

Afghanistan: COI Repository



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Purpose of this document

This document is a collection of Country of Origin Information (COI) jointly compiled by Asylos and Clifford Chance law firm, quality reviewed by ARC Foundation and Asylos. Its purpose is to pre-empt COI needs that will arise as Afghans who have fled the current situation will make claims for international protection.

This is a living document intended to collect a) information on sources that are (still) reporting on the situation in Afghanistan and b) to collect relevant source excerpts. As we compile this document, the situation in Afghanistan changes rapidly. We will publish an updated version of this document on a weekly basis from September 2021 onwards.

Research themes for this report are devised in consultation with UK asylum lawyers and with regards to relevant UK Home Office guidance on similar situations (notably Somalia and Al-Shabab).

Disclaimer

The *COI Repository* is intended as background reference material for legal representatives and those assisting asylum seekers from Afghanistan, to assist in their preparation of the case. The *COI Repository* should be used as a tool to help identify relevant COI. The information cited in the repository can be considered by decision makers in assessing asylum applications and appeals. Legal representatives are welcome to submit relevant excerpts cited in this document for their specific case to decision makers (including judges) to assist in the determination of an asylum claim or appeal. **However, this document should not be submitted directly, in its entirety or in isolation as evidence to decision-makers in asylum applications or appeals.**

The information cited in this document is illustrative, but not exhaustive of the information available in the public domain, nor is it determinative of any individual human rights or asylum claim. Submissions should always be complemented by case-specific COI research.

While we strive to be as comprehensive as possible, no amount of research can ever provide an exhaustive picture of the situation. It is therefore important to note that the absence of information should not be taken as evidence that an issue, incident or violation does not exist.

We are COI research experts and adhere to strict research principles of providing relevant, objective, transparent, timely and reliable sources material. We therefore include all discoverable relevant information, whether or not supportive of any human rights or asylum claim. **It is therefore imperative that legal representatives and those assisting asylum seekers read the whole *COI Repository* and submit only relevant excerpts cited in this document for their specific case in addition to conducting their own case-specific COI research.**

Due to the rapid unfolding of events in Afghanistan and the increased media interest during August 2021, as well as internal organisational matters, it was agreed that research would only start on 1st September 2021. Therefore, sources published in August 2021 have not been included.

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New weekly additions are highlighted in green throughout the document.

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SECTION 1 - COI RESEARCH COLLECTION

This section is a collection of relevant COI excerpts, organised by research topic.

Control of Territory and security situation

What territory in Afghanistan do the Taliban control?

Al Jazeera, [In Pakistan's Borderlands, Taliban quietly expanding influence](#), 8 December 2021

"Since January, at least 69 people have been killed in 37 attacks across South and North Waziristan districts, according to data from the South Asia Terrorism Portal (SATP).

The attacks have included targeted killings of anti-Taliban civilians, extortion-related killings, checkpoint raids and numerous improvised explosive device (IED) attacks targeting security forces, who account for 84 percent of all reported casualties in these areas.

"Shocks were felt in Pakistan due to evolving situation in Afghanistan," said the source. "However, this scenario was short-lived as Pakistan's security forces remain ready to deal with any internal [or] external threats." [...]

In [] North Waziristan, the security situation appears to be even worse.

"After the collapse of Kabul, they have gotten internal strength and confidence, and they have come onto the front foot," says Mohsin Dawar, North Waziristan's sole member of Pakistan's lower house of parliament, who travels often to the district. [...]

"For normal people, their lives are completely at a standstill," says one resident, who requested anonymity fearing reprisals. "They are very distressed, because they can't say anything to the army or to the Taliban.

"People are afraid."

Thomson Reuters Foundation News, [ICC judges ask UN for help identifying who represents Afghanistan](#), 8 October 2021

"The International Criminal Court on Friday said it cannot rule on a prosecutor's request to resume a war crimes investigation of Afghanistan until it can decide who represents the country in international bodies. The judges asked U.N. Secretary General Antonio Guterres and the ICC's governing body for help identifying which group officially rules Afghanistan from an international law standpoint. It asked for a response by Nov. 8."

RUSI, [Afghanistan: A Safe Haven for Global Jihadism Once More?](#), 20 September 2021

"The Taliban's leadership still seems to want to proceed with its policy of confining foreign jihadists in 'reserves' where their movements can be controlled. Taliban sources in Badakhshan say that just days ago the Central Asian jihadists clustered near Jurm were told to get ready to be transferred to their assigned areas and registered. The possibility of taking away their weapons was also raised, to their dismay.

Still, the pro-jihadist lobby has fairly good hopes of prevailing in Kabul. The Haqqani network has a powerful presence in the cabinet, with four ministerial posts – including the minister of the interior – and has obvious influence on government activities due to its control over Kabul. In any case, Al-Qa'ida is not trusting its fate to the uncertain outcome of power struggles in Kabul and has been preparing back-up options in case its allies within the Taliban lose out. In recent months it has encouraged the TTP to move to the Loya Paktia region, under the protection of the Haqqani network. Now old members of Al-Qa'ida are moving from Waziristan to the Afghan province of Paktia, local sources say, a further sign that it might be seeking to turn the area into its new safe haven."

TOLO News, [Taliban Says Panjshir is Captured, Resistance Claims War Not Over](#), 10 September 2021

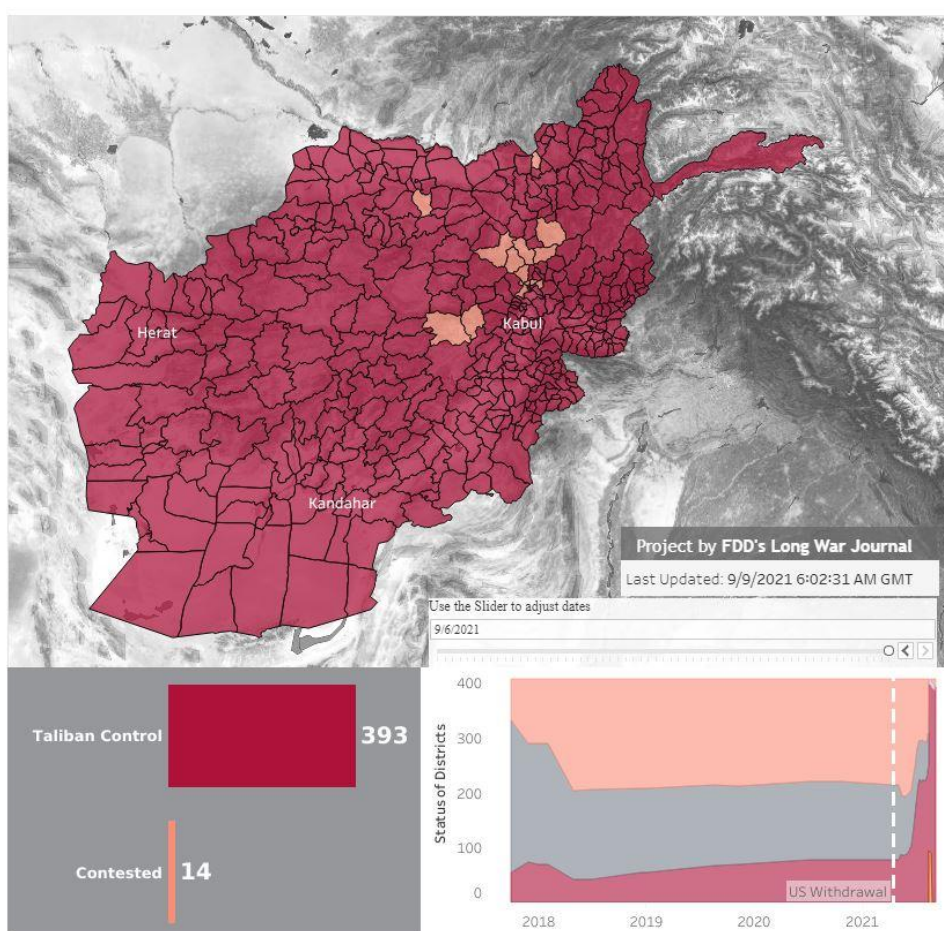
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"The Taliban said they are in control of Panjshir and the resistance forces are hiding in "valleys and caves." Fives days after all districts of Panjshir and the provincial center were captured by the Taliban, a commander of the Resistance Front on Friday in a recorded video message said the Taliban's presence in Panjshir does not mean the end of the war."

FDD's Long War Journal, [Taliban completes conquest of Afghanistan after seizing Panjshir | FDD's Long War Journal](#), 6 September 2021

"The Taliban completed its military conquest of Afghanistan and took control of the mountainous province of Panjshir after seven days of heavy fighting. The fall of Panjshir puts the Taliban in full control of the country and eliminates the final vestige of organized resistance to its rule."

FDD's Long War Journal, [Mapping Taliban Control in Afghanistan | FDD's Long War Journal](#), 9 September 2021



UNAMA, [Report of the Secretary-General: The situation in Afghanistan and its implications for international peace and security](#), 8 September 2021

"The situation in Afghanistan remained highly fluid, after a Taliban military offensive took control of provincial

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capitals and Kabul. The departure of President Ghani and entry of Taliban forces into the capital on 15 August saw the de facto disintegration of the Government. [...]

4. The Taliban extensively expanded its territorial control in a military campaign in which it seized 33 out of 34 of the provincial capitals within a 10-day period in August. Following the Taliban forces' entry into Kabul on 15 August, President Ghani left the country, stating via social media that his aim had been to prevent bloodshed. On 15 August, Taliban deputy leader and head of the Political Commission, Mullah Baradar, issued a video announcing the group's "unexpected" victory. [...]

16. Insecurity in Afghanistan steadily increased during the reporting period as the Taliban initiated a large-scale offensive amid the withdrawal of the remaining international military forces. As at 18 August, they controlled all of Afghanistan, except Panjshir Province."

FDD's Long War Journal, [National Resistance Front repels multi-day Taliban assault on Panjshir](#), 2 September 2021

"After weeks of fruitless negotiations between the Taliban's political leadership and senior leaders of the National Resistance Front in Panjshir, the Taliban launched a multi-pronged attack on the Panjshir Valley beginning on Aug. 31. The Taliban timed the assault on Panjshir for immediately after the U.S. military pulled out of Kabul airport and ended efforts to evacuate American citizens and Afghan allies.

