



# Afghanistan Public Opinion Survey

May 3-16, 2009

[www.iri.org](http://www.iri.org)



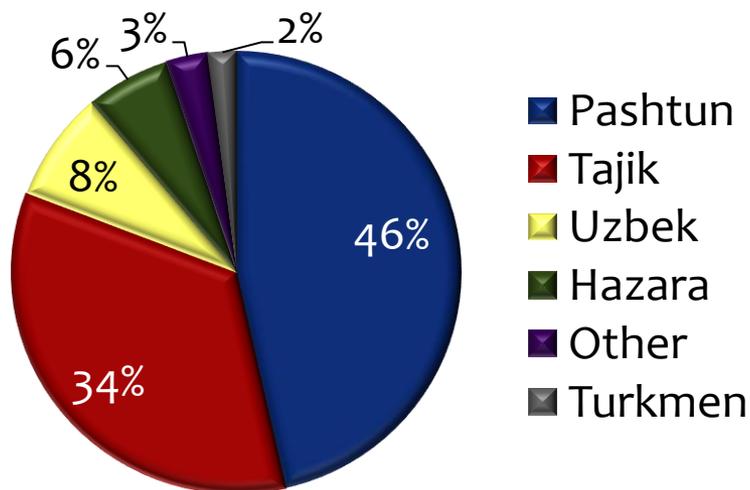
# Survey Specifications

- International Republican Institute (IRI) conducted.
- Field data collection by Kabul Group (Kabul, Afghanistan).
- Supervision of fieldwork by Mia Bonarski (Lapis, Ltd., Kabul, Afghanistan).
- Oversight and analysis by David Williams (Lapis Ltd. and Williams & Associates of Salem, Massachusetts).
- The national survey was conducted from May 3-16, 2009.
- The sample was 3,200 adult Afghans (18+).
- The overall margin of error is  $\pm 1.76$  percent at the midrange of the 95 percent confidence level.
- Interviews collected using in-person, face-to-face methodology by trained professional interviewers using a multistage stratification proportionate to population sample distribution, with random selection of households and respondents in 34 provinces of Afghanistan.
- Men interviewed men and women interviewed women.
- All 34 provinces were selected at the first level of stratification, and approximately five districts within each province were selected, including the provincial capital district and four other randomly selected districts. The clusters, which were the primary sampling unit, each contain between four and ten villages exhibiting similar characteristics.
- The information in this report has been compiled in accordance with international standards for market and social research methodologies.
- All data shown is from the May 3-16, 2009, national survey or a face-to-face survey conducted in March/April 2004 (n=2,500, +/-2 percent margin of error at 95 percent confidence level).
- Figures in charts and tables may not sum to 100 percent due to rounding error.

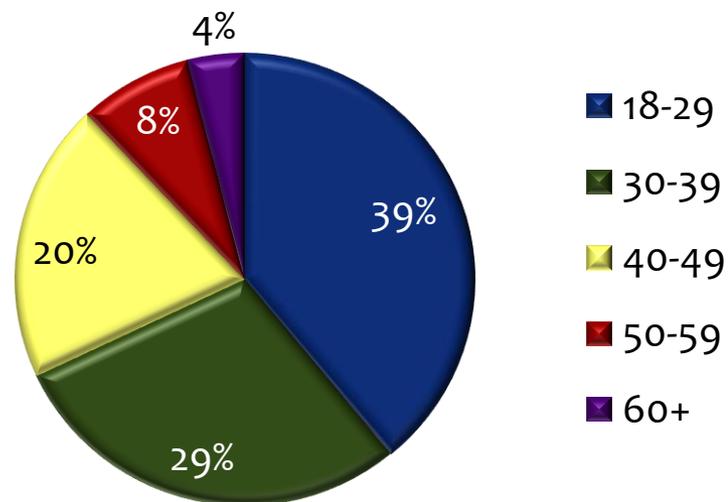
# Survey Statistics

- 60 percent male to 40 percent female ratio of respondents

## Ethnic Distribution of Respondents



## Age Distribution of Respondents



# Regional Breakdown by Province

## Southwest Region

- Daikundi
- Helmand
- Kandahar
- Nimroz
- Urozgan
- Zabul

## Southeast Region

- Ghazni
- Khost
- Paktia
- Paktika

## East Region

- Kunar
- Laghman
- Nangarhar
- Nuristan

## Central Region

- Kabul
- Kapisa
- Logar
- Panjsher
- Parwan
- Wardak

## Northeast Region

- Badakhshan
- Baghlan
- Kunduz
- Takhar

## Northwest Region

- Balkh
- Faryab
- Jowzjan
- Samangan
- Sar-e-Pul

## West Region

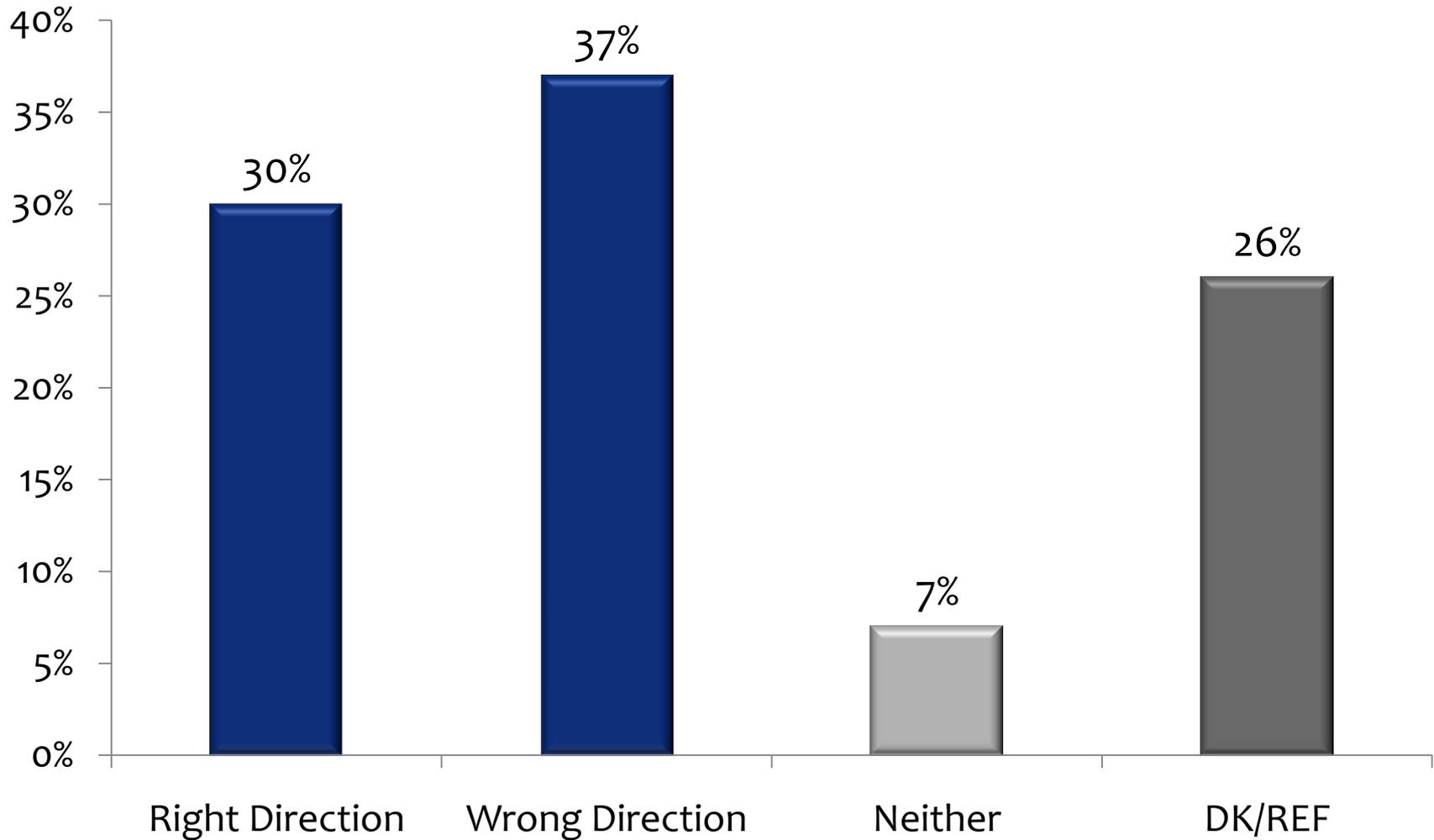
- Badghis
- Bamiyan
- Farah
- Ghor
- Herat



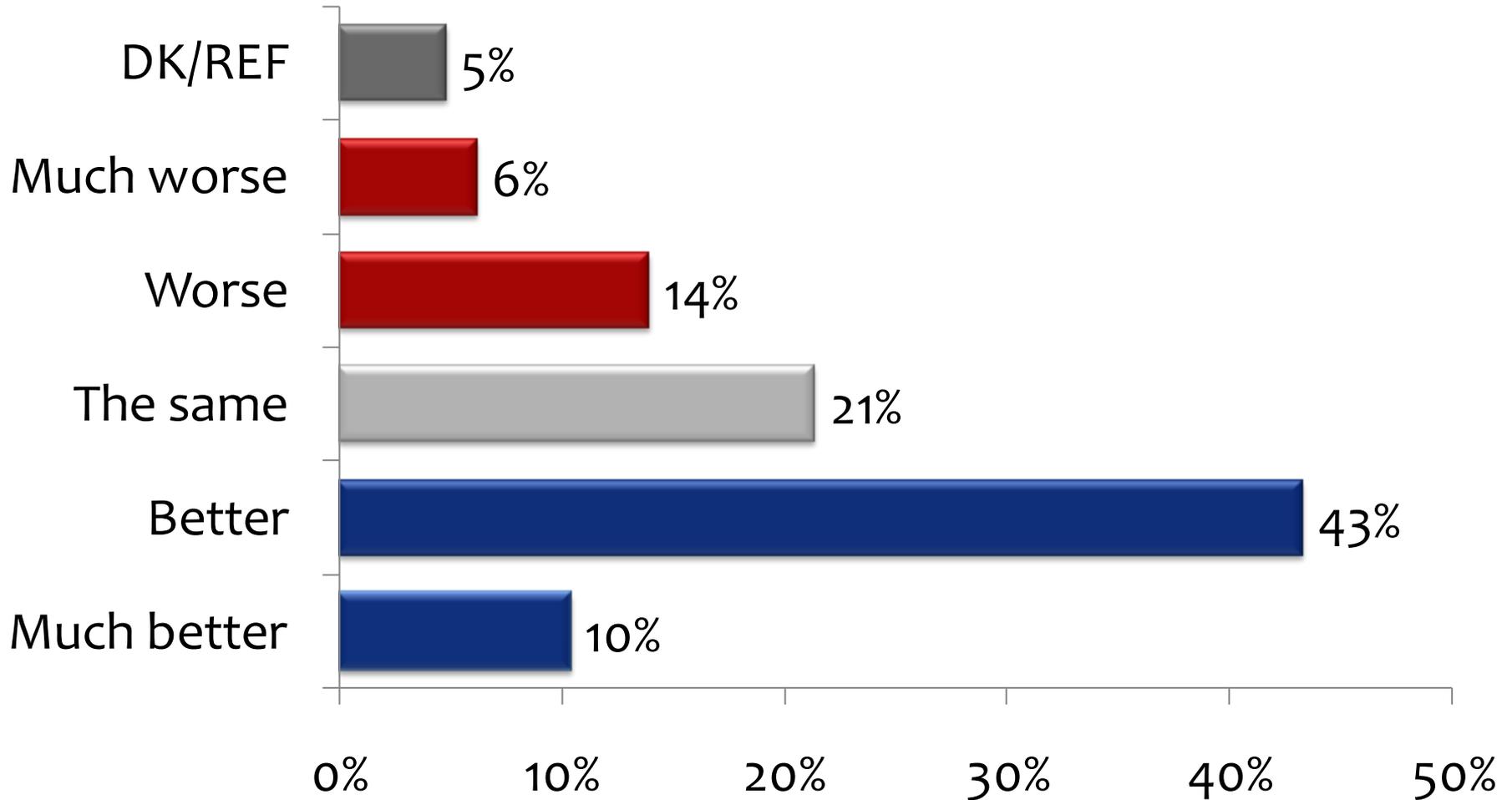
# Afghanistan Environment

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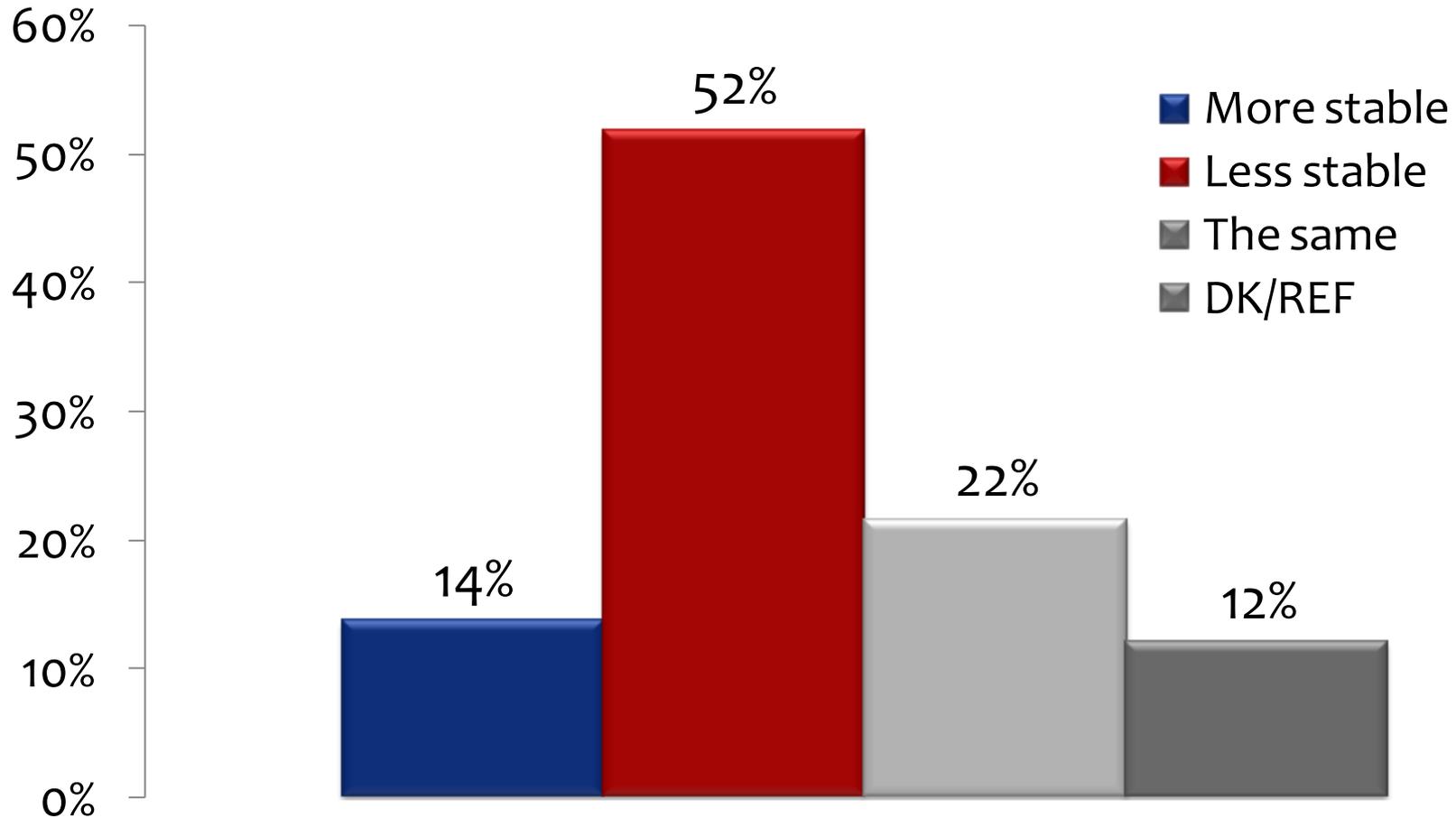
## Do you think Afghanistan is moving in the right direction or the wrong direction?



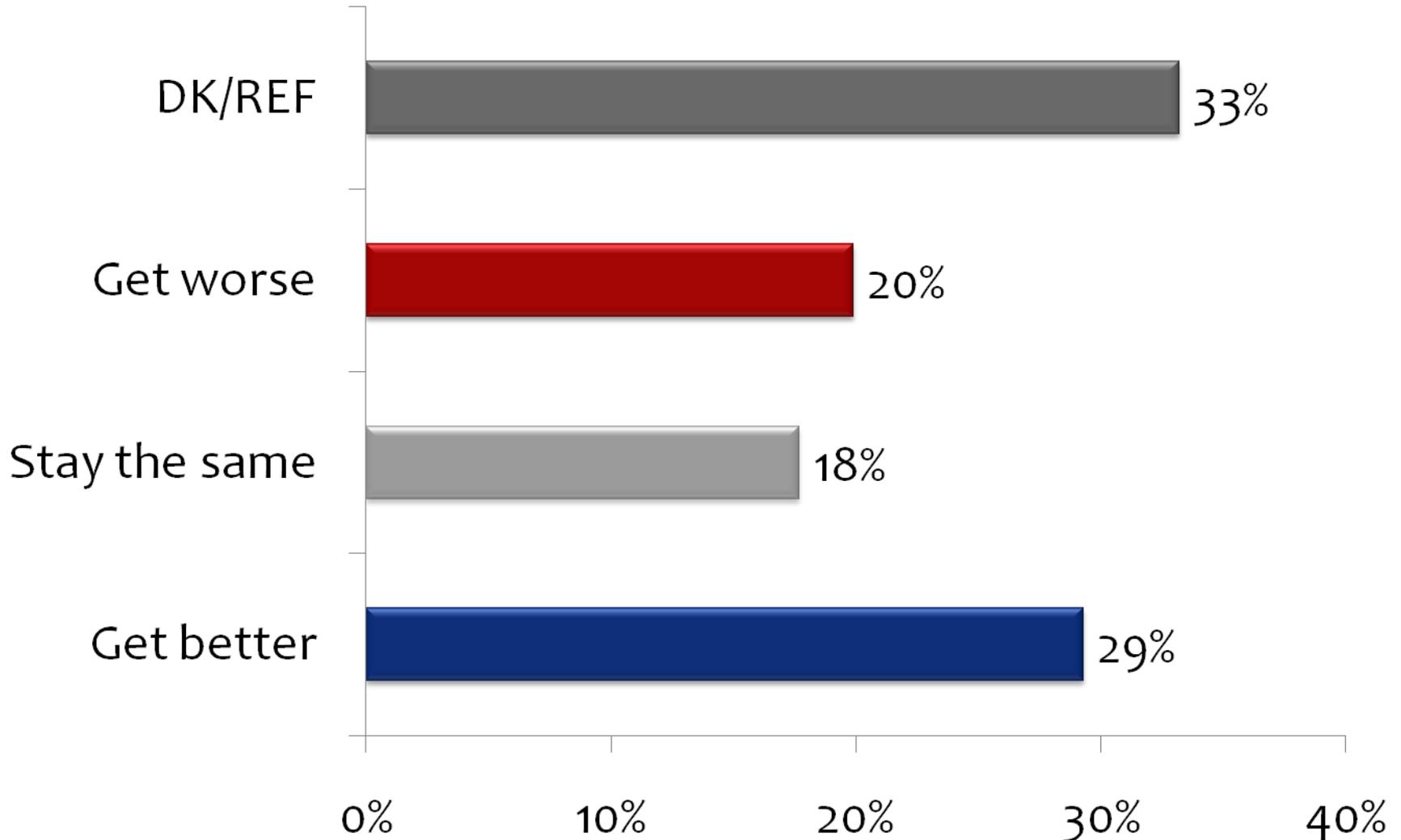
## How is your family's economic situation compared to five years ago?



# Is Afghanistan more stable today than it was one year ago?



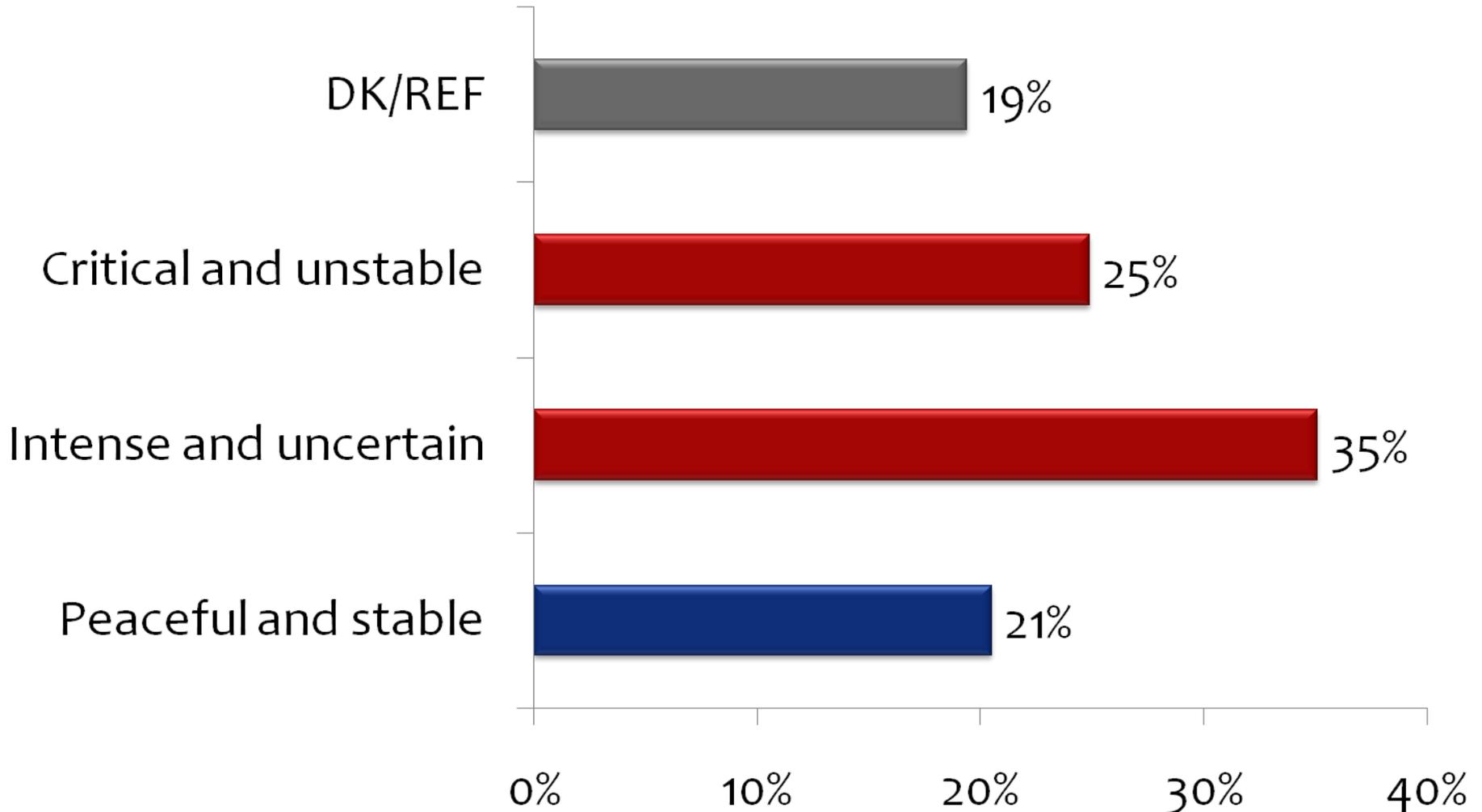
# In the next year, do you think the economy in Afghanistan will get better, get worse or stay the same?



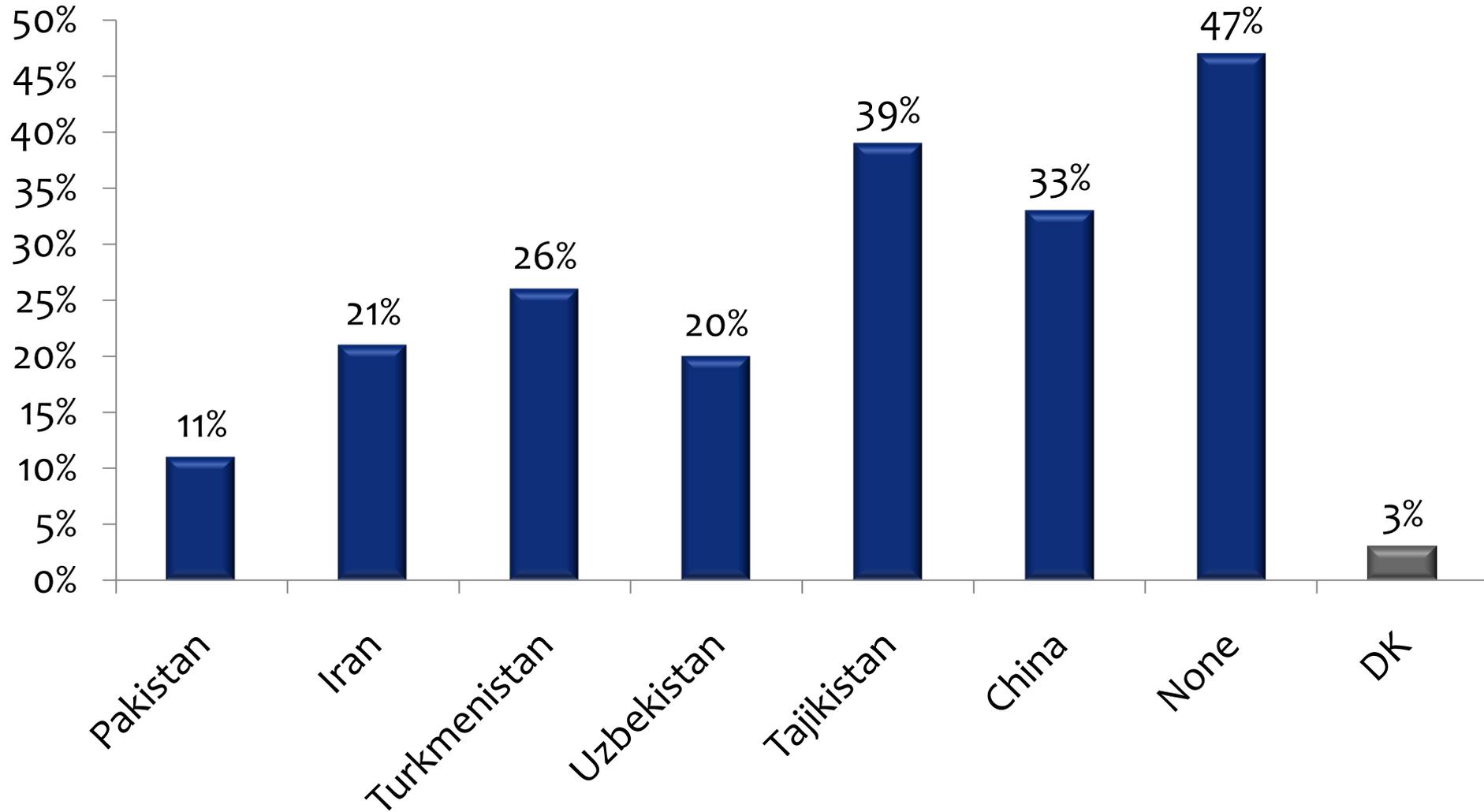
# What are the two most important problems facing Afghanistan today?

