

Categories for everyday indicators – Afghanistan

About this document: The following are 20 categories into which each of the indicators will be classified. Most of the time, the indicators will fall into multiple categories, and listed below are examples of indicators, classifying them by one or more categories. These examples are not exhaustive, there are examples listed by one category here that in practice will fall into multiple categories.

Categories and sub-categories: Some of the categories are divided into further sub-categories. While you may want to further refine the category, you may also find an indicator that fits into the broader category only. For **example:** “we see parliamentarians who run smuggling routes for gemstones and timber” would fall under Category 3: Government Oversight, but would not fit into one of the sub-categories. Here, we could code this simply as (3) and not as (3.a) or (3.b) etc

Category 1: Security Forces

Definition: This category will include any indicators that mention the Afghan or foreign security forces. Whenever possible, it should be divided into the three sub-categories below. An overall example is provided below, and examples for the three sub-categories below

Example: “We don’t hear any of our villager giving Fitwas of Takir on ANA” would be included in two categories: under security forces, and under category 5: religion and culture

Sub-categories:

- a. ANA: **Example:** “We know that there are ANAs living in our village”
- b. Foreign military: (i.e. coalition, American or Pakistani armed forces) **Example:** “We haven’t heard about any suicide attacks since the US forces left” (another example could be the mention of drones which are attributed to coalition and Pakistani forces) or “We hear in the news about missiles fired from Pakistan”
- c. Police: (i.e. ALP or ANP) **Example:** “We observe policewomen in police headquarters” or “We see Afghan Local Police outposts”

Category 2: Daily Security

Definition: This category will include any indicator that mentions security issues that affect people’s daily lives, with two sub-categories: **mobility** (people able/unable to get safely from place to place) and **business as usual** which includes the mention of things being open or closed (business, schools, clinics etc, but only if it is mentioned that they are open or closed).

In addition to these two sub-categories, there is a qualifier code “D” for dark. Many of the indicators refer to routine activities that cannot be carried out early in the morning or late at night, meaning while it is dark. Both **mobility** and **business as usual** can be qualified with the letter “D” to imply darkness, or standalone if there is no implication that the indicator refers to nighttime.

Example: “We go to the hospital in Lower Pachir during the night” would be categorized under daily security with the qualifier “D” (so **D/M**) and category 10: Health.

- a. Mobility **Definition:** This sub-category will include all indicators that mention getting TO or FROM locations. This will include all indicators that begin with “I can/we can go to...or “we see people going to...”
Examples: “We go shopping” (M) or “We see girls going to school” (M) or “We go to the hospital in Lower Pachir during the night” (D/M) or “We see female teachers of our village going to school every morning” (M)
- a. Business as Usual: **Definition:** This is for any daily security indicators which refer to things being open or closed. Again, this can be qualified by the letter “D” to refer to

it being interrupted only at night or when it is dark

Examples: “Schools have never been closed” (BAU) or “Observing fuel station staying open during the night” (D/BAU)

Category 3: Government Oversight

Definition: This category will include any indicators about the Afghan government’s presence in the community, and/or the government’s ability to provide services. It could also include people speaking positively about the Afghan government. This category is sub-divided into three categories. All indicators that mention government employees will be coded as government visibility.

Example: “Hear religious leaders preaching in the favor of government” would be classified under this category, as well as category 5: religion and culture

Sub-categories:

- a. Civilian access to government services: (i.e. Tazkira) **Example:** “We go to the governor district office for making Tazkira”
- b. Government access to rural areas: (i.e. seeing or hearing about government employees or services there) **Example:** “National Solidarity Program implemented peacefully in our village” or “Government employees are traveling by helicopter to the districts”
- c. Government visibility: (i.e. seeing government or symbols of government) **Example:** “We see Afghan Local Police outposts” would be included here, as well as Category 1: Security Forces, sub-category c: police. “Government employees traveling in helicopters to the districts” would be coded here, because of the mention of government employees.

