

Afghanistan Research and Evaluation Unit – Election Observation Report

Wolesi Jirga and Provincial Council Elections: Afghanistan, 18 September 2005



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Introduction

The Afghanistan Research and Evaluation Unit (AREU) is an independent, non-profit policy research organisation based in Kabul. Following AREU's participation in the 2004 presidential election as a nine-member observer team in northern Faryab Province, AREU registered as an independent observer entity for the September 2005 Wolesi Jirga and provincial council elections in accordance with the procedures outlined in the JEMB's "Regulations on Electoral Observers and Political Party and Candidate Agents". AREU was represented at the weekly Observer Forum facilitated by the JEMB in Kabul in the lead-up to 18 September.

AREU's 2005 election observation mission consisted of three national and twelve international staff. The group was divided into four teams on election day, which visited six districts of Herat Province: Provincial Centre, Enjil, Guzera, Pashtun Zarghun, Kushk (Robot Sangi and Obeh). During the course of the day the observer teams called on a total of 41 polling centres in these five districts (see Appendix 2 for a list of the polling centres visited). The counting centre was visited on each of the three days following the election.

AREU acknowledges the JEMB and its partners for the hard work that went into organising and conducting the Wolesi Jirga and provincial council elections. In particular, AREU would also like to thank the JEMB staff in the provincial office in Herat who welcomed and cooperated with the observer teams in providing information about logistics and security.

Summary of observations

Across the five districts visited, AREU was impressed by how well organised the polling process was, and by the fact that staff seemed to be well trained and aware of their responsibilities. With few exceptions, the centres visited were well staffed and equipped. No weapons or campaign materials were observed inside any of the centres. Security did not seem to be a major concern in this province, and indeed the day ended without incident in Herat Province.

Some of the problems that were observed to be common to many polling centres included:

1. voter confusion about the ballot-marking process, in particular amongst non-literate and older voters;
2. assistance provided to voters in booths (both in good faith and in response to voter requests, as well as in apparent attempts to influence voting), in particular by some staff (often the polling centre manager) and by candidates' agents;
3. late opening of polls, mostly due to lack of information about the change of opening time from 6:00am to 7:00am;
4. some attempts by voters to vote twice or on behalf of friends or relatives;
5. an apparent shortage of *kuchi* polling stations;
6. claims during the day that the ink used to mark voters' fingers came off easily, confirmed at the end of the day when AREU staff used bleach to remove all trace of ink from their fingers and fingernails; and
7. although disqualified or deceased candidates' names and ballot order numbers were meant to be displayed in polling centres with an explanation that the listed candidates were no longer running in the election, these were rarely seen – in one particular case only being displayed after observers questioned the polling centre manager about this.

Localised problems observed by AREU teams included:

1. voters being brought in large groups by minibus to one polling centre from up to an hour away – notable because of the polling centre's apparent lack of preparedness for the number of voters and because there were other, closer polling centres these voters could have attended;
2. a group of about 200 people from one village who had apparently been incorrectly registered as *kuchis*, and were therefore unable to vote at their non-*kuchi* polling centre; and

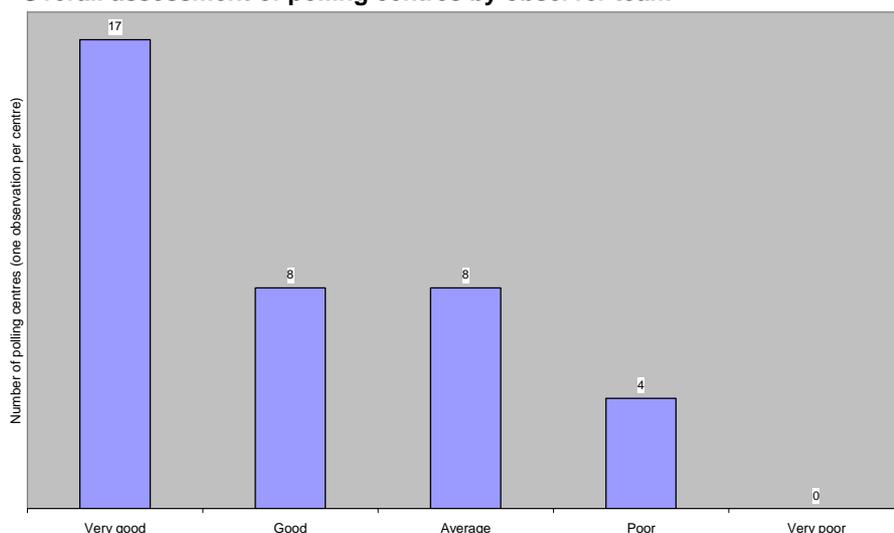
3. candidates’ agents actually sitting with and assisting polling staff with ID-checking and ballot-issuing staff’.