	First	Second	Total
Security	36%	21%	57%
The economy	9%	17%	26%
Jobs and unemployment	8%	12%	20%
The election	5%	4%	9%
Poverty, standard of living	4%	5%	9%
Internal conflicts	5%	4%	9%
Lack of educational opportunities	3%	4%	7%
Corruption	3%	5%	8%
Need for reconstruction/rebuilding the country	2%	3%	5%
Drugs and narcotics	2%	3%	5%
Foreign forces	2%	2%	4%
Terrorism	2%	2%	4%
Local civilian casualties	1%	1%	2%
Agriculture	1%	1%	2%
Improvised explosive devises	1%	1%	2%
Lack of freedom	1%	1%	2%
Lack of power and water	1%	1%	2%
Other	10%	12%	22%
DK/REF	3%	4%	7%

## How would you describe the political and security situation in the region?



# In your opinion which of the following countries have good relations with Afghanistan?

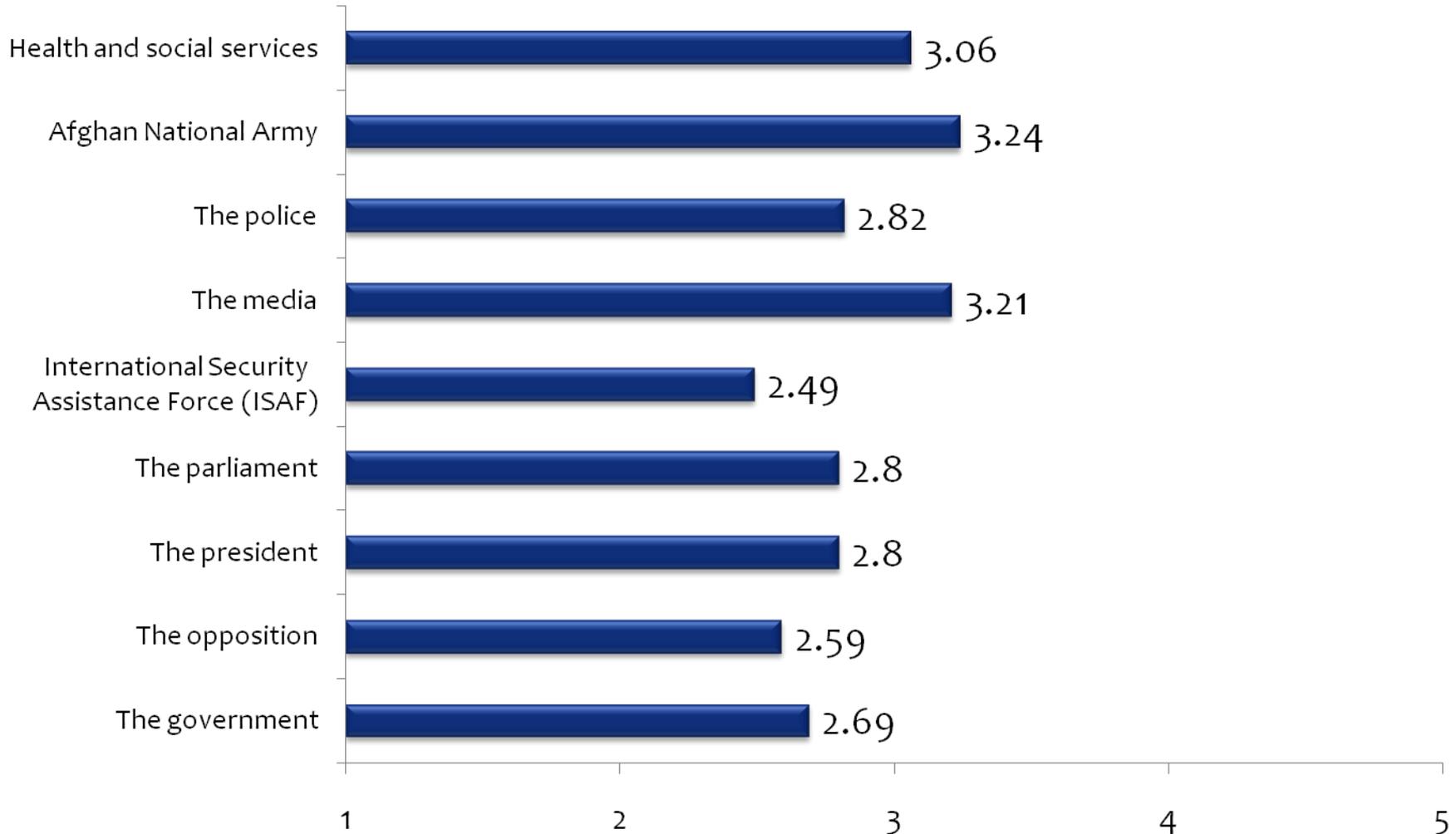




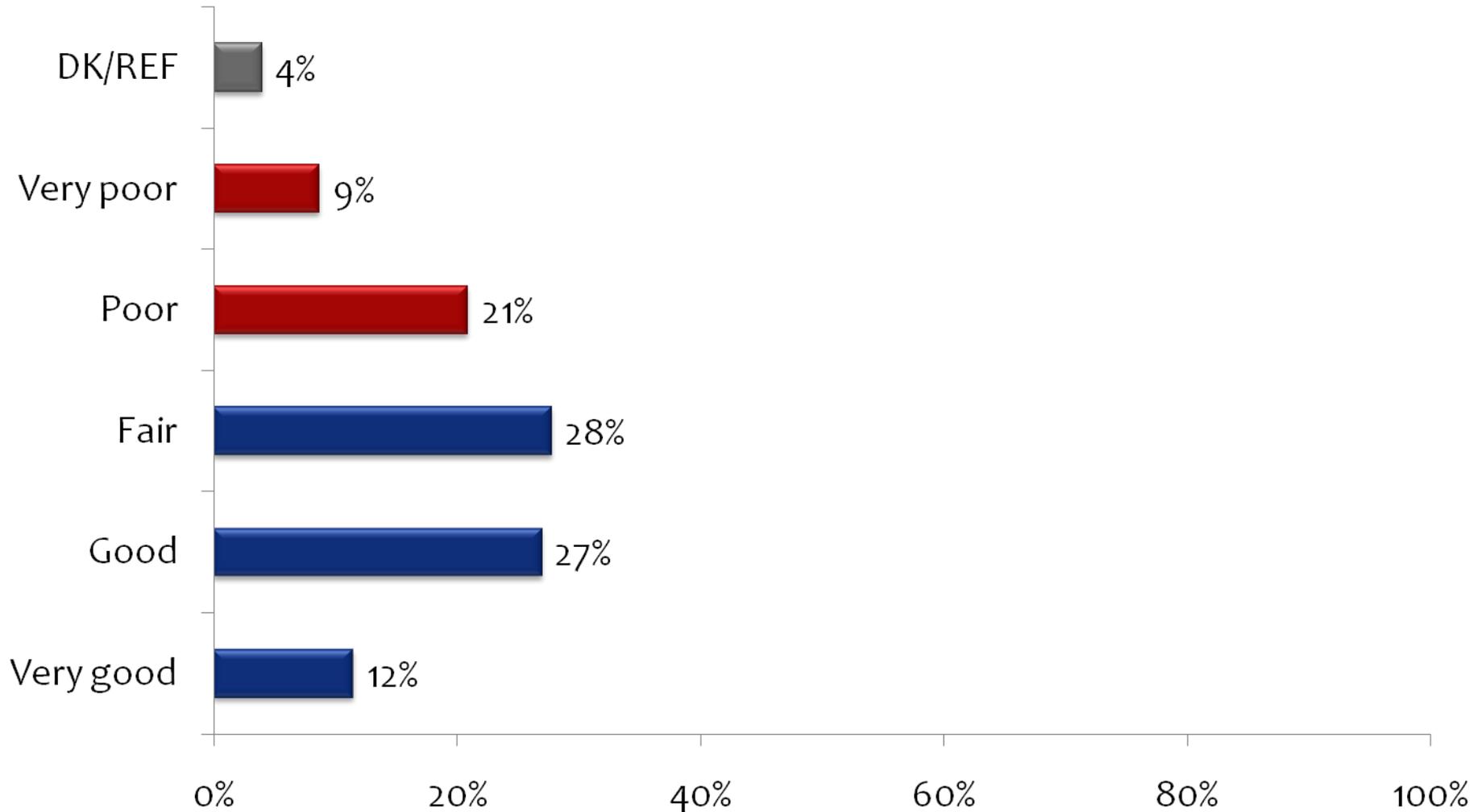
# Performance of Government

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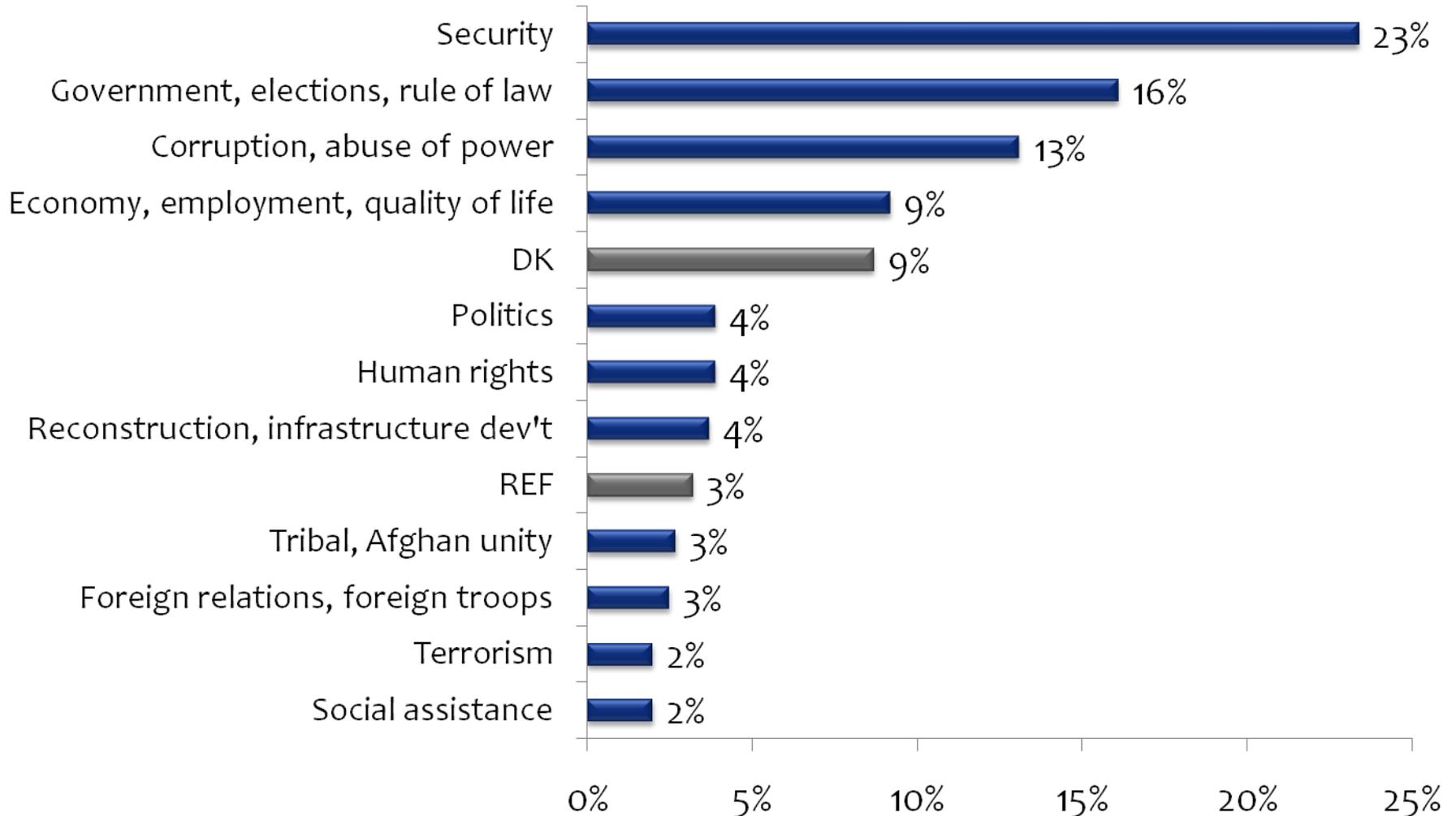
Using a scale from one to five where one is lowest and five is highest, what grade would you give the overall performance of...?



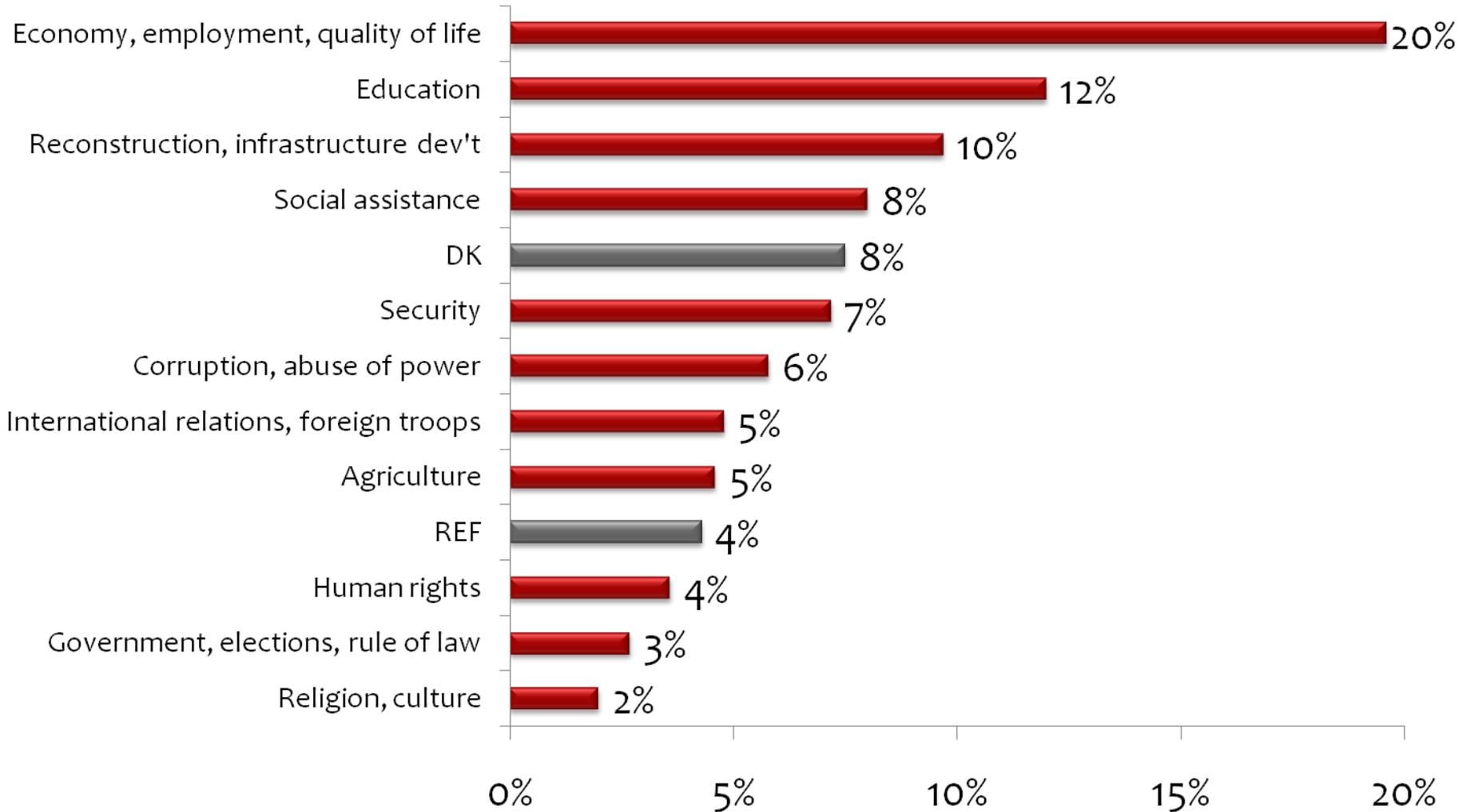
## How would you rate Hamid Karzai's performance as president?



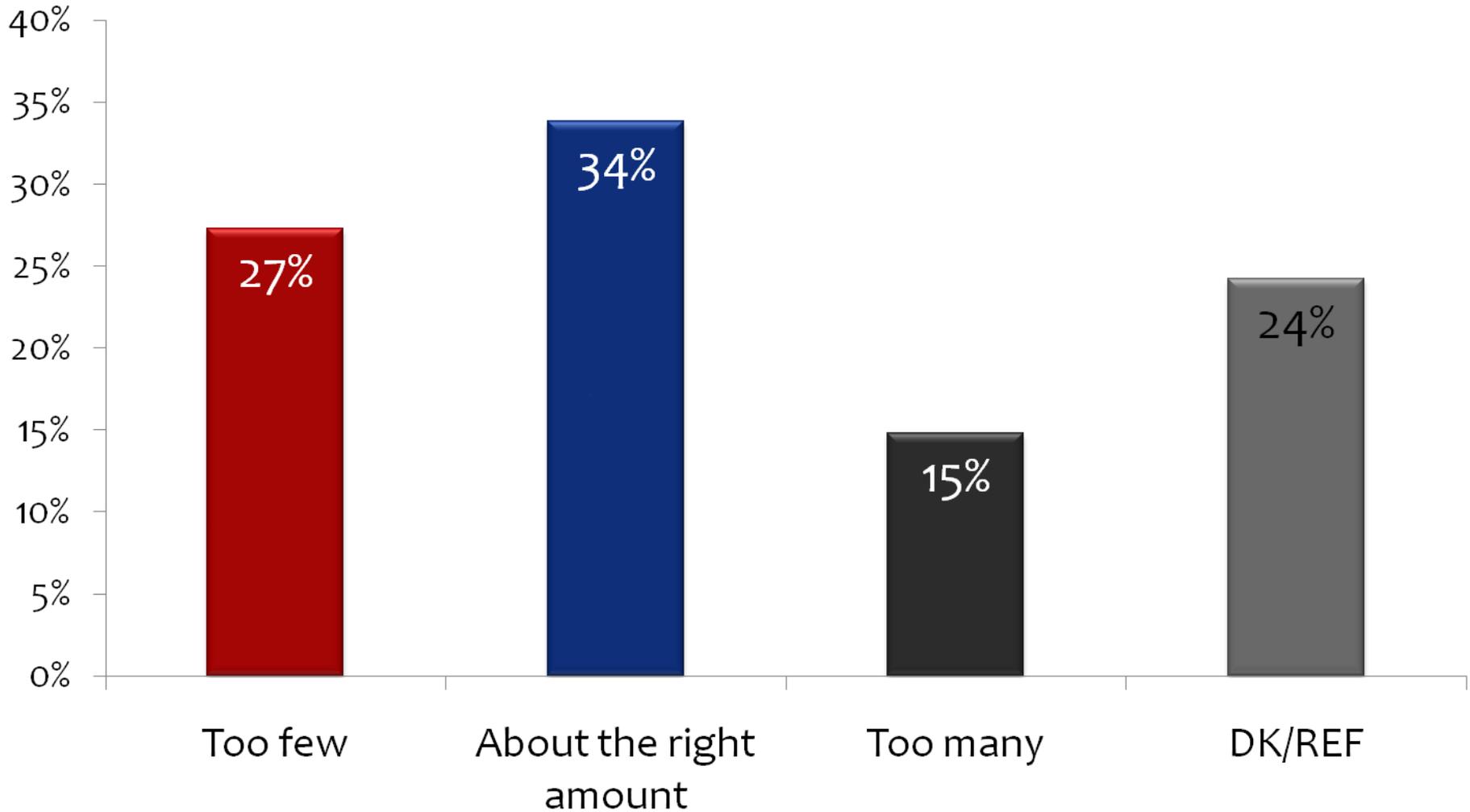
# What issue do politicians talk too much about? (open-ended question; responses of more than two percent)



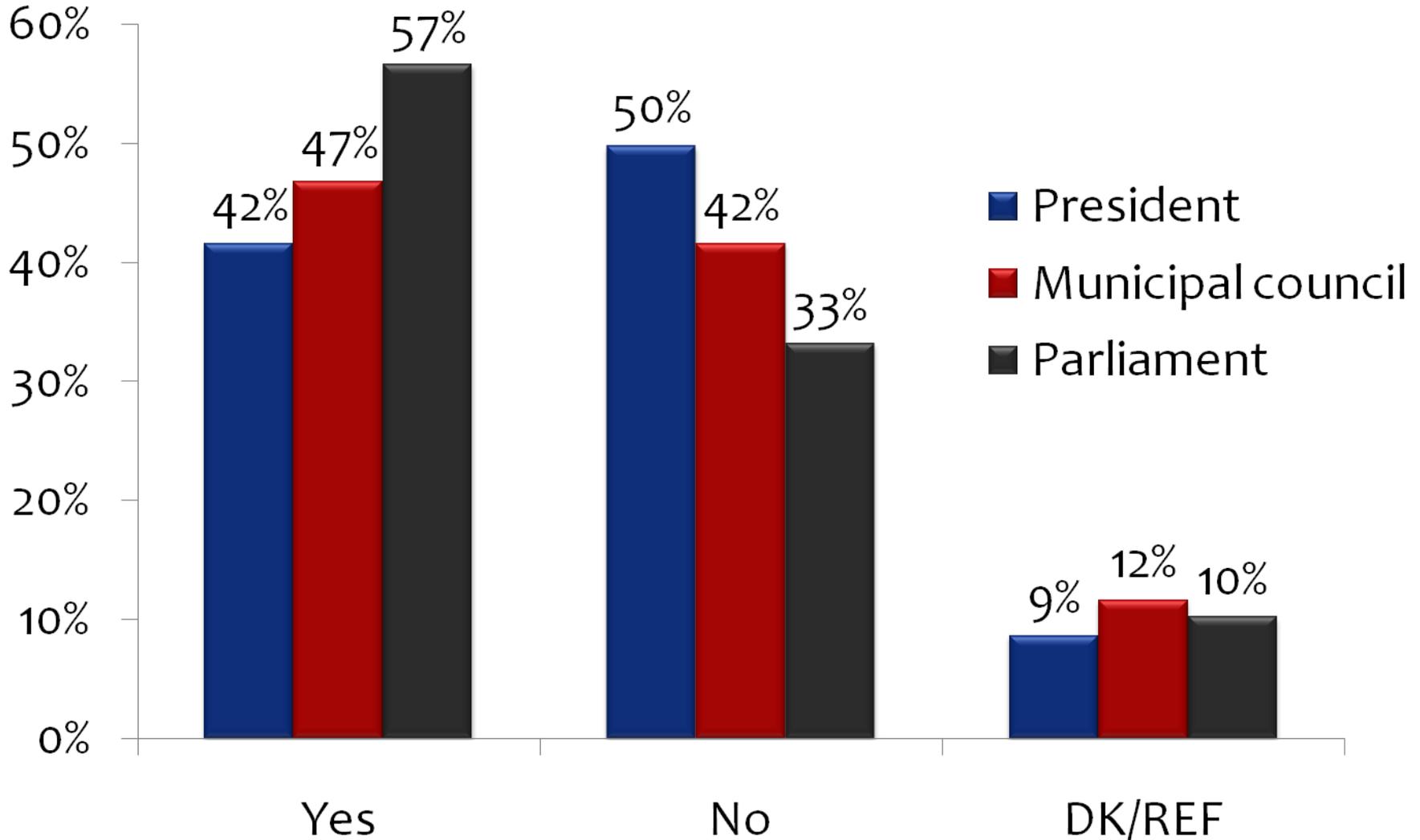
# What issue do politicians talk too little about? (open-ended question; responses of more than two percent)



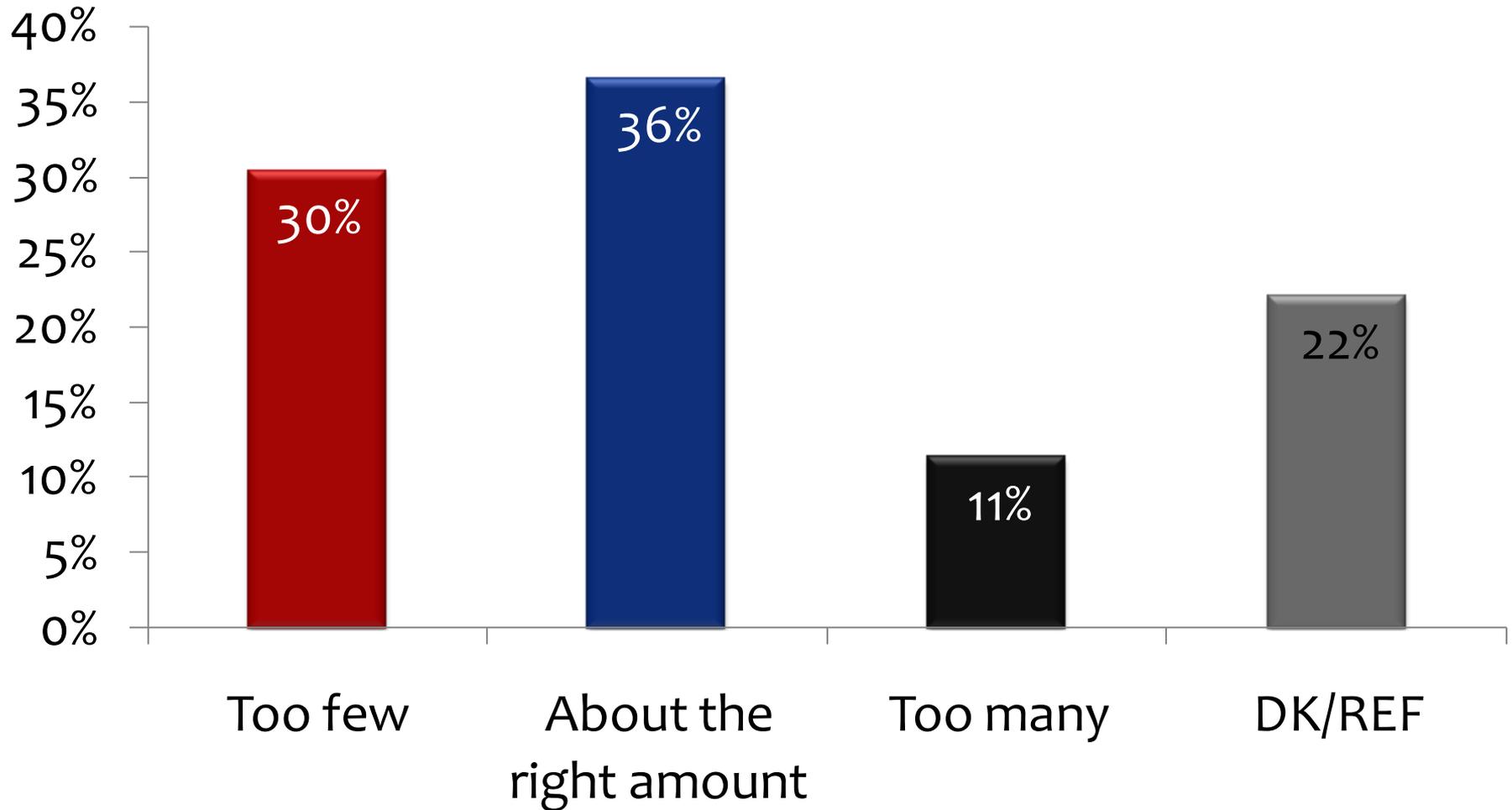
# Do you think the number of elected women in Afghanistan is adequate, or should Afghanistan have more women in elected office?



