



KNOWLEDGE, ATTITUDES AND PRACTICES SURVEY ON WOMEN'S ECONOMIC RIGHTS IN AFGHANISTAN

• ANALYTICAL REPORT | AUGUST 2016





FOREWORD

Women's economic rights are fundamentally an issue of human rights and social justice. Realising those rights is also important for poverty reduction, economic growth and human development. Policies and interventions aimed at promoting women's economic empowerment contribute not just towards women's economic rights, but also towards development of the family, community and the country.

Evidence shows that when women are able to participate in, and benefit from, the economy, there is a reduction in poverty for all; especially in low-income households, it is vital for the household's survival. In addition, promoting women's economic empowerment facilitates the achievement of other important public policy goals such as economic growth, improved human development, and reduced violence against women and girls.

I firmly believe that engagement for women's economic empowerment requires addressing the structural causes of gender inequality. Women's unpaid care work, access to decent work, access to, and control over, credit, resources, and land are just a few areas of urgent concern for the global community and the Government of Afghanistan is committed to addressing them with the support of all its ministries.

In line with the ideas presented in this survey report, the Minister of Labour, Social Affairs, Martyrs and the Disabled strongly believes in the need to focus on women's economic rights, women's role in agricultural development, unpaid care work and entrepreneurship development for women.

I hope this report will inspire others to join the efforts on women's economic empowerment in Afghanistan.

Dr. Nasrin Oryakhil
Minister of Labour, Social Affairs, Martyrs and Disabled, Afghanistan

UN Women's work and literature on women's economic empowerment show that investing in women and their economic rights leads directly to gender equality, poverty reduction and inclusive economic growth. Women worldwide, make enormous contributions to economies, whether in businesses, on farms, as entrepreneurs or employees, or by doing unpaid care work at home. But they also remain disproportionately affected by poverty, discrimination and exploitation. Gender discrimination means women often end up in insecure, low-wage jobs, and constitute a small minority of those in senior positions. It curtails access to economic assets such as land and loans. It limits participation in shaping economic and social policies. And, because women perform the bulk of household work, they often have little time left to pursue economic opportunities.

The study on Knowledge, Attitude and Practices undertaken by UN Women in Afghanistan in partnership with Afghan Centre for Socio-Economic Research reveals a lack of understanding among men and women of women's entitlements to inheritance and property, perceptions of the household being solely the responsibility of women, and barriers to women's participation in the labour force, including harmful cultural and traditional norms, and patriarchal gender stereotypes. The study makes important recommendations including a need for investment in supporting women's basic and higher education, creating businesses and entrepreneurship networks for women, changing mindsets of the community, religious leaders and family members on women's inclusion in the economic sector.

I hope the study's findings will contribute to a healthy debate and a robust policy environment for women's economic empowerment in Afghanistan and will lead to strengthened investment in and support for women's economic potential, to the benefit of all people in Afghanistan.

Elzira Sagynbaeva
Country Representative, UN Women Afghanistan

UN Women is the UN organisation dedicated to gender equality and the empowerment of women. A global champion for women and girls, UN Women was established to accelerate progress on meeting their needs worldwide.

UN Women supports UN Member States as they set global standards for achieving gender equality, and works with governments and civil society to design laws, policies, programmes and services needed to implement these standards. It stands behind women's equal participation; ending violence against women; engaging women in all aspects of peace and security processes; enhancing women's economic empowerment and; making gender central to national development planning and budgeting. UN Women also coordinates and promotes the UN system's work in advancing gender equality.

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CONTENTS

Foreword	3
Acronyms	4
Executive summary	6
Introduction	8
Research design	10
RESULTS	
Summary of results	11
I. Knowledge of women's economic rights	13
II. Attitudes to women's economic rights	14
III. Protection and practice of women's economic rights among key stakeholders	15
IV. Perceptions of gender-based violence and access to shelters	16
V. Regional variances in knowledge, attitudes and practices	17
Conclusions and recommendations	19
Footnotes	20
Appendices	21
Stakeholder in-depth interview guide	21
Stakeholder in-depth interview respondent profile	24
Principal component analysis	25
Composite indicator methodology	26
Knowledge, attitudes and practices composite indicators	27

MAP OF AFGHANISTAN



PROVINCES AND DISTRICTS INCLUDED IN THIS STUDY

BALKH

- Nahri Shahi
- Balkh
- Khulum
- Shortepa

HERAT

- Injil
- Ghoryan
- Pashton Zarghon
- Chishti Sharif

KABUL

- Kabul
- Chahar Asyab
- Khaki Jabar
- Istalif

KANDAHAR

- Kandahar
- Arghandab
- Spin Boldak
- Maywand

NANGARHAR

- Jalalabad
- Dara-e-Noor
- Surkh Rod
- Kama

PAKTIYA

- Gardez
- Zazi
- Zadran
- Zurmat

TAKHAR

- Taluqan
- Chah Ab
- Rustaq
- Iskamish

ACRONYMS

ACO	Afghanistan Country Office
ACSOR	Afghan Center of Socio-Economic Research
AIHRC	Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission
ANDS	Afghanistan National Development Strategy
ANDS-AGE-CCS	ANDS-Afghanistan Gender Equality Cross-Cutting Strategy
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women
CSO	Central Statistics Organisation
DOWA	Department of Women's Affairs
DRF	Development Results Framework
EVAW	Elimination of violence against women
GBV	Gender-based violence
GDI	Gender Development Index
IDI	In-depth interviews
MOJ	Ministry of Justice
MoWA	Ministry of Women's Affairs
NAP	National Action Plan
NAPWA	National Action Plan for the Women of Afghanistan
NPPs	National Priority Programmes
OECD	Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development
OEEF	Organisational Effectiveness and Efficiency Framework
PEEP	Political and Economic Empowerment Pillar
UNCT	UN Country Team
UNW	UN Women
VAWG	Violence against women and girls

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Afghan Center of Socio-Economic Research (ACSOR) and D3 Systems, Inc. would like to acknowledge the ongoing commitment of UN Women to gender research in complex environments like Afghanistan. We would like to specifically thank Mr. Sabawoon Ahmadzai of UN Women for his guidance and recommendations throughout the life of this project. Furthermore, we thank the ACSOR interviewers who carried out the research on the ground in Afghanistan on several culturally sensitive topics.

UN Women would like to thank the governments of **Australia, Belgium, Iceland, Norway and Sweden** for their generous support.

cent experience more than one type.¹ Men and women alike agree that violence within marriage is unacceptable and not allowed in Islam, although more men than women believe women should try and resolve problems with her husband even if he is abusive. Furthermore, there is a lack of awareness of options for abused women, forcing victims/survivors to remain in abusive and difficult homes. There is little to no knowledge among both men and women about women's shelters in Afghanistan.

5. REGIONAL VARIATIONS IN KNOWLEDGE, ATTITUDES AND PRACTICES

To further explore knowledge, attitudes and practices of women's economic and legal rights in Afghanistan, we developed composite measures to understand theoretical models within the context of women's economic rights.

Results demonstrate significant variations in attitudes and practices across provinces for all five constructs of women's economic rights. Furthermore, attitudes and perceptions are significantly more conservative in the southern province of Kandahar. These differences provide valuable baseline information for programmes or interventions aimed at addressing specific topics within the scope of women's economic empowerment.

These results suggest that many Afghan women continue to face a complex mix of inequalities due to structural and cultural barriers. Although legislation exists for the protection of women's legal marital and economic rights, it is evident that the most basic laws are not enforced or practised. The combination of lack of security, lack of awareness of rights, poverty, and harmful cultural norms create immense challenges for Afghan women in their daily lives. This study highlights the need for a novel approach to protecting and empowering Afghan women.



FIVE MAJOR BARRIERS TO WOMEN'S ECONOMIC EQUALITY IN AFGHANISTAN



KNOWLEDGE OF WOMEN'S ECONOMIC RIGHTS

A gap in knowledge between Afghan men and women exists when it comes to:

- General marital inheritance rights
- A wife's right to inheritance after her spouse's death

ATTITUDES TOWARDS WOMEN'S ECONOMIC RIGHTS

Attitudes demonstrate an inherently patriarchal view on the marital property and inheritance rights of married women.



PRACTICE OF WOMEN'S ECONOMIC RIGHTS AMONG STAKEHOLDERS



Stakeholders acknowledge insecurity, political corruption, and patriarchal cultural norms as key barriers preventing the realisation of women's rights.

KNOWLEDGE, ATTITUDES AND PERCEPTIONS AROUND GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

Both Afghan women and men do not see gender-based violence as a top issue facing women in Afghanistan.



REGIONAL VARIATIONS IN KNOWLEDGE, ATTITUDES AND PRACTICES

Significant variations in attitudes and practices exist across provinces for all five constructs of women's economic rights, with significantly more conservative attitudes and perceptions in Kandahar.





EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In partnership with UN Women, ACSOR/D3 designed a mixed-methods study to understand knowledge, attitudes, and practices (KAP) of women's economic rights in Afghanistan, with a particular emphasis on Afghan men. As part of UN Women's ongoing efforts to support the Government, CSOs and other actors in facilitating investments in women's economic empowerment as a path towards gender equality and economic empowerment, this study provides important baseline information needed to design effective and sustainable economic empowerment interventions.

The research design included both quantitative and qualitative research components, presenting a comprehensive overview of knowledge of, and attitudes towards, women's economic rights in Afghanistan. Furthermore, the qualitative stakeholder in-depth interviews complemented key findings from the quantitative survey, allowing for data triangulation. The final sample for the quantitative survey component consisted of 4,006 respondents selected from seven provinces designated by UN Women: Kabul, Paktiya, Nangarhar, Takhar, Balkh, Herat, and Kandahar. The qualitative component included 27 in-depth interviews with key stakeholders including religious leaders, business owners, and members of Community Development Councils (CDCs).

The analysis is presented in five distinct sections in this report with a brief description of key findings below.

1. KNOWLEDGE OF WOMEN'S ECONOMIC RIGHTS

There exists an evident gap in the knowledge levels of Afghan men and women regarding the economic rights of, and legal protection for, women in Afghanistan. Men and women also have varying levels of knowledge regarding women's marital and inheritance rights. A majority of Afghan men believe married women collect the *haq e mehr*, or financial compensation, due to the bride at the time of marriage, however, Afghan women were more likely to report that while the Sharia teaching of *Mehr* is mentioned at the time of marriage, in practice it is often not adhered to. Further gaps in

knowledge exist regarding a wife's right to inheritance after her spouse dies, highlighting low levels of basic marital rights among both men and women.