Following the election, interviews carried out in Herat City indicated that people were generally positive about their experiences of the process. The most notable issue cited was that they believed that the election had been conducted in a way that maintained the secrecy of their vote.

Overall assessment

The clear majority of polling centres were assessed by AREU’s observer teams as very good (“no incidents or irregularities were observed”), while none were assessed as very poor (“incidents or irregularities occurred which so affected the integrity of the process as to render the results from one or more polling stations meaningless”).

Overall assessment of polling centres by observer team



Observations

Limitations

This report is based on observations made during the limited periods of time that AREU teams spent in the centres they visited, and cannot account for what happened at other times during the day. Because of this, some activities such as vote buying would have been very difficult to observe. Furthermore, the AREU observation mission was not present in Herat until a couple of days before the election, so it was not able to conduct any systematic observation or analysis of the campaign and pre-election period in Herat.

Turnout

The perception among poll workers, now borne out by JEMB’s estimates of participation (Kabul at 36% and throughout the country a little over 50%), was that there was a lower turnout this year compared with the 2004 presidential election. This may have been due to: increased cynicism; lack of interest; lack of information about, or allegiance with, candidates; boredom with the electoral process; and the almost universal phenomenon that presidential elections are more compelling.

The perception of lower turnout may have been reinforced by the larger number of polling centres, which had apparently diffused the voters. While in the presidential election in 2004 the vast majority of voters turned out early in the morning, this year turnout seemed to be more spread out during the day.

At the counting centre it was observed that the majority of polling stations had only used one of their two allocated ballot boxes, indicating turnout in these cases of less than 50%.

Adherence to procedures



While the overall logistics worked remarkably well, some problems were observed, including confusion over the time polling centres were meant to open.

As was the case in the presidential election, there was a lot of variation among the centres in the level of organisation and in the extent to which they followed procedures. In general, staff seemed to be well informed of their responsibilities – many had worked in the election last year. On the other hand, some staff seemed very eager to find blind and non-literate people who needed “help”.

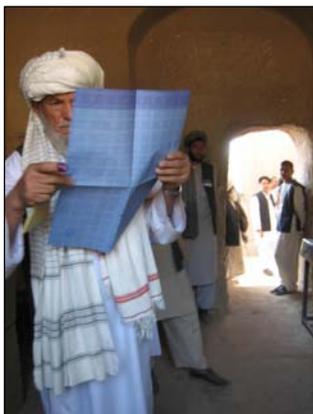
Crowd control was generally good. In one centre, however, each of the polling stations had only two booths, which led to more serious overcrowding. When asked why there were only two booths per station, staff replied that there was no room – an explanation that was not convincing as other centres had set up five booths in equivalent space.

Opening time

While many centres did open at or a little after 6:00am, some were unaware of the change of time announced later in the lead-up to election day, and these opened at the original time of 7:00am. At least one FEFA observer was not aware of the new time: when asked about the opening time, he displayed the original guidelines showing 7:00am. It seemed that information about the change in opening time was not received or understood by all centres and concerned parties.

There are important lessons to be learnt here – most importantly that it is difficult to change information about procedures once they have been made public.

Non-literate voters



The inability of non-literate voters, especially the elderly, to understand the long ballots and to find the candidate for whom they wanted to vote seemed to be a major problem. Some voters spent a lot of time in the booth, and in some cases polling staff displayed a lack of patience, yelling at them to hurry up and complete the ballot. Many voters did not know what to do with the ballot paper: some left it in the booth, while others started to take it with them when leaving the polling station. AREU observed a number of elderly and non-literate voters who were frustrated and overwhelmed by their inability to decipher the complicated ballot. In many cases, polling staff and other voters were observed assisting these voters.

There was also a lot of confusion concerning the “tick”, with people being concerned that if they didn’t make their tick exactly as it appeared in the sample ballot their vote would not be counted.



Candidates’ agents

Candidates’ agents were present in all centres visited, but were much more active in some than others. The AREU team directly observed candidates’ agents going beyond what was permitted, and were seen having direct contact with voters as they approached the booths.

In one polling centre, agents were seen sitting on the same benches as polling staff distributing ballots. In the same centre candidates’ agents were acting as queue marshals in

the female section. Several polling staff at different centres complained about the aggressive behaviour of candidates' agents, while in at least one centre the presence of agents seemed overwhelming to polling staff, who were unable or unwilling to control them.

Domestic observers

FEFA observers were present in most of the visited centres, and in some places were considered a great help to the centre staff, especially in informing candidate agents of the correct procedures and in helping to identify voter fraud. For example, attempts were made by two women to vote twice using two registration cards, and in both instances domestic observers alerted centre staff. In some instances, however, FEFA observers were not very proactive: in one centre the AREU team noted that the FEFA observer, who was from the area, did not seem concerned about some of the questionable activities at the centre.