To this point, the National Resistance Front has mostly successfully warded off the Taliban by virtue of easily defended positions in the mountainous region, inflicting heavy Taliban casualties along the way."

Where do actors other than the Taliban exert influence?

Afghan Voice Agency (AVA) Muttaqi, [Afghanistan Seeks Good Relations With World](#), 11 January 2022

"Acting Foreign Minister Amir Kahn Muttaqi said that the new government is exercising power over the whole country, and the Islamic Emirate-led government will not pose a threat to any country in the world. He said that the political isolation of Afghanistan is not in the interest of anyone."

RUSI, [The Taliban's Homemade Counterinsurgency](#), 4 January 2022

"Another reason for the Taliban not to hurry in mobilising resources for a massive campaign against IS-K bases in the east has to do with the value that the IS-K threat represents for the Emirate: the Taliban argue to their neighbours that they are the only defence against IS-K, and hence deserve to be supported adequately. A successful campaign against IS-K would undermine that argument.

As a result, instead of mounting a determined strike against IS-K's 'centre of gravity' in the east, the Taliban have been battling it, mostly in the rural areas of Nangarhar – where IS-K has been particularly active – and in the cities affected by the group's campaign of terrorist attacks, primarily Kabul and Jalalabad. Information about the repression unleashed by the Taliban is sketchy. In Nangarhar in particular and, during September, in Kunar, the Taliban seem to have been rather indiscriminate in their repression. In Kunar, the governor appointed by the Emirate went as far as closing down all Salafi mosques and madrasas, causing a major backlash. The Taliban's leadership had to replace him and rescind his orders, and the repression seems to have been become less indiscriminate since. In Nangarhar, there are claims that Taliban death squads are executing IS-K suspects without trials and on the basis of little, if any, evidence. To be sure, a lot of unclaimed killings of Salafis have been taking place, although the pace has slowed down in recent weeks."

Gandhara, [Two Killed, Four Wounded After Bombs Hit Kabul Shi'ite Neighborhood](#), 10 December, 2021

"The Taliban says two separate bomb explosions in a predominately Shi'ite neighborhood of the Afghan capital claimed the lives of two civilians and wounded four others.

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Two were killed and three others wounded when a car bomb exploded in the Dasht-e Barchi area of western Kabul, the Taliban's Interior Ministry spokesman, Sayed Khosti, told RFE/RL on December 10.

A woman sustained injuries in another bomb blast in the same area, Khosti added.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility for the blasts, which followed similar attacks in Kabul claimed by the local affiliate of the Islamic State extremist group, the Islamic State-Khorasan (IS-K).

Twin bombings in Dasht-e Barchi on November 17 that killed or wounded a total of seven people were claimed by IS-K.

IS-K is an enemy of the Taliban, which came back to power after toppling the Western-backed government in Kabul in mid-August.

Afghanistan's Shi'ite Hazara minority has been the target of repeated attacks by IS-K militants.

Hazara represent Afghanistan's third-largest ethnic group. They have faced long-term discrimination and persecution in predominantly Sunni Afghanistan."

DW, [Afghanistan: Deadly bomb blast in Shiite neighborhood in Kabul](#), 17 November 2021

"A bomb blast killed at least one person in a neighborhood of Kabul populated largely by people from the Hazara Shiite minority on Wednesday, the Taliban confirmed.

The explosion happened in the Dast-e-Barchi district. One civilian was killed and six were injured, Interior Ministry spokesperson Qari Sayeed Khosty said on Twitter. Other witnesses reported more casualties. [...]

The so-called Islamic State-Khorasan (IS-K) militant group claimed responsibility for the attack."

KHAAMA PRESS, [Taliban arrests 11 Daesh suspects in central Daikundi province](#), 16 November 2021

"Provincial officials in central Daikundi province said that their intelligence personnel arrested 11 people who are suspected to be ISIS-K affiliates.

The officials said that the suspects are from Helmand, Ghazni, and Urozgan provinces but added that further investigations have been started.

The Taliban have also seized weapons with the suspects.

It comes a day after the Taliban fighters in large-scale operations in four districts of Kandahar province arrested ten ISIS-K affiliates and killed three more.

Provincial officials of Kandahar province said that four hideouts of the terror group have been eliminated in the province.

Islamic State of Iraq and Syria-Khorasan branch (ISIS-K) is now the only terror group that operates against the Taliban in Afghanistan and inflicts casualties on civilians people mainly the Shi 'ite Muslims."

[The Austrian Centre for Country of Origin and Asylum Research and Documentation (ACCORD) published on 15th November 2021 a [Brief compilation on recent developments and key actors in Afghanistan](#), which you may wish to consult. The compilation covers: *Developments in 2021, The Taliban, Taliban-associated groups (Haqqani Network; Al Qaeda); Islamic State - Khorasan Province; National Resistance Front (NRF)*]

KHAAMA PRESS, [Taliban conducts large-scale operations against ISIS-K in Kandahar province](#), 15 November 2021

"Provincial officials in southern Kandahar province said that the Taliban officials conducted large-scale operations against ISIS-K fighters in four districts of Kandahar province on Monday night, November 14.

It is the first time that the Taliban launched operations against the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria-Khorasan branch in Kandahar province.

Local residents have said that the operations started Monday midnight and continued until early morning the following day and claimed that three civilians have also been killed during the operations.

Taliban's provincial officials in Kandahar said that they killed three ISIS-K affiliates and arrested ten more but did

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not say anything about civilians.

In the meantime, it is rumored that an ISIS-K affiliate has blown his explosives in a room that killed the affiliate.

The provincial officials and interior ministry have not said anything about the casualties of the Taliban fighters.

The ISIS-K has recently escalated their attacks in Afghanistan and has lately claimed responsibility for a deadly attack on Saturday in Kabul that left three killed and six wounded."

Al Jazeera (Afghanistan), [Afghanistan: Taliban leader warns of infiltrators](#), 4 November 2021

"The supreme leader of the Taliban, Haibatullah Akhunzada, has warned the group that there may be "unknown" entities among their ranks who are "working against the will of the government."

Lawfare, [The Taliban Haven't Changed, But U.S. Policy Must](#), 31 October 2021

"When it comes to IS-K, the notion that the Taliban will be able to provide anything more than short-term, tactical gains against the group is optimistic. Although the Taliban may succeed in rooting out some IS-K cells in the next few months, the history and current trajectory of the Islamic State-Taliban rivalry suggests that a much longer, protracted war between the two organizations is likely if the Taliban are left alone to manage IS-K. Civilians will bear the brunt of the costs. Boosted by thousands of jailbroke fighters, new leadership, and a revamped messaging campaign that paints the Taliban as illegitimate puppets of the United States and the international community, IS-K recently embarked on a lethal campaign of attacks in its former stronghold of Nangarhar province to challenge Taliban rule. With likely support from Salafist sympathizers, veteran jihadists, younger Afghans and others, IS-K has already begun to implement the same method of insurgency as its namesake in Iraq and Syria, including the assassination of prominent members of the "moderate middle" in IS-K's target recruiting pool in order to weaken its opponents."

EurAsia.net, [Event | Russia looks to Taliban to contain Islamic State in Afghanistan](#), 28 October 2021

"Moscow seems willing to tolerate Taliban rights abuses, if the movement can get the job done."

AVA Press, [ISIS unable to threaten region, Taliban are way stronger: Taliban's minister](#), 27 October 2021

"Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan has assured the region not to be threatened by ISIS-K from their soil and said that their fighters are way stronger and serious when it comes to suppressing the group.

Afghan Voice Agency (AVA)_Afghanistan's acting minister of information and culture Khairullah said that they will eliminate not only -K but any group who wants to insecure the region.

On the other hand, US undersecretary of defense said that they suspect the ability of the Taliban in suppressing ISIS-K and .

Colin Kahl has said that the Taliban have relations with the Al Qaida terror group and that will make it difficult for the former to fight against the group.

Our intelligence assessment indicates that ISIS and Al Qaida are willing to conduct operations abroad including in the US. The assessments show that ISIS-K will be able to do so in six months while Al Qaida will gain the ability in upcoming 12 or 24 months." Said Kahl.

The concerns over the appearance of ISIS-K come after the group conducted bloody attacks in Kandahar and Kunduz province that inflicted casualties to Shite worshippers."

Gandhara News, [Taliban Wages Deadly Crackdown On Afghan Salafists As War With IS-K Intensifies](#), 22 October 2021

"Since seizing power, the militant group has waged a deadly crackdown on Salafists, who accuse the Taliban of detaining and killing members of the community. They also allege that the Taliban has raided and closed down dozens of their mosques and madrasahs, or religious seminaries.

The Taliban's clampdown on Salafists has coincided with its escalating war with rival Islamic State-Khorasan (IS-K) militants, many of whom are Salafists. There are believed to be several hundred thousand Salafists in Afghanistan,

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mainly concentrated in the eastern provinces of Nangarhar, Kunar, and Nuristan.

Salafists like Hakimullah say civilian members of the community are caught in the middle of the intensifying conflict between the two groups in eastern Afghanistan, an IS-K stronghold.”

The Khaama Press News Agency, [Taliban underrate Daesh, do not call it danger in Afghanistan](#), 17 October 2021

“Afghanistan’s acting foreign minister Amir Khan Motaqi during his visit to Turkey said that ISIS-K (Daesh) is not a threat in Afghanistan and the group does not have training centers in the country.”

Al Jazeera (Afghanistan), [Will Afghanistan’s powerful neighbours engage the Taliban?](#), 16 October 2021

“The withdrawal of US and NATO forces from Afghanistan is inevitably leaving a political vacuum in South and Central Asia. The question that many are asking is who will step in to fill it. Afghanistan’s immediate neighbours – Pakistan, Iran and China – all have special interests in the country that they are likely to pursue with renewed vigour.”

Afghan Voice Agency, [Blasts Hit Mosque in Kandahar, 32 Killed](#), 16 October 2021

“A bombing attack occurred at Imam Bargah Fatimeyah mosque in the southern province of Kandahar on Friday.”

Al Jazeera (Afghanistan), [Deadly explosion hits Shia mosque in Afghanistan’s Kandahar](#), 15 October 2021

“ISIS-K claims responsibility for attack that killed at least 47 people inside a mosque in southern city during Friday prayers.”

