



**GROUND TRUTH  
SOLUTIONS**

# **PERSPECTIVES FROM THE FIELD**

SURVEY OF LOCAL PARTNER ORGANISATIONS  
PROVIDING HUMANITARIAN AID

AFGHANISTAN, HAITI, IRAQ,  
LEBANON, SOMALIA, AND UGANDA

JULY 2018



Auswärtiges Amt



**OECD**

BETTER POLICIES FOR BETTER LIVES

# INTRODUCTION

The Grand Bargain struck by more than 30 humanitarian donors and aid agencies at the 2016 World Humanitarian Summit set out to reform the aid system so it is better prepared for tackling the emergency needs of people affected by crises worldwide.<sup>1</sup>

Since then, Ground Truth Solutions and the OECD, with support from the German Federal Foreign Office, have endeavoured to set a baseline for tracking the impact of the Grand Bargain at the country level through the experience of affected people and aid providers.

This report summarises the main findings from surveys with local partners of international non-governmental organisations (INGOs) and United Nations (UN) agencies. The surveys were conducted in late 2016 and 2017 in Afghanistan, Iraq, Haiti, Lebanon, Somalia, and Uganda.<sup>2</sup>

The resulting research complements the Grand Bargain Annual Report and other monitoring initiatives by providing an in-depth analysis of key actors' views on Grand Bargain commitments towards localisation.

## KEY FINDINGS

Local organisations were asked about their relationship with international partners, focusing on three themes: the quality of the relationship, financial support and capacity strengthening. All three have a bearing on the localisation agenda.

Local organisations tend to **feel treated with respect by their international partners** and consider the latter as **knowledgeable about the context** in which they work. The results are similar across all six countries.

Local partners give slightly lower marks for the support they receive in strengthening capacity for long-term planning, management and leadership, and financial skills.

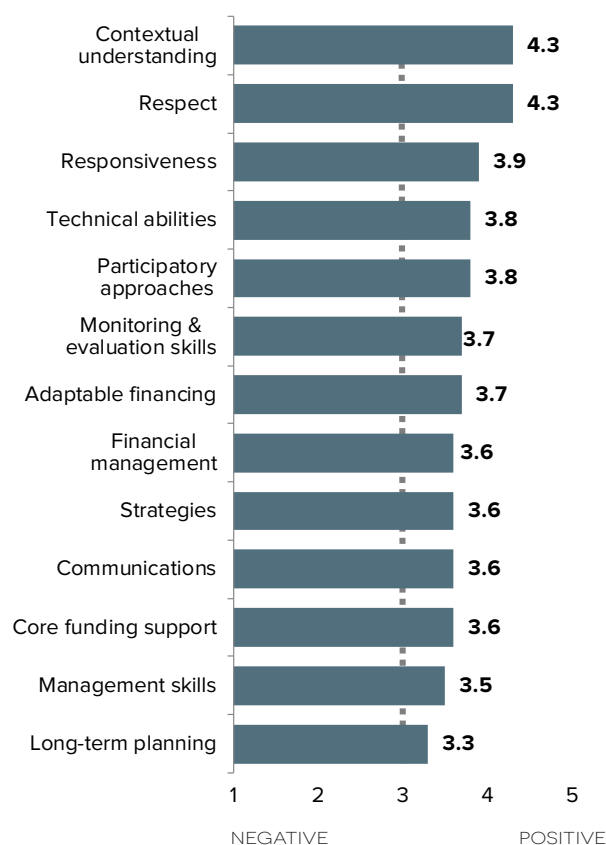
“More national aid providers should be called to give independent proposals and be given direct power to implement to effectively and adequately build their capacity to meet international standards.” - *Staff member, Uganda*

Local partners would like to receive **more core funding and greater flexibility in use of resources** they receive. Across the six countries local partners are **concerned about fluctuating levels of funding affecting the sustainability of their operations**.

Local partners view their **relationship with international organisations generally positive**, but their views on the capacity strengthening support available tends to be slightly less positive. To facilitate truly equal partnerships, local organisations **demand more emphasis on capacity development, or sharing of capacities between international and national actors**. Particularly when it comes to long-term planning and the capacity to do so, local partners see room for improvements.

