



## The Asia Foundation

### *Afghanistan in 2013: A Survey of the Afghan People* Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) December 5, 2013

#### **1. What is the 2013 Survey of the Afghan People?**

Designed and managed by The Asia Foundation's office in Afghanistan, the survey is the broadest and most comprehensive public opinion poll of Afghan citizens. This year, 9,260 Afghans were polled in face-to-face interviews across all 34 provinces of Afghanistan.

#### **2. What topics are covered in the survey report?**

Key topics covered are national mood, security, economic growth and employment, development and service delivery, governance, political participation, access to information, and women in society.

#### **3. How often is the survey conducted?**

This is the ninth annual survey of Afghan citizens conducted by The Asia Foundation's office in Afghanistan; previous polls were released in 2004, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, and 2012. Taken together, the annual surveys provide a statistically valid, long-term barometer of Afghan public opinion over time.

#### **4. When was the survey fieldwork conducted?**

In-person interviews were conducted between July 17 and July 25, 2013 in Afghanistan.

#### **5. How many Afghan citizens were surveyed?**

A random, nationally representative sample of 9,260 Afghan citizens were polled in-person in all 34 provinces. To meet more aggressive margins of error, this year's sample size represents nearly a 47% increase from previous years. Respondents were 18 years and older, residents of Afghanistan, and divided between men (62%) and women (38%). The survey respondents included both urban (14%) and rural (86%) households. (A full breakdown of respondents' demographic and socio-economic details is provided in Appendix 1 of the survey report.)

#### **6. What is the survey's margin of error?**

The 2013 total margin of error with 95% confidence at  $p=.5$  is  $\pm 2.25\%$ . This is a decrease of 2.85% from the 2012  $\pm 5.1\%$  margin of error.

#### **7. How many questions are included in the survey questionnaire? How long were the interviews?**

The survey questionnaire included 89 questions. The average interview time was 38 minutes this year. In 2012, it was 45 minutes.

## **8. How was the survey questionnaire developed?**

As an opinion trends survey, The Asia Foundation survey has maintained a core set of questions for longitudinal comparison. These are kept on the basis of producing reliable results, and most are crosschecked against other questions. Important advances were made in ensuring both the quality and accuracy of the data in 2013. (A full explanation of the methodology is provided in Appendix 2 of the survey report.)

## **9. Who conducted the fieldwork?**

A total of 962 interviewers (596 men and 366 women) were rigorously trained to conduct in-person interviews across 34 provinces in Afghanistan. Fieldwork was conducted by the Kabul-based Afghan Center for Socio-economic and Opinion Research (ACSOR), which has received support from the Foundation since 2006.

## **10. How did security issues in the country affect the results of the survey?**

As in 2012, deteriorating security was a challenge for accessing sampling points in 2013. This year the number of replacement sampling points due to security factors was 9%. This compares favorably to previous years (16% in 2012 and 11% in 2011). In an effort this year to reduce the negative impact of sampling replacements on representativeness, this year's survey included 840 "intercept" interviews, a technique where respondents from insecure districts are intercepted while shopping or traveling in more secure areas.

## **11. Who funded the survey?**

The 2013 survey is a product of The Asia Foundation, with support provided by Australian Aid/Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT), the United Kingdom Foreign and Commonwealth Office/Department for International Development (FCO/DFID), and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

## **12. What is The Asia Foundation?**

The Asia Foundation is a nonprofit international development organization committed to improving lives across a dynamic and developing Asia. Headquartered in San Francisco, The Asia Foundation works through a network of offices in 18 Asian countries and in Washington, DC to address critical issues affecting Asia in the 21st century—governance and law, economic development, women's empowerment, environment, and regional cooperation.

## **13. What does The Asia Foundation do in Afghanistan?**

Since our Kabul office re-opened in 2002, the Foundation has assisted Afghan efforts to rebuild the country and accelerate development. Our programs focus on governance, law, and civil society, including support for the development of a new constitution and national voter registration, civic education, women's empowerment and education.

## **14. Why does The Asia Foundation conduct this survey?**

The Foundation's goal is to provide useful, accurate data that can illuminate the situation at the local level and provide context for relevant program work. The comprehensive findings are particularly important in helping bridge the gap in understanding between the international community, the Afghan government, and local communities. As in previous years, however, interpretation of the results has been kept to a minimum in the survey report.

**15. Does The Asia Foundation conduct other country surveys across Asia?**

The Foundation has established a reputation for developing empirical surveys for use across Asia in order to pinpoint citizen concerns and needs, to gauge public support for development initiatives, to inform important policy debate, and finally to shape Foundation program design. Foundation surveys have also been conducted in Bangladesh, Cambodia, Indonesia, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Timor-Leste, among other Asian countries, on issues ranging from the incidence of corruption to women’s access to economic opportunity.

**16. Where can I read or download the survey report?**

The survey report is available at [www.asiafoundation.org/ag2013poll](http://www.asiafoundation.org/ag2013poll). A summary of key findings and frequently asked questions (FAQs) are also available in Dari and Pashto.

**17. Are the complete survey data sets available?**

Yes, data sets are available at Visualizing *Afghanistan*, an interactive data visualization platform. More information at [www.asiafoundation.org/ag2013poll](http://www.asiafoundation.org/ag2013poll).

**18. Who should I contact for more information?**

For non-media queries, please contact the Foundation’s Afghanistan office at [surveyrelease@ag.asiafound.org](mailto:surveyrelease@ag.asiafound.org). For media queries, please contact Eelynn Sim at [eelynn.sim@asiafoundation.org](mailto:eelynn.sim@asiafoundation.org)

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