

Afghanistan Public Policy Research Organization

Afghanistan Rights Monitor
Monitoring Cycle 2: May – August 2016

September 2016

Project Report

موسسه مطالعات عامه
افغانستان

appro 

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Acknowledgments

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About Afghanistan Rights Monitor

Afghanistan Rights Monitor (ARM) is designed to meet the following objectives:

1. Regular monitoring of the current conditions of fundamental rights in Afghanistan using a set of indicators based on internationally recognized standards for monitoring Civic, Social and Economic rights.
2. Informed, pragmatic, and constructive advocacy messaging on fundamental rights needs, based on empirical data, and delivered by civil society actors.
3. Increased capacity and responsiveness of public institutions in attending to fundamental rights needs of Afghan citizens.

For more information on ARM, see: www.nac-pp.net

About APPRO

Afghanistan Public Policy Research Organization (APPRO) is an independent social research organization with a mandate to promote social and policy learning to benefit development and reconstruction efforts in Afghanistan and other less developed countries through conducting social scientific research, monitoring and evaluation, and training and mentoring. APPRO is registered with the Ministry of Economy in Afghanistan as a non-profit non-government organization and headquartered in Kabul, Afghanistan with offices in Mazar-e Sharif (north), Herat (west), Kandahar (south), Jalalabad (east), and Bamyan (center). APPRO is the founding member of APPRO-Europe, registered in Belgium.

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List of Abbreviations

AIHRC	Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission
AGO	Attorney General's Office
ALP	Afghan Local Police
ANP	Afghan National Police
AOG	Armed Opposition Group
APPRO	Afghanistan Public Policy Research Organization
ARM	Afghanistan Rights Monitor
AWDP	Afghanistan Workforce Development Program
BHC	Basic Health Center
DOWA	Directorate of Women's Affairs
EUI	European University Institute
EVAW	Elimination of Violence Against Women
FGD	Focus group discussion
FRU	Family Response Unit
IDP	Internally Displaced Person
OHCHR	United Nations Human Rights Office of the High Commissioner
STD	Sexually Transmittable Disease
UN	United Nations
UNAMA	United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan
UNHCR	The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Emergency Fund
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
VAW	Violence against women

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Introduction

The security situation in Afghanistan remained critical in the first half of 2016, with Armed Opposition Groups (AOGs) carrying out a series of attacks in Kabul and other parts of the country, causing high levels of casualties among civilians and security forces. In recent months, AOGs have engaged in heavy fighting with Afghan security forces in various parts of the country, notably in Helmand and Kunduz provinces. Fighters affiliated with Daesh also were active, especially in Nangarhar province.¹ According to some sources the insurgency has spread through more of Afghanistan than at any point since 2001. AOGs have become more audacious in their attacks aimed at seizing control of provincial capitals as they did during the brief capture of Kunduz in late 2015.²

The upsurge in violence has devastating consequences for civilians, with suicide bombings, improvised explosive devices (IEDs), and targeted attacks. The number of civilians killed during military operations by government forces has also increased. In the first six months of 2016, UNAMA documented 5,166 civilian casualties including 1,601 deaths and 3,565 injured. Between January and June 2016, UNAMA reported 507 women casualties with 130 deaths and 377 injured. Also, nearly one in three casualties was a child. A total of 1,509 child casualties were documented including 388 deaths and 1,121 injured, an increase of 18 per cent compared to the same period in 2015.³

Conflict displacement continued to increase at an alarming rate into 2016. In the first four months, an estimated 118,000 people fled their homes of which approximately 80 percent required emergency humanitarian assistance. Displaced women and girls were at disproportionately higher risk of harm, living with fewer freedoms and much reduced access to education, health and employment opportunities. The overcrowded living conditions in temporary camps also increase the risk of violence against women.

Under UNHCR's assisted returns program 3,766 Afghan refugees, mostly from Pakistan and Iran, returned to Afghanistan during the first four months of 2016, a lower number than in 2015. The lower return rate in 2016 is attributed to high levels of unemployment and lack of livelihood opportunities, limited access to land, shelter and basic services, and increased insecurity.⁴

This report is the second of the six monitoring cycles to be conducted between January 2016 and December 2017 as part of the Afghanistan Rights Monitor (ARM) project. The monitoring reports are intended to underline conflict-induced changes to fundamental rights in Afghanistan, and pathways to protect these rights despite heightened conflict. The fundamental rights being monitored are grouped under the three pillars or Civic, Social, and Economic rights.

Data for this monitoring report were collected between May and August 2016 in 29 urban and rural districts across ten provinces. The report is designed to record changes from the first monitoring phase,

¹ See, for example, Security Council Report, "March 2016 Monthly Forecast" at http://www.securitycouncilreport.org/monthly-forecast/2016-06/afghanistan_17.php

² See, for example, http://www.nytimes.com/2015/10/12/world/asia/afghanistan-taliban-united-nations.html?_r=0

³ UNAMA, Afghanistan Mid Year Report 2016, Protection of Civilians in Conflict

⁴ See, for example, <https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/operations/afghanistan>

and does not provide in-depth analysis of the underlying causes of these changes. In-depth analysis of the underlying causes of change in the situation of fundamental rights is carried out in six research papers between January 2016 and December 2017.⁵

Objective and Methodology

The objective for the ARM monitoring rounds is to assess changes in fundamental rights conditions across ten target provinces from January 2016 to December 2017. “Fundamental Rights” are conceptualized broadly to include Civic, Social, and Economic rights.⁶

A baseline assessment was concluded in December 2015 to establish the basis against which to monitor changes in fundamental rights conditions, followed by the first monitoring cycle between January and April 2016. The reporting period for this second monitoring cycle covers May to August 2016. Data were collected in 29 rural and urban districts in the Central, Northern, Southern, Eastern and Western geographical zones of Afghanistan.

The composite indicators based on international rights monitoring standards were tested during the baseline assessment and refined for subsequent monitoring rounds. Table 1 provides a breakdown of the composite indicators used in this monitoring.

Table 1: Indicators by Pillar ⁷

Pillar	Indicator
Civic Rights	Rights to Life, Liberty, Security and Dignity of Person
	Right to Efficient and Fair Justice
	Children’s Rights
	Right to Participate in Public Affairs
	Right to Freedom of Opinion and Expression
Social Rights	Right to Health
	Right to Adequate Housing and Facilities
	Food Security
	Right to Education
	Family Rights
Economic Rights	Right to Work and Fairness in Employment
	Right to Decent Working Conditions

Scope, Sample Selection, Methods

Twenty-nine districts in 10 provinces were selected for fundamental rights monitoring (Table 2). The provinces are Balkh, Bamyan, Daikundi, Herat, Kabul, Kandahar, Khost, Kunduz, Nangarhar, Kandahar, and Nimruz. The selection of target provinces is based on factors including geographical representation

⁵ The first of these papers is available through: <http://appro.org.af/rights-in-afghanistan-human-or-fundamental/>

⁶ Rights pillars were conceptualized based on the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), the international Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), and protocols of the Geneva Convention as they relate to protection of rights in situations of armed conflict. The working definitions for each rights pillar have been adapted for the Afghan context and were after the baseline assessment to reflect ground realities.

⁷ For a full list of the proxies for each of these indicators see Appendix 1.

and heterogeneity of socio-economic conditions, civil society engagement, security situation, and development focus.

Table 2: Breakdown of Provinces and Districts

Province	Districts
Balkh	Mazar-e-Sharif, Khulm, Balkh
Bamyan	Bamyan Center, Shibar, Yakawlang
Daikundi	Nili, Shahrstan
Herat	Herat Center, Kohsan, Guzara
Kabul	Kabul Center, Khak Jabbar, Istalif
Kandahar	Kandahar Center, Arghandab, Daman
Khost	Matun, Mando Zayi, Tere Zayi
Kunduz	Kunduz Center, Imam Sahib, Aliabad
Nangarhar	Jalalabad, Kama, Surkhrod
Nimruz	Zaranj, Chakhansur, Chahar Burjak
10 Provinces	29 Districts

A total of 711 individuals were engaged for the second monitoring cycle, consisting of 80 females and 186 males who were interviewed as key informants, and 211 females and 234 males who participated in focus group discussions. Of these, 355 individuals were over 36 years of age and 349 were under age of 36 years. A breakdown of sources of information is provided in Table 3.

Table 3: Sources of Information

Provincial Centers	Outlying Districts
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working women, in particular teachers and EPD provincial women network members • Working men, including shopkeepers, farmers and teachers • Representatives of one youth-focused CSO • Representatives of one woman focused CSO • Representatives of media organizations / journalists • Representatives of AIHRC • Provincial Council Member (Male) • Provincial Council Member (Female) • Attorney Director for Fighting Violence Against Women • Legal organization • Department of Women Affairs • Department of Justice • Department of Education • Department of Health • Department of Labor and Social Affairs • Department of Migration • Department of Human Rights in Police • University Student (Male) • University Student (Female) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working women in particular teachers and housewives • Working men, including shopkeepers, farmers and teachers • One community leader (male) • One influential woman • Huqooq • Department of Education • Department of Health • Department of Police

Semi-structured individual interviews, focus group discussions, and a quantitative survey questionnaire were the main tools for the collection of monitoring data. The research teams used guiding questions for semi-formal key informant interviews and focus group discussions while a quantitative survey questionnaire was used to collect additional quantitative data from the focus group participants and key informants. The monitoring findings reported below are referenced in footnotes using the coding keys described in Appendix 2.

Findings from Qualitative Data

Balkh

Under civic rights, there are reports of improved security conditions and police behavior toward civilians, better access to formal justice, and more willingness among citizens to participate in political activities including membership in political parties. Citizens' interest in participating in elections has continued to decrease, however. There are also reports of decreases in early marriage, sexual abuse, and school drop out but an increase in child labor due, reportedly, to increased poverty and displacement.

Under social rights, healthcare, food security, education and housing for IDPs showed improvements since April 2016 while family rights remained unchanged.

Under economic rights, a slight improvement appears in access to paid employment because of the cultivation season. Unemployment continues to be a major concern for many. No changes were reported in working conditions.

Corruption and gender discrimination in accessing basic services remain unchanged.

Table 3: Summary Profile – Balkh

Pillar / Indicators	Status		
	Unchanged	Improved	Deteriorated
Civic Rights:			
Right to Life, Liberty, Security, and Dignity		✓ ¹	
Right to Efficient and Fair Justice		✓ ²	
Children's Rights		✓ ³	✓ ⁴
Right to Participate in Public Affairs		✓ ⁵	✓ ⁶
Freedom of Opinion and Expression	✓		
Social Rights:			
Right to Health		✓ ⁷	
Right to Adequate Housing and Facilities	✓ ⁸	✓ ⁹	
Food Security		✓ ¹⁰	
Right to Education		✓ ¹¹	
Family Rights	✓		
Economic Rights:			
Right to Work and Fairness in Employment		✓ ¹²	
Right to Decent Working Conditions	✓		
Crosscutting Themes:			
Gender Relations	✓	✓ ¹³	
Corruption	✓ ¹⁴	✓ ¹⁵	

Notes:⁸

1. The number of security check posts has increased and there has been regular security meetings between the Governor and the police, resulting in improved security conditions. Significant improvement was noted in police behavior regarding case registration and toward women and children.
2. Awareness programming around legal rights has increased the use of the formal justice system by both men and women. Khulm district is an exception, however, where women continue to have limited access to formal justice. Improvement was noted in the performance of formal justice organizations especially with regard to timely resolution of cases.
3. Efforts to increase awareness on violence against children through community awareness programs have reportedly resulted in a decrease in early marriages, sexual abuse and school dropouts. Children's access to justice, reform centers and orphanages has remained unchanged, however.
4. Increased poverty and forced displacement have resulted in an increase in instances of child labor.
5. There is a growing interest to join political parties.
6. Respondents' interest in participation in elections has continued to decrease since the last round of monitoring in April 2016. There has not been any significant change in the hiring process for government vacancies.
7. Increased number of government and private health facilities, availability of night staff in hospitals and introduction of car clinics in villages are reportedly responsible for improved access to health services, including maternity health.
8. No significant improvement was reported in access to housing facilities, with an exception of increased access to drinking water in some areas of Balkh where Water Department has dug additional wells.
9. IDPs' access to shelter and basic services has reportedly increased since April 2014, mainly because of the humanitarian aid provided by aid agencies such as UNHCR and Save the Children.
10. Government institutions, food-aid agencies, traders and local charities provided assistance to food insecure people during the month of Ramadan, alleviating food insecurity temporarily.
11. Awareness programs by media and an increase in the number of private schools have increased access to education.
12. The cultivation season brought a slight increase in employment opportunities. However, unemployment remains a major concern for many.
13. Gender discrimination reportedly decreased in access to justice because of the increase in general awareness around women's rights. In other sectors, no change was noted over the reporting period.
14. Corruption levels in relation to police, traditional justice system, and hiring in education department remained unchanged.
15. Interviewees mentioned a decrease in corruption in formal judiciary and health services. These changes appear to be the result of increased transparency in the recruitment process, transfer of corrupt staff and increased salaries for the employees.

