

MONITORING OF PUBLIC GOVERNANCE INDEX IN AFGHANISTAN (Work in Progress)

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*Statistics and More e.U.
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About the Index

Public governance refers to the formal and informal arrangements that determine how public decisions are made and how public actions are carried out, from the perspective of maintaining a country's constitutional values when facing changing problems and environments. The principal elements of good governance refer to accountability, transparency, efficiency, effectiveness, responsiveness and rule of law. There are clear links between good public governance and development as well



This report includes four indices: public safety and security, countering narcotics, peace talks support, and governance trust.

This report shares the findings for the first of an on-going series of public opinion polls to track changes in safety and security in Afghanistan. This round of public opinion surveys was conducted between December **2018** and July **2019**.

The interventions made by international organizations to counter terrorism and narcotics will be measured regularly and independently. In this way, Statistics and More plans to provide timely and accurate insights for policy makers and identify trends to impact interventions in a timely manner.

The indices use the following rating scale:

Less than 1.5	Very bad
1.5 to 2.5	Bad
2.6 to 3.0	Moderate
3.1 to 3.5	Good
3.5 to 4.0	Very good



The Public Safety and Security Index (PSSI)



This index measures public opinion about security and public safety in Afghanistan. The index is developed based on 10 survey questions. The results show that perceptions of safety and security are generally low and did not change between December 2018 and July 2019. The findings presented in the table below suggests that;

- The Afghan Government need to make actions to apply rule of law equally for all people in Afghanistan
- The trust between police and public needed to be improved
- People don't feel safe while walking after dark
- Mafia-style organizations cause security problems for people of Afghanistan
- Robbery cases are high and increasing
- People do not trust the justice system. This is a very serious problem and the Afghan Government needs to address the situation quickly

Figure 1. Public Safety and Security Index

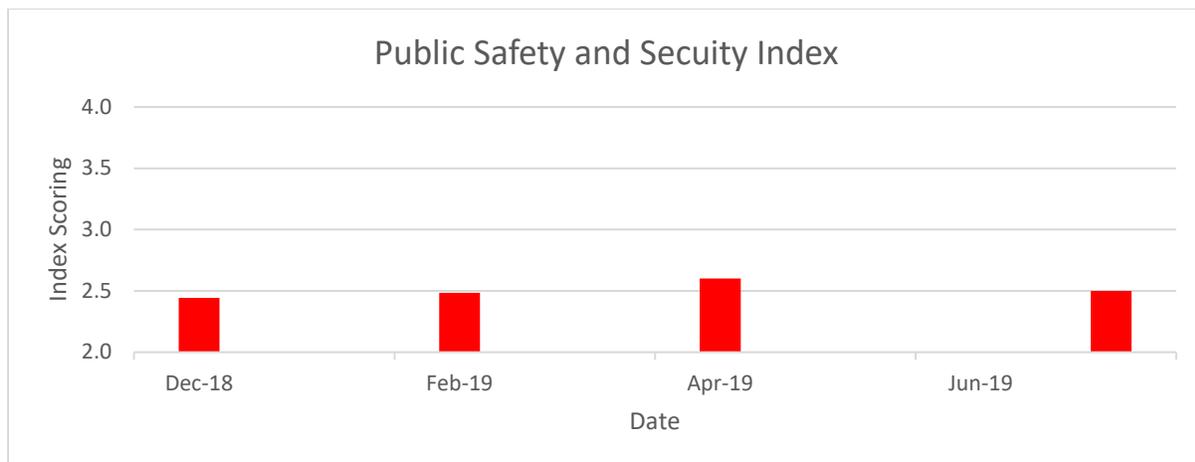


Figure 2. Scores for Each of Public Safety and Security Items

Survey Questions	Dec-18	Feb-19	Apr-19	Jul-19
# of terrorist attacks decreased in the last 3 months	2.4	2.5	2.6	1.9
# of mafia-style organizations has decreased in the last 3 months	2.1	2.4	2.1	2.2
# of robbery cases had decreased in my area in the last 3 months	1.9	1.9	1.4	2.0
# of theft cases has decreased in my area in the last 3 months	1.9	1.8	1.4	2.0
I feel safe walking alone at night in my area	1.9	2.2	1.7	1.9
I feel secure in Afghanistan	1.5	2.1	2.4	1.6
I trust the justice system in Afghanistan	2	2.3	2.4	1.9
I trust the police in Afghanistan	2.3	2.7	2.8	2.6
I trust the army in Afghanistan	3.3	3.3	3.5	3.2
The Afghan Government is applying the rule of law equally	2.3	1.8	1.6	1.7