2. ATTITUDES TOWARDS WOMEN'S ECONOMIC RIGHTS

Attitudes of Afghan men and women regarding women's economic rights in Afghanistan are similar and demonstrate an inherently patriarchal view on the marital, property, and inheritance rights of married women. Approximately half of both men and women strongly support a married woman's right to inheritance after her husband's death. Furthermore, a significant majority of respondents mentioned that the first family member entitled to receive this inheritance is the man's son, followed by his wife. Afghan women are not aware of their own marital legal rights under current law, which continue to conflict with Sharia law.

3. PRACTICE OF WOMEN'S ECONOMIC RIGHTS AMONG STAKEHOLDERS

Key stakeholders in women's economic empowerment, including business owners, CDC members, and religious leaders, agree that women's economic and legal rights are not practised in Afghanistan for a variety of reasons. Although these stakeholders mention the importance of female participation in the labour force and the value of marital rights under the law, they mention insecurity, political corruption, and patriarchal cultural norms as key barriers preventing the realisation of women's rights on the ground.

4. KNOWLEDGE, ATTITUDES AND PERCEPTIONS OF GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

Many Afghan men and women do not perceive gender-based violence as one of the top issues facing women in Afghanistan today, although the prevalence of violence within marriages nationally remains high due to unsafe cultural norms and gender inequality. Studies show that 87 per cent of Afghan women experience some type of violence (physical, sexual, or psychological) and 62 per

this provides a significant opportunity for UN Women to also focus on youth in promoting gender equality and women’s economic rights.¹⁰

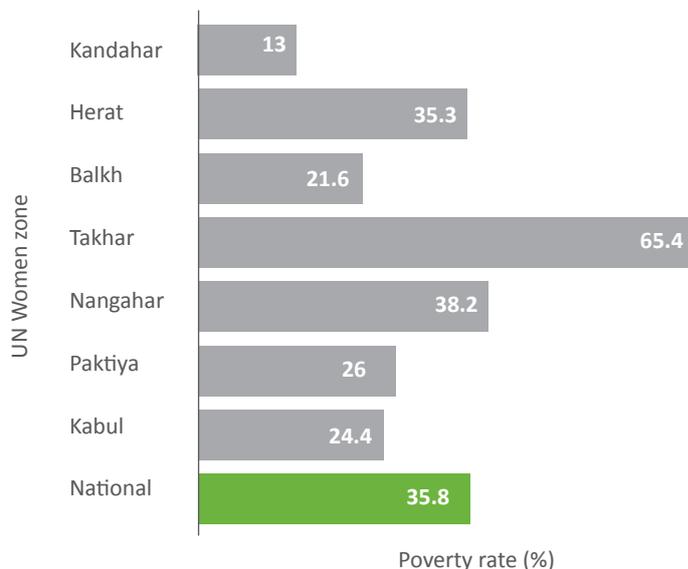
By engaging future decision-makers and leaders, strategic development outcomes are more likely to result in long-term, sustainable change.¹¹ Although multiple surveys from various organisations have been administered in Afghanistan over the past decade, data from the Central Statistics Organisation provides the most comprehensive set of indicators related to women’s economic empowerment including poverty, economic well-being, gender equality, and employment.¹²

For the context of the KAP Survey on women’s economic rights in Afghanistan, certain provincial indicators provide a more thorough understanding of the current economic environment and gender equality.

By understanding the situation on the ground, UN Women will be better equipped to design and implement targeted programmes, resulting in significant, long-term change. Specific indicators of relevance to women’s economic empowerment include overall poverty rate, poverty among females, overall literacy rate, and female literacy rate.

POVERTY LEVELS

The poverty rate is defined as the percentage of the population whose expenditure on all items is below the national poverty line.¹³ Evidence has demonstrated the clear link between women’s empowerment and reductions in poverty when it comes to economic growth.¹⁴ The national average poverty rate in Afghanistan is almost 36 per cent based on estimates from the World Bank. When comparing poverty rates across the selected provinces, Takhar has the highest levels of poverty nationally (65.4%) followed by Nangarhar (38.2%).



SOURCE: The World Bank and the Global Poverty Working Group, 2015.

Figure I: Poverty levels in selected provinces

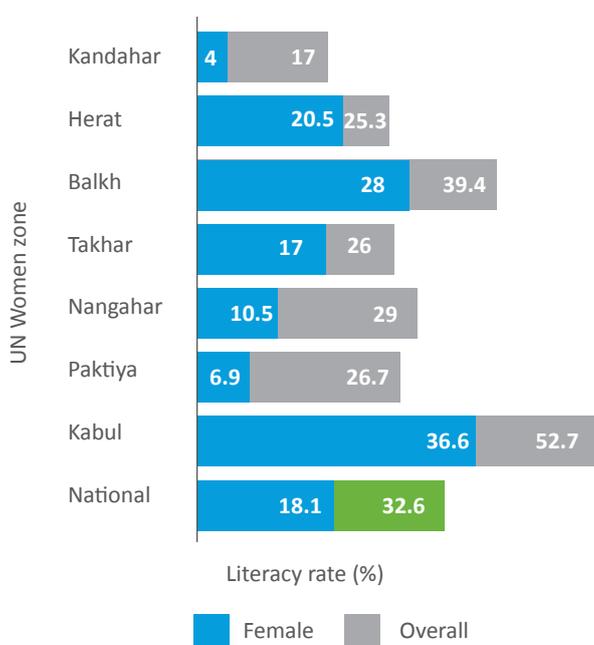


Figure II: Literacy rates in selected provinces

LITERACY LEVELS

The literacy rate is defined as the percentage of the total population above the age of 14 years who are literate or able to read and write. Literacy and education among men and women alike are necessary components of women’s economic empowerment and the subsequent protection of their rights. The average literacy rate in Afghanistan is 32.6 per cent. Kandahar has the lowest literacy rates in the country, where only 17 per cent of Afghans in the province can read and write.

Of the seven selected zones, five zones fall below the national average of literacy: Paktiya, Nangarhar, Takhar, Herat, and Kandahar.

The female literacy rate refers to the percentage of the female population above the age of 14 years who are literate or able to read and write. The average literacy rate amongst Afghan females is well below the national average, at 18.1 per cent. Female literacy in Kabul is higher at 36.6 per cent, while female literacy in the Paktiya and Kandahar remains extremely low at 6.9 per cent and 4 per cent respectively. A key aspect for any women’s economic empowerment programme in Afghanistan must be to integrate and address basic literacy as an outcome to ensure that programme beneficiaries are able to comprehend information.

SOURCE: The World Bank and the Global Poverty Working Group, 2015.



INTRODUCTION

Since 2002, UN Women has working closely with the Ministry of Women's Affairs (MoWA), civil society and other partners to support the development and implementation of programmes that protect and promote the rights of Afghan women. Key interventions include: support to the development of the National Action Plan for the Women of Afghanistan (NAPWA); the adoption of a quota in the national Constitution and support for women's political participation; laws and policies to address violence against women and girls at the national and local level; and mainstreaming gender in the Afghanistan National Development Strategy (ANDS).² Furthermore, the growth in the number of women-focused programmes by civil society organisations has highlighted the importance of advancing women's rights.

There is a growing consensus within Afghanistan that protecting and realising women's economic rights is key to long-term, sustainable development. As such, Afghan women and girls have experienced several improvements in their quality of life over the past decade. Girls who were previously unable to attend school can now receive education in public schools and more Afghan women are enrolling in universities. The Afghan Ministry of Education estimates that there are currently more than 8 million students enrolled in primary or secondary school, compared to 1 million students in 2001; of this, approximately 39 per cent of students are girls.³ Furthermore, Afghan women are now able to work in government offices and even hold seats in parliament as political seat quotas are guaranteed within the Constitution. In 2016, four female ministers were appointed by the cabinet, while two women were appointed as provincial governors.⁴

Persistent political instability and insecurity since the withdrawal of international forces have diminished the prioritisation of gender equality and women's empowerment. The Constitution, specifically Article 48, protects the right of every Afghan to work yet there is no clear path for women to acquire positions within the government and these positions are often filled through personal referrals. Along with structural barriers to joining the economic sector, such as poor

security, Afghan women face several cultural barriers. Afghan women have historically depended on men for their economic security and a significant proportion of Afghans still believe women should not work outside of the house, particularly in places with other men.⁵ Several indicators related to health, mobility, economic, and political empowerment remain unacceptably low and have made Afghanistan one of the worst countries in the world to be a woman.^{6,7}

