion express confidence in the justice system (46%) and just over half (51%) say the same about Government ministers. Respondents record the highest level of confidence in public bodies for the Independent Election Commission (57%).

Forty-three percent of respondents say they have confidence in political parties which seems to suggest that the political party system has not yet fully established itself as a key component of democratic political processes in Afghanistan.

Public confidence is lowest for local militias. Just over one third of respondents (36%) express some level of confidence in these.

Table 2.3: Percentage of people who have a great deal or a fair amount of confidence in specific institutions and organizations (Q-52 a-p, Base 6593)

Institution/Organization	Confidence (Great deal + Fair amount) (%)
Afghan National Army	89
Afghan National Police	82
Electronic media such as radio, TV	76
Community shuras/jirgas	69
Community Development Councils	65
Provincial Councils	65
International NGOs	64
Newspapers, print media	63
National NGOs	62
Independent Election Commission	57
Public administration	55
Government ministers	51
The government justice system	46
Political parties	43
Municipality	42
Local militias	36

3 Security

3.1 Security Situation

The survey reveals an increased concern with security in 2008. However, although respondents identify insecurity as the biggest problem facing the country (*see Chapter 2, 2.4 Afghanistan's biggest problems: National level*), it is clear that security issues in Afghanistan have a predominantly localised dimension. When asked about the security situation at the local level, the majority of respondents say that it is quite good or very good in their area (62%). Over 80 percent of respondents have a positive perception of the security situation in their local area in the Central Hazarajat (80%), North East (80%), and North West (82%).

However, a significant proportion of all respondents (37%) say the security area in their local area is quite bad or very bad. This is true for over half of respondents in the West (56%), nearly a third in the South East (62%), and around three quarters in the South West (74%) regions which have particular problems with insurgency and the activities of anti government groups.

Would you rate security situation as very good, quite good, quite bad, very bad in your area? (Q-16e, Base 6593) BY REGION

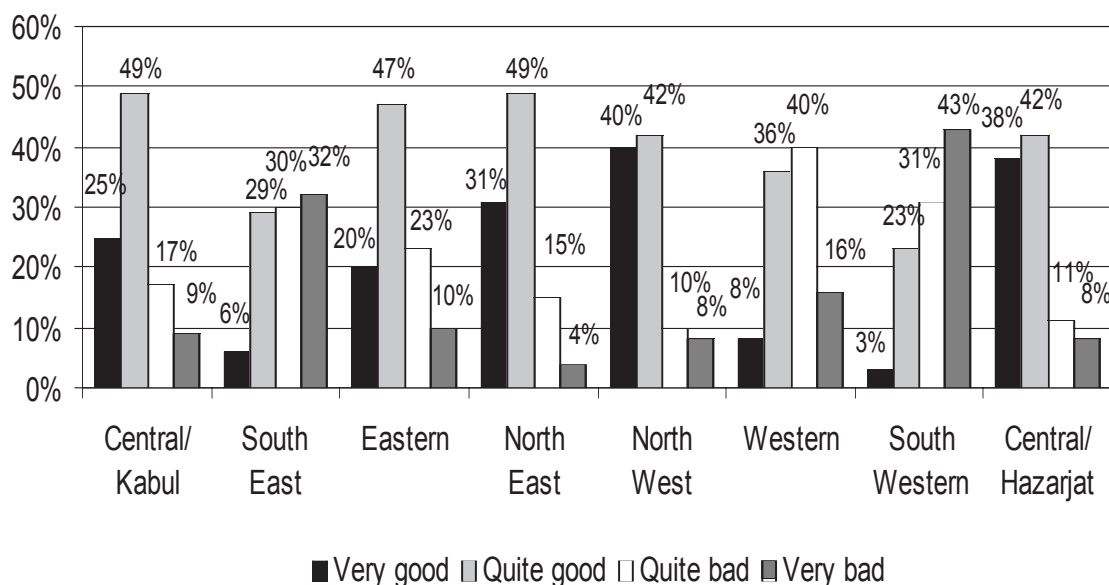


Fig. 3.1

Overall the proportion of respondents who have a positive view of the security situation in their local area has fallen in most regions since 2007. It is only in the Central Hazarajat, West, and Eastern regions that respondents report an improve-

ment in security conditions since last year. Conversely, the proportion of respondents who judge the security conditions in their local area to be bad has been rising consistently since 2006 in the South West, South East, and Central Kabul regions.

Would you rate security situation as very good, quite good, quite bad, very bad in your area? (Q-16e- responses Very Good and Quite Good), comparison 2006, 2007, 2008.

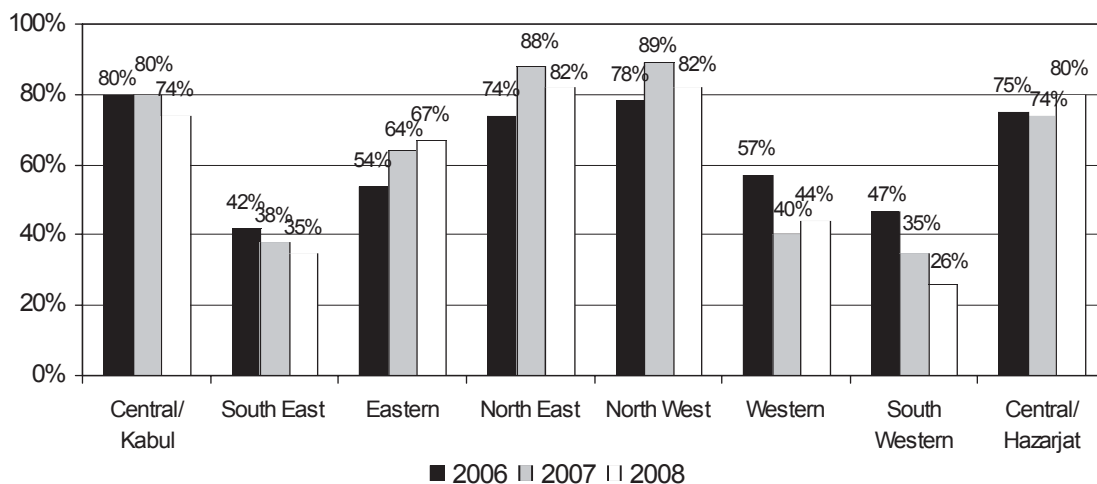


Fig.3.2

Respondents from rural and urban areas also have significantly different perceptions of local security. More urban residents think that the security situation in their local area is either very good (26%) or quite good (47%) as compared to their rural counterparts (20% say very good and 39% say quite good). A higher proportion of people in rural areas (41%) think the security is quite bad or very bad compared to only 26 percent of urban residents who think so.

Would you rate security situation as very good, quite good, quite bad, very bad in your area? (Q-16e, Base 6593) ALL AND BY SETTLEMENT

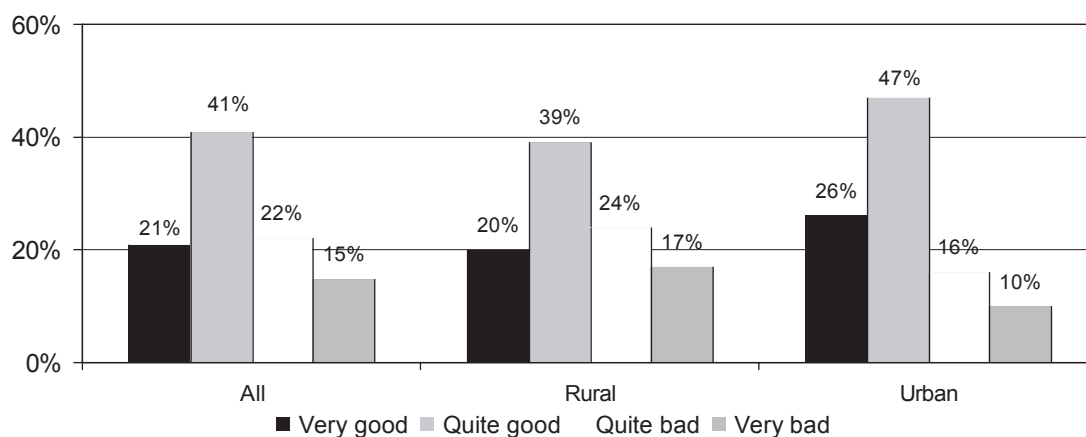


Fig. 3.3

3.2 Personal and family safety and security

The survey sought to gauge the perception of safety and security for individuals and their families. Across the country as a whole around a third of respondents (36%) report that they never fear for their own personal safety or for that of their families. However, another 33 percent say that they sometimes fear for their safety and 15 percent say that they often have fears about safety.

The proportion of respondents who say they often fear for their safety has been rising steadily over the last two years (from 9% in 2006 to 11% in 2007 and 15% in 2008). However, since 2007 the proportion of those who report 'never' fearing for their security has also increased whereas the proportion of those who indicate that they 'sometimes' or 'rarely' have concerns about security has fallen.

How often do you fear for your own personal safety or security or for that of your family these days?
(Q-18, Base 6593) COMPARISON BETWEEN 2006, 2007 AND 2008

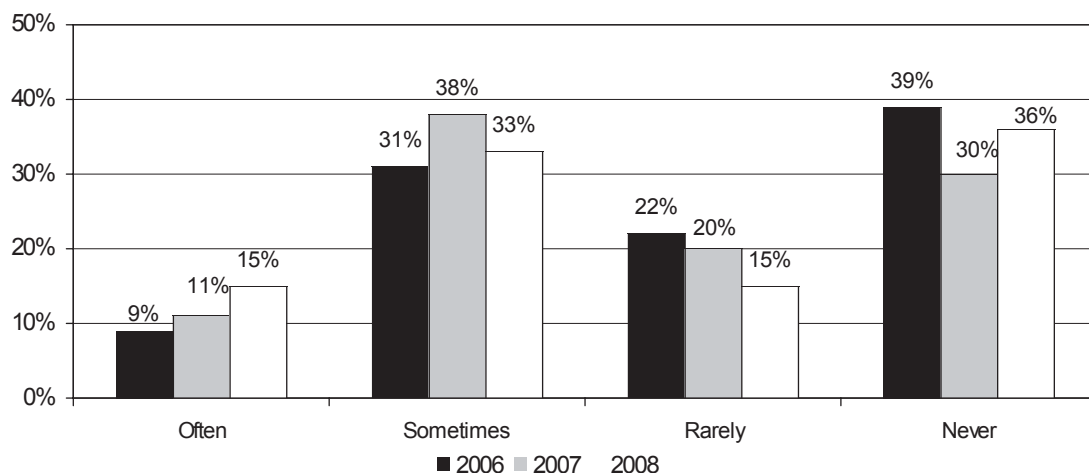


Fig 3.4

These findings suggest that the security situation in Afghanistan is becoming more polarised with some places feeling secure most of the time and others experiencing relatively consistent levels of insecurity. This is borne out by the fact that the proportion of respondents who report that they often feel fear has been consistently rising in the South East, South West, West, and Central/Kabul regions whereas the proportion of those who report never having any fear has been rising in the North West, North East, East, and Central Hazarajat regions.

As one might expect, the degree of fear is more pronounced in the regions where insecurity is identified as an important local problem such as the South West where more than two thirds of respondents (68%) say they sometimes or often fear for their safety and the South East where 61 percent say the same.

How often do you fear for your own personal safety or security or for that of your family these days?
(Q-18, Base 6593) BY REGION

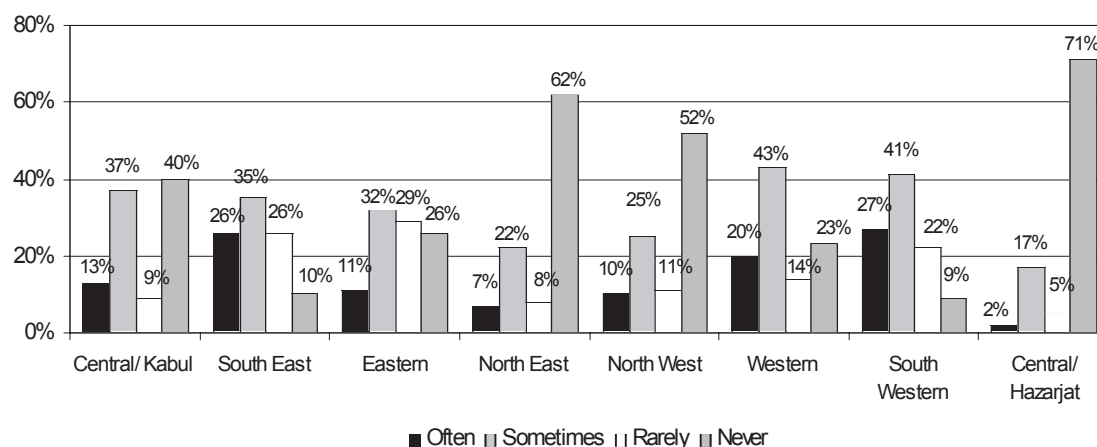


Fig 3.5

The survey also attempted to measure perceptions of safety and security against actual experience of violence and crime. Compared to the relatively high proportion of people who report that they sometimes or often fear for their own or their family's safety and security (48%), the proportion of those who have actually experienced any kind of crime or violence in the last year is relatively low. Only 16 percent of respondents report that they have been victims of violence or some criminal act during the past year. The highest incidences of experience of crime are reported by respondents in the South West (22%) and South East (21%). In the South West, respondents' experience of crime has more than doubled since 2006, when the figure was only 10 percent, and in the South East it has risen by a third, from 16 percent in 2006.

The proportion of respondents who report having been victims of crime rises consistently with monthly household income, from 12 percent of those earning less than 2000Afs a month to 19 percent amongst those earning between 5,000 and 10,000Afs. Experience of crime is also higher in rural areas (17%) than in urban areas (11%).

When respondents were asked about the kind of violence and crime they had experienced, interpersonal violence or threat of violence including physical attack or beating (30%), racketeering/extortion (15%), and kidnapping (8%) is the most significant overall. Property crimes are also prominent including burglary/looting (15%) and theft of livestock (13%). The experience of different kinds of crime in 2008 is largely similar to that recorded in 2007.

In general, instances of violence experienced by respondents appear to be largely due to crime rather than insurgent-related activities (8%). Violence resulting from militant/insurgent actions is mentioned much more often in the South West (16%), South East (12%), Central Hazarajat (12%), and Central Kabul (11%) regions than in other parts of the country. However, actions by foreign forces are also reported almost as frequently in some of these regions including the South West (12%), East (11%), and South East (9%).

What kind of violence or crime did you or someone in your family experience in the past year?
(Q-20, Base 1039) (Percentage based on multiple responses)

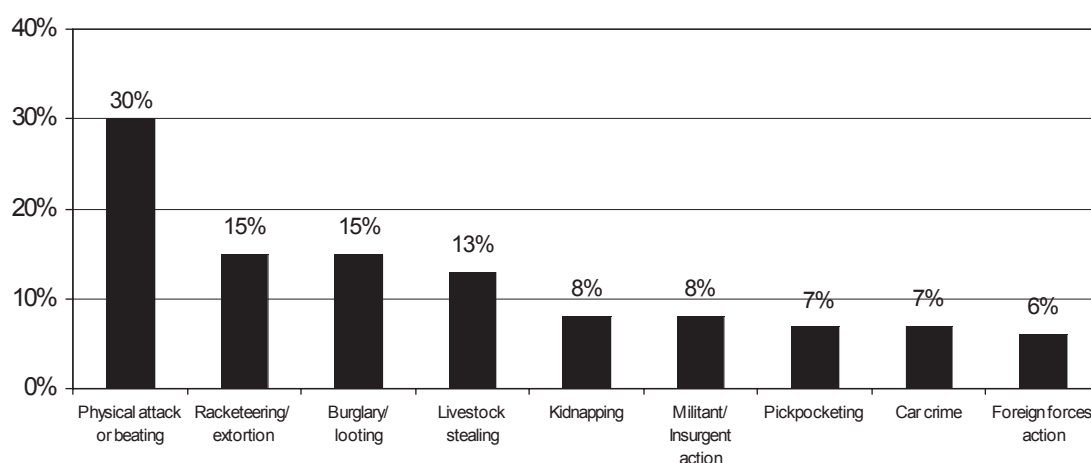


Fig 3.6

In rural areas, physical attack/beatings, racketeering/extortion and theft of livestock are more often reported while burglary/looting and kidnapping are more often experienced in urban areas.

What kind of violence or crime did you or someone in your family experience in the past year?
(Q-20, Base 1039) (Percentage based on multiple responses) BY SETTLEMENT

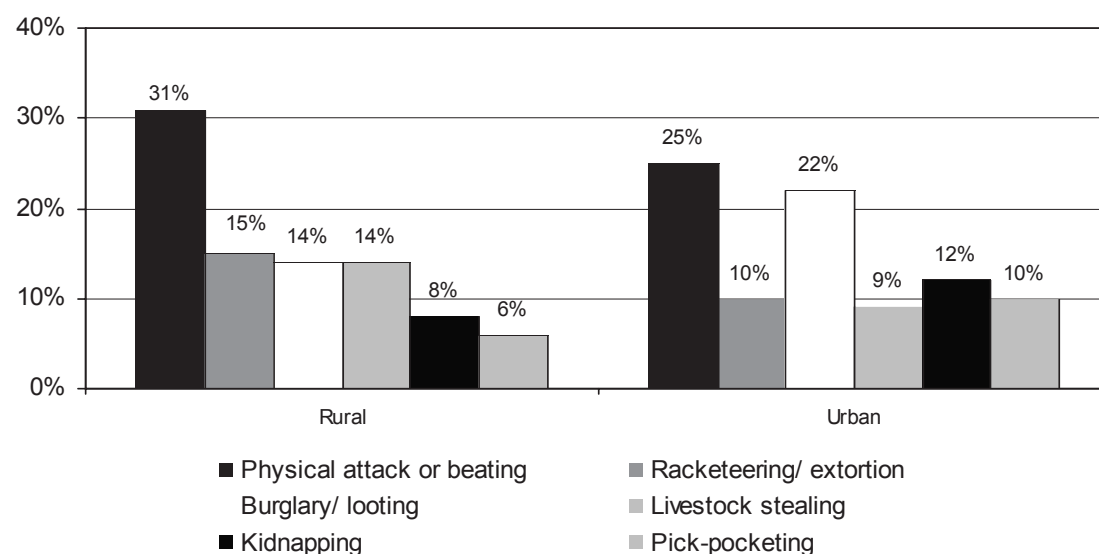


Fig 3.7

3.3 Safety to participate in various activities

In addition to people's perceptions and experience of violence and crime, the survey also examined perceptions of security by ascertaining whether people feel safe to participate in a range of public activities. A series of activities was read-out to respondents and they were asked to say whether they would participate in these activities with some degree of fear or without fear. More than half of respondents say they would have no fear participating in resolving problems at the community level (57%) or in voting in a national election (51%). Conversely, similar proportions say they would have some degree of fear engaging in public political actions such as participating in a peaceful demonstration (61%) or running for public office (55%). More than half of respondents also say they would be afraid when travelling from one part of the country to another which reflects the high level of concern about safety and security discussed in the previous section. Forty nine percent of respondents say that they would have some fear encountering officers of the Afghan National Police (ANP); however, only 15 percent say they would have a lot of fear.

*Table 3.1: Public's level of fear to participate in various activities
(Q-29a-f, Base 6593)*

	No fear	Some fear	A lot of fear
a) When participating in resolving problems in your community	57	32	7
b) Voting in a national election	51	31	14
c) Participating in a peaceful demonstration	32	37	24
d) To run for a public office	33	34	21
e) When encountering ANP officers	46	34	15
f) When travelling from one part of Afghanistan to another part of the country	35	38	23

The highest levels of fear to participate in any of the various activities are recorded in the South Western region (between 66% and 74%) where security remains a significant local problem. A significant proportion of respondents in the South East (between 12% and 28%) declined to answer these questions. The largest proportion of respondents who report having no fear participating in any of the listed activities is in the North West, Central Kabul, and Central Hazarajat regions.

Women more often report having fear participating in public activities than men. For instance, nearly half of female respondents (46%) say they would have some fear participating in resolving problems in the community as compared to around one third of men (32%). Likewise, nearly two thirds of women (64%) say they would have fear participating in a peaceful demonstration as compared to 56 percent of men. However, there is no significant difference in the proportions of men and women who say they would have fear voting in a national election, running for public office, encountering ANP officers, or travelling around the country.

3.4 Perceptions of the Afghan National Police

The most important institution in Afghanistan with a responsibility for ensuring security and fighting crime and violence is the Afghan National Police (ANP). The survey sought to examine public perception of the effectiveness of the ANP in combating crime and improving security. In addition, the survey sought to assess the level of trust respondents have in the police in terms of honesty and fairness, professionalism, and the capacity to act without assistance from foreign troops. A series of statements about the ANP was read to respondents and they were asked to state whether they agreed or disagreed. The responses to these statements are summarized in the table below.

*Table 3.2: Public agreement and disagreement with statements about the ANP
(Q-54 a-e, Base 6593)*

	Strongly agree (%)	Agree somewhat (%)	Disagree somewhat (%)	Strongly disagree (%)
a) ANP is honest and fair with the Afghan people	40	40	13	5
b) ANP is unprofessional and poorly trained	22	38	25	12
c) ANP needs the support of foreign troops and cannot operate by itself	32	37	19	8
d) ANP helps improve the security	40	40	12	5
e) ANP is efficient at arresting those who have committed crimes so that they can be brought to justice	34	39	16	8

Overall respondents give a positive assessment of the ANP. Four out of five respondents (80%) agree that the ANP helps improve security and around three quarters (73%) agree that the ANP is efficient at arresting criminals. A similarly high proportion (80%) believe that the ANP is honest and fair with them. These responses reinforce the finding that the Afghan National Police and the Afghan National Army enjoy the highest levels of public confidence amongst public institutions in Afghanistan (*see Chapter 2, Table 2.3*).

Although confidence in the ANP remains high, overall agreement with statements that the ANP helps improve security and is honest and fair has fallen from 86 percent in 2007 to 80 percent in 2008. Respondents in rural areas are less likely to agree strongly with these statements than people in urban areas (39% of rural as compared to 45% of urban respondents). Agreement with positive statements about the ANP is also significantly lower in insecure areas such as the South East and South West, and somewhat lower in the Western region, than in other parts of the country.

Respondents clearly have significant concerns about the ANP's capacity to operate. The majority of respondents to the survey agree with the statements that the ANP is unprofessional and poorly trained (60%) and that it cannot operate by itself but needs the support of foreign troops (69%). Interestingly though, agreement with these negative perceptions has also fallen since 2007 when 65 percent of respondents said the ANP was unprofessional and 77 percent agreed that it could not operate without assistance.

3.5 Perceptions of the Afghan National Army

The survey also attempted to gauge public perceptions of the other most significant local security force, the Afghan National Army (ANA). A similar series of statements about the ANA was read out to respondents and they were asked to indicate whether they agreed or disagreed. The responses to these statements are summarized in the table below. .

*Table 3.3: Public agreement and disagreement with statements about the ANA
(Q-53 a-d, Base 6593)*

	Strongly agree (%)	Agree somewhat (%)	Disagree somewhat (%)	Strongly disagree (%)
a) ANA is honest and fair with the Afghan people	48	41	8	2
b) ANA is unprofessional and poorly trained	18	37	28	13
c) ANA needs the support of foreign troops and cannot operate by itself	32	37	18	9
d) ANA helps improve the security	51	35	9	3

These responses also reinforce the finding that the Afghan National Army enjoys the highest level of public confidence amongst all public institutions in Afghanistan (see Chapter 2, Table 2.3). Overall, the public has an even more positive perception of the ANA than it does of the ANP. Nearly nine in ten respondents (89%) agree that the ANA is honest and fair with them as compared to eight in ten (80%) who say the same about the ANP. A similarly high proportion (86%) agree that the ANA is helping to improve the security situation in the country as compared to 80 percent for the ANP. Positive perceptions of the ANA have not changed significantly since 2007.

However, respondents also register similar concerns about the capacity of the ANA to operate. Sixty nine percent agree that the ANA cannot operate without the support of foreign troops; the same proportion as for the ANP. Sixty percent also agree that the ANA is unprofessional and needs better training as compared to 55 percent who say this about the ANP. As with the ANP agreement with these negative perceptions of the ANA has also fallen since 2007.

3.6 Perceptions of poppy cultivation

The cultivation opium poppy is a problem which has significant implications for security in many areas of Afghanistan as it has proven links to criminal activity, violence, and corruption. Poppy cultivation is also seen as an international security issue as Afghanistan produces over 90 percent of the world's illicit opium. The survey aimed to document public perceptions of poppy cultivation. Respondents were

asked to indicate whether they agree more with the statement that “poppy cultivation is okay and government should not care about it” or that “poppy cultivation is wrong and the government should do more to stop it”. An overwhelming majority of respondents (82%) agree with the statement that poppy cultivation is wrong although a small proportion (12%) agree that poppy cultivation is okay.

While the majority of respondents as a whole are against poppy cultivation, views differ significantly across regions. For example, more than a quarter of respondents in the Eastern region (27%) say that poppy cultivation is okay. This view is also held by one in five respondents in the South West (21%) and one in six (17%) in the North East.

Some people say that poppy cultivation is okay, and that the government should not worry too much about it, while others say that it is wrong, and that the government should do more to stop it. Which is closer to your view? (Q-42, Base 6593) BY REGION

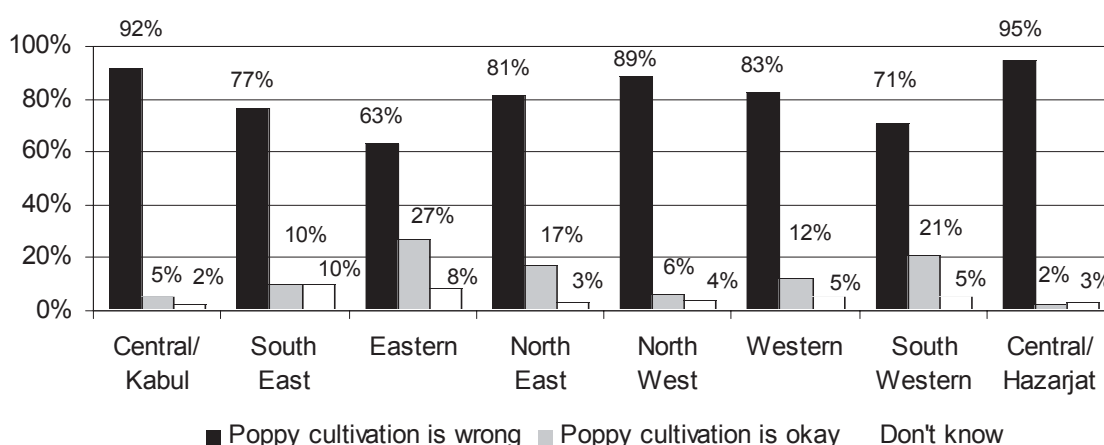


Fig 3.8

Attitudes towards poppy cultivation in the regions have also evolved in markedly different ways since 2006. The proportion of respondents who say that poppy cultivation is wrong has risen sharply in Central Hazarajat (from 78% in 2006 to 95% in 2008) and the North East (from 70% to 81%). However, the proportion who disapprove of poppy cultivation has fallen in the South East (from 85% in 2006 to 77% in 2008) and East (from 70% to 63%).

Some people say that poppy cultivation is wrong, and that the government should do more to stop it. (Q-42) Responses in agreement BY REGION, COMPARISON Between 2006, 2007 and 2008

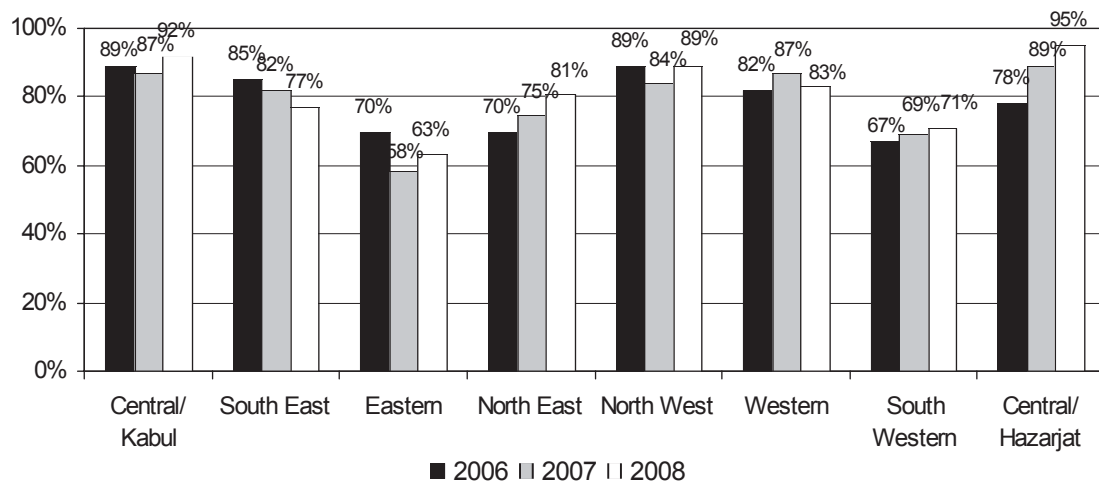


Fig 3.9

When respondents who say that poppy cultivation is okay (12% of all respondents) were asked to give the reasons why they think this concerns about employment are paramount including that people find jobs (44%) and that working on a poppy farm is more profitable than other jobs (12%). Economic advantages for farmers are also important including that growing poppy is more profitable than growing other crops (38%), that it needs less water to grow (28%), and that the government doesn't pay enough attention to farmers (22%). This finding is entirely consistent with the identification of unemployment as one of the most important problems facing Afghanistan, both at national and local levels, and that there is a need to ensure licit opportunities are available for people to improve their livelihoods (*see Chapter 2, 2.4 Afghanistan's biggest problems: national level and 2.5 Afghanistan's biggest problems: local level*).

Table 3.4: *Why do you say that poppy cultivation is okay?*
(Q-43a&b combined, Base 799)

	(%)
People get employed	44
Growing poppy is more profitable than growing other crops	38
Needs less water	28
To make medicines from poppy	27
The Government doesn't pay attention to farmers	22
Working on poppy farm is more profitable than other jobs	12
Instead of wine, we produce poppy	8

Respondents who say that poppy cultivation is wrong (82% of all respondents), were also asked to give reasons for their view. Half of these say that poppy cultivation is wrong because it is a sin (haram) in Islam (50%). A significant proportion of respondents also emphasise the harmful effects of drug use as the reason for their opposition to poppy cultivation including that people become addicted to opium (29%) and that it misguides youth and hurts their education and job prospects (25%). Poppy cultivation is also seen to be damaging to the country as a whole because it causes high prices (20%), damages Afghanistan's international reputation (15%), and deters international assistance (3%). Around one in seven respondents (14%) say that poppy cultivation is wrong because it is against the law. The security implications of poppy cultivation are also mentioned by a small proportion of respondents including that it causes insecurity in the country (9%), provides a source of income for terrorists (8%), and creates corruption among government officials (5%).

*Table 3.5: Why do you say that poppy cultivation is wrong?
(Q-44a&b combined, Base 5403)*

	(%)
In Islam poppy cultivation is a sin (haram)	50
People become addicted to opium	29
It misguides the youth /hurts education or job prospects	25
It causes high prices	20
It's detrimental to Afghanistan's reputation	15
According to the laws, poppy cultivation is a crime	14
Poppy cultivation causes insecurity in our country	9
It's a source of income for terrorists	8
Poppy makes some people rich, but keeps most Afghans poor	7
It creates corruption among government officials	5
Poppy cultivation hurts other farmers	5
It's deterring international assistance	3

4 Economy and Development

4.1 Economy of Afghan Households: Past and present

The survey sought to gain a sense of how people perceive their level of economic prosperity. Respondents were asked to assess their current level of economic prosperity compared to different periods in the past. They were first asked to compare their current economic situation with that they experienced under the Taliban Government (1996-2001). More than a third (39%) report that their families are more prosperous today than they were during the days of the Taliban regime. However, a similar proportion (36%) say they are now less prosperous.

Since 2006 there has been a significant fall in the proportion of respondents who say that they are more prosperous today than they were under the Taliban government. More than half of respondents (54%) said this in 2006, and nearly half (49%) in 2007 as compared to just over a third (36%) in 2008. Similarly, those who say they are less prosperous now has risen from around a quarter of respondents (26%) in 2006 to more than a third (36%) in 2008. These results seem to indicate that respondents feel a higher level of dissatisfaction with the economic situation of their families in 2008 than they have done in previous years. This more negative assessment of family economic prosperity is largely congruent with the identification of economic issues including unemployment, high prices, and a poor economy as the biggest problems facing the country. (See Chapter 2, 2.4 *Afghanistan's biggest problem: national level*)

If you think about your family, would you say that today your family is more prosperous, less prosperous, or about as prosperous as under the Taliban government? (Q-38, Base 6593) COMPARISON BETWEEN 2006, 2007 and 2008

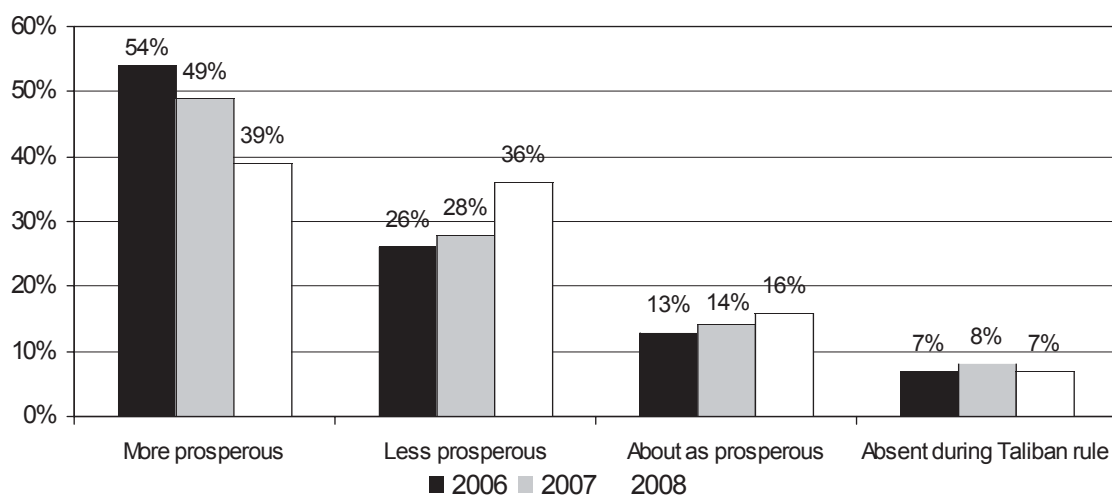


Fig 4.1

Households with low monthly incomes feel relatively more prosperous now. Forty two percent of respondents with a monthly income of less than 2000Afs, and 44 percent of those earning less than 3000Afs say they feel more prosperous today than under the Taliban government as compared to 37 percent of those with a monthly income over 5000Afs. Urban residents also have a more positive view of their family's current economic prosperity. Forty four percent of urban dwellers think that they are more prosperous today than they were under the Taliban regime as compared to 37 percent of rural residents.

If you think about your family, would you say that today your family is more prosperous, less prosperous, or about as prosperous as under the Taliban government? (Q-38, Base 6593) BY SETTLEMENT

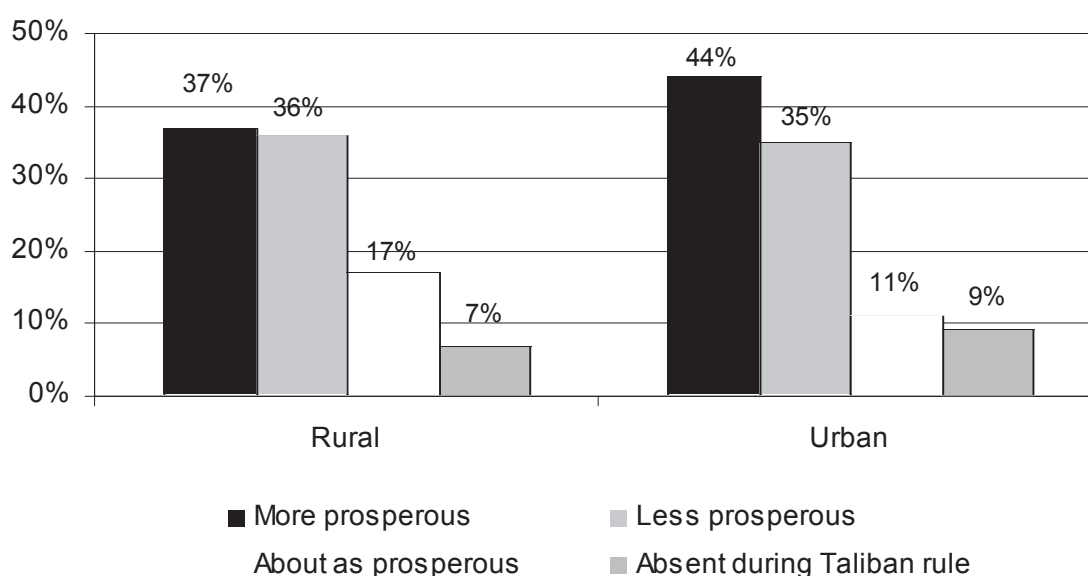


Fig 4.2

There are also some significant differences in perceptions of current economic prosperity between regions. More people in the North East, North West, West, Central Kabul, and Central Hazarajat regions feel that they are more prosperous today than they were under the Taliban regime. Conversely, more people living in the East, South East and South Western regions think that they are less prosperous today than they were during the Taliban days. This is a significant indication that in these regions, in which the majority of the population is Pashtun, feel more relatively disadvantaged by the current economic situation than other groups. A much smaller proportion of Pashtun respondents are of the opinion that they are more prosperous today than they were during the Taliban days (28% compared to more than 40% of other ethnic groups). Similarly, nearly a quarter of Pashtun respondents (24%) say that they are less prosperous now more than twice the proportion recorded by most other ethnic groups (8% - 14%).

If you think about your family, would you say that today your family is more prosperous, less prosperous, or about as prosperous as under the Taliban government? (Q-38, Base 6593) BY REGION

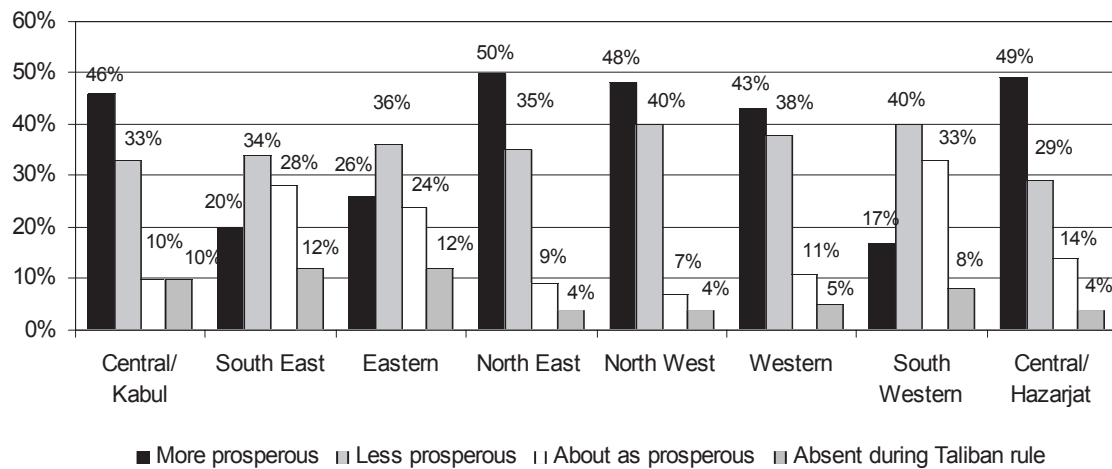


Fig 4.3

The survey also asked respondents to compare their current level of economic prosperity with a period further back in time during the period of the Soviet occupation (1979-1989). Thirty-nine percent of respondents say that their family is more prosperous now than in the period of the Soviet occupation; the same proportion as those who feel more prosperous now than under the Taliban regime. Another 31 percent say that they are now less prosperous than during the soviet period as compared to 36 percent who feel less prosperous now than under the Taliban government.

Now, going even further back to the period of the Soviet occupation, if you think about your family then and now, would you say that today your family is more prosperous, less prosperous, or about as prosperous as under the Soviet occupation government? (Q-39, Base 6593)

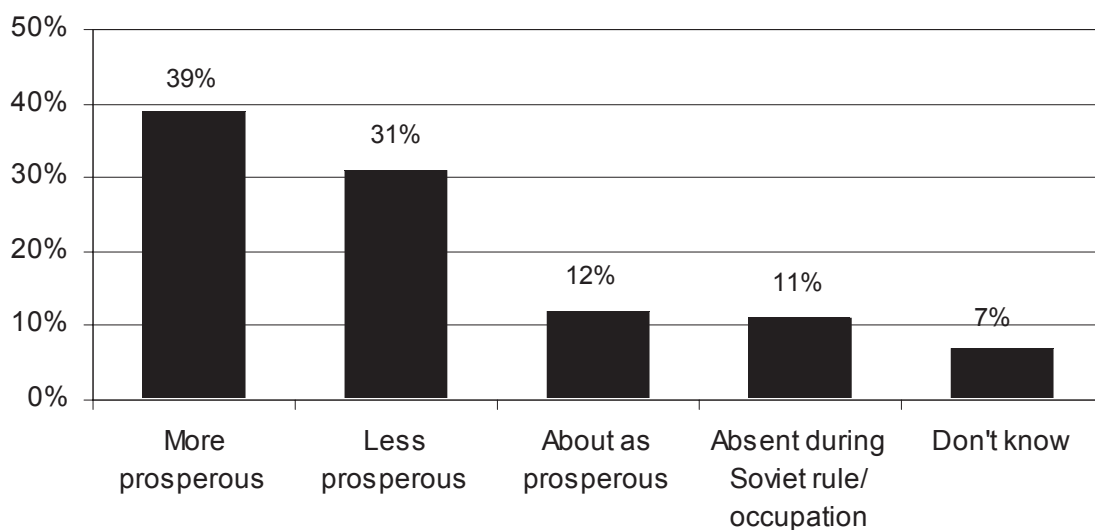


Fig 4.4

Around a third of respondents in the Central Hazarajat (36%) say they are more prosperous now than under the soviet occupation whereas nearly half (49%) say this about their situation under the Taliban government. Similarly in the North West respondents tend to feel they had been better off under the soviet government than during the Taliban period. Respondents over 55 years of age are also more likely to say they feel more prosperous now than during the soviet period (44%) than those in younger age groups (38%).

4.2 Development for Afghan Households

The survey also endeavored to examine the economic situation of Afghan households in more detail by comparing the situation of households today with their situation two years ago in terms of financial and physical well-being as well as access to basic services and amenities. The proportion of respondents who report improvements in their situation in the last two years is summarized in the following table:

Table 4.1: Percentage of people whose situation has improved compared to two years ago in various domains (Q-41a-b, Base 6593)

	Better (%)
Access to schools	44
Health well-being of your family members	29
Financial well-being of your household	24
Physical conditions of your house/dwelling	18
Availability of products in the market	13
Quality of your food diet	13
Electric supply	13
Employment opportunities	7

The greatest improvement has been in access to schools, mentioned by 44 percent of respondents. More people in urban areas (49%) think this has improved as compared to their rural counterparts (43%). Slightly more women (46%) than men (42%) also mention this as an improvement. Improvements in access to schools are reported by more than twice as many respondents in the East (61%) and North East (59%) as in the West (27%) and South West (18%).

Around a quarter of respondents report improvements in the health (29%) and financial wellbeing (24%) of their families. Health improvements are reported most often in the East (37%), South East (33%), North East (32%), and Central Hazarajat (32%). However, around a quarter of respondents in the South West (27%) and Central Kabul (24%) actually say that their health has got worse in the

last two years. About a third of respondents in the East (32%) and Central Hazarajat (32%) also report improvements in their financial well-being. Relatively more women (26%) than men (21%) report financial improvements. However, 39 percent of respondents in the Central Kabul region and around a third in the North West (34%) and West (33%) say that their financial situation has deteriorated. Low income households are significantly less likely to report improvements in their financial situation than those with greater resources, (18% of households with a monthly income of less than 2000Afs as compared to 27 percent of those earning over 5000Afs).

