

# 1 Executive Summary

## 1.1 Key Findings

In 2010, 47% of respondents say that the country is moving in the right direction. This figure has been increasing since 2008 (38%) and 2009 (42%).

The main reason cited for optimism continues to be the perception of good security, mentioned by 38% of respondents who say the country is moving in the right direction. This number has decreased from 44% in 2009. A little more than a third of respondents in 2010 also cite construction and rebuilding (35%), and opening of schools for girls (15%) remains the third reason for optimism in 2010, although this has decreased from 21% in 2009.

Insecurity also remains the main reason for pessimism, cited by 44% of respondents who say the country is moving in the wrong direction. The proportion of respondents that highlight insecurity in 2010 has increased slightly from 42% in 2009. The proportion of respondents who identify corruption as a reason for pessimism has increased significantly to 27% in 2010 from 17% in 2009. The other main reasons for pessimism identified by respondents include bad government (18%) and unemployment (16%).

Insecurity (including attacks, violence and terrorism) is also identified as the biggest problem in Afghanistan by over a third of respondents (37%), particularly in the South East (51%), West (43%) and South West (42%). Unemployment remains the second biggest problem, mentioned by 28% of respondents. Corruption is identified by 27% of respondents making it the third biggest problem in 2010, and marking a significant increase from 2009 when it was mentioned by 17%. A poor economy (11%), lack of education (11%) and poverty (10%) also continue to be identified amongst Afghanistan's biggest problems.

Unemployment continues to feature amongst the most important problems at both national (28%) and local (26%) levels. Other major problems at the local level concern basic infrastructure and services such as electricity (28%), roads (24%), water (22%) and lack of health care/clinics/hospitals (17%), as in previous years.

Over half of respondents (54%) say they fear for their personal safety in their local area. However, much higher proportions of respondents report at least sometimes fearing for their safety in the West (66%), North East (64%) and South East (61%), than in other parts of the country. There has also been a significant rise in the incidence of crime and violence experienced by respondents in the South East and the North East since 2009.

Seventeen percent of respondents report that they or someone in their family have been victims of violence or crime in the past year. The most common form of crime experienced remains physical attack or beating (35%) followed by racketeering and extortion (12%) and various forms of theft (10%-12%). Nearly one in ten victims of violence report that this was due to the actions of militias and insurgents (9%) and about one in sixteen report that it was due to the actions of foreign forces (6%). Violence resulting from militant/insurgent actions is mentioned most often in the Central/Hazarajat (21%), Central/Kabul (15%), North East (12%), North West (9%), South West (9%), West (9%) and East (8%). Violence due to the actions of foreign forces is most commonly reported in the East (19%) and South West (11%).

Levels of fear to participate in public activities continue to rise over time. Half of respondents (51%) say they would have no fear participating in resolving problems in the community, but this is the only activity in which a majority of people say they can participate without fear. The proportion of respondents who express fear to vote in a national election has risen significantly, from 51% in 2009 to 60% in 2010. This is now true for the majority of respondents in the South West (83%), South East (78%), East (69%), West (64%) and North East (62%) of the country.

Support for the Government's approach for negotiation and reintegration of armed opposition groups is significantly higher in 2010 than in 2009. Eighty three percent of respondents support the government's attempts to address the security situation through negotiation and reconciliation with armed anti-government elements, compared to 71% in 2009. Support is highest in the East (89%), South East (85%) and North West (85%) and lowest in the Central/Hazarajat region (78%). Eighty-one percent agree with the government providing assistance, jobs and housing to those who lay down arms and want to reintegrate into society, compared to 71% in 2009. Men (88%) are more supportive than women (78%) of this approach. Around three quarters of all respondents (73%) think that the government's reconciliation efforts will help stabilize the country.

The proportion of respondents who say they have some level of sympathy with the motivations of armed opposition groups has fallen from 56% in 2009 to 40% in 2010. However, at least half of respondents say they have some level of sympathy with armed opposition groups in the South West (52%), South East (50%) and West (50%).

