

AFGHANISTAN IN 2015
A Survey of the Afghan People

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)
November 17, 2015

1. What is the 2015 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.

2. How many Afghan citizens were surveyed?

9,586 Afghan citizens were polled in-person in all 34 provinces. Respondents were 18 years and older, residents of Afghanistan, 50% men and 50% women, and included both urban (18%) and rural (82%) households. The average age of respondents was 34 years old. Survey results were weighted to be nationally representative using the 2014-2015 Afghan Central Statistics Office 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 national mood, security, economic growth and employment, development and service delivery, governance, political participation, access to information, and women in society. New questions this year cover youth, ISIL/ISIS, women in leadership, and mobile phone access.

4. How often is the survey conducted?

This is the eleventh 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 75,000 Afghans.

5. When was the survey fieldwork conducted?

In-person interviews were conducted from June 11-28, 2015.

6. Who conducted the fieldwork?

Face-to-face interviews were conducted by 939 trained Afghan enumerators (487 men and 452 women) 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), and technical and statistical support was provided by D3 Systems, Inc. Third-party monitoring was conducted by Sayara Research for 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 2.53 and a confidence interval of 95%.

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

The questionnaire included 94 questions. In 2015, 11 new substantive questions were introduced, and 12 were modified from previous surveys.

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.

10. How did the survey account for quality control?

This year, 39% of surveys were subject to some form of quality control, including through direct observation during the interview (5%), back-checks by the provincial supervisor (22%), back-checks by the central office (2%), and external validator interviews (10%).

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 2015, 28.6% of sampling points were replaced (or 482 villages) out of the 1,684 randomly assigned sampling points. Intercept interviews (interviews with Afghans traveling to or from insecure and inaccessible sampling points) were used for comparison.

12. Who funded the survey?

The 2015 survey is a product of The Asia Foundation, with support provided the United Kingdom Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO), the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), the Australian government's Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT), and the German government (Deutsche Zusammenarbeit).

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 re-opened 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.

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 also available in Dari and Pashto.

18. Who should I contact for more information?

Please contact the Foundation's Afghanistan office at country.afghanistan.surveyrelease@asiafoundation.org. Media may contact Eelynn Sim at eelynn.sim@asiafoundation.org.

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