SITUATIONAL ANALYSIS OF SELECTED PROVINCES

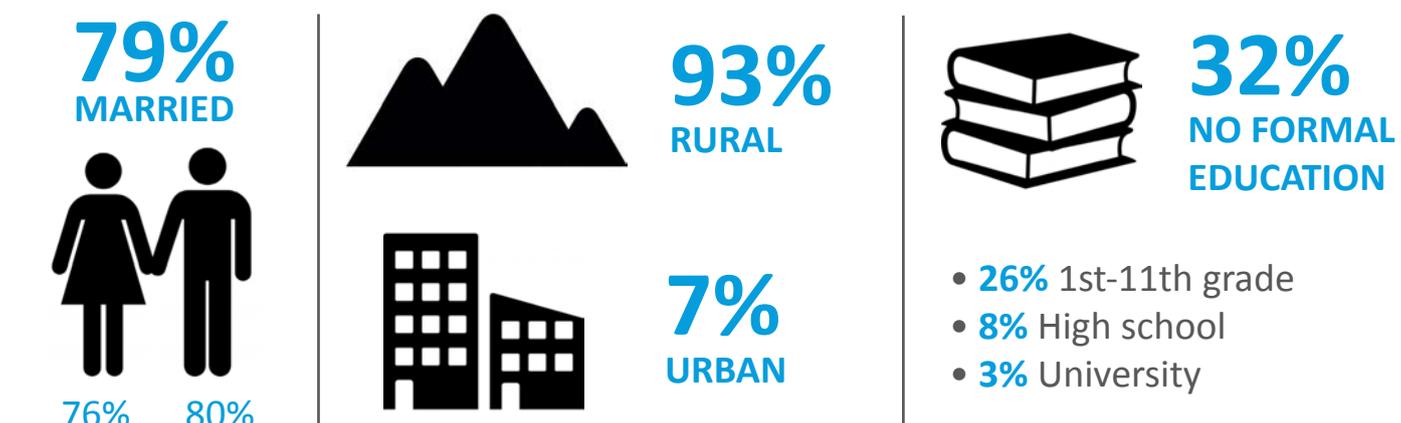
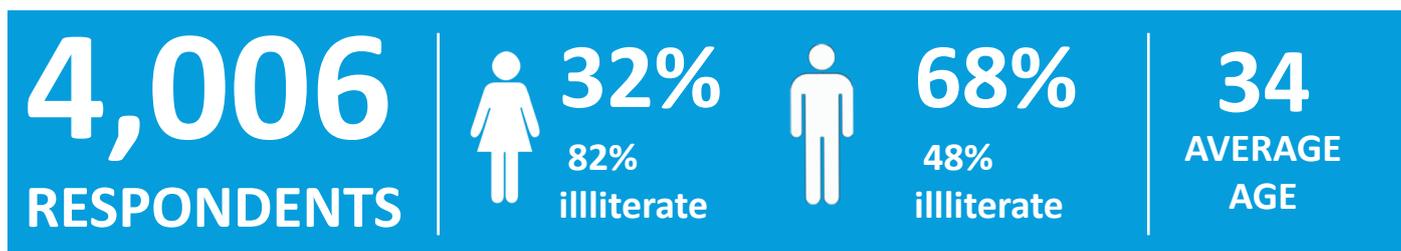
The primary objective of this study is to generate information for establishing a baseline with regards to knowledge, attitudes, and practices (KAP) of Afghans relating to women's economic rights in various regions of the country. This study collected and analysed data for multiple constructs of women's economic rights including female political participation, mobility and freedom of movement, access to education, marital/inheritance laws, and women's labour force participation. The research was carried out in seven provinces in Afghanistan (See Table 1 on page 12). Within these provinces, UN Women also specified which districts were to be included in the research.

This analytical report provides a comprehensive overview of the study, results, and recommendations.

In addition to collecting baseline data on knowledge, attitudes, and practices of Afghan men and women, it is imperative to understand the context and situation in each of these zones. This information will provide programme implementers with a thorough understanding of specific zone characteristics including basic economic profiles of demographics, gender inequality, distribution of women's economic empowerment programmes, and key stakeholders in women's economic empowerment and rights.

Although a complete census has not been undertaken since the late 1970s, Afghanistan's population is estimated to be around 32 million.⁹ Furthermore, Afghanistan has one of the world's largest youth populations with nearly half of the population under the age of 18;

SUMMARY OF RESULTS



Persistent political instability and insecurity in Afghanistan continues to strain the financial status of Afghan households. More Afghan men and women report that the financial status of their household has worsened when compared with the financial status of their household one year ago.

Figure 3: Perceptions of state of household financial status (%)

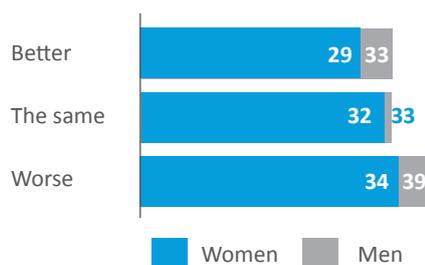
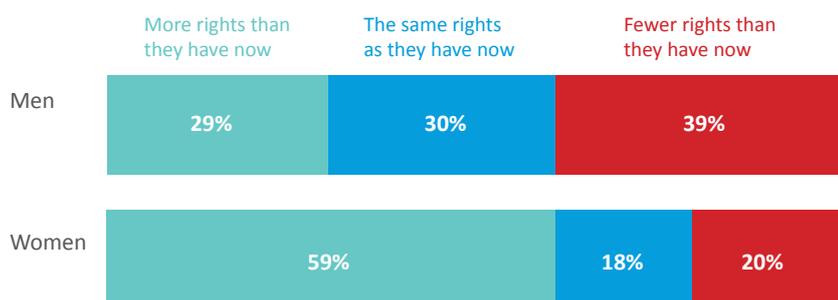


Figure 4: Perceptions of women's rights in Afghanistan



Respondents were also asked about their perceptions of women's rights in Afghanistan. When asked whether women should have more rights, fewer rights, or the current amount of rights, Afghan men were more likely to agree that women currently have the rights they should have (38%). On the contrary, a majority of Afghan women reported that they should have more rights than they have now (59%).



RESEARCH DESIGN

The quantitative component of the research comprises a nationally representative survey of Afghans, and collected data on the following topics: women's rights to inheritance; ownership of property; economic rights by marital status; gender-based violence; and perceptions of women's protection centres. To complement the quantitative data, qualitative research was collected from various stakeholders including religious leaders, business owners, farmers, and members of Community Development Councils (CDCs). The in-depth interviews included questions on the following topics: marriage and legal rights of women; education; working outside the home; political participation; civic engagement; gender-based violence; and access to women's shelters.

The primary objective of this study is to generate baseline data with regards to knowledge, attitudes, and practices of Afghans relating to women's economic rights in various regions of the country.

Survey design and analysis is organised into five topic areas:

- Knowledge of Women's Economic Rights
- Attitudes towards Women's Economic Rights
- Practice of Women's Economic Rights among Stakeholders
- Knowledge, Attitudes, and Practices of Gender-based Violence

• Regional Variations in Knowledge, Attitudes, and Practices

Within each research topic, we explore descriptive trends, bivariate correlations and multivariate regression models using several demographic variables including, gender, marital status, geographic location (district), and years of education. To further explore knowledge, attitudes, perceptions, and actual practice of women's economic and legal rights in Afghanistan, we constructed composite indicators to measure and understand theoretical models within women's economic rights.

Fieldwork for the KAP survey was conducted by ACSOR from 8-21 March 2016. The sample includes 4,006 Afghans selected at random in seven provinces and 28 districts that were pre-selected by UN Women. Respondents were 15 years and older; 68 per cent were male and 32 per cent were female. The sample was intentionally designed to be biased toward men as a major goal of the analysis is to highlight the often overlooked perceptions and attitudes of male respondents regarding the rights of women. However, the dataset includes one weight which is a post-stratification adjustment for the disproportionate design. All figures comparing results between men and women represent un-weighted results.¹⁵ Analysis for measuring any regional differences in responses uses weighted results.

Table 1: UN Women KAP Survey/IDIs in selected provinces

PROVINCE	QUANTITATIVE SURVEY SAMPLE SIZE	QUALITATIVE SURVEY SAMPLE SIZE
Kabul	576	4
Paktiya	574	4
Nangarhar	572	4
Takhar	576	4
Balkh	567	3
Herat	565	4
Kandahar	576	4
TOTAL	4,006	27⁸

RESULTS I: KNOWLEDGE OF WOMEN'S ECONOMIC RIGHTS

General knowledge levels among Afghan men and women vary regarding women's economic rights and their current legal protection in Afghanistan. These varying levels of knowledge demonstrate a lack of knowledge surrounding protection laws for women, which contributes to persisting gender inequality in the country.

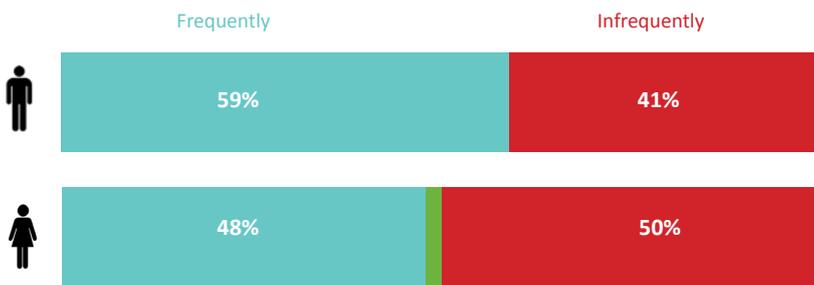
According to Sharia law, haq mehr is a woman's fundamental right under Islamic law. *Mehr* is a required payment paid by the groom or the groom's father to the bride at the time of their marriage. The *Mehr*, which can include money or assets, then becomes the bride's legal property. When asked if respondents agreed or disagreed with the Islamic teaching of *Mehr*, 58 per cent of women and 50 per cent of men agreed. To further understand how often the marital tradition of *Mehr* is practised, respondents were asked how frequently wives actually receive the agreed upon amount of money or assets in their area. The data revealed an obvious gap in opinion between men and women, where more than 58 per cent of men believed that wives

'always' or 'often' received *Mehr*. However, 50 per cent of women believed that wives 'never' or 'rarely' received their fundamental right to *Mehr*. The two perceptions are in stark contrast to one other.

Additionally, when asked if any laws exist in Afghanistan protecting a married woman's right to inheritance, 72 per cent of respondents said there are laws to protect this right while 23 per cent said laws do not exist for this protective right. Furthermore, 21 per cent of men and 28 per cent of women responded that laws do not protect a woman's right to inheritance. This highlights a lack of awareness of fundamental marital rights, particularly among Afghan women themselves. This lack of knowledge among women can be attributed to lack of access to education and information.

Furthermore, in-depth interviews with females demonstrated that women were aware of inheritance laws but did not believe that the laws were enforced in practice.

Figure 6: Perceptions of how often women collect Mehr



Yes, we studied in inheritance jurisprudence that one of eight shares should be given to wife. For a daughter, half the share of the son should be given. This law is implemented now in all courts.

Male respondent, 32, business owner, Herat.

'Frequently' combines the response options for 'always' and 'often', while 'infrequently' combines the response options for 'rarely' and 'never'.

75%

of respondents said their son(s) receives the land and property after the head of the household dies.

52%

of respondents said their wife receives the inheritance; 49% said their daughter(s) does.

42%

of respondents said the chief wage earner's parents receive the inheritance.

26%

of respondents said their brother(s) receives the inheritance.

Yes, there is a law in Afghanistan that already determines women have rights to inheritance. We get a lot of information about this issue via radio stations, but unfortunately it is not common in Afghan communities for women to take or defend their rights.