Respondents also mention a number of improvements in their material circumstances including the physical condition of the house (18%), availability of products in the market (13%), quality of food diet (13%), and electricity supply (13%). Low income households are again significantly less likely to report improvements in any of these areas than those with more resources. Improvements in electricity supply in the past two years are most often mentioned in the Central Kabul (20%), North West (18%), and Western (18%) regions

Respondents report the least improvement in employment opportunities (7%). These are seen to have become worse in the last two years by the majority of respondents in the South West (70%), Central Kabul (67%), North West (60%), West (59%), and North East (56%). These responses confirm the identification of unemployment as one of the biggest problems facing Afghanistan at both national and local levels (*see Chapter 2, 2.4 - Afghanistan's biggest problem: national level and 2.5 Afghanistan's biggest problem: local level*).

4.3 Availability of basic amenities

The survey attempted to gauge public perceptions about the current conditions of basic infrastructure and essential public services in the villages and neighbourhoods where they live. The table below summarizes respondents' views on the availability of a range of basic amenities. More than three quarters of respondents say that the supply of electricity (74%) and the availability of jobs (78%) in their local area are bad or very bad. Electricity supply is particularly problematic with nearly half of respondents (44%) saying that this is very bad in the area where they live. These findings are entirely consistent with the identification of local problems discussed in Chapter 2 (*see Chapter 2, 2.5 - Afghanistan's biggest problem: local level*).

Availability of education for children emerges as the most widely enjoyed amenity, with over two-thirds of respondents (70%) judging these to be good or very good in their local area. This reinforces the finding that access to schools has been the greatest improvement experienced by respondents in the last two years (see above). The availability of clean drinking water is also judged as good or very good by the majority of respondents (62%).

Table 4.2: Present condition of basic amenities in localities (Q-16a-i, Base 6593)

Amenities	Very good (%)	Quite good (%)	Quite bad (%)	Very bad (%)
a) The availability of clean drinking water	20	42	26	12
b) The availability of water for irrigation	11	36	32	17
c) The availability of jobs	4	17	42	36
d) The supply of electricity	6	19	30	44
f) The availability of clinics and hospitals	12	39	35	14
g) The availability of medicine	11	38	36	14
h) The availability of education for children	26	44	20	9

However, the present condition of basic amenities varies widely between regions. For example, the availability of education for children is judged to be good or very good by more than three quarters of respondent in the East (78%), North West (76%), and Central Kabul (77%) and by 90 percent in the North East but is rated as bad or very bad by 62 percent of respondents in the South West, 43 percent in the West, and 38 percent in the Central Hazarajat region. The availability of health care facilities and medicines is a particular problem in Central Hazarajat with about a third of respondents judging this to be very bad and another third quite bad.

On the other hand, the availability of electricity is considered to be bad or very bad by over 80 percent of respondents in the North East (87%), East (85%), and South West (84%) but is rated good or very good by 42 percent of respondents in the Central Kabul region.

When respondents were asked about the kinds of electricity supply they have in the houses where they live nearly half (43%) report that they have no access to electricity. The greatest proportion of respondents with no access to electricity are in the North East (60%), East (57%), and South West (53%) regions. Around one fifth of respondents have access to government provided electricity (21%) and another fifth say they have access to a private generator (19%). Thirteen percent have access to public/shared use generators. This finding largely matches that of 2007.

Access to electricity supply varies significantly by rural-urban settlement patterns. About half of rural residents (53%) have no electricity at all while nearly three quarters (72%) of respondents in urban areas have access to electricity provided by the state.

At this house where you live, which of the following kinds of electricity supply do you have? (Q-40, Base 6593) BY SETTLEMENT (Percentage based on multiple responses)

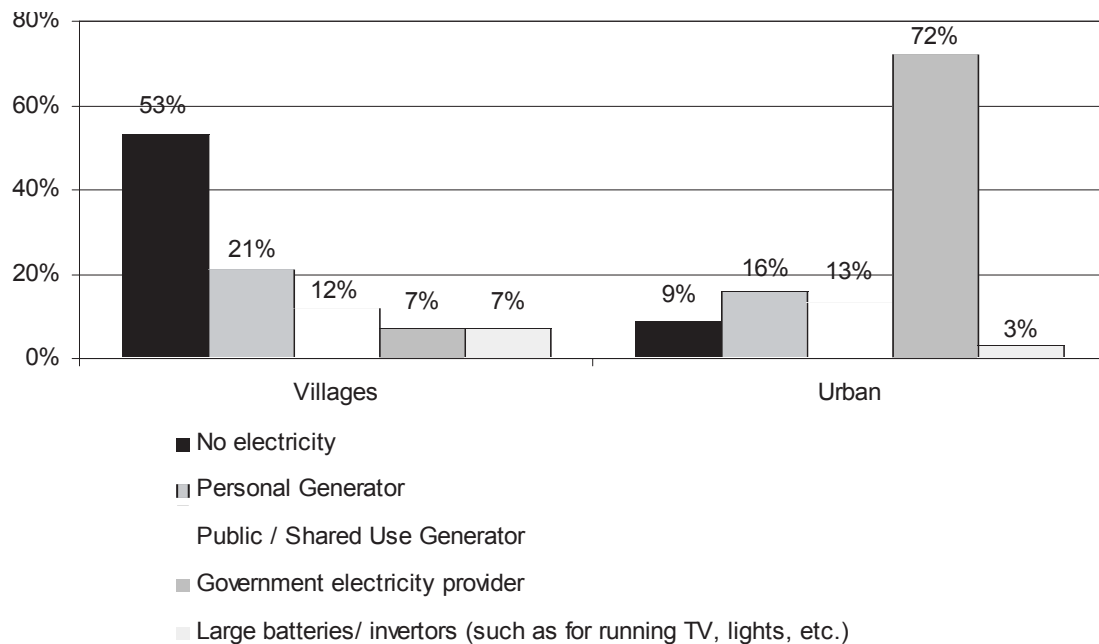


Fig 4.5

4.4 Important development issues

The survey also examined how respondents prioritize development needs, particularly in terms of basic infrastructure including roads, power and water, and essential public services such as health care and education. Respondents were asked to rank these issues in order of priority from 1 - most important to 5 - least important.

Survey results show that at an aggregate national level, electricity supply is ranked as the top priority (2.7) followed by water supply (2.8), roads (2.9), health care (3.2), and education (3.4) although the differences in priority accorded to these five issues are not substantial.

There has been a discernable shift in the public's priority order of development issues between 2007 and 2008. In 2007 roads were identified as the top priority nationally whereas in 2008 the top priority is power supply. Availability of education has fallen to fifth place in 2008 probably because of the significant improvements in access to schools in the last two years as identified by respondents (*see 4.2 - Development for Afghan Households*).

Table 4.3: Importance of development issues in rank order (Q-14 a-e, Base 6593)
COMPARISON BETWEEN 2007 AND 2008

Development issue	2007	2008
Importance of power	3	1
Importance of water	2	2
Importance of roads	1	3
Importance of health care	5	4
Importance of education	4	5

The overall prioritization of development issues is in direct proportion to the identification of these issues as the most important problems in local areas (*see Chapter 2, 2.5 - Afghanistan's biggest problem: local level*). However, the priorities for development differ across the country. Roads still emerge as the top priority for respondents in the North East, West, and South West while those living in the East and Central Kabul regions rank power supply as the top priority. The number one priority development issue is water supply in the North West, health care in the South East, and education in the Central Hazarajat.

Table 4.4: Importance of development issues in rank order (Q-14 a-e, Base 6593) BY REGION

	Central Kabul	South East	East	North East	North West	West	South Western	Central Hazarajat
Roads	3	4	2	1	3	1	1	4
Power	1	5	1	2	2	2	2	5
Water	2	2	3	3	1	3	3	2
Health care	4	1	4	4	4	5	4	3
Education	5	3	5	5	5	4	5	1

In general, although both the rural and urban respondents rank the importance of power as the top priority, rural dwellers rank roads as the second priority while urban dwellers put water supply as second.

4.5 Development Plans and future expectations

In 2007, Provincial Development Plans (PDP) were produced in all 34 provinces through a nationwide process as part of the preparation of the full *Afghanistan National Development Strategy*. These planning processes sought to promote the par-

ticipation of a wide range of institutional and community stakeholders in identifying priorities for development in their provinces. The survey asked respondents whether they were aware of their provincial government's set of priorities or plans that were agreed for the development of the district or the province they live in. On average, only one-fifth of respondents (21%) say they are aware of these plans, although awareness differs widely between provinces. More than three quarters of respondents report knowing about the provincial development plan in Zabul (77%), around half in Laghman (53%), Ghor (49%) and Wardak (48%) provinces and at least a quarter in Nangahar (32%), Kandahar (29%), Dai Kundi (28%), Balkh (26%), Baghlan (26%), Kapisa (25%), and Saripul (25%). On the other hand, fewer than one tenth of respondents are aware of the development plans in Kabul (9%), Samangan (6%), Bamyan (5%), and Nimroz (4%) provinces.

The respondents who say they are aware of the plans were then asked whether they knew the details of the plan or what activities were supposed to be undertaken. Of those who know about the development plans nearly two thirds (65%) also have some knowledge about their content. Again results differ between provinces. In 25 provinces more than half of those who are aware of development plans also know about the details of the content and in 10 provinces this is true for at least three quarters of respondents. Overall knowledge of the content of development plans is highest in the Eastern, Western, and Central Hazarajat regions.

Irrespective of whether or not they were aware of the development plans for their province, respondents were asked about their expectations for development in the next year regarding basic services and amenities in their local area. The majority of respondents expect to see improvements in all the areas listed. More than four fifths expect to see improvements in the availability of clean drinking water (83%) and the availability of education for children (82%). About three quarters expect the availability of clinics, hospitals, and medicines (76%) and water for irrigation (74%) to improve. However, respondents are less optimistic about seeing improvements to the highest priority development issues. Sixty-two percent expect to see improvements in the supply of electricity and the availability of jobs in the next year while a third (33%) actually expect these to get worse.

*Table 4.5: Expected improvements in basic amenities in local areas
(Q-17a-b, Base 6593)*

Amenities	Much better (%)	Somewhat better (%)	Somewhat worse (%)	Much worse (%)
a) The availability of clean drinking water	46	37	11	4
b) The availability of water for irrigation	36	38	14	6
c) The availability of jobs	35	27	20	13
d) The supply of electricity	36	26	16	17
f) The availability of clinics and hospitals	41	35	14	6
g) The availability of medicine	40	36	15	5
h) The availability of education for children	49	33	11	5

Expectations of improvement in the availability of basic services and amenities are consistently highest in the North East, followed by the North West, West, and Central Kabul regions. On the other hand, expectations are consistently lowest in the South West. However, at least a quarter of respondents in the East, South East, and Central Hazarajat think that the availability of health services will get worse in the next year. The South West and Eastern regions have the lowest proportion of respondents who expect to see improvements in the electricity supply but the highest who expect to see improvements in the availability of jobs. In general women are slightly more positive about prospects for improvements than men. Those living in urban areas have greater expectations of change than those living in rural villages.

4.6 Development Programs and Public Awareness of Foreign Aid

Many of the large number of development programs and projects being implemented across Afghanistan are directly supported by foreign donor agencies. The survey sought to gauge respondents' knowledge about the implementation of development programs in their local area. All respondents were asked whether they knew of, or had heard of, any project or program implemented with foreign aid in their area or district in the last 12 months. Respondents were then given a list of kinds of development programmes that might be present in their area.

More than half of respondents (59%) say they are aware of projects relating to education (reconstruction/opening of schools, more teachers etc.), which is consistent with the general perception that access to education is the service showing the greatest improvement over the past two years (*see 4.2 - Development for Afghan Households*).

A similar proportion say that they are aware of reconstruction projects involving the building of roads and bridges (58%). Projects related to water supply for drinking are mentioned by 43 percent of respondents and healthcare programmes such as primary health centers and regular visits of doctors etc. are mentioned by 42 percent. Responses in 2008 are broadly similar to those recorded in 2006 and 2007. Awareness of education and reconstruction programmes has topped the list for three consecutive years. This suggests that the majority of development programmes are perceived to be mostly targeting high priority development issues (*see above*). However, fewer respondents say they are aware of development programmes targeting the most pressing issues identified in 2008 such as electricity supply (22%) and unemployment.

Table 4.6: Percentage of the people who knew of or heard of any development project or program implemented with foreign aids in their localities (Q-33a-l, Base 6593)

Development field	Knew/ heard of (%)
Education (reconstruction/opening of school, more teachers etc.)	59
Reconstruction/building of roads, bridges	58
Water supply for drinking	43
Healthcare (primary health center, regular visits of doctors, etc.)	42
De-mining	38
Demilitarization/ disarmament	35
Building new mosques	26
Electricity supply	22
Humanitarian programs – help in food, medicines, shelter, production materials etc.	22
Water supply for irrigation	21
Reconstruction/programs in agriculture	19
Reconstruction/programs in industry	11

In order to measure public opinion about who is primarily responsible for providing aid for development projects, respondents were asked whether they thought the Afghan Government, foreign sponsors, or both were responsible for these activities in various sectors. The Afghan Government is seen as the primary agency responsible for economic development initiatives including reconstruction programs in agriculture (48%) and industry (42%), the supply of public amenities such as electricity (51%), water for drinking (37%), and irrigation (49%), and the provision of basic public services such as education (49%) and health care (39%) as well as building new mosques (73%). Foreign donors are seen to have a leading role in delivering humanitarian programs (45%), demining programmes (45%), and large-scale infrastructure projects such as the reconstruction of roads and bridges (37%). Both the Afghan government and foreign sponsors are seen to have a prominent role in demilitarization initiatives (35%).

Table 4.7: Has the Afghan government or foreign sponsors been primarily responsible for providing most of the aid for the projects? (Q-34a-l, Base 6593)

Development field	Afghan Govt.	Foreign Sponsor	Both
a) Reconstruction/ building of roads, bridges	26	37	36
b) Water supply for drinking	37	34	28
c) Water supply for irrigation	49	23	26
d) Electricity supply	51	22	27
e) Healthcare (primary health center, regular visits of doctors, etc.)	39	29	31
f) Education (reconstruction/opening of school, more teachers etc.)	49	21	29
g) De-mining	23	45	30
h) Demilitarization/disarmament	36	28	35
i) Reconstruction/programs in agriculture	48	24	26
j) Reconstruction/programs in industry	42	28	27
k) Building new mosques	73	12	12
l) Humanitarian programs – help in food, medicines, shelter, production materials etc.	23	45	30

Respondents who identified foreign sponsors as the primary agency responsible for implementing projects in their area or district (75% of all respondents) were also asked which countries they think have provided this assistance. The largest group mentioned the USA (46%) followed by Germany (10%) and Japan (10%). This finding largely matches that of 2006 and 2007.

Which country do you think has provided the most aid for the projects you mentioned to have been implemented in this area, district? (Q-35, Base 4972)

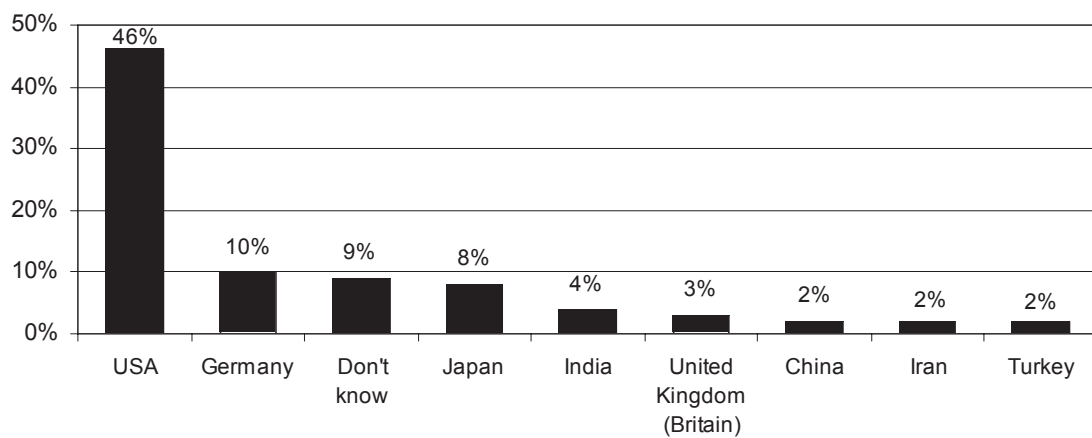


Fig 4.6

While the United States is consistently identified as the major donor in all regions, Germany was identified as the most important aid provider by a quarter of respondents (25%) in the North East, Japan by 14 percent of respondents in the North West and 11 percent in the East, and India by 14 percent in the South West and seven percent in the East.

It is also true that in many provinces Provincial Reconstruction Teams (PRTs) are amongst the more visible international agencies on the ground that play a role in delivering development assistance as does the targeting of international donor assistance to provinces with a national presence in the PRT. The presence of PRTs lead by particular international forces is therefore likely to influence public perceptions regarding which nations are major contributors to development in their area. This is likely to explain the identification of UK in the South East (6%) and the South West (6%), Italy in the West (6%), and Canada in the South West (5%) as major donors in the region.

Respondents were then asked to mention any other countries which they think have provided aid for the projects in their area or district. Overall, one-fifth of the people mentioned the USA (20%) followed by Japan (19%), Germany (17%), and India (16%) as the major providers of development assistance.

Given that much development assistance from foreign donor agencies is channeled through Provincial Reconstruction Teams (PRTs) or influenced by their geographical placement, it is not surprising that responses identifying the major providers of

development aid differed significantly between regions. While the United States is consistently identified as the major donor in all regions, Germany was identified as the most important aid provider by a quarter of respondents (25%) in the North East, Japan by 14 percent of respondents in the North West and 11 percent in the East, India by 14 percent in the South West and seven percent in the East, UK by six percent in the South East and the South West, Italy by six percent in the West, and Canada by five percent in the South West.

Which other countries have provided aid for the projects in your area, district?
(Q-36, Base 4972) (Percentage based on multiple responses)

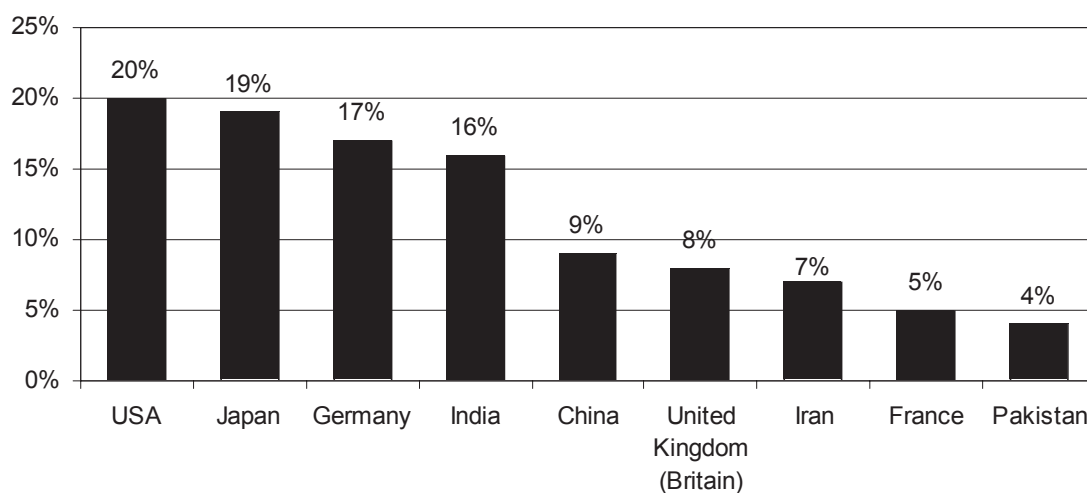


Fig 4.7

5 Government

5.1 Government performance

The survey sought to examine the experience of Afghan citizens in interacting with a range of governance institutions at the local level. These include local administrative authorities such as Provincial and District Governors and Municipalities and elected representatives at national and local levels including Members of Parliament (MPs), Provincial Council, and Community Development Council representatives. Respondents were asked to give their opinions on the performance of both central and local governments and to assess the responsiveness of governance institutions in addressing local problems.

In addition, the survey considered the representation of different social groups at the community level and sought respondents' views on the involvement of particular groups in political decision-making including consultation with religious leaders and people's own sense of efficacy in influencing government decisions.

5.2 Performance of central government

When asked to assess the performance of government at the national level, two thirds of respondents (67%) give a positive assessment with about one in six (16%) saying that the government is doing a very good job. However, the assessment of the performance of central government is less positive than in 2007 when four fifths of respondents (80%) said the government was going a good job, including one in four (25%) who said a very good job. Conversely, the proportion of those saying that the government is doing a bad job has almost doubled, from 17 percent in 2007 to 30 percent in 2008.

"Thinking of the National/ Central Government, how do you feel about the way it is carrying out its responsibilities?" (Q-62, Base 6593)

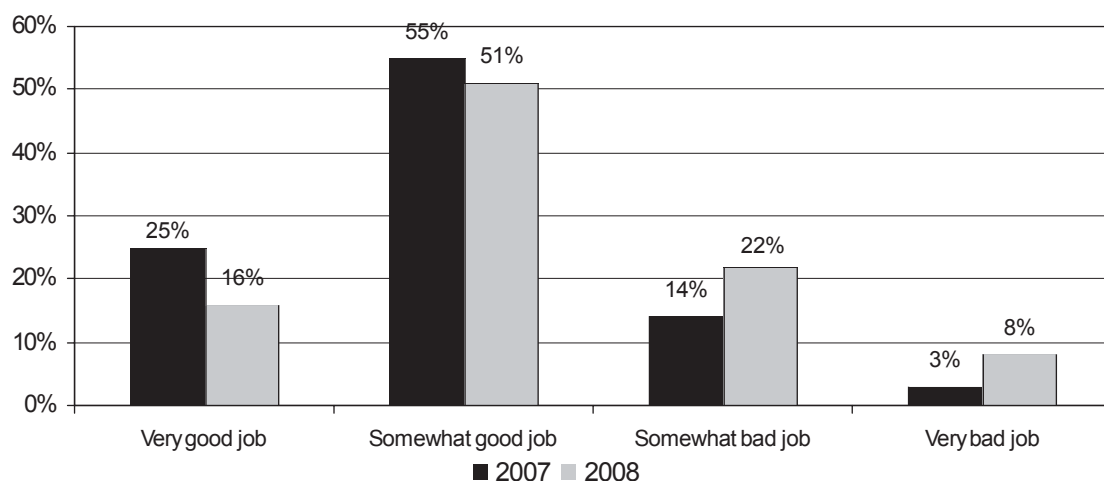


Fig. 5.1

In 2008, positive perceptions of the government's performance are highest in the North East (81%), North West (79%), and East (74%) of the country but lowest in the South East, where just over half of respondents (56%) say the government is doing a good job in carrying out its responsibilities.

The survey then sought a more in-depth understanding of these responses by examining respondents' views on government performance in specific areas such as security, education, healthcare, creating job opportunities, maintaining relations with neighbouring countries, reviving/developing the economy, and fighting corruption.

The government's performance is judged most positively with respect to the provision of basic public services such as education and healthcare. More than four-fifths of respondents (84%) say the government is doing a good job in providing education, and two-thirds (66%) say the same about the provision of healthcare. The lowest levels of satisfaction with both of these public services are in the South West where 29 percent of respondents say the government is doing a bad job in the provision of education and 41 percent say the same about healthcare. Satisfaction with the provision of basic public services tends to rise with level of education. Women also tend to give a more positive assessment than men, particularly regarding the provision of healthcare where 71 percent of women say that the government is doing a good job as compared to 65 percent of men.

Around 60 percent of respondents give a positive judgement on the Government's performance in maintaining relations with other countries and security. Positive opinions in this regard are highest in the North East and lowest in the South East, South West, and West of the country.

On the other hand, assessments of the government's performance in the economic arena are generally much less positive. Three-quarters of respondents (75%) say that the government is doing a bad job in creating job opportunities and nearly two thirds (64%) say the same about reviving / developing the economy. The Central / Kabul region gives the most negative assessment of the government's economic performance with more than four-fifths of respondents (81%) saying the government is doing a bad job in creating job opportunities and around three quarters (73%) saying the same about development of the economy.

Two-thirds of respondents (66%) also rate the government's performance in combating corruption negatively. This is a particular concern in the Western region where nearly four-fifths of respondents (79%) give a negative assessment although in the South East, Central / Hazarajat, and Central/Kabul more than 40 percent of respondents also say that the government is doing a very bad job in this regard.

*Table 5.1: Perceptions of the performance of the central government in specific areas
(Q-62 a-g, Base 6593)*

Responsibility	Very good job (%)	Somewhat good job (%)	Somewhat bad job (%)	Very bad job (%)
a) Education	36	48	11	4
b) Healthcare system	18	48	25	8
c) Creating job opportunities	4	20	37	38
d) Maintaining relations with neighbouring countries	17	45	22	12
e) Reviving/developing the economy	6	27	34	30
f) Fighting corruption	8	23	30	36
g) Security	23	36	22	17

5.3 Performance of provincial government

Respondents were also asked to give their assessment of the performance of the provincial administration in their area. Nearly three-quarters of respondents (74%) give a positive assessment as nearly a quarter (23%) say that the provincial government is doing a very good job, significantly higher than the proportion who say the same about central government (16%). Positive assessments of the performance of provincial government have also fallen since 2007 when 80 percent of respondents said the provincial government in their area was doing a good job. This represents a smaller fall in positive assessments for provincial government performance than for central government.

Turning to your provincial government, do you think that overall it is doing a very good job, somewhat good job, somewhat bad job or a very bad job? (Q-64a, Base 6593)

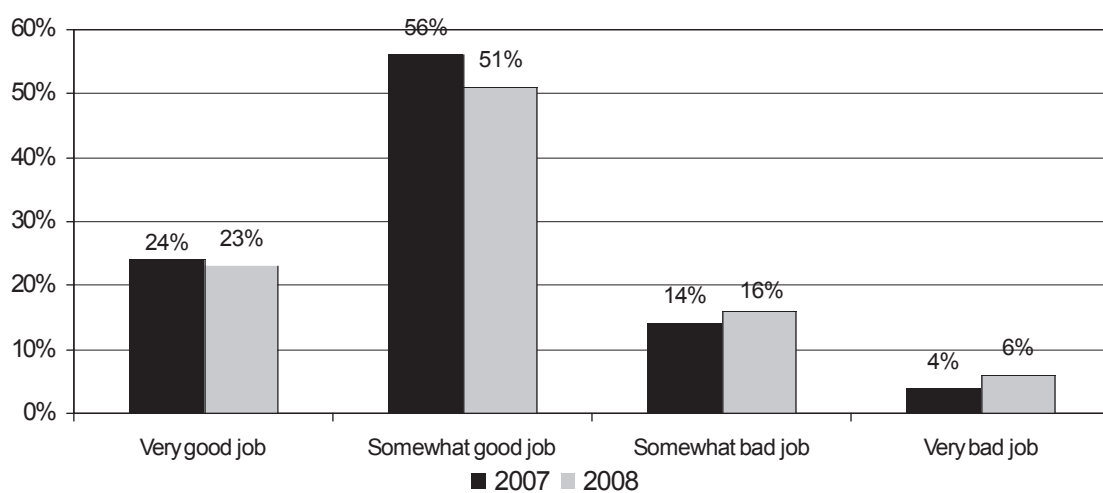


Fig 5.2

Assessments of the performance of provincial government vary by region. Although the overall judgment of performance is positive in all regions, more than a third of respondents in the North East (36%) and North West (34%) think that the provincial government is doing a very good job; this is true for over a quarter in the Eastern region (27%). However, only small proportions in the South East (11%), South West (13%), and West (14%) are of the opinion that the government is doing a very good job and in the Western region around one in eight respondents (12%) thinks that the provincial government is doing a very bad job.

Turning to your Provincial Government, do you think that overall it is doing a very good job, somewhat good job, somewhat bad job or a very bad job? (Q-64a, Base 6593) BY REGION

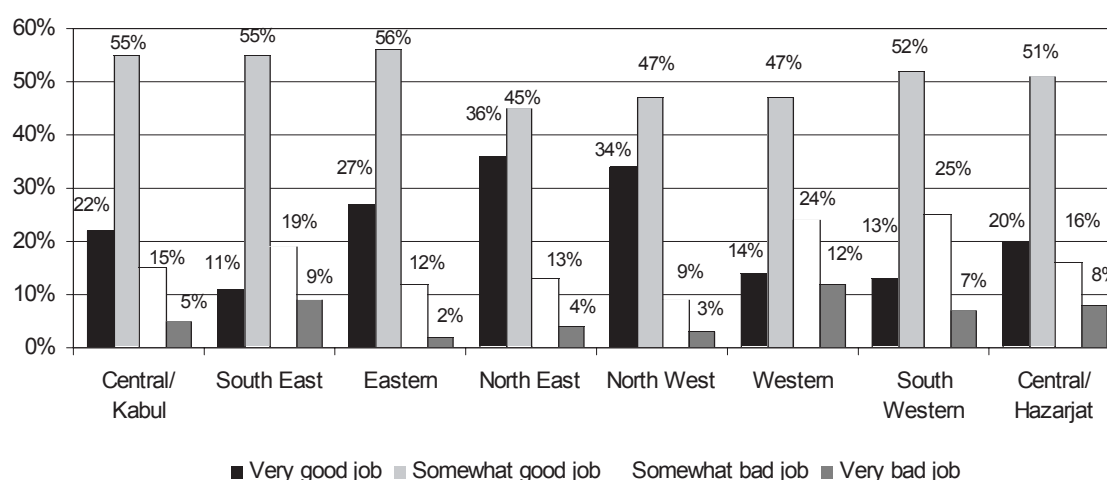


Fig 5.3

5.4 Performance of municipal and district authorities

The survey also asked about the performance of local authorities at the municipal and district levels. People living in urban areas (21% of all respondents) were asked questions pertaining to municipal authorities.

Satisfaction with the performance of municipal authorities is lower than for provincial or central government. Only half of respondents living in urban areas (50%) think that municipalities are doing a good job, including 37 percent who say a somewhat good job and 13 percent who say a very good job. Forty-three percent of respondents give a negative assessment of the performance of the municipality in their locality, including about a quarter (26%) who think their municipal authorities are doing a somewhat bad job and 17 percent who think they are doing a very bad job. Positive assessments of the performance of municipal authorities have also fallen since 2007 when 57 percent of respondents said the municipal authority in their area was doing a good job.

What do you think about the job done by your municipal authorities? Do you think that overall it is doing a very good job, somewhat good job, somewhat bad job or a very bad job? (Q-64b, Base 1417)

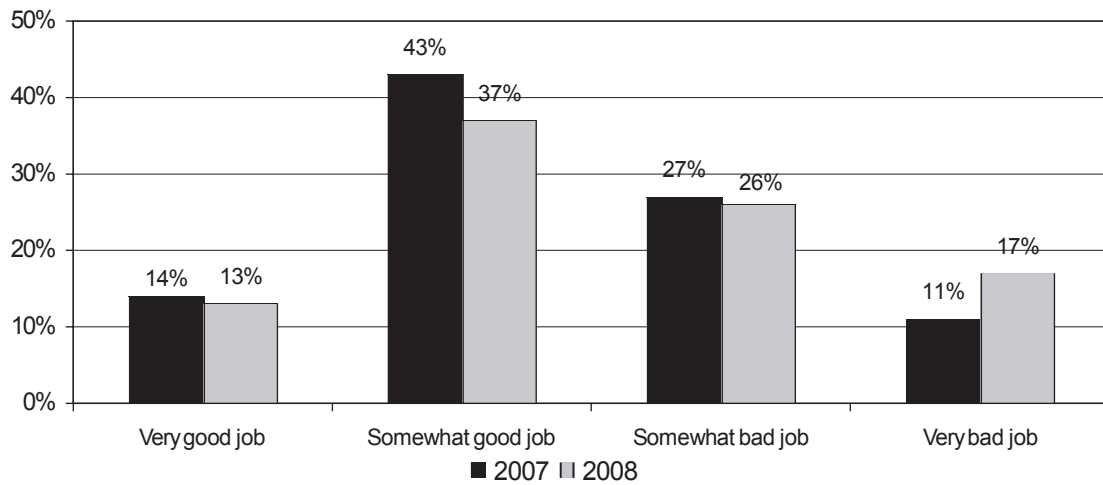


Fig 5.4

Again, assessment of the performance of municipal authorities varies by region. Around 60 percent of respondents give a positive assessment of the performance of their municipal authority in the North West (63%), South West (58%), and South East (60%). However, in the Western region a similar proportion (65%) say that the municipal authority is doing a bad job including a quarter (25%) who say a very bad job.

What do you think about the job done by your municipal authorities? Do you think that overall it is doing a very good job, somewhat good job, somewhat bad job or a very bad job? (Q-64b, Base 1417) BY REGION

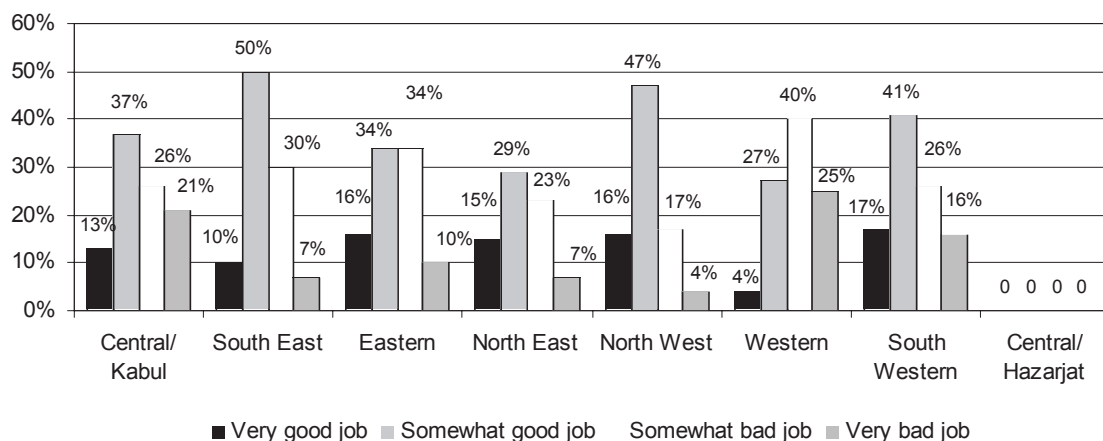


Fig 5.5

In 2008, the survey also asked a similar question about the performance of local authorities at the district level to people living in rural areas (78% of all respondents). Overall, around two-thirds of respondents (67%) rate the performance of

their district authority positively – considerably more than those who give a positive assessment for local authorities in urban areas. Just under half (54%) of rural respondents think that their local authorities are doing a somewhat good job while another 22 percent think that they are doing a very good job. Twenty-eight percent think the district authorities in their localities are doing a bad job.

What do you think about the job done by your local authorities, do you think that overall it is doing a very good job, somewhat good job, somewhat bad job or a very bad job? (Q-64c, Base 5175)

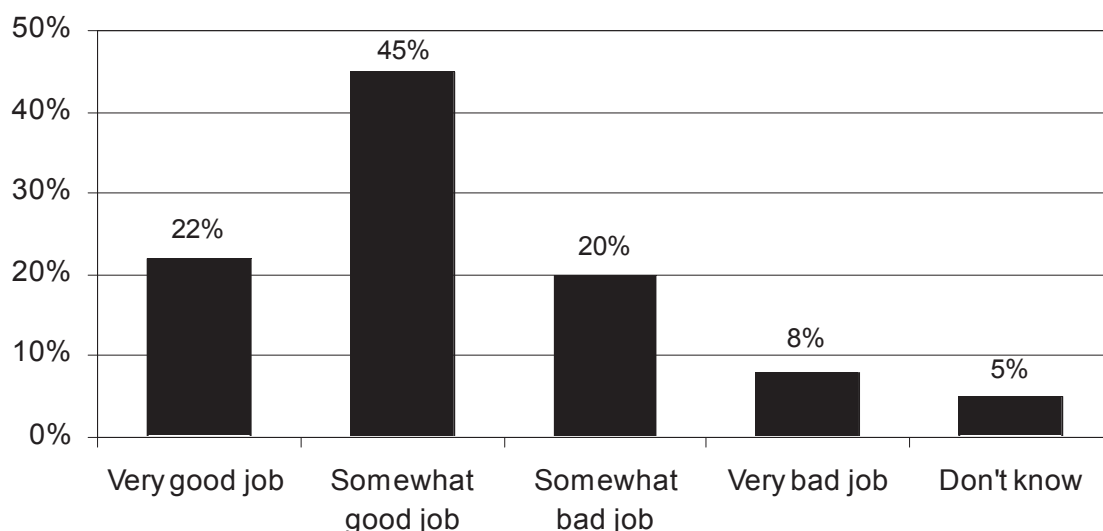


Fig 5.6

The highest levels of satisfaction with district authorities in rural areas are in the North West, North East, and Eastern regions where at least three-quarters of respondents give a positive assessment of their performance. Dissatisfaction is greatest in the South West and West of the country where around 40 percent of respondents say the local authority is doing a somewhat bad or a very bad job.

5.5 Corruption

One of the most significant issues affecting the effectiveness of government institutions in Afghanistan is corruption. The survey attempted to document the perception of corruption at all levels of government. It also sought to assess the impacts of corruption on different facets of life. Respondents were asked whether they think corruption is a major problem, a minor problem, or no problem at all in their daily life, their neighbourhood, their local authorities, their provincial government, and in Afghanistan as a whole.

Most respondents think that corruption is a major problem at all levels of government to varying degrees. However, perceptions of the prevalence of corruption rise

as the distance of the institution from people's daily lives increase, for around half of respondents feel corruption is a major problem in their neighbourhood (48%) and in their daily life (51%). This rises to nearly two-thirds who say the same about the provincial government (63%) and three quarters who see corruption as a major problem for Afghanistan as a whole (76%). This pattern is consistent with previous years.

Table 5.2: Percentage of the people who think corruption is a major problem in various areas (Q-26 a-e, Base 6593)

Area	Major Problem (%)
In Afghanistan as a whole	76
In your provincial government	63
In your local authorities	53
In your daily life	51
In your neighbourhood	48

In order to assess how the people see trends in corruption, respondents were also asked: "Compared to one year ago, do you think that the amount of corruption overall in these areas has increased, stayed the same, or decreased?". Over half of respondents (57%) think that the amount of corruption has increased in Afghanistan as whole while 45 percent think that it has done so at provincial government level. A third of respondents (33%) think that corruption has increased in their local authorities and around a quarter believe this is true in their neighbourhood (25%) and in their daily lives (24%).

Table 5.3: Percentage of the people who think the amount of corruption has increased in specific areas (Q-27 a-e, Base 6693)

Area	Increased (%)
In Afghanistan as a whole	57
In your provincial government	45
In your local authorities	33
In your neighbourhood	25
In your daily life	24

The perception that corruption is increasing also held true in 2007.

The survey then attempted to measure the incidence of corruption in particular areas of public life by asking respondents how often in the past year they had had to give cash, a gift, or perform a favour when they had contacted government officials. Responses indicate that the majority of contacts with government institutions do not involve corrupt practices and that people's overall perception of the prevalence of corruption is higher than their personal experience of it. The situations in which respondents have most frequently encountered corruption are in dealing with the judiciary/courts (51%), applying for jobs (50%), and receiving official documents (49%). At least a third of respondents also report having encountered corruption in receiving basic public services including healthcare (42%), electricity supply (40%), and admissions to schools or universities (32%). Around forty percent of respondents have had a similar experience in dealing with law enforcement agencies like the Afghan National Police (40%) and Customs offices (38%). The lowest level of corruption is recorded in dealings with the Afghan National Army although corrupt practices are still reported by nearly a quarter of respondents (23%).

*Table 5.4: Percentage of the people who have corruption-related experience (based on respondents who had some contact with the organization/area
(Q-28 a-j, Base 6593)*

Organization/Area	In all cases (%)	In most cases (%)	In isolated cases (%)	Combination of cases (%)
Judiciary/courts	7	18	26	51
When applying for a job	8	18	24	50
To receive official documents	10	16	23	49
Officials in the municipality	8	13	22	43
Public healthcare service	3	13	26	42
Afghan National Police	4	11	25	40
State electricity supply	5	14	21	40
Customs office	8	14	16	38
Admissions to schools/university	4	10	18	32
Afghan National Army	2	7	14	23

Responses to the survey indicate that corruption remains a widespread problem within the public administration in Afghanistan and clearly help to explain the low levels of public confidence expressed in these institutions and public concern about the lack of responsiveness and accountability of government. Institutions in which respondents frequently report corrupt practices also register particularly low levels of public confidence, including municipalities (42% confidence), the government justice system (46%), and the public administration as a whole (55%) (*see Chapter 2 - Confidence in institutions and organizations, Table 2.3*).

5.6 Contact with local government to solve local problems

Respondents were asked whether, at any time in the last five years, they had asked for the help of a government official or a government agency to resolve an issue that concerned everybody in their area but which they could not resolve on their own. In order to understand the relative importance of government institutions in addressing local problems faced by citizens and communities in Afghanistan, engagement with the sub-national administration and elected representatives was considered alongside contact with a range of other informal governance actors including local shura and jirga, religious leaders, maliks, non governmental organisations (NGOs), and national-level political representatives. The majority of respondents (75%) say that they have not had this experience but around a fifth (19%) report that they have sought assistance from local bodies to resolve a problem.

Among those who had sought assistance of this kind (19% of all respondents), the largest group have done this to resolve disputes over land (23%). Contact with informal governance bodies has also related to problems with basic infrastructure such as water and electricity (15%) or roads and bridges (9%). Security issues have prompted requests for assistance from one respondent in eight (12%) while a small proportion have asked for help to resolve tribal disputes (7%) or crime (6%).

What kind of problem was/is that? (Q-46, Base 1270)

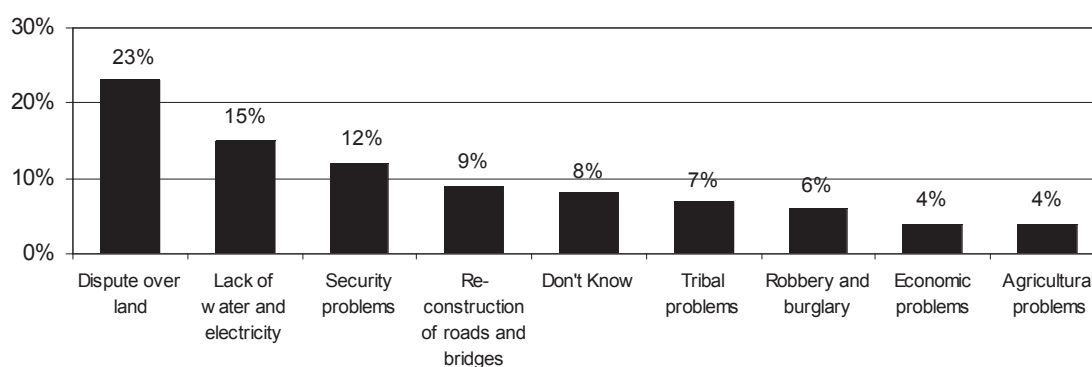


Fig 5.7

When asked who they asked to solve the problem, one-third of respondents (33%) report approaching elders of local shura or jirga, demonstrating the continuing importance of informal community governance structures in resolving problems at the community level. Significant numbers of respondents report approaching the local administration with a higher proportion seeking help from authorities at the district level (21%) than at the provincial level (14%) which is more distant. Some 13 percent have also approached the semi-formal malik or khan at the village level to help solve their problem. A significant proportion of respondents have also sought the help of the Afghan National Police (17%) which has a clear responsibility for law enforcement at the local level. Only a very small proportion of respondents have asked for assistance from elected representatives including MPs (5%) and community development councils (5%).

