

OUR WORLD. VIEWS FROM THE FIELD.

# AFGHANISTAN

OPINION SURVEY, 2009

**A second set of research results will be released in August to coincide with the 60th anniversary of the Geneva Conventions.**



**Our world is in a mess.  
It's time to make your move.**

**Ipsos**



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# Executive Summary

# Executive Summary

This research was undertaken in eight countries that are currently experiencing or have experienced armed conflict or other situations of armed violence. The aim was to develop a better understanding of people's needs and expectations, to gather views and opinions, and to give a voice to those who have been adversely affected by armed conflict and other situations of violence.

The eight country opinion surveys will be complemented by more in-depth research (qualitative survey).

This research has been commissioned by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) within the framework of the **Our world. Your move.** campaign. Launched in 2009, the campaign's goal is to draw public attention to the vulnerability and ongoing suffering of people around the world. The intention is to emphasise the importance of humanitarian action and to convince individuals that they have the ability to make a difference and reduce suffering.

2009 is an important year for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement with three significant anniversaries (the 150th anniversary of the Battle of Solferino, the 90th anniversary of the founding of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, and the 60th anniversary of the Geneva Conventions).

In 1999, the ICRC undertook a similar survey entitled People on War, which serves as a basis for comparison and as a means of highlighting trends in opinions 10 years on.

## The Impact of Armed Conflict

### Forms of Violence/Suffering and their Consequences

Very few people in Afghanistan have been unaffected by the armed conflict there. Those with direct personal experience make up 60% of the population, and most others also report suffering a range of serious hardships. In total, almost everyone (96%) has been affected in some way – either personally or due to the wider consequences of armed conflict.

- Of those with direct experience, most have had to leave their homes (76%), suffered serious property damage (66%), lost contact with a close relative (61%), lost their means of income (60%) or seen the area where they lived come under enemy control (56%)
- Of those without direct experience, most have nevertheless had to make do with limited (or no) supplies of water/electricity (56%) or health care (59%)

However, there are some signs that the situation has marginally improved since 1999. Fewer now report having their home looted (down from 51% to 33%), having to leave their homes (down from 83% to 60%), or losing a family member (from 53% to 35%).

People's fears include economic hardship (37%), 'uncertainty' (36%), displacement (34%), losing a loved one (25%), losing property (22%), and losing contact with a loved one (16%).

## **Needs and Assistance**

During armed conflict, people need 'the basics' most of all – food, shelter, protection and medical treatment – but they also say they need 'conflict resolution'. Which groups or organizations should meet these needs?

Those 'closest to home' – local communities and families – are most often called on. Other help comes both from within Afghanistan (from the government, the Afghan Red Crescent Society, religious entities or NGOs) and from elsewhere (the ICRC, the UN or the military). A third of the respondents (34%) have received help from the Afghan Red Crescent or the ICRC.

## **Obstacles to Receiving Help**

The main barriers to receiving aid are corruption (52%), the black market (28%) and social status/discrimination (34%).

Sometimes, people do not know that help is available to them (21%), or cannot reach it (20%). Some decline help for fear of social rejection (14%). Only 2% say help is not needed.

## **Reducing Suffering**

To 'reduce suffering during armed conflict', people initially look to their own communities (to religious leaders – 23%) and outside (to international humanitarian groups – 21%).

Other assistance providers that are often mentioned, although seldom first, include the UN (mentioned by 37%), the ICRC (22%) and the Afghan Red Crescent Society (17% – total Red Cross/Crescent score mentions being 36%).

## **The International Community**

People in Afghanistan are ready to support direct international involvement – whether through emergency aid (52%), peacekeepers (44%) or military intervention (34%). They also see a role for 'people living outside the conflict zones' (i.e. citizens in other countries) involving the use of political pressure and the donation of goods (52% each).

# Introduction

# Introduction

## The Solferinos of Today

To raise awareness of the impact of armed conflict or other situations of armed violence on civilians, the ICRC decided to launch a vast research programme. This research focused on some of the most troubled places in the world – the Solferinos of today – which are either experiencing situations of armed conflict or armed violence or suffering their aftermath:

- Afghanistan (covered in this report)
- Colombia
- Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)
- Georgia
- Haiti
- Lebanon
- Liberia
- The Philippines

## Research

The ICRC commissioned Ipsos, a polling firm, to conduct quantitative (statistical) research surveys in all eight countries. A broadly representative sample of the adult general public was interviewed, either in person or by telephone, in each country. The specific sampling methods and any groups/areas excluded are described in the relevant country reports.

The aim of the questions – given in full together with overall results in the appendices – was to determine whether the respondents had personal experience of armed conflict or armed violence and, if so, the specific impact it had on them. Questions also explored respondents' views on what conduct is acceptable for combatants, the effectiveness of various groups and organizations in helping to reduce suffering during armed conflict or armed violence, the actions expected of the international community, awareness of the Geneva Conventions, and the role of health workers during armed conflict or armed violence.

Details of the survey carried out in Afghanistan are given in the next section.

The eight Ipsos national surveys were but one element of a broader research programme undertaken by and for the ICRC, which also involved:

- **Statistical research carried out (by Ipsos) on the basis of the results of the eight national surveys.** This has yielded powerful insight into the experiences and opinions of civilians in some of the most troubled places in the world. The work was co-ordinated by the Ipsos office in Geneva.
- **In-depth (qualitative) research.** This has enabled the ICRC to deepen its understanding of the values, motivations, fears and aspirations of those who have been direct victims of armed conflict or armed violence. The research was carried out through focus groups and one-to-one in-depth interviews moderated by ICRC staff. Those covered include people separated from other members of



their families, displaced people, first respondents and others directly affected by armed conflict or armed violence.

In 1999, ICRC carried out broadly similar opinion research as part of its People on War project. The programme covered some of the countries being reported on in 2009 – including Afghanistan – and several of the 1999 questions have therefore been revisited in order to provide trendlines. These are highlighted in the report where applicable.

## Background & Objectives

The year 2009 has great significance for the ICRC and the entire International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement ("the Movement"), as two major anniversaries in the history of humanitarian work will be celebrated:

- **The 150th anniversary of the Battle of Solferino** (24 June 1859). Exactly 150 years ago, Henry Dunant, a Swiss businessman, happened to witness the aftermath of one of the most brutal battles of the 19th century – at Solferino, in what is now northern Italy – and the carnage left on the battle field. The suffering he saw there prompted him to take the first steps towards the creation of the Movement. His book *A Memory of Solferino* led to the founding of the ICRC in 1863. In recognition of his work, Dunant was the joint first recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize, in 1901.
- **The 60th anniversary of the Geneva Conventions** (12 August 1949). The four Geneva Conventions are the cornerstone of international humanitarian law. They protect, respectively, wounded and sick members of armed forces on the battlefield; wounded, sick and shipwrecked members of armed forces at sea; prisoners of war; and civilians in time of war.

To mark these anniversaries, as well as the 90th anniversary of the founding of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, the Movement launched a campaign – **Our world. Your move.** – to remind everyone of their individual responsibility to relieve human suffering.

The campaign is based on the premise that **Our world** faces unprecedented challenges, from conflict and mass displacement to climate change and migration; it contends that **Your move** reminds us of our collective responsibility to make the world a better place. Like Henry Dunant, we can all make a difference, even through the simplest of gestures.

Throughout 2009, the ICRC will be undertaking various activities to mark both these historic milestones, by highlighting the ongoing plight of people – particularly those who are most vulnerable – caught up in armed conflict or armed violence around the world.

## Afghanistan – Research Methodology

A total of 535 people aged 18 or over were interviewed in person (face-to-face) during the month of February 2009. Random probability sampling was used to ensure that the final sample would be broadly representative of the Afghan population (aged 18 years or over) as a whole. In addition, the results have been statistically 'weighted' to correct for any discrepancies between the sample profile and that of the equivalent population.

According to 2009 estimates, Afghanistan's population is around 33,000,000. It is heavily skewed towards younger people (the median age is just 18 years old, life expectancy is 45 years for both men and women – and those aged 14 or below make up almost half

the population (45%)). By contrast, those aged 65 or over make up just 2% of the population.

On this basis, this survey of people aged 18 and over is representative of approximately 15,000,000 people.

Because a sample was interviewed – not the whole population – the results are subject to ‘sampling tolerances’. These show how accurately a result from the sample reflects the result that would have been obtained from the whole population had it been interviewed.

Please see the appendices for details on sampling tolerances.

On the charts, a ‘\*’ sign refers to a percentage of less than 0.5%, but greater than zero.

- **Report Structure**

The report has been written to be accessible and relevant.

An Executive Summary with the main findings is followed by the main body of the report, covering each broad subject area in turn. Charts in the report draw on the overall findings from the Afghanistan survey and on a selection of key sub-group comparisons, e.g. between men and women, and between people of different ethnic groups. (Please note that only the Pashtun and Tajik groups can be reliably commented on, as they are the only groups for which we have a large enough number of respondents.)

The Appendices contain the sample profile and ‘marked up’ questionnaire (i.e. the full questions, with overall results for Afghanistan added in – including the 1999 trend comparisons where applicable).

Please note that no country comparisons are made in this report. (These can be found in a separate Summary Report covering all eight countries.)

## Afghanistan in Context

Afghanistan's recent as well as past history has been marked by frequent turmoil. Life in the country has been extremely hard, with the burden of warfare often amplified by periods of drought.

The last 30 years of war in Afghanistan can be divided into several distinct phases:

- The 1979 invasion of the country by the Soviet Union and the decade of war that followed until the Soviet departure in February 1989;
- Three years of armed conflict between the *mujaheddin* (resistance fighters) and the Soviet-supported communist government until its collapse in April 1992;
- Two years of civil war between Afghan factions;
- Five years of fighting between the Northern Coalition – an alliance of factions drawn mainly from Afghanistan's minority populations – and the Taliban, a conservative Sunnite Pashtun group, that draws its name from a Persian word meaning "seekers of the truth" (meaning, in Pashto, "students"). The Taliban forces seized power in Kabul in late September 1996 and were in control of much of Afghanistan until late 2001;

- The armed conflicts initiated in the wake of the attacks on the US on 11 September 2001. After the Taliban refused to hand over Osama bin Laden, accused by the US of masterminding the bombing of their embassies in Africa in 1998 and the attacks on the US mainland on 11 September 2001, the US military launched aerial attacks that paved the way for Afghan opposition groups to drive the Taliban from power. These events were followed by the Bonn Agreement, the setting up of a provisional administration, the presidential elections held in October 2004 and won by Hamid Karzai, the ratification of the Afghan Compact (a cooperation framework with the international community replacing the Bonn Agreement), and the official transfer of power to the elected Afghan government;
- The armed conflict pitting Afghan armed forces supported by international military forces against various Afghan armed factions in the country.

