

AFGHANISTAN IN 2014

A Survey of the Afghan People

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) November 18, 2014

1. What is the 2014 Survey of the Afghan People?

Designed and managed by The Asia Foundation's office in Afghanistan, the survey is the longest-running and broadest public opinion poll of Afghan citizens. This year, 9,271 Afghans were polled in face-to-face interviews across all 34 provinces of Afghanistan.

2. 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 national mood, security, economic growth and employment, development and service delivery, governance, political participation, access to information, and women in society. This year's survey includes new questions on the 2014 election, migration, and disaster response.

3. How often is the survey conducted?

This is the tenth annual nationwide 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 65,000 Afghans.

4. When was the survey fieldwork conducted?

In-person interviews were conducted between June 22 and July 8, 2014.

5. How many Afghan citizens were surveyed?

A random, nationally representative sample of 9,271 Afghan citizens were polled in-person in all 34 provinces. To meet more aggressive margins of error, we used the same sample size from 2013, nearly a 47% increase from 2012. Respondents were 18 years and older, residents of Afghanistan, 50% men and 50% women, and included both urban (24%) and rural (76%) households. Survey results were weighted to be nationally representative using the 2013-2014 Afghan Central Statistics Office population estimates. (A breakdown of demographic and socio-economic details is found in Appendix 2 of the survey report.)

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

In 2014, the estimated design effect is 2.17 and the complex margin of error at the 95% confidence level ($p=.05$) is $\pm 1.5\%$ for the probability sample. A comparison of the margin of error using the same calculation techniques is presented in the Methodology section (Appendix 1). Each year, Q1 is used as a proxy question to estimate the margin of error for the overall survey.

7. How many questions are included in the survey questionnaire?

The survey questionnaire included 79 questions, with an average interview length of 41 minutes and a range of 20-70 minutes.

8. 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, including 2014 questions on the recent elections, migration, and women's issues. Questions are tested for reliability using quantitative analysis, and tested for validity using qualitative analysis. (The questionnaire is included in Appendix 2.)

9. Who conducted the fieldwork? What are the quality control methods?

A total of 909 interviewers (474 men and 435 women) were rigorously trained to conduct in-person interviews in Afghanistan. Fieldwork was conducted by the Kabul-based ACSOR-Surveys. Sayara Research provided independent, third-party monitoring for quality control.

Since 2006, 32.1% of all individual surveys with respondents have been monitored, including through direct supervision during the interview by the provincial supervisor (5.5%), back-checks by the provincial supervisor (20.9%), back-checks by the ACSOR-Surveys Kabul office (2.8%), and third-party monitoring (3.0%). This year, 38.8% of surveys were subject to some form of quality control, including 14.9% by a third-party monitor.

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

Currently, no single survey in Afghanistan can access all parts of Afghanistan due to remoteness and security challenges. As in 2013 and 2012, deteriorating security was a challenge for accessing sampling points this year. Insecure and inaccessible areas were measured using intercept interviews (interviews with Afghans traveling to or from insecure and inaccessible sampling points).

In 2014, 28.3% of sampling points were replaced from the original list of randomly assigned sampling points, or 460 villages out of the 1,628 randomly selected. As in previous years, the survey could not access women in highly insecure areas due to a combination of cultural and security reasons.

11. What is this new qualitative research mentioned in the Methodology section?

This year, Eureka Research provided qualitative research support for key questions. This qualitative research is designed to inform questionnaire improvements for future studies. Eureka Research was tasked to conduct 125 in-depth interviews with Afghans from five provinces separate from the main survey fieldwork. Their survey instruments were questions from the 2014 survey plus a series of qualitative questions to help answer instrument-specific questions about how Afghans are interpreting the questions. This qualitative data and anecdotes provide feedback on instrument design for next year to make improvements to a few key questions.

12. Who funded the survey?

The 2014 survey is a product of The Asia Foundation, with support provided by Australian 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).

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?

We began working in Afghanistan in 1954. Since our Kabul office re-opened in 2002, we have 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.

15. Why does The Asia Foundation conduct this survey?

The Foundation’s goal is to provide useful, reliable data on Afghan opinions that can illuminate the situation at the local level and provide context for relevant program work. The annual Afghan survey is a core component of the Foundation’s work in Afghanistan, providing timely data and analysis to support Afghan government and citizens’ efforts in building a stable, prosperous society.

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

In nearly all of the 18 Asian countries in which we program in, the Foundation conducts research and perception surveys to help contribute to an active public discourse. Many of these surveys have been conducted in fragile, conflict-affected states and regions where reliable official statistics are often missing. 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.

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/ag2014poll>. A summary of key findings are also available in Dari and Pashto.

18. Who should I contact for more information?

For general queries, please contact the Foundation’s Afghanistan office at country.afghanistan.surveyrelease@asiafoundation.org. For media queries, please contact Eelynn Sim at eelynn.sim@asiafoundation.org.

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