Category 4: Crime (not related to violent extremism)

Definition: This category will include all indicators that mention crime, or criminal activity that is unrelated to violent extremism. The most common indicators in this category are about theft, however mentions of organized crime would fall under this category as well. This could include mentions of illegally harvesting/smuggling opium, gems, timber or other illegal activities, even if it is listed as a peace indicator. This is also the category that will be used to reference instances of government corruption. While legal taxes will be considered government control, any indicators that mention government corruption will be coded as crime. For more information about coding corruption, see the * at the end of this document.

Example: “Don’t hear stories of thieves breaking into houses” or “The shops in our village have never been broken by thieves” are obvious examples. “We see many people come to our district for weeding opium” is listed as a peace indicator, because it alludes to local economic prosperity, therefore I would categorize it here, as well as under category 16: economics.

Category 5: Religion and Culture

Definition: This is a broad category that will include all indicators that mention religion, religious leaders, as well as practices that could be considered as religious and/or cultural, such as SWARA, or BAAD, but also positive cultural references such as dancing attan etc. All mentions of the word ‘ulema’ or ‘mosque’ or ‘madrassa’ should be coded here. Where there are indicators that mention villagers paying a Taliban tax in exchange for services (for example farmers paying usher) will be coded here, as well as under armed non-state groups “t” for Taliban.

Example: “Many of our villagers are Tableeghyan”, or “Observing women in bazaar with face uncovered”. This second indicator would be categorized here, and also under category 15: gender roles. Another example would be: “There are some fathers in our village who

force their children to have a specific style of hair in order to resemble religious leaders” which would fall here, as well as category 21: freedom, sub-category b: grooming.

Category 6: Leaders and Elders

Definition: This is a broad category that will include all indicators that mention leaders and elders. This could include maliks, wakil guzars, tribal elders etc. Because ulema are leaders and religious, they will be coded in both categories. All mentions of leaders, formal or informal should be mentioned here.

Example: “We see our village leaders going to the district governor office” would be categorized here, as well as category 3: government oversight, sub-category a: civilian access to government services.

Category 7: Non-state Armed Forces

Definition: This is where any mention of VE groups, or other non-state armed actors (this could include armed criminal gangs or cartels, but most indicators will either relate to the Taliban or ISIS, and to a lesser extent perhaps TTP, ETIM, IMU etc. Because this category is so important, and because many of the indicators, particularly the VE indicators will fall under this category, we have subdivided it into three categories, which each have subcategories. An example is provided for each:

- a. Taliban (**definition:** any time the indicator uses the word Taliban, regardless of definition of who/what is Taliban)
 - i. Political control (**definition:** use of courts, roadblocks, taxes etc) **Example:** “People in Marawara and districts say that they file their complaints at the court of Taliban”
 - ii. Visibility (**definition:** seeing flags, seeing members etc) **Example:** “Don’t observe Taliban in our village”
 - iii. Propaganda (**definition:** hearing radio messages, mosque sermons, social media etc promoting the message of the Taliban) **Example:** “We don’t see anyone listening to Taliban songs in our village”
- b. ISIS (**definition:** any time the indicator uses the word ISIS, regardless of definition of who/what is ISIS)
 - i. Political control (**definition:** use of courts, roadblocks, taxes etc) **Example:** “ISIS closed all the madrasas in Pachir” or “ISIS confiscated the cattle of people of Pachir Village”
 - ii. Visibility (**definition:** seeing flags, seeing members etc) **Example:** “We see WAHABIs inviting people to join ISIS” would be categorized here, and under category 5: religion and culture, because of the reference to Wahabis. The key to keep in mind with visibility categories is the use of the verbs ‘observe’ or ‘see’.
 - iii. Propaganda (**definition:** hearing radio messages, mosque sermons, social media etc promoting the message of ISIS) **Example:** “We see some people listening to ISIS radio” or “We see that many users in Facebook follow ISIS pages”
- c. Other (**definition:** any time the indicator alludes to an armed non-state group that is neither the Taliban nor ISIS, we currently do not have any examples, but it would follow the format above.)
 - i. Political control (Use of courts, roadblocks, taxes etc)
 - ii. Visibility (flags, seeing members etc)
 - iii. Propaganda (radio, mosque etc)

