

Faryab Survey – wave 1

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

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Approved by

Frode Rutledal

Project Manager

Espen Skjelland

Director

English summary

The Faryab Survey Wave 1 was conducted late April 2010. 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 (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, 1069 people in Faryab were interviewed. These ranged between 18 to 80 years old. 53 % of the respondents were male and 47 % female.

The result from the survey shows a fairly positive 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 the area the last year. The biggest problems in the province are unemployment and lack of electricity.

The good impression of the provincial government may come as a surprise seeing that 3 out of 4 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. Faryab Survey Wave 1 gives a picture of the situation as it was in April 2010. 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 1 ble gjennomført i april 2010. Spørreskjemaet som ble brukt er utviklet av Forsvarets forskningsinstitutt (FFI) i samarbeid med det norsk-ledede Provincial Reconstruction Team (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 myndigheter og den NATO-ledede International Security Assistance Force (ISAF).

Totalt ble 1069 personer i Faryab intervjuet. Disse var mellom 18 og 80 år. 53 % av respondentene var menn og 47 % kvinner.

Resultatet av meningsmålingen viser en relativ positiv 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 området det siste året. De største problemene i provinsen er arbeidsledighet og mangel på elektrisitet.

Det gode inntrykket av den provinsielle regjeringen er overraskende da hele 3 av 4 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. Faryab Survey Wave 1 gir et bilde av situasjonen slik den var i april 2010. 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.

The report gives an overview and documents the main findings of the first wave completed in April 2010. More detailed analysis and assessment of the results and issues related to surveying in Afghanistan will be given in separate reports.

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.² 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 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 and their own perception of the situation. An extensive survey has therefore been carried out in the province. It is an ambition to carry out such 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 first wave. This includes the method of sample selection, the geographical coverage and a short discussion of the advantages/disadvantages of the survey. 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 1

Country: **Afghanistan**

Field Dates: **April 19th – April 23rd 2010**

Research Provider: **ACSOR-Surveys**

Study: **Faryab, Wave 1**

Sample Size: **1,069**

Number of Interviewers: **52**

The Faryab Survey Wave 1 was conducted late April 2010 by the agency Afghan Center for Socio-Economic and Opinion Research (ACSOR). The agency utilizes civil Afghans to do in-depth interviews. The interviewers are about 50 % male/female and a mix of ethnicities to match

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 the Faryab province in building security, governance and promote development in order to establish a safe and well governed Afghanistan.” <http://www.norway.org.af>

² http://www.regjeringen.no/upload/FD/Dokumenter/Strategy_Norway-in-Faryab-Afghanistan.pdf

the respondents. Quality controls are provided from the central office in Kabul which assures 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.

2.1 Interview sample

In total, 1069 people in Faryab were interviewed. The respondents are selected using a multi-stage random stratification process. This selection process 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 11 of Faryab's 15 districts.³ The districts not covered in the survey were:

- Ghowrmach – due to security issues
- Almar – due to a misunderstanding
- Kuhestan – due to transportation issues (winter closed roads)
- Khawj Sabz Posh – due to mismatch of geographical district boundaries

³ Faryab has originally 14 districts. ISAF and PRT Maimana have included Ghowrmach district (originally Badghis province) into the PRT's area of responsibility.

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 %.⁴ There are, nevertheless, challenges specific to polls in conflict zones that might increase the uncertainty to the results.

The main challenge 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. 36 of the original 123 randomly selected villages had to be replaced due to:

- Mismatch of geographical district boundaries (20 villages)
- It could not be found (8 villages)
- It was out of reach (transportation problems) (4 villages)
- It was controlled by anti-Afghan government elements (4 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 villages that 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 had 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 where about 80 % 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.⁵

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.

⁴ The 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 will also affect the sampling error.

⁵ CIA World Factbook, <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/af.html>

However this only covers a small fraction of the respondents. These pronounced peaks may therefore indicate that many do not know their real age and estimate it to a round number.