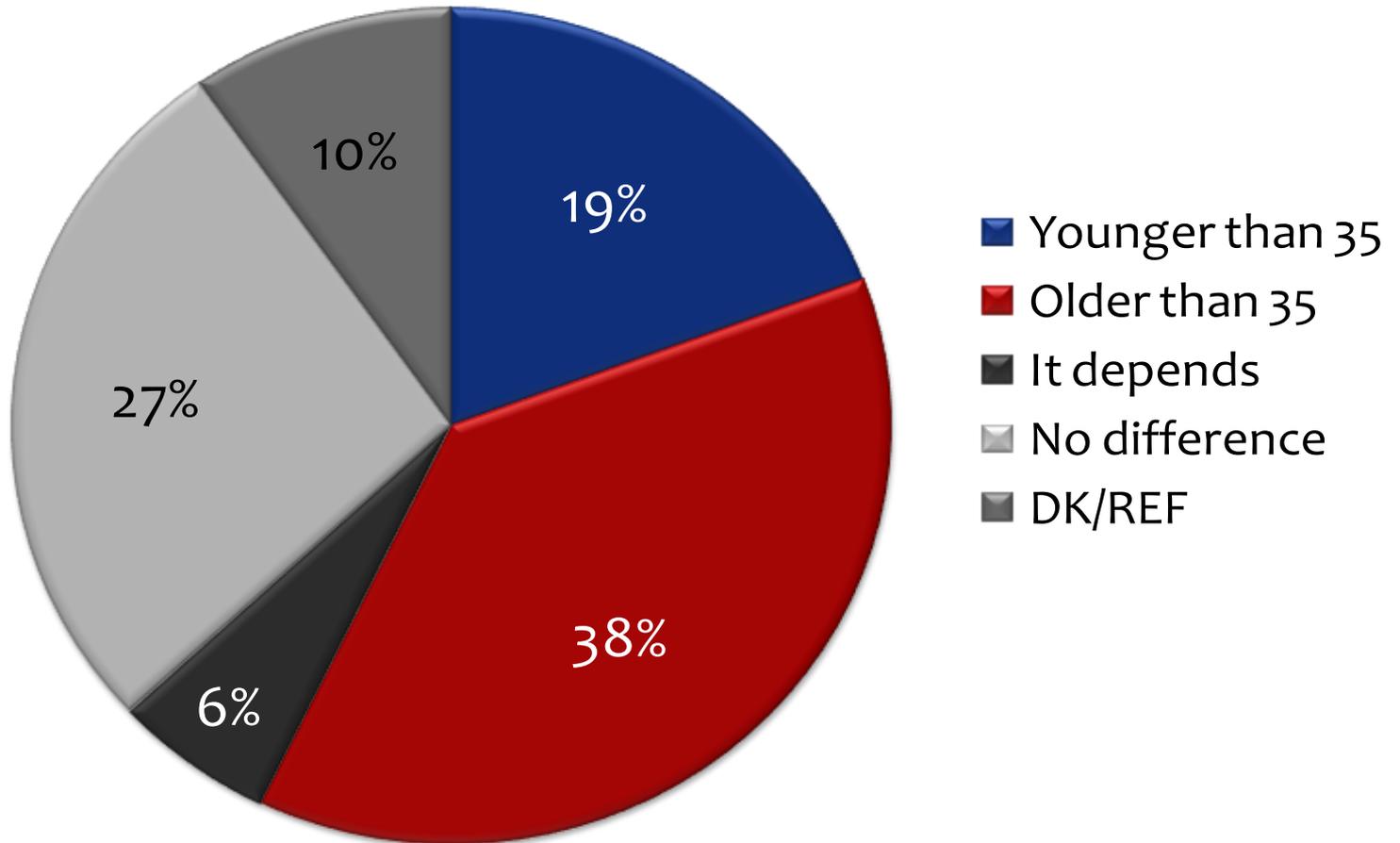
# Would you vote for a woman for...?



# What about young people: do you think that young people are adequately represented in elected government in Afghanistan?



In general, whom do you think is better in elected office:  
someone younger than 35 or someone older than 35?



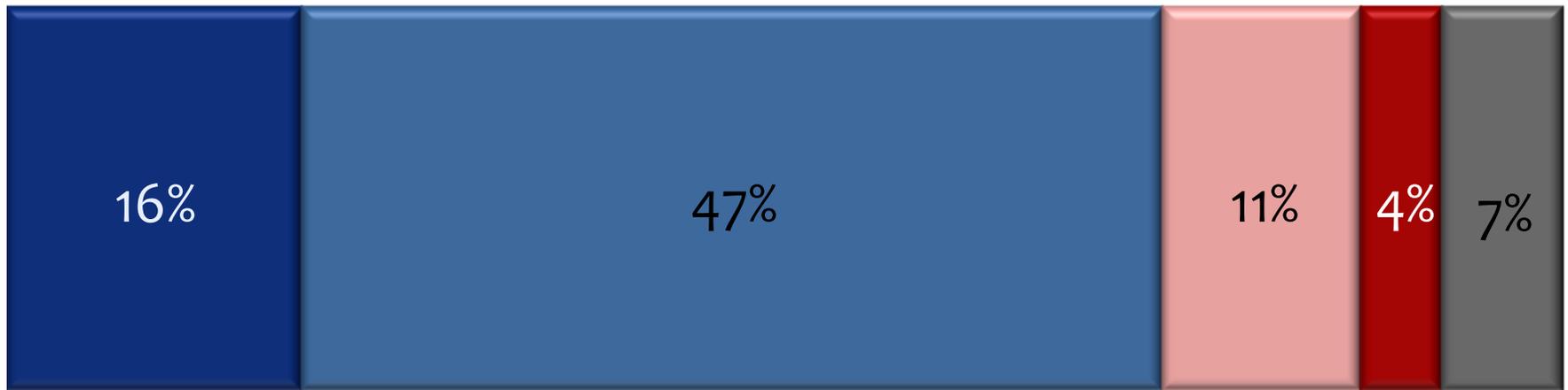
# In your opinion how serious is corruption in Afghanistan?

- Not serious at all
- Not very serious
- Somewhat serious
- Very serious
- DK/REF

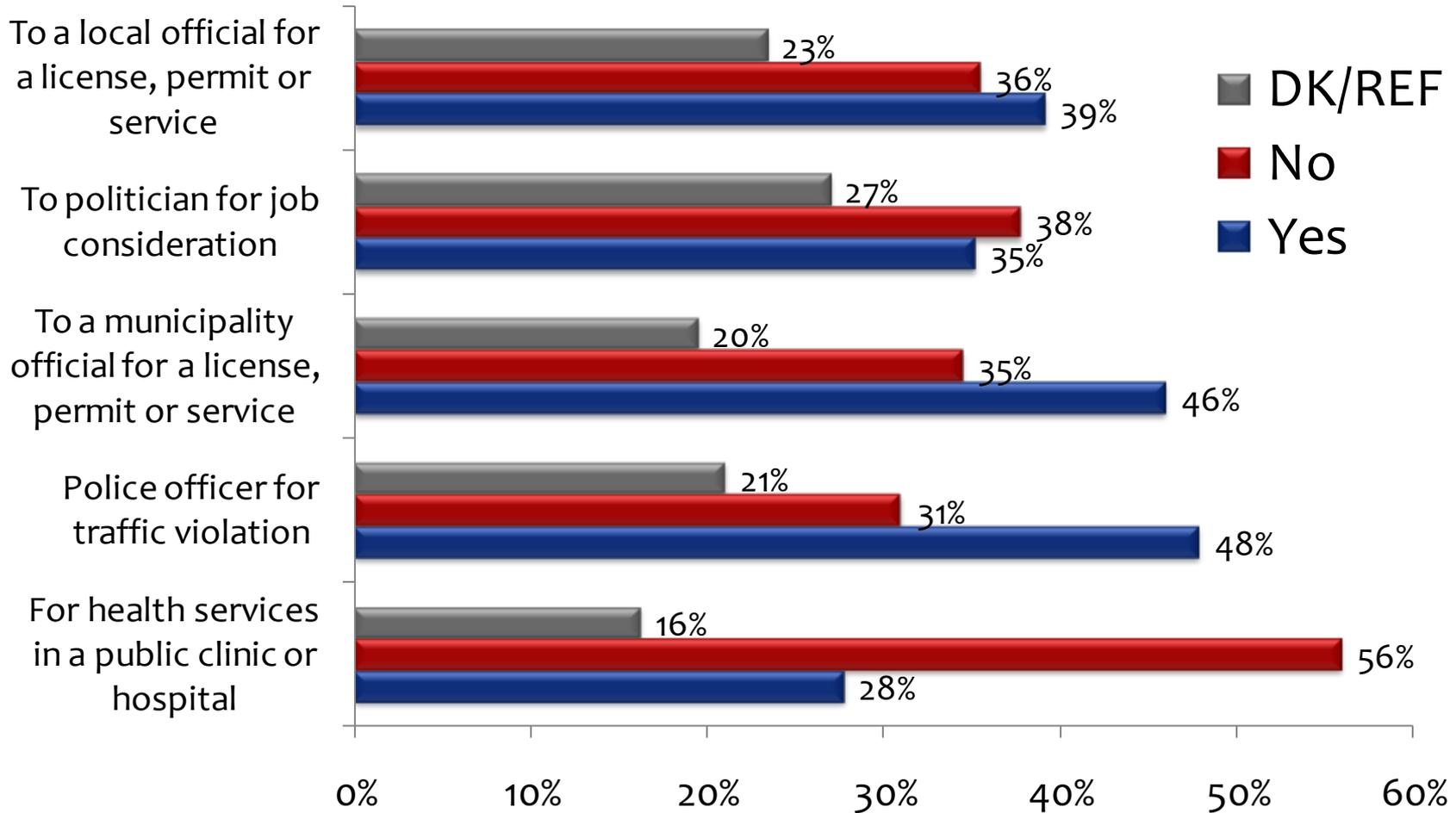


# In general, how has the current government performed in controlling corruption compared to the previous government?

■ Very good   ■ Good   ■ Poor   ■ Very poor   ■ DK/REF



# Have you or a friend or relative had to pay a bribe or offer a gift to a government employee or official in the following situations?

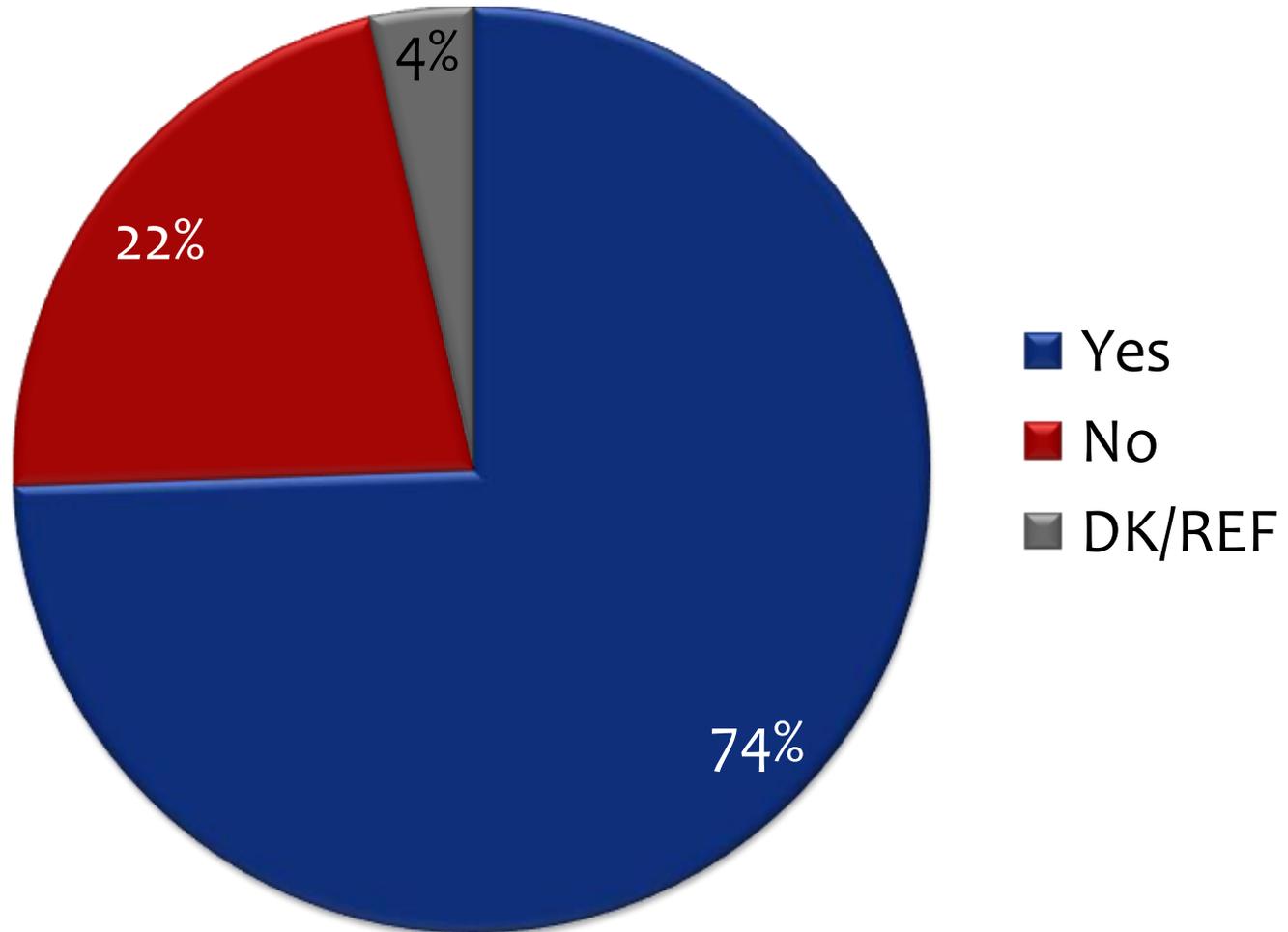




# Elections

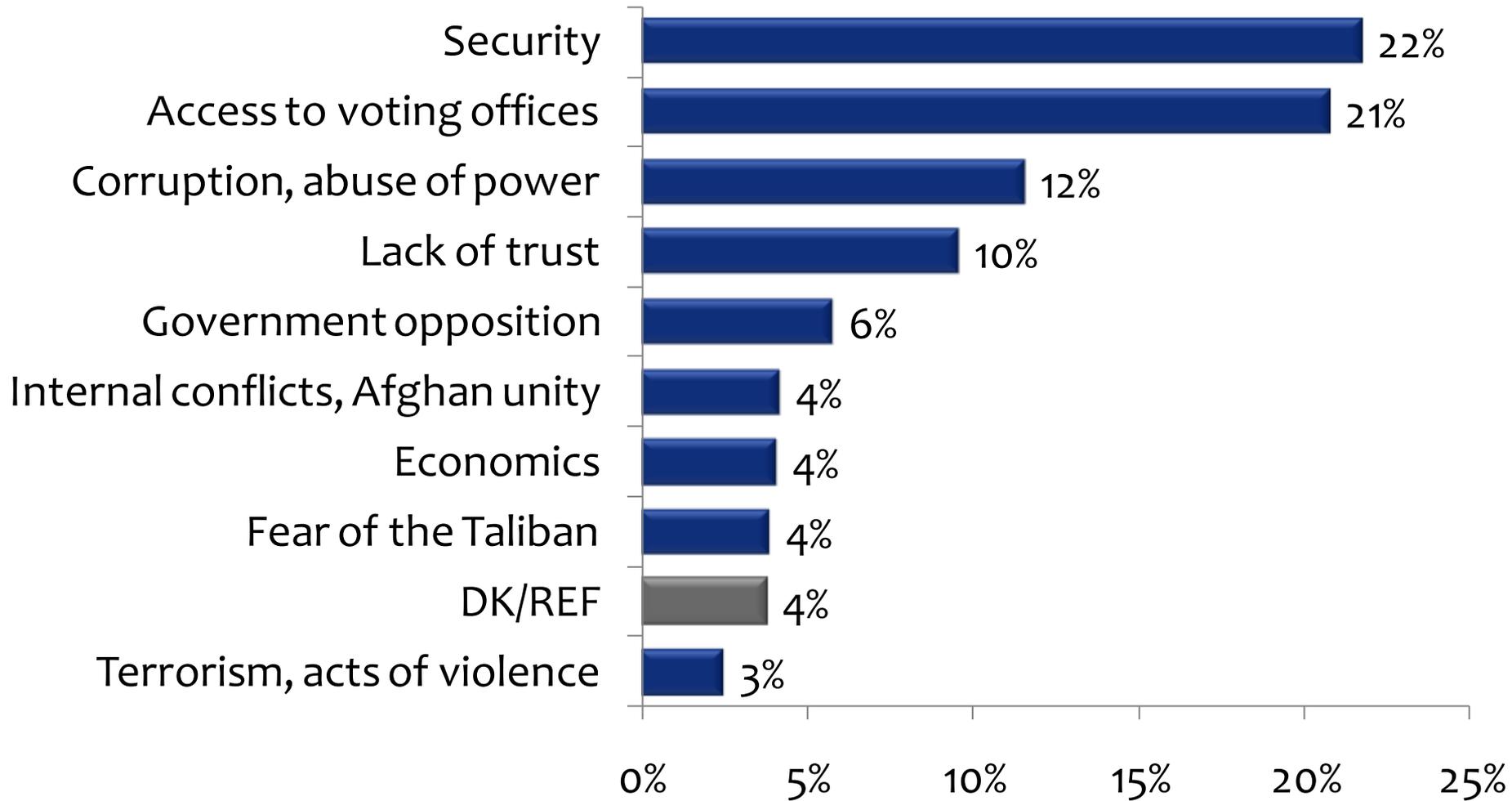
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## Did you register to vote for the upcoming elections?

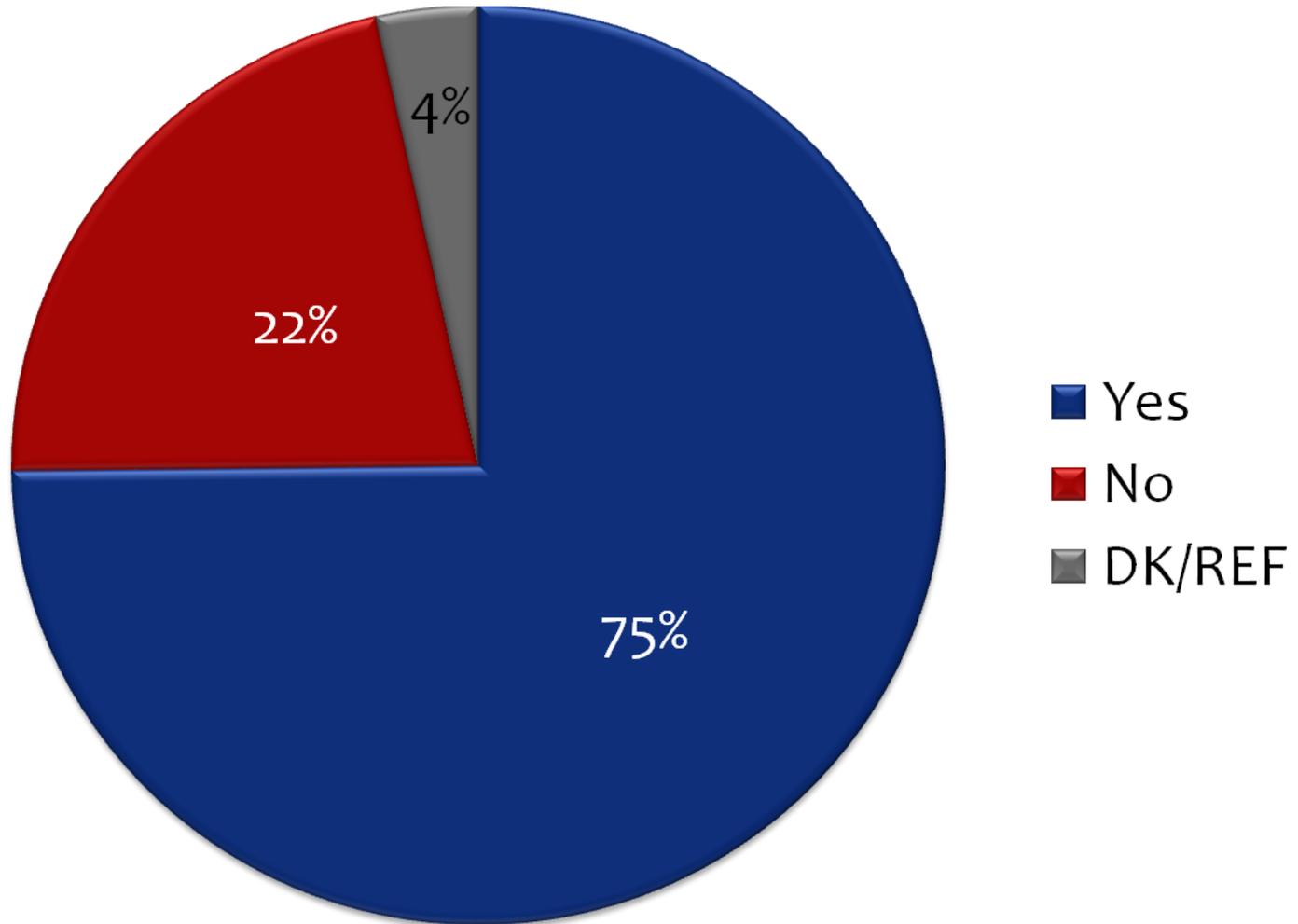


# What is the main reason you have for not registering and obtaining a voter card?

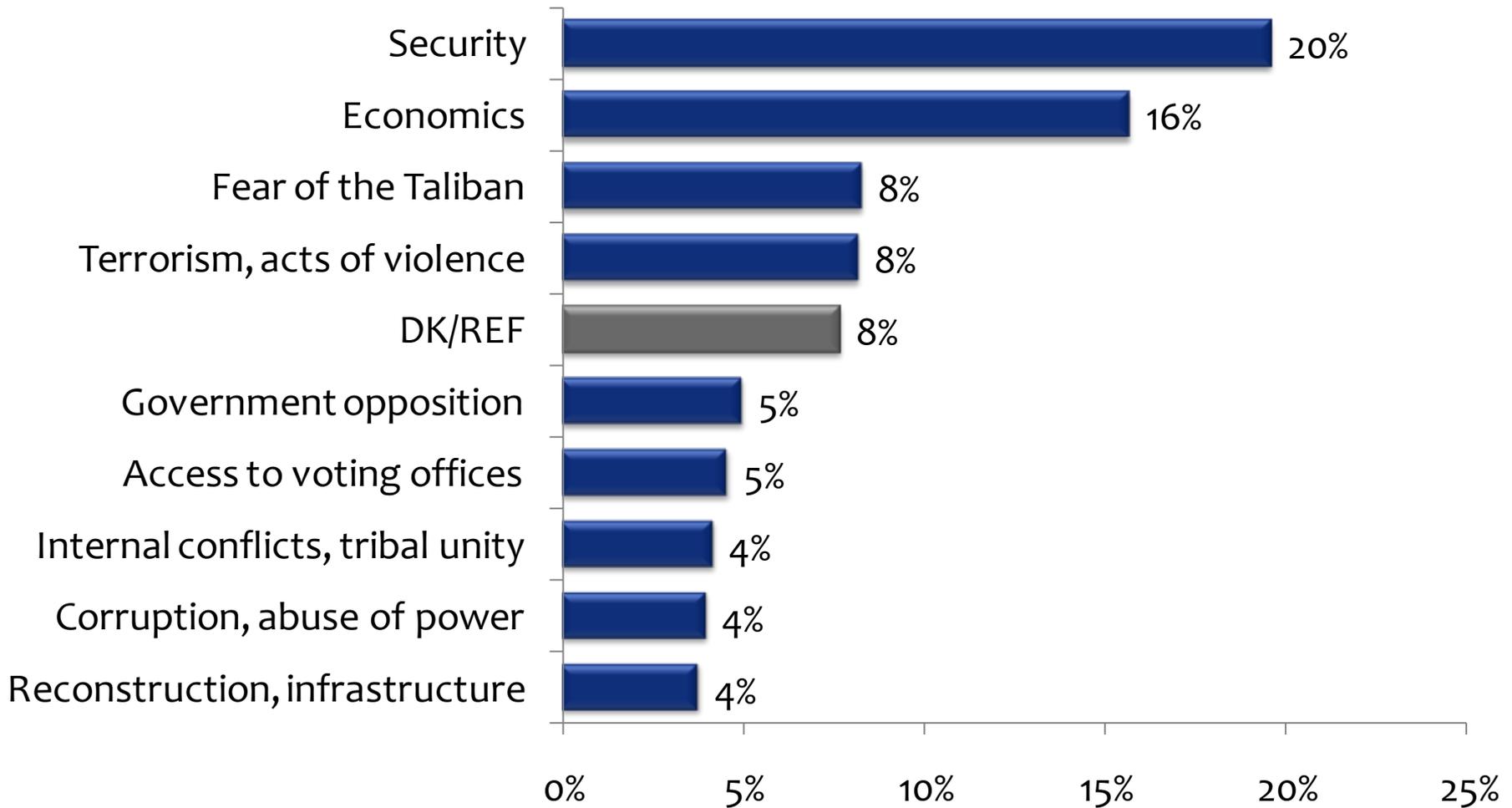
(open-ended question; top responses; n = 790)