Kuchis

There did not appear to be enough *kuchi* polling centres, and in one district it was noted that the two *kuchi* centres were located at opposite ends of the district and would have been better located more centrally.

In a localised problem, a group of more than 200 would-be voters who had arrived at a non-*kuchi* polling centre had *kuchi* ticks on their registration cards, but they said they were not *kuchis* (they were, it transpired, returnees from Iran). This was further complicated by the fact that some family members in this group were registered as *kuchis*, while others were not. Even one polling station worker could not vote because of this problem. It seems that a large percentage of this village had been incorrectly registered as *kuchis*. At the same time, genuine *kuchi* voters were not able to vote because there was no *kuchi* polling centre nearby.

Civic education

Civic education seemed to be inconsistent, with some areas (such as Pashtun Zarghun) reporting that there had been no civic education, while many others stated they had been visited by public outreach staff from JEMB.



Ink

Not all staff at all centres were cleaning fingers before inking. In a couple of cases, AREU observers noted that station staff did not invert the ink bottles prior to opening them, and in at least one centre, guidance was offered on this by a FEFA observer which was subsequently communicated to staff members in other stations in the same centre.



In one polling centre, there was a loud and public (although informal) complaint from one of the candidate's agents about the inking process.

At the end of the day, the AREU team found that the ink was in fact relatively easily removed with bleach.

Security

Security did not seem to be a problem in most districts of Herat Province. A heavy police presence, including several road blocks preventing vehicle access close to the centres, was observed. A checkpoint was established the day before the election outside Herat City, checking all vehicles on entry. The AREU Enjil/Provincial Centre observation team encountered one ANA patrol, which let the team proceed after looking quickly at the observation passes. ANA presence was also observed outside polling centres.

Appendix 1: Data and comments from observer checklists

This section presents data and comments that were collected by observers using a modified version of The Asia Foundation's Observation Checklist for Election Day (see Appendix 3). The checklist was arranged around four main areas of observation: Environment, Before Opening, Polling Process and Closing Process.

Again, it must be emphasised that the observations made and perceptions of various issues were based on what was observed during the limited periods of time spent at each polling centre, and the following data and comments cannot claim to be an absolute or unqualified representation of the overall activities of each centre.

The number in square brackets after each comment refers to the polling centre: this is a unique identifier for each centre within Herat Province [24].

General comments recorded on staff

1. Staff were very professional, taking their jobs very seriously. The through-put was quite slow and there were long queues outside, but this allowed officials to watch what was going on closely. [007]
2. When one voter at this centre harassed another to hurry up, several members of staff ran forward to protect the rights of the voter. [009]
3. Observers gained the impression that procedures at this station tightened up when observers were present. Sometimes the staff seemed impatient with some voters who didn't know what to do. [066, women's station]
4. Staff were very thorough in explaining the voting process. [067]
5. The ballot box controller consistently took ballots from voters and put them in the ballot box himself. [368; also observed at most other polling centres]
6. The PO2 "Polling Worksheet" (to record ballots received, unused ballots, spoiled ballots, discarded ballots, seal numbers used, etc) was not filled in completely in the morning as it should have been by the Chairperson: it was claimed there wasn't enough time because of harassment by candidates and agents. There was considerable difficulty observed in filling out the forms. [382 (male), 383 (female)]