Who did you approach/ask to solve the problem? (Q-47, Base 1270)

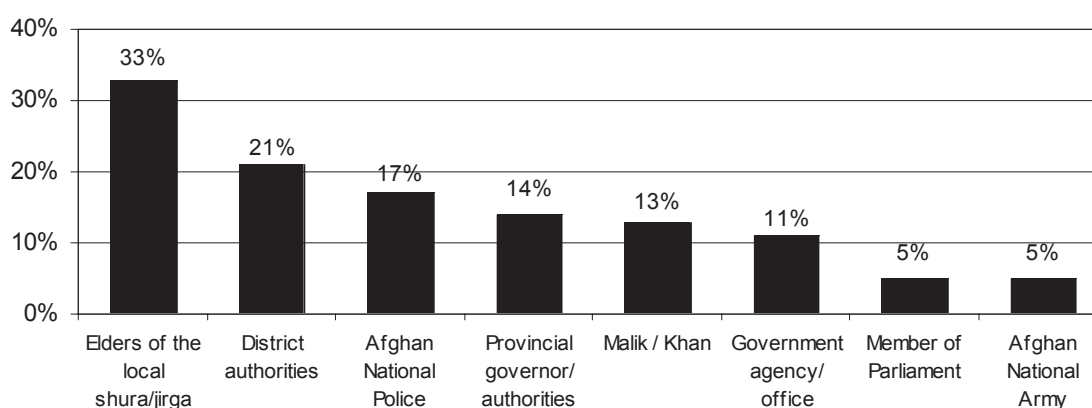


Fig 5.8

Some significant regional variations exist in the choice of who to approach in resolving local problems. The survey reveals a clear preference for resolving issues at the community level with the assistance of local shura/jirga or malik/khan in the North West, East, and South East of the country. Contact with government agencies tends to be higher in urban areas particularly in Central Kabul and the North East while contact with elected representatives at both national and local levels is significantly higher in Central Hazarajat than in the other regions.

When asked whether the problem for which they sought help has been resolved, respondents' experience was mixed. Around half (48%) report that the problem has been resolved while a similar proportion (46%) say that their problem is still pending resolution.

An analysis of the proportion of problems resolved in relation to the institutions approached reveals that the majority of people who approached traditional institutions at the community level (like mullah, shura/jirga and malik/khan) had their problems solved. The majority of problems taken to the state security forces, the ANA and ANP, had also been resolved. The efficacy of these groups and institutions in assisting the resolution of local problems is probably a significant contributing factor to the levels of public confidence they enjoy (*see section 2.7 - Confidence in specific institutions and organizations, Table 2.3*).

On the other hand, only around a third of respondents who approached government authorities at the provincial or national level or national level representatives (MPs) had their problems resolved. This may also offer some partial explanation for the relatively low levels of public confidence recorded in the public administration (*see Chapter 2 - Confidence in institutions and organizations, Table 2.3*).

*Table 5.5: Proportion of those who mentioned that the problem has been resolved
BY AGENCY*

	Problem resolved (%)
Mullah	68
Afghan National Army	66
Elders of the local shura/jirga	60
Malik/Khan	58
Afghan National Police	57
District authorities	54
Human Rights Commission	45
Community Development Council	44
Government agency/office	40
A Member of Parliament	36
Provincial governor/authorities	36
Foreign Forces	33
PRT	24
NGO	19

5.7 Role of elected representatives

The survey sought to document perceptions of elected representative bodies and the roles they play in local governance. These include Parliament and Members of Parliament (MP) at the national level, Provincial Councils (PC) at the provincial level, and Community Development Councils (CDC) that operate in villages and communities in rural areas.

Looking at representatives at the national level, respondents were asked whether they agree or disagree with the statement: “the Parliament is addressing the major problems of people in our country.” Overall around two-thirds of respondents (65%) agree with this statement including twenty-one percent who strongly agree and 44 percent who agree somewhat. However, a third of respondents (33%) disagree including 12 percent who disagree strongly. Levels of agreement are particularly high in the North West (76%) and Central Hazarajat (72%) while disagreement is highest in the South West (39%) and West (38%) of the country. In keeping with the fall in positive assessments of the performance of central government (see *Section 5.2*), positive assessments of the performance of parliament in addressing the country’s major problems has also fallen in the last year, from 75 percent in 2007 to 65 percent in 2008.

“Do you agree or disagree with the statement: “The Parliament is addressing the major problems of people in our country”?” (Q-87a, Base 6593)

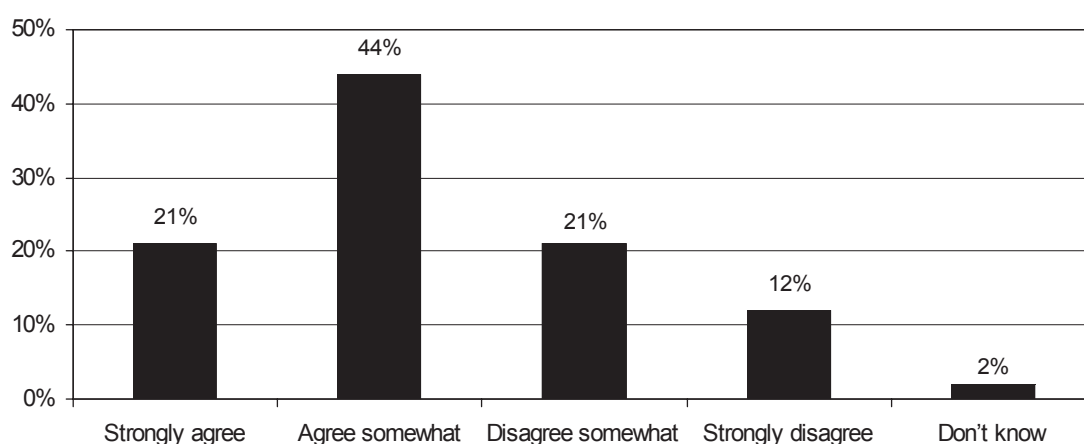


Fig. 5.9

A smaller proportion of respondents (56%) agree with the statement: “My MP is addressing the major problems of my constituency in the Parliament”. Nearly one in five (18%) strongly agree while another 38 percent agree somewhat. However, a significant proportion of respondents (40%) disagree with this statement. Again, levels of satisfaction with the performance of local MPs are particularly high in the

North West (69%) and Central Hazarajat (71%) while dissatisfaction is highest in the South West (47%), West (46%), North East (43%), and Central Kabul (43%). Satisfaction with the performance of MPs in addressing major local problems through the national parliament has been falling steadily since 2006 when nearly four fifths (79%) of respondents agreed with this statement, indicating increasing disenchantment with the responsiveness of central government in addressing local problems which are important to people.

“Do you agree or disagree with the statement “My MP is addressing the major problems of my constituency in the Parliament”?” (Q-87b, Base 6593)

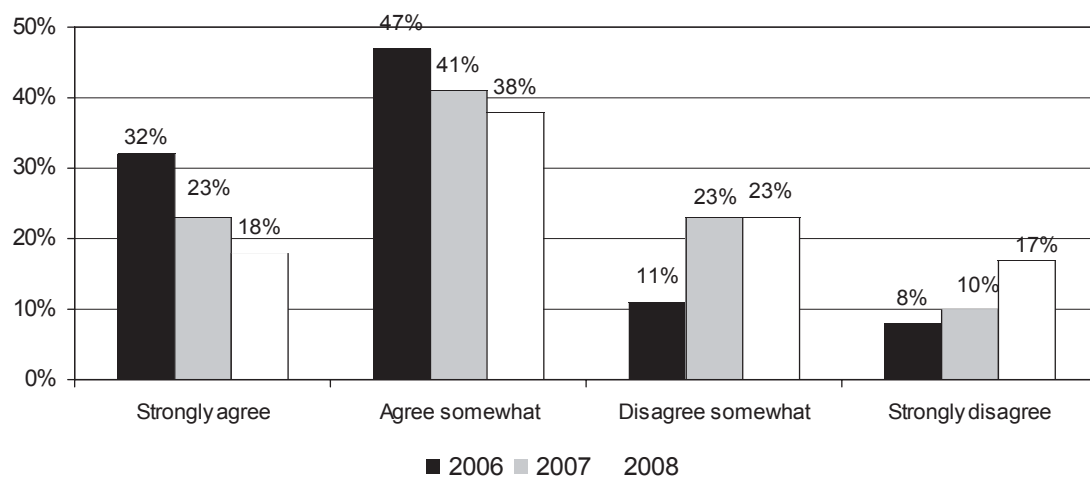


Fig. 5.10

The negative view of the performance of local MPs is clearly influenced by public attitudes to politicians and the widely held view that they principally serve their own interests rather than those of their constituents. Respondents to the survey were asked whether they agree or disagree with the statement “Politicians seek power for their own benefit and don’t worry about helping people.” Three quarters (76%) say they agree with this statement including 41 percent who strongly agree. Fewer than one in five (19%) thinks that politicians are more concerned with helping people than serving their own interests. However, there has been a small decline over the last two years in the proportion of respondents who hold this negative view. In 2006, 80 percent of respondents said they agreed that politicians seek power for their own benefit including more than half (51%) who strongly agreed with this statement (compared to 76% who agree, including 41% who strongly agree in 2008).

5.8 Contact with Members of Parliament (MP)

The survey also sought greater detail about perceptions of the performance of MPs in addressing major problems in their constituency by examining their involvement in resolving local problems experienced by individuals and communities. Respondents were asked: ‘Have you ever contacted your MP for help in solving any

of your personal or local problems?’ On average under one in ten respondents (9%) report having contacted their MP for help. Men are nearly three times more likely (13%) to have done so than women (5%). Respondents living in villages (10%) are nearly twice as likely to have done so than those living in urban areas (6%). Those in the South West (12%) are twice as likely as those in the North West (6%) to have requested help from their MP.

Those respondents who had contacted their MP for help in solving local problems (9% of all respondents) were asked about the kind of problem for which they contacted their MP. Problems related to basic infrastructure are the most common reasons. About one in four respondents (24%) mention lack of water and electricity and one in six (16%) say lack of roads and bridges. More urban (37%) than rural residents (21%) have contacted their MP about water and electricity problems whereas problems with roads and bridges are much more often raised by rural residents (18%) than those living in urban areas (5%). Half of all problems for which respondents have contacted their MP in the Central Hazarajat region relate to roads and bridges (50%). Problems with essential public services are also frequent including lack of teachers in schools (9%) and lack of hospitals (5%). Women are more likely than men to have complained about public services particularly the lack of teachers mentioned by 13 percent of female respondents as compared to seven percent of males.

About one respondent in ten has contacted their MP to complain about security issues (11%) although around a third of respondents in the South West region, who had contacted their MP, had done so about security problems (29%). MPs have also been approached to assist with local disputes about land by nine percent of respondents, again particularly in the South West (18%).

For what kind of a problem did you contact the MP? (Q-82, Base 586)

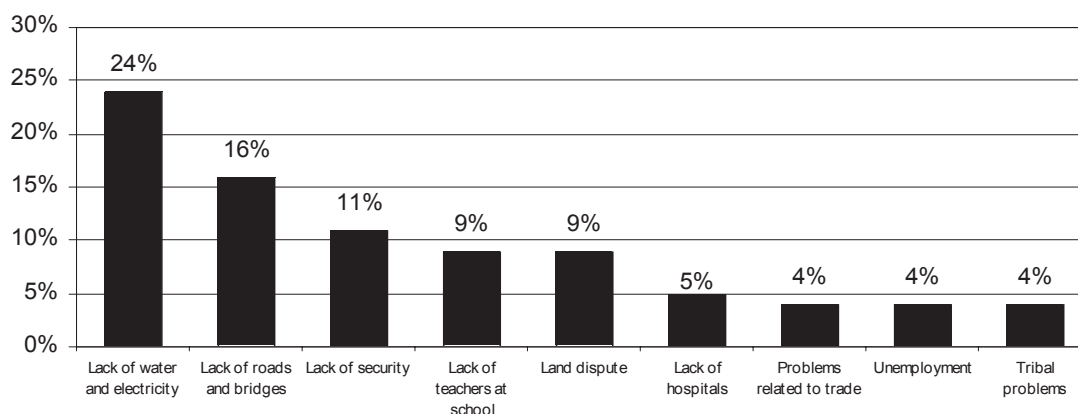


Fig 5.11

Respondents were then asked whether their MP tried to help resolve the problem. Around half (51%) say that the MP tried to help while a similar proportion (47%) say that they did not do so. These responses seem to corroborate the sense of ambivalence respondents demonstrate in the responsiveness of their national level political representatives to addressing the major problems of the constituency (*see 5.7 - Role of elected representatives*). However, they also highlight the fact that the Afghan public is not very clear either about the appropriate roles elected representatives can play. For example, two-thirds of respondents find their MP unresponsive in the South West (67%) which is likely to be a reflection of the high proportion of security and dispute related issues brought to MPs although MPs are generally unlikely to be able to exert any significant level of influence over issues of this kind. Similarly, 58 percent of respondents in the Central Hazarajat report getting no help from MPs which is likely to reflect the fact that half of the problems raised related to the lack of roads and bridges. On the other hand, the majority of respondents report that their MP was helpful in resolving local problems in the West (65%), North West (61%), and Eastern (60%) regions.

Finally, respondents were asked whether the problem was resolved, regardless of who helped. A third of respondents (33%) report that the problem has been solved whereas two-thirds (64%) say it has not. This suggests that better ways need to be found for identifying and responding to local problems.

5.9 Contact with Provincial Council representatives

Respondents were asked whether they have ever contacted a representative of the Provincial Council (PC) for help in solving any of their personal or local problems. Again an overwhelming majority has not done this (87%). Only 11 percent say they have contacted a PC representative for assistance. These figures have remained constant since 2006.

Respondents who had contacted a PC representative for help (11% of all respondents) were further asked for what kind of problem they had sought help. The survey finds that people contact PC representatives for the same reasons as they contact MPs. Again, problems related to basic infrastructure are most prominent including electricity and water (18%) and roads and bridges (15%). Disputes over land (9%) and security problems (9%) are also frequent causes for contact as are problems with essential public services including lack of assistance to teachers (5%) and building clinics (4%). However, twice as many respondents have asked for help with problems of unemployment from PC representatives (8%) than from MPs (4%). The same is true for tribal problems (7% compared to 4% who asked for help from MPs).

What kind of a problem was it? (Q-85, Base 731)

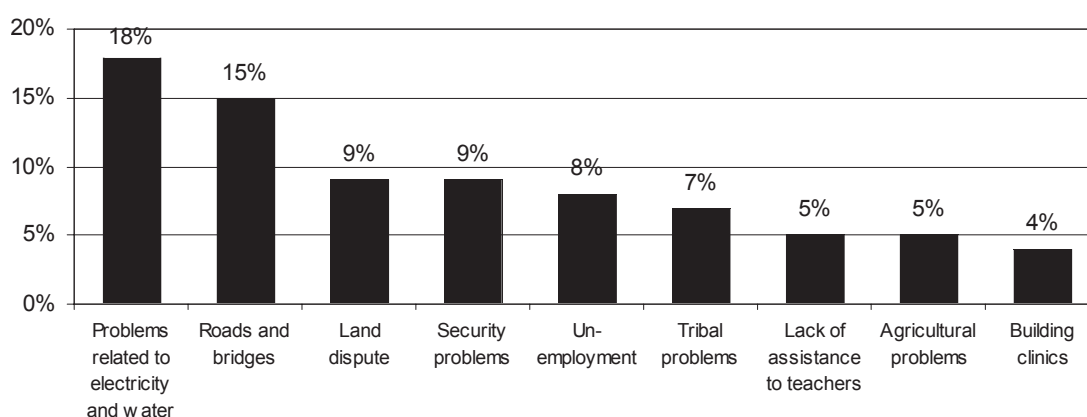


Fig 5.12

Problems related to electricity and water account for the greatest number of requests for help from PC representatives in the North East (24%), North West (24%), West (22%), South East (14%), and East (12%). This is also true in the Central Hazarajat (25%) even though the majority of complaints to MPs have been about roads and bridges. The largest proportion of problems taken to PC representatives relate to the lack of roads and bridges in the Central Kabul (27%) and South Western (13%) regions.

What kind of a problem was it? (Q-85, Base 731) BY REGION

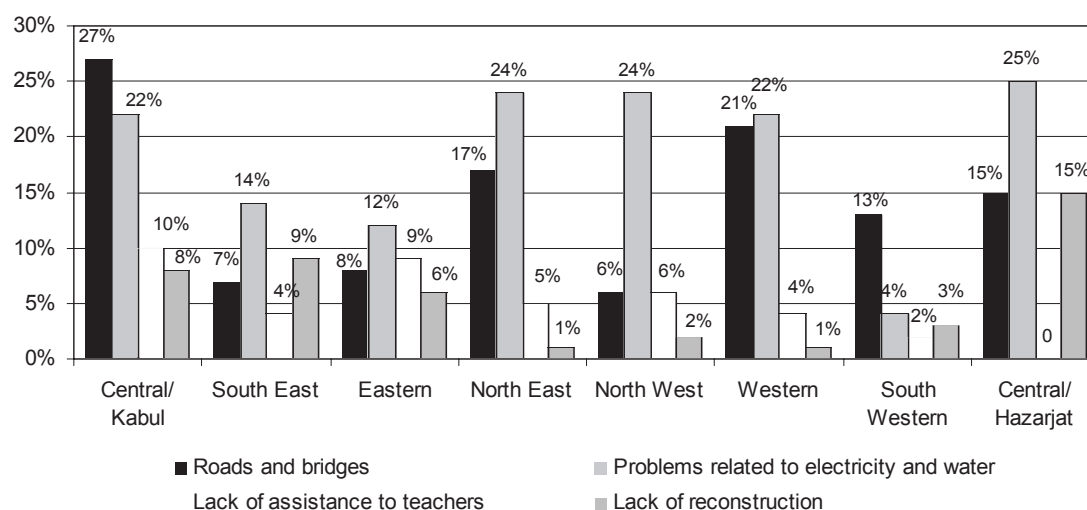


Fig 5.13

Respondents were further asked whether, when asked for assistance, the PC representative tried to help resolve the problem. Nearly two-thirds of respondents (63%) say their PC representative tried to help, a significantly higher proportion than those who said the same about their MP (51%). The remaining third (36%) said the PC representative did not try to assist. At least two-thirds of respondents report that

their PC representative was helpful in resolving local problems in the North West (73%), East (69%), West (68%), North East (65%), and South East (65%) regions. Only in Central Hazarajat did the majority of respondents say their PC representative did not try to help (60%).

Finally, respondents were again asked whether the problem was resolved regardless of who helped. Forty-three percent of respondents report that the problem was solved (compared to 33% of problems taken to MPs) whereas just over half (55%) say it was not.

5.10 Role of Community Development Councils

Community Development Councils (CDCs) have been established as part of the National Solidarity Program as elected community development governance bodies in rural areas. CDCs currently cover around 70 percent of villages across Afghanistan and have a core role in the planning and implementation of development projects based on grassroots-level community participation. The survey attempted to gauge public awareness and views about CDCs. Respondents received a brief explanation about CDCs and were then asked whether they are aware of such institutions in their neighborhood. More than half of respondents say they are not aware of a CDC in their community while 42 percent say they are. As CDCs operate essentially in rural areas, awareness was nearly twice as high amongst rural respondents (47%) than amongst urban dwellers (23%). Across the country as a whole, awareness of CDCs has risen from 37 percent of respondents in 2006 to 42 percent in 2008.

Are you aware of such institution called Community Development Council formed in your neighborhood/ settlement? (Q-88, Base 6593) COMPARISON BETWEEN 2006, 2007 AND 2008

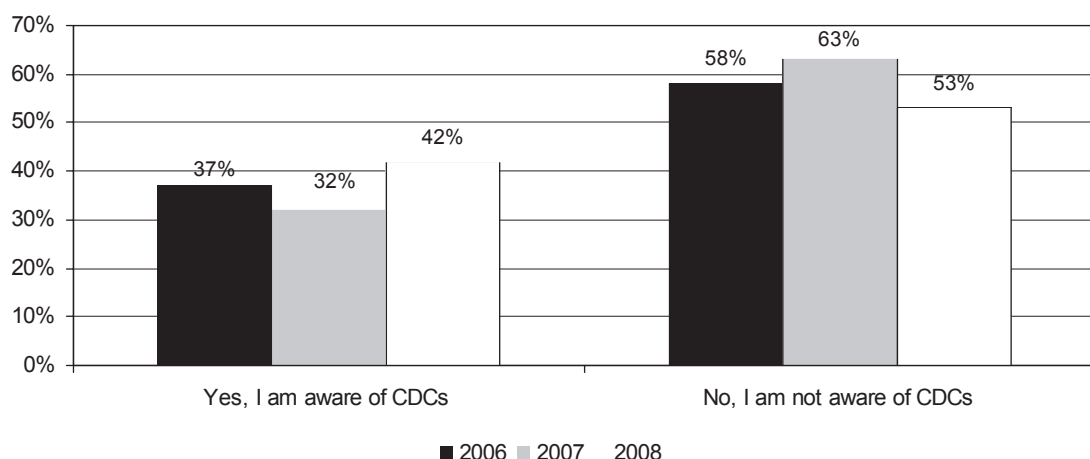


Fig 5.14

Levels of public awareness of CDCs varies between regions and provinces which is to be expected as the programme has not yet achieved full national coverage. Two-thirds of respondents in the Central Hazarajat (67%) and around half in the Western (50%) and Eastern (47%) regions say they are aware of a CDC in their local area. This declines to around a third of respondents in the Central Kabul region (34%). At the provincial level nearly all respondents in Panjshir (98%), 85 percent in Kapisa and Wardak, and at least seventy percent in Laghman (74%), Badhakshan (74%), Bamyan (73%), Zabul (72%), and Badghis (71%) are aware of CDCs in their local areas. On the other hand, in the largely urban province of Kabul, only 13 percent of respondents are aware of a local CDC.

Are you aware of such institution called Community Development Council formed in your neighborhood/settlement? (Q-88, Base 6593) BY REGION

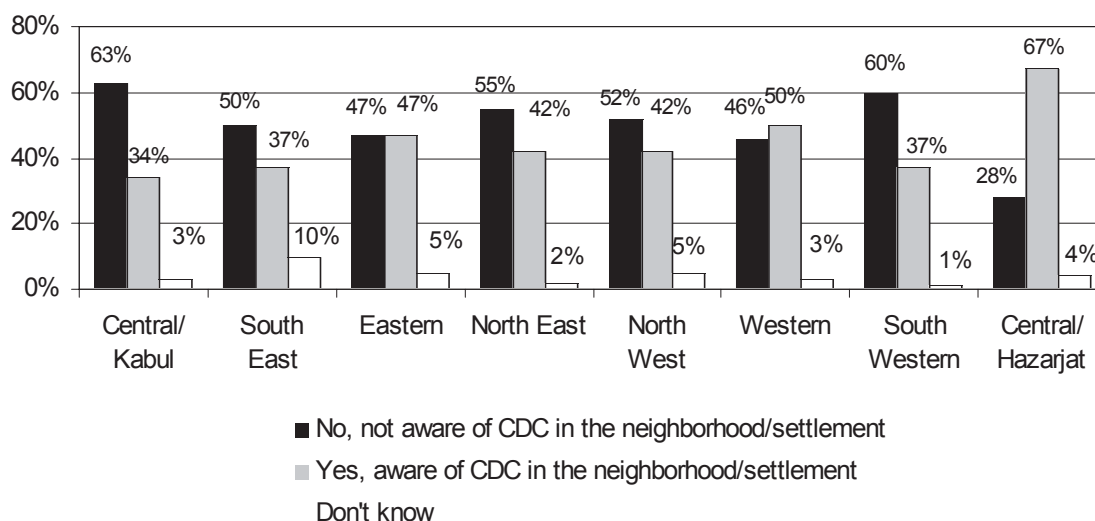


Fig 5.15

Respondents who are aware of a CDC in their neighborhood (42% of all respondents) were also asked to indicate which social groups are members of the CDC. A list of groups was read out and respondents were asked to say whether these groups are represented on the CDC in their area. Influential local leaders are most often mentioned as members of CDCs. Around three-quarters of respondents say that elders of the local shura/jirga (78%) and local Malik or Khan (72%) are members of the CDC. More than half of respondents say mullah (57%) and local teachers (54%) and just under a third say doctors (30%) and local commanders (29%) are members. However, a significant proportion of respondents also indicate that their local CDC includes representation of less powerful social groups such as ordinary farmers (52%) and landless agricultural workers (40%). Thirty percent of respondents say that women are represented on their local CDC. These findings are broadly similar to those of the 2007 survey.

Table 5.6: Percentage of the people who think that there is a representation of various groups in the Council (Q-89a-k, Base 2739)

Group	Representation (%)
Elders of the local shura/jirga	78
Local Malik / Khan	72
Mullah	57
Local teacher	54
Ordinary farmers	52
Landless agricultural workers	40
Shopkeepers	40
Women	30
Doctor	30
Local commanders	29
Officials from municipal/district administration	23

Respondents who are aware of a local CDC were also asked about their level of satisfaction with the job these councils are doing. Overall, four-fifths of respondents (82%) say they are satisfied with the performance of their local CDC including a quarter (26%) who are very satisfied. Only 13 percent of respondents express some level of dissatisfaction. This finding is also largely similar to that of 2007.

How satisfied are you with the job this Community Development Council is doing? (Q-89b, Base 2739)

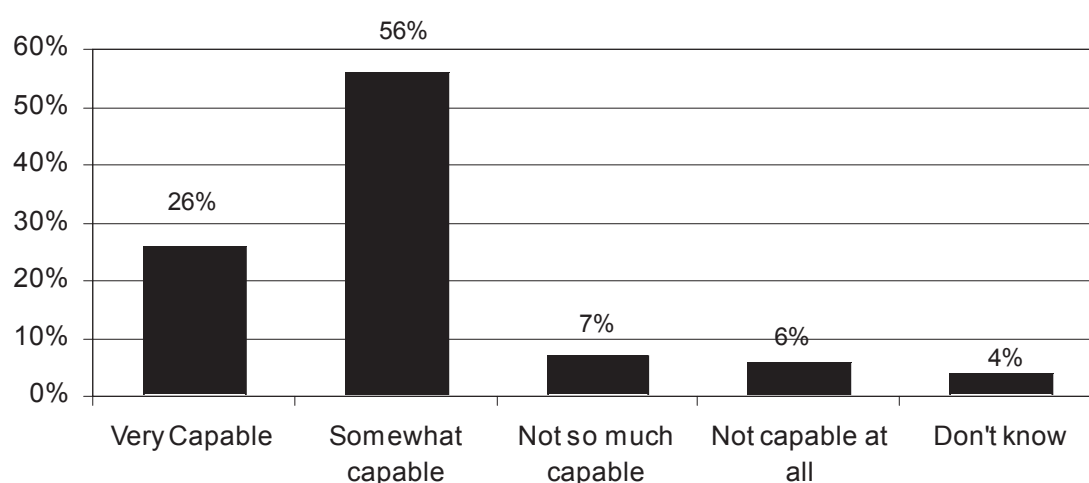


Fig 5.16

Respondents were also asked whether they think the CDC is capable of representing their interests before provincial authorities and the central government. Around four-fifths say that their CDC is capable to represent their interests before the provincial authorities (81%) and the national government (82%). Only around one in seven respondents (14%) think this is not so.

Still speaking of the same Community Development Council, to what extent do you think this Council is capable to represent your interests before the Provincial authorities? (Q-90a, Base 2739)

AND

... To what extent do you think this Council is capable to represent your interests before the Government of Afghanistan? (Q-90b, Base 2739)

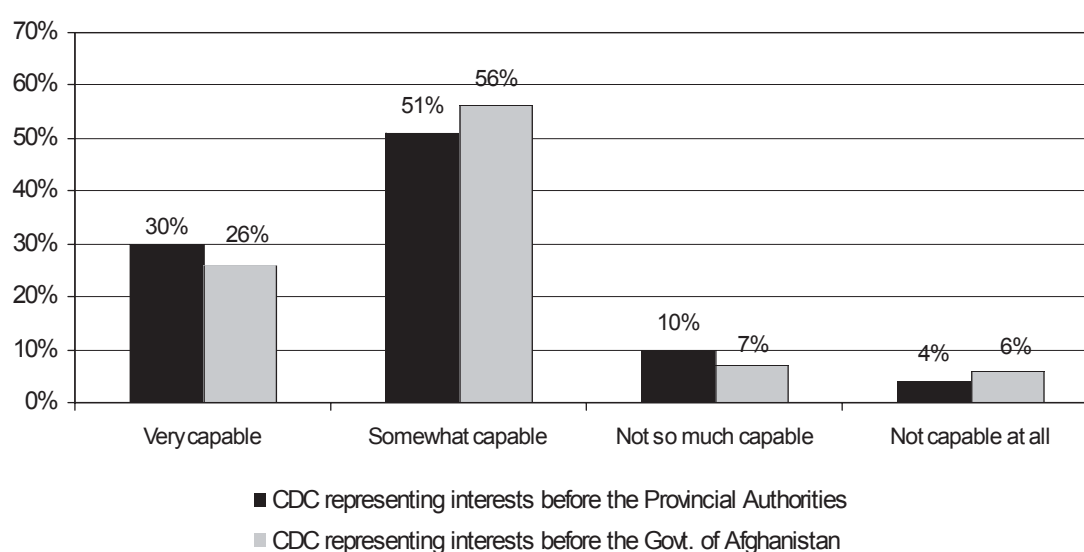


Fig 5.17

5.11 Involvement of religious leaders

The survey sought to assess public opinion regarding the level of involvement religious leaders should have in government decision making. Respondents were offered two alternative view points - "Some people argue that local religious leaders should be regularly consulted on the problems facing an area while others argue that politics and religion should not mix" - and asked which is closer to their view. More than two-thirds of respondents (69%) say that religious leaders should be consulted while around a quarter (26%) say that politics and religion should not mix. This represents a rise since 2006 in the proportion of respondents who say religious leaders should be consulted.

Now switching to local government, some people say that local religious leaders should be regularly consulted on the problems facing an area while others think that politics and religion should not mix. Which is closer to your view? (Q-65, Base 6593) COMPARISON BETWEEN 2006, 2007 AND 2008

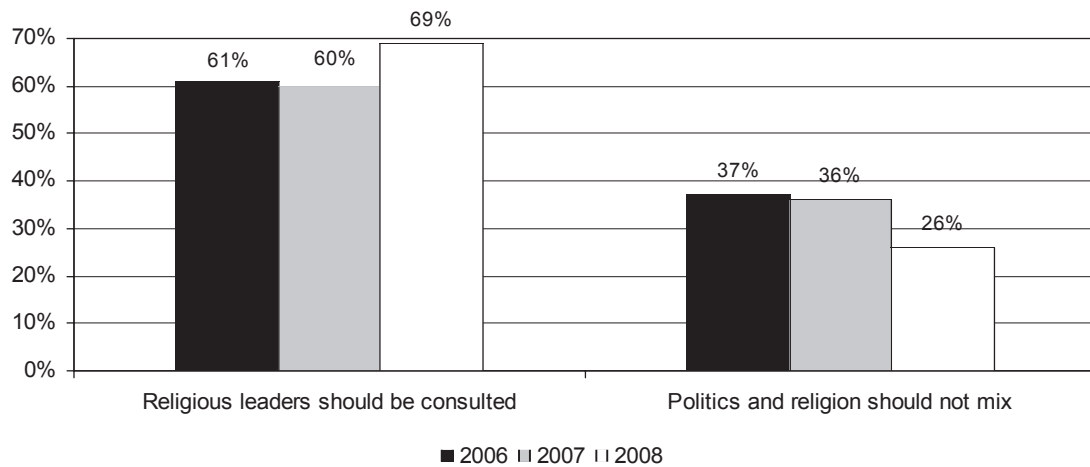


Fig 5.18

The public's view in this regard varies by region. Although the majority of respondents in all regions are in favor of consulting with religious leaders, this is true for a much higher proportion in the East (84%), Central Hazarajat (72%), West (71%), North West (71%), and North East (70%) regions. Opposition to the involvement of religious leaders is highest in the South West where just under half of respondents (45%) say that politics and religion should not mix.

Now switching to local government, some people say that local religious leaders should be regularly consulted on the problems facing an area while others think that politics and religion should not mix. Which is closer to your view? (Q-65, Base 6593) BY REGION

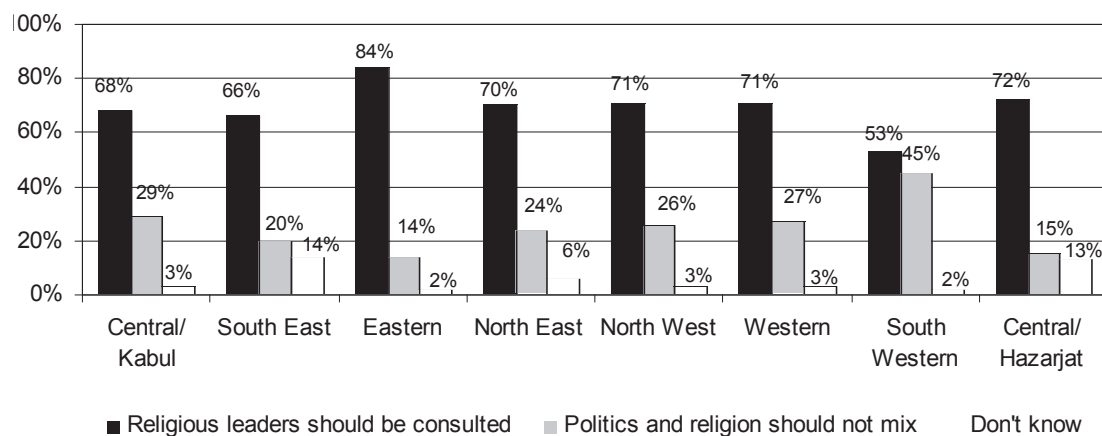


Fig 5.19

5.12 Personal efficacy - Influence of individuals on government

The survey also sought to assess the degree of confidence respondents have in their own ability to influence government decisions. Two-thirds of respondents (66%) feel they are able to influence government decisions to some significant degree while thirty percent say they have very little influence (15%) or no influence at all (15%).

These results represent a significant increase in confidence in personal efficacy since 2006. In 2008, a quarter of respondents (25%) say they have a lot of influence, nearly twice as many as in 2006 (13%) and 2007 (13%), suggesting an increase in public confidence in their ability to influence government. However, respondents in rural areas are less likely to say they can influence decision making (63%) than urban residents (71%). Similarly, respondents who have never been to school are less likely to feel they can have significant influence (62%) than those who have some level of formal education (69%).

How much influence do you think someone like you can have over government decisions? (Q-75, Base 6593) COMPARISON BETWEEN 2006, 2007 AND 2008

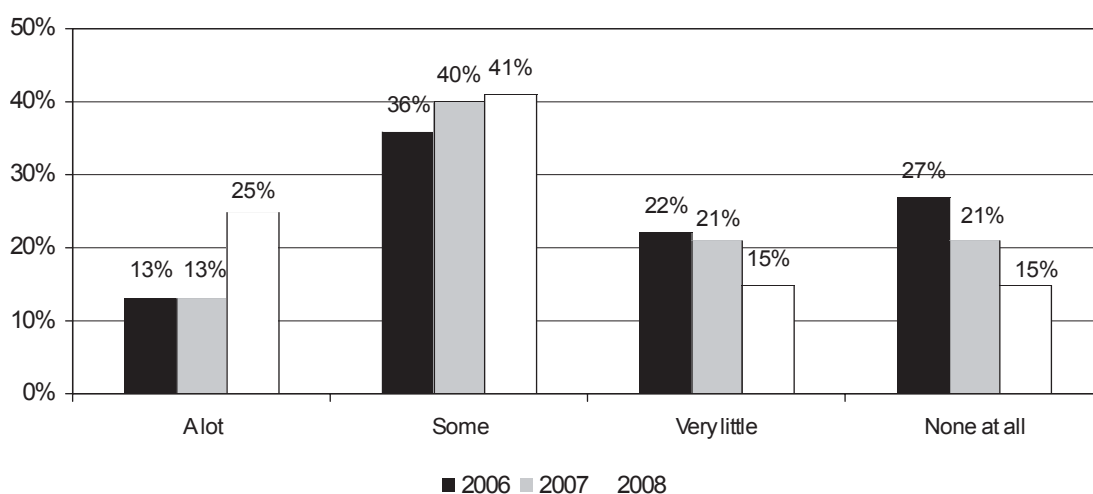


Fig 5.20

Again, views in this regard vary between regions. The highest levels of confidence in the ability of citizens to influence government decisions are recorded in the North West (74%) and in the Central Hazarajat region (77%) where nearly half of respondents feel they have a lot of influence (47%). On the other hand, fewer than half of respondents (49%) in the South East feel they can have any significant influence and more than a third (35%) did not give a response to this question.

How much influence do you think someone like you can have over government decisions? (Q-75, Base 6593) BY REGION

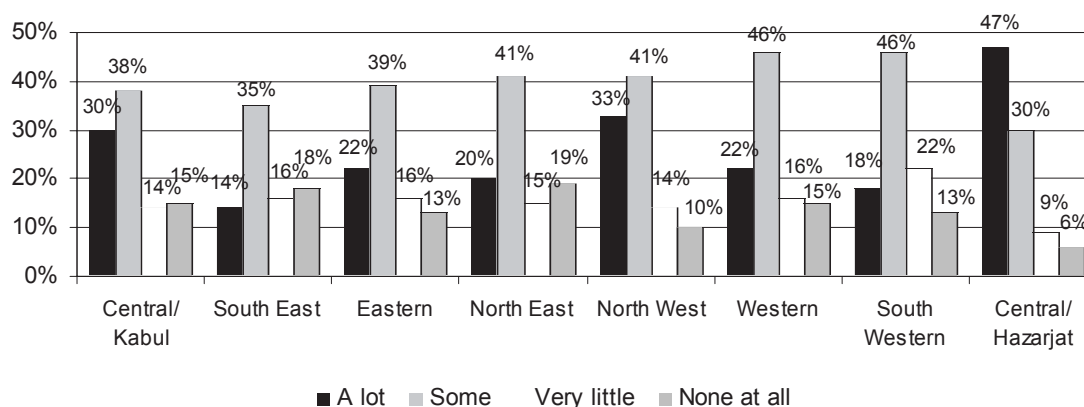


Fig 5.21

6 Justice System

6.1 The formal and informal justice system in Afghanistan

While much attention has been paid since 2001 to rehabilitating and strengthening the formal judicial system and establishing the rule of law, a significant proportion of the Afghan population still relies on informal tribal or traditional systems of justice to address issues of crime or settle disputes. The survey sought to examine public perceptions of both formal and informal justice mechanisms and the recourse people have to them for reporting and redressing crime and for dispute resolution.

6.2 Perceptions of State Courts

To examine public perceptions of state courts a series of statements was read out and respondents were asked to indicate whether they agree or disagree. Levels of agreement with each of the statements are shown in the table below.

Table 6.1: Public's agreement or disagreement with various statements about state courts (Q-91 a-f, Base 6593)

	Strongly agree (%)	Somewhat agree (%)	Somewhat disagree (%)	Strongly disagree (%)
a) State Courts are accessible to me	22	46	20	9
b) State Courts are fair and trusted	10	40	33	12
c) State Courts are not corrupt compared to other options of settling a dispute	11	36	33	13
d) State Courts follow the local norms and values of our people	12	38	31	14
e) State Courts are effective at delivering justice	15	37	30	14
f) State Courts resolve cases timely and promptly	10	28	33	24

The most positive assessment of state courts relates to accessibility. The survey shows that over two-thirds of respondents (68%) feel that state courts are accessible to them including 22 percent who agree strongly with this statement. However, just under a third (29%) do not feel that they can access state courts easily. More urban dwellers agree that state courts are accessible to them (77%) than their rural counterparts (66%) and more men (73%) than women (63%) say the same. The likelihood that respondents say that state courts are accessible to them rises with level of education. Only 64 percent of respondents who never went to school agree with this statement as compared to 70 percent who studied to sixth grade, 74 percent who studied to ninth grade, and 78 percent who studied to tenth grade or above.

Do you agree or disagree with “State courts are accessible to me”? (Q-91a, Base 6593) BY GENDER AND SETTLEMENT

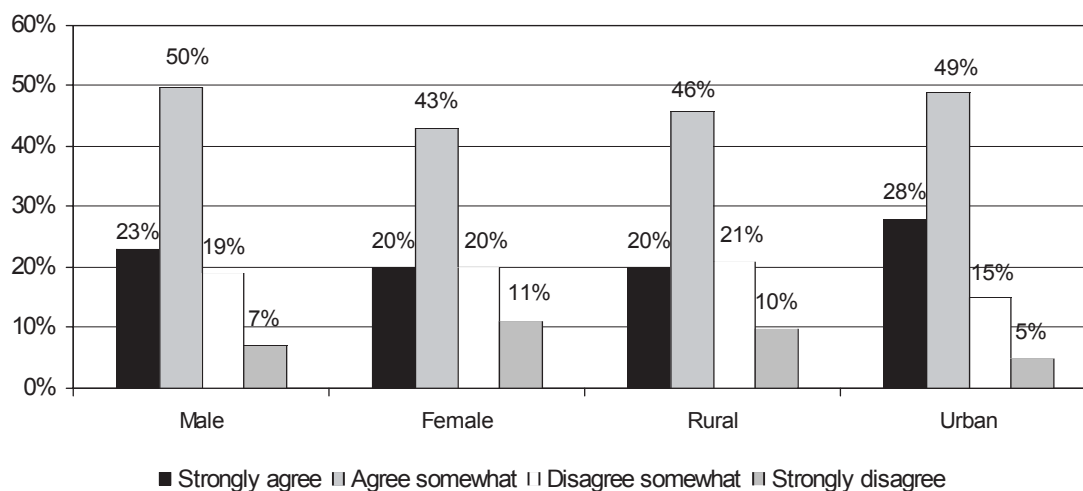


Fig 6.1

Around half of respondents agree that state courts are fair and trusted (50%), follow the local norms and values of our people (50%), and are effective at delivering justice (52%). The most positive assessment of state courts across all domains is in the North West, whereas the highest levels of dissatisfaction with the formal court system is consistently found in the South West, followed by the West and the Central Kabul regions. Respondents in the South East are particularly reticent about giving an opinion on state courts. At least one in ten respondents did not answer these questions, more than twice the figure in other regions. Respondents in urban areas tend to have a more positive assessment of state courts than those in rural areas.

Under half of respondents agree with the statement that state courts are not corrupt compared to other options of settling a dispute (47%). This is somewhat inconsistent given that 51 percent of those who have had contact with the judiciary and the courts in the past year report having encountered some instances of corruption (*see Chapter 5 section 5.5, Corruption, Table 5.4*).

Respondents are skeptical about the timeliness of state courts. Only 38 percent of respondents agree that courts resolve cases promptly, and around a quarter (24%) strongly disagree with this statement. Women and urban dwellers have a slightly more positive view in this regard.

Overall responses suggest a high level of ambivalence regarding the performance of state courts. This is consistent with the relatively low level of trust in the justice system compared to other public institutions (*see Chapter 2, 2.7 - Confidence in specific institutions and organizations, Table 2.3*).

6.3 Perceptions of local shura and jirga

The survey also sought to assess differences in perceptions of the formal justice system and informal justice mechanisms that operate in communities. Respondents were asked the same questions they had answered about state courts, this time relating to traditional dispute-resolution institutions like local shura and jirga. Levels of agreement with each of the statements is summarized in the table below.

Table 6.2: Public's agreement or disagreement with various statements about the local shura/jirga (Q-92a-e, Base 6593)

	Strongly agree (%)	Somewhat agree (%)	Somewhat disagree (%)	Strongly disagree (%)
a) Local jirga/shura are accessible to me	31	45	14	6
b) Local jirga/shura are fair and trusted	24	46	21	5
c) Local jirga/shura follow the local norms and values of our people	26	43	21	6
d) Local jirga/shura are effective at delivering justice	25	44	20	6
e) Local jirga/shura resolve cases timely and promptly	23	36	25	10

Again, the most positive assessment of local shura and jirga relates to their accessibility. Around three-quarters of respondents agree that shura/jirga are accessible to them (76%) as compared to around two-thirds who say the same about state courts (68%). As is the case for the formal justice system, more men (83%) than women (70%) say local shura/jirga are accessible to them. However, unlike for state courts, more rural respondents (78%) agree with this statement than urban residents (72%).

