

RANDOMIZED IMPACT EVALUATION OF AFGHANISTAN'S NATIONAL SOLIDARITY PROGRAMME (NSP) REPORT ON MONITORING OF SUB-PROJECT SELECTION[§]

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Abstract: This report presents results of monitoring of sub-project selection procedures conducted in 127 communities in north, eastern, central and western Afghanistan. Sub-project selection procedures are found to have been implemented with a generally high degree of professionalism by Facilitating Partners (FPs), with only rare incidences of deviations from implementation guidelines. Monitored communities selected sub-projects according to either a consultation meeting or referendum, but both procedures were perceived by villagers to promote the general will in sub-project selection. Respondents expressed a high level of confidence in both the sub-project selection procedure and their local Community Development Council (CDC).

I. Introduction

This report presents findings from the monitoring of sub-project selection procedures held in 10 districts in north, eastern, central, and western Afghanistan included in a longitudinal randomized evaluation of the economic, social, and institutional impacts of the National Solidarity Programme (NSP).¹ In each of the 10 districts, 50 communities have been selected to participate in the evaluation, half of which were then randomly selected to receive NSP. Communities participating in NSP receive block grants, valued at up to \$60,000, to implement sub-projects, which are selected by members of the community and the local Community Development Council (CDC). Within the 250 communities participating both in the evaluation and in NSP, random variation was introduced into the method by which sub-projects were selected by the village community and the CDC, with half selecting sub-projects via a referendum and half selecting sub-projects via a consultation meeting. In a referendum, the sub-projects to be funded by NSP block grants are selected in a formal, democratic process by

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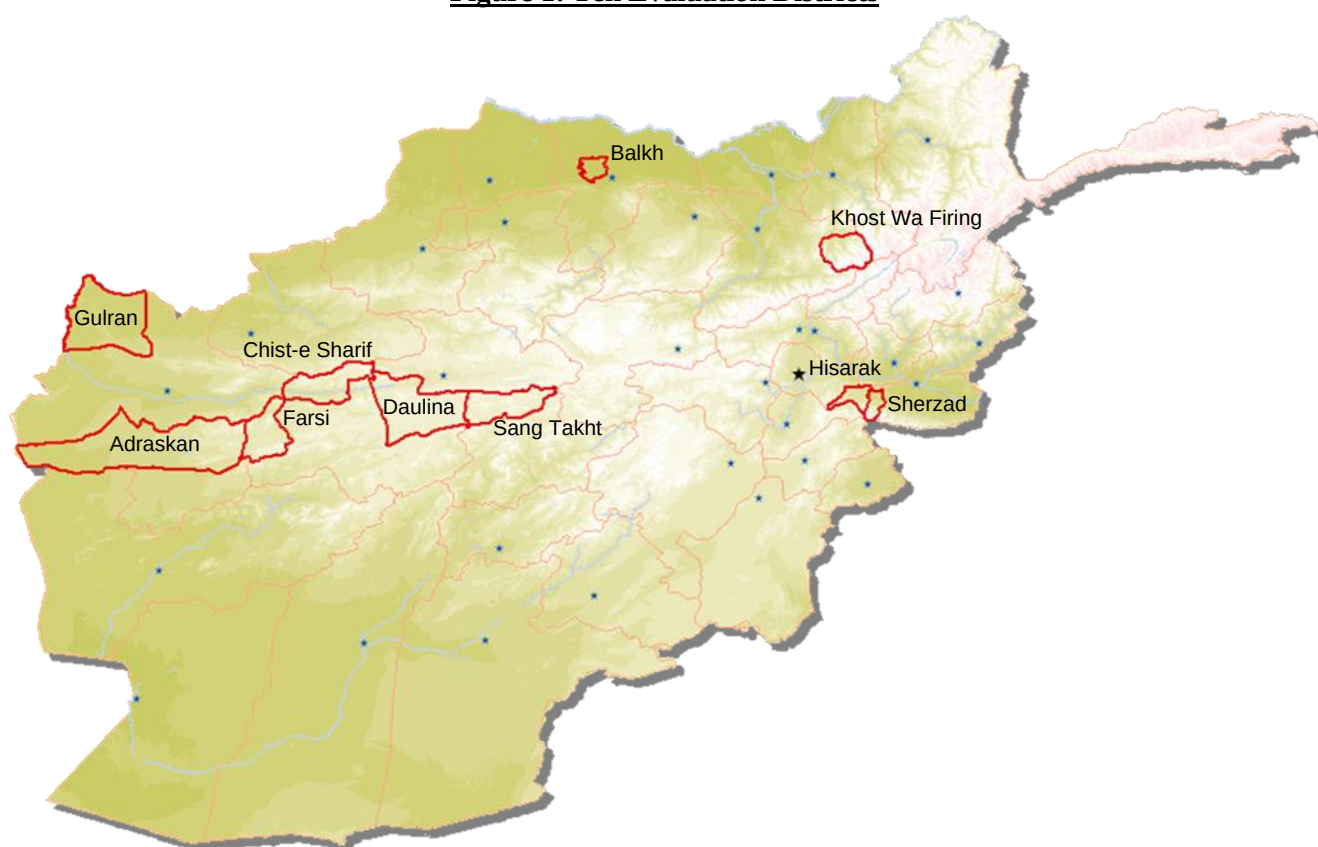
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¹ These are Adraskan, Chisht-e Sharif, Farsi, and Gulran districts in Herat province; Balkh district in Balkh province; Daulina district in Ghor province; Hisarak and Sherzad districts in Nangarhar province; Khost Wa Firing district in Baghlan province, and Sang Takht district in Daykundi province. The locations of these 10 districts are displayed in Figure 1 below.

villagers, while the consultation meeting procedure stresses the building of consensus among villagers, but leaves the final decision to the Community Development Council (CDC).

Figure 1: Ten Evaluation Districts



Note: Boundaries of 10 sample districts are marked in red; provincial boundaries in pink; major rivers in light blue; district capitals with small blue stars; and Kabul with a large black star

Between November 2007 and July 2008, nine monitors were dispatched to observe sub-project selection procedures in 63 communities assigned to select sub-projects using a consultation meeting (hereafter ‘consultation communities’) and in 64 communities assigned to select sub-projects using a referendum (hereafter ‘referendum communities’). Sub-project selection monitoring aimed to provide an independent and systematic accounting of the integrity of sub-project selection and the perceptions of villagers of the selection process. Information was gathered both on the basis of monitors’ observations of the selection process in each monitored village, as well as from 1,238 interviews conducted with villagers following their participation in the sub-project selection procedure, be it referendum or consultation meeting.² Overall, the results of the monitoring exercise indicated that sub-project selection procedures were professionally executed by Facilitating Partners (FPs) assigned to the 10 evaluation districts and that, in general, villagers exhibited a good understanding of the function of the sub-project selection procedure and of NSP.

The monitoring exercise found that, in communities assigned to select sub-projects via a consultation meeting, the meetings were generally well attended, attracting an average of roughly 70 men and a similar number of women. Villagers in attendance out-numbered members of the

² Given the procedural differences between the referendum and consultation meeting procedures, distinct sets of monitoring instruments were developed for each, although a large number of questions were common across both sets.

CDC by a ratio of ten to one, with an average of seven male and seven female CDC members present. The high levels of attendance did not necessarily translate into a high level of participation, however, with only one out of eight men and one out of 20 women publicly voicing an opinion during the meeting. As is to be expected, rates of participation were much higher among CDC members, with four out of nine male members and one out of every two women expressing an opinion. On average, six projects were discussed during the consultation meeting. Monitors were asked to report the degree of convergence of opinion among villagers on the proposed projects. In 95 percent of cases, monitors reported that the opinions of villagers and CDC members coincided, while the opinions of male and female participants coincided 86 percent of the time. In none of the 63 monitored consultation communities did monitors report that villagers appeared afraid or unwilling to express an opinion different to that of the members of the CDC or any other person at the meeting.

In 74 percent of communities assigned to select sub-projects via referendum, monitors reported that polling stations were staffed by the FP, with polling stations being manned by members of the village community in 19 percent of cases. In 99 percent of monitored polling stations, a list of eligible voters was available and, in 97 percent of monitored polling stations, supervisors checked to see whether the names of voters off against those on the list. In only half of polling stations, however, were the thumbs of those who had voted marked with a pen or ink. 87 percent of monitored polling stations contained separate booths for men and women, and in 83 percent of referendum communities, polling booths were deemed to satisfactorily safeguard voters' privacy. Ballot boxes were usually either a closed box (47%) or a closed box with a lock (51%). Despite the number of communities with unlocked ballot boxes, in 98 percent of referendum communities, monitors expressed confidence that the ballot papers had been changed prior to vote counting. Vote counting also appears to have been generally fair and transparent, with monitors reporting that villagers were prevented from monitoring the counting of the votes in only 3 percent of communities.

Little difference was observed between consultation and referendum communities in terms of the number of selected projects, with an average of four in each case. In 97 percent of consultation communities and 98 percent of referendum communities, the sub-project selection process was completed and selected projects announced on the same day. In 100 percent of referendum communities and 96 percent of consultation communities, monitors reported that the selected sub-projects were those supported by the villagers. The most popular sub-projects in both referendum and consultation communities were those related to irrigation; vocational training or literacy courses for women; drinking water; roads and bridges; and electricity; followed by projects that provide drainage or flood protection. Although the types of sub-projects selected through referendum and consultation communities were generally quite similar, there were some notable differences. Communities that held consultation meetings were more likely to select roads and bridges (the difference is statistically significant at the 5 percent level) and community centers (the difference is statistically significant at the 10 percent level), while referendum communities selected fewer community center projects and more drainage or flood protection projects (the difference is statistically significant at the 10 percent level).

The majority of those participating in sub-project selection procedures expressed satisfaction with their local CDC and believed that democratic elections constituted a good way to select the CDC members. Interviewees perceived that the primary role of the CDC is to provide assistance to villagers and to implement development projects for the community. Interviewees seemed generally satisfied with the inclusiveness of the sub-project selection procedure and the type and range of the proposed sub-projects. When asked what determined their decision to support a particular sub-project, a slight majority of respondents stated that they considered a candidate sub-project's potential contribution to village development, followed by the location of the

project, the opinion of the village leaders, and the project cost. Although, on average, responses were similar across referendum and consultation communities, more people in referendum communities prioritized consideration of a candidate sub-project's contribution to community development. The overwhelming majority of respondents expressed confidence in the sub-project selection process, stating that they truly expected it to determine project selection outcomes.

The report is structured into 5 sections: Section II provides a description of the sub-project selection procedures and the form of consultation meetings and referenda prescribed for the 250 evaluation communities; Section III discusses the process by which the monitored communities were sampled from the pool of 250 evaluation communities; Section IV describes the monitoring instrument and process; and Section V presents an analysis of the monitoring results.

II. Sub-Project Selection Procedures

In addition to the formation of a local Community Development Council (CDC), a core component of NSP is the disbursement of block grants to participating communities to facilitate the implementation of sub-projects, which usually are focused on improving community infrastructure or teaching skills to villagers. In accordance with the participatory methodology of NSP, the involvement of community members in the selection of sub-projects is stressed. The Operational Manual of NSP mandates that the CDC should, in consultation with villagers, draft a Community Development Plan (CDP) to outline the needs of the community and propose various projects that could be implemented to help the community meet those needs. A further round of consultation between the CDC and the village community is then prescribed before the CDC selects sub-projects to be submitted to NSP for financing.

Within the 250 communities participating both in the evaluation and in NSP, random variation was introduced into the method by which sub-projects were selected by the village community and the CDC, with half selecting sub-projects via a referendum and half selecting sub-projects via a consultation meeting. Further details on both procedures are provided below:

- **Referenda:** In those villages assigned to select sub-projects according to a referendum, all villagers which were eligible to vote in the CDC election are given the opportunity to vote, by secret-ballot, for the sub-project they most wished to see implemented. FPs were directed to organize referenda in much the same manner in which they organized the CDC election, ensuring secrecy of ballots, non-interference of voters, and providing assistance to confused or disabled voters. At least 50 percent of eligible voters in the village must vote in the referendum in order for it to be valid.

The number and type of proposed sub-projects to be placed on the ballot is to be decided by the CDC in consultation with community members. However, in order to ensure that referenda are meaningful, FPs were required to check that the number of proposed sub-projects be at least three more sub-projects that could be funded using the combined value of the estimated NSP block grant and the community contribution and to ensure that all of the proposed sub-projects were practical and eligible to be funded by NSP.³

In order to facilitate the participation of illiterate villagers in the referenda, FPs were requested to prepare voting ballots which illustrate the proposed sub-projects, with voters indicating their one preferred project out of those listed on the ballot. The results of the referendum are binding upon the CDC and the community and sub-projects are to be

³ It was thus considered important that the CDC estimate the cost and expected community contribution for each proposed sub-project included on the ballot.

prioritized for funding according to the number of votes they receive. The three (or more) proposed sub-projects which receive the lowest number of votes are not to receive funding from NSP block grants.

- **Consultation Meetings:** In those villages assigned to select sub-projects according to a consultation meeting, the local CDC is to convene a meeting, open to all villagers and moderated by one or more CDC representatives, to discuss and decided which sub-projects will be selected for funding by NSP block grants. Although the purpose of the consultation meeting is to build a consensus among villagers and the CDC, the consultation meeting procedure leaves the final decision up to the CDC. This is in contrast to the referendum procedure, which of course places the full authority for the decision in the hands of community members.

At the start of the meeting, CDC representatives have the responsibility to explain each of the proposed sub-projects, noting the expected cost of each sub-project, as well as the expected value of the block grant to be disbursed by NSP. Meeting participants are then to discuss which sub-projects should be selected for NSP funding. The structure of the discussion is left to the discretion of the moderator: CDC representatives may express their opinions first and invite responses from the community members, or they may ask the meeting participants to speak first before giving their opinion. In order to make progress towards a consensus, CDC members may employ informal points-of-procedure (such as a show-of-hands) when appropriate, but no formal or binding vote should be held before, during, or after the meeting.

Following the end of discussion, the CDC is to meet to decide upon the final list of sub-projects which are to receive funding. The CDC may decide to communicate this list to the participants at the conclusion of the Consultation Meeting or, in the event that consensus between the CDC and community members was unable to be reached during the Consultation Meeting, may alternately decide to deliberate in the hours or days following the meeting to determine the final list. Not more than three days following the conclusion of the Consultation Meeting, the CDC will be required to submit the selected list of sub-projects to the FP.

These two sub-project selection procedures were developed in close coordination with FPs to ensure they did not conflict with existing norms of NSP implementation and could be successfully administered by FPs with existing staff and training capacities. To guide the administration of the two sub-project selection procedures, FPs were given an implementation manual in Dari, English, and Pashto, which provided detailed guidelines on the principles and procedures of referenda and consultation meetings.⁴

It was considered that both of the sub-project selection procedures had potential advantages and disadvantages. The key advantage of the referendum is that it is directly democratic: each villager is given an equal and unimpeded opportunity to express his or her preference as to which project should be selected. However, there are practical reasons why this may not be an optimal selection procedure. A consultation-based procedure, for instance, permits knowledgeable or experienced villagers to share their expertise and, if seated on the CDC, to exercise that expertise in making a final decision. Given that the success of projects may be related to specific factors of which the general village population may not be knowledgeable, it is conceivable that leaving the final decision to the CDC may result in the selection of more appropriate, and ultimately more successful, projects. On the other hand, the consultation meeting procedure may enable

⁴ The Dari, English, and Pashto versions of the implementation manual are publicly available at: <http://web.mit.edu/~cfotini/www/NSP-IE/sti.html>

members of the CDC to select projects that serve their interests over projects that serve the interests of the general village community, so no one selection method appears superior to another.

III. Sampling of Communities for Sub-Project Selection Monitoring

In selecting communities for sub-project selection monitoring, the evaluation team aspired to a form of stratification that was methodologically sound while logistically feasible.⁵ The sample was stratified across space, covering all 10 districts and different geographical locations within districts. Within each district, the sample of communities was stratified across sub-treatment variation, with half of the selected communities representing consultation meetings and the other half representing referenda, and across time, encompassing sub-project selections held early, in the middle, as well as late in the process. A single monitor was deployed to each evaluation district to observe the sub-project selection process, with the objective of monitoring sub-project selections in at least 12 villages in each district. In total, 127 subproject selections were monitored in the 10 evaluation districts, covering 63 community consultations and 64 referenda. The full list of communities monitored is provided in Appendix I.

Due to the differential rates of progress of FPs across the 10 districts, the administration of sub-project selection procedures spanned from December 2007 until July 2008. During this period, nine monitors were deployed to the 10 evaluation districts to conduct monitoring of sub-project selection procedures. The monitor assignments and dates during which sub-project selection monitoring occurred are provided in Table 1 below:

Table 1: Monitor Assignments and Dates of Sub-Project Selection

District	Monitors	Date
Adraskan (Herat)	Qaseem / Noor Habib	December 2007 – January 2008
Balkh (Balkh)	Zalmai	January 2008
Chisht-e Sharif (Herat)	Qaseem	June 2008 – July 2008
Daulina (Ghor)	Munir	April 2008 – May 2008
Farsi (Herat)	Sultan	December 2007
Gulran (Herat)	Qaseem	March 2008 – April 2008
Hisarak (Nangarhar)	Ghafar	January 2008 – February 2008
Khost Wa Firing (Baghlan)	Abed	November 2007 – December 2007
Sang Takht (Daykundi)	Latef	April 2008 – May 2008
Sherzad (Nangarhar)	Baser	April 2008 – May 2008

In addition to the information collected through the monitoring of sub-project selection, FPs were requested to collect information on sub-project selections in all of the 250 NSP evaluation communities. The list of reporting materials FPs were asked to submit is presented in Appendix II. At the time of writing of this report, these materials have been fully collected from FPs and are being processed and analyzed for publication in subsequent reports.

IV. Overview of Monitoring Instruments and Process

The duty of the monitor was to observe the administration of the sub-project selection and, upon its completion, to interview participants about the selection procedure and a number of

⁵ Financial and logistical constraints restricted the monitoring of sub-project selection procedures to approximately half of the 250 NSP evaluation communities.

other issues relating to NSP and the CDC.⁶ In the event that a monitor witnessed a problem with the selection process, he was instructed to document it in detail. If the problem was determined to be grave (for instance, if voting did not occur in a referendum community, or if forms of intimidation was occurring), the monitor was instructed to contact the evaluation coordinator in Kabul. The monitor was explicitly instructed not to interfere in the selection process or try to affect the outcome in any way. Although FPs knew their work would be subjected to monitoring, they were not aware when that would happen as the monitoring schedule for the district was known only to the evaluation team and the monitor.

Given the procedural differences between the referendum and consultation meeting procedures, distinct sets of monitoring instruments were developed for each, although a large number of questions were common across both sets. For referendum communities, four instruments were developed: (1) Referendum Report; (2) Polling Station Report, (3) Polling Station Detailed Report, and (4) Post-Vote Interview. For consultation communities, there were two instruments: (1) Consultation Meeting Report, and (2) Post-Meeting Interview. In both referendum and consultation communities, monitors were asked to record the names and costs of each of the proposed and selected projects. In consultation communities, monitors were asked to record the names of the projects that were discussed and the number of male and female villagers and male and female CDC members who spoke for and against each of the proposed sub-projects. Similarly, in referendum communities, monitors were asked to record the number of votes each proposed sub-project received. Further information on these instruments is provided below:

Referendum Communities

- **Referendum Report:** The Referendum Report consists of 38 questions designed to provide an assessment of whether the referendum was conducted in accordance with guidelines provided by the evaluation team and the NSP office. The instrument collects information on polling stations characteristics; duration of voting; transparency and accuracy of vote-counting; number, type, and announcement of selected sub-projects; and general impressions of the transparency and fairness of the referendum. Monitors were instructed to complete a separate Referendum Report for each monitored referendum community. A total of 64 Referendum Reports were completed across an equal number of monitored referendum communities.
- **Polling Station Report:** The Polling Station Report collects information on the characteristics of each polling station used during the referendum, with a specific focus on whether FPs had undertaken sufficient measures to ensure the secrecy of ballots and to avoid electoral fraud. Polling Station Reports were to be completed at all polling stations in the monitored referendum communities. A total of 282 Polling Station Reports were filed across 64 referendum communities.
- **Polling Station Detailed Report:** The Polling Station Detailed Report collected detailed information on the conduct of voting at three polling stations. At these polling stations, election monitors were requested to spend time observing the voting process, rather than simply reporting on the characteristics of the polling station. The Polling Station Detailed Report supplemented the information collected by the Polling Station Report with additional information on whether there were any voting irregularities, complaints, incidents, or other instances which may adversely impact the integrity of sub-project selection. A total of 181 Polling Station Detailed Report were completed across the 64 referendum communities.

⁶ These interviews consist of only male opinions in the village as women monitors could not be deployed due to financial constraints and because it would be culturally inappropriate for male monitors to interview women.

- **Post-Vote Interview:** The Post-Vote Interview consisted of a 23 question ‘exit poll’ that was administered to an average of 10 voters in each referendum community, with interviews spread between different polling stations. The interview was structured to capture the views of referendum participants on sub-project selection procedures, as well as to gauge their awareness of the CDC and NSP. A total of 620 Post-Vote Interviews were conducted across the 64 referendum communities.

Consultation Communities

- **Consultation Meeting Report:** The Consultation Meeting Report consists of 46 questions designed to provide an assessment of whether the consultation meeting was conducted in accordance with guidelines provided by the evaluation team and the NSP office. The instrument collects information on the number of male and female participants; number and type of sub-projects that were discussed; degree of community participation; duration of deliberations, number, type and announcement of selected sub-projects; and general impressions of the transparency and fairness of the consultation meeting. Monitors were instructed to complete a separate Consultation Meeting Report for each monitored consultation community. A total of 63 Consultation Meeting Reports were completed across an equal number of monitored consultation communities.
- **Post-Meeting Interview:** The Post-Meeting Interview consisted of a 24 question survey that was administered to an average of 10 meeting participants in each consultation community after the conclusion of the meeting. The interview was structured to capture the views of meeting participants on sub-project selection procedures, as well as to gauge their awareness of the CDC and NSP. A total of 618 Post-Meeting Interviews were conducted across the 63 monitored consultation communities.

A summary of the number of instruments administered in the monitored NSP evaluation communities is presented in the table below.⁷

Table 2: Number of Observations per Monitoring Instrument

District	Community Consultation		Referendum			
	Post-Meeting Interview	Consultation Meeting Report	Referendum Report	Polling Station Report	Detailed Polling Report	Post-Vote Interview
Adraskan	88	11	9	40	27	72
Balkh	50	5	7	43	21	70
Chisht-e Sharif	87	8	9	0	24	95
Daulina	52	6	6	37	18	60
Farsi	50	5	7	23	13	65
Gulran	70	6	5	31	15	50
Hisarak	38	4	5	37	15	49
Khost Wa Firing	60	6	6	29	18	60
Sang Takht	62	6	5	10	15	49
Sherzad	61	6	5	32	15	50
Total	618	63	64	282	181	620

In order to standardize the monitoring process, detailed written guidelines and training were provided to the monitors, who were selected based on their prior experience in conducting survey work in rural Afghanistan. The guidelines mandated that, upon arrival in the monitored community, the monitor should introduce himself to the FP staff and CDC members and inform them of his intent to monitor the sub-project selection.

⁷ The full set of questions included in these six monitoring instruments is publicly available at: <http://web.mit.edu/cfotini/www/NSP-IE/survey.html>

In referendum communities, monitors were directed to select three polling stations in different parts of the village and to spend an equal amount of time at each of these polling stations. At each of these polling stations, monitors were expected to complete a minimum of three post-vote interviews, equally spaced between voters to approximate a random sample. While walking between the three polling stations selected for detailed observation, the monitor was requested to visit the other polling stations in order to complete the reports at the other polling stations. At the end of voting in referendum villages, monitors were directed to select a polling station other than the three at which he conducted a detailed observation to observe the counting of the votes.

In consultation communities, monitors were asked to conduct at least 10 post-meeting interviews with participants following the conclusion of the meeting, selecting every third participant. If a man refused to be interviewed, the monitor would request an interview with the next man to leave the meeting.

Following the announcement of the results of the sub-project selection in communities, the monitor was requested to complete the Consultation Meeting or Referendum Report, recording in addition the number of selected projects and the priority in which they were selected.

V. Results of Monitoring of Sub-Project Selection Procedures

The results from the monitoring suggest that, in general, sub-project selection procedures were professionally executed by Facilitating Partners (FPs) assigned to the 10 evaluation districts, with only a few cases where monitors raised doubts about the integrity of the voting process. Results from the post-meeting and post-vote interviews suggest that villagers in the NSP evaluation communities exhibit a high level of engagement with the sub-project selection and a solid understanding of both the procedural and substantive aspects of the process.

Section V.1 below presents monitors' observations on the sub-project selection procedure recorded in consultation meeting and referendum reports and in polling station and polling station detailed reports. Section V.2 presents information collected by post-meeting and post-vote interviews.

V.1. Observation of Sub-Project Selection

This section draws upon monitors' observations of 63 community consultation meetings and 64 subproject selection referenda. The unit of analysis in this case is the community and thus differs, both in type and sample size, from the post-vote and -meeting interviews presented in the next section.

Consultation Meetings

Consultation meetings were generally well-attended, attracting an average of roughly 70 men and a similar number of women. The popularity of meetings varied across the 10 evaluation districts, with the lowest average attendance being reported in Adraskan, with 23 men and 16 women, and the highest being reported in Gulran, with 163 men and 173 women. The number of male and female attendees tended to be comparable within districts with the exception of Balkh, where the number of women in attendance were half that of men and in Daulina, where the opposite was true.⁸

⁸ In Khost Wa Firing, the male and female consultation meetings were held in separate areas of the village and the male monitor was not allowed to physically verify the number of women present in the female consultation meeting.