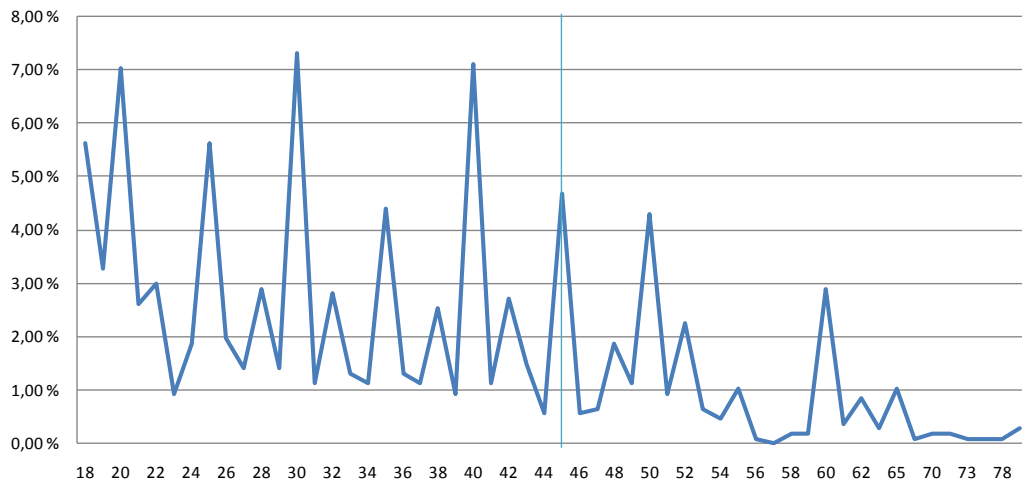


Figure 3.1 Age distribution of the Faryab survey. The vertical blue line marks the life expectancy in Afghanistan.

3.2 Gender

It is of high importance to include the female perspective of the situation into the Faryab study. The survey therefore prepared for 50 % male and 50 % female respondents. But with an extra boost in one of the districts, the distribution ended up being 53 % male and 47 % 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:

- 74.5 % Uzbek
- 8 % Tajik
- 7.5 % Turkmen
- 6 % Pashtun
- 4 % other (or they did not know)

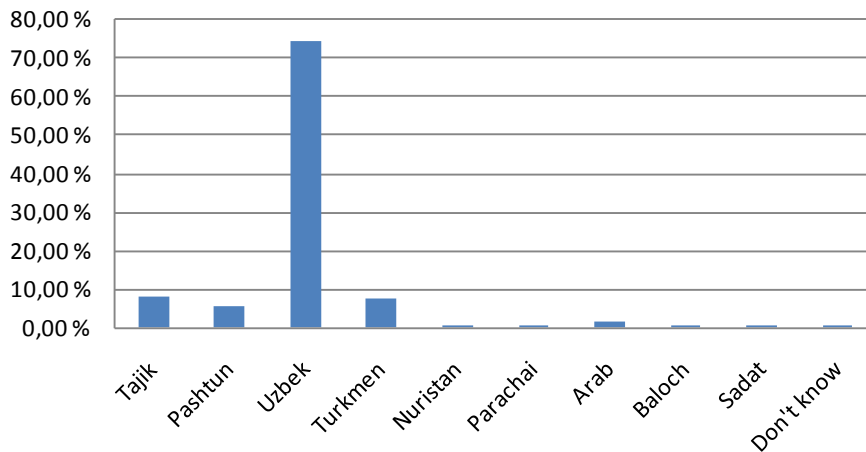


Figure 3.2 Ethnicity distribution of the Faryab Survey.

This is a slightly different distribution than what is known to be the ethnicity profile of Faryab.⁶ 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 and 6.5 % states Pashtu is their mother tongue. Presuming the provincial profile gives the right distribution this indicates an under representative Pashtun fraction in the survey.⁷ It is known that there is a majority of Pashtuns in some of the more insecure areas, which may be one reason for the lower fraction in the survey due to replacement of these areas due to security issues.

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

⁶ Faryab Provincial Profile:

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

⁷ It should be marked that there has not been conducted population census since 1979 (Statistical Yearbook Afghanistan 2009/10). After that a lot of millions of people have been displaced during the war. Population statistics today are therefore not accurate but merely estimates.