In 2009, the armed conflict in Afghanistan has been intensifying and affecting more areas of the country. Fighting between armed groups and national and international forces has taken place regularly in more than half of Afghanistan's territory. Even provinces not directly affected by the fighting have endured roadside bombs, targeted killings, suicide bombings and deliberate intimidation of civilians. While the south and the south-east remain the regions hardest hit by the conflict, the security situation has also deteriorated in the eastern and in particular the western provinces.

Military operations by international forces have involved aerial bombardments and night-raid operations in the south, west and east. In the north, which had remained calm in recent years, armed confrontations, rocket attacks, ambushes and explosions of roadside bombs increased sharply at the beginning of spring but calmed again at the end of April.

The daily lives of people living in areas where the fighting is taking place are being disrupted by air strikes, night raids, suicide attacks, the use of improvised explosive devices, and intimidation by the various parties to the conflict.

Rising food prices have aggravated the already chronic food insecurity faced by many Afghans. In addition, a drought is expected to affect the planting season.

Political and military developments in Pakistan have continued to destabilize the region.

## The ICRC in Afghanistan

The ICRC has been assisting victims of the Afghan conflict since the 1979 Soviet invasion, initially through its delegation in Pakistan and then through a delegation opened in Afghanistan itself in 1987. It has carried out a broad range of humanitarian activities uninterrupted ever since.

The ICRC continues to respond to the needs of people adversely affected by the armed conflict, though security constraints still limit its operational range and hamper its humanitarian work in many areas. Its current operations focus on:

- Visiting detainees and submitting reports to the detaining authorities on conditions of detention and treatment. In particular, the ICRC has continued its visits to people held by Afghan and US authorities and by the NATO-led ISAF. Ongoing US and ISAF detention in Afghanistan and the transfer of internees from US and ISAF authority to Afghan custody have been the subject of dialogue with

- the detaining authorities. These talks have focused on detention conditions, the treatment of detainees and compliance with applicable legal provisions;
- Helping detainees to maintain contact with their families, for example through Red Cross messages and – for internees held in one US-run internment facility – video teleconferencing and face-to-face visits;
  - Collecting allegations of violations of international humanitarian law concerning the conduct of hostilities and people not or no longer taking direct part in the hostilities, and reminding all parties (Afghan authorities, international military forces and armed opposition groups) of their obligations under international humanitarian law and, when necessary, making confidential representations to the parties concerned regarding specific cases of violations;
  - Assisting the wounded and disabled. In particular, six ICRC physical rehabilitation centres provide services for the disabled all over the country, with emphasis placed on extending services to and improving accessibility from conflict-affected provinces through enhanced patient referral systems, often involving the Afghan Red Crescent Society;
  - Supporting hospital care, with emphasis on responding to the needs of conflict casualties and developing, in cooperation with the Afghan Red Crescent, a comprehensive approach to medical assistance, ranging from community-based first aid to surgical care; maintaining support for hospitals in several areas; and coordinating medical and physical rehabilitation programmes for conflict victims in the south and east with similar ICRC programmes in Pakistan's border areas;
  - Improving water and sanitation services – for example, by completing urban water-supply projects which have been handed over to the authorities;
  - Distributing emergency food and other aid to conflict-affected people;
  - Promoting accession to and implementation of treaties of international humanitarian law, and compliance by military forces with that body of law;
  - Meeting with representatives of local *shuras* in conflict-affected areas to discuss humanitarian issues;
  - Strengthening the Afghan Red Crescent Society through support for first-aid and primary health-care programmes for weapon-wounded patients, and through support for their primary health-care centres in conflict-affected provinces.

In recent months, persistent insecurity and the high number of armed confrontations have continued to seriously impede the ICRC's movements in Afghanistan. Humanitarian aid workers have faced increasing threats to their security, particularly in the south and east, but also in the north, making it difficult for them to carry out their work. Much of southern and eastern Afghanistan, with the exception of the major cities, has remained off limits to ICRC staff, although they have had a greater degree of accessibility elsewhere. The ICRC has relied on an extensive network of Afghan Red Crescent Society volunteers to help the people worst affected by the conflict.

The parties to the armed conflict recognise the ICRC's role and mandate as an impartial, neutral and independent humanitarian organization thanks to the organization's long presence in Afghanistan and the pains it has taken to explain its work. They turn to the ICRC for support and assistance as a neutral intermediary in situations involving the release and handover of prisoners, or the collection, burial and/or repatriation of mortal remains after fighting.

# Part 1 – The Impact of Armed Conflict

## Part 1-The Impact of Armed Conflict

### Personal Experience of Armed Conflict

**Virtually everyone (96%) in Afghanistan has been affected in some way by the armed conflict there – either through direct personal experience (60%) or due to the wider consequences which are felt beyond those who are immediately affected.**

**Large numbers who have experienced armed conflict report having to leave their homes (76%), serious damage to their property (66%), limited access to basic necessities (64%), loss of contact with relatives (61%), and loss of livelihood (60%).**

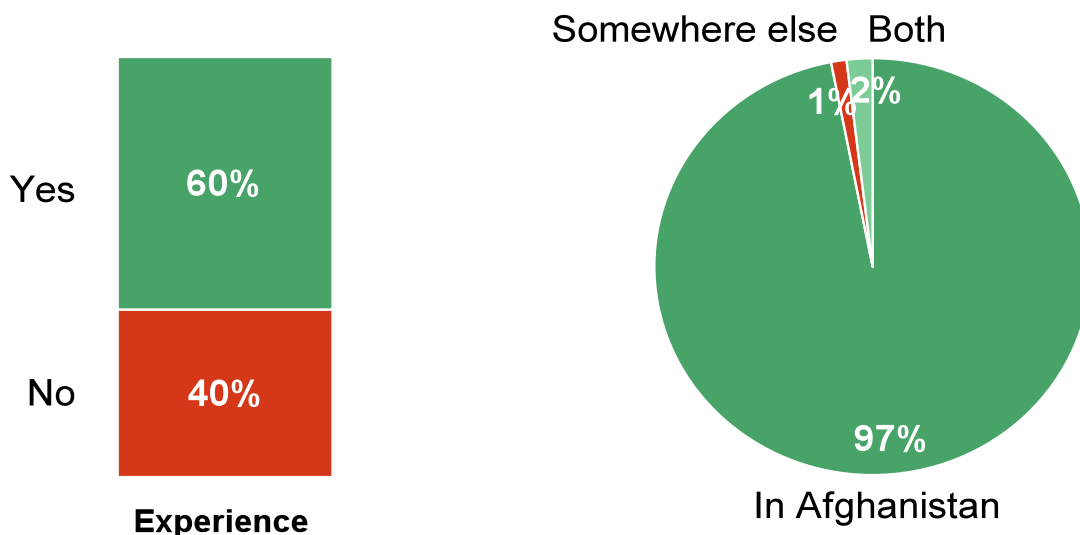
**People of all age groups face these problems – from young adults to the oldest members of communities.**

Understandably, older people have more personal experience of armed conflict than younger people – but 53% of those aged 18-24 report first-hand experience.

## Personal experience of armed conflict

Q1. Have you personally experienced armed conflict, or not?

Q2. Was this in Afghanistan or was it somewhere else?



Base: All respondents (535)

Base: All experiencing armed conflict (320)

Where total does not sum to 100%, this is due to multiple responses, computer rounding or to the exclusion of 'don't know' responses

Those who have been personally affected by conflict report a wide range of traumatic experiences.

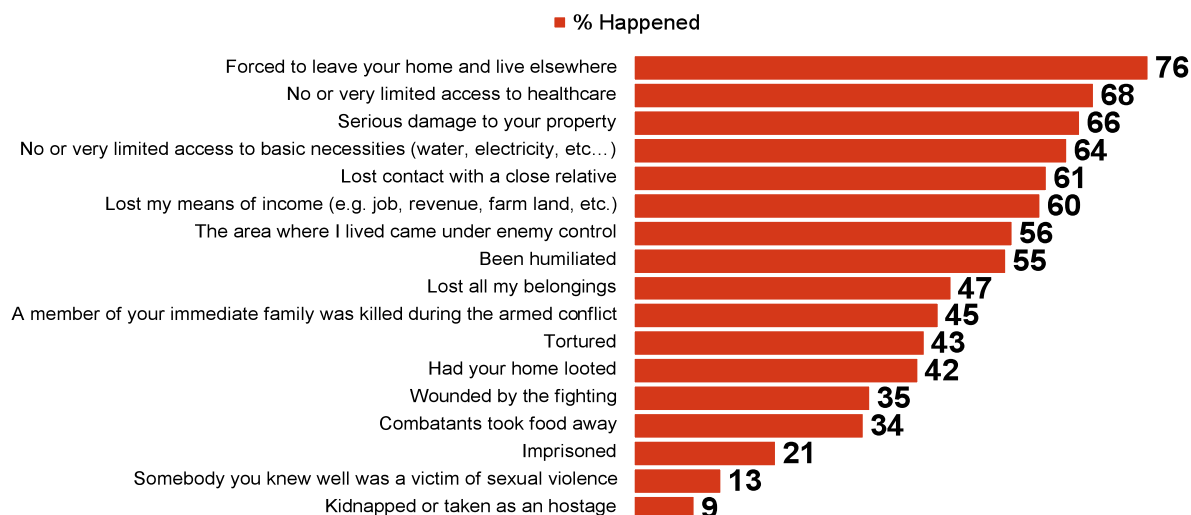
- Three quarters (76%) had to leave their homes to live elsewhere;
- Two thirds (66%) suffered serious damage to their property (more so still – 70% – among the Tajik group);
- Similar numbers had 'no or very limited access' to health care (68%) or to basic necessities such as water and electricity (64%);
- Three fifths (60%) lost their means of income (the problem was even more severe among Tajiks than among Pashtuns: 64% vs. 49%).

Significant numbers of people report even more harrowing situations.

- Almost half (45%) say that a member of their immediate family was killed (50% among women);
- 43% say they were tortured (55% among men / 30% among women);
- A third (35%) were wounded by the fighting (including almost half – 46% – of men);
- One person in five (21%) reports being imprisoned (37% of men report being imprisoned);
- One in eight (13%) says someone they knew well fell victim to 'sexual violence';
- One in 10 (9%) was kidnapped or taken hostage.