⁸ Based on the interviews with: KI-F-Bal-NG-1, KI-M-Bal-NG-2, KI-M-Bal-NG-3, KI-M-Bal-NG-4, KI-F-Bal-Go-1, KI-M-Bal-Go-2, FGD-F-Bal-Go-3, FGD-F-Bal-Go-4, FGD-F-Bal-Go-5, KI-M-Bal-Go-6, KI-M-Bal-Go-7, KI-F-Bal-Go-8, KI-F-Bal-Go-9, KI-M-Bal-Go-10, KI-M-Bal-Go-11, KI-M-Bal-Go-12, KI-M-Bal-Go-13, KI-F-Bal-Go-14, KI-F-Bal-Go-15, KI-M-Bal-Go-16, KI-M-Bal-Go-17, KI-F-Bal-Go-18, KI-F-Bal-Go-19, KI-F-Bal-Go-20, KI-M-Bal-Go-21, FGD-M-Bal-CS-1, FGD-M-Bal-CS-2, FGD-M-Bal-CS-3, KI-M-Bal-CS-4, KI-M-Bal-CS-5, KI-F-Bal-CS-6, KI-F-Bal-CS-7, KI-F-Bal-CS-8, KI-M-Bal-CS-9, and KI-F-Bal-PI-1

Bamyan

There are reports of improvements in the behavior of police toward the public and access to justice since April 2016. At the same time, security has deteriorated and there have been increases in violence against children, child labor, and threats against journalists. There has been no change in public interest in participating in future elections.

Access to education is reported to have increased, and mechanisms for resolution of family disputes have improved. Water and land related disputes have decreased and there have been no changes in access to health services, food security, and basic housing facilities.

Decreasing employment opportunities remain a major concern especially among the educated young. There reports of a decrease in gender discrimination in accessing employment and improvements in the treatment of women at workplaces. Gender discrimination also showed a decrease in formal judicial organizations.

Access to basic services and rights is affected by corruption though there has been a decrease in corruption in important sectors such as education and the formal justice system.

Table 4: Summary Profile – Bamyan

Pillar / Indicators	Status		
	Unchanged	Improved	Deteriorated
Civic Rights:			
Right to Life, Liberty, Security, and Dignity		✓ ¹	✓ ²
Right to Efficient and Fair Justice		✓ ³	
Children’s Rights	✓		✓ ⁴
Right to Participate in Public Affairs	✓		
Freedom of Opinion and Expression			✓ ⁵
Social Rights:			
Right to Health	✓ ⁶		
Right to Adequate Housing and Facilities	✓ ⁷	✓ ⁸	
Food Security	✓		
Right to Education		✓ ⁹	
Family Rights		✓ ¹⁰	
Economic Rights:			
Right to Work and Fairness in Employment			✓ ¹¹
Right to Decent Working Conditions		✓ ¹²	
Crosscutting Themes:			
Gender Relations		✓ ¹²	
Corruption		✓ ¹³	✓ ¹⁴

Notes:⁹

1. General sentiment about police behavior is positive and has been improving in Bamyan. The improvements are attributed to the trainings given to the police in the province.
2. The security situation in Bamyan has deteriorated since the first monitoring cycle, due to fights between the security forces and AOG fighters. District Governor of Kahmard was killed during this reporting period.
3. Access to formal justice for both men and women has improved since April 2016 due mainly to the replacement of corrupt judicial staff and establishment of a new department for increasing women's access to formal judicial institutions.
4. Child labor has increased, especially in the agriculture sector due to the onset of cultivation season. There were no reported changes in sexual abuse of children, forced and early marriages, access to education, and access to justice and orphanages.
5. An increase in the number of threats against journalists was reported since April 2016.
6. New doctors have been appointed. However, there has been no significant change in access to and quality of health services.
7. There have been no changes in services related to housing, water, land and electricity. Basic services for displaced people remain unchanged.
8. There have been fewer disputes relating to water and land issues. The higher than normal availability of water for irrigation is reported to be the main cause for the decrease in these disputes.
9. Education services improved in terms of access and quality. The change is attributed to the increase in the number of professional teachers and enhanced monitoring programs by the education department.
10. There has been an increase in number of family disputes resolved through formal judicial organizations. Police's attitude towards domestic violence cases is said to have improved. The handling of other family related issues such as divorce and access to safe houses remain unchanged.
11. Unemployment continues to rise with an increasing number of young jobless graduates. Agriculture remains the main source of employment. Nepotism in the hiring process persists.
12. Discrimination based on gender at work places has reportedly decreased. Some attribute this decrease to efforts by the Commission on Prevention of Violence Against Women. No change was reported in security at work places.
13. Gender discrimination in the job market is said to have decreased. Women continue to get preference over men in case of scoring equal points in hiring process. The treatment of women by the formal judiciary has improved, due largely to the creation of a new department to address cases related to women.
14. A decrease is reported in corruption in the formal judiciary and education, attributed to the replacement or transfer of corrupt officials. Corruption remains unchanged in the police and access to employment, health services, and electricity services.

⁹ Based on the interviews with: KI-M-Bam-Go-12, KI-M-Bam-Go-10, KI-M-Bam-Go-2, KI-F-Bam-Go-1, KI-M-Bam-Go-14, KI-M-Bam-Go-17, KI-M-Bam-Go-16, KI-M-Bam-Go-21, FGD-M-Bam-CS-1, FGD-M-Bam-CS-3, FGD-M-Bam-CS-2, KI-M-Bam-CS-5, KI-M-Bam-CS-4, KI-M-Bam-NG-3, KI-F-Bam-NG-1, KI-F-Bam-Go-8, KI-M-Bam-Go-9, KI-F-Bam-Go-13, KI-M-Bam-Go-11, KI-M-Bam-NG-2, FGD-F-Bam-Go-5, KI-F-Bam-Go-15, KI-M-Bam-Go-20, KI-F-Bam-CS-6, FGD-F-Bam-Go-3, KI-M-Bam-Go-6, KI-F-Bam-CS-7, KI-M-Bam-Go-19, KI-M-Bam-NG-4, KI-M-Bam-CS-9, KI-M-Bam-Go-7, FGD-F-Bam-Go-4, KI-F-Bam-CS-8 and KI-M-Bam-PI-1.

Daikundi

From May to August 2016, respondents reported improvements in the behavior of police toward citizens, access to formal justice (particularly in urban centers), and children related issues such as early and forced marriages and sexual abuse. There is growing interest in joining political parties while citizens' interest in participating in elections appears to have decreased. Access to traditional and formal justice remains the same. There have been increases in child labor and threats against journalists and civil society members.

Access to health has increased while there have been no changes in access to and quality of education. Interest by parents to send children to school has reportedly increased. Food insecurity has increased but there are no reported changes in housing and basic amenities, including women's access to shelter.

Mechanisms for resolution of family cases including divorce by courts have improved while violence against women has increased. Decreasing employment opportunities remain a key concern.

Gender discrimination continues to be reported in access to health and education with some reports that gender discrimination has decreased. Corruption has decreased in the formal justice system but increased in access to government positions and paid employment.

Table 5: Summary Profile – Daikundi

Pillar / Indicators	Status		
	Unchanged	Improved	Deteriorated
Civic Rights:			
Right to Life, Liberty, Security, and Dignity		✓ ¹	✓ ²
Right to Efficient and Fair Justice	✓	✓ ³	
Children's Rights		✓ ⁴	✓ ⁵
Right to Participate in Public Affairs		✓ ⁶	✓ ⁷
Freedom of Opinion and Expression			✓ ⁸
Social Rights:			
Right to Health		✓ ⁹	
Right to Adequate Housing and Facilities	✓		
Food Security			✓ ¹⁰
Right to Education		✓ ¹¹	
Family Rights		✓ ¹²	✓ ¹³
Economic Rights:			
Right to Work and Fairness in Employment			✓ ¹⁴
Right to Decent Working Conditions	✓		
Crosscutting Themes:			
Gender Relations	✓	✓ ¹⁵	
Corruption	✓ ¹⁶	✓ ¹⁷	✓ ¹⁸

Notes:¹⁰

1. Current awareness training for the police is reported to have brought significant improvements in police performance and behavior. There continues to be complaints, however, that the police sometimes take sides in disputes based on political affiliation and loyalty.
2. The security situation has deteriorated because of the growing influence of armed groups in the province. Twelve people were reportedly killed in fights between police and armed groups during the assessment period.
3. In the center access to formal justice has improved significantly, resulting in a higher level of satisfaction about court decisions. No change was noted in access to formal justice in the districts, however.
4. Some of the issues related to children have shown improvement since April 2016. These include a decrease in the number of early and forced marriages and sexual abuse cases. Children's access to justice, reform centers, kindergartens and orphanages remained unchanged, however.
5. Incidences of child labor have increased in construction, mechanics, and shoemaking.
6. There is growing interest in joining political parties but mostly as a means of gaining protection rather than direct interest in politics.
7. Interest in participation in elections continues to decrease. Access to government positions has reportedly become more difficult, mainly because of the appointments based on political affiliations and interference from senior officials in the hiring process.
8. There has been an increase in threats against journalists and civil society activists, including from influential government employees.
9. Due to better weather conditions of the summer months, access to health services improved over the reporting period. In the center, access to reproductive health increased while there were no changes in the districts.
10. Food insecurity has increased due to floods and unemployment. Food assistance to poor families by the government and aid agencies has decreased since April 2014.
11. Public interest in sending children to school has increased but there has been no change in the poor quality of educational services including poor or nonexistent infrastructure and a lack of teaching staff.
12. There is general satisfaction about court decisions regarding family related cases, including divorce cases. No change was noted in women's access to shelter, however.
13. The awareness programs on women's rights only engage women. This approach is said to have led to an increase in family disputes, sometimes resulting in domestic violence.
14. A general decline in employment opportunities continues but there was a slight improvement in availability of seasonal agriculture-related and construction jobs.
15. Women have been receiving preferential treatment in some health services such as reproductive health. Women's access to education increased with more families willing to send girls to school. Gender discrimination in formal and traditional justice organization continued as before, however.