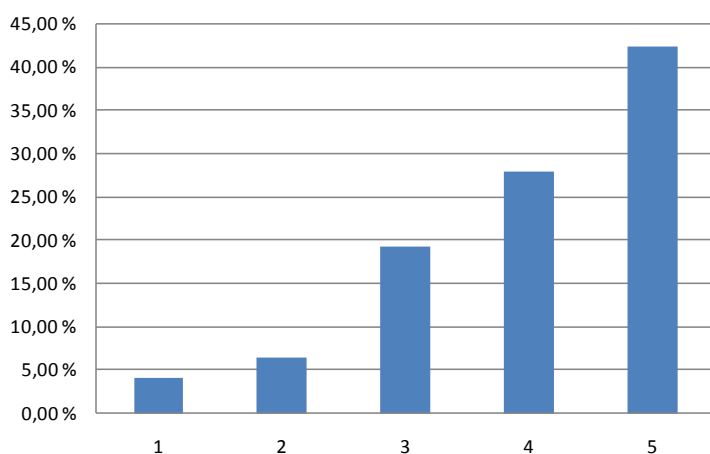


Figure 3.3 Assessed living standard. The standard of roads, water and electricity accessibility is categorised into 5 categories (1 is the best, 5 is the worst).

Around 70 % 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 (no more than one day a week). Only 10 % 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.

3.5 Literacy and education

When it comes to literacy, 31 % replied they can read and write. This is about the same rate as for the whole of Afghanistan where 28 % are said to be literate.⁸ The literacy among the respondents in Faryab also corresponds to the education level (see Figure 3.4): 69 % say they are illiterate and 74 % have no schooling.

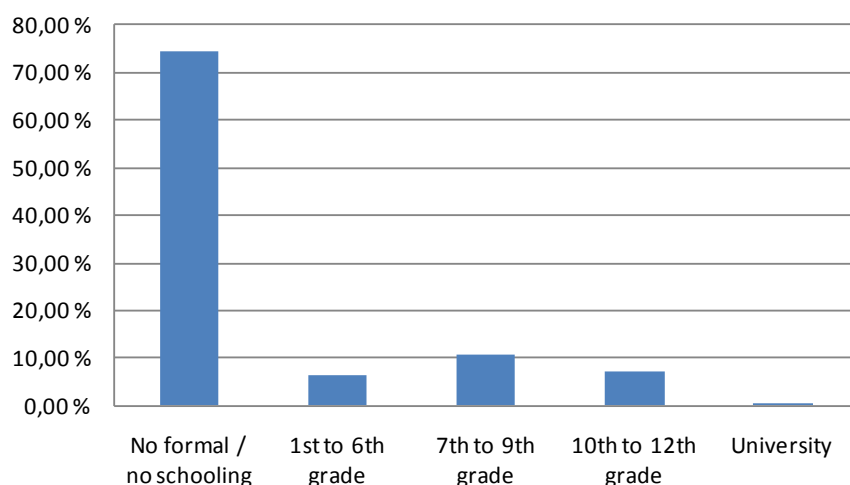


Figure 3.4 Highest level of education of the respondents.

⁸ CIA World Factbook

4 Main findings

This chapter summarises the main findings from the questionnaire. The results are categorised into the three main areas: Security, development and governance.

4.1 Security

4.1.1 Improved security situation

The results of the survey show that 72 % are positive to the development in the province and consider that the situation in Faryab generally is going in the right direction (

Figure 4.1). Of these, 61 % justify this by saying that the security has improved or that the Taliban no longer exists in their area (Figure 4.2). The perception of an improved security situation is confirmed more directly through another question. When asked how satisfied the respondent is with the security situation 83 % reply that they are somewhat or very satisfied (Figure 4.7). Compared to a year ago, 42 % say the situation has improved, while only 8 % express the opposite.

The positive result is in contrast to some of the progress seen on ground. This may indicate that a deterioration of the security situation is limited to certain areas of the province.

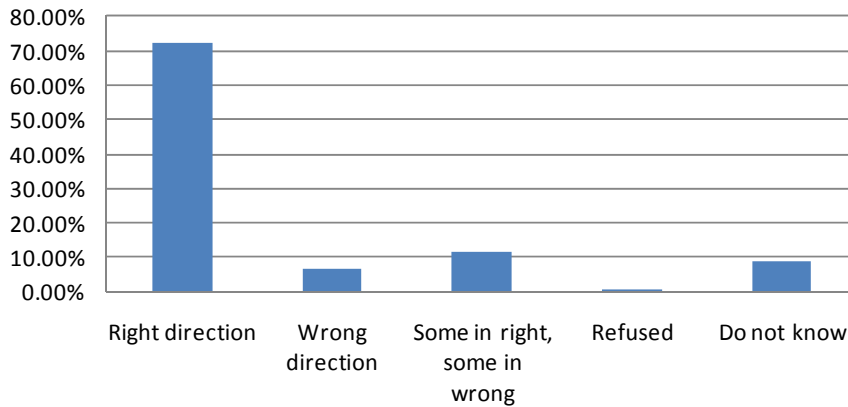


Figure 4.1 Result on the question: In which direction do you think things in Faryab today are going?