Table 3: Number of Villagers Attending Consultation Meeting

District	Male Villagers (excl. CDC)					Female Villagers (excl. CDC)				
	Obs.	Mean	S. D.	Min.	Max.	Obs.	Mean	S. D.	Min.	Max.
Adraskan	11	24	16	4	60	10	16	9	7	30
Balkh	5	44	11	32	58	5	22	2	18	24
Chisht-e Sharif	8	84	42	43	156	7	91	30	59	140
Daulina	6	24	21	4	62	6	51	34	20	108
Farsi	5	68	18	50	90	5	98	23	70	120
Gulran	6	164	109	48	345	6	173	67	93	267
Hisarak	4	56	26	21	80	4	68	39	30	120
Khost Wa Firing	6	100	49	48	180	0	-	-	-	-
Sang Takht	6	43	25	19	84	6	53	28	23	95
Sherzad	6	128	43	80	180	5	144	57	90	210
Total	63	71	61	4	345	55	74	62	0	267

On average, villagers attending consultation meetings outnumbered their local elected officials by a ratio of ten to one, with seven male CDC members and seven female CDC members attending meetings. The number of CDC attendees was relatively low in Adraskan, with only 4 female and 6 male CDC members attending on average, and relatively high in Hisarak, where an average of 11 men and 10 women attended. Overall, the number of male and female CDC members attending the meetings appeared to relatively similar.

Table 4: Number of CDC Members Attending Consultation Meeting

District	Male CDC Members					Female CDC Members				
	Obs.	Mean	S. D.	Min.	Max.	Obs.	Mean	S. D.	Min.	Max.
Adraskan	11	6	1	5	8	11	4	2	0	7
Balkh	5	8	2	7	11	5	6	1	4	7
Chisht-e Sharif	8	8	4	4	14	7	10	4	5	15
Daulina	6	7	3	4	12	6	10	5	3	14
Farsi	5	7	3	4	10	5	6	3	4	9
Gulran	6	8	3	5	12	6	8	4	3	14
Hisarak	4	11	4	7	15	4	10	4	7	15
Khost Wa Firing	6	7	2	5	10	0	-	-	-	-
Sang Takht	6	5	1	4	6	6	5	1	4	6
Sherzad	6	7	4	5	15	5	8	4	6	15
Total	63	7	3	4	15	56	7	4	0	15

Only a fraction of villagers attending consultation meetings were active participants, with an average of one-out-of-eight men and one-out-of-twenty women expressing an opinion during the meeting. According to the data collected by monitors, villagers in Chisht-e Sharif, Farsi, and Sherzad were the most outspoken, while those in Daulina, Gulran, and Hisarak were the most reticent. The low number of villagers participating in consultation meetings in Gulran is especially notable given the high levels of attendance at such meetings.

Table 5: Number of Villagers Speaking at Consultation Meeting

District	Male Villagers (excl. CDC)					Female Villagers (excl. CDC)				
	Obs.	Mean	S. D.	Min.	Max.	Obs.	Mean	S. D.	Min.	Max.
Adraskan	11	4	2	0	7	11	3	2	0	7

Balkh	5	3	2	2	7	5	4	4	1	9
Chisht-e Sharif	8	11	5	4	20	7	5	3	2	10
Daulina	6	1	1	0	2	6	2	2	0	4
Farsi	5	8	4	4	12	5	10	7	4	20
Gulran	6	1	1	0	2	6	0	0	0	0
Hisarak	4	1	1	0	3	4	1	1	0	2
Khost Wa Firing	0	-	-	-	-	0	-	-	-	-
Sang Takht	6	3	2	2	6	6	2	2	0	4
Sherzad	6	6	6	2	18	5	7	10	1	25
Total	57	5	4	0	20	56	4	5	0	25

As is to be expected given the leadership role prescribed for CDC members at consultation meetings, participation rates were higher among CDC members in attendance. On average, roughly half of the CDC members in attendance at consultation meetings expressed an opinion during the meeting. Participation of CDC members in meetings appeared to be highest in Chisht-e Sharif and Khost Wa Firing, and lowest in Daulina, Gulran, and Hisarak.

Table 6: Number of CDC Members Speaking at Consultation Meeting

District	Male CDC Members					Female CDC Members				
	Obs.	Mean	S. D.	Min.	Max.	Obs.	Mean	S. D.	Min.	Max.
Adraskan	11	4	2	1	8	11	2	2	0	5
Balkh	5	3	1	2	5	5	3	1	1	4
Chisht-e Sharif	8	6	3	4	10	8	5	2	2	9
Daulina	6	2	1	0	2	6	1	1	0	2
Farsi	5	4	2	3	7	5	5	2	3	9
Gulran	6	1	1	0	3	6	1	1	0	2
Hisarak	4	2	1	0	3	4	1	1	0	1
Khost Wa Firing	6	7	2	5	10	0	-	-	-	-
Sang Takht	6	3	1	2	5	6	2	1	0	3
Sherzad	6	4	2	3	8	5	3	3	1	9
Total	63	4	3	0	10	57	2	2	0	9

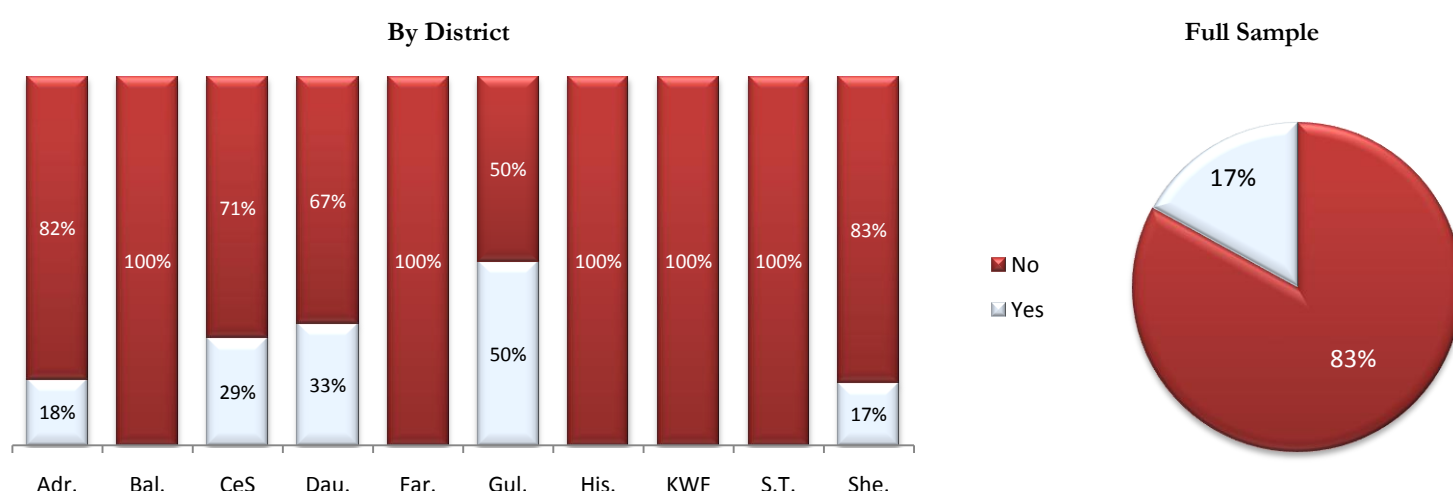
On average, 6 projects were discussed during a consultation meeting that lasted an hour. In Khost Wa Firing and Sang Takht, the number of projects was, on average, relatively small, while meetings in Farsi and Gulran discussed a relatively high number of projects. From the data reported by monitors, meetings in Chisht-e Sharif appeared to be relatively lengthy, lasting nearly 100 minutes on average, while those in Gulran and Khost Wa Firing were relatively short, lasting around 15 minutes on average.

Table 7: Projects Discussed and Duration of Discussion

District	Projects Discussed					Duration of Discussion (Minutes)				
	Obs.	Mean	S. D.	Min.	Max.	Obs.	Mean	S. D.	Min.	Max.
Adraskan	11	6	1	4	8	10	69	31	15	100
Balkh	5	6	2	3	8	0	-	-	-	-
Chisht-e Sharif	8	6	1	5	7	3	97	59	30	140
Daulina	6	7	4	2	12	2	25	7	20	30
Farsi	5	8	1	6	9	2	31	41	2	60
Gulran	6	9	2	6	12	3	18	13	5	30
Hisarak	4	7	1	6	9	0	-	-	-	-
Khost Wa Firing	6	3	0	3	3	2	15	0	15	15
Sang Takht	6	4	2	1	5	0	-	-	-	-
Sherzad	6	5	1	4	6	1	100	-	100	100
Total	63	6	2	1	12	23	56	41	2	140

In all 63 consultation communities that were monitored, FP representatives made an introductory speech at the beginning of the meeting. More surprising, however, is that, in a small number of communities, FP representatives also participated in the meeting itself. In 14 percent of meetings monitored, FP representatives expressed an opinion during the meeting and, in 20 percent of monitored meetings, they also spoke at the end of the consultation meeting. However, in only 17 percent of monitored meetings did FP representatives express an opinion during the meeting as to which of the proposed sub-project(s) were most appropriate for the community.⁹

Figure 2: Incidence of FP Representatives Expressing Views on Proposed Projects



In seven out of the 13 cases in which FP representatives expressed a preference as to which sub-project(s) were the most appropriate for the community, the monitor deemed that the opinion of the FP representative influenced the outcome of the meeting.¹⁰ However, in no villages did monitors report that there were any instances where villagers or members of the CDC were afraid or unwilling to express an opinion different to that of the FP representative present. Only

⁹Instances where FP representatives expressed a preference during the meeting as to which sub-project(s) were most appropriate for the community were reported in two communities in Adraskan (*Hada Wa Mahdan* and *Chah Qala*), two communities in Chisht-e Sharif (*Tagab Ghaz* and *Yak Pahlo*), two communities in Daulina (*Gard Lang* and *Jourayan*), three communities in Gulran (*Tote Che Jamshidi*, *Ziyarat Babay Fawaq*, and *Buzan Hulya*) and one in Sherzad (*Sangar Khail*).

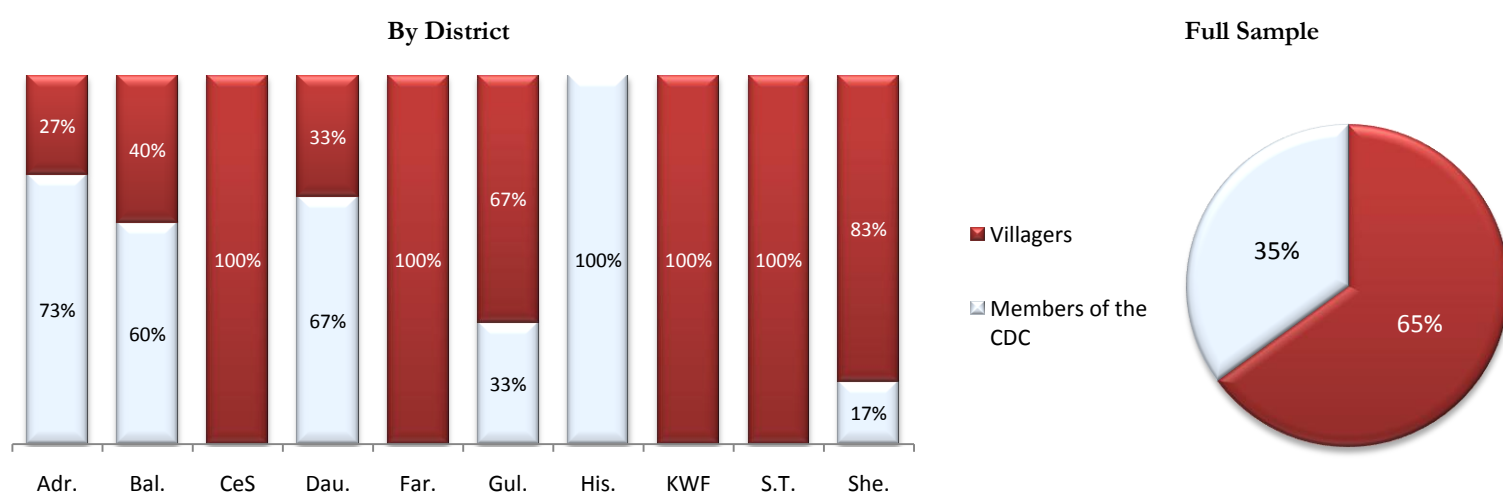
¹⁰ These villages were *Chah Qala* in Adraskan, *Palas Push* in Balkh, *Gard Lang* and *Jourayan* in Daulina, *Ziyarat Babay Fawaq* and *Buzan Hulya* in Gulran, and *Sangar Khail* in Sherzad.

in *Dakar* village in Balkh district did the monitor consider that the FP representative(s) were the most influential voice in the decision making process. In the remaining 98 percent of cases, monitors reported that CDC members had the most influence in the selection of sub-projects. In none of the monitored consultation communities did monitors report that villagers appeared afraid or unwilling to express an opinion different to that of the CDC members or any other person at the meeting.

Monitors were asked to report whether or not the opinions of CDC members and villagers and male and female participants converged or diverged. In 95 percent of monitored consultation communities, monitors reported that the opinions of CDC members and villagers were generally similar. In 86 percent of monitored consultation communities, monitors reported that the opinions of male and female participants were similar. Much of this disagreement, however, was driven by a handful of villages where either men or women did not express an opinion during the meeting.¹¹

In 65 percent of monitored consultation communities, monitors reported that the villagers – as opposed to the CDC members or FP representatives – appeared to be deciding which sub-projects were selected. There was substantial variance between districts, however. In Chisht-e Sharif, Farsi, Khost Wa Firing, and Sang Takht, monitors reported that villagers made the decision in all monitored communities. In, Hisarak, however, the opposite was the case, with CDC members being the main force being the decision. Adraskan, Balkh, and Daulina were more or less equally split between meetings where CDC members were more decisive and meetings where villagers seemed to exert the most influence. In Gulran and Sherzad, villagers mostly held sway.¹²

Figure 3: Main Decision-Maker at Consultation Meetings



It was relatively rare for CDC members to conduct additional deliberations following the consultation meeting to decide which sub-projects were to be selected, with this occurring in

¹¹ Men did not express their opinion in *Sangar Khail* and *Malik Faiz* in Sherzad, *Par Jena* in Hisarak, and *Tajrumin* in Chisht-e Sharif. Women did not express their opinion in *Kham Ghor Yan* and *Tarma Ha* in Adraskan and in *Chashma Azizan* in Farsi. Men did not agree with women in *Mate* in Hesarak and *Sofi Ghulam* in Farsi.

¹² In *Kashrano Kalay* in Sherzad, CDC members appeared to be more decisive, as they did also in *Chah Gulgal Hulya* and *Qashoqi Zori* in Gulran.

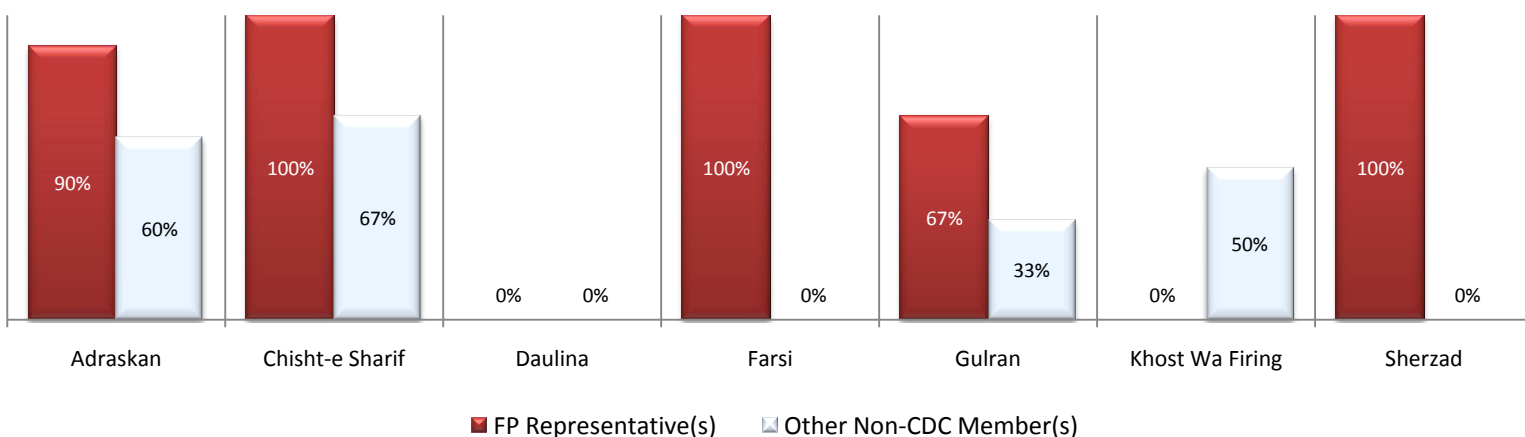
only one out of three monitored communities. In communities in in Adraskan, Farsi, and Gulran, this happened relatively more frequently.¹³

Figure 4: Incidence of Discussion amongst CDC Members Following Public Deliberations



In all but two monitored communities where post-meeting deliberations occurred, these deliberations occurred in public.¹⁴ Across the sample, it was common for FP representatives to be involved in such discussions, with 75 percent of meetings involving FP representatives, although in Daulina and Khost Wa Firing, they were never involved. In 46 percent of cases, discussions involved non-CDC members, although persons not belonging to the CDC or the FP were never involved in the discussions in Daulina, Farsi, or Sherzad.¹⁵

Figure 5: Participation of Non-CDC Members in Discussion Following Public Deliberations



¹³ These communities included *Sar Kot* in Sherzad; *Ab Awar* and *Pajak* in Khost Wa Firing; *Tote Che Jamshidi*, *Ziyarat Babay Fawaq*, *Qashoqi Zori* in Gulran; *Chashma Azizan* and *Sofi Ghulam* in Farsi; *Daha Zabar*, *Kabotar Khan*, *Qol Saqab* in Chisht-e Sharif; *Haidaran* and *Jourayan* in Daulina, and eight villages in Adraskan (*Kham Ghor Yan*, *Hada Wa Mahdan*, *Shash Mir Sang*, *Chah Paya Dobaradar*, *Chah Qala*, *Neyanak Madho*, *Sad Mani*, *Poul Besha*).

¹⁴ Exceptions were *Chashma Azizan* in Farsi and *Tote Che Jamshidi* in Gulran.

¹⁵ Out of 23 villages in which a post-meeting discussion took place, in 4 villages, only CDC members participated; in 3 villages, some non-CDC members were involved, but FP representatives did not participate; in 9 villages, only CDC members and FP representatives were engaged in the discussion; and in the remaining 8 villages all types of actors participated.

Referenda

Monitored referendum villages contained an average of 155 households, ranging from a low average of 54 households in Sang Takht to a high average of 235 households in Hisarak. The number of polling stations per community varied between districts, with referendum communities in Balkh, Chisht-e Sharif, Khost Wa Firing, and Sang Takht only having a single polling station and referendum communities in Daulina having an average of 11 polling stations.

Table 8: Number of Households and Polling Stations in Referendum Communities

District	Households per Community					Polling Stations per Community				
	Obs.	Mean	S. D.	Min.	Max.	Obs.	Mean	S. D.	Min.	Max.
Adraskan	9	180	87	69	300	9	6	6	1	15
Balkh	7	224	196	50	576	7	1	0	1	1
Chisht-e Sharif	9	79	64	7	188	9	1	0	1	1
Daulina	6	208	78	125	300	6	11	4	6	15
Farsi	7	98	46	30	169	7	2	0	2	2
Gulran	5	158	104	31	298	5	2	1	2	4
Hisarak	4	235	77	126	290	4	2	0	2	2
Khost Wa Firing	6	164	53	92	222	6	1	0	1	1
Sang Takht	5	54	11	41	65	5	1	0	1	1
Sherzad	5	181	28	142	207	5	2	0	2	2
Total	63	154	103	7	576	63	3	4	1	15

In Balkh, Chisht-e Sharif, Khost Wa Firing, and Sang Takht, there was a single polling station located in the village center, with villagers casting their votes by cluster, one cluster at a time. Across the sample, there was an average of seven clusters assigned to each polling station, ranging from one cluster per polling station in Daulina up to 15 clusters per polling station in Adraskan, Balkh, and Hisarak.

Figure 6: Location of Polling Stations

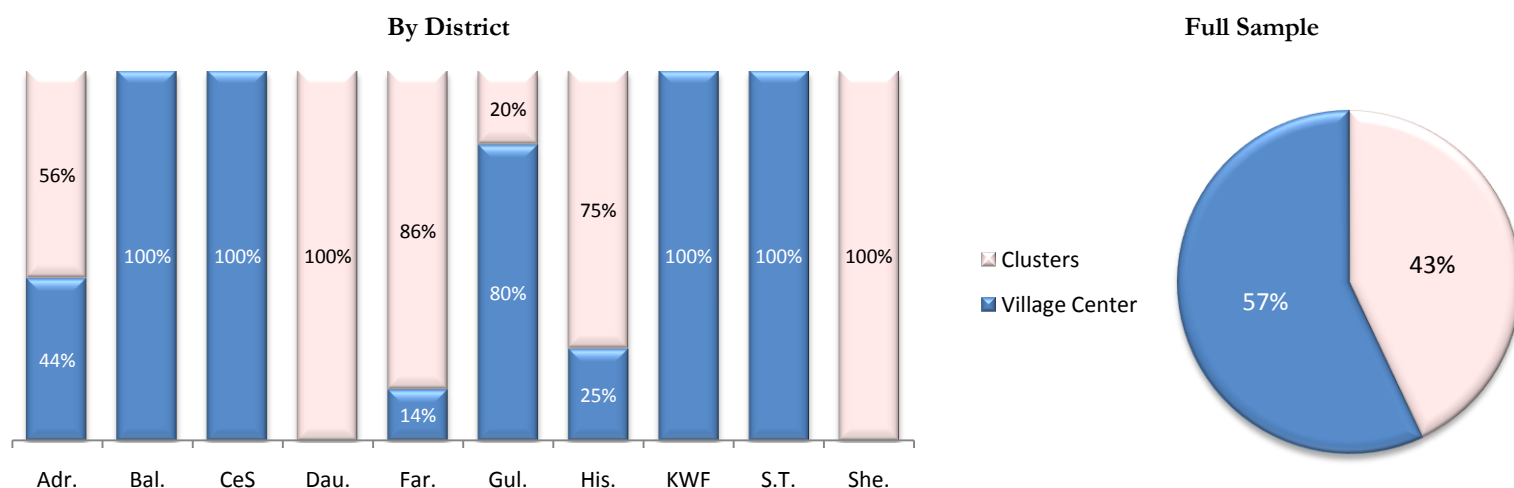
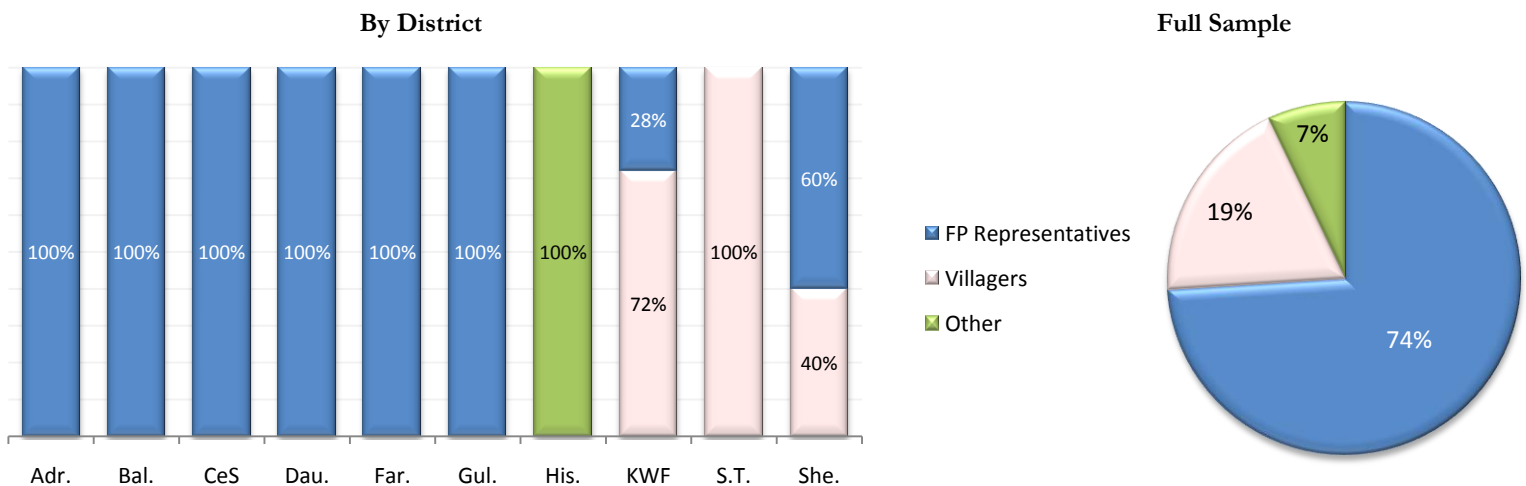


Table 9: Number of Clusters per Polling Station

District	Obs.	Mean	S. D.	Min.	Max.
Adraskan	26	5	5	1	15
Balkh	21	9	5	5	15
Chisht-e Sharif	22	7	2	5	10
Daulina	18	1	0	1	1
Farsi	13	6	1	4	8
Gulran	15	6	2	5	9
Hisarak	12	12	3	7	15
Khost Wa Firing	17	8	2	6	11
Sang Takht	15	5	0	5	5
Sherzad	15	10	1	8	11

In 74 percent of monitored polling stations, polling station supervisors were representatives of the FP; in 19 percent, they were members of the village community; and in the remaining cases there was some other arrangement. In Adraskan, Balkh, Chisht-e Sharif, Daulina, Farsi, and Gulran, polling station were always supervised by FP representatives, while, in Sang Takht, polling stations were always supervised by villagers or CDC members. Khost Wa Firing and Sherzad had mixed arrangements, while Hisarak had an alternate arrangement.