In 2010, Afghans give a more optimistic assessment of their economic situation than in 2009. More Afghans say they are better off now than a year ago in all domains, particularly in terms of the financial wellbeing of their household (from 31% in

2009 to 42% in 2010), availability of products in the market (from 19% in 2009 to 27% in 2010), quality of food diet (from 23% in 2009 to 33% in 2010) and employment opportunities (from 11% in 2009 to 17% in 2010).

In terms of local amenities and services, respondents continue to report the greatest satisfaction with the availability of education for children (68%), water for drinking (63%) and the ability to move safely in local areas (63%). Just under half of respondents are satisfied with services related to water for irrigation (49%) and clinics and hospitals (46%). Respondents are least satisfied with the availability of jobs and electricity. Seventy two percent say the availability of jobs in their local area is bad and 66% say the same about the supply of electricity.

More than half (54%) of respondents say they are aware of development projects in their local area relating to education and to the reconstruction/building of roads and bridges. Forty-three percent are aware of projects related to drinking water supply, 39% know of healthcare programs and 28% are aware of programs relating the electricity supply. Varying levels of awareness of development projects across regions suggests that there is a heavier concentration of donor assisted development projects in certain areas of the country, particularly the East, while other regions, especially the Central/Hazarajat and to a lesser extent the North West, are less aware of development assistance.

Satisfaction with the performance of the national government has risen steadily over the last three years (from 67% in 2008 to 71% in 2009 and 73% in 2010). The 2010 survey records the highest levels of positive assessments of national government performance since 2007 in almost all regions. Satisfaction with the performance of central government in policy and service delivery is consistently highest in the East, North West, and Central/Kabul regions. The most commonly mentioned achievements of the current government are a better education system (27%), reconstruction (24%) and establishing peace and security (24%). The most commonly mentioned government failings are administrative corruption (37%), insecurity (30%), lack of job opportunities (17%) and weak government (10%).

In terms of local government, respondents give the most positive assessment of the performance of Provincial Councils (78%), followed by district authorities (61%) and municipalities (53%). However, in 2010 the level of satisfaction with the performance of provincial government rose slightly (from 75% in 2009 to 78%) but fell for district authorities (from 69% in 2009 to 61%) and municipal authorities (from 58% in 2009 to 53%).

The majority of respondents say that corruption is a major problem in all facets of life and at all levels of government. Fifty-five percent say corruption is a major problem in their daily lives, 50% say this about their neighborhood, 56% say corruption is a major problem in local authorities, 65% say this about their provincial government and 76% say corruption is a major problem for the country as a whole. Around half of respondents who had contact with basic public services such as accessing health-care, applying for jobs, receiving official documents and dealing with the police or the courts encountered some level of corruption.

Confidence in representative bodies remains relatively high. Representative bodies continue to enjoy the confidence of around two thirds of respondents, including community shura and jirga (66%), Provincial Councils (62%), Community Development Councils (CDC) (61%) and Parliament (59%). Sixty-seven percent of respondents say parliament is useful (including 28% who say it is very useful). Sixty four percent say that they are satisfied with their MP representing them in the Parliament.

Nationally 25% of respondents say that people feel safer to express their opinions now than a year ago while 17% say that people feel less safe to do so now, especially in the South West (27%), South East (21%) and Central/Kabul (20%) regions. The major barriers to freedom of expression are identified as fear for personal safety (34%), poor local security conditions (25%), presence of the Taliban (24%) and government restrictions on freedom of political opinion (11%)

Eighty-one percent of respondents say they agree with the democratic principle of equal rights for all groups to participation and representation. This figure has remained stable since 2009, but does not reverse the declining trend which has been evident since 2007 (from 90% in 2006 and 2007 to 84% in 2008, 80% in 2009 and 81% in 2010). However, levels of support for allowing peaceful opposition rose significantly in 2010 to 83% after falling consistently from 84% in 2006 to 81% in 2007, 78 in 2008 and 77% in 2009.

Perceptions of elections remain positive in 2010. Around three quarters (74%) of respondents say they think elections have improved the country. However, 2010 sees a significant decline in public confidence in a number of election-related institutions including the Independent Election Commission (from 67% in 2009 to 54% in 2010) and political parties (from 47% in 2009 to 43% in 2010).