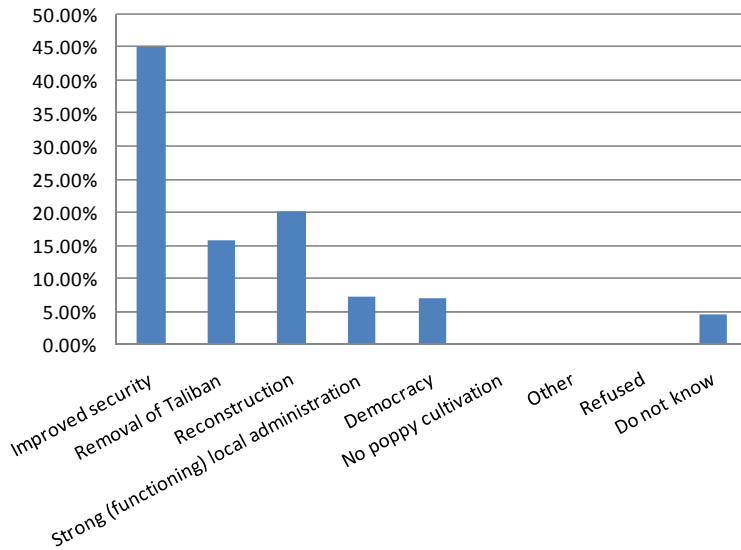


Figure 4.2 Reasons to why things are going in the right direction.

4.1.2 Key security actors

56 % of the respondents consider the Afghan National Police (ANP) to provide most security in their districts (Figure 4.3), while 24 % 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 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. On the other hand, as many as 30 % 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. Only 6 % believe that international forces provide most security.

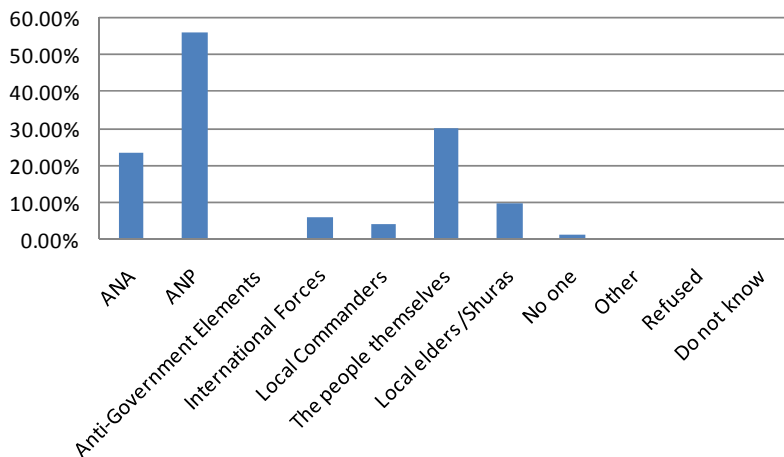


Figure 4.3 Result on the question: Who provides most security in your district?

ANP

57 % agree that ANP has sufficient forces in their area while 36 % express the opposite. Still, 90 % agree that they help to improve the security (Figure 4.4). At the same time, 66 % believe that ANP can not operate on their own and need support from international forces.