## Did your family members register to vote?

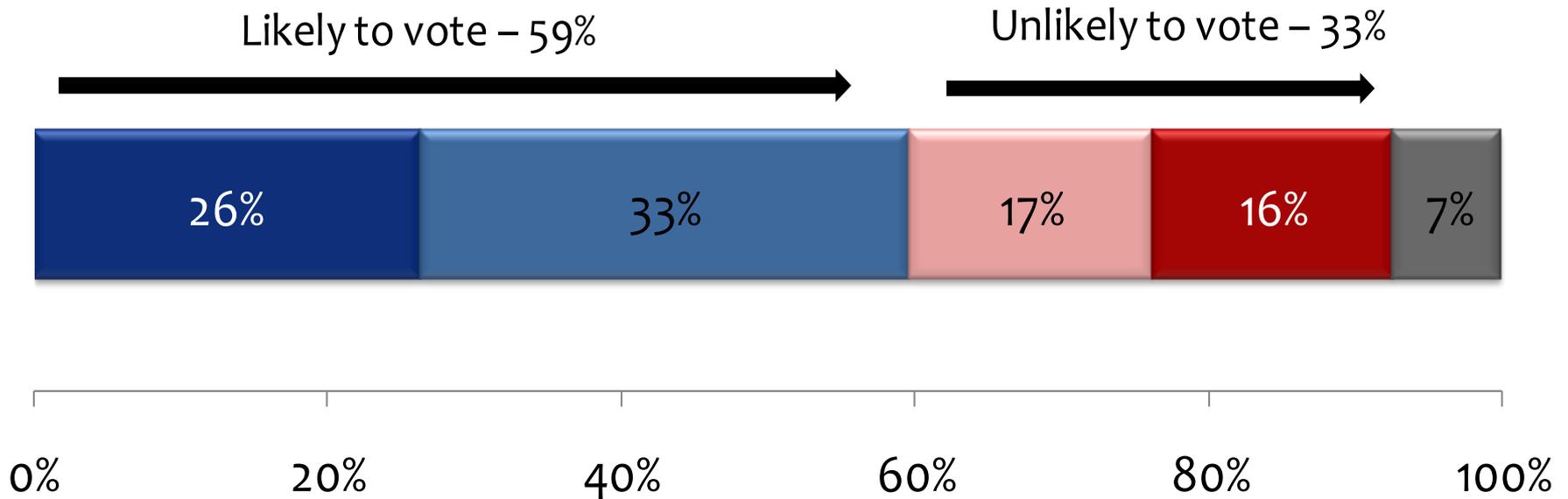


## Do you know why they didn't register to vote? (open-ended question; top responses; n = 792)

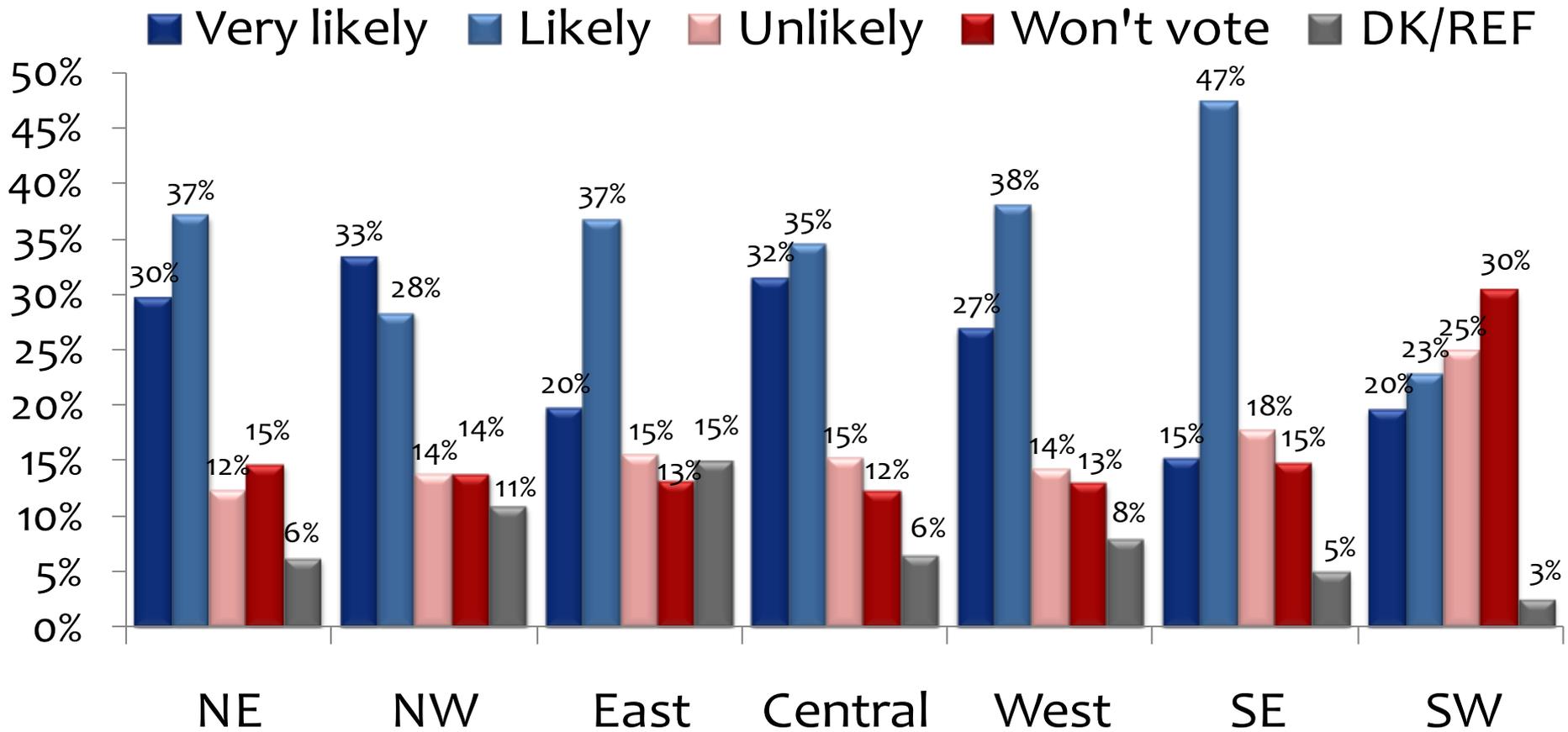


# If the presidential election was held today how likely is it that you would vote?

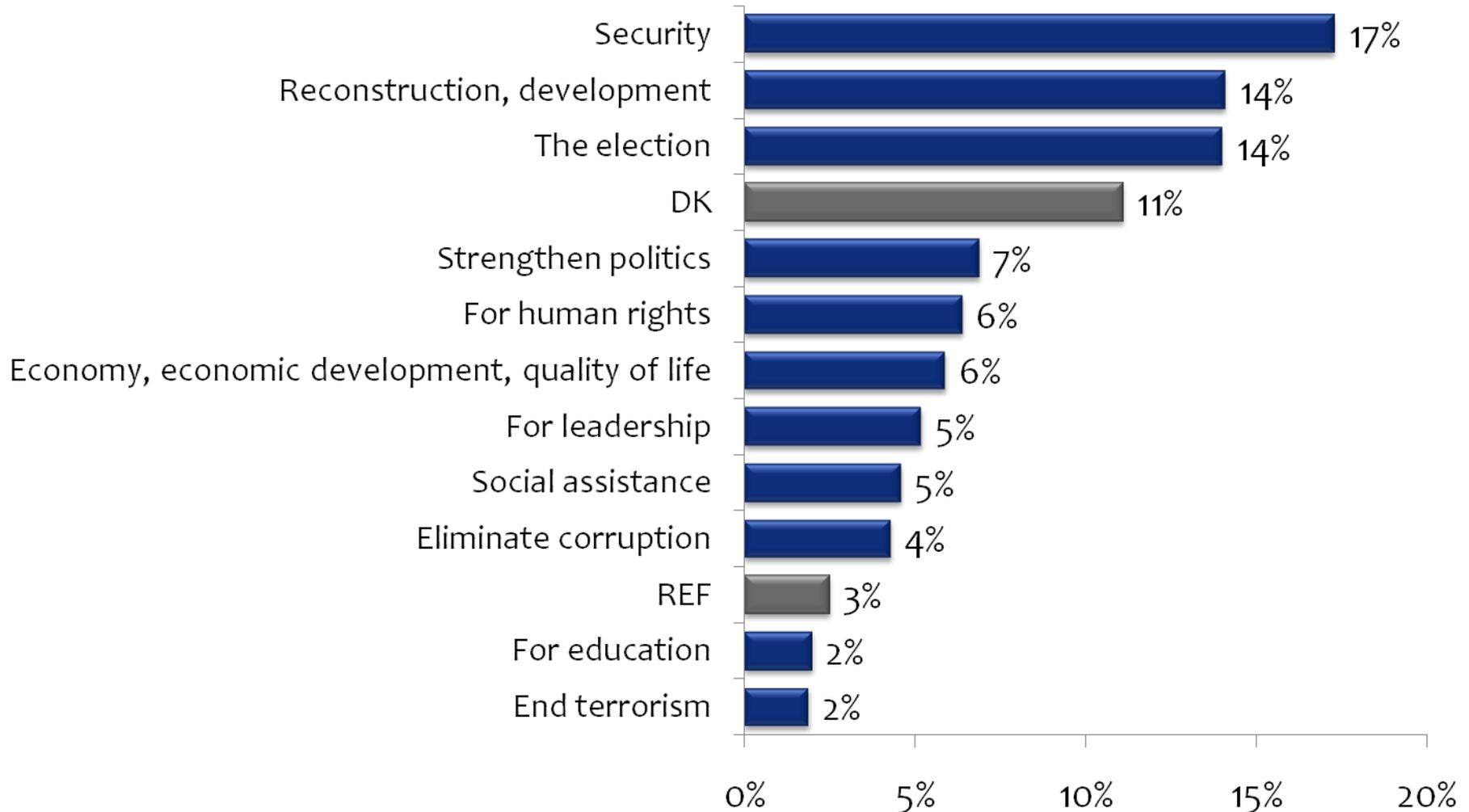
■ Very likely   ■ Likely   ■ Unlikely   ■ Very unlikely   ■ DK/REF



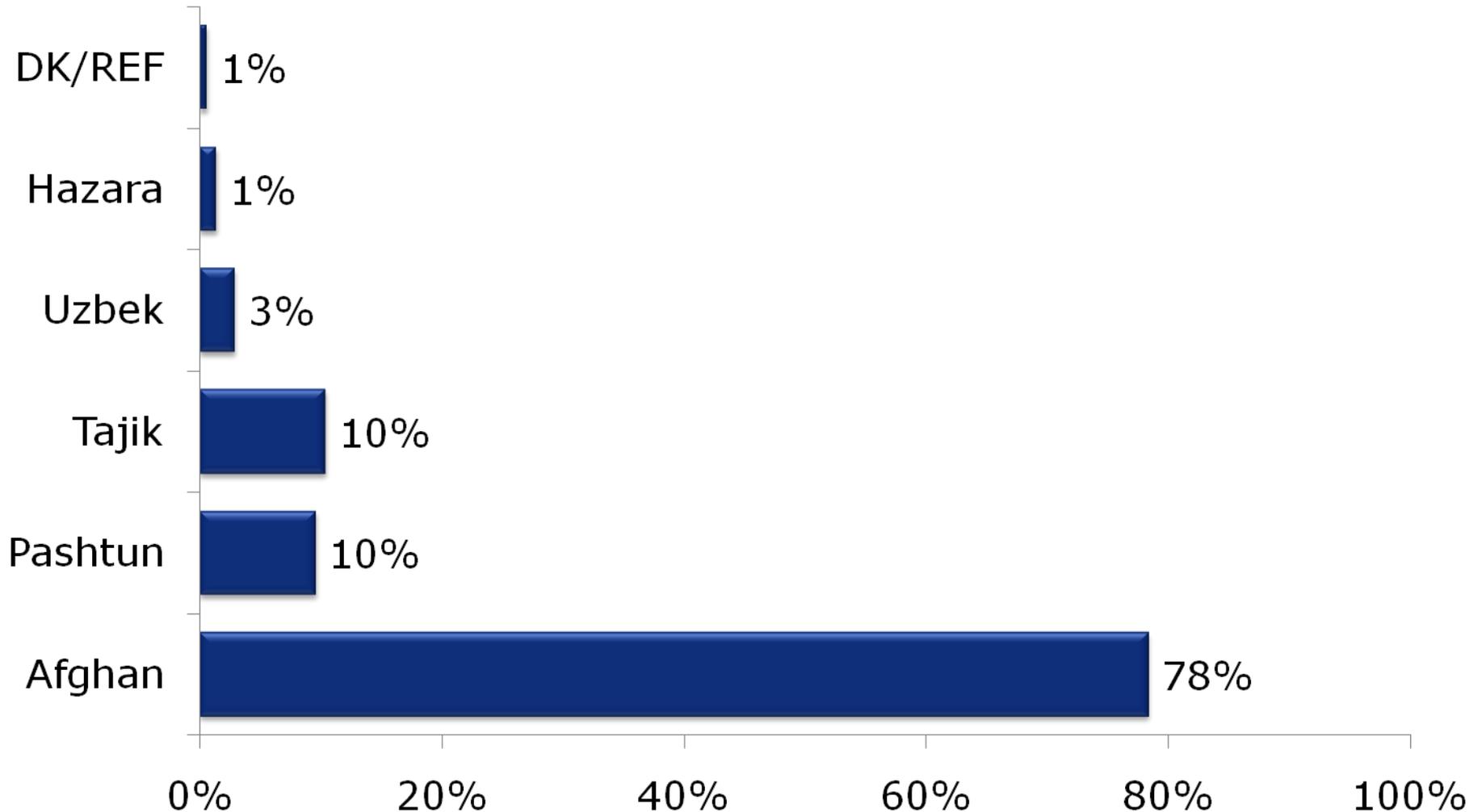
# If the presidential election was held today, how likely would you be to vote? (likelihood of voting by region)



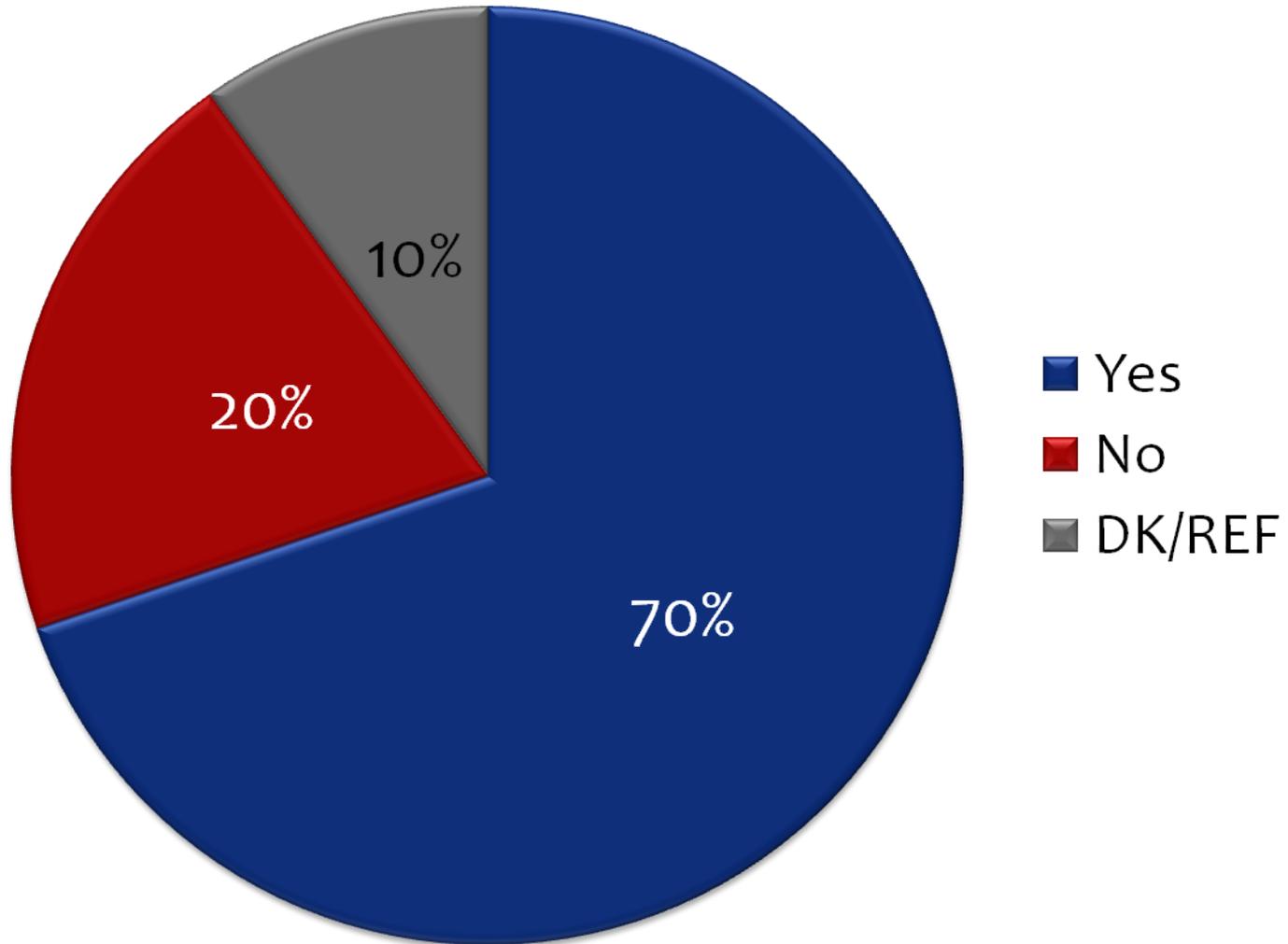
# What is your personal motivation to vote in the upcoming presidential elections? (open-ended question; likely voters; n = 1,832)



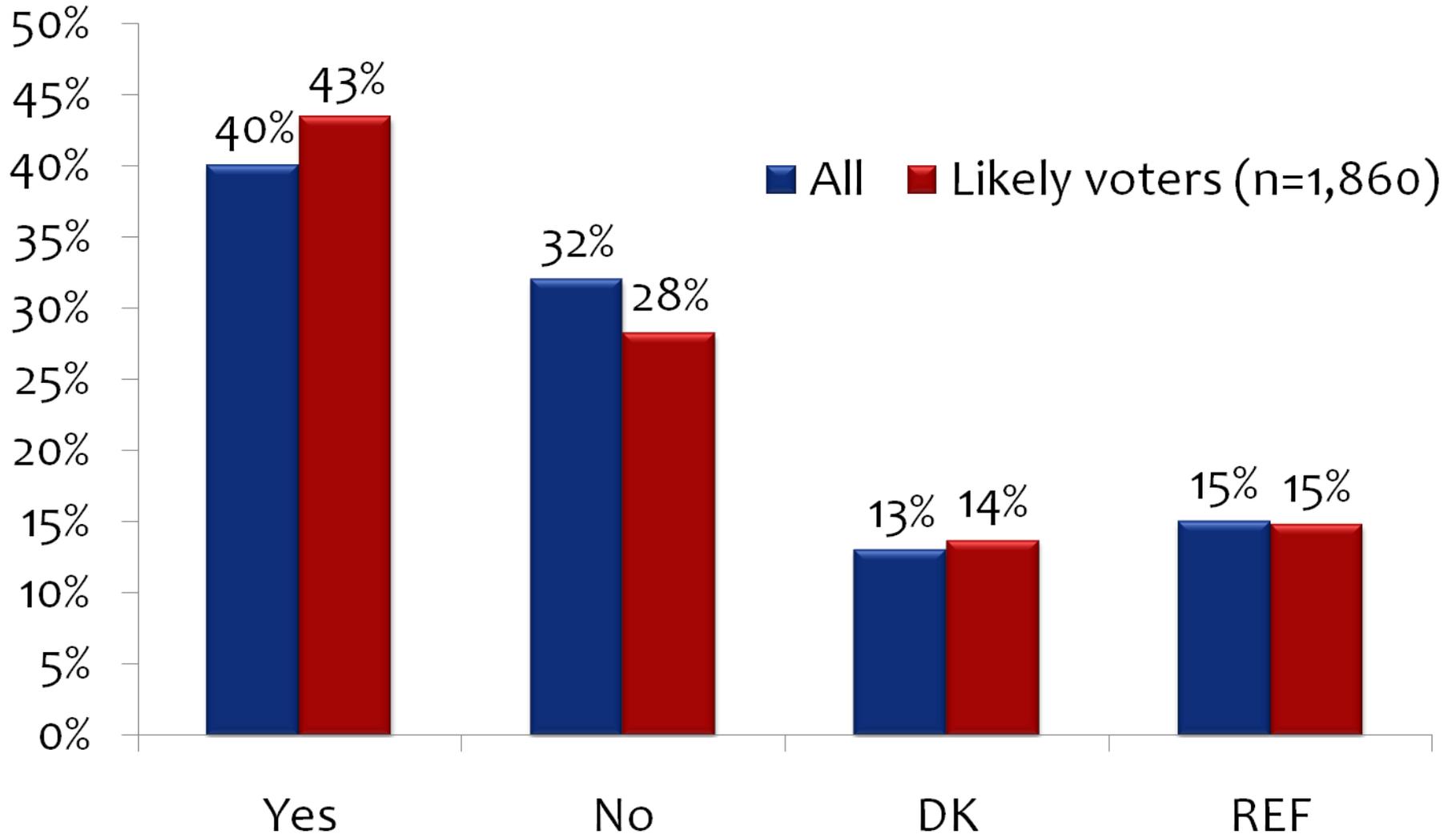
## What do you consider yourself first?



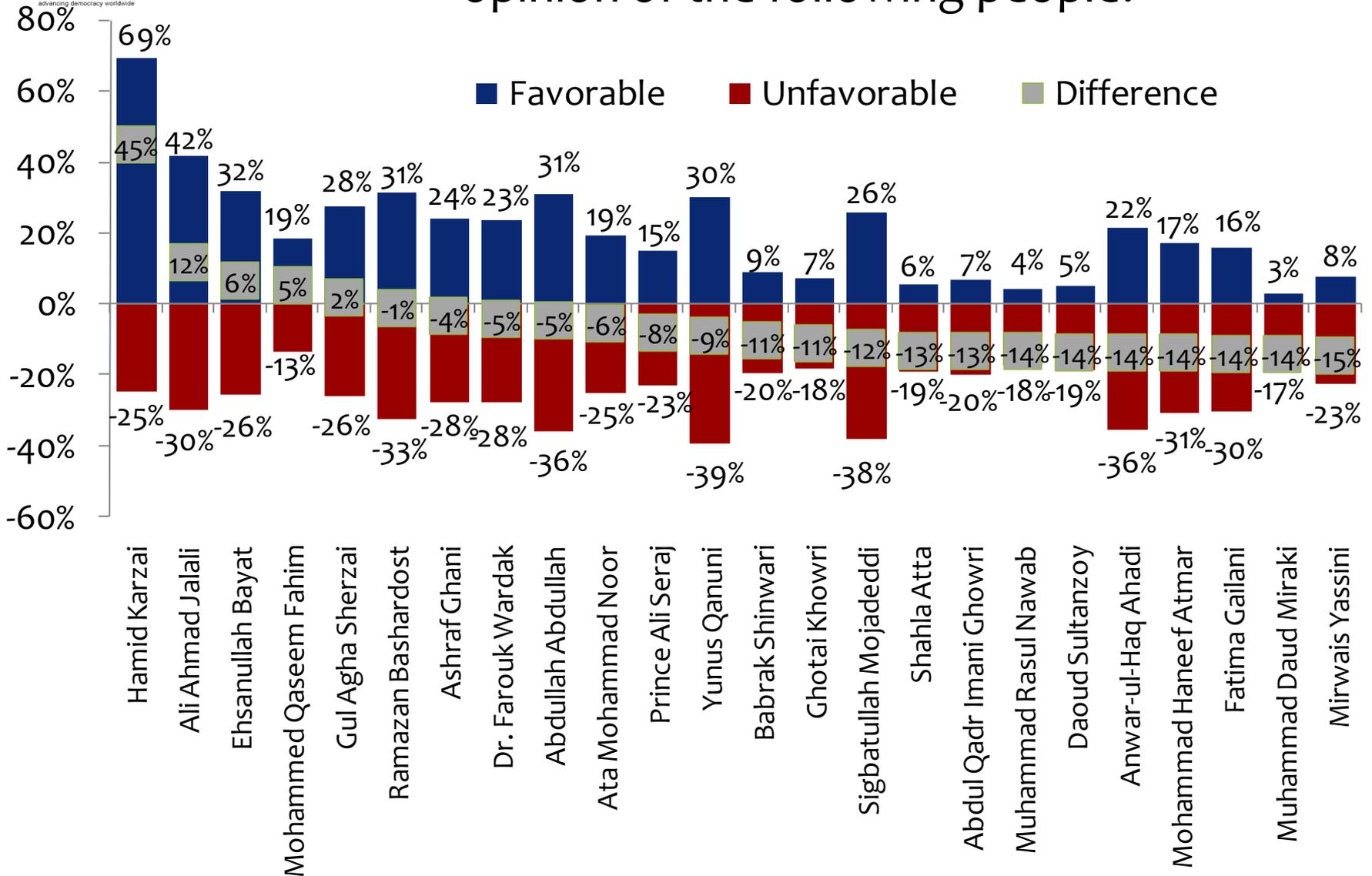
Would you be willing to vote for someone for president who is not from your ethnic group?



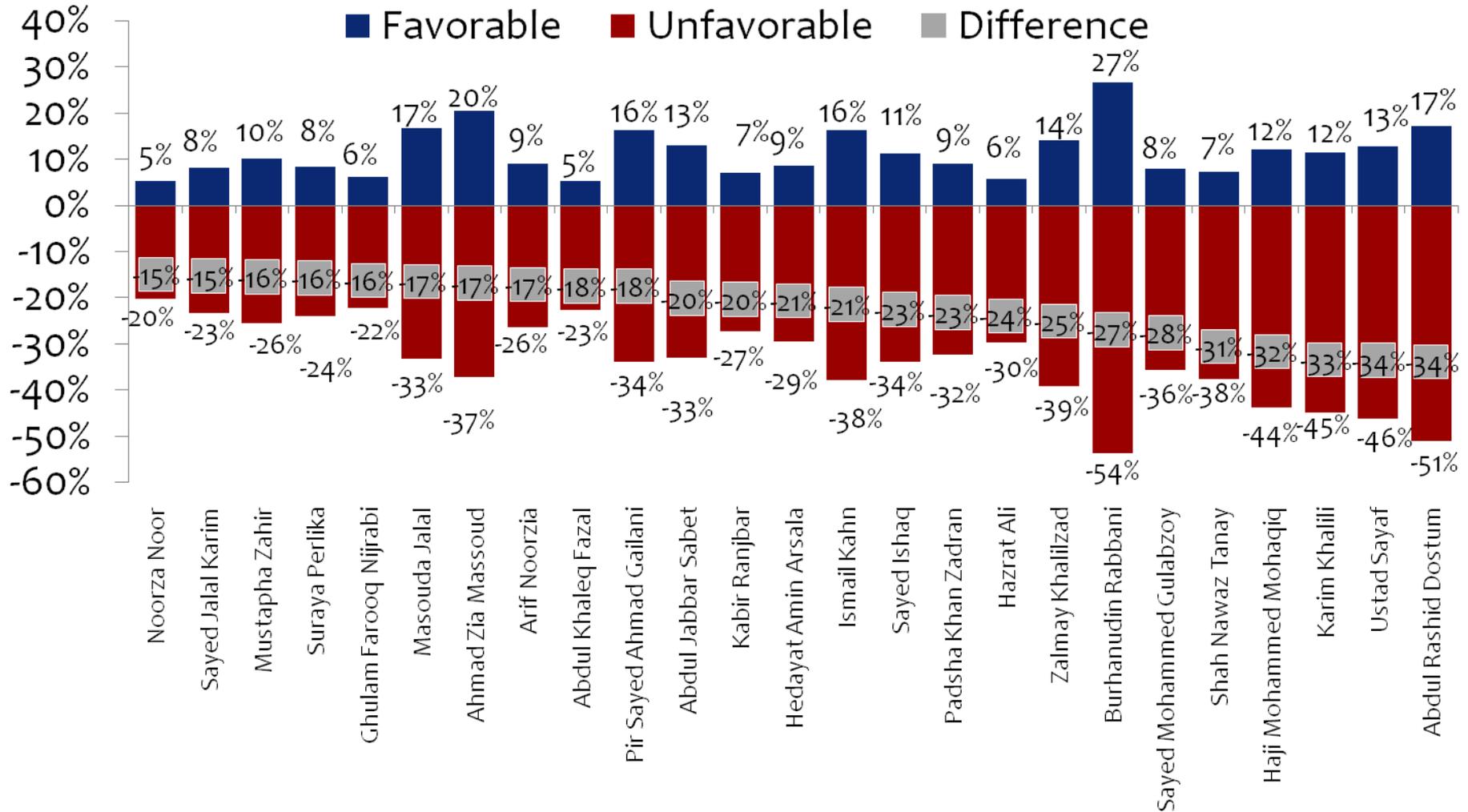
## Has President Karzai done his job well enough to deserve re-election?



