

Faryab Survey – wave 2

Elin Marthinussen, Frode Rutledal, Bård Eggereide and Alf Christian Hennum

Norwegian Defence Research Establishment (FFI)

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Approved by

Frode Rutledal

Project Manager

Espen Skjelland

Director

English summary

The Faryab Survey Wave 2 was conducted October/November 2010 by the agency Afghan Center for Socio-Economic and Opinion Research (ACSOR). The questionnaire used in the survey has been developed by the Norwegian Defence Research Establishment (FFI) in cooperation with the Norwegian-led Provincial Reconstruction Team Maimana (PRT Maimana). It consists of approximately 50 questions covering the three main areas: security, development and governance, in line with both the Norwegian and the NATO-led International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) strategies.

In total, 1182 people in Faryab were interviewed. These ranged between 18 and 80 years old. 50 % of the respondents were male and 50 % female.

The result from the survey shows a split perception on the security situation in Faryab. The national security forces, ANP and ANA, are seen as important security actors. Still, the majority believes neither the police nor the army can operate by themselves and need the support from international forces.

Almost half of the respondents say that aid projects (that have benefited the community) have been implemented in their area the last year. The biggest problems in the province are unemployment and lack of water.

The good impression of the provincial government may come as a surprise seeing that 4 out of 5 state that corruption is a problem amongst the provincial government officials.

Despite the significant number of respondents in the survey, every poll suffers from limitations and biases. To reduce the uncertainty and gain a better picture of development trends over time, FFI has an ambition to conduct such surveys regularly.

Sammendrag

Faryab Survey Wave 2 ble gjennomført i oktober/november 2010 av Afghan Center for Socio-Economic and Opinion Research (ACSOR). Spørreskjemaet som ble brukt er utviklet av Forsvarets forskningsinstitutt (FFI) i samarbeid med det norsk-ledede Provincial Reconstruction Team Maimana (PRT) Maimana. Meningsmålingen består av ca. 50 spørsmål som dekker de tre hovedområdene: sikkerhet, utvikling og styresett, i tråd med strategiene som er lagt av de norske myndighetene og den NATO-ledede International Security Assistance Forces (ISAF).

Totalt ble 1182 personer intervjuet i Faryab. Disse var mellom 18 og 80 år. 50 % av respondentene var menn og 50 % kvinner.

Resultatet av meningsmålingen viser en delt oppfatning av sikkerhetssituasjonen i Faryab. De nasjonale sikkerhetsstyrkene blir sett på som viktige sikkerhetsaktører. Likevel mener flertallet at verken politiet eller hæren kan operere på egen hånd, men har behov for støtte fra internasjonale styrker.

Nesten halvparten av respondentene sier at bistandsprosjekter har vært gjennomført i deres område det siste året. De største problemene i provinsen er arbeidsledighet og tilgang på vann.

Det gode inntrykket av den provinsielle regjeringen er overraskende da omtrent 4 av 5 mener korrupsjon er et problem blant de provinsielle myndigheter.

På tross av det betydelige antall respondenter som ble intervjuet, er enhver spørreundersøkelse beheftet med begrensninger og usikkerhet. For å redusere usikkerheten og få et bedre bilde av utviklingstendensene over tid legger derfor FFI opp til å gjennomføre slike undersøkelser regelmessig i Faryab.

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Preface

This report is written under the auspices of the project "Analysis support to military operations" (ANTILOPE) at the Norwegian Defence Research Establishment (FFI). The aim of this project is to establish a pool of personnel with expertise to provide operational analysis support to the Norwegian units. The purpose is to improve the ability and pace in the decision making process during planning and execution of military operations.

As part of ANTILOPE, FFI has deployed operational analysts with the Norwegian-led PRT (Provincial Reconstruction Team) to Afghanistan since December 2008. PRT Maimana is one of 27 PRTs across Afghanistan and a part of NATO's International Security Assistance Force (ISAF). One of the main tasks for the analyst is to carry out comprehensive progress assessments of the situation. This includes both civilian and military issues. In order to embrace the Afghan society in the assessment, FFI in cooperation with PRT Maimana, has developed a survey to be held in the Faryab province.

This report documents the main findings of the second wave completed in the turn of October/November 2010. Most of the analysis and assessment of the results will be given in separate reports. This also includes a comparison of wave 1 and 2, which is a topic for further analysis.

1 Introduction

Norway has been the lead nation of PRT Maimana in the Faryab province since 2005.¹ The PRT is sited in Maimana, the provincial capital of Faryab. As part of this contribution, a strategy for the Norwegian civilian and military effort in Faryab has been developed [1]. The main goal in the strategy is to support the Afghan government in their effort to ensure stability, security and development. The strategy also emphasizes *afghanisation*, meaning that the Norwegian effort, both in terms of security, development and good governance, should be based on Afghan values.