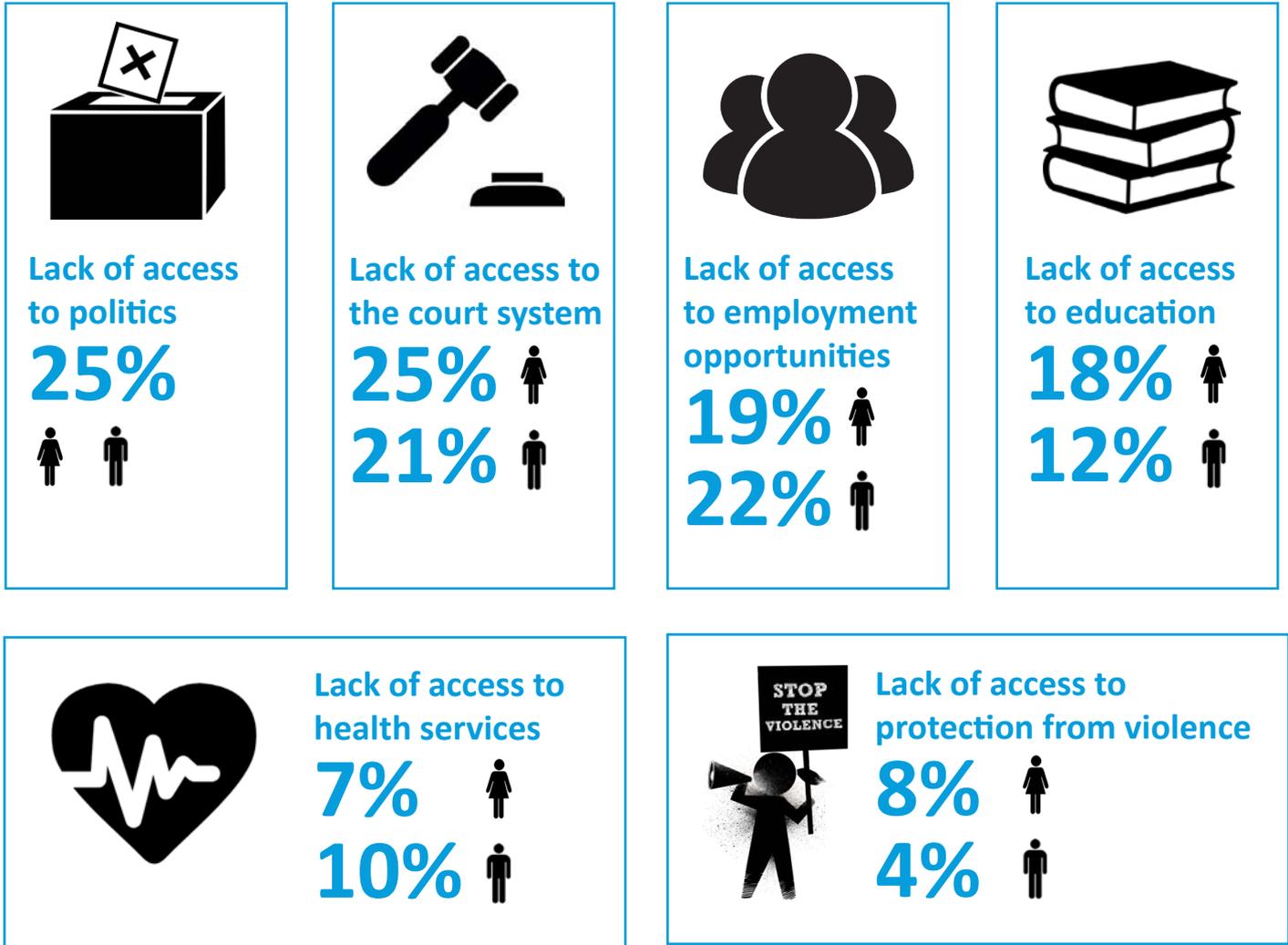
Female respondent, 21, student, Paktiya.

MOST IMPORTANT ISSUES FACING WOMEN

Access to certain opportunities and entities for Afghan women remains a concern among both men and women as demonstrated below. When asked what is the most important issue facing women in Afghanistan today, men reported ‘lack of access to politics’ and ‘employment opportunities’ as the top issues. Lack of access to politics refers to both political representation within the government and the ability to vote during elections. Although Afghanistan has one of the highest composition of females in the Asia region, Afghan women still face several challenges in the political realm, primarily from security threats.¹⁶ Furthermore, social and cultural

norms continue to prevent women from easily accessing the political process.

Women mentioned ‘lack of access to politics’ and ‘lack of access to the court system’ as the top issues facing Afghan women. ‘Lack of access to protection from violence’ was mentioned as the least important issue by both men and women. The low level of concern for women’s protection from violence is somewhat alarming, as the prevalence of gender-based violence and abuse is staggeringly high in Afghanistan. Reports suggest that 87 per cent of Afghan women experience some type of sexual, physical, or psychological abuse.¹⁷



WOMEN’S ACCESS TO ECONOMIC SERVICES

Afghan women continue to face multiple structural barriers when it comes to joining the economic sector. Respondents were therefore asked about their perception of women’s access to certain economic services including access to extension services, credit and microfinance services, and business development services.

Women have access to extension services



Women have access to credit/microcredit services



Women have access to business development services



NOTE: Responses are aggregated so that ‘agree’ represents both ‘strongly agree’ and ‘agree’, and ‘disagree’ represents both ‘strongly disagree’ and ‘disagree’.

Figure 5: Perceptions of women’s access to economic services

RESULTS III: PROTECTION AND PRACTICE OF WOMEN'S ECONOMIC RIGHTS AMONG KEY STAKEHOLDERS

Results from the quantitative survey reveal that a majority of marriages are not formally registered with the government, creating a vacuum for the protection of social, economic, and legal rights of married women. A total of 87 per cent of men and 85 per cent of women responded that the marriage certificate, or *Nikah*, is not officially registered with the government. With no formal documentation of marriage, it is difficult to enforce the wife's legal right to *Mehr* and early marriages still occur even though they are illegal according to civil law.

According to the Afghan Civil Code, the legal age for marriage is 16 for females and 18 for males. A recent report from Women's Rights at the Human Rights Commission estimated that 80 per cent of Afghans have marriage certificates that are not formally registered in court. Commonly reported reasons for not officially registering a marriage certificate relate to cultural norms that make it shameful or embarrassing to reveal a wife's name or take her to court in person.¹⁹ Structural barriers include lack of awareness, access to courts, and financial expenses. Efforts to mainstream the official registration of the *Nikah* will need to address the importance of legal registration

and popularise the process of marriage registration among Afghans.

Further insights about women's marital rights were revealed through the in-depth interviews (IDIs) with key stakeholders. Although a significant proportion of IDI respondents mentioned that women are now able to decline marriage proposals (different from the past), some respondents still mentioned that women cannot decline marriage proposals even though this right is protected in Sharia law. Our research revealed that it is a common belief in Afghanistan that declining marriage proposals will bring shame to the girl and her family.

When asked about women's economic rights, specifically their access to employment, IDI respondents expressed positive attitudes towards allowing women to work if their qualifications allowed. However, almost all IDI respondents stated a lack of security and conservative family views as the primary factors contributing to continued female underemployment. Moreover, respondents mentioned that the progressive or conservative nature of the woman's in-laws is the primary predictor of whether or not she will be able to work outside of the home after marriage.

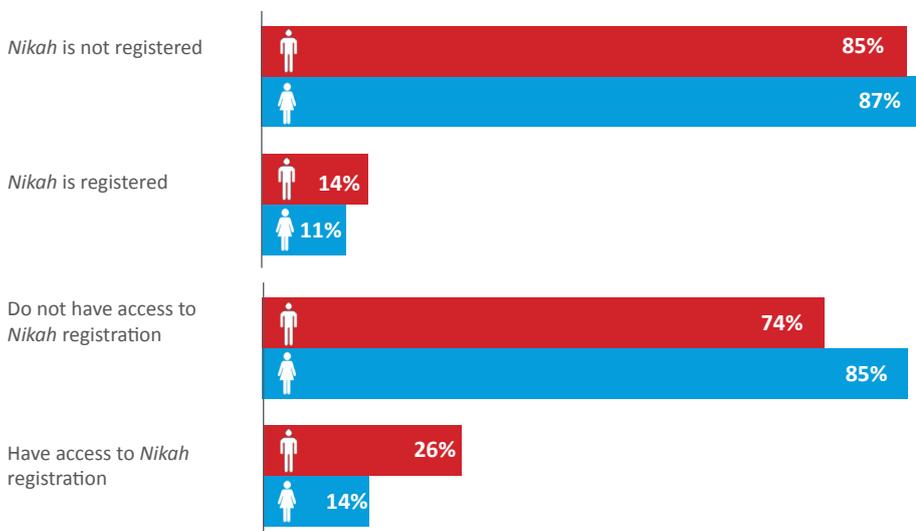


Figure 5: *Nikah* registration

According to Sharia law, [a woman] has the right to reject a marriage proposal because she is at the age that she knows what is good or bad, but in the past, girls were not allowed to reject a marriage proposal by her family. Today there is no problem if a girl rejects this issue.

Male respondent, 35, religious leader, Herat.

In cities, women can easily have jobs but in rural areas, it is very difficult for them to work even as a teacher. There are also security and family issues that prevent women from having a job outside of their homes.

Male respondent, 30, teacher, Nangarhar.



RESULTS II: ATTITUDES TOWARDS WOMEN'S ECONOMIC RIGHTS

Afghan men and women have similar attitudes regarding women's economic rights in Afghanistan, particularly related to inheritance laws for a married woman after her husband dies. A total of 53 per cent of women and 48 per cent of men strongly support a wife's right to inheritance after her husband dies. However, a significant proportion of respondents (41% men, 37% women) said they 'somewhat support' a wife's right to inheritance after her spouse dies.

Afghan men and women are agreeable to women working outside of the home for pay. When asked what types of jobs are most suitable for women or the participant's female relatives, the following occupations were mentioned:

- Teachers
- School principals
- Assistants in government offices
- Female doctors
- Nurses

Although a level of support for women working outside the home was

apparent, in-depth interviews revealed that the outlook on economic opportunities for women remains negative.