The Countering Narcotics Index (CNI)



This index measures public opinion about the efforts and actions being done in Afghanistan to counter narcotics. The index is developed based on 15 survey questions. The results suggest that no substantial changes have been made since December 2018. Additionally, based on the individual survey questions, the following trends were identified:

- Afghan people don't think that the Afghan Government is prioritizing efforts to eradicate drug cultivation
- People don't think that the Afghan Government has a good policy for stopping drug cultivation
- People believe there are no effective public awareness programmes about drug use threats
- People believe that the Afghan Government is not taking enough actions to stop drug use
- People believe that drug enforcement officers are involved in corruption and do not do their job well

Figure 3. Countering Narcotics Index

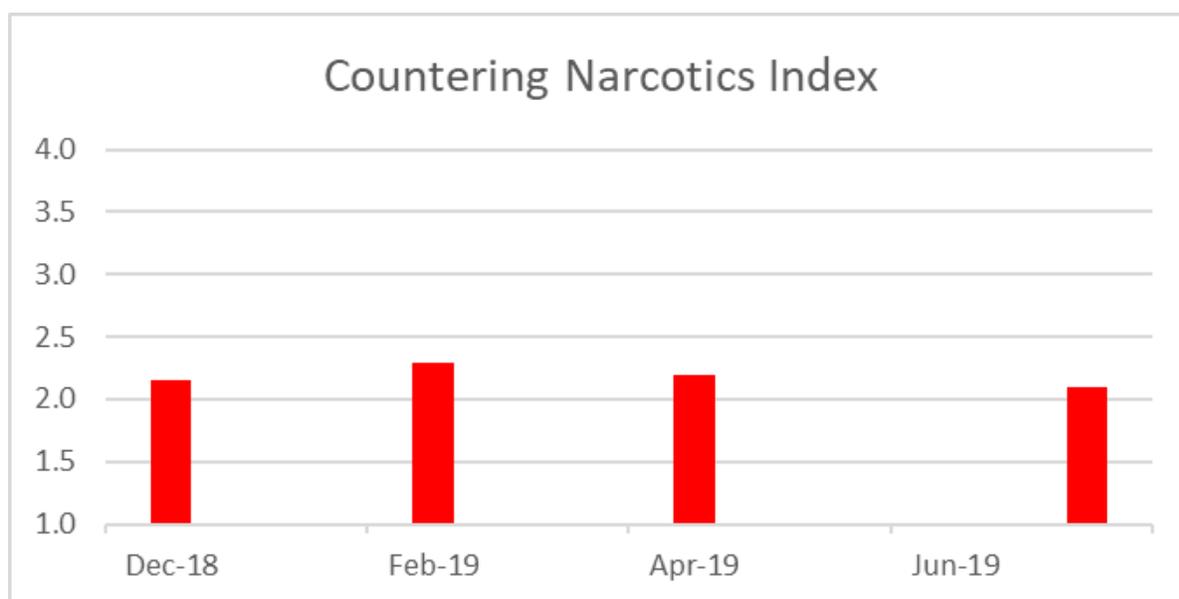




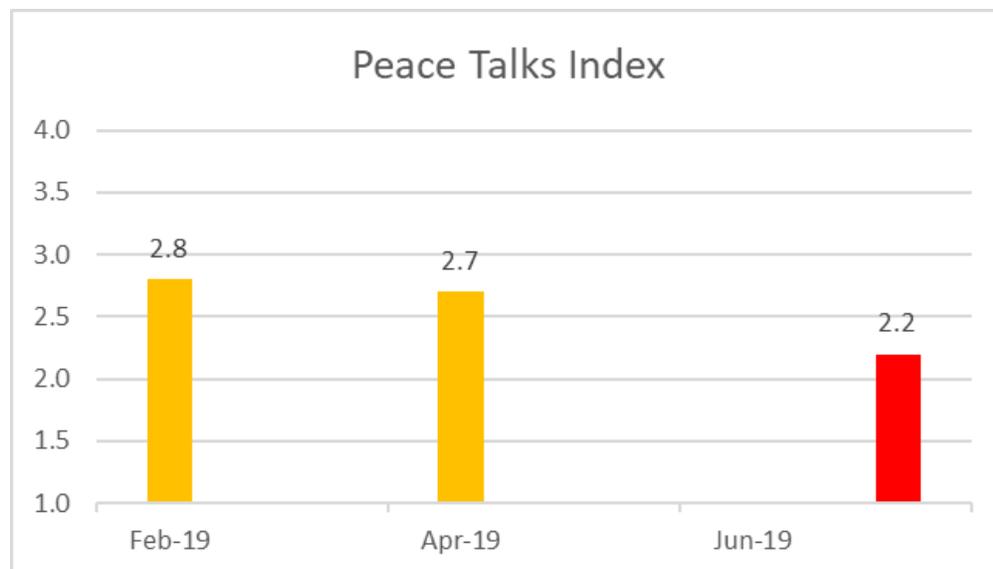
Figure 4. Scores for Each Parameter

Survey Questions	Dec-18	Feb-19	Apr-19	Jul-19
The government is giving high priority to countering drug use	2.6	2.6	2.7	2.6
The government has a good poppy eradication programme	2.3	2.4	2.8	2.3
The government has a good policy for prevention of drug cultivation	2.5	2.6	2.6	2.8
The government has efficient public awareness programmes on drug use threats	2.8	2.7	2.9	2.7
The government has efficient development plans to stop drug cultivation	2.5	2.6	2.6	2.6
The government has developed efficient alternative income sources for farmers	2.7	2.6	3.1	2.4
The government is fully applying the rule of law for countering narcotics	2.6	2.4	3	2.8
The government is applying the rule of law equally	2.3	1.8	1.6	1.7
The government is taking needed actions to stop drug use in Afghanistan	2.4	2.4	2.4	2.1
The government has a good public awareness programme about drug use threats	2.6	2.6	2.6	2.5
The government has organized a good public awareness programme in schools	2.6	2.8	3.1	2.5