General comments recorded on confused voters

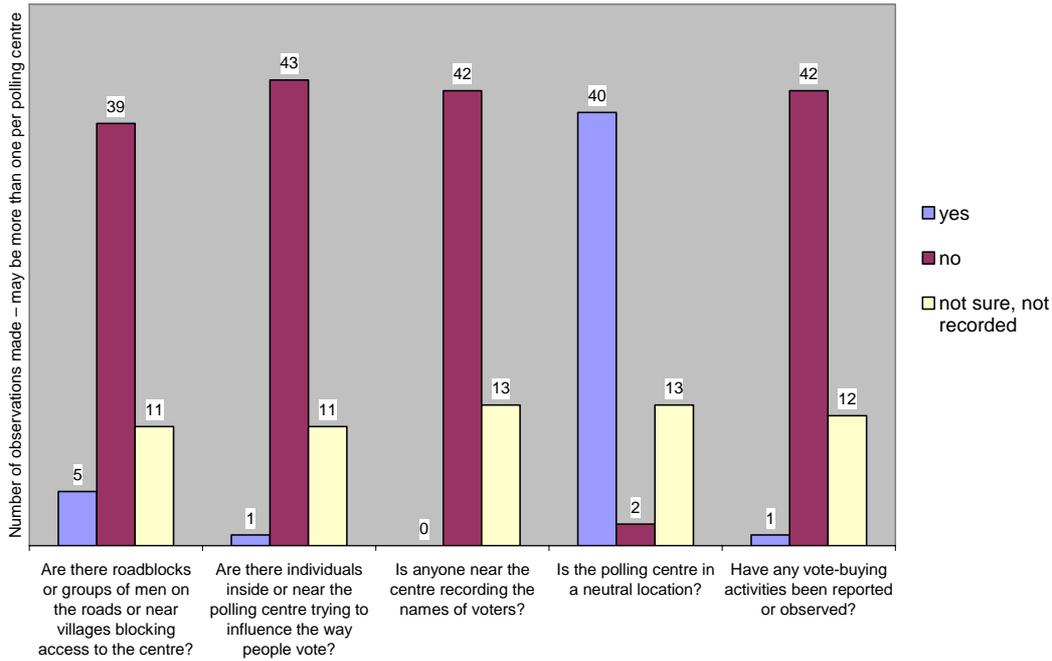
1. Some women appeared to be leaving with uncast ballots. [027]
2. Some women voters were observed leaving with ballots under their burqas. [365]
3. There were many confused voters and a lot of "assistance" being provided to voters inside polling booths by staff and candidates' agents. [365]
4. Some confused voters were observed putting their ballots into the ballot box without marking them. [368]
5. Some women brought cards for the candidates they wanted to vote for and requested assistance to find these candidates on the ballots. [368]
6. One woman was observed with two cards, wanting to vote for a sick friend. Female staff referred the question to their male counterparts who disallowed this. [369]
7. One old man complained that polling staff were pressuring older, confused voters to vote for certain candidates. [369]

Comments recorded on localised problems

1. Observers felt that something was not right with the men's polling station at this polling centre [379] (the women's station [378] seemed normal). Ballot issuers seemed to hide a piece of paper (possibly a ballot) when one observer entered the room. Whatever was being done, it was done openly before observers entered the room. No complaints from agents were observed here. This polling centre was reported to JEMB as suspicious and worthy of auditing.

2. Observers at one polling centre [043] felt that it had a very strange feeling: groups of women were being brought in by minibus, reportedly from up to an hour away. There were therefore long queues, and there were only two booths per station (instead of up to five). Agents were acting as queue controllers because the (seemingly unexpected) turnout was too much for the polling staff to keep the order.
3. At 10:15am, one polling station had had 298 voters and had sealed the first ballot box. This was notable as many stations did not use their second ballot box at all, due to lower than expected turnout. [365]

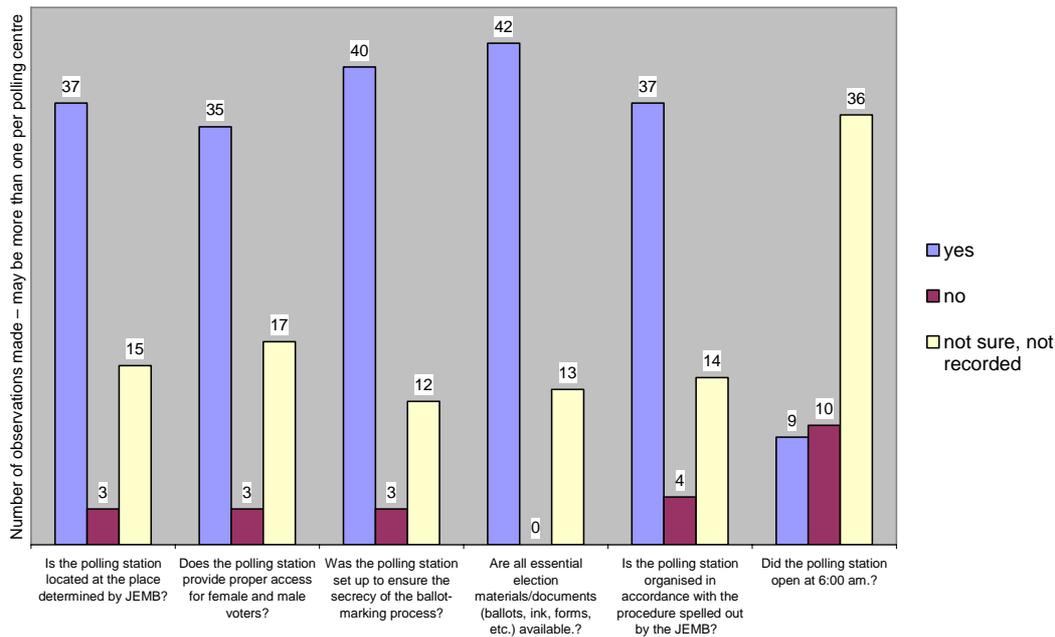
Environment



Are there roadblocks or groups of men on the roads or near villages blocking access to the centre?