¹⁰ Based on the interviews with: KI-M-Dai-CS-9, KI-F-Dai-CS-8, KI-F-Dai-CS-6, KI-M-Dai-Go-2, KI-F-Dai-Go-12, KI-M-Dai-NG-3, KI-M-Dai-CS-4, KI-F-Dai-Go-1, KI-M-Dai-NG-4, KI-M-Dai-NG-2, KI-M-Dai-Go-6, FGD-M-Dai-CS-1, FGD-M-Dai-CS-2, KI-M-Dai-GO-11, KI-M-Dai-GO-13, KI-M-Dai-GO-10, KI-M-Dai-GO-14, KI-M-Dai-GO-15, KI-M-Dai-GO-9, KI-F-Dai-GO-8, KI-F-Dai-NG-1, FGD-F-Dai-GO-5, KI-M-Dai-PI-1, KI-M-Dai-GO-16, KI-M-Dai-GO-18, KI-M-Dai-GO-20 and FGD-F-Dai-GO-3

16. Corruption and nepotism continue to persist in the police, traditional justice system, and health services.
17. Administrative reforms in the formal justice system have brought a significant reduction in corruption.
18. Corruption in recruitment for public positions and teaching jobs has increased.

Herat

Changes in civic rights since April 2016 include reports of deteriorating security situation, increase in violence against children including child labor and child recruitment into armed conflicts, and an increase in threats against journalists and civil society members. A growing interest among respondents to join political parties was noted for easy access to employment. There have been no changes in perceptions of the performance and behavior of the security forces, women's access to justice, willingness to participate in elections, and access to government positions.

Access to health, education, and basic utilities, and IDPs' access to land have reportedly improved since April 2016. Girls' participation in education has improved dramatically. There has been a reduction in land and water related disputes. Food security remains unchanged while increases are reported in violence against women and divorce cases.

Decrease in employment opportunities continues and remains a major concern for many. There have been no significant changes in working conditions since April 2016. There have been improvements in access to education by women and the handling of divorce cases by the formal justice system. Corruption across the sectors remains unchanged.

Table 6: Summary Profile – Herat

Pillar / Indicators	Status		
	Unchanged	Improved	Deteriorated
Civic Rights:			
Right to Life, Liberty, Security, and Dignity	✓		✓ ¹
Right to Efficient and Fair Justice	✓ ²		
Children's Rights			✓ ³
Right to Participate in Public Affairs	✓	✓ ⁴	
Freedom of Opinion and Expression			✓ ⁵
Social Rights:			
Right to Health		✓ ⁶	
Right to Adequate Housing and Facilities		✓ ⁷	
Food Security	✓ ⁸		
Right to Education		✓ ⁹	
Family Rights			✓ ¹⁰
Economic Rights:			
Right to Work and Fairness in Employment	✓		
Right to Decent Working Conditions	✓		
Crosscutting Themes:			
Gender Relations		✓ ¹¹	
Corruption	✓ ¹²		

Notes:¹¹

1. Armed conflicts have been going on in Pashton Zarghon and Shindand for a number of months.
2. Traditional conservatism remains the main obstacle for women in access to justice in both formal and traditional justice systems.
3. Children related issues such as early and forced marriages, sexual abuse, homelessness and child labor have reportedly increased since April 2016. Children are also targets for recruitment into armed conflicts. There remains a lack of availability of orphanages, reform centers and kindergartens.
4. There is a growing interest to join political parties as a means to increase employment possibilities.
5. There has been an increase in threats against journalists and civil society activists.
6. Improvements in health services include opening new health facilities, upgrading emergency services in public hospitals, and better access to medicine and vaccination.
7. The inauguration of the Salma Hydro Power Project is likely to bring major improvements in the supply of electricity and land irrigation in and around Herat City. Increased access to water has reportedly resulted in a decrease in water and land disputes. Also, land has been distributed among displaced people at Maselekh and Shaidai IDP camps.
8. No significant change was reported in the condition of food insecure people since April 2016.
9. Due to administrative reforms by the Chairman of Education Department, access to and quality of education services have reportedly improved. Girls' access to education has increased and there has been a decrease in the number of "ghost" teachers.
10. Cases of violence against women have reportedly increased, attributed by many to unemployment among men and poverty. There has also been an increase in number of divorce cases since April 2016.
11. Women access's to education has improved significantly with around 54 percent of students being girls. Women's awareness of "rights in divorce" has increased and more cases are being referred to formal courts as compared to the past. Gender discrimination continued in access to government jobs and at work places, however.
12. There has been no change in corruption levels within the police, formal justice organizations, and public officials. There were mentions of improvements in electricity services with installation of meters to calculate use of electricity and prevent corruption.

¹¹ Based on the interviews with: KI-M-Her-Go-12, KI-F-Her-NG-1, KI-M-Her-NG-2, KI-M-Her-NG-3, KI-M-Her-NG-4, KI-F-Her-Go-1, KI-M-Her-Go-2, FGD-F-Her-Go-3, FGD-F-Her-Go-4, FGD-F-Her-Go-5, KI-M-Her-Go-6, KI-F-Her-Go-8, KI-M-Her-Go-9, KI-M-Her-Go-10, KI-M-Her-Go-11, KI-M-Her-Go-12, KI-F-Her-Go-13, KI-M-Her-Go-14, KI-F-Her-Go-15, KI-F-Her-Go-16, KI-M-Her-Go-17, KI-F-Her-Go-18, KI-M-Her-Go-19, KI-M-Her-Go-20, KI-M-Her-Go-21, FGD-M-Her-CS-1, FGD-M-Her-CS-2, FGD-M-Her-CS-3, KI-M-Her-CS-4, KI-M-Her-CS-5, KI-F-Her-CS-6, KI-F-Her-CS-7, KI-F-Her-CS-8, KI-M-Her-CS-9 and KI-M-Her-PI-1.

Kabul

Since April 2016 there have been improvements in police behavior toward the citizens, access to formal justice, and performance of formal justice organizations. During the same period there has been deterioration in the security situation, children’s rights, and access to government positions. Threats against journalists also increased. There have been no changes in the public perception of elections.

There has been no major change in the quality of health services and access to basic services including IDP’s access to shelter. Education services improved in terms of access and quality, attributed to changes in the curriculum, better availability of textbooks, and closer monitoring of schools. Disputes over inheritance, domestic violence, and divorce cases have increased while there has been an improvement in women’s awareness of their rights in inheritance and divorce cases. Access to food has deteriorated, reportedly due to lack of employment, general poverty, and substance addiction.

Poor economy and lack of jobs opportunities continued to be major causes of increasing unemployment in Kabul province. Safety at work places has reportedly increased since April 2016.

There are reports of a decrease in gender discrimination in the formal justice system and paid employment. An improvement in the treatment of women at workplace was also reported. Corruption has increased in most key sectors such as the police, basic services, and paid employment.

Table 7: Summary Profile – Kabul

Pillar / Indicators	Status		
	Unchanged	Improved	Deteriorated
Civic Rights:			
Right to Life, Liberty, Security, and Dignity		✓ ¹	✓ ²
Right to Efficient and Fair Justice		✓ ³	
Children’s Rights			✓ ⁴
Right to Participate in Public Affairs			✓ ⁵
Freedom of Opinion and Expression			✓ ⁶
Social Rights:			
Right to Health	✓ ⁷	✓ ⁸	
Right to Adequate Housing and Facilities	✓ ⁹		
Food Security			✓ ¹⁰
Right to Education		✓ ¹¹	
Family Rights		✓ ¹²	✓ ¹³
Economic Rights:			
Right to Work and Fairness in Employment			✓ ¹⁴
Right to Decent Working Conditions		✓ ¹⁵	
Crosscutting Themes:			
Gender Relations		✓ ¹⁶	
Corruption			✓ ¹⁷

Notes:¹²

1. General perception about police behavior and performance remains positive in Kabul. There has been an improvement in police behavior towards women and enhanced cooperation between the public and the police.
2. The security situation deteriorated in the months following April 2016, with increased number of suicide attacks, explosions and kidnappings.
3. Access to formal justice has improved, reportedly due to the replacement of a number of high-ranking officials and increased public awareness.
4. Sexual harassment of girls in public spaces has increased. There has been an increase in the number of school dropouts since April 2016. Child labor increased due, reportedly, to increasing unemployment of parents. There are also reports of children being recruited into armed conflict by the armed opposition groups.
5. Access to government positions has become more difficult for those without connections. Individuals who were active during the 2014 elections have allegedly been rewarded with leadership positions in the government. No change, however, was noted in people's perception of elections with general skepticism prevailing.
6. In Kabul City threats against journalists have increased.
7. Quality of health services in Kabul province remained unchanged, with distribution of low quality medicine continuing to prevail.
8. Access to health services, especially in Kabul City, has increased due to the increases in the number of private hospitals and clinics. Midwife services in hospitals have also increased.
9. There has been no change in basic services such as water and electricity except for Istalif, where services in both cases have reportedly improved. Basic services for displaced people remain unchanged.
10. There has been an increase in the number of food insecure people since April 2016. Increased unemployment and substance addition are pointed to as main drivers of food insecurity.
11. There have been improvements in education services in access and quality. The increase in quality is attributed to changes in the curriculum, wider availability of textbooks, and closer monitoring of the schools.
12. There has been an increase in the awareness of women of their rights in inheritance and divorce. There has also been a decrease in family related violence, attributed mainly to continued advocacy by human rights and women's rights organizations.
13. In Kabul City disputes over inheritance, domestic violence including physical violence against women, early marriage, exchange marriage, *baad*, and divorce have increased.
14. Access to paid employment has declined while widespread corruption and nepotism in the job market persist.
15. Safety at the work place has reportedly increased since April 2016.
16. The behavior of formal judicial organizations towards women has reportedly improved. There are reports of some employers giving preference to employing women.
17. Corruption is said to have increased in the police, basic services, and in accessing employment.

¹² Based on the interviews with: KI-M-Kab-Go-6, KI-F-Kab-Go-16, KI-F-Kab-Go-18, KI-F-Kab-Go-20, FGD-M-Kab-CS-2, KI-M-Kab-CS-4, KI-F-Kab-CS-6, KI-F-Kab-CS-7, KI-M-Kab-CS-5, FGD-M-Kab-CS-3, KI-F-Kab-Go-21, KI-F-Kab-Go-19, KI-F-Kab-Go-17, KI-M-Kab-Go-7, FGD-F-Kab-Go-4, KI-F-Kab-NG-1, KI-M-Kab-NG-2, KI-M-Kab-NG-3, KI-M-Kab-NG-4, KI-F-Kab-Go-1, KI-M-Kab-Go-2, FGD-F-Kab-Go-5, KI-F-Kab-Go-8, KI-F-Kab-Go-9, KI-F-Kab-Go-10, KI-F-Kab-Go-11, KI-F-Kab-Go-12, KI-F-Kab-Go-13, KI-F-Kab-Go-14, KI-F-Kab-Go-15, FGD-M-Kab-CS-1, KI-F-Kab-CS-8, KI-M-Kab-CS-9, KI-F-Kab-PI-1 and FGD-F-KAB-CS-10

Kandahar

Changes in civic rights since April 2016 include reports of improvement in the security situation and the performance of the police, increase in access to formal justice for both men and women, and increased interest among respondents to join political parties. There are reports of a decrease in school dropouts and decreases in sexual abuse of children and children’s engagement in armed conflicts. Child labor, however, continues to increase. There is general discontent about the lack of access to government jobs. Threats against journalists and civil society activists remain a major concern.

In terms of social rights, improvements were reported in health services, education, housing and basic facilities in the center. Family related issues including domestic violence has reportedly decreased since April 2016. In the outlying districts, access to and quality of education services and access to safe water have deteriorated. Food insecurity is reported to have risen since April 2016. Access to paid employment continues to decline and there have been no significant changes in working conditions.

Except for a decrease in girls’ access to education, gender discrimination showed improvements in access to formal justice, access to government positions, access to health services, and treatment at work places. Corruption is reported to have increased in applying for government positions and paid employment.