A majority of in-depth interview respondents mentioned that women have more economic opportunities in other Muslim-majority countries and that factors such as insecurity, political instability, and conservative traditions prevent Afghan women from accessing jobs and employment.

For married women in particular, respondents mentioned that her ability to continue or complete her education would depend solely on the permission of her husband or in-laws. Participants in in-depth interviews and key stakeholder in-depth interviews mentioned that once a woman is married, it is unlikely she will be allowed to complete her education and find employment. Given the bleak state of employment in Afghanistan at the national level, Afghan men and women alike mentioned a lack of opportunities for employment in general. High rates of unemployment among Afghan women (estimated at 14.4% in 2014 compared to 8.2% unemployment among men) contributes to their lack of decision-making power within their households and communities.¹⁸



Tailoring, working in kindergarten, schools and hospitals are appropriate jobs for Afghan women besides being a homemaker.

Male respondent, 39, teacher, Kandahar.

Employment opportunities for women are better in other countries like Iran and Pakistan than Afghanistan.

Male respondent, 32, business owner, Herat.

In my opinion, women in Afghanistan do not play a significant role in making financial decisions for their family because most of them are uneducated. Often, men make financial decision for their households. However, now a small number of females are able to make financial decisions as well.

Female respondent, 45, CDC member, Balkh.



RESULTS V: REGIONAL VARIATIONS IN KNOWLEDGE, ATTITUDES, AND PRACTICES

To further explore knowledge, attitudes and practices around women’s economic and legal rights in Afghanistan, we developed composite measures to understand theoretical models within the context of women’s economic rights. Composite indicators were constructed using principal component analysis (PCA) and internal reliability testing to identify which question items from the quantitative survey represented valid measures of a given concept.

Composite indicators were constructed for five topics:

- Attitudes towards female political participation
- Attitudes towards female mobility and freedom of movement
- Perceptions of female education
- Perceptions of decision-making power
- Attitudes towards female labour force participation

Further details on composite indicator methodology can be found in the Appendices.

After each composite indicator was constructed PCA and internal reliability testing to confirm instrument validity, we compared mean scores for each indicator across regions to demonstrate geographical differences in attitudes and perceptions. For each regression model, Kabul was used as the reference group and correlation coefficients demonstrate the relationship between the mean score of each indicator in province X with the mean score of Kabul.

Results demonstrate statistically significant variations in attitudes and perceptions across provinces. For all five composite indicators, results show that attitudes and perceptions are significantly more conservative in southern province of Kandahar. These differences provide valuable baseline information for programmes or interventions aimed at addressing specific topics within the scope of women’s economic empowerment.

Composite Indicator 1 – Attitudes towards female political participation

The scale measured support on a scale of 3-12 where higher scores demonstrate higher levels of support for women in politics. The mean score in Takhar was significantly higher compared to other provinces, demonstrating more supportive attitudes towards increasing the political participation of Afghan women. On the contrary, respondents in Kandahar scored an average of 6.5 on the scale which represents much more conservative attitudes in the southern part of the country. Mean scores in Paktiya, Nangarhar, Balkh, and Herat were not significantly different from the mean score of respondents in Kabul.

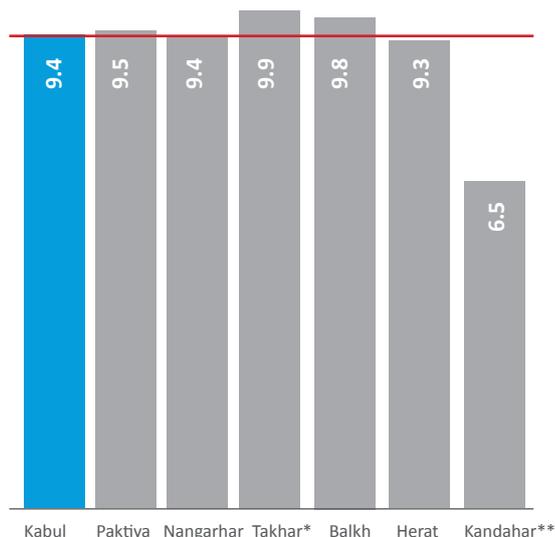
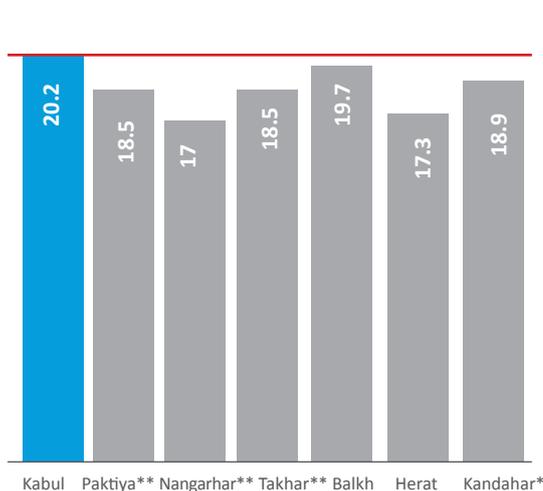


Figure 7: Level of support for women’s political participation



*p<0.05 **p<0.001

Composite Indicator 2 – Attitudes towards female mobility and freedom of movement

For the second composite indicator on attitudes towards female mobility and freedom of movement, we measured the extent to which respondents believed women need permission for travelling to local markets, health clinics, or to visit relatives. For this indicator, higher scores represent higher levels of agreement that women need permission.

Respondents in Kabul demonstrated the most conservative and restrictive views on the ability of women to travel freely without permission, which may be a result of ongoing political instability and security challenges in the province. Responses in Nangarhar, Paktiya, Takhar, Herat, and Kandahar were significantly different and more agreeable to allowing women to travel without permission. Respondents in Nangarhar had the lowest mean score for this indicator on attitudes towards female mobility and freedom of movement.

Figure 8: Level of agreement that women need permission to move about the city or country

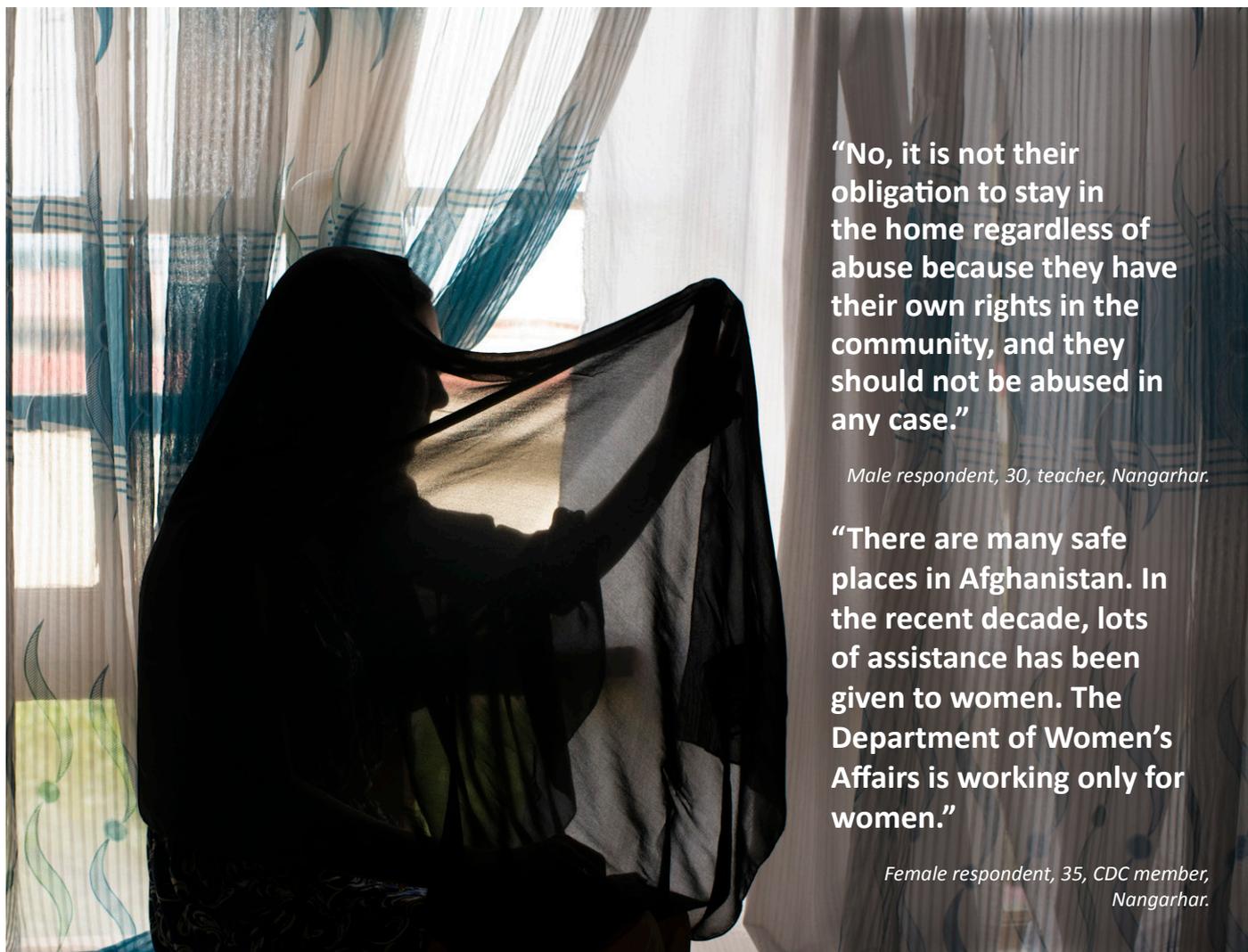
RESULTS IV: PERCEPTIONS OF GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE AND WOMEN'S ACCESS TO SHELTERS

Perceptions of gender-based violence were similar among male and female interviewees, although women tended to express stronger opinions against physical abuse. There was consensus against using physical violence in a marriage, however, there were varying opinions of how a woman should handle the abuse and whether or not she is obligated to stay in her home. In particular, a majority of religious leaders agreed that married women are obligated to stay in their homes regardless of whether they are physically abused by their husbands.

These opinions further correlated with where respondents lived. Urban respondents more often mentioned that a wife is not obligated to stay in a home if she is being repeatedly physically abused, while rural respondents mentioned that abused women should try to find a resolution by seeking guidance from their in-laws or parents. Similarly, respondents with higher levels of education, expressed more progressive views on a woman's right to leave an abusive marriage.