“More money should be spent on capacity building of local actors. This would help break the cycle of dependence on international NGOs. Furthermore, many projects are designed without a clear understanding of the reality on the ground. Project design should be bottom up, not top down.” - *Staff member, Haiti*

### Overall mean scores



<sup>1</sup> The Grand Bargain – A Shared Commitment to Better Serve People in Need. Istanbul, Turkey, 23 May 2016.

<sup>2</sup> Individual reports from all countries are available at [groundtruthsolutions.org/our-work/tracking-the-grand-bargain-from-a-field-perspective/](https://groundtruthsolutions.org/our-work/tracking-the-grand-bargain-from-a-field-perspective/)



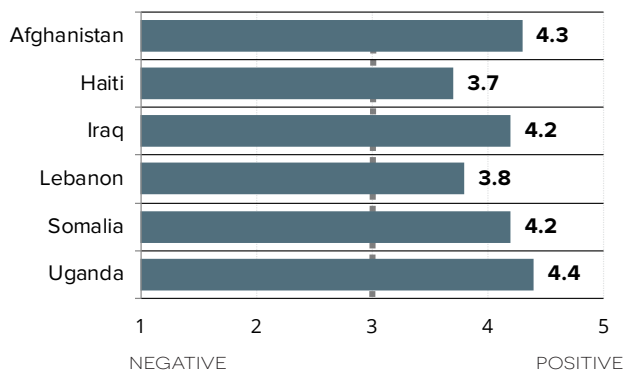
# SURVEY FINDINGS PER COUNTRY

Ground Truth Solutions developed the survey to gauge the experiences of local and national responders who administer humanitarian assistance in collaboration with INGOs and UN agencies. Responses to closed questions asked in all six countries are presented here using a 1-5 Likert scale.

## Quality of relationships

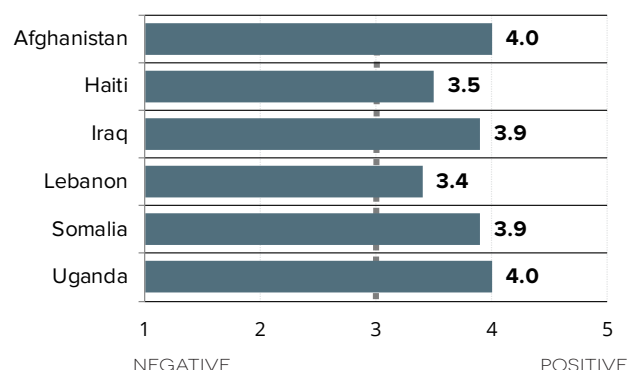
### Contextual understanding

International partners understand the context in which we work



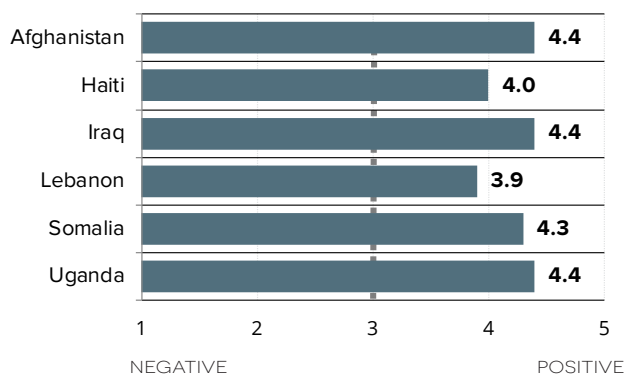
### Responsiveness

International partners listen and respond appropriately to our questions and concerns



### Respect

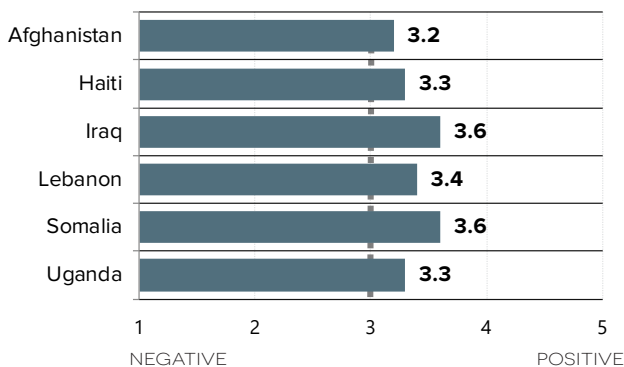
International partners treat us with respect