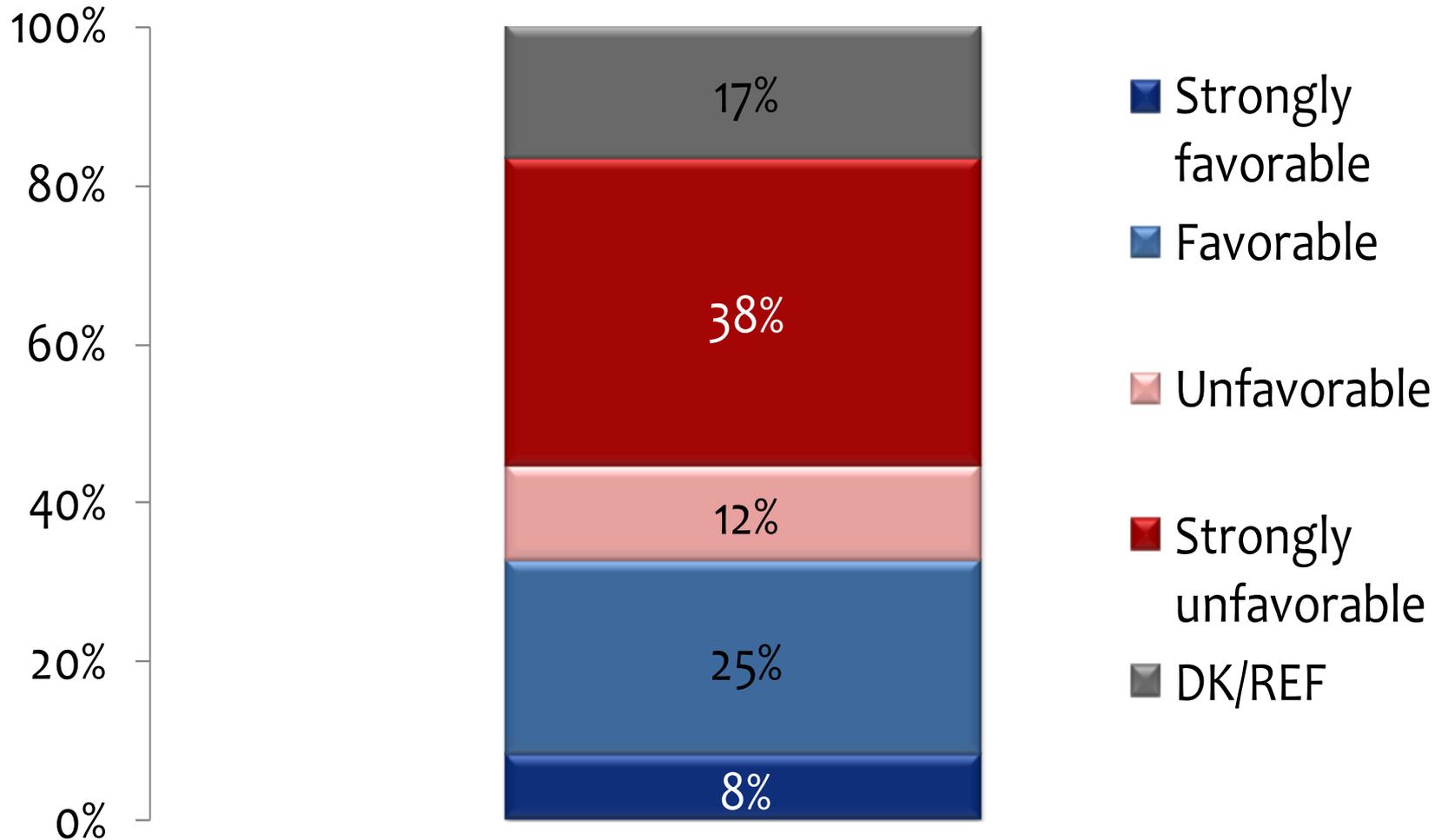
# Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of the following people?



# Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of the following people?

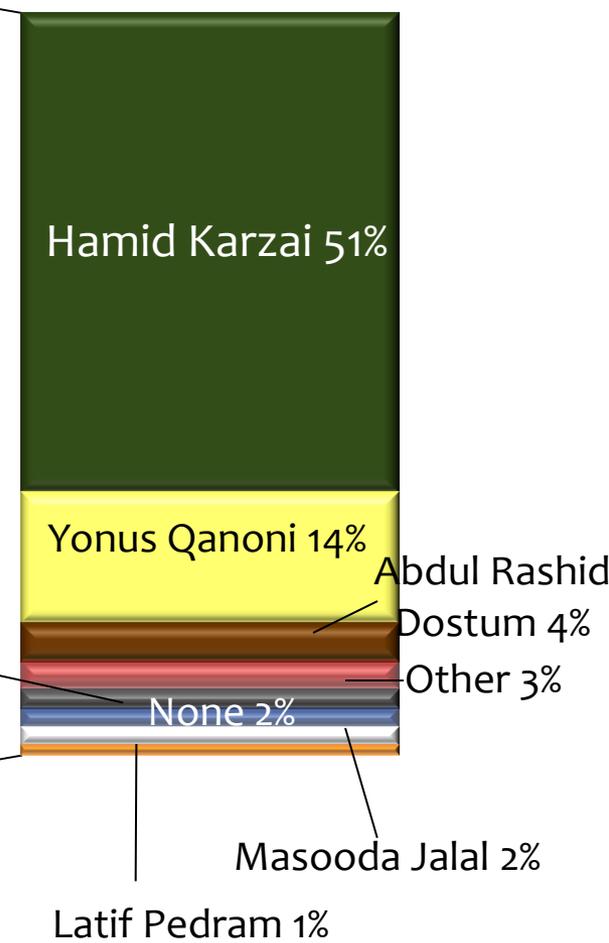
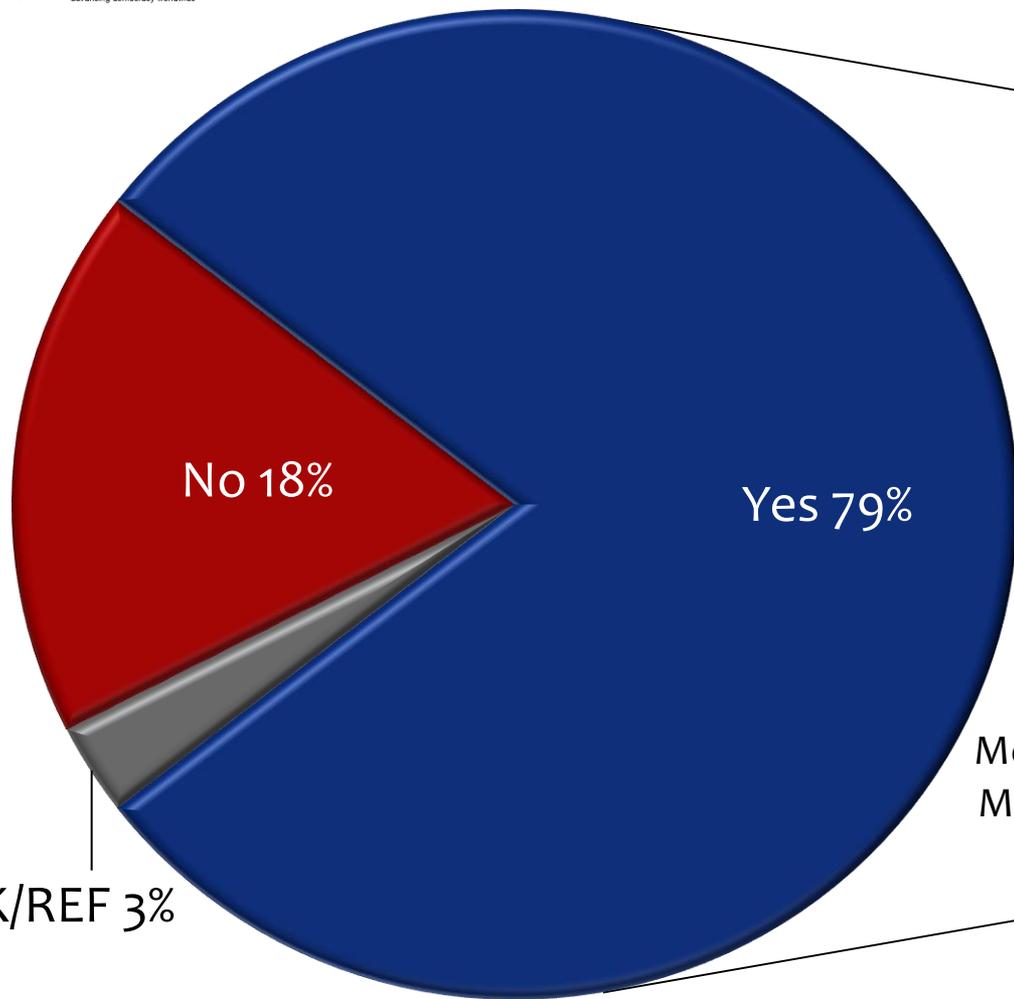


## What is your opinion of national parties?

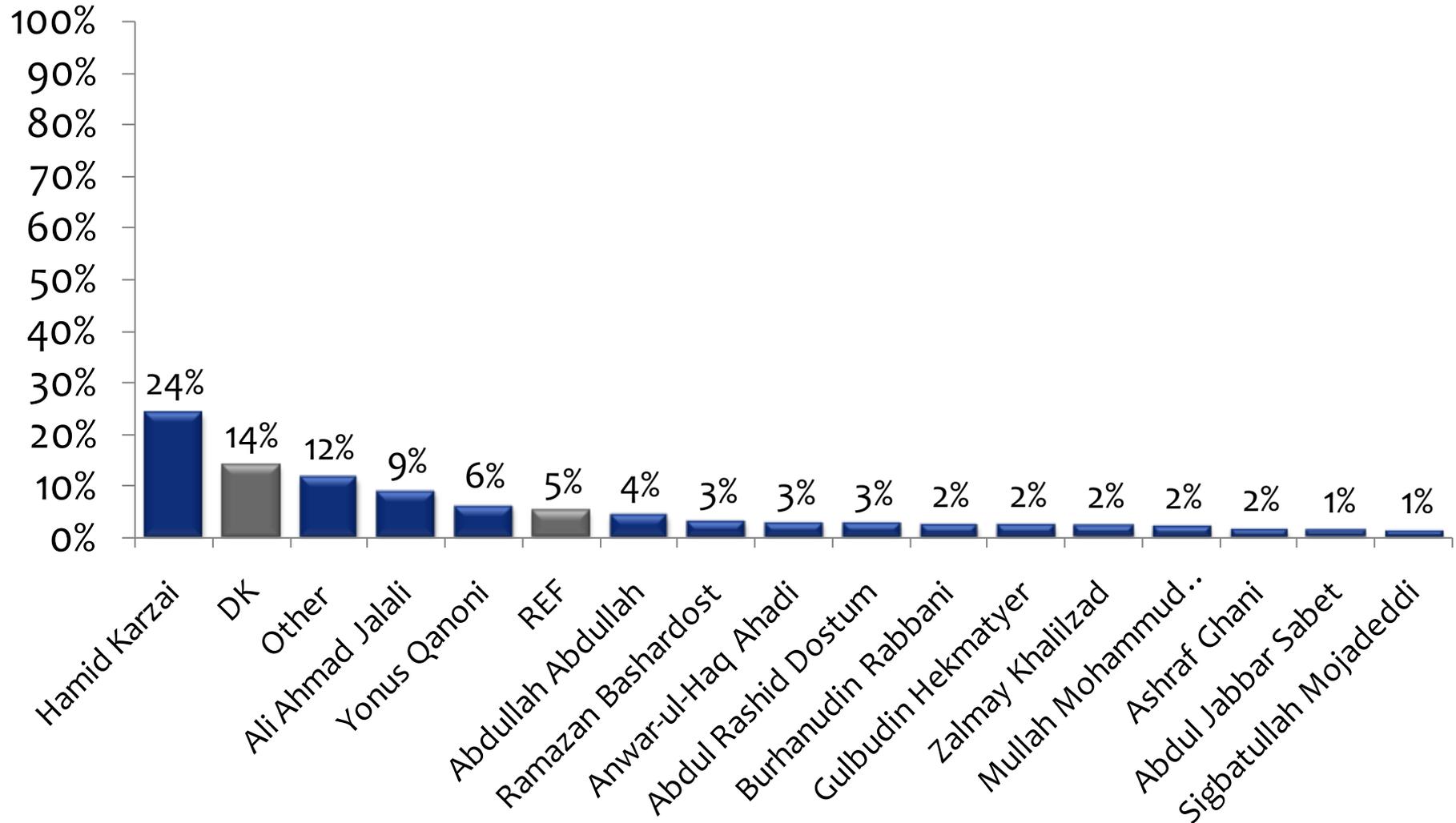


Did you vote in the 2004 presidential election?

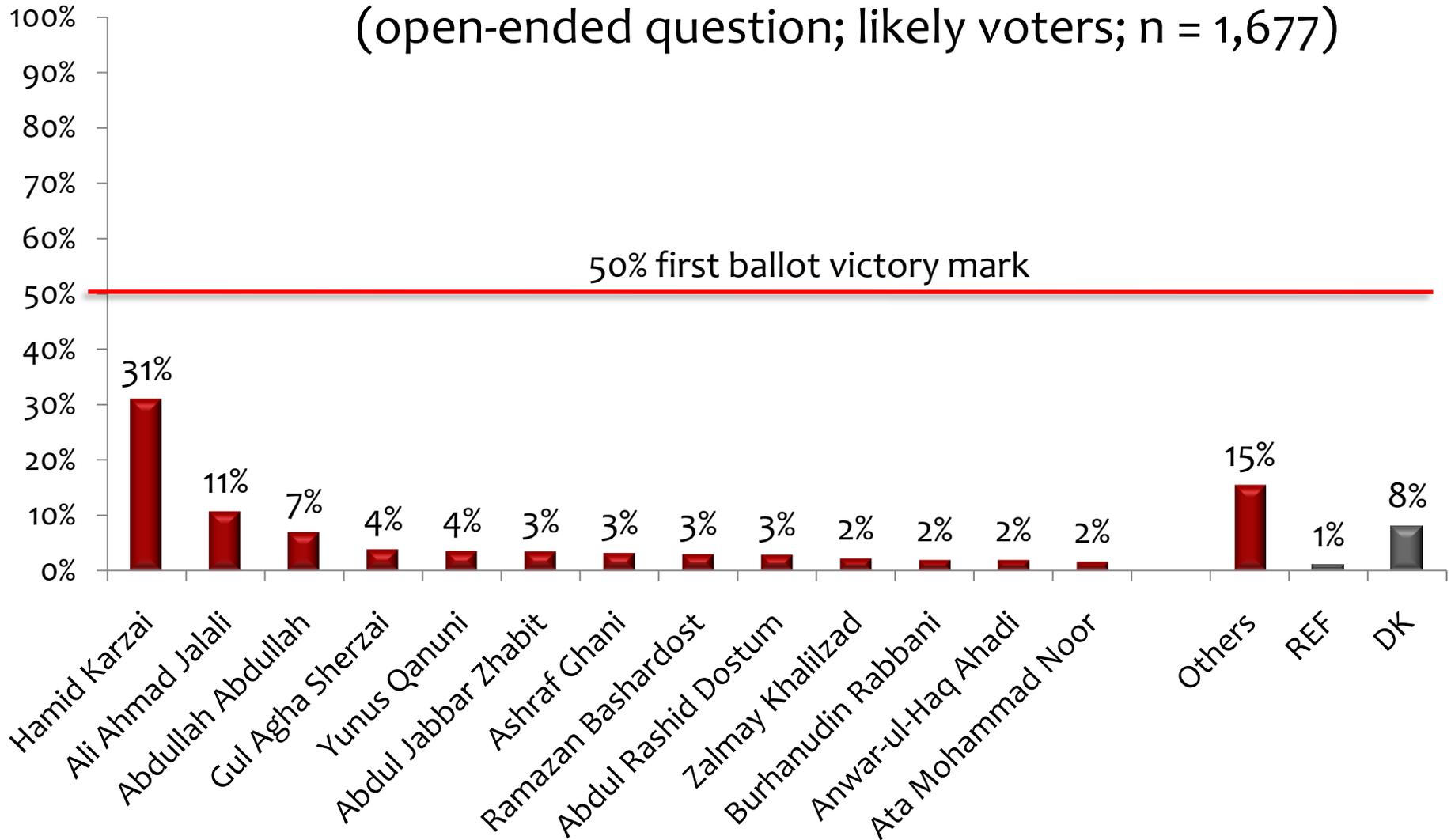
If yes, for whom did you vote? (n=2,528)



## When you think about people in political life, who is the one person in Afghanistan that you view most favorably? (open-ended question)



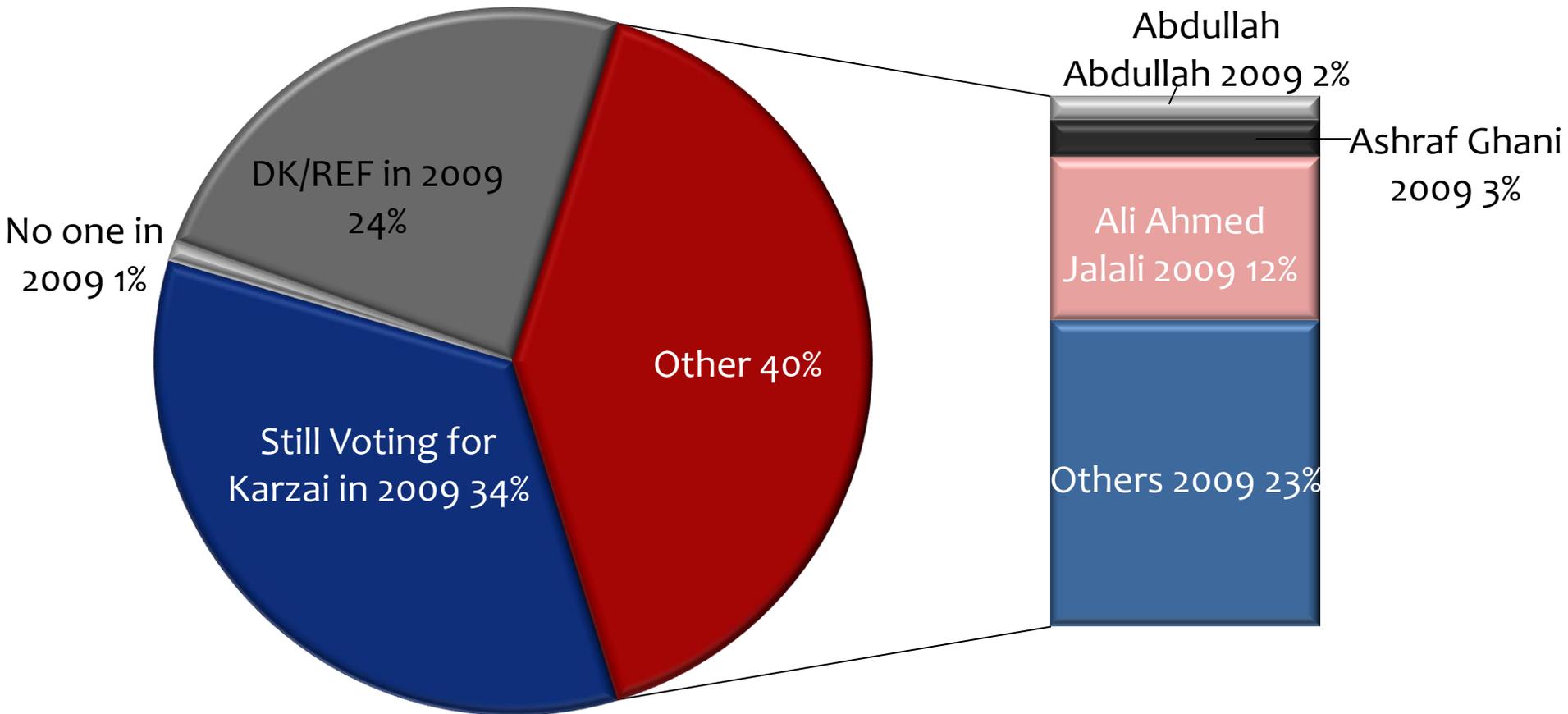
# If the presidential election was held today, for whom would you vote? (open-ended question; likely voters; n = 1,677)



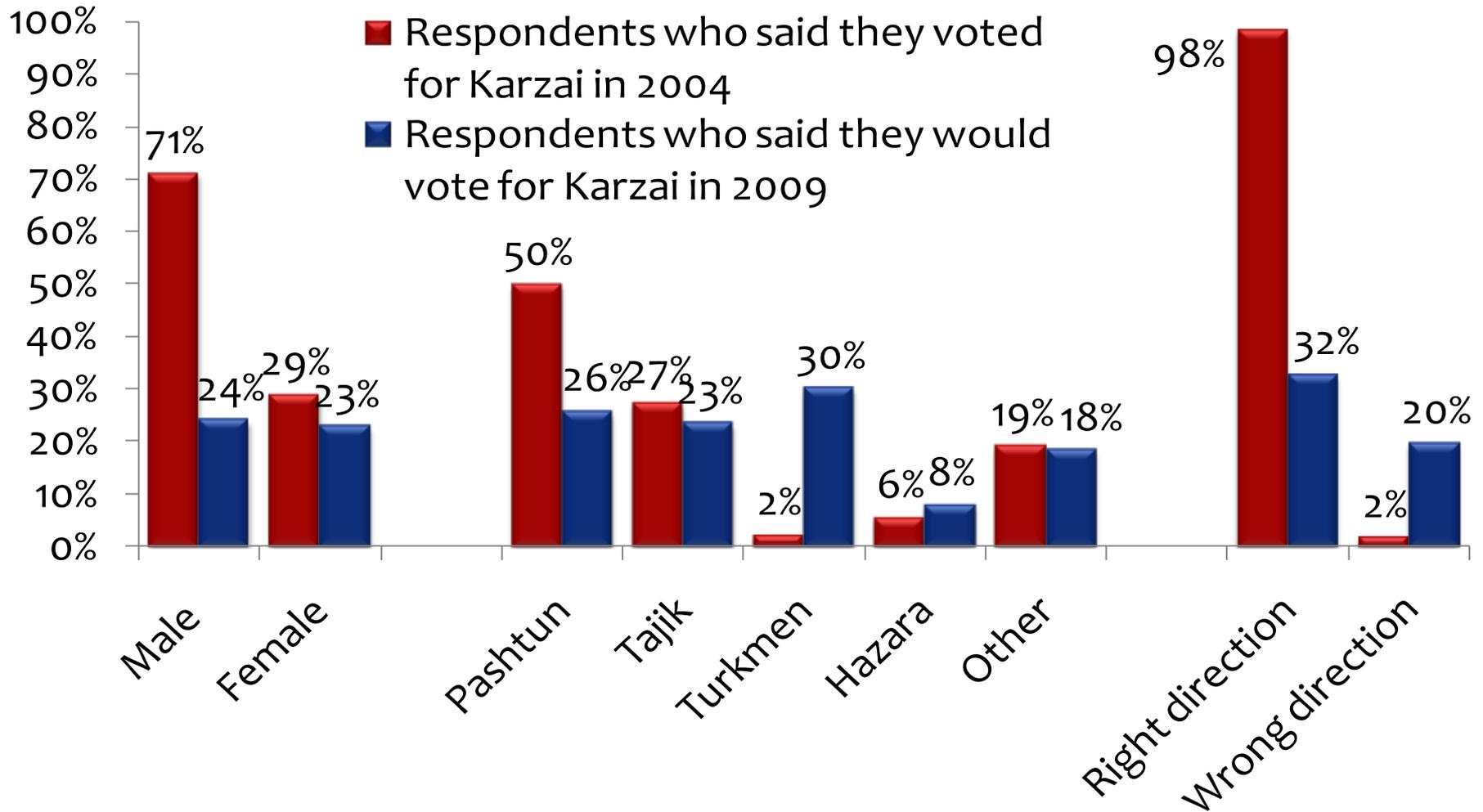
If the presidential election was held today, for whom would you vote?  
 (those who said they voted for Karzai in 2004 and would vote for him again  
 in 2009; n=1,632)

2004 Karzai voter retention

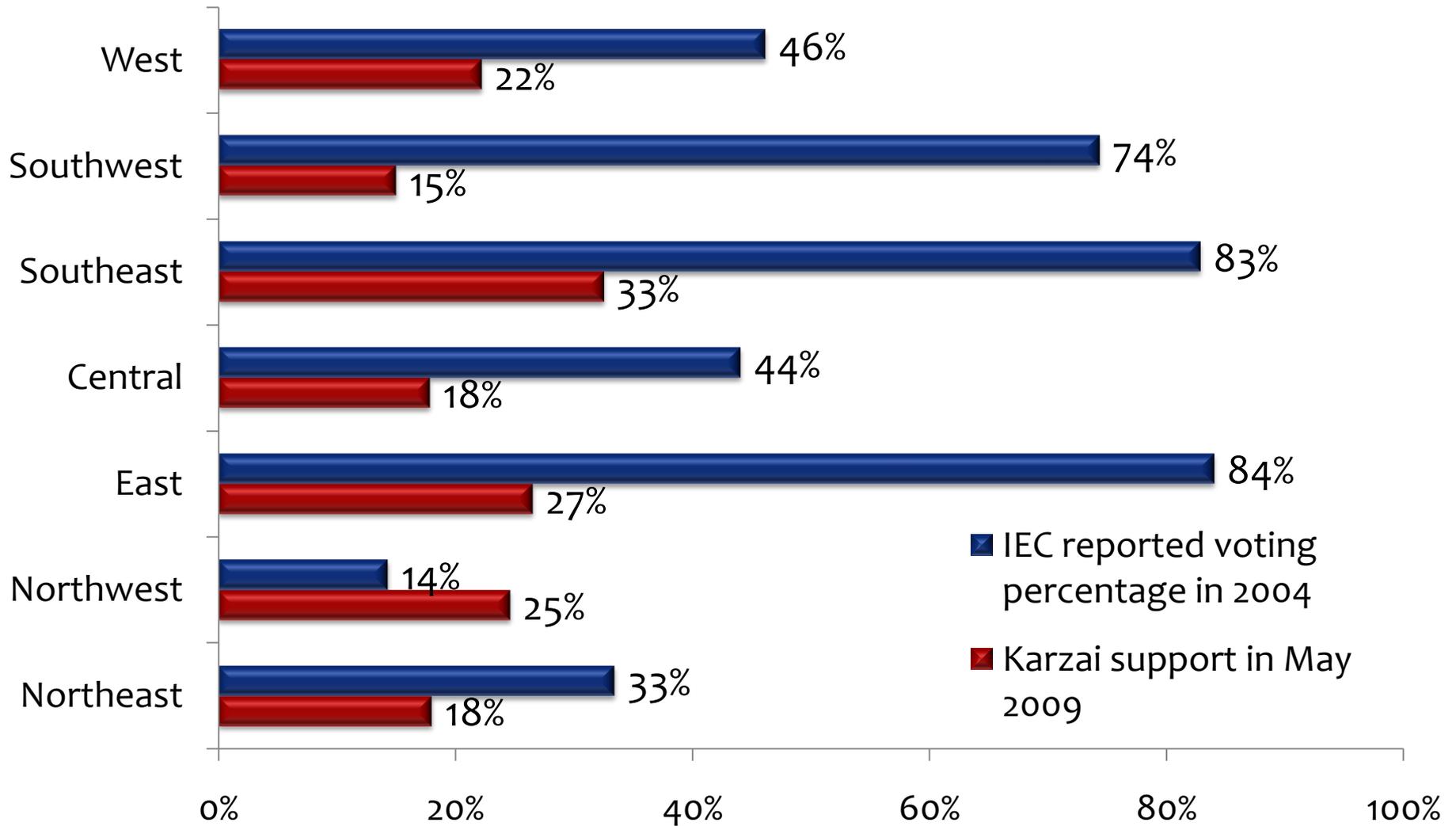
Breakdown of other vote (n = 838)