Category 8: Unarmed actors

Definition: This category is for any reference to unarmed non-state actors, such as any local or international NGO, or NGO workers, or international organizations such as the UN, or any mentions of civil society groups. Use the language in the indicators to decide which sub-category to classify, if there is a mention of the UN or of NGOs, classify them thusly, others would fall under the civil society category, see examples below:

- a. NGOs **Example:** “We know some women in our village working for NGO” or “We took tailoring class launched by an NGO” or “People in our village don’t marry girls who work for NGOs”
- b. IOs **Example:** “We attended literacy class arranged by UNESCO”
- c. Civil society **Example:** “Youth associations organize cricket matches”
- d. Private sector **Example:** “We see the employees of Mobile communication companies, bringing fuel to the towers in our village”

Category 9: Education

Definition: This is a broad category that will include all indicators that mention education, schools, literacy, madrassas and universities. Many or most of these indicators will also be categorized elsewhere, such as under category 15: gender roles if the indicator is specific about girls’ or boys’ access, or category 5: religion and culture if the indicator relates to religious education.

Examples: “Schools have never been closed” might be categorized here, as well as category 2: daily security. “Female teachers of our school live in our village” might be categorized here, as well as category 15: gender roles. “Taliban opened the school in our village” might be categorized here, as well as category 7: non-state armed forces, sub-category a.i. Taliban political control.

Category 10: Health

Definition: This is a broad category that will include all indicators that mention health, clinics, hospitals, vaccination campaigns etc. Many or most of these indicators will also be categorized elsewhere, such as under category 8: external unarmed actors, sub-category a: NGOs if the indicator relates to health campaigns carried out by local or international NGOs, or under category 15: gender roles if the indicator is specific about girls’ or boys’ access to health services.

Examples: “We see the employees of Health Net organization, coming to the clinics in our village” would fall here, and under category 8: external unarmed actors, sub-category a: NGOs. “The ambulance comes to our village during the night (When we call to the clinic in our village during the night in the face of emergency, they send us the ambulance)” would be categorized under health, and depending on whether the ambulance service was from the government or an NGO, it would also fall under either category 3.a or 8.a

Category 11: Infrastructure

Definition: This is a broad category that will include all indicators that mention changes to infrastructure, including the building, demolishing, attack on etc of culverts, bridges, buildings, and roads. This applies to construction of infrastructure by Taliban or government and any destruction or attack on infrastructure at all.

Examples: “We see destroyed culverts when go to the district in Kunar” or “We see new shops are under construction in the market” or “We see Taliban building new beautiful houses (Taliban in Kuz Pachir are very famous, everyone knows their land. We see Taliban building houses in Kuz Sabar)”. This second indicator mentions the Taliban, so it should also be categorized under category 7: non-state armed forces, sub-category a.ii. Taliban, visibility.

Category 12: Livelihoods

Definition: This category that will include all indicators that mention livelihoods, meaning a means of securing the necessities of life. This could include employment, lack of employment, programs that teach employment skills, and threats to livelihoods. HOWEVER, this does not include references to employees (for example: “we see NGO employees”, this should be coded under Unarmed Actors - sub-category NGO) this is a category for describing ways that people earn money, such as farming, employment training, or unemployment, joblessness and threats to their livelihoods. This should also include indicators where it is implicit that livelihoods are at stake, such as 'killed breadwinners' or 'nomads and livestock' or any other implicit reference to a factor that has an impact on the livelihood of people.