1. There were police roadblocks allowing only pedestrian access to the polling centre. [166, 172, 165]
2. No, but very difficult access because of mass voter transportation. [368]

Before opening



Is the polling station located at the place determined by JEMB?

1. The centre was out in the open; it would have been better located in a mosque (as was described on the JEMB list of polling centres). [369]
2. The location seemed like a poor choice for a polling centre: a tiny, cramped school when less than 1km away there was a big new school built by USAID. Several trucks and vehicles transporting voters to the polls were observed. [368]

Does the polling station provide proper access for female and male voters?

1. There was only one exit which was very crowded. [172]
2. The open space was not appropriate for women, who had to wear burqas while voting. [369]

Was the polling station set up to ensure the secrecy of the ballot-marking process?

1. Sometimes there was a high window behind the booth, but in most cases there was an attempt to cover this with a large piece of cardboard. [106]
2. One booth was visible to people peeking through slits in the tent, but it seemed those people were more interested in the observers than the ballot-marking. They were reprimanded and sent away by polling centre staff. There was very little space. [178]
3. An agent was observed assisting at the ID and ballot issuers' tables. [126]
4. As the polling centre had been set up in the open, secrecy may have been compromised. [369]
5. This centre was extremely crowded and had significant problems with queue control. The queue controller was either not visible or had limited power, and men were observed shouting into the voting area and entering before being checked. Ballots were being pre-folded to speed up the process. [088]
6. Polling staff were sometimes inside booths assisting voters. [368]
7. Many older voters were very confused (two wanted to vote for Karzai). Polling station staff provided a lot of "assistance" – it was unclear if this was biased or not. One candidate's agent stood right next to a polling booth and provided assistance inappropriately and on

several occasions went into the polling booth with voters. When the centre manager noticed this was being observed, he yelled at the candidate’s agent to go outside. [368]

Are all essential election materials/documents (ballots, ink, forms, etc.) available?

1. There were ballpoint pens instead of markers in the polling booths. [138]

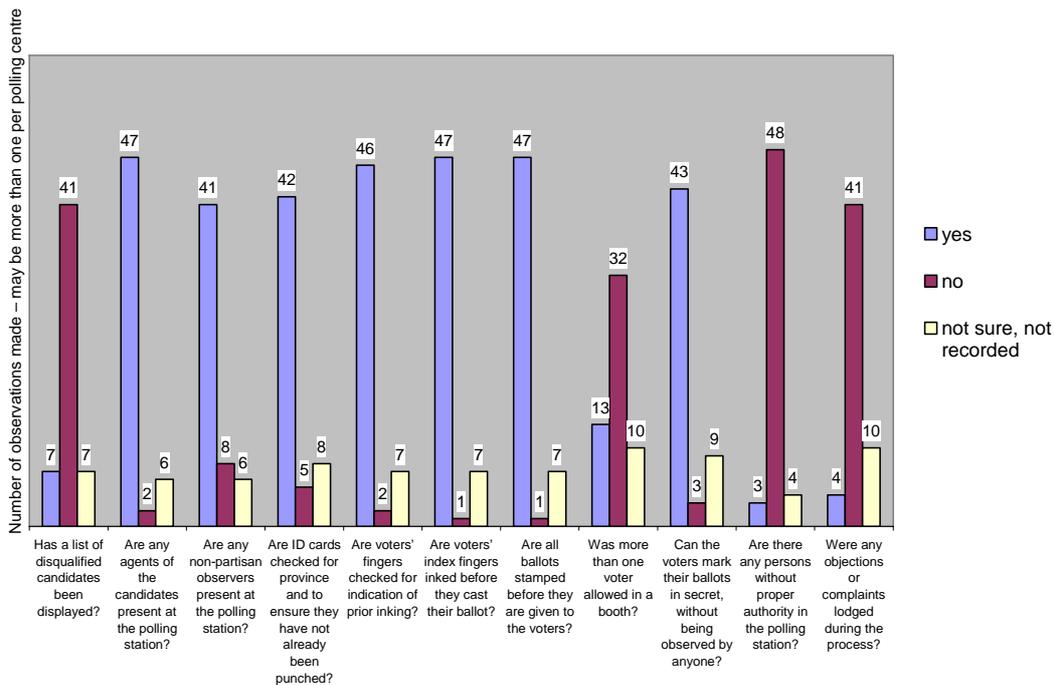
Is the polling station organised in accordance with the procedure spelled out by the JEMB?

1. Men’s and women’s stations were switched – women were in the mosque. [194]
2. There were too many people allowed in at a time: the queue controller was ineffective. [088]
3. There were significant queue problems, and people shouting amid confusion and impatience. [088]
4. At one of the women’s polling stations, the staff put all four seals on the ballot box incorrectly, so that the lid could simply be lifted off the box. This was pointed out to the staff because of the concern that the whole box of votes could have been rendered invalid, and they fixed the problem before the station opened for voting. [106]

Did the polling station open at 6:00am?