The majority of respondents (54%) say that the 2009 Presidential elections were free and fair. However this is lower than the 64% of respondents who in 2009 had said they expected the Presidential elections would be free and fair before the poll was held. Perceptions that the 2009 Presidential elections were not free and fair were highest in the South East (47%), South West (44%), Central/Hazarajat (29%), North

West (27%) and East (27%) regions. Respondents who thought the 2009 elections were not free and fair identified a range of problems such as cheating in the vote count (40%) and buying of votes (33%). A small proportion mentioned that men voted in the place of women (7%).

The survey was conducted in June 2010 with the Parliamentary elections scheduled for September. Three months before the elections 78% of respondents were aware of the elections. Awareness of the upcoming parliamentary elections in 2010 was lower than the level of awareness for the same period regarding the planned presidential elections in 2009 (85%), and significantly lower than the first presidential election in 2004 (91%). Around three quarters (74%) of respondents said they were likely to vote in upcoming parliamentary elections, including 39% who said this was very likely. These figures are similar to those regarding participation in the presidential and Provincial Council elections in 2009, although in 2009 almost half of respondents (48%) said they were very likely to vote. It would seem however that voting intention reported by survey respondents in 2010 was significantly higher than actual electoral participation which has been estimated at around 40% nationally for the 2010 parliamentary poll.

As in previous years, education and illiteracy (31%) remain the major problems facing women in Afghanistan. Stated support for gender equality remains high, including support for equal educational opportunities for women (87%). However, support for women being allowed to work outside the home continues to fall, from 71% in 2006 to 64% in 2010, which is the lowest level recorded to date.

Radio remains the most accessible media for Afghan households. Eighty-two percent of respondents say they own a functioning radio and there is little difference in radio ownership between urban and rural areas. Other communications technologies such as television, mobile phones and computers are significantly more accessible in urban areas. Just under half (46%) of respondents use radio most often to get news and information, while just over a quarter (28%) use television. Around one in five respondents (19%) depend on friends and family to receive news and information. Low income households continue to have the lowest levels of access to radio (68%) and television (69%).

2010 saw an increase in mobile telephone ownership compared to previous years. Since 2009 the majority of respondents (59%) now have access to this technology.

## 1.2 Summary

In 2010, the proportion of respondents who say the country is moving in the right direction has risen, and those who say it is moving in the wrong direction has fallen compared to 2008 and 2009.

Security continues to be a major factor in the way respondents assess the direction of the country. Good security is identified as the most important reason for optimism, although it is mentioned by fewer respondents this year than in 2009. However, insecurity is also cited as the main reason for pessimism, and by slightly more respondents in 2010 than in 2009.

Insecurity (including attacks, violence and terrorism) is also identified as the biggest problem in Afghanistan, particularly by respondents in the South East, South West and West of the country. Moreover, security conditions imposed greater restrictions on the movement of survey researchers in 2010 in all regions except the Central/Hazarajat, indicating that insecurity now affects increasing parts of the country. Given the limited access of survey researchers to insecure areas, assessments of the security situation in the 2010 survey should be interpreted with some caution.

Levels of fear for personal safety and to participate in various public activities continue to rise. However, the reasons for this appear to differ across regions. While fears for safety in the Southern regions and the West of the country appear to be correlated with poor local security conditions, levels of fear in the North East and South East appear consistent with a significant rise in the incidence of crime and violence experienced by respondents.

In 2010, the only activity in which a majority of people say they can participate without fear is resolving problems in their community. The proportion of respondents who express fear to vote in a national election has risen significantly since 2009, when the elections were accompanied by reports of intimidation of voters by anti-government militants, and accusations of widespread electoral malpractice. In 2010 the majority of respondents in five of the eight regions say they would be afraid to vote in national elections, and similar trends are visible for other public activities such as running for public office and participating in a peaceful demonstration.

Actual experience of crime and violence remains relatively low, although there has been a significant rise in reported criminal victimization amongst respondents in the North East and South East. Victims most often report crime to the Afghan National Police (ANP), particularly in urban areas where access to the police is likely to be easier. However, crime is also reported to a wide range of other governmental and social institutions including district governor/woleswal, the Afghan National Army (ANA), shura/elders, tribal leaders/maliks and mullahs. The ANA and the ANP remain the public institutions which enjoy the highest levels of public confidence and the majority of respondents think these bodies are effective in performing their functions, although they also believe that both the ANA and the ANP are unprofes-

sional and poorly trained and require the support of foreign troops. There has also been a significant fall in the last year in the proportion of respondents who agree that the ANP helps to improve security.