Examples:

1. All indicators with the word “**unemployed**” and “**employed**” should be coded here, for example “We know many of our relatives being unemployed”
2. All indicators that have the word ‘**job**’ in them would be coded here, even in reference to joblessness, or losing jobs, for example: “We know some of our villager quit jobs due to the threats of Taliban” or “We know many people who graduated four years ago, are still jobless”
3. All indicators that have the word ‘**training**’ in them would be coded here, for embroidery, teacher training, tailoring, vocational etc. For example: “We see girls going to Teacher Training college in Lower Pachir” or “We go to vocational training center” or “Our friends taking tailoring training”
4. Most indicators related to farming, but only as it relates to livelihoods, and not just farmers. **For example:** “We hear from the people that, Taliban hire the farmers to cultivate poppies for them in Tangy” because they are being **hired** (employed) or “ANAs don’t let the farmers cultivate corns in the fields along the roads” (because this will affect the livelihoods of those farmers) or “We hear from the people in our village that, Taliban forbid farmers from supplying vegetables to the market in the center of the district” (because this will affect the livelihoods of those farmers). HOWEVER, the indicators about watering the field at night would NOT be coded here, as it does not affect their livelihood, but just reflects the security at night (I would code this as D/BAU)

Category 13: Peace processes

Definition: This is a category that will include all indicators that mention any peace process, whether a local one or one led by the Afghan or foreign governments, including any peace process with the Taliban or HIG.

Example: “Hear in the news about Taliban joining peace process” or “Some Taliban of our village that we knew, joined peace process”

Category 14: Gender Violence

Definition: This is a category that will include all indicators that mention gender violence, including harassment in the streets, at school or anywhere else, or mentions of domestic violence, violence against women, husbands and wives fighting, SWARA, forced marriage, child marriage, bacha bazi etc. There are many different types of violence, and so the rule of thumb should be for coders to ask themselves: did the community perceive this as gender violence? If a cultural practice (like baad or badal or SWARA) is perceived by some in the community as gender violence, but by others as a cultural tradition, then it should be coded as **both** (religion and culture AND gender violence). If it is unclear, then do NOT code it as violence, only as gender roles.(It is divided into two sub-categories, see examples below:

- a. Harassment **Example:** “While going to school, we see boys blowing air kiss to

- us” or “I am worried about my daughters to be sexually harassed after dark” or “While going to school, we see boys winking at us” or “We aren’t sexually harassed while going out”
- b. Violence **Example:** “Don’t hear about husband-wife fighting” or “Don’t hear about forced marriages” or “We still witness some cases of child marriages in our village”

Category 15: Gender Roles

Definition: This is a category that will include all indicators that mention gender roles, in non-violent terms. This is not about harassment or violence, but instead focuses on men and women, and boys and girls, being able or unable to access goods and services. This category will include **all gender qualifiers**, so if the word male/female, boy/girl, man/woman is mentioned, it should be coded under gender roles.

Examples: “We visit a female doctor in the clinic of Upper Pachir” or “None of our female villagers work for NGOs” or “Some of our relatives (female) go to literacy training center”

Category 16: Economics

Definition: This is a category that will include all indicators that mention socio-economic indicators in reference to wealthy individuals in the community, to local or national economic well being, or to poor people or local poverty. Essentially, this category will be used for all indicators that use the word “rich” “poor” “economy”. We MAY also use this for reference to money, but not if it is in reference to Taliban or IS taxes and extortion. All the indicators where Taliban are taking a percentage, or extorting people at roadblocks, or forcing people to pay them to maintain their business should be coded as Category 7:T:Pol. There are a few examples where the word money may fall into category 16, listed below.

Examples: “Rich people of our village migrated to Jalalabad city” or “Taliban kidnapped the son of a rich man from our village” or “Rich people of our village don’t live here” or “Our village leaders steal the aid of the NGOs which should be given to the poor families” (which would also be coded under category 4: Crime because of the theft) or “We see teenagers enrolled in ANAs (The families enroll their teenagers because they are poor)” which would also be coded as category 1: ANA MONEY: “We place our money under the pillows” or “Local Police don’t ask us for money” I believe these are the only two references that would be coded here.