[The Austrian Centre for Country of Origin and Asylum Research and Documentation (ACCORD) published on 5th October 2021 a [Brief compilation on recent developments and key actors in Afghanistan](#), which you may wish to consult. The compilation covers: *Developments in 2021, The Taliban, Taliban-associated groups (Haqqani Network; Al Qaeda); Islamic State - Khorasan Province; National Resistance Front (NRF)*]

Ariana News, [IEA says Daesh is not a threat to Afghanistan’s security](#), 3 October 2021

“MoI officials also said that Daesh claims responsibility for attacks in Afghanistan that are carried out by criminals.

“Daesh is not a serious threat to Afghanistan’s security, and they (Daesh) are not able to threaten Afghanistan’s security,” said Saeed Khosti, spokesman for the MoI.

Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan (IEA) officials say that Daesh has no active presence in the country and falsely claim responsibility for attacks.[...]

This comes after IEA forces raided a Daesh (ISIS-K) hideout north of Kabul on Friday, killing and arresting an unspecified number of militants, an IEA spokesman said.

IEA spokesman Bilal Karimi told The Associated Press that Friday’s raid took place in the city of Charikar in Parwan province. He did not provide more details.

The raid followed an arrest by the IEA of two Daesh members linked to a roadside bombing that targeted an IEA vehicle in the city on Friday, wounding four members. The two were questioned and the information they provided helped the IEA identify the hideout, Karimi said.”

The Guardian, [Civilians killed in deadliest Kabul attack since US withdrawal](#), 3 October 2021

“IS militants have stepped up attacks against the Taliban since their mid-August takeover, signalling a widening conflict between them. IS maintains a strong presence in the eastern province of Nangarhar, where it has claimed responsibility for several killings in the provincial capital of Jalalabad. [...]

Attacks in Kabul have so far been rare, but in recent weeks IS has shown signs it is expanding its footprint beyond

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the east and closer toward the capital. On Friday Taliban fighters raided an IS hideout just north of Kabul in Parwan province. The raid came after an IS roadside bomb wounded four Taliban fighters in the area.”

Long War Journal, [Testimony: The Biden’s Administration policy in Afghanistan](#), 30 September 2021

“Al-Qaeda retained a significant footprint in Afghanistan throughout the war. At *FDD’s Long War Journal*, my colleague Bill Roggio and I have documented this footprint for more than a dozen years. Other sources have recently recognized al-Qaeda’s current network inside the country. For example, a team of experts working for the UN Security Council reported earlier this year that al-Qaeda has an active presence in at least 15 of Afghanistan’s 34 provinces.² This assessment is broadly consistent with al-Qaeda’s own reporting, via its Arabic newsletter *Thabat*, as well as with reporting by other sources.³ The U.S. Treasury Department warned in January that al-Qaeda has been “gaining strength in Afghanistan while continuing to operate with the Taliban under the Taliban’s protection.” Al-Qaeda has a “network of mentors and advisers who are embedded with the Taliban, providing advice, guidance, and financial support.”⁴ Much of al-Qaeda’s focus inside Afghanistan has been on winning the war. Now that the war has been won, al-Qaeda’s personnel in Afghanistan will have the resources to devote to other missions, both throughout the region and globally. [...]

ISKP continues to pose a threat throughout the region. ISKP’s network extends into Pakistan, where it has conducted a string of attacks. The group has also demonstrated some capability to strike in the Central Asian nations. In July 2018, a team of Islamic State terrorists ran over American and European cyclists in Tajikistan, killing four people.⁵ ISKP has also recruited members from throughout Central Asia who could potentially return to their home countries to conduct attacks.

ISKP poses some degree of threat outside of Central and South Asia as well. In the summer of 2016, three men allegedly conspired to carry out terrorist attacks in New York City on behalf of the Islamic State.⁶ American investigators discovered that the trio had at least some contact with ISKP’s jihadists. In April 2020, German authorities broke up a cell of four Tajik nationals who were allegedly preparing to attack U.S. and NATO military facilities.⁷ Given ISKP’s open hostility to the United States, as demonstrated by the August 26 suicide bombing outside the airport in Kabul, military and intelligence officials will have to continue monitoring the group.

2 U.N. Security Council, “Twelfth report of the Analytical Support and Sanctions Monitoring Team submitted pursuant to resolution 2557 (2020) concerning the Taliban and other associated individuals and entities constituting a threat to the peace stability and security of Afghanistan,” April 28, 2021, page 12. (<https://www.undocs.org/pdf?symbol=en/S/2021/486>)

3 Bill Roggio, “Analysis: Al Qaeda continues to operate throughout Afghanistan,” *FDD’s Long War Journal*, April 8, 2021. (<https://www.longwarjournal.org/archives/2021/04/analysis-al-qaeda-continues-to-operate-throughout-afghanistan.php>)

4 U.S. Department of the Treasury, Memorandum for Department of Defense Lead Inspector General, “Operation Inherent Resolve - Summary of Work Performed by the Department of the Treasury Related to Terrorist Financing, ISIS, and Anti-Money Laundering for First Quarter Fiscal Year 2021,” January 4, 2021. (<https://oig.treasury.gov/sites/oig/files/2021-01/OIG-CA-21-012.pdf>)

5 Thomas Joscelyn, “Assailants in Tajikistan swore allegiance to Baghdadi before attack,” *FDD’s Long War Journal*, July 31, 2018. (<https://www.longwarjournal.org/archives/2018/07/assailants-in-tajikistan-swore-allegiance-to-baghdadi-before-attack.php>)

6 U.S. Department of Justice, Press Release, “Charges Unsealed Against Three Men for Plotting to Carry out Terrorist Attacks in New York City for ISIS in the Summer of 2016,” October 6, 2017.

(<https://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/charges-unsealed-against-three-men-plotting-carry-out-terrorist-attacks-new-york-city-isis>)

7 Nodirbek Soliev, “The April 2020 Islamic State Terror Plot Against U.S. and NATO Military Bases in Germany: The Tajik Connection,” *CTC Sentinel*, January 2021, Volume 14, Issue 1. (<https://ctc.usma.edu/the-april-2020-islamic-state-terror-plot-against-u-s-and-nato-military-bases-in-germany-the-tajik-connection>)”

Long War Journal, [Islamic State bombs Taliban convoys in eastern Afghanistan](#), 20 September 2021

“The Islamic State’s Khorasan Province has claimed responsibility for a series of bombings that targeted Taliban convoys throughout the city of Jalalabad, the capital of Nangarhar province. The group claims that 35 Taliban members were killed or wounded in the attacks, though the casualty figures could not be independently verified. [...]

The so-called caliphate’s men previously controlled a number of districts in Nangarhar. The Islamic State even

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seized ground in the Tora Bora Mountains, which were once home to Osama bin Laden.

As of early 2016, the Islamic State's men reportedly controlled 10 districts in Nangarhar. However, their safe haven shrunk in the months that followed. They lost their turf after battling the U.S. military, security forces for the now deposed Afghan government, as well as rival jihadists from the Taliban and al Qaeda.

Even after losing its turf, the Islamic State retained a terror network in Nangarhar. That network received a new influx of personnel in recent months, as thousands of jihadists were freed from Afghanistan's jails, including in Jalalabad."

Danish Immigration Service, [Afghanistan Recent developments in the security situation, impact on civilians and targeted individuals](#), 8 September 2021

[The Danish Immigration Service lists the National Resistance Front (NRF), Al-Qaeda, Islamic State of Khorasan Province (ISKP), and Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan (IMU) as actors in Afghanistan besides the Taliban.]

"Although these rapid developments in the conflict have put the Taliban in control of all of Afghanistan but the Panjshir Valley and other small pockets of resistance, it should be noted that the Taliban does not constitute the only actor in the country."

General security situation

Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty's Gandhara, [At Least Four Shot Dead In Eastern Afghanistan](#), 19 January 2022

"A Taliban commander and three other people were killed when a man opened fire on a vehicle in Afghanistan's eastern Kunar Province, a local Taliban official said on January 19.

The incident occurred in the Narang district of Kunar, the Taliban director of information and culture in the province, Mawlawi Najibullah, told the media.

Another nine people were wounded, Najibullah said, adding that the attacker had escaped to a civilian house and when the owner had denied him shelter, he killed him too.

The attacker was detained after being wounded and police are investigating the case, he said.

A local elder put the number of dead at six, including four Taliban members.

The elder said the attacker had switched allegiance from the Taliban to the Islamic State (IS) group in the past.

"He opened fire on the car with a machine gun," the elder said.

IS, which is active in eastern Afghanistan, has claimed responsibility for numerous attacks since the Taliban takeover of Afghanistan in August.

The Taliban and IS have been fighting each other since the latter emerged in Afghanistan in early 2015."

Khaama Press, [Sarajudin Haqqani asks Taliban commanders not to seek revenge on previous officers](#), 19 January 2022

"Local officials of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan in the eastern Kunar province confirmed that a local commander including six others was killed in gunfire on Wednesday, January 19, 2022.

Intelligence officials of the IEA said that the commander, his son, and five others were shot killed in the Narang district of the province.

The officials said that the people were killed as a result of personal enmity.

The incident is not new in Afghanistan since the Taliban takeover, people across Afghanistan have often been killed as a result of the enmity.

In the meantime, shooting civilians by the Taliban affiliates in check posts is another issue that has concerned people across Afghanistan."

Khaama Press, [Two killed in Taliban's gunfire in western Herat province](#), 18 January 2022

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“Local residents in the western Herat province said that the Taliban affiliates opened fire at a car in their checkpoint in Kazemi area of the city that resulted in the killing of the driver.

Eyewitnesses also said that a local doctor named Jalali was also shot on the scene and was killed.

The incident happened on Monday night, January, 17.

Local officials of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan in Herat province have not commented on the incident yet.

Shooting at people is not something new since the Taliban’s takeover on August 15 last year, the affiliates have shot civilians in Kabul and Laghman province as we

Two days ago, the Taliban shot at two women and a boy that killed the boy and wounded the two women.

Earlier, the Taliban in the Afghan capital Kabul had shot killed a girl and a boy.”

Avapress, [The End of Unrest in Faryab: Taliban Fails to Quell Protests](#), 16 January 2022

“Four days ago, hundreds of residents of province and Uzbek forces affiliated with the Taliban protested over the detention of Makhdoom Mohammad Alam , a senior Taliban commander from the ethnic group. After Makhdoom Alam was arrested by the Taliban’s intelligence forces, protestors rallied in Maimana to demand his release. [...]