## Financial support

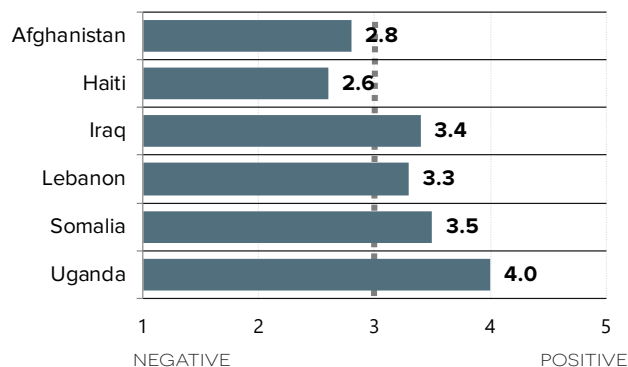
### Adaptive financing

International partners are flexible in adapting the terms of financial support so we can adjust our programmes to changing needs



### Core funding support

The funding received from international partners makes an appropriate contribution to core costs

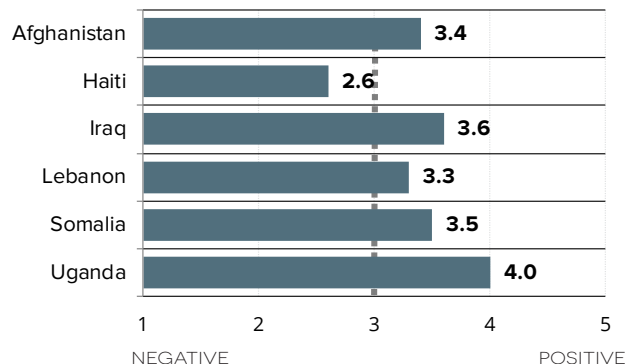




## Capacity strengthening

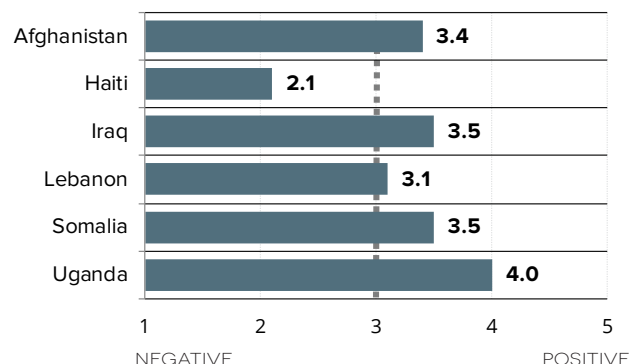
### Financial management

International partners provide support to strengthen financial management skills



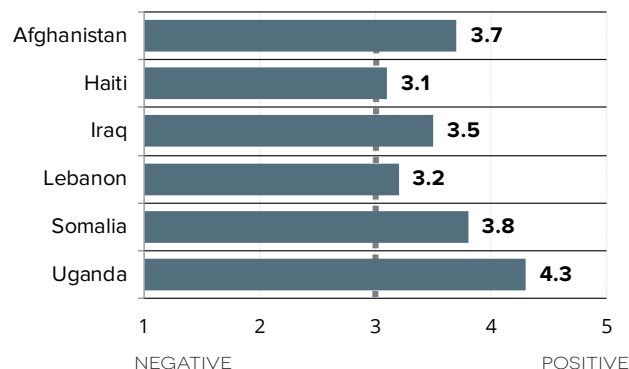
### Management skills

International partners provide support to strengthen management and leadership skills