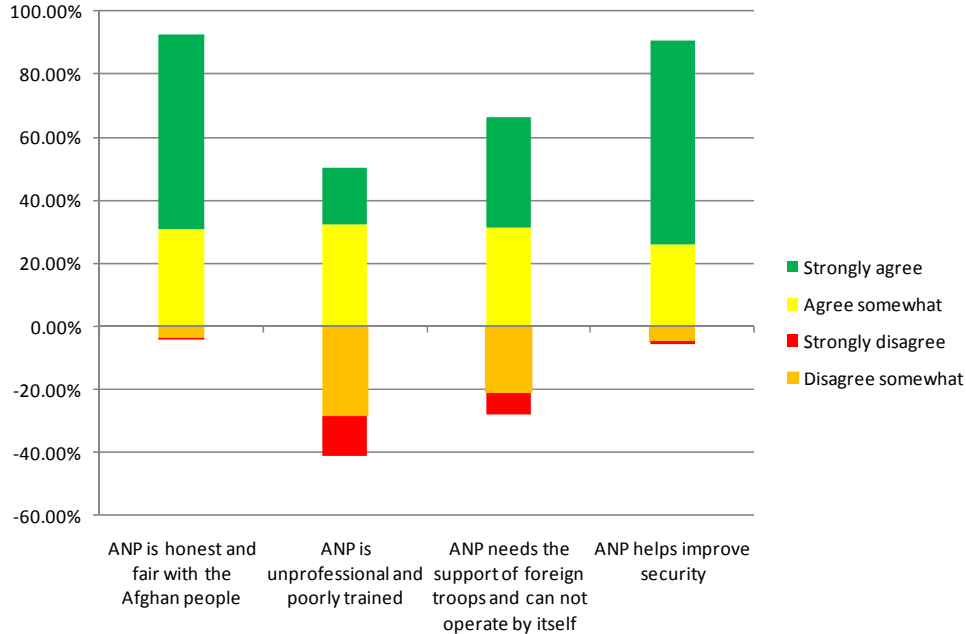


Figure 4.4 Responses on four statements of ANP.

All in all, the respondents have a good impression of the Afghan police. 87 % believe that the police are leaving a good impression on the people and as many as 93 % agree that ANP is honest and fair to the Afghan citizens. This confidence in ANP is confirmed through another question: 80 % say they will report crimes to the police while only 7 % 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 is corrupt: 64 % 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. 53 % agree that ANA has sufficient forces in their area while 41 % feel the opposite. Still, 87 % believe they help improve the security (Figure 4.5). At the same time, 62 % believe that ANA can not operate on their own and need support from international forces.

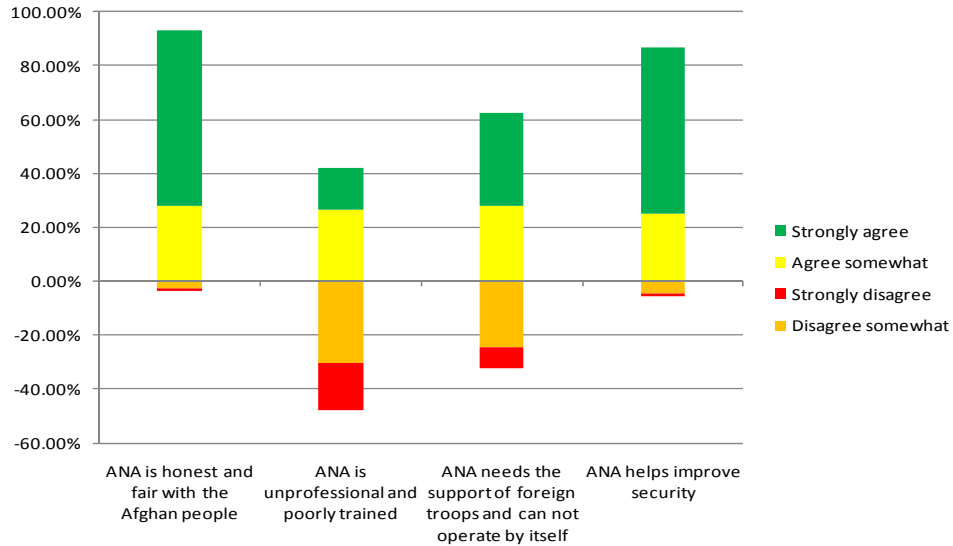


Figure 4.5 Responses on four statements of ANA.

All in all, the respondents have a good impression of the Afghan army. 83 % believe that the army is leaving a good impression on the people and as many as 93 % agree that ANA is honest and fair to the Afghan citizens. (Corruption amongst ANA was not included in the questionnaire.)

International forces

Even though only 6 % believe that international forces provide most security, the respondents in Faryab recognise a need for international support to the national security forces (see Figure 4.4 and 4.5). The international military forces are generally well regarded by the people of Faryab. As many as 80 % reply that they have a good impression of the international forces and their efforts in the province. 14 % believe the opposite.

4.2 Development

46 % of the respondents say that aid projects (to the benefit of the community) have been implemented in the area in the last year. When asked what kind of projects these are, 50 % mention schools as first or second, while corresponding numbers for roads and bridges are 45 % and 38 % respectively.