Table 8: Summary Profile – Kandahar

Pillar / Indicators	Status		
	Unchanged	Improved	Deteriorated
Civic Rights:			
Right to Life, Liberty, Security, and Dignity		✓ ¹	
Right to Efficient and Fair Justice		✓ ²	
Children’s Rights		✓ ³	✓ ⁴
Right to Participate in Public Affairs		✓ ⁵	✓ ⁶
Freedom of Opinion and Expression			✓ ⁷
Social Rights:			
Right to Health		✓ ⁸	
Right to Adequate Housing and Facilities		✓ ⁹	✓ ¹⁰
Food Security			✓ ¹¹
Right to Education		✓ ¹²	✓ ¹³
Family Rights		✓ ¹⁴	
Economic Rights:			
Right to Work and Fairness in Employment			✓ ¹⁵
Right to Decent Working Conditions	✓		
Crosscutting Themes:			
Gender Relations		✓ ¹⁶	✓ ¹⁷
Corruption		✓ ¹⁸	✓ ¹⁹

Notes:¹³

1. General perception about police behavior and performance is positive. Public trust in the police has improved, attributed to the increase in the number of security check posts, transparent police leadership and better coordination among ANP departments.
2. Access to formal justice for both men and women has increased, with a number of cases being handled by defense lawyers. The performance and behavior of the formal judicial staff viewed as positive. The changes are attributed to the appointment of the new Chief of Appeals at the high court. Access to traditional justice system remained unchanged.
3. Public awareness programs have reportedly resulted in decreases in school dropouts, children's engagement in armed conflicts and sexual abuse cases. Children's cases are also being investigated in courts. There have been increases in the number of kindergartens, orphanages and rehabilitation centers, mostly in Kandahar City.
4. Child labor continues to increase due to rising unemployment and economic hardship.
5. Public awareness programs on civic engagement have reportedly encouraged people's active participation in political parties.
6. Access to government jobs has decreased and continues to be affected by nepotism.
7. Threats against outspoken individuals by state and non-state actors have increased.
8. A significant change was noted in access to and quality of health services including reproductive health. The improvements are attributed to the monitoring of hospitals and clinics by the health department, implementation of Healthcare Quality Improvement Partnership (HQIP) program, increased number of pharmacies, recruitment of specialized doctors, and subsidized food for patients.
9. In Kandahar center access to housing and basic facilities has reportedly increased. There has been a decrease in water and land disputes. There has been no major change in housing and basic facilities for IDPs since April 2016.
10. In the outlying districts access to safe drinking water has decreased because many of the water pumps constructed earlier are damaged and no longer function.
11. Despite some food assistance from government, aid agencies and traders, access to food has decreased. Some of the food insecure people can only afford one meal a day, mostly bread.
12. In Kandahar center improvements were noted in access to and quality of education services, attributed to the recruitment of specialized teachers and construction of new infrastructure including lavatories in the schools.
13. In the outlying districts access to and quality of education has reportedly deteriorated. Schools continue to lack specialized teachers and female teachers.
14. Family related conflicts including violence against women have decreased since April 2016. This is attributed to increased public awareness programming on family rights.
15. Unemployment continues to increase.
16. Gender discrimination has reportedly decreased in access to formal justice, competing for government positions, access to health, and in work places.

¹³ Based on the interviews with: KI-M-Kan-Go-1, KI-M-Kan-NG-4, KI-F-Kan-NG-1, KI-F-Kan-PI-1, FGD-F-Kan-Go-4, KI-F-Kan-CS-8, FGD-F-Kan-Go-3, KI-F-Kan-CS-7, KI-F-Kan-NG-3, KI-F-Kan-Go-8, FGD-F-Kan-Go-5, KI-M-Kan-Go-10, KI-M-Kan-CS-5, KI-M-Kan-Go-12, KI-M-Kan-Go-7, KI-M-Kan-Go-21, KI-M-Kan-Go-13, KI-M-Kan-Go-14, KI-M-Kan-Go-9, KI-M-Kan-Go-19, KI-M-Kan-Go-6, KI-F-Kan-CS-6, KI-F-Kan-Go-1, KI-M-Kan-Go-2, KI-F-Kan-Go-15, KI-F-Kan-Go-20, FGD-M-Kan-CS-2, FGD-M-Kan-CS-1, KI-F-Kan-Go-16, KI-Kan-Go-17, KI-F-Kan-Go-18, FGD-M-Kan-CS-3, KI-M-Kan-CS-4, KI-M-Kan-CS-9, and KI-M-Kan-NG-2

17. Girls' access to education decreased due to a lack of female teachers, absence of transport facilities and cultural practices that discourage women's education, particularly at higher grades.
18. There has been a decrease in corruption in the police department, formal justice system, and health services.
19. Corruption increased in access to government positions and paid employment.

Khost

There have been improvements in the security situation, access to formal justice, children’s access to justice, access to government positions and interest in joining political parties. The behavior of the police toward citizens has also improved. Incidences of child labor and recruitment of children into armed conflicts have increased. There have been no changes affecting freedom of expression.

There has been a decrease in water and land related disputes and increases in access to food and education. Access to and quality of health services have deteriorated. Violence against women is reported to have increased since April 2016. There have been no major changes in the availability of and access to basic facilities such as housing and electricity.

Employment opportunities continue to decrease. Discrimination based on kinship, ethnicity and power relations in accessing paid employment has also decreased. There have been some improvements in safety at work places.

A decrease in gender discrimination was reported in access to government positions and education. Corruption has reportedly decreased in the police, formal justice system, and education services. An increase in corruption was reported in access to government positions and access to health services.

Table 9: Summary Profile – Khost

Pillar / Indicators	Status		
	Unchanged	Improved	Deteriorated
Civic Rights:			
Right to Life, Liberty, Security, and Dignity		✓ ¹	
Right to Efficient and Fair Justice		✓ ²	
Children’s Rights		✓ ³	✓ ⁴
Right to Participate in Public Affairs		✓ ⁵	
Freedom of Opinion and Expression	✓		
Social Rights:			
Right to Health			✓ ⁶
Right to Adequate Housing and Facilities	✓	✓ ⁷	
Food Security		✓ ⁸	
Right to Education		✓ ⁹	
Family Rights			✓ ¹⁰
Economic Rights:			
Right to Work and Fairness in Employment			✓ ¹¹
Right to Decent Working Conditions		✓ ¹²	
Crosscutting Themes:			
Gender Relations		✓ ¹³	
Corruption		✓ ¹⁴	✓ ¹⁵

Notes:¹⁴

1. The general perception about police behavior and performance is positive in Khost. Public trust in police has reportedly improved since April 2016. These improvements are attributed to educational trainings given to police forces in the province. Overall, security situation is considered positive.
2. Access to formal justice has increased for both men and women due to the increased monitoring of the formal justice system by the government.
3. There has been an increase in children's access to justice. Sexual abuse cases have reportedly decreased due to increased public awareness.
4. Child labor and recruitment of children in armed conflict has increased due mainly to increased poverty and unemployment. Children's access to orphanages, rehabilitation centers, Juvenile homes and kindergartens has also decreased.
5. Reportedly, the number of government positions and salaries of government employees have increased. There is a growing interest among respondents to join political parties as a means for securing government jobs.
6. Access to health services has declined since April 2016, due to lack of doctors and nurses. The quality of health services remains unchanged, however.
7. A decrease in disputes related to water and land was reported due to increased public awareness and reconciliation efforts. Because of the relief efforts from international agencies, IDPs' access to housing and basic facilities has reportedly improved.
8. Access to food has increased because of the increased food assistance from aid organizations.
9. Access to education for both boys and girls has increased. The quality of education remains poor, however.
10. Violence against women is reported to have increased since April 2016, with higher occurrences of domestic violence. Women's rights continue to be overlooked in divorce cases.
11. Access to employment is decreasing. Discrimination based on kinship, ethnicity and power in accessing paid employment has declined, however.
12. Safety at work places has improved.
13. Gender discrimination decreased in government positions and access to education and remained unchanged in access to formal justice.
14. Corruption in the police, formal justice, and education has decreased, attributed to a change in leadership and transfer and replacement of corrupt employees and better monitoring of the police department.
15. Corruption increased in access to government positions, access to paid employment, and access to health.

¹⁴ Based on the interviews with: KI-M-Kho-Go-2, KI-M-Kho-Go-11, KI-M-Kho-Go-14, KI-M-Kho-Go-10, KI-M-Kho-Go-13, KI-M-Kho-Go-15, KI-M-Kho-Go-6, KI-M-Kho-Go-16, KI-M-Kho-Go-20, FGD-F-Kho-Go-3, FGD-F-Kho-Go-4, KI-M-Kho-Go-9, KI-M-Kho-CS-4, KI-M-Kho-Go-19, KI-M-Kho-Go-7, KI-M-Kho-Go-17, KI-M-Kho-Go-18, KI-M-Kho-Go-21, KI-M-Kho-PI-1, KI-F-Kho-NGO-1+KI-M-Kho-NGO-2, KI-M-Kho-NGO-3, KI-M-Kho-Go-12, KI-M-Kho-NGO-4, KI-M-Kho-CS-9, KI-F-Kho-CS-8, KI-F-Kho-Go-1, KI-M-Kho-CS-5, KI-F-Kho-CS-7, KI-F-Kho-CS-6, FGD-F-Kho-GO-5, FGD-M-Kho-CS-1, FGD-F-Kho-GO-3 and FGD-M-Kho-CS-2

Kunduz

Despite the temporary fall of Kunduz City, there have been no changes in the performance and behavior of the police, access to formal justice, citizens' interest in participating in elections and freedom of speech witnessed. There are reports of a higher number of children working especially in agriculture as compared to before.

There have been no significant changes in health services, housing and basic facilities, and family rights. Improvement was reported in access to food since April 2016.

There has been a decline in employment opportunities as a consequence of increased insecurity, decrease in development projects and lack of private investment in the province. Working conditions have deteriorated since April 2016.

Increased insecurity has resulted in a significant decrease in girls' access to education. Gender discrimination in access to public positions has decreased, however.

Corruption increased in the police, education services and in access to paid employment. A decrease in corruption was noted in formal justice organizations.

Table 10: Summary Profile – Kunduz

Pillar / Indicators	Status		
	Unchanged	Improved	Deteriorated
Civic Rights:			
Right to Life, Liberty, Security, and Dignity	✓ ¹		
Right to Efficient and Fair Justice	✓ ²		
Children's Rights			✓ ³
Right to Participate in Public Affairs	✓		
Freedom of Opinion and Expression	✓		
Social Rights:			
Right to Health	✓		
Right to Adequate Housing and Facilities	✓ ⁴		
Food Security		✓ ⁵	
Right to Education	✓ ⁶		
Family Rights	✓ ⁷		
Economic Rights:			
Right to Work and Fairness in Employment			✓ ⁸
Right to Decent Working Conditions			✓ ⁹
Crosscutting Themes:			
Gender Relations		✓ ¹⁰	✓ ¹⁰
Corruption		✓ ¹¹	✓ ¹²

Notes:¹⁵

1. There were no major changes in the security situation since April 2016. There were no significant changes in the performance and behavior of the police.
2. Traditional justice continues to be preferred over formal justice, due mainly to the timely resolution of cases by traditional justice system. Access to formal justice remains unchanged.
3. Child labor continues to increase, mainly in agriculture. Recruitment of children into armed conflict also continues.
4. There has been no significant change in access to housing and basic facilities.
5. Food assistance by government and non-government organizations has increased since April 2016.
6. Access to education remains unchanged, despite the recent conflicts.
7. Divorce continues to be considered as a taboo.
8. The decline in employment opportunities continues.
9. Security at the work place has deteriorated.
10. The number of women in higher government positions has increased while the number of girls in education decreased due to increased insecurity.
11. Increased salaries of formal judicial staff have resulted in a decrease in corruption in formal justice. Corruption continues as before in health services, access to housing and basic services.
12. Corruption has increased in the police, access to paid employment, hiring teachers, and grading students.

