I. Gender-based violence

A 2018 survey\(^2\) 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 DATA\(^4\) 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 MODELLING\(^5\) 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 childbirth and associated negative inter-generational social and economic consequences.\(^6\)

II. Health and reproductive rights

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.\(^7\)

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.\(^10\)

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 BY\(^11\)...

- 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.\(^12\)

IN 2021, ONLY...

- 5% of women had a personal bank account... compared to 15% of men.\(^13\)

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.
6. Ibid.
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.
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.
**IV. Equal participation and leadership**

**WOMEN’S LEADERSHIP IN AFGHANISTAN BEFORE THE TALIBAN**

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<td>26% of employees in the Afghan civil service.</td>
<td>9–12% of top leadership positions across various sectors.</td>
<td>27% of seats for women in the lower house of the Afghan Parliament were previously reserved for women.</td>
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<td>This has decreased to effectively zero.</td>
<td>There are <strong>zero</strong> women in the de facto cabinet.</td>
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**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 girls\(^{17}\)

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

- **66%** of boys
- **47%** of girls\(^{18}\)

**80%** of girls with disabilities are estimated to be unable to attend school.\(^{19}\)

**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 DFA\(^{22}\)**

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<td><strong>USD 1.1 BN</strong></td>
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...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.\(^{25}\)

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. Forthcoming.

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