Do you agree or disagree with “Local jirga/ shura are accessible to me”? (Q-92a, Base 6593) BY GENDER AND SETTLEMENT

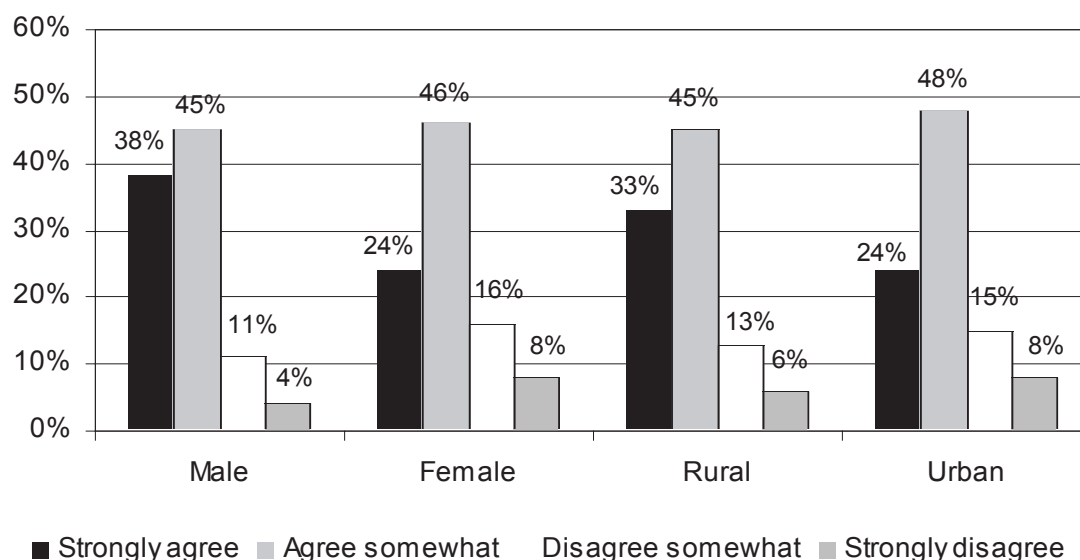


Fig 6.2

Around seventy percent of respondents agree that local shura/jirga are fair and trusted (70%), follow the local norms and values of our people (69%), and are effective at delivering justice (69%). These figures are all considerably higher than those recorded for state courts where just half of respondents agreed with these statements. Whereas women and urban residents have more positive views of state courts, men and rural residents give more positive assessments of local shura/jirga across all of these domains. There are also differences between regions; two thirds of respondents in the North West (67%) say that local shura/jirga are fair and trusted and this is also true for more than half of respondents in the North East (56%), Central Kabul (51%), and Central Hazarajat (50%) regions. However, the majority of respondents in the South West (62%) and West (52%) disagree with this statement.

Do you agree or disagree with “Local jirga/ shura are fair and trusted”? (Q-92b, Base 6593) BY REGION

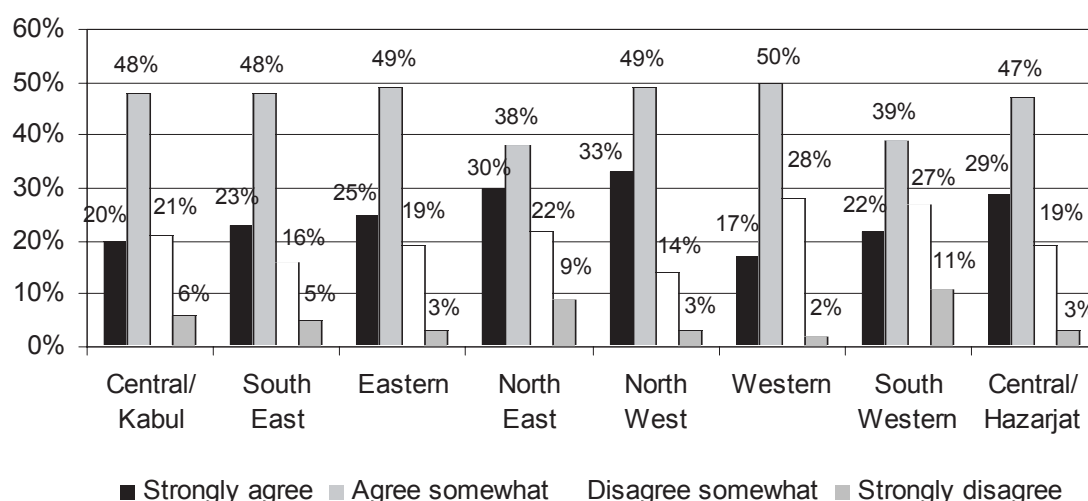


Fig 6.3

As with the formal justice system, assessments of local shura/jirga are least positive with regard to the timeliness of resolving issues. Fifty nine percent of respondents agree that local jirga / shura resolve cases promptly. However this is significantly higher than those who say the same about state courts (38%).

Comparatively, respondents give a more positive assessment of local shura and jirga than they do of state courts. The comparison of responses between the two institutions is summarized in the table below:

Table 6.3: Percentage of the people who agree (combination of strongly agree and somewhat agree) with respect to various statement related to state courts and jirga/shura (Q-91a-f and Q-92a-e, Base 6593)

Statement	Agree with respect to	
	State court (%)	Shura/Jirga (%)
They are accessible to me	68	76
They are fair and trusted	50	70
They follow the local norms and values of our people	50	69
They are effective at delivering justice	52	69
They resolve cases timely and promptly	38	59

Overall these results demonstrate that respondents have a higher level of trust and confidence in traditional dispute resolution mechanisms than they do in the modern state justice system. However, a poor assessment of the state court system does not necessarily indicate a positive assessment of traditional mechanisms. The South West and Western regions, which record the least positive assessment of state courts, also record the least positive assessment of local shura and jirga. Similarly, the North West region consistently gives the most positive assessment of both institutions. This suggests that formal and informal justice mechanisms are not seen as opposites but rather as part of a continuum of institutions available to assist with resolving disputes.

6.4 Attitude towards reporting crime

In addition to assessing overall perceptions of formal and informal justice mechanisms, the survey sought to gauge respondents' personal experience of interaction with these institutions. Respondents were first asked if they have been victims of violence or crime during the past year. Sixteen percent of respondents say that they

have (see chapter 3 Security, 3.2 - Personal and family safety and security). Those respondents were then asked whether they reported the crime to any authority. Just under two-thirds (62%) say they reported the crime while another third say they did not. (the same held true in 2007). Reporting of crime is highest in the Central Hazarajat (87%) followed by the North East (66%), West (66%), and Central/Kabul (67%). However, this falls to just over half of relevant respondents in the Eastern region (52%). Urban dwellers are more likely to report crime to an authority (70%) than their rural counterparts (61%). The survey also found that respondents with higher educational levels are more likely to report crime than those who never went to school.

Respondents who say they reported violence or crime were also asked to which authority, or authorities, they reported. The majority of respondents mention government authorities. Nearly half (48%) say they reported the crime to the Afghan National Police (ANP). Twenty-two percent say they reported to a local government official such as a district governor. However, a significant proportion say they reported the crime directly to informal or traditional institutions such as tribal leaders or maliks (24%) and shura/elders (16%). There is a significant distinction in the choice of authority to which crime is reported between rural and urban areas. Respondents in rural areas are more than twice as likely to report a crime to traditional institutions such as tribal leaders or maliks (26%) and shura/elders (26%) than those in urban areas (10%). On the other hand, 60 percent of urban dwellers have reported a crime to the ANP while only 46 percent of rural residents have done so.

To what agency or institution did you report the crime? (Q-22, Base 648) ALL AND BY SETTLEMENT

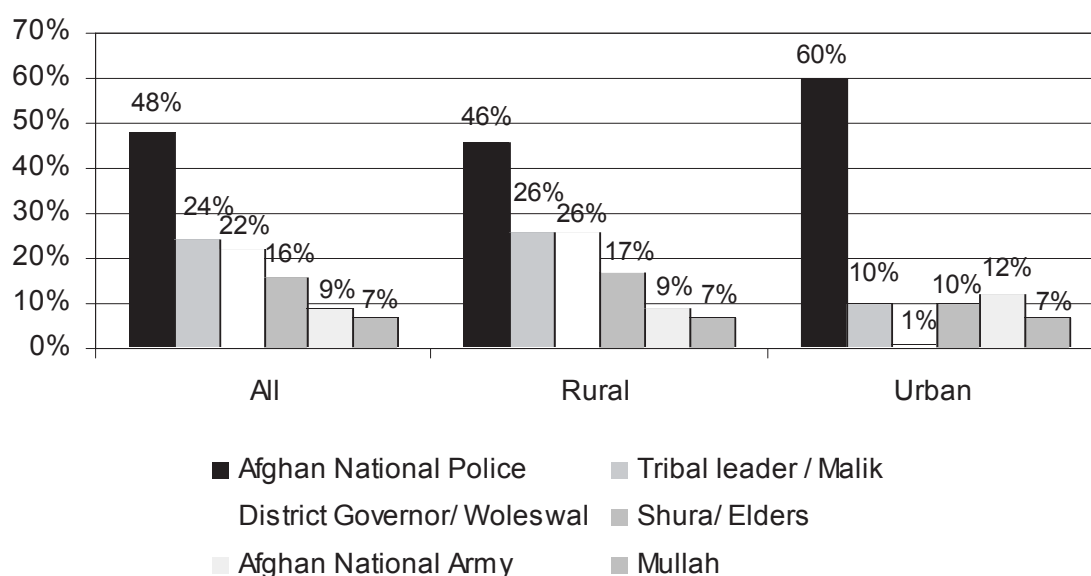


Fig. 6.4

Respondents, who have been victims of crime or violence but who did not report this to any authority (i.e. 5% of all respondents), were asked to give the reasons for not reporting. Around a quarter (24%) say they did not report because the crime was not serious. However, nearly one in five respondents (21%) say they did not report the crime because they thought it would make no difference. Significant proportions also mention danger or fear of retaliation (18%) and lack of trust in government officials (17%) as the reasons for not reporting crime. Women are particularly deterred from reporting crime by danger or fear of retaliation (23% compared to 13% of men). This is also a more significant factor for respondents in urban areas (24%) as compared to those in rural areas (17%). Danger or fear of retaliation is particularly emphasized in the South West (29%), West (22%), Central Kabul (22%), and South East (20%) regions. Respondents in rural areas are much more likely to have not reported a crime because they didn't know where to report it (14% compared to 5% in urban areas) or because they thought it would make no difference (21% compared to 11% in urban areas).

Why didn't you report the crime? (Q-23, Base 306) ALL AND BY SETTLEMENT

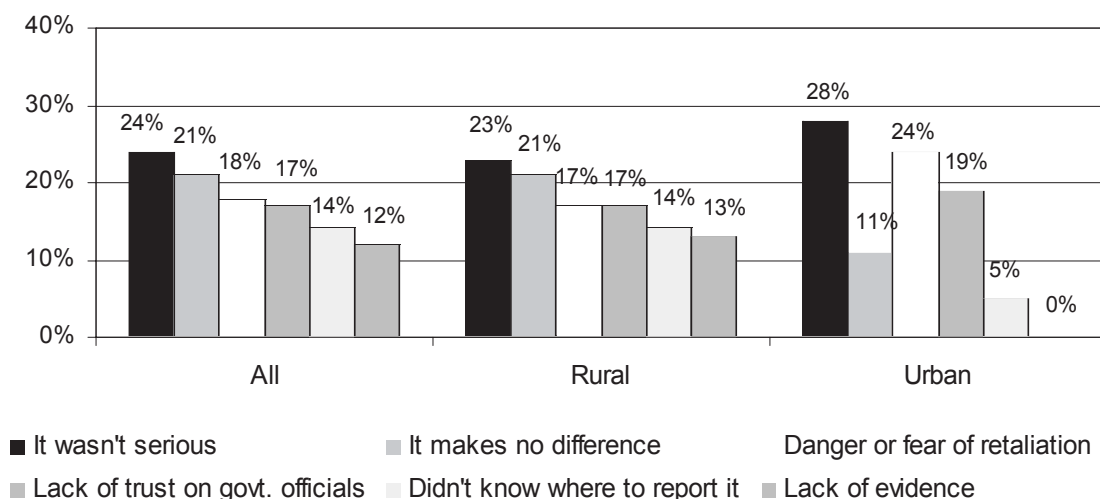


Fig 6.5

All respondents, regardless of whether they have had personal experience of crime or not, were asked the hypothetical question: "If you were a witness to a crime, to whom would you report it?" Multiple responses were possible. Again, government institutions feature prominently. Almost half of respondents said that they would report a crime to the Afghan National Police (ANP) followed by the Afghan National Army (ANA) (17 %) and district governor or woleswal (15%). However, as with the actual reporting of crime, a significant number of people say that they would report to informal institutions such as tribal leader or malik (24%), shura or elders (13%), or mullah saheb (11%). Traditional mediation institutions like tribal leaders/maliks and shuras/elders are preferred in rural areas.

Responses to the hypothetical question about reporting of crime correspond closely to the actual reporting of crime although there is a tendency to overestimate the importance of the ANA as an authority to which crime is reported and to underestimate the importance of the district administration.

(Ask those who have been a victim of violence or crime in the past year and has reported it to some authority) To what agency or institution did you report the crime? (Q-22, Base 648)

AND

If you were a witness to a crime, to whom would you report it? (Q-24, Base 6593)

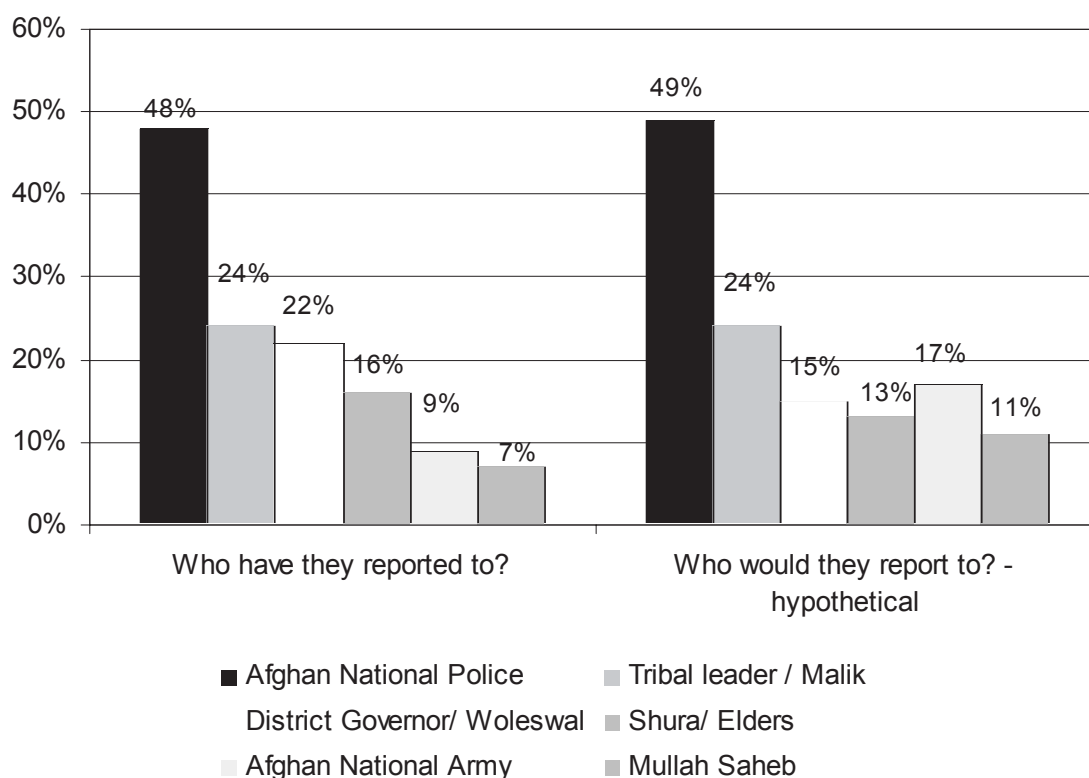


Fig 6.6

Finally, the survey attempted to measure public confidence in the country's formal justice system to impose appropriate sanctions. Respondents were asked the question 'If you were a victim of violence or any criminal act, how much confidence would you have that the governmental law-enforcing organizations and judicial system would punish the guilty party?'. A little over half of respondents (56%) say they would have significant level of confidence while 38 percent say they would have little or no confidence including 15 percent who say that they would have no confidence at all. These responses reveal that a sizeable proportion of the population does not believe that the formal justice system is able to address crime by bringing the guilty to justice. This finding mirrors that of 2007.

If you were a victim of violence or any criminal act, how much confidence would you have that the governmental law-enforcing organizations and judicial systems would punish the guilty party? (Q-25, Base 6593)

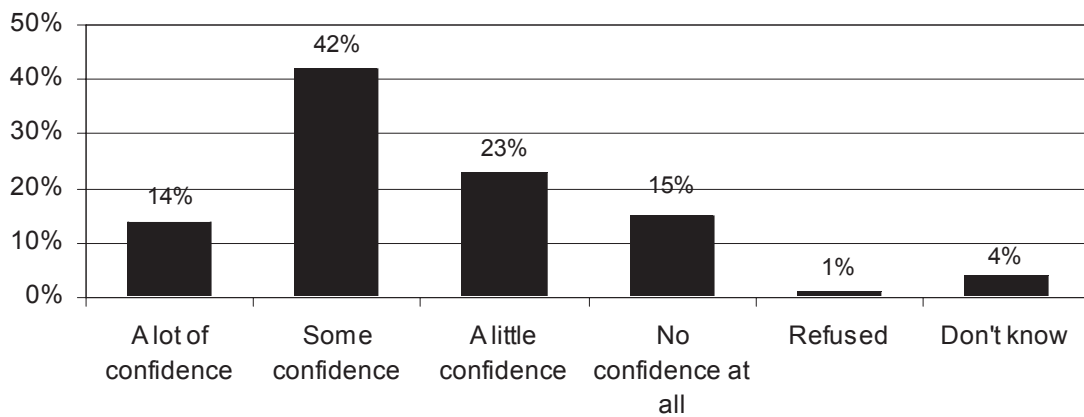


Fig 6.7

6.5 Dispute resolution

In addition to considering perceptions of formal and informal justice mechanisms in dealing with crime, the survey sought to examine public opinion of these same institutions in terms of resolving disputes within communities. Respondents were asked whether, in the past two years, they had had a dispute or a formal case that they could not settle with another party and had to go to a state court or village/neighborhood based shura/jirga to resolve it. Around one respondent in eight (12%) reported having taken a dispute for resolution. More men (15%) than women (9%) and more rural residents (14%) than urban residents (6%) say they did this.

Respondents who have taken cases for resolution were then asked whether they had taken their dispute to a state court, a neighborhood-based shura/jirga, or to both institutions. In total, 42 percent said they had taken a case to a shura or jirga while 39 percent said a state court. A significant proportion (17%) reported having taken their case to both kinds of institution, confirming again the fact that respondents do not necessarily see formal and informal justice mechanisms as alternatives but as part of continuum of dispute resolution mechanisms available to them. The Majority of those living in urban areas tend to go to state courts (67%) while the largest proportion of those living in rural areas tend to go to shura/jirga (45%). Rural residents are twice as likely to take their case to both the state court and shura/jirga (18%) as urban residents (9%). Recourse to state courts is highest in the North of the country where at least half of respondents have used these to resolve disputes (54% in the North East, 50% in the North West). On the other hand, cases have been referred to shura and jirga by more than half of respondents in the East (53%) and just under half in the South East (49%).

Where have you taken this case or dispute? (Q-94, Base 897) BY REGION

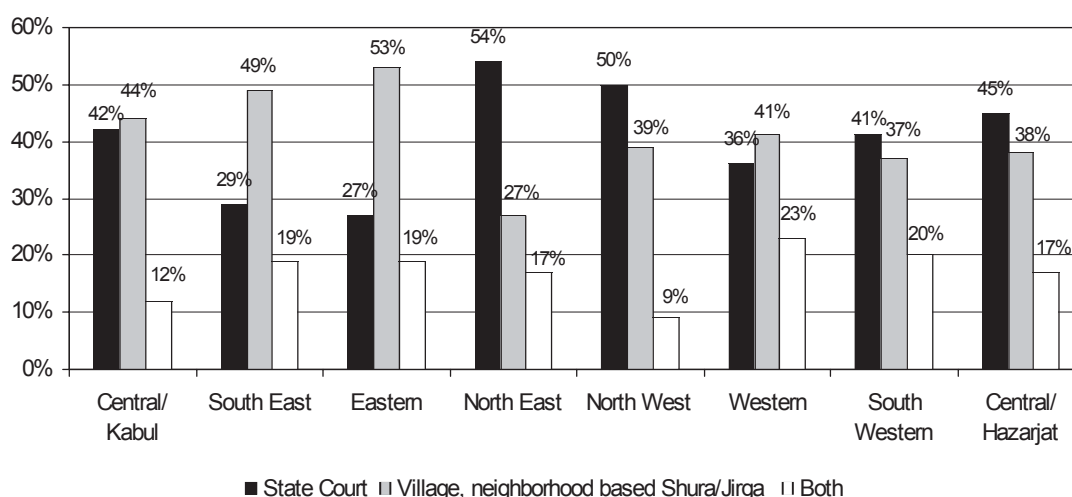


Fig 6.8

Respondents were then asked what kind of case or dispute they have taken for resolution. Almost half of cases are disputes over land (47%) which is by far the most common source of contention. Physical assault is the second most common cause of disputes (12%) followed by property disputes (9%) and robbery or burglary (8%). Commercial disputes accounted for seven percent of cases and divorce for six percent. Women are six times more likely to report taking a case of divorce to some authority for resolution (12%) than men (2%).

What kind of a case or dispute was it? (Q-96, Base 806) ALL

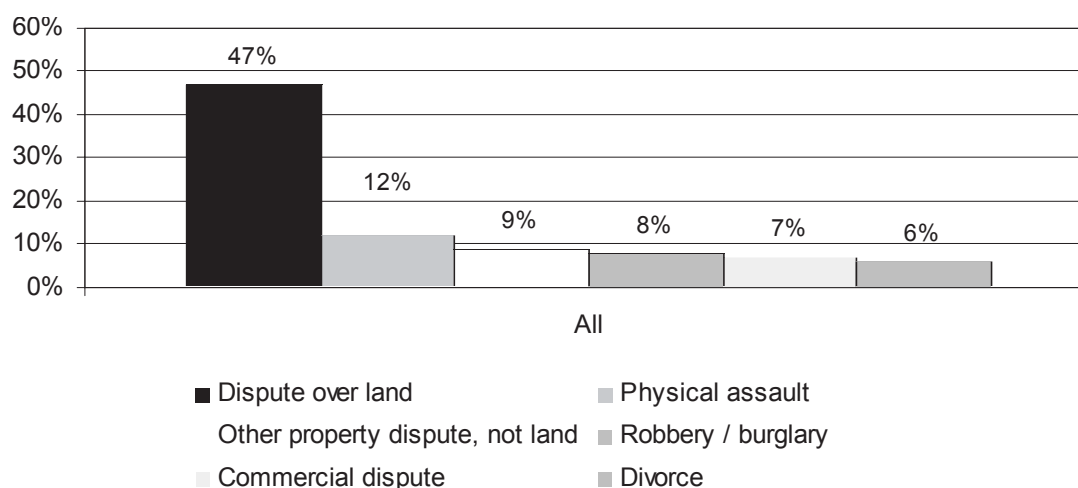


Fig 6.9

An analysis of the kinds of disputes that are taken to these different institutions shows that relatively more people go to state courts (53 %) than to shura/jirga (45%) to resolve disputes over land. The formal justice system also seems to be preferred for resolving divorce cases. Nearly twice as many divorce cases are taken to

state courts (7%) as to shura/jirga (4%). However, people seem to have a slight preference for dealing with other property related crime through informal justice mechanisms (11 percent of property disputes - besides land - were taken to shura /jirga as compared to 8 percent to the state courts). This is also true of 10 percent of cases involving robbery or burglary as compared to six percent of these that were taken to state courts.

Table 6.4: What kind of a case or dispute was it? (Q-96, Base 806)
BY PLACE WHERE CASE OR DISPUTE WAS TAKEN

	State Court (%)	Shura/Jirga (%)
Dispute over land	53	45
Physical assault	11	13
Other property dispute, not land	8	11
Commercial dispute	7	5
Divorce	7	4
Robbery/burglary	6	10
Murder	5	4
Pick-pocketing	1	1

Respondents who have taken their case to a state court (7% of all respondents) were then asked a follow-up question regarding their use of professional legal services. Two-thirds (66%) report that they pleaded their case alone or were helped by friends or relatives. Only around one in five respondents (22%) say they used the professional legal services of a lawyer.

When taking or being a party in settling case in a State Court, have you used any professional legal services (from a lawyer) or you pleaded your case alone or helped by friends/ relatives? (Q-95, Base 456)

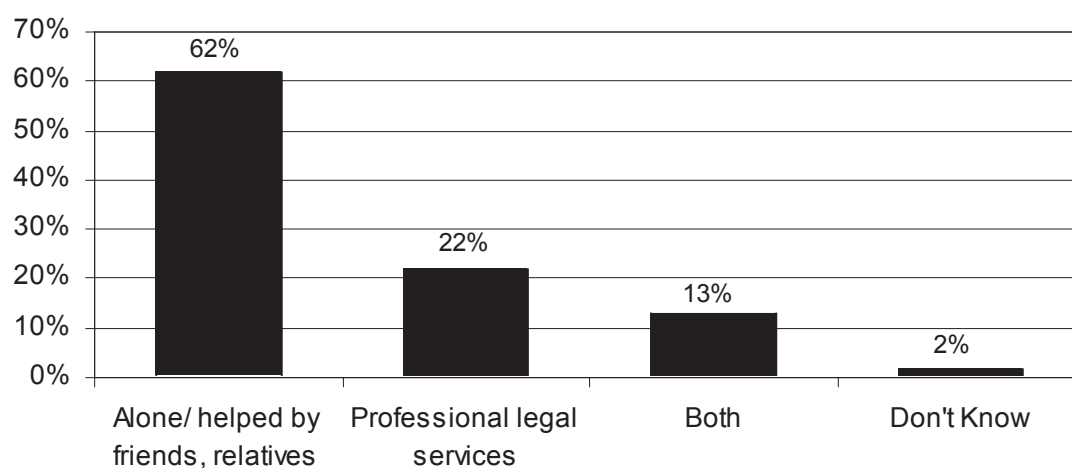


Fig 6.10

Finally, all respondents who have referred a dispute for resolution to either formal or informal institutions (12% of all respondents) were asked whether they are satisfied with the outcome of the proceedings. Half of respondents (50%) said they are satisfied while around a third (31%) say they are not.

Levels of satisfaction are considerably higher amongst those who have taken their cases to local shura/jirga (65%) than those who have taken their case to state courts (36%). This is a much larger disparity than was recorded in 2007. Since last year, the proportion of respondents who said that they were satisfied with the outcome of state court proceedings has declined significantly, from 56 percent to 36 percent in 2008.

Table 6.5: Were you satisfied with the outcome of the proceedings? (Q-97, Base 806)
BY PLACE WHERE CASE OR DISPUTE WAS TAKEN (COMPARISON
BETWEEN 2007 AND 2008)

Satisfaction with outcomes	2008		2007	
	State Court (%)	Shura/Jirga (%)	State Court (%)	Shura/Jirga (%)
Yes	36	65	56	67
No	42	18	27	16
Not finished yet	17	9	17	13

7 Democratic Values

7.1 Perceptions of democracy

A great deal of importance has been given both nationally and internationally to the restoration of democratic government in Afghanistan since the fall of the Taliban in 2001. The survey therefore sought to examine how the Afghan public understands and perceives democracy.

Respondents were first asked what democracy means to them. Multiple responses were possible. The most common response, given by just over half of respondents (53%) is that democracy means freedom. This is the most common response in the Central Kabul (62%), North West (59%), South West (59%), and Western (53%) regions.

For another third (34%), democracy means peace and at least one in five respondents say democracy means rights and law (23%), government of the people (22%), and Islamic democracy (20%). A significant proportion (17%) associate democracy with women's rights. More women (21%) than men (13%) mention women's rights as a key feature of democracy.

The South West has the largest proportion of respondents who define democracy in terms of peace (43%) and rights and law (28%) whereas those in the Central Hazarajat are the most likely to mention women's rights (25%) and government of the people (27%) which is also emphasized by those in the West (28%). Many more people mention prosperity as the meaning of democracy in the North West (21%) than in any other region (between 8% and 16%). Again, respondents in the South East are particularly reticent to express an opinion. More than one in five (22%) say they don't know what democracy means.

If a country is called a democracy, what does that mean to you? (Percentage based on multiple responses) (Q-55, Base 6593) ALL

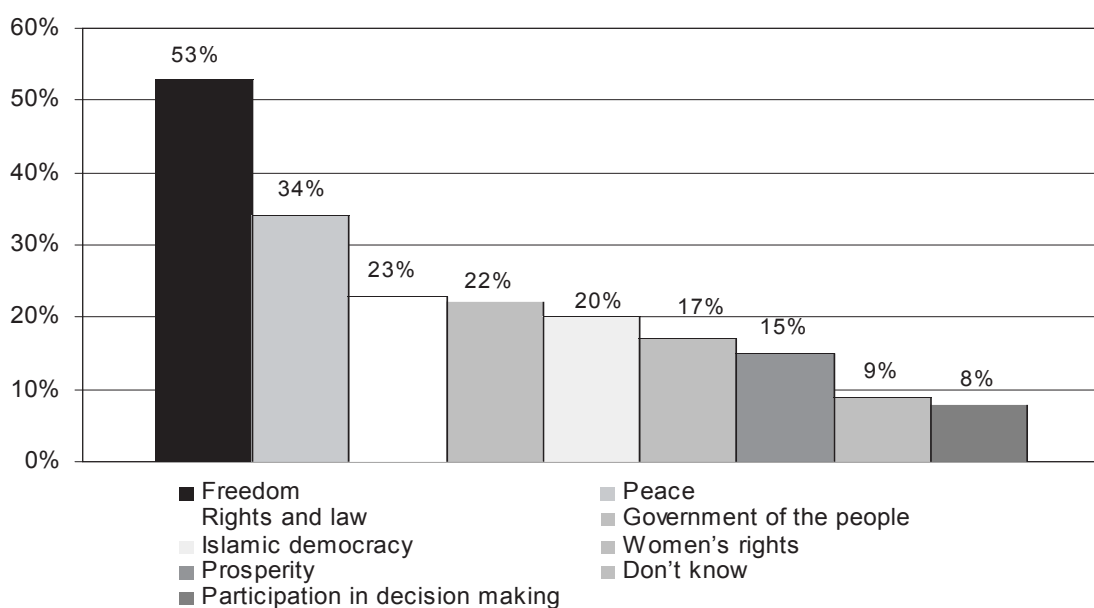


Fig 7.1

The way that Afghans define democracy has undergone some changes since 2006. In particular, there has been a fall in the proportion of respondents who mention fundamental principles of democracy, such as government of the people (33% in 2006, 25% in 2007, and 22% in 2008) and rights and law (31% in 2006, 26% in 2007, and 23% in 2008).

Respondents were also asked to identify what they expect democracy in Afghanistan to bring them personally. Again multiple responses were possible. Around a third of respondents say peace (35%) and freedom (33%) will be the greatest personal benefits of democracy for them. These responses again highlight the expectation of many Afghans that the introduction of democracy will bring an end to war, conflict and insecurity, and indicate that the success of the current system of democratic government will be assessed to a significant degree on its ability to achieve peace and freedom for its citizens.

Improvements in the way the country is governed also feature prominently amongst the benefits respondents expect to gain from democracy. These include less corruption (23%), rights and law (19%), government of the people (19%), and a democratic system in harmony with the principles of Islam (“Islamic democracy”- 19%). Expectations of improvements in government services are consistently highest in four regions. Thirty one percent of respondents in the North East expect democracy to bring them less corruption and 18 percent expect better government services. This is also true in the North West (26% say less corruption, 18% say better services), West (26% say less corruption, 21% say better services), and Central Hazarajat (26% say less corruption, 20% say better services),

What, if anything, is the most important thing that democracy in Afghanistan will bring you personally? (Percentage based on multiple responses) (Q-56, Base 6593)

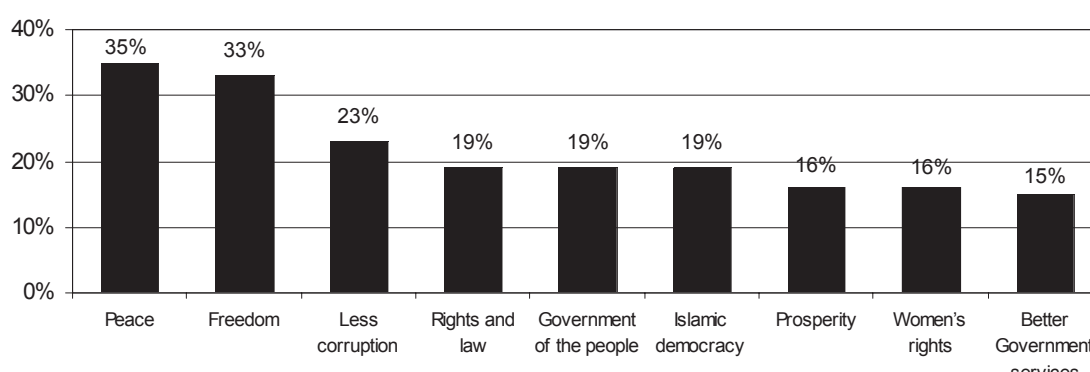


Fig 7.2

There are some notable differences particularly at the regional level between the definitions of democracy respondents give and what they expect it to deliver for them personally. The survey clearly shows that often respondents' expectations of democracy are lower than their ideal view of it. For example, while more than half of respondents define democracy as freedom, a much smaller proportion actually expect to benefit from this, particularly in the Central Kabul (34% compared to 62%), North West (25% compared to 59%), South West (42% compared to 59%), and Western (37% compared to 53%) regions. Similarly, although 28 percent of respondents in the South West say that democracy means rights and law, only 19% expect to benefit from this personally. The same is true for peace – 43 percent say this is a feature of democracy but only 37 percent expect it to benefit them directly.

In other regions more respondents expect to benefit from peace as a corollary of democracy rather than seeing it as a defining characteristic. For example, in the Central Kabul region 41 percent of respondents expect that democracy will bring them peace while only 33 percent say that this is the meaning of democracy. The same is true in the Central Hazarajat where 38 percent expect to benefit from peace but 28 percent think it is a core element of democracy.

Respondents were also asked to give their reaction to the statement “Democracy may have its problems, but it is better than any other form of government”. Three quarters (76%) say they agree with this statement, including 28 percent who agree strongly, while only 16 percent disagree. Agreement is highest in the North West (87%), West (86%), and Central Kabul (80%) regions. However, more than a quarter of respondents in the South West (27%) disagree that democracy is the best form of government. This is also true for 22 percent in the East and 18 percent in the North East and South East. In the South East nearly a quarter of respondents (23%) did not give an answer to this question. More urban residents (82%) agree with this statement than rural residents (74%). More respondents who have studied to tenth grade or beyond (83%) also agree than those who never went to school (73%).

Finally, respondents were asked to assess their overall level of satisfaction with the way democracy works in Afghanistan. More than two-thirds of respondents (68%) say that they are satisfied, including 15 percent who are very satisfied. However, around a quarter (27%) are either somewhat or very dissatisfied. Satisfaction with the current state of democracy is highest in the North West (79%) and North East (77%). Dissatisfaction is highest in the South West (44%), South East (35%), and East (33%) of the country. Since 2006 there has been a marginal decline in satisfaction with the way democracy is working in Afghanistan.

On the whole, how satisfied or dissatisfied are you with the way democracy works in Afghanistan?
(Q-80, Base 6593) COMPARISON BETWEEN 2006, 2007 AND 2008

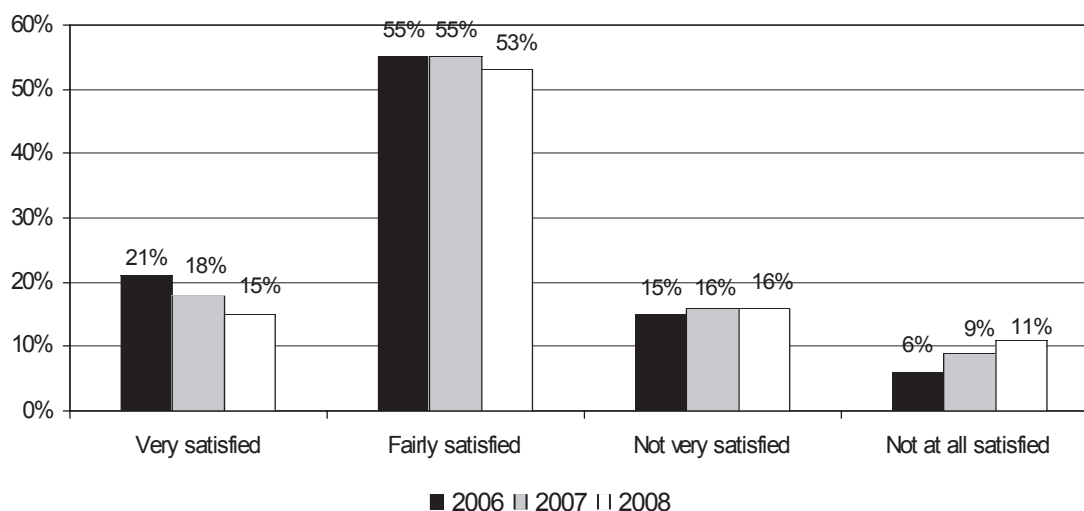


Fig 7.3

7.2 Attitudes to democratic principles and processes and political activity

The survey sought to assess public attitudes regarding a number of fundamental principles associated with democratic governance. A series of statements was read out and respondents were asked to say whether they agree or disagree. A summary of responses is presented in the table below.

Table 7.1: Public agreement or disagreement with various democratic principles (Q-60a-d, Base 6593)

	Strongly agree (%)	Agree somewhat (%)	Disagree somewhat (%)	Strongly disagree (%)
a) It is a good thing that the government should allow peaceful opposition.	39	39	10	6
b) Everyone should have equal rights under the law, regardless of their gender, ethnicity or religion.	58	26	11	3
regardless of their gender, ethnicity or religion.				
c) Religious authorities should lead people in obeying the obligations of their faith while political leaders should make decisions about how the government is run.	37	38	16	6
d) A person should vote the way his or her community votes, not how they feel individually.	30	35	18	13

More than four fifths of respondents (84%) agree with the statement that “everyone should have equal rights under the law, regardless of their gender, ethnicity, or religion”. However levels of support for this statement vary significantly between regions. More than nine in ten respondents in the Central Hazarajat (93%) and West (90%) agree with this statement whereas more than a quarter of respondents in the South West (27%) disagree. This is also true for a fifth of respondents in the South East (20%). In addition, overall agreement with the principle of equal rights has fallen in 2008 as compared to previous years, from 90 percent in 2006 and 2007 to 84% in 2008.

More than three quarters of respondents (78%) say they agree that “it is a good thing that the government should allow peaceful opposition;” however, this does not seem to be borne out by the high level of opposition to allowing political parties to hold meetings in local areas (*See below*). Support for allowing peaceful opposition is highest in the Central Kabul (86%), West (86%), and North East (86%) of the country but in the East a third of respondents (34%) disagree as do 27 percent in the South West and 23 percent in the South East. Overall the level of support for allowing peaceful opposition has fallen significantly in recent years. In 2006 more than half of respondents (55%) strongly agreed with this statement but this is true for only 39 percent in 2008.

Three quarters of respondents (75%) also say they agree with the statement that “Religious authorities should lead people in obeying the obligations of their faith while political leaders should make decisions about how the government is run.” Agreement with this statement has fallen from 82 percent in 2006 to 75 percent in 2008 while disagreement has risen from 15 percent to 22 percent. This result is consistent with the increasing support for consultation with religious leaders to inform government decision making (*See Chapter 5, 5.11 Involvement of religious leaders*). The highest level of disagreement with this statement is in the South West.

Respondents demonstrate a higher level of ambivalence towards the statement that “A person should vote the way his or her community votes, not how they feel individually.” Sixty-five percent say they agree with this but around a third (31%) are of the view that voting should be based on individual conscience. There is very little difference in levels of agreement between men (64%) and women (65%), urban (67%) and rural (64%) dwellers, or respondents with different levels of education (63%-67%). Levels of support for voting based on their own views rather than those of their community are highest in the Central Hazarajat (50%) followed by the South West (37%), North West (35%), and West (33%) of the country.

As well as looking views of democratic principles, the survey sought to capture public attitudes to a range of democratic processes and political activities. Respondents were asked whether political parties should be allowed to hold meetings in their area. Forty-four percent say that parties should be allowed to hold meetings in their area while an almost identical number (43%) say that they should not. The survey shows increasing ambivalence about freedom of action for political parties. The proportion of respondents who say parties should be allowed to hold meetings in their area has fallen from 56 percent in 2006 to 46 percent in 2007 and 44 percent in 2008. The proportion of respondents opposing this idea has risen slightly from 39 percent in 2006 to 43 percent in 2008 although it was higher in 2007 (47%). However, the proportion of those who are ambivalent about this issue has increased significantly over time – from four percent in 2006 to 12 percent in 2008.

Do you think that political parties should be allowed to hold meetings in your area? (Q - 57, Base 6593) COMPARISON BETWEEN 2006, 2007 AND 2008

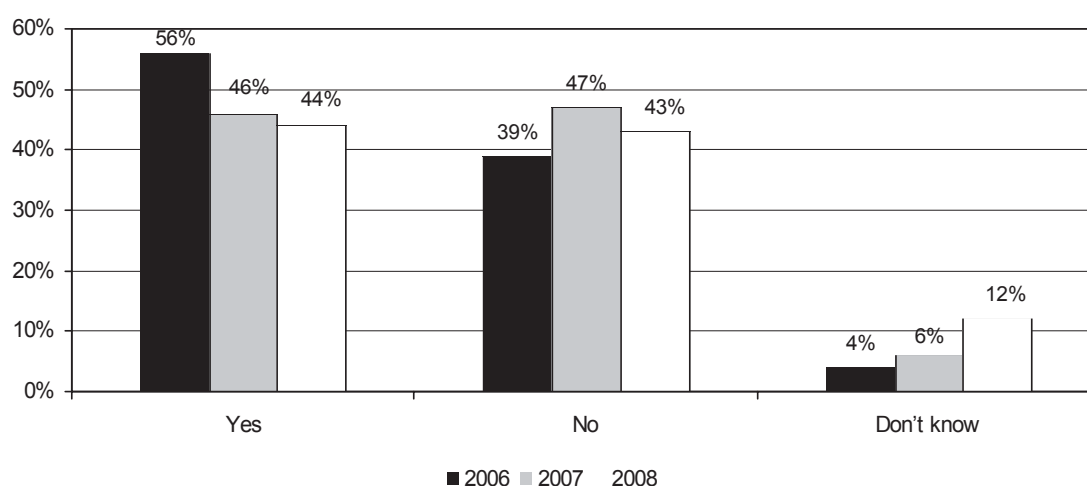


Fig 7.4

Support for the unrestricted activity of political parties rises with level of education. More than half of respondents who have studied to tenth grade or above say that political parties should be free to hold meetings in their area as compared with 41 percent of those who never went to school and 44 percent of those who have studied up to sixth grade.

Respondents were also asked whether they think that all political parties, even the ones most people do not like, should be allowed to hold meetings in their area. Responses to this question are much less divided. Sixty-two percent give a negative answer while only 29 percent say this should be the case. These responses also show a rise in ambivalence since 2006 although to a much smaller degree than for the previous question.

There highest level of support are in the South West where 38 percent of respondents say that even parties that people don't like should be allowed to hold local meetings whereas the highest level of opposition is in the North East where three quarters (76%) say they should not. Again education seems to play a role. Thirty five percent of those who have passed tenth grade or higher say that all political parties, even the ones most people do not like, should be allowed to hold meetings in their area as compared to 26 percent of those who never attended school.