¹⁵ Based on the interviews with: KI-F-Kun-NG-1, KI-M-Kun-NG-2, KI-M-Kun-NG-3, KI-M-Kun-NG-4, KI-F-Kun-Go-1, KI-M-Kun-Go-2, FGD-F-Kun-Go-3, FGD-F-Kun-Go-4, FGD-F-Kun-Go-5, KI-M-Kun-Go-6, KI-M-Kun-Go-7, KI-F-Kun-Go-8, KI-F-Kun-Go-9, KI-M-Kun-Go-10, KI-M-Kun-Go-11, KI-M-Kun-Go-12, KI-M-Kun-Go-13, KI-F-Kun-Go-14, KI-F-Kun-Go-15, KI-M-Kun-Go-16, KI-M-Kun-Go-17, KI-F-Kun-Go-18, KI-F-Kun-Go-19, KI-F-Kun-Go-20, KI-M-Kun-Go-21, FGD-M-Kun-CS-1, FGD-M-Kun-CS-2, FGD-M-Kun-CS-3, KI-M-Kun-CS-4, KI-M-Kun-CS-5, KI-F-Kun-CS-6, KI-F-Kun-CS-7, KI-F-Kun-CS-8, KI-M-Kun-CS-9 and KI-F-Kun-PI-1

Nangarhar

General security has deteriorated. However, there have been improvements in the behavior of the police toward citizens, access to formal justice, children’s rights, and interest in joining political parties. There have been no changes affecting freedom of expression.

There have been improvements in access to and quality of health services, access to education, access to water and IDPs’ access to shelter. There has been a decrease in violence against women, increase in women’s access to shelters, and increase in public awareness of women’s inheritance rights. Access to electricity has declined since April 2016 while there has been an increase in land and property disputes. There has been no significant change in access to food and quality of education.

Access to work and working conditions have deteriorated. Gender discrimination has reportedly decreased in accessing government jobs, health services, education, and at work places.

Corruption has increased in formal justice system, education services, housing and basic services, and paid employment.

Table 11: Summary Profile – Nangarhar

Pillar / Indicators	Status		
	Unchanged	Improved	Deteriorated
Civic Rights:			
Right to Life, Liberty, Security, and Dignity		✓ ¹	✓ ²
Right to Efficient and Fair Justice		✓ ³	
Children’s Rights		✓ ⁴	✓ ⁵
Right to Participate in Public Affairs		✓ ⁶	
Freedom of Opinion and Expression	✓		
Social Rights:			
Right to Health		✓ ⁷	
Right to Adequate Housing and Facilities		✓ ⁸	✓ ⁹
Food Security	✓ ¹⁰		
Right to Education		✓ ¹¹	
Family Rights		✓ ¹²	
Economic Rights:			
Right to Work and Fairness in Employment			✓ ¹³
Right to Decent Working Conditions			✓ ¹⁴
Crosscutting Themes:			
Gender Relations	✓ ¹⁵	✓ ¹⁶	
Corruption			✓ ¹⁷

Notes:¹⁶

1. New training and workshops for police have reportedly improved their performance and behavior toward the public.
2. Conflict in Torkham and the security forces' offensive against Taliban and Daesh has increased insecurity in the province.
3. Reforms such as the replacement of corrupt officials and recruitment of young people in the formal justice system have resulted in improved access to formal justice. The performance and behavior of formal justice officials are viewed as positive.
4. Public awareness programs by government and non-government agencies such as UNICEF, UNESCO, IRC and Save the Children have led to improvements in some of the issues related to children including early and forced marriages, sexual abuse, and children's access to reform centers and orphanages.
5. Child labor continues to increase with around 14,000 children reportedly engaged in child labor throughout the province. Children mostly work in ice-cream shops, bakeries, homes as domestic help, construction, mechanical / repair shops, shoemakers and beggars. There has been an increase in the recruitment of children for armed conflict with some being recruited by Daesh.
6. There is a growing interest to join political parties as a means to advance employment possibilities.
7. Recruitment of new doctors and nurses and construction of infrastructure have improved access to and quality of health services.
8. Access to safe drinking water in Jalalabad has increased as a result of new deep wells having been dug. There has been a slight improvement in IDPs' access to shelter with assistance from UNHCR.
9. Demand for electricity continues to outstrip supply, particularly in hot summer months when the use of air conditioners is at its highest. There has been an increase in land and property disputes since April 2016.
10. Government and food aid agencies continue to provide assistance to food insecure people but there has been no significant change in access to food.
11. Public awareness around the value of education, increase in number of private schools and coordination between parents and schools have reportedly increased access to education for boys and girls. No significant change was recorded in quality of education, however.
12. There were some improvements in family related issues including a decrease in violence against women, increase in women's access to shelters, and increased public awareness of women's inheritance rights. These changes are attributed to the efforts of media, civil society, religious leaders and mosques.
13. Access to employment continues to decrease due to lack of job opportunities and insecurity. Discrimination based on power, ethnicity and kinship continues to limit fair access to paid employment.
14. Security at the work place has deteriorated since April 2016 due to increased threats to government officials from the armed opposition groups.

¹⁶ Based on the interviews with: FGD-M-Nan-CS-1, FGD-M-Nan-CS-2, FGD-M-Nan-CS-3, KI-M-Nan-CS-9, KI-M-Nan-Go-10, KI-M-Nan-Go-9, KI-M-Nan-NG-4, KI-M-Nan-Go-13, KI-M-Nan-Go-14, KI-M-Nan-Go-19, KI-M-Nan-CS-5, KI-M-Nan-Go-20, KI-F-Nan-NG-1, KI-M-Nan-Go-2, KI-F-Nan-Go-8, KI-M-Nan-Go-18, KI-F-Nan-CS-6, KI-F-Nan-CS-7, KI-F-Nan-CS-8, KI-M-Nan-Go-6, KI-M-Nan-NG-2, KI-F-Nan-Go-1, FGD-F-Nan-Go-3, FGD-F-Nan-Go-4, FGD-F-Nan-Go-5, KI-M-Nan-Go-7, KI-M-Nan-CS-4, KI-M-Nan-Go-16, KI-M-Nan-NG-3, KI-M-Nan-Go-21, KI-M-Nan-Go-12, and KI-M-Nan-Go-15

15. Gender discrimination continues in access to formal justice with no major change.
16. Discrimination against women in access to government jobs has decreased, attributed to women being given preference in the hiring process. Women are also prioritized in access to health services and access to education.
17. Corruption increased in formal justice especially in the recruitment process, and in access to traditional justice where decisions are allegedly made in exchange for money, access to housing and basic services, hiring of teachers, and paid employment. There are contradicting views regarding corruption in the police.

Nimruz

There have been some improvements in access to formal and informal justice. The security situation has deteriorated and there has been an increase in child labor. Interest in participating in elections and political parties remains unchanged.

In social rights, food security, housing, and access to basic services remain unchanged since April 2016. Health and education services appear to have improved. There has been an increase in family related violence, including violence against women.

Lack of job opportunities continued to increase with many young people reportedly migrating to Iran for work. No change was reported in working conditions within the province.

Gender discrimination has reportedly decreased in education, paid employment and in access to formal justice. Corruption has increased in education services and remained unchanged across other sectors.

Table 12: Summary Profile – Nimruz

Pillar / Indicators	Status		
	Unchanged	Improved	Deteriorated
Civic Rights:			
Right to Life, Liberty, Security, and Dignity			✓ ¹
Right to Efficient and Fair Justice		✓ ²	
Children’s Rights			✓ ³
Right to Participate in Public Affairs	✓		
Freedom of Opinion and Expression	✓		
Social Rights:			
Right to Health		✓ ⁴	
Right to Adequate Housing and Facilities	✓		
Food Security	✓ ⁵		
Right to Education		✓ ⁶	
Family Rights			✓ ⁷
Economic Rights:			
Right to Work and Fairness in Employment			✓ ⁸
Right to Decent Working Conditions	✓		
Crosscutting Themes:			
Gender Relations		✓ ⁹	
Corruption	✓ ¹⁰		✓ ¹¹

Notes:¹⁷

1. The security situation has deteriorated since the first monitoring cycle. There have been increases in police casualties. Also, there has been a spate of poisoning of students.
2. There has been an improvement in access to formal justice, credited to the appointment of new head at the provincial court. The performance of the formal judicial staff has also improved.
3. Child labor continues to increase.
4. There have been improvements in health services and the behavior of doctors and other medical staff toward service users.
5. Food insecurity remains unchanged and in some cases critical.
6. There have been some improvements in education services with the appointment of qualified teachers. There are concerns about the incidents of poisoning of students, however.
7. There has been an increase in violence against women, attributed to the increase in unemployment and addiction of men.
8. Unemployment continues to increase, forcing many of the young to migrate to Iran in search of employment.
9. Gender discrimination reportedly decreased in access to formal justice with more women accessing courts for various issues. Gender discrimination also decreased in access to education and access to paid employment.
10. Corruption continues in the police especially in the hiring process, formal justice, access to government positions and access to paid employment.
11. Corruption also increased in education services especially in the examination process where many students pay bribes in return for passing grades. In health services, midwives reportedly take money from people as *Shirini*.

¹⁷ Based on the interviews with: KI-F-Nim-NG-1, KI-M-Nim-NG-2, KI-M-Nim-NG-3, KI-M-Nim-NG-4, KI-F-Nim-Go-1, KI-M-Nim-Go-2, FGD-F-Nim-Go-3, FGD-F-Nim-Go-5, KI-M-Nim-Go-6, KI-M-Nim-Go-7, KI-F-Nim-Go-8, KI-M-Nim-Go-9, KI-M-Nim-Go-10, KI-F-Nim-Go-11, KI-M-Nim-Go-12, KI-F-Nim-Go-13, KI-M-Nim-Go-14, KI-M-Nim-Go-15, KI-M-Nim-Go-16, KI-M-Nim-Go-17, KI-M-Nim-Go-18, KI-M-Nim-Go-19, KI-M-Nim-Go-20, KI-M-Nim-Go-21, FGD-M-Nim-CS-1, FGD-M-Nim-CS-2, FGD-M-Nim-CS-3, KI-M-Nim-CS-4, KI-M-Nim-CS-5, KI-F-Nim-CS-6, KI-F-Nim-CS-7, KI-F-Nim-CS-8, KI-M-Nim-CS-9 and KI-F-Nim-PI-1

Survey Results

This section reports selected findings from the analysis of the quantitative data collected through a survey instrument used to survey 711 men and women. These graphs are not statistically representative and serve only as suggestive illustrations.

Civic Rights

The first monitoring report revealed mixed sentiments concerning formal justice authorities, which continues in the second phase. In the second cycle of monitoring men reported improvements in the treatment of citizens in the formal justice system in Balkh, Khost and Nimruz while women reported improvements only in Balkh and Nangarhar (Figures 1 and 2).