## Personal impact of armed conflict

Q3A. I'm going to ask you about your actual experiences during the armed conflict in Afghanistan. Please tell me whether any of the following things happened to you personally or did not happen as a consequence of the armed conflict in Afghanistan. For each one, please indicate whether it happened or did not happen to you.



Base: All who have experienced armed conflict (320)

Where total does not sum to 100%, this is due to multiple responses, computer rounding or to the exclusion of 'don't know' responses

**While some of these results represent an improvement on those recorded in 1999 – at least in purely statistical terms – overall the figures remain very high. For example, 60% of people in Afghanistan now say they have been displaced.**

- Reported incidents of 'combatants taking food away' are down from 49% to 27%;
- Fewer people have had their homes looted: down from 51% to 33%;
- Reported conflict-related deaths in respondents' families are down from 53% to 35%;
- Those having to leave their home is down from 83% to 60%;
- Those who report having been tortured are down from 43% to 29%.



## Personal impact of armed conflict – over a decade

Q3. I'm going to ask you about your actual experiences during (how you yourself have been affected by) the armed conflict in Afghanistan. Please tell me whether any of the following things happened to you personally or did not happen as a consequence of the armed conflict in Afghanistan. For each one, please indicate whether it happened or did not happen to you.



Base: All (535 in 2009; 995 in 1999)

Where total does not sum to 100%, this is due to multiple responses, computer rounding or to the exclusion of 'don't know' responses

(These comparisons are based on the combined results from those groups which do and do not have direct personal experience of the armed conflict – emphasising just how widespread the effects still are among all segments of the population (see below). In 1999, these questions were also asked of all respondents.)

Two other (perhaps inter-related) figures emerge from the 2009 survey: just over half (56%) of those with direct personal experience of conflict say that the area where they lived 'came under enemy control', and a very similar proportion – 55% – say they have 'been humiliated' as a result of the conflict. (The latter figure is identical to that recorded among all respondents in 1999 – but this year the figures are even higher among men than women: 66% vs. 44%.)

As noted, those who said they do not have personal experience of armed conflict were nevertheless asked about their experiences relating to the conflict in Afghanistan.

The results suggest that this group has also been hugely affected, in many ways:

- Access to 'basic necessities' and 'health care': 56% and 59% respectively reported to have had limited access at best;
- People: one person in three has lost contact with a close relative (37%); 22% report that an immediate family member was killed; 5% say someone known well to them has been a victim of sexual violence;
- Property: a third of people (34%) report that they suffered serious property damage; 20% had their home looted; 22% lost all their belongings;
- Danger/duress: Of those in Afghanistan who say they do not have personal experience of armed conflict, 36% had to leave home and live elsewhere and 21% live/d in an area which came under enemy control;
- Emotional/psychological: 29% of people feel 'humiliated'.

The pattern of responses between men and women without personal experience of conflict is generally similar to that of men and women with such experience – except that of those without personal experience, the loss of income/livelihood is more common among men (50%) than women (26%). (Among those with first-hand experience, loss of income was suffered equally by men and women (61% and 59%)).

When asked a completely open question where respondents were free to say unprompted whatever is important to them, 18% of all respondents – those with and without personal experience of conflict – mentioned other ways in which armed conflict has had an impact on their lives (this is especially true of women). These include the killing and injuring of innocent people (31%), not being able to continue with an education (12%), a deterioration in living standards (10%) and suicide attacks (6%).

### When were people most recently affected by the conflict?

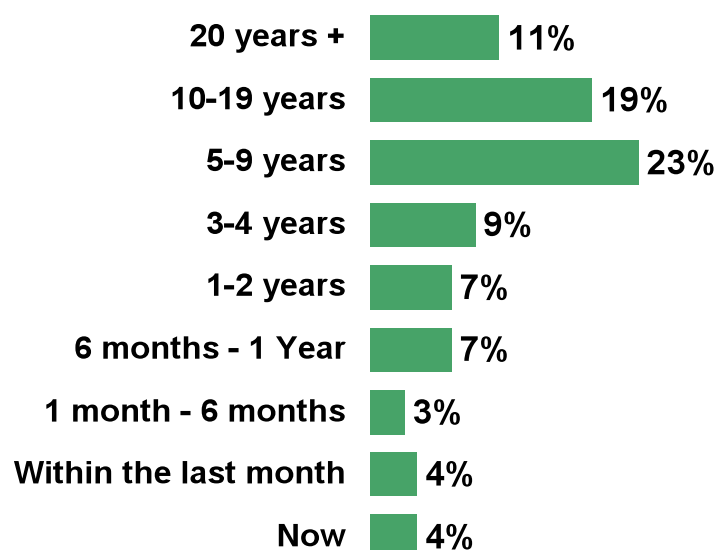
For many (25%), it was within the last two years.

The figure of 25% includes 4% who are 'currently' being affected – while the experiences of the remainder date back fairly evenly, year by year, to the late 1990s, and some further back still to the 1980s and before. (The proportion of Tajiks reporting personal experience of conflict within the last two years is lower, at 17%, than the proportion of Pashtuns (31%).)

These results are a reminder that there has been no interruption in armed conflict in Afghanistan for a very long time.

## Recent experiences

Q5. And when were you personally most recently affected by this armed conflict in Afghanistan?



Base: All who have experienced / been affected by conflict in anyway (515)

Where total does not sum to 100%, this is due to multiple responses, computer rounding or to the exclusion of 'don't know' responses

## People's Greatest Fears

**In Afghanistan, the dangers of conflict-related death, torture, kidnapping and imprisonment are very real – both for the respondents and for their immediate families.**

**But people's 'greatest fears' are often of being undermined or losing control of their lives – rather than of direct physical harm. A third or more fear economic hardship (37%) and displacement (34%).**

- 37% particularly fear losing the ability to earn a living/threats to their livelihoods;
- 36% say 'living with uncertainty';
- 34% fear having to leave home/becoming displaced/a refugee (41% among 18-24 year olds);
- One fifth (21%) fear 'not being able to get an education/go to school' – this is a higher percentage than that of people who fear any of the following: imprisonment, (not) surviving the conflict, injury, being separated from loved ones, or sexual violence;
- One person in six (16%) fears being separated from loved ones.

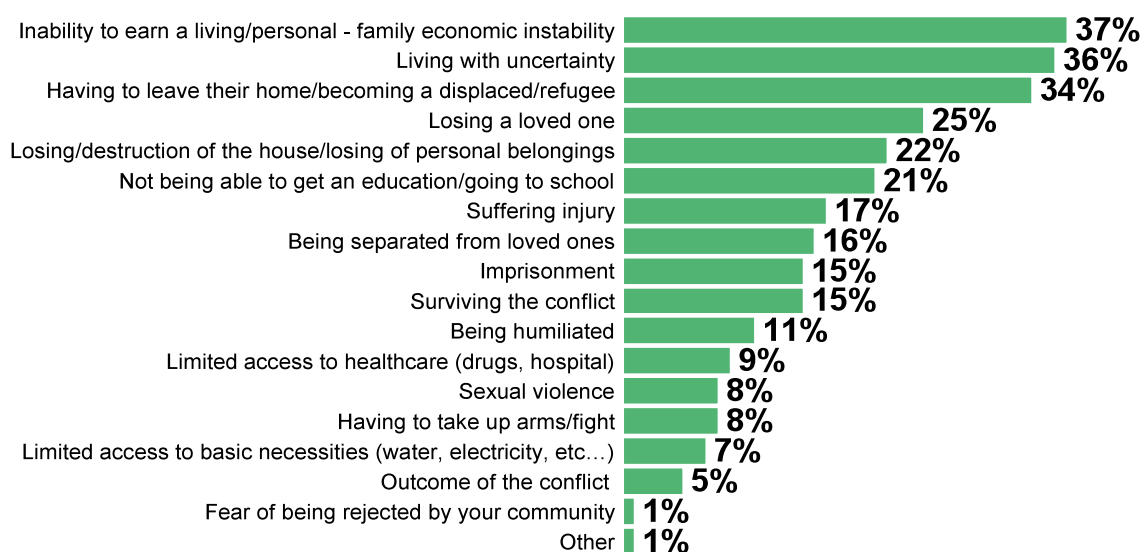
Lack of access to basic necessities such as water, electricity and health care – although among the most widespread genuine problems – features very low on people's list of fears. (In fact, people are if anything more concerned about 'being humiliated').

Men and women share basically the same concerns, with any differences being fairly subtle. Men tend to worry more about imprisonment or injury, while women are more concerned about lack of education. (Both groups, however, are equally concerned at the prospect of having to 'take up arms'.)

There are more marked differences between the Pashtun and Tajik groups. The Pashtun people are particularly fearful of imprisonment (22%) and being humiliated (14%); the Tajiks of injury (21%), sexual violence (13%), and being denied an education (24%).

## People's greatest fears

Q6. What do you think are the two or three greatest fears people are facing in a situation of armed conflict in Afghanistan?



Base: All respondents (535)

Where total does not sum to 100%, this is due to multiple responses, computer rounding or to the exclusion of 'don't know' responses

## Feelings as a Consequence of Armed Conflict

**How does armed conflict affect people's states of mind?**

**It breeds sadness (for 46%) and anxiety (for 44%) – but also empathy for others (51%).**

Overall, the results are slightly mixed – perhaps even contradictory – but overall they paint a depressing picture.