Gaps in knowledge of women's shelters was also present among IDI respondents. While many respondents mentioned they had heard about Women's Protection Centres (WPCs) through television and radio, most could not report where they were.

IDIs with religious leaders in communities revealed a substantial level of knowledge about protection laws for abused women. Although religious leaders mentioned that a married woman is not obligated to stay in an abusive household, they primarily suggested trying to resolve the problem within the family. Other common options for women in abusive marriages that were mentioned by respondents included seeking help from her parents, village elder councils, or government entities such as the Department of Women's Affairs. However, access to the courts and legal system remains challenging for Afghan women, particularly since there remains a disconnect between the knowledge and practice when it comes to protection laws under national legislation and Sharia law. This gap was apparent in the varying type's responses from religious leaders in every province.



“No, it is not their obligation to stay in the home regardless of abuse because they have their own rights in the community, and they should not be abused in any case.”

Male respondent, 30, teacher, Nangarhar.

“There are many safe places in Afghanistan. In the recent decade, lots of assistance has been given to women. The Department of Women's Affairs is working only for women.”

Female respondent, 35, CDC member, Nangarhar.

CONCLUSIONS & RECOMMENDATIONS

The primary objective of this study is to generate information for a baseline assessment with regards to knowledge, attitudes, and practices (KAP) of Afghans relating to women's economic rights in various regions of the country. The results suggest that Afghan women continue to face a complex web of inequalities due to structural and cultural barriers.

Although legislation exists for the protection of women's legal, marital and economic rights, it is evident that the most basic laws are not fully enforced or practised. The combination of a lack of security, lack of awareness of rights, poverty, and harmful cultural norms create immense challenges for Afghan women in their daily lives. This study highlights the necessity for a novel and more comprehensive approach to protecting women's legal and economic rights.

Based on evident gaps in knowledge among both Afghan men and women regarding women's economic rights, there is a visible need for greater education about the rights that are protected both under national legislation and under Sharia law. Specifically, education on marital laws, inheritance rights, women's economic rights in marriage, gender-based violence, and gender discrimination is needed. The lack of awareness on these key issues contributes to persisting inequalities for women in the economic, social, and political contexts.

Religious leaders need to be involved in discussions around gender-based violence, specifically because evidence shows that violence is prohibited under Islam. Ultimately, Afghan men are the key decision-makers and stakeholders in women's economic empowerment; their ability to understand and accept the importance of women's economic rights is essential to the success of any programme.

We propose the following recommendations for UN Women Afghanistan based on the results of this study, with a particular focus on areas in Kandahar and Kabul. Our baseline data suggests the most restrictive views on women's economic rights are concentrated in Kandahar. Furthermore, given that women's economic rights are to some extent more visible in Kabul, we suggest efforts to expand the visibility of these practices from Kabul to the rest of the country by replicating best practices and through various media outlets. Given the complex nature of women's economic rights in Afghanistan, particularly resulting from a lack of knowledge and conservative attitudes, the following recommendations will require comprehensive and long-term interventions which monitor outcomes over time.

KNOWLEDGE

- Demographic data shows a gap in education level between men and women. Investments in supporting women's basic and higher-level education is needed to increase their income-generating capabilities.
- Given the low levels of business skills and knowledge, there is a need to create business and entrepreneurship networks for women through physical and online forums and organisations to promote business-related knowledge.

- Stakeholders demonstrate varying levels of support for women's inclusion in the economic sector. We recommend working with community leaders, religious leaders, local officials, and other key stakeholders in women's economic empowerment to advocate for women and to promote inclusion within the economic sector.

- Using this baseline data, there is a need to continue to measure and report on progress related to changing knowledge, attitudes, and practices of women's economic rights, in a public manner. This will help mainstream gender equality and women's economic empowerment. These changes in knowledge, attitudes, and perceptions can be tracked regionally by monitoring outcomes using the composite indicators designed in this study.

ATTITUDES

- Business owners demonstrated mixed attitudes in their willingness to support women's inclusion. This demonstrates the need for a policy or programme that teaches business owners and managers the importance of adopting Women's Empowerment Principles (WEPs) and gender equality policies. This programme should target businesses' leadership and management staff so that adaptation and implementation of such policies is more likely to occur.

- Female stakeholders emphasised the need for more inclusive and public support of women's economic empowerment. Increasing support publicly through various media outlets for economic empowerment, extending beyond Kabul, will help mainstream women's involvement in the economic sector.

- Support can also be increased publicly by broadcasting stories of Afghan women in the workforce through different media outlets including television and radio.

PRACTICES

- The data revealed a lack of visible and public support for women's economic empowerment amongst key stakeholders. Working with community leaders, religious leaders, local officials, and other key stakeholders in women's economic empowerment will promote women's inclusion within the economic sector.

Although conservative and patriarchal attitudes in Afghanistan will be difficult to change through short-term strategies, it is important to continue to share with communities the value of women's rights through evidence that demonstrates the mutual benefits of gender equality.

Economies grow as more women work, and there are many positive contributions women can make to local economies and in the effort to eradicate poverty. Furthermore, the results from this study present baseline information that can be used as a 'needs assessment' in terms of selecting regions in Afghanistan for specific programmatic or policy development. We encourage Government, civil society and development partners to continue monitoring these indicators over time in order to measure true programme impact.



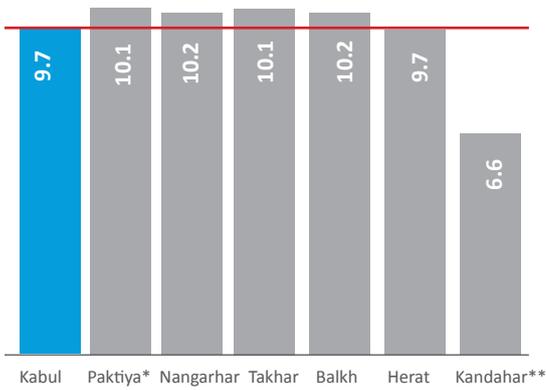


Figure 9: Level of support for girls' education

Composite Indicator 3 – Perceptions of female education

Composite indicator 3 measures perceptions of female education on a scale of 3-12 where higher scores represent higher levels of agreement with the importance of female education. Mean scores were statistically different and higher in Nangarhar, Takhar, and Balkh compared to the mean score in Kabul (9.7), demonstrating that respondents from these three provinces place the highest value on girls' education. On the contrary, the mean score for indicator 3 in Kandahar was 6.6, which was significantly lower at the $p < 0.001$ level compared to Kabul.

Composite Indicator 4 – Perceptions of female decision-making power

Composite indicator 4 measures the respondents' perception of female decision-making power on a scale of 5-20, where higher scores represent higher levels of support for women making various types of decisions. Respondents in Balkh had a mean score of 16.4, which was the highest mean score across all seven zones. Respondents in Kandahar had the most conservative perceptions of female decision-making power (12.4).

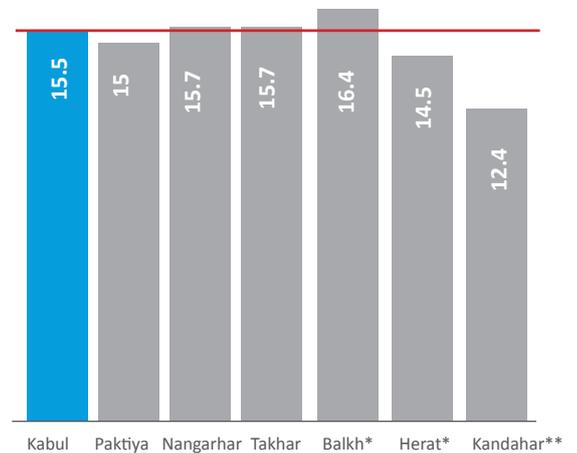


Figure 7: Level of support for women's decision-making power

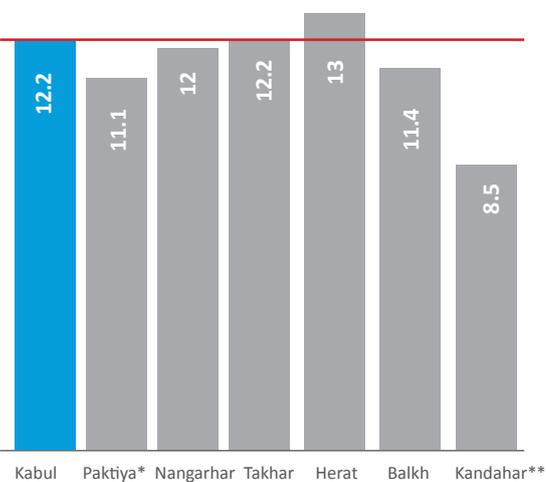


Figure 11: Level of support for women's economic empowerment

Composite 5 – Attitudes towards female labour force participation

The last indicator measures attitudes towards female labour force participation, which is a key predictor of support for women's economic empowerment. The indicator measures attitudes on a scale of 4-16, where higher scores demonstrate more agreement with women having access to jobs and earning money.

The highest mean score for this indicator was in Balkh (13) which was significantly higher than the mean score in Kabul (12.2). Similar to trends for the other indicators, respondents in Kandahar demonstrated the least amount of agreement with women being able to participate in the employment sector.

* $p < 0.05$ ** $p < 0.001$

APPENDIX I: STAKEHOLDER IN-DEPTH INTERVIEW DISCUSSION GUIDE

Target characteristic

Please select:

1. Employed
2. Unemployed
3. Female Member of a Community Development Council (CDC)
4. Student
5. Religious Leader
6. Farmer
7. Business Owner

Date:

Start Time of the IDI:

End Time of the IDI:

Sampling point:

Location of IDI (Province/District/Village):

Language of IDI:

Moderator:

Transcriber:

Translator:

PARTICIPANT PROFILE

ID	Gender	Ethnicity	Education (in years)	Occupation	Marital status	Urban/Rural	Province

Introduction + Consent (5 min)

[Moderator READ] My name is _____. I'm a researcher working for a private Afghan research company, the Afghan Center for Socio-economic and Opinion Research (ACSOR). I am here to ask you some questions on behalf of an international organisation who will work with the Afghan Government to improve economic opportunities for both men and women.