Figure 7: Affiliation of Polling Station Supervisors

Regardless of the affiliation of polling station supervisors, the process appears to have been very well organized. In 99 percent of monitored polling stations, there was a list of eligible voters,¹⁶ and in 97 percent, the names were different in each eligible voter registration list.¹⁷ In 97 percent of monitored polling stations, supervisors checked to see whether the names of people wanting to vote were on the eligible voters list.¹⁸ Polling station supervisors were not as diligent in marking the thumbs of people who had voted, only doing so in roughly half of the monitored polling stations. There were some districts, like Chist-e Sharif, and Daulina, no marking occurred

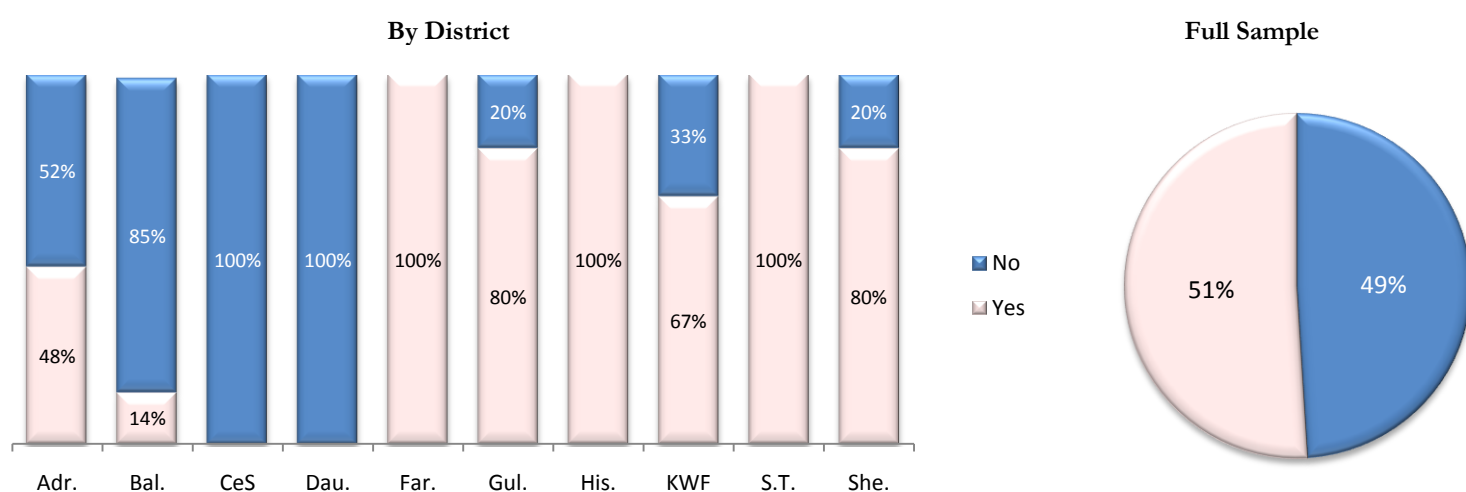
¹⁶ The sole exception was one polling station at *Zard Alogak* in Adraskan

¹⁷ The exceptions were three polling stations in *Penja Jereb* village in Balkh and one polling station in *Zala* in Chisht-e Sharif, where there was some overlap in the list.

¹⁸ Cases of polling station supervisors not checking the names of potential voters against the eligible voters' registration list were noted in three polling stations in *Kal Yak Paya* village in Adraskan and in three polling stations in *Hesarak* village in Balkh.

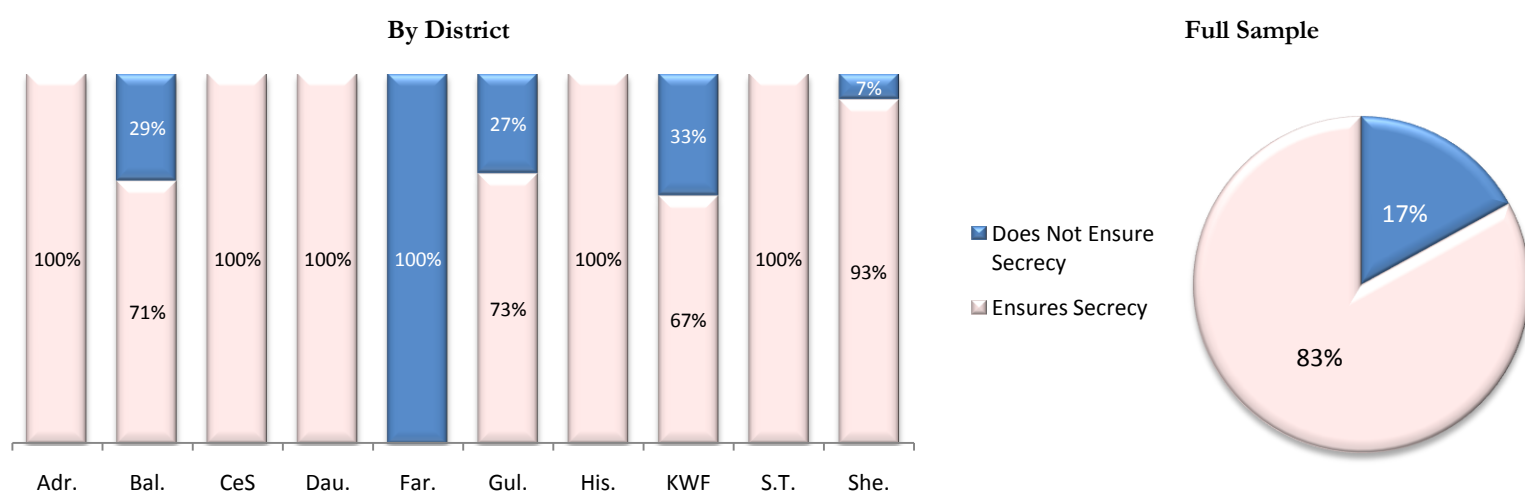
in any of the monitored polling stations, while in Farsi, Hisarak, and Sang Takht, marking was observed in all monitored polling stations.¹⁹

Figure 8: Incidence of Inking of Voters' Thumbs



87 percent of monitored polling stations contained a separate booth for male and female voters. Only in Adraskan and Sang Takht was it not common for there to be separate male and female booth. In Sang Takht, for instance, every one of the 13 polling stations observed had a single booth and, in Adraskan, nine of the 27 polling stations observed had a single booth.²⁰ Monitors deemed that 83 percent of the polling booths were designed in such a manner as to ensure the secrecy of the ballot. Poorly designed voting booths were noted in six polling stations in Balkh;²¹ in all 13 monitored polling stations in Farsi; in 4 polling stations in Gulran;²² in six polling stations in Khost Wa Firing;²³ and one polling station in Sherzad.²⁴

Figure 9: Capacity of Polling Booth to Ensure Secrecy of Ballot



¹⁹In Adraskan, thumbs were marked in *Zard Alogak*, *Tanora*, *Kham Haji Omer*, *Gharte*, *Chahak* and in *Penja Jereb* in Balkh.

²⁰In Adraskan, this happened in *Zard Alogak*, *Tanora*, *Kham Haji Omer*, and *Chahak*.

²¹*Penja Jereb* and *Larghon* villages

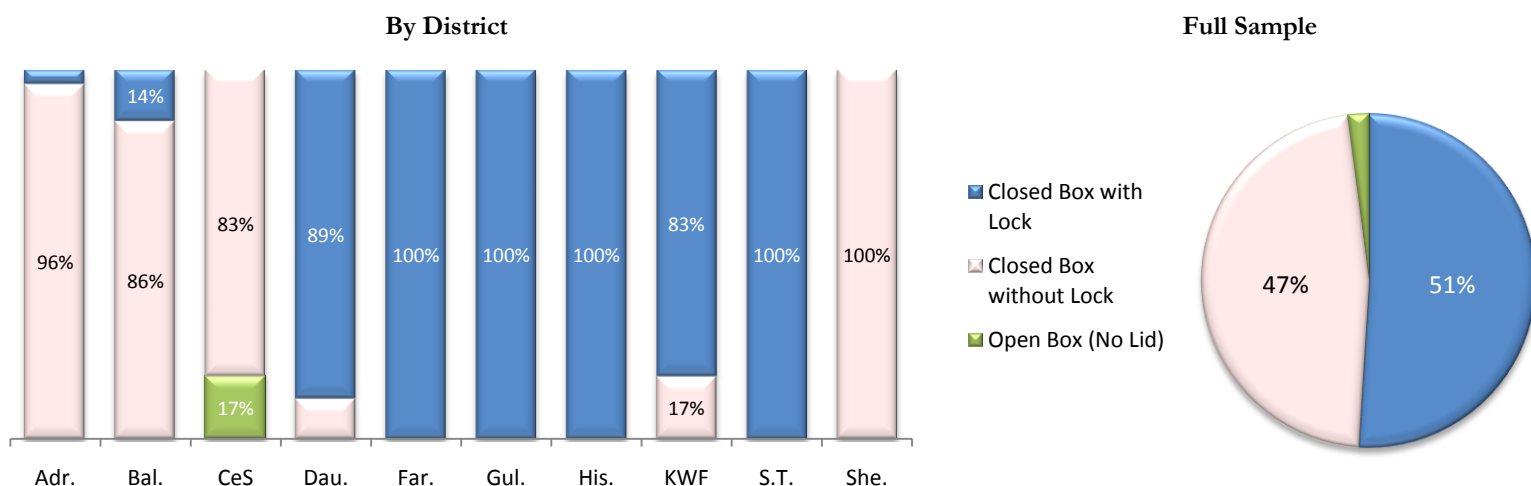
²²*Nahmat* and *Kor Ab* villages

²³*Gow Margi* and *Larwan* villages

²⁴*Gar Khail* village

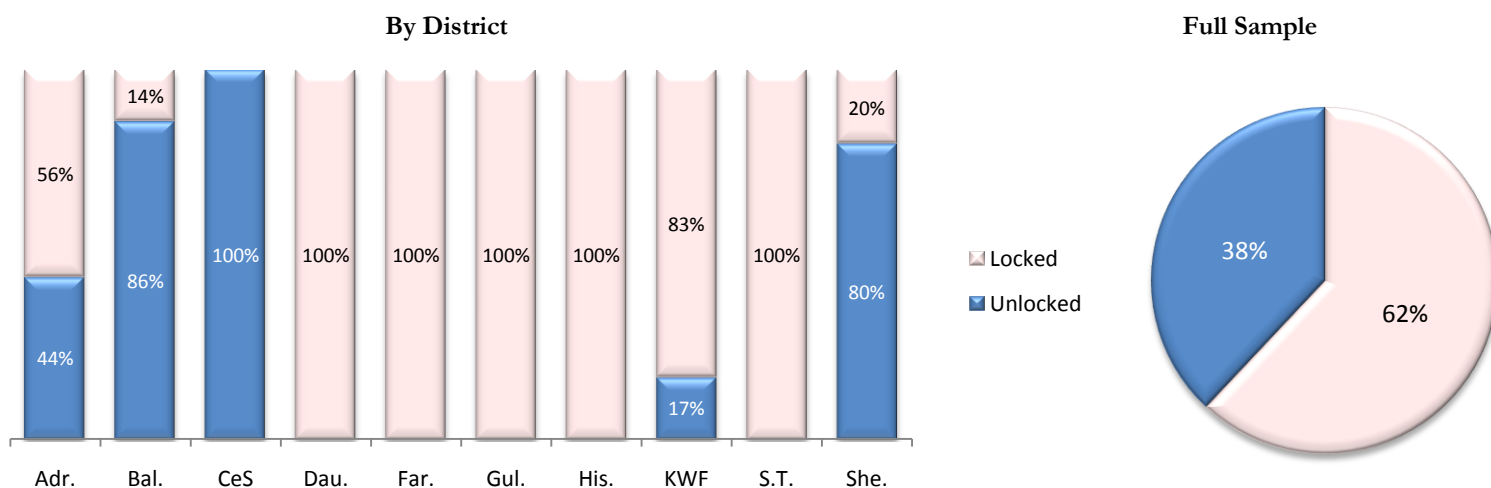
In the overwhelming number of cases, monitors reported that the ballot box was either a closed box (47 percent) or a closed box with a lock (51 percent), with only four polling stations in Chisht-e Sharif having an open box at the polling station.²⁵

Figure 10: Description of Ballot Box



In Daulina, Farsi, Gulran, Hisarak, and Sang Takht, ballot boxes were locked in all monitored referendum communities. In Khost Wa Firing, only one of the six monitored referendum polling stations had an unlocked ballot box.²⁶ In Chisht-e Sharif, the ballot boxes were unlocked in all monitored referendum communities; in four out of five monitored referendum polling stations in Sherzad; and in six out of seven in Balkh. Adraskan exhibited a mixed record, with four out of nine polling stations having an unlocked ballot box.²⁷

Figure 11: Locking of Ballot Box



An average of 16 people cast votes in polling stations for which a polling station detailed report was filed. The average number of people casting votes during the time of the monitoring ranged from eight in Balkh to 45 in Farsi. On average, only 3 assisted voters were witnessed in the time

²⁵ Three in *Senjidak* village and one in *Sar Sima* village

²⁶ This occurred in *Khowja Aftab* village

²⁷ In Sherzad, the ballot box was locked in *Sada Khail*; in Balkh in *Penja Jereb*; and in Adraskan, in *Zard Alogak*, *Kal Yak Paya*, *Tanora*, *Kham Haji Omer*, and *Chahak*.

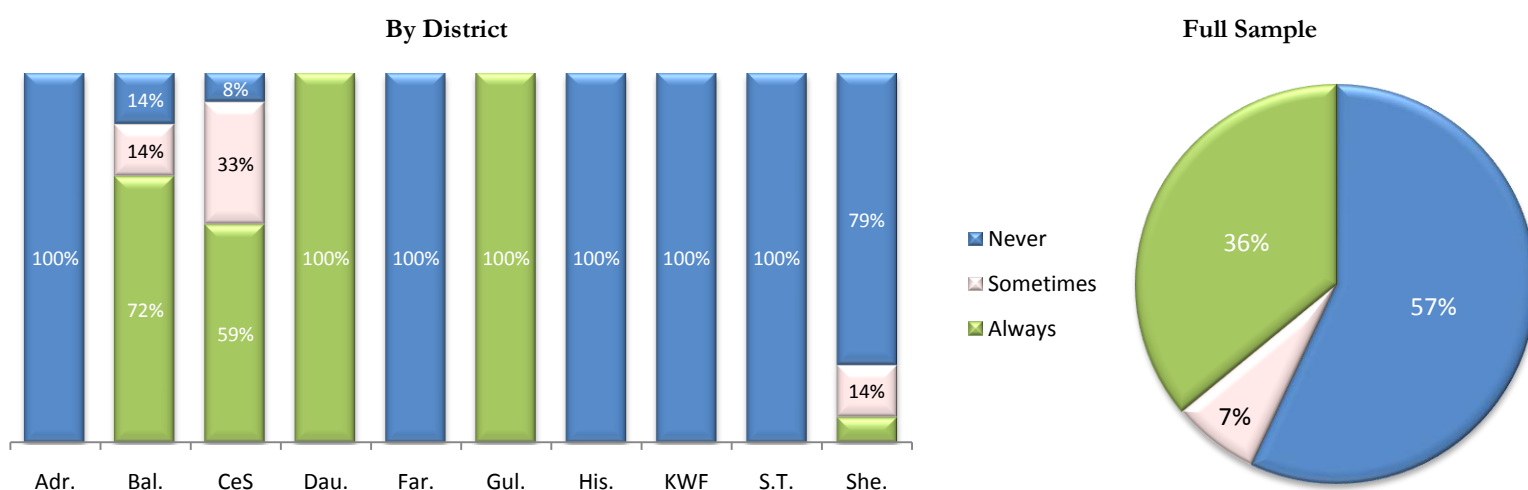
of polling station monitoring, as the vast majority of villagers were able to vote without assistance. The highest number of assisted voters we noted in Khost Wa Firing, while monitors in Sang Takht and Gulran saw no instances of assisted voting.

Table 10: Number of People Voting with and Without Assistance per Polling Station

District	Households per Community					Polling Stations per Community				
	Obs.	Mean	S. D.	Min.	Max.	Obs.	Mean	S. D.	Min.	Max.
Adraskan	27	11	3	5	18	27	2	3	0	10
Balkh	21	8	7	3	30	20	5	8	0	30
Chisht-e Sharif	24	11	4	6	18	24	1	1	0	4
Daulina	18	15	3	11	21	18	0	0	0	1
Farsi	13	45	16	20	73	13	5	2	0	7
Gulran	15	12	5	4	22	1	0	0	0	0
Hisarak	12	24	11	11	41	12	1	3	0	10
Khost Wa Firing	18	16	5	7	28	18	14	6	4	28
Sang Takht	15	22	5	15	30	2	0	0	0	0
Sherzad	15	10	4	4	19	14	0	0	0	1
Total	178	16	11	3	73	149	3	6	0	30

In 36 percent of monitored polling stations, the polling station supervisors always saw the voters' choices before the vote was cast, while in another 7 percent of polling stations, this happened on occasion. In 57 percent of polling stations, supervisors never looked at the selection on the ballot paper. In all polling stations in Daulina and Gulran, supervisors looked at the voters' choices, as they did in the majority of cases in Balkh and Chisht-e Sharif and in one village in Sherzad.²⁸ In Adraskan, Farsi, Hisarak, Khost Wa Firing, and Sang Takht, supervisors never looked at the voters' choice.

Figure 12: Instances of Polling Station Supervisors Observing Vote Choices



In 86 percent of monitored referendum communities, less than a half hour elapsed between the finish of voting and the counting of the votes. A delay was only noted in a village each in Daulina and Sang Takht, in two villages in Sherzad, and in five villages in Farsi.²⁹ Despite these delays or cases with unlocked ballot boxes, monitor expressed confidence in 98 percent of monitored referendum villages that the ballot papers could not have been changed before the

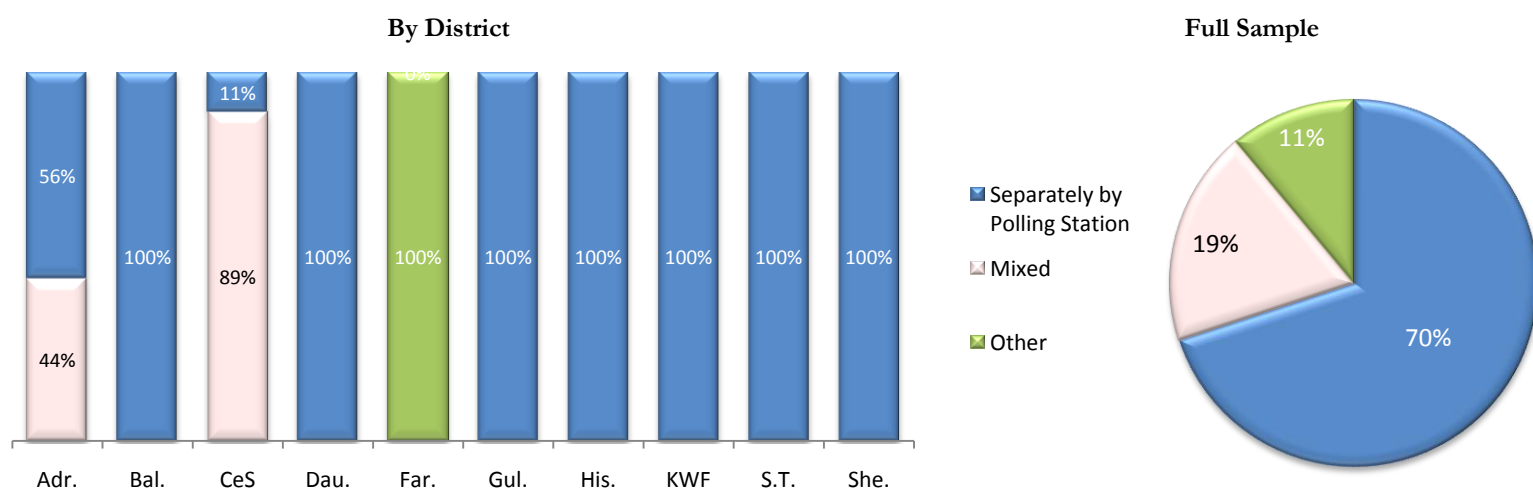
²⁸In Sherzad, supervisors saw the selection on the ballot papers in *Bar Khadi Khail*. They did not see it in *Penja Jereb* in Balkh and in *Senjitak* and *Zala* in Chisht-e Sharif.

²⁹These villages were *Sada Khail* and *Bar Khadi Khail* in Sherzad, *Babayan* in Daulina, *Ranyo* in Sang Takht, *Shor Ab*, *Rubata Zhala*, *Qalin Baf*, *Kilkak*, and *Tatron* in Adraskan.

counting of the votes. In only one of the 63 monitored referendum communities did the monitor suggest that ballot papers may have been switched before the vote count.³⁰

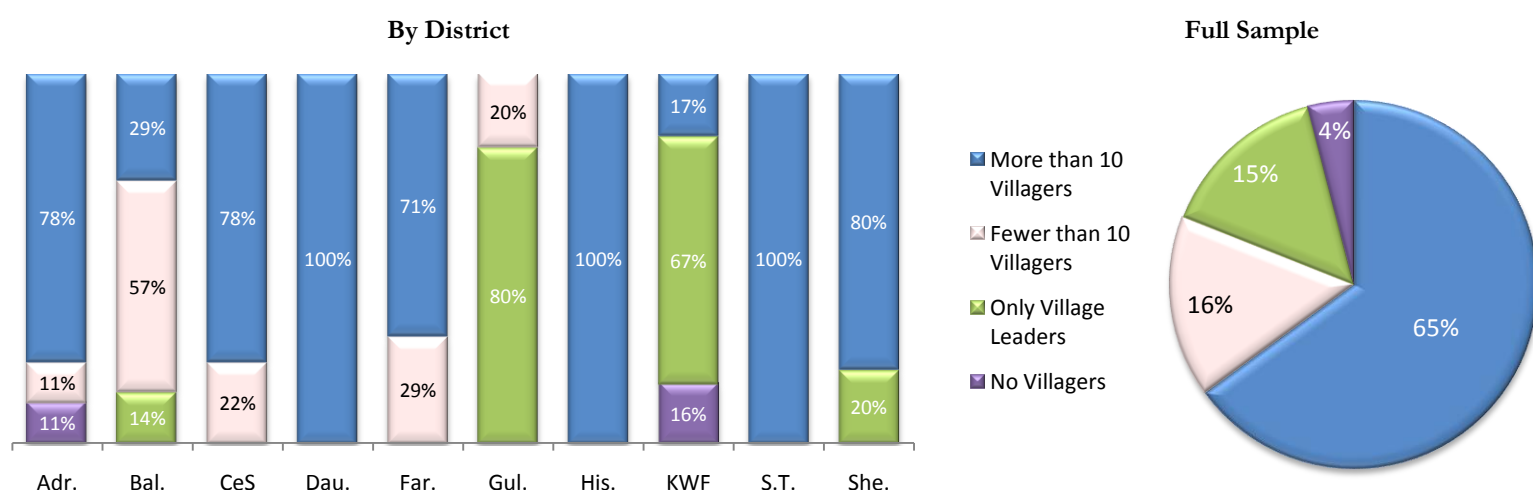
In all of the districts where the vote counting took place mostly or exclusively at polling stations, votes were counted separately by polling station. Ballots from different polling stations were more likely to be mixed in the same pool for counting in cases where voting took place in a central location in the village, such as in Adraskan and Chisht-e Sharif. In Farsi, votes were counted by an alternate method.