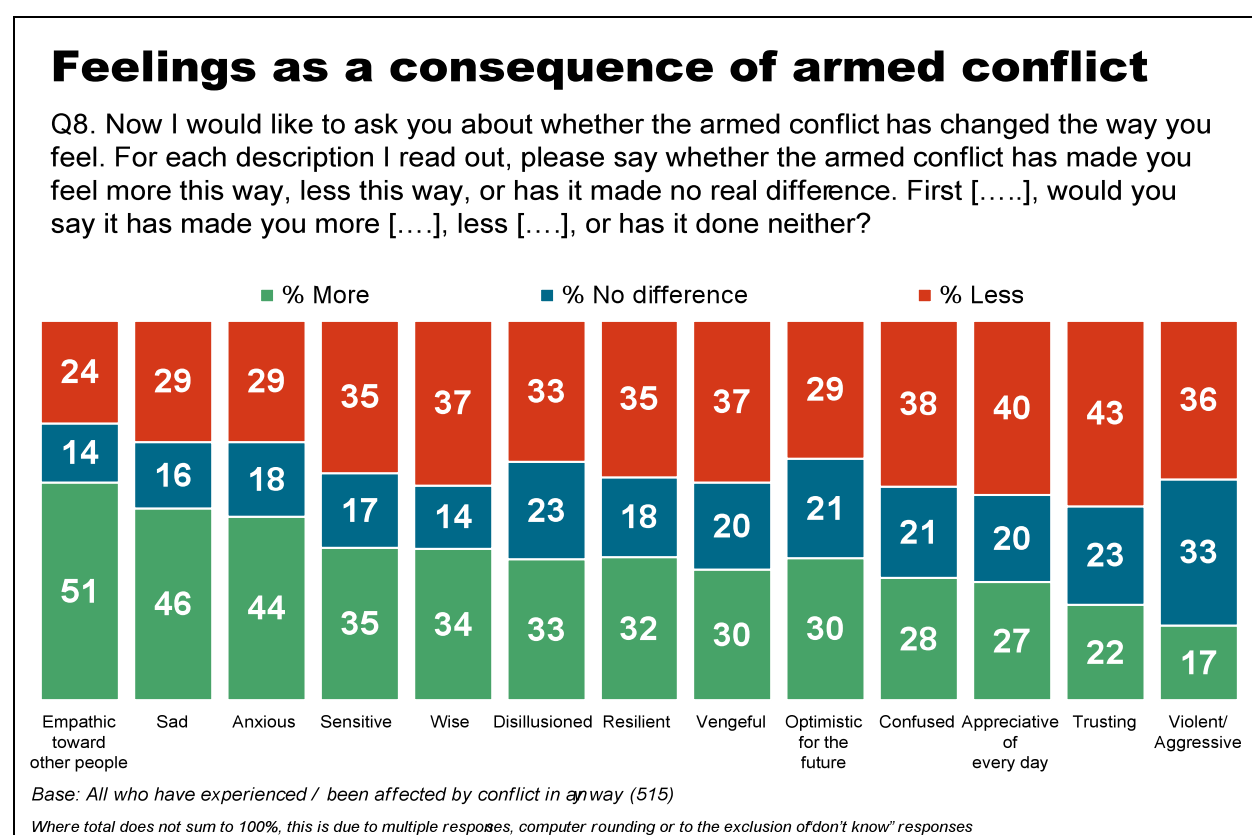
For example, the top two responses are that conflict makes people sadder but also more empathetic towards other people.

In a similar vein, many people claim that conflict has made them feel personally less aggressive/violent (particularly among men).

Perhaps more realistically, people concede that they are less trusting.

People were also asked whether they felt more 'appreciative of each day' as a result of conflict. However, of those who said they were (perhaps in the sense of just being grateful to be alive/relatively unaffected) they were outnumbered by those who felt less

appreciative – no doubt in part reflecting the everyday burdens that the conflict has imposed on them.



Nevertheless, the future is not bleak for everyone. Three persons in 10 (30%) are more optimistic about the future (29% are less so). People are split on whether conflict has made them more disillusioned: 33% say it has, while 33% say it has made them less disillusioned. (Tajiks more often describe themselves as 'optimistic about the future' than do Pashtuns (37% vs. 26%).)

One third of the respondents (34%) feel conflict has made them wiser, while a similar number (37%) sense that the opposite is true.

Almost half (44%) report being more anxious as a result of armed conflict, 29% less so.

The results do not differ fundamentally across different age groups. Old and young alike are affected in much the same way.

## Civilians' Needs in Armed Conflict

**First and foremost, people need 'the basics'. Almost two thirds mention food as a vital requirement (63%), closely followed by protection/security (53%) and medical treatment/health care (48%)**

Civilians' needs are many, with the most important of all being seen to be:

- Food (63% choose this from a list as one of the most important requirements for civilians living in conflict areas);
- Protection/security (53%);
- Medical treatment/health care (48%);
- Shelter (46%).

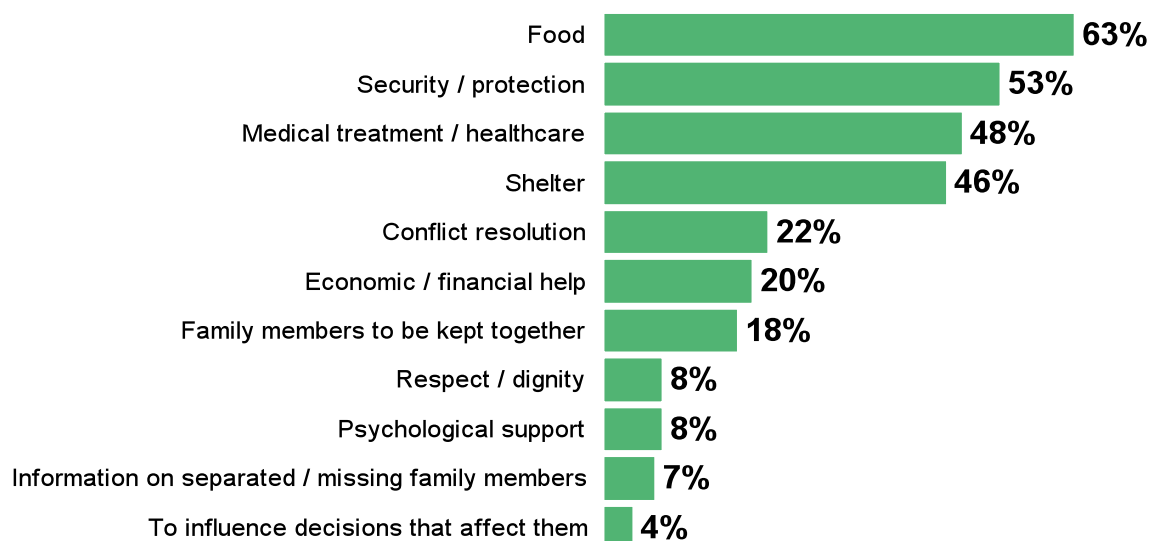
Although not mentioned to the same extent, economic factors are important (20% say financial help is key).

People also mention the need for conflict resolution (22%) but attach less importance to being involved in decisions that affect them (4%).

Eighteen per cent of respondents mention the need to keep family members together, and 7% the need to receive information on those who have become separated/gone missing.

## Civilians' needs

Q7. What do you think civilians who are living in areas of armed conflict need the most? Please select the three most important to you.



Base: All respondents (535)

Where total does not sum to 100%, this is due to multiple responses, computer rounding or to the exclusion of "don't know" responses

Although, as reported earlier, 55% of people who have experienced armed conflict say they have been humiliated and 11% say being humiliated is one of their greatest fears, when needs are considered it is the basics – food (63%), security/protection (53%) and medical treatment/health care (48%) – that are seen as most important. Nevertheless, significant minorities do cite needs that are related to not being humiliated, such as respect/dignity and receiving psychological support (both 8%).

## Help & Support from Entities/Institutions

### **Where do people turn for help during armed conflict?**

**They turn primarily to their parents and families (66%) or to their immediate communities (37%). These groups are also felt to best understand people's needs.**

However, people also report a range of help from 'official' entities – some of which is seen as well-tailored to their needs, some less so.

Among national organisations, 'government' provides a good deal of support (31%) – slightly more than 'religious entities' (22%). However, in terms of understanding people's needs the position is reversed: 31% say that religious groups completely understand their needs, while only 23% say that government does.

A third of the respondents (34%) have received help from the ICRC or the Afghan Red Crescent Society.

Other aid organisations – whether local or international – have provided support to 21% of those affected by armed conflict.

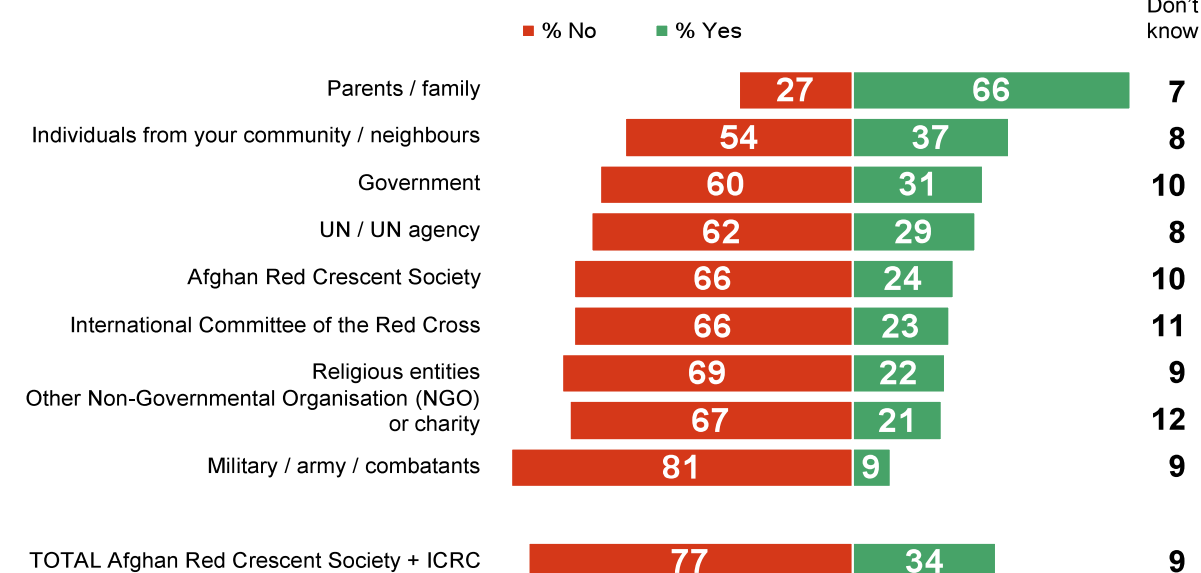
A quarter of the respondents (27%) feel that the ICRC completely understands their needs, and 33% say that the UN does. The corresponding figure for the Afghan Red Crescent Society is 22%, and for NGOs 12%.

Combatants/military rarely provide help/support (9%) – but those few people who have received it often feel it is well-tailored to their needs (36%).

Men and women are equally likely to receive help from the government or from parents/family, but it is often men who are the recipients of support from others (perhaps on behalf of their families).

## Help and support

Q9. During the time you experienced or were being affected by armed conflict, did you receive help or support from any of the following?

