COMMUNITY-LED PROGRAMMING AND ITS CONTRIBUTION TO STABILITY AND DEVELOPMENT IN AFGHANISTAN

A SURVEY OF COMMUNITY OPINION

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

Learning for Effective Aid Policy and Practice (LEAPP) is a program of research conducted by Mercy Corps with generous support from the Hewlett Foundation. It looks into how community-led aid models can most effectively be used to help societies transition from conflict to recovery and stability and then into development, as seen through the eyes of the community members themselves.

This report sets out the findings of a community study in Afghanistan.

1.2 The Community-Led Approach

The central concepts of the community-led approach are:

- Community-led ***capacity***-building contributes to stability: If we implement community-led programs that bring local leaders and community members together to implement complex development programs with high standards of accountability and transparency, then we will: a) increase positive interactions between citizens and government; b) build trust between citizens and local government officials; and c) improve stability.

- Community-led ***community***-building contributes to stability: If we implement community-led programs that bring all stakeholders together to collectively identify and address community needs, then we will: a) encourage a culture of inclusivity and cooperation; b) mitigate competition over resources; and c) improve stability.

- Community-led ***ownership***-building contributes to stability: If we implement community-led programs that require 1) citizen participation and 2) investment, then we will: a) increase people's capacity; b) increase their willingness to engage in efforts to improve their communities; and c) improve stability.

Activities and programs designed to provide rapid stabilizing effects may be implemented using a variety of methodological approaches: from quick response programs requiring little involvement from local citizens and government officials, to community-led programs that involve community leaders and members in the processes of deciding upon, investing in, implementing and maintaining projects that are of most interest to them. International non-governmental organizations (INGOs), including Mercy Corps, are known for employing community-led methods, which are the subject of this study.

1.3 Research Objectives

The study seeks to:

- Understand the extent to which the various aspects or elements of community-led programs contribute to community development;

- Evaluate the contributions made by the main types of actors, as perceived by community members.

The key hypothesis is:

- International non-governmental agencies (INGOs) are generally perceived as engaging in more community-led methods than other actors;

- Actors that are perceived to use community-led methods are perceived to produce more positive outcomes that ultimately contribute to stability, compared with actors that use community-led methods less.

Naturally the perceptions of the effectiveness of actors are in the context of current conditions. Thus the study also sought to gain more information about how respondents perceive their conditions. This provides insight into the baseline experience against which respondents assess the effectiveness of actors.

As a secondary objective, the study seeks to assess the effect of armed accompaniments on attitudes about performance.

1.4   Research Methods

GlobeScan designed the methodology and research materials in collaboration with Mercy Corps, while Altai Consulting advised on aspects of design and conducted fieldwork in Afghanistan from July 28 2009 to August 10 2009.

Quantitative and qualitative methods were used. For the quantitative phase, 512 interviews were conducted in the north, east, and south of Afghanistan.

Fifteen or more interviews were conducted in each of 34 communities in six provinces: four communities in Kunduz, five in Baghlan, four in Takhar, 11 in Kandahar, seven in Nangarhar, and three in Kunar.

- 172 interviews were conducted with community leaders;

- 340 interviews were conducted with community members, split equally between women and men.

For the subsequent qualitative phase, ten focus groups were conducted. Four were with community leaders, three with male community members and three with female community members. The focus groups were conducted in four villages: two in the north of Afghanistan (Baghlan and Takhar), one in the South (Kandahar), and one in the East (Nangarhar).

Interview languages were Dari and Pashto. Further sample details are given in Appendix 1.

1.5   Note on Interpretation

The sample was designed to be broadly representative of the communities in the six provinces, i.e. not the whole country. In one-third of the selected communities, security issues and/or lack of *shura* accessibility (itself related to security issues) meant that the work could not be conducted and these were replaced with less insecure communities. In a third stage of selection, in the majority of villages where the research did take place, community officials recruited the respondents and presented them for interview at a secure location.

Given these three stages of selection, it is reasonable to assume that the findings reported here are more positive about the present and more optimistic about the future than a nationally representative sample would have reported. There is, however, no reason to believe that the challenges are qualitatively different in the excluded areas, only that the extent of the challenges may be greater elsewhere than in the communities studied.

2. SUMMARY

2.1. Familiarity with Actors

The term "actors" is used in this report to mean organizations undertaking stabilization and development efforts at the community level. The actors evaluated include national government; district government; elected local officials; religious leaders; INGOs; local Afghan non-governmental agencies; and foreign armed forces or Provincial Reconstruction Teams (PRTs).

There is a high level of awareness that INGOs and other actors have carried out projects in the communities; people are particularly aware of Mercy Corps' activities. But there has been relatively little direct participation in projects other than those implemented by INGOs, and hence some respondents gave only general views of the methods and effectiveness of the various actors and were unable to answer the more specific questions. However, the detail of response from those who answered specific questions was sufficient to provide a firm basis for the analysis.

2.2. Actors and Their Methods

INGOs are the most highly rated group in relation to community-led methods, followed by local Afghan NGOs, then national and district government and finally the PRTs.

The methods that most distinguish INGOs from other actors are all community-led. INGOs are rated more highly than other actors on every one of the methods evaluated in the study. The INGO lead is greatest on openly sharing information about the costs and budget of the project, actively involving women in project management and implementation, promoting participation of community members, getting community members to contribute labor time, and getting community leaders/members to continue carrying out the project themselves after the organization leaves the community.

2.3. Outcomes of Community-Led Methods

2.3.1 Specific Outcome Measures

The INGOs are thought to be more effective than the other actors, i.e. to deliver superior outcomes. These outcomes include building trust with community leaders, helping reduce tension between people in the community and implementing projects that benefit a majority of the community. Given that a key characteristic of INGOs is their community-led methods, this suggests (though it does not prove) that the use of community-led methods produces outcomes that are perceived as superior.

On all but one of the measures, Afghan NGOs are in second place, followed by government and finally the PRTs. The exception is that government is in second place behind the INGOs on fighting corruption. On all measures, the gap between INGOs and other actors is substantial.

2.3.2 Effectiveness and Trust

The most effective and trusted actors, in the minds of community leaders and members, are the local *shura* (not evaluated on the specific outcome measures), followed by INGOs, and then religious leaders.

Elected local officials and government – district and national – are thought to be effective and trusted by around one-half of community members, but by fewer community leaders.

Afghan NGOs are well regarded by around a third of community members and over one-half of their leaders. National armed forces are also well regarded by a third, but over a third could not express an opinion about them.

The lowest rating is reserved for the foreign armed forces. Only two in ten community members rate them positively, although community leaders' opinions are evenly divided.

2.3.3 Overall Preference

The *shura* are thought to effective and are trusted for what they do. However, for the implementation of development projects, INGOs are preferred by a wide margin: 41percent prefer INGOs compared with 20 percent s*hura* and seven percent or less for each of the other actors evaluated.

2.4 The Current Situation in the Communities

Community perceptions of current conditions provide the background for the above analysis of the methods used by the various actors and of community project effectiveness.

Infrastructure, services, the local economy, security conditions and the overall quality of life are all interconnected in the perceptions of community members and their leaders. The focus groups indicate that perceptions of stability are strongly linked to economic and social development, specifically infrastructure and job creation.

2.4.1 Infrastructure and Services

Two-thirds to three-quarters of respondents are satisfied with the organized water supply (irrigation) in their community and with the provision of mosques. One-quarter to one-half are satisfied with the drinking water supply, roads and transportation, and the provision of education (though women much less so on this aspect). Less than one-quarter are satisfied with the electricity supply and veterinary services.

2.4.2 Economic Situation

Community leaders are particularly negative about the economy, two-thirds of them saying that the number of jobs has decreased over the past year. The same numbers describe the overall economic situation as "poor" or "very poor". Community members, especially women, view the economic situation rather more positively.

2.4.3 Security

At the time of interview, i.e. from end-July to mid-August, 2009, two-thirds of both the community leaders and the community members said that conditions in their community were "very secure". This positive perception probably reflects the fact that the survey took

place in relatively secure communities, and indeed, they said the number of violent incidents and armed combat situations had decreased over the past year. But there was also recognition among community leaders who participated in the focus groups that the situation could deteriorate in the future.

2.4.4 Quality of Life

Quality of life is described as fair to poor, but among the community members there is widespread optimism for the future, shared in all the provinces. However, this optimism is not shared by the community leaders, of whom only three percent think quality of life will improve over the next couple of years.

2.4.5 Inter-Community Differences

The situation in each community, as perceived by their leaders and members, is different within as well as between provinces. We infer that the planning and implementation of development projects may need to be varied accordingly.

2.5. Armed Accompaniments

Actors are rarely accompanied by military forces or private security, and opinions are evenly divided as to whether armed accompaniment is desirable. There are significant differences between the provinces, with respondents in Nangarhar, Kunar, Takhar and Baghlan being relatively favorable towards accompaniment, and respondents in Kunduz and Kandahar being much less so.

2.6 Conclusions

Perceptions of the security situation in the communities surveyed are largely positive, but the economic situation and overall quality of life are thought to be poor and it is recognized that the security situation in these communities could deteriorate in the future. There is a perception that development, including especially job creation for young men, contributes to the maintenance of security.

The demand for development activities is very high in all the communities surveyed. But the nature of the work to be done varies widely between communities as much as between provinces, and a flexible approach is indicated.

The actors perceived as most capable, effective, and trustworthy in terms of community development – and thus most effective at furthering stabilization – are the INGOs. The major INGO strength is co-operation, and co-operation is thought by the community members to be essential. The 'dream team' for development projects, as perceived in the communities, would consist of an INGO leading the project, with active support from the shura and religious leaders and the co-operation of local NGOs and provincial and local government.

The armed forces, preferably national, might be involved when necessary in a supporting rather than a leadership role. But armed accompaniment is thought to be desirable only in certain circumstances, least of all in relatively insecure areas such as Kunduz and Kandahar. The findings of the study indicate that decisions should be made on a community-by-community basis and reviewed as the security situation changes.

The survey makes it clear that INGOs are perceived to be higher in community-led methods, and also to be more effective than other actors. Thus it appears, though it is not proven, that the community-led methods enhance the effectiveness of development efforts, and this in turn has a positive impact on stability and security.

The survey results support the hypothesis:

1. INGOs are perceived to be users of community-led methods, more than other actors;

2. INGOs are perceived to be the most effective actors in terms of outcomes.

Therefore it is reasonable to infer that:

3. Community-led methods lead to superior outcomes, as seen from the perspective of the communities themselves.

3. ACTORS AND THEIR METHODS

The organizations evaluated were:

- National government

- District government

- Local Afghan NGOs

- INGOs, including Mercy Corps

- Foreign armed forces/PRTs

- Religious leaders

- *Shura*

3.1 Experience of Actors

Most community members were able to name one or more organizations that had implemented projects in their communities, and over two-thirds named Mercy Corps. But personal participation in projects was at a lower level.