We will use the information collected in this study to help improve government programmes to make sure that they are relevant for people like you.

There may be some points that you disagree on – which is fine. There are no right or wrong answers, and everyone's opinion is important and valid. So please feel free to respectfully express your own personal views.

The discussion today will take about 45 minutes.

Everything you say during our discussion today will be confidential and anonymous. We will never quote you by your name or in any way that may disclose your identity. You are also free not to answer any question you do not want to, or to withdraw from the discussion at any point.

I would like to record this interview to help with reporting, and so I don't have to take notes throughout the discussion. The recording will be kept by ACSOR and will not be distributed or broadcast. Are you okay with me recording this discussion?

S-1. Do you give your consent for me to proceed?

1. Yes _____

2. No _____

Do you have questions before we begin? [Moderator: pause to allow for questions]

[Moderator Read] Now I'd like to talk more about the top issues facing women today in Afghanistan. It's an open discussion with no right or wrong answers, so please feel free to express your opinions.

Section I: Introduction

1. In your view, what are the most important challenges facing women today in Afghanistan?

a. Are these different from challenges that Afghan women faced in the past?

2. In your view, do these challenges facing Afghan women today differ depending on education level, ethnicity, wealth, or marital status?

Section II: Marriage/Legal Rights

3. Do you believe that there should be a minimum age requirement for a woman to be married?

a. (If yes) what do you think the minimum age requirement should be and why?

b. (If no) Why do you believe there should be no minimum age requirement for a woman to be married?

4. In your view, what are the most significant changes, both positive and negative, for a woman once she is married?



FOOTNOTES

¹ Gender-based Violence, UNFPA Afghanistan, 2015

² "Afghanistan." UN Women Asia-Pacific Regional Office. Retrieved June 2016.

³ Strand, A. "Expanding and improving the quality of girls' education Afghanistan." The Brookings Institution; August 2015.

⁴ Afghanistan in 2015: A Survey of the Afghan People, The Asia Foundation.

⁵ Ibid, The Asia Foundation 2015

⁶ "Inclusive Cities. Toward gender equality, youth empowerment, and non-discrimination." UN Women Country Office and UNHCR, 2015.

⁷ Human Development Report 2015 - Afghanistan Country Fact Sheet. UNDP.

⁸ Six additional IDIs were completed during the week of May 9th, 2016 with Religious Leaders upon request of UN Women.

⁹ Afghanistan Data. The World Bank, 2016. <http://data.worldbank.org/country/afghanistan>

¹⁰ Afghanistan in 2015: A Survey of the Afghan People, The Asia Foundation.

¹¹ UN Women Afghanistan Development Results Framework 2014-2017. UN Women, 2015.

¹² Ismail, Rahimi, Abdul Haseeb Arabzai, and Khan Alamyar. Afghanistan Provincial Briefs. The Ministry of Economy, Islamic Republic of Afghanistan and the World Bank, November 2014.

¹³ Data is compiled from official government sources or computed by World Bank staff using national (i.e. country-specific) poverty lines. The World Bank and the Global Poverty Working Group, 2015.

¹⁴ Morrison, Andrew, Dhushyanth Raju, and Nistha Sinha. "Gender Equality, Poverty and Economic Growth." Policy Research Working Paper 4349. The World Bank Gender and Development Group, 2007.

¹⁵ For the complete methodology, please refer to the UN Women KAP Survey Methods Report.

¹⁶ Women in Afghanistan's Government. Canadian Women for Women in Afghanistan, 2015.

¹⁷ Prosecuting gender-based violence in Afghanistan. United Nations Population Fund. February 2016.

¹⁸ Unemployment (% of Labor Force). The World Bank and the International Labour Organization, 2015.

¹⁹ World Report 2015: Afghanistan. Human Rights Watch

²¹ Handbook on Constructing Composite Indicators: Methodology and User Guide. Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) and the JRC European Commission, 2008.

²³ Reliability analysis yielded the following Cronbach-alphas: Composite 1 (0.84), Composite 2 (0.79), Composite 3 (0.81), Composite 4 (0.72), and Composite 5 (0.83).

(If participant says 'no'):

b. Why do you think it is not okay?

20. If a woman is physically abused in her home by her husband or other relative, whether it is one time or frequently, what do you think she should do?

21. Do you think women have an obligation to stay in the home regardless of abuse? Why or why not?

22. Are there safe places to seek assistance in Afghanistan for women who are abused in their homes?

(If participant says yes):

a. Can you please tell me about these safe places and if you know anyone who has visited/stayed at one for services?

b. Do you think that women who are abused in their home know about these safe places and would use them if necessary?

(If participant says no):

c. Why do you think that these safe places do not exist in Afghanistan?

Section VI: Wrap Up (5 mins)

[Moderator READ] That's all the questions I have for you today.

23. Is there anything you would like to add that you have not had the chance to say during the discussion?

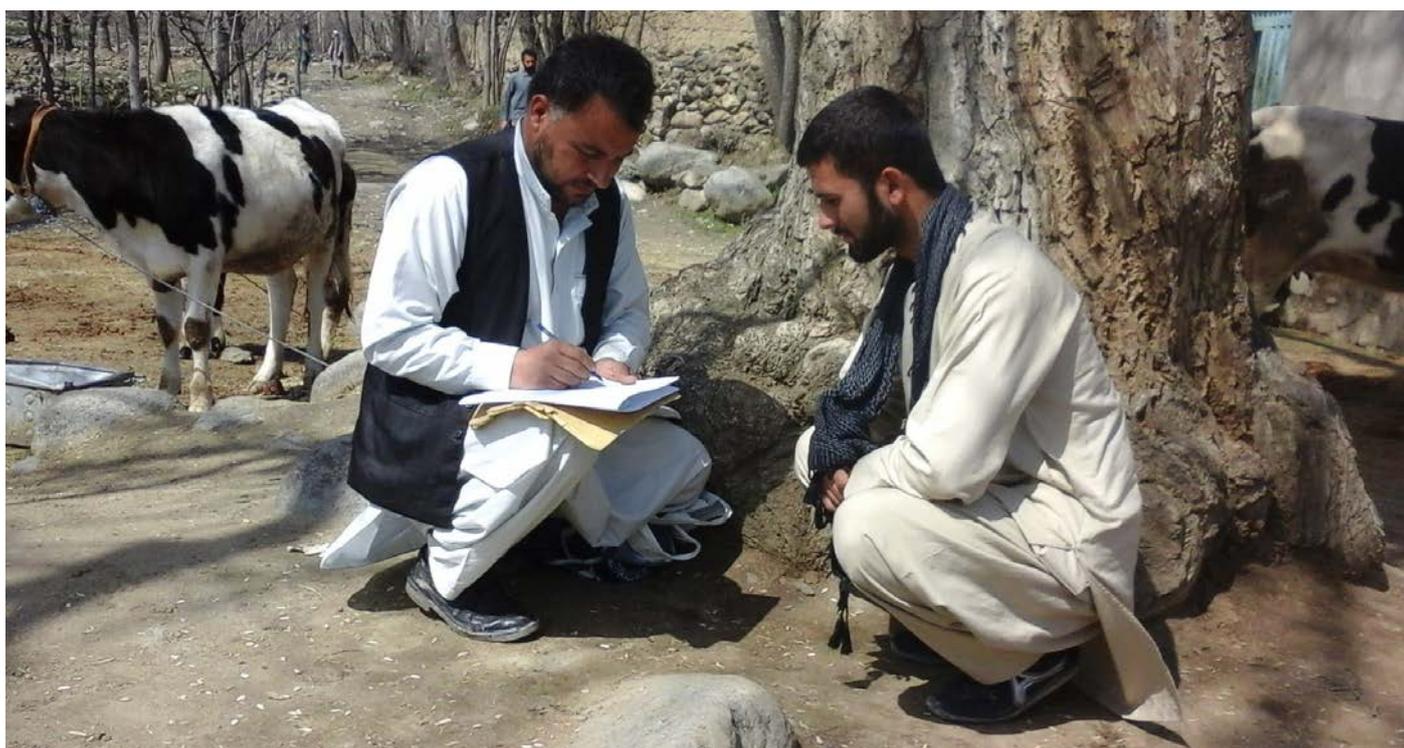
24. Do you have any questions you want to ask me before we finish?

Thank you very much for your time.

MODERATOR SUMMARY

Moderator, please provide us with a detailed description of the interview, as best you can. Any more information that you can provide for us regarding the following points would be very useful:

1. Main ideas – what themes did the respondent continue to return to?
2. What takeaways do you have from the interview?
3. Were there any questions that caused respondents to become particularly involved?
4. Were there any questions that seemed boring to respondents?
5. Did any questions make the respondents seem uneasy?
6. What was the general mood of the interview?
7. Could the interview have gone better? Could it have gone worse? How so?
8. Did they ask questions about the project?
9. Please provide us with any additional thoughts that you might have?



- a. Will there be changes with her financial security, access to education, ability to freely go to the market, and visit her friends and family?
5. How do people typically decide to get married in Afghanistan today? Is the decision process different compared to the past?
- a. How did your mother and father decide to get married?
 - b. What do you think is the best way to get married?
6. Is it possible for a woman to decline a marriage proposal, and if so what are the circumstances?
7. What normally happens with the land, home, and property of a family if the head of household dies leaving only women and children?
- a. Does the inheritance go to the wife, parents, children, or other family members?
 - b. Are there laws in Afghanistan that determine whether or not women have rights to an inheritance? If so, please explain?

Section III: Education

8. Do women with higher levels of education have greater opportunities to improve their lives in Afghanistan? For example, a better chance of finding employment, increased access to positions of authority in their community, etc. Please explain your answer.
9. In your opinion, what are the biggest challenges for females in obtaining an education?
- a. Is it unsafe for females to travel to school unaccompanied? Are females needed in the home to take care of cooking/cleaning/family members instead?
10. In your opinion, does an educated 20-year-old woman have the same economic opportunities in Afghanistan as a man of similar education and age?
- a. Why do you think this is the case?
 - b. Are there other factors that positively or negatively affect economic opportunities such as ethnicity, marital status, location?
11. Do you think that the Afghan Government could improve education for both women and men in every province? Why or why not?