Support for the government's approach to negotiation and reintegration of armed opposition groups is significantly higher in 2010 than in 2009, suggesting that an increasing proportion of the Afghan public is in favor of a political solution to the ongoing conflict in the country, rather than a purely military one. The highest levels of support for the reintegration approach are in the East and West, which are also amongst the regions that record the highest levels of sympathy for armed opposition groups. Women are less supportive of the government's reintegration efforts than men and are less likely to say that reintegration of armed opposition groups will stabilize the country. Hazara respondents record the highest proportion who say that reintegration will stabilize the country, but the lowest levels of support for government efforts to negotiate and reintegrate former militants, suggesting that the lower levels of support for the government's reintegration efforts in this region are not related to concerns about security and stability.

In 2010, Afghans give a more optimistic assessment of their economic situation than in 2009. More Afghans say they are better off now than a year ago in all domains, particularly in terms of the financial wellbeing of their household. However, the benefits of increased financial well-being are not evenly shared, with those in the highest income bracket significantly more likely to report an improvement in their financial well-being in the past year than those in the lowest income category. Employment appears to be a major factor affecting perceptions of economic wellbeing. In 2010 unemployment is again identified as one of the biggest problems at both national and local levels and the majority of respondents express dissatisfaction at government performance in reviving/developing the economy and the creation of job opportunities.

Alongside unemployment, other basic infrastructure and public services, such as electricity, roads, water and healthcare, continue to dominate the list of problems at the local level. Respondents remain least satisfied with the provision of electricity, which is identified as the most critical need in the East, West and North West. Roads emerge as the top priority in the Central/Kabul, South West and North East regions. The most critical need in the South East is water supply, particularly for irrigation, whereas in the Central/Hazarajat it is health care. Overall assessments of the availability of most basic facilities and public services have not registered significant improvement over time, and satisfaction with health services, such as the availability of clinics and hospitals and the availability of medicines, has been falling consistently since 2007.

On the other hand, respondents are positive about the level of reconstruction and rebuilding, which remains the second most important reason for optimism cited by respondents who say the country is moving in the right direction. As in previous years, respondents are most satisfied with the availability of education for children in their local area, and the opening of schools for girls continues to be mentioned as a reason for optimism in the country, although to a lesser degree than in 2009.

The majority of respondents are also aware of development projects in their local area relating to education and the same is true for projects targeting the reconstruction or building of roads and bridges. However, levels of awareness of development projects across regions suggests that donor assisted development projects are heavily concentrated in certain areas of the country, particularly the East, while other regions, especially the Central/Hazarajat and to a lesser extent the North West, are significantly less aware of development assistance. This is likely to be due, in part, to donor strategies designed to link development initiatives with security related initiatives. Indeed, awareness of security-related projects such as de-mining and demilitarization/disarmament are also highest in the East and the North East.

In 2010, there has been a significant fall in confidence in both national and international non-governmental organizations (NGOs) compared to previous years. This lower confidence corresponds with the perception that both NGOs and the donors who fund them more often make decisions that serve their own interests rather than the interests of the Afghan public. This drop in confidence in 2010 may also be influenced by changes to the legal framework governing the operations of NGOs which may make their work less evident to the Afghan public.

Satisfaction with the performance of the national government has risen steadily over the last three years and 2010 records the highest levels of positive assessments of national government performance since 2007 in almost all regions. Satisfaction is highest in the North West, East and North East. These are also the regions that record the highest proportion of respondents who think the country is going in the right direction.

Government performance is judged most positively with regard to the provision of basic public services such as education, healthcare and security, but least positively with respect to developing the economy, creating jobs and fighting corruption. These findings are consistent with respondents' views of the availability of basic services and amenities in their local area, clearly suggesting that the public's assessment of government performance is closely related to the ability of government to provide basic public services at the local level. The greatest achievements of government identified by respondents are broadly similar to the reasons for optimism given

by respondents who say that the country is moving in the right direction, and the same is true of the government's main failings which closely mirror the reasons for pessimism, suggesting that respondents consider government to play a critical role in leading the country towards positive development.