Rashid added that there were no differences between the Uzbek, Pashtun, and Tajik Taliban, stressing that the situation in the province had returned to normal. [...]

Ghulam Nabi Ghafoori, the deputy head of the Ulema Council in Faryab province, told a rally that people had no right to protest against the Islamic regime. He added that the government has the authority and responsibility to detain, imprison or even fire its agent for his reform. [...]

On the second day of the protests in Maimana, two civilians and three Taliban militants were killed. Before the fall of the previous regime, Makhdoom Alam was in charge of the Taliban’s military in Faryab province. The senior Taliban commander is being detained as some former government officials accuse the Taliban-led government of suppressing and detaining non-Pashtun Taliban militants.”

Human Rights Watch, [Afghanistan: Taliban Takeover Worsens Rights Crisis](#), 13 January 2022

“The number of civilians killed and injured in the conflict surged in the first six months of 2021 from attacks by both Taliban and Afghan government security forces, the latter primarily from airstrikes. The ISKP carried out numerous attacks on civilian facilities, including schools and mosques, killing hundreds, most of them members of Afghanistan’s Hazara community. ISKP attacks continued after the Taliban takeover.”

OCHA, [Afghanistan: Humanitarian Response Plan \(2022\)](#), 11 January 2022

“Following decades of war, intense conflict in the first seven months of 2021 brought severe harm to the people of Afghanistan. According to the UN Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA), civilian casualties in the first half of 2021 reached record levels, with particularly sharp increase in killings and injuries since May 2021 when international military forces began their withdrawal and fighting intensified. 5,138 civilian casualties (1,659 killed and 3,524 injured) were recorded between January and June 2021 – a 47 per cent increase from the same period in 2020.

“While the significant decrease of widespread armed conflict in most parts of Afghanistan after 15 August led to a drastic reduction in civilian casualties from ground engagements and airstrikes, UNAMA continued to document civilian casualties from improvised explosive devices and explosive remnants of war. From 15 August to 31 December 2021, UNAMA documented more than 1,050 civilian casualties, including more than 350 civilians killed.

“Close to 700,000 people were internally displaced by conflict in 2021 - 60 per cent children and 20 per cent women while close to 9.2 million people are estimated to remain in situations of forced displacement since 2012. Following the takeover in August, although violence overall has reduced, attacks by NSAG continue to occur, with violence associated with the Islamic State – Khorasan province (ISK) in particular increasing from 60 to over 300 attacks by November 2021. Further complicating the situation is the presence of explosive hazard contamination across the country, particularly improvised mines and explosive remnants of war, which continue to impact at least 1,500 Afghan communities.”

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ACLED, [Regional Overview: South Asia and Afghanistan, 4-10 December 2021](#), 16 December 2021

"In Afghanistan, IS attacks on the Taliban more than doubled last week. In addition to ongoing attacks in Kabul and Nangarhar provinces, IS also attacked the Taliban in Logar and Takhar provinces, killing one Taliban member and injuring another. This marks the second IS attack recorded in Logar since 2018, while no previous IS attacks have been recorded in Takhar since the beginning of ACLED's Afghan coverage in 2017. "

"Meanwhile, IS also detonated three IEDs in Kabul city last week, killing two civilians in the Dasht-e-Barchi neighborhood. This is the third IS attack in the Dasht-e-Barchi neighborhood, an area heavily populated by members of the Hazara Shiite minority (Al Jazeera, 10 December 2021), since the Taliban regime came to power in August 2021. Since the Taliban takeover, ACLED records more than a dozen IS attacks in Afghanistan that have directly targeted civilians. The ongoing attacks come as a Taliban spokesman again claimed that IS is not a "big threat" in Afghanistan, and that IS had been "dismantled in Kabul and Jalalabad" (Anadolu Agency, 9 December 2021)."

Al Jazeera, [Taliban rule marked by killings, 'litany of abuses,' UN says](#), 14 December 2021

"The United Nations says it has received "credible allegations" of extrajudicial killings of more than 100 former Afghan national security forces and others associated with Afghanistan's former government since its fall three months ago, with most taking place at the hands of the ruling Taliban.

[...]

In a speech to the Human Rights Council on Tuesday, Nada Al-Nashif, the UN deputy high commissioner for human rights, said at least 72 of the more than 100 alleged killings were "attributed to the Taliban".

In several cases, Al-Nashif added, "the bodies were publicly displayed. This has exacerbated fear among this sizeable category of the population."

AVA Press, [One dead in Kabul explosion](#), 14 December 2021

"The incident took place at around 10:00 a.m. Tuesday in the -e-Logar area of Kabul's PD8, a spokesman for the ministry of interior confirmed.

He said two other civilians were also injured in the blast.

The incident was caused by the detonation of an IED planted in a pot in the side of the road, the MoI said.

No individual or group has claimed responsibility for the incident."

Jurist, [Afghanistan dispatches: 'Former Taliban insurgents are now joining their police forces,'](#) 12 December 2021

"According to Taliban sources, they are planning a police force of 30,000 to 40,000 people, which they believe will be sufficient because the war is over.

Former Taliban insurgents are now joining their police forces. This is a gradual process that will necessitate training for these individuals. The average number of so-called Taliban police in the districts is roughly 20 to 30 people who are in charge of guarding the district center and occasionally patrolling on motorcycles. Taliban police are not present in the villages, and the Taliban have chosen one or two Arbaki representatives from each village to report to them on what is going on in the villages. If the Arbakis are unable to solve problems at the village level, the center will dispatch a larger force.

The Ministry of Interior's personnel are concentrated in cities, particularly Kabul, where they work to maintain public order and combat ISIS. According to Taliban sources in Kabul, the main challenge is tracking down terrorist cells and ISIS-K. ISIS-K has been able to increase the intensity of its attacks in Kabul and Jalalabad. In the last three days there were three major attacks by the ISIS-K in Kabul which killed at least ten people and injured many others. According to the Aamaq website, which is affiliated with the ISIS-K group, members of the group carried out "three attacks" on vehicles in Kabul's Shiite neighborhood on Saturday. Saeed Khosti, a Taliban spokesman for

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the Interior Ministry, told reporters that a bomb had exploded in Kabul's Barchi neighborhood, killing two civilians and injuring three others. Another woman was injured in another blast in the same area, he said. Because the Taliban is unable to effectively track down the perpetrators of these attacks, it appears that they are killing any suspected members of the group as well as any suspected supporters. The justice system is currently almost paralyzed. So far, there have been several cases of people being hanged without even a formal trial. The Taliban recently announced the reactivation of the judiciary, which will be entirely based on Sharia law. They also stated that the majority of judicial staff would be Taliban members, who had previously been part of the Taliban during the insurgency."

Pajhwok, [13 people suffer casualties in Afghanistan last week](#), 11 December 2021

"[C]asualties remained low last week when seven people were killed and six others injured in four incidents in Kabul, Nangarhar and Kapisa provinces. [...]

Seven people were killed and six others injured during separate incidents of violence in the country. Two alleged armed robbers were killed and another two injured during a clash with security forces in central Kapisa province. [...]

Two civilians were killed and four others injured as a result of bomb blasts in Kabul's Dashti Barchi area. Also in Kabul armed thieves killed a woman and a child and a child was killed after being hit by a stray bullet in Nangarhar province's Kama district.

The blasts in Kabul were claimed by Daesh.

In the previous week, four civilians had been killed and a fifth injured during separate incidents across the country, bringing the casualties to record low."

Al Jazeera, [Deadly blasts hit Afghan capital Kabul](#), 10 December 2021

"At least two people have been killed and four others injured in two separate bomb explosions in the Afghan capital Kabul, according to the Taliban government.

"Two civilians have been killed and three others were wounded" when a bomb exploded on Friday on a minibus in the Dasht-e-Barchi district of Kabul, the Taliban's interior ministry spokesman Sayed Khosti told reporters."

Guardian, [Nearly 100 former British Council staff remain in hiding in Afghanistan](#), 9 December 2021

"Nearly 100 former British Council staff employed to teach British values and the English language remain in hiding in Afghanistan after having so far been refused the right to come to the UK by officials. [...]

He told the Guardian: "These people are living in constant fear of their lives. They were contracted under a British government-funded scheme to teach English teachers British values of diversity, inclusion and equality, the values that ... the Taliban oppose. They were always told they were employees of the British government."

In an email he sent to the prime minister soon after the fall of Kabul in September, he warned Boris Johnson: "Many of them have had the Taliban visit their homes, or the homes of their relatives, asking questions and making threats. Many of them have had to relocate, while others are living in hiding.""

Gandhara, [Taliban Accused of Forcibly Evicting Ethnic Uzbeks, Turkmen In Northern Afghanistan](#), 9 December 2021

"Taliban fighters have been accused of helping to forcibly evict more than 1,000 people in northern Afghanistan, with the evictions targeting members of the ethnic Uzbek and Turkmen communities.

Ethnic Uzbeks and Turkmen allege that Pashtuns seized their homes and land in the northern province of Jowzjan with the help of the Taliban, a predominately Pashtun group.

The evictions came as Taliban fighters have expelled hundreds of Shi'ite Hazara families from their homes and farms in five provinces since the militants seized power in Afghanistan in August.

Rights groups say the Taliban's forced displacement of residents is an attempt to distribute land to their own supporters and collectively punish communities that backed the former government. [...]

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"Nobody could resist," he says. "If we raised our voices, we would be killed." [...]

But in comments to the BBC on November 29, Taliban spokesman Bilal Karimi denied any forced displacements had taken place in Jowzjan."

OCHA, [Global Humanitarian Overview 2022 \(Part Two\)](#), 2 December 2021

"Threats to civilians and acute protection needs remain high, and there are grave concerns about the rollback on women's rights and restrictions on their participation in life and society. Densely populated areas are also contaminated with explosives, putting more people, particularly those trying to return, at risk of death and maiming."

Khaama Press, [Bomb blast in Kabul wounds five civilians including Taliban](#), 30 November 2021

"A bomb that was planted on the main road in Police District six of the Afghan capital wounded five people including the Taliban fighters but the Taliban have not commented on the casualties".