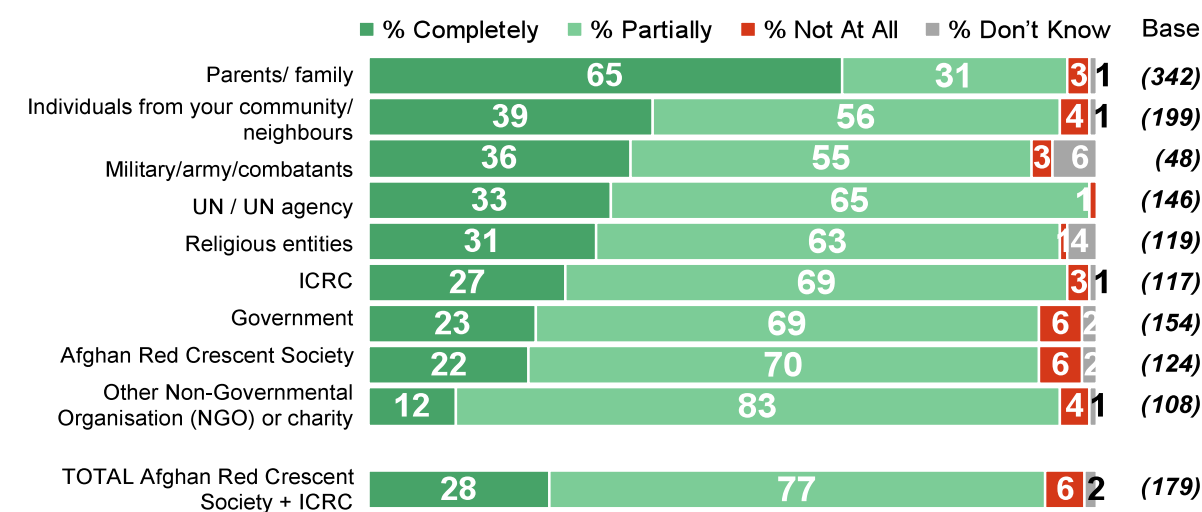


Base: All who have experienced / been affected by conflict in anyway (515)

Where total does not sum to 100%, this is due to multiple responses, computer rounding or to the exclusion of "don't know" responses

## Help and support

Q10. For each of the types of organisations or people you mentioned receiving help or support from, I would like you to tell me how well you felt they understood your needs. First, the [type of support at Q9]... do you feel your needs were completely understood, partially understood, or not understood at all?



Where total does not sum to 100%, this is due to multiple responses, computer rounding or to the exclusion of "don't know" responses



## Barriers to Receiving Help

**Half (52%) of the people who do not receive support during periods of armed conflict put this down to corruption.**

There is a strong sense that social factors such as corruption (52%), discrimination (34%), and the black market (28%) are the main obstacles to receiving support, rather than lack of knowledge (21%), lack of physical access (20%) or failure to meet the criteria (13%).

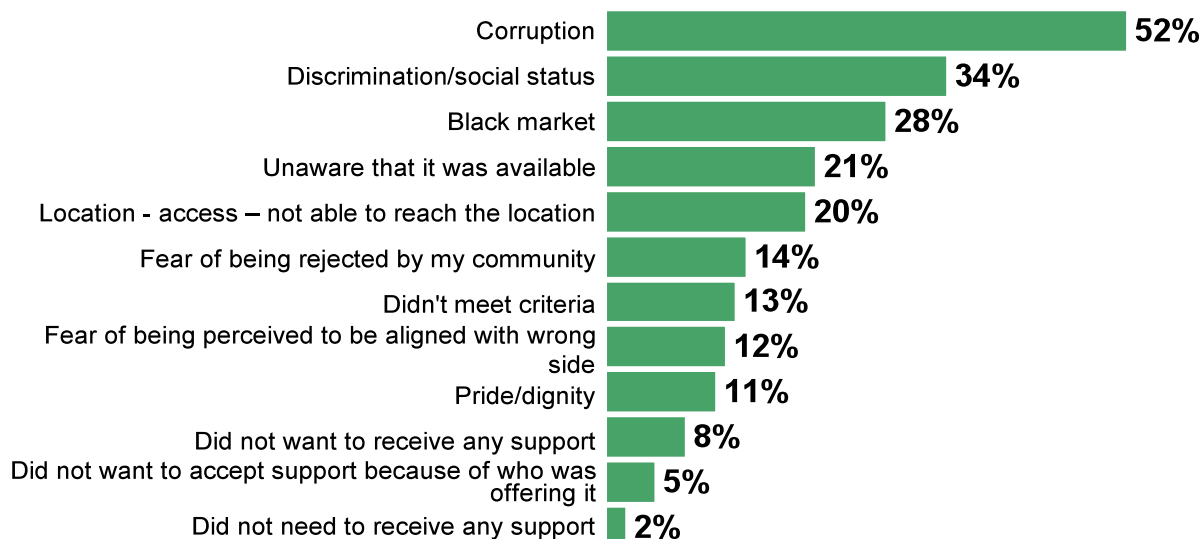
Men and women hold very similar views as to the main barriers, though women more often cite the black market and men the issue of discrimination.

People who 'choose' not to receive help usually have the decision forced on them to some extent (whether out of fear of social rejection (14%) or of being seen as aligned with the wrong side (12%)). 'Pride dignity' also plays a part (11%, equally for men and women).

Only in very few cases do people appear to feel they have an entirely free hand to decline support (either because it is not needed (2%) or not wanted (8%)).

## Barriers to receiving help

Q11. Which, if any, of the following reasons do you think may have prevented people in Afghanistan receiving or accepting help or support during armed conflict?



Base: All respondents (535)

Where total does not sum to 100%, this is due to multiple responses, computer rounding or to the exclusion of "don't know" responses

## Reducing Suffering

**People often look beyond their own communities for help in reducing suffering during armed conflict.**

Two groups are perceived as most important:

- Religious leaders come first to mind for 23% of people (29% men vs. 17% women);
- International humanitarian organisations (generically) do so for 21%.

This mix of local/national and international groups underscores the diversity of groups that play a part.

The military/combatants are also mentioned (by 17%) despite their rarely being seen to offer tangible support/help in such times. Government is mentioned by 10% overall – marginally more so by women than men).

Some groups rarely mentioned first are nevertheless often referred to as other sources of help. The UN, for example, is mentioned by 37% of respondents, the Afghan Red Crescent and the ICRC together by 36%.

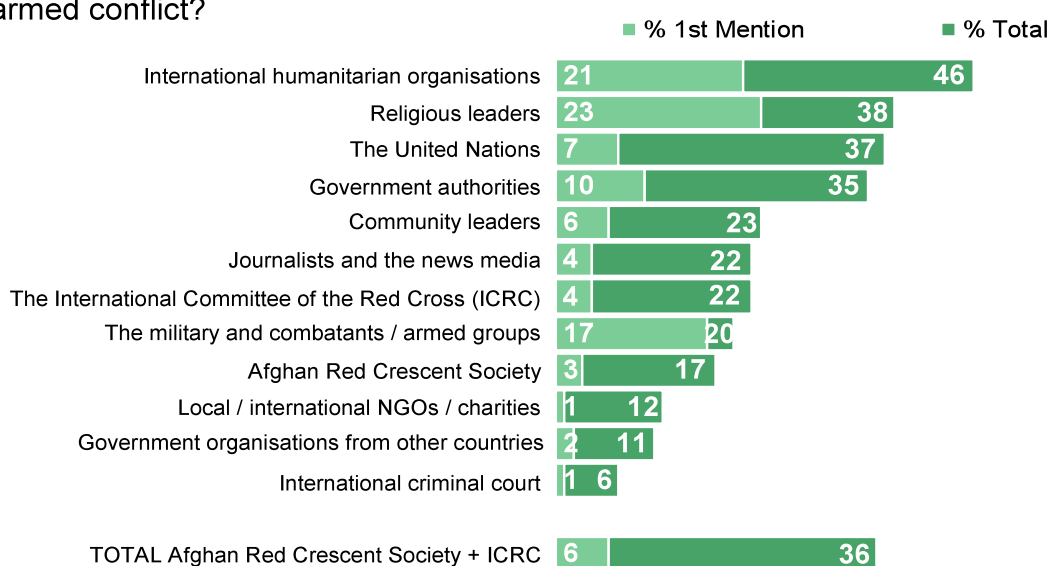
Even the media/journalists are seen to have a potentially important role and marginally more important than that of (local or international) NGOs.

Tajik people first mention international humanitarian organisations, religious leaders, and the military/combatants (despite saying that this last group is virtually never a source of help for them).

Pashtun people have broadly similar views, but place less initial emphasis on international humanitarian groups (15%, against 25% among the Tajiks), and relatively more on government authorities (13%, just 5% among the Tajiks).

## Reducing suffering

Q20. I'm now going to describe different kinds of groups and organisations. Please tell me which three of these play the biggest role to help reduce suffering during armed conflict?



Base: All respondents (535)

Where total does not sum to 100%, this is due to multiple responses, computer rounding or to the exclusion of "don't know" responses

## The Role of External Actors

**People in Afghanistan want the international community to make its presence felt – especially by delivering emergency aid (52%) and providing peacekeepers (44%).**

What people in Afghanistan most want from the international community is aid, peacekeepers and military intervention to stop the armed conflict (34% – 39% among women).

People would rather the international community provide financial support to humanitarian organisations (who by implication can make a difference 'on the ground') than exert political pressure, better enforce laws, or raise awareness of the plight of victims.

Nevertheless, many people would approve of the international community organising peace talks (25% in favour) or bringing leaders charged with war crimes to trial (27%).

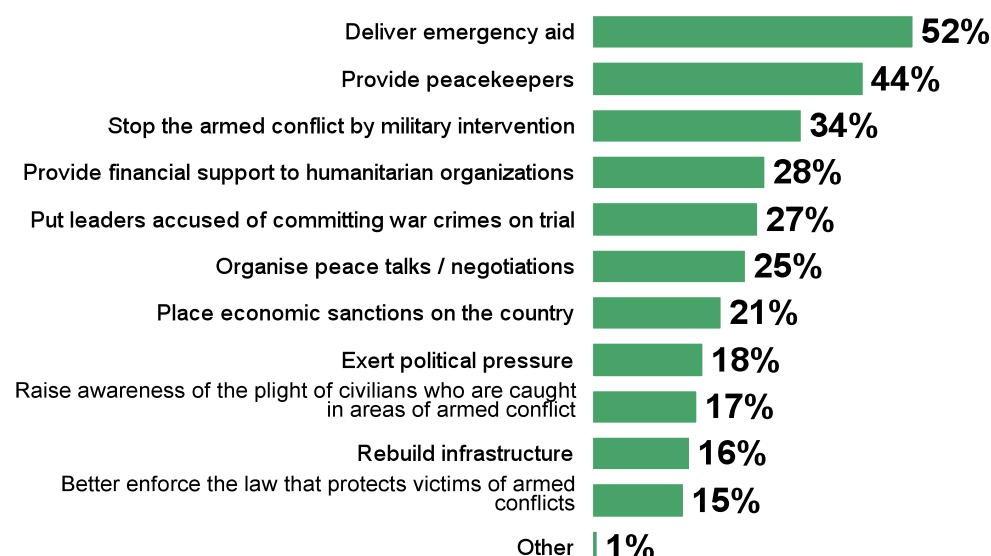
Economic sanctions are mentioned as a suitable action for the international community by one in five respondents (24% of women, 17% of men).

