# **APPENDIX 1**

# **Questionnaire: WOMEN’S RIGHT TO WATER IN AFGHANISTAN**

(For each respondent)

**Background and purpose:** My name is Karen Johanne Verne. I am a teacher and a mother of three children. Currently I am a master student at the Norwegian University of Life Sciences in Ås outside of Oslo, Norway, doing a study on Afghan rural women’ s access to water, and how they participate - or not - in the management of water, be they fetching water, negotiating water, plan, manage and maintain water pipes, wells, canals and other structures. My aim is to understand how they manage and participate in their overall livelihood situation, their water needs, access, costs, and difficulties, under possibly violent conditions in a society traditionally dominated by men. Ultimately, I hope the result of my study may be of help in the development of the Afghan society. I am asking you to help me in this endeavor, and would be very grateful if you would fill out this questionnaire. Full anonymity is assured.

**Consent:** *I have been informed about the topic and purpose of this survey. I also know that it is voluntary to participate, and that I may stop at any time without giving any reason. I hereby give my free permission that the anonymized information I give in this questionnaire may be used for scientific purposes.*

Informant’s signature: …………………………………….

**Date:** …………………………………

**District: …………………………………………......**

**Province: ………………………………….**

**Town/Village/place: ………………………....**

**Informant’s full name**………………………………………………………………..

Translator & facilitator’s full name (s).………………………………………………

**BASIC INFO:**

1. **Gender**  Female □ Male □
2. **Years of age**

Below 20□ 20-40 □ 40-60 □ Older than 60 □

1. **Literacy: Do you know how to read and write – in which language?**

Yes □ No □ Partly □

1. **Years of schooling (language?)**

No formal schooling □ 1-2 years □ 3-4 years □ Finished primary school □

Secondary school □ Upper secondary school □ College/university degree □

1. **Status**

Unmarried □ Married □ Widow/widower □ Divorced □ Separated/spouse absent □ Other □

If ‘other’, please explain:

1. **Would you describe your health as …**

Very good □ Good □ A few minor problems/weaknesses □ Poor □ Disabled □

1. **Are you the head of the household?**

Yes □ No □

1. **Number of children**

No children □ 1 □ 2-3 □ 4-5 □ 6 or more □

1. **What do you do during the day?** (If relevant, tick more than one).

Working in the home □ Working with farming/livestock activities □ Working in small scale industry/sales □ Seeking work □ Studying □ Working in gov./public job □ Other □

If ‘other’, please specify:

1. **Does your family/household own farm land?**

Yes □ No □

1. **Wealth[[1]](#footnote-1):** Do you consider your household to be

Well-off □ middle-income □ poor□

1. **Do you contribute to the income in the household?**

Yes □ No □

**WATER:**

1. **Household water facilities\***

Piped inside compound □ Public tap/pipe □ Protected well/spring □ Unprotected well/spring □ Surface water (river etc.) □ Other □

If other, please explain:

1. **Do you fetch water for your household?**

Yes, alone □ Yes, together w/ others □ Yes, together w/ other women □ No □

If no, please specify who fetches water for the household:

1. **Time spent collecting water**

1 min. or less □ 1-5 min. □ 5-10 min. □ 10-30 min. □ 30-60 min. □ 1-2 hours □ More than 2 hours □

1. **Consumption: How many liters domestic water does your household use in one day, on average?**

Less than 20 liters □ 20-50 □ 50-100 □ 100-200 □ More than 200 □

1. **Costs: Do you pay for water?**

Yes □ No □ □ Sometimes/partly

If ‘sometimes/partly’, please explain, and specify HOW MUCH:

1. **How much do you pay for (domestic) water?**

Nothing □ ………. Per liter (?)

1. **What are your household’s water needs** (tick more than one)?