Pajhwok Afghan News, [2 civilians wounded in Kabul blast; suspect arrested](#), 30 November 2021

"Two people were injured as a result of blast on Dar-ul-Aman Road of Kabul on Tuesday morning, an official said"

Thomson Reuters, [Afghan humanitarian crisis, drug trafficking alarm India, Russia, China](#), 26 November 2021

"The spread of illicit drug trafficking in opiates and methamphetamine from Afghanistan and beyond... poses a serious threat to regional security and stability and provides funding for terrorist organizations"

Humanitarian Response (Afghanistan)(UNOCHA), [Afghanistan Weekly Humanitarian Update \(15-21 November 2021\)](#), 26 November 2021

"During the reporting period, 17 civilians including women and children were injured by abandoned Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) and Unexploded Ordnance (UXOs) in rural areas in Kandahar and Uruzgan provinces." [...] "On 17 November, a magnetic IED attached to a civilian minibus detonated and reportedly resulted in the death of four people and injured eight others. Also on 17 November, another magnetic IED attached to a minibus detonated in Kabul City, Police District 3, Charahi Saheed area, and resulted in six injuries"

Pajhwok Afghan News, [2 people injured in Kabul explosion](#), 23 November 2021

"Two security personnel were injured in a magnetic mine blast in second police district of capital Kabul on Tuesday, police officials said."

REUTERS, [Islamic State claims twin blasts in Afghan capital Kabul](#), 17 November 2021

"Islamic State claimed responsibility for two explosions that hit a heavily Shi'ite Muslim area of the Afghan capital Kabul on Wednesday, killing at least one person and wounding at least six others including three women.

The blasts were the latest in a series of attacks in Kabul claimed by the militant Sunni group in recent days, with Shi'ite areas in the west of the city targeted several times. The group has also launched attacks on Shi'ite mosques in the northern city of Kunduz and the southern city of Kandahar.

One car bomb blast in Dasht-e Barchi, in western Kabul, killed a civilian and wounded six, interior ministry spokesman Qari Sayeed Khosty said in a tweet.

There was no confirmation of casualty numbers. A Taliban official who spoke on condition of anonymity said seven people had been killed and nine wounded.

A second explosion was reported in the nearby Karte 3 area, local residents said. A Taliban official said security forces were still gathering information."

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PAJHWOK AFGHAN NEWS, [4 children injured in Badghis blasts](#), 16 November 2021

“Four children have been injured in two separate blasts in the Jawand and Muqar districts of northwestern Badghis province, according to hospital sources on Tuesday. [...]

Separately another child was injured in a blast in Muqar district. He was evacuated to the hospital and was currently under treatment.

He said these children were playing and landmines planted in the past went off on them.”

AVA Press, [2 Civilians Killed in Operations against ISKP Hideouts in Kandahar](#), 16 November 2021

“Afghan Voice Agency (AVA)_Taliban interim government officials in have confirmed that some civilians have been killed in operations by Taliban forces against the Islamic State of Khurasan Province () hideouts in this province.

The commander of Kandahar says that he simultaneously carried out six operations against ISKP hideouts in the different areas of Kandahar.”

[The Austrian Centre for Country of Origin and Asylum Research and Documentation (ACCORD) published on 15th November 2021 a [Brief compilation on recent developments and key actors in Afghanistan](#), which you may wish to consult. The compilation covers: *Developments in 2021, The Taliban, Taliban-associated groups (Haqqani Network; Al Qaeda); Islamic State - Khorasan Province; National Resistance Front (NRF)*]

KHAAMA PRESS, [ISIS-K claims responsibility for Kabul’s explosion](#), 15 November 2021

“The Islamic State of Iraq and Syria-Khorasan branch (ISIS-K) confirmed that Saturday’s explosion in the western part of Kabul was conducted by them.

The explosion that happened on Saturday, November 13 in Dasht-e-Barchi of Kabul left three dead and six more wounded. [...]

ISIS-K has claimed that they have planted bombs in a minivan that killed 20 people but the Taliban spokesperson Zabiullah Mujahid had said the incident that killed a civilian and wounded three more happened after the car caught fire.

ISIS-K is now the only terror group that conduct a terror attack after the Taliban takeover on August 15.

The Taliban on the other hand has been underrated by the militants and has claimed to have arrested 600 ISIS-k affiliates in the past three months.”

GANDHARA NEWS, [Kabul Bomb Blast Wounds Two As Islamic State Claims Responsibility For Earlier Explosion](#), 14 November 2021

“Two people were reported wounded after a bomb exploded on a busy avenue in the Afghan capital -- the latest attack hitting the Afghan capital since the Taliban seized power three months ago.

[...] A magnetic bomb attached to a car detonated in Kabul's fifth police district, wounding two civilians.

The Taliban spokesman for Kabul police said that the blast was caused by a roadside bomb that detonated as a taxi was passing, according to AP. [...]

No one claimed responsibility, but militants of a local IS affiliate of the Islamic State (IS) extremist group have carried out multiple deadly bomb attacks across the country after the Taliban toppled the internationally backed Kabul government in Kabul in mid-August.

The bomb attack came two days after a bomb blast hit a Shi'ite neighborhood of western Kabul in an attack claimed by the Islamic State-Khorasan Province (IS-K).”

PAJHWOK AFGHAN NEWS, [World once again turns attention to Afghanistan last week](#), 13 November 2021

“Attacks and civilian casualties:

According to reports, nine people were killed and 20 others were injured in different incidents last week.

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Local officials said that a bomb blast at a mosque in Spin Ghar district of Nangarhar province injured 15 worshippers. Also in Jalalabad, the capital of Nangarhar province, three civilians were killed while a child was killed and another was injured in an IED blast in Hesarak district of the province.

More than 65 percent of last week's casualties happened in Nangarhar, while 46 percent casualties of the previous week when 18 people were killed also happened in this province.

According to another report, a bomb blast in Tirinkot city, capital of Uruzgan province, killed three members of a family and injured five others. In addition, unidentified gunmen killed two former government soldiers in Chahab district of Takhar province.

ISIS has claimed responsibility for the bomb blast at a mosque in Nangarhar's Spin Ghar district, but no one has claimed responsibility for the other attacks."

KHAAMA PRESS, [Explosion in Kabul killed and injured civilians](#), 13 November 2021

"An explosion killed at least one and wounded three more civilian people in Police District 18, Dasht-e-Barchi of Kabul on Saturday afternoon, November 13.

Spokesperson of the Taliban Zabiullah Mujahid in a Twitter post confirmed the casualties but said that the incident happened after a car caught fire but eyewitnesses have said that the car was targeted by a magnetic bomb.

Though no group has claimed responsibility for the incident, the Taliban officials have acknowledged that they have started investigations about that.

Dasht-e-Barchi in the west of Afghanistan is a residence where mostly the Hazara (Shite Muslims) are living who are often targeted by the ISIS-K affiliates."

Al Jazeera, [Afghanistan: Deadly explosion hits mainly Shia suburb of Kabul](#), 13 November 2021

"At least one person has been killed and four others wounded in an explosion that hit a vehicle in Afghanistan's capital, Kabul, officials said.

The incident on Saturday took place in Dasht-e Barchi, a Kabul suburb dominated by members of the mostly Shia Hazara community, who for years have been targeted by ISIL-affiliated fighters."

KHAAMA PRESS, [Explosion in Nengarhar killed three and wounded 15 worshipers](#), 12 November 2021

"Provincial officials of the eastern Nangarhar province have confirmed the explosion in a mosque of Spin Ghar district but did not disclose the exact number of casualties.

Local officials and eyewitnesses said that the blast killed at least three people and wounded 15 more.

The explosion has targeted worshipers in a mosque during Friday prayer and those killed include the Imam of the mosque too. [...]

No one has claimed responsibility for the explosion yet but the ISIS-K fighters have been targeting mosques in Afghanistan.

This is the third mosque being targeted by ISIS-K affiliates since the Taliban takeover on August 15."

Al Jazeera, [Afghanistan: Mosque in Nangarhar province hit by blast](#), 12 November 2021

"An explosion has hit a mosque in the Spin Ghar area of Nangarhar province in eastern Afghanistan during Friday prayers, killing at least three people and wounding 15 others, according to residents and Taliban officials.

A doctor at the local hospital told AFP news agency that at least three people have been killed. "So far three killed, 15 wounded," the doctor said. Al Jazeera was unable to independently verify the toll."

TOLO News, [Officials: 2 Killed in Blast at Nangarhar Mosque](#), 12 November 2021

"A blast occurred inside of a mosque on Friday in Spinghar district of Nangarhar province, local officials confirmed.

The blast occurred while dozens of people gathered to perform the Friday prayers.

The worshipers suffered casualties, but the number of fatalities has yet to be reported.

Local officials said two people were killed and 17 were injured in Friday's explosion in Nangarhar, all of whom were

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worshippers.

Eyewitnesses, however, said the number of casualties is higher.

No group has claimed responsibility for the attack.”

ACLED, [Regional Overview: South Asia and Afghanistan | 30 October-5 November 2021](#), 11 November 2021

“In Afghanistan, IS continued attacks targeting the Taliban and civilians last week. In Kabul, IS militants killed at least 25 Taliban members and civilians during an attack on the Kabul Military Hospital. IS suicide bombers detonated themselves at the Kabul Military Hospital gate before militants exchanged gunfire with Taliban fighters. Five IS militants also died in the attack. This is the fourth deadliest IS attack since the Taliban regime came into power in August 2021. IS and Taliban fighters also clashed in Balkh and Nangarhar provinces. Despite these attacks, the Taliban have claimed that IS is “more or less under control” and lacks support from the local population (Al Arabiya, 5 November 2021).

Separately, ACLED also records unclaimed attacks on civilians across five Afghan provinces last week. In one instance, the bodies of four women civil society activists were recovered in Balkh province, including a well-known women’s rights defender. Taliban forces have considered personal feuds a potential reason for the killings (The Guardian, 5 October 2021). However, a victim’s husband claims that she was killed by an organized network targeting civil society activists, who introduced themselves as representatives of a human rights organization (Hasht-e Subh, 5 November 2021).”

Tolo News, [US Worried by Increase of Daesh Attacks in Afghanistan](#), 9 November 2021

The United States is worried about an uptick in attacks by Islamic State's affiliate in Afghanistan and remains deeply concerned about al Qaeda's ongoing presence there, U.S. Special Representative for Afghanistan Tom West said on Monday.

World Politics Review, [Addressing Afghanistan’s Crisis Will Require Dealing With the Taliban](#), 9 November 2021

As the Taliban government struggles to contain the crisis with minimal resources, it will likely fail to maintain control over all of its territory. The Islamic State’s affiliate in Afghanistan, known as ISIS-Khorasan, is stepping up its attacks in the country and could establish a firm territorial base there.