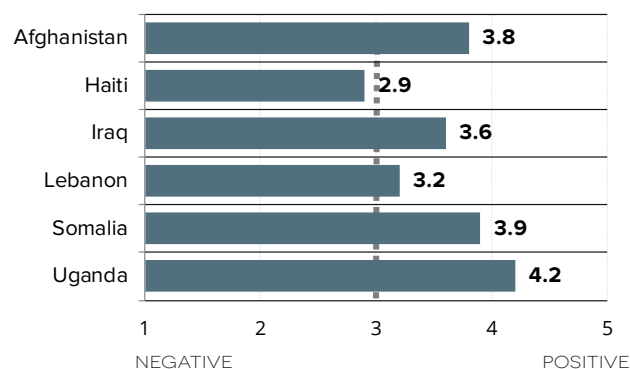
### Participatory approaches

International partners provide support to strengthen participatory approaches



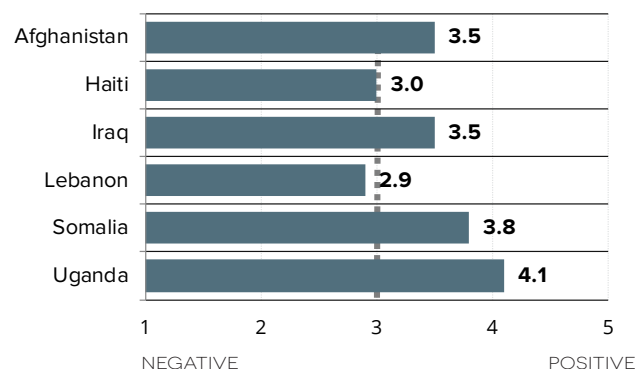
### Technical abilities

International partners provide support to strengthen technical abilities to deliver services



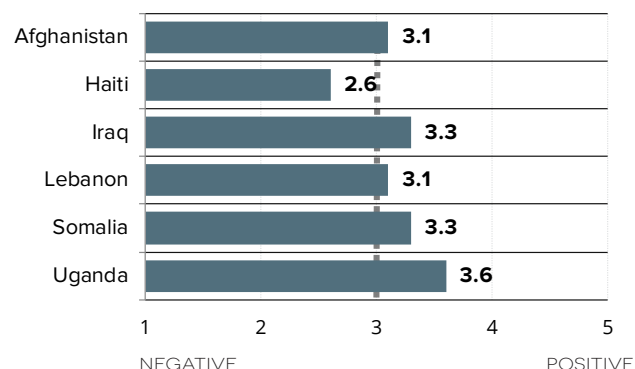
### Monitoring & evaluation skills

International partners provide support to strengthen monitoring and evaluation skills



### Long-term planning

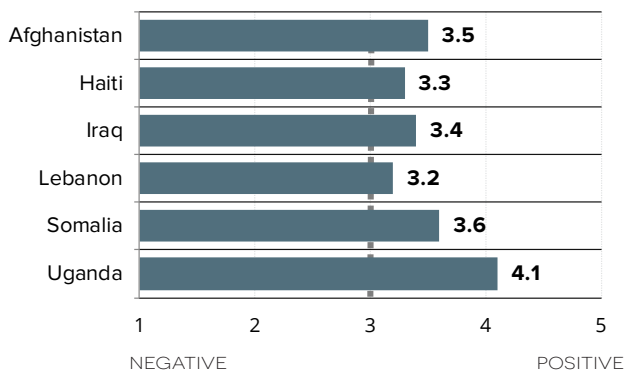
International partners provide support to strengthen long-term planning





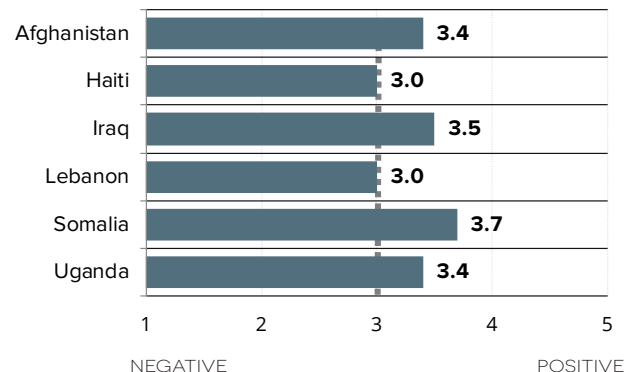
### Strategies

International partners provide support to improve our organisational strategies and the practical implementation of them



### Communications

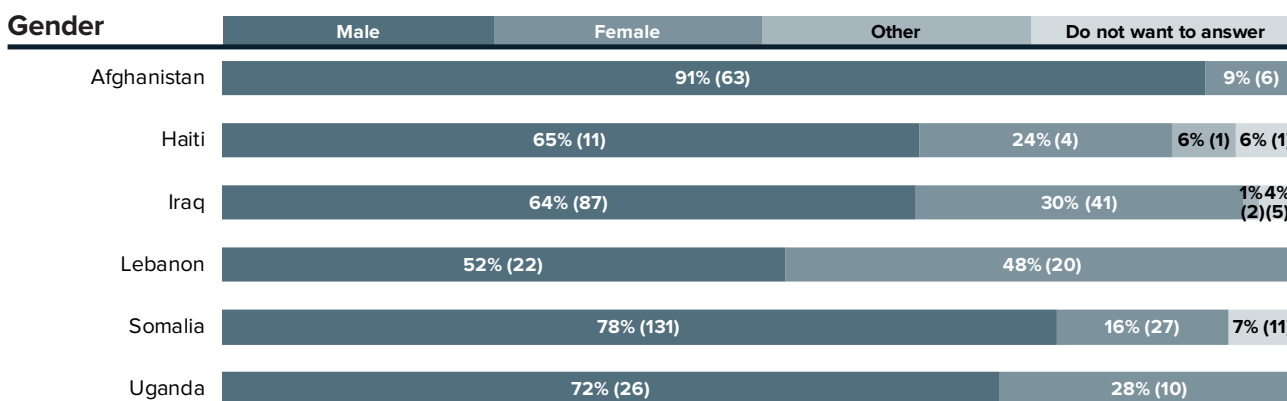
International partners provide support in communicating and publicising our work