Section IV: Working Outside of the Home

12. In most communities in Afghanistan, are women able to work outside of the home if they choose to do so? Why or why not?
13. In your opinion, what are the most appropriate jobs for Afghan women besides being a homemaker?
- a. If you could choose an ideal job for a female relative, what would it be?
14. Would you say that employment opportunities for women in Afghanistan are better or worse when compared to employment opportunities for women in other Muslim countries? Why do you think this?
15. Do you think women in Afghanistan play a significant role in making financial decisions for their family (i.e., deciding how money is spent), and if so, what kind of role?

Section V: Political Participation/Civic Engagement

16. In your opinion, do women in your area have the freedom to vote in elections? Why or why not?

(If participant says 'yes'):

- a. Is a woman able to openly discuss her opinion about a particular political candidate with her family and friends?
- b. Is a woman able to decide who to vote for independently or does she have to vote for whomever her family tells her to?
- c. Is a woman able to manage a polling centre or campaign for a candidate in your area?

17. Today, there is female representation within the Afghan Parliament and National Government. Do you think that enough women hold positions of power? Why or why not?

- a. Do you think there should be fewer or more women in positions of power in Afghanistan in general?

18. Thinking about your own community, do women gather to discuss problems and important issues amongst themselves?

(If participant says 'yes'):

- a. Where do they usually gather?
- b. What are the main problems/issues that are discussed?

(If participant says 'no'):

- c. How do women deal with problems or important issues?

Section V: Gender-Based Violence and Shelters

19. Now I would like to ask you about violence against women in Afghanistan. Do you think it is ever okay for a husband or other relative to hit a woman?

(If participant says 'yes'):

- a. In what situations is it okay? For example, if a woman neglects her children, commits adultery, burns food, or leaves the home unescorted?

APPENDIX III: PRINCIPAL COMPONENT ANALYSIS

COMPOSITE INDICATOR 1 – ATTITUDES TOWARDS FEMALE POLITICAL PARTICIPATION

Total variance explained

Component	Initial eigenvalues			Extraction sums of squared loadings		
	Total	% of variance	Cumulative %	Total	% of variance	Cumulative %
1	2.252	75.071	75.071	2.252	75.071	75.071
2	0.387	12.887	87.958			
3	0.361	12.042	100			

Extraction Method: Principal Component Analysis.

Component Matrix

Component	1
Q18a	0.872
Q18b	0.864
Q18c	0.864

Extraction Method: Principal Component Analysis.

COMPOSITE INDICATOR 2 – ATTITUDES TOWARDS FEMALE MOBILITY AND FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT

Total variance explained

Component	Initial eigenvalues			Extraction sums of squared loadings		
	Total	% of variance	Cumulative %	Total	% of variance	Cumulative %
1	2.916	48.6	48.6	2.916	48.6	48.6
2	0.976	16.267	64.867			
3	0.693	11.548	76.415			
4	0.632	10.538	86.952			
5	0.466	7.762	94.714			
6	0.317	5.286	100			

Extraction Method: Principal Component Analysis.

Component Matrix

Component	1
Q7a	0.675
Q7b	0.799
Q7c	0.757
Q7d	0.708
Q7e	0.568
Q7f	0.651

Extraction Method: Principal Component Analysis.

APPENDIX II: IN-DEPTH INTERVIEW RESPONDENT PROFILE

IDI No.	Province	Gender	Education	Language	Employment
1	Balkh	Male	15 years	Dari	Religious leader
2	Balkh	Male	12 years	Dari	Farmer
3	Balkh	Female	16 years	Dari	CDC Member
4	Herat	Male	16 years	Dari	Business owner
5	Herat	Female	12 years	Dari	Unemployed
6	Herat	Male	12 years	Dari	Employed
7	Kabul	Female	8 years	Dari	CDC member
8	Kabul	Male	6 years	Pashto	Farmer
9	Kabul	Female	8 years	Dari	Unemployed
10	Kandahar	Female	11 years	Pashto	Student
11	Kandahar	Male	12 years	Pashto	Business owner
12	Kandahar	Male	18 years	Pashto	Employed
13	Nangarhar	Female	12 years	Pashto	CDC Member
14	Nangarhar	Male	12 years	Pashto	Business owner
15	Nangarhar	Male	16 years	Pashto	Employed
16	Paktiya	Female	13 years	Pashto	Student
17	Paktiya	Male	Illiterate	Pashto	Farmer
18	Paktiya	Male	16 years	Pashto	Employed
19	Takhar	Female	6 years	Dari	CDC Member
20	Takhar	Male	Illiterate	Dari	Farmer
21	Takhar	Female	12 years	Dari	Unemployed
22	Kabul	Male	16 years	Pashto	Islamic Studies Teacher
23	Kandahar	Male	14 years	Pashto	Religious leader
24	Nangarhar	Male	14 years	Pashto	Islamic Studies Teacher
25	Paktiya	Male	14 years	Pashto	Mullah
26	Herat	Male	16 years	Dari	Religious leader
27	Takhar	Male	18 years	Dari	Mullah & University teacher

Total variance explained

Component	Initial eigenvalues			Extraction sums of squared loadings		
	Total	% of variance	Cumulative %	Total	% of variance	Cumulative %
1	2.66	66.488	72.392	2.66	66.488	66.488
2	0.59	14.747	81.235			
3	0.4	9.996	91.231			
4	0.351	8.769	100			

Extraction Method: Principal Component Analysis.

Component Matrix

Component	1
Q5b	0.726
Q5e	0.833
Q6f	0.848
Q5g	0.848

Extraction Method: Principal Component Analysis.

APPENDIX IV: COMPOSITE INDICATOR METHODOLOGY

Composite indicators are useful for several reasons particularly in identifying trends over time by region and establishing programmatic and policy priorities. A composite indicator is formed when individual indicators (or questions in a survey) are compiled into a single index on the basis of an underlying model.²¹ These types of measures are useful in capturing multidimensional concepts which cannot necessarily be quantified by one indicator, such as economic empowerment. Ultimately, these indicators will minimise the set of indicators required without compromising the underlying concept being measured.

We created composite indicators through a series of statistical tests including principal component analysis and reliability testing. The reliability of each measure refers to the consistency or stability of an assessment over time, over forms of a test, or over items within a test. The analysis yields a reliability coefficient, Cronbach’s alpha, which measures internal consistency reliability within an instrument (0-1). Cronbach’s alpha ranges from 0.00 (completely unreliable) to 1.00 (perfectly reliable). Values toward the high end of that range

(above 0.70) suggest that the items in an instrument are measuring a similar construct. Our reliability testing demonstrates high levels of internal consistency reliability within each of the five composite indicators constructed. Furthermore, the indicators reveal significant differences in attitudes and perceptions of women’s economic empowerment across provinces in Afghanistan.

Although the indicators consist of varying number of items extracted from principal component analysis²², each scale ranges from agreement/support to disagreement/opposition (lower to higher numerical values). Each scale consists of the summation of a respondent’s answer to x number of questions on a 4-point response agreement or support scale for measuring attitudes: strongly agree, agree, disagree, or strongly disagree. For example, Composite Indicator 1 (Attitudes towards Female Political Participation) scales from 3-12, where a score of 3 shows the least agreeable attitude towards female political participation and 12 shows the most agreeable attitude.

COMPOSITE INDICATOR 3 – PERCEPTIONS OF FEMALE EDUCATION

Total variance explained

Component	Initial eigenvalues			Extraction sums of squared loadings		
	Total	% of variance	Cumulative %	Total	% of variance	Cumulative %
1	2.172	72.392	72.392	2.172	72.392	72.392
2	0.498	16.614	89.006			
3	0.33	10.994	100			

Extraction Method: Principal Component Analysis.

Component Matrix

Component	1
Q6a	0.832
Q6b	0.889
Q6c	0.831

Extraction Method: Principal Component Analysis.

COMPOSITE INDICATOR 4 – PERCEPTIONS OF FEMALE DECISION-MAKING POWER

Total variance explained

Component	Initial eigenvalues			Extraction sums of squared loadings		
	Total	% of variance	Cumulative %	Total	% of variance	Cumulative %
1	2.39	47.791	47.791	2.39	47.791	47.791
2	0.81	16.21	64.001			
3	0.673	13.451	77.452			
4	0.605	12.096	89.547			
5	0.523	10.453	100			

Extraction Method: Principal Component Analysis.

Component Matrix

Component	1
Q8a	0.574
Q8b	0.738
Q8c	0.710
Q8d	0.749
Q8e	0.672

Extraction Method: Principal Component Analysis.

APPENDIX V: KAP SURVEY COMPOSITE INDICATORS

Composite Indicator ²³ (Scale range)	KAP survey questions
Attitudes towards female political participation (3-12)	<p>Please tell me whether you strongly support, somewhat support, somewhat oppose, or strongly oppose each of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Women’s right to nominate a candidate for elections.• Women’s right to vote for a candidate in elections.• Women’s right to hold a seat in the National Assembly.
Attitudes towards female mobility and freedom of movement (6-24)	<p>Do you strongly agree, agree, disagree, or strongly disagree that a woman needs permission to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Go to a local market to make daily household purchases.• Visit a health centre for herself.• Take her child to a health centre.• Visit her relatives or friends in the neighbourhood.• Work outside the home.• Work inside the home for a wage (i.e., income-generating activity such as carpet making, embroidery, etc.).
Perceptions of female education (3-12)	<p>Do you strongly agree, agree, disagree, or strongly disagree that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Education is equally important for boys and girls.• Daughters should remain in school when they reach puberty and beyond.• Daughters who marry at an early age should remain in school.
Perceptions of female decision-making power (5-20)	<p>Please tell me whether you strongly support, somewhat support, somewhat oppose, or strongly oppose each of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• A woman should have a say in who she marries.• A husband and wife should jointly own the assets (land, home, livestock, TV, savings, bonds, etc.).• Both husbands and wives should decide how the household income is spent.• Married women should be able to work outside the home.• Married women should be allowed to work inside of the home for a wage (i.e., income generating activities such as carpet weaving, embroidery, etc.
Attitudes towards female labour force participation (4-16)	<p>Do you strongly agree, agree, disagree, or strongly disagree with the following statement:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• When a woman works outside of the home to earn money, the family benefits.• When jobs are scarce, men and women should have equal rights to employment either inside or outside the home.• It is acceptable if a wife earns more money than her husband.• Both the husband and wife should contribute to household income.

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