Assessments of the situation and progress in the society are needed in order to analyse the value of the effort in Afghanistan. In this case, and in line with the afghanisation approach, it is important to include the population of Faryab. An extensive survey has therefore been carried out in the province in order to better understand the population and their perception of their own situation. The Faryab Survey Wave 2 is the second in line conducted in Faryab. It was carried out in the turn of the months October/November 2010 – about 6 months after the first wave [2]. The current level of ambition is to carry out surveys twice a year with the aim of tracking the development in the province.

This report consists of five chapters. Chapter 2 gives a brief overview of the survey and the second wave. This includes the method of sample selection, the geographical coverage and a short discussion of possible advantages and disadvantages. Chapter 3 gives the demographics of the respondents in the survey. This covers the age, gender and ethnicity distribution, the living standard and literacy level. Chapter 4 is the main chapter of the report and presents the main findings of the survey. The chapter is divided into security, development and governance issues. The last chapter gives the conclusions.

2 Faryab Survey Wave 2

Country: **Afghanistan**

Field Dates: **Oct 29th–Nov 7th, 2010**

Research Provider: **ACSOR-Surveys**

Study: **Faryab, Wave 2**

Sample Size: **1123 (1182 incl. booster)**

Number of Interviewers: **48**

The Faryab Survey Wave 2 was conducted in the turn of October/November 2010 by the agency Afghan Center for Socio-Economic and Opinion Research (ACSOR). The agency utilizes civil

¹ The PRT is part of the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) in Afghanistan and is a joint military-civilian unit. The mission statement is to “assist Government of Afghanistan in Faryab province in building security, governance and promote development in order to establish a safe and well governed Afghanistan.” <http://www.norway.org.af>

Afghans to do in-depth interviews. The interviewers are about 50 % male/female and a mix of ethnicities to match the respondents. Quality controls are provided from the central office in Kabul in order to assure that the standards are maintained.

The questionnaire employed in the survey has been developed by the Norwegian Defence Research Establishment (FFI) in cooperation with PRT Maimana. It consists of approximately 50 questions covering the three main areas: security, development and governance, in line with the Norwegian and the NATO-led International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) strategy. Some small modifications have been made compared to the questionnaire employed in wave 1.

2.1 Interview sample

In total, 1182 people in Faryab were interviewed in wave 2. This includes a booster of 59 in one specific area of interest in the province. The results in this report exclude this booster in order to avoid overrepresentation in this area.

The respondents are selected using a multi-stage random stratification process which has four layers:

- Province – the interview sample is distributed based on the urban/rural characteristics in the province.
- District – the sample is distributed between the province districts based on the population estimates for each district.
- Settlement – a simple random selection of the known settlements in each district (neighbourhoods in the cities). (There is no population data on settlement sizes, thus the sample can not be distributed based on settlement sizes.)
- Household – a random walk method is used to select the households in which the in-depth interviews will take place.

There were two constrictions in the final selection of the respondents:

- The respondents had to be 18 years or older.
- The sample should have approximately 50 % male and 50 % female respondents.

2.2 Survey coverage

The interviews took place in 14 of Faryab's 15 districts. These are the 14 original districts of Faryab. ISAF and PRT Maimana included Ghowrmach district (originally Badghis province) into the PRT's area of responsibility in 2009. This district has not been covered in the survey due to security issues.

2.3 Advantages and disadvantages

One of the major advantages with the Faryab Survey is the large number of respondents. The size of the sample makes it possible to reduce uncertainty of the analysis to an acceptable level, also below province level. On province level the worst-case sampling error would be 3%.² There are, nevertheless, challenges specific to polls in conflict zones that might increase the uncertainty to the results.

The main aspect of the Faryab Survey is randomness. This is a challenge for surveys in general, but in particular for surveys in Afghanistan due to the poorly documented geography, bad infrastructure and instable security situation. 18 of the original 125 randomly selected villages had to be replaced due to:

1. It was controlled by anti-Afghan government elements (9 villages).
2. It was out of reach (transportation problems) (6 villages).
3. It could not be found (3 villages).

That is, some of the most underdeveloped villages (when it comes to infrastructure at least) and areas with a high threat level have not been included in the survey (see also Section 2.2). This will, to some extent, affect the questions about development and security. On the other hand, the fact that villages are assessed to be too hard to reach or too dangerous gives by itself an indication of the development or security situation in these areas of the province.

3 Demographics

The Faryab Survey has 12 questions on demographics. This chapter summarises the main findings of these questions.