Category 17: Media

Definition: This is a broad category that will include all indicators that mention any media source. It does NOT include communications between people that do not use media (for example sermons at mosques or rumors in the bazar etc). It will be divided into sub-categories that identify the source of the media, see examples below:

- a. Internet & social media: (i.e. Facebook) **Example:** “We see that many users in Facebook follow ISIS pages” (which would also be categorized under category 7.b.3 nonstate armed actors – ISIS – propaganda) or “We see many Facebook users like the posts of Taliban”
- b. TV: **Example:** “See women on TV participating in gatherings held in Governor House” or “Don’t see any women on TV screen” (which could also be category 15: gender roles) or “We see TV antennas on the top of the houses in our village” (which could also fall under category 2: daily security) or “See children playing with fake guns copying drama “Da Dare Morchal” broadcast on TV” or “We hear more news on TV about police casualties than before”

- c. Radio: **Example:** “We hear ISIS radio threatening government employees” (which would also be categorized under category 7.b.3 nonstate armed actors – ISIS – propaganda) or “Taliban listens to cricket commentary on radio with us” or “We call to radio stations to ask for our favorite songs to be played on radio”
- d. Phone: **Example:** “Our villagers say that Ulamas switch off their cell phones when hear that ANA of our village is killed” (which would also fall under category 5: religion and culture) or “Taliban search our smart phones for songs” (which could also fall under category 2: daily security) or “We sometimes see people in our village listening to Taliban songs in their cell phones.” There is an indicator that says: “We sometimes see a group of boys in our village watching Taliban movies in cell phones (Taliban make videos of punishing ANAs and post them on FB)” because the explanation clarifies that it is being watched on Facebook, I would categorize this under social media, however if you are unsure, categorize it under both phone and social media.

Category 18: Interpersonal communications

Definition: This is a broad category that will include all indicators that mention any person-to-person communications (so no media). This could include hearing rumors from a friend or neighbor, hearing rumors or hearsay in the bazaar or at a gathering or event, things that children hear at school, etc. **Every time** the words “we hear” are mentioned, if it is NOT followed by media (in the radio, TV etc) then it should be coded here as interpersonal communications.

Examples: “We hear from the people of Kuz Sabar that, Taliban fire from the villagers houses on Local Police at Kuz Sabar Village” or “We hear some women in our village saying that ISIS pay in dollars to their soldiers: pay in dollars means that they pay a good amount of money (We usually hear this from women who come as guest to our village from Chaprehar and Shinwar district)” or “We hear some girls at our school, saying that polio vaccine is HARAM (Some girls at our school believe that polio vaccine is made of pig which is Haram in Islam)” or “We hear the WAHABI women in our village praising ISIS”

***Quick note:** Any time an indicator begins with “I hear, we hear etc, it will either fall into the category of media, if it was heard on radio, TV or internet, or into the category of interpersonal communications if no media is mentioned.

Category 19: Routine Social Activities

Definition: This is a category that will include all indicators that mention normal or routine social gatherings or activities, divided into sub-categories of type of activity. See examples below:

- a. Weddings: **Examples:** “We play music in wedding ceremonies” or “We see girls dancing with their immediate family members in wedding ceremonies” (which would also fall under category 14: gender roles) or “We don’t hear any gunshots in wedding ceremonies Upper Pachir”
- b. Funerals: **Examples:** “Our men attend funeral of ANA” or “Ulamas of our village who attend ANA funerals cannot go to the districts like Rodat, Khogyani, Chaprehar, Koot and Bati Koot” (which would also fall under category 5: religion and culture) or “Hear from ISIS radio threatening Ulamas not to attend ANAs’ funeral” (which would also fall under category 7.b.3 nonstate armed actors – ISIS – propaganda AND category 16.c media, radio)
- c. Festivals: (including holidays, ie: Eid) **Example:** “We attend Eid prayers at

- mosques”
- d. Sports: **Example:** “We saw Taliban killed a 13 year old boy, watching cricket” or “We play cricket every Friday in our village”
 - e. Public gathering locales: (ie parks) **Example:** “We see women in KALASTOON Park on Fridays”

Category 20: Freedom

Definition: This is a category that will include all indicators that mention both positive and negative freedom, in other words the freedom TO do something (for example, “I can wear whatever clothes I want” or the LACK of freedom (for example: “Ulama can’t speak against ISIS or they will be killed”) see further examples below:

- a. Dress: (i.e. clothing) **Example:** “We aren’t bound to wear a specific type of clothes” or “Observing Afghan Flag embroidered on clothes worn by boys” or “We can’t wear black clothes because of Taliban”
- b. Grooming: (i.e. beards, hair, nails etc) **Example:** “Taliban don’t punish us for shaving beards (*They actually punished us before*)” or “The Wahabi Mullah in our village does not shake hands with my brother because my brother shaves his beard” (which would also fall under category 5: religion and culture)
- c. Speech: (i.e. are people free to say what they want?) **Example:** “Our villagers say that Ulamas switch off their cell phones when hear that ANA of our village is killed”

Category 21: Migration

Definition: This category will reflect any mention of the words ‘moving’ or ‘migrate, migration, emigrate’ etc. If there is no specific destination, it can be coded with an X, otherwise it should be coded into two sub-categories of

- a. **domestic (Dom:** inside Afghanistan) **Examples:** “Many families migrated from Dangaam to Asmar district due to the missiles fired from Pakistan” would be coded as “Dom” for domestic migration. “Some rich families of our village migrated to Kabul” would be coded as “Dom” for domestic migration.
- b. **(IL: international migration.) Examples:** “Many boys of our village migrated to Europe” or “Many youths of our neighborhood emigrated to Europe” would both be coded as (IL) for international migration.

Category 22: Acts of Violence

Definition: This category will cover any mention of direct violence divided into six subcategories that identify the type of action, including three qualifying codes that distinguish how respondents are aware that the action took place. If you are unsure of the sub-category, you can mark with an X. Qualifying codes correspond to statements of facts, or knowing as coded by (kn), expressions using the verb ‘to see/witness’ as coded by (s), and expressions referring to hearing or hearing about as (h). If there is a reference to something that is clearly an act of violence, but does not fall into one of these categories (for example amputation, beating or other non-lethal acts of violence) it should be coded here as an X with no sub-category. See examples below:

- a. **Kidnapping (kp) Example:** “We don’t hear about cases of kidnapping in our village” (h/kp), or “Taliban kidnapped the son of a rich man from our village” (kn/kp) Also code any indicators that mention kidnapping but use other words, like “the Taliban took village elders”, if it means kidnapping code it here.
- b. **Gunshots/firing (g) Example:** “We heard gunshots during the night in our village” (h/g) or “We sometimes see Taliban shooting on ANA vehicles in Mazar Dara, while

going to Jalalabad” (s/g), or “Taliban sometimes fire on the houses of government employees living in our village” (kn/g) Also code any indicators that relate to gun violence using different words like “firing” or “firing at/firing on” etc

- c. Attacks (a) **Example:** “We see drone attacks happen in our district” (s/a) or “Hear the news about Attacks on NDS houses” (h/a) or Suicide attacks rise (kn/a)
- d. Killing (k) **Example:** “Many of our villagers killed working for Taliban” (kn/k) or “We saw Taliban killed a 13 year old boy, watching cricket” (s/k), or “Hear the in the news about killing of ANA” (h/k) Also code any indicators that use other words for killing, like ‘slaughter’
- e. Missiles (m) **Example:** “We hear missiles fired from Pakistan into our district” (h/m) or “We see missiles fired into our district from Pakistan” (s/m) or “Missiles are fired from Jalalabad FOB into our district (kn/m)
- f. Explosion (e) **Example:** “Don’t hear any news of bomb explosions” (h/e) or “Explosions don’t occur in our village” (kn/e) or “We witnessed bomb explosions in elections” (s/e)

*A note on how to code corruption:

- If the act of corruption is committed by the government, including fraud, bribery, nepotism, it is coded as CRIME
- If the act of corruption is committed by an armed non-state group in an act of coercion, such as bribery, roadblocks, threats etc, then it is coded as t:Pol, IS:Pol or O:Pol, implying their political control
- If a citizen is willingly paying a religious armed non-state group in exchange for services, (specifically through usher) then it is listed by group (T, IS, O) and under religion, as this is considered a sort of religious tax.