Personal Participation in Projects Carried out by Different Organizations

By Type of Respondent, Percentages, 2009

Organization	Community leaders	Community members
District government	11	15
National government	11	7
Afghan NGOs	34	12
International NGOs	61	33
PRTs	8	4
Religious leaders	9	6
Shura	34	21
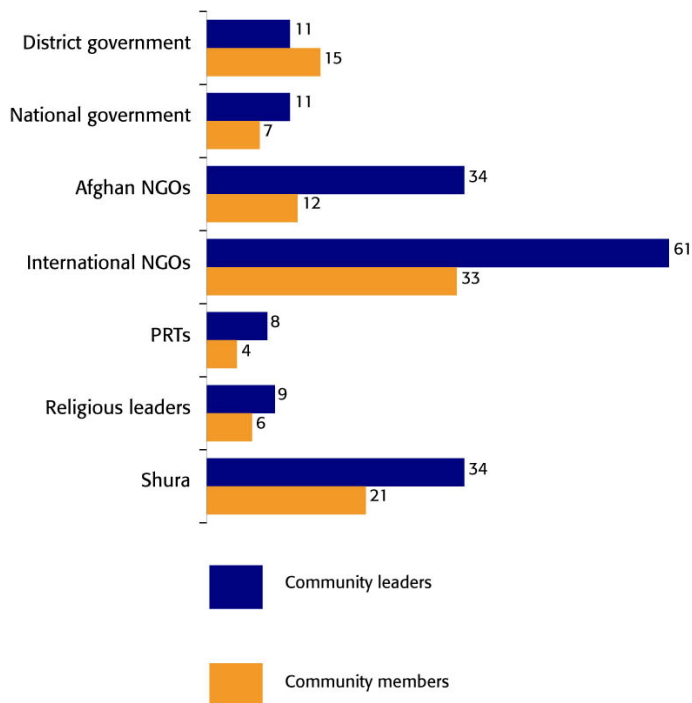
The generally low levels of participation indicate the amount of progress still to be made in engaging communities. The INGOs stand out among the other actors, reflecting the

activities of Mercy Corps. And the more widespread participation of community leaders in INGO projects, compared with community members, is a strong base on which to build.

There are significant differences in participation levels between the provinces. For example, note that the evaluations of INGOs are more influenced by greater project participation in Kunar, Nangarhar and Kandahar.

Personal Participation in Projects Carried out by Different Organizations
By Provinces, Percentages, 2009
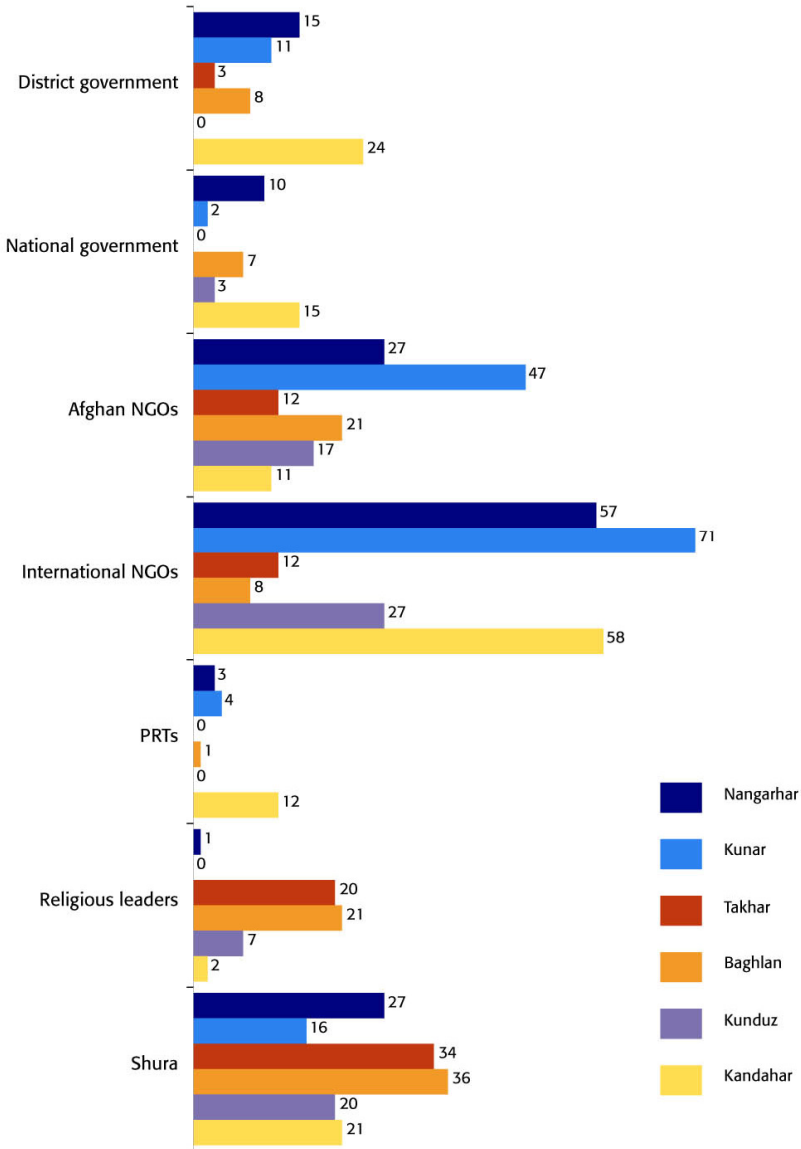
Nearly one-half of all women are unaware of having worked with any of the organizations. For example, in Zakar Shirif village, a conservative Pashto village in Kandahar, women knew almost nothing about the NGOs working in their area – ignorance they readily acknowledged.

> *"Some men have told us that there is some NGO activity, but we do not know which NGOs, which projects, whether the NGOs are good or not. We are not being told what is going on." (Female Community Member, Kandahar)*
>
> *"Our elders have got some meetings about the NGOs, but we do not know what the outcome was. The only thing we know is that there was a meeting in the mosque, so that we had to prepare tea and lunch." (Female Community Member, Kandahar)*

The level of involvement with INGOs may be higher than would be typical at the national level, reflecting the fact that the sample includes some relatively secure communities which may have had greater than average exposure to INGO projects, especially Mercy Corps. The data should be read as indicative of better-than-average informed opinion and a useful guide to how perceptions will develop as experience of working with these organizations spreads across the provinces.

3.2 Methods Used by INGOs and Other Actors

In spite of the generally low levels of participation in projects, many respondents were able to express opinions about the methods that INGOs and other actors use.

The scores for all actors except INGOs are mainly above the mid-point of the 4-point Likert scale, in which 3 means "describes to some extent" and 2 means "describes to a very little extent." The INGOs are consistently rated higher than the other actors for their community-led methods. The local Afghan NGOs are in second place with regard to all the methods except for actively involving women in project management where they rate the same as National and District Government. National and district government are placed third, and the PRTs consistently fourth.

This assessment by community members, though in many cases is evidently based on sources of information other than personal experience of participation, supports the contention that INGOs and to a lesser extent local Afghan NGOs are associated with community-led methods.

Ratings of Different Actors on Methods Used
Total Sample, Mean Scores

Method	International NGOs	National and district government	Afghan/local NGOs	PRTs	INGO percentage gain over other actors*
Openly shares information about costs and budget of the project	3.35	2.61	3.03	2.16	+29
Gets community leaders/members to continue carrying out the projects themselves after the organization leaves the community	3.32	2.75	3.00	2.19	+25
Encourages people to work together to improve their community	3.30	2.79	2.97	2.63	+18
Actively involves people in the community in project management and supervision	3.35	2.86	2.96	2.62	+19
Promotes participation of community members	3.33	2.75	2.97	2.16	+27
Teaches people in the community new skills	3.31	2.62	3.05	2.60	+20
Gets community leaders to contribute to costs	3.33	2.84	3.03	2.53	+19
Actively involves ethnic minorities in project management and implementation	3.36	2.72	2.85	2.86	+20
Gets community members to contribute labor time	3.31	2.85	2.73	2.22	+27
Promotes respect between people with different views	3.27	2.73	2.87	2.56	+20
Actively involves women in project management and implementation	3.18	2.62	2.60	2.26	+28
Increases communication between community leaders and government officials in the community	3.31	2.74	2.95	2.63	+19
Consults with people in the community to determine needs	3.32	2.86	2.95	2.66	+18
Involves community leaders in decision making	3.29	2.76	2.91	2.64	+19

◻ Highest score

*Mean scores for INGOs on each characteristic expressed as percentage gain over the average scores of National & District Government, Afghan/local NGOs, and PRTs (other actor average score = 100).

4. OUTCOMES OF COMMUNITY-LED METHODS

4.1 Evaluation of Specific Effectiveness Characteristics

The INGOs are also thought to be more effective than the other actors, i.e. to deliver superior outcomes or outcomes that are linked to the broader goal of stabilization. They are rated at very similar levels on all of the outcome measures. Government actors are close behind on "fights corruption" but on all other measures of outcome the gap between INGOs and the rest is substantial.

Ratings of Different Actors on Outcomes
Total Sample, Mean Scores

Outcome	International NGOs	National and district government	Afghan/local NGOs	PRTs	INGO percentage gain over other actors*
Builds trust with community leaders	3.33	2.67	2.87	2.60	+23
Fights corruption	3.32	3.26	2.82	2.48	+16
Achieves significant results at reasonable cost	3.31	2.37	2.98	2.61	+25
Has high quality products	3.34	2.85	2.92	2.57	+20
Helps reduce tension between people in the community	3.32	2.72	2.90	2.58	+21
Completes projects on time	3.29	2.83	2.92	2.52	+19
Projects benefit a majority of community (not just a few)	3.33	2.81	2.94	2.56	+20
Effectively cooperates with local government officials	3.31	2.73	2.96	2.68	+19

Highest score

*Mean scores for INGOs on each characteristic expressed as percentage gain over the average scores of National & District Government, Afghan/local NGOs, and PRTs (other actor average score = 100).

Except for fighting corruption, the local Afghan NGOs are in second place, government third and the PRTs fourth, demonstrating consistency with the above analysis of community-led methods used.

4.2 Choice of "One Organization to Implement a Development Project"

Community preferences are clear: if they had to choose one type of organization to implement a development project in their community, more respondents would choose an INGO than any other actor. This is the case for community leaders and members, women and men, and the young and old alike.

Preferred Choice of Organization for Implementing Development Projects
Total Sample, 2009

Organization	Value
International non-government organizations	41
Shura	20
Afghan non-government organizations	7
District government	7
National government	6
Reconstruction teams of foreign military	5
Religious leaders	4
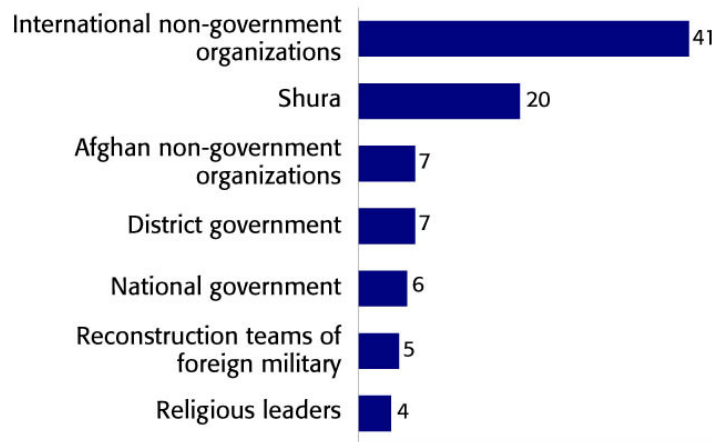
It may be inferred from these findings that communities would in general respond better to INGO projects if they are in partnership with local *shura* but not with the government or the military; and that, when military involvement is necessary, care should be taken to have them in a supporting and not a leadership role.

Such differences in perception as exist between community members and their leaders probably reflect different levels of experience. For example, community members are more inclined than leaders to choose religious leaders, with whom many have regular contact. The implication is that, as the amount of consultation and involvement increases, confidence in whichever actors are involved may also increase. But faced with a choice in the present situation, community members and their leaders both prefer an INGO.

4.3 Capability, Results, and Trust

Respondents were asked to evaluate the different actors in terms of each organization's ability to improve the situation in the community (capability), how much they have benefited lives in the community (results), and how much respondents trust them (trust). These are all regarded as indicative of stability outcomes.