Figure 13: Method of Vote Count



Monitors judged that, overall, vote-counting in the referenda were generally fair and transparent. In 61 out of 63 monitored referendum communities, villagers were in no way prevented from monitoring the counting of the votes.³¹ Notably, in one monitored referendum community in Adraskan and one in Khost Wa Firing, there were no villagers who wished to observe the vote counting process even though it took place in a public area.³²

Figure 14: Number of Villagers Observing Vote Count



In all 63 monitored referendum communities, those responsible for counting the votes completed a form recording the results of the referendum and the number of votes received by

³⁰ This occurred in *Kota Chashma Maqdal* village in Daulina

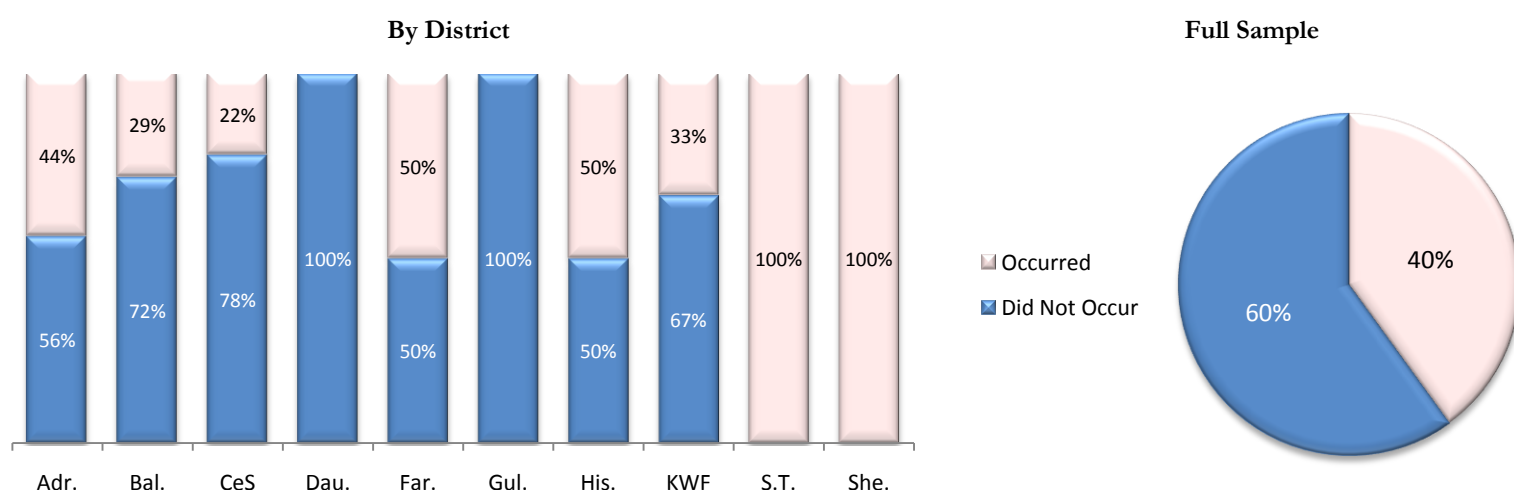
³¹ The exceptions were *Buzan Mabain* village in Gulran and *Bar Khadi Khail* village in Sherzad.

³² The respective communities were *Chahak* village in Adraskan and *Wareje* village in Khost Wa Firing

each sub-project on the monitor's form always matched those of the official vote-counters. In every single one of the referendum communities, the monitor noted that the selected projects were the ones that received the highest number of votes, and in all cases, bar village in Balkh, the monitor considered the votes to have been counted fairly.³³ In one village in Chisht-e Sharif, the monitor noted that the community had to settle on a project that was not the one which received the most votes, but this was legitimate as it occurred due to the need to spend the full value of the block grant.³⁴

In 40 percent of monitored referendum communities, monitors reported that, in order to completely spend the value of the block grant, it was deemed necessary to choose some projects with lesser votes ahead of those with more votes. This occurred in all villages in Daulina and Gulran and in no villages in Sang Takht and Sherzad. In Farsi and Hisarak, this occurred in half of monitored referendum villages; in Adraskan, it occurred in four of nine monitored referendum communities; in two out of six communities in Khost Wa Firing; two out of seven communities in Balkh; and two out of nine communities in Chisht-e Sharif.³⁵ In all the communities where a re-ordering of selected sub-projects was reported, monitors claimed that re-ordering was done in a logical manner and did not appear to be an attempt to subvert the results of the referendum.

Figure 15: Incidence of Re-Ordering of Selected Sub-Projects



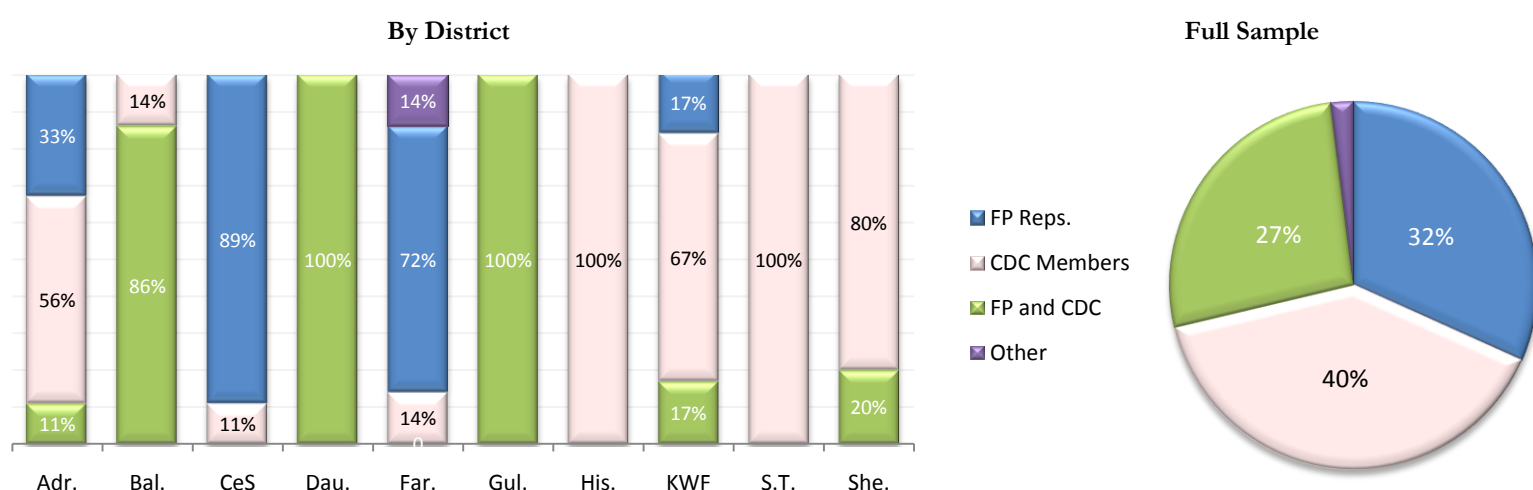
In 32 percent of monitored referendum communities, monitors reported that FP representatives were responsible for deciding which sub-projects would be selected based on the results of the referendum, while CDC members held that responsibility in 40 percent of communities, with the responsibility being shared between FP representatives and CDC members in 27 percent of communities. Arrangements differed quite significantly between districts, as is shown in Figure 16 below.

³³ The exception was *Kotagi* village in Balkh

³⁴ The village in question was *Nuzam Abad* village in Chisht-e Sharif

³⁵ The villages where it happened were *Gazak* and *Tomani* in Hisarak; *Dahi Eashan* and *Wareje* in Khost Wa Firing; *Penja Jereb* and *Hesarak* in Balkh; *Zard Alogak*, *Hada Wa Sufla*, *Kham Haji Omer*, and *Chahak* in Adraskan; *Shor Ab*, *Kilkak*, and *Tatron* in Farsi; and *Nuzam Abad* and *Khar Zar* in Chisht-e Sharif.

Figure 16: Decision-Maker on Results of Referendum



In none of the 178 monitored polling stations did monitors report that there was someone at or near the polling station telling people what sub-project to vote for or otherwise interfering with the voting process. In only one polling station in Sherzad did a monitor report having observed something that caused him to doubt whether the voting process was free and fair.³⁶

Consultation Meetings and Referenda

Guidelines provided to FPs for sub-project selection procedures required that the estimated cost of the candidate sub-projects should be factored in to the decision.³⁷ Across the full sample, this was done in 79 percent of both referendum and consultation communities. Among consultation communities, the costs of candidate sub-projects were not mentioned in five of the six monitored communities in Gulran, two of nine communities in Adraskan, and two of four communities in Hisarak.³⁸ Among referendum communities, sub-project costs were not factored in to the decision as to which sub-projects are to be funded by NSP in one out of the nine communities in Adraskan, one of seven communities in Balkh, two of six communities each in Daulina, Farsi, and Khost Wa Firing, three of five in Gulran, and two of five in Sherzad.³⁹

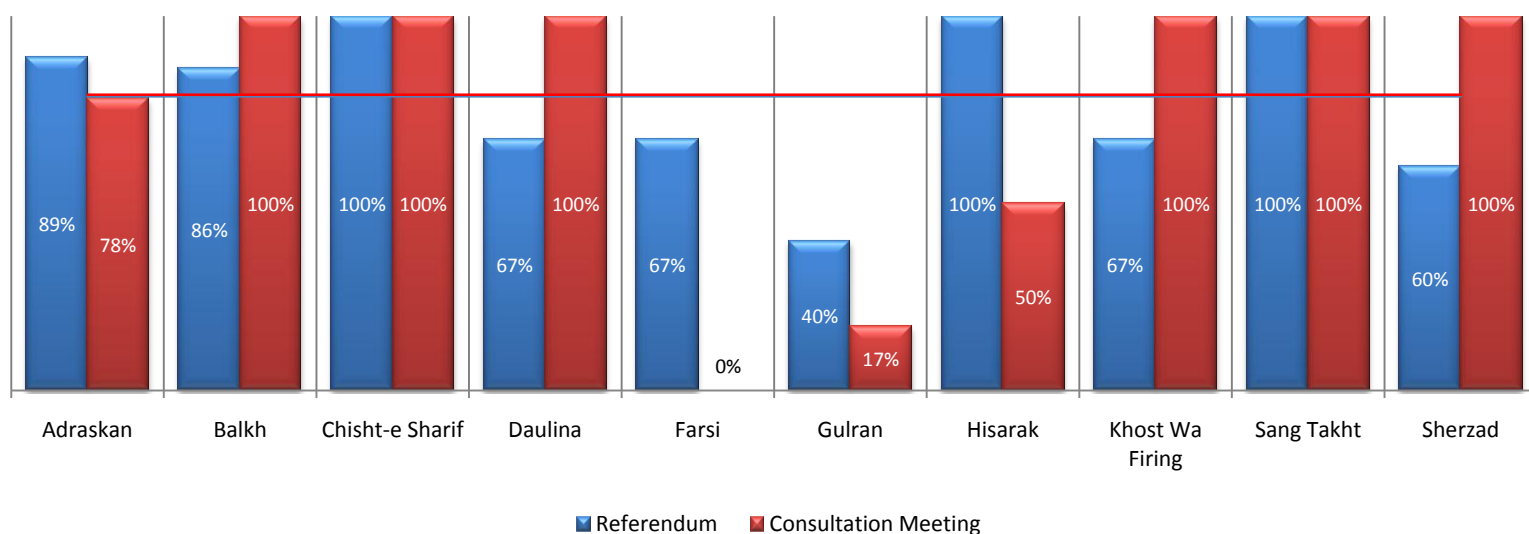
³⁶ This occurred in *Bar Khadi Khail* village in Sherzad

³⁷ Specifically, monitors are asked by the referendum report to respond to the following question: “When deciding which projects are to be funded by NSP, was the cost of each project and the size of the block grant accounted for?”, while the consultation meeting report asks monitors to respond to the following question: “Was the cost of each project mentioned during the meeting?”

³⁸ These villages were *Tote Che Jamshidi*, *Arbab Ibrahim Aseyab Dew*, *Ziyarat Babay Fawaq*, *Buzan Hulya*, and *Qashoqi Zori* in Gulran; *Chashma Azizan*, *Sofi Ghulam*, and *Qala Haji Babadin* in Farsi; *Mate* and *Do Ab* in Hisarak; *Shash Mir Sang* and *Chah Qala* in Adraskan.

³⁹ These villages were *Hajeyan* and *Gar Khail* in Sherzad; *Touda Chena* in Hisarak; *Wareje* and *Larwan* in Khost Wa Firing; *Pejna Jereb* in Balkh; *Qeshlaq Jaow*, *Nahmat*, and *Buzan Mabain* in Gulran; *Kal Yak Paya* in Adraskan; *Guldamak* and *Kilkak* in Farsi; and *Babaiyan* and *Kota Chashma Maqdal* in Daulina.

Figure 17: Consideration of Sub-Projects Costs in Sub-Project Selection⁴⁰



There was no significant difference between consultation meetings and referenda in terms of the number of selected sub-projects, with an average of four under both selection procedures. The number did, however, vary between districts, ranging from a low of three selected sub-projects in Balkh and Khost Wa Firing, ranging up to a high of six selected sub-projects in Chisht-e Sharif.

Table 11: Number of Selected Sub-Projects, by District and Selection Procedure

District	Consultation Meeting					Referendum				
	Obs.	Mean	S. D.	Min.	Max.	Obs.	Mean	S. D.	Min.	Max.
Adraskan	10	4	1.3	2	6	8	5	1.5	3	8
Balkh	5	3	0.7	2	4	7	3	0.0	3	3
Chisht-e Sharif	8	6	1.9	3	9	7	5	1.3	3	7
Daulina	6	3	0.0	3	3	6	4	0.6	3	5
Farsi	5	5	0.0	5	5	5	5	0.4	5	6
Gulran	6	5	0.4	4	5	5	5	1.1	4	7
Hisarak	4	5	0.0	5	5	4	6	1.4	5	8
Khost Wa Firing	6	3	0.0	3	3	6	3	0.4	3	4
Sang Takht	6	4	2.0	1	5	5	3	0.5	3	4
Sherzad	6	5	0.8	4	6	5	5	0.5	4	5
Total	62	4	1.4	1	9	58	4	1.3	3	8

In 97 percent of consultation communities and 98 percent of referendum communities, the sub-project selection process was completed and selected sub-projects announced the same day. The only exceptions were three communities in Adraskan, two of which were consultation communities and one of which was a referendum community.⁴¹ On average, there were 53 villagers in attendance during the announcement of the selected sub-projects in consultation communities and 51 villagers in attendance during the announcement of selected sub-projects in referendum communities. In Chisht-e Sharif, nearly double the number of people attended the announcement of selected sub-projects in consultation communities compared to referendum communities, while in Hisarak, the opposite was the case. In addition, significantly more people

⁴⁰ The average for the full sample of referendum and consultation communities is indicated by the parallel lines, with the blue line representing the sample average for referendum communities and the red line representing the sample average for consultation communities.

⁴¹ The consultation communities are *Chah Paya Dobaradar* and *Chah Qala* and the referendum community is *Tanora*.

attended the announcement of selected sub-projects in consultation communities in Sherzad than attended it in referendum communities.

Table 12: Number of Villagers present at Announcement of Selected Projects

District	Consultation Meeting					Referendum				
	Obs.	Mean	S. D.	Min.	Max.	Obs.	Mean	S. D.	Min.	Max.
Adraskan	9	30	15	15	65	9	43	13	20	60
Balkh	5	38	12	25	56	7	33	44	10	130
Chisht-e Sharif	8	81	39	42	137	9	45	27	15	100
Daulina	6	36	22	15	73	6	40	20	20	73
Farsi	5	43	12	35	60	6	35	14	15	50
Gulran	6	16	13	7	40	5	16	19	5	50
Hisarak	3	51	20	28	65	4	106	46	45	150
Khost Wa Firing	6	78	43	40	150	5	101	33	65	150
Sang Takht	6	57	23	38	92	5	66	21	30	80
Sherzad	6	94	54	55	200	5	59	40	4	90
Total	60	53	37	7	200	61	51	36	4	150

In all of the referendum communities, monitors indicated that the results of the referendum reflected the choices of villagers. In 61 out of 63 consultation communities, monitors reported that the selected sub-projects selected reflected the preferences of villagers at the meeting.⁴² In only one referendum community and two consultation communities did monitors report any unusual occurrences during or following the selection of sub-projects.⁴³

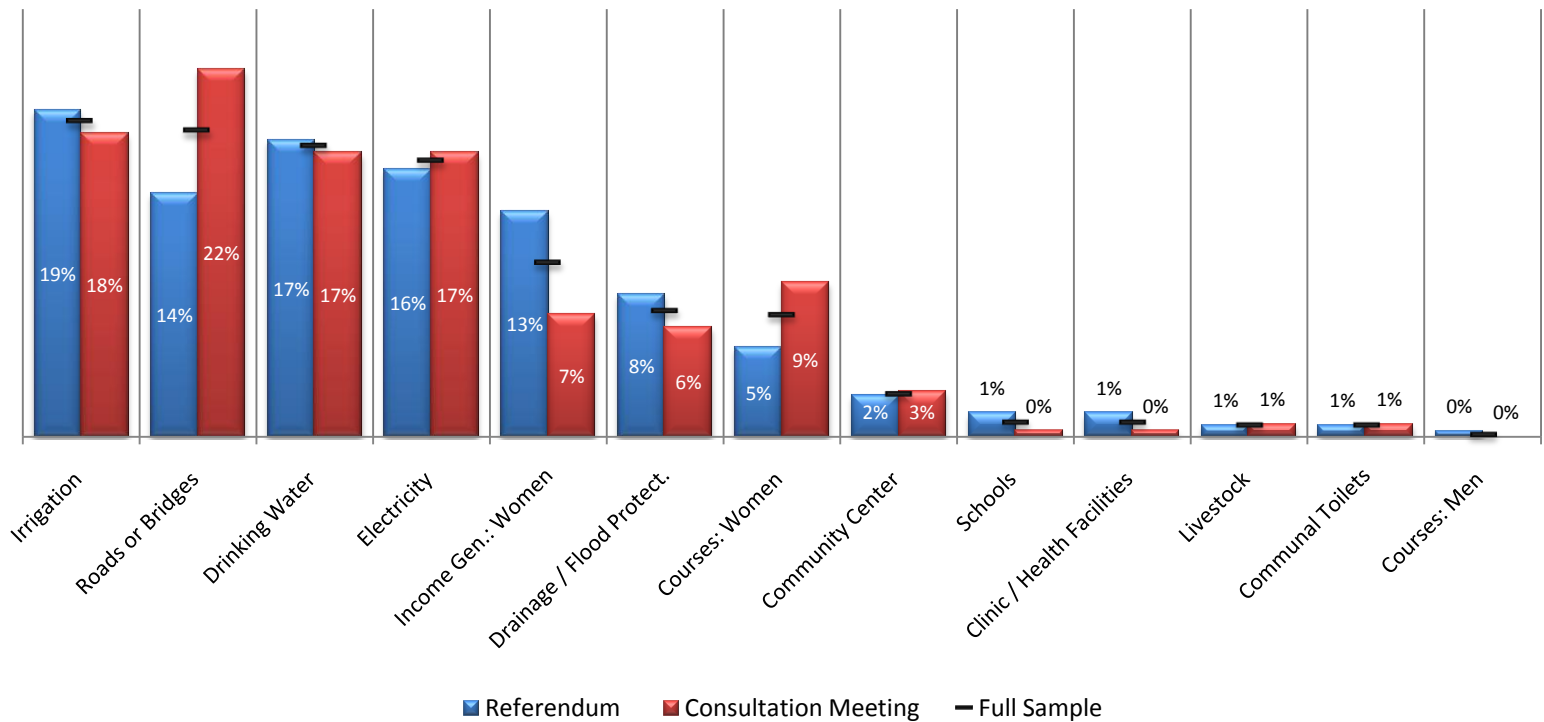
In both referendum and consultation communities, selected sub-projects mainly focused on drinking water, irrigation, courses for women, roads and bridges, electricity, and flood and drainage protection. Communities which held consultation meetings were more likely than referendum communities to select roads and bridges, a difference statistically significant at the 5 percent level, and community centers, a difference that is statistically significant at the 10 percent level.⁴⁴ In referendum communities, communities were relatively more likely to select sub-projects providing drainage or flood protection, a difference which is statistically significant at the 10 percent level.

⁴² The exceptions were *Gard Lang* in Dulaina and *Ziyarat Babay Fawaq* in Gulran

⁴³ The two consultation villages were *Ziyarat Babay Fawaq* in Gulran and *Loqman Khail* in Sherzad and the referendum village was *Guldamak* in Farsi.

⁴⁴ This result may be due to the fact that CDCs have a more decisive role in determining the outcome of a consultation meeting, as compared to a referendum, and are perhaps more likely to prefer roads and bridges due to their presumably higher rate of vehicle ownership. They are also more likely to want community centers as these centers often serve as the meeting place for the CDC.

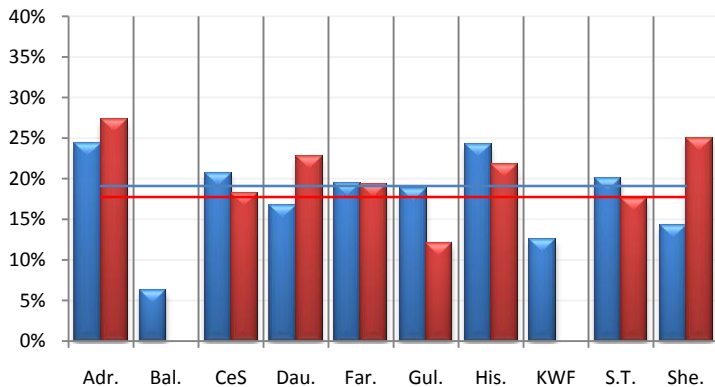
Figure 18: Selected Sub-Projects, by Sub-Project Selection Procedure



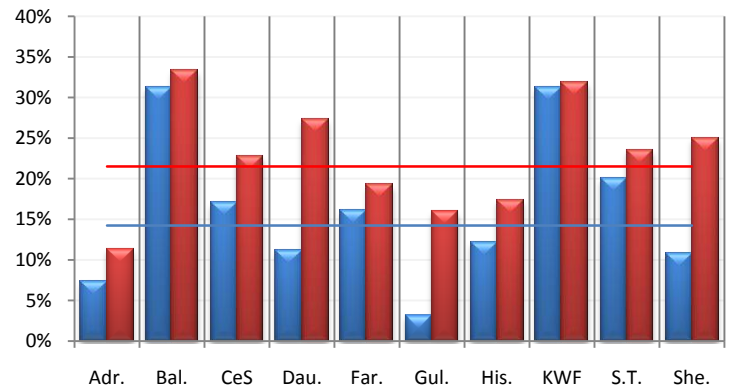
Selected sub-projects exhibit noticeable variation between districts. Irrigation sub-projects were least popular in Balkh and Khost Wa Firing and were not chosen by any communities in these two districts that held a consultation meeting. Drainage and flood protection sub-projects and sub-projects providing income generating activities for women were not selected in any communities in Balkh or Farsi, but sub-projects providing training or literacy courses for women were more popular in these two districts than in the rest of the sample.

Figure 19: Selected Sub-Projects, by Sub-Project Selection Procedure and District

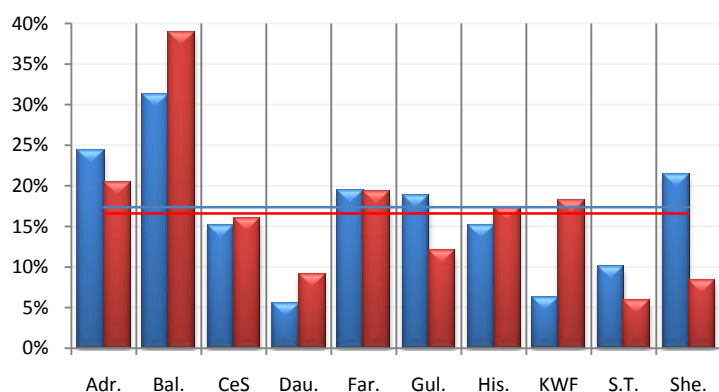
Irrigation



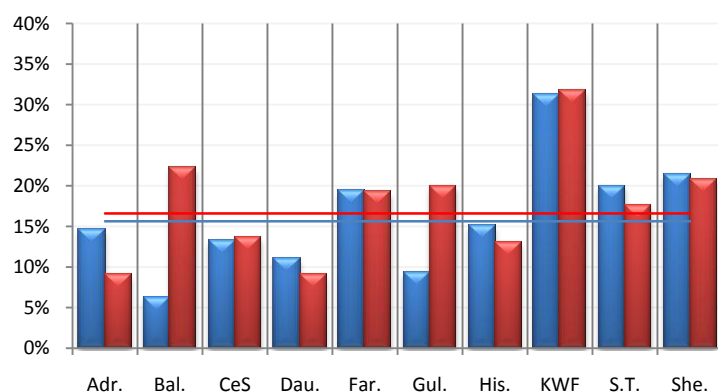
Roads or Bridges



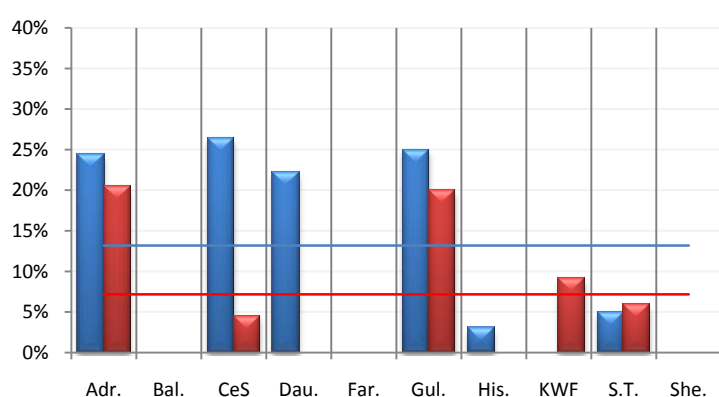
Drinking Water



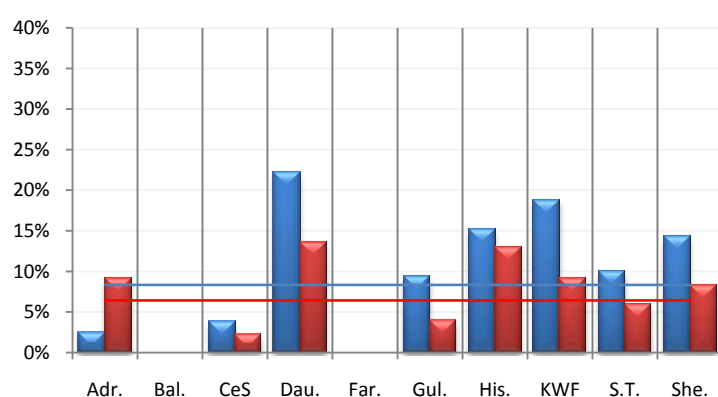
Electricity



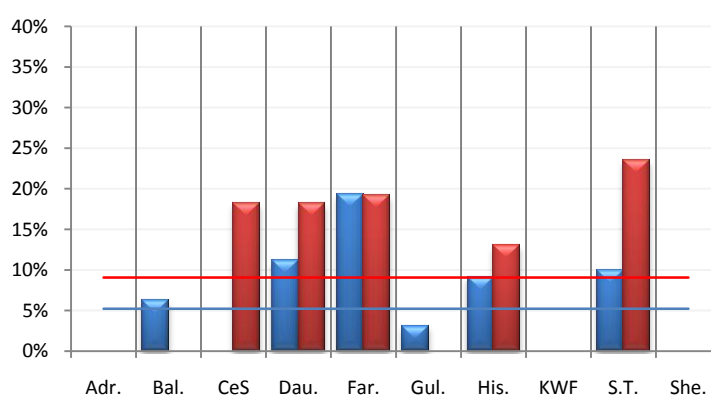
Income Generating Activities for Women



Drainage and Flood Protection



Training or Literacy Courses for Women



V.2. Post-Selection Interviews

This section presents summaries of 1,238 interviews completed with villagers following their participation in sub-project selection procedures across 127 monitored evaluation communities.⁴⁵

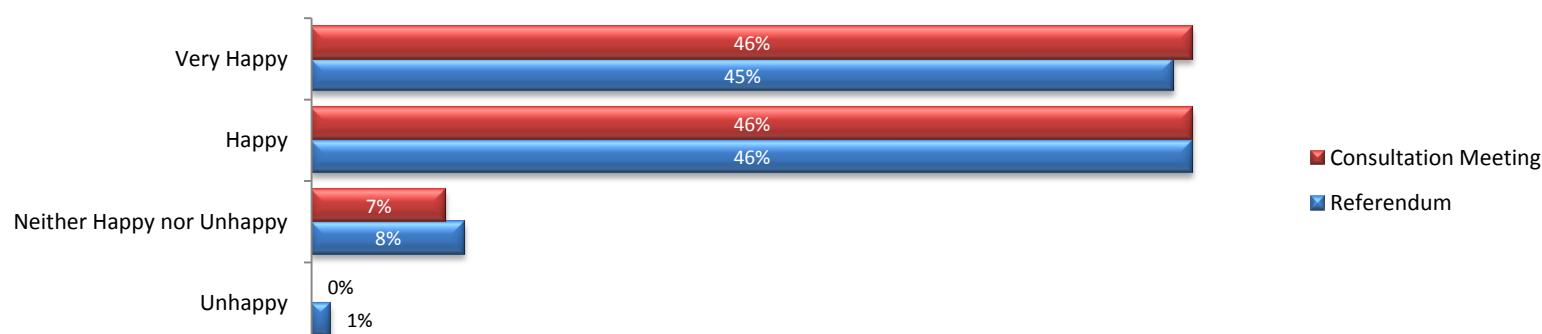
Community Development Council (CDC)

Although the primary purpose of the interviews was to ascertain their attitudes towards the sub-project selection procedure, some general questions were asked about the local CDC. When asked how happy they feel about the performance of the CDC, 45 percent of respondents stated

⁴⁵ 618 interviews were conducted across the 63 consultation communities and 620 interviews were conducted across the 64 referendum communities.

that they were very happy, with similar numbers stating that they were happy. There was no significant difference in the responses provided by respondents living in consultation communities and those living in referendum communities.

