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Filling the Data Gap in Afghanistan After the US Withdrawal

Topline Results

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Methodology Statement

Immediately after the US withdrawal from Afghanistan, RIWI launched a study gathering real-time sentiment from people in Afghanistan. The withdrawal of military, media, and aid from Afghanistan compromises the international community's ability to understand the extent of the crisis and develop targeted, data-driven interventions. Immediately after the Taliban takeover of Kabul, RIWI launched a study gathering real-time sentiment data safely and anonymously from those on-the-ground in Afghanistan, with the goal of starting to fill this data gap. The study provides benchmark data just after the fall of Kabul on citizen perceptions of safety, disruptions to education and work for girls and women, disruptions to basic services like banking and food, the impact on family finances, as well as other implications and insights following the fall of Kabul to the Taliban.

RIWI employed Random Domain Intercept Technology to hear from over 12,000 individuals (15+ years old) in Afghanistan from Aug 27-Nov 1, 2021. This technology ensures that anyone surfing the Web has a chance of being exposed to the survey, regardless of device type (including mobile phones). Unlike typical surveys, this technology does not collect any personally identifiable information (e.g., email addresses), ensuring that respondents can answer safely, anonymously, and honestly. Participation in the survey cannot be traced, tracked, or identified on respondents' devices. No incentives are offered (eliminating the possibility of incentive bias), and participants can exit the survey at any time. A full methodology statement that details Random Domain Intercept Technology is available [here](#).

An average of 182 respondents opted-in to participate per day and respondents were reached from across all 34 Afghanistan provinces. The number of respondents per survey question ranged from 721 to 12,204 due to the following: (1) some questions were seen by a subset of respondents, (2) some respondents ended their participation early (of those who started the survey, 22 percent completed the entire questionnaire), and/or (3) some questions were added to the survey after the start of data collection, and thus had less time in field.

Table 1
Survey Questions and Response Options (N & %)

	N	%
Disruptions and Financial Impact		
Which of the following services have you experienced unusual disruptions to in the past week? (Select all that apply)		
<i>N and % represent those who selected (vs. did not select) the response option</i>		
Civil registry / Civil records	1171	14%
Food and basic household items	1632	19%
Internet or phone coverage	1695	20%
Water	1363	16%
Electricity	1999	24%
Garbage collection	1004	12%
Health care	1415	17%
Education	2602	31%
Banking	2478	30%
Sewage / Wastewater	685	8%
Funerary (services, burials)	666	8%
I have not experienced any unusual disruptions recently	1975	24%
<i>Total</i>	8382	
How has your family's financial situation changed since the Taliban take over (August 2021)?		
Worsened a lot	482	57%
Worsened a little	196	23%
Stayed the same	65	8%
Improved a little	37	4%
Improved a lot	64	8%
<i>Total</i>	844	
Girls and Women in Education / Work		
Do you have any girls or women in your family who are school-aged (including university)? If you are woman, this may include you.		
Yes	3289	61%
No	2098	39%
<i>Total</i>	5387	

Table 1 Continued

	N	%
Girls and Women in Education / Work Continued		
Are they currently going to school?		
<i>Shown to respondents who have school-aged girls or women in their family</i>		
Yes	1819	57%
No	1397	43%
<i>Total</i>	3216	
When did they stop going to school?		
<i>Shown to respondents whose school-aged girls or women in the family are not currently going to school</i>		
Within the last month	996	75%
Within the last year	123	9%
More than a year ago	106	8%
They were never in school	106	8%
<i>Total</i>	1331	
What is the main reason why they are not going to school?		
<i>Shown to respondents whose school-aged girls or women in the family are not currently going to school</i>		
Girls are no longer allowed to attend school in my area	500	41%
We have no money to pay for school	128	10%
Girls are allowed to attend school, but it is not safe for them to go to school right now	350	29%
They could attend school if they wanted to, but they do not have an interest in attending school	35	3%
They are now married and do not attend school	43	4%
Other reason	168	14%
<i>Total</i>	1224	
Are women currently able to work safely in your area?		
Yes	1761	39%
Not now, but it should be safe for them to work within the next month	600	13%
Not now, but it should be safe for them to work within the next year	427	9%
No, and it will remain this way for the foreseeable future	1766	39%
<i>Total</i>	4554	

Table 1 Continued

	N	%
Displacement / Migration Intentions		
Have you left your home as a result of the Taliban's actions?		
I have already left and have not returned home	741	18%
I left but decided to return home	315	7%
I tried to leave but was forced to return home	1114	26%
No	2047	49%
<i>Total</i>	4217	
Where did you flee to?		
<i>Shown to respondents who left their homes</i>		
The capital	796	38%
A large city	231	11%
A small city	173	8%
A neighbor or family's home	315	15%
An alternative shelter within my city / town (e.g. a warehouse)	191	9%
A rural area (e.g. the mountains, fields, or forests)	364	18%
<i>Total</i>	2070	
Do you plan to leave your home as a result of the Taliban's actions?		
<i>Shown to respondents who left and returned home or who have not left their home</i>		
Yes	1741	53%
No	1551	47%
<i>Total</i>	3292	
If you could, would you leave the country as a result of the Taliban's actions?		
<i>Shown to respondents who left their homes or plan to leave their homes</i>		
Yes	2187	95%
No	122	5%
<i>Total</i>	2309	