Rebuilding infrastructure is viewed as a priority for the international community to undertake; only 16% of the respondents.

The two largest ethnic groups – Tajik and Pashtun – suggest a broadly similar range of priorities for the international community.

## The role of external actors

Q21. What do you think the international community should do to help civilians who are living in areas of armed conflict?



Base: All respondents (535)

Where total does not sum to 100%, this is due to multiple responses, computer rounding or to the exclusion of "don't know" responses

What should the role of people living outside the conflict zone be in helping victims of armed conflict?

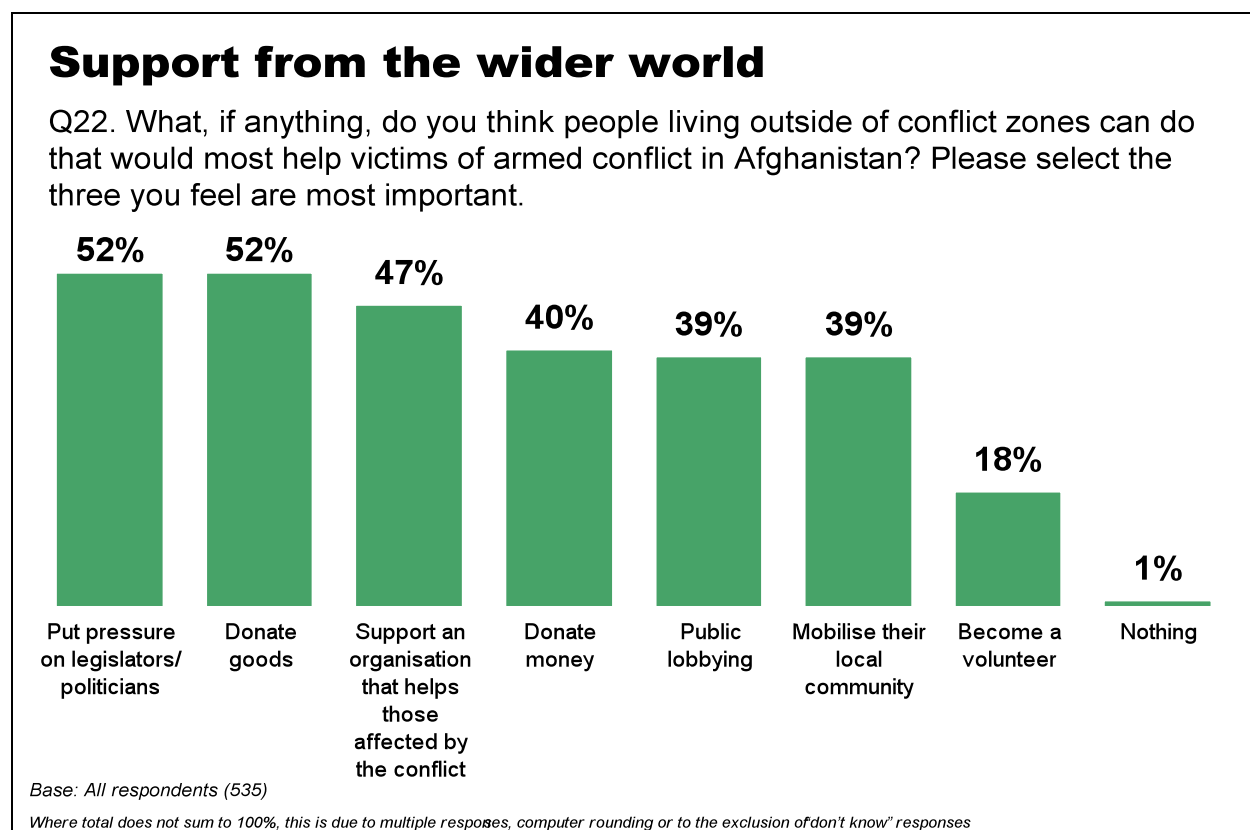
Their role is seen as twofold:

- Social: applying political pressure (52%), mobilising the local community (39%), and engaging in public lobbying (39% – 43% among men);

- Practical: donating money (40%), supporting an aid organisation (47% – 53% among women), and donating goods (52%).

The two main ethnic groups have slightly differing views here. Tajiks emphasise the need to apply political pressure and mobilise local communities; Pashtuns are more likely to call for financial donations.

The one action that every group agrees is least necessary is to 'become a volunteer'.



This summary represents the views of respondents regarding the impact of armed conflict or armed violence on their lives. Part 2 of this research study will focus on what respondents think of international humanitarian law (IHL) and their views on behaviour during armed conflict. This second part will be published in August 2009 to coincide with the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Geneva Conventions.

# Appendices

# Appendices

## Sample Profile

<b>Afghanistan (Weighted Profile)</b>		
	N	%
<b>Total</b>	535	100
<b>Gender</b>		
Male	273	51
Female	262	49
<b>Age</b>		
18-24	167	31
25-29	64	12
30-34	68	13
35-39	52	10
40-44	58	11
45-49	40	8
50-64	63	12
65 or over	22	4
<b>Ethnicity</b>		
Pashtun	241	45
Tajik	194	36
Uzbek	31	6
Turkmen	8	2
Hazara	43	8
Baloch	5	1
Nuristani	2	*
Arab	11	2
<b>Area</b>		
Urban	115	22
Rural	420	78
<b>Province</b>		
Kabul	77	14
Kapisa	9	2
Parwan	14	3
Wardak	12	2

Logar	8	2
Ghazni	26	5
Paktia	12	2
Paktika	9	2
Khost	12	2
Nangarhar	31	6
Laghman	9	2
Kunar	10	2
Nooristan	3	1
Badakhshan	20	4
Takhar	20	4
Baghlan	19	3
Kunduz	21	4
Balkh	27	5
Samangan	8	2
Juzjan	11	2
Faryab	21	4
Badghis	10	2
Herat	38	7
Farah	11	2
Nimroz	3	1
Helmand	19	4
Kandahar	25	5
Zabul	6	1
Uruzgan	7	1
Ghor	14	3
Bamyan	10	2
Panjshir	3	1
Dehkundi	10	2

<b>Education</b>		
Illiterate	332	62
Up to 5 years	38	7
6-10 years	80	15
11-12 years	75	14
Graduate / Post Graduate	10	2

## Sampling Details

Sampling tolerances vary with the size of the sample and the percentage figure concerned. For example, for a question where 50% of the people in the full sample of 535 give a particular answer, the chances are 95 in 100 that this result would not vary by more than 4 percentage points plus or minus (ie between 46% and 54%) from the result that would have been obtained from a census of the *entire* population (using the same procedures).

Some examples of the tolerances that may apply in this report are given in the table below.

<b>Approximate sampling tolerances applicable to percentages at or near these levels (at the 95% confidence level)</b>			
<i>Unweighted base (535)</i>	<b>10% or 90%</b> <b>±±</b>	<b>30% or 70%</b> <b>±±</b>	<b>50%</b> <b>±±</b>
<b>Size of sample on which survey result is based</b>			
535 (All respondents)	3	4	4
264 (Men affected by armed conflict)	4	6	6
183 (Tajik people affected by armed conflict)	4	7	7
<i>Source: Ipsos</i>			

Tolerances are also involved in the comparison of results between different elements (sub-groups) of the sample – and between the 1999 and 2009 results. A difference must be of at least a certain size to be statistically significant. The table below shows the sampling tolerances applicable to comparisons of sub-groups and between the 1999 & 2009 research.

<b>Differences required for significance at the 95% confidence level at or near these percentages</b>			
<i>Unweighted base (535)</i>	<b>10% or 90%</b> <b>±±</b>	<b>30% or 70%</b> <b>±±</b>	<b>50%</b> <b>±±</b>
<b>Size of 2009 sub-groups and 1999 vs. 2009 samples involved in this survey</b>			
264 (Men affected by armed conflict) vs. 250 (Women affected by armed conflict)	5	8	9
995 (1999 full sample) vs. 535 (2009 full sample)	3	5	5
<i>Source: Ipsos</i>			



## Ipsos / ICRC

### “Our World: Views from Afghanistan”

### Marked-Up Questionnaire

- Interviews with 535 people
- Aged 18+
- Conducted face-to-face, between February the 13<sup>th</sup> and February the 21<sup>st</sup> 2009
- Results are weighted
- ‘POW’ indicates a question also asked in 1999
- An asterisk ( \* ) indicates a result of less than 1% (but not zero)
- A "n/a" denotes "not asked"
- Base for each question is all (535), unless shown otherwise

#### INTRODUCTION

Good morning/afternoon/evening. I am from Acsor, an independent social research agency. We are conducting interviews in this area would like your help with this. The interview will last around 15 minutes and is about your experiences and opinions on the armed conflict in Afghanistan.

#### AA) ON CONFLICT IN GENERAL

ASK ALL ➔

Q1. Have you personally experienced armed conflict, or not?

		%
<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes	60
<input type="checkbox"/>	No	40
<input type="checkbox"/>	Don't know	1
<input type="checkbox"/>	Refused	0

ASK IF YES AT Q1 ➔

Q2. Was this in Afghanistan, or was it somewhere else?

	<i>Base: All experiencing armed conflict at Q1 - 320</i>	%
<input type="checkbox"/>	In Afghanistan	97
<input type="checkbox"/>	Somewhere else (specify)	1
<input type="checkbox"/>	Both	2
<input type="checkbox"/>	Don't know	0

ASK IF YES AT Q1 ➔

Q3A. I'm going to ask you about your actual experiences during the armed conflict in Afghanistan. Please tell me whether any of the following things happened to you personally or did not happen as a consequence of the armed conflict in Afghanistan? For each one, please indicate whether it happened or did not happen to you?