In terms of local government, respondents give the most positive assessment of the performance of Provincial Councils, followed by district authorities and municipalities. The highest levels of satisfaction with provincial government are recorded in the North West and Central/Kabul regions and the lowest in the South East and South West. Nationally, the overall level of satisfaction with the performance of municipal authorities decreased in 2010 compared to 2009, particularly in the North West, North East, South West and Central/Hazarajat. On the other hand, satisfaction with municipal authorities increased in the East, West and South East. Positive assessments of the performance of rural local authorities decreased in almost all regions in 2010 compared to 2009, except in the Central/Hazarajat.

The majority of Afghans continue to say that corruption is a major problem in all facets of life and at all levels of government. In 2010, there has been a sharp increase since 2009 in the proportion of respondents who identify corruption as one of Afghanistan's major problems, and as a main reason for pessimism amongst respondents who say that the country is moving in the wrong direction. Corruption is also given greater emphasis than insecurity as a government failure, suggesting that respondents feel the government is better placed to tackle this issue but has failed to do so. This is borne out by respondents' experience that between a third and a half of contacts with core government institutions involve some level of corruption.

Confidence in both formal and informal representative bodies, including community shura and jirga, Provincial Councils, Community Development Councils (CDC) and Parliament remains relatively high. More respondents believe that the government considers the Afghan public interest rather than its own interests when making decisions, however this is not the case for other public institutions such as the courts or Parliament. Nonetheless, the majority of respondents are satisfied with their MP representing them in the Parliament, particularly in the North West, East, North East, West and Central/Hazarajat. With the exception of the Central/Hazarajat, these regions also record the highest levels of confidence in the ability to influence government decisions and the highest levels of satisfaction with the performance of central government and government service provision, suggesting that perceptions of the performance of individual MPs and perceptions of the performance of government generally are closely associated. Conversely, the South West and South East regions record corresponding low levels of confidence and satisfaction across all these domains.

Support for the application of democratic principles of governance remains high. There has been little change in the quality of freedom of expression in the last year, with slightly more respondents saying that it is now safer to express their political opinions, than those saying it has become less safe. However, a higher proportion of Pashtun respondents report that it is less safe now to express their opinions compared to one year ago than those from any other ethnic group. Greater limitations to freedom of expression are particularly mentioned in the South West, South East and Central/Kabul regions. The Southern regions are also those that most frequently identify security as a significant local problem. Responses show that local security conditions and the guarantee of freedom of expression are the key factors in making people feel safer to express their opinions.

Levels of agreement with the democratic principle of equal rights for all groups to participation and representation remain high, but do not reverse the declining trend which has been evident since 2006. However, levels of support for allowing peaceful opposition rose significantly in 2010 after falling consistently since 2006. In 2010 the majority of respondents agree that a person should vote the way his or her community votes, not how they feel individually, although this figure has been falling since 2008. Only in the North East do the majority of respondents say that voting should be a matter of individual choice.

When the survey was conducted in June 2010, with the Parliamentary elections scheduled for September, over three quarters of respondents were aware of the planned polls and a similar proportion intended to vote. Levels of awareness were lower than for the presidential elections in 2009 although voting intention was about the same. It would seem however that voting intention reported by survey respondents was significantly higher than actual electoral participation which has been estimated at around 40% nationally for the 2010 parliamentary poll.

The overall perceptions of elections remain positive in 2010 with around three quarters of respondents saying that elections have improved the country. However, 2010 sees a significant decline in public confidence in a number of election-related institutions. Confidence in the Independent Election Commission declined significantly compared to 2009. This decrease may be due to the contested performance of the IEC in the 2009 elections, which were marred by widespread irregularities and accusations of bias leveled at the Commission. Confidence in political parties also peaked in the run up to the 2009 elections, but fell back in 2010 to a level similar to those recorded in previous years.