The following chart shows the percentage of respondents giving each actor the highest level ratings. The highest ratings go to the local *shura* in all categories. International NGOs receive the second highest ratings for 'capability' and 'results.' For 'trust' INGOs get the third highest ratings, led in this case by religious leaders.

Ratings of Different Organizations
Total Sample, 2009

	Capability*	Results**	Trust***
Local Shura	53	52	68
International NGOs	38	35	41
Religious leaders	37	34	55
District government	23	21	34
Elected local officials	22	21	38
National government	22	21	40
Afghan NGOs	14	14	23
National armed forces	12	11	19
Foreign armed forces	7	8	11
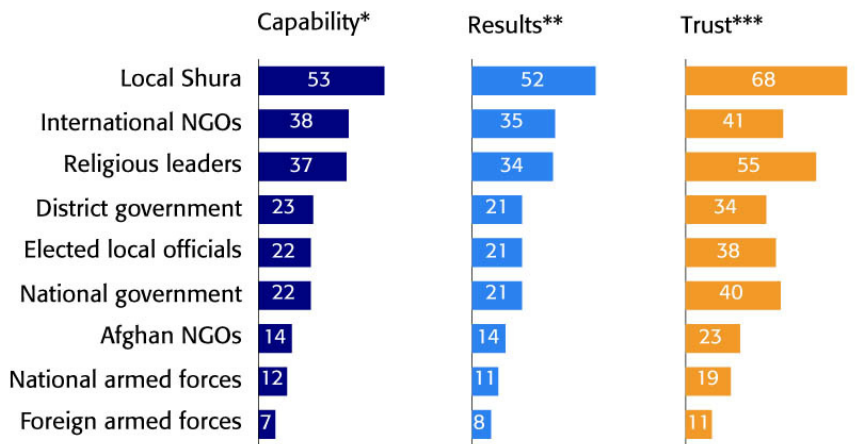
*"Very high ability"
**"A great deal of good"
***"A lot of trust"

Actors fall into three broad categories with regard to people's confidence in their ability to improve the situation in their communities, the benefits they bring to communities, and the level of trust people have in them.

The top-rated group, whom the majority of people consider capable, effective, and trustworthy, comprises local *shura*, INGOs and religious leaders. In the second group, about which around one-half of the people express positive views, are elected local officials and government actors (district and national). In the third group, organizations that receive positive ratings from a minority of people are Afghan NGOs, national armed forces and foreign military.

It will be seen in the following sections that there are significant differences between the opinions of community leaders and community members.

4.3.1 Group 1 Actors: *Shura*, Religious Leaders and INGOs

On the whole, people have the greatest trust in **local *shura,*** greatest confidence in their capability, and most positive perceptions of the benefits they have brought to communities. Community members tend to assess the organizations less positively than their leaders, except for religious leaders.

Ratings of Different Organizations
Total Sample, 2009

	Capability*	Results**	Trust***
Local Shura (Community leaders)	74	70	86
Local Shura (Community members)	43	43	59
International NGOs (Community leaders)	56	58	63
International NGOs (Community members)	29	24	30
Religious leaders (Community leaders)	22	16	36
Religious leaders (Community members)	44	43	65

■ Community leaders
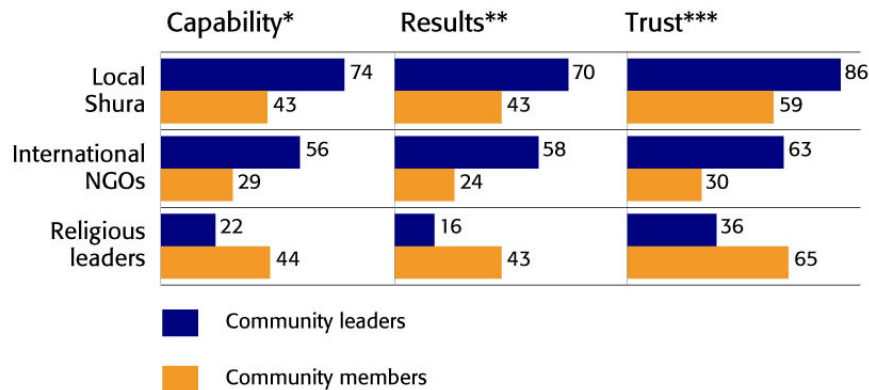
■ Community members

*"Very high ability"
**"A great deal of good"
***"A lot of trust"

Community leaders are much more confident than community members in local *shura* and INGOs, and this may reflect higher levels of familiarity and involvement with them.

> *"For the NSP projects, most of the labor force is made of village people. During the completion of the project, the* shura *is responsible for the budget. After the project is over, the* shura *is responsible for the maintenance of what has been done… For NSP projects there is much more debate between the* shura *representatives because the* shura *itself is originating the projects." (Community Leader, Baghlan)*

The relatively high regard in which community members hold religious leaders may reflect everyday contact with them, or perhaps a general deference to them. It should be remembered that this question was asked in general terms rather specifically in relation to development projects.

Hence also, perhaps, the lower ratings given to INGOs than to *shura* on these measures, in contrast with the higher ratings on the more specific outcome measures discussed above.

Community members give relatively poor ratings to INGOs on all three measures, especially trust. This is an area for improvement, and the high level of trust in religious leaders suggests that they might often usefully be brought into the INGO teams to help build trust.

4.3.2 Group 2 Actors: Elected Local Officials and Government

Small minorities believe that government actors are capable and effective in improving the situation in communities, though rather more think they are trustworthy. Community members are more positive about them than their leaders.

Ratings of Different Organizations
Total Sample, 2009

	Capability*	Results**	Trust***
District government	19 / 26	12 / 25	26 / 39
National government	19 / 24	15 / 24	31 / 42
Elected local officials	14 / 26	10 / 26	24 / 48

■ Community leaders
■ Community members
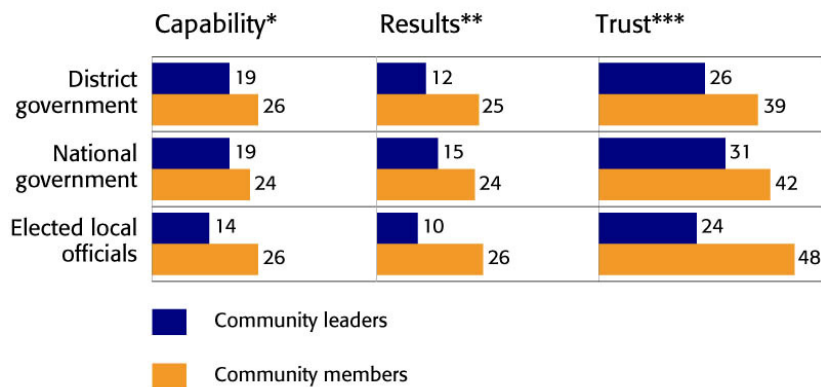
*"Very high ability"
**"A great deal of good"
***"A lot of trust"

Corruption is given as a reason for negative opinions. A focus group participant commented:

> *"The district government is not working well – there are a lot of corruption issues."*
> *(Female Community Member, Nangarhar)*

4.3.3 Group 3 Actors: Afghan NGOs and Armed Forces

Relatively few consider **Afghan NGOs** to be effective and trustworthy, though community leaders are significantly more positive than their members.

Ratings of Different Organizations
Total Sample, 2009

	Capability*	Results**	Trust***
Afghan NGOs — Community leaders	25	21	37
Afghan NGOs — Community members	9	10	16
National armed forces — Community leaders	7	7	14
National armed forces — Community members	15	12	21
Foreign armed forces — Community leaders	13	10	16
Foreign armed forces — Community members	4	6	8

■ Community leaders
■ Community members
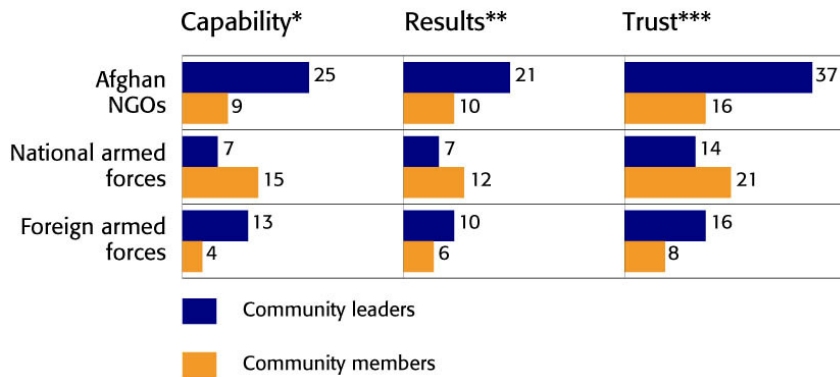
*"Very high ability"
**"A great deal of good"
***"A lot of trust"

Fewer still are positive about **national armed forces**.

Foreign armed forces receive the lowest ratings in terms of effectiveness and trust, especially by community members.

5. CURRENT CONDITIONS IN AFGHAN COMMUNITIES

In this section of the report we assess the current conditions, as perceived by the community leaders and community members themselves. This provides the background for the analysis of the methods of the various actors and the effectiveness of their projects. It also indicates potential priority elements for future projects.

5.1 Overview

Respondents rated the situation in their communities in terms of their perceptions of:

- Infrastructure: electricity supply, drinking water supply, irrigation, veterinary services, roads and transportation, and the number of mosques;

- Healthcare and education;

- The economy: employment and the overall economic situation;

- The security situation: security conditions, violent incidents, armed combat situations, military/police checkpoints;

- Quality of life and optimism about the future.

The table below summarizes community opinion on these aspects of respondents' lives. The table lists them, within their categories, in order of community satisfaction. The greatest challenges at present are electricity supply, veterinary services, healthcare provision, the overall economic situation, and perceived quality of life at the community level.

Satisfaction with Community Situation

	Total	Percentage satisfied			
		Community leaders	Community members	Male*	Female*
(Sample size) n	512	172	340	171	169
Infrastructure[1]					
Irrigation	72	74	71	64	79
Mosques	63	56	67	65	69
Drinking water supply	51	37	58	53	63
Roads and transportation	38	32	41	40	41
Electricity supply	14	17	12	6	18
Veterinary services	5	10	3	6	3
Health and education[1]					
Education	43	47	41	53	28
Health care	7	5	9	10	7
Economic situation					
Number of jobs has increased over last year[2]	26	16	31	21	40
Overall economic situation[3]	11	10	11	9	13
Overall security situation[3]	65	58	69	67	71
Quality of life / optimism about future					
Overall quality of life in your community[3]	14	11	16	21	11
Likelihood that community QOL will improve[4]	21	3	29	32	27
Relative well-being of your household[5]	65	59	68	66	69

Relatively low level of satisfaction

*Excludes community leaders (98% of community leaders were male)

[1] "As much as they need" or similar phrase
[2] "Significantly" or "Somewhat"
[3] "Good or very good", "Very secure"
[4] "Quality of life will improve in the community over the next couple of years"
[5] Equal or above the average for your village or town

5.1.1 Gender Differences

Responses in the female focus groups indicate that women are largely uninformed about many of the issues covered in the research. This lack of knowledge appears in the survey data as a general belief that the situation is better than the men think it is. To some extent, women seem to be sheltered from the realities as perceived by the men. The big exception is education, with which they are much less satisfied than the men. It may refer to their own education or to that of their children or both. However, several women in the focus groups talked about the need for vocational training for themselves so that they could enter the workplace, implying an emphasis on education for women.

Not surprisingly, the men are less satisfied with work-related infrastructure, i.e. electricity supply and irrigation, and with the economic situation including job creation.

These points of difference between the genders tend to confirm that a major goal for organizations should be improved education, training, and access to work for women, as well as economic development.