UNHCR, [Afghanistan Situation Update](#), 8 November 2021

The Afghanistan security situation remains of high concern, with people describing parts of the country as being in “total chaos”. Last week, the Deputy Spokesperson for the UN Secretary-General, Farhan Haq, reported ongoing violence resulting in casualties in Afghanistan: in Jalalabad, unverified pictures appeared online showing bodies swinging from a rope; residents also reported various targeted killings and video footage circulated of gunmen firing into a car, apparently killing its occupants, one of whom was identified by local journalists as a Taliban official. The Taliban have downplayed such incidents, saying that after decades of war, it will take time for the country to be completely pacified.

BBC News, [More than 20 killed in attack on Kabul military hospital](#), 2 November 2021

More than 20 people have been killed and at least 16 injured in a gun and bomb assault on a military hospital in the Afghan capital Kabul.

Attackers targeted the 400-bed Sardar Daud Khan hospital starting with two massive explosions outside the building, officials said.

Gunmen then broke into the hospital grounds, witnesses said.

An affiliate of the Islamic State group, IS-K, later said it had carried out the attack.

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ACLED, [Regional Overview: South Asia and Afghanistan](#), 27 October 2021
“Last week in South Asia and Afghanistan, violence continued between the Taliban and the National Resistance Front (NRF) in Afghanistan, as the Islamic State (IS) sustained its attacks on Taliban forces. [...] In **Afghanistan**, the number of armed clashes increased last week, amid ongoing clashes between the Taliban and the NRF. Clashes were reported in the Pul-e-Hisar, Andarab, and Deh Sala districts of Baghlan province. While the exact number of casualties remains unknown, several NRF and Taliban fighters were reportedly killed, including two NRF commanders.”

UN News, [Act swiftly and with determination on Afghanistan, UN chief urges](#), 27 October 2021
““Afghanistan is confronting an epic humanitarian crisis and is on the verge of a development catastrophe”, the UN chief [Antonia Guterres] told the gathering. He urged countries to speak with one voice. [...] Mr. Guterres said **he was deeply disturbed by violations of human rights**, including the rights of women, children and ethnic minorities, and recent deadly terrorist attacks on religious institutions. **He called for ongoing engagement “to help move things in the right direction.”** For his final point, the UN chief stressed that Afghans, and the region, “also need a country that is secure – not one that is a haven for terrorism or a centre for drug trafficking.” This, he said, is vital to peace and stability, both in the region and around the world. “

TOLO News, [16 People Killed in Herat Clashes: Sources](#), 25 October 2021

“At least 16 people including seven children and three women were killed in clashes that erupted between the forces of the Islamic Emirate and a group of armed men in the western province of Herat, sources claimed on Monday.

The sources said that the house belonged to Daesh. Three members of the Islamic Emirate were also killed, the sources added.

However, Mawllavi Naeemulhaq Haqqani, provincial director of information and culture, said that a number of kidnappers were killed in the clashes. [...]

In the past two months, Herat has not seen a deadlier incident.”

Pajhwok Afghan News, [Last week, casualties in Afghanistan fall to record low](#), 23 October 2021

“Casualty figure in Afghanistan fell to its lowest level or [sic] nine people in the past week, when some countries stressed aid to Afghanistan at a summit in Moscow and the Afghan government said it was ready for any civilized interaction with the world.

Attacks and civilian casualties

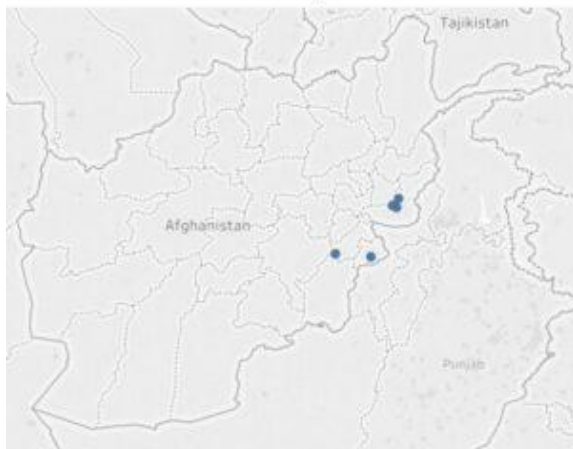
According to reports, six people were killed and three others wounded in different attacks last week.

Three children were killed and one was injured in a roadside bomb blast in Mata Khan district of Paktika province. A man was found stabbed to death and unidentified gunmen killed a former border policeman in Khost city, capital of Khost province. No one has claimed responsibility for the attacks.

Casualties were also low six weeks ago when eight people were killed and one was wounded.

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9 Civilians were killed and injured in different incidents



Last week's death toll was 16 times lower than the previous one.

Previous week, 56 people were killed and 90 others injured in various incidents across the country. Forty-seven of them were killed and 90 others were injured in an attack on a Shia mosque in Kandahar province. ISIS claims responsibility for Kandahar attack."

OCHA, Afghanistan, [Weekly Humanitarian Update \(11-17 October 2021\)](#), 21 October 2021

On 15 October, scores of civilians were killed and injured after a suicide bomb attack at a Shia mosque in Police District 1 of Kandahar City; 23 civilians including women and children were injured by abandoned IEDs in rural areas during the reporting period.

UNHCR, [UNHCR Iran: Afghanistan Situation Update](#), 18 October 2021

"The overall security situation in the country remains relatively calm, though isolated but violent incidents continue to take civilian lives. On 15 October, suicide bombers attacked a mosque in Kandahar in southern Afghanistan, killing dozens of people and wounding dozens more, the second such attack on a Shiite place of worship on successive Fridays in the country. The Islamic State Khorasan, also known as ISIS-K and ISKP, claimed responsibility. These attacks can be seen as a display of the organization's newly established reach, as it begins a reinvigorated campaign of violence against the people of Afghanistan and the new Taliban government."

Pajhwok Afghan News, [Efforts on to build strong, independent army: Mazloom](#), 16 October 2021

"The first deputy defense minister says they are trying to train an army that can defend Afghanistan's borders and people."

Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty Gandhara, [Intensifying Violence Between Taliban, IS-K Heralds New War In Afghanistan](#), 13 October 2021

"But the Taliban's intensifying rivalry with the Islamic State-Khorasan (IS-K), a rival militant group, has signaled the beginning of another phase of war in Afghanistan -- a development that many Afghans dread will provoke further bloodshed.

"Every day, two or three people are killed," Abdullah, a resident of the eastern province of Nangarhar, a stronghold of IS-K, told RFE/RL's Radio Azadi.

Abdullah said IS-K bomb attacks and assassinations have increased since the Taliban seized control of Afghanistan on August 15."

Afghan Voice Agency (AVA), [Last week was again deadliest for Afghans](#), 10 October 2021

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"Last week, 223 people suffered casualties in Afghanistan.

Attacks and civilian casualties:

According to reports last week 58 people were killed and 165 others injured in different incidents of violence in the country.

The deadliest incident last week happened in Kunduz province where 46 civilians were killed and 143 others injured in a suicide attack. Daesh or Islamic State (IS) claimed responsibility for the attack.

Elsewhere, three people including a were killed and three civilians injured in two incidents in Nangarhar province.

One person was found dead in Nangarhar. In province, a bride was killed and two people were injured after a person hurled a hand grenade to a wedding party. Two people were killed and three others injured in an explosion in a gathering of people attending the funeral of the mother of Zabihullah Mujahid, deputy information and culture minister.

In Laghman province, an Islamic scholar was shot dead while a person was killed and 14 others injured in an explosion in a seminary in Khost province. A robber was killed during a clash with Taliban in Kapisa province. A person was killed by unidentified armed men in Achin district of Nangarhar province. A former policeman was killed in an attack of armed robbers in province.

No groups have so far claimed responsibility for these attacks and explosions.

A week before 16 civilians were killed and nine others wounded in various incidents."

The New York Times, [ISIS Bomber Kills Dozens at Shiite Mosque in Northern Afghanistan](#), 8 October 2021

"An Islamic State suicide bomber devastated a Shiite mosque in the northern Afghan city of Kunduz on Friday, killing dozens of worshipers in a deadly continuation of the terrorist group's campaign against the Hazara minority. The massacre, while the mosque was crowded for Friday Prayer, was the group's second attack against a mosque in just a few days. And it was the realization of Afghan Hazaras' fears that the Islamic State's predation would go unchecked under the rule of the Taliban, which itself preyed on the Hazara in the past.

Witness accounts described a powerful explosion with many casualties. Matullah Rohani, a Taliban official in Kunduz, told local media that at least 43 people were killed by the attack and more than 140 were injured.

A local Shiite community leader put the death toll much higher. Sayed Ahmad Shah Hashemi, who represents Kunduz Province's Shiite population, told The New York Times that more than 70 people were killed in the attack."

"Hours after the bombing, it was claimed by the [Islamic State Khorasan](#), also known as ISIS-K. It was the group's deadliest strike since the suicide bombing at the international airport in Kabul on Aug. 26 that [killed about 170 civilians](#) and [13 U.S. troops](#)."

Khaama Press, [ISIS-K claims responsibility for explosion on Eidgah mosque in Kabul](#), 5 October 2021

"The Khorasan branch of the Islamic State (ISIS-K) claimed responsibility for the deadly explosion on the Eidgah mosque on Sunday, October 3.

The explosion took the lives of at least eight and leftover 20 more wounded among them the Taliban fighters.

The Taliban did not disclose an exact number of their fighters killed and wounded though, a source told the Khaama Press that most of them were the Taliban fighters.

The explosion which is said to have been conducted by a suicide bomber targeted a big mosque close to the Presidential Palace where people and the Taliban officials had gathered for the mourning and prayer ceremony of the slain mother of Zabiullah Mujahid- spokesperson and deputy minister of information and culture.

The Taliban fighters raided a house in the northern suburb of Kabul only hours after the incident and killed ISIS-K affiliates.

Zabiullah Mujahid had later said that they eliminated a cell of the ISIS-K fighters and killed all those existed in [who were part of it]."