<i>Base: All experiencing armed conflict at Q1 - 320</i>	Happened	Did Not Happen	Don't know	Refused
	%	%	%	%
Forced to leave your home and live elsewhere	76	24	*	0
Imprisoned	21	78	1	0
Kidnapped or taken as an hostage	9	90	2	0
Tortured	43	56	1	0
Been humiliated	55	44	1	0
Lost contact with a close relative	61	37	2	0
A member of your immediate family was killed during the armed conflict	45	55	*	0
Serious damage to your property	66	34	*	0
Wounded by the fighting	35	64	*	0
Combatants took food away	34	61	5	0
Had your home looted	42	56	2	0
Somebody you knew well was a victim of sexual violence	13	81	6	0
<u>ROTATE STATEMENTS BELOW HERE SEPARATELY AFTER OTHERS</u>				
No or very limited access to basic necessities (water, electricity, etc.)	64	28	8	0
No or very limited access to healthcare	68	25	7	0
Lost all my belongings	47	43	10	0
Lost my means of income (e.g. job, revenue, farm land, etc.)	60	32	8	0
The area where I lived came under enemy control	56	37	7	0

ASK IF NOT "YES" AT Q1 →

Q3B. I'm going to ask you about how you yourself have been affected by the armed conflict in Afghanistan. Please tell me whether any of the following things happened to you personally or did not happen as a consequence of the armed conflict in Afghanistan? For each one, please indicate whether it happened or did not happen to you?

<i>Base: All <u>not</u> experiencing armed conflict at Q1 - 212</i>	Happened	Did Not Happen	Don't know	Refused
	%	%	%	%
Forced to leave your home and live elsewhere	36	58	6	0
Imprisoned	4	88	8	0
Kidnapped or taken as an hostage	2	91	7	0
Tortured	9	84	7	0
Been humiliated	29	65	6	0
Lost contact with a close relative	37	55	8	0
A member of your immediate family was killed during the armed conflict	22	71	7	0
Serious damage to your property	34	59	7	0
Wounded by the fighting	12	81	7	0
Combatants took food away	16	76	8	0
Had your home looted	20	69	10	0
Somebody you knew well was a victim of sexual violence	5	83	11	0
<u>ROTATE STATEMENTS BELOW HERE SEPARATELY AFTER OTHERS</u>				
No or very limited access to basic necessities (water, electricity, etc.)	56	41	3	0
No or very limited access to healthcare	59	38	3	0
Lost all my belongings	22	70	8	0
Lost my means of income (e.g. job, revenue, farm land, etc.)	38	54	8	0
The area where I lived came under enemy control	21	73	6	0

## ALL RESPONDENTS ➔

Q3A/Q3B. I'm going to ask you about your actual experiences during the armed conflict in Afghanistan. Please tell me whether any of the following things happened to you personally or did not happen as a consequence of the armed conflict in Afghanistan? For each one, please indicate whether it happened or did not happen to you? (POW)

<i>Base: All respondents</i>	Happened	Happened	Did Not Happen	Don't know
	1999	2009	2009	2009
	%	%	%	%
Forced to leave your home and live elsewhere	83	60	37	3
Imprisoned	22	14	82	4
Kidnapped or taken as an hostage	12	6	90	4
Tortured	43	29	67	4
Been humiliated ('Felt humiliated' in 1999)	55	44	52	3
Lost contact with a close relative	59	51	44	5
A member of your immediate family was killed during the armed conflict	53	35	61	3
Serious damage to your property	70	53	44	3
Wounded by the fighting	32	26	71	3
Combatants took food away	49	27	67	6
Had your home looted	51	33	61	5
Somebody you knew well was a victim of sexual violence ('...raped by combatants' in 1999)	16	10	81	9
<u>ROTATE STATEMENTS BELOW HERE SEPARATELY AFTER OTHERS</u>				
No or very limited access to basic necessities (water, electricity, etc.)	n/a	60	33	6
No or very limited access to healthcare	n/a	64	30	5
Lost all my belongings	n/a	36	54	10
Lost my means of income (e.g. job, revenue, farm land, etc.)	n/a	52	41	8
The area where I lived came under enemy control	n/a	42	51	7

ASK ALL ➔

Q4. And have you been affected by armed conflict in Afghanistan in any other ways? What ways were those?

SINGLE CODE

		%
<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes – specify	18
<input type="checkbox"/>	No	76
<input type="checkbox"/>	Don't know	6
<input type="checkbox"/>	Refused	*

YES – SPECIFY: TOP MENTIONS (> 5% of respondents)	YES
<i>Base: All who have been affected by armed conflict in any other ways at Q4 - 89</i>	
	%
TOTAL MENTIONS - PEOPLE ARE KILLED/ INJURED	31
Innocent people killed/ Injured (unspecified)	12
Civilians killed/ Injured	6
Relatives are killed/ Injured	6
TOTAL MENTIONS – TYPES OF VIOLENCE/ ATTACKS	20
Suicide attacks	6
TOTAL MENTIONS – PERSONAL SUFFERING	19
I couldn't continue my education	12
I was injured	5
TOTAL MENTIONS – BUILDINGS ATTACKED/ DESTROYED	17
People's homes	5
TOTAL MENTIONS – INTERNAL FIGHTING	13
Fighting between Tribes (unspecified)	6
TOTAL MENTIONS – DETERIORATION IN THE STANDARD OF LIVING	10

ASK ALL WHO HAVE EXPERIENCED CONFLICT – YES AT Q1 AND YES AT Q2/CODE 1 (IN AFGHANISTAN) OR ANY “HAPPENED” RESPONSE AT Q3, OR ANY YES RESPONSE AT Q4 ➔Q5. And when were you personally most recently affected by this armed conflict in [country]?

SINGLE CODE

	<i>Base: All who have experienced / been affected by conflict in any way, as defined above – 515</i>	%
<input type="checkbox"/>	Now/currently experiencing	4
<input type="checkbox"/>	Within the last month	4
<input type="checkbox"/>	More than one month ago, but less than six months	3
<input type="checkbox"/>	Six months ago to within the last year	7
<input type="checkbox"/>	1-2 years	7
<input type="checkbox"/>	3-4 years	9
<input type="checkbox"/>	5-9 years	23
<input type="checkbox"/>	10-19 years	19
<input type="checkbox"/>	20 years +	11
<input type="checkbox"/>	Don't know	12
<input type="checkbox"/>	Refused	*

ASK ALL →

Q6. What do you think are the two or three greatest fears people are facing in a situation of armed conflict in Afghanistan?

DO NOT READ OUT. INTERVIEWER TO CODE A MAXIMUM OF THREE RESPONSES

		%
<input type="checkbox"/>	Inability to earn a living / personal - family economic stability	37
<input type="checkbox"/>	Losing a loved one	25
<input type="checkbox"/>	Being separated from loved ones	16
<input type="checkbox"/>	Losing/destruction of the house / losing of personal belongings	22
<input type="checkbox"/>	Living with uncertainty	36
<input type="checkbox"/>	Having to leave their home / becoming a displaced/refugee	34
<input type="checkbox"/>	Imprisonment	15
<input type="checkbox"/>	Surviving the conflict	15
<input type="checkbox"/>	Suffering injury	17
<input type="checkbox"/>	Sexual violence	8
<input type="checkbox"/>	Not being able to get an education / going to school	21
<input type="checkbox"/>	Fear of being rejected by your community	1
<input type="checkbox"/>	Having to take up arms/fight	8
<input type="checkbox"/>	Being humiliated	11
<input type="checkbox"/>	Limited access to basic necessities (water, electricity, etc...)	7
<input type="checkbox"/>	Limited access to healthcare (drugs, hospital)	9
<input type="checkbox"/>	Outcome of the conflict	5
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other (Specify)	1
<input type="checkbox"/>	Nothing	0
<input type="checkbox"/>	Don't know	*
<input type="checkbox"/>	Refused	0

ASK ALL →

Q7. What do you think civilians who are living in areas of armed conflict need the most?

Please select the three most important to you

ROTATE STATEMENTS. READ THE LIST AND ASK RESPONDENTS TO SELECT ONE ANSWER. REPEAT THE LIST IF NECESSARY. THEN READ THE LIST AGAIN WITHOUT MENTIONING THE FIRST ANSWER AND ASK THE RESPONDENT TO SELECT ANOTHER ANSWER. REPEAT AGAIN.

		%
<input type="checkbox"/>	Food	63
<input type="checkbox"/>	Shelter	46
<input type="checkbox"/>	Medical treatment / healthcare	48
<input type="checkbox"/>	Family members to be kept together	18
<input type="checkbox"/>	Information on separated / missing family members	7
<input type="checkbox"/>	Security / protection	53
<input type="checkbox"/>	Respect / dignity	8
<input type="checkbox"/>	Psychological support	8
<input type="checkbox"/>	To influence decisions that affect them	4
<input type="checkbox"/>	Conflict resolution	22
<input type="checkbox"/>	Economic / financial help	20
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other (specify)	0
<input type="checkbox"/>	Don't know	0
<input type="checkbox"/>	Refused	0

ASK ALL WHO HAVE EXPERIENCED CONFLICT – YES AT Q1 AND YES AT Q2/CODE 1 (IN AFGHANISTAN) OR ANY “HAPPENED” RESPONSE AT Q3, OR ANY YES RESPONSE AT Q4. ROTATE ORDER ➔

Q8. Now I would like to ask you about whether the armed conflict has changed the way you feel. For each description I read out, please say whether the armed conflict has made you feel more this way, less this way, or has it made no real difference? First [.....], would you say it has made you more [.....], less [.....], or has it done neither?

<i>Base: All who have experienced / been affected by conflict in any way, as defined above – 515</i>	More	Less	No Real Difference	Don't Know	Refused
	%	%	%	%	%
Vengeful	30	37	20	12	0
Trusting	22	43	23	12	0
Resilient	32	35	18	15	0
Anxious	44	29	18	10	0
Appreciative of every day	27	40	20	13	0
Confused	28	38	21	13	0
Sad	46	29	16	9	0
Sensitive	35	35	17	12	0
Disillusioned	33	33	23	10	0
Optimistic for the future	30	29	21	10	0
Wise	34	37	14	14	0
Empathetic towards other people	51	24	14	12	0
Violent/aggressive	17	36	33	15	0

## BB) HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE / NEEDS

ASK ALL WHO HAVE EXPERIENCED CONFLICT – YES AT Q1 AND YES AT Q2/CODE 1 (IN AFGHANISTAN) OR ANY “HAPPENED” RESPONSE AT Q3, OR ANY YES RESPONSE AT Q4 ➔

Q9. During the time you experienced or were being affected by armed conflict, did you receive help or support from any of the following?