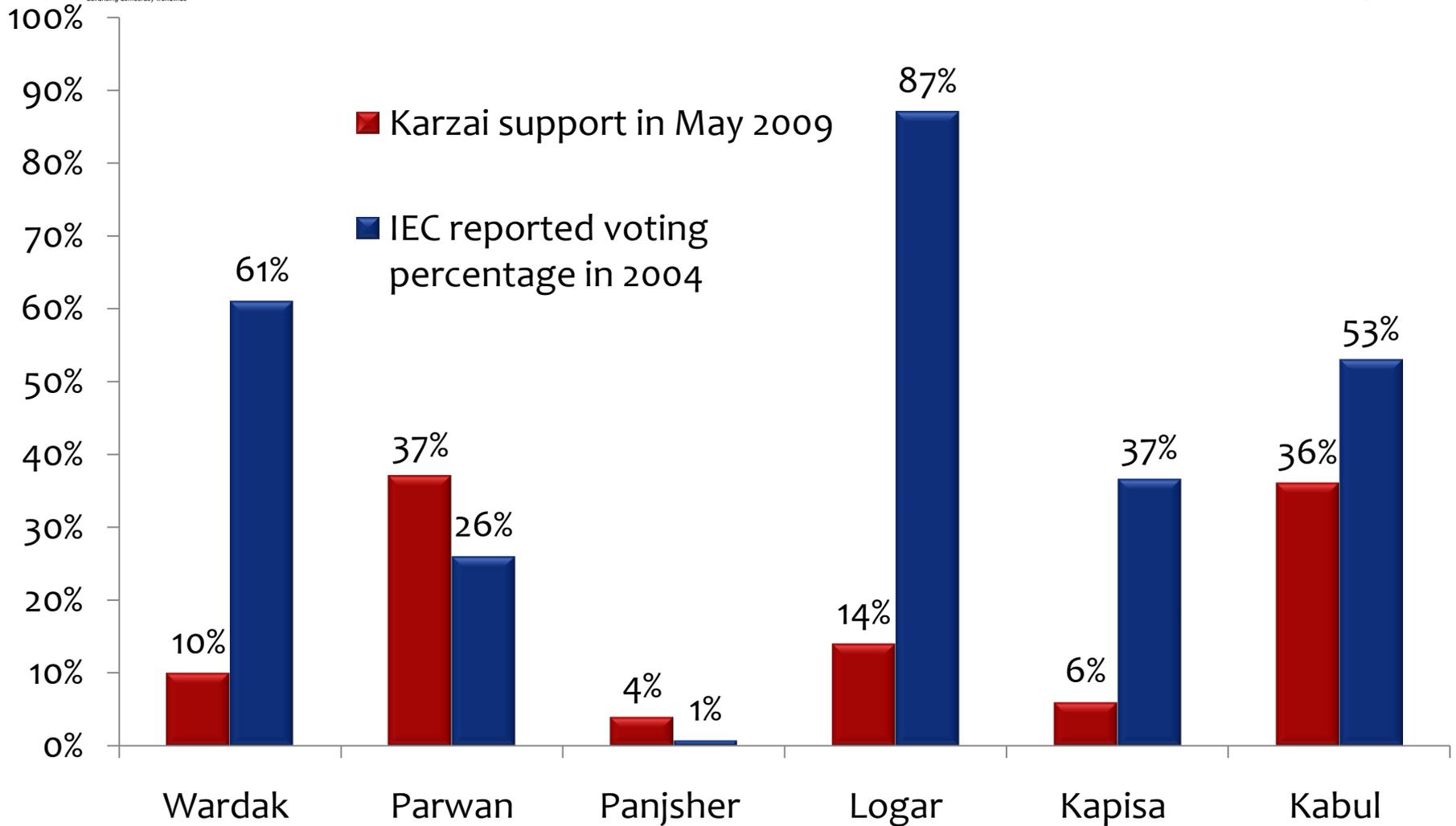
## If the presidential election was held today, for whom would you vote? (comparison by demographic group; n=1,632)



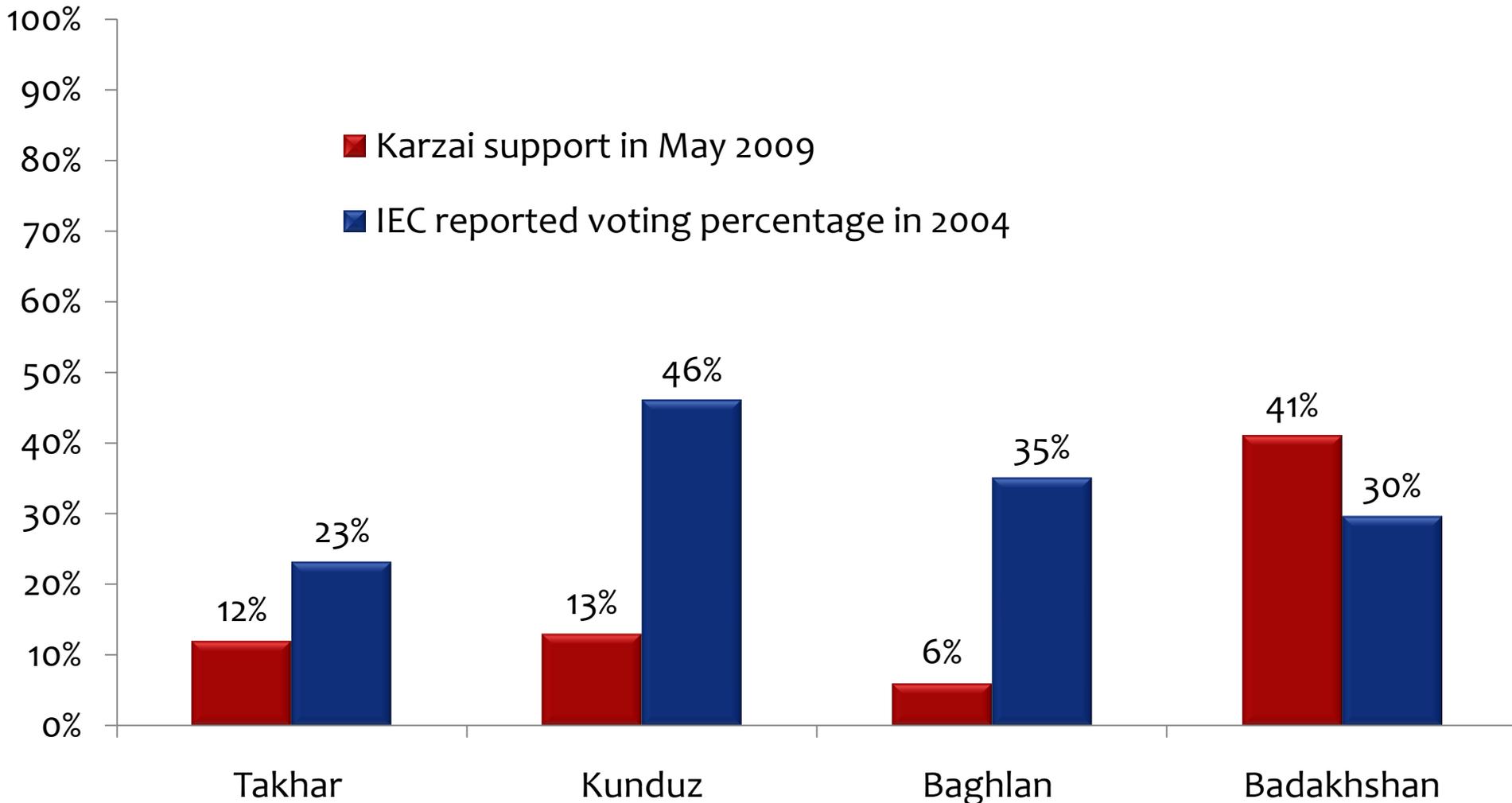
## If the presidential election was held today, for whom would you vote? (comparison of Karzai support by region)



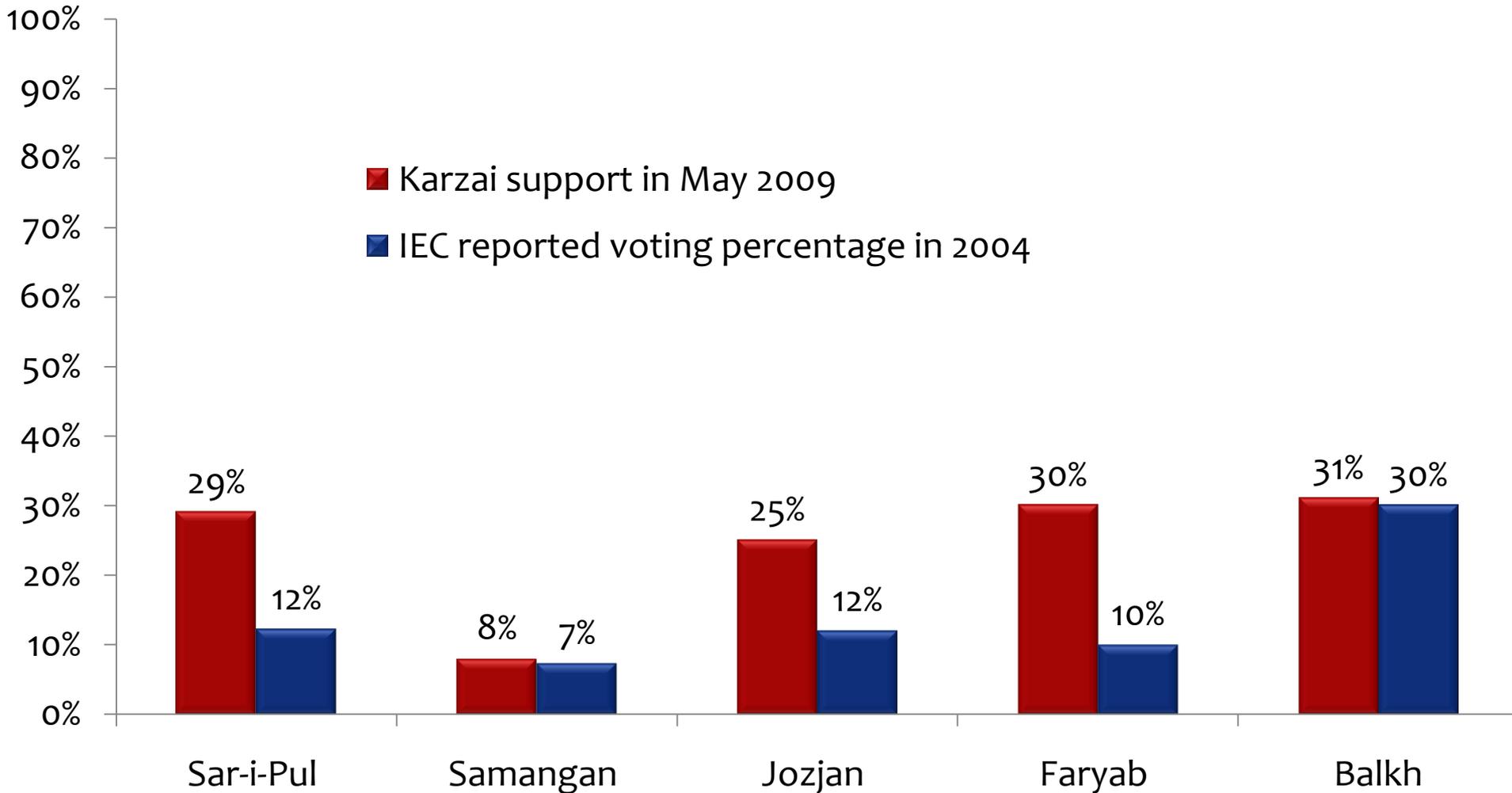
# If the presidential election was held today, for whom would you vote? (comparison of Karzai support by province in the central region)



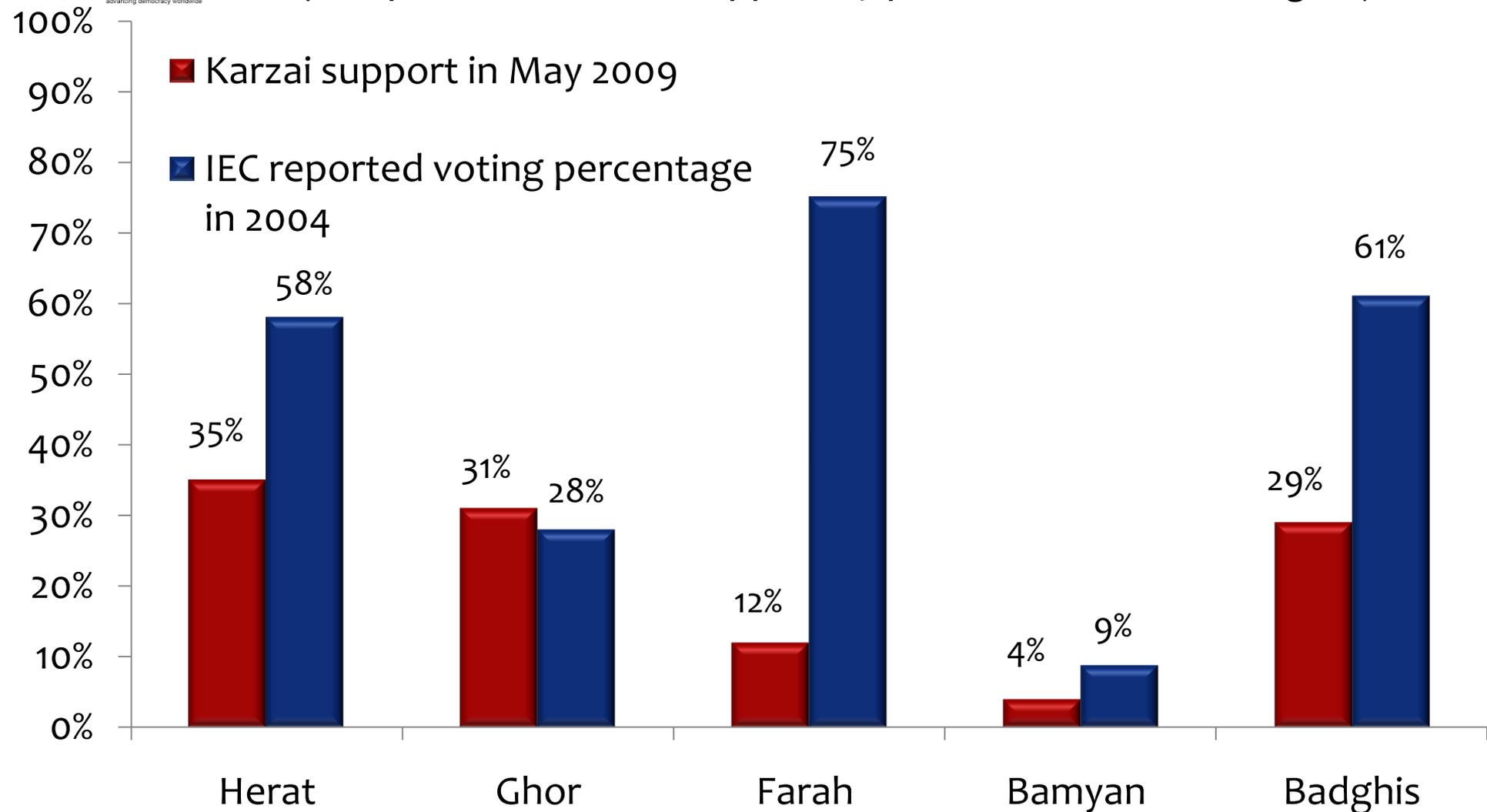
## If the presidential election was held today, for whom would you vote? (comparison of Karzai support by province in the northeast region)



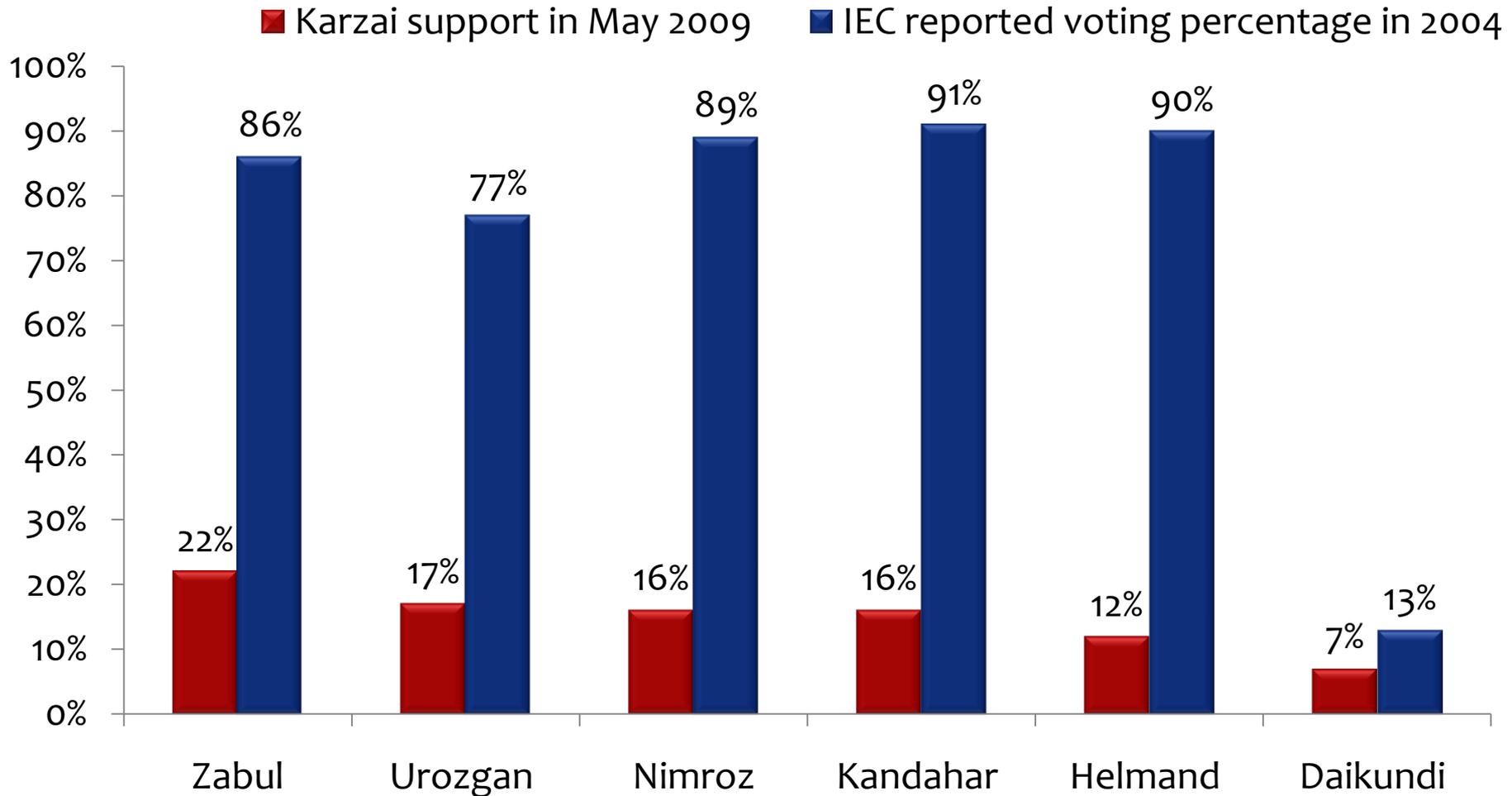
# If the presidential election was held today, for whom would you vote? (comparison of Karzai support by province in the northwest region)



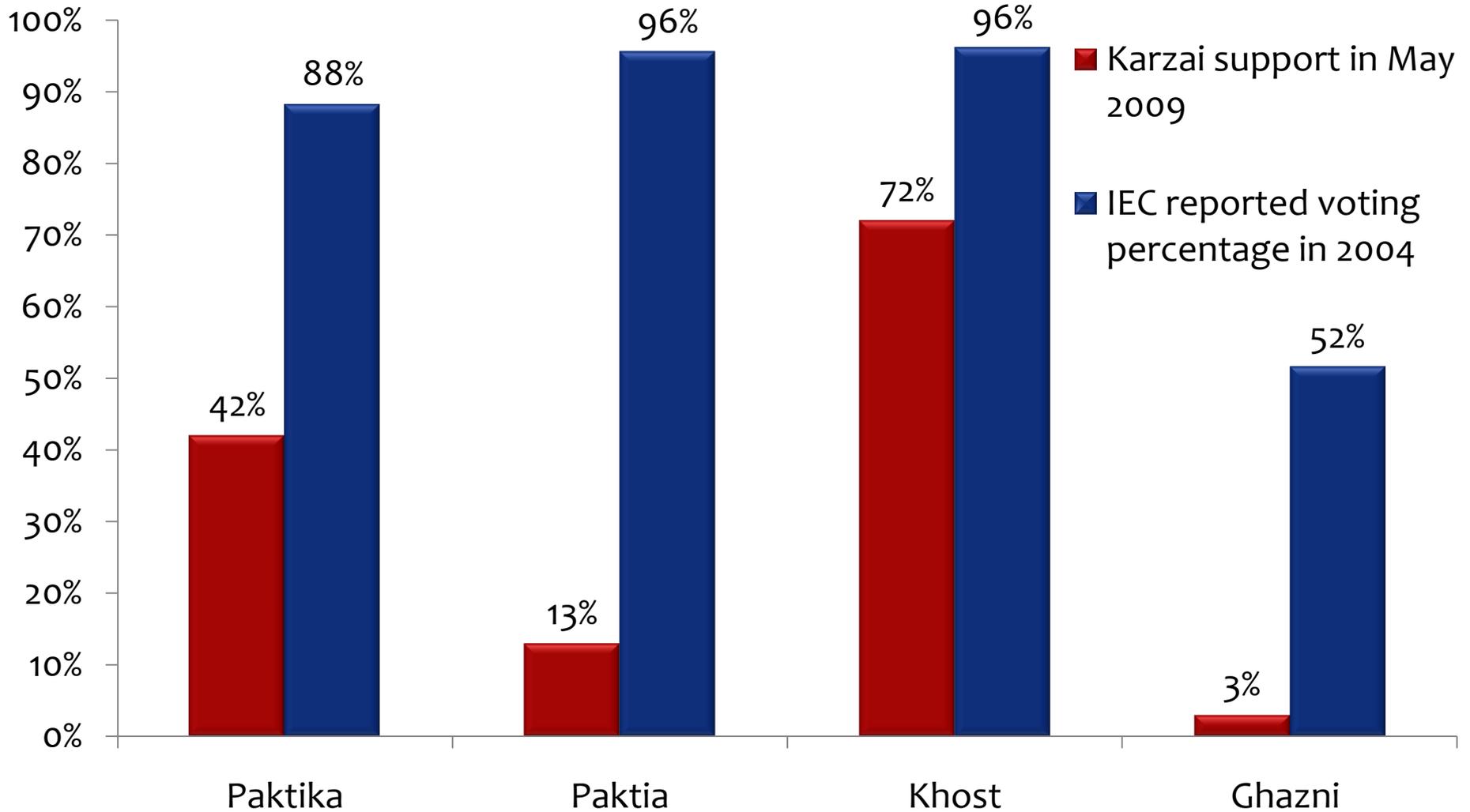
If the presidential election was held today, for whom would you vote?  
 (comparison of Karzai support by province in the west region)



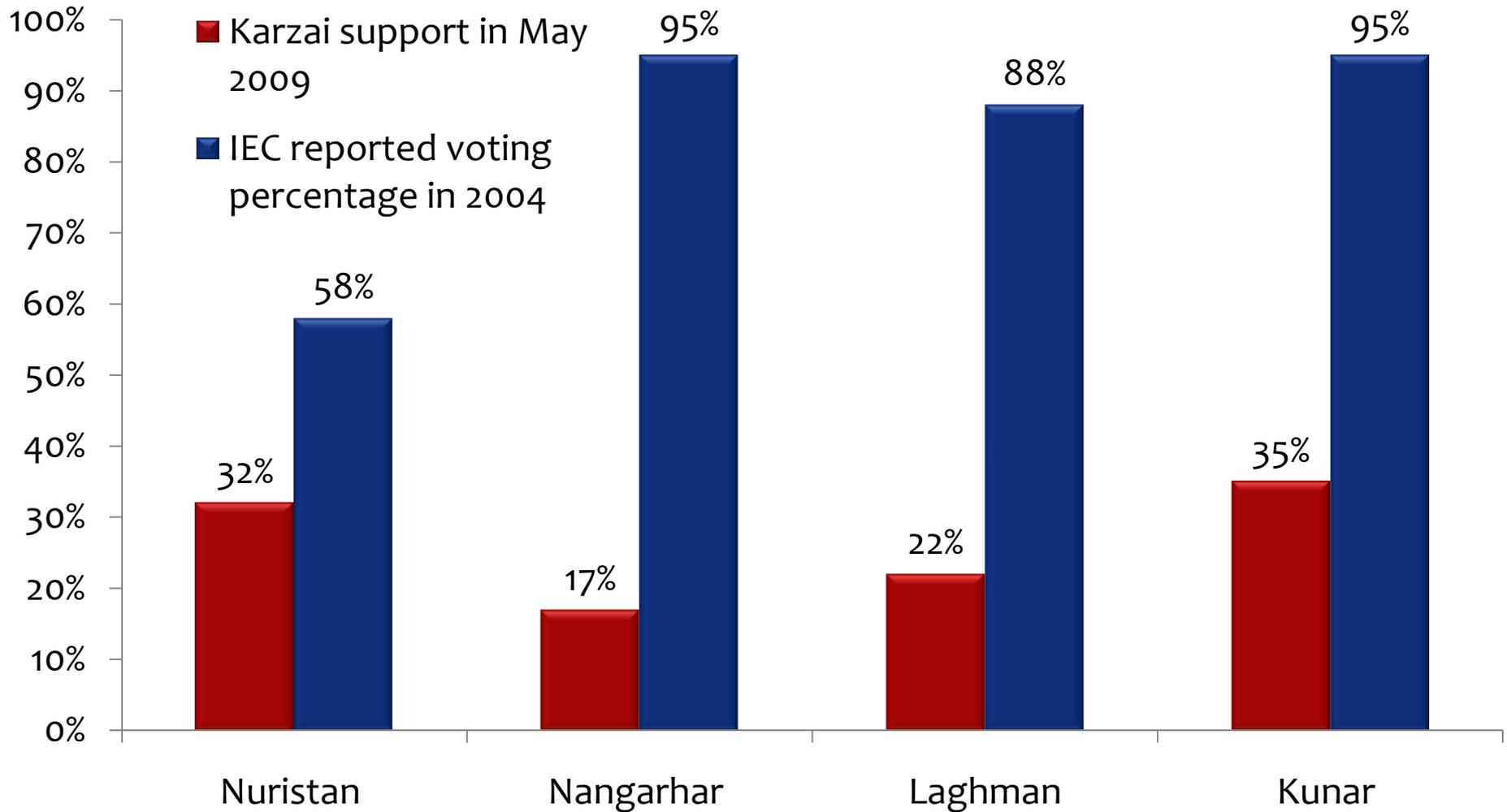
## If the presidential election was held today, for whom would you vote? (comparison of Karzai support by province in the southwest region)



# If the presidential election was held today, for whom would you vote? (comparison of Karzai support by province in the southeast region)



# If the presidential election was held today, for whom would you vote? (comparison of Karzai support by province in the east region)