## DEMOGRAPHICS

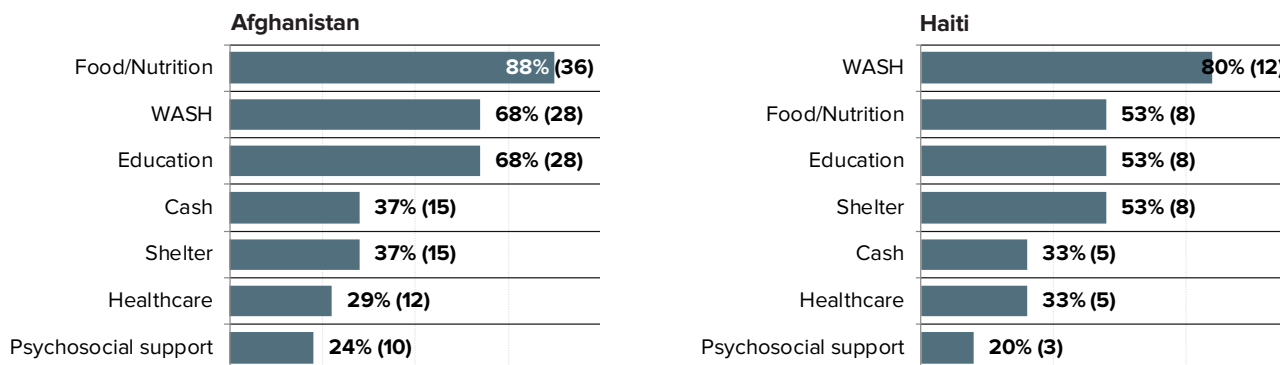
The graphs below depict the demographic breakdown of 63 partners from Afghanistan, 17 partners from Haiti, 83 partners from Iraq, 42 partners from Lebanon, 114 partners from Somalia, and 21 partners from Uganda. Each graph includes percentages, as well as the frequency in parentheses.