As illustrated in Figure 4.6, the biggest problems in the province are unemployment (34 %) and lack of electricity (25 %). (Only 3 % respond that lack of security is the biggest problem.) This result is confirmed in the questions on how satisfied the respondents are with *The availability of jobs* and *The supply of electricity* (Figure 4.7): 64 % are to some degree dissatisfied with the job opportunities, 60 % with the supply of electricity. Only 11 % say that job opportunities has improved, 24 % that it has deteriorated, the last year. 26 % say the supply of electricity has improved (20 % it has deteriorated). This indicates an improvement of the electricity supply in some areas. In despite of this improvement, the electricity supply is still regarded as one of the biggest problems overall in the province.

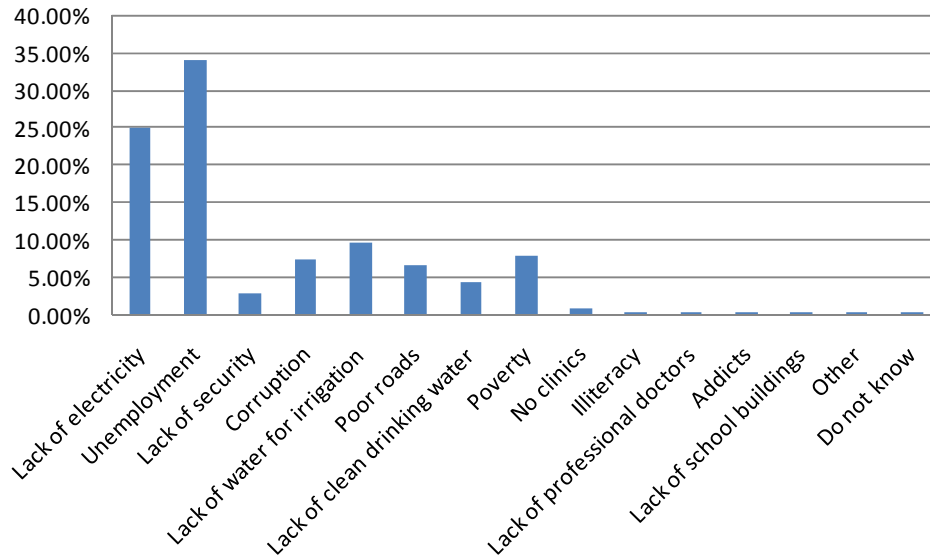


Figure 4.6 Biggest problem in the local area.