1. 10 out of 11 stations did not open until 07:00am. [020]
2. Polls opened at 06:30. Staff claimed they had been informed that polls should open at 07:00am but chose to open “early”. [067]
3. No, because employees believed opening time was 07:00am. [007]
4. The opening process observed was poor; it is possible that the staff thought they couldn’t touch any of the materials until 06:00am. Female staff were not pro-active and waited to be told what to do by male staff. Female staff seemed very young – under voting age themselves. One thought that the folded ballot was two ballots stuck together and wanted to separate them with a ruler. [138]
5. Opened after prayers at 06:34am. [165]

Polling process



Has a list of disqualified candidates been displayed?

1. Observers were told they informed voters about disqualified candidates while they were waiting in the queue. [128]
2. The list was put up when mentioned by the observer. [126]

Are any agents of the candidates present at the polling station?

1. At some times there were more agents than voters. [067]
2. Some close family members were acting as agents, and were expelled as this was believed to be against election rules. [193]

Are ID cards checked for province and to ensure they have not already been punched?

1. In some cases registration cards were not checked carefully. One woman was observed with two voting cards. [365]

Are voters' fingers checked for indication of prior inking?

1. Not seen, but did not see this obviously in any station. [086]

Are voters' index fingers inked before they cast their ballot?

1. Some inkers did not check to make sure that the ink was not wiped off. No tissue appeared to be being used. The amount of time that was given for the ink to dry varied greatly. [007]
2. Some women voters were not inked. [365]
3. Ink wasn't inverted before use. One agent licked and rubbed his ink off to demonstrate that it could come off easily. [138]
4. There was no cleaning of fingers, and some women had henna and nail polish on their fingers and nails which may have been confused with ink from previous voting. [369]
5. Fingers were not wiped before inking. [120]

Are all ballots stamped before they are given to the voters?

1. Yes, but the ballot-marking process not explained. [027]
2. Ballot issuers forgot to stamp some ballots. The station manager observed this and insisted that ballots be stamped. [368]

Was more than one voter allowed in a booth?

1. Station staff very observant and prevented this. [089]
2. Chairman was observed assisting when requested by two voters. [119]
3. One out of six observed booths had multiple voters who were conferring. [180]
4. Sometimes (over half in one station) but they were reprimanded by staff. [172]
5. This happened in about one of every eight cases. [007]
6. This was actively prevented. [043]
7. The booths were placed so close together that at one point four voters were conferring and assisting each other. The station manager did organise them back into separate booths when this happened. [027]
8. Voters were assisted in 80% of cases. [368]
9. Several adults with children, as well as "assistance" from agents and polling centre staff. Women brought their daughters to help them with voting. [365]
10. Assistance was provided by polling staff. [138]
11. Yes, women voters in particular. [378 (female), 379 (male)]

12. A policeman was observed behind a voting booth as the request of 12 agents. An agent supervisor protested. Observers were assured by all other 12 agents that this was only to help those voters who were unable to vote without assistance. [178]
13. Polling staff were sometimes inside booths assisting voters. [368]

Can the voters mark their ballots in secret, without being observed by anyone?

1. Little crowd control in a very tight space. [088]
2. Excellent guarding of stations, clear queues, staff ensure no interference with voting. [093]
3. Yes, unless they needed help, which they mostly got. In particular, in the women's polling station a staff member went into the polling booth with almost every voter. [368]
4. One female agents was observed leaning over the ballot box, while others were observed going behind the voting booths. [365]
5. In theory, but still a lot of assistance was provided. [378 (female), 379 (male)]
6. About 10% may have been observed by agents and other voters. [088]