Finally, the survey sought to ascertain whether differences in political party allegiances could run deep enough to have an impact on interpersonal relationships. Respondents were asked the question, "Suppose a friend of yours supported a party you do not like. Would you accept that, or would it end your friendship?". The largest group of respondents (44%) say that such a situation would end their friendship while a slightly smaller proportion (42%) say that they would accept such a friend. Once again level of education has a significant influence on responses. More people who had passed tenth grade (48%) say they would accept such a friendship, than those who have never gone to school (40%).

The 2008 findings suggest that tolerance and acceptance of different political viewpoints has diminished since 2006. The proportion of respondents who say that different party affiliations would end their friendship has increased from 38 percent in 2006 to 44 percent in 2008 while those who say they would accept this has fallen from over half (54%) in 2006 to 42 percent in 2008. Again the proportion of respondents who are ambivalent or unwilling to answer the question has doubled from six percent in 2006 to 13 percent in 2008.

Suppose a friend of yours supported a party you don't like. Would you accept that, or would it end your friendship? (Q-59, Base 6593) COMPARISON BETWEEN 2006, 2007 AND 2008

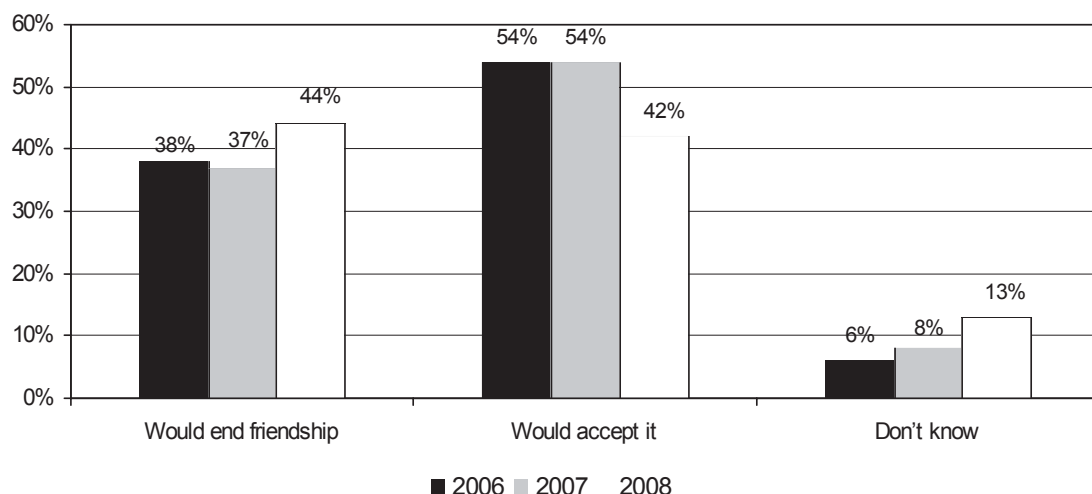


Fig 7.5

7.3 Attitudes to elections

The survey sought to examine in greater depth public attitudes to elections as one of the core components of democratic processes. The first question aimed to assess respondents' sense of efficacy to influence public decision-making through the electoral process. Respondents were asked whether they think that voting can lead to improvements in the future or whether they believe that no matter how one votes things will never change. Two-thirds (68%) say that voting can change things while a quarter (24%) say that they do not expect to see improvements regardless of how they vote.

There has been a steady decline in the proportion of respondents who have confidence in the efficacy of their vote in the last two years. While 75 percent said they believe that voting can change things in 2006, this had fallen to 72 percent in 2007 and 56 percent in 2008. The proportion of respondents who are ambivalent about the impact of voting has risen five-fold over the same period, from two percent in 2006 to 10 percent in 2008. This finding is consistent with the fall in positive assessments of the performance of central government and of the performance of parliament in addressing the country's major problems (*see Chapter 5, 5.2 - Performance of Central Government and 5.7 - Role of elected representatives*).

Do you think that voting can lead to improvement in the future or do you believe that no matter how one votes, things never change? (Q-76, Base 6593) COMPARISON BETWEEN 2006, 2007 AND 2008

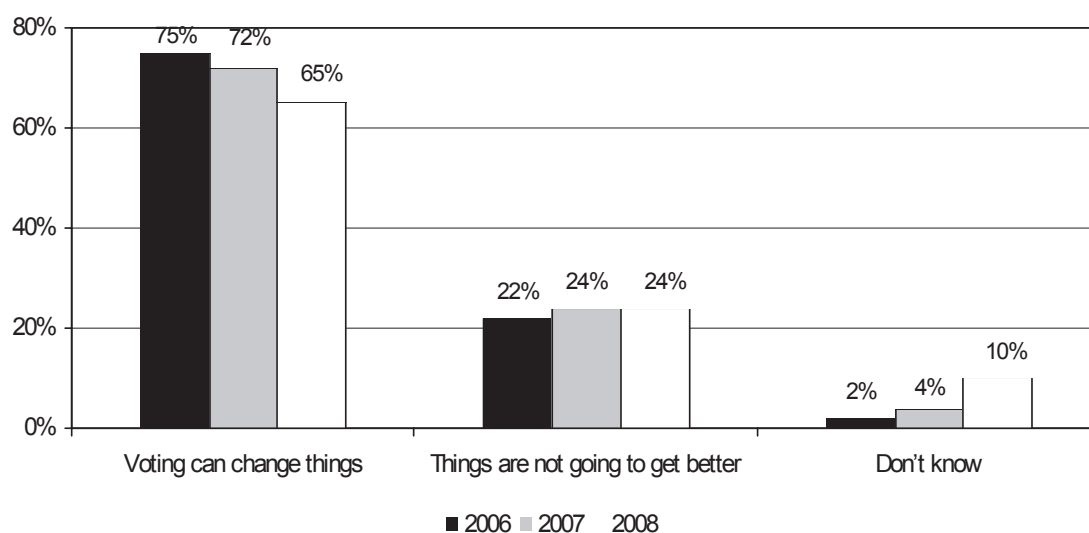


Fig 7.6

Attitudes to voting vary significantly between regions. The highest levels of confidence are in the North West where 83 percent of respondents think that voting can

change things. This is also true for 78 percent on the North East, 74 percent in the Central Hazarajat, and 71 percent in the Western region. However, only 40 percent of respondents in the South East and 50 percent in the South West think this.

Do you think that voting can lead to improvement in the future or do you believe that no matter how one votes, things never change? (Q-76, Base 6593) BY REGION

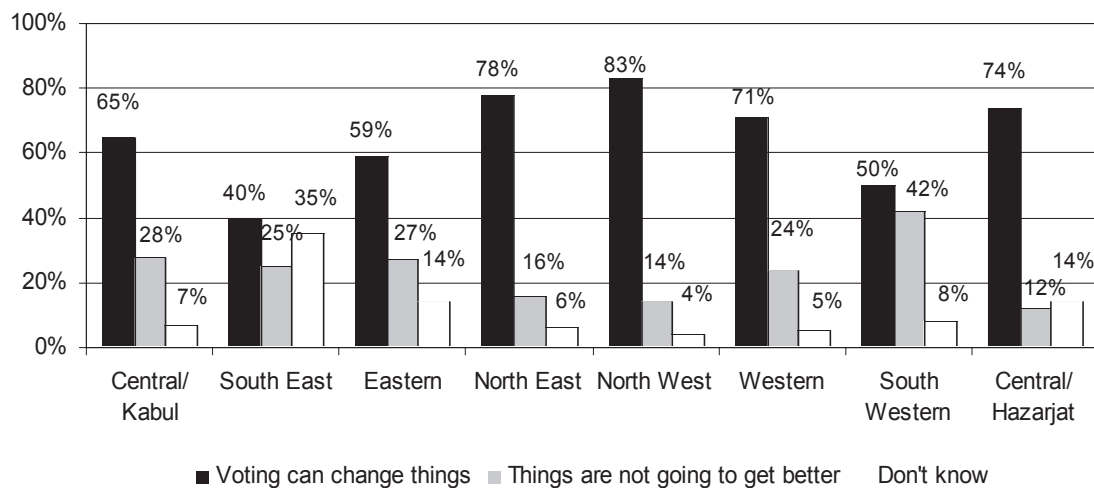


Fig 7.7

The survey also sought to measure levels of public confidence in electoral processes in Afghanistan. In the past, elections have been managed jointly by international donors and the Afghan Government. It is envisaged that in the future elections will be managed entirely by the government. The survey therefore sought to assess public confidence in the ability of the Afghan government to conduct free and fair elections on its own. Nearly three-quarters of respondents (72%) express some level of confidence in the Afghan government to manage the election process, including nearly one quarter (23%) who say they are very confident. Only 18 percent of respondents say they do not have confidence including 10 percent who say they have no confidence at all. Levels of confidence have not changed substantially since 2006.

There are some significant differences in confidence levels between regions. At least three quarters of respondents in the North West (82%), North East (78%), East (77%), and Central Kabul (73%) regions say they have confidence in the Afghan government to organize elections. On the contrary, about a quarter of respondents say they have little or no confidence in the government to do this in the South East (28%), Central Hazarajat (25%), and South West (24%).

How confident are you that the Afghanistan Government on its own will be able to conduct free and fair elections? (Q-77, Base 6593) BY REGION

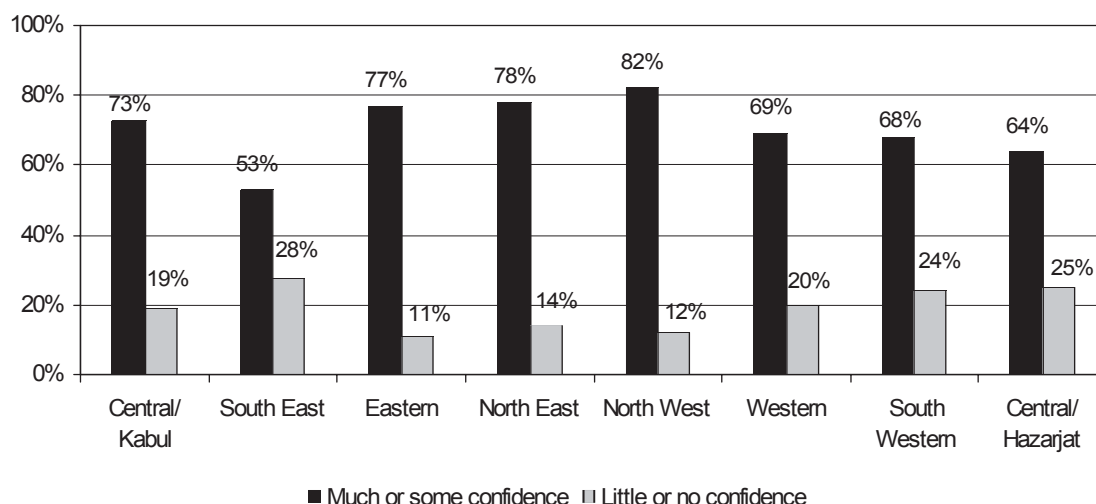


Fig 7.8

Respondents who say they have little or no confidence that the government is able to conduct free and fair elections on its own (18% of all respondents) were then asked why they think this is so. The most common reason, given by 38 percent of respondents, is insecurity. This appears to be a much greater concern in 2008 than in 2007 when it was mentioned by only 24 percent of respondents. A lack of confidence in Government in general also accounts for a significant proportion of responses. Twenty eight percent of respondents cite weak government (up from 25 percent in 2007) and 11 percent mention corruption although this is almost half the proportion that gave this as the reason in 2007 (19%). One in twelve respondents (8%) give the poor economy as the reason for their lack of confidence in the capacity of the Afghan government to manage the electoral process without international assistance.

You said you are not confident the Government to be able to conduct free and fair elections on its own. What makes you think so? (Q-78, Base 1208) COMPARISON BETWEEN 2007 AND 2008

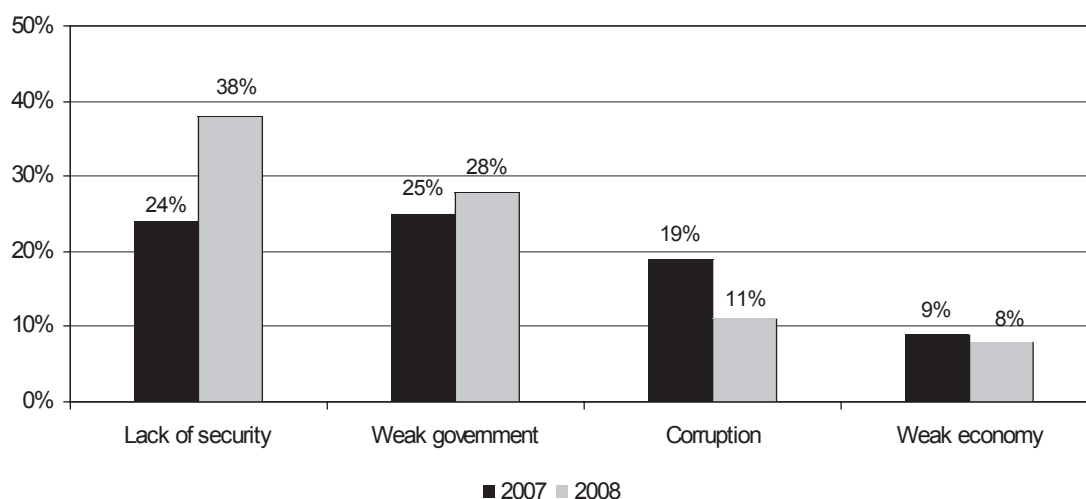


Fig 7.9

Insecurity is cited as the main reason why the Afghan government would not be able to hold free and fair elections by nearly half of respondents the West (51%), North East (49%), and North West (45%) and by more than a third in the East (39%), South East (36%), and South West (35%). At least a third of respondent in the North West (37%) and Central Kabul (36%) regions mention weak government as do at least a third in the South East (28%), North West (27%), and West (25%) of the country. Concerns about corruption are most prevalent in the South East (17%), Central Kabul (16%), and South West (15%) whereas the weak economy is mentioned by more than a quarter of respondents (27%) in the Central Hazarajat region.

Table 7.2: You said you are not confident the Government to be able to conduct free and fair elections on its own. What makes you think so? (Q-78, Base 1208) BY REGION

	Central/ Kabul	South East	East	North East	North West	West	South West	Central/ Hazarajat
Lack of security	27%	36%	39%	49%	45%	51%	35%	20%
Corruption	16%	17%	12%	9%	1%	1%	15%	9%
Weak Government	35%	28%	21%	27%	37%	25%	18%	20%
Weak economy	12%	4%	0	2%	7%	11%	2%	27%

7.4 Electoral participation

The survey also asked questions about respondents' participation in past national elections including the 2004 presidential elections and the 2005 parliamentary elections. Around two-thirds of respondents (68%) say voted in the presidential elections in 2004 while one-third (34%) say they did not. A significantly higher proportion of men (71%) than women (55%) report having voted in 2004.

Did you vote in the 2004 Presidential elections? (Q-66, Base 6593) ALL AND BY GENDER

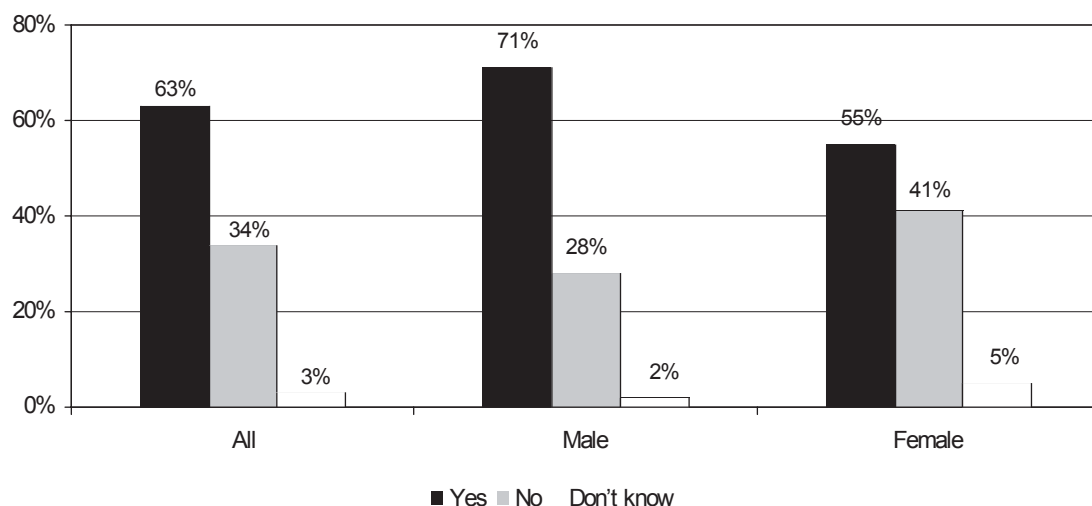


Fig 7.10

Respondents who say they did not vote in the 2004 Presidential elections (34% of all respondents) were asked why. Thirty-nine percent say they were not able to vote because they did not fulfill the age criteria. This was the case for three quarters (73%) of respondents under 25 years of age. Five percent were unable to vote because they did not have the necessary identity documents.

A further eight percent say that they were not permitted to vote. This was the case for one in eight female respondents (13%) but no male respondents gave this as their reason. Women not being permitted to vote is likely to provide a partial explanation for the low turnout of women during elections.

Lack of engagement with the political process is also frequently cited as a reason for not voting including lack of interest in the elections (12%) and not supporting any candidate (5%).

Only six percent say that they did not vote in 2004 for security reasons. This is now the major concern for the effective management of elections in the future (*see above*). Concerns about security were most prominent in the South West (14%) and Central Hazarajat (12%). In addition, 10 percent of respondents in the South West say they did not vote because of fear of intimidation.

You said you did not vote in the 2004 Presidential elections. Why didn't you vote? (Q-67, Base 2244)

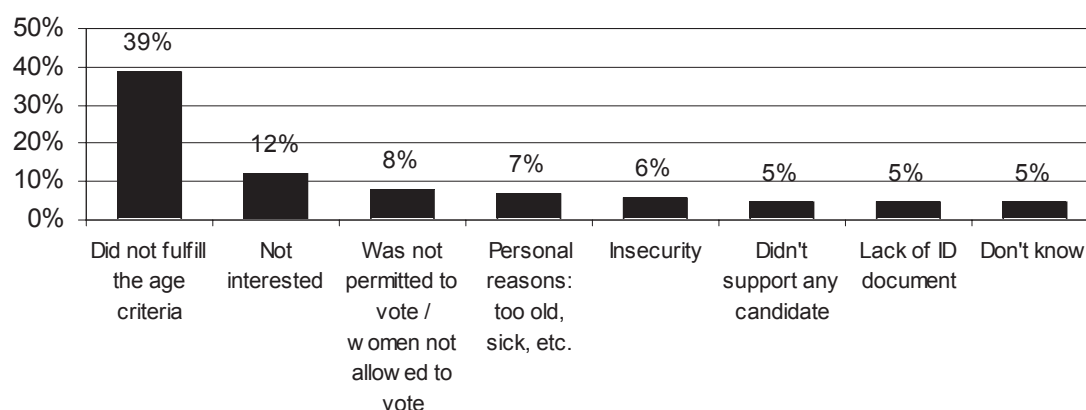


Fig 7.11

Respondents were also asked whether they had voted in the 2005 Parliamentary elections. Sixty-one percent say that they voted, a similar proportion to those having voted in the 2004 Presidential elections (63%). Thirty-six percent say they did not vote in 2005. Electoral participation of men and women in the 2005 parliamentary elections followed the same pattern as that for the presidential elections in 2004.

Did you vote in the 2005 Parliamentary elections? (Q-68, Base 6593) ALL AND BY GENDER

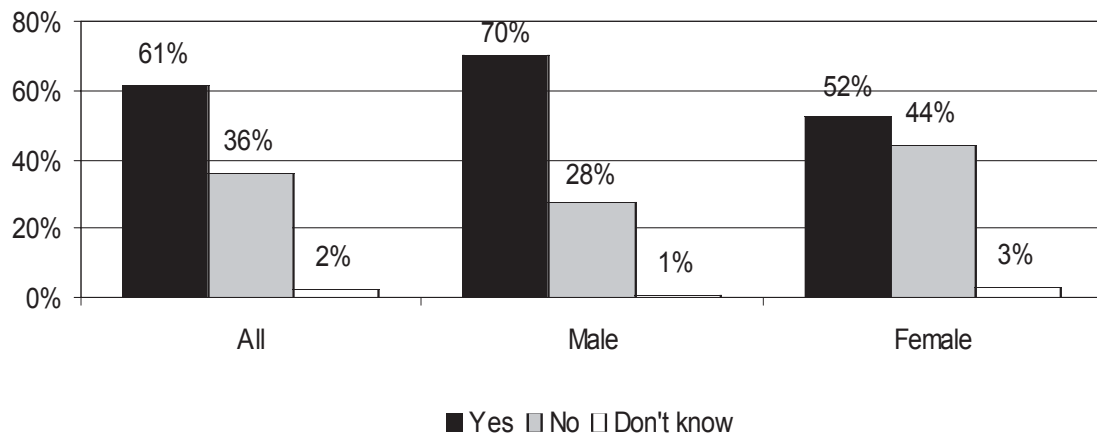


Fig 7.12

Respondents who said they did not vote in the 2005 Parliamentary elections (36 % of all respondents) were also asked why they did not vote. Again, the most common reason was that respondents were not eligible to vote, either because they did not fulfill the age criteria (33%), or because they lacked the necessary identity documents (6%)

A slightly higher proportion of respondents say they were not interested in voting in the parliamentary elections (16%) than those who had said this about the presidential elections in 2004 (12%) whereas the proportion who did not vote because they did not support any candidate was the same for both elections (5%).

A similar proportion of women report that they were not permitted to vote in both the 2004 and 2005 elections. However, their geographical distribution is different. The highest proportions of women who report that they were not permitted to vote in 2004 are in the Central Kabul (11%), West (9%), North West (7%), and South East (7%) whereas those who say they were not permitted to vote in the 2005 elections are highest in the South East (13%) followed by Central Kabul (12%), West (9%), North West (8%), East (7%), and South West (7%).

Concerns about security that prevented people from voting in the 2005 parliamentary elections were again highest in the South West (18%) and Central Hazarajat (13%) regions.

You said you did not vote in the 2005 Parliamentary elections. Why didn't you vote? (Q-69, Base 2352)

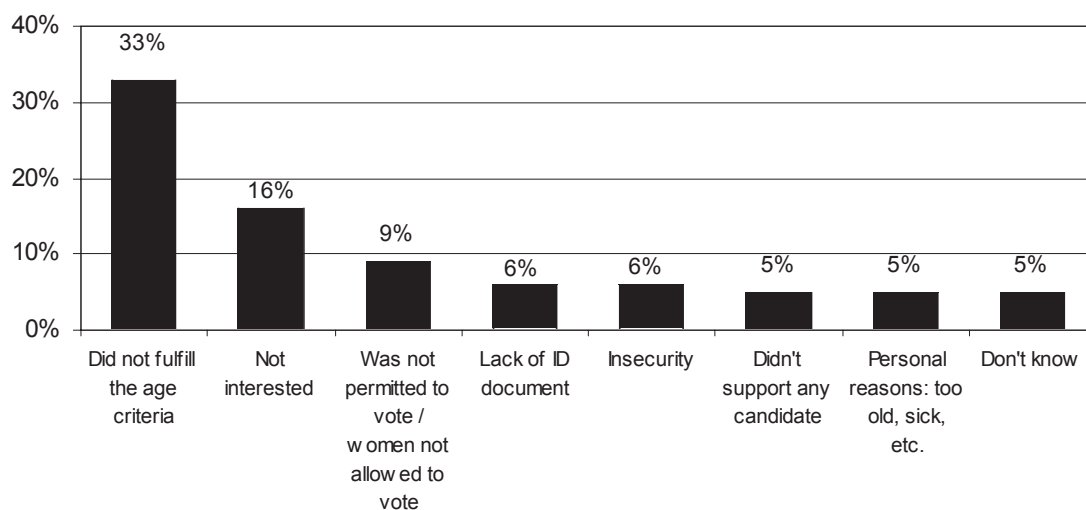


Fig 7.13

Finally, the survey sought to measure public awareness regarding the elections scheduled to be held in Afghanistan in 2009. Respondents were asked if they are aware that there will be elections in the coming year. Just over half (53%) say they are aware of the 2009 elections but 42 percent say they are not. Levels of awareness are higher among men (60%) than women (46%) which is an issue that will need to be addressed if the electoral participation of women is to be raised in 2009 compared to previous elections.

Are you aware that there will be elections in Afghanistan in the coming year? (Q-70, Base 6593)
ALL AND BY GENDER

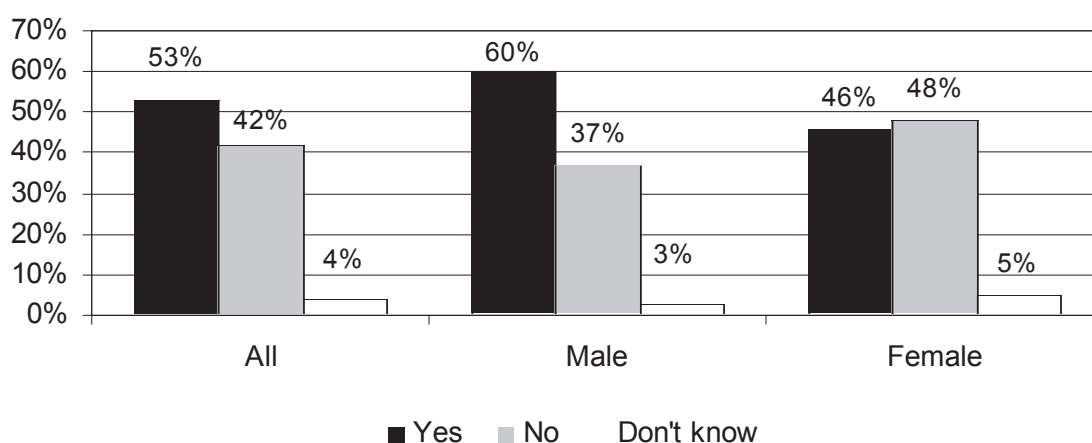


Fig 7.14

The survey also asked respondents whether they know how to register to vote. Just under half (48%) said they do and the same proportion said they do not (48%). Again more men (52%) than women (43%) say that know how to register to vote.

Those with higher levels of education are more likely to be aware of the upcoming elections and to know how to register to vote. Around two thirds of those who have studied to tenth grade or beyond are aware of the elections (67%) and know how to register (62%). This is true for more than half of those who only studied to sixth grade (54% are aware of the elections and 50% know how to register). However, less than half of respondents who never went to school are aware of the elections (48%) or know how to register to vote (43%).

Fewer than half of respondents in the South East (49%) and North East (42%) say they are aware that elections will be held in the coming year and a little over a third of respondents say they know how to register to vote in the South West (35%), South East (37%), and Central Hazarajat (38%).

Finally, respondents were asked how likely they will vote in the coming elections. Around three quarters (77%) say they are likely to vote including 43 percent who say they are very likely to vote. However, sixteen percent say they are unlikely to vote and another 6 percent are unsure. Considerably more men (48%) than women (38%) say that they are very likely to vote whereas nearly twice as many women (13%) as men (7%) say they are very unlikely to. These results suggest that the disparity in electoral participation between men and women that was seen in the 2004 and 2005 elections will be replicated in the elections in 2009.

How likely are you to vote in the coming elections? (Q-72, Base 6593)

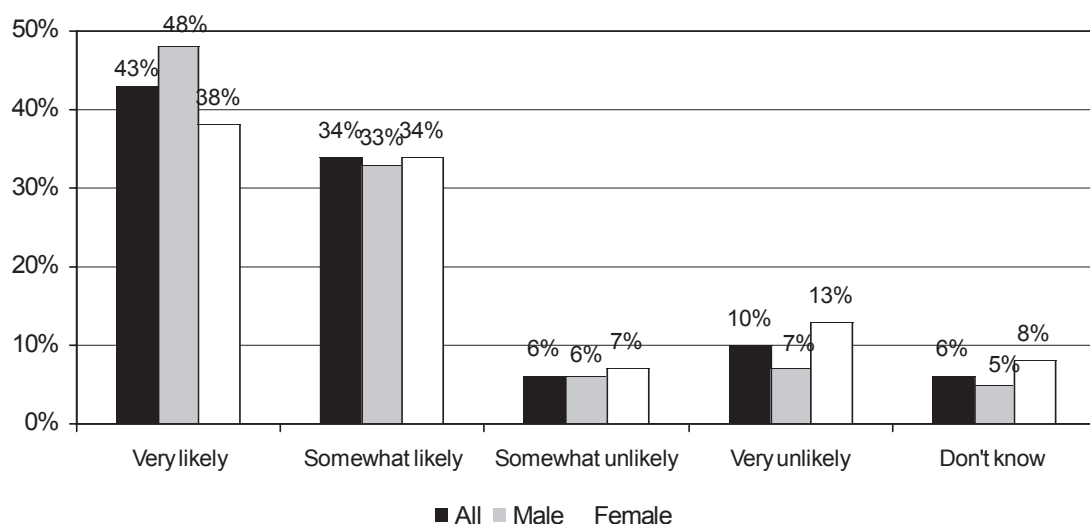


Fig 7.15

More than a fifth of respondents in the South West (24%) and South East (21%) of the country say they are not likely to vote in the 2009 elections.

Respondents who say they are unlikely to vote in the coming elections (16% of all respondents) were asked why this is so. Security concerns are the most commonly cited reason. A quarter of respondents (25%) say this which represents a threefold increase since the 2004 and 2005 elections (6%). Two thirds of respondents in the Central Hazarajat, who say they are unlikely to vote in 2009, ascribe this to concerns about security (67%) and this is true of more than half of respondents in the South West (56%) and around a fifth in the East (21%), South East (19%), and central Kabul (20%) regions.

The proportion of respondents who report having no interest in the elections continues to rise, from 12 percent in 2004 to 16 percent in 2005 and 18 percent in 2008. This demonstration of disenchantment with the electoral processes is further amplified by the significant proportion of respondents (15%) who say they will not vote because the elections will not make any difference. The highest levels of disenchantment are in the North East where almost a third of respondents (31%) say they have no interest in the elections and a fifth (22%) say that the elections will make no difference. A quarter of respondents in the East also say they have no interest in the elections (27%) and a similar proportion in the North West say that the elections will make no difference (27%).

A quarter of the female respondents who are unlikely to vote in next year's election (25%) say this is because they will not be permitted to do so. This figure is nearly twice as high as the proportion of women who report that they were not permitted to vote in elections in 2004 and 2005 (13%); a worrying trend if it translates into practice.

You said it is somewhat or very unlikely that you would vote in the upcoming elections. Why do you say that? (Q-73, Base 1094)

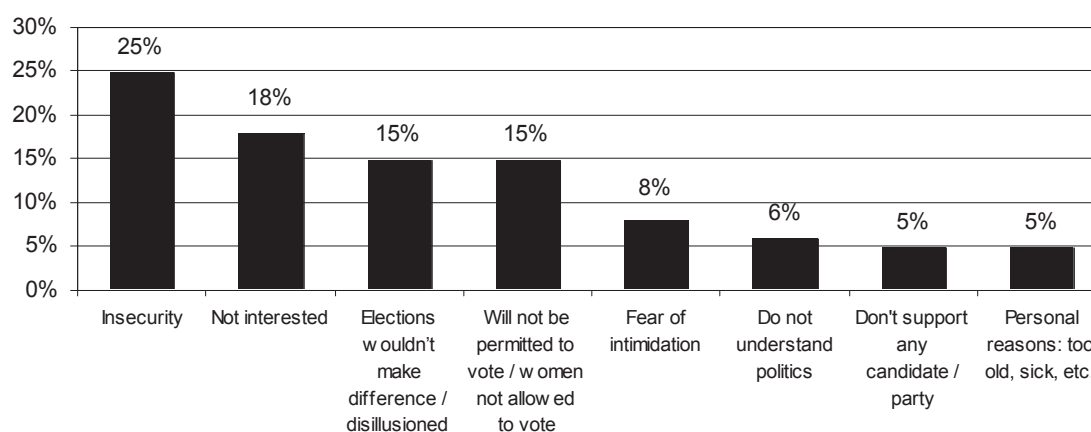


Fig 7.16

7.5 Freedom of expression

To explore a further facet of democratic practice, the survey sought public opinion on freedom of expression. Respondents were asked the question: “Do most people feel free to express their political opinions in the area where you live?” Forty percent of respondents say that most people feel free to express their opinions but an almost equal proportion (39%) say that they do not. Nearly one in five respondents did not give an answer to this question.

The percentage of respondents who say there is freedom of expression in their area has fallen since 2006 (49% in 2006 compared to 40% in 2007 and 2008). However those who do not offer a response to this question has risen significantly (from 13% in 2006 to 16% in 2007 and 21% in 2008). This suggests a certain level of ambivalence to the amount of freedom of expression that exists in their area.

Do most people feel free to express their political opinions in the area where you live? (Q-30, Base 6593) COMPARISON BETWEEN 2006, 2007 AND 2008

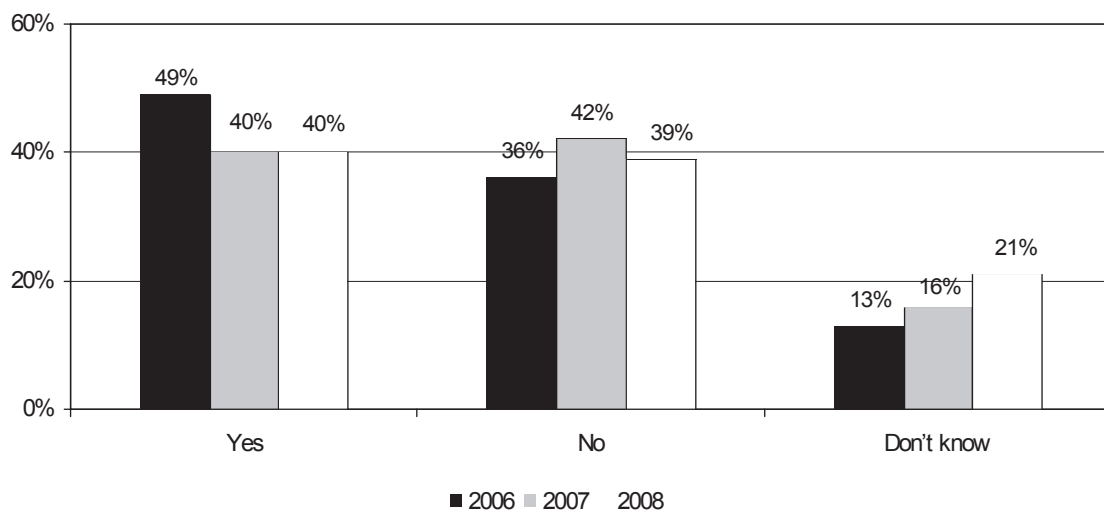


Fig 7.17

Urban dwellers generally feel more free to express their political opinions in their local area (45%) than rural residents (39%). Similarly, those with higher levels of education are more likely to say this freedom of expression exists in their area. The highest levels of freedom to express political opinions are reported in the Central Hazarajat (53%), North West (49%), North East (46%), and Central Kabul (46%). Conversely, two thirds of respondents in the South West (67%) and 43 percent in the West and South East say they cannot express their political opinions freely.

Do most people feel free to express their political opinions in the area where you live?
(Q-30, Base 6593) BY REGION

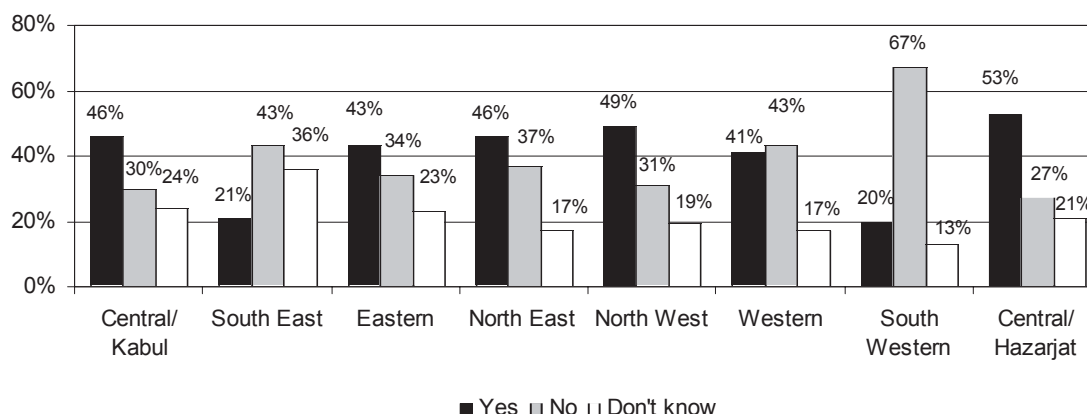


Fig 7.18

Respondents who say that most people feel free to express political opinions living their local area (40% of all respondents) were then asked the follow-up question: “What reasons or changes compared with the past do you think have made most people feel free to express their political opinions in the area where you live?” Respondents were invited to give two reasons. The most commonly cited reason is that freedom of speech is guaranteed (60%). One in ten respondents also mention the guarantee of the freedom of the press. However, the survey shows that physical security conditions are at least as important as the legal guarantee of freedoms in ensuring that citizens have freedom of expression. A range of factors of this kind are mentioned including good local security conditions (42%), peace and democracy (14%), and the removal of local militias (8%). The development of democratic representative bodies and more attention being paid to women’s rights are also mentioned by a small proportion of respondents (4%). More than a third of respondents (36%) did not identify any particular factor to which they could attribute freedom of expression in their area.

What changes compared with the past, or reasons, do you think have made most people to feel free to express their political opinions in the area where you live? (Q-31a&b combined, Base 2648)

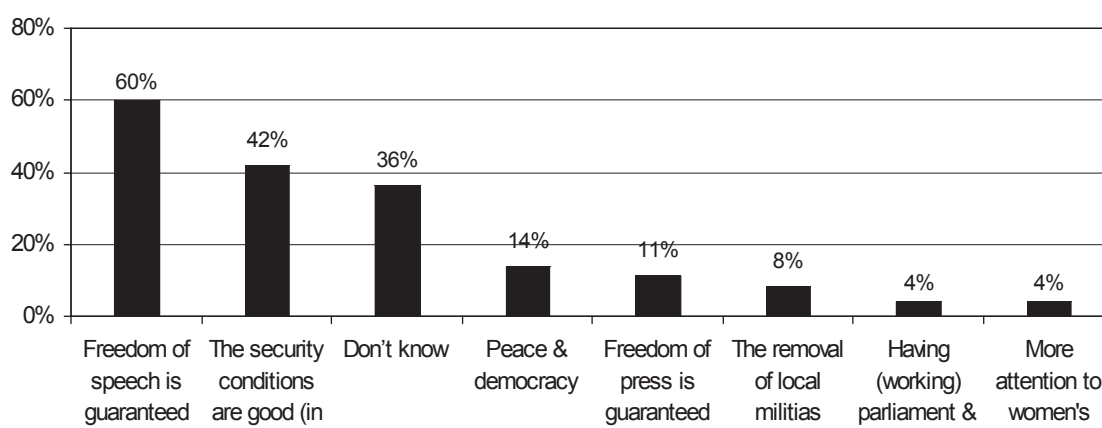


Fig 7.19

Respondents who say that most people do not feel free to express political opinions in their area (39% of all respondents) were also asked why they think this is so. They were invited to mention two reasons. Physical security conditions account for the overwhelming majority of responses including fear for safety (41%), bad local security conditions (38%), presence of the Taliban (18%), and presence of warlords (8%). In addition, 40 percent of respondents did not give an answer to this question which also suggests a level of concern about the possible consequences of doing so. The lack of recognized or guaranteed rights also features prominently amongst responses including government not allowing freedom of political opinions (15%) and women being under the control of men (10%). A small proportion of respondents attribute the lack of freedom of expression in their area to disenchantment with the lack of responsiveness of government (7%).

The proportion of respondents who mention bad security conditions has risen significantly in the past two years from 29 percent in 2006 to 38 percent in 2008. However, the proportion of those who mention the specific threat from warlords has fallen substantially from 32 percent in 2006 to eight percent in 2008. Those explicitly mentioning a threat from the Taliban has also fallen since 2007 from 25 percent to 18 percent in 2008.

Why don't people in your area have the freedom to express their political opinions? (Q-32a&b combined, Base 2557)

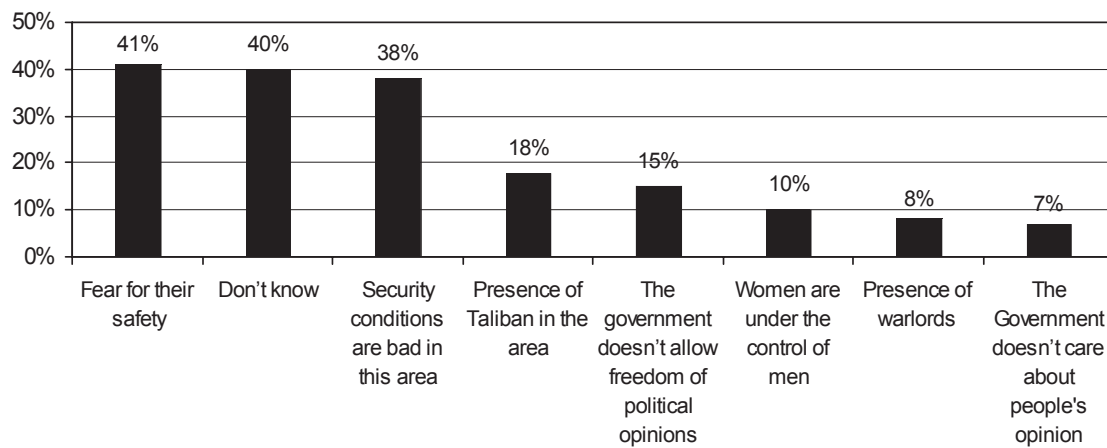


Fig 7.20

7.6 Democracy and Islam

There are, broadly speaking, two views on the relationship between democracy and Islamic values. Some people say that democracy will bring westernization and too much freedom and will challenge Islamic values. Other people say that an Islamic country can be democratic without becoming too western and still keep its Islamic

values. The survey sought to test Afghan public opinion on this question. Respondents were asked which statement is closer to their view: (1) Democracy challenges Islamic values or (2) Democracy can be Islamic also. Two-thirds of respondents (66%) say that democracy can be Islamic while a quarter (26%) think that democracy challenges Islamic values.

The proportion of respondents who believe that democracy challenges Islamic values has been falling steadily since 2006. Two years ago over one-third of respondents said this was true (35%) as compared to just over a quarter in 2008 (26%).

Some people say: "Democracy will bring Westernization and too much freedom and challenge Islamic values." Other people say: "An Islamic country can be democratic without becoming too Western. It can still keep its Islamic values". Which is closer to your view? (Q-61, Base 6593)
COMPARISON BETWEEN 2006, 2007 AND 2008

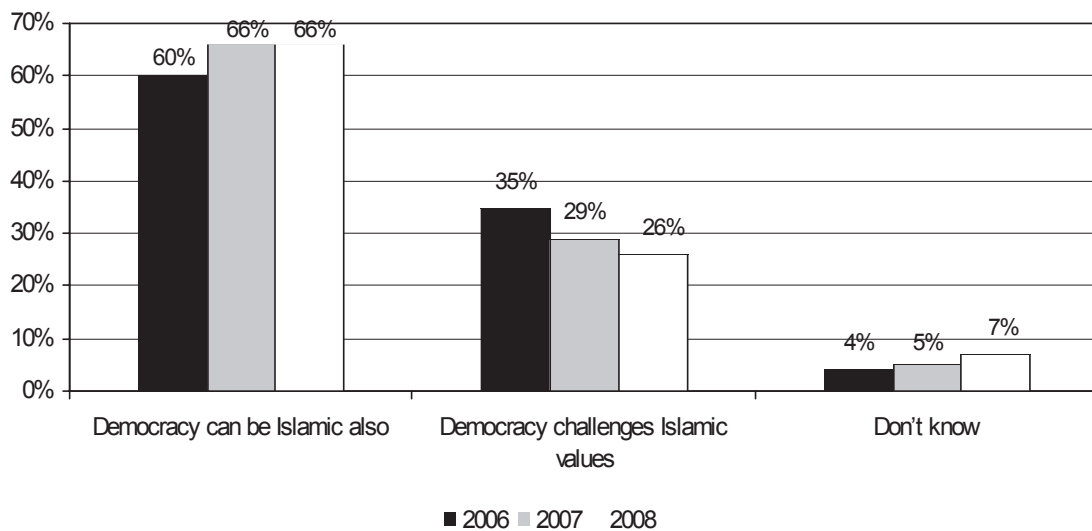


Fig 7.21

Respondents living in rural areas, in low income households, or who have never gone to school are more likely to believe that democracy challenges Islamic values. More men (29%) say this than women (24%). This view is also held by 40 percent of respondents in the Eastern region, 33 percent in the South West, and 31% in the Central Hazarajat. On the other hand, three-quarters of respondents in the West (74%) say that democracy can be Islamic, as do 72 percent in Central Kabul, 70 percent in the North West, and 69 percent in the North East.

