

A Survey of Afghan Returnees 2018

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the 2018 Survey of Afghan Returnees?

A Survey of Afghan Returnees is the first of three-year public perception survey on returnees and host communities in Afghanistan. This survey seeks to address the gap in empirical knowledge on returnees and host communities, and document the opinions and challenges faced by these populations. In the first year of the survey (2018), The Survey has focused on gathering the views of almost 8,000 returnees and host community members in rural and urban areas of Kandahar, Nangarhar, Kabul, Balkh, and Herat provinces to better understand their perceptions and experiences of returnee integration. This report details their optimism, pessimism, hopes, fears, and realities.

How many Afghan citizens were surveyed?

The Survey sample included 7,989 men and women 18 years and older. Half of those interviewed (3,988) were returnees who returned to Afghanistan from abroad within the last five years. Host community members, living next door to returnees, compose the other half (4,001) of the sample. The overall sample represents 53% male and 47% female returnees and host community members. The sample consisted of 29% urban households and 71% rural households in the unweighted sample.

What topics are covered in the report?

The Survey covers a range of issues from both returnees and host communities' perspectives. Among returnees, this survey covers their experiences upon return and reintegration, reasons for their return, settlement choice and decision making, education/skills acquired while abroad, access to services, economic situation, registration status, integration and conflict, gaps in present and future needs, and any changes in returnee experiences over time. From a host community perspective, this survey provides insight on the acceptance, trust and impact of returnees into the host communities. The experiences and challenges to returnee reintegration, including any conflict or barriers that returnees may have while reintegration is highlighted from a community perspective.

What is the Survey's margin of error?

The Survey provides two margins of error for each population sub-set. For the returnee sample, the estimated design effect was 1.9. Using this design effect, the complex margin of error at the 95% confidence interval (CI) with $p=0.5$ was calculated to be +/- 2.14%. For the host community sample, the estimated design effect was 1.8, and the complex margin of error +/- 2.08%.

When was the field work conducted?

The fieldwork was conducted between October 25 and November 7, 2018.

Who conducted the fieldwork?

Face-to-face interviews were conducted by 288 enumerators (130 female and 158 male) who were gender-matched with respondents (i.e. men interviewed men and women interviewed women). All enumerators were residents of the provinces in which they conducted the interviews. The fieldwork was led by Afghan Center for Socio-Economic and Opinion Research (ACSOR), and third-party field verification was led by Sayara Research.

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How was the data collected?

All the data for this survey was collected using pen and paper questionnaires.

How many questions are included in the Survey?

The 2018 Survey seeks to address the gap in empirical knowledge on returnees and host communities, and document the opinions and challenges faced among these distinct populations. Thus, two different questionnaires were designed; one for returnees and one for the host community members. Both versions of the questionnaire included 29 management questions and 18 demographic questions. The returnee questionnaire contained 90 substantive questions, while the host community questionnaire contained 46 substantive questions. However, both questionnaires contained extensive filtering such that no respondent was asked 100% of the questions in either questionnaire.

How was the questionnaire developed?

Two questionnaires were developed, one each for the returnee and host community samples. The two versions share common management and demographic sections, but different substantive questions, owing to the differing research goals in surveying each target population. Questions were reviewed in order to ensure that questions met international standards, which included ensuring that questions are not double-barreled or overly complex, do not contain double negatives, are not threatening or leading, and that response scales match question wording. In total, the questionnaire went through nine iterations before being approved for translation.

Does the Survey account for quality control?

Quality control mechanisms were employed at every step of the process by the Foundation and its partners. During fieldwork, interviewers were observed by supervisors or a third-party validator. Field supervisors and third-party validators also conducted back-checks of interviews. In total, 36% of interviews were subject to some form of back-check or quality control.

How did security issues in the country affect the results of the Survey?

In total, 10.4% of sampling points were replaced at some stage of the sampling process: 10.0% of male sampling points (43 out of 430), and 10.8% of female sampling points (42 out of 390) were replaced. Out of the 10.4% sample replacements, 9.1% were replaced due to security issues/Taliban/Daesh presence. By gender, 90.7% of replacements among male sampling points were due to security issues compared to 85.7% of female replacements for the same reason.

Who funded the Survey?

The survey is funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

What is The Asia Foundation?

The Asia Foundation is a nonprofit international development organization committed to improving lives across a dynamic and developing Asia. Working through offices in 18 countries and informed by deep local expertise and six decades of experience, the Foundation addresses the critical issues affecting Asia in the 21st century by strengthening governance, expanding economic opportunity, increasing environmental resilience, empowering women, and promoting international cooperation.

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What does The Asia Foundation do in Afghanistan?

The Asia Foundation began working in Afghanistan in 1954 and re-opened its Kabul office in 2002. Programs focus on governance and law, women's empowerment, education, regional cooperation, and research, including the signature Survey of the Afghan People.

Why does The Asia Foundation conduct the annual Survey of the Afghan Returnees?

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

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

The report and data sets are available on The Asia Foundation's [website](#).

Who should I contact for more information?

Please contact the Foundation's Afghanistan office at country.afghanistan.general@asiafoundation.org