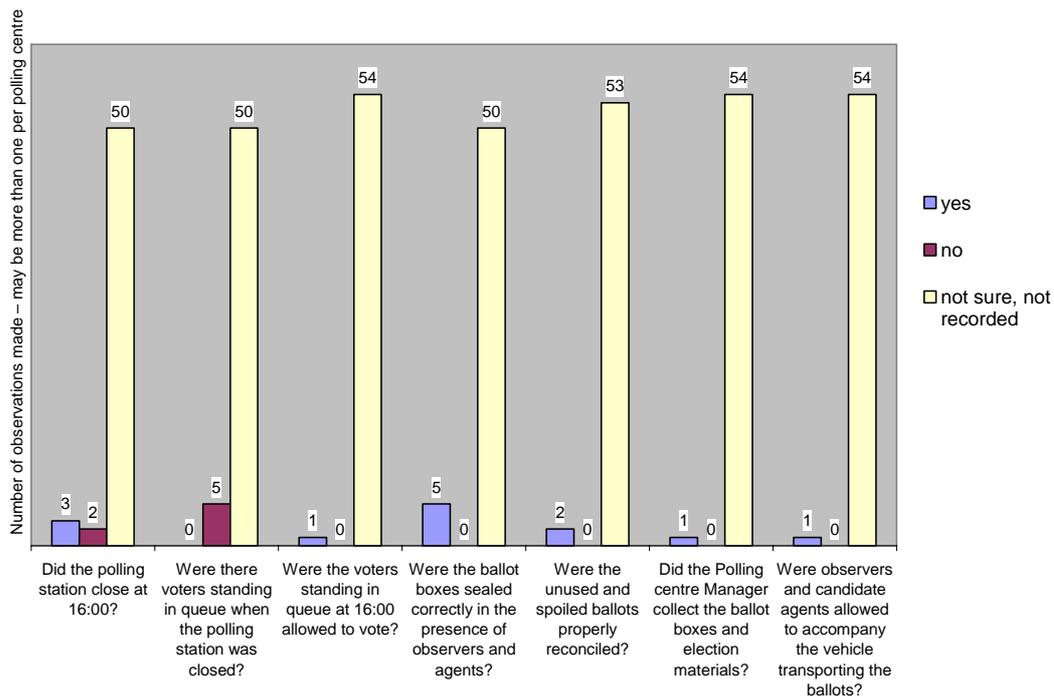
Are there any persons without proper authority in the polling station?

1. No, but it was crowded with party agents. [119]
2. No, but the stations were crowded with agents and were poorly managed. The station manager finally asked all but two candidates' agents to leave. [365]

Were any objections or complaints lodged during the process?

1. A bus-load of 20 people were reportedly on their way, but were too late, when the centre closed at 16:15. One would-be voter, who arrived after closing and said that the mullah had told his constituents in his remote area that polling stations would be open until 17:00, said his community had received no other voter education. [194]
2. One voter was turned away as she had a *kuchi* registration card, although the rest of her family was not registered as *kuchis* and were allowed to vote. Election staff said up to 50 *kuchis* had arrived but could not vote as the nearest *kuchi* station was in Turghundi. [194]
3. There had been a complaint lodged at the centre: election staff had turned away two agents as they were family members (mother and brother) of the candidate. The staff believed this was not allowed. The agents had then lodged complaints. [194]
4. An argument was observed between an agent and the station chairwoman: it seemed that the agent had been too pushy and was not welcome back in the polling station. [009]
5. Two agents submitted complaints that the ballots were too complex. [129]
6. Some locals were not recruited for elections work after being appointed at first: they complained about this. They said they had been replaced by staff who were not local, and this caused discontent. [180]
7. One woman complained because she didn't have a voting card. [172]
8. Two party agents complained to observers that polling station staff were assisting/coaching voters. [365]
9. An agent complained to observers (unofficially) about bias, suggesting that the polling staff were affiliated with a candidate. [138]
10. There were two complaints that the ballots were too complicated. [129]
11. Agents caused a commotion when complaining about the polling centre manager assisting voters. The space was so crowded that it was difficult to observe the manager while it was easy for him to move between booths "assisting" voters. [088]
12. Agents said that many voters don't know their own candidates and that they only see the photos and are often confused by the ballots. [120]
13. Candidates' agents complained the polling staff were partial. [138]

Closing process



Did the polling station close at 16:00?

1. There was a heavy turnout for late in the day (15:30). [009]
2. Yes, but ballot boxes only sealed at 16:30. [382 (male), 383 (female)]
3. Manager came around at 04:10 but boxes were not sealed until 04:22. There seemed to be a lot of confusion about the procedures at the end of the day. [007]

Did the Polling centre Manager collect the ballot boxes and election materials?

1. There was mass confusion about what to do with the ballot boxes. The polling centre manager said he had been instructed to keep the ballot boxes overnight. There was a heated argument with the police who were ordered to take them to the district centre. [382 (male), 383 (female)]

Were observers and candidate agents allowed to accompany the vehicle transporting the ballots?

1. Not sure, there was a lot of confusion about this. [382 (male), 383 (female)]

Appendix 2: Observers and polling centres

Observers

Hayatullah Baheer	Daud Omari
Brandy Bauer	Anna Paterson
Frances Brown	Andrew Pinney
Paul Fishstein	Enayat Safi
Palwasha Kakar	Roxanna Shapour
Meredith Lewis	Sophy Thomas
Sarah Lister	Brendan Whitty
Hamish Nixon	Andrew Wilder

Districts and polling centres visited in Herat Province (24)

Provincial Centre – 01

Nahia 1 Sultan High School – 001	Nahia 5 Mahadiya Mosque – 009
Nahia 2 Herat Great Mosque – 004	Nahia 7 Akhtyaradin Mosque – 021
Nahia 4 Haatife High School – 007	