Perceptions of the 2009 presidential elections have clearly had an impact on public confidence and the willingness of respondents to participate in electoral processes. While a slim majority of respondents say that the 2009 Presidential elections were

free and fair, the figure is significantly lower than those who had said they expected the Presidential elections would be free and fair before the poll was held. Problems identified with the 2009 elections include cheating in the vote count, buying of votes, restrictions to women's electoral participation, including men voting on behalf of women, and husbands not letting their wives vote, and intimidation of voters or party activists. Analysis of responses reveals that respondents who said that they intended to vote in the 2010 elections are predominantly those who think that the 2009 elections were free and fair, and who believe that elections have improved the country, suggesting that public confidence in the quality of the electoral process has a significant positive impact on people's willingness to exercise their right to democratic participation.

The majority of respondents were confident that the Afghan government could conduct elections on its own in 2010, however the majority in all regions, except the South West and South East also feel that the international community should continue to play a role.

As in previous years, education and illiteracy remain the major problems facing women in Afghanistan. The second biggest problem identified is the lack of job opportunities for women, particularly in the North West and North East followed by the Central/Hazarajat, Central/Kabul and Western regions. These are also the regions that identify unemployment as a major problem either at national or local level, suggesting that concern about job opportunities for women is often part of an overall concern about employment, rather than a specific issue for women. However, the Central/Kabul, Central/Hazarajat, North West and North East are also the regions where the largest number of respondents say that women should be allowed to work outside the home, suggesting that there is greater demand and opportunity for women to take jobs in these regions.

Stated support for gender equality remains high, including support for equal educational opportunities for women. However, support for women being allowed to work outside the home continues to fall to its lowest level to date in 2010. Support for women working outside the home is highest amongst women themselves, respondents in younger age groups and in low income households, which is likely to reflect the greater acknowledgement amongst low income families of the potential value of women's paid employment to increase household income.

Women continue to have a greater belief than men in equal sharing of political leadership roles, although there is little difference between the sexes regarding their opposition to being represented by a woman across a range of representative institutions. Opposition to being represented by a woman is lower for institutions close to the community level, such as shura/jirga, Community Development Councils (CDC) and Dis-

strict Development Assemblies (DDA), but higher with regard to female representation in higher level institutions such as Provincial Councils and the national parliament.

Radio remains the most accessible media for Afghan households, although television ownership and the use of television to access news and information is increasing, particularly in urban areas. Low income households continue to have the lowest levels of access to radio and television, highlighting the challenges of providing information through technological means to the poorer segments of Afghan society. Since 2009 the majority of respondents own a mobile telephone and the proportion continues to rise. Computer ownership has also almost doubled between 2008 and 2010 although the proportion of respondents who own one remains very small compared to other forms of communication technology. Only in the Central/Kabul region do most respondents get news and information from television rather than radio, whereas in the Central/Hazarajat, where access to both television and radio is comparatively low, friends and family still constitute a major source of information on news and current events.

The use of oral communication to get news and information is high, with more than half of respondents using meetings in the community and sermons in mosques for this purpose, showing that traditional means of information dissemination continue to remain important in Afghan society. Respondents continue to prefer to get information on local news and events from personal acquaintances rather than leadership figures within their community, however the proportion of respondents who rely on personal contacts to access information on local events has been falling since 2006. On the other hand, the popularity of both local and international radio stations as a source of local information has significantly increased, doubling between 2008 and 2010.

### **1.3 Restriction on survey field work and replacement of sampling points for security reasons**

In 2010 there were much greater restrictions on the movement of survey researchers due to security concerns compared to previous years. This limitation and restriction caused the survey field work administration to replace sampling points from those insecure areas to more secure areas. In 2010, more than one in six (16%) random sampling points had to be changed across the country for security reasons. This is higher than 2009 when 12% of sampling points were changed for security reasons, and very much higher than in 2008 (3%) and 2007 (2%) when the replacement rate was not statistically significant.