5.1.2 Community Leaders

Though 98 percent of community leaders are men, they take a position between the male and female community members on several – though not all – issues. They are notably concerned about the supply of drinking water, and are exceptionally pessimistic about the likelihood of improvement in the quality of life in their communities.

Surprisingly, more community leaders than community members think their own household quality of life is below average for their village or town. Are they comparing themselves with the overall average, or the average of "people like them"? Community leaders include elected officials and s*hura,* local government, and religious leaders. Sixty-five percent of the local government leaders think their own **household** quality of life is relatively low, compared with only 10 percent of elected officials. These percentages are based on small samples, but are striking nevertheless and point to a possible morale problem in local government.

Regarding **community** quality of life, 41 percent of religious leaders and 32 percent of local government officials think it will actually get worse over the next couple of years, compared with 19 percent each of elected officials and s*hura* members. Does this reflect different levels of exposure to extra-community organizations and developments, or a generally pessimistic frame of mind, or their personal and family circumstances? The sub-sample sizes are too small for confident interpretation, but nevertheless indicate that actors should consider the personal circumstances and priorities of the various types of community leaders separately when building relationships with them.

5.1.3 Regional Differences

There are considerable differences between the provinces in the perceptions of some, but not all, aspects of life. However, the focus groups identify great variation between communities within the provinces. National and provincial policy should be implemented accordingly, with full regard to the particular circumstances and priorities of each community.

In the following paragraphs we explore the various aspects in greater detail, drawing on the findings from the focus groups as well as the quantitative survey.

5.2 Infrastructure

Across the whole sample, in every province, **veterinary services** and the **electricity supply** are generally perceived not to meet people's needs. Only 14 percent say they are satisfied with the electricity supply (even fewer of the men), and only 5 percent with veterinary services.

> *"There is no electricity at all in this village. Some people are using their own private generators. The generators are used for lighting. People who do not have generators for lighting use gas lanterns." (Female Community Member, Baghlan)*
>
> *"Veterinary doctors are available, though they are very expensive. People don't even have enough money to buy medicine for themselves! How would they buy some for animals?" (Community Leader, Nangarhar)*

Roads and transportation are considered adequate by two-fifths of community members and one-third of community leaders. The situation is worse in Nangarhar, Baghlan, and Kunar and better in Kunduz.

> *"There are some roads in the district that connect our village to other villages. However, they are of bad quality." (Community Leader, Nangarhar)*
>
> *"The situation of the road is good – it was graveled recently thanks to the NSP program. It will probably be asphalted in the coming years. This will make it easier for people to travel from one village to another." (Female Community Member, Baghlan)*

The **drinking water supply** is thought satisfactory by just over one-half of all community members, but fewer leaders.

> *"People drink water from the irrigation canals. People therefore often get stomach aches and kidney problems. No NGOs or others had dug any wells in the village. It is a major problem for the village." (Community Leader, Takhar)*
>
> *"Before, we did not have access to proper drinking water – people used stream water which caused a lot of diseases. Fourteen wells have been built by GTZ – now the problem is solved." (Community Leader, Nangarhar)*
>
> *"There are two semi-deep wells (with hand pumps), which were dug two years ago thanks to NSP funding, only one of which provides drinkable water (the other providing only salty water). Most people get their water from this well. Because of the lack of water, some people also drink water from the canals. There is a lot of tension every day around the hand-pump." (Community Leader, Baghlan)*

Almost three-quarters of respondents are satisfied with the availability of irrigation for fields and farms, and two-thirds of respondents consider that there are enough mosques to meet peoples' needs. However, each community is different: while between 60 percent in Nangarhar province and 84 percent in Kandahar province say that their fields and farms receive as much water as necessary, the range of satisfaction with the number of mosques is much larger, with only 27 percent saying there are enough in Kunar province compared with 93 percent who say there is enough in Kandahar province.

> *"The irrigation system is designed for 2,000* jerib *of land. However, there is not enough water and only between 200 and 300* jerib *of land are irrigated every year. The rest is rain-fed." (Community Leader, Baghlan)*
>
> *"We have one mosque in the village, which does not have a mullah. Because of this, our children do not go to the mosques for studying Islamic lessons. Instead, the parents have to teach them in the houses." (Female Community Member, Baghlan)*

Recent Improvements

Infrastructure is thought not to have improved over the past year, with the exception that 25 percent think there has been an improvement in the provision of mosques. On other aspects of infrastructure, nearly all community members say that conditions remain unchanged or have become worse. Community leaders and members have very similar views and there are few variations in perceptions across provinces.

5.3 Health and Education

The availability of **health services** is thought to be satisfactory by only seven percent overall, rising to 10 percent among male community members, and is rated seriously below people's needs in all area (22% in Kunduz and less than 10% in the other provinces surveyed).

> *"There is one health center in the village. They have very little medicine and only provide cheap general medicine. If people need some specific medicine, they have to buy it themselves and it is often very expensive. There are one male and one female doctor. The doctors are only working during the day. If someone falls ill at night, people have to bring him to Kandahar City." (Male Community Member, Kandahar)*
>
> *"Health services are not available in the village. This is a particular problem for women who have to deliver a baby – they have to go to Jalalabad." (Community Leader, Nangarhar)*

Education services are thought to be somewhat better, though still far from satisfactory: two-fifths of community members and leaders alike think there are enough **schools and teachers**, but fewer women (28%) and also fewer in Nangarhar (10%) do.

> "There is one school inside the village. It is a primary school. Students are studying under tents. There are not any other educational institutions in the village. There is a high school in the center of the district. People allow their daughters to study." (Community Leader, Takhar)
>
> "We need our children to get a good education, so that our children become literate and have more opportunities of work when they finish school. Currently the young men have to go to Peshawar to find some work and sometimes to Kabul." (Female Community Member, Nangarhar)

One of the main concerns expressed by focus group participants in a village in Kandahar was that their children were receiving a poor education at the village school which had just been built by the PRT.

> "There is one school in the village. The boys go to school but the girls do not. They do not have properly trained teachers. The children do not learn anything." (Female Community Member, Kandahar)

The implication is that building schools is not enough: the supply of teachers must also improve. And as is to be expected, parents aspire for their children to be better educated than they themselves were.

> "We need our children to receive a better education. Our greatest fear concerns the education of the children, because the quality of education is very bad here in this village. We are illiterate, but we do not want our children to be the same. Because of the bad education conditions, the children do not get very interested in school." (Community Leader, Kandahar)

Recent Improvements

Healthcare and education are considered by only a small minority to be better than they were a year ago, with Kunar reporting the greatest improvement. Clearly, there is a long way to go in both the quantity and quality of provision in order to meet the aspirations of community members.

5.4 The Economic Situation

Community leaders are negative about the economy. Two-thirds of leaders say the **number of jobs** has decreased over the past year, and only less than one-quarter see an improvement. The same proportion describe the **overall economic situation** as poor or very poor, and only 10 percent regard it as "good" or "very good".

Community members are more ambivalent about the employment situation, with respondents more-or-less split between those who perceive an increase in jobs, those who say the number of jobs is unchanged, and those who perceive a decrease. However, one-half of all community members describe the overall economic situation as "poor" or "very poor". Even in a village in Kandahar, where the economic situation is considered fair or good with relatively few complaints about unemployment, 30 percent of able-bodied men are reported to be jobless.

> *"We are more anxious regarding our economy than regarding security – there are not enough jobs, particularly for young people. It is the main problem for the village." (Female Community Member, Nangarhar)*
>
> *"The economy in the village is in poor condition – all people are farmers and there has been a drought over the past years." (Community Leader, Baghlan)*
>
> *"The people are usually busy for three months of the year (in Spring). After that, younger people who are jobless, go to other provinces or Iran. Some of them enter the ANA or the police. In the peak months of the year, the average wage is 200-300 AFA, plus three meals. There are no other sources of income in the village (mines, carpets, weaving, etc.)" (Community Leader, Baghlan)*

Unemployment is thought to be linked to security in the community, as an example from Nangarhar illustrates.

> *"The security depends largely on the economic situation in the district. If the youth are jobless, they will do bad things… Our major concern is that there is very little economic activity going on in the area – many of the young people that live in the villages are thus currently jobless" (Male, Community Member, Nangarhar)*

5.5 Security

Views of the **security situation** are, however, generally more positive. Two-thirds of people described conditions in their community as "very secure". Nangarhar and Kunar are perceived as the most secure provinces, followed by Takhar and Baghlan. Very few respondents in all six provinces perceive conditions as "insecure".

> *"The security is very good in the village. Though we are women, we can go freely to the bazaar and walk around the village with no fear. The security has improved since last year." (Female Community Member, Baghlan)*
>
> *"The security of the village is fine – life is good here, as it is a peaceful place. There is no fighting or incidents taking place like during the Taliban or Mujahedin… Over the past few years I would say that the security situation has remained the same." (Male Community Member, Nangarhar)*
>
> *"The security situation is above average compared to neighboring villages. The village is 60% safer, compared to what it was before." (Community Leader Kandahar)*
>
> *"The security is good in the village – it is a peaceful place. The situation has improved since last year. We are happy here." (Female Community Member, Kandahar)*
>
> *"The security is well-maintained in the village. There are no violent incidents. People are farmers and are very busy with their land. Compared to other villages, the situation is much better here. Therefore we are not afraid about the future." (Female Community Member, Baghlan)*

The high level of satisfaction with security is at first sight surprising in view of the objective situation at the national level. There have been recent improvements in most specific aspects of security, so this overall evaluation is confirmed in the detail. But it should be remembered that the villages sampled were among the more secure ones, and the finding may have been significantly influenced by this selectivity. Further, even in these relatively secure places, correlation analysis indicates that positive perceptions of security are closely linked to perceptions about quality of community life and optimism for the future. Security remains of fundamental importance in the minds of community members and leaders, even when it is thought to be adequate or improving.

Moreover, perceptions vary between the provinces. The majority of residents in Nangarhar and Kunar say that security conditions have improved over the past year while three-quarters of those in Takhar and Baghlan say they have stayed the same. Only in Kunduz and Kandahar do more than a handful of people consider the situation worse than last year – just over one-fifth of residents in these provinces say conditions have worsened.

Ratings of Security Conditions

By Province, 2009

Legend: ■ Improved* ■ Stayed the same ■ Worsened**

Province	Improved*	Stayed the same	Worsened**
Nangarhar	70	29	1
Kunar	62	33	4
Takhar	11	75	2
Baghlan	15	78	1
Kunduz	37	25	22
Kandahar	19	58	22
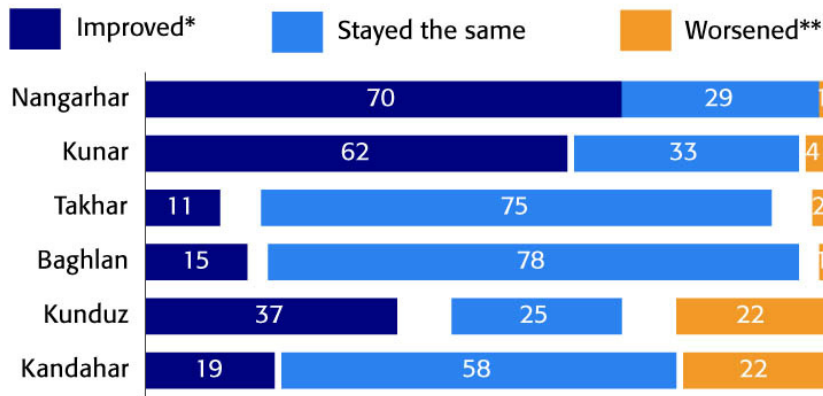
*"Significantly improved" and "Somewhat improved"
**"Significantly worsened" and "Somewhat worsened"
The white space in this chart represents "DK/NA."