Figure 1. Treatment of Citizens By Formal Justice Authorities – Women’s Views

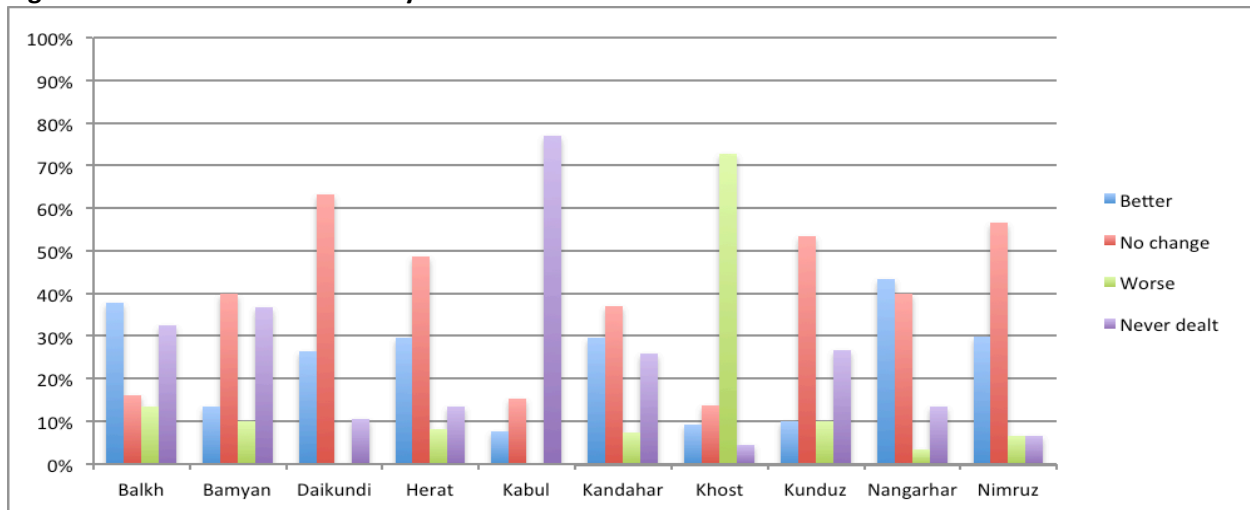
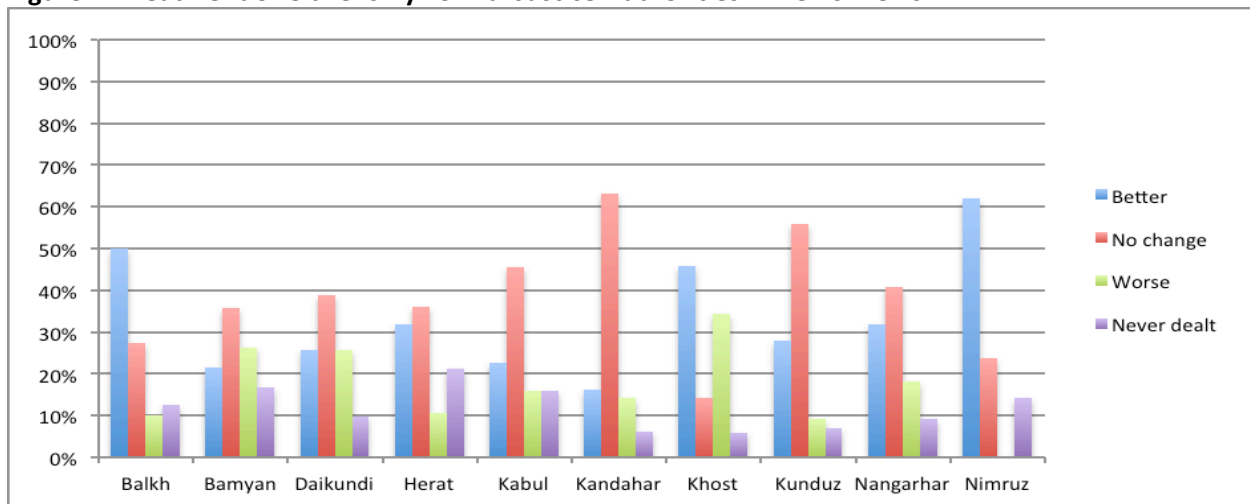


Figure 2. Treatment of Citizens By Formal Justice Authorities – Men’s Views



General improvement in the behavior of the police and the army was reported by men and women for Balkh, Kandahar, Khost, and Nangarhar. In Kunduz only women reported improvements and in Nimruz only male respondents noted improvement. No significant changes were reported for the remaining provinces (Figures 3 and 4).

Figure 3. Treatment Of Citizens By ANP / ANA – Women’s Views

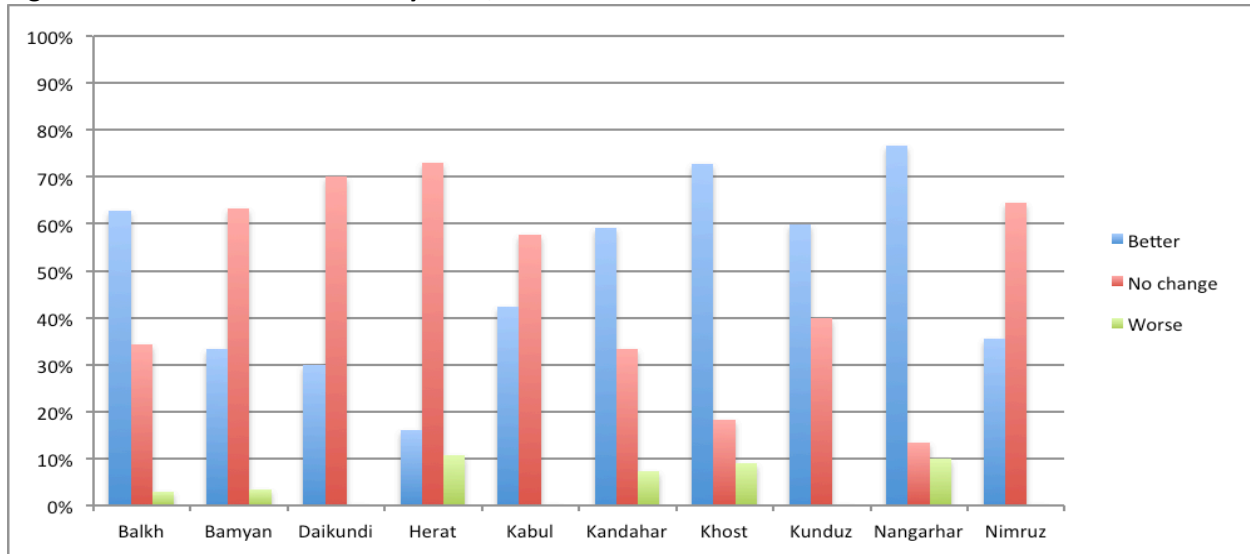
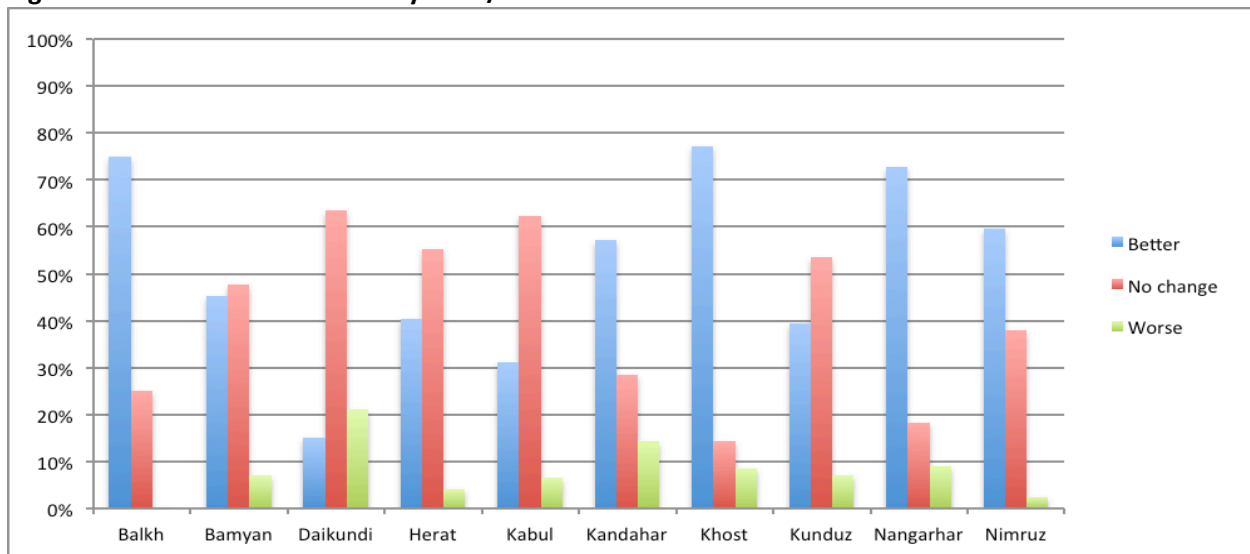


Figure 4. Treatment Of Citizens By ANP / ANA – Men’s Views



Perceptions of male and female respondents varied quite significantly with regard to violence against children over the reporting period. While men reported a decrease in violence in half of the provinces, women suggested an increase in three provinces and a decrease in two provinces. Men reported increase in violence only in Balkh (Figures 6 and 7).

Figure 6. Women’s Views on Violence Against Children – By Province

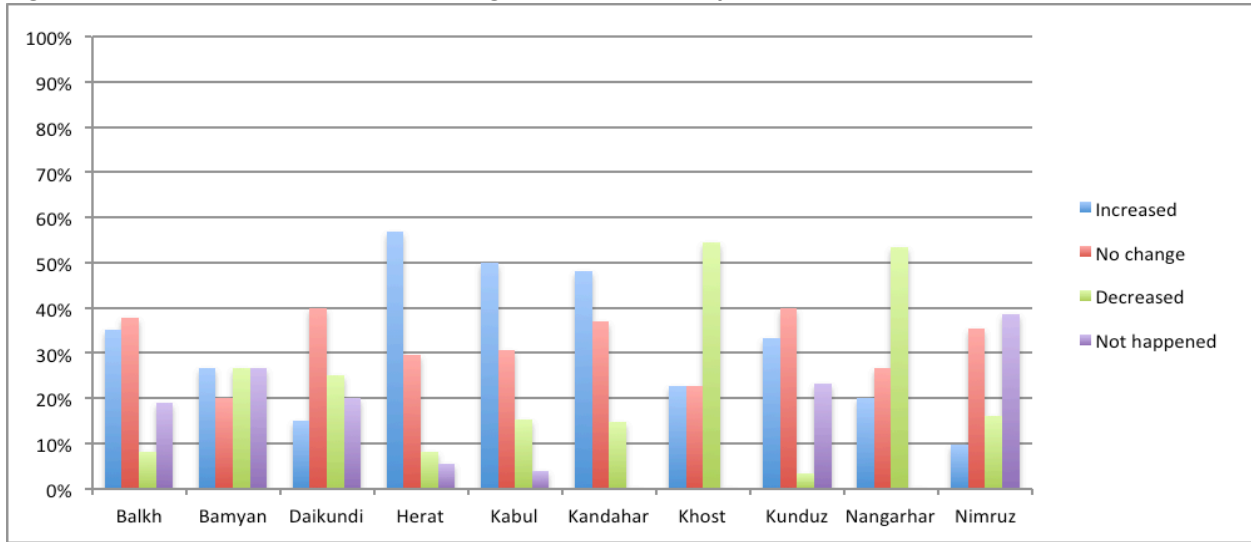
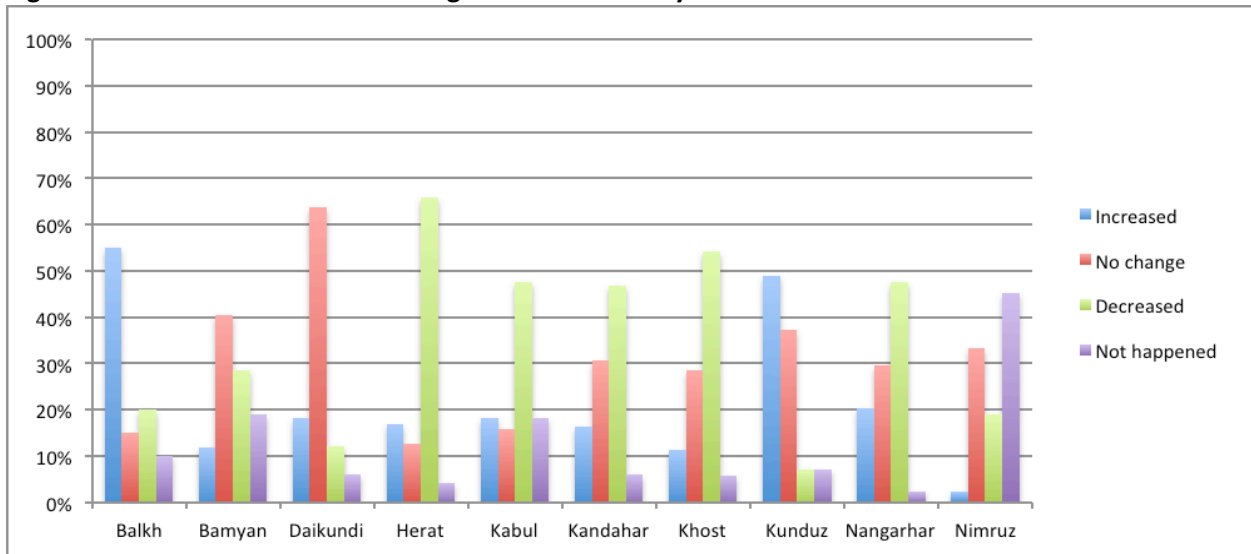


Figure 7. Men’s Views on Violence Against Children – By Province



Social Rights

In Bamyan, Daikundi and Herat male and female respondents suggested no significant change in access to health services. In Kunduz both male and female respondents reported a deterioration in access to health services. In other provinces, there were differences of opinion between men and women regarding access to health services (Figures 8 and 9).

