



## Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) December 7, 2016

### **1. What is the 2016 Survey of the Afghan People?**

The Asia Foundation's annual *Survey of the Afghan People* is Afghanistan's longest-running nationwide survey of adult Afghan attitudes and opinions. Since 2004, over 87,000 Afghan men and women have been surveyed from more than 400 districts. All provinces are surveyed in each of the past 12 national survey samples. All data is public and free for download: <http://asiafoundation.org/afghansurvey>.

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

12,658 Afghan citizens were polled in-person in all 34 provinces. Respondents were 18 years and older, residents of Afghanistan, gender weighted to represent 53% men and 47% women, and included both urban (25%) and rural (75%) households. The average age of respondents was 35 years old. Survey results were weighted to be nationally representative using the 2015-2016 Afghan Central Statistics Organization population estimates.

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

The survey covers a wide range of issues central to the country's growth and development. Key topics include security, economic growth and employment, development and governance, political participation, access to information, migration, and attitudes on women's roles in society.

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

This is the 12th annual survey of Afghan citizens; previous polls were released in 2004 and from 2006 to 2014. Taken together, the annual surveys provide a statistically valid, long-term barometer of Afghan public opinion. Since 2004, the series has polled more than 87,000 Afghans.

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

In-person interviews were conducted from August 31 to October 1, 2016.

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

Face-to-face interviews were conducted by 1,003 Afghan enumerators matched with respondents by gender (i.e., men interviewed men, and women interviewed women). All enumerators were resident of the provinces where they conducted interviews. Fieldwork was conducted by the Afghan Center for Socio-Economic and Opinion Research (ACSOR). The Asia Foundation enlisted an independent, third-party monitor (Sayara Research) to observe both fieldwork and enumerator training.

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

This year, the complex margin of error is +/-1.6% for the probability sample, based on a design effect of 3.445 and a confidence interval of 95%.

#### **8. How many questions are included in the survey questionnaire?**

The 2016 survey questionnaire included 31 administrative questions (used to track and manage each interview, such as the date and time), 30 demographics questions (such as age and gender), and 110 substantive questions. Of the substantive questions, 19 were new and 4 were selected from previous years of the *Survey*.

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

As an opinion trends survey, the annual Afghanistan survey has maintained a core set of questions for longitudinal comparison. Each year's survey includes a limited number of new questions developed with inputs from various stakeholders. The Asia Foundation welcomes suggestions, even if all suggestions cannot be incorporated due to limits on survey length.

#### **10. How did the survey account for quality control?**

This year, 35% of surveys were subject to some form of quality control in the field, which included third-party monitoring by Sayara Research as well as TAF monitoring. Additionally, both ACSOR and The Asia Foundation apply logic tests to flag suspicious patterns and enumerator activity.

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

Afghanistan remains a challenging research environment. Each year, randomly identified sampling points have to be replaced for lack of access, usually due to insecurity and remoteness. In 2016, 35.4% of sampling points were replaced (or 800 villages) out of the 2,262 randomly assigned sampling points. Intercept interviews (interviews conducted with Afghans traveling to or from insecure and inaccessible sampling points) were used for comparison.

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

The 2016 survey is a product of The Asia Foundation with financial support provided by the United Kingdom's Department for International Development (DFID), the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), and the German government (Deutsche Zusammenarbeit) through GIZ.

#### **13. 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.

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

The international development nonprofit organization began working in Afghanistan in 1954 and reopened its Kabul office in 2002. Programs focus on the development of subnational governance; strengthen key executive branch agencies; and support programs in civic education, women's empowerment, education, Islam and development, and free and fair elections.

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

The Foundation's goal is to provide timely data and analysis to support of Afghan government and citizens' efforts in building a stable, prosperous society.

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

The Foundation conducts research and perception surveys to help contribute to an active public discourse across its 18-country network, including Bangladesh, Cambodia, Indonesia, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Timor-Leste, among other Asian countries. It has conducted more than 220 surveys since 2002.

**17. Where can I read or download the survey report? Are complete data sets available?**

The survey report and data sets are available at <http://asiafoundation.org/afghansurvey/>. A summary of key findings are available in Dari, Pashto, and English.

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

Please contact the Foundation's Afghanistan office at [country.afghanistan.surveyrelease@asiafoundation.org](mailto:country.afghanistan.surveyrelease@asiafoundation.org).

Media may contact Eelynn Sim at [eelynn.sim@asiafoundation.org](mailto:eelynn.sim@asiafoundation.org) for embargoed copies of the survey.

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