3.1 Age distribution

The respondents ranged between 18 to 80 years old. Approximately 82 % were less than 46 years (Figure 3.1). This is more or less in correspondence with life expectancy in Afghanistan which is about 45 years.³

The age distribution shows peaks at the age of 20, 25, 30, 35, and so on. One contributing factor to this is the estimation of the age by the interviewer: the interviewer estimates the age if the interviewee does not know it. The age is then to a large extent estimated to a round number. However this only covers a small fraction of the respondents. The pronounced peaks may therefore indicate that many do not know their real age and estimate it to a round number.

²The sampling error applies if the respondents are sampled in a simple random sampling procedure. Since a random stratification process has been employed (Section 2.1), it also will affect the sampling error.

³ CIA World Factbook, <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/af.html>

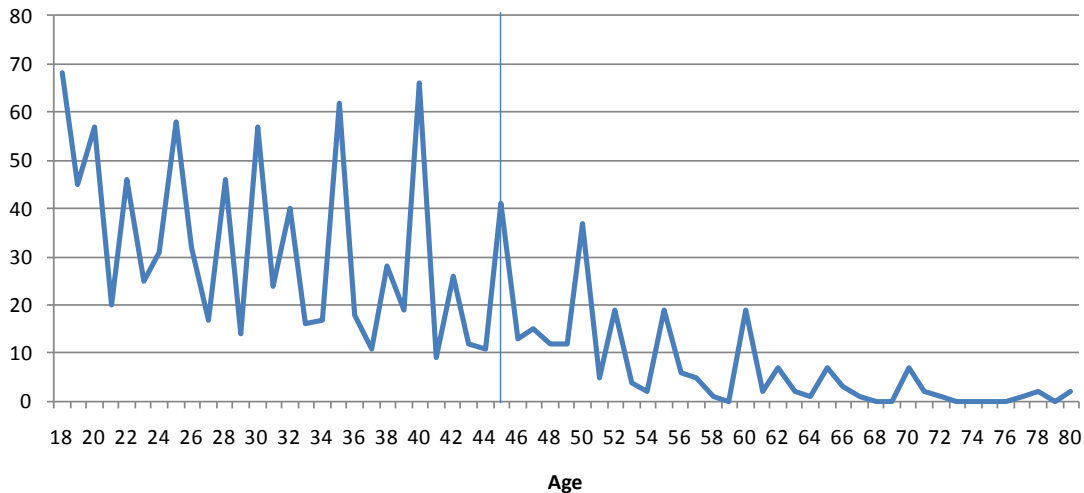


Figure 3.1 Age distribution of the Faryab Survey Wave 2. The vertical blue line marks the life expectancy in Afghanistan.

3.2 Gender

It is of high importance to include the female perspective of the situation into the Faryab study. The survey therefore has 50 % male and 50 % female respondents. ACSOR utilises female interviewers exclusively to interview female respondents.

3.3 Ethnicity

The ethnicity distribution is shown in Figure 3.2. The distribution is:

70 % Uzbek

- 17 % Tajik
- 6 % Pashtun
- 4 % Turkmen
- 3 % other

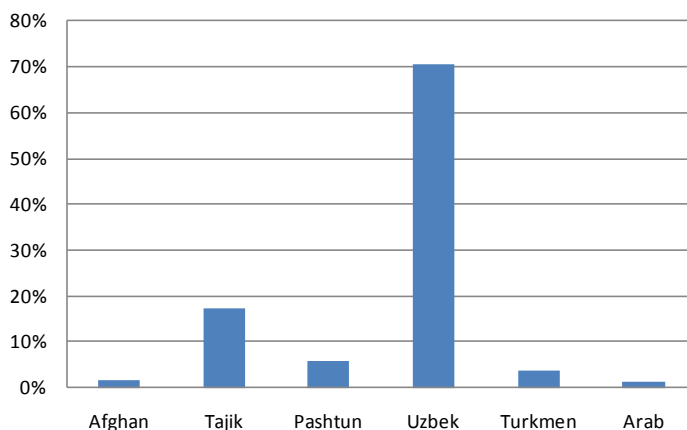


Figure 3.2 Ethnicity distribution of the Faryab Survey Wave 2.

A population census has not been conducted in Afghanistan since 1979. In the meantime millions of people have been displaced. The ethnicity profile in Afghanistan therefore relies on estimates. The ethnicity distribution of wave 2 is slightly different than the estimated ethnicity profile of Faryab.⁴ For instance, it is stated in the Faryab provincial profile that 13 % of the population speak Pashtu, while only 6 % consider themselves to be Pashtun in the survey. Presuming the provincial profile gives the right distribution this indicates a under representative Pashtun fraction in wave 2. It is known that there is a majority of Pashtuns in some of the more insecure areas. As such it is reasonable to assume that replacement of sampling points in these areas (due to security issues) may be one reason for the lower fraction of Pashtuns in the survey.