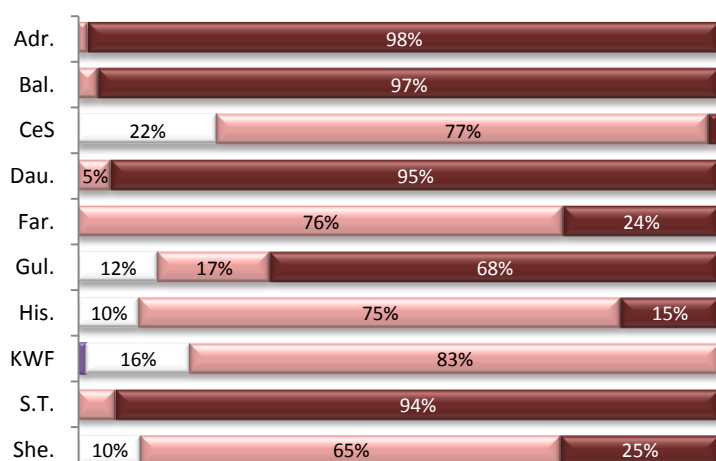
Figure 20: Happiness with Performance of Community Development Council (CDC)



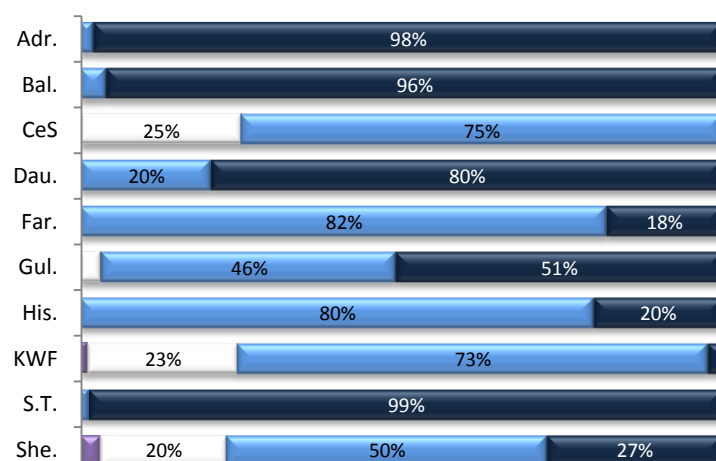
Respondents in Chisht-e Sharif, Khost Wa Firing, and Sherzad were most likely to be indifferent with the performance of their CDC.⁴⁶ Interestingly, respondents in Sherzad and Khost Wa Firing were more likely to express indifference about the performance of their CDC if they lived in a referendum community.

Figure 21: Happiness with Performance of Community Development Council (CDC)

Consultation Meeting



Referendum



Unhappy Neither Happy nor Unhappy Happy Very Happy

Unhappy Neither Happy nor Unhappy Happy Very Happy

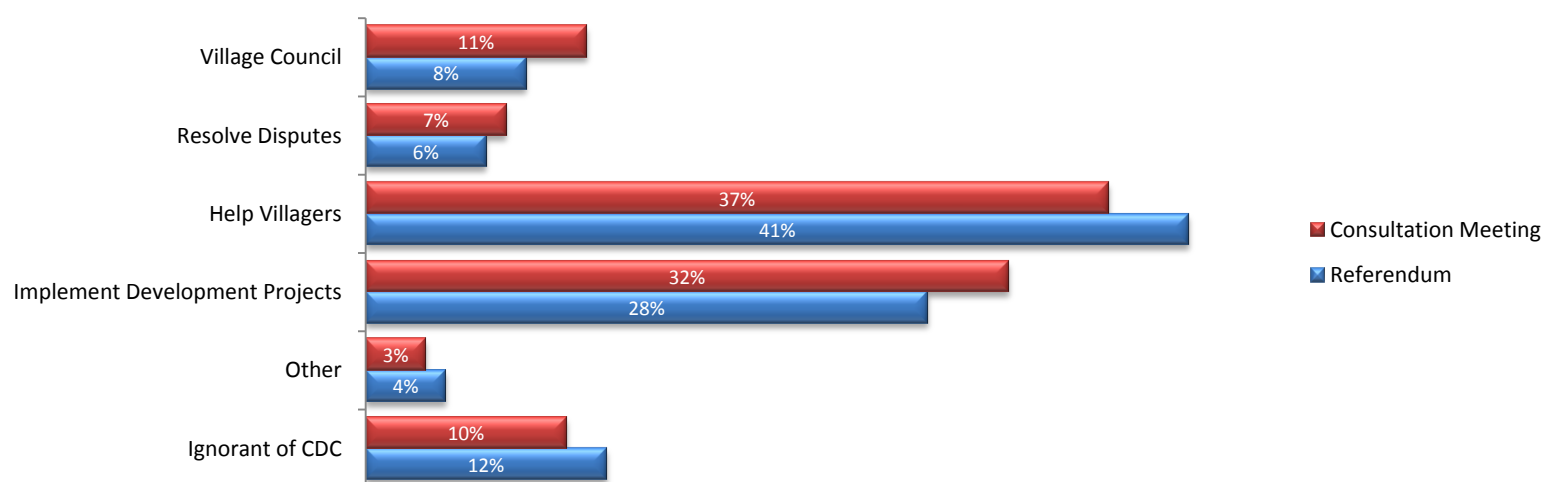
Across the full sample, 99 percent of respondents said that they believed that elections were a good way to select CDC members.⁴⁷ A plurality of respondents saw the primary role of the CDC

⁴⁶ The villages in Adraskan in which people were neither happy nor unhappy with CDC were *Sang Seya*, *Kal Yak Paya*, *Sangaran*, *Tanora*, *Kham Haji Omer*, *Gharte* (referendum), *Hada Wa Wasat*, *Tarma Ha*, *Chah Qala*, *Neyanak Madho*, *Sad Mani* (consultation meeting). In Chisht-e Sharif, such villages were *Senjitak*, *Chashma Owajiha*, *Dahan Ab*, *Sar Sima*, *Tanorha*, *Khak Rash*, *Zala*, *Khar Zar* (referendum), *Pay Tandha*, *Dahan Haowar*, *Daha Zabab*, *Tagab*, *Ghaza*, *Kabotar Khan*, *Yak Pahlo*, *Qol Saqab* (consultation meeting). In Khost Wa Firing, these villages were *Dahi Eashan*, *Khowja Qalat*, *Khoja Aftab*, *Gow Margi*, *Wareje*, *Larwan* (referendum), *Paragak*, *Char Bagh*, *Char Bagh Ya*, *Noorastani*, *Mazar Kolo*, *Pajak* (consultation meeting). Villages in which respondents reported being unhappy with CDC members were *Dahan Haowar* in Chisht-e Sharif, *Sofi Ghulam* in Farsi (both consultation meeting), *Tanora* in Adraskan and *Senjitak* in Chisht-e Sharif (both referendum).

⁴⁷ The villages in where respondents stated otherwise were *Wareje*, *Larwan* (referendum), *Paragak*, *Mazar Kolo* (consultation meeting) in Khost Wa Firing; *Zard Alogak*, *Tanora* (referendum), and *Neyanak Madho*

to provide assistance to villagers, followed by the opinion that the CDC is responsible for undertaking development projects. Fewer than 10 percent of respondents saw the CDC as a substitute for a village council or as a venue to resolve disputes.⁴⁸

Figure 22: Perceived Function of Community Development Council (CDC)



Across the full sample, 10 percent of respondents were not aware of the existence of the local CDC. Lack of knowledge of the CDC was most pronounced in Farsi, with 57 percent of respondents in referendum communities and 64 percent in consultation communities claiming ignorance of the term. In Sherzad, 27 percent of respondents in referendum villages and 10 percent in consultation villages were not aware of the CDC.⁴⁹ It is important to note that these results may simply be a result of CDCs being known by another name.

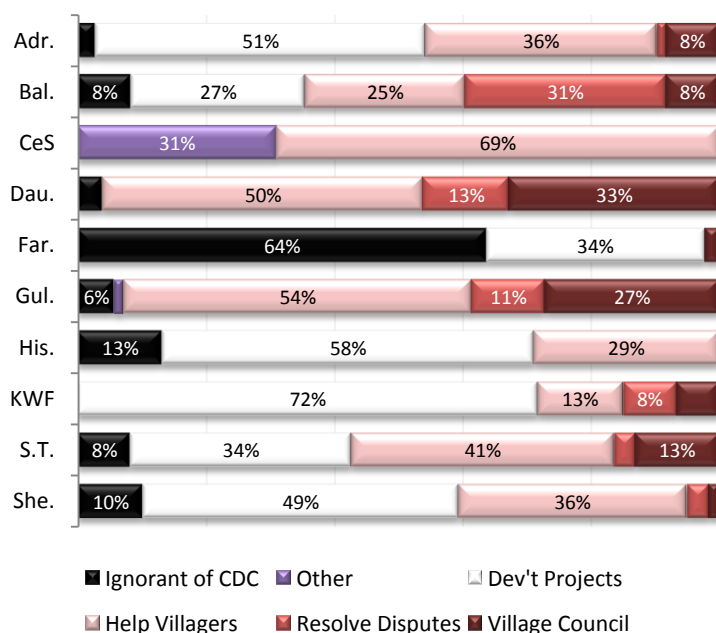
(consultation meeting) in Adraskan; *Ziyarat Babay Fawaq* in Gulran; *Dahan Haowar* in Chisht-e Sharif; and *Gard Lang* in Daulina (all consultation meeting).

⁴⁸ Villages in which at least four respondents saw the CDC as a village council or venue to resolve disputes included *Zard Alogak* in Adraskan; *Larghon*, *Penja Jereb*, *Warsho*, and *Zargaran* in Balkh; *Babaiyan*, *Qaisarak*, and *Qala Naqshi* in Daulina; *Buzan Mabain* and *Laoshaoak Mabain* in Gulran.

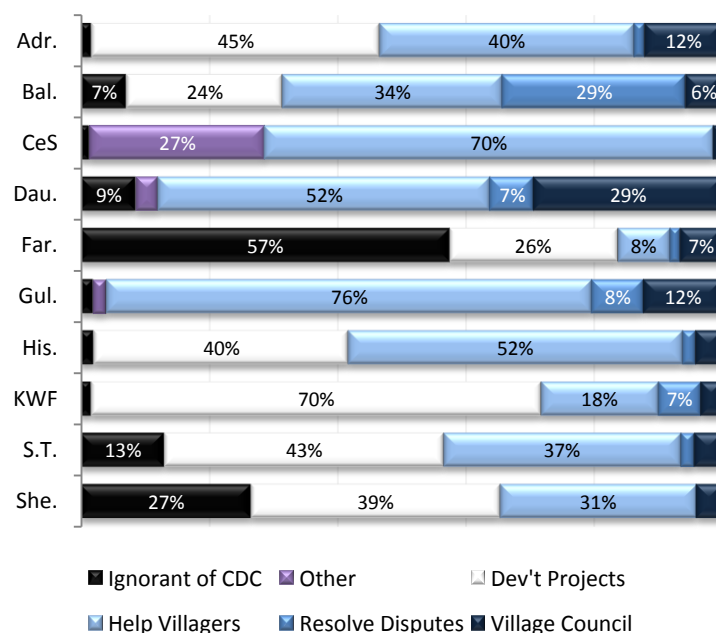
⁴⁹ Villages in Farsi in which respondents reported not knowing what CDC stands for included *Jar Ango*, *Guldamak*, *Shor Ab*, *Rubata Zhala*, *Qalin Baf*, *Kilkak*, *Tatron* (referendum), *Chashma Azizan*, *Sofi Ghulam*, *Qeshlaq Akhund*, *Qala Haji Babadin*, *Gurgi* (consultation meeting). In Sherzad, *Hajeyan*, *Gar Khail*, *Sada Khail*, *Bar Khadi Khail*, *Koza Ghara* (referendum), *Sangar Khail*, *Loqman Khail*, *Kashrano Kalay* (consultation meeting).

Figure 23: Happiness with Performance of Community Development Council (CDC)

Consultation Meeting



Referendum



Sub-Project Selection Procedure

On average, participants claimed to have been given five days advance notice of the sub-project selection. Average responses varied across districts, from a low of one day in Gulran to 10 days in Adraskan. With the exceptions of Balkh and Hisarak, the number of days notice given did not appear to be dependent on whether a consultation meeting or referendum was held. In Balkh, an average of five days notice was given for consultation meetings, compared to three days for referenda, while in Hisarak, two days notice was given for consultation meetings and five days for referenda.

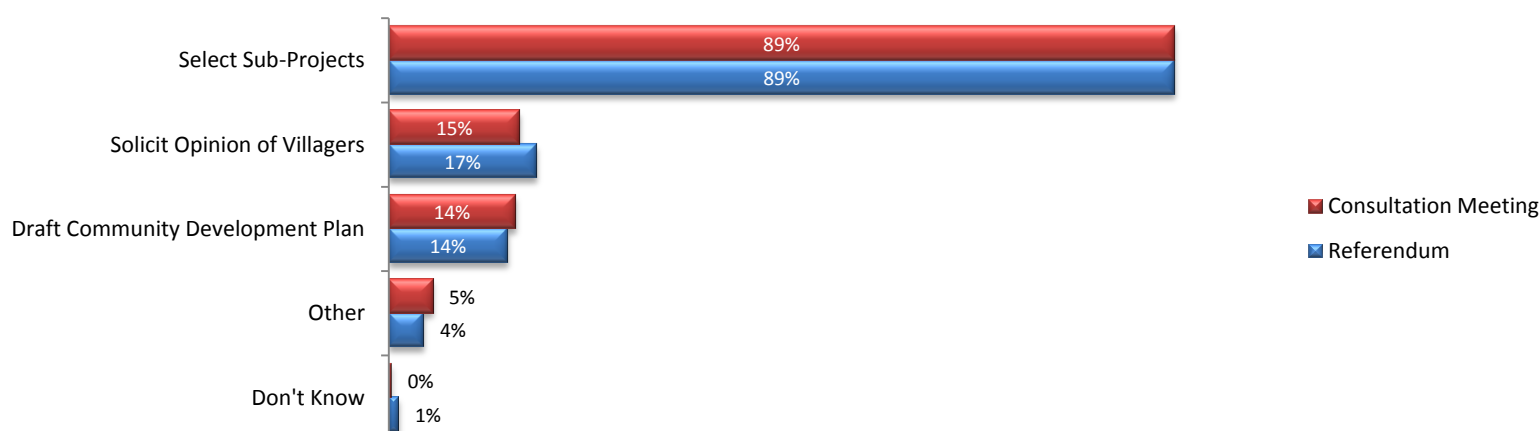
Table 13: Number of Days Notice Before Administration of Sub-Project Selection Procedure

District	Consultation Meeting					Referendum				
	Obs.	Mean	S. D.	Min.	Max.	Obs.	Mean	S. D.	Min.	Max.
Adraskan	73	10	7.5	0	25	57	10	7.3	0	20
Balkh	50	5	5.2	1	20	70	3	2.6	1	15
Chisht-e Sharif	65	4	1.5	2	10	73	4	1.1	1	10
Daulina	50	9	7.7	0	30	53	8	6.7	0	20
Farsi	26	3	1.3	1	5	48	2	1.0	0	4
Gulran	68	1	0.4	0	4	49	1	1.1	0	7
Hisarak	38	2	0.5	1	2	48	5	2.4	1	7
Khost Wa Firing	54	7	6.3	1	30	53	5	4.2	1	20
Sang Takht	62	6	2.0	2	8	49	5	1.8	2	8
Sherzad	60	4	1.4	2	7	47	3	1.0	1	5
Total	546	5	5.3	0	30	547	5	4.4	0	20

Interviewees seemed to be generally well-informed about the purpose of the sub-project selection procedure, although 14 percent of respondents incorrectly replied that the sub-project selection procedure served to draft the community development plan and 5 percent of respondents claimed that the function of the sub-project selection procedure was to elect members of the CDC or something else. Across the full sample, there was no statistically

significant difference between referenda and consultation meetings in the purpose ascribed to the selection procedure by respondents.

Figure 24: Purpose Ascribed to Sub-Project Selection Procedure

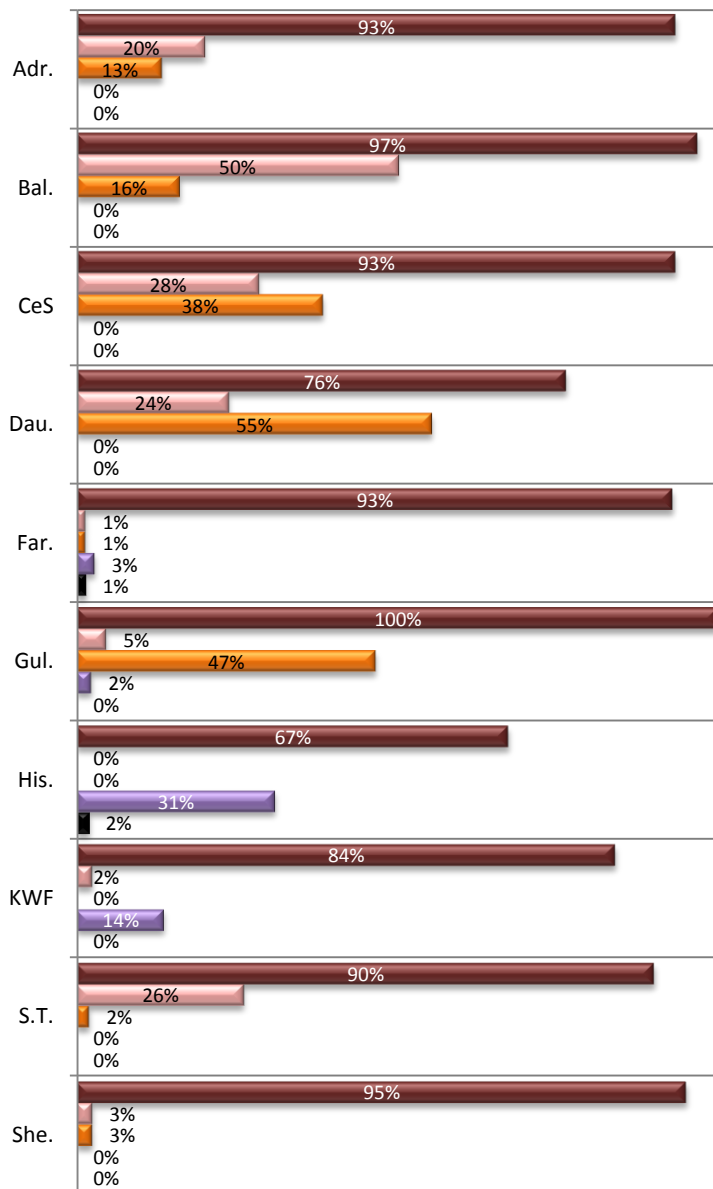


Differences were apparent between districts in the purpose ascribed by respondents to the selection procedure. In Adraskan, Gulran, Sang Takht, and Sherzad, over 90 percent of respondents correctly identified that the purpose of the sub-project selection procedure is to select procedures. In Hisarak, however, only 67 percent of respondents in consultation communities and 80 percent of respondents in referendum communities correctly identified the purpose of the selection procedure. Curiously, 51 percent of respondents Hisarak, 41 percent of respondents in Khost Wa Firing, and 30 percent of respondents in Farsi indicated that the purpose of the referendum was to draft the community development plan. Even more curiously, some 31 percent of respondents in Sang Takht claimed that the purpose of the referendum was to elect the members of the CDC.⁵⁰

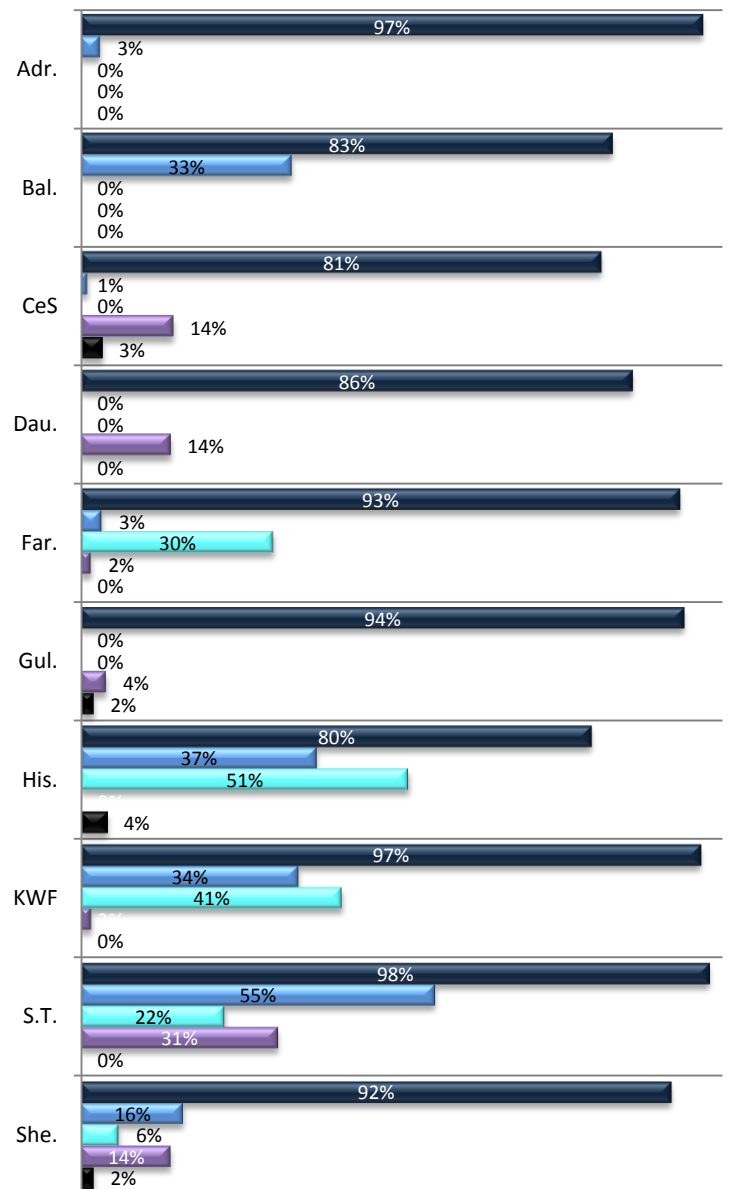
⁵⁰ Villages in which at least half of the respondents were confused as to the purpose of the selection procedure were *Ab Ower*, *Mazar Kolo*, *Paragak* (meeting), *Dahi Eashan*, *Khowja Qalat*, *Wareje* (referendum) in Khost Wa Firing; *Do Ab*, *Par Jena* (meeting), *Gazak*, *Kharote*, *Ma Khan* (referendum) in Hisarak; as well as consultation communities *Chashma Azizan* and *Sofi Ghulam* in Farsi and *Kashrano Kalay* in Sherzad, as well as referendum community *Laly* in Sang Takht.