The government is carefully appointing officers for countering narcotics	2.6	2.5	2.5	2.5
Drug law enforcement officers are not involved in corruption	1.6	2	2	2.3
Law enforcement officers are doing their work well	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.7
Law enforcement organizations have increased capacity on countering narcotics	2.1	2.9	3.1	2.7

The Peace Talks Index (PTI)



People in Afghanistan are not fully supporting the peace talks with the Taliban. The PTI decreased sharply in July 2019 compared to April and February 2019. However, same as in February 2019, Afghan women do not support talks with Taliban and do not see that peace talks as the only way to bring peace. Around 95% of interviewed women mentioned their objection about peace talks with Taliban. However, around 53% of the interviewed Afghan men mainly support the talks. Respondents reported that they have moderate trust to USA and Russia on peace talks with Taliban.





People interviewed mentioned their concerns about lack of transparency about peace talks with Taliban recently organized in Qatar. Same meeting was also criticized by Afghan Government as Afghan officials was excluded from the meeting with Taliban by the organizers, namely Qatar and USA Government. In fact, such an approach cant be successful and may cause further damages in Afghanistan. Also, it will also cause negative impact on USA foreign policy in Afghanistan. Therefore, It is essential to coordinate the peace talks with Taliban in coordination with Afghan Government. Also, this process should be transparent and should be shared with public. Otherwise, process will fail (see the peace talks case between Turkey and PKK in 2015) and will cause unwanted negative impacts. Such as, there can be a massive migration flow from Afghanistan to EU, Turkey and North American countries. Indeed, most of the people interviewed clearly indicated that they plan to move out from Afghanistan with the first opportunity.