3.4 Living standard

The interviewers made an assessment of the living standard for each interviewee. The standard is divided into five categories:

1. High quality road, access to water and electricity 6 to 7 days per week
2. Good road, access to water and electricity 4 to 5 days per week
3. Fair road, access to water and electricity 1 to 3 days per week
4. Poor road, access to water and electricity 1 day a week
5. Poor or no road, no or very infrequent access to water and electricity

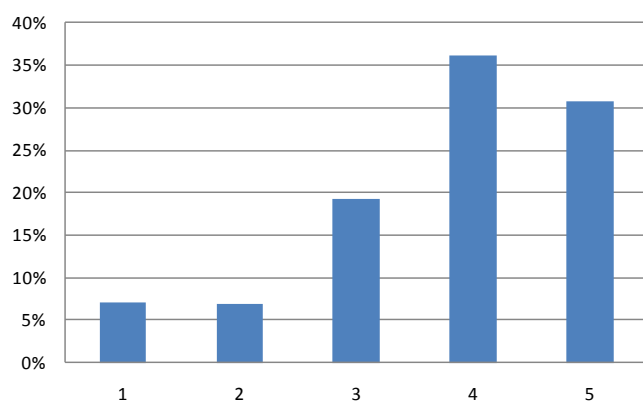


Figure 3.3 Assessed living standard. The standard of roads, water and electricity accessibility is categorised into 5 categories (1 is the best, 5 is the worst).

Figure 3.3 shows that 67 % of the respondents fell into the two poorest categories. These live in areas with poor or no road and with little or no access to water and electricity (not more than one day a week). Only 14 % of the respondents fell into the top two categories and live in areas with good road conditions and with access to water and electricity 4–7 days a week.

⁴ Faryab Provincial Profile:
<http://www.mrrd.gov.af/nabdp/Provincial%20Profiles/Faryab%20PDP%20Provincial%20profile.pdf>

3.5 Literacy and education

When it comes to literacy, only 25 % replied they can read and write. This is less than the Afghanistan average where 28 % are said to be literate.⁵ The literacy among the respondents in Faryab corresponds to the education level (see Figure 3.4): 75 % say they are illiterate and 76 % have no schooling.

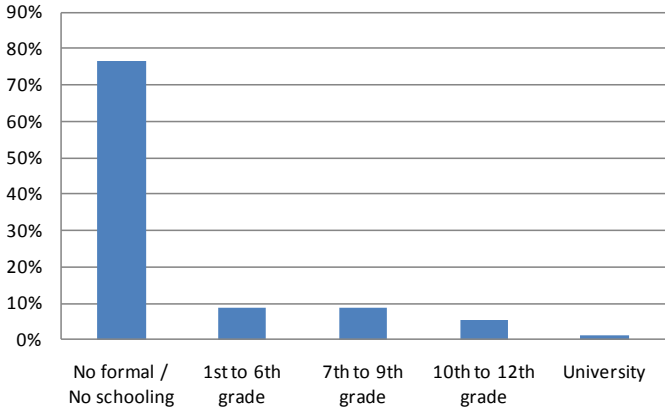


Figure 3.4 Highest level of education of the respondents.

4 Main findings

The results of the survey show that 56 % are positive to the general development in the province and feel that the situation in Faryab generally is going in the right direction (Figure 4.1). However, as many as 22 % feel the opposite.

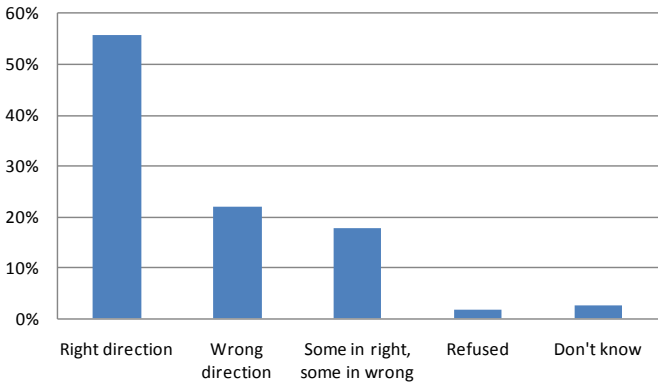


Figure 4.1 Result on the question: In which direction do you think things in Faryab today are going?

The subsequent sections in this chapter summarise the main findings from the Faryab Survey Wave 2 categorised into three main areas: Security, development and governance.

⁵ CIA World Factbook

4.1 Security

4.1.1 Security situation

About 50 % of the respondents who believe the situation is going in the right direction (Figure 4.1) justify this by saying that the security has improved or that the Taliban no longer exists in their area (Figure 4.2).