Enjil – 02

Khesh Pashan Imam Shisnur School – 043	Abdul Abad Mosque – 067
Nowbadam Secondary school – 064	

Guzera – 03

Center of Guzera 1 Great Mosque – 086	Nishen Bala Secondary School – 093
Center of Gozara 2 Girls School – 087	Kort Olia Lesa Wahdat – 094
Kort Sofla Great Mosque – 088	Wazir Fateh Khan High School – 106
Char Kabotar Khan Great Mosque – 089	Shurab Payeen Kuchi Location – 118
Khowaja Moh.Konjani High School – 090	

Pashtun Zarghun – 04

Gaim School – 119	Shah Abad Mosque – 128
Dogh Abad Mosque – 120	Golmir School – 129
Band Abad – 121	Salimi School– 131
Mahmora (male) Mosque – 126	Mera Abad School - 138

Kushk (Robat Sangi) – 06

Centre of Kushk RS 1 Great Mosque – 165	Qala Safeed Ayobei Mosque – 181
Centre of Kushk RS 2 Girls High School – 166	Khaja Qasim School – 186
Ahftoua School – 172	Cheldokhter 2 Construction Building – 193
Karez Naw School – 178	Cheldokhter 1 Mosque – 194
Khaja Sabz Poosh Mosque – 180	

Obeh – 14

Centre of Obeh Boys High School – 365	Krashk (female) Masjid Krashk –379
Sabira School – 368	Chanaran (male) Boys School – 382
Mosaferan Mosque – 369	Chinaran (female) Girls School – 383
Krashk (male) Great Mosque – 378	

Appendix 3: Observation checklist for election day (based on The Asia Foundation's checklist)

Observation Checklist for Election Day – Afghanistan Elections 18 September 2005				
Observer's Name:	Province/Municipality: Herat		District:	
Signature:	Villages/Neighborhoods visited:		Polling Station No.:	
Instructions: Read the questions carefully. Put a tick (✓) in the appropriate box. If you cannot answer the question, or it is not relevant, leave it blank. If violations or irregularities occurred, please briefly explain them in the comment section on the back of the form.				
Environment		Ye s	No	Comments
Are there roadblocks or groups of men on the roads or near villages blocking access to the center?				
Are there individuals inside or near the polling center trying to influence the way people vote?				
Is anyone near the center recording the names of voters?				
Is the polling center in a neutral location?				
Have any vote-buying activities been reported or observed?				
Before Opening		Ye s	No	Comments
Is the polling station located at the place determined by JEMB?				
Does the polling station provide proper access for female and male voters?				
Was the polling station set up to ensure the secrecy of the ballot marking process?				
Are all essential election materials/documents (ballots, ink, forms, etc.) available.?				
Is the polling station organized in accordance with the procedure spelled out by the JEMB?				
Did the polling station open at 6:00 am.?				
Polling Process		Ye s	No	Comments
Are any agents of the candidates present at the polling station? (If yes, give number of candidate.)				
Are any non-partisan observers present at the polling station?				
Are ID cards checked for province and to ensure they have not already been punched?				
Are voters' fingers checked for indication of prior inking?				
Are voters' index fingers inked before they cast their ballot?				
Are all ballots stamped before they are given to the voters?				
Was more than one voter allowed in a booth (family voting)? (If yes, indicate frequency.)				
Can the voters mark their ballots in secret, without being observed by anyone?				
Are there any persons without proper authority in the polling station?				
Were any objections or complaints lodged during the process (if yes, please provide details)?				
Closing Process		Ye s	No	Comments
Did the polling station close at 16:00?				
Were there voters standing in queue when the polling station is closed?				
Are the voters standing in queue at 16:00 allowed to vote?				
Were the ballot boxes sealed correctly in the presence of observers and agents?				
Were the unused and spoiled ballots properly reconciled?				
Did the Polling Center Manager collect the ballot boxes and election materials?				
Were observers and candidate agents allowed to accompany the vehicle transporting the ballots?				

Overall Assessment of the Polling Process

Observer's Name:

Polling Station No.:

Instructions for this Section: Put a tick (✓) next to the statement that best describes your assessment of the election environment and polling process for the area you observed. If your response is "poor" or "very poor", please provide further explanation in the comment section.

Very Good – no incidents or irregularities were observed.

Good – a few incidents or irregularities were observed that had no significant effect on the integrity of the process.

Average – many incidents or irregularities were observed that had no significant effect on the integrity of the process.

Poor - incidents or irregularities were observed that could have significantly affected the integrity of the process.

Very Poor - incidents or irregularities occurred which so affected the integrity of the process as to render the results from one or more polling stations meaningless.

Comments

Instruction for this Section: In the box below, give details of any violations, unusual occurrences, or irregularities that occurred at your polling center. If more space is required attach additional sheets of paper to the report form.

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