Drinking □ cooking □ cleaning □ washing/personal □ kitchen gardening □

Subsistence farming/irrigation □ livestock □ cash crops □ other □

If ‘other’, please specify:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Main focus** | **Probing questions** |
| GENERAL SITUATION:   1. How do you experience the general situation in your village? | Poverty? Land disputes? Livelihood/ unemployment? Domestic violence? Health? Insecurity? Crime? Corruption? Lack of development and/or opportunities? Illiteracy/lack of school for children? Water scarcity/water competition? Food situation? All good? |
| WATER SITUATION:   1. How is the general water situation in your village? | **Rights:** Adequate? Accessible? Available? Affordable? Safe?  Scarcity? Sufficient? Appropriate? Acceptable?  Equality regarding water? The water facilities? (Pipes, irrigation canals, karezes, wells, storage, pumps, tanks, etc.)  Fluctuations, seasonal and annual?  Health hazards – which kinds (waterborne diseases?)  Droughts?  Flooding?  Leaks?  State of irrigation canals, maintenance, (lack of) investments |
| 1. Which/how many water sources are accessible to you? | Water for drinking or **agriculture**/gardening from various sources? Some safe, some unsafe? |
| 1. If you do collect the family’s water, how do you experience your water-fetching work? | Time spent? Tiresome? Valuable time with other women by the well? Time-consuming – time you would rather spend doing other things, what things? |
| 1. If you did not fetch water, what would happen? | Somebody else would do it – who (other family members, neighbors, friends?) Shortage in family? Resort to unsafe sources? Other? Sanctions? |
| 1. Is the water stored, how and where? | Drinking water, danger of contamination? Irrigation water, different? Appropriate? Leaks?  Sufficient for the needs? |
| 1. AGENCY: How is **your** water (management) situation? | Any water constraints/difficulties?  Costs – appropriate or too expensive? (*Relate to Q. 16*). Paid to supplier, or whom? What do you/your household pay for? *(Water Law specifies users pay only for conveyance/ infrastructure, not the water itself)*  Sufficient water quality/quantity? Fluctuations during the year? Between years?  How do you handle these challenges?  What do you do when encountering problems and/or resistance? Cooperation? |
| 1. Has the water situation changed lately - how? | Changed since when – the end of the Taliban regime 2002? The Soviet invasion 1979? The Daoud Republican Revolution 1973? War and unrest destroyed irrigation and water canals, pipes and other infrastructure? Has the everyday situation/water fetching become more insecure/violent? Security/war-related stops in the building/maintenance of water infrastructure?  How do you deal with these changes? |
| 1. Are there local water conflicts or competition? | Between whom? Household water or water in agriculture? Upstream/downstream conflicts? Ethnic conflict? User conflicts (herders/farmers, etc.)? How are they solved? CDCs? Shuras? River basis council or Sub-River Basin Council? (RBCs or SBCs) |
| 1. **Intersectionality:** How is access to water (equally?) distributed? (Both drinking water and for agriculture/ livestock) | Water rights inherited? Shared? If unequal access, which individuals and/or group(s) if any are marginalized or excluded? Gender equality in access to water/fulfilling water needs? Or only in name but not in practice? |
| 1. How do you experience the water needs of the others in your village? | (Relate to Q 4). Women? Men? Other groups have priority, like large land owners/farmers, industrialists/FDI? Are the relations to other water users –independent of gender – good? |
| 1. **Fears:** Are you ever afraid? | When collecting water, or all the time? Afraid of what – gendered-related violence, or in general (due to Taliban/war lords/American bombs/corrupt police/other?) Personal fear, or fear for family? Future (climate change affecting water level, water table, duration, etc.? Insecurity/violence? Floods? Droughts? Lack of development, employment, and education for yourself, children? Other?) |
| 1. Are you satisfied with the government’s efforts in securing water for your needs? | Yes, about what?  No, how so? What do you think the government should do? |

**PARTICIPATION water management:**

1. **Is there a Water Committee or WUA in your community?**

Yes □ No □ □ I don’t know

1. **Do you take part in the management of water in your community, e g in a Water Committee?**

No, I was not invited □ No, I don’t want to □ No, I am not allowed □ Yes, but I have little influence □ Yes, and I have influence □ Other □

Please elaborate (changes):

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Main focus** | **Probing questions** |
| 1. How do you feel your water concerns are respected and considered in the village? | Is your voice heard in the community, regarding water concerns, livelihood, water expenses, water-borne diseases, long distance to water, time spent fetching water, own/family’s health, other? |
| 1. Would you like to have more influence in the management of water in your community? | If yes, how? (Through status? Role? Institution – which one?)  If no, why not? (Happy with the present situation?) |
| 1. IF YOU WERE THE SOVEREIGN WATER MANAGER IN THE COMMUNITY, WHAT WOULD YOU DO? | Would you initiate certain changes in the water regime – which ones? (Seek pol. office? Gather a mitigating council/WC/WUA of knowledgeable and wise men and women? Hire a(nother) *mirab?* Write to the government about injustice? Go to court on behalf of the marginalized water users in your village? Procure money for building wells/reconstruct/maintain irrigation canals? |
| 1. Are you satisfied with the government’s securing your right to participation? | How? What do you think the government should do? |

**AWARENESS and NON-DISCRIMINATION:**

1. **Have you ever felt discriminated against in water matters?**

Yes □ No □

If yes, please specify what you think may be the reason:

If yes, how?