Figure 8. Access to Health Services – Women’s Views

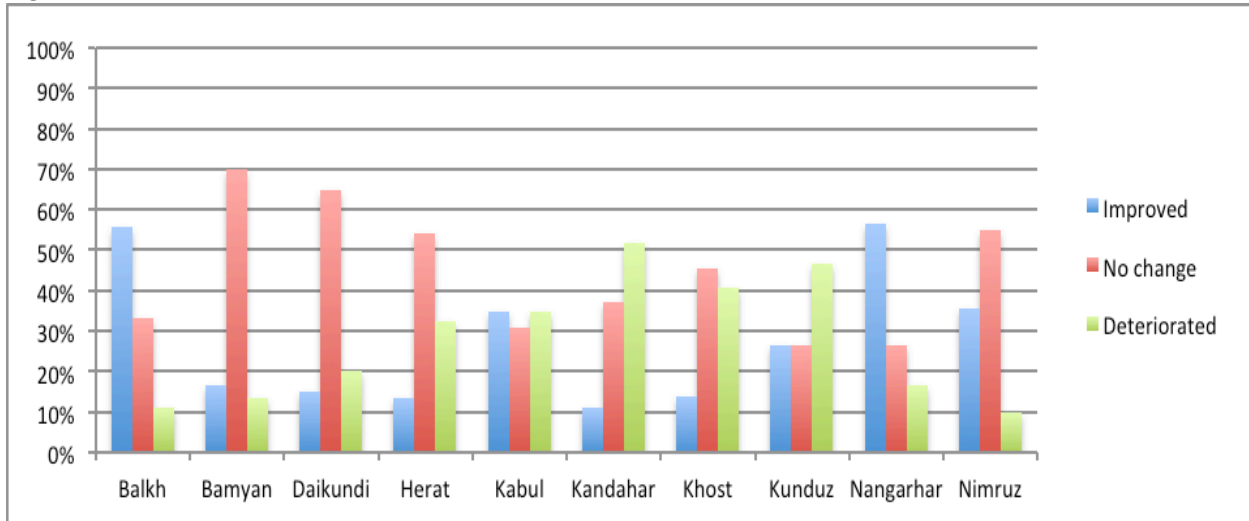
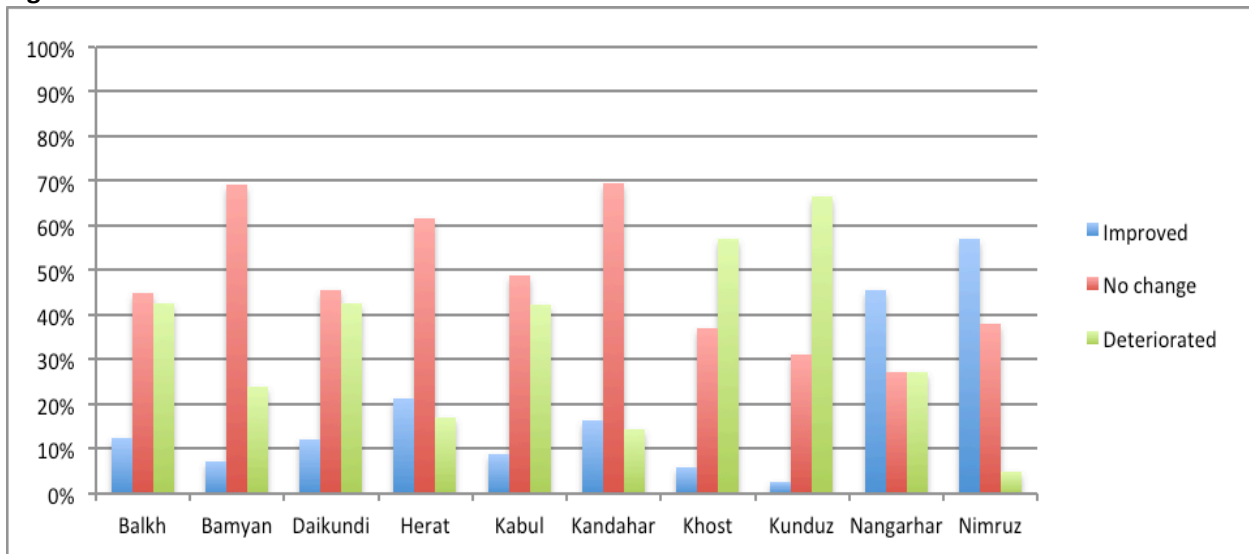


Figure 9. Access to Health Services – Men’s Views



Economic Rights

The main challenges in access to employment remain lack of employment opportunities, closely followed by nepotism and corruption for both men and women (Figure 11 and 12).

Figure 11. Main Challenges in Access to Licit and Stable Employment – Women’s Views

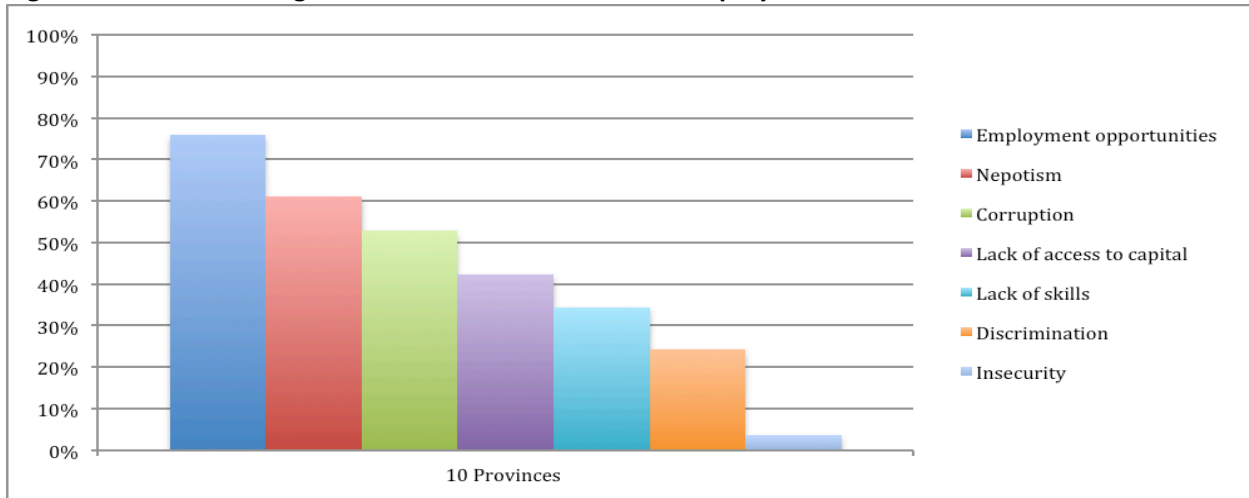
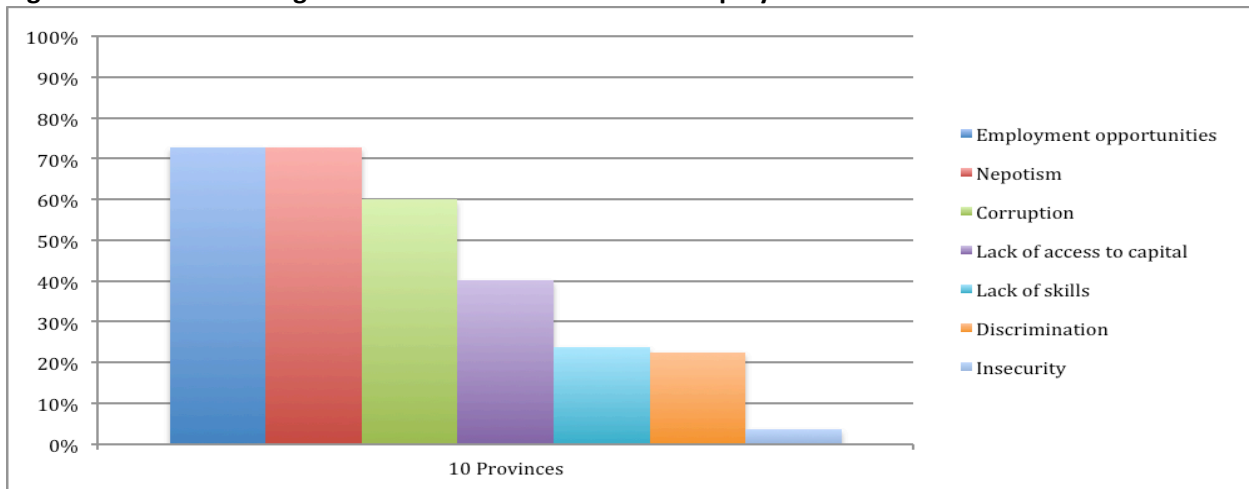


Figure 12. Main Challenges in Access to Licit and Stable Employment – Men’s Views



Conclusion

Observations from the second monitoring cycle showed significant changes across most of the indicators under Civic, Social and Economic Rights since April 2016 when the first round of monitoring took place. The findings suggest significant improvements in the behavior and performance of the police, formal justice system, education, and health services.

Deteriorating security situation remains a major concern across all the provinces. Across various indicators under civic, social and economic rights positive changes were noted especially in terms of women's access to justice, employment and education. Child labor is increasing with a growing number of children recruited by armed opposition groups.

Freedom of expression has come under increased threat from local power holders, armed opposition groups, and some government officials. There is little or no awareness of the 2015 Access to Information Law. Internally Displaced Persons' access to basic services such as housing, electricity, water and sanitation services show some improvements but remain minimal. Growing unemployment remains a critical issue in all provinces. Corruption and nepotism remain significant obstacles in access to numerous rights across all sectors.

Civic Rights

Deteriorating security is a major concern among respondents, directly affecting the fulfillment of basic rights. Except for Balkh, Kandahar and Khost, where increased security checkpoints and coordination between the civil administration and police has improved security, the rest of the provinces were faced with growing insecurity during the second monitoring phase. In Bamyan, Daikundi, Herat, and Nangarhar, armed conflict between the security forces and insurgency has escalated while Kabul has experienced an increase in the number of suicide attacks, explosions and kidnappings since April 2016.

Administrative reforms such as change in leadership, replacement of corrupt officials and educational trainings for the security forces have resulted in improvements in police performance and behavior in eight out of ten provinces, with Kunduz and Nimruz being the exceptions.