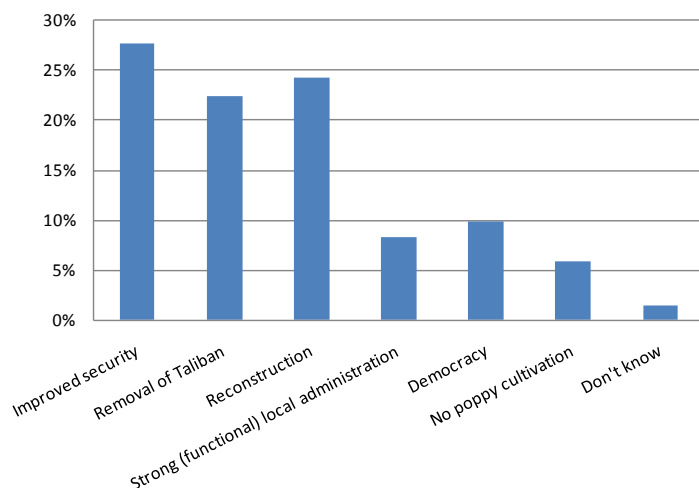


Figure 4.2 Reasons to why things are going in the right direction.

The perception of the security situation is stated more directly through another question. When asked how satisfied the respondent is with the security situation, 56 % reply that they are somewhat or very satisfied (Figure 4.7). 26 % say the situation has improved, while 27 % express the opposite.

The result is somewhat in conjunction with the development seen on the ground. The split opinion on the security situation indicates a deterioration of the situation in some areas of the province while there is a progress in other.

4.1.2 Key security actors

64 % of the respondents consider the Afghan National Police (ANP) to be the most important security provider in their districts (Figure 4.3), whereas 27 % express the same about the Afghan National Army (ANA). The higher response to ANP is not due to a better impression of the police compared to the army (as stated later in the report), but can possibly be explained by their area of responsibility: ANP is recruited locally and has the whole province as their responsibility area, while ANA is focusing on the problem areas. Thus, ANA has less visibility compared to ANP.

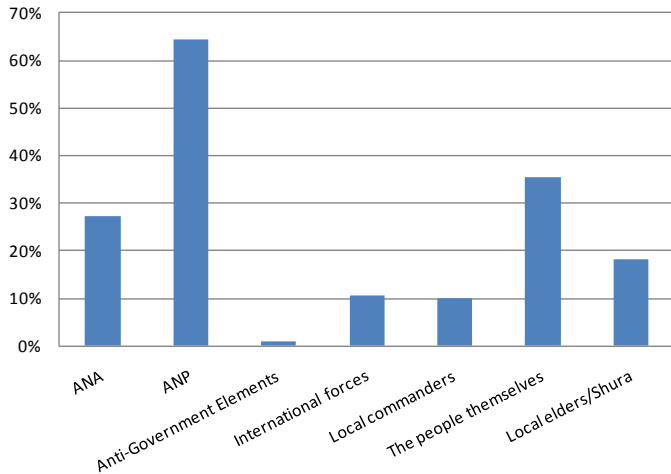


Figure 4.3 Result on the question: Who provides most security in your district? (Note: this was a multi-answer question, i.e. the respondent could answer more than one actor as the provider of security.)

Only 11 % believe that international forces provide most security. The aim of the international forces in Faryab is to support, partner with and mentor the national forces and, as such, it is positive that the people recognise ANSF as the security provider rather than the international forces. However, as many as 36 % respond that the people themselves provide security in their area (Figure 4.3). This may indicate that the national security actors are not present in these areas or they are not doing a good enough job.

ANP

71 % agree that ANP has sufficient forces in their area while 28 % express the opposite. Still, 86 % agree they help to improve the security (Figure 4.4). At the same time, 56 % believe that ANP can not operate on their own and need support from international forces.