Overall, two-thirds of respondents say the number of **violent incidents** (due to crime, terrorism, or military action) has decreased over the past year. Very few report an increase in violence – most of these are in Kandahar, where one in ten people say violent incidents have increased.

Nearly one-half of respondents report no change in the number of **military or police checkpoints** since last year. Nangarhar and Kunar appear to be most stable, with around eight in ten reporting no change. In Kandahar, one-half of respondents say there are fewer checkpoints than a year ago. Four in ten people in Kunduz say the number of checkpoints has increased, although it should be noted that nearly one-third of respondents in this province found the question difficult to answer.

Overall, six in ten people report a fall in the number of **armed combat situations** over the past year. Only one in ten say there has been an increase – although community leaders are more negative, with two in ten reporting an increase.

5.6 Quality of Life and Optimism

The quality of life in the communities is described as fair-to-poor.

Ratings of Overall Quality of Life
Total Sample, 2009

Very good (2)
Very poor (16)
Good (13)
Poor (30)
Fair (39)
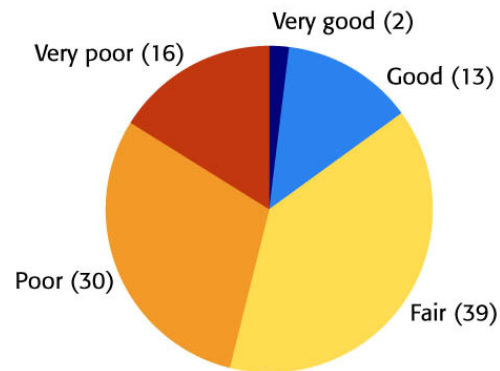
But there is widespread optimism, shared in all the provinces.

Ratings of Future Quality of Life (Social Optimism)
Total Sample, 2009

The quality of life in community WILL get worse over the next couple of years (10)

The quality of life in community WILL improve over the next couple of years (21)

The quality of life in community WILL stay the same (3)

The quality of life in community MAY improve over the next couple of years (43)
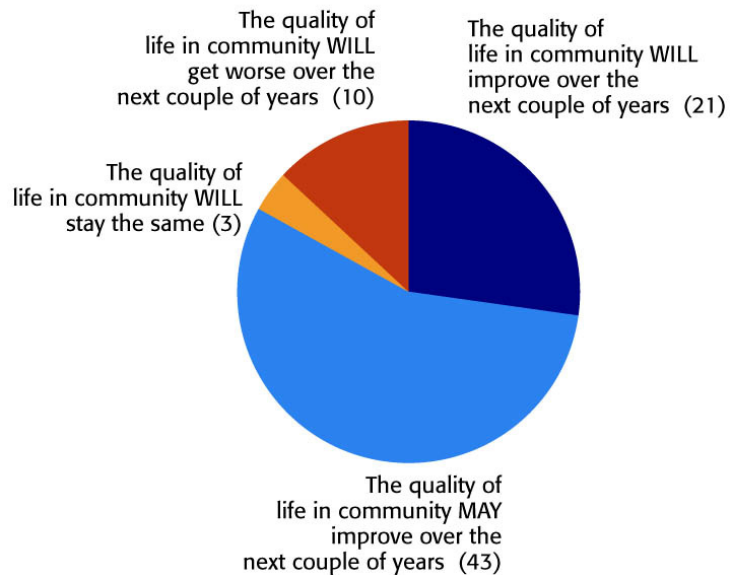
Note that 23 percent did not have an opinion.

Optimism is evidently dependent on factors other than security and economic and social conditions as community members perceive them; perhaps psychological and cultural factors that were not included in the research play a large part. Whatever the reason for the optimism, it is to be nurtured as without it the prospects for community engagement would be significantly less good.

5.7 Stability, Security and Community-Led Methods

The quantitative analysis suggests, but cannot prove, that the various development activities work best in combination rather than separately. The focus groups provide more evidence to support this. For example, focus group participants in Takhar are concerned about a possible future deterioration in security due to economic problems, unemployment, or lack of education. And they recognize that, even in a normally peaceful district, one serious incident can stop development abruptly by keeping foreigners away.

> *"Two or three weeks ago, an IED exploded on the main road of Baharak district, which killed one foreigner working for German Agro Action. Since then, foreigners (from NGOs, etc.) have not come back to the villages… People are particularly afraid that the security situation may worsen, which seems likely." (Community Leader, Takhar)*

Another example is that improvements to irrigation mean that crops are less susceptible to drought and, as a result, farmers' incomes rise, thus reducing poverty-related crime and making the community more secure.

The situation in each community is unique:

▪ In one village in Baghlan, there is no electricity, a limited supply of drinking water, and problems with drought, but villagers have freedom of movement because security is reasonable and roads and bridges have been improved;

▪ In another village in the north of the country, in Takhar, the main concern of local people is the deteriorating security situation;

▪ Unemployment and the lack of a village school are the primary concerns of a community in the eastern province of Nangarhar. The roads are better and wells have been built, but villagers still don't have an electricity supply and their houses are flooded regularly;

▪ Having benefited from projects to improve the infrastructure, a village in Kandahar has drinking water, graveled roads, a marketplace, a new school, and an imminent supply of electricity. However, villagers are concerned about the quality of teaching in the local school.

To sum up: improved security is required to support improvements in the economy, infrastructure and education; however, it is itself dependent on improvements in economic and social conditions. And the situation in each community is likely to differ, requiring a separate assessment of the way the effects interact.

The statistical similarities between the provinces, as seen in much of the quantitative survey analysis, should not be allowed to mask the differences that emerge in the community-by-community analysis of the focus groups.

6. ARMED ACCOMPANIMENTS

According to respondents, organizations are rarely accompanied by armed guards – whether military forces or private security.

Organizations with Armed Accompaniments*
Total Sample, 2009

	Military forces	Armed private security companies
Reconstruction teams of foreign military	12	11
Representatives of district government	10	11
Representatives of international non-government organizations	10	10
Representatives of national government	10	9
Shura	7	12
Representatives of Afghan non-government organizations	8	7
Religious leaders	4	7

*Percentage of respondents reporting that [organization] was accompanied

Opinions are evenly divided as to whether accompaniment by military forces is desirable.

Likelihood of Participating in Projects with Military Forces
Total Sample, 2009

I am more likely to participate if they are accompanied by military forces	41
I am less likely to participate if they are accompanied by military forces	14
I will not participate if they are accompanied by military forces	26
It will have no effect on whether or not I participate	13
DK/NA	6

(14 and 26 bracketed together = 40)
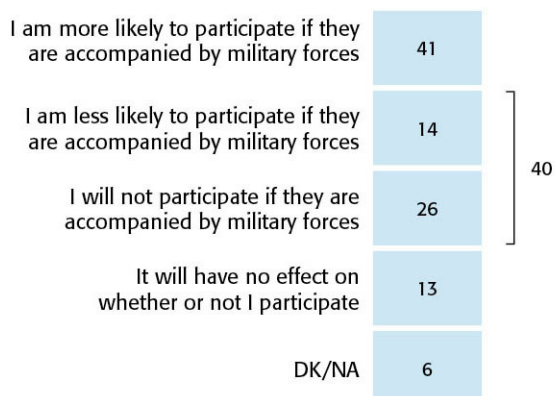
Views on the impact of armed accompaniment by military forces vary across provinces.

Over one-half of respondents in Nangarhar, Kunar, Takhar and Baghlan are more likely to participate in projects if organizations are accompanied by military forces while over one-third and almost one-half of those in Kunduz and Kandahar, respectively, will not participate if the organizations carrying out the projects are accompanied by military forces.

Likelihood of Participating in Projects with Military Forces
By Province, 2009

				Provinces			
	Total Sample	Nangarhar	Kunar	Takhar	Baghlan	Kunduz	Kandahar
I am more likely to participate if they are accompanied by military forces	41	50	60	60	69	20	18
I am less likely to participate if they are accompanied by military forces	14	26	27	11	1	7	12
I will not participate if they are accompanied by military forces	26	14	2	9	14	38	48
It will have no effect on whether or not I participate	13	-	-	17	13	28	19
DK/NA	6	10	11	3	3	7	3

Attitudes to accompaniment by private security companies are similarly divided.

Likelihood of Participating in Projects with Armed Private Security Companies
Total Sample, 2009

I am more likely to participate if they are accompanied by armed private companies	41
I am less likely to participate if they are accompanied by armed private companies	13
I will not participate if they are accompanied by armed private forces	25
It will have no effect on whether or not I participate	14
DK/NA	7

38 (bracket spanning "less likely" 13 and "will not participate" 25)

And the differences between provinces follow similar patterns:

Likelihood of Participating in Projects with Armed Private Security Companies
By Province, 2009

				Provinces			
	Total Sample	Nangarhar	Kunar	Takhar	Baghlan	Kunduz	Kandahar
I am more likely to participate if they are accompanied by armed private companies	41	51	64	63	71	25	13
I am less likely to participate if they are accompanied by armed private companies	13	25	27	9	1	2	13
I will not participate if they are accompanied by armed private companies	25	11	-	8	14	35	50
It will have no effect on whether or not I participate	14	-	-	18	11	30	20
DK/NA	7	13	9	2	3	8	4

For those in favor of armed accompaniment, the focus is on results:

> *"There is no problem with the army coming with the NGOs. The PRT project was successful and everyone was OK with the army coming to our village. The NGOs are doing assistance work and are here for our benefit, so we do not care if they are armed or not." (Community Leader, Kandahar)*
>
> *"If our men do not have any problems with the armed people or with the NGOs then we do not have any problem with them. What we want is our village to be built!" (Female Community Member, Kandahar)*

Armed accompaniment may or may not be wanted, depending on the security situation in the village. But it may attract the attention of the Taliban:

> *"We do not want the army or private security people to come into our village. Firstly because we do not need them, as the security in the village is good enough. Secondly, if they come, it will only make things worse, as the Taliban will try to attack them." (Community Leader Nangarhar)*

And acceptance of armed accompaniment, where it exists, may be reluctant:

> *"If the NGOs come to the village along with the militaries or private security people, the villagers will work with them, because there are very few employment opportunities and because it will help develop the village. However, they will be scared of the reaction of the insurgents and about what is going to happen to them." (Community Leader, Baghlan)*

Clearly then, decisions on armed accompaniment, military or private, should be made on the basis of a careful evaluation of the particular case. We have seen that over two-thirds of the people interviewed thought their communities were very secure, and in these cases it should generally be avoided – unless of course it is clearly willed by the community itself. In the less secure communities, negative attitudes toward military accompaniment are much more pronounced.

APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1: Sample composition

Note that most of data in the tables are expressed as mean scores. All question point scales have been recoded into a 3-point scale, where the pattern of value label is 1 = Negative, 2 = Neutral, 3 = Positive.

Where indicated, other figures are expressed in percentages. Total percentages may not add to 100 because of rounding.