## What should be the first priority of the president after the election? (open-ended question)

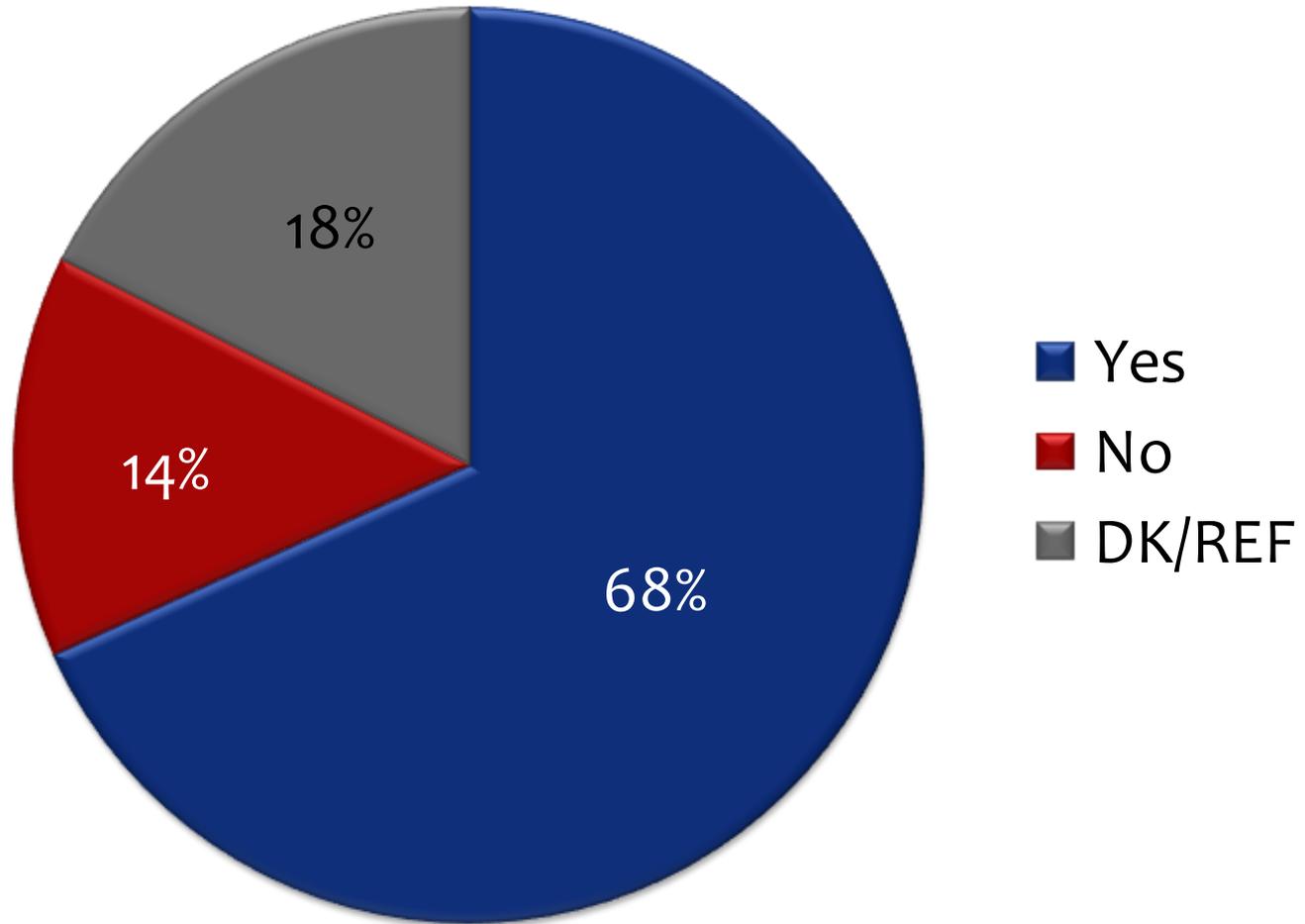
First Priority	% of Respondents
Security	42%
The economy, unemployment, improving the living standard	12%
Reconstruction, development, improving the infrastructure	7%
Social assistance, helping the citizens	7%
Rule of law	4%
Education	4%
Human rights	3%
Corruption, abuse of power	3%
Religion and cultural issues	3%
Addressing problems with the Taliban	3%
Terrorism, ending internal violence	2%
International relations	2%
Other	5%
DK/REF	3%



# Security & International Forces

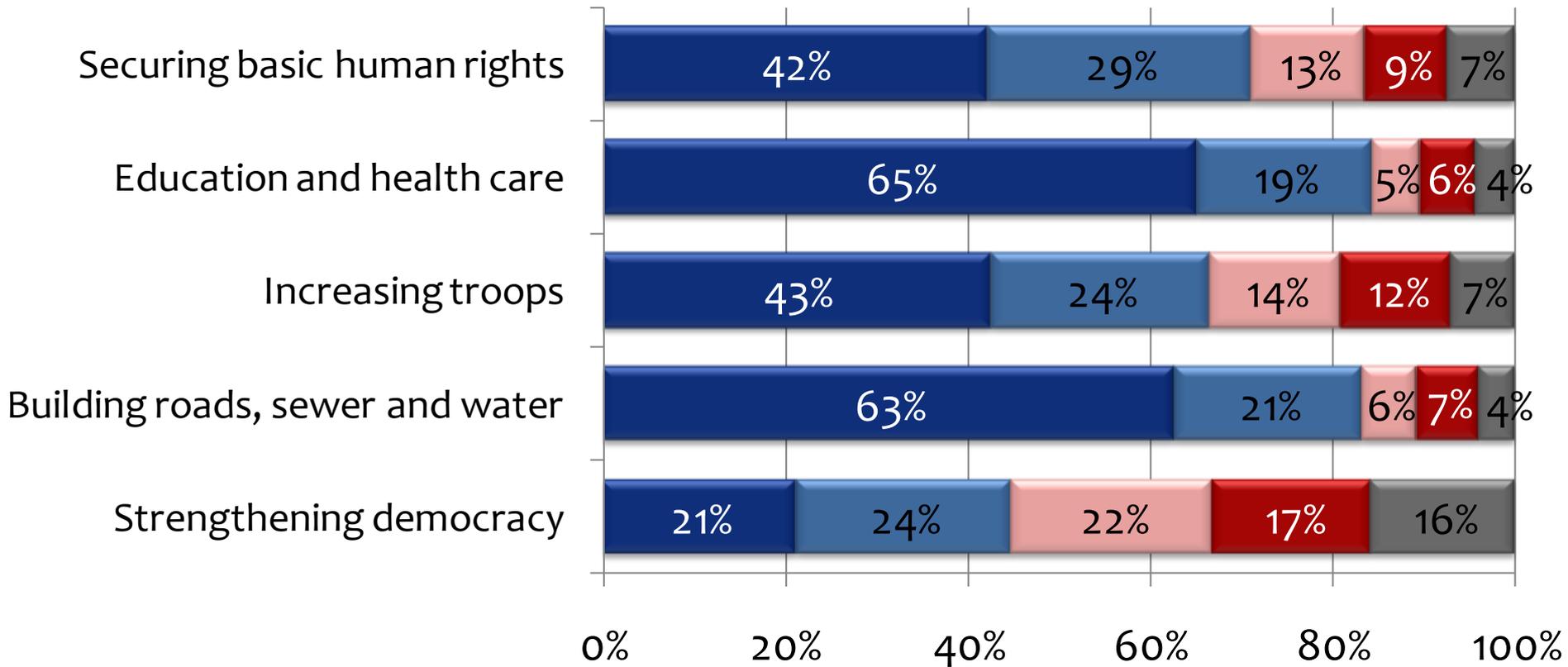
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## Do you think the government should hold talks and reconcile with the Taliban?

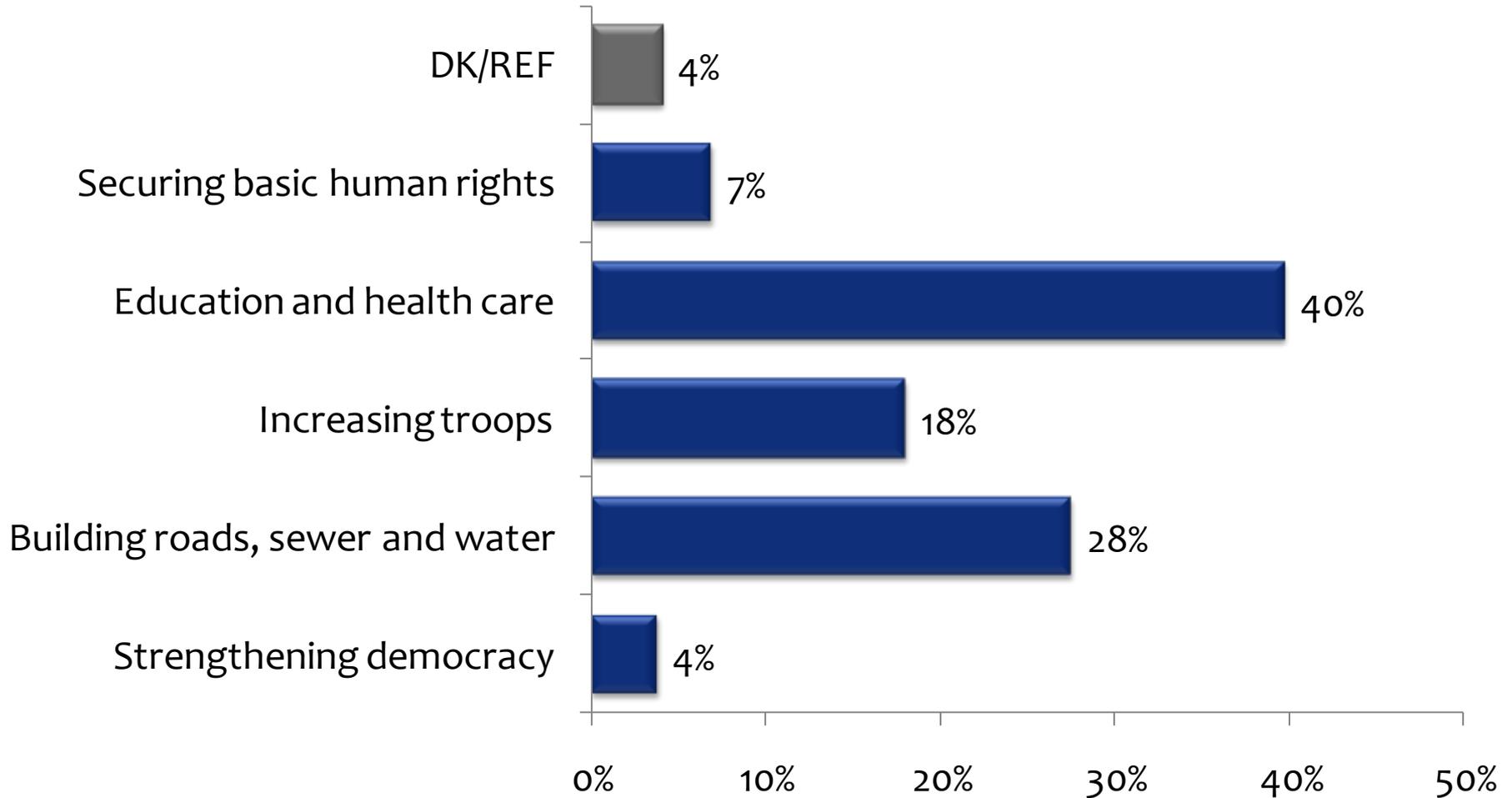


# How important to you are each of the following uses of foreign assistance?

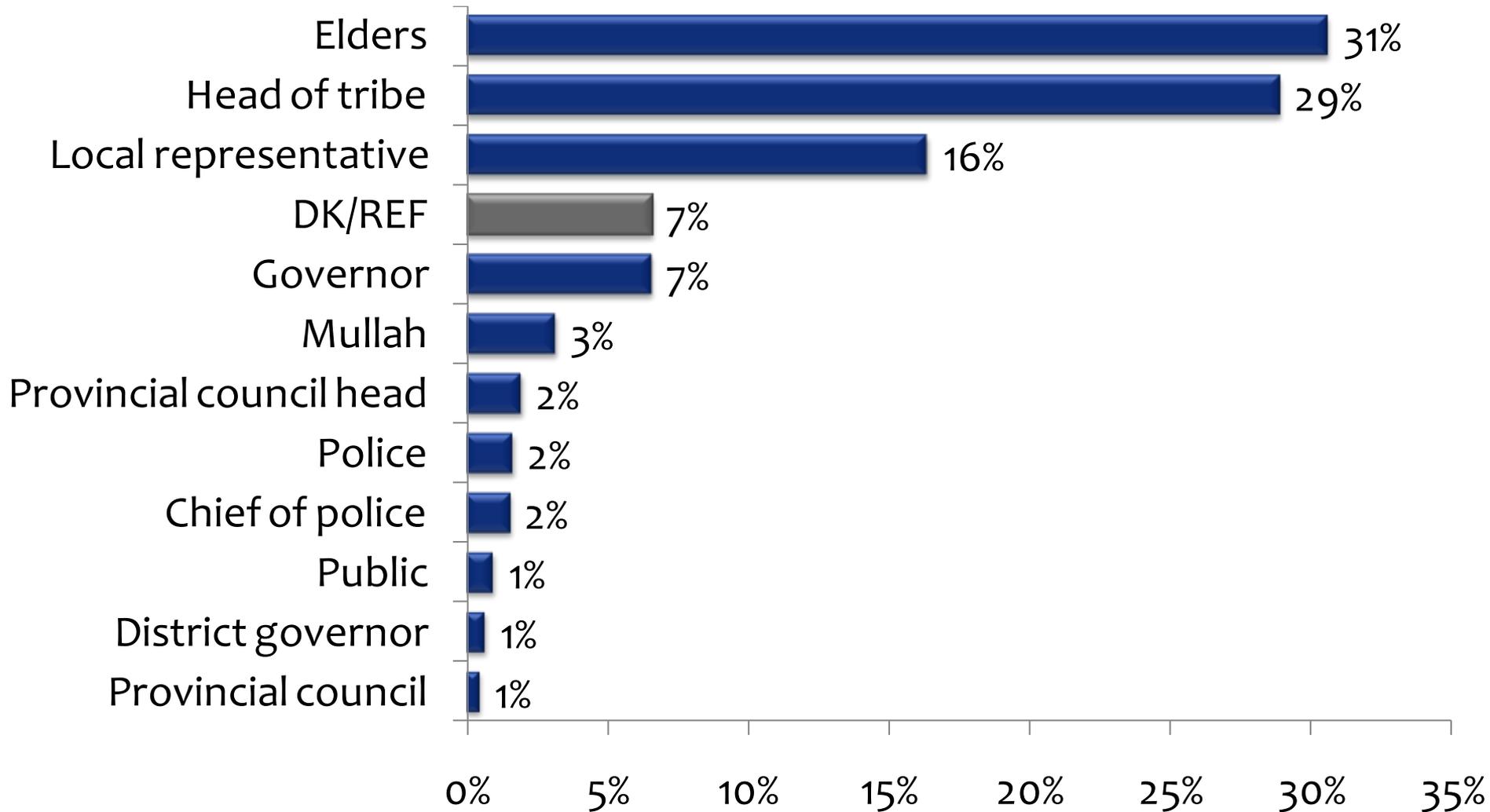
■ Very Important   
 ■ Important   
 ■ Not important   
 ■ Not important at all   
 ■ DK/REF



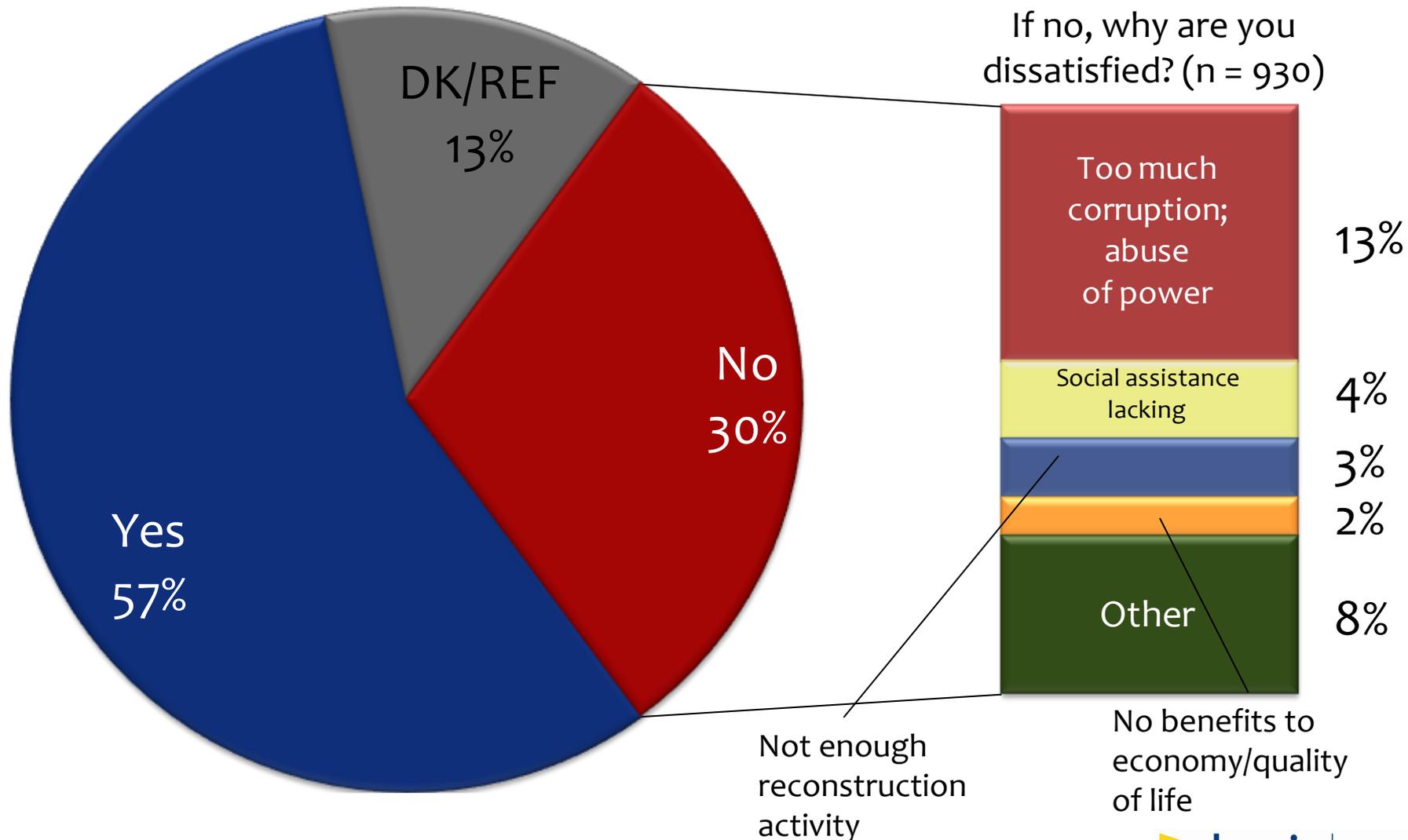
## Which of these same issues would you say is the most important?



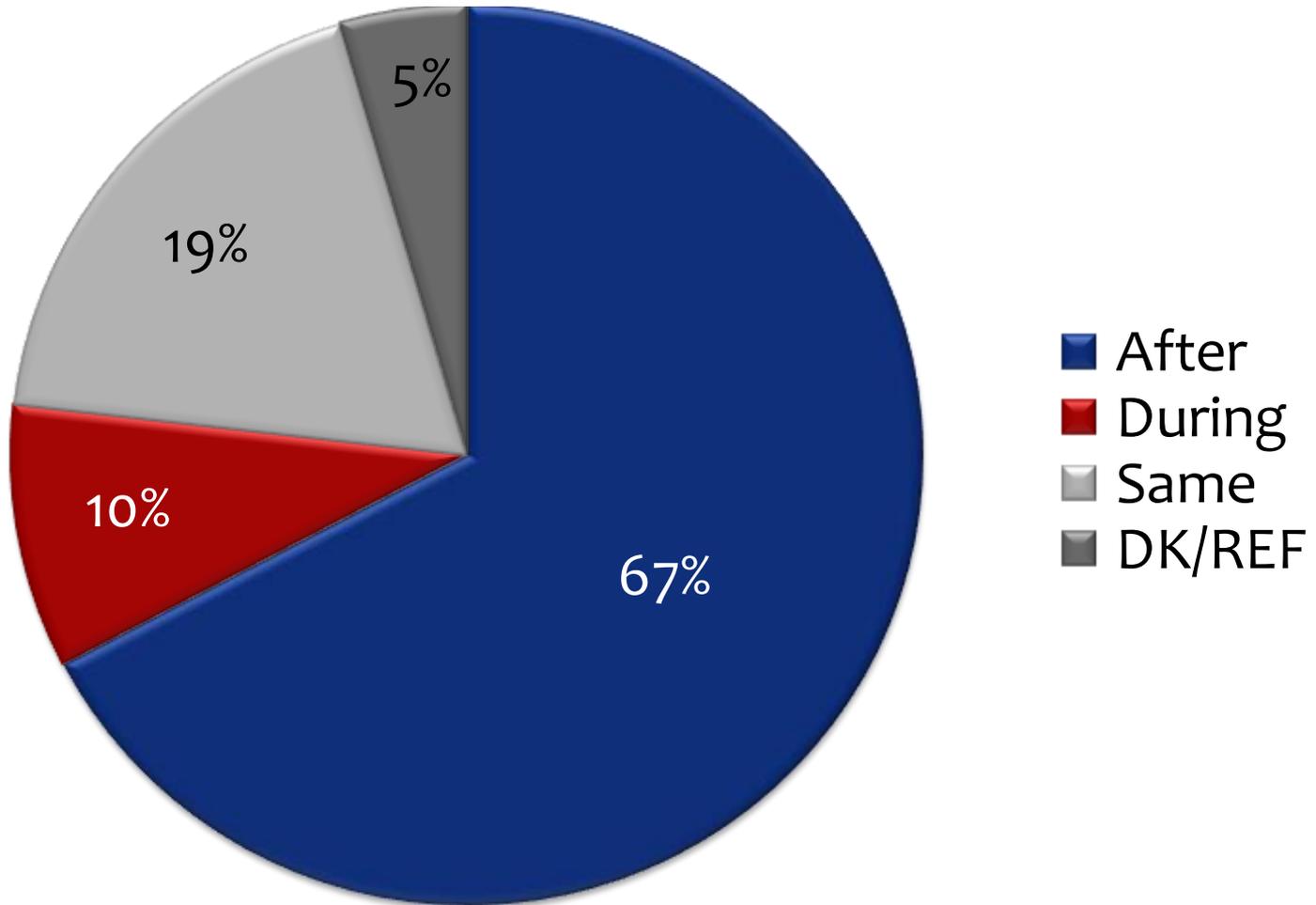
## When ISAF troops are in your community, which community representative positions should they speak with to achieve security and stability? (open-ended question)



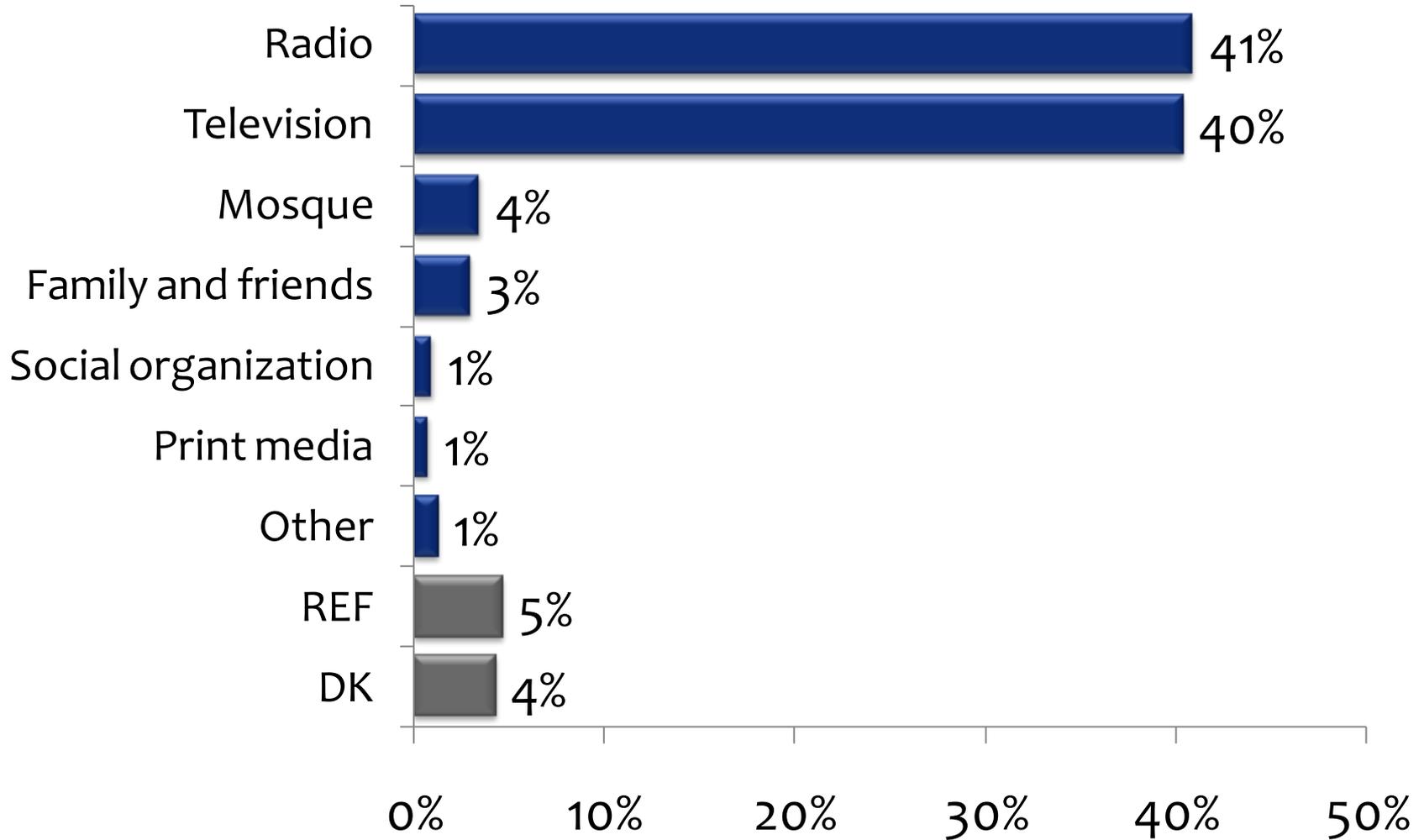
# Are you satisfied with the rehabilitation/development projects that are being implemented by the international community?