Table 1 Continued

	N	%
Displacement/ Migration Intentions Continued		
Where would you go first?		
<i>Shown to respondents who would leave the country</i>		
Iran	316	15%
Uzbekistan	121	6%
Pakistan	120	6%
Tajikistan	290	13%
Turkmenistan	41	2%
Somewhere else	533	25%
I don't know	744	34%
<i>Total</i>	2165	
How soon do you think you will leave?		
<i>Shown to respondents who would leave the country</i>		
Within the next week	486	23%
Within the next month	763	36%
Within the next year	498	23%
In over one year	384	18%
<i>Total</i>	2131	
Safety and Threat Perceptions		
Are you currently worried that your life is at risk due to the Taliban?		
Yes	2526	70%
No	1104	30%
<i>Total</i>	3630	
Thinking about your family's safety, which are you most worried about right now?		
Repression from the Taliban	398	38%
Terrorist attacks and recruitment by jihadists	263	25%
Renewed armed conflict between Taliban and Afghan resistance groups	396	37%
<i>Total</i>	1057	

Table 1 Continued

	N	%
Safety and Threat Perceptions Continued		
Which is a greater threat to your country's stability right now?		
The Taliban	1034	37%
The Islamic State	505	18%
They are equal threats to my country's stability	585	21%
Neither are threats to my country's stability	638	23%
<i>Total</i>	2762	
US-related Sentiment		
Which of the following best reflects your situation right now?		
I am less safe since the US left the country	1402	41%
I am more safe since the US left the country	914	27%
The US leaving the country did not impact my safety	1113	32%
<i>Total</i>	3429	
Which of the below do you agree with most?		
I wish the US had left sooner	739	23%
I wish the US had stayed longer, and maintained the same agenda	466	15%
I wish the US had stayed longer, but in a different capacity	1089	34%
I am glad the US left when they did	871	28%
<i>Total</i>	3165	
Did you expect the Taliban to take total control over the country after the US left?		
No, I did not expect the Taliban to take total control over the country	1352	45%
Yes, but I thought their total control would take longer	813	27%
Yes, I expected the Taliban to take total control over the country directly after the US left	826	28%
<i>Total</i>	2991	
General Outlook		
Is your country going in the right or wrong direction?		
Right direction	7695	63%
Wrong direction	4509	37%
<i>Total</i>	12204	

Source: RIWI, Afghanistan tracking, conducted August 27-November 1, 2021. A total of 12,204 respondents, aged 15+, opted-in to participate; 2,724 completed the entire survey. The survey items displayed in this table are not comprehensive and unordered. Percentages may not always add up to 100 percent due to rounding.

Table 2
Respondent Demographics (N and %)

	Among those who opted-in to participate		Among those who completed the entire survey	
	N	%	N	%
Language				
Pashto	3453	28%	770	28%
Dari	8751	72%	1954	72%
<i>Total</i>	12204		2724	
Gender				
Male	9126	75%	2216	81%
Female	3078	25%	508	19%
<i>Total</i>	12204		2724	
Age				
15-24	5936	49%	1411	52%
25-34	3802	31%	920	34%
35-44	1315	11%	249	9%
45-54	464	4%	70	3%
55-64	282	2%	26	1%
65 and over	405	3%	48	2%
<i>Total</i>	12204		2724	
Living Location				
Where are you living?				
The center of a large city	1381	50%	1358	50%
The suburbs of a large city	484	17%	476	17%
A small city	404	15%	396	15%
Outside of any city, in a rural area	505	18%	494	18%
<i>Total</i>	2774		2724	
Marital Status				
What is your marital status?				
Single	1602	58%	1584	58%
Married	1049	38%	1044	38%
Widowed	54	2%	52	2%
Divorced or separated	45	2%	44	2%
<i>Total</i>	2750		2724	

Table 2 continued

	Among those who opted-in to participate		Among those who completed the entire survey	
	<i>N</i>	%	<i>N</i>	%
Family Size				
Including yourself, how many people live in your home?				
1 person (I live alone)	205	8%	205	8%
2 people	184	7%	184	7%
3 people	217	8%	217	8%
4 people	250	9%	250	9%
5 people	396	15%	396	15%
6 or more people	1473	54%	1472	54%
<i>Total</i>	2725		2724	
Previous Living Standards				
Which best describes your family's financial situation before the Taliban take over (August 2021)?				
Able to afford luxuries	105	12%	90	11%
Living comfortably	315	36%	297	36%
It is difficult to get by	165	19%	155	19%
Critical trouble paying for food and shelter	288	33%	273	33%
<i>Total</i>	873		815	

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