Tables 1a, b: Sample

Profile of Respondents

	Total Sample
Type of respondents	
Community leaders	34%
Community members	66%
Ethnic group	
Pashto	71%
Tajik	13%
Uzbek	11%
Turkmen	3%
Provinces	
Nangarhar	21%
Kunar	9%
Takhar	13%
Baghlan	14%
Kunduz	12%
Kandahar	32%

	Total sample	Comm. Leaders	Comm. Members
Gender			
Male	66%	98%	50%
Female	34%	2%	50%
Age			
18–24	17%	9%	21%
25–34	21%	15%	25%
35–44	25%	26%	24%
45–54	19%	25%	16%
55–64	12%	16%	9%
65+	5%	9%	4%

APPENDIX 2: Data tables

Table 2a: Q1, 3, 7, 11, 13, 15

Beneficiary Ratings of Infrastructure Situation
Mean Scores

	Electricity supply	Drinking water supply	Veterinary services	Irrigation	Roads and transportation	Mosques
Community leaders	1.56	2.28	1.28	2.71	2.03	2.52
Community members	1.54	2.49	1.27	2.68	2.26	2.67
Provinces:						
Nangarhar	1.49	2.22	1.30	2.59	1.62	2.10
Kunar	1.20	2.33	1.27	2.00	1.84	2.27
Takhar	1.62	1.63	1.18	2.75	2.38	2.77
Baghlan	1.43	2.54	1.35	2.79	2.07	2.58
Kunduz	1.82	2.82	1.37	2.85	2.82	2.87
Kandahar	1.61	2.69	1.23	2.82	2.38	2.92

Scale 1 to 3: 1 = No service in the community; 2 = Below people's needs;
3 = Satisfies people's needs

Q. How would you describe [service] in your community? Please select one response
that best describes the situation with [service] in your community.

Table 2b: Q2, 4, 8, 12, 14, 16

Beneficiary Ratings of Improvements in Infrastructure over Past Year
Mean Scores

	Electricity supply	Drinking water supply	Veterinary services	Irrigation	Roads and transportation	Mosques
Community leaders	2.20	2.26	2.01	2.30	2.02	2.27
Community members	2.12	2.19	2.00	2.34	2.18	2.12
Provinces:						
Nangarhar	2.29	2.46	2.04	2.60	2.24	2.37
Kunar	2.09	2.71	2.02	2.38	2.33	2.53
Takhar	2.00	1.92	1.95	2.32	2.12	2.17
Baghlan	2.21	2.15	1.96	2.30	1.81	2.04
Kunduz	2.35	2.41	2.08	2.35	2.42	2.31
Kandahar	2.04	1.99	1.99	2.15	2.02	1.95

Scale 1 to 3: 1 = Worsened; 2 = Stayed the same; 3 = Improved

Q. In the last year, do you think that [service] has improved, worsened or stayed the same?

Beneficiary Ratings of Healthcare and Education System
Mean Scores

	Healthcare	Education system
Community leaders	1.31	2.23
Community members	1.50	2.18
Provinces:		
Nangarhar	1.36	1.53
Kunar	1.80	2.16
Takhar	1.18	2.57
Baghlan	1.40	2.33
Kunduz	1.77	2.65
Kandahar	1.38	2.27

Scale 1 to 3: 1 = No service in the community; 2 = Below people's needs; 3 = Satisfies people's needs

Q5, 9. How would you describe the [health services/education system] in your community? Please select one response that best describes the situation with the [health services/education system] in your community.

Table 3b: Q6, 10

Beneficiary Ratings of Improvements in Healthcare and Education System
Mean Scores

	Healthcare	Education system
Community leaders	2.09	2.14
Community members	2.10	2.12
Provinces:		
Nangarhar	2.03	2.16
Kunar	2.49	2.44
Takhar	1.92	1.94
Baghlan	2.11	2.26
Kunduz	2.20	2.17
Kandahar	2.05	2.03

Scale 1 to 3: 1 = Worsened; 2 = Stayed the same; 3 = Improved

Q6, 10. In the last year, do you think that the situation with [service] has improved, worsened or stayed the same?

Beneficiary Ratings of Number of Jobs
Mean Scores

	Number of jobs
Community leaders	1.49
Community members	2.09
Provinces:	
Nangarhar	1.81
Kunar	1.56
Takhar	2.10
Baghlan	2.10
Kunduz	2.05
Kandahar	1.81

Scale 1 to 3: 1 = Decreased; 2 = Stayed the same;
3 = Increased

Q17. Has the number of jobs in your community over the past year increased, decreased or stayed the same?

Beneficiary Ratings of Overall Economic Situation
Mean Scores (5 Point Scale)

	Overall economic situation
Community leaders	2.16
Community members	2.43
Provinces:	
Nangarhar	1.64
Kunar	1.69
Takhar	2.77
Baghlan	2.54
Kunduz	2.80
Kandahar	2.54

Scale 1 to 5: 1 = Very poor; 3 = Fair; 5 = Very good

Q23. How would you describe the overall economic situation in your community?

Beneficiary Ratings of Security Situation

Mean Scores

	Security
Community leaders	2.55
Community members	2.66
Provinces:	
Nangarhar	2.89
Kunar	2.87
Takhar	2.78
Baghlan	2.60
Kunduz	2.43
Kandahar	2.41

Scale 1 to 3: 1 = Insecure; 2 = Somewhat secure; 3 = Very secure

Q18. How would you describe security conditions in your community?

Table 5b: Q19, 20, 21, 22

Beneficiary Ratings of Changes in Security Situation
Mean Scores

	Security conditions*	Violent incidents**	Military/police checkpoints**	Armed combat situations**
Community leaders	2.17	2.63	2.13	2.48
Community members	2.28	2.67	2.20	2.59
Provinces:				
Nangarhar	2.70	2.64	2.09	2.78
Kunar	2.58	2.67	2.13	2.58
Takhar	2.11	2.46	2.24	2.18
Baghlan	2.15	2.68	2.12	2.28
Kunduz	2.18	2.67	1.67	2.62
Kandahar	1.97	2.71	2.38	2.60

*Q19. In the last year, do you think that security conditions have improved, worsened or stayed the same? Scale 1 to 3: 1 = Worsened; 2 = Stayed the same; 3 = Improved

**Q20/21/22. Has the number of [security problems] in your community over the past year increased, decreased or stayed the same? Scale 1 to 3: 1 = Increased; 2 = Stayed the same; 3 = Decreased

Beneficiary Ratings of Overall Quality of Life
Mean Scores

	Overall quality of life
Community leaders	2.27
Community members	2.67
Provinces:	
Nangarhar	2.17
Kunar	2.09
Takhar	2.63
Baghlan	2.72
Kunduz	2.87
Kandahar	2.65

Scale 1 to 5: 1 = Very poor; 3 = Fair; 5 = Very good

Q24. How would you describe the overall quality of life in your community?

Beneficiary Ratings of Future Quality of Life (Social Optimism)

Mean Scores

	Social optimism
Community leaders	2.41
Community members	3.26
Provinces:	
Nangarhar	3.11
Kunar	3.13
Takhar	2.77
Baghlan	3.07
Kunduz	2.58
Kandahar	2.86

Scale 1 to 4: 1 = Worsen; 2 = Stay the same; 4 = Will improve

Q25. How likely that the overall quality of life will improve in your community over the next couple of years? Please select one response that best describes your opinion.

Table 7a: Q26, 27

Beneficiary Ratings of Different Organizations
By Community Leaders, Mean Scores

		Ability to improve situation In community*		Benefit to community**	
		Community leaders	Community members	Community leaders	Community members
District government	Rating	2.76	3.63	2.28	3.65
	Don't know	2%	17%	3%	18%
National government	Rating	2.94	3.71	2.57	3.72
	Don't know	2%	19%	2%	19%
Elected local officials	Rating	2.69	3.90	2.48	3.84
	Don't know	3%	15%	3%	15%
Religious leaders	Rating	3.12	4.33	2.82	4.36
	Don't know	3%	13%	5%	14%
Afghan non-government organizations	Rating	3.50	3.10	3.38	3.27
	Don't know	9%	39%	12%	39%
National armed forces	Rating	2.45	3.47	2.40	3.39
	Don't know	8%	39%	8%	36%
Foreign armed forces	Rating	2.76	2.49	2.60	2.59
	Don't know	13%	51%	13%	49%
International non-government organizations	Rating	4.29	3.88	4.26	3.86
	Don't know	8%	19%	4%	19%
Local shura	Rating	4.61	4.14	4.57	4.15
	Don't know	1%	13%	2%	12%

*Scale 1 to 5: 1 = No ability; 2 = Very low ability; 3 = Low ability; 4 = High ability; 5 = Very high ability

**Scale 1 to 5: 1 = Nothing good; 2 = Very little good; 3 = Little good; 4 = Some good; 5 = A great deal of good

*Q26. Now I would like to ask a few questions about the ability of different organizations and institutions to improve the situation in your community. How would you describe the ability of [ORGANIZATION NAME] using such descriptors as "no ability", "very low ability", "low ability", "high ability", and "very high ability"?

**Q27. And how would you describe the same organizations in terms of how much good they have done (i.e. how much they have benefited people's lives) in your community? Please describe the good done (i.e. the benefits) by [ORGANIZATION NAME] using such descriptors as: "nothing good", "very little good", "little good", "some good", and "a great deal of good"

Respondents' Ratings Trust in Different Organizations

Mean Scores

	Community leaders	Community members
District government	1.84	2.36
National government	1.93	2.44
Elected local officials	1.80	2.48
Religious leaders	2.02	2.72
Afghan non-government organizations	2.18	2.03
National armed forces	1.60	2.18
Foreign armed forces	1.67	1.73
International non-government organizations	2.61	2.39
Local shura	2.84	2.61

Scale 1 to 5: 1 = No trust at all; 2 = Some trust; 3 = A lot of trust

Q28. How much trust do you have in the following institutions? Please choose response that best describes your opinion on each of the following institutions?

Personal Participation in Projects Carried Out by Different Organizations
Percentage Participating

	District government	National government	Afghan NGOs	International NGOs	PRTs	Religious leaders	*Shura*
Community leaders	11	11	34	61	8	9	34
Community members	15	7	12	33	4	6	21
PROVINCES:							
Nangarhar	15	10	27	57	3	1	27
Kunar	11	2	47	71	4	-	16
Takhar	3	-	12	12	-	20	34
Baghlan	8	7	21	8	1	21	36
Kunduz	-	3	17	27	-	7	20
Kandahar	24	15	11	58	12	2	21

Q30. Have you personally participated in the projects carried out by the following organizations in your community?

Table 9: Q31

Familiarity with Mercy Corps
Percentage Familiar and Mean Scores

	Very familiar	Somewhat familiar	Know by name only	Never heard of	Mean Score
Community leaders	60%	30%	6%	4%	3.46
Community members	27%	41%	14%	18%	2.76
Provinces:					
Nangarhar	44%	37%	13%	6%	3.19
Kunar	40%	40%	20%	-	3.20
Takhar	32%	35%	9%	23%	2.77
Baghlan	39%	21%	14%	26%	2.72
Kunduz	37%	33%	3%	27%	2.80
Kandahar	36%	46%	11%	7%	3.10

Q31. How familiar are you with the organization called Mercy Corps [OR EQUIVALENT LOCAL NAME]?

Table 10 (part 1 and 2): Q33

Beneficiary Ratings of Different Organizations on Specific Characteristics of Community-Led Programs

Mean Scores, Part 2

	Mercy Corps	National and district governments	International NGOs	Afghan/local NGOs	PRTs
Communication & consensus					
Increases communication between community leaders and government officials in community	3.42	2.74	3.31	2.95	2.63
Helps reduce tension between people in community	3.42	2.72	3.32	2.90	2.58
Involves community leaders in decision making	3.4	2.76	3.29	2.91	2.64
Involvement of ethnic minorities					
Actively involves ethnic minorities in project implementation and management	3.46	2.72	3.36	2.85	2.86
Involvement of women					
Actively involves women in projects management and implementation	3.24	2.62	3.18	2.60	2.26
Tolerance					
Promotes respect between people with different views	3.36	2.73	3.27	2.87	2.56

Scale 1 to 4: 1 = Does not describe at all; 2 = Describes to a very little extent; 3 = Describes to some extent; 4 = Describes to a great extent

Q33. Now I would like you to describe the way the following organizations worked in your community. To what extent do the characteristics I will read describe the work of each organization?