Figure 25: Purpose Ascribed to Sub-Project Selection Procedure

Consultation Meeting



Referendum

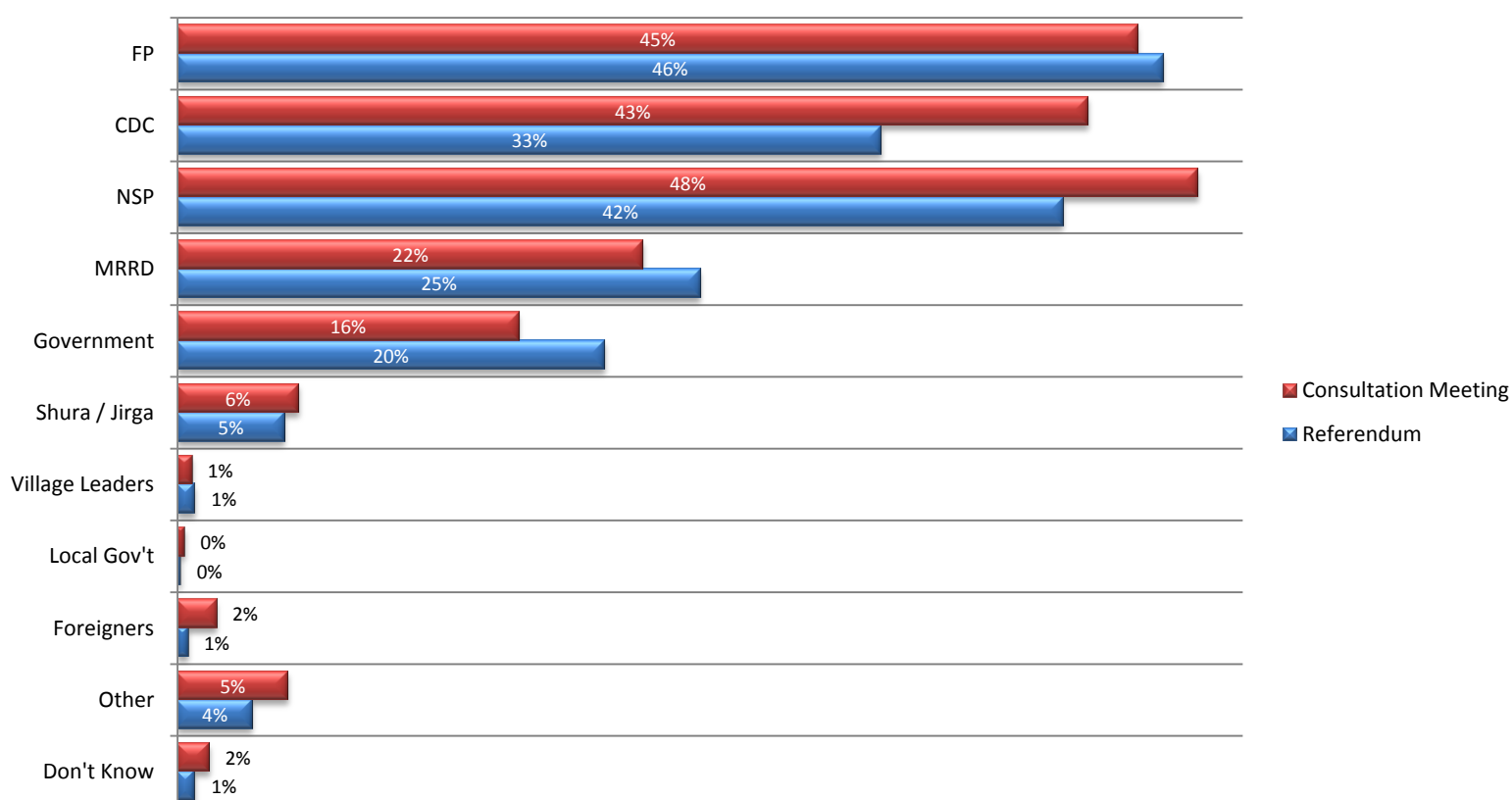


■ Select Sub-Projects
 ■ Solicit Opinion
 ■ Draft CDP
 ■ Other
 ■ Don't Know

■ Select Sub-Projects
 ■ Solicit Opinion
 ■ Draft CDP
 ■ Other
 ■ Don't Know

Across the full sample, respondents appeared to be generally well-informed about the organizer of selection procedure, with most respondents mentioning the FP, CDC, and/or NSP. A lesser number of respondents mentioned the Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (MRRD) or the Government of Afghanistan. A relatively small proportion of respondents incorrectly identified the organizer of the sub-project selection procedure as members of the village leadership other than the CDC or the district or provincial administration. Respondents in were more likely to identify the local CDC or NSP generally as the sponsor of consultation meetings, with respondents more likely to identify MRRD or the Government of Afghanistan as the sponsor of referenda.

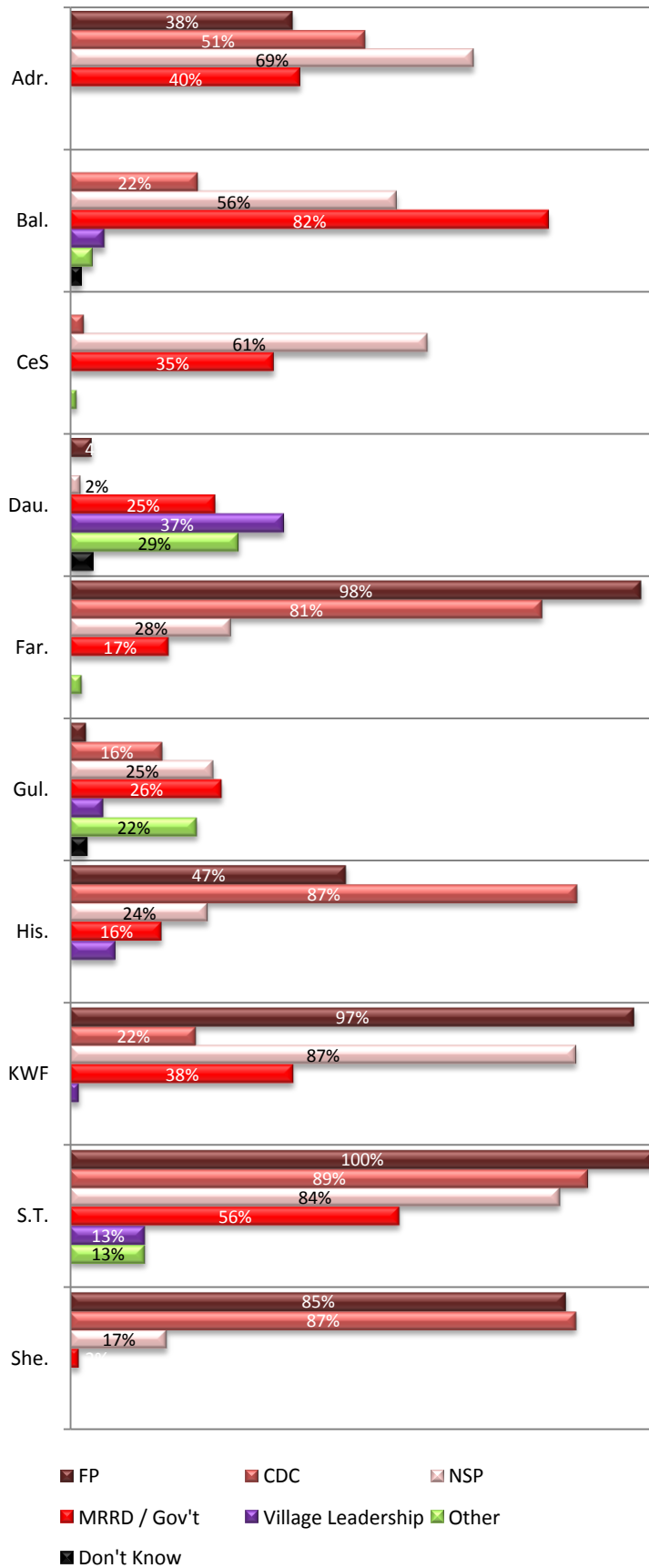
Figure 26: Perceived Organizer of Sub-Project Selection Procedure



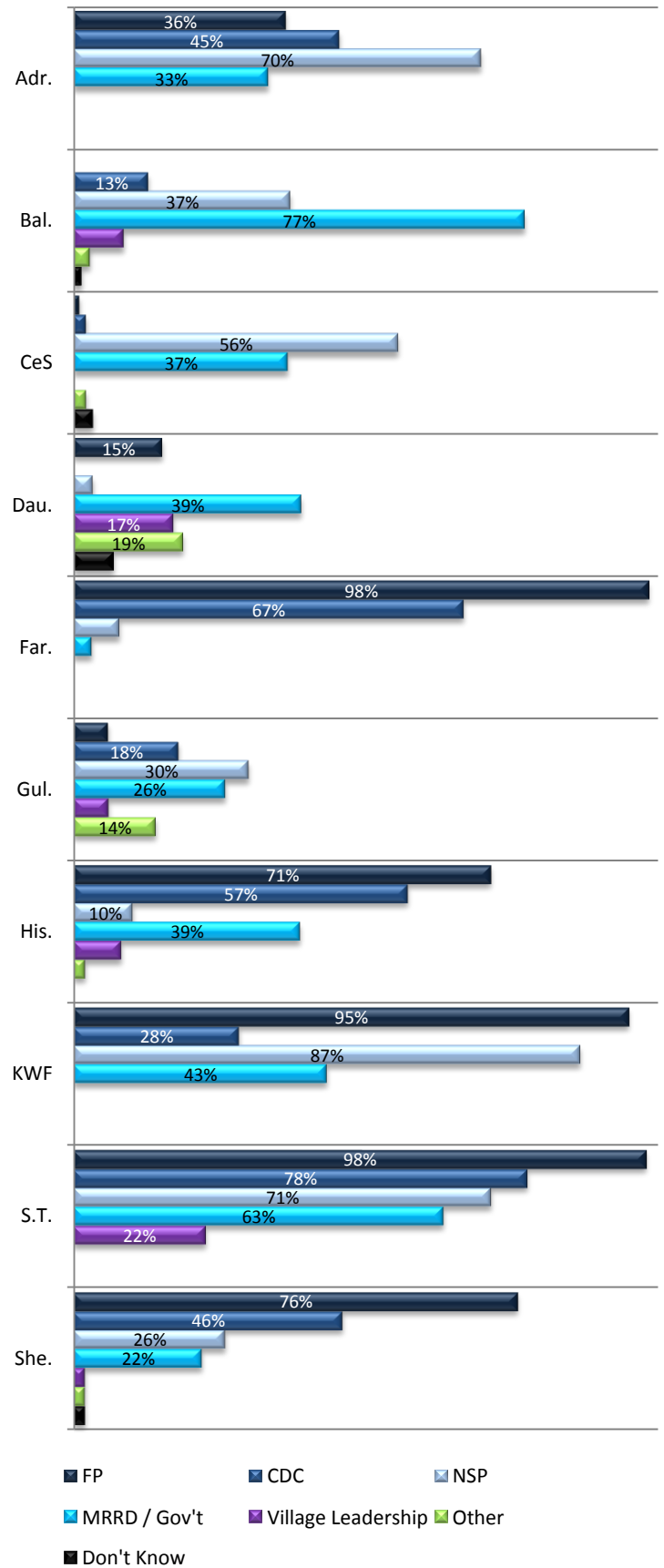
There was significant variation between districts in terms of who was identified as the organizer of sub-project selection procedures. A very high proportion of respondents in Farsi, Khost Wa Firing, and Sang Takht identified the FP as the organizer, while, on the hand, very few respondents in Balkh, Chisht-e Sharif, Daulina, and Gulran did so. Similarly, respondents in consultation communities in Sherzad and Hisarak and in Farsi were likely to cite the CDC as the organizer, although this was relatively rare in Chisht-e Sharif and Daulina. NSP was most commonly cited in Adraskan, Khost Wa Firing, and Sang Takht and respondents in Balkh cited MRRD and/or the Government of Afghanistan with unusual regularity.

Figure 27: Perceived Organizer of Sub-Project Selection Procedure

Consultation Meeting

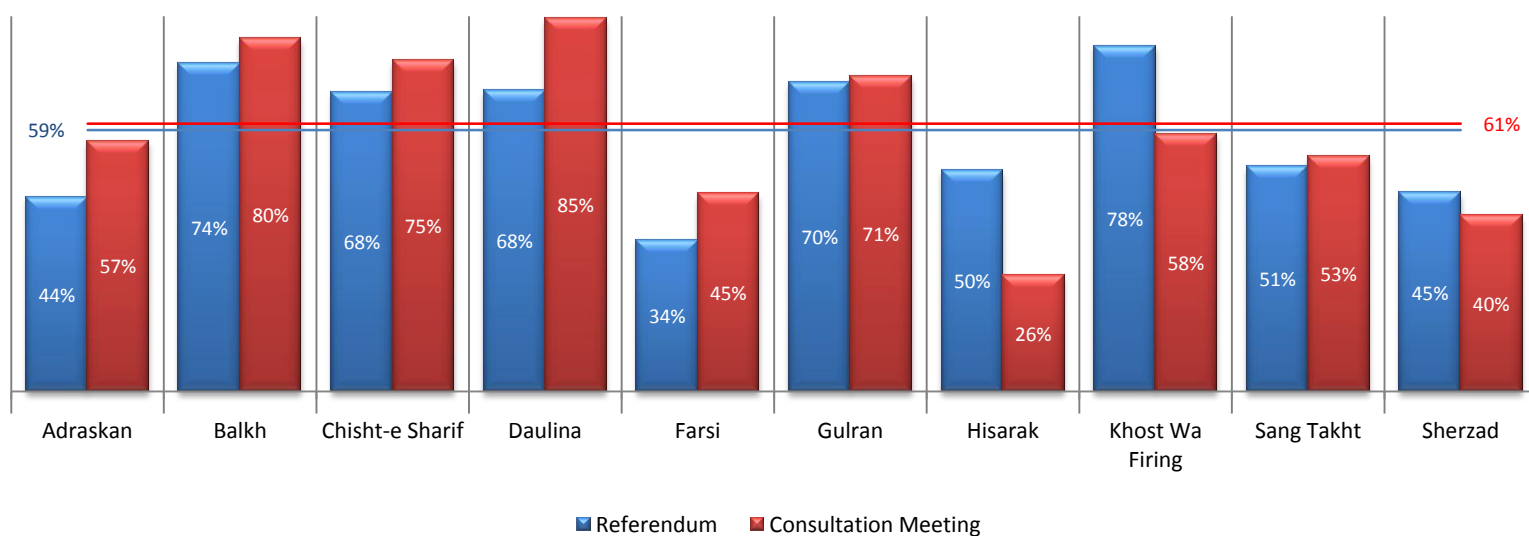


Referendum



Approximately 60 percent of respondents across the sample claimed to be aware of the value of the block grant that their community would receive from NSP for implementation of sub-projects. There was no significant difference observed between respondents in consultation communities and those in referendum communities, although variation between districts was significant. Respondents in Farsi, Hisarak, and Sherzad were least likely to be aware of the value of their community's block grant, while respondents in Balkh, Chisht-e Sharif, Daulina, Gulran, and Khost Wa Firing were more likely. In Adraskan, Balkh, Chisht-e Sharif, Daulina, and Farsi, respondents were more likely to be aware of the value of the block grant if they lived in a consultation community. In Hisarak and Khost Wa Firing, the opposite was the case.

Figure 28: Proportion of Respondents Aware of Value of Block Grant



According to respondents, communities are to receive block grants valued at an average of \$29,000. Respondents in Sang Takht reported the lowest average block grant value, at \$11,000, while respondents in Balkh reported the largest average block grant, at \$39,000. In Adraskan, Daulina, and Khost Wa Firing, block grant values reported by respondents in consultation communities were substantially lower than those reported by respondents in referendum communities, while in Balkh and Chisht-e Sharif, the opposite was the case.

Table 14: Perceived Value of Block Grant

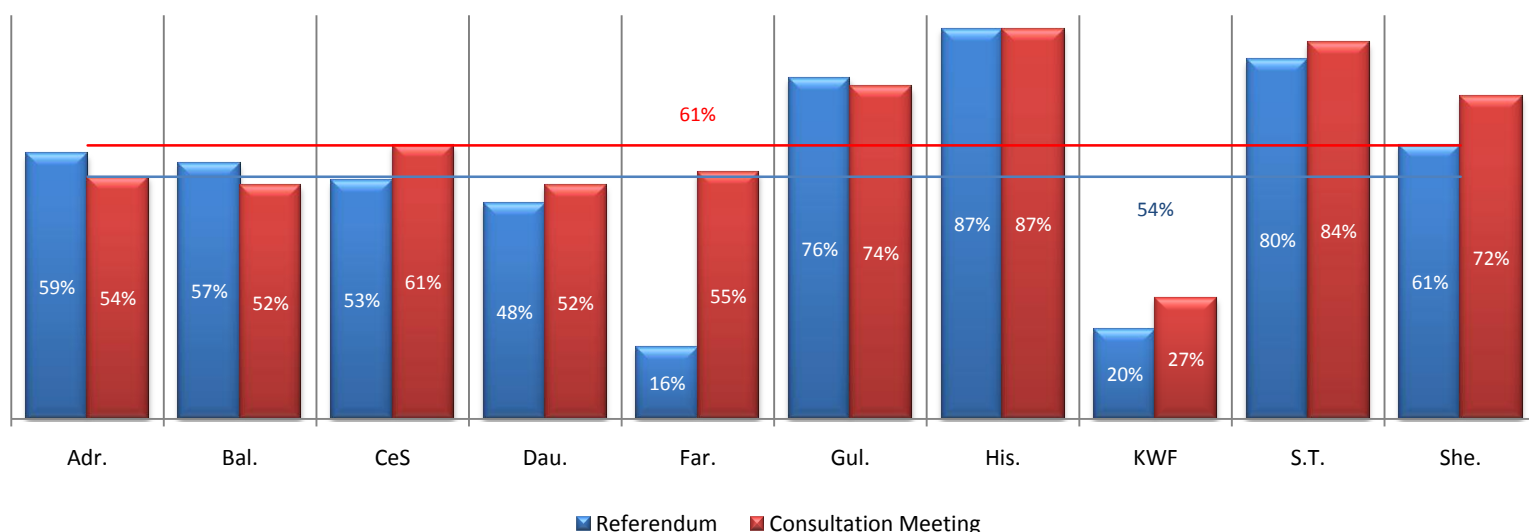
District	Consultation Meeting					Referendum				
	Obs.	Mean	S. D.	Min.	Max.	Obs.	Mean	S. D.	Min.	Max.
Adraskan	46	\$19,091	\$6,316	\$10,000	\$31,000	29	\$38,021	\$18,808	\$4,000	\$60,000
Balkh	40	\$47,295	\$8,333	\$36,000	\$60,000	52	\$33,377	\$21,802	\$10,000	\$64,000
Chisht-e Sharif	60	\$35,320	\$18,493	\$12,000	\$60,000	60	\$17,972	\$11,585	\$6,000	\$40,000
Daulina	44	\$30,016	\$16,597	\$10,000	\$57,000	41	\$40,912	\$14,745	\$24,000	\$66,000
Farsi	21	\$22,810	\$11,610	\$8,000	\$36,000	21	\$18,781	\$8,769	\$6,000	\$33,800
Gulran	50	\$30,788	\$21,291	\$2,000	\$60,000	35	\$31,457	\$20,203	\$5,000	\$60,000
Hisarak	10	\$40,120	\$9,066	\$26,000	\$55,800	23	\$37,183	\$18,093	\$14,800	\$58,000
Khost Wa Firing	30	\$19,587	\$6,245	\$10,800	\$30,400	47	\$32,711	\$9,961	\$18,400	\$44,400
Sang Takht	33	\$11,206	\$5,804	\$5,800	\$24,200	25	\$10,376	\$2,115	\$8,200	\$13,000
Sherzad	22	\$34,218	\$14,882	\$19,400	\$51,000	22	\$34,973	\$6,313	\$20,000	\$41,400
Total	356	\$29,044	\$17,221	\$2,000	\$60,000	355	\$29,608	\$17,569	\$4,000	\$66,000

Community Development Plan (CDP)

61 percent of respondents in consultation communities and 54 percent of respondents in referendum communities claimed to be aware of their community's Community Development

Plan (CDP), which is supposed to be drafted by the CDC prior to the sub-project selection in order to provide the candidate sub-projects to be considered during the selection procedure. The difference between consultation and referendum communities, however, is driven mainly by Farsi district, where just 16 percent of respondents in referendum communities claimed awareness of the CDP, as compared to 55 percent in consultation communities. Respondents in Gulran, Hisarak, and Sang Takht were more likely than counterparts in other districts to claim awareness of the CDP, while respondents in Khost Wa Firing and those in referendum communities in Farsi were much less likely to be aware of the CDP.⁵¹

Figure 29: Knowledge of Proposed Community Development Plan



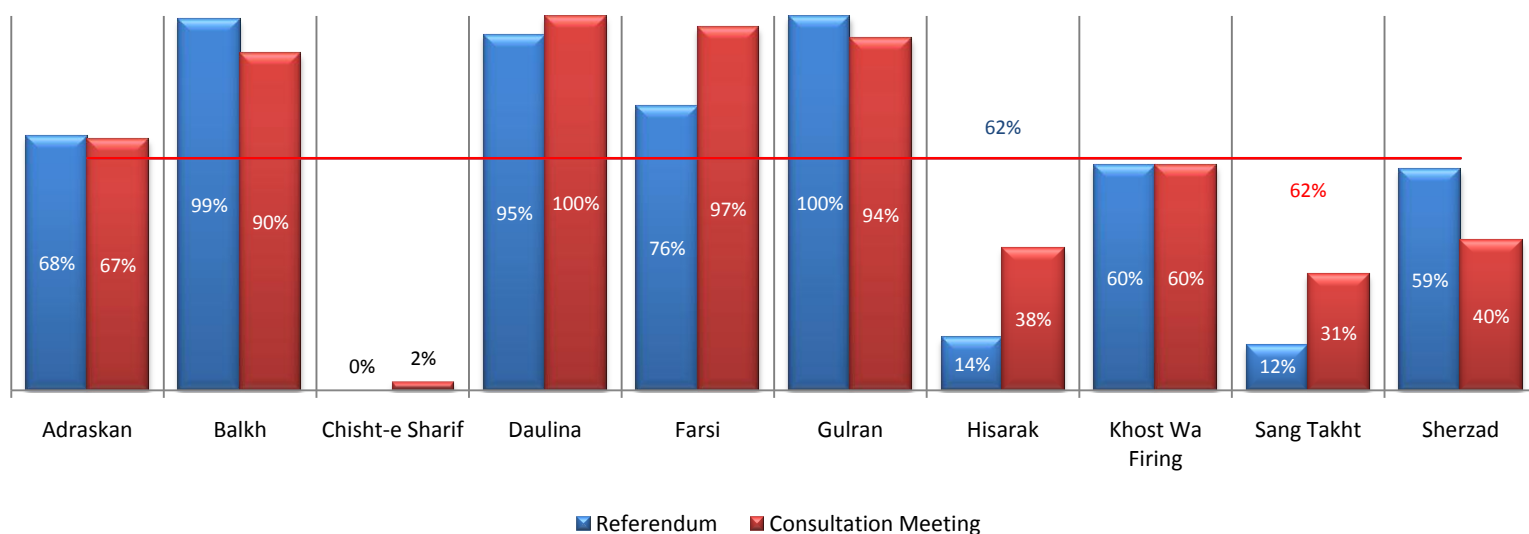
When respondents aware of the CDP for their village were asked whether this CDP represented the correct plan for the village, 99 percent of respondents in consultation communities and 98 percent of respondents in referendum communities expressed their satisfaction with the plan.⁵²

However, when respondents were asked whether any important projects had been excluded from the sub-project selection procedure, a significant number indicated that they were not completely happy with the options that had been presented to them. In both consultation and referendum communities, 40 percent of respondents said that they believed some important projects had been excluded from the selection procedure. Respondents in Balkh, Daulina and Gulran generally exhibited a high level of satisfaction with the options presented by the selection procedure, while, on the other hand, respondents in Chisht-e Sharif were very dissatisfied, as were respondents in Hisarak and Sang Takht, although to a lesser degree. In both Hisarak and Sang Takht, respondents in referendum communities were much more likely to be dissatisfied with the list of candidate sub-projects than their counterparts in consultation communities, while the opposite was the case in Sherzad.

⁵¹ Referendum villages in which respondents were generally unaware of the CDP were *Dahi Easha*, *Gow Margi*, *Khoja Aftab*, *Khowja Qalat*, *Larwan*, and *Wareje* in Khost Wa Firing and *Guldamak*, *Jar Ango*, *Kilkak*, *Qalin Baf*, *Rubata Zhala*, *Shor Ab*, and *Tatron* in Farsi.

⁵² Those not satisfied with the proposed CDP were concentrated in Adraskan and specifically in the villages of *Zard Alogak*, *Tanora*, *Kham Haji Omer*, *Chahak* (referendum) and *Hada Wa Wasat* and *Shash Mir Sang* (consultation meeting). There was also one referendum village in Sang Takht (*Shor Balina*) and one consultation meeting village in Farsi (*Qala Haji Babadin*) where dissatisfaction was common.