8 Women and Society

8.1 The biggest problems faced by women

The survey sought to understand the specific issues faced by women in Afghanistan. When asked about the two biggest problems facing women, nearly half of respondents (45%) say lack of education and illiteracy. This has consistently been identified as the most important problem for women in Afghanistan since the 2006 survey.

Around a quarter of respondents identify the lack of women's rights (24%). Women's rights are given particularly high priority in Central Hazarajat (43%) and in the West (34%), South West (31%), and South East (30%) of the country. Women respondents more often mention problems to do with rights and equality of opportunity such as forced marriages, domestic violence, being confined to home, or a lack of job opportunities, whereas men are more likely to highlight access and availability of public services for women such as education and healthcare. Problems associated with women's rights and the norms of women's roles in traditional society are significantly more often mentioned by respondents in rural areas.

The lack of job opportunities for women is also identified by about a quarter (24%) of respondents particularly in the North West where 42 percent of respondents say this is the biggest problem faced by women. The problem of job opportunities for women is a significantly higher priority for low income households (35% of households with a monthly income of less than 2000Afs as compared to 21% with an income of over 3000Afs).

What are the biggest problems facing women in this area today? (Q-98a&b combined, Base 6593)

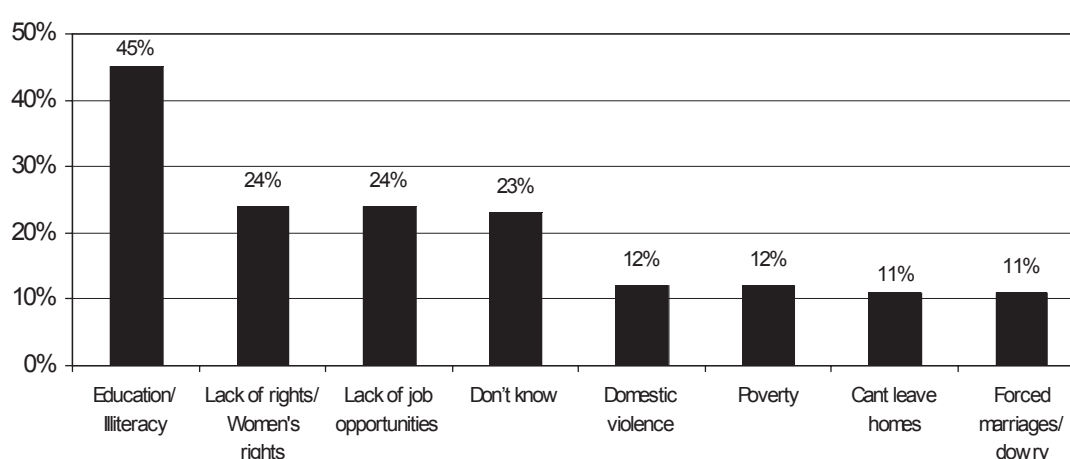


Fig 8.1

The most significant change in the findings from previous years is the sudden rise in the proportion of respondents who are unable or unwilling to identify problems faced by women (23%). This is most evident in the North East (28%), South East

(26%), East (25%), and Central/Kabul (27%) regions where more than a quarter of respondents offer no opinion on this issue. The recent reticence of a significant proportion of respondents to identify problems faced by women makes it difficult to draw conclusions about trends over time although there is some evidence of an increase in priority given to issues related to economic hardship such as lack of job opportunities for women and poverty. This is consistent with the emphasis in 2008 on economic issues in the identification of local problems (*see 2.4 - Afghanistan's biggest problems: national level and 2.5 - Afghanistan's biggest problems: local level*).

What are the biggest problems facing women in this area today? (Q-98a&b combined, Base 6593) COMPARISON BETWEEN 2006, 2007 AND 2008

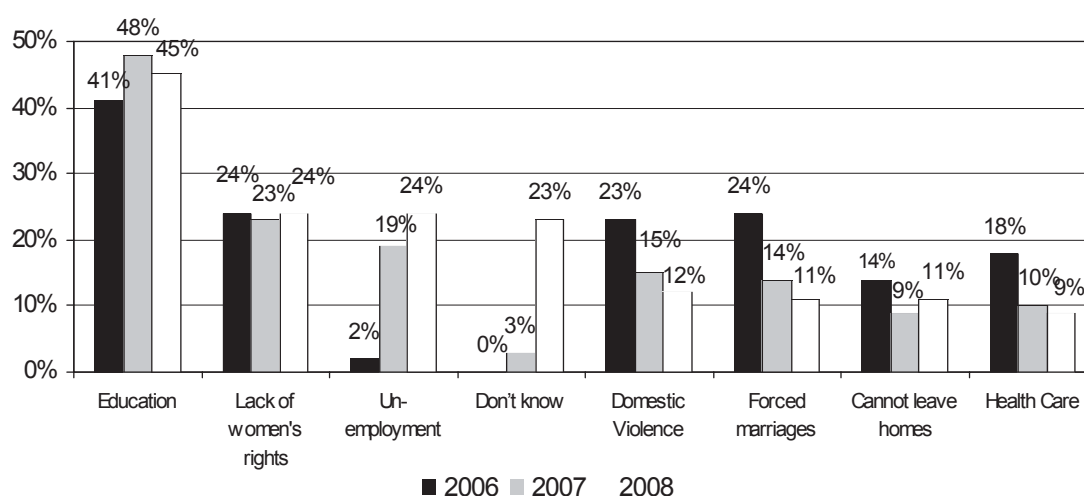


Fig 8.2

8.2 Gender equality

The survey endeavored to gauge public opinion on the issue of gender equality. Respondents were first asked about equality of opportunity for education. Nearly nine in ten respondents (89%) say they agree that women should have equal opportunities to men in education including more than half of respondents (57%) who strongly agree with this statement. Only nine percent express any level of disagreement. These responses are broadly consistent with the high level of support for equal rights under the law, regardless of their gender, ethnicity, or religion" (84%) (*see Chapter 7, 7.2 Attitudes to democratic principles and processes and political activity*). Unsurprisingly, 92 percent of women agree with equal opportunities in education including around two thirds (64%) who strongly agree as compared to 84 percent of men, just under half of whom agree strongly (49%). Urban residents are more likely to agree with equal educational opportunities for women (67%) as compared to their rural counterparts (54%) as are those with higher levels of education as compared to those who never went to school. (94% of those who studied to grade 10 or beyond as compared to 87% of those who never went to school). The highest levels of support for equal opportunities in education are in the North West

(95%), Central Kabul (95%), Central Hazarajat (93%), and Western (92%) regions. The highest level of opposition is in the South West (22%) followed by the South East (14%) and East (13%).

Table 8.1: Some people say that women should have equal opportunities like men in education? (Q-99, Base 6593) BY REGION

	Central/ Kabul	South East	Eastern	North East	North West	Western	South Western	Central/ Hazarjat
Agree	95%	83%	83%	89%	95%	90%	78%	93%
Disagree	5%	14%	13%	9%	4%	8%	22%	4%

A second question related to opportunities for women to work outside the home. On this issue support for gender equality was significantly lower. Just over two-thirds of respondents (69%) say that women should be allowed to work outside the home while 27 percent say they should not. Again, a higher proportion of women (79%) than men (60%) agree with women working outside the home. Younger respondents also tend to be more favorable to this idea. Seventy-two percent of respondents aged between 18 and 24 are in favour of women working outside the home but this falls to 63 percent among those over 55. Similarly, more urban people (79%) hold this opinion than rural residents (67%) as do respondents who have passed tenth grade or above (77%) as compared to those who never went school (67%).

Support for women being able to work outside the home is again strongest in the Central Hazarajat (88 %), Central Kabul (78%), North West (74%), and Western (74%) regions whereas opposition is highest in the South West (34%) and East (31%) of the country.

Some people say that women should be allowed to work outside the home. What is your opinion about this? (Q-100, Base 6593) BY REGION

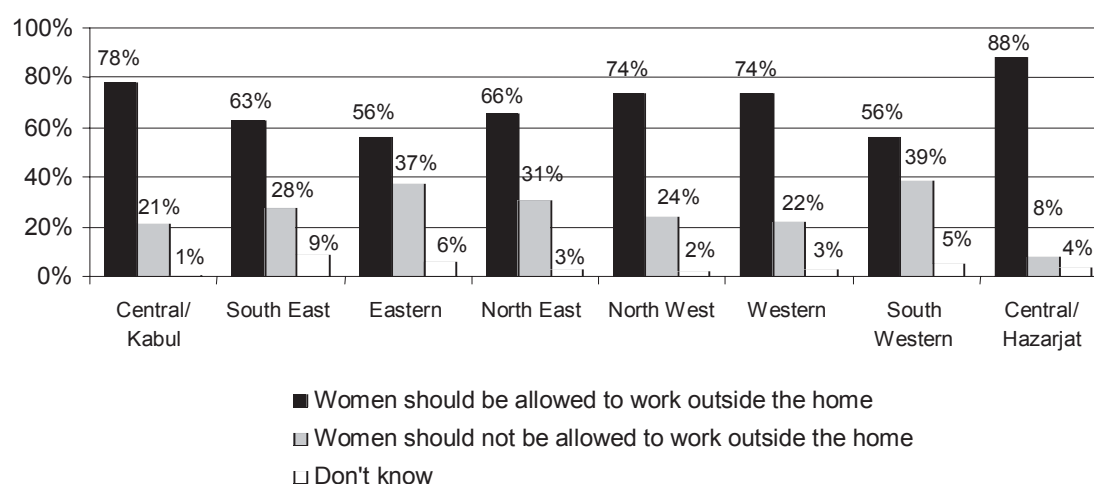


Fig 8.3

There has been no substantial change in responses regarding women working outside the home or having equal opportunities in education since 2006, confirming that evolution in social attitudes to gender equality is a process that takes place over much longer time periods.

8.3 Political participation

The survey also sought to examine public opinion on gender equality in terms of political participation. Respondents were asked whether they think women should be allowed to vote in elections. A large majority of respondents (84%) say women should be allowed to vote demonstrating that the principle of universal suffrage is well accepted in Afghanistan. Only 13 percent disagree with this. Slightly more women (87%) than men (81%) say that women should be allowed to vote; however, there is a much larger disparity between the proportion of urban (93%) and rural (82%) residents who think this. Those with higher levels of education are more likely to agree. Ninety-two percent of respondents who studied to tenth grade or beyond share this opinion as compared to those who never went to school (82 percent). Relatively more Hazara (94%) and Tajik (91%) respondents say women should be allowed to vote compared to their Uzbek (85%) and Pashtun (76%) counterparts.

There is also variation between regions. Support for women voting is highest in the Central Hazarajat (96%), Central Kabul (92%), and North West (91%) followed by the West (87%) and North East (83%). On the other hand opposition to gender equality in electoral participation is strongest in the South West (32%) followed by the South East (16%) and East (16%).

Do you think women should be allowed to vote in the elections? (Q-74, Base 6593) BY REGIONS

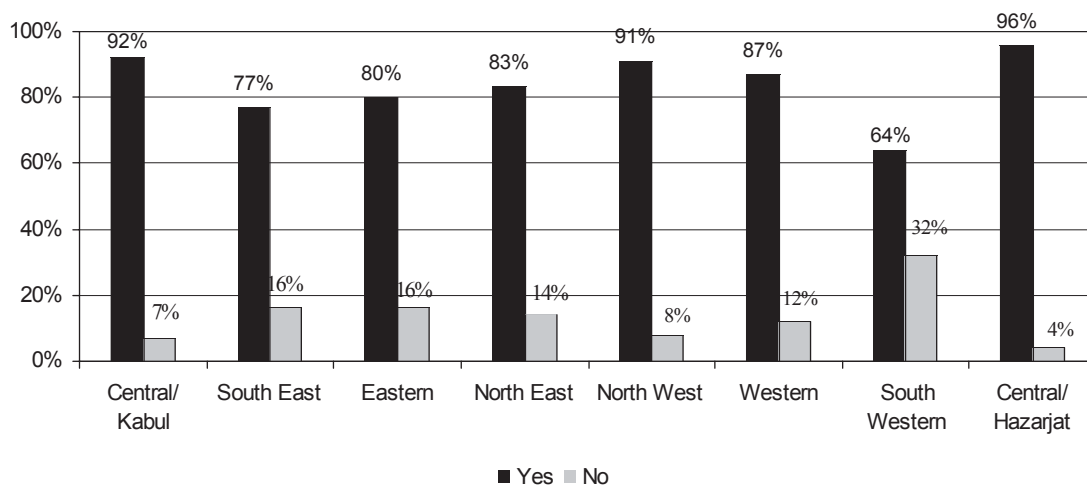


Fig 8.4

Respondents were then asked whether they thought that, when voting in elections, women should decide for themselves how to vote or whether they should receive advice from men and whether women should cast their own vote or if men can vote in their place. A small majority (58%) say that women should decide for themselves how to vote while 22 percent say men should advise them. However, a very clear majority of respondents (88%) say that, regardless of how they reach their decision, women must vote for themselves. One in ten respondents (11%) say it is acceptable for men to vote in place of women.

Again more women (63%) than men (52%) say that women should decide for themselves and fewer women (17%) say they should be advised by men than male respondents (27%). However, an equal proportion of both groups say that women should decide in consultation with men (18%). More women also think that they should cast their own vote (92%) than men (84%). Male respondents (14%) on the other hand are twice as likely as female respondents (6%) to say that men should be able to vote in place of women.

If women vote, do you think that women should decide for themselves or should they receive advice from men? (Q-101, Base 6593) BY GENDER

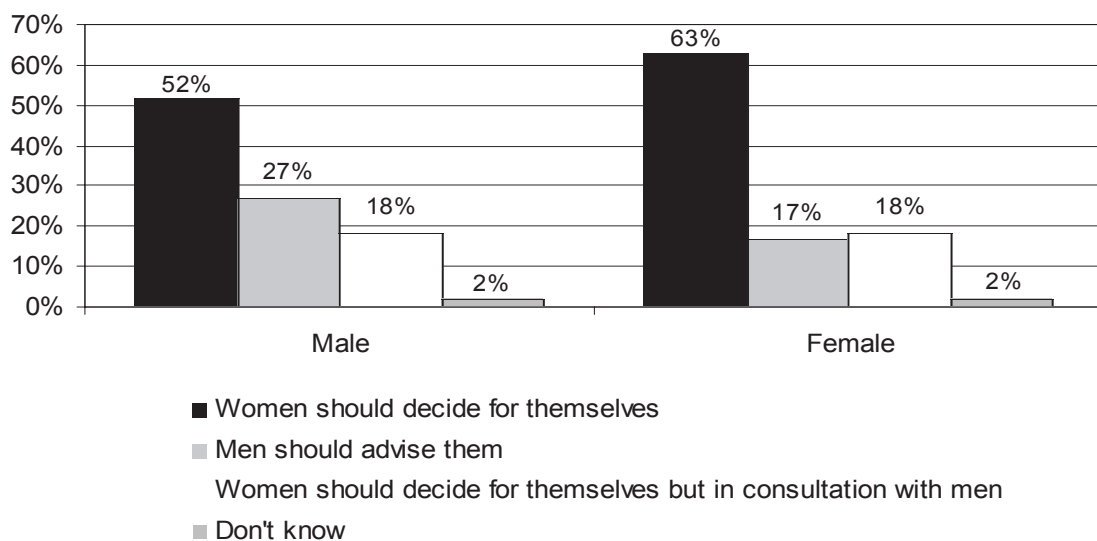


Fig 8.5

Again, there are significant differences in views between regions. More than four-fifths of respondents in the Central Hazarajat (83%) and about two-thirds in the North West (69%) and West (64%) say women should decide for themselves how to vote; however, this is true for less than half of respondents in the East (48%), South West (46%), and South East (42%). More than a quarter of respondents (27%) in these three provinces think that women should be advised by men. In the South West nearly a quarter of respondents (23%) think it is acceptable for men to vote in the place of women and this is also true for 17 percent in the East and South

East but only five percent in the Central Kabul region, four percent in the North West, and less than one percent of respondents in the Central Hazarajat think this.

Respondents' views on women's participation in elections are clearly correlated with their other views on gender equality. For example, 70 percent of respondents who think that women should be allowed to work outside the home also say that women should decide for themselves how to vote. On the other hand, 68 percent of those who think that women should not be allowed to work outside the home do not think that women should be allowed to decide for themselves how to vote. Forty-three percent of them say that men should advise women how to vote and 25 percent say that women should decide in consultation with men. These findings demonstrate that encouraging the increased participation of women in political and social affairs depends on broad based change in attitudes to gender equality.

Table 8.2: If women vote, do you think that women should decide for themselves or should they receive advice from men? (Q-101, Base 6593) BY PEOPLE WITH OPINIONS WOMEN SHOULD OR SHOULD NOT BE ALLOWED TO WORK OUTSIDE HOME

	Women should be allowed to work outside the home (%)	Women should not be allowed to work outside the home (%)
Women should decide for themselves	70	29
Men should advise them	14	43
Women should decide in consultation with men	15	25

8.4 Political leadership

A series of questions was asked about women's leadership in politics. Respondents were first asked whether they think that political leadership positions should be mostly for men, mostly for women, or whether both men and women should have equal representation at leadership level. Around half (51%) say that men and women should have equal representation while around a third (35%) say leadership positions should be mostly for men and 10 percent say mostly for women.

The survey shows that women have a much stronger belief in equality of representation than do their male counterparts (62% of women as compared to 40 % of men say there should be equal representation in political leadership). At least half of male respondents (51%) believe that political leadership positions should be mostly for men while only a fifth of female respondents (20%) think this. Twice as many women (13%) than men (6%) say leadership positions should be mostly for women.

Do you think that political leadership positions should be mostly for men, mostly for women, or do you think that both men and women should have equal representation in the political leadership? (Q-104, Base 6593) BY GENDER

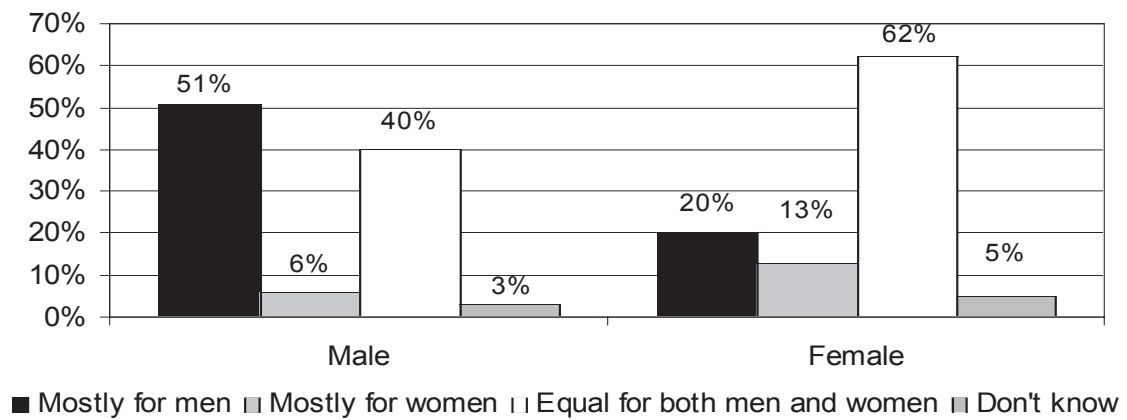


Fig 8.6

Highest levels of support for equal representation between men and women are in the Central Hazarajat (68%), Central Kabul (60%), West (60%), North West (59%), and North East (50%) regions. By contrast, 60 percent of respondents in the East, 41 percent in the South East, and 42 percent in the South West believe that political leadership positions should be mostly for men.

Do you think that political leadership positions should be mostly for men, mostly for women, or do you think that both men and women should have equal representation in the political leadership? (Q-104, Base 6593) BY REGION

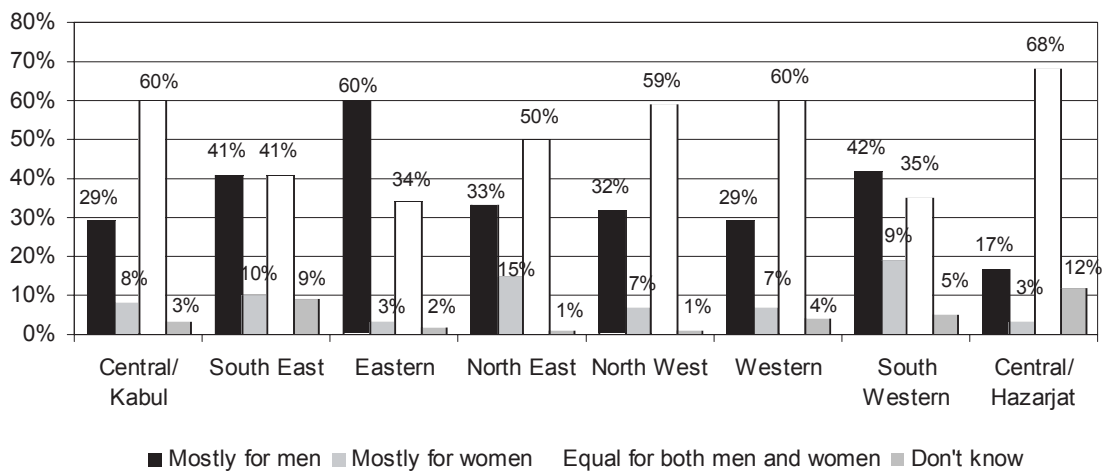


Fig 8.7

In order to look in more depth at public attitudes to women in political leadership roles survey respondents were asked whether they are opposed to being represented by a woman in a variety of governance bodies from the local to the national

level. The majority of respondents (58%) say they have no objection to being represented by a woman on any of these bodies. There is surprisingly little difference between the responses of men and women on this issue. On average, 42 percent of men say they would object to being represented by a woman in one or more of these governance institutions and 36 percent of women say the same.

Although the overall level of support for representation by women is very consistent, there are wide variations between regions and institutions. Around three quarters of respondents in the Central Hazarajat (73%) and at least 60 percent in the West (62%), North West (61%), and Central Kabul (61%) regions have no objection to being represented by a woman on governance bodies at any level. However, this is true for less than half of respondents in the South East (46%).

In general respondents are least opposed to being represented by a woman at the Provincial Council level. However in the North West and South West respondents are least opposed to female representation at the community level as members of Community Development Councils or local Shura and Jirga.

Table 8.3: Are you opposed to a woman representing you in the following organizations?
NO Responses BY REGION (Q-105a-e, Base 6593)

Organization	All	Central/ Kabul	South East	East	North East	North West	West	South West	Central/ Hazarjat
a) In National Parliament	57%	59%	47%	53%	62%	56%	63%	53%	73%
b) In your Provincial Council	59%	64%	48%	55%	57%	61%	65%	52%	74%
c) In your Community Development Councils	58%	62%	46%	55%	56%	61%	61%	58%	73%
d) In your District Development Assembly	57%	61%	43%	57%	52%	60%	59%	57%	73%
e) In your local Shura or Jirga	58%	61%	46%	58%	52%	61%	62%	58%	73%
AVERAGE	58%	61%	46%	56%	56%	61%	62%	56%	73%

8.5 Awareness of the Ministry of Women's Affairs

In 2002 the Afghan government created the Ministry of Women's Affairs to provide a focus for policy on gender equality and the participation of women in Afghan society. In 2008 the survey attempted to measure public awareness of the Ministry of Women's affairs and its activities to promote women's participation. Respondents were first asked whether they were aware of the government ministry known as the Ministry of Women's Affairs. More than half (59%) say that they are

aware while 38 percent said they are not. Proportionally, more men (67%) than women (50%) are aware of the existence of this Ministry which may in part be explained by the still unequal levels of participation in political and social affairs between men and women. However, this is an important finding because it demonstrates the continued difficulties faced by the Ministry of Women's Affairs in connecting with the key constituency whose interests it was created to represent.

Are you aware of the government ministry known as the Ministry of Women's Affairs? (Q-103a, Base 6593) BY GENDER

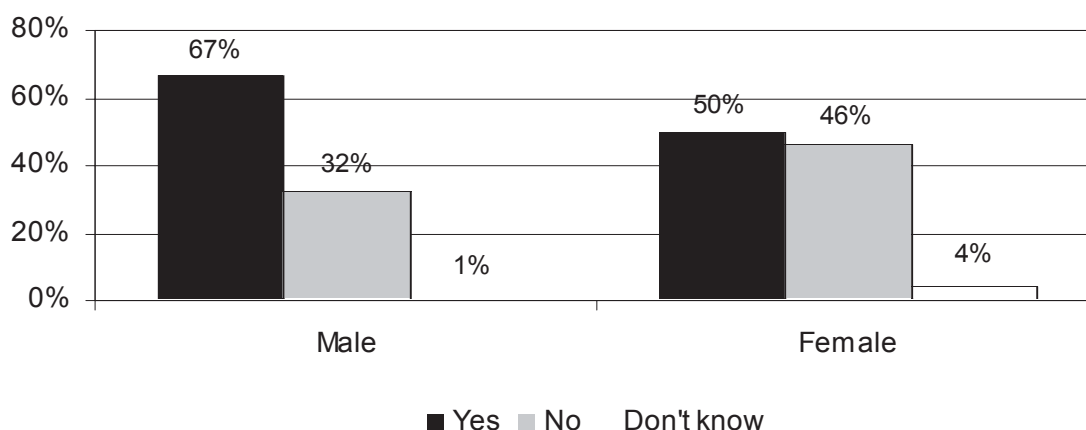


Fig 8.8

Awareness is also greater amongst those with higher levels of education. Seventy-nine percent of respondents who have studied to tenth grade or beyond and 61 percent of those who have studied up to sixth grade know of the existence of the Ministry of Women's Affairs as compared to 51 percent of those who never went to school.

Awareness of the Ministry of Women's Affairs is highest in the Central Kabul (74%), Central Hazarajat (69%), and Western (63%) regions. However under half of respondents in the East (46%) and North East (48%) know about the Ministry.

Table 8.4: Are you aware of the government ministry known as the Ministry of Women's Affairs? (Q-103a, Base 6593) BY REGION

	Central/ Kabul	South East	Eastern	North East	North West	Western	South Western	Central/ Hazarjat
Yes	74%	58%	46%	48%	52%	63%	54%	69%
No	24%	35%	50%	51%	46%	34%	43%	29%
Don't Know	1%	7%	4%	1%	2%	3%	3%	1%

Respondents who say they are aware of the Ministry of Women's Affairs (59% of all respondents) were then asked whether they are aware of a local office of the Ministry in the district or province where they live. Around half (56%) say they are aware of a local office of this Ministry while 39 percent say they are not. Awareness of local offices is also highest in the Central Hazarajat (87%) and the Western (65%) regions followed by the North East (61%).

9 Information Sources and Media Use

The survey sought to explore the way Afghans access and receive information. In particular it looked at listenership of radio, viewership of television, and the way ordinary people use the media. It also assessed access to communication technologies such as radio, television, computer, fixed phone lines, and mobile phones in Afghan households.

9.1 Access to communications technology

Radio is the most accessible broadcast media in Afghan households. More than four fifths of respondents (84%) say they have a functioning radio in their household and there is no significant difference in availability between urban (83%) and rural areas (85%). However, this is not the case for most other communications technologies which tend to be much more accessible to urban residents than to those living in rural villages. More than four-fifths of urban respondents (83%) say they have a working television but this is true for only a quarter of rural respondents (26%). Mobile telephone penetration is also more than twice as high in urban households (73%) as compared to their rural counterparts (31%). Although only a small proportion of Afghan households own a computer (5%), they are seven times more common in urban households (14%) than in rural homes (2%). Four times as many urban households (4%) say they have access to a fixed telephone line than those in rural areas (1%) although even these represent a tiny proportion (2%) of all Afghan households

Do you own any of the following here in your household in functioning order? YES responses, COMPARISON ALL, URBAN AND RURAL SETTLEMENT (Q-1, Base 6593)

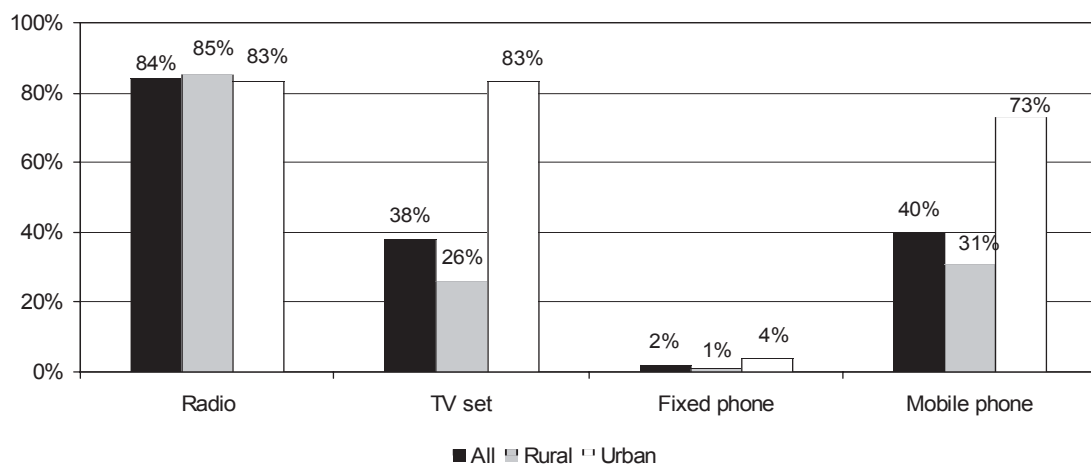


Fig 9.1

The accessibility of most communications technology depends to a large extent on the availability of physical infrastructure such as electricity, fixed telephone lines, mobile phone coverage, and television and radio transmitters. It is therefore not surprising that there is considerable variation in the ownership of communications technologies between regions. The availability of radio is the most consistent but even this varies from around three-quarters of households in the North West (71%) and Central Hazarajat (75%) to over 90 percent in the South East (94%) and East (91%) of the country.

Access to television is highest in the Central Kabul region (65%) followed by the North West (44%) and West (43%). But this falls to under a fifth of households in the East and Central Hazarajat regions (18%).

Mobile telephone penetration is also highest in the Central Kabul region (68%) followed by the East (55%), South East (40%), and South West (34%) whereas fixed line telephone coverage, although extremely rare, is highest in the West (3%), North West (2%), and Central Kabul (2%) regions where significant urban settlements exist. The Central Kabul region also has a significantly higher proportion of households that own a computer (12%) than any other region.

Table 9.1: Regional comparison for ownership of communications technologies (Q-1a-b, Base 6593)

	All	Central/ Kabul	South East	East North	North East	North West	Western	South West	Central/ Hazarjat
Radio	84	86	94	91	88	71	80	87	75
Television set	38	65	23	18	28	44	43	20	18
Fixed phone	2	2	1	1	0	2	3	1	0
Mobile phone	40	68	40	55	20	29	38	34	6
Computer	5	12	4	5	2	2	2	4	3

9.2 Radio listenership

The survey also sought to examine the use of different media. Respondents were first asked about their listenership of radio. The first question asked was: “How many days a week do you listen to the radio, if any?” A little under half of respondents (44%) say they listen to the radio every day or almost every day and one-fifth (22%) say they listen three or four days a week. Around one-sixth (16%) said they never listen to the radio.

How many days a week do you listen to the radio, if any? (Q-2, Base 6593)

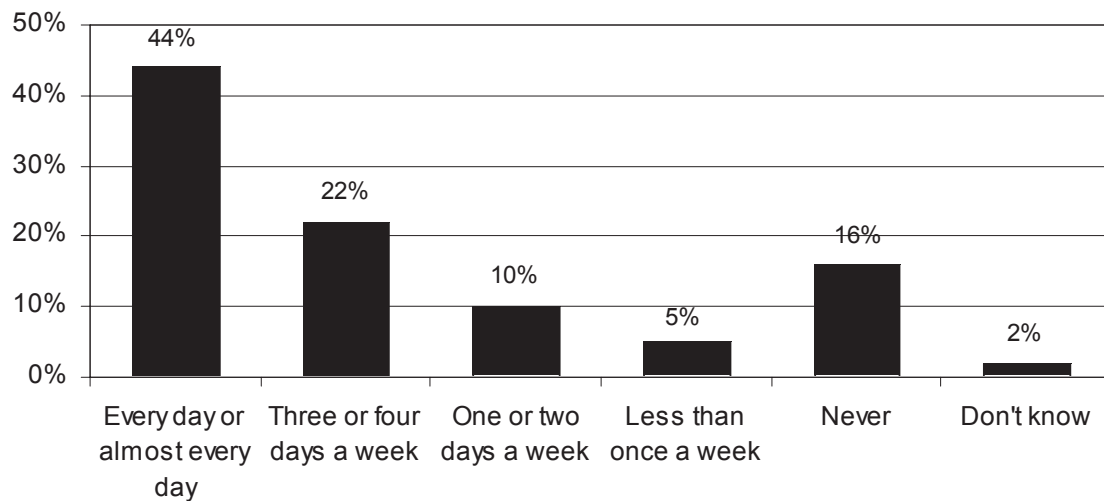


Fig 9.2

Though radio continues to be the most commonly used medium of communication, listenership seems to be gradually declining. In 2006 more than half of respondents (53%) said they listened to the radio every day or almost every day. This figure dropped to 48 percent in 2007 and to 44 percent in 2008. On the other hand, those who say they never listen to the radio has risen from 12 percent in 2006 to 16 percent in 2008. Despite this decline however radio still remains the best medium to reach the widest public in Afghanistan.

How many days a week do you listen to the radio, if any? (Q-2, Base 6593) COMPARISON BETWEEN 2006, 2007 AND 2008

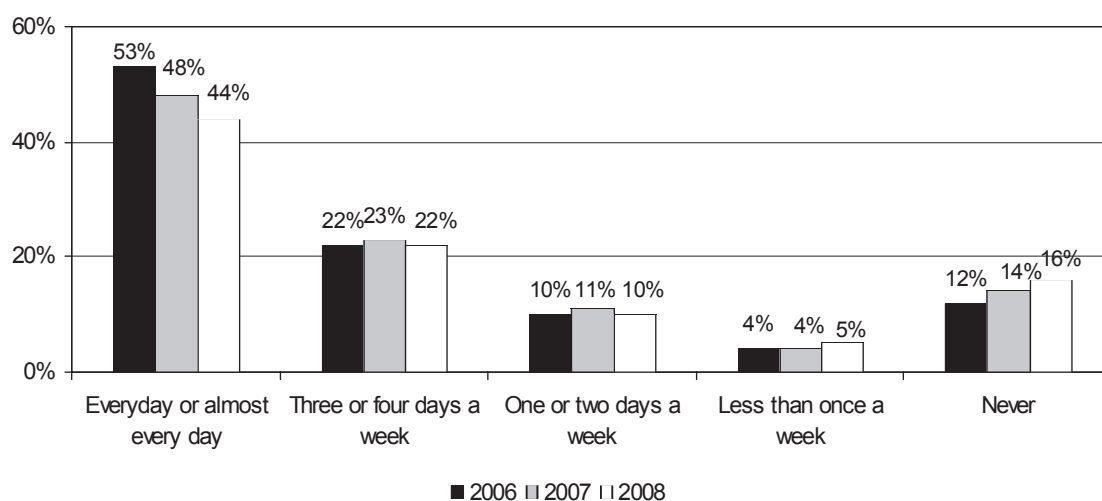


Fig 9.3

Respondents who say they listen to the radio (81% of all respondents) were then asked for how many hours a day they listen. More than a third (38%) say they listen for half an hour to an hour. Twenty percent listen for less than 30 minutes while 24 percent listen for up to two hours while another 16 percent for more than two hours a day.

How many hours do you listen to it on an average day every time when you listen to radio? (Q-3, Base 5377)

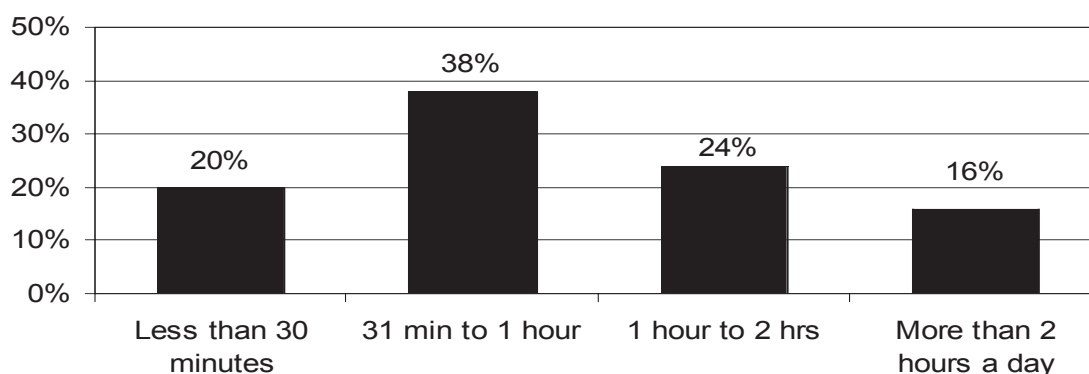


Fig 9.4

9.3 Television viewership

The survey then asked about television viewership. Respondents were asked how many days a week they watch TV, if any. More than half (55%) say they never watch television although this is a much more common response in rural areas (66%) than in urban settings (11%). Around a fifth (21%) say they watch television everyday although again this figure masks enormous differences in responses between urban and rural respondents. More than half of urban dwellers (56%) say that watch TV everyday as compared to just one in ten (11%) rural residents. 21 percent say they watch almost every day and 11 percent say three or four days a week. Television viewership results have not changed significantly since 2006.

How many days a week do you watch TV, if any? (Q-4, Base 6593) ALL AND BY RURAL-URBAN

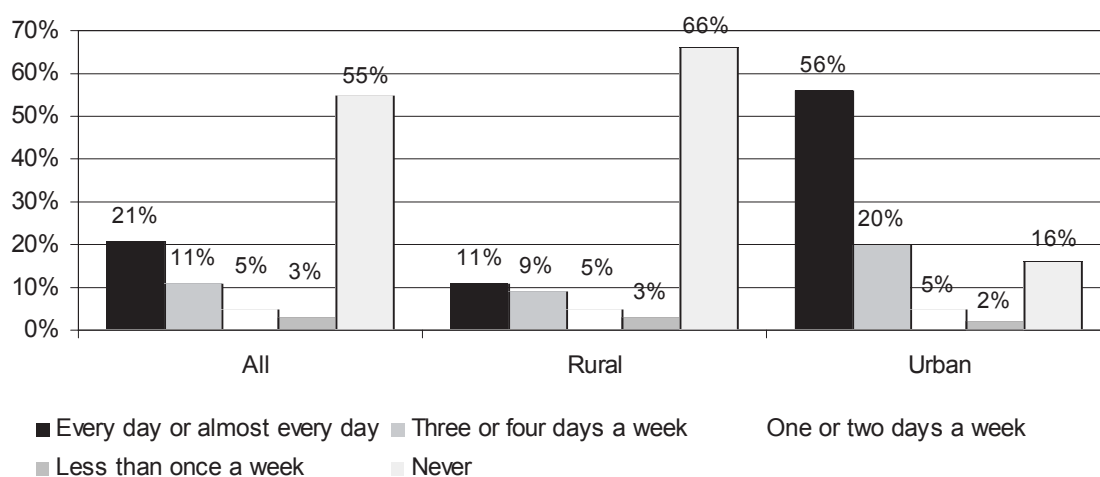


Fig 9.5

Respondents who say they watch television (40% of all respondents) were then asked for how long they generally watch on a daily basis. The survey shows that people tend to watch television for longer periods than they listen to the radio. Around a third of respondents (32%) watch television for between one and two hours as compared to a quarter (24%) who listen to the radio for the same period. A slightly smaller proportion (29%) say they watch for more than two hours a day as compared to 16 percent who say the same about listening to the radio.

How many hours do you watch it on an average day every time when you watch television? (Q-5, Base 2592)

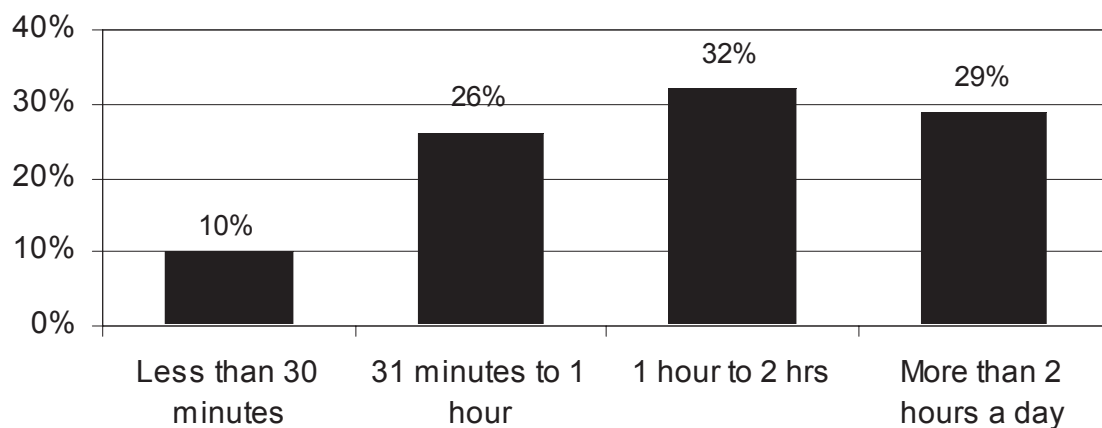


Fig 9.6

9.4 Sources of information on national and local events

The survey also sought to examine public preferences regarding sources of information on national and local events. Respondents were first asked to identify their main source of information about what is happening in the country. More than half (51%) identify the radio as their main information source for national news and a fifth (21%) say TV. A slightly smaller proportion (18%) say they normally get their information from friends, family and neighbors. There have been no substantial changes in these figures since 2006.

Rural-urban settlement pattern has a significant bearing on these preferences. More than half of rural residents (57%) say they normally get information about national events from radio while the same proportion in urban areas (57%) use television to get information about what is happening in the country. Recourse to friends, family, and neighbours as the principal source of information is twice as high in rural areas (21%) as in urban settings (10%).

Which is the main source from where you normally get information about what is happening in the country? (Q-6, Base 6593) ALL AND BY RURAL-URBAN

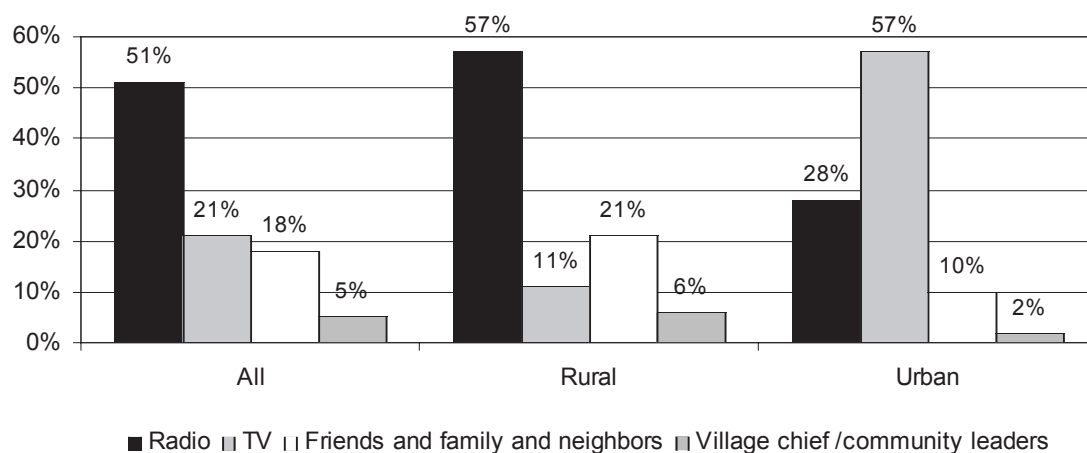


Fig 9.7

Women are nearly twice as likely as men to identify family, friends, and neighbours as their preferred source of information on current events (24% compared to 13% of men). Those who never went to school are also significantly more likely to identify family, friends, and neighbours or community leaders as their preferred source of information than those with any level of formal education.