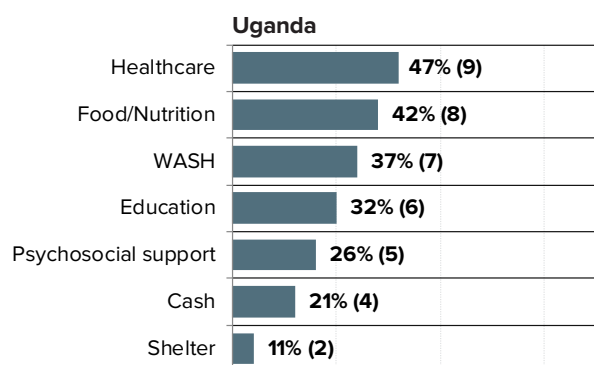
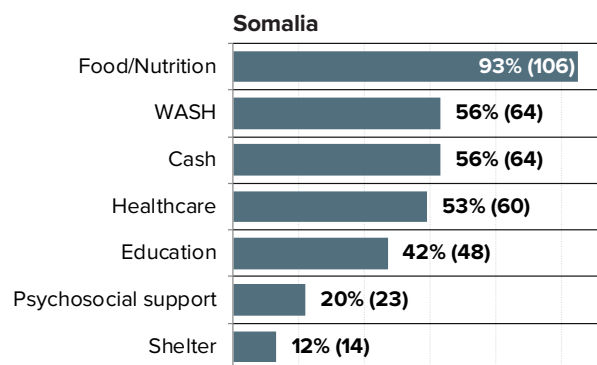
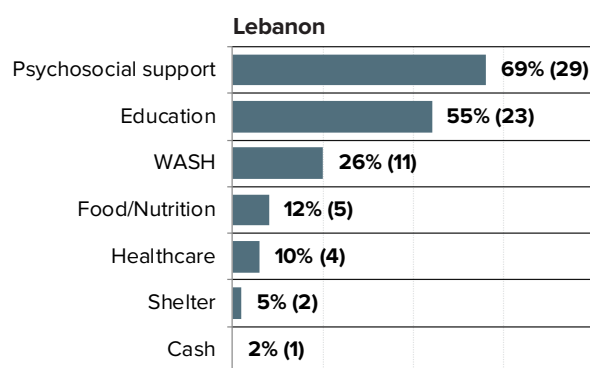
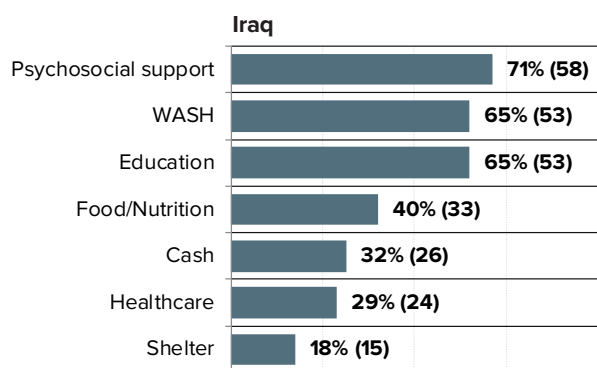
Some local partner organisations had multiple focal points responding to the survey on their behalf. Those responses were then averaged so as to give each local partner a single score.



### Services provided by local partners\*

\* Respondents could choose multiple answer options, therefore percentages do not total 100%.







# NOTE ON METHODOLOGY

## Survey development

Ground Truth Solutions developed a survey tailored to gauge the experiences of local and national responders who administer humanitarian assistance in collaboration with INGOs and UN agencies. Closed questions use a 1-5 Likert scale in Iraq, Uganda, and Somalia, and a 1-10 Likert scale (which has been converted to a 1-5 Likert scale for comparability purposes) in Afghanistan, Haiti, and Lebanon to quantify answers, which have been analysed by comparing means and response patterns.

## Sample size

The sample in Afghanistan consists of local partners of the six international organisations who participated in the survey. Overall, 63 local partners provided feedback.

The sample in Haiti consists of 17 local partners of the seven international organisations who participated in the survey.

The sample in Iraq consists of 83 local and national partners of four international organisations and eight UN agencies who provided feedback.

The sample in Lebanon consists of local partners of the three international organisations who participated in the survey. Overall, 42 local partners provided feedback.

The sample in Somalia consists of 114 local and national partners of six international organisations and seven UN agencies.

The sample in Uganda consists of 21 local and national partner organisations of three international organisations and four UN agencies.

## Sampling methodology

The partner surveys were commissioned by the OECD and managed by Ground Truth Solutions. The questionnaire was built on an online platform and sent to partners via email by the INGOs and UN agencies. Focal points were chosen to complete the survey on behalf of local partner organisation. Focal points are those who regularly manage donor relations on behalf of the organisation.

Questionnaires were sent by the international agencies to the in-country focal points of their partner organisations. Although anonymity was assured with responses going directly to Ground Truth Solutions, this may have introduced some positive bias in responses. To assess and avoid potential bias, Ground Truth Solutions will send the survey invitation directly to participating organisations in this year's partner survey.

In all six countries, participation was voluntary.

Data was collected between 4 May and 22 May 2017 in Afghanistan; between 28 April and 21 May 2017 in Haiti; between 31 July 2017 and 31 August 2017 in Iraq; between 14 December 2016 and 23 February 2017 in Lebanon; between 9 October 2017 and 4 November 2017 in Somalia, and between 3 and 14 December 2017 in Uganda.

## Language of the survey

The Afghanistan survey was conducted in Dari, Pashto, and English; the Haiti survey was conducted in French, Haitian Creole, and English, and the Iraq survey was conducted in Kurdish, Arabic, and English. The Lebanon survey was conducted in Arabic and English, while the Somalia and Uganda surveys were conducted in English.

**For more information about this and other Ground Truth Solutions surveys, please contact [info@groundtruthsolutions.org](mailto:info@groundtruthsolutions.org).**