

KEY FACTS AND FIGURES

AFGHANISTAN GENDER COUNTRY PROFILE 2024¹

I. Gender-based violence

A 2018 SURVEY² ON INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE SHOWED THAT OUT OF WOMEN AGED BETWEEN 15-49...



50.8% nationwide had experienced such acts at least once in their life.



In some provinces, incidences of violence were significantly higher, with **92%** of women having experience violence at least once in their lifetime.³

IN 2023, CHILD MARRIAGE DATA⁴ FROM AFGHANISTAN SHOWED...



28.7% of women aged 20-24 were married before age 18.



9.6% of women aged 20-24 were married before age 15.

STATISTICAL MODELLING⁵ SHOWS THE BAN ON AFGHAN GIRLS' EDUCATION AFTER GRADE SIX IS CORRELATED WITH A...



25% increase in the rate of child marriage.



45% increase in the rate of early childbearing and associated negative inter-generational social and economic consequences.⁶

1. Source: UN Women. 2024. Gender Country Profile: Afghanistan. Kabul.

2. Estimates made in 2017 by the Central Statistics Organization in Kabul are captured in the UN Women Global Database on Violence against Women, available at: <https://evaw-global-database.unwomen.org/en/countries/asia/afghanistan#1>

3. This was the case in Herat and Ghor provinces: Central Statistics Organization. 2015. Afghanistan Demographic and Health Survey. Kabul: Ministry of Public Health.

4. UNICEF (United Nations Children's Fund). 2023. *Multiple Indicators Cluster Survey 2022-2023*.

5. UN Women. Forthcoming. Statistical modelling.

6. Ibid.

7. Ground Truth Solutions. 2022. *Protecting and improving healthcare: Community insights from Afghanistan*. Awaaz Afghanistan, WHO. June.

8. 2020 is the most recent year for which data are available. Afghanistan's maternal mortality rate was 620 deaths for every 100,000 live births: WHO. 2022. Maternity Mortality Ratio. Available at: <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SH.STA.MMRT?locations=AF>.

II. Health and reproductive rights

IN 2022...



10% women



23% men

were able to cover their basic health needs.⁷

Already in 2020, Afghanistan had one of the **highest maternal mortality rates** in the world.⁸



The ban on education for girls and women after primary school is estimated to be associated with an increase of the risk of maternal mortality by at least **50%**.⁹



Approximately, **24,000** women give birth in hard-to-reach places in Afghanistan each month.¹⁰

A SURVEY CONDUCTED BY BISHNAW IN MARCH 2023 INDICATED THAT...



68% of respondents knew at least one woman or girl who had suffered from anxiety or depression.

8% of respondents knew at least one woman or girl who had attempted suicide.¹¹

III. Strengthening economic and social rights and empowering girls and women

WOMEN'S EMPLOYMENT AND ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT

BETWEEN JUNE 2021 AND THE END OF 2022, EMPLOYMENT RATES DECREASED BY¹²...



25% for women



7% for men



On average, **more Afghan households have boys working than women working**, demonstrating the gendered nature and impact – on women, boys and girls – of the norms and decrees in place.¹³



IN 2021, ONLY...

5% of women had a personal bank account... compared to **15%** of men.¹⁴

9. UN Women. Forthcoming. Statistical modelling.

10. OCHA. Humanitarian Needs Overview 2023.

11. DROPS. 2023. *Bishnaw survey March 2023: Impact of Taliban restrictions on Afghan women's economic conditions and mental health*.

12. ILO. 2023. *Employment in Afghanistan in 2022: A rapid impact assessment*. ILO Brief, March 2023.

13. The average household in Afghanistan has 6.6 members, of whom 1.6 work, mainly men (1.19). The other working family members comprise adult women (0.15) and children (in practice, mostly boys: 0.23 compared to only 0.03 of girls): UNDP. 2023. *Afghanistan Socio-Economic Outlook 2023*.

14. The World Bank. 2021. *The Global Findex Database 2021: Financial Inclusion, Digital Payments, and Resilience in the Age of COVID-19*.

ACCESS TO EDUCATION

AS OF APRIL 2023,



80% of school-aged girls and young women – **2.5 million people** – were out of school, including a cohort of

1.1 million secondary school-aged girls.¹⁵



Over 100,000 female university students were banned from education in December 2022.¹⁶

BETWEEN 2019–2022, PRIMARY SCHOOL ENROLMENT REDUCED BY...



18% among boys



12% among girls¹⁷

Economic reasons were cited for primary school absences among...



66% of boys



47% of girls¹⁸



80% of girls with disabilities are estimated to be unable to attend school.¹⁹

IV. Equal participation and leadership

WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP IN AFGHANISTAN BEFORE THE TALIBAN



26% of employees in the Afghan civil service.

9–12% of top leadership positions across various sectors.²⁰

This has decreased to **effectively zero**.



27% of seats for women in the lower house of the Afghan Parliament were previously reserved for women.

There are **zero** women in the de facto cabinet.

15. UNESCO. 2023. "Let girls and women in Afghanistan learn!"; as of December 2022, secondary school-aged girls in 21 out of 34 Afghan provinces had no access to education, while there were varying levels of access across the 13 remaining provinces: Education Cluster and UNICEF monitoring data as per OCHA. *Humanitarian Needs Overview 2023*.

16. UNESCO. 2023. "Let girls and women in Afghanistan learn!"

17. UNESCO. Forthcoming.

18. OCHA. 2023. *Humanitarian Needs Overview 2023*.

V. Women, peace and security agenda



Women only attended **22%** of high-level formal and informal peace talks held between 2005–2020.²¹

MILITARY BUDGETARY ALLOCATION BY DFA²²

USD 1.1 BN

USD 278.3 M

2021

2023

...representing almost half of all DFA revenues.²³

VI. Climate change, migration and digital transformation



Afghan women are **twice as likely** as men to be displaced due to eviction.²⁴

IN 2022, THE DIGITAL GENDER GAP IN INTERNET ACCESS SHOWED THAT...



25% of Afghan men had Internet access,



compared to **6%** of women.

OF THESE WOMEN,



9% were in urban areas.

2% were in rural areas.²⁵

19. Human Rights Watch(HRW). 2020. "Women with Disabilities Face Systemic Abuse: Barriers, Discrimination in Health Care, Education." News. 27 April.

20. National Statistics and Information Authority of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan. 2021. *Afghanistan Statistical Yearbook 2020 44*, April, pp. 29–31. Kabul: Islamic Republic of Afghanistan.

21. Oxfam. 2021. "Leading the Way": Women driving peace and security in Afghanistan, the Occupied Palestinian Territory and Yemen. Oxfam Briefing Paper. January.

22. Seerat, R. 2023. "Analyzing the Taliban budget for 2023-24: Prioritizing military spending over citizen welfare". Zan Times. 11 May; Stockholm International Peace and Research Institute. *Military Expenditure Database*. Accessed 21 September 2023.

23. Yawar, M. Y. 2023. "Taliban aim to boost Afghan security forces, anti-aircraft capacity – army chief." Reuters. Asia Pacific. 12 April.

24. UNHCR, UN Women. *Afghanistan Crisis Update*.

25. Nusratty, K. and S. Crabtree. 2023. "Digital Freedom Out of Reach for Most Afghan Women." Gallup Blog. Opinion. 8 March.