READ OUT.

<i>Base: All who have experienced / been affected by conflict in any way, as defined above – 515</i>	Yes	No	Don't Know	Can't Remember
	%	%	%	%
UN / UN agency	29	62	8	0
Afghan Red Crescent Society	24	66	10	0
ICRC (International Committee of the Red Cross)	23	66	11	0
Other Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO) or charity (local or international)	21	67	12	0
Government	31	60	10	0
Individuals from your community / neighbours	37	54	8	0
Religious entities	22	69	9	0
Military / army / combatants	9	81	9	0
Parents / family	66	27	7	0
Other (specify)	0	100	0	0
Combination: Afghan Red Crescent Society / ICRC	34	77	9	0

ASK IF YES AT Q9 ➔

Q10. For each of the types of organisations or people you mentioned receiving help or support from, I would like you to tell me how well you felt they understood your needs. First, the [type of support at Q9]... do you feel your needs were completely understood, partially understood, or not understood at all?

SINGLE CODE FOR EACH SOURCE OF SUPPORT MENTIONED AT Q9

<i>Base: All who <u>did</u> receive support / help from each organisation at Q9</i>	Completely	Partially	Not At All	Don't Know	Refused
	%	%	%	%	%
UN / UN agency (146)	33	65	1	0	0
Afghan Red Crescent Society (124)	22	70	6	2	0
ICRC (International Committee of the Red Cross) (117)	27	69	3	1	0
Other Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO) or charity (local or international) (108)	12	83	4	1	0
Government (154)	23	69	6	2	0
Individuals from your community / neighbours (199)	39	56	4	1	0
Religious entities (119)	31	63	1	4	0
Military/army/combatants (48)*	36	55	3	6	0
Parents / family (342)	65	31	3	1	0
Combination: Afghan Red Crescent Society / ICRC (179)	28	77	6	2	0

\*Low base

ASK ALL ➔

Q11. Which, if any, of the following reasons do you think may have prevented people in Afghanistan receiving or accepting help or support during armed conflict?

READ OUT LIST. ROTATE ORDER. MULTICODE OK



	YES
	%
Corruption	52
Black market	28
Discrimination/social status	34
Location - access – not able to reach the location	20
Unaware that it was available	21
Fear of being rejected by my community	14
Fear of being perceived to be aligned with wrong side	12
Pride/dignity	11
Didn't meet criteria	13
Did not want to receive any support	8
Did not need to receive any support	2
Did not want to accept support because of who was offering it	5
Other (specify)	0
Nothing	2
Don't know	4
Refused	0

The remaining results will be released in August

## DD) HUMANITARIAN GESTURES

ASK ALL →

Q20. I'm now going to describe different kinds of groups and organizations. Please tell me which three of these play the biggest role to help reduce suffering during armed conflict?

READ OUT LIST AND ASK RESPONDENT TO SELECT ONE ANSWER. THEN READ LIST AGAIN AND ASK RESPONDENT FOR TWO MORE ANSWERS. REPEAT IF NECESSARY.

	First Mention	Other Mentions	TOTAL
	%	%	%
The military and combatants / armed groups	17	3	20
Religious leaders	23	15	38
International humanitarian organizations	21	26	46
Journalists and the news media	4	17	22
The United Nations	7	30	37
The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)	4	18	22
Afghan Red Crescent Society	3	15	17
Government authorities	10	25	35
Government organisations from other countries	2	9	11
International criminal court	1	6	6
Local / international NGOs / charities	1	11	12
Community leaders	6	17	23
Other (specify)	0	*	*
None of these	2	0	2
Don't know	1	2	1
Refused	0	0	0
Combination: Afghan Red Crescent Society / ICRC	6	30	36

## ASK ALL →

Q21. What do you think the international community should do to help civilians who are living in areas of armed conflict?

ROTATE STATEMENTS. READ THE LIST AND ASK RESPONDENT TO SELECT ONE ANSWER. THEN READ THE LIST AGAIN WITHOUT MENTIONING THE FIRST ANSWER AND ASK RESPONDENT TO SELECT ANOTHER ANSWER(S). REPEAT IF NECESSARY. MULTICODE THREE.

		%
<input type="checkbox"/>	Stop the armed conflict by military intervention	34
<input type="checkbox"/>	Exert political pressure	18
<input type="checkbox"/>	Deliver emergency aid	52
<input type="checkbox"/>	Provide peacekeepers	44
<input type="checkbox"/>	Provide financial support to humanitarian organizations	28
<input type="checkbox"/>	Put leaders accused of committing war crimes on trial	27
<input type="checkbox"/>	Place economic sanctions on the country	21
<input type="checkbox"/>	Raise awareness of the plight of civilians who are caught in areas of armed conflict	17
<input type="checkbox"/>	Rebuild infrastructure	16
<input type="checkbox"/>	Organize peace talks / negotiations	25
<input type="checkbox"/>	Better enforce the law that protects victims of armed conflicts	15
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other (specify)	1
<input type="checkbox"/>	Nothing	*
<input type="checkbox"/>	Don't know	*
<input type="checkbox"/>	Refused	0

## ASK ALL →

Q22. What, if anything, do you think people living outside of conflict zones can do that would most help victims of armed conflict in Afghanistan? Please select the three you feel are most important.

ROTATE STATEMENTS. READ THE LIST AND ASK RESPONDENT TO SELECT ONE ANSWER. THEN READ THE LIST AGAIN WITHOUT MENTIONING THE FIRST ANSWER AND ASK RESPONDENT TO SELECT ANOTHER ANSWER(S). REPEAT IF NECESSARY. MULTICODE THREE.

		%
<input type="checkbox"/>	Put pressure on legislators / politicians	52
<input type="checkbox"/>	Public lobbying	39
<input type="checkbox"/>	Become a volunteer	18
<input type="checkbox"/>	Donate money	40
<input type="checkbox"/>	Support an organization that helps those affected by the conflict	47
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mobilize their local community	39
<input type="checkbox"/>	Donate goods	52
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other (specify)	*
<input type="checkbox"/>	Nothing	1
<input type="checkbox"/>	Don't know	1
<input type="checkbox"/>	Refused	0

The remaining results will be released in August

## Demographics

ASK ALL ➔

Respondent's Gender

		%
<input type="checkbox"/>	Male	51
<input type="checkbox"/>	Female	49

ASK ALL ➔

Respondent's Age

		%
<input type="checkbox"/>	18-24	31
<input type="checkbox"/>	25-29	12
<input type="checkbox"/>	30-34	13
<input type="checkbox"/>	35-39	10
<input type="checkbox"/>	40-44	11
<input type="checkbox"/>	45-49	8
<input type="checkbox"/>	50-64	12
<input type="checkbox"/>	65 or over	4

ASK ALL ➔

Education Level

		%
<input type="checkbox"/>	Illiterate	62
<input type="checkbox"/>	Up to 5 Years	7
<input type="checkbox"/>	6-8 Years	8
<input type="checkbox"/>	9-10 Years	7
<input type="checkbox"/>	11-12 Years	14
<input type="checkbox"/>	College Graduate	1
<input type="checkbox"/>	Post-Graduate	1

ASK ALL ➔

Province

		%
<input type="checkbox"/>	Kabul	14
<input type="checkbox"/>	Kapisa	2
<input type="checkbox"/>	Parwan	3
<input type="checkbox"/>	Wardak	2
<input type="checkbox"/>	Logar	2

<input type="checkbox"/>	Ghazni	5
<input type="checkbox"/>	Paktia	2
<input type="checkbox"/>	Paktika	2
<input type="checkbox"/>	Khost	2
<input type="checkbox"/>	Nangarhar	6
<input type="checkbox"/>	Laghman	2
<input type="checkbox"/>	Kunar	2
<input type="checkbox"/>	Nooristan	1
<input type="checkbox"/>	Badakhshan	4
<input type="checkbox"/>	Takhar	4
<input type="checkbox"/>	Baghlan	3
<input type="checkbox"/>	Kunduz	4
<input type="checkbox"/>	Balkh	5
<input type="checkbox"/>	Samangan	2
<input type="checkbox"/>	Juzjan	2
<input type="checkbox"/>	Faryab	4
<input type="checkbox"/>	Badghis	2
<input type="checkbox"/>	Herat	7
<input type="checkbox"/>	Farah	2
<input type="checkbox"/>	Nimroz	1
<input type="checkbox"/>	Helmand	4
<input type="checkbox"/>	Kandahar	5
<input type="checkbox"/>	Zabul	1
<input type="checkbox"/>	Uruzgan	1
<input type="checkbox"/>	Ghor	3
<input type="checkbox"/>	Bamyan	2
<input type="checkbox"/>	Panjshir	1
<input type="checkbox"/>	Dehkundi	2

ASK ALL →

Area

		%
<input type="checkbox"/>	Urban	22
<input type="checkbox"/>	Rural	78

ASK ALL →

Ethnicity

		%
<input type="checkbox"/>	Pashtun	45
<input type="checkbox"/>	Tajik	36
<input type="checkbox"/>	Uzbek	6
<input type="checkbox"/>	Turkmen	2
<input type="checkbox"/>	Hazara	8
<input type="checkbox"/>	Baloch	1
<input type="checkbox"/>	Nuristani	*
<input type="checkbox"/>	Arab	2

- END OF THE QUESTIONNAIRE -

## **MISSION**

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) is an impartial, neutral and independent organization whose exclusively humanitarian mission is to protect the lives and dignity of victims of armed conflict and other situations of violence and to provide them with assistance.

The ICRC also endeavours to prevent suffering by promoting and strengthening humanitarian law and universal humanitarian principles.

Established in 1863, the ICRC is at the origin of the Geneva Conventions and the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. It directs and coordinates the international activities conducted by the Movement in armed conflicts and other situations of violence.

## **ABOUT IPSOS**

Ipsos is a leading international research agency, with offices in over 60 countries worldwide and global reach.

Established in 1975, it conducts qualitative and quantitative research with the private, public and voluntary sectors. One of its key areas of specialization is in social and opinion research. This includes extensive work with a wide range of national and international NGOs, charities and aid organizations.

This study was coordinated by Ipsos Switzerland, with fieldwork in Afghanistan conducted by ASCOR Surveys, based in the country.