Figure 30: Percent of Respondents Satisfied with List of Candidate Sub-Projects

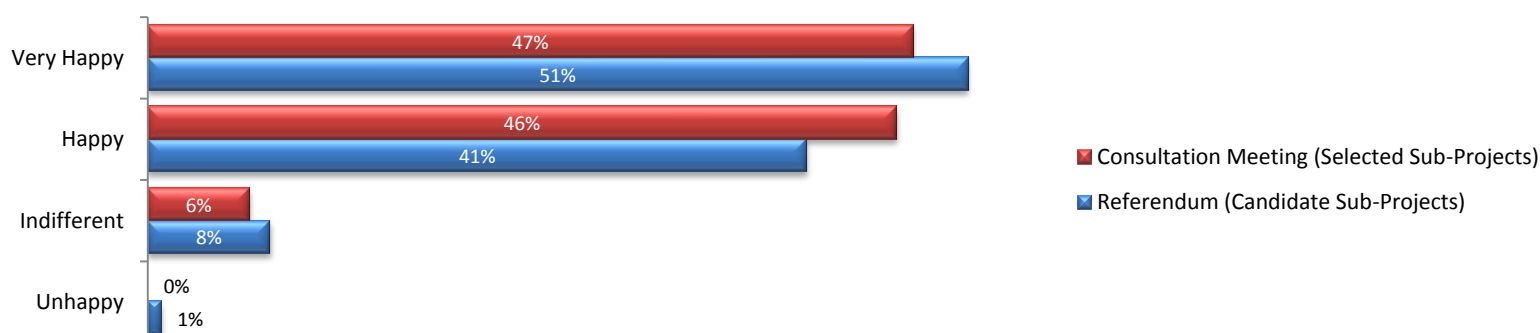


When respondents were asked if they believed that the candidate sub-projects considered during the selection procedure would benefit everyone in the village or just a few people in the village, 97 percent of respondents in consultation communities and 98 percent of respondents in referendum communities indicated that they believed the sub-projects would benefit the whole village.⁵³

Integrity of Sub-Project Selection Procedure

92 percent of respondents in referendum communities indicated that they were either happy or very happy with the options presented to them by the referendum, while 94 percent of respondents in consultation communities said they were either happy or very happy with the sub-projects selected at the consultation meeting. Only 6 percent of respondents in consultation communities and 9 percent of respondents in referendum communities indicated they were indifferent or unhappy with the selected or candidate sub-projects.

Figure 31: Happiness with Candidate or Selected Sub-Projects

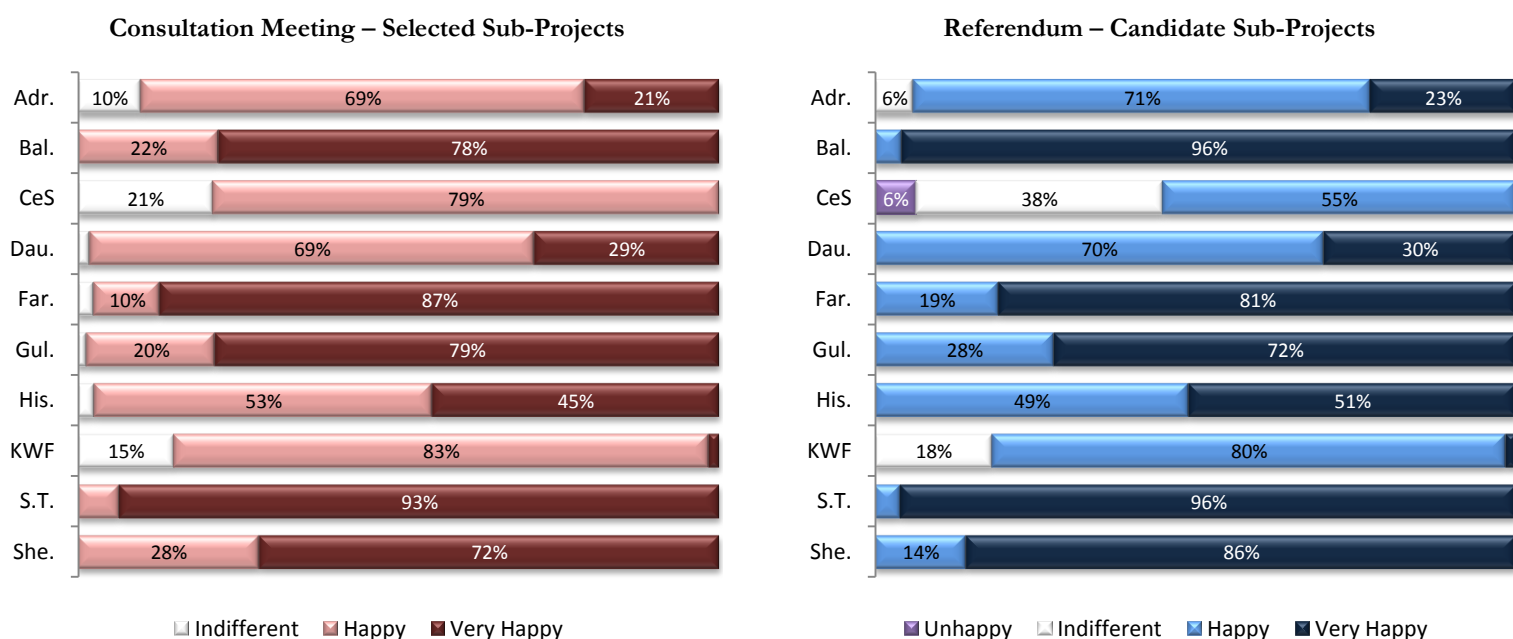


Respondents that were indifferent or unhappy with the candidate or selected sub-projects were most likely to be found in Chisht-e Shari and Khost Wa Firing. In referendum communities in

⁵³ Most of respondents indicating that the candidate sub-projects would not benefit the whole village were found in Adraskan and specifically in the villages of *Kham Ghor Yan*, *Hada Wa Wasat*, *Chah Paya Dobaradar*, *Neyanak Madho* (consultation meeting), *Zard Alogak*, *Tanora*, *Kham Haji Omer*, and *Chahak* (referendum). In *Ziyarat Babay Fawaq* in Gulran, half of the respondents indicated that the candidate sub-projects would not benefit the whole village.

Chisht-e Sharif, 38 percent indicated they were indifferent with the choices presented to them by the referendum and 6 percent said they were unhappy with the choices. In consultation communities in Chisht-e Sharif, 21 percent of respondents were indifferent with the outcome of the consultation procedure.⁵⁴ In Khost Wa Firing, 15 percent of respondents in consultation communities and 18 percent of respondents in referendum communities indicated they were indifferent with the selected or candidate sub-projects respectively.⁵⁵ At the other end of the spectrum, relatively high proportions of respondents in Balkh, Farsi, Sang Takht, and Sherzad indicated they were either happy or very happy with the selected or candidate sub-projects.

Figure 32: Happiness with Candidate or Selected Sub-Projects



96 percent of respondents in consultation communities and 97 percent of respondents in referendum communities stated they made their own decision of which sub-project(s) to support or to vote for.⁵⁶ Among respondents in consultation communities, three respondents in Farsi, two respondents in Balkh, and a single respondent each in Adraskan, Daulina, and Sherzad said that a family member had told them which sub-project(s) to support; a single respondent each in Daulina, Hisarak, and Sherzad said that a friend had directed them to support one or more sub-project(s); while seven respondents in Daulina, four respondents in Farsi, and a single respondent in Gulran reported that the village leader had told them which sub-project(s) to support. Among respondents in referendum communities, two respondents in Balkh and 11 respondents in Farsi said that family members had instructed them to vote for a particular sub-project; a single respondent in Adraskan and three respondents in Hisarak said that a friend had directed their choice in the referendum; while a single respondent in Daulina and four respondents in Farsi said that the village leader had told them which sub-project to vote for. No respondents in consultation communities or referendum communities indicated that a representative of the FP or district administration had attempted to influence which sub-project they supported or voted for.

⁵⁴In Chisht-e Sharif, indifference or unhappiness was most common in *Senjitaq, Chashma Owajiha, Dahan Ab, Nuzam Abad, Sar Sima, Tanorha, Khak Rash, Zala, Khar Zar* (referendum), *Pay Tandha, Dahan Haowar, Dahan Zabar, Tagab Ghaza, Kabotrar Khan, Yak Pahlo, Qol Saqab, and Tajruminz* (consultation meeting).

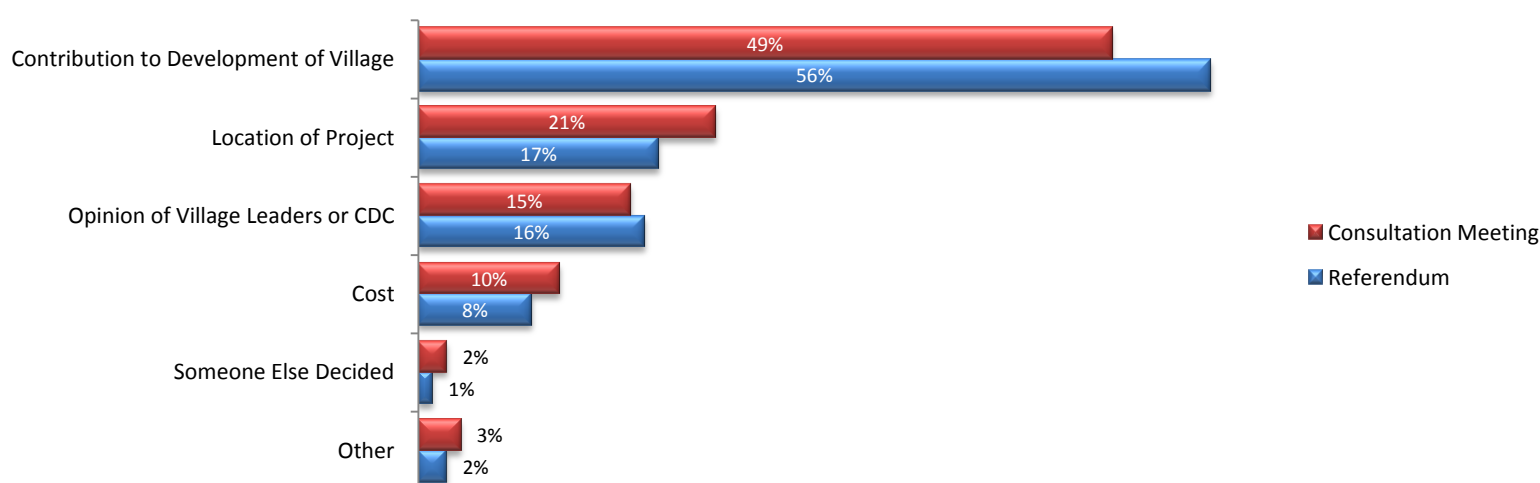
⁵⁵In Khost Wa Firing, indifference was most common in *Dahi Eashan, Khoja Aftab, Gow Margi, Wareje, Larwan* (referendum), *Ab Ower, Char Bagh, Char Bagh Ya, Noorastani, and Pajak* (consultation meeting).

⁵⁶In *Gala Chashma* and *Jourayan* in Daulina, at least three respondents reported that someone else influenced their decision of which sub-project(s) to support.

Among respondents in referendum communities, 97 percent reported that they believed their vote was secret and that it was not possible for other people to find out for which sub-project they voted. Across the sample, only 14 respondents in Farsi and a single respondent in Balkh indicated that they did not believe their ballot was secret.⁵⁷

Across the sample, a slight majority of respondents reported that they decided which sub-project(s) to support or vote for based upon a consideration of which of the candidate sub-projects contributed most to the development of the village. This was followed by a consideration of the location of the project, the opinion of village leaders or the CDC, and the cost of the project. A greater proportion of respondents in referendum communities said that they prioritized the contribution of candidate sub-projects to the development of the village when making their decision, a difference that is statistically significant at the 5 percent level.

Figure 33: Main Determinant of Preferred Sub-Project(s)

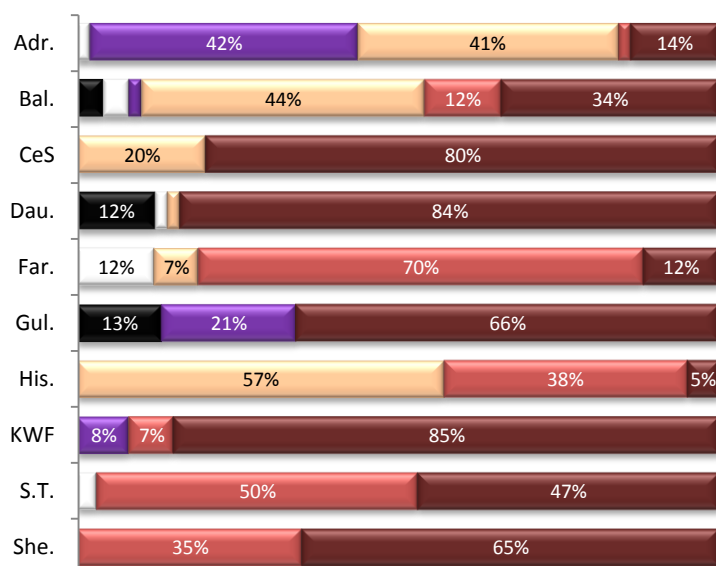


There was significant variation between districts in the main factor cited by respondents in driving the decision of which candidate sub-project(s) to support or vote for. Respondents in Daulina, Gulran, Khost Wa Firing, and Sherzad were most likely to cite the contribution to the development of the village as the most important factor. Respondents in Hisarak prioritized the cost of the candidate sub-project(s), followed closely by the opinion of village leaders. The opinion of village leaders or CDC members was an important consideration for respondents in Balkh and an especially important one for respondents in Hisarak. In Farsi, considerations of the location of the candidate sub-projects tended to be the most important decision. The variation between sub-project selection procedure within districts was for the most part insignificant, with the exceptions in Farsi, where a much greater proportion of consultation meeting participants prioritized consideration of the location of sub-projects, and Adraskan, where a higher proportion of referendum participants said that the cost of sub-projects was most important.

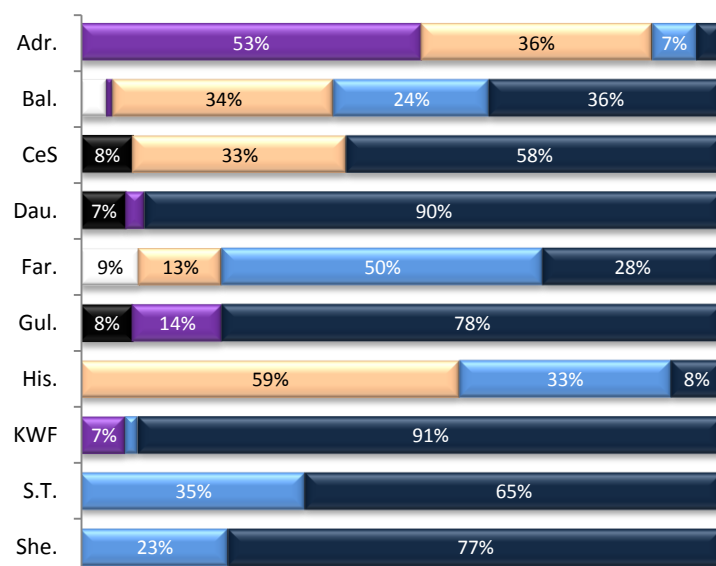
⁵⁷The villages in Farsi in which at least two respondents indicated that they doubted the secrecy of the ballot were *Jar Ango*, *Guldamak*, *Rubata Zhala*, *Qalin Baf*, and *Tatron*.

Figure 34: Main Determinant of Preferred Sub-Project(s)

Consultation Meeting



Referendum



■ Other □ Did Not Decide ■ Cost
 ■ Opinion of Leaders ■ Location ■ Dev't of Village

■ Other □ Did Not Decide ■ Cost
 ■ Opinion of Leaders ■ Location ■ Dev't of Village

Across the full sample, 96 percent of respondents in consultation communities and 97 percent of respondents in referendum communities said that they believed the opinions of villagers were of great importance in determining which sub-projects were selected. In Adraskan, however, 12 percent of respondents in consultation communities and 17 percent of respondents in referendum communities said that they believed the opinion of villagers was only of limited importance.⁵⁸ In Balkh, 16 percent of participants in consultation meetings said that the opinions of villagers were only of limited importance.

In consultation communities, 99 percent of respondents said that they believed that the members of the CDC listened to and considered the opinions of the villagers. Similarly, 98 percent of respondents stated that the sub-project(s) selected at the meeting represented the choice of the whole village and not just the choice of the members of the CDC.⁵⁹

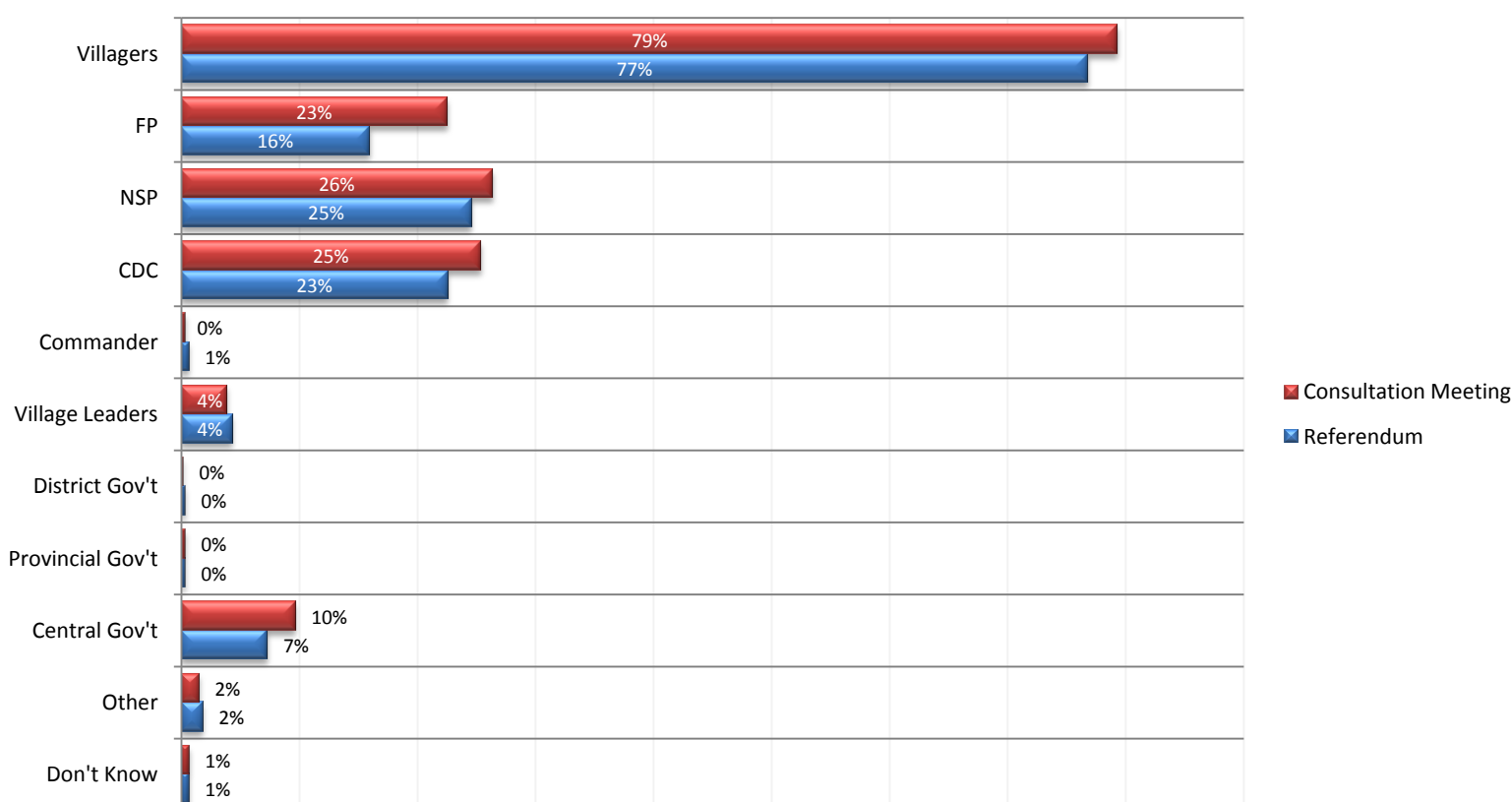
When asked who decides which sub-projects are implemented and funded by NSP, 79 percent of respondents in consultation communities and 77 percent of respondents in referendum communities said that villagers make the decision. NSP itself was the next most popular response, cited by 26 percent of respondents in consultation communities and 25 percent of respondents in referendum communities, followed by the CDC, which was cited by 25 percent of respondents in consultation communities and 23 percent of respondents in referendum communities. 23 percent of respondents in consultation communities and 16 percent of respondents in referendum communities said that the FP has a role in the decision, while 10 percent of respondents in consultation communities and 7 percent of respondents in referendum communities mentioned the central government. Only 4 percent of respondents said that village

⁵⁸ Villages in which respondents in Adraskan said the views of villagers were of limited importance are *Sang Seya*, *Zard Alogak*, *Kal Yak Paya*, *Tanora*, *Kham Haji Omer*, *Chahak* (referendum), *Kham Ghor Yan*, *Hada Wa Wasat*, *Shash Mir Sang*, *Chah Paya*, *Dobaradar*, and *Neyanak Madho* (consultation meeting).

⁵⁹ Only in *Char Gonbaz* in Balkh and *Qeshlaq Akhund* in Farsi were there respondents who mentioned both of these problems.

leaders had a role in the decision and only 1 percent of respondents expressed ignorance as to who selects which sub-projects are implemented in the village.

Figure 35: Perceived Decision-Maker(s) on Funding and Implementation of Sub-Projects



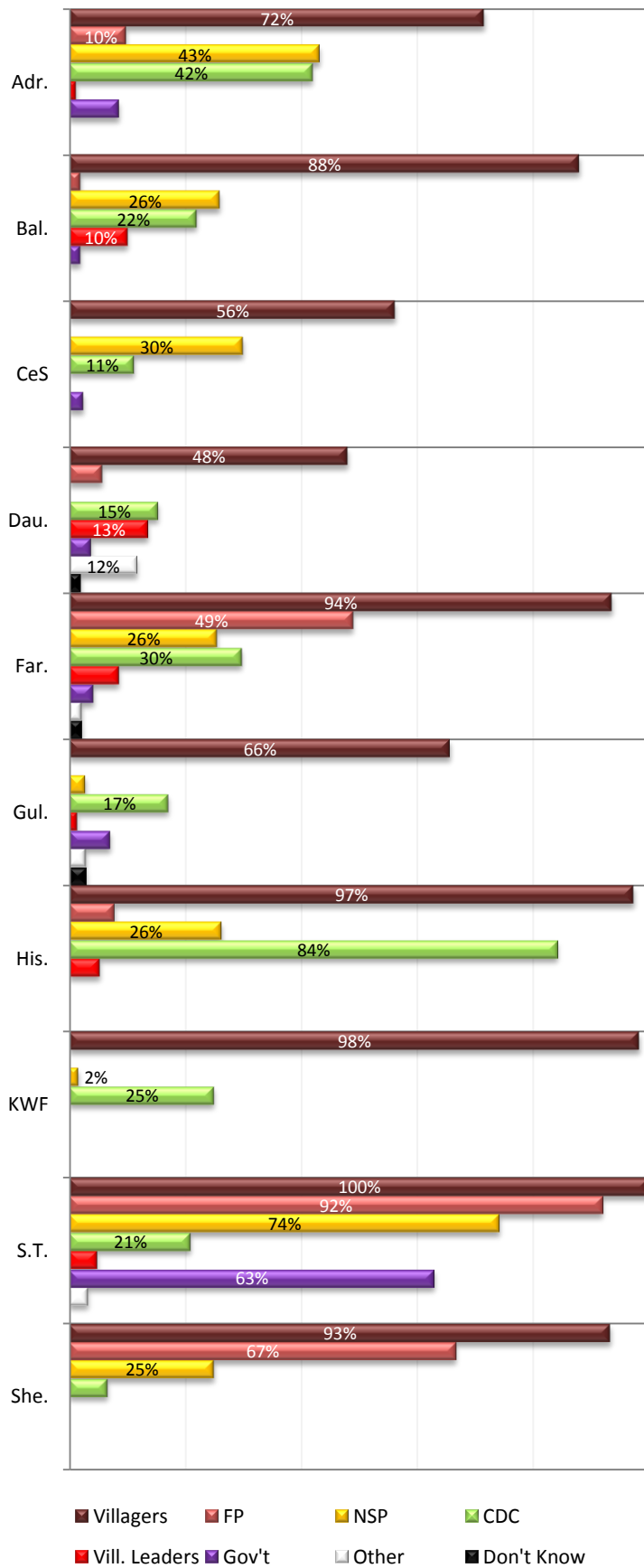
Although responses were very similar across consultation and referendum communities, significant differences were noticed between districts. Respondents in Balkh, Farsi, Hisarak, Khost Wa Firing, Sang Takht, and Sherzad were the most likely to say that villagers had a role in deciding which sub-projects were funded and implemented, while respondents in Chisht-e Sharif and Daulina were the least likely. Respondents in Sang Takht and Sherzad most commonly ascribed a role for the FP in the selection process;⁶⁰ respondents in Adraskan and Sang Takht were the most likely to mention NSP, while the CDC was most commonly mentioned by respondents in Adraskan and Hisarak.⁶¹

⁶⁰ Such sentiments were especially pronounced in *Hajeyan, Gar Khail, Sada Khail* (referendum), *Loqman Khail, Malik Faiz, Sangar Khail* (meeting) in Sherzad; *Laly, Shor Balina, Shaikh Sankak, Ranyo, Sar Adira* (referendum) and all consultation communities in Sang Takht.