*Replacements of sampling points due to security problems (Appendix 2: Methodology) COMPARISON OF 2007, 2008, 2009 and 2010*

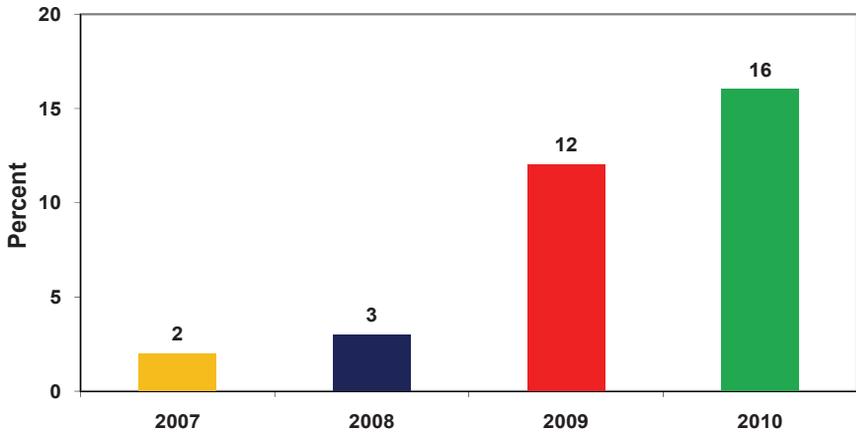


Fig. 1.1

This means that again in 2010 findings related to security and other issues in which the security dimension is an important factor are likely to under-represent the level of insecurity, given that survey researchers are unable to access insecure areas in increasingly large parts of the country.

The replacement of sampling points for security reasons since 2007 demonstrates clearly that the number of regions affected by security problems has been increasing. In 2007, only 11 of the 626 sampling points had to be replaced because the areas were inaccessible due to security problems (2% of all sampling points). More than half of the replacements were made in just one region - the South East (55% - 6 sampling points), and more than a quarter in a second region – the South West (27% - 3 sampling points). One security-related replacement was needed in the West and another in the Central/Kabul region. No changes of sampling points were needed due to security problems in any of the other regions.

In 2008, 18 of the 659 sampling points were replaced due to security problems (i.e. 3% of all sampling points). These replacements were again mainly concentrated in the South East (6 replacements, 33%) and South West (5 replacements, 28%) but other replacements were distributed among seven of the eight regions with the exception of the North West. Two sampling points had to be replaced in the East and West and one each in the North East Central/Hazarajat and Central/Kabul regions.

However, in 2009 the total number of security-related replacements of survey sampling points increased fourfold, from 3% in 2008 to 12%. One hundred and two

of the 823 random sampling points were inaccessible to survey researchers due to insecurity, and replacements were required in all regions. In addition, the number of insecure areas which could not be accessed at least tripled in the South East (from 6 to 18) and the South West (from 5 to 17) and rose even more dramatically in all other regions, from 2 to 14 in the East and the West, from 1 to 13 in the Central/Kabul region, from 1 to 11 in the North East. In the North West where no replacements had been needed in 2008, in 2009 13 sampling points had become inaccessible due to insecurity. In the Central/Hazarajat two replacements were needed in 2009, compared to just one in previous year.

In 2010, the situation continues to deteriorate. One hundred and thirty eight of the 885 random sampling points were inaccessible to survey researchers due to security problems (16% of all sampling points). Again the number of replacements rose significantly in most regions. The regions most affected continue to be the South East (28 replacements, compared to 18 in 2009), South West (24 replacements compared to 17 in 2009) and the East (21 replacements compared to 14 the previous year). In 2010 the situation in the North continues to mirror that of the South and East. In the North East 23 replacements were made, compared to 11 in 2009, and in the North West 20 sampling points were inaccessible, compared to 13 the previous year. There was a small drop in the number of security related replacements in the West (from 14 to 12) and the Central/Kabul regions (from 13 to 10). However, restricted accessibility for survey researchers show that insecurity continues to be widespread and appears to be increasing. In 2010 the Central/Hazarajat was the only region where no replacements of sampling points were made due to security problems.

*Actual number of replacements of sampling points due to security problems (See Appendix 2: Methodology) ALL AND BY REGION COMPARISON OF 2007, 2008, 2009 AND 2010*

Number of Sample Points Replaced for Security Reasons	All (%)	Central/Kabul (%)	East (%)	South East (%)	South West (%)	West (%)	North East (%)	Central/Hazarajat (%)	North West (%)
2007	11	1	0	6	3	1	0	0	0
2008	18	1	2	6	5	2	1	1	0
2009	102	13	14	18	17	14	11	2	13
2010	138	10	21	28	24	12	23	0	20