The Guardian, [Civilians killed in deadliest Kabul attack since US withdrawal](#), 3 October 2021

"At least five civilians have been killed in a bomb blast at the entrance to a Kabul mosque on Sunday, a Taliban

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official said, the deadliest attack in the Afghan capital since US forces left at the end of August. There was no immediate claim of responsibility, but suspicion fell on Islamic State extremists, who have stepped up attacks on the Taliban in recent weeks, particularly in the IS stronghold in eastern Afghanistan. It is believed that a roadside bomb went off at the gate of the sprawling Eidgah mosque in Kabul when a memorial service was being held for the mother of the Taliban's chief spokesman, Zabihullah Mujahid. Five people were killed, said Qari Saeed Khosti, a spokesman for the interior ministry."

OCHA, Afghanistan, [Weekly Humanitarian Update \(13-19 September 2021\)](#), 23 September 2021

"In the reporting period, the security situation in the south remained calm but uncertain. The presence of Improvised Explosive Devices (IED) is affecting access of people to areas in Uruzgan, Hilmand, and some parts of Kandahar provinces."

"The security situation in the East remains volatile and unpredictable. On 18 September, five people were reportedly killed and 21 people were wounded by multiple IED detonations across the city of Jalalabad in Nangarhar Province"

"On 18 September, two civilians were reportedly injured by an IED attached to a private vehicle in Police District 13, Kabul. On 14 September, two civilians were reportedly killed and 12 others were wounded when an old mortar shell exploded in Ajristan district in Daykundi province."

Long War Journal, [Islamic State bombs Taliban convoys in eastern Afghanistan](#), 20 September 2021

"The Islamic State's Khorasan Province has claimed responsibility for a series of bombings that targeted Taliban convoys throughout the city of Jalalabad, the capital of Nangarhar province. The group claims that 35 Taliban members were killed or wounded in the attacks, though the casualty figures could not be independently verified.

Amaq News Agency, a media arm for the Islamic State, released a single-page statement on the attacks, as well as a short video showing an improvised explosive device being detonated underneath a Taliban vehicle. A screen shot from the video can be seen above.

Amaq claimed that seven bombings were carried out on Sept. 18 and 19, with the final explosion occurring outside of the Indian consulate in Jalalabad. Other jihadists have assaulted the Indian consulate inside the city in the past, but there is no indication in Amaq's reporting that the diplomatic location was deliberately targeted on this occasion."

Lawfare, [Thinking Long Term About the Future of Afghanistan](#), 19 September 2021

"With good relations between al-Qaeda and the Taliban, the latter may successfully convince the former to focus on local and regional issues, helping the Taliban to shore up and extend their influence throughout South Asia over time. That still leaves IS-K, a group previously linked to an international terrorist plot against U.S. and NATO bases in Germany, as a significant threat. There are serious doubts about whether the Taliban, overwhelmed and stretched thin by the challenge of attempting to govern a war-ravaged nation, will be able to prevent IS-K or other rogue groups from operating on Afghan soil."

Reuters, [U.N. Afghanistan mission extended, Afghan envoy asks to keep seat](#), 17 September 2021

"The United Nations Security Council extended a U.N. political mission in Afghanistan on Friday [17 September] for six months to allow for Secretary-General Antonio Guterres to work out what changes might be needed after the Taliban seized control of the country."

Afghanistan Analysts Network, [The Focus of the Taleban's New Government: Internal cohesion, external dominance](#), 12 September 2021

"It has been very difficult to follow what is happening. There has been almost no independent reporting, since communications were and the road into the Panjshir closed. The information vacuum has been filled by pro-Taleban and pro-resistance social media accounts and media appearances, often making unverifiable and

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conflicting claims in an attempt to dominate the narrative. (See, for an example, this [Tolo News report](#) from 2 September in which the Taleban claimed to have captured Shutul district centre and 11 outposts, killing 34, while the National Resistance Front denied the loss of the district and claimed to have killed at least 350 Taleban fighters in the various clashes.)

It has been even more difficult to get a handle on reports of possible atrocities, in Panjshir and Andarab, or of the rounding up of young Panjshiri men in neighbourhoods like Khairkhana in Kabul. The online clamour by diaspora pro-resistance supporters that there is both an ongoing genocide and a Pakistani invasion going on in Panjshir – generally without much details or ‘supported’ by footage that is either old, from other places, and in one case even from a computer game – threatened to drown out the gathering of corroborated reporting.

On the other hand, the Taleban’s apparent determination to completely root out Panjshir’s armed resistance, coupled with an almost complete information black-out and emerging anecdotal detail, does suggest that the onslaught in Panjshir is likely to have been brutal. This impression is only strengthened by the fact that ‘news’ from Panjshir has so far been very carefully managed, with only friendly journalists or those with minders having been allowed in.

Ahmad Massud and other members of the National Resistance Front have reiterated that the struggle continues, whether armed or not, and have tried to link their stand in Panjshir to other recent expressions of dissent – with some success.”

OCHA, Afghanistan, [Weekly Humanitarian Update \(30 August – 5 September 2021\)](#), 13 September 2021

“In the reporting period, the overall security situation in the south remained relatively calm. Civilians including women and children reportedly continued to be affected by roadside Improvised Explosive Device (IED) detonations and gunfire.”

ACLED, [Regional Overview: South Asia and Afghanistan, 31 July - 3 September 2021](#), 9 September 2021

“Meanwhile, an anti-Taliban resistance, known as National Resistance Front (NRF), began to form in the Panjshir valley in northeastern Afghanistan following the Kabul takeover. The valley had previously hosted Northern Alliance Forces, a military alliance against the Soviet and then Taliban invasion, in the 1980s and 1990s (BBC News, 3 September 2021). Led by the son of a late Northern Alliance leader, the group consists of local militia and former members of Afghan security forces. It is also supported by former Vice President Amrullah Saleh and former Acting Defense Minister Bismillah Mohammadi (Washington Post, 18 August 2021). From 18 August to 3 September, ACLED records over 20 clashes between the NRF and Taliban forces around Panjshir valley and in the neighboring Baghlan and Parwan provinces. Since then, the Taliban claim to have entered the Panjshir valley, although it remains uncertain whether they have taken complete control over all remaining NRF territory (CNBC, 7 September 2021).”

Crime rates under the Taliban, including kidnappings and abductions

BBC, [Meth and heroin fuel Afghanistan drugs boom](#), 12 December 2021

“Drugs are big business in Afghanistan, and under the Taliban, trade is booming. The country has long been linked with heroin, but in recent years, it has also emerged as a significant producer of crystal meth - another dangerously addictive drug.

One source involved in the trade says that about 3,000kg of crystal meth are now manufactured every day by more than 500 makeshift “factories” in a single remote drug-producing district in the south-west of the country.”

AVA Press, [Kunduz Residents Complain of Assassinations and Kidnappings Amid Rising Poverty](#), 5 December 2021

“After the Taliban took control of the country, crime in [sic] has increased. In recent days, this issue has raised

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concern to businessmen and residents of the province. In the last few weeks, kidnappers have abducted a doctor and a former member of national security, according to local sources. Sources say that about a week ago, the body of a former national security officer was found in the district of the province, but the fate of the is still unknown. Some residents of Kunduz told Hasht-e Subh that unknown individuals had robbed several shops and killed several people recently. They state that they are worried about their lives and property. According to the residents, unknown individuals were robbing and kidnapping in broad daylight, but Taliban officials did nothing to prevent the incidents. They call on the authorities of the Taliban-led government to stop the kidnappings and targeted killings in the province and arrest the perpetrators.

[...] Armed robberies and kidnappings in Kunduz have prompted some businessmen and social figures to leave Kunduz for Kabul and neighboring Afghanistan. A civil activist in Kunduz province, who did not want to be named, said he had been threatened with death several times by unknown individuals and now had to leave the province with his family. According to this civil activist, if the situation continues like this, life will be difficult for all sections of the province and eventually, all the people will leave the province.

Meanwhile, Taliban intelligence and culture chief Matiullah emphasized their efforts to prevent kidnappings in the province. According to Rouhani, Taliban forces recently arrested two militants from the provincial capital.

With the Taliban taking control of the country, hopes were that crime would fall to a record low, yet, contrary to expectation, crime was on the rise in some provinces. Increasing poverty and unemployment in the country have been cited as the main reasons for the increase in criminal offenses.”

TOLO News, [Kabul Residents Urge Govt to Tackle Crime](#), 26 November 2021

“Residents of Kabul expressed concerns over the surge in criminal activity in various parts of the city and urged the government to take the necessary steps to counter the criminal issues. The insecurity is on a high-level all over Kabul. I live in Darul Aman and I can’t leave home after 6:00pm because of insecurity,” said Mohammad Ameen, a resident.”

Arab News, [Prominent Afghan doctor kidnapped, killed in northern city](#), 20 November 2021

“A prominent doctor was kidnapped and killed in northern Afghanistan, his family said Saturday [20 November].

Mohamed Nader Alemi was abducted two months ago in the city of Mazar-i-Sharif, and his kidnappers demanded a ransom for his release, his son Roheen Alemi said. The family eventually paid them \$350,000, after negotiating down their initial demand of more than twice that, he said.

Despite the payment, the kidnappers then killed Alemi, leaving his body in the street, his son said. They called the family and told them where to find it on Friday, he said.

“My father was badly tortured, there are signs of harm on his body,” Roheen Alemi said.

Alemi, a psychiatrist, worked for the government’s provincial hospital in Mazar-i-Sharif. He also owned a private clinic, said to be the city’s first private psychiatric clinic.

Under the previous, US-backed government, crime swelled, including frequent kidnappings for ransom, which prompted several businessmen to flee Afghanistan. The abductions have continued since the Taliban seized power on Aug. 15, though with lower frequency.

The Taliban Interior Ministry spokesman, Saeed Khosty, said Taliban forces arrested eight suspected kidnappers who were behind the abductions of three people, including Alemi, in Balkh Province, where Mazar-i-Sharif is located. He said two of those abducted were rescued but that Alemi was killed before the rescue. Police were searching for two associates of the eight arrested men who were believed to have killed the doctor.”

The Guardian, [Abducted Afghan psychiatrist found dead weeks after disappearance](#), 19 November 2021

“One of Afghanistan’s most prominent psychiatrists, who was abducted by armed men in September, has been found dead, his family has confirmed.

Dr Nader Alemi’s daughter, Manizheh Abreen, said that her father had been tortured before he died. [...] He had received threatening calls and messages in the months before his abduction.

The kidnappers originally demanded a ransom of \$800,000 (£600,000).”

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AVA Press, [A Doctor Kidnapped in Kunduz Province](#), 17 November 2021

"Afghan Voice Agency (AVA)_ Sources in Kunduz city say that Dr. Hoshang Rastaqi, a dermatologist, was abducted last night (Tuesday) from the center of Kunduz.