On the other hand, the survey shows that those who completed tenth grade or above are more likely to prefer television as the source of information on national events (39%) than those with lower levels of formal education (25%) or those who never went to school (14%).

The survey also attempted to ascertain how often people use different forms of print and electronic media such as newspaper, magazines, Internet, and SMS as their major source of news and information about current events. A large majority of respondents (82 %) say they never use newspapers for this purpose. Only around a fifth (19%) say they sometimes read a newspaper for information. Unsurprisingly, newspaper readership rises proportionately with educational level. More than half of respondents who have studied to grade 10 or beyond say that they sometimes read a newspaper for information on current events (58%). This is true for only 20% of those who have studied up to grade 6 and just 1 percent of those who never went to school. Men are twice as likely to use newspapers to get information (23%) as women (11%) who have significantly lower levels of literacy. (Nearly two thirds (63%) of women respondents to the survey report that they cannot read as compared to just over one third (35%) of men). More urban residents (31%) than rural residents (13%) say they sometimes read newspapers for informa-

tion on current events. Use of newspapers as a preferred source of information is negligible as they are cited by just one percent of all respondents but rise to three percent amongst those who have at least finished secondary school.

A slightly smaller proportion of respondents sometimes use magazines to get information on current events (15%) than those who use newspapers (19%). Again, magazine readership is more common amongst urban (28%) than rural (13%) residents, amongst men (21%) than women (12%), and amongst those who have completed secondary school (52%) than those with lower levels of formal education (21% to 34%) or who never went to school (1%).

Internet use to access news and information about current events is negligible. Just two percent of all respondents report using the internet for this purpose overwhelmingly amongst those who have studied to tenth grade or above (8%).

SMS text messaging is a more common source of information in keeping with the higher penetration of mobile telephone ownership (40%) as compared to computer ownership (5%) in Afghan households. Text messaging is also more common in urban areas (19%) than in rural villages (8%). However there is less diversity of use between different levels of education than with other media. Twenty-six percent of those who have finished high school say they sometimes use SMS to get information on current affairs as compared to 22 percent who have studied to ninth grade and 14 percent who have studied to sixth grade. Usage amongst those who never went to school and are likely to lack basic literacy is still only one percent.

How often you use the following media to get news and information about current events? USE SOMETIMES (Q-8a-d, Base 6593)

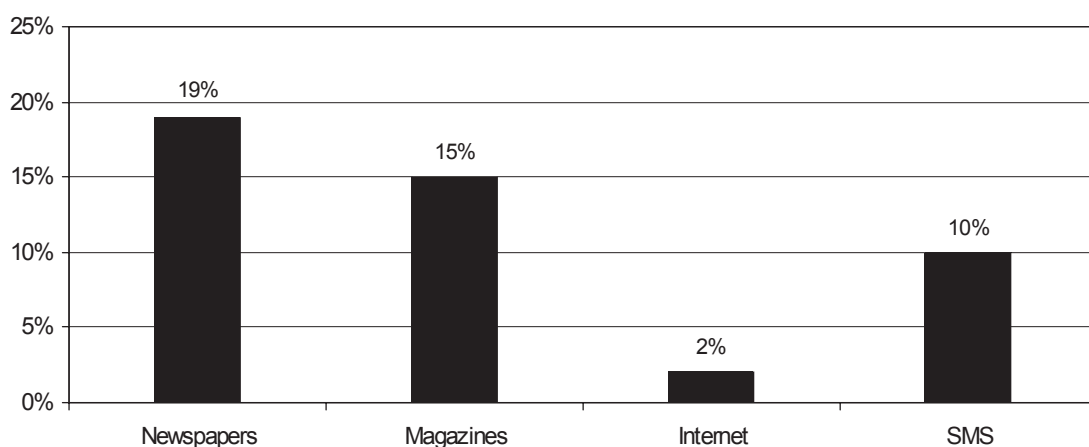


Fig 9.8

Finally, in order to examine in greater depth who in their communities respondents rely on for information the survey asked: “If you wanted to find out about something important happening in your community who, outside your family, would you want to tell you?” The findings show that generally respondents prefer to get such information from personal acquaintances rather than leadership figures within their community. Around a quarter of respondents (26%) say friends and another quarter (25%) mention neighbors or villagers. Around one in seven (14%) say they would like to get this information from village chiefs or community leaders and one in ten (10%) from mullahs. Only a small proportion of respondents say they would rely on the media, principally radio, for this kind of local information (9% say international radio stations and 5% say local Afghan stations). These figures have not changed substantially since 2006.

If you wanted to find out about something important happening in your community, who, outside your family, would you want to tell you? (Q-7, Base 6593)

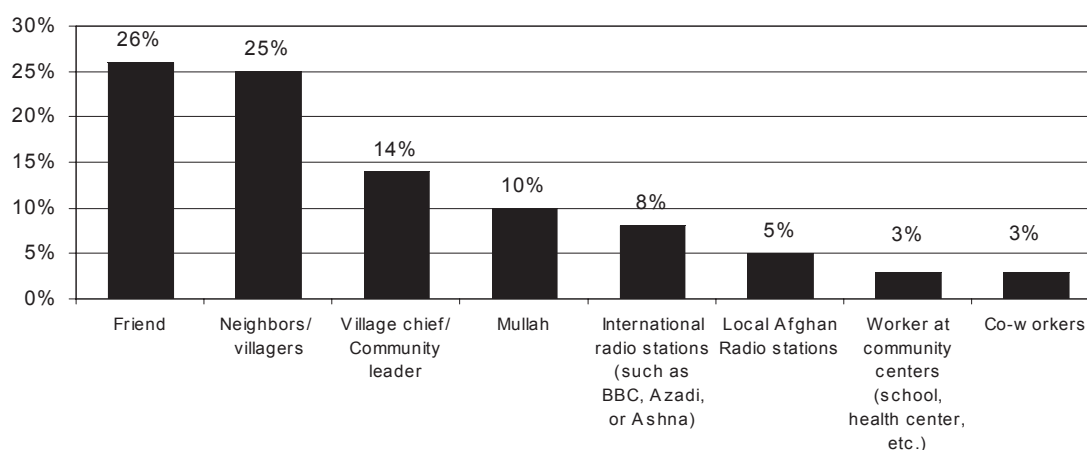


Fig 9.9

Respondents were also asked how often they use meetings in the community and meetings or sermons at mosques for getting news and information about current events. Just under half of respondents (48%) say they sometimes use meetings in their communities for this purpose. A slightly higher proportion say that they sometimes get this kind of information from meetings or sermons at mosques (55%). However, in both cases men are much more likely to get information in this way than women. Two-thirds of men (66%) say they sometimes get information from meetings in communities as compared to less than a third of women (29%). An even greater disparity exists with respect to meetings and sermons in Mosques for more than four-fifths of men (85%) say they sometimes get news and information about current events in this way but this is true for less than a quarter of women (23%).

How often you use meetings in your community / meetings in Mosque to get news and information about current events? (Q-8e-f, Base 6593) ALL AND BY GENDER

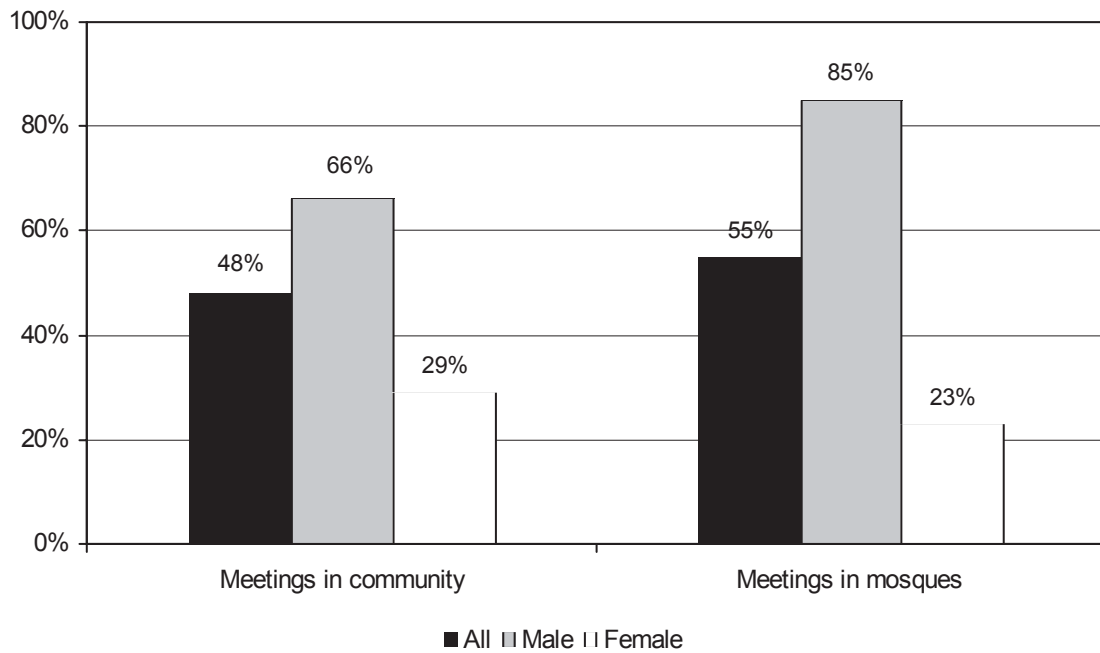


Fig 9.10

These findings demonstrate the continuing challenges for communicating important information to women in Afghanistan using formal media or community fora.

10 Appendix 1: Target Demographics

A total of 6593 respondents were surveyed in the study, out of which 5176 (79%) were from the rural areas and 1417 (21%) were from the urban areas. Almost equal percentages of male (51%) and females (49%) were interviewed. The following tables provide demographic and socio-economic details of the respondents with gender classification. They also provide the educational status, religion, and ethnicity of the respondents.

Characteristics	All	Rural	Urban
	6593	5175	1417
Gender	%	%	%
Male	51	51	50
Female	49	49	50
Region	%	%	%
Central/Kabul	23	14	54
Eastern	11	13	2
South Central	10	11	4
South Western	15	16	10
North West	14	15	13
Western	14	15	9
South Western	11	12	8
Central/Hazarjat	4	4	0

Employment Status and Age Group

Characteristics	All	Rural	Urban
	6593	5175	1417
Employment	%	%	%
Working	39	40	36
Retired	1	1	2
Housewife	41	42	40
Student	8	7	9
Unemployed	10	9	13
Age Group	%	%	%
18 - 24	26	26	25
25 - 34	28	28	29
35 - 44	22	22	23
45 - 54	15	15	14
55 - 64	6	6	7
65 +	2	2	3

Main Occupation

Main Occupation	All	Rural	Urban
Number	2682	2141	540
Farmer (own land / tenant farmer)	30	35	9
Farm labourer (other's land)	12	15	3
Labourer, domestic, or unskilled worker	8	6	13
Informal sales/ business	13	11	19
Skilled worker/artisan	12	12	12
Government Office - Clerical worker	3	2	6
Private Office - Clerical worker	1	1	2
Government Office - Executive/ Manager	1	1	3
Private Office - Executive/ Manager	1	0	2
Self employed Professional	7	5	13
Small business owner	4	4	4
School Teacher	7	6	11
University Teacher	0	0	0
Military/ Police	2	2	3
Other	0	0	0

Base: Currently working and retired respondents

Farming Land

Farming Land	All	Rural	Urban
Number	793	747	46
Less than 1 Jerib	11	11	14
1 - 2 Jerib	25	25	16
2.1- 3 Jerib	27	28	24
More than 3 Jerib	37	36	46

* Base: Farmers who own land or tenant farmers

* Jerib: One Jerib is equal to one fifth of a hectare

Average Household Income

Average Household Income	All	Rural	Urban
Number	6593	5175	1417
Less than 2,000 Afs	12	13	8
2,001 - 3,000 Afs	24	24	23
3,001 - 5,000 Afs	24	24	26
5,001 - 10,000 Afs	23	33	25
10,001 - 15,000 Afs	8	8	8
15,001 - 20,000 Afs	4	4	5
20,001 - 25,000 Afs	1	1	1
25,001 - 40,000 Afs	1	0	1
More than 40,000 Afs	0	0	1

Marital Status

Marital Status	All	Rural	Urban
Number	6593	5175	1417
Single	20	20	22
Married	77	77	75
Widower/ Widow	3	3	3

Academic Qualification

Academic Qualification	All	Rural	Urban
Number	6593	5175	1417
Never went to school	55	59	339
Primary School, incomplete	13	13	13
Primary School, complete	6	6	7
Secondary education, incomplete	6	6	8
Secondary education, complete	5	4	6
High School	12	10	21
University education or above	2	1	6

11. Appendix 2: Methodology

1. Distribution of Sampling Points by Region and Urban/Rural Strata

The survey was conducted among 6593 respondents in a single wave. Fieldwork for the survey was conducted by the Afghan Center for Socio-economic and Opinion Research (ACSOR-Surveys), Kabul, between June 12 and July 2, 2008 by a team of 543 trained interviewers (267 women and 276 men). The survey consisted of a random, representative sample of 6593 in-person interviews with Afghan citizens 18 years of age and above who were residents in Afghanistan. The survey sample was divided first according to urban and rural characteristics of Afghanistan. The Sheharwali (municipal administration in Afghanistan) defines the urban population as those living within municipal limits. By default, the rural population comprises of those who are living outside the municipal limits. The margin of sampling error is 2.4 percent at 95 percent confidence interval.

The universe is divided into eight geographical regions consisting of 34 provinces. All of the provinces were covered in the survey. The eight regions and the provinces under them are:

Central-Kabul (Kabul, Kapisa, Parwan, Panjshir); **Eastern** (Nangarhar, Kunar, Laghman, Nuristan); **South Eastern** (Ghazni, Paktia, Paktika, Khost); **South Western** (Helmand, Kandahar, Zabul, Urozgan); **Western** (Badghis, Herat, Farah, Nimroz); **North East** (Balkh, Samangan, Jawzjan, Sar-i-Pul, Faryab); **Central-Hazarajat** (Wardak, Logar, Ghor, Bamyán, Day Kundi); **North West** (Badakhshan, Takhar, Baghlan, Kunduz).

A multi-stage random sampling procedure was followed in selecting the sample. The sample was distributed proportional to geographical and residential (urban-rural settlement) characteristics of population per province.

Due to the local cultural traditions, the universe at the outset was divided into male and female sub-samples. Each region, province and further strata was allocated an equal number of male and female respondents per sampling points.

The interviews among the male and female respondents were conducted by surveyors of the same sex i.e. only women enumerators interviewed woman respondents.

2. Selection of Districts/Replacement of Sampling Points

Within each province, the districts were selected by the PPS systematic random sampling procedure. The districts were first listed in the descending order of population and then the required number of districts was selected from this list of districts in each province based on population size intervals.

The instability and security problems in some provinces at the time of the fieldwork caused a few sampling points to be adjusted or replaced to keep interviewers out of areas with active violence. The places where there were changes in sampling points are as follows:

- Day Kundi (Watak settlement was replaced with Chenar due to security reasons)
- Bamyan (Khalaf Shir settlement was replaced with Dehan Kank due to inability to locate the village)
- Urozgan (Female respondents in Shaheed-i-Hasas, Khas Urozgan and Chorah districts were replaced with male respondents due to security reasons)
- Faryab (Qanjag settlement was replaced with Sar Asiab due to inability to find transportation to the remote location; Haji Yahqub settlement was replaced with Kocha Wolaswali, Chatar Gha was replaced with Jar Qalha and Haji Qeshlaq was replaced with Khwaja Qanori due to inability to locate the villages)
- Balkh (Arab Mazari Bay settlement was replaced with Asiab Sharaf and Mashak Baba Charki was replaced with Boria Baft due to inability to locate the villages)
- Kunduz (Warta Gan Tipa settlement was replaced with Char Sangi due to low number of inhabited dwellings; Deh kalan settlement was replaced with Dara Sofi due to inability to locate the village)
- Baghlan (Bagh Qazi settlement was replaced with Bagh Mula Shah due to inability to locate the village)
- Badakhshan (Darwaz-Paying district was replaced with Eshkashim due to inability to find transportation to the remote location; Do Ghalat Safla settlement was replaced with Jata to security reasons)
- Farah (Lir Yaki settlement was replaced with Siaho due to security reasons)
- Herat (Koh Shast settlement was replaced with Qalha Shab due to low number of inhabited dwellings; Qenat Khalil settlement was replaced with Jaghaza due to security reasons; Dehan Kamar Kalah settlement was replaced with Deh Shaikh and Gashin Cha was replaced with Nishan due inability to locate the villages)

- Nimroz (Ferozi settlement was replaced with Sala Narenj and Ghajar was replaced with Mula Jan Mohammad due to security reasons)
- Badghis (Murghab district was replaced with Ab-Kamari and Ghormach was replaced with muqur due to security reasons)
- Zabol (Matarzai Sar Tizi settlement was replaced with Ashozai due to inability to locate the village)
- Helmand (Female respondents in Mohammad Khan Kalai in Nahr-i-Saraj were replaced with male respondents and Reig-i-Khan Sheen district was replaced with Garm Seir due to security reasons)
- Khost (Sabari district was replaced with Lakan and Arian Kott settlement was replaced with Nawi Kott due to security reasons)
- Paktia (Zurmat and Waza Zadram districts were replaced with Ahmad Aba and respectively Laja Ahmad Khil due to security reasons)
- Ghazni (Rashidan district was substituted by Jaghato due to security reasons; Shado settlement was replaced with Sardar Qalha due to security reasons)
- Logar (Gul Hamed and Sar Lar settlements were replaced with Kodgai and respectively Sar Sang due to inability to locate the villages)
- Laghman (Gardi Kas settlement was replaced with Kanda Baghban due to security reasons)
- Kunar (Ata Lalchak settlement was replaced with Andar Lajak and tabila Now was replaced with Sawoona due to inability to locate the villages)
- Nangarhar (Hajian settlement was replaced with Dago, Khaki Ya Naqelen settlement and Kama Daka were replaced with Basol, Tarili settlement was replaced with Matra Kalai and Shaikhan settlement was replaced with Tarnab due to inability to find transportation to the remote locations; Markaz Wolaswali settlement was replaced with Nawi Uba due to security reasons; Jalozi settlement was replaced with Haysha khil due to low number of inhabited dwellings; Baro kala was replaced with Zakhil, Khair Abad was replaced with Khan, Koz Kashkot was replaced with Shalwari Kalai, Mari Kala was replaced with Pas Sabar, Nadaba yan was replaced with Landi Sabar, Babala Matak was replaced with Borialai due to inability to locate the villages)
- Parwan (Dandor settlement was replaced with Burj Guljan due to low number of inhabited dwellings; Ranga was replaced with Korkan and Doaab was replaced with Rang Aab due to inability to locate the villages)

The sampling design followed to select the settlements (and starting points), households and finally the respondent is presented in the following sections.

3. Selection of Settlements and Starting Points

The settlements within districts were selected randomly by the field director based on the lists of the existing settlements within each district.

Each sampling point was assigned a starting point and given direction. The starting points were recognizable locations-such as mosques, schools, bazaars etc., within each of the selected settlements for the survey. The locations were verified by supervisors during the back-checking procedures.

4. Household Selection

In urban areas, from the given starting point, the interviewer headed in the assigned direction and stopped at the first street/lane on the right-hand side of his/her route. From there on, the first contacted household was the fourth house on the right from the beginning of the street. Further on the selected household was each third inhabitable house on the right side of the interviewer route. In blocks of flats, the selection routine was each fifth apartment.

In rural areas, the interviewer started from the center of the village or the bazaar, mosque, etc., and went to the right selecting each third inhabited house on his/her route. Compounds containing two or more houses behind a common wall were treated like detached houses counting them counter-clock-wise from the gate to the compound.

5. Respondent Selection and Substitution

In the selected household, the information about all the household members was first collected. From the list, all the members aged 18 years and above were arranged in descending order of age. One respondent was randomly selected using the KISH grid. In case the selected respondent refused to be interviewed or was not available after call backs, no replacement in the household was done. Instead the interviewer moved on to the next household according to the random walk procedures.

6. Call-backs (rate, method, and results)

Typically interviewers were required to make two call-backs before replacing the designated respondent. Due to security-related fears in previous projects the field force has had difficulty meeting the requirement of two call-backs prior to substitution. In this survey, while the field force was able to complete some call-backs, the majority of the interviews were completed on the first attempt (96.8 percent), 3 per-

cent of the interviews were completed on the second attempt, and 10 interviews were completed on the third attempt. Due to the high rate of unemployment and correct choice of the appropriate time of day for interviewing, completion on the first attempt is the norm in Afghanistan.

7. Training of Interviewers

While the fieldwork supervisors were given a briefing/training in Kabul, the training for interviewers was conducted by fieldwork supervisors in their respective provinces. The briefing on the main questions was conducted by ACSOR project managers and field managers with Asia Foundation oversight. The following issues were emphasized during briefing(s):

- Proper household and respondent selection.
- Review of the questionnaire content.
- Appropriate interviewing techniques.
- Conducting mock-call interviews to get a better understanding of the logic and concept of the questions.

8. Refusals/Non-Contacts/Completed Interviews

Result Category	Number	% of Category
Non-Contact		
No one at home after three visits	223	
Respondent long -term absence (for the field work period)	356	
No adults (18+)after three visits	307	
Sub-Total	886	11.2 %
Refusals		
Not feeling informed to answer the questions	204	
Prefers head of the house to be interviewed	126	
In a hurry/ No time	149	
Respondent got angry because of a question and aborted interview		
Sub-Total	479	6 %
Completed Interviews	6593	82.8 %
Total Contact Attempts	7958	100%

9. Quality Control Methods

After the delivery of the questionnaires from the field, most of the completed questionnaires were subject to logical control for the proper administration.

Actual interviewing was monitored directly by a supervisor in 4.4 percent of the sample. Another 15.1 percent of the completed interviews were back-checked by a supervisor in person. 1.2 percent of the completed interviews were back-checked from the central office. The issues verified during in-person back-checks were proper household and respondent selection as well as correct recording of answers to five randomly selected questions from the main body of the questionnaire. During direct monitoring of interviews, 5 sampling points were found of poor quality and were re-done by other interviewer. Another interviewer was given additional training and did the interviews in his sampling point once again.

As an additional quality control measure this year, The Asia Foundation also conducted some back-checks to verify the authenticity of the interviews conducted. The Asia Foundation staff conducted back checks in the provinces of Bamiyan, Balkh, Badakhshan, Kabul, Panjshir and Kapisa. A total of 110 respondents were randomly picked up from those interviewed and back-checks were conducted. The back-checks verified the household and respondent selection procedure along with the correct recording of responses. The back-check exercise was also an effort to get a sense of the field situation and understand the difficulties that interviewers face at work.

10. Weighting

The data set includes a weight to adjust for the over-sampling that was conducted in several provinces. A minimum of 100 interviews was targeted for each province, when many would not have received that number. As a result, over-samples were implemented for many provinces. The data was weighted to adjust these over-samples to be representative of the national distribution of the population according to the population statistics available from the Afghan Central Statistics office. Below is the entire list of provinces sampled and the weights they were assigned.

Province	Weighting Factor	
	Rural	Urban
Kabul	1.03106677	1.04576853
Kapisa	1.06743787	-
Parwan	1.06240960	1.07755827
Wardak	1.04578598	-
Logar	92425214	-
Ghazni	1.03561689	1.05038352
Paktya	1.00224690	1.01653772
Paktika	1.06743787	-
Khost	1.11512671	1.13102706
Nangarhar	1.04182837	1.05668357
Laghman	1.02826583	-
Kunar	1.01891796	-
Nuristan	35961810	-
Badakhshan	1.03587348	1.05064377
Takhar	1.01461235	1.02907949
Baghlan	1.07043938	1.08570255
Kunduz	1.04049173	1.05532788
Balkh	1.05747965	1.07255802
Samangan	.89846299	.91127397
Jawzjan	1.01153397	91127397
Sari-Pul	1.02449556	1.03910362
Faryab	1.04203431	1.05689245
Badghis	1.05266364	-
Herat	1.04995017	1.06492119
Farah	1.08792921	1.10344175
Nimroz	.35915259	.36427366
Helmand	1.04820682	1.06315297
Kandahar	1.07002586	1.08528312
Zabul	.72536030	.73570306
Uruzgan	.77917256	-
Ghor	1.07885431	-
Bamyan	1.01825805	1.03277717
Panjsher	.35961810	-
Day kundi	1.07885431	-

12. Appendix 3: Interview Questionnaire

Region

Central/Kabul	23%
South East	11%
Eastern	10%
North East	15%
North West	14%
Western	14%
South Western	11%
Central/Hazarjat	4%

Geographic Code

Villages	78%
Towns	4%
City	6%
Metro (Kabul)	11%

Province

Kabul	14%	Balkh	5%
Kapisa	2%	Samangan	2%
Parwan	3%	Jawzjan	2%
Wardak	2%	Sari-Pul	2%
Logar	2%	Faryab	4%
Ghazni	5%	Badghis	2%
Paktya	2%	Herat	7%
Paktika	2%	Farah	2%
Khost	2%	Nimroz	1%
Nangarhar	6%	Helmand	4%
Laghman	2%	Kandahar	5%
Kunar	2%	Zabul	1%
Nooristan	1%	Uruzghan	1%
Badakhshan	4%	Ghor	3%
Takhar	4%	Bamyan	2%
Baghlan	4%	Panjshir	1%
Kunduz	4%	Dehkondi	2%

NOTE TO INTERVIEWERS:

REMEMBER THAT THIS IS A CONVERSATION. MAKE THE RESPONDENT COMFORTABLE. MAKE EYE CONTACT.

DO NOT TRY TO LEAD THE RESPONDENT DURING THE INTERVIEW OR GET THE “DESIRED” ANSWERS FROM THEM. MAKE SURE YOU TELL THEM THAT THERE ARE NO RIGHT OR WRONG ANSWERS, YOU JUST WANT THEIR OPINIONS.

DURING THE INTERVIEW, BE POLITE BUT INQUISITIVE. DO NOT ACCEPT ONE-WORD ANSWERS. DRAW OUT RESPONDENTS TO GIVE DETAILED RESPONSES BY FURTHER PROBING - SAY: “WHY DO YOU SAY THAT?” “ANYTHING ELSE?” “TELL ME MORE.”

Asalaam Valeikum, I am from ACSOR-Surveys, an independent research organization. We regularly conduct surveys among people like you to find out what you feel about issues of public interest. ACSOR-Surveys has no relation to the government. I just want to ask you some questions about “matters of interest to Afghans”. I am interested in your opinion. Your answers will be kept confidential and your name will not be given to anyone and your views will be analyzed along with those of thousands of others.

Q-1 Do you own any of the following here in your household in functioning order?

	Yes	No	Refused	Don't Know
a) Radio	84%	16%	0	0
b) TV set	38%	62%	0	0
c) Fixed phone line	2%	98%	0	0
d) Mobile phone	40%	60%	0	0
e) Bicycle	51%	49%	0	0
f) Motorcycle	25%	75%	0	0
g) Computer	5%	94%	0	1%
h) Car	14%	85%	0	0

Q-2. I'll ask you some questions about your listener-ship of the radio. How many days a week do you listen to the radio, if any?

Every day or almost every day	44%
Three or four days a week	22%
One or two days a week	10%
Less than once a week	5%
Never	16%
Refused	0
Don't know	2%

- Q-3. (Filtered. Ask all those who listen to radio, answers '1' to '4' in Q-2)** You said that you listen to the radio _____ **(mention response in Q-2)**. How many hours do you listen to it on an average day every time when you listen to the radio?

Less than 30 minutes	20%
31 min to 1 hour	38%
1 hour to 2 hrs	24%
More than 2 hours a day	16%
Refused	0
Don't Know	1%

- Q-4. (ASK ALL)** Now I'll ask you some questions about your viewership of the television. How many days a week do you watch TV, if any?

Every day or almost every day	21%
Three or four days a week	11%
One or two days a week	5%
Less than once a week	3%
Never	55%
Refused	1%
Don't know	5%

- Q-5. (Filtered. Ask those who watch TV, answers '1' to '4' in Q-4)** You said that you watch television _____ **(mention response in Q-4)**. How many hours do you watch it on an average day every time when you watch television?

Less than 30 minutes	10%
31 minutes to 1 hour	26%
1 hour to 2 hrs	32%
More than 2 hours a day	29%
Refused	0
Don't Know	3%

- Q-6. (ASK ALL)** Which is the main source from where you normally get information about what is happening in the country? **[Do Not Read Out Answers]**

TV	21%
Radio	51%
Newspapers	1%
Village chief /community leaders	5%
School teacher	1%
Religious leader	2%
Friends and family and neighbors	18%
Other	0
Refused	0
Don't know	0

- Q-7.** If you wanted to find out about something important happening in your community, who, outside your family, would you want to tell you? **[Do Not Read Out Answers]**

Mullah	10%
Village chief/ Community leader	14%
Worker at community centers (school, health center, etc.)	3%
Friend	26%
Co-workers	3%
Shopkeepers	3%
Neighbors/ villagers	25%
Local Afghan Radio stations	5%
International radio stations (such as BBC, Azadi, or Ashna)	8%
Other	0
Refused	0
Don't know	2%

- Q-8.** People get information about news and current events from many different sources. For each one of the sources I mention, please tell me how often you use that source to get news and information about current events: daily /most days a week, 3 or 4 days a week, 1 or 2 days a week, less than once per week, or never?

SHOW CARD. rotate START- ING POINT.	Every day or almost every day	Three or four days a week	One or two days a week	Less than once per week	Never	Refused	Don't Know
a) Newspapers	2%	3%	5%	9%	82%	0	1%
b) Magazines	1%	2%	4%	8%	83%	0	1%
c) The Internet	0	0	0	2%	96%	0	2%
d) SMS (text messaging on a mobile phone)	1%	2%	3%	4%	88%	0	2%
e) Meetings in your community	3%	10%	16%	19%	51%	0	1%
f) Meetings or sermons at your mosque	15%	15%	13%	12%	44%	0	1%

Q-9. Generally speaking, do you think things in Afghanistan today are going in the right direction, or do you think they are going in the wrong direction?

Right direction	38%
Wrong direction	32%
Some in right, some in wrong direction	23%
Refused	1%
Don't know	6%

Q-10a. (Filtered. If '1' in Q-9): Why do you say that things are moving in the right direction? **(Do NOT read codes. Write down answer)**

Q-10b. (Filtered. If '1' in Q-9): Why else? **(Do NOT read codes. Write down answer)**

	Q-10a.	Q-10a&b.
	1 st mentioned	1 st & 2 nd mentioned
Peace / end of the war	12%	21%
Disarmament	2%	5%
Good security	26%	39%
Reconstruction / rebuilding	18%	32%
Free movement / travel possible	1%	2%
Economic revival	2%	5%
Freedom / free speech	3%	9%
Democracy / elections	4%	7%
Schools for girls have opened	9%	19%
Women can now work	1%	1%
Women have more freedom	0	1%
Refugees return	1%	1%
Good government	4%	9%
International assistance	3%	6%
Reduction in level of administrative corruption	1%	2%
Reduction in poppy cultivation	1%	3%
Having active ANA and ANP	3%	7%
Removing the terrorism	2%	4%
Having a legal constitution	1%	2%
More resection to human rights	1%	3%
Road reconstruction	2%	4%
Clinics have been built	1%	3%
Development in agriculture system	0	0
More job opportunities available	2%	4%
Development in healthcare system in general	0	0
Having Parliament	0	0
More electricity supply now than before	0	1%
Don't know (volunteered only)	1%	9%

Q-11a. (Filtered. If “Wrong direction” in Q-9): Why do you say that things are moving in the wrong direction? **(Do NOT read codes. Write down answer)**

Q-11b. (Filtered. If “Wrong direction” in Q-9): Why else? **(Do NOT read codes. Write down answer)**

	Q-11a.	Q-11a&b.
	1 st mentioned	1 st & 2 nd mentioned
No reconstruction has happened	4%	7%
There is no progress	1%	1%
Lack of aid / no development assistance	1%	2%
Bad economy	7%	17%
Poor education system	2%	4%
Too many foreigners are getting involved	3%	5%
Foreign aid causes problems	0	1%
Western influence is too great	1%	1%
There is danger to Islam	1%	2%
Neighboring countries cause problems	1%	3%
Bad government	6%	12%
Corruption	10%	19%
Poor leadership	1%	2%
There is unemployment	6%	15%
Presence of Taliban	3%	8%
Lack of coordination between ISAF/ Coalition forces and ANP/ANA during fights with AGE	1%	2%
Administrative corruption	5%	9%
Insecurity	33%	50%
Disarmament didn't take place	1%	2%
Presence of Warlords	2%	3%
People disenchanted with the government	2%	5%
Increase in level of drug trade	1%	3%
High price	4%	10%
Innocent people being killed	3%	5%
Kidnapping children	0	1%
Ethnic problems	0	1%
Lack of shelter	0	0
Water and power problems	0	1%
Too much luxury	1%	1%
Refused (volunteered only)	0	0
Don't know (volunteered only)	0	8%

Q-12a. (ASK ALL) In your view, what is the biggest problem facing Afghanistan as a whole? **(Do NOT read codes. Write down answer)**

Q-12b. And after that, what is the next biggest problem? **(Do NOT read codes. Write down answer)**

	Q-12a.	Q-12a&b.
	First problem	First & Next problem
Insecurity / attacks / violence/ terrorism	24%	36%
Presence of warlords	2%	3%
Presence of Taliban	8%	13%
Poor Economy	8%	17%
Poverty	4%	8%
Unemployment	13%	31%
Reconstruction / rebuilding	1%	2%
Education / schools / literacy	4%	9%
Government / weak government / central authority	1%	3%
Corruption	7%	14%
Scarcity of electricity	4%	7%
Roads	1%	2%
Health care / clinics / hospitals	1%	2%
Drinking water	1%	2%
Water for irrigation	1%	2%
High prices	10%	22%
Lack of (proper) shelter	0	1%
Drugs smuggling	2%	5%
Crime	1%	2%
Interference of foreign countries	3%	7%
Lack of production companies	1%	1%
Tribe/ Partisanship	0	1%
Agricultural problems	0	1%
Transportation problems	0	0
Lack foreign assistances	0	0
Lack efficient ANA and ANP	0	1%
Returnees problems	0	0
Disrespect to our culture	0	0
Kidnapping children	0	1%
Innocent people being killed	1%	2%
Irresponsible armed people	0	1%
No attention to women rights	0	0
Don't know (volunteered only)	1%	3%

Q-13a. What is the biggest problem in your local area? **(Do NOT Read codes. Write down answer)**

Q-13b. And what is the next biggest problem in your local area? **(Do NOT Read codes. Write down answer and then code in the second column below)**

	Q-13a.	Q-13a&b.
	First problem in the area	First & Next problem in the area
Insecurity / attacks / violence	9%	14%
Presence of warlords	1%	2%
Taliban	1%	2%
Poor Economy	4%	8%
Poverty	3%	6%
Unemployment	16%	28%
Reconstruction / rebuilding	2%	5%
Education / schools / literacy	6%	6%
Government / weak government / central authority	0	2%
Corruption	1%	3%
Electricity	15%	30%
Roads	9%	18%
Health care / clinics / hospitals	6%	15%
Water	12%	22%
High prices	6%	13%
Lack of (proper) shelter	1%	1%
Drugs smuggling	1%	1%
Crime	1%	1%
Transportation problems	1%	2%
Lack of agricultural tools /equipment	1%	1%
No problems	0	0
Presence of foreigners	0	0
Natural disasters	0	0
Lack of foreign assistance	0	0
Kidnapping children	0	0
Innocent people being killed	0	1%
Ethnic problems	0	1%
Water for irrigation	2%	3%
Returnees' problems	0	0
Women rights	1%	1%
Don't know	0	6%

- Q-14.** Which one of following issues is more critical or important to your needs at present? Please, rank in order of priority, whereby the most important rank as '1', the next important rank as '2' and so on, up to the least important as '5'.
(Show Card and read responses)

	RANK
Average importance of Roads	2.9
Average importance of Power	2.7
Average importance of Water	2.8
Average importance of Health care	3.2
Average importance of Education	3.4
Don't know	0

- Q-15.** Turning to another subject, tell me, do you strongly agree, agree somewhat, disagree somewhat or strongly disagree with the following statements?

	SA	AS	DS	SD	Ref. (vol.)	DK (vol.)
a) I don't think that the government cares much about what people like me think	30%	46%	15%	5%	0	4%
b) It is generally not acceptable to talk negatively about the Government in public	23%	39%	25%	9%	0	4%

- Q-16.** I would like to ask you about today's conditions in the village/neighborhood where you live. Would you rate (*insert item here*) as very good, quite good, quite bad, or very bad in your area?

Check Starting Item, Rotate Starting Item Between A to G only	VG	QG	QB	VB	DK (vol.)
a) The availability of clean drinking water	20%	42%	26%	12%	0
b) The availability of water for irrigation	11%	36%	32%	17%	4%
c) The availability of jobs	4%	17%	42%	36%	1%
d) The supply of electricity	6%	19%	30%	44%	1%
e) The security situation	21%	41%	22%	15%	1%
f) The availability of clinics and hospitals	12%	39%	35%	14%	0
g) The availability of medicine	11%	38%	36%	14%	0
h) The availability of education for children	26%	44%	20%	9%	0
i) Your freedom of movement—the ability to move safely in your area or district	26%	41%	22%	10%	0

- Q-17.** What is your expectation for *(insert item here)* in your area a year from now? Do you expect it to be much better, somewhat better, somewhat worse, or much worse? **[INTERVIEWER: Start with same item used to start in Q-16]**

	MB	SwB	SwW	MW	Ref. (vol.)	DK (vol.)
a) The availability of clean drinking water	46%	37%	11%	4%	0	3%
b) The availability of water for irrigation	36%	38%	14%	6%	1%	5%
c) The availability of jobs	35%	27%	20%	13%	0	5%
d) The supply of electricity	36%	26%	16%	17%	0	5%
e.) The security situation	45%	30%	12%	9%	0	5%
f) The availability of clinics and hospitals	41%	35%	14%	6%	0	3%
g) The availability of medicine	40%	36%	15%	5%	0	3%
h.) The availability of education for children	49%	33%	11%	5%	0	3%
i) Your freedom of movement—the ability to move safely in your area or district	44%	34%	12%	6%	0	5%

- Q-18.** How often do you fear for your own personal safety or security or for that of your family these days? Often, sometimes, rarely, or never?

Often	15%
Sometimes	33%
Rarely	15%
Never	36%
Don't know	1%

- Q-19.** Have you or has anyone in your family been a victim of violence or of some criminal act in your home or community in the past year?

Yes	16%
No	82%
Don't know	2%

Q-20. (Filtered. Ask if answered ‘1’ in Q-19) What kind of violence or crime did you or someone in your family experience in the past year? **READ LIST (Multiple Response)**

Physical attack or beating	30%
Racketeering / extortion	15%
Burglary/looting	15%
Pick-pocketing	7%
Motor vehicle theft / Property taken from your vehicle or parts of the vehicle stolen	7%
Kidnapping	8%
Livestock stolen	13%
Militants/Insurgent actions	8%
Police actions	3%
Army actions	1%
Foreign forces actions	6%
Murder	2%
Suicide attack	1%
Refused	0
Don't Know	2%

Q-21. (Filtered. Ask if answered ‘1’ in Q-19) You said that you’ve been a victim of violence or some criminal act in the past year. Did you report it to any authority?

Yes	62%
No	29%
Refused	0
Don't know	8%

Q-22. (Filtered. Ask if answered “Yes” in Q-21) To what agency or institution did you report the crime? **(Multiple Response) [Do Not Read Responses, Record All That Respondent Mentions, Specify If Other Mentioned]**
Write Down All Mentioned By Respondent, Code

Afghan National Army	9%
Afghan National Police	48%
Shura/ Elders	16%
Local militia (police)	3%
Tribal leader / Malik	24%
Local Commander or Warlord	5%
Mullah Saheb	7%
Local PRT	0
Office of UN organization(s)	0
Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission	2%
District Governor/ Woleswal	22%
Provincial authority	7%
Central Government	2%
Public prosecutor	5%
Courts	2%
Don't know	0

- Q-23. (Ask if answered “No” in Q-21) Why didn’t you report the crime?
(Multiple Response)
[Do Not Read Responses, Record All That Respondent Mentions,
Specify If Other Mentioned]
Write Down All Mentioned By Respondent, Code**

It makes no difference	21%
Danger or fear of retaliation	18%
Lack of evidence	12%
It wasn’t serious	24%
Didn’t know where to report it	14%
Lack of trust on government officials	17%
Lack of legal counsel	6%
Refused	1%
Don’t know	6%

- Q-24. (ASK ALL) If you were a witness to a crime, to whom would you report it?
(Multiple Response)
[Do Not Read Responses, Record All That Respondent Mentions,
Specify If Other Mentioned]
Write Down All Mentioned By Respondent, Code**

Afghan National Army	17%
Afghan National Police	49%
Shura/ Elders	13%
Local militia (police)	3%
Tribal leader / Malik	24%
Local Commander or Warlord	4%
Mullah Saheb	11%
Local PRT	0
Office of UN organization(s)	0
Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission	1%
District Governor/ Woleswal	15%
Provincial authority	6%
Central Government	2%
Public prosecutor	2%
Courts	1%
Press or other media	0
Other	0
No one	3%
Refused	0
Don’t know	3%

- Q-25.** If you were a victim of violence or any criminal act, how much confidence would you have that the governmental law-enforcing organizations and judicial systems would punish the guilty party? **(Read Out Answers)**

A lot of confidence	14%
Some confidence	42%
A little confidence	23%
No confidence at all	15%
Refused	1%
Don't know	4%

- Q-26.** Please tell me whether you think that corruption is a major problem, a minor problem, or no problem at all in the following areas. **(Circle '8' for Refused or '9' for Don't Know, if volunteered.)**

	Major Problem	Minor Problem	Not a Problem	Refused (volunteered only)	Don't know (volunteered only)
a) In your daily life	51%	29%	18%	0	2%
b) In your neighborhood	48%	35%	14%	0	2%
c) In your local authorities	53%	33%	10%	1%	4%
d) In your provincial government	63%	26%	7%	1%	3%
e) In Afghanistan as a whole	76%	16%	4%	0	4%

- Q-27.** Compared to a year ago, do you think the amount of corruption overall in ... **(Read out options below one by one)** has increased, stayed the same or decreased in the following areas?