Significant improvements in formal justice across most of the provinces are also credited to administrative reforms brought into the formal justice organizations. Improvements in access to and performance of formal justice system are reported in Balkh, Bamyan, Daikundi, Kabul, Kandahar, Khost, Nangarhar and Nimruz. Access to traditional justice organizations remained unchanged in most of the provinces, however.

There is steady growth in instances and types of child labor, attributed to a generally weak economic situation forcing many parents to find new sources of income including sending children to work. In so doing, the children are deprived of education and exposed to physical danger and sexual abuse. The recruitment of children for armed conflicts is on rise in Herat, Kabul, Khost and Nangarhar. Children continue to be victims of forced and early marriages and sexual abuse. There has been a reduction in school dropouts, however, reportedly due to increased public awareness interventions in Balkh, Daikundi, Kandahar, Khost, and Nangarhar.

There is a growing interest among citizens to join political parties across all, mainly as a means to secure access to employment but also to become politically active. The general disappointment about electoral processes noted in the baseline and the first monitoring cycle appears to have increased across all the provinces. Access to public positions remains a function of having connections and nepotism.

Freedom of expression continues to be threatened by multiple sources including some government quarters, local power holders, and armed opposition. Media censorship, intimidation and threats against journalists, civil society activists and outspoken individuals are on rise in Bamyan, Daikundi, Herat, Kabul, Kandahar and Khost. There is little or no awareness about the Right to Information Law across all ten provinces.

Social Rights

There have been improvements in access to and quality of services since April 2016 across all ten provinces. Health services including reproductive health improved in Balkh, Bamyan, Daikundi, Herat, Kandahar, Nangarhar and outlying districts of Nimruz. The improvements include increase in number of government and private health facilities, availability of night staff in hospitals, introduction of car clinics in villages, appointment of specialized doctors, nurses and midwives, and better access to medicine.

Significant changes were noted in access to water and electricity in Balkh, Herat, Kabul, Kandahar, and Nangarhar. In Herat and Kandahar, inauguration of hydropower projects has led to increased access to electricity and irrigation water. Land and water related disputes have decreased in Bamyan, Herat, Kandahar and Khost. In Nangarhar there has been an increase in land related disputes as compared to the first monitoring cycle. Slight changes were noted in IDPs' access to basic services in Balkh, Herat, Kandahar, Khost, and Nangarhar, mostly because of the humanitarian assistance from UNHCR and other aid agencies.

In terms of food security there have been improvements in Balkh, Khost and Kunduz. Government, aid agencies, local charities, businesses, and mosques reportedly provide food assistance to poor. In Daikundi food insecurity increased because of floods and unemployment. In Kabul and Kandahar there has been an increase in the number of food insecure people despite some assistance from various government and non-government organizations. Lack of employment, general poverty, floods, and substance addiction are described as the main causes of food insecurity.

Administrative reforms, public awareness campaigns through the media, appointment of professional teachers, establishment of new public and private schools, construction of new infrastructure and enhanced monitoring of schools have led to increased access to education in Balkh, Bamyan, Herat, Kandahar Center, Khost, Nangarhar, and Kabul. In Herat girls' access to education has increased significantly. In Kunduz and Nimruz there are conflicting reports about education services with some claiming improvements while others report deterioration since April 2016 because of growing insecurity.

Family related violence including violence against women increased in Herat, Kabul city, Khost, and Nimruz. In Herat there are reports of women being forced into prostitution by their husbands. In Kandahar, outlying districts of Kabul and Nangarhar family related issues such as inheritance rights, exchange marriage (*badal*), women's rights in divorce and violence against women decreased due, reportedly, to an increase in public awareness programs carried out by the media, civil society, and

religious leaders and mosques. Women's access to shelters remained mostly unchanged across the provinces.

Economic Rights

Unemployment continues to rise across all ten provinces except for a temporary slight increase in job opportunities in agriculture sector in Balkh and Daikundi due to the start of cultivation season. Agriculture appears to be the major employer in Balkh, Daikundi, Bamyan, and Khost. Insecurity, lack of access to financial capital, absence of job opportunities, and widespread corruption and nepotism in the job market continue to limit fair access to paid employment. The working conditions remain unchanged and inadequate, with slight changes in provision of security in Khost and Kabul. Due to growing fear of armed insurgency security at work places deteriorated in Kunduz and Nangarhar. In Nangarhar, employees working for the government have reportedly received threats from Daesh.

Gender Relations, Corruption

There has been a decrease in gender discrimination across all ten provinces. In some of the provinces improvements were noted in access to paid employment, health services and education. Women receive preferential treatment in access to employment in provinces such as Bamyan, Kabul, and Nangarhar. Due to the deterioration in security girls' access to education has decreased in Kandahar and Kunduz since April 2016.

Corruption in the police, education services, and access to employment continues to rise in the majority of the provinces. There have been significant improvements in the formal justice system across all provinces.

Appendix 1: Monitoring Indicators

Rights Pillar	Indicator	Proxies
Civic	Rights to Life, Liberty, Security and Dignity of Person	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trust in ANP • Police Performance and Behavior • Security • Corruption (Crosscutting Theme)
	Right to Efficient and Fair Justice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access to Formal and Traditional Justice Systems • Performance of Justice Officials • Women’s Access to, and Treatment by, Justice Systems (Gender as Crosscutting Theme) • Corruption (Crosscutting Theme)
	Children’s Rights	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Violence Against Children (Degree and Types of Violence) • Access to Justice • Access to Rehabilitation centers, Juvenile Homes and Orphanages • Child Labor • Sexual Abuse • Children’s engagement in armed conflicts
	Right to Participate in Public Affairs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participation in Elections • Access to Public Positions (Gender as crosscutting: Women in Senior Positions) • Participation in Political Parties (Gender as Crosscutting: Female Party Members) • Corruption (Crosscutting Theme) • Discrimination (Gender as Crosscutting)
	Right to Freedom of Opinion and Expression	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Freedom of Speech (threats) • Freedom of Gathering • Right to Information Law
Economic	Right to Work and Fairness in Employment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access to Paid Employment • Corruption (Jobs for Sale, Nepotism) • Discrimination (Gender as Crosscutting)
	Right to Decent Working Conditions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safety and Security at Workplace • Job Security • Harassment (based on Gender or Ethnicity)

Rights Pillar	Indicator	Proxies
Social	Right to Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access to Health Services • Access to Reproductive Health • Quality of Health Services • Corruption (Crosscutting Theme) • Discrimination (Gender as Crosscutting)
	Right to Adequate Housing and Facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access to Housing, Water and Electricity • IDPs (Housing) • Disputes Related to Land and Water • Corruption (Crosscutting Theme) • Discrimination (Gender as Crosscutting)
	Food Security	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sufficient Food (Number of Meals per Day) • Adequate Food (Type of Food Eaten) • Food Assistance (Sources, e.g., Government, INGOs, other)
	Right to Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access to Education • Quality of Education • Gender Discrimination • Corruption (in Hiring Teachers and in Giving Grades)
	Family Rights	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inheritance Rights and Related Conflicts • Domestic Violence • Violence Against women • Divorce Cases and Women’s Rights to Divorce • Access to FRUs and Shelters

Appendix 2: List and Definition of Codes

Non-Government = NG

KI-F-Kab-NG-1 (KI=Key informant, F=Female, Kab=Kabul, NG=Non-government, 1=Sequence)

KI-M-Kab-NG-2 (KI=Key informant, M=Male, Kab=Kabul, NG=Non-government, 2=Sequence)

KI-M-Kab-NG-3 (KI=Key informant, M=Male, Kab=Kabul, NG=Non-government, 3=Sequence)

KI-M-Kab-NG-4 (KI=Key informant, M=Male, Kab=Kabul, NG=Non-government, 4=Sequence)

Government = Go

KI-F-Kab-Go-1 (KI=Key informant, F=Female, Kab=Kabul, Go=Government, 1=Sequence)

KI-M-Kab-Go-2 (KI=Key informant, M=Male, Kab=Kabul, Go=Government, 2=Sequence)

FGD-F-Kab-Go-3 (FGD=Focus Group Discussion, F=Female, Kab=Kabul, Go=Government, 3=Sequence)

FGD-F-Kab-Go-4 (FGD=Focus Group Discussion, F=Female, Kab=Kabul, Go=Government, 4=Sequence)

FGD-F-Kab-Go-5 (FGD=Focus Group Discussion, F=Female, Kab=Kabul, Go=Government, 5=Sequence)

KI-M-Kab-Go-6 (KI=Key informant, M=Male, Kab=Kabul, Go=Government, 6=Sequence)

KI-M-Kab-Go-7 (KI=Key informant, M=Male, Kab=Kabul, Go=Government, 7=Sequence)

KI-F-Kab-Go-8 (KI=Key informant, F=Female, Kab=Kabul, Go=Government, 8=Sequence)

KI-M-Kab-Go-9 (KI=Key informant, M=Male, Kab=Kabul, Go=Government, 9=Sequence)

KI-M-Kab-Go-10 (KI=Key informant, M=Male, Kab=Kabul, Go=Government, 10=Sequence)

KI-M-Kab-Go-11 (KI=Key informant, M=Male, Kab=Kabul, Go=Government, 11=Sequence)

KI-M-Kab-Go-12 (KI=Key informant, M=Male, Kab=Kabul, Go=Government, 12=Sequence)

KI-M-Kab-Go-13 (KI=Key informant, M=Male, Kab=Kabul, Go=Government, 13=Sequence)

KI-M-Kab-Go-14 (KI=Key informant, M=Male, Kab=Kabul, Go=Government, 14=Sequence)

KI-M-Kab-Go-15 (KI=Key informant, M=Male, Kab=Kabul, Go=Government, 15=Sequence)

KI-M-Kab-Go-16 (KI=Key informant, M=Male, Kab=Kabul, Go=Government, 16=Sequence)

KI-M-Kab-Go-17 (KI=Key informant, M=Male, Kab=Kabul, Go=Government, 17=Sequence)

KI-M-Kab-Go-18 (KI=Key informant, M=Male, Kab=Kabul, Go=Government, 18=Sequence)

KI-M-Kab-Go-19 (KI=Key informant, M=Male, Kab=Kabul, Go=Government, 19=Sequence)

KI-M-Kab-Go-20 (KI=Key informant, M=Male, Kab=Kabul, Go=Government, 20=Sequence)

KI-M-Kab-Go-21 (KI=Key informant, M=Male, Kab=Kabul, Go=Government, 21=Sequence)

Civil Society = CS

FGD-M-Kab-CS-1 (FGD=Focus Group Discussion, M=Male, Kab=Kabul, CS=Civil society, 1=Sequence)

FGD-M-Kab-CS-2 (FGD=Focus Group Discussion, M=Male, Kab=Kabul, CS=Civil society, 2=Sequence)

FGD-M-Kab-CS-3 (FGD=Focus Group Discussion, M=Male, Kab=Kabul, CS=Civil society, 3=Sequence)

KI-M-Kab-CS-4 (KI=Key informant, M=Male, Kab=Kabul, CS=Civil society, 4=Sequence)

KI-M-Kab-CS-5 (KI=Key informant, M=Male, Kab=Kabul, CS=Civil society, 5=Sequence)

KI-F-Kab-CS-6 (KI=Key informant, F=Female, Kab=Kabul, CS=Civil society, 6=Sequence)

KI-F-Kab-CS-7 (KI=Key informant, F=Female, Kab=Kabul, CS=Civil society, 7=Sequence)

KI-M-Kab-CS-8 (KI=Key informant, M=Male, Kab=Kabul, CS=Civil society, 8=Sequence)

KI-F-Kab-CS-9 (KI=Key informant, F=Female, Kab=Kabul, CS=Civil society, 9=Sequence)

Public Institutions = PI

KI-F-Kab-PI-1 (KI=Key informant, F=Female, Kab=Kabul, PI=Public Institution, 1=Sequence)