How does it make you feel? (Unhappy, angry, frustrated, spurred to act? Other?)

1. **Constitution:** Have you heard of the Afghanistan Constitution (2004/1382 A.H.)?

Yes, I have heard about it □ Yes, I know it well □ No □ I don’t know □

If yes, do you know that the Afghanistan Constitution guarantee women and men equal rights and opportunities?

Yes, I have heard about it □ Yes, I know it well □ No □

1. **The Water Law:** Have you heard of the Water Law from 2009/1388 A.H.?

Yes □ No □

If yes, do you know that the Water Law guarantee men and women EQUAL water rights and opportunities?

Yes, I have heard about it □ Yes, I know it well □ No □ I don’t know □

Effects: How does the Water Law (implementation) affect you and your situation?

(pos., neg., no visible effects)

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Main focus** | **Probing questions** |
| 1. Are you satisfied with the government’s efforts in securing your right to participation? | Yes – what is good?  What is not? How/why? |
| 1. Are you familiar with the National Development Strategy’s plan for water management? | Are you familiar with its focus on technical and financial support to small-scale water use, and particularly “as is practiced by women”? How does this aim fit with your impression of water conditions? |
| 1. Are you aware of any international actors assisting you/the village with your water needs? | Is the situation similar in the vicinity/neighboring villages? If different, what are your thoughts about these villages situation? |
| 1. What rules or norms regulate women’s access to water and participation in your community? | What are the origin of these rules/norms - customary law? Religious laws? Pre-Islamic laws? Who expresses these rules (religious/village leaders, elders? Everybody?) CDCs? Shuras?  Or are they tacit?  Is there a legal hierarchy?  How do these laws and rules interplay? |
| 1. Do you find the rules and norms regulating your access to water and participation just and fair? | If not, how so/why? |
| 1. What do you expect will happen with your water situation in the future? | Changes? Hopes? Fears? Plans? What kinds? |

Very kind, thank you very much - this is very helpful for my studies 😊

I wish you the very best!

Love from Karen

APPENDIX: Research questions

1. *How are Afghan rural women right holders’ varying degrees of agency[[2]](#footnote-2) concerning coping/negotiating the legal plurality of water governance in Afghanistan? BUT, IF NOT ABLE TO GENERALIZE, HOW CAN I MAKE SENSE OUT OF THIS QUESTION? VERY FEW SOURCES ON RURAL AFGHAN WOMEN’S ACCESS TO WATER AND WATER-RELATED PARTICIPATION AND (NON-) DISCRIMINATION.*
2. *Has the right to water, participation, and non-discrimination for domestic and livelihood purposes been realized for rural women in Afghanistan? (Replaces 3 and 4.) /If not by the state, then BY WHOM?)*
3. *How does the state of Afghanistan meet its vital obligations to respect, protect and fulfill the right to access appropriate, affordable, and safe water?*
4. *How does the state of Afghanistan meet its obligations to respect, protect and fulfill women’s right to participation and equality in water use and governance, according to NAPWA and in the light of the government’s policy and ambition to have a gendered and “equitable distribution, […] and secure the rights of the water users,” as specified in the 2009 Water Law?*

1. The criteria used by Ingrid Nyborg in her *Focus study 2014 Daikondi* are as following: Overall, a household is well-off when it owns between 5 to 15 sheep or goat, 1 to 3 oxen or cows, between 3 and 5 *jeribs* (1 *jerib* = 2,000 m2) of land, and harvests 160 seer (1,120 kg) wheat from his land. A wealthy household might also have a family or family member working outside the province who sends home remittances. Another indicator of wealthier status could be that a family has two or more laborers working for them. A household is labeled as medium when it owns 5 goats or sheep, 1 cow and around 2 *jeribs* of land. Also, a medium household could have 1 or 2 laborers working for them. A household is perceived as poor when it only owns around 0.5 - 1 *jerib* of land and no livestock. (Nyborg & Jaeckle, 2016, pp. 6-7) [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. According to Anthony Giddens, human beings have a so-called practical consciousness, both tacit and knowledgeable, about how to ”go on”, and to be an ‘agent’, is to have purpose and reasons for her or his activities. Human beings as agents continuously monitor their actions reflexively. To have agency is to be competent in her or his daily activities as lived-through, reflexive experience, and to have power in the sense that the agent could have acted differently in the context (Giddens, 1984). [↑](#footnote-ref-2)