	Increased	Stayed the same	Decreased	Refused (volunteered only)	Don't know (volunteered only)
a) In your daily life	24%	49%	23%	1%	3%
b) In your neighborhood	25%	50%	21%	0	3%
c) In your local authorities	33%	45%	15%	1%	6%
d) In your provincial government	45%	37%	11%	1%	6%
e) In Afghanistan as a whole	57%	28%	9%	1%	6%

- Q-28.** Whenever you have contacted government officials, how often in the past year have you had to give cash, a gift or perform a favor for an official? If you had contacts with such officials in the past year. Was it in all cases, most of the cases, in isolated or in no cases? How about your contacts with.... **(Rotate items on the list)**

	In all cases	Most cases	Isolated cases	No cases	Had no contacts	Ref.	DK
a) Officials in the Municipality	3%	5%	9%	23%	58%	0	1%
b) Customs office	3%	5%	6%	23%	62%	0	1%
c) Afghan National Police	2%	6%	6%	31%	46%	0	1%
d) Afghan National Army	1%	3%	6%	34%	53%	0	2%
e) Judiciary / courts	3%	8%	12%	22%	52%	1%	2%
f) State electricity supply	2%	6%	9%	26%	55%	1%	2%
g) Public healthcare service	2%	8%	16%	35%	37%	1%	1%
h) When applying for a job	4%	9%	12%	25%	47%	1%	2%
i) Admissions to schools / university	2%	5%	9%	34%	46%	1%	2%
j) To receive official documents	5%	8%	11%	25%	49%	1%	2%

- Q-29.** Now I will read you six different activities that you could participate in. Please, tell me, whether you would participate in the following activities with ‘no fear’, ‘some fear’ or a ‘lot of fear’?

	No fear	Some fear	A lot of fear	Refused (vol.)	Don't know (vol.)
a) When participating in resolving problems in your community	57%	32%	7%	0	4%
b) Voting in a national election	51%	31%	14%	0	4%
c) Participating in a peaceful demonstration	32%	37%	24%	0	8%
d) To run for a public office	33%	34%	21%	0	12%
e) When encountering ANP officers	46%	34%	15%	0	5%
f) When traveling from one part of Afghanistan to another part of the country	35%	38%	23%	0	4%

Q-30. Do most people feel free to express their political opinions in the area where you live?

Yes	40%
No	39%
Don't know	21%

Q-31. (Filtered. Ask if answered '1' in Q-30) What changes compared with the past, or reasons, do you think have made most people to feel free to express their political opinions in the area where you live? **(Pre-coded. Do NOT read out. Write down up to two answers and code to the list)**

	Q-31a	Q-31a&b
The removal of local militias	5%	8%
Freedom of speech is guaranteed	41%	60%
The security conditions are good (in our area)	28%	42%
Having (working) parliament and local shuras	2%	4%
Peace and democracy	7%	14%
Presence of ISAF / Coalition forces	1%	1%
Presence of CDC	1%	1%
Presence of PC	0	1%
(Respect for) Human rights	2%	3%
Disarmament	0	1%
Reconstruction	2%	3%
Freedom of press is guaranteed	3%	11%
Having a legal constitution	2%	3%
Corruption has decreased	0	1%
More attention to Women rights	2%	4%
Good Government	2%	3%
Better education	0	0
Don't Know	3%	36%

- Q-32. (If answered “No” in Q-30) Why don’t people in your area have the freedom to express their political opinions? (Pre-coded. Do NOT read out. Write down up to two answers and code to the list)**

	Q-32a	Q-32a&b
Fear for their safety	29%	41%
Women are under the control of men	6%	10%
Security conditions are bad in this area	26%	38%
Presence of Taliban in the area	10%	18%
Presence of warlords	4%	8%
The Government doesn’t allow freedom of political opinions	7%	15%
No real democracy	1%	3%
No disarmament	1%	2%
Fear from Coalition/foreign forces	1%	2%
Ethnic discrimination	1%	1%
Elders / Mullahs don’t allow freedom of opinions	1%	2%
Lack of awareness of legal rights	1%	4%
Not interested in/Lack of information about politics	1%	3%
The Government doesn’t care about people’s opinion	3%	7%
Existence of smugglers	0	0
Lack of education	2%	2%
Refused	0	0
Don’t Know	5%	40%

- Q-33. (ASK ALL)** Various projects and programs have been implemented or are being implemented in some places of our country. Speaking of the past 12 months, do you know of, heard of any project or program in this area, district, implemented in the following fields?

Reconstruction/ building of roads, bridges	58%
Water supply for drinking	43%
Water supply for irrigation	21%
Electricity supply	22%
Healthcare (primary health center, regular visits of doctors, etc.)	42%
Education (reconstruction/opening of school, more teachers etc.)	59%
De-mining	38%
Demilitarization / disarmament	35%
Reconstruction/programs in agriculture	19%
Reconstruction/programs in industry	11%
Building new mosques	26%
Humanitarian programs – help in food, medicines, shelter, production materials etc.	22%
Other	0

Q34. (IF YES Code 1 in Q33, ASK) Has the Afghan Government or Foreign sponsors been primarily responsible for providing most of the aid for the projects?

Q33. Aware of project	Yes	No	Ref/DK	Q34. Who has provided the most aid for the project?	Afghan Gov't	Foreign Sponsor	Both	Ref/DK
a) Reconstruction/ building of roads, bridges	58%	41%	1%	a) Reconstruction / building of roads, bridges	26%	37%	36%	1%
b) Water supply for drinking	43%	56%	1%	b) Water supply for drinking	37%	34%	28%	1%
c) Water supply for irrigation	21%	76%	3%	c) Water supply for irrigation	49%	23%	26%	1%
d) Electricity supply	22%	76%	2%	d) Electricity supply	51%	22%	27%	1%
e) Healthcare (primary health center, regular visits of doctors, etc.)	42%	56%	2%	e) Healthcare (primary health center, regular visits of doctors, etc.)	39%	29%	31%	1%
f) Education (reconstruction/opening of school, more teachers etc.)	59%	39%	1%	f) Education (reconstruction/opening of school, more teachers etc.)	49%	21%	29%	1%
g) De-mining	38%	60%	2%	g) De-mining	23%	45%	30%	1%
h) Demilitarization / disarmament	35%	61%	3%	h) Demilitarization / disarmament	36%	28%	35%	1%
i) Reconstruction/ programs in agriculture	19%	78%	3%	i) Reconstruction /programs in agriculture	48%	24%	26%	1%
j) Reconstruction/ programs in industry	11%	85%	4%	j) Reconstruction /programs in industry	42%	28%	27%	3%
k) Building new mosques	26%	71%	2%	k) Building new mosques	73%	12%	12%	2%
l) Humanitarian programs - help in food, medicines, shelter, production materials etc.	22%	76%	3%	l) Humanitarian programs - help in food, medicines, shelter, production materials etc.	23%	45%	30%	1%

(Ask if respondent is aware of any project-answered Code 2 or 3 in Q34; Otherwise skip to Q37a)

- Q-35.** Which country do you think has provided the most aid for the projects you mentioned to have been implemented in this area, district? **(Single response) [Do Not Read List]**

USA	46%
United Kingdom (Britain)	3%
Germany	10%
Japan	8%
India	4%
Pakistan	1%
China	2%
Iran	2%
Saudi Arabia	1%
Turkey	2%
Italy	1%
Korea	1%
Canada	2%
France	2%
Sweden	1%
Spain	0
Africa	0
Australia	0
Norway	1%
Bangladesh	0
Holland	1%
Denmark	0
Hungary	0
Tajikistan	0
Belgium	0
Turkmenistan	0
Russia	0
Switzerland	0
Finland	0
PRT	1%
Other	0
Refused	0
Don't know	9%

- Q-36.** Which other countries have provided aid for the projects in your area, district?
PROBE: Any other? **(Multiple response) [Do Not Read List]**

USA	20%
United Kingdom (Britain)	8%
Germany	17%
Japan	19%
India	16%
Pakistan	4%
China	9%
Iran	7%
Saudi Arabia	4%
Turkey	4%
Italy	3%
Korea	2%
Canada	4%
France	5%
Sweden	2%
Spain	1%
Africa	0
Australia	1%
Norway	1%
Bangladesh	1%
Holland	2%
Denmark	0
Hungary	0
Uzbekistan	0
Tajikistan	1%
Belgium	0
Turkmenistan	1%
Russia	1%
Switzerland	0
Finland	0
PRT	0

Q-37a. Are you aware of your provincial government's set of priorities or plans that were agreed for the development of this district or province?

Yes	21%
No	72%
Refused	0
Don't know	7%

Q-37b. (ASK IF YES CODE 1 in Q37a) Do you know the details of the plan what is supposed to be done?

Yes	65%
No	32%
Refused	0
Don't know	3%

ECONOMY

Q-38. Now I would like to ask you a few questions about the economy of Afghanistan. If you think about your family, would you say that today your family is more prosperous, less prosperous, or about as prosperous as under the Taliban government?

More prosperous	39%
Less prosperous	36%
About as prosperous	16%
Absent during Taliban rule	7%
Refused	0
Don't know	2%

Q39. Now, going even farther back to the period of the Soviet occupation, if you think about your family then and now, would you say that today your family is more prosperous, less prosperous, or about as prosperous as under the *Soviet occupation* government?

More prosperous	39%
Less prosperous	31%
About as prosperous	12%
Absent during Soviet rule/ occupation	11%
Refused	0
Don't know	7%

- Q-40.** At this house where you live, which of the following kinds of electricity supply do you have? **(Read out options. Code each that apply. Multiple response)**

Personal Generator	20%
Public / Shared Use Generator	13%
Government electricity provider	21%
Large batteries/ invertors (such as for running TV, lights, etc.)	6%
Solar power	5%
No electricity	43%
Refused	0
Don't know	0

- Q-41.** Compared to two years ago, would you say that situation for your household has gotten better, remained the same or gotten worse with respect to the following?

	Better	The same	Worse	Ref.	DK
a) Financial well-being of your household	24%	48%	28%	0	0
b) Employment opportunities	7%	33%	59%	0	1%
c) Availability of products in the market	13%	43%	41%	0	3%
d) Quality of your food diet	13%	39%	46%	0	2%
e) Physical conditions of your house/dwelling	18%	52%	27%	0	3%
f) Health well-being of your family members	29%	50%	20%	0	1%
g) Electric supply	13%	37%	49%	0	0
h) Access to schools	44%	39%	15%	0	2%

- Q-42.** Some people say that poppy cultivation is okay, and that the government should not worry too much about it, while others say that it is wrong, and that the government should do more to stop it. Which is closer to your view?

Poppy cultivation is okay	12%
Poppy cultivation is wrong	82%
Refused	1%
Don't know	4%

Q-43. (Filtered. Ask if ‘1’ in Q-42): Why do you say that poppy cultivation is okay? **(Do NOT read options. Open ended. Write down up to two responses)**

	Q-43a	Q-43a&b
Growing poppy is more profitable than growing other crops	29%	38%
Working on poppy farm is more profitable than other jobs	6%	12%
To make medicines from poppy	17%	27%
Needs less water	14%	28%
The Government doesn't pay attention to farmers	12%	22%
Instead of wine, we produce poppy	4%	8%
People get employed	15%	44%
Other	1%	1%
Don't Know	2%	16%

Q-44. (Filtered. Ask if answered “poppy cultivation is wrong” in Q-42): Why do you say that poppy cultivation is wrong? **(Do NOT read options. Open ended. Write down up to two responses)**

	Q-44a	Q-44a&b
Poppy makes some people rich, but keeps most Afghans poor	6%	7%
In Islam poppy cultivation is a sin (haram)	38%	50%
According to the laws, poppy cultivation is a crime	8%	14%
People become addicted to opium	13%	29%
It misguides the youth / hurts education or job prospects	12%	25%
It causes high prices	7%	20%
It's detrimental to Afghanistan's reputation	6%	15%
It's a source of income for terrorists	3%	8%
It creates corruption among government officials	2%	5%
It's deterring international assistance	1%	3%
Poppy cultivation causes insecurity in our country	3%	9%
Poppy cultivation hurts other farmers	1%	5%
Other	0	0
Don't Know (vol.)	1%	8%

- Q-45. (ASK ALL)** Now, to change the subject. Sometimes people and communities have problems, related to an issue that concerns everybody in their area, that they can't resolve on their own and so they have to ask for the help of a government official or a government agency. In the past 5 years, has your community had such a problem in your area that you had to ask for help or cooperation to resolve it?

Yes	19%
No	75%
Refused	0
Don't know	6%

- Q-46. (Filtered. Ask if answered 'Yes' in Q-45).** What kind of problem was/is that? **(Open-ended. Write down first mentioned answer)**

Lack of water and electricity	15%
Dispute over land	23%
Building mosque	1%
Reconstruction of roads and bridges	9%
Building clinics	2%
Building schools and kindergartens	3%
Robbery and burglary	6%
Poor transportation system	0
Economic problems	4%
Unemployment	2%
Tribal problems	7%
Presence of Taliban	1%
Security problems	12%
Agricultural problems	4%
Murder	1%
Disarmament	0
Refused	1%
Don't Know	8%

Q-47. (Filtered. Ask if answered 'Yes' in Q-45): Who did you approach/ask to solve the problem? **(Multiple response. Code each mentioned) [Do Not Read List, Write Answer Then Code Response]**

Elders of the local shura/jirga	33%
A Member of Parliament	5%
Government agency/office	11%
Afghan National Army	5%
Afghan National Police	17%
Malik / Khan	13%
Provincial governor/ authorities	14%
Community Development Council	5%
District authorities	21%
PRT	3%
NGO	4%
Human Rights Commission	1%
Foreign force	1%
Foreign forces	1%
Mullah	5%
Courts	1%
Directors in Ministry of electricity and water supply	0
Public health office	1%
Refused	0
Don't know	1%

Q-48. (Filtered. Ask if contacted Government agency/office, answer '3' in Q-47). You said you contacted a government agency/office to resolve your problem. Which government agency/office is that? **(Open-ended. Write down first mentioned answer)**

District Governor	59%
Directors in MRRD	21%
Don't Know	20%

Q-49. (Filtered. Ask if answered 'Yes' to Q-45) Has this problem been resolved or it's still pending resolution?

Resolved	48%
Pending resolution	46%
Refused	0
Don't Know	5%

Q-50. (ASK ALL) Generally speaking, would you say that most people can be trusted or that you need to be very careful in dealing with people?

Most people can be trusted	34%
With most people you need to be very careful	60%
Refused	0
Don't know	5%

Q-51. Do you believe that in most instances people are only thinking about themselves or do you believe that in the most instances people try to help others?

They think about themselves	65%
They try to help others	31%
Refused	0
Don't know	4%

Q-52. I would like to ask you about some officials, institutions and organizations in our country. I will read these out to you. As I read out each, please tell me how much confidence you have in each of the institutions and organizations and officials to perform their jobs. Do you have a great deal of confidence, a fair amount of confidence, not very much confidence, or no confidence at all in...

	A great deal of confidence	A fair amount of confidence	Not very much confidence	No confidence at all	Refused (volunteered only)	Don't Know (vol.)
a) Afghan National Army	46%	43%	7%	3%	0	1%
b) Afghan National Police	40%	42%	13%	5%	0	1%
c) Political parties	8%	35%	33%	17%	0	7%
d) The Government Justice system	8%	38%	33%	16%	0	5%
e) Government Ministers	11%	40%	28%	16%	0	5%
f) Independent Election commission	16%	41%	24%	11%	0	8%
g) Public administration	13%	42%	27%	10%	0	8%
h) the Municipality	10%	32%	30%	19%	0	10%
i) Local militias	10%	26%	25%	31%	0	9%
j) Community Development Councils	19%	46%	19%	9%	0	7%
k) Provincial Councils	19%	46%	22%	8%	0	6%
l) Community Shuras/ Jirgas	24%	45%	18%	6%	0	6%
m) National NGOs	16%	46%	23%	9%	0	7%
n) International NGOs	24%	40%	20%	9%	0	6%
o) Electronic media such as radio, TV	38%	38%	13%	7%	0	6%
p) Newspapers, print media	26%	37%	14%	8%	0	15%

- Q-53.** I'm going to read some statements to you about ANA. Please tell me if you agree with each. **(Read out statement, wait for response and then ask):** Strongly or somewhat?

	Strongly agree	Agree somewhat	Disagree somewhat	Strongly disagree	Refused (vol.)	DK (vol.)
a) ANA is honest and fair with the Afghan people.	48%	41%	8%	2%	0	2%
b) ANA is unprofessional and poorly trained.	18%	37%	28%	13%	0	4%
c) ANA needs the support of foreign troops and cannot operate by itself.	32%	37%	18%	9%	0	4%
d) ANA helps improve the security	51%	35%	9%	3%	0	2%

- Q-54.** I'm going to read some statements to you about ANP. Please tell me if you agree with each. **(Read out statement, wait for response and then ask):** Strongly or somewhat?

	Strongly agree	Agree somewhat	Disagree somewhat	Strongly disagree	Refused (vol.)	DK (vol.)
a) ANA is honest and fair with the Afghan people.	40%	40%	13%	5%	0	1%
b) ANA is unprofessional and poorly trained.	22%	38%	25%	12%	0	3%
c) ANA needs the support of foreign troops and cannot operate by itself.	32%	37%	19%	8%	0	3%
d) ANA helps improve the security	40%	40%	12%	5%	0	2%
e) ANP is efficient at arresting those who have committed crimes so that they can be brought to justice	34%	39%	16%	8%	0	4%

DEMOCRACY

- Q-55.** Now I'd like to ask about something else. A lot of people in Afghanistan today are talking about democracy. If a country is called a democracy, what does that mean to you? **(Probe):** Anything else? **(Open ended. Multiple response. Do Not Read Code List. Write down and then code each mentioned)**

Freedom	53%
Rights and law	23%
Government of the people	22%
Peace	34%
Prosperity	15%
Women's rights	17%
Communism	3%
Islamic democracy	20%
Participation in decision making	8%
Nothing	0
Democracy promotes cheap values and bad habits	0
Good security	0
I don't want democracy	0
Access to more schools	0
Good relations with other countries	1%
More job opportunities	1%
Refused	0
Don't know	9%

- Q-56.** What, if anything, is the most important thing that democracy in Afghanistan will bring you personally? **(Probe):** Anything else? **(Open ended. Multiple response. Do Not Read Code List Write down and then code each mentioned)**

Freedom	33%
Rights and law	19%
Government of the people	19%
Peace	35%
Prosperity	16%
Women's rights	16%
Communism	1%
Islamic democracy	19%
Less corruption	23%
Better Government services	15%
Democracy promotes cheap values and bad habits	0
Good security	0
I don't want democracy	0
Access to more schools	0

Good relations with other countries	0
More job opportunities	2%
Nothing	3%
Refused	0
Don't know	7%

Q-57. Do you think that political parties should be allowed to hold meetings in your area?

Yes	44%
No	43%
Refused	1%
Don't know	12%

Q-58. Do you think that all political parties, even the ones most people do not like, should be allowed to hold meetings in your area?

Yes	29%
No	62%
Refused	1%
Don't know	9%

Q-59. Suppose a friend of yours supported a party you do not like. Would you accept that, or would it end your friendship?

Would accept it	42%
Would end friendship	44%
Refused	0
Don't know	13%

Q-60. I'm going to read some ideas. Please tell me if you agree with each. **(Read out statement, wait for response and then ask):** Strongly or somewhat?

	Strongly agree	Agree somewhat	Disagree somewhat	Strongly disagree	Refused (vol.)	DK (vol.)
a) It is a good thing that the government should allow peaceful opposition	39%	39%	10%	6%	1%	5%
b) Everyone should have equal rights under the law, regardless of their gender, ethnicity or religion	58%	26%	11%	3%	0	2%
c) Religious authorities should lead people in obeying the obligations of their faith while political leaders should make decisions about how the government is run	37%	38%	16%	6%	0	3%
d) A person should vote the way his or her community votes, not how they feel individually	30%	35%	18%	13%	0	5%

Q-61. Some people say: "Democracy will bring Westernization and too much freedom and challenge Islamic values." Other people say: "An Islamic country can be democratic without becoming too Western. It can still keep its Islamic values". Which is closer to your view?

Democracy challenges Islamic values	26%
Democracy can be Islamic also	66%
Refused	01%
Don't know	7%

Q-62. Thinking of the National Government, how do you feel about the way it is carrying out its responsibilities? Is it doing a very good job, somewhat good job, somewhat bad job or a very bad job?

Very good job	16%
Somewhat good job	51%
Somewhat bad job	22%
Very bad job	8%
Refused	01%
Don't know	2%

- Q-63.** And speaking of particular aspects of its work, do you think the National Government is doing a very good job, somewhat good job, somewhat bad job or a very bad job in the following fields? **(Ask for each on the list)**

	Very Good Job	Somewhat good job	Somewhat bad job	Very bad job	Refused	Don't Know
a) Education	36%	48%	11%	4%	0	1%
b) Healthcare system	18%	48%	25%	8%	0	1%
c) Creating job opportunities	4%	20%	37%	38%	0	1%
d) Maintaining relations with neighboring countries	17%	45%	22%	12%	0	5%
e) Reviving/Developing the economy	6%	27%	34%	30%	0	2%
f) Fighting corruption	8%	23%	30%	36%	0	2%
g) Security	23%	36%	22%	17%	0	1%

- Q-64a.** Turning to your Provincial Government, do you think that overall it is doing a very good job, somewhat good job, somewhat bad job or a very bad job?

- Q-64b.** [URBAN RESIDENTS ONLY] And what do you think about the job done by your municipal authorities, do you think that overall it is doing a very good job, somewhat good job, somewhat bad job or a very bad job?

- Q-64c.** [RURAL RESIDENTS ONLY] And what do you think about the job done by your local authorities, do you think that overall it is doing a very good job, somewhat good job, somewhat bad job or a very bad job?

	Very Good Job	Somewhat good job	Somewhat bad job	Very bad job	Refused	Don't Know
a) Provincial Government	23%	51%	16%	6%	0	4%
b) Municipal authorities	13%	37%	26%	17%	0	7%
c) Local authorities	22%	45%	20%	8%	0	5%

- Q-65.** Now switching to local government, some people say that local religious leaders should be regularly consulted on the problems facing an area while others think that politics and religion should not mix. Which is closer to your view?

Religious leaders should be consulted	69%
Politics and religion should not mix	26%
Don't know	5%

- Q- 66.** Now I would like to ask you some questions about the past elections. Did you vote in the 2004 Presidential elections?

Yes	63%
No	34%
Refused	0
Don't know	3%

- Q-67. (Filtered. Ask if answered “No” in Q-66)** You said you did not vote in the 2004 Presidential elections. Why didn't you vote? **(Single Response only. Ask for most important reason. Do NOT read options) [RECORD ANSWER: CODE POST FIELDWORK]**

Didn't support any candidate	5%
Not interested	12%
Personal reasons: too old, sick, etc.	7%
Was not able to register	4%
Was prohibited/stopped from registering	3%
Ballot too long / confusing	0
Elections wouldn't make difference / disillusioned	1%
Lack of ID document	5%
Fear of intimidation	3%
Insecurity	6%
Didn't understand politics	2%
Was scared of voting	2%
Was not permitted to vote / women not allowed to vote	8%
Did not fulfill the age criteria	39%
Other	0
Don't know	5%

Q- 68. (ASK ALL) Did you vote in the 2005 Parliamentary elections?

Yes	61%
No	36%
Refused	1%
Don't know	2%

Q-69. (Filtered. Ask if answered “No” in Q-68) You said you did not vote in the 2005 Parliamentary elections. Why didn't you vote? **(Single Response only. Ask for most important reason. Do NOT read options)** [RECORD ANSWER: CODE POST FIELDWORK]

Didn't support any candidate	5%
Not interested	16%
Personal reasons: too old, sick, etc.	5%
Was not able to register	3%
Was prohibited/stopped from registering	3%
Ballot too long / confusing	1%
Elections wouldn't make difference / disillusioned	1%
Lack of ID document	6%
Fear of intimidation	3%
Insecurity	6%
Didn't understand politics	2%
Was scared of voting	2%
Was not permitted to vote / women not allowed to vote	9%
Was abroad (emigrant)	2%
Did not fulfill the age criteria	33%
Other	0
Don't know	5%

Q-70. (ASK ALL) Are you aware that there will be elections in Afghanistan in the coming year?

Yes	53%
No	42%
Refused	0
Don't know	4%

Q-71. Do you know how to register to vote?

Yes	48%
No	48%
Refused	0
Don't know	4%

Q-72. How likely are you to vote in the coming elections?

Very likely	43%
Somewhat likely	34%
Somewhat unlikely	6%
Very unlikely	10%
Refused	0
Don't know	6%

Q-73. (Filtered. Ask if answered Somewhat Unlikely or Very Unlikely, answers “3 or 4” in Q-72) You said it is somewhat or very unlikely that you would vote in the upcoming elections. Why do you say that? (Single Response only. Ask for most important reason. Do NOT read options) [RECORD ANSWER: CODE POST FIELDWORK]

Don't support any candidate / party	5%
Not interested	18%
Personal reasons: too old, sick, etc.	5%
Elections wouldn't make difference / disillusioned	15%
Fear of intimidation	8%
Insecurity	25%
Do not understand politics	6%
Will not be permitted to vote / women not allowed to vote	15%
Other	0
Refused	2%
Don't know	3%

Q-74. (ASK ALL) Do you think women should be allowed to vote in the elections?

Yes	84%
No	13%
Refused	0
Don't know	2%

- Q-75.** How much influence do you think someone like you can have over government decisions – a lot, some, very little, or none at all?

A lot	25%
Some	41%
Very little	15%
None at all	15%
Refused	0
Don't know	5%

- Q-76.** Do you think that voting can lead to improvement in the future or do you believe that no matter how one votes, things never change?

Voting can change things	65%
Things are not going to get better	24%
Don't know	10%

- Q-77.** In the past, elections were managed jointly by International donors and the Afghanistan Government, but future elections will be managed entirely by the Afghanistan Government. How confident are you that the Afghan Government on its own will be able to conduct free and fair elections? Are you...

Very confident	23%
Somewhat confident	49%
Somewhat not confident	8%
Not confident at all	10%
Refused	0
Don't know	9%

- Q-78.** (Filtered. Ask if answered '3' or '4' to Q-77) You said you are not confident the Government to be able to conduct free and fair elections on its own. What makes you think so? (Open-ended. Write down the answer)

Lack of security	38%
Everybody is pursuing his/her own interest	6%
Corruption	11%
Weak Government	28%
Weak economy	8%
Tribal problems	1%
Lack of shelter	0
Lack of education	0
Interference of foreign countries	3%
Refused	1%
Don't know	5%

Q-79. (ASK ALL) Now I will read a series of statements about democracy. For each statement, tell me if you agree or disagree. **(Read out statement, wait for response and then ask):** Strongly or somewhat?

	Strongly agree	Agree somewhat	Disagree somewhat	Strongly disagree	Refused (vol.)	DK (vol.)
a) Democracy may have its problems, but it is better than any other form of government.	28%	48%	12%	4%	0	8%
c) Politicians seek power for their own benefit and don't worry about helping people.	41%	35%	14%	5%	0	5%

Q-80. On the whole, how satisfied or dissatisfied are you with the way democracy works in Afghanistan. Are you ...

Very satisfied	15%
Somewhat satisfied	53%
Somewhat dissatisfied	16%
Very dissatisfied	11%
Refused	0
Don't know	5%

Q-81. Have you ever contacted your Member of Parliament (MP) for help in solving any of your personal or local problems?

Yes	9%
No	88%
Refused	0
Don't know	2%

Q-82. (Filtered. Ask if answered 'Yes' in Q-81) For what kind of a problem did you contact the MP? **(Open ended. Write down answer)**

Lack of water and electricity	24%
Problems related to trade	4%
Lack of roads and bridges	16%
Lack of security	11%
Lack of teachers at school	9%
Lack of hospitals	5%
Unemployment	4%
Problems at workplace	3%
Land dispute	9%
Lack of women rights	2%
Tribal problems	4%
Murder	2%
Refused	1%
Don't know	7%

Q-83a. (Filtered. Ask if answered 'Yes' in Q-81) Did the Member of Parliament (MP) try to help to resolve the problem?

Yes, the MP tried to help	51%
No, not MP did not try to help	47%
Refused	0
Don't know	2%

Q-83b. (Filtered. Ask if answered 'Yes' in Q-81) In the end, regardless of who helped, was the problem resolved or not?

Yes, resolved	33%
No, not resolved	64%
Don't know	3%

Q-84. (ASK ALL) Now let's talk about Provincial Councils. Have you ever contacted a representative on the Provincial Council for help in solving any of your personal or local problems?

Yes	11%
No	87%
Refused	0
Don't know	2%

Q-85. (Filtered. Ask if answered 'Yes' in Q-84) What kind of problem was it? (Open ended. Write down answer)

Problems related to electricity and water	18%
Lack of assistance to teachers	5%
Roads and bridges	15%
Land dispute	9%
Lack of reconstruction	4%
Bombardment by foreign troops	0
Building schools	3%
Building clinics	4%
Transportation problems	1%
Security problems	9%
Unemployment	8%
Tribal problems	7%
Murder	1%
Agricultural problems	5%
Construction of mosque	1%
Corruption	2%
Refused	1%
Don't know	5%

Q-86a. (Filtered. Ask if answered 'Yes' in Q-84) Did the Provincial Council try to help to resolve the problem?

Yes, the council tried to help	63%
No, council did not try to help	36%
Don't know	1%

Q-86b. (Filtered. Ask if answered 'Yes' in Q-84) In the end, regardless of who helped, was the problem resolved or not?

Yes, resolved	43%
No, not resolved	55%
Don't know)	2%

Q-87. (ASK ALL) Now I will read some statements about our elected representatives. For each statement, tell me if you agree or disagree **(Read out statement, wait for response and then ask):** Strongly or somewhat?

	Strongly agree	Agree somewhat	Disagree somewhat	Strongly disagree	Refused (vol.)	DK (vol.)
a) The Parliament is addressing the major problems of people in our country	21%	44%	21%	12%	0	2%
b) My MP is addressing the major problems of my constituency in Parliament	18%	38%	23%	17%	0	4%

Q-88. Community Development Councils have been established as part of the National Solidarity Program and members of the Council are representatives of various groups in your community. Tell me, are you aware of such an institution formed in your neighborhood/settlement?

Yes, aware of CDC in the neighborhood/settlement	42%
No, not aware of CDC in the neighborhood/settlement	53%
Refused	1%
Don't know	4%

Q-89a. (Filter. Ask if answered 'Yes' in Q-88) Which of the following groups are members of the Community Development Council in your neighborhood/settlement? **Ask for each and code**

	Yes	No	Refused (vol.)	DK (vol.)
a) Local Malik / Khan	72%	26%	0	2%
b) Elders of the local shura/jirga	78%	17%	0	5%
c) Mullah	57%	37%	0	6%
d) Local commanders	29%	63%	0	8%
e) Women	30%	62%	0	8%
f) Local teacher	54%	39%	0	7%
g) Doctor	30%	60%	0	9%
h) Officials from municipal/district administration	23%	67%	0	9%
i) Ordinary farmers	52%	41%	0	7%
j) Landless agricultural workers	40%	52%	0	8%
k) Shopkeepers	40%	51%	0	9%

Q-89b. (Filtered. Ask if '1' in Q-88) How satisfied are you with the job this Community Development Council is doing? Are you...

Very satisfied	26%
Somewhat satisfied	56%
Somewhat dissatisfied	7%
Very dissatisfied	6%
Refused	0
Don't know	4%

Q-90. (Filtered. Ask if answered 'Yes' in Q-88) Still speaking of the same Community Development Council, to what extent do you think this Council is capable to represent your interests before the Provincial authorities. Do you think that it is very capable, somewhat capable, not so capable or not capable at all to represent your interests before the Provincial authorities? **(Code in the first row below and ask)** And how capable is this Council to represent your interests before the Government of Afghanistan? **(Code in the second row below)**

	Very Capable	Somewhat capable	Not so much capable	Not capable at all	Refused (volunteered only)	DK (vol.)
a) Before provincial authorities	30%	51%	10%	4%	0	5%
b) Before the Government of Afghanistan	26%	56%	7%	6%	0	4%

Q-91. (ASK ALL) Tell me, do you strongly agree, agree somewhat, disagree somewhat, or strongly disagree with the following statements about State Courts?

	StA	ASw	DSw	StD	Ref.	DK
a) State Courts are accessible to me.	22%	46%	20%	9%	0	3%
b) State Courts are fair and trusted.	10%	40%	33%	12%	0	4%
c) State Courts are not corrupt compared to other options of settling a dispute (informal systems such as local jirgas & shuras)	11%	36%	33%	13%	0	6%
d) State Courts follow the local norms and values of our people.	12%	38%	31%	14%	0	5%
e) State Courts are effective at delivering justice.	15%	37%	30%	14%	0	5%
f) State Courts resolve cases timely and promptly.	10%	28%	33%	24%	0	5%

- Q-92.** And now let's turn to village/neighborhood based Jirgas/ Shura, Tell me do you strongly agree, agree somewhat, disagree somewhat, or strongly disagree with the following statements about the village/neighborhood based Jirgas/ Shuras?

	StA	ASw	DSw	StD	Ref.	DK
a) Local jirgas, shuras are accessible to me.	31%	45%	14%	6%	0	4%
b) Local jirgas, shuras are fair and trusted.	24%	46%	21%	5%	0	4%
c) Local jirgas, shuras follow the local norms and values of our people.	26%	43%	21%	6%	0	4%
d) Local jirgas, shuras are effective at delivering justice.	25%	44%	20%	6%	0	5%
e) Local jirgas, shuras resolve cases timely and promptly	23%	36%	25%	10%	0	5%

- Q-93.** In the past two years have you had a dispute or a formal case that you couldn't settle with the other party and had to go to a State Court or village/neighborhood based Shura/Jirga to resolve it?

Yes	12%
No	86%
Don't know)	2%

- Q-94.** (Filtered. If answered 'Yes' to Q-93) Where have you taken this case or dispute?

State Court	39%
Village, neighborhood based Shura/Jirga	42%
Both	17%
Other	0
Refused	0
Don't know	1%

- Q-95.** (Filtered. If answered 'State Court', code 1, or 'Both', code '6' in Q-94) When taking a case to a State Court or being a party in settling case in a State Court, have you used any professional legal services (from a lawyer) or you pleaded your case alone or helped by friends/relatives?

Professional legal services	22%
Alone/ helped by friends, relatives	62%
Both	13%
Refused	0
Don't know	2%

Q-96. (Filtered. Ask all with case or dispute, answer '1' in Q-93) What kind of a case or dispute was it? (If More Than One Case Or Dispute, Ask For The Most Recent One)

Dispute over land	47%
Other property dispute, not land	9%
Commercial dispute	7%
Divorce	6%
Pick-pocketing	1%
Robbery / burglary	8%
Physical assault	12%
Murder	5%
Other	1%
Don't Know	4%

Q-97. (Filtered. Ask all with case or dispute, answer '1' in Q-93) Were you satisfied with the outcome of the proceedings?

Yes	50%
No	31%
Not finished yet	14%
Refused	0
Don't know	5%

WOMEN ISSUES

Q-98a. (ASK ALL) Now let's talk specifically about women related issues. What are the biggest problem facing women in this area today? (Code in the first column of the table below) [Do Not Read Code List]

Q-98b. And the next biggest? (Code in the second column below) [Do Not Read Code List]

	Q-98a. Biggest	Q-98a&b. Biggest & Next
Lack of rights / women's rights	13%	24%
can't leave homes	5%	11%
Under control of men / men have power	1%	2%
Education / illiteracy	28%	45%
General health care	5%	9%
Pregnancy related health care	2%	4%
Forced marriages/ dowry	5%	11%
Domestic violence	6%	12%
Poverty	6%	12%
Security	3%	5%
Representation in Shura/ Jirga	0	0
Lack of job opportunities for women	11%	24%
Lack of professional courses	1%	4%
Lack of electricity and water	1%	2%
Suicide	0	0
Transportation problems	0	1%
Lack of Bakery for women	0	1%
Murder of literate women	0	0
Lack of shelter	0	0
Drug addiction	0	0
Presence of Taliban	0	1%
Women have no problems	0	0
Don't know	11%	23%

Q-99. Some people say that women should have equal opportunities like men in education. Do you agree or disagree with this opinion? **(Wait for response and then ask):** Strongly or somewhat?

Strongly agree	57%
Agree somewhat	32%
Disagree somewhat	6%
Strongly disagree	3%
Refused	0
Don't know	1%

Q-100. Some people say that women should be allowed to work outside the home. What is your opinion about this?

Women should be allowed to work outside the home	69%
Women should not be allowed to work outside the home	27%
Don't know	4%

Q-101. If women vote, do you think that women should decide for themselves or should they receive advice from men?

Women should decide for themselves	58%
Men should advise them	22%
Women should decide for themselves but in consultation with men	18%
Don't know	2%

Q-102. In the election, everyone must vote for themselves. Men cannot vote in place of women. Women must vote for themselves. What do you think about this statement? Do you agree or disagree? **(Wait for response and then ask):** Strongly or somewhat?

Strongly agree	59%
Agree somewhat	29%
Disagree somewhat	7%
Strongly disagree	4%
Don't know	2%

Q-103a. Are you aware of the government ministry known as the Ministry of Women's Affairs?

Yes	59%
No	38%
Don't know	3%

Q-103b. (Filtered. Ask if answered 'Yes' in Q-104a) Are there any local offices of the Ministry of Women's Affairs in the district or province where you live?

Yes	56%
No	39%
Don't know	5%

Q-104. (ASK ALL) Do you think that political leadership positions should be mostly for men, mostly for women, or do you think that both men and women should have equal representation in the political leadership?

Mostly for men	35%
Mostly for women	10%
Equal for both men and women	51%
Other	0
Don't know	4%

Q-105. Are you opposed to a woman representing you in the following organizations?

	Yes	No	Ref.	DK
a) In National Parliament	40%	57%	0	2%
b) In your Provincial Council	38%	59%	0	3%
c) In your Community Development Councils	38%	58%	0	4%
d) In your District Development Assembly	39%	57%	0	4%
e) In your local Shura or Jirga	39%	58%	0	4%

DEMOGRAPHICS

D-1. Gender

Male	51%
Female	49%

D-2. (Ask All) How old were you on your last birthday? **(Record actual age; if respondent refuses, please estimate)**

18-24 y.o.	26%
25-34 y.o.	28%
35-44 y.o.	22%
45-54 y.o.	15%
55-64 y.o.	6%
over 65 y.o.	2%

D-3. Are you now working, a housewife (**ask only women**) , retired, a student, or looking for work?

Working	39%
Retired	1%
Housewife	41%
Student	8%
Unemployed	10%
Other	0
Refused	0
Don't know	0

D-4. (**Filtered. Ask if working or retired**): What is your main occupation? (**Write down and then code. If retired, ask for previous occupation and then code**)

Farmer (own land / tenant farmer)	30%
Farm laborer (other's land)	12%
Laborer, domestic, or unskilled worker	8%
Informal sales/ business	13%
Skilled worker/artisan	12%
Government Office - Clerical worker	3%
Private Office - Clerical worker	1%
Government Office – Executive/ Manager	1%
Private Office – Executive/ Manager	1%
Self employed Professional	7%
Small business owner	4%
School Teacher	7%
University Teacher	0
Military/ Police	2%
Other	0
Refused	0
Don't know	0

D-5. (**Filtered. Ask if “Farmer”, code ‘1’ in D-4**) How much land do you farm?

Less than 1 Jerib	11%
1 - 2 Jerib	25%
2.1- 3 Jerib	27%
More than 3 Jerib	37%
Refused	0
Don't know	1%

D-6. (ASK ALL) *What is the highest level of school you completed? (Write down response and code)

Never went to school	55%
Primary School, incomplete (classes 1 to 5)	13%
Primary School, complete (finished class 6)	6%
Secondary education, incomplete (classes 7 to 8)	6%
Secondary education, complete (finished class 9)	5%
High School (classes 10 to 12)	12%
University education or above	2%
Refused	0
Don't know	0

D-7. Which languages can you read? (Multiple response. Code each mentioned)

Pashto	32%
Dari	37%
Uzbeki	2%
Turki	0
Urdu	2%
Hindi	0
English	6%
Arabic	3%
Cannot Read	49%
Refused	0

D-9. Are you married or single?

Single	20%
Married	77%
Widower/ Widow	3%
Refused	0
Don't know	0

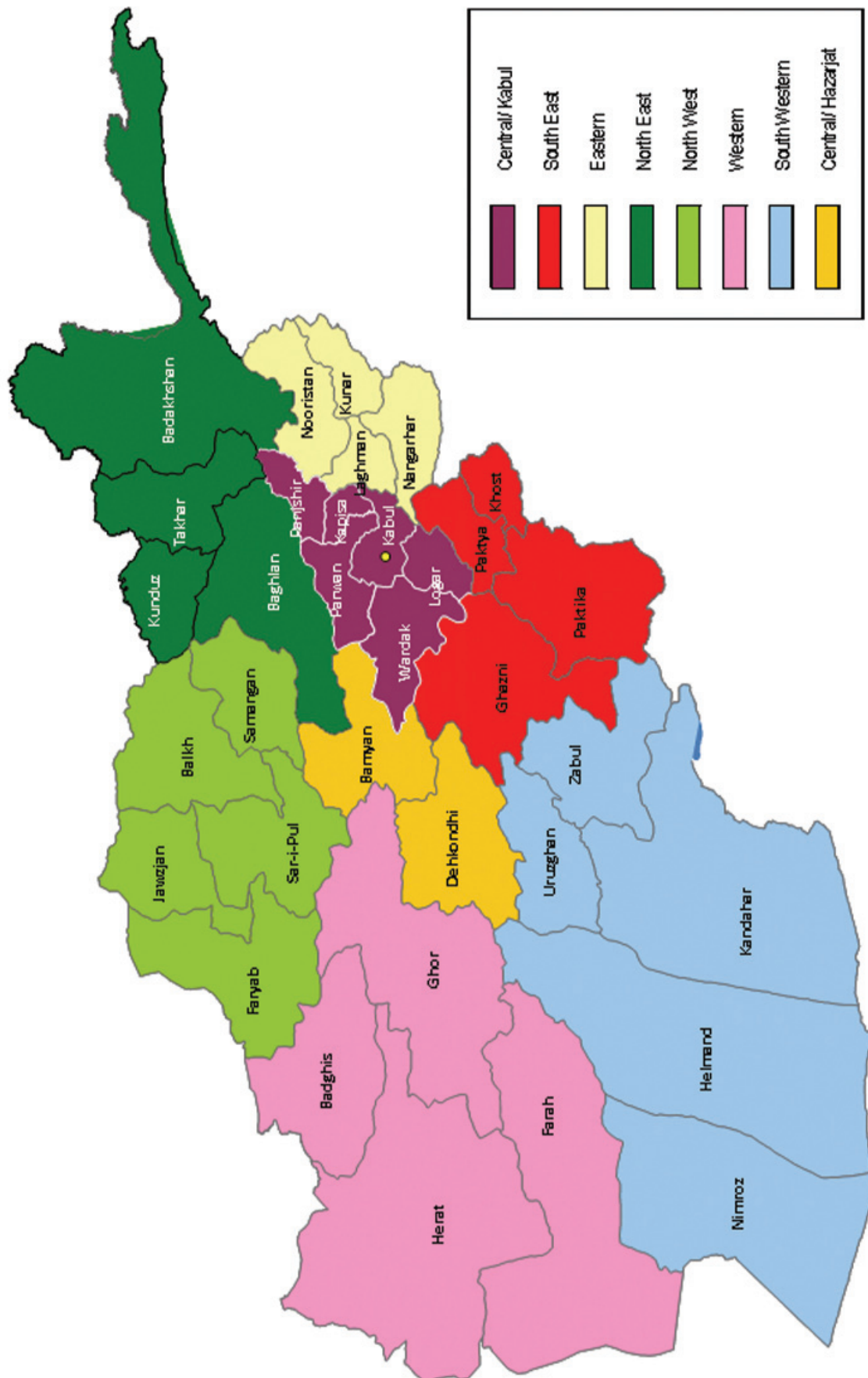
D-11. (Ask All) How many people live here at this address? **(Record Number Below)**

1-5 pers	11%
6-7 pers.	20%
8-9 pers.	27%
10-11 pers.	20%
over 12 pers	22%

D-13. For statistical purposes only, we need to know your average monthly household income. Will you please tell me which of the following categories best represents your average total family monthly income? **(Show Card and read out)**

Less than 2,000 Afs	12%
2,001 – 3,000 Afs	24%
3,001 – 5,000 Afs	24%
5,001 – 10,000 Afs	23%
10,001 – 15,000 Afs	8%
15,001 – 20,000 Afs	4%
20,001 – 25,000 Afs	1%
25,001 – 40,000 Afs	1%
More then 40,000 Afs	0
Refused	0
Don't know	3%

13. Appendix 4: Afghanistan Provincial and Regional map





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