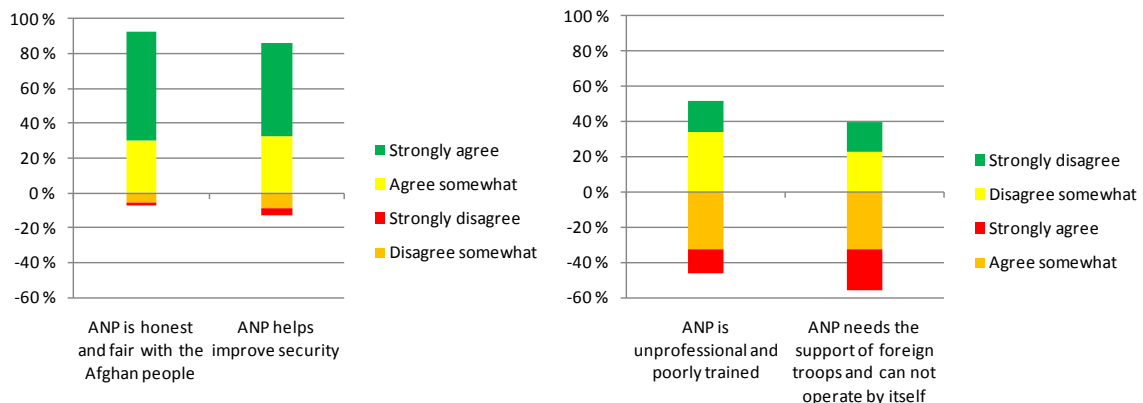


Figure 4.4 Responses on four statements of ANP. Responses in favour of ANP are shown in green and yellow.

All in all, the respondents have a good impression of the Afghan police. 91 % believe that the police are leaving a good impression on the people. And 92 % agree that ANP is honest and fair to the Afghan citizens. This confidence in ANP is confirmed through another question: 88 % say they will report crimes to the police while 10 % respond they will not. It is important to notice that even though the respondents believe the police are improving security and are honest and fair, they also believe ANP are corrupt: 68 % respond that corruption is a problem amongst police officers in their area. This discrepancy might be due to several reasons, especially cultural factors: the expectations of the ANP might be low, the corruption is part of how the society functions and so on.

ANA

The perceptions of ANA are about the same as of ANP. 71 % agree that ANA has sufficient forces in their area while 27 % feel the opposite. Still, 82 % believe they help improve the security (Figure 4.5). At the same time, 53 % believe that ANA can not operate on their own and need support from international forces.

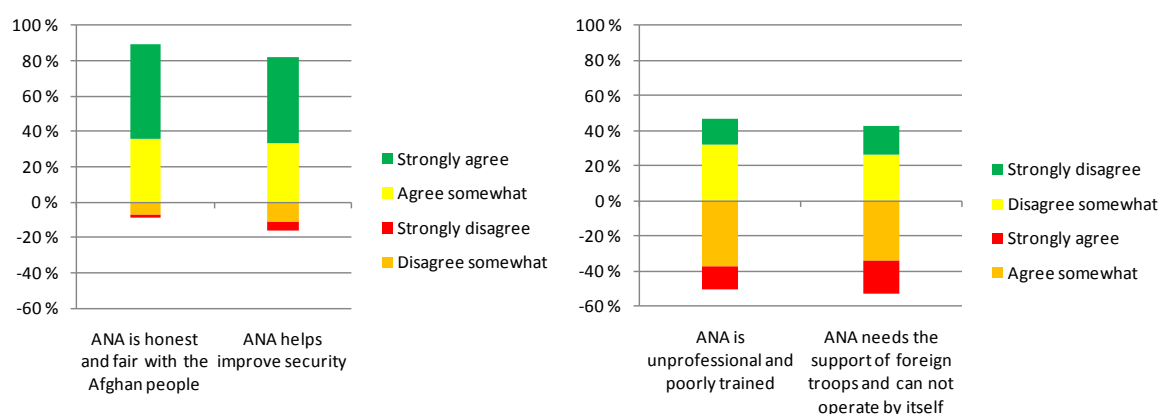


Figure 4.5 Responses on four statements of ANA. Responses in favour of ANA are shown in green and yellow.

All in all, the respondents have a good impression of the Afghan army. 84 % believe that the army is leaving a good impression on the people. And 89 % agrees that ANA is honest and fair to the Afghan citizens. (Corruption amongst ANA was not included in the questionnaire.)

International forces

Even though only 11 % believe that international forces provide most security, the respondents in Faryab recognise a need for international support to the national security forces (Figure 4.4 and 4.5). The international military forces are generally well regarded by the people of Faryab. As many as 73 % reply that they have a good impression of the international forces and their efforts in the province. 22 % believe the opposite.

4.2 Development

24 % of the respondents that believe the situation is going in the right direction (Figure 4.1) justify this by saying that this is due to reconstruction, i.e. development of the province (Figure 4.2). At the same time 48 % of the respondents say that aid projects (to the benefit of the community) have been implemented in their area in the last year. Of these, 41 % say (as first or second mentioned) these projects are construction of wells, while corresponding numbers for bridges, schools and road construction are 32 %, 31 % and 30 % respectively.