Beneficiary Ratings of Different Organizations on Specific Characteristics of Community-Led Programs

Mean Scores, Part 1

	Mercy Corps	National and district governments	International NGOs	Afghan/local NGOs	PRTs
Accountability & transparency					
Has quality projects	3.39	2.85	3.34	2.92	2.57
Completes projects on time	3.40	2.83	3.29	2.92	2.52
Achieves significant results at reasonable cost	3.42	2.37	3.31	2.98	2.61
Openly shares information about costs and budget of the project	3.44	2.61	3.35	3.03	2.16
Governance					
Fights corruption	3.37	3.26	3.32	2.82	2.48
Effectively cooperates with local government officials	3.44	2.73	3.31	2.96	2.68
Citizen investment					
Encourages people to work together to improve their community	3.41	2.79	3.30	2.97	2.63
Teaches people in community new skills	3.42	2.62	3.31	3.05	2.60
Gets community leaders/members to continue carrying out the projects themselves after organization leaves community	3.40	2.75	3.32	3.00	2.19
Gets community members to contribute labor time	3.44	2.85	3.31	2.73	2.22
Gets community leaders to contribute to costs	3.46	2.84	3.33	3.03	2.53
Builds trust with community leaders	3.41	2.67	3.33	2.87	2.60
Citizen participation					
Consults with people in community to determine needs	3.39	2.86	3.32	2.95	2.66
Actively involves people in community in project management and supervision	3.42	2.86	3.35	2.96	2.62
Projects benefit a majority of community members (not just a few)	3.38	2.81	3.33	2.94	2.56
Promotes participation of community members	3.39	2.75	3.33	2.97	2.16

Table 11: Q34

Beneficiaries' Preferred Choice of Organization for Implementing Development Projects

Percentages

	District government	National government	Afghan NGOs	International NGOs	Reconstruction teams of foreign military	Religious leaders	*Shura*
Community leaders	2	5	15	55	3	-	20
Community members	9	6	4	34	7	6	20
PROVINCES:							
Nangarhar	10	1	4	59	9	-	11
Kunar	-	-	22	51	18	-	2
Takhar	-	3	11	11	-	8	55
Baghlan	13	13	1	8	-	7	54
Kunduz	-	10	13	32	-	13	7
Kandahar	10	7	5	55	7	2	6

Q34. If you had to choose one organization to implement a development project in your community, which one would you choose?

Organizations with Armed Accompaniments
Percentages

	Military forces*	Armed private security companies**
Representatives of district government	10	11
Representatives of national government	10	9
Representatives of Afghan non-government organizations	8	7
Representatives of international non-government organizations	10	10
Reconstruction teams of foreign military	12	11
Religious leaders	4	7
Shura	7	12

*Q35. Which of the following organizations were accompanied by military forces while carrying out projects in your community? Pick all that apply.

**Q37. Which of the following organizations were accompanied by armed private security companies while carrying out projects in your community? Pick all that apply.

Table 13a: Q36

Likelihood to Participate in Projects with Armed Accompaniments

Percentages

	More likely to participate	Less likely to participate	Will not participate	No effect	Net*
Community leaders	44%	5%	40%	10%	-1%
Community members	39%	18%	19%	15%	2%
PROVINCES:					
Nangarhar	50%	26%	14%	-	10%
Kunar	60%	27%	2%	-	31%
Takhar	60%	11%	9%	17%	40%
Baghlan	69%	1%	14%	13%	54%
Kunduz	20%	7%	38%	28%	-25%
Kandahar	18%	12%	48%	19%	-42%

*"More likely" minus "Less likely / Will not participate"

Q36. How likely are you to participate in a development project in your community if organizations carrying out the projects are accompanied by military forces?

Table 13b: Q38

Respondents' Likelihood to Participate in Projects with Armed Private Security Companies
Percentages

	More likely to participate	Less likely to participate	Will not participate	No effect	Net*
Community leaders	48%	2%	38%	10%	8%
Community members	38%	19%	19%	16%	0%
PROVINCES:					
Nangarhar	51%	25%	11%	-	15%
Kunar	64%	27%	-	-	37%
Takhar	63%	9%	8%	18%	46%
Baghlan	71%	1%	14%	11%	56%
Kunduz	25%	2%	35%	30%	-12%
Kandahar	13%	13%	50%	20%	-50%

*"More likely" minus "Less likely / Will not participate"

**Q38. How likely are you to participate in a development project in your community if organizations carrying out the projects are accompanied by armed private security companies?

1. I am more likely to participate if they are accompanied by [armed accompaniment]
2. I am less likely to participate if they are accompanied by [armed accompaniment]
3. I will not participate if they are accompanied by [armed accompaniment]
4. It will have no effect on whether or not I participate

APPENDIX 3: Questionnaire

MERCY CORPS LEAPP BENEFICIARY SURVEY

QUANTITATIVE RESEARCH

AFGHANISTAN

Good morning…… (Introductions)

Interview date:

Interview start:

Interview end:

Interview language:

State/province:

Community:

Interviewer ID:

Supervisor ID:

D1. Sample type [DO NOT ASK]

1. Community leader

2. Community member

D2. In which of the following areas do you play a leadership role?

		Yes	**No**
1.	Community organization	↑	↑
2.	Religious group	↑	↑
3.	Action group, such as …………..	↑	↑
4.	Non-government organization	↑	↑
5.	Local government	↑	↑
6.	State government	↑	↑

7.	Other organization(specify)_____	↑	↑

IF RESPONDENT CHECKED ONE OR MORE OPTIONS IN Q1, CODE HIM/HER IN D 3. AS COMMUNITY LEADER

D3. SAMPLE TYPE

3. Community leader

4. Community member

D4. RESPONDENT'S YEAR OF BIRTH   19_ _

D5. RESPONDENT'S GENDER

1. Male

2. Female

D6. PLEASE INDICATE YOUR ETHNIC GROUP

1. Pashto

2. Tajik

3. Hazara

4. Uzbek

5. Turkmen

6. Other (specify) _____

99. DK/NA (DO NOT ASK)

D7. WHAT IS YOUR LITERACY LEVEL?

1. Literate

2. Illiterate

99. DK/NA (DO NOT ASK)

IF CODE 1 IN D7 ASK D8

D8. WHICH OF THE FOLLOWING BEST DESCRIBES THE LEVEL OF EDUCATION YOU HAVE COMPLETED?

1. No formal education

2. Completed primary school

3. Completed secondary school

4. Completed high school

5. Completed university

6. Completed vocational training (e.g., agricultural)

99. DK/NA (DO NOT ASK)

D9. WHAT IS YOUR MAIN OCCUPATION

_____

D10. ARE YOU THE HEAD OF YOUR HOUSEHOLD?

1. Yes

2. No

99. DK/NA (DO NOT ASK)

D11. HOW MANY PEOPLE ARE THERE IN YOUR HOUSEHOLD? _____

D12. HOW MANY PEOPLE IN YOUR HOUSEHOLD EARN AN INCOME?

_____

D13. WHAT IS YOUR HOUSEHOLD'S ANNUAL INCOME? _____

D14. HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE THE WELL BEING OF YOUR HOUSEHOLD COMPARED TO AN AVERAGE HOUSEHOLD IN YOUR VILLAGE OR TOWN?

1. Significantly above average

2. Above average

3. ABOUT average

4. Below average

5. Significantly below average

99. DK/NA (DO NOT ASK)

COMMUNITY SITUATION (DEVELOPMENT IMPACTS)

NOW I WOULD LIKE TO ASK YOU SOME QUESTIONS ABOUT THE SITUATION IN [COMMUNITY NAME].

1. How would you describe the electricity supply in [COMMUNITY NAME]? Please select one response that best describes the situation with the electricity supply in [COMMUNITY NAME].

1. There is no electricity supply in [COMMUNITY NAME]

2. Electricity supply is significantly below people's needs

3. Electricity supply is slightly below people's needs

4. People in [COMMUNITY NAME] receive as much electricity as they need

99. DK/NA (DO NOT ASK)

2. In the last year, do you think that the electricity supply has improved, worsened or stayed the same?

1. Significantly improved

2. Somewhat improved

3. Stayed the same

4. Somewhat worsened

5. Significantly worsened

99. DK/NA (DO NOT ASK)

3. How would you describe the drinking water supply in [COMMUNITY NAME]? Please select one response that best describes the situation with the drinking water supply in [COMMUNITY NAME].

1. There is no drinking water supply in [COMMUNITY NAME]

2. Drinking water supply is significantly below people's needs

3. Drinking water supply is slightly below people's needs

4. People in [COMMUNITY NAME] receive as much drinking water as they need

99. DK/NA (DO NOT ASK)

4. In the last year, do you think that drinking water supply has improved, worsened or stayed the same?

1. Significantly improved

2. Somewhat improved

3. Stayed the same

4. Somewhat worsened

5. Significantly worsened

99. DK/NA (DO NOT ASK)

5. How would you describe health services in [COMMUNITY NAME]? Please select one response that best describes the situation with the health services in [COMMUNITY NAME].

1. There are no health services available in [COMMUNITY NAME]

2. Health services available in [COMMUNITY NAME] are significantly below people's needs

3. Health services available in [COMMUNITY NAME] are slightly below people's needs

4. People in [COMMUNITY NAME] can receive any health service they may need.

99. DK/NA (DO NOT ASK)

6. In the last year, do you think that the health services have improved, worsened, or stayed the same?

1. Significantly improved

2. Somewhat improved

3. Stayed the same

4. Somewhat worsened

5. Significantly worsened

99. DK/NA (DO NOT ASK)

7. How would you describe veterinary services in [COMMUNITY NAME]? Please select one response that best describes the situation with the veterinary services in [COMMUNITY NAME].

1. There are no veterinary services available in [COMMUNITY NAME]

2. Veterinary services available in [COMMUNITY NAME] are significantly below demand.

3. Veterinary services available in [COMMUNITY NAME] are slightly below demand

4. People (animals) in [COMMUNITY NAME] can receive any veterinary service they may need.

99. DK/NA (DO NOT ASK)

8. In the last year, do you think that veterinary service have improved, worsened or stayed the same?

1. Significantly improved

2. Somewhat improved

3. Stayed the same

4. Somewhat worsened

5. Significantly worsened

99. DK/NA (DO NOT ASK)

9. How would you describe the education system in [COMMUNITY NAME]? Please select one response that best describes the situation in the education system in [COMMUNITY NAME].

1. There are no schools available in [COMMUNITY NAME]

2. Number of schools and teachers available in [COMMUNITY NAME] are significantly below people's needs

3. Numbers of schools and teachers available in [COMMUNITY NAME] are slightly below people's needs

4. There are enough schools and teachers in [COMMUNITY NAME] to satisfy people's needs.

99. DK/NA (DO NOT ASK)

10. In the last year, do you think that the situation with schools ands teachers has improved, worsened or stayed the same?

1. Significantly improved

2. Somewhat improved

3. Stayed the same

4. Somewhat worsened

5. Significantly worsened

99. DK/NA (DO NOT ASK)

11. How would you describe the organized water supply (irrigation) to fields and farms through canals and ditches? Please select one response that best describes the situation in [COMMUNITY NAME].

1. There is no organized water supply to fields and farms in [COMMUNITY NAME]

2. Organized water supply to fields and farms in [COMMUNITY NAME] is significantly below demand.

3. Organized water supply to fields and farms in [COMMUNITY NAME] is slightly below demand.

4. Fields and farms in [COMMUNITY NAME] receive as much water as necessary.

99. DK/NA (DO NOT ASK)

12. In the last year, do you think that organized water supply (irrigation) to fields and farms has improved, worsened or stayed the same?