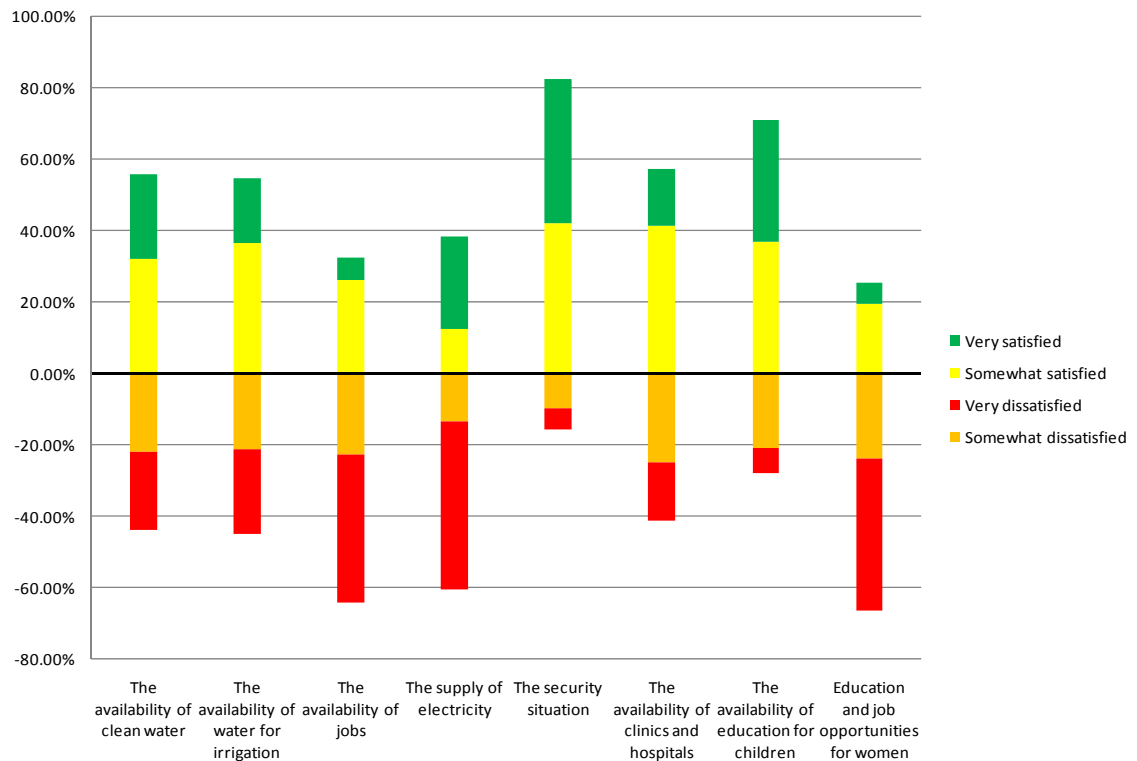


Figure 4.7 How satisfied are you with the...?

The respondents are, on the other hand, more satisfied with the education opportunities in their area and the security at the schools: 71 % are satisfied (28 % dissatisfied) with the education opportunity for the children and 86 % satisfied (12 % dissatisfied) with the security at the schools.

43 % say that the education opportunities have improved the last year (10 % it has deteriorated), and 50 % that the security at schools has improved (7 % it has deteriorated). Education is one of the main focuses in the Norwegian development aid. This might be one reason for the improvement and high satisfaction of the education opportunity in the province.

The satisfaction with water (drinking and irrigation) and health clinics is divided. 56 % and 54 % are satisfied with the availability of respectively drinking and irrigation water, while 57 % are satisfied with the availability of clinics and hospitals. 28 % believe the availability of health clinics has improved the last year (11 % believe it has deteriorated).

4.3 Governance

When asked who has most influence in their local area, the government or opposing government elements or neither, 88 % respond the government (5 % Opposing Government elements) (Figure 4.8). As many as 89 % believe the government is doing an overall good job at the provincial level. On the other hand, only 55 % agree that the government, in the last year, has satisfactorily addressed the needs of their community (35 % disagree). This corresponds with the 46 % that say aid projects have been implemented in their area.

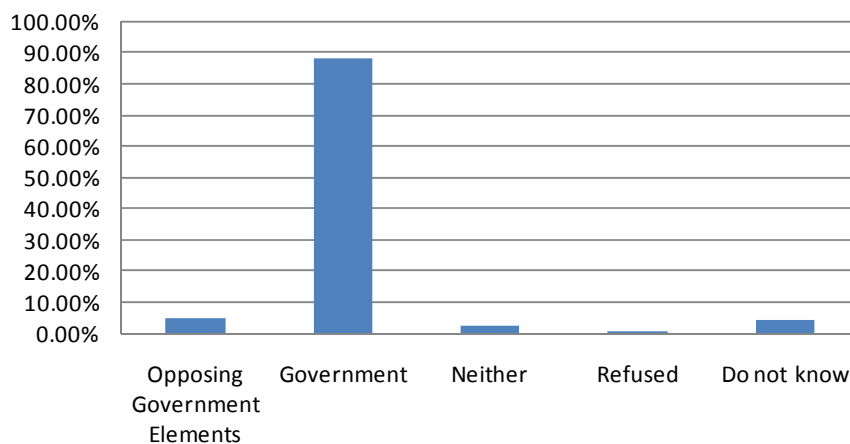


Figure 4.8 Who has most influence in your mantaqa (local area)?

The good impression of the provincial government may come as a surprise given that 74 % say corruption is a moderate to big problem amongst the provincial government officials. The same is seen when looking at the Afghan police (see Section 4.1.2).

When it comes to justice and law, 53 % would go to an Afghan state court if they had a dispute. 26 % would go to the local Shura/Jirga and 15 % of the respondents would take the dispute to both. Only 3 % would not use any in case of a dispute.

5 Conclusions

The survey shows a fairly positive perception on the security situation in Faryab. Many are satisfied with the situation as it is today, and have seen improvements. 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 say that aid projects have been implemented in the area the last year that have benefited the community. Most of these projects are said to be schools. Education is one of three sectors Norwegian development aid is concentrated on. This might be one reason for why many of the respondents are satisfied with the education opportunity in the province and the development in this sector. The biggest problems in the province are unemployment and lack of electricity.

The good impression of the provincial government may come as a surprise given that 74 % 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.