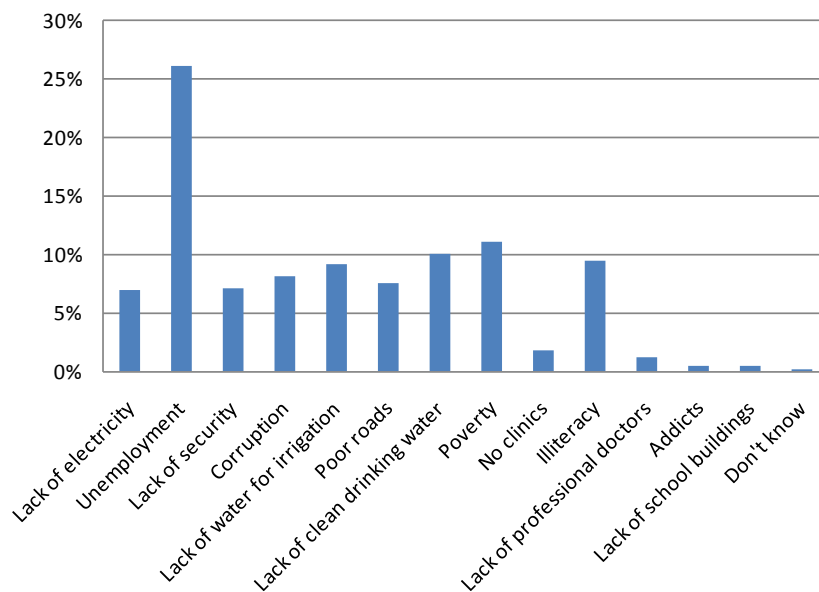


Figure 4.6 Biggest problem in the local area.

As illustrated in Figure 4.6, the biggest problem in the province is by far unemployment (26 %). In comparison, 7 % respond that lack of security is the biggest problem. Lack of water (either for drinking or irrigation) is another big concern in the province. A response rate of 19 % makes this the second biggest problem, despite the fact that the majority of aid projects are construction of wells (in line with the discussion above).

These results are confirmed in the questions on how satisfied the respondents are with *The availability of jobs*, *The availability of clean water* and *The availability of water for irrigation* (Figure 4.7): 76 % are dissatisfied with the job opportunities, 58 % with the supply of clean water and 58 % with the supply of irrigation water. Only 8 % feel that job opportunities have improved the last year, while 42 % think that it has deteriorated. 17 % and 13 % believe, respectively, that the availability of clean water and water for irrigation has improved. The respondents also express their discontent with job opportunities for women: 75 % are dissatisfied with education and job opportunities for women.

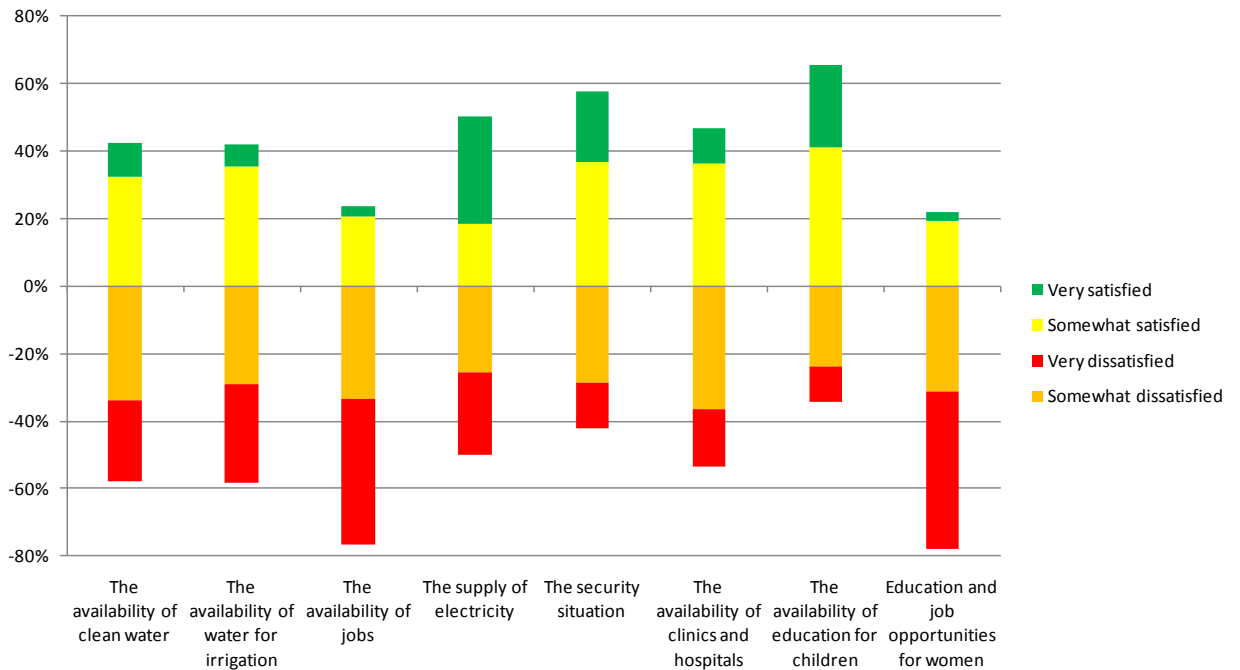


Figure 4.7 How satisfied are you with the...?