1. Significantly improved

2. Somewhat improved

3. Stayed the same

4. Somewhat worsened

5. Significantly worsened

99. DK/NA (DO NOT ASK)

13. How would you describe the situation with roads and transportation in [COMMUNITY NAME]? Please select one response that best describes the situation with roads and transportation.

1. There are no roads and no transportation system in [COMMUNITY NAME] so people feel isolated.

2. Roads and transportation system in [COMMUNITY NAME] are significantly below demand.

3. Roads and transportation system in [COMMUNITY NAME] are slightly below demand.

4. Roads and transportation system in [COMMUNITY NAME] are able to satisfy people's needs.

99. DK/NA (DO NOT ASK)

14. In the last year, do you think that the roads and transportation system have improved, worsened or stayed the same?

1. Significantly improved

2. Somewhat improved

3. Stayed the same

4. Somewhat worsened

5. Significantly worsened

99. DK/NA (DO NOT ASK)

15. How would you describe the situation with mosques in [COMMUNITY NAME]? Please select one response that best describes the situation..

1. There are no mosques in [COMMUNITY NAME].

2. The number of mosques in [COMMUNITY NAME] is significantly below what people need.

3. The number of mosques in [COMMUNITY NAME] is slightly below people's needs.

4. There are enough mosques in [COMMUNITY NAME] to fulfill people's needs.

99. DK/NA (DO NOT ASK)

16. In the last year, do you think that the situation with mosques has improved, worsened or stayed the same?

1. Significantly improved

2. Somewhat improved

3. Stayed the same

4. Somewhat worsened

5. Significantly worsened

99. DK/NA (DO NOT ASK)

17. Has the number of jobs in [COMMUNITY NAME] over the past year increased, decreased or stayed the same?

1. Significantly increased

2. Somewhat increased

3. Stayed the same

4. Somewhat decreased

5. Significantly decreased

99. DK/NA (DO NOT ASK)

18. How would you describe security conditions in your community?

1. Very secure

2. Somewhat secure

3. Somewhat insecure

4. Very insecure

99. DK/NA (DO NOT ASK)

19. In the last year, do you think that security conditions have improved, worsened, or stayed the same?

1. Significantly improved

2. Somewhat improved

3. Stayed the same

4. Somewhat worsened

5. Significantly worsened

99. DK/NA (DO NOT ASK)

20. Has the number of violent incidents in [COMMUNITY NAME] over the past year increased, decreased or stayed the same? By violent incidents I mean crime, terrorism, military action etc.

1. Significantly increased

2. Somewhat increased

3. Stayed the same

4. Somewhat decreased

5. Significantly decreased

99. DK/NA (DO NOT ASK)

21. Has the number of military / police checkpoints in [COMMUNITY NAME] over the past year increased, decreased or stayed the same?

1. Significantly increased

2. Somewhat increased

3. Stayed the same

4. Somewhat decreased

5. Significantly decreased

99. DK/NA (DO NOT ASK)

22. Has the number of armed combat situations in [COMMUNITY NAME] over the past year increased, decreased or stayed the same?

1. Significantly increased

2. Somewhat increased

3. Stayed the same

4. Somewhat decreased

5. Significantly decreased

99. DK/NA (DO NOT ASK)

ASSESSMENTS OF THE OVERALL SITUATION AND ROLES OF ACTORS

23. How would you describe the overall economic situation in [COMMUNITY NAME]?

1. Very good

2. Good

3. Fair

4. Poor

5. Very poor

99. DK/NA (DO NOT ASK)

24. How would you describe the overall quality of life in [COMMUNITY NAME]?

1. Very good

2. Good

3. Fair

4. Poor

5. Very poor

99. DK/NA (DO NOT ASK)

25. How likely that the overall quality of life will improve in [COMMUNITY NAME] over the next couple of years? Please select one response that best describes your opinion.

1. The quality of life in [COMMUNITY NAME] WILL improve over the next couple of years

2. The quality of life in [COMMUNITY NAME] MAY improve over the next couple of years

3. The quality of life in [COMMUNITY NAME] WILL stay the same

4. The quality of life in [COMMUNITY NAME] WILL get worse over the next couple of years

99. DK/NA (DO NOT ASK)

26. Now I would like to ask a few questions about the ability of different organizations and institutions to improve the situation in [COMMUNITY NAME]. How would you describe the ability of [ORGANIZATION NAME] using such descriptors as "no ability", "very low ability", "low ability", "high ability", and "very high ability".

		No ability	Very low ability	Low ability	High ability	Very high ability	Don't know
1.	District government	1	2	3	4	5	99
2.	National government	1	2	3	4	5	99
3.	Elected local officials	1	2	3	4	5	99
4.	Religious leaders	1	2	3	4	5	99
5.	Afghan Non-government organizations	1	2	3	4	5	99
6.	National Armed Forces	1	2	3	4	5	99
7.	Foreign Armed Forces	1	2	3	4	5	99
8.	International Non-government organizations	1	2	3	4	5	99
9.	Local shura	1	2	3	4	5	99

ROTATE ORGANIZATIONS

27. And how would you describe the same organizations in terms of how much good they have done in [COMMUNITY NAME] or how much they have benefited people's lives in [COMMUNITY NAME]? Please describe the good done by [ORGANIZATION NAME] or the benefits that have come from [ORGANIZATION NAME] using such descriptors as: "nothing good", "very little good", "little good", "some good", and "a great deal of good"

ROTATE ORGANIZATIONS

		Nothing good	Very little good	Little good	Some good	A great deal of good	Don't know
1.	District government	1	2	3	4	5	99
2.	National government	1	2	3	4	5	99
3.	Elected local officials	1	2	3	4	5	99
4.	Religious leaders	1	2	3	4	5	99
5.	Afghan Non-government organizations	1	2	3	4	5	99
6.	National Armed Forces	1	2	3	4	5	99
7.	Foreign Armed Forces	1	2	3	4	5	99
8.	International Non-government organizations	1	2	3	4	5	99
9.	Local *shura*	1	2	3	4	5	99

28. How much trust do you have in the following institutions? Please choose response that best describes your opinion on each of the following institutions?

Response options: "no trust at all", "some trust", and "a lot of trust".

ROTATE ORGANIZATIONS

		No trust at all	Some trust	A lot of trust	Don't know
1.	District government	1	2	3	99
2.	National government	1	2	3	99
3.	Elected local officials	1	2	3	99
4.	Religious leaders	1	2	3	99
5.	Afghan Non-government organizations	1	2	3	99
6.	National Armed Forces	1	2	3	99
7.	Foreign Armed Forces	1	2	3	99
8.	International Non-government organizations	1	2	3	99
9.	Local *shura*	1	2	3	99

29. To the best of your knowledge what groups have implemented projects in [COMMUNITY NAME]?

First mention   _____

Second mention   _____

Third mention   _____

Fourth mention   _____

Fifth mention   _____

30. Have you personally participated in the projects carried out by the following organizations in [COMMUNITY NAME]?

1. District government

2. National government

3. Afghan Non-government organizations

4. International Non-government organizations

5. Reconstruction teams of foreign military

6. Religious leaders

7. *Shura*

99. DK/NA (DO NOT ASK)

31. How familiar are you with organization called Mercy Corps (OR EQUIVALENT LOCAL NAME)?

1. Very familiar

2. Somewhat familiar

3. Know by name only

4. Never heard of

99. DK/NA (DO NOT ASK)

IF 1, 2, 3 AT Q31 ASK:

32. What programs has Mercy Corps (OR EQUIVALENT LOCAL NAME) implemented in [COMMUNITY NAME]?

List of programs

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

FOR THOSE RESPONDENTS WHO CHOSE OPTIONS 4 AND 99 IN Q.31 PROMPT.

32.A. Mercy Corps is a non-profit organization engaged in humanitarian aid and development activities reaching people in more than 35 countries including Afghanistan and [COMMUNITY NAME] in particular. Knowing this would you say that you are:

1.   Very familiar with Mercy Corps

2.   Somewhat familiar with Mercy Corps

3.   Know by name only

4.   Never heard of Mercy Corps

99. DK/NA (DO NOT ASK)

ASK ALL

33. Now I would like you to describe the way the following organizations worked in [COMMUNITY NAME]. To what extent do the characteristics I will read describe the work of each organization?

Response options

1.   Describes to a great extent

2.   Describes to some extent

3.   Describes to a very little extent

4.   Does not describe at all

99. DK/NA (DO NOT ASK)

ASK ABOUT MERCY CORPS (OR EQUIVALENT LOCAL NAME) ONLY IF RESPONDENT ANSWERED 1,2,3 AT Q31 OR Q.32A.

ROTATE LIST OF CHARACTERISTICS

		Mercy Corps (OR LOCAL NAME) [IF 1,2,3 AT Q31]	National & district government	International NGOs	Afghan / local NGO	Reconstruction units of foreign military
1.	Completes projects on time					
2.	Has quality projects					
3.	Fights corruption					
4.	Openly shares information about costs and budget of the project					
5.	Achieves significant results at reasonable cost					
6.	Promotes participation of community members					
7.	Consults with people in [COMMUNITY NAME] to determine needs.					
8.	Actively involves people in [COMMUNITY NAME] in project management and supervision					
9.	Actively involves ethnic minorities in project implementation and management					
10.	Actively involves women in projects management and implementation					
11.	Effectively cooperates with local government officials					
12.	Builds trust with community leaders					
13.	Involves community leaders in decision making					
14.	Increases communication between community leaders and government officials in [COMMUNITY NAME]					
15.	Helps reduce tension between people in [COMMUNITY NAME]					
16.	Promotes respect between people with different views					
17.	Projects benefit a majority of community members (not just a few)					
18.	Teaches people in [COMMUNITY NAME] new skills					
19.	Encourages people to work together to improve their community					
20.	Gets community leaders to contribute to costs					
21.	Gets community members to contribute labor time					
22.	Gets community leaders / members to continue carrying out the projects themselves after organization leaves [COMMUNITY NAME]					

34. If you had to choose one organization to implement a development project in [COMMUNITY NAME] which one would you choose?

1. District government

2. National government

3. Afghan Non-government organizations

4. International Non-government organizations

5. Reconstruction teams of foreign military

6. Religious leaders

7. *Shura*

99. DK/NA (DO NOT ASK)

35. Which of the following organizations were accompanied by military forces while carrying out projects in [COMMUNITY NAME]? Pick all that apply.

1. Representatives of district government

2. Representatives of national government

3. Representatives of Afghan non-government organizations

4. Representatives of international non-government organizations

5. Reconstruction teams of foreign military

6. Religious leaders

7. *Shura*

99. DK/NA (DO NOT ASK)

36. How likely are you to participate in a development project in [COMMUNITY NAME] if organizations carrying out the projects are accompanied by military forces?

1. I am more likely to participate if they are accompanied by military forces

2. I am less likely to participate if they are accompanied by military forces

3. I will not participate if they are accompanied by military forces

4. It will have no effect on whether or not I participate

99. DK/NA (DO NOT ASK)

37. Which of the following organizations were accompanied by armed private security companies while carrying out projects in [COMMUNITY NAME]? Pick all that apply.

1. Representatives of district government

2. Representatives of national government

3. Representatives of Afghan non-government organizations

4. Representatives of international non-government organizations

5. Reconstruction teams of foreign military

6. Religious leaders

7. *Shura*

99. DK/NA (DO NOT ASK)

38. How likely are you to participate in a development project in [COMMUNITY NAME] if organizations carrying out the projects are accompanied by armed private security companies?

1. I am more likely to participate if they are accompanied by military forces

2. I am less likely to participate if they are accompanied by military forces

3. I will not participate if they are accompanied by military forces

4. It will have no effect on whether or not I participate

99. DK/NA (DO NOT ASK)

Thanks and conclusion