The armed kidnappers abducted him from his home.

According to the source, a weapon of the is left in the doctor's home.

Taliban officials haven't said anything about the incident to the media yet.

Meanwhile, the residents of had earlier complained about the increase of and theft cases in this province."

QANTARA, [Can the Taliban avert a food crisis without foreign aid?](#), 15 November 2021

"Those with money are at risk

The security situation in Afghanistan under the Taliban has deteriorated along with the economy. There are ever more reports of kidnapping and hostage-taking of businessmen and others with money. Kabul-based economic expert Khanjan Alokozay revealed that in the last two months, more than 40 shopkeepers and businessmen have been kidnapped in different parts of the country, and that some of them had also been killed."

Foreign Policy, [Afghan Crime Wave Adds to Taliban Dystopia](#), 29 October 2021

"Kabul residents said gangs roam the streets, stopping, searching, and robbing people at random. They say armed men routinely stop cars and rob the occupants. [...]

Officials of the former government, intelligence service, and military have been snatched from their homes after applying for passports and providing biometric and other identification information, he said.

The Taliban are also using lists of former officials and civil activists to pinpoint their children. "They took four such sons from a prominent school in Kabul. When the police station was asked, they said, 'We don't know who entered the school,'" the source said. "Life is broken."

Another Kabul resident said the father of an associate was kidnapped and a ransom of \$3 million demanded for his release. "But no one has that sort of money; they couldn't pay, and he was killed," he said. Cars are being stolen almost daily from homes in previously safe neighborhoods, he added.

Local media have reported more than 40 kidnappings of businessmen in the two months since the Taliban took control. Other sources have said the number is much higher, though the lack of a functioning bureaucracy means there are paltry official statistics. The bulk of the kidnappings occurred in Kabul, Kandahar, Nangarhar, Kunduz, Herat, and Balk provinces, the deputy head of the Afghanistan Chamber of Commerce and Industries told Tolo News."

Coercion / Forced Recruitment to join Taliban

What instances of forced recruitment and use of children/young men are there under the Taliban?

Byline Times, ['The Taliban Protection Racket'](#), 10 January 2022

"My whole reason for coming here was because the Taliban wanted to recruit me," Azlan (not his real name) told *Byline Times*. "They come to your house, and the first time, they ask nicely. But if you don't agree, then they use force."

Azlan, who originally comes from a province in northern Afghanistan, told this newspaper that he was beaten three times by the Taliban. He eventually came to the UK via a circuitous route in 2015, leaving shortly after the Taliban kidnapped him in a bid to forcibly recruit him.

"I was there for two days and I told them, I don't believe in your fight," he said. "No matter what colour or religion you are, you are human."

The Taliban beat him so hard that they thought he was dead. Fearing that the next beating would be fatal, his

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family sent him to Pakistan, Iran, and he then travelled across Europe to the UK.

He told *Byline Times* that the Taliban took his younger brother, who then disappeared in 2016. Rumours circulated that he had died in a bomb blast. His sister also died in a blast. His father died in 2019, leaving just his mother and his youngest brother, who is now 14.

"This is the age when they recruit and I will do anything to save him," Azlan said. "It's not that I am afraid he will die, but I don't believe in this fight."

The Taliban suggested a solution – that the family pay to avoid him being taken. Azlan now works long hours to send his mother money for what is effectively a protection racket – £300 a month. That money, however, raised hopes in the local community, many members of which are near destitute.

A few days ago, the family was raided as local people had heard that they had money. The house was looted and precious family belongings, such as a watch belonging to Azlan's father, as well as his mother's jewellery, was taken. His brother was beaten."

Human Rights Watch, '[This is our opportunity to end the Taliban's use of child soldiers](#)', 20 September 2021

"For more than two decades, the Taliban have put children on the front lines of Afghanistan's armed conflicts. They have used children [as fighters](#), to plant and detonate improvised explosive devices (IEDs), and as suicide bombers. Thousands of children may [remain in their ranks](#) today."

"The Taliban have [denied](#) that they use children in "jihadic operations" and their [code of conduct](#) states that "boys without beards" are not allowed in military centers. Nevertheless, the U.N. has verified hundreds of individual cases in which the Taliban have recruited and used children in recent years, including a [sharp spike](#) in 2020, and warned that the true figures are likely much higher."

Leaving and 'defecting' from Taliban

What may be reasons for leaving?

What legal prosecution is there for defectors?

How are defectors treated by the Taliban?

How are they treated by society?

Justice, Law and Order in Taliban-controlled Territory

How is governance, law and order regulated under the Taliban?

Human Rights Watch, [Afghanistan: Taliban Deprive Women of Livelihoods, Identity](#), 18 January 2022

"Much of the state bureaucracy is no longer functioning because many workers from the previous Afghan government have fled the country, or are afraid of returning to work, and the Taliban authority lacks funds to pay workers. Some humanitarian aid and other assistance provided by UN agencies and nongovernmental organizations has gradually restarted but remains [severely curtailed](#) due to Taliban restrictions, logistical difficulties including barriers to transferring money into the country, security concerns, staff evacuations, closures, and legal uncertainties including fear of violating sanctions. [...]"

Taliban authorities have also used intimidation to extract money, food, and services. "When the Taliban visit a village, they force the households to feed them and collect food items from people," a woman from a village said. "The Taliban and their fighters call us in the middle of the night to cure and give special treatment to their patients

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and families,” a health worker said. “They enter the hospital with their guns, it’s difficult for the doctors and nurses to manage.”

Interviewees said the Taliban extorted money. They sometimes said they were demanding “taxes,” but the demands were made without standard rates or transparency and in a context in which communities have lost many government services. One woman said the Taliban had dramatically increased taxes on her farming community to a level that families simply could not afford. [...]

After the Taliban takeover, the national police, which had functioned as a counterinsurgency force, largely disintegrated. Fighting has mostly ended in the country, but people expressed fear of violence and arbitrary arrests by the Taliban and lack of rule of law, and reported increased crime in some areas. “Since the Taliban started their government, the security situation in [a district of Ghazni] hasn’t gotten any better – in fact, it has been getting worse,” a student said. “Previously, women could go outside and commute freely to the town, but now even men don’t feel safe walking outside. There are increasing cases of robbery and theft in the district...And there’s no [organized] police to protect the area or to monitor the situation.”

“We kept hearing from some people that with Islamic Emirate there will be more security, no explosions and theft, but we see that they still happen,” a teacher said. [...]

Women also felt more insecure because the Taliban dismantled systems that assisted women facing gender-based violence.”

Khaama Press, [Nearly 3,000 Taliban affiliates dismissed so far: officials](#), 16 January 2022

“Head of Purification Commission of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan Latifullah Hakimi said that they have so far dissociated 2,840 Taliban members accused of abusive practices across Afghanistan.

The commission that was launched after the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan regained power last year in August, is responsible for vetting the Taliban affiliates.

The commission mostly works on the complaints of people, videos on social media, and reports of common people about misdemeanors of the Taliban members, violation of law, and their abusive practices.

Speaking with AFP on Saturday, January 15, 2022, Hakimi said that the people were giving a bad name to the IEA and were removed in this vetting process so that they build a clean army and police force in the future.

“They were involved in corruption, drugs and were intruding in people’s private lives. Some also had links with Daesh [ISIS],” Hakimi said.

Hakimi further added that those dissociated were from 14 provinces and the process of filtering out will continue in other provinces.

In the meantime, the Taliban affiliates are also accused of extrajudicial killings of former security forces which is an act against the general amnesty announced by supreme leader of the IEA Mullah Hebtullah Akhundzada.”

OCHA, [Afghanistan: Humanitarian Response Plan \(2022\)](#), 11 January 2022

“Following the takeover of the Government by the de facto authorities, the status of the legal system more broadly is in flux with a range of new policies being proposed, and the status of previous legal frameworks in doubt.

The lack of government-issued identification documents continues to be a limiting factor for many of people in Afghanistan, blocking access to government services and increasing risk of statelessness. According to the 2021 Whole of Afghanistan assessment data, only 35 per cent of households (HH) reported that all HH members had a tazkira (identification card), while 31 per cent of households reported that no women had a tazkira, 63 per cent of displaced households reported that some HH members were missing a tazkira, while 3 per cent of displaced households said that nobody in the household has a tazkira.

Similarly, land rights and tenure are a challenging issue. 40 per cent of the displaced households surveyed in the 2021 Whole of Afghanistan Assessment reported insecure tenure in their current shelter: verbal rental agreement, a Safayee notebook, or no rental agreement. This is a particularly serious challenge for those living in informal settlements where people lack land tenure, reducing their access to essential services and placing them at constant threat of eviction and negative coping mechanisms.

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For issues around gender-based violence (GBV), despite the creation of the elimination of violence against women (EVAW) law, the judicial system still places an enormous burden on individual women to make the justice system work for them, rather than the system working on their behalf.

Lack of progress in passing proposed legislation on asylum continues to leave refugees and asylum seekers in Afghanistan without the necessary legal framework to enable them to obtain necessary documentation to move freely throughout the country, work in the formal sector, pursue higher education, or enter into contracts, leaving them dependent on humanitarian assistance and remittances to meet basic needs.”

Jurist, [Taliban proceed with plans to strip independence of Afghanistan lawyers](#), 3 January 2021

“Afghanistan’s Justice Ministry **reiterated** Monday that the country’s independent lawyers will need to re-certify under a new qualification process set by the Ministry, signaling the intent of the Taliban authorities to plough ahead with plans to strip the country’s legal profession of its independence. “According to the statement, the country’s lawyers will be authorized to continue practicing with their previous licenses until the new certification process has been finalized. “This was the latest step in a series of efforts by the new regime to crack down on the activities of the **Afghanistan Independent Bar Association** (AIBA), an organization established in 2008 to oversee the licensing of new lawyers, and to champion the rule of law and social justice.”

AP News, [Taliban-run government dissolves Afghan election commissions](#), 27 December 2021

The Taliban dissolved Afghanistan’s two election commissions as well as the state ministries for peace and parliamentary affairs, an official said Sunday.

Bilal Karimi, deputy spokesman for Afghanistan’s Taliban-run government, said the country’s Independent Election Commission and Electoral Complaint Commission have been dissolved.

He called them “unnecessary institutes for