The respondents are more satisfied with the education opportunities in their area and the security at the schools: 65 % are satisfied with the education opportunity for the children (Figure 4.7) and 68 % with the security at the schools. 31 % say that the education opportunities have improved (16 % it has deteriorated), and 32 % that the security at schools has improved (18 % it has deteriorated). Education is one of the main focuses in the Norwegian development aid.

The satisfaction with electricity and health clinics is divided. 50 % are satisfied with the supply of electricity, while 46 % are satisfied with the availability of clinics and hospitals. 34 % believe the supply of electricity has improved the last year. On the other hand, 24 % believe it has deteriorated. This might indicate an improvement in some areas of the province, while there are areas where the supply of electricity is a bigger problem.

4.3 Governance

When asked who has most influence in their local area, the government, opposing government elements or neither, 87 % respond the government and 6 % Opposing Government Elements (Figure 4.8). 71 % believe the government is doing an overall good job at the provincial level. And 60 % agree that the government, in the last year, has satisfactorily addressed the needs of their community (37 % disagree).

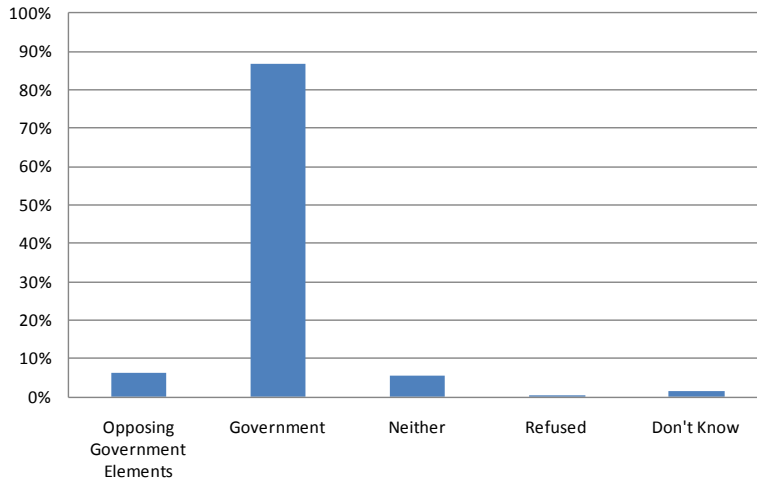


Figure 4.8 Who has most influence in your mantaq (local area)?

The good impression of the provincial government may come as a surprise given that 79 % states that corruption is a moderate to big problem amongst the provincial government officials. The same situation is seen when looking at the Afghan police (see Chapter 4.1.2).

When it comes to justice and the rule of law, 54 % would go to an Afghan state court if they had a dispute. 22 % would go to the local Shura/Jirga and 16 % of the respondents would take the dispute to both. 7 % would not use any in case of a dispute.

5 Conclusions

The survey shows a split perception on the security situation in Faryab. Many are satisfied with the situation as it is today, and have seen an improvement. But a lot of respondents feel the opposite: they are not satisfied with the security situation and have seen a decline. The split opinion could indicate a deterioration of the situation in some areas of the province while there is a progress in other. This is a setback compared the first survey in April 2010, which showed a fairly good perception of the security situation. The reasons for this setback can be many and is a topic for further analysis.

The national security forces, ANP and ANA, are seen as important security actors. Still, the majority believes neither the police nor the army can operate by themselves and need the support from international forces. The respondents generally have a good impression of the international forces and their efforts in the province.

Almost half of the respondents respond that aid projects have been implemented in their area the last year that have benefited the community. Most of these projects are said to be construction of wells. Despite of this, lack of water is seen as the second biggest problem. Unemployment is regarded as the biggest problem. This represents a change from wave 1 where lack of electricity was the second biggest problem. The respondents are more satisfied with the education

opportunities in the province. This is one of three sectors Norwegian development aid is concentrated on.

The good impression of the provincial government may come as a surprise given that 79 % states that corruption is a moderate to big problem amongst the provincial government officials. The same perception is seen for the Afghan police as well.

References

- [1] Utenriksdepartementet, Forsvarsdepartementet and Justisdepartementet, "Strategi for helhetlig norsk sivil og militær innsats i Faryab-provinsen i Afghanistan," 2009.
- [2] Elin Marthinussen, Frode Rutledal, Bård Eggereide and Alf Christian Hennem, "Faryab Survey, Wave 1" FFI-rapport 2010/02511.