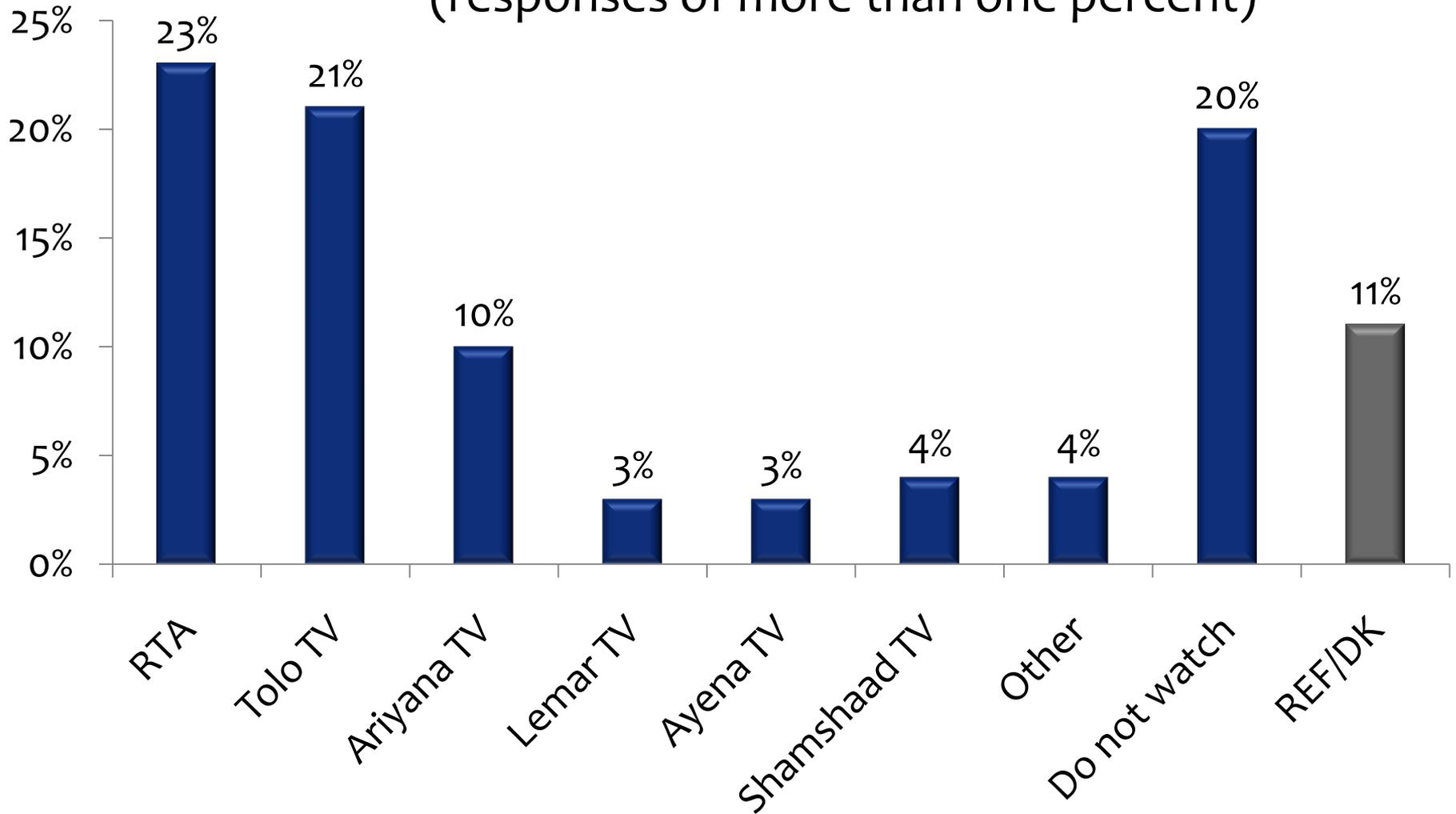
## Do you have more personal freedom during or after Taliban rule?



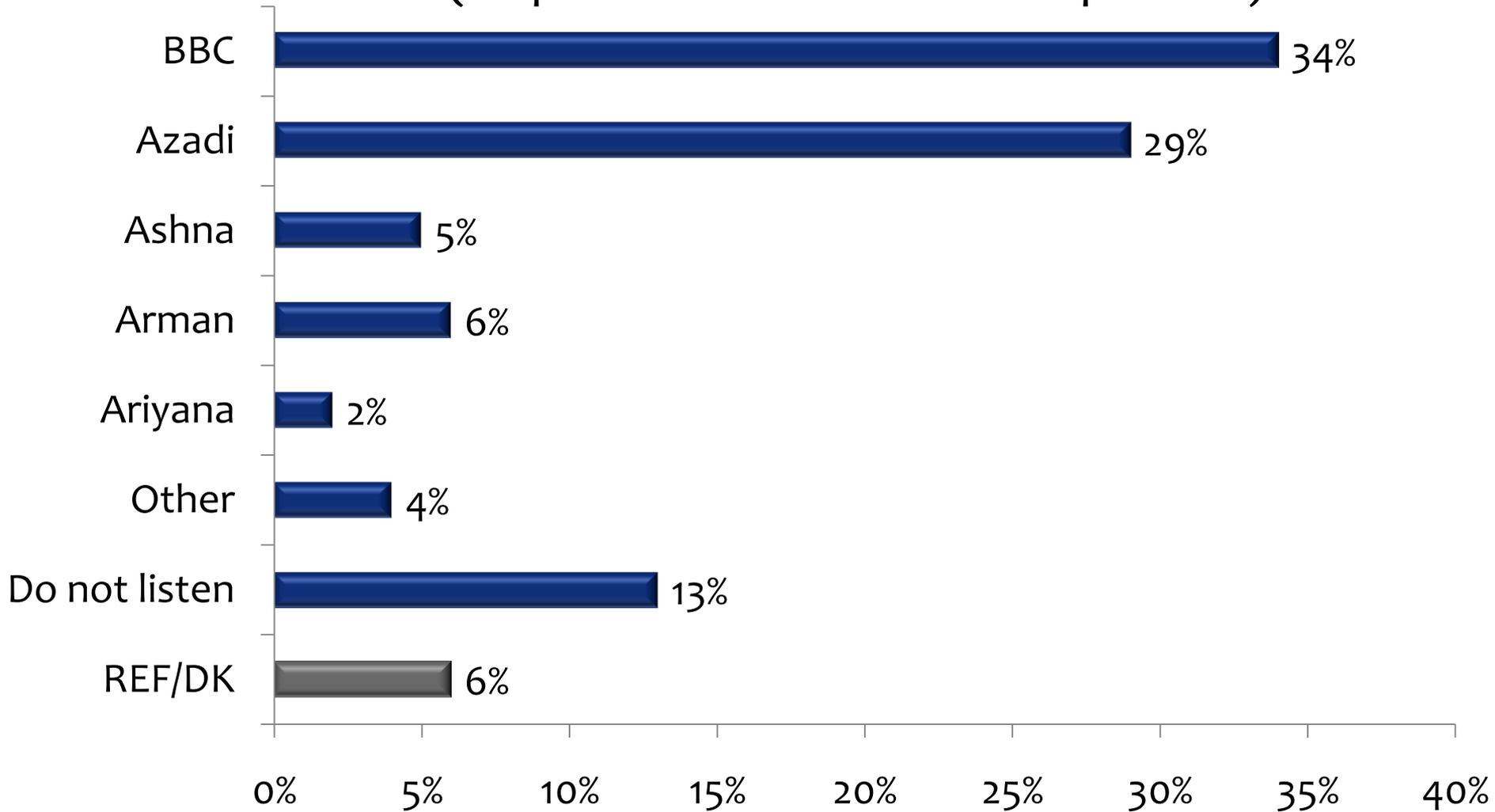
## What is your primary source of political news?



# Which television station do you watch most often for political news? (responses of more than one percent)



# To which radio station do you listen most often for political news? (responses of more than one percent)





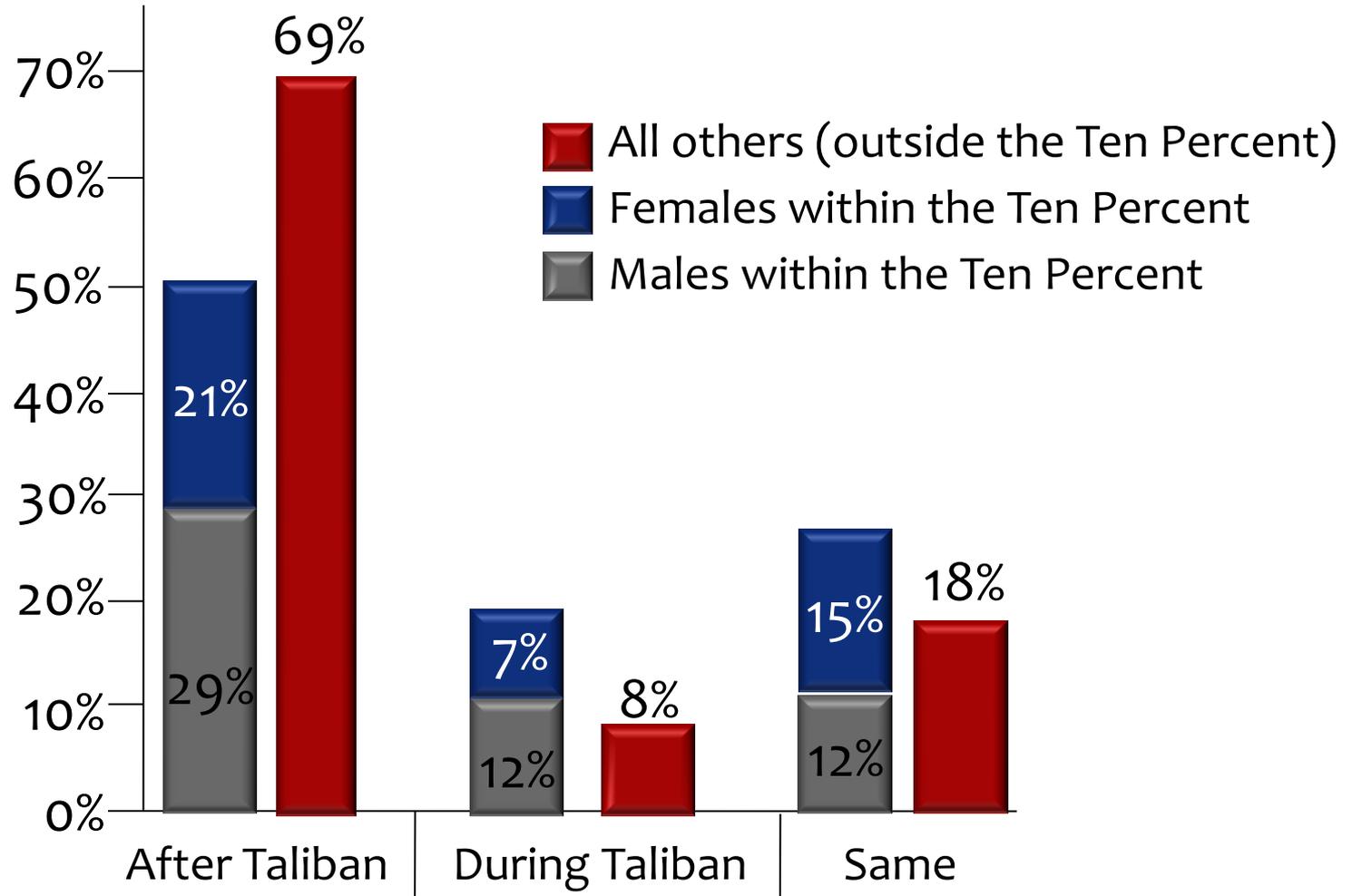
# The Ten Percent

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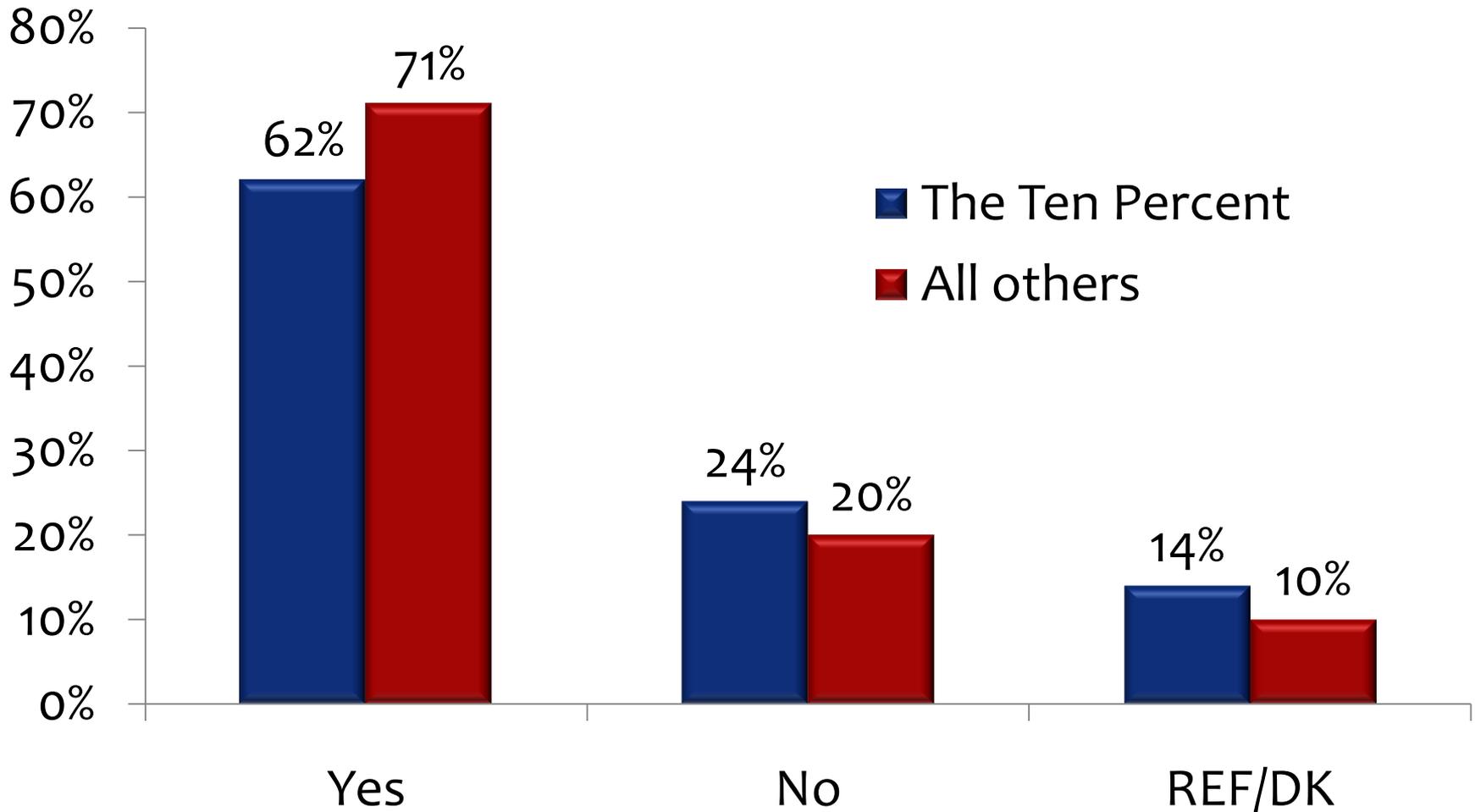
# Who are the Ten Percent?

- 10% percent of respondents (n = 302) cited Pashtun ethnicity *first*, and demonstrated a number of more extreme opinions than the overall population, many of them politically conservative or isolationist
- 77 percent are located in Central or Southern Afghanistan
- 60 percent have less than a primary level education
- 1/3 are in their 20s
- 55 percent are male
- 15 percent earn less than \$20/month
- Less than one percent categorize themselves as professional
- Twice as likely as others to get news from family/friends/mosque

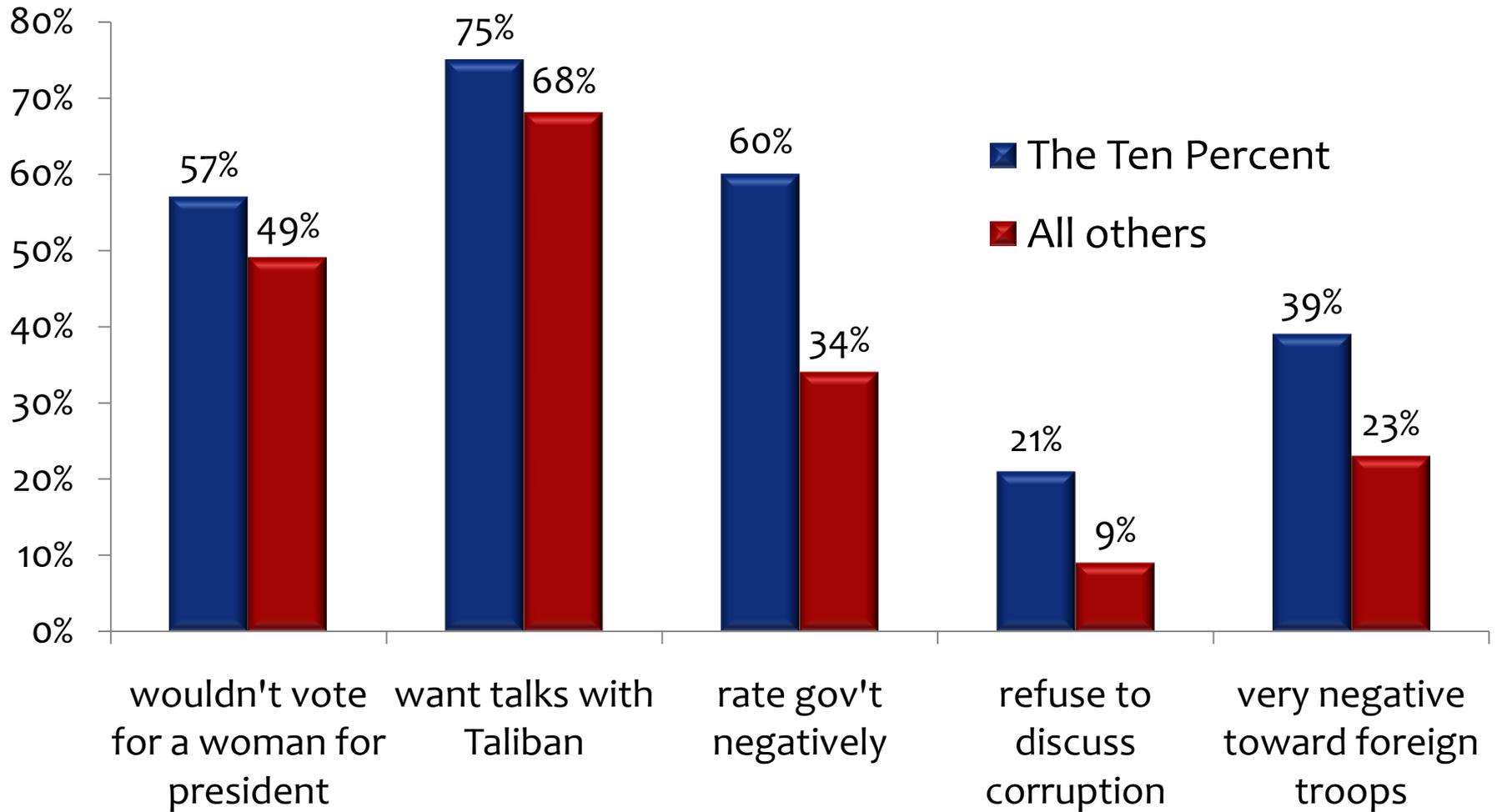
## Do you have more personal freedom during or after the Taliban rule?



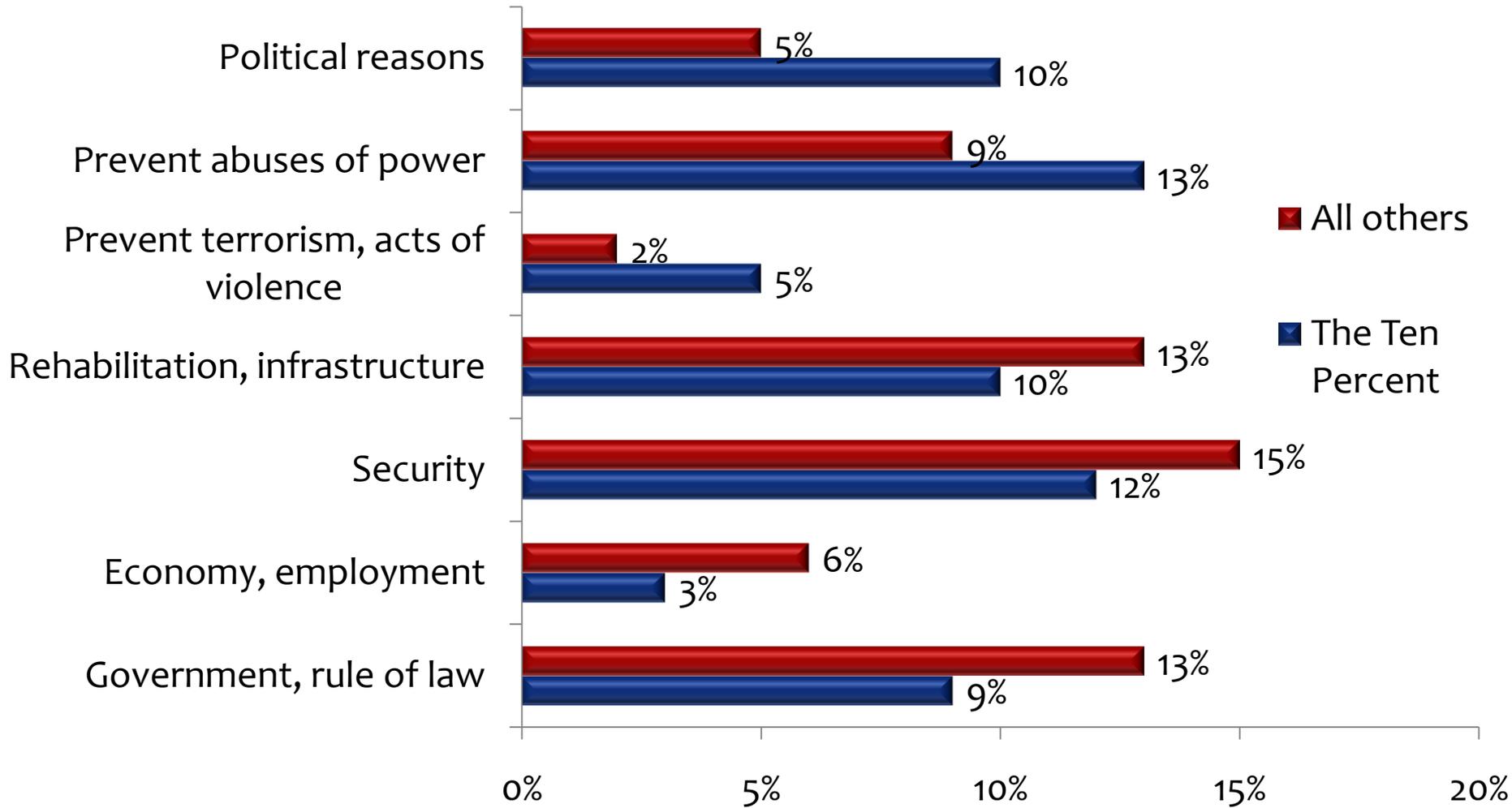
# Would you be willing to vote for someone for president who is not from your ethnic group?



# Prevailing attitudes among the Ten Percent

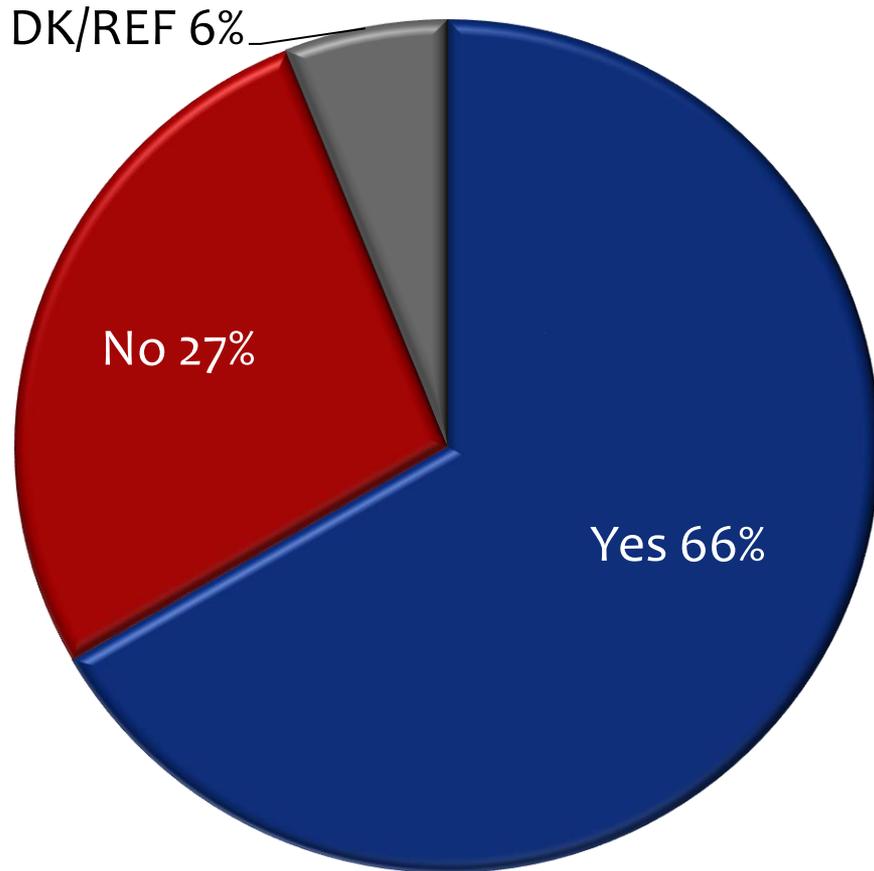


# What is your personal motivation to vote in the upcoming presidential election? (open-ended question; top responses)

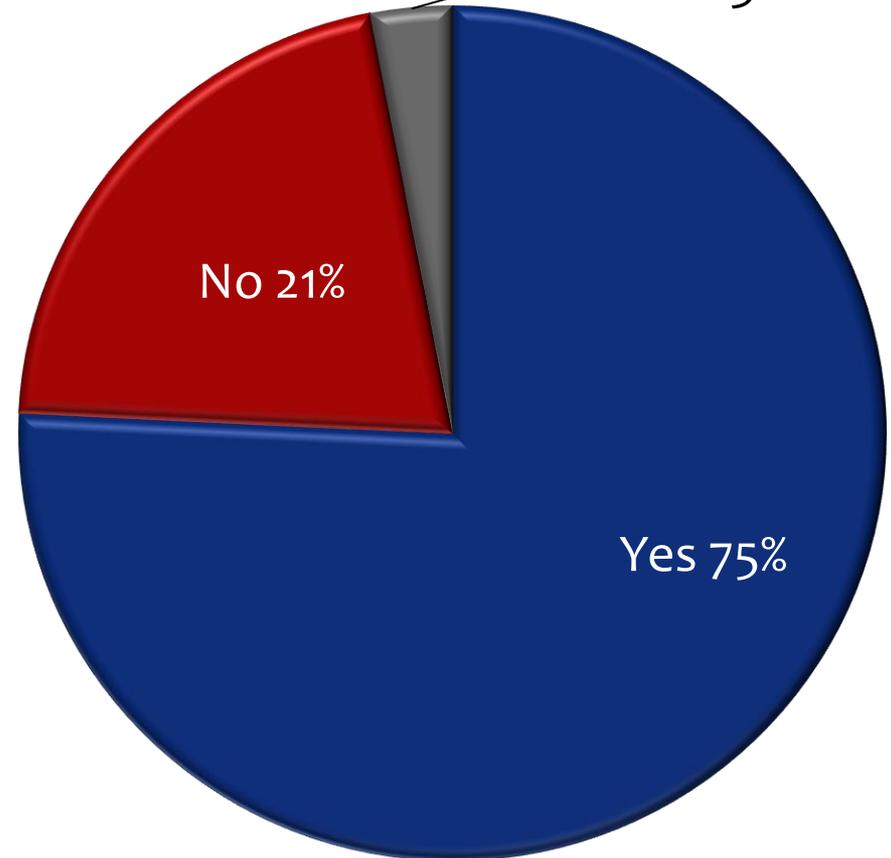


# Did you register to vote? (comparison of The Ten Percent to the full sample)

The Ten Percent



All others  
DK/REF 3%



# If presidential election was held today, for whom would you vote? (open-ended question)