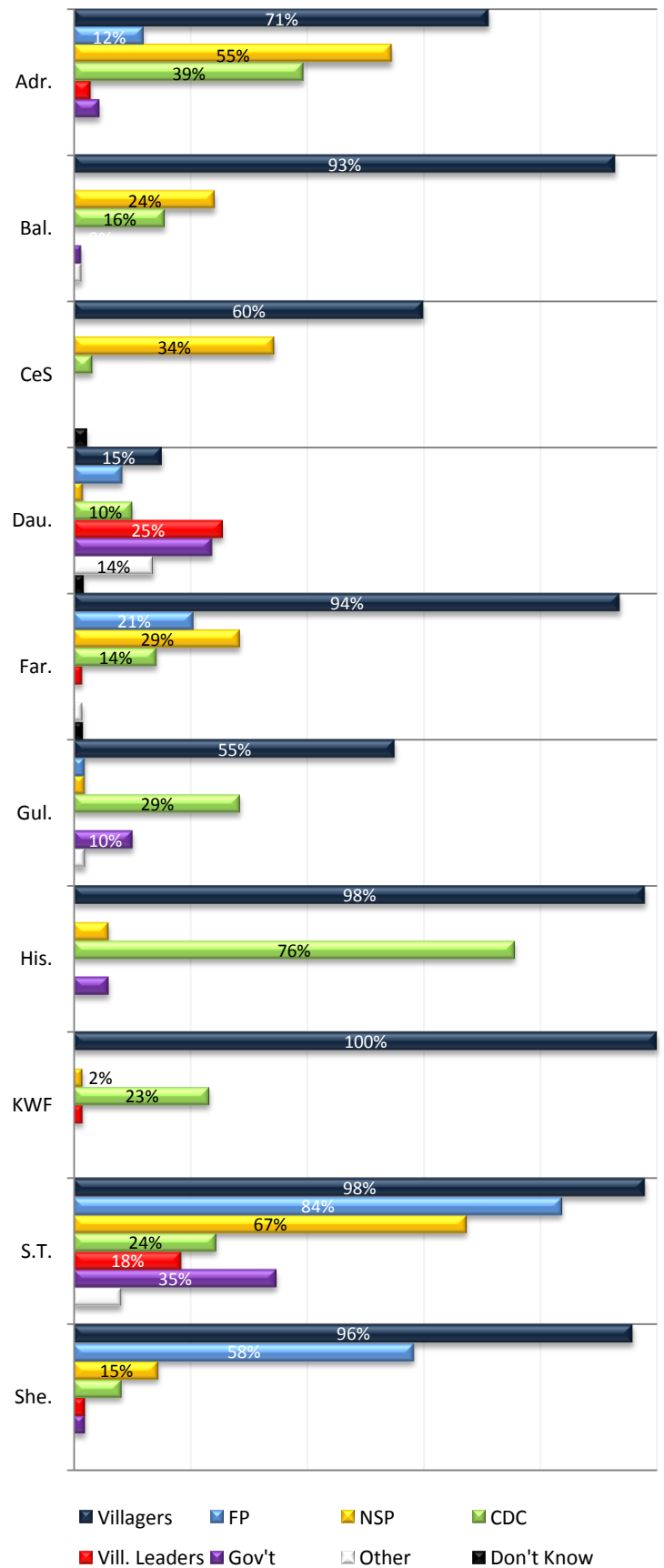
⁶¹ Villages in which at least two respondents reported CDC as the decider were *Qashoqi Zori, Arbab Ibrahim Aseyab Dew* (meeting), *Kor Ab, Laoshaoak Mabain, Buzan Mabain* (referendum) in Gulran; *Mate, Do Ab, Par Jena, Yaghi Band* (meeting) and all monitored referendum communities in Hisarak.

Figure 36: Perceived Decision-Maker(s) on Sub-Projects

Consultation Meeting

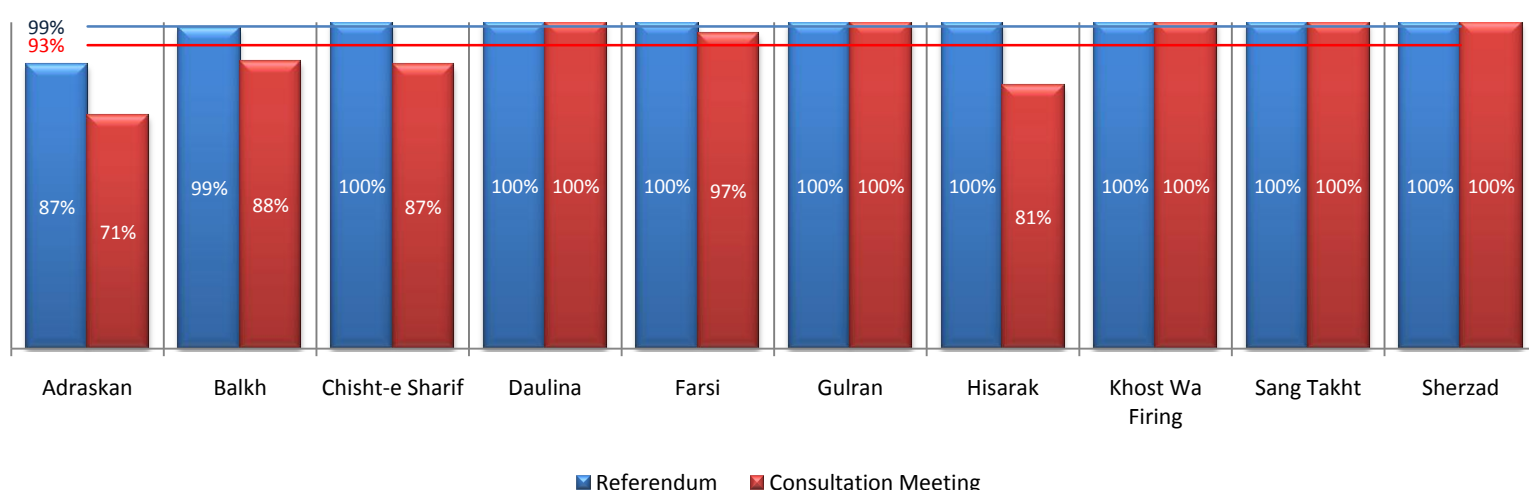


Referendum



99 percent of respondents in referendum communities and 93 percent of respondents in consultation communities expressed confidence in the sub-project selection procedure, saying that the results of the procedure would indeed determine which sub-projects received funding from NSP and would be implemented in the village. Respondents in Adraskan, Balkh, Chisht-e Sharif, and Hisarak appeared to not be completely sold, however, with 13 percent of respondents in referendum communities in Adraskan, 29 percent of respondents in consultation communities in Adraskan, 12 percent of respondents in consultation communities in Balkh, 13 percent of respondents in consultation communities in Chisht-e Sharif, and 19 percent of respondents in consultation communities in Hisarak claiming that the results of the sub-project procedure would not actually determine which sub-projects were implemented.

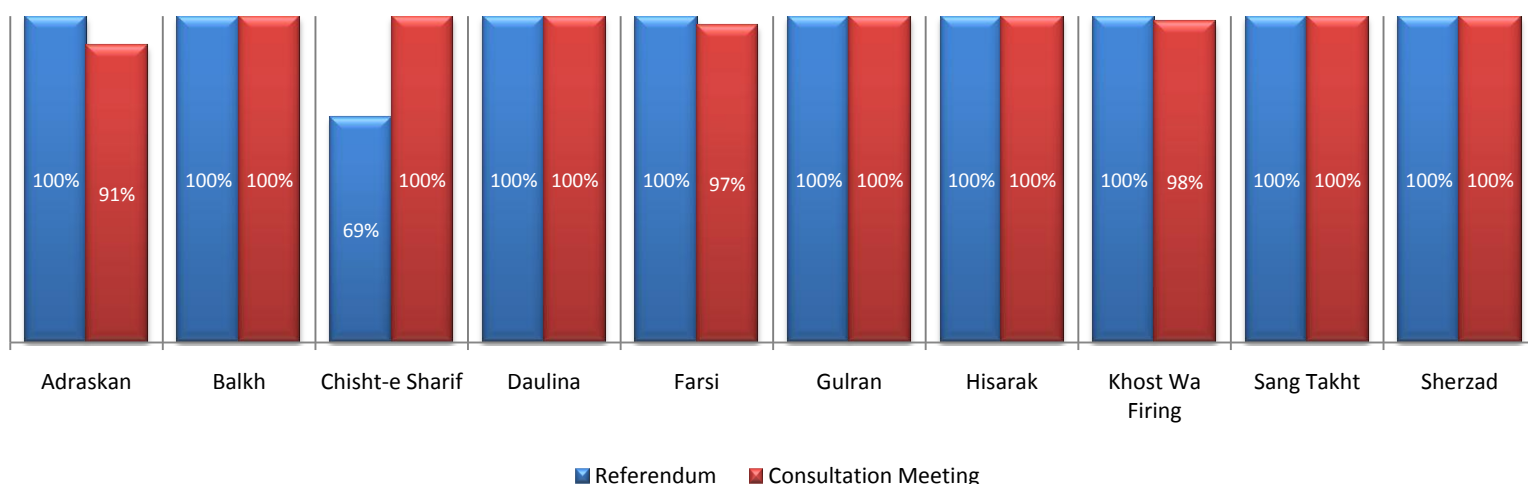
Figure 37: Proportion of Respondents Expressing Confidence in Decisiveness of Sub-Project Selection Procedure



Respondents seemed satisfied with the sub-project selection procedure, regardless of whether a referendum or consultation meeting was held in their community. Overall, 99 percent of respondents in consultation communities and 97 percent of respondents in referendum communities said that they believed the sub-project selection procedure was a good one. Only in Adraskan and Chisht-e Sharif did some respondents express dissatisfaction. In Adraskan, nine percent of respondents in consultation communities said that they believed that consultation meetings were not an appropriate way to select sub-projects, while in Chisht-e Sharif, 31 percent of respondents in referendum communities said that referenda were not a good way to select sub-projects.⁶²

⁶² The villages in which people expressed dissatisfaction with the referendum as a process of subproject selection were *Senjitak*, *Chashma Owajiha*, *Dahan Ab*, *Nuzam Abad*, *Sar Sima*, *Khak Rash*, *Zala*, and *Khar Zar*. Only in *Dahan Ab* and *Zala* were the majority of respondents dissatisfied with the process, which is consistent with the comments made by the enumerator, who noted that people in these villages would have preferred to have a consultation meeting, since the advantages and disadvantages of the projects were not properly discussed before the referendum. When asked which form of sub-project selection procedure they believed to be more appropriate, 16 of 17 respondents expressed their preference for a consultation meeting.

Figure 38: Proportion of Respondents Expressing Satisfaction with Sub-Project Selection Procedure



In the majority of monitored communities, both respondents and monitors raised no concern with the integrity of the sub-project procedure. Only in eight out of 127 communities did respondents express four or more complaints about the process and only in five communities did monitors express four or more complaints.

Table 15: Complaints about Sub-Project Selection Procedure

Participant Complaints	Villages	Percentage	Monitor Complaints	Villages	Percentage
0	53	41%	0	68	54%
1	19	15%	1	38	30%
2	30	24%	2	11	9%
3	17	13%	3	5	4%
4	6	5%	4	4	3%
5	2	2%	5	1	1%

The names of the monitored communities where four or more complaints about the sub-project selection procedure were raised by either villagers or monitors are presented in the table below. Interestingly, the communities in which villagers complained do not coincide with the communities where monitors raised procedural objections. Communities in Adraskan, Khost Wa Firing, and Gulran received the highest number of complaints.

Table 16: Village with Large Number of Complaints about Sub-Project Selection Procedure

District	Village	Selection Procedure	Participant Complaints	Monitor Complaints
Khost Wa Firing	Wareje	Referendum	5	0
Adraskan	Tanora	Referendum	5	1
Khost Wa Firing	Dahi Eashan	Referendum	4	0
Khost Wa Firing	Larwan	Referendum	4	0
Adraskan	Hada Wa Wasat	Consultation	4	0
Adraskan	Kham Haji Omer	Referendum	4	0
Adraskan	Neyanak Madho	Consultation	4	0
Adraskan	Zard Alogak	Referendum	4	1
Gulran	Ziyarat Babay Fawaq	Consultation	2	5
Daulina	Gard Lang	Consultation	1	4
Adraskan	Chah Qala	Consultation	1	4
Gulran	Buzan Hulya	Consultation	0	4
Gulran	Tote Che Jamshidi	Consultation	0	4

Appendix I: Sampled and Monitored Evaluation Communities

District	Village	Date	Selection Procedure	Status
Adraskan	Chah Qala	19-Dec-07	Consultation Meeting	Monitored
Adraskan	Dobaradar	Missing	Consultation Meeting	Monitored
Adraskan	Tanora	20-Dec-07	Referendum	Monitored
Adraskan	Shash Mir Sang	21-Dec-07	Consultation Meeting	Monitored
Adraskan	Chah Paya	22-Dec-07	Consultation Meeting	Monitored
Adraskan	Neyanak Madho	23-Dec-07	Consultation Meeting	Monitored
Adraskan	Sangaran	23-Dec-07	Referendum	Monitored
Adraskan	Tarma Ha	24-Dec-07	Consultation Meeting	Monitored
Adraskan	Kal Yak Paya	25-Dec-07	Referendum	Monitored
Adraskan	Gharte	26-Dec-07	Referendum	Monitored
Adraskan	Chahak	26-Dec-07	Referendum	Monitored
Adraskan	Sad Mani	27-Dec-07	Consultation Meeting	Monitored
Adraskan	Kham Haji Omer	27-Dec-07	Referendum	Monitored
Adraskan	Zard Alogak	28-Dec-07	Referendum	Monitored
Adraskan	Kham Yor Ghan	29-Dec-07	Consultation Meeting	Monitored
Adraskan	Hada Wa Mahdan	30-Dec-07	Consultation Meeting	Monitored
Adraskan	Hada Wa Wasat	31-Dec-07	Consultation Meeting	Monitored
Adraskan	Poul Besha	1-Jan-08	Consultation Meeting	Monitored
Adraskan	Hada Wa Sufla	2-Jan-08	Referendum	Monitored
Adraskan	Zulum Abad	3-Jan-08	Consultation Meeting	Monitored
Adraskan	Sang Seya	6-Jan-08	Referendum	Monitored
Balkh	Palas Push	12-Jan-08	Consultation Meeting	Monitored
Balkh	Ashfan	24-Jan-08	Consultation Meeting	Monitored
Balkh	Dakar	20-Jan-08	Consultation Meeting	Monitored
Balkh	Dewaly	22-Jan-08	Consultation Meeting	Monitored
Balkh	Char Gonbaz	11-Jan-08	Consultation Meeting	Monitored
Balkh	Penja Jereb	20-Apr-08	Referendum	Monitored
Balkh	Larghon	16-Jan-08	Referendum	Monitored
Balkh	Kotagi	15-Jan-08	Referendum	Monitored
Balkh	Zargaran	25-Jan-08	Referendum	Monitored
Balkh	Ghondan Hulya	26-Jan-08	Referendum	Monitored
Balkh	Hesarak	13-Jan-08	Referendum	Monitored
Balkh	Warsho	23-Jan-08	Referendum	Monitored
Chisht-e Sharif	Zala	22-Jun-08	Referendum	Monitored
Chisht-e Sharif	Dahan Ab	10-Jun-08	Referendum	Monitored
Chisht-e Sharif	Senjidak	16-Jun-08	Referendum	Monitored
Chisht-e Sharif	Chashma Owajiha	19-Jun-08	Referendum	Monitored
Chisht-e Sharif	Khak Rash	17-Jun-08	Referendum	Monitored
Chisht-e Sharif	Tanorha	24-Jun-08	Referendum	Monitored
Chisht-e Sharif	Tagab Ghaza	26-Jun-08	Consultation Meeting	Monitored
Chisht-e Sharif	Sar Sima	28-Jun-08	Referendum	Monitored
Chisht-e Sharif	Nuzam Abad	29-Jun-08	Referendum	Monitored
Chisht-e Sharif	Khar Zar	1-Jul-08	Referendum	Monitored

Chisht-e Sharif	Dahan Haowar	2-Jul-08	Consultation Meeting	Monitored
Chisht-e Sharif	Pay Tandha	3-Jul-08	Consultation Meeting	Monitored
Chisht-e Sharif	Tajrumin	4-Jul-08	Consultation Meeting	Monitored
Chisht-e Sharif	Qol Saqab	21-Jun-08	Consultation Meeting	Added
Chisht-e Sharif	Yak Pahlo	18-Jun-08	Consultation Meeting	Added
Chisht-e Sharif	Daha Zabar	11-Jun-08	Consultation Meeting	Added
Chisht-e Sharif	Kabotar Khan	12-Jun-08	Consultation Meeting	Added
Daulina	Babaiyan	29-Apr-08	Referendum	Monitored
Daulina	Qala Naqshi	15-Apr-08	Referendum	Monitored
Daulina	Kota Chashma Maqdal	21-Apr-08	Referendum	Monitored
Daulina	Gala Baid	20-Apr-08	Referendum	Monitored
Daulina	Salimain Sufla	1-May-08	Referendum	Monitored
Daulina	Qaisarak	30-Apr-08	Referendum	Monitored
Daulina	Kanan	Missing	Consultation Meeting	Monitored
Daulina	Gard Lang	16-Apr-08	Consultation Meeting	Monitored
Daulina	Garm Ab	17-Apr-08	Consultation Meeting	Monitored
Daulina	Gala Chasman	19-Apr-08	Consultation Meeting	Monitored
Daulina	Jourayan	22-Apr-08	Consultation Meeting	Monitored
Daulina	Haidaran	3-May-08	Consultation Meeting	Monitored
Farsi	Rubata Zhala	16-Dec-07	Referendum	Monitored
Farsi	Qeshlaq Akhund	17-Dec-07	Consultation Meeting	Monitored
Farsi	Jar Ango	6-Dec-07	Referendum	Monitored
Farsi	Sofi Ghulam	7-Dec-07	Consultation Meeting	Monitored
Farsi	Guldamak	8-Dec-07	Referendum	Monitored
Farsi	Shor Ab	9-Dec-07	Referendum	Monitored
Farsi	Chashma Azizan	10-Dec-07	Consultation Meeting	Monitored
Farsi	Qala Haji Babadin	11-Dec-07	Consultation Meeting	Monitored
Farsi	Qalin Baf	10-Jan-00	Referendum	Monitored
Farsi	Kilkak	13-Dec-07	Referendum	Monitored
Farsi	Gurgi	14-Dec-07	Consultation Meeting	Monitored
Farsi	Tatron	15-Dec-07	Referendum	Monitored
Gulran	Buzan Hulya	23-Mar-08	Consultation Meeting	Monitored
Gulran	Ziyarat Babay Fawaq	24-Mar-08	Consultation Meeting	Monitored
Gulran	Tote Che Jamshidi	25-Mar-08	Consultation Meeting	Monitored
Gulran	Seya Kamarak Shor Road	3-Apr-08	Consultation Meeting	Not Monitored
Gulran	Arbab Ibrahim Aseyab Dew	6-Apr-08	Consultation Meeting	Monitored
Gulran	Qashoqi Zori	7-Apr-08	Consultation Meeting	Monitored
Gulran	Chah Gulgal Hulya	8-Apr-08	Consultation Meeting	Monitored
Gulran	Buzan Mabain	22-Mar-08	Referendum	Monitored
Gulran	Qeshlaq Jaow	26-Mar-08	Referendum	Monitored
Gulran	Korab	27-Mar-08	Referendum	Monitored
Gulran	Nahmat	30-Mar-08	Referendum	Monitored
Gulran	Laoshaoak Mabain	2-Apr-08	Referendum	Monitored
Hisarak	Mana Khail	24-Jan-08	Consultation Meeting	Not Monitored
Hisarak	Do Ab	28-Jan-08	Consultation Meeting	Monitored
Hisarak	Kabalo Kass	2-Feb-08	Referendum	Not Monitored

Hisarak	Khomar Khil	5-Feb-08	Consultation Meeting	Not Monitored
Hisarak	Gazak	14-Feb-08	Referendum	Monitored
Hisarak	Tawda China	17-Feb-08	Referendum	Monitored
Hisarak	Kharoti	21-Feb-08	Referendum	Monitored
Hisarak	Yaghi Band	23-Feb-08	Consultation Meeting	Monitored
Hisarak	Ma Khan	25-Feb-08	Referendum	Monitored
Hisarak	Perjina	26-Feb-08	Consultation Meeting	Monitored
Hisarak	Sheen Pani	27-Feb-08	Consultation Meeting	Monitored
Hisarak	Tomanay	27-Feb-08	Referendum	Monitored
Hisarak	Mate	24-Jan-08	Consultation Meeting	Added
Khost Wa Firing	Khowja Qalat	18-Dec-07	Referendum	Added
Khost Wa Firing	Poul Asad Bala	17-Feb-08	Consultation Meeting	Not Monitored
Khost Wa Firing	Poul Asad Payen	18-Feb-08	Referendum	Not Monitored
Khost Wa Firing	Nooristani	30-Nov-07	Consultation Meeting	Monitored
Khost Wa Firing	Gow Margi	1-Dec-07	Referendum	Monitored
Khost Wa Firing	Khowja Aftab	2-Dec-07	Referendum	Monitored
Khost Wa Firing	Char Bagh	4-Dec-07	Consultation Meeting	Monitored
Khost Wa Firing	Larwan	5-Dec-07	Referendum	Monitored
Khost Wa Firing	Pajak	6-Dec-07	Consultation Meeting	Monitored
Khost Wa Firing	Wareje	12-Dec-07	Referendum	Monitored
Khost Wa Firing	Paragak	13-Dec-07	Consultation Meeting	Monitored
Khost Wa Firing	Dahi Eashan	14-Dec-07	Referendum	Monitored
Khost Wa Firing	Ab Ower	15-Dec-07	Consultation Meeting	Monitored
Khost Wa Firing	Mazar Kolo	21-Dec-07	Consultation Meeting	Added
Sang Takht	Sar Qurghan	22-Apr-08	Consultation Meeting	Monitored
Sang Takht	Shahrestan	11-May-08	Consultation Meeting	Monitored
Sang Takht	Siya Sang	17-May-08	Consultation Meeting	Monitored
Sang Takht	Qala Paytab	19-Apr-08	Consultation Meeting	Monitored
Sang Takht	Zard Sang	4-May-08	Consultation Meeting	Monitored
Sang Takht	Chaka	2-May-08	Consultation Meeting	Monitored
Sang Takht	Sar Adira	29-Apr-08	Referendum	Monitored
Sang Takht	Ranyo	25-Apr-08	Referendum	Monitored
Sang Takht	Shaikh Sankak	16-Apr-08	Referendum	Monitored
Sang Takht	Laly	21-May-08	Referendum	Monitored
Sang Takht	Shor Balina	7-May-08	Referendum	Monitored
Sang Takht	Laly	21-May-08	Referendum	Monitored
Sang Takht	Ranyo	25-Apr-08	Referendum	Monitored
Sang Takht	Shaikh Sankak	16-Apr-08	Referendum	Monitored
Sherzad	Bar Khadi Khail	27-Apr-08	Referendum	Monitored
Sherzad	Bashi Banda	3-Apr-08	Referendum	Not Monitored
Sherzad	Hajeyan	24-Apr-08	Referendum	Monitored
Sherzad	Gar Khail	23-Apr-08	Referendum	Monitored
Sherzad	Loqman Khail	17-Apr-08	Consultation Meeting	Monitored
Sherzad	Sada Khail	16-Apr-08	Referendum	Monitored
Sherzad	Jaba Kalagan	4-May-08	Consultation Meeting	Monitored
Sherzad	Sar Kot	13-Jun-08	Consultation Meeting	Monitored

Sherzad	Sangar Khail	11-May-08	Consultation Meeting	Monitored
Sherzad	Kashrano Kalay	12-May-08	Consultation Meeting	Monitored
Sherzad	Koza Ghara	27-Apr-08	Referendum	Monitored
Sherzad	Malik Faiz	7-Apr-08	Consultation Meeting	Monitored

Appendix II: Subproject Selection Materials Requested from FPs

For NSP evaluation communities assigned a referendum:

1. List of Candidate Sub-Projects – List, description, estimated total cost, and amount requested from NSP for all sub-projects presented as options on the ballot used in the referendum;
2. Cluster Vote Tally – The number of votes received by each candidate sub-project at the cluster level;
3. Community Vote Tally – The number of votes received by each candidate sub-project across all clusters in the community;
4. List of Selected Sub-Projects – List of sub-projects selected to receive block grant financing based on the results of the referendum;
5. Referendum Log or Diary (Optional) – A log or diary of anecdotes and stories documenting community reaction to the administration of the election procedure. This may include any incidents that occur during the election process, as well as general notes on community sentiment and comments and suggestions made by community members, CDC members, or government representatives.

For NSP evaluation communities assigned a consultation meeting:

1. List of Candidate Sub-Projects – List, description, estimated total cost, and amount requested from NSP for all sub-projects discussed during the consultation meeting;
2. Minutes of Consultation Meeting – Minutes recorded by FP representative;
3. List of Selected Sub-Projects – List of sub-projects selected to receive block grant financing based on the results of the consultation meeting;
4. Consultation Meeting Log or Diary (Optional) – A log or diary of anecdotes and stories documenting community reaction to the administration of the consultation meeting. This may include any incidents that occur during the process, as well as general notes on community sentiment and comments and suggestions made by community members, CDC members, or government representatives.