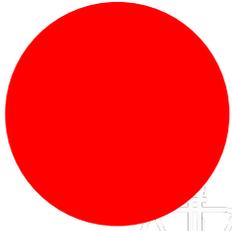
In addition to this, it is essential to coordinate the peace talk process together with Russia. Because, the previous meeting organized between Taliban and Afghan Officials in Moscow was a good start. Furthermore, the recent meeting of Loya Jirga positively contributed to the peace talks process with Taliban. Though, it does not give immediate results but this process should be in any case slow and well shared with the public.

Also, it is important to include the other important players such as Pakistan in the region in the peace talk process.

It is important to note that peace talk process is an important opportunity to bring peace to Afghanistan. But it has multiple parameters and cant be completed without mutual agreement between all parties concerned, especially people of Afghanistan.

Also, USA has an important role to bring peace to Afghanistan. Therefore, US cant leave Afghanistan alone in terms of not only in peace talks with Taliban and development of the country as well.

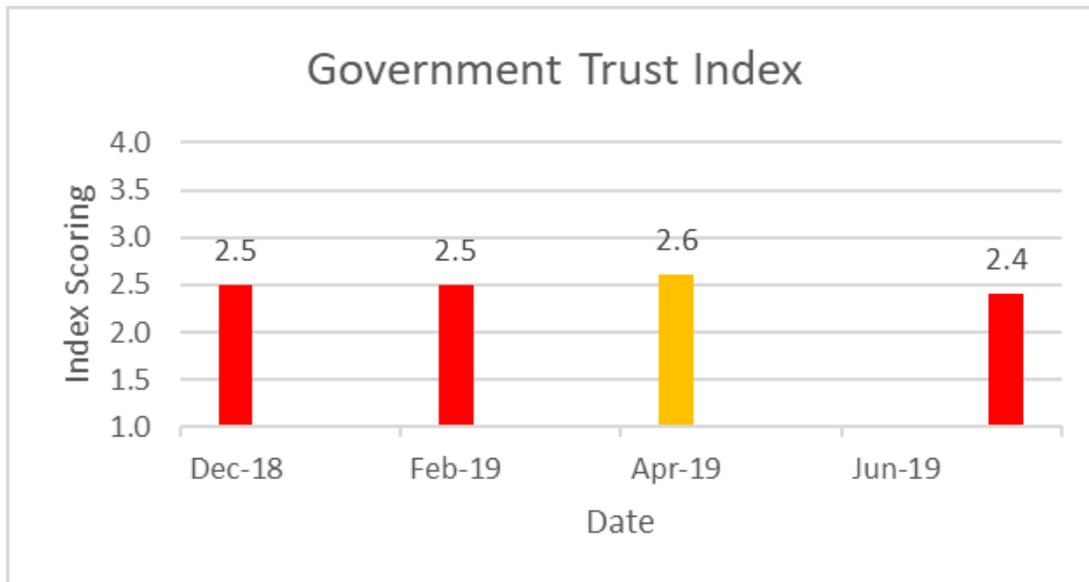
Last but not the least, any deal with Taliban should include important guarantees provided by the Taliban. Such as , Taliban should immediately cuts links with IS terrorism organization and should help Afghan Government to remove the terrorists out from Afghanistan. In addition to this, Taliban stop using the drug industry and help Afghan Government to stop drug cultivation in the country.



The Government Trust Index (GTI)

Respondents expressed low levels of trust in Afghan Government organizations. The lowest level of trust was expressed for Afghan politicians. The GTI slightly increased from 2.5 in December 2018 to 2.6 in April 2019 but then again decreased in July 2019.

More worryingly, trust for Afghan justice system, Afghan Police and Afghan Politicians were very low. However, interviewed Afghan people expressed high level of Trust against Afghan Army.



Moving Out From Afghanistan



In July 2019, around 80% (was 50% in April 2019) of the Afghan respondents report that they want to move out of Afghanistan. Most of respondents who report that they want to move report that they wish to move to the United States of America, Canada or European Union. At lesser extend, they also expressed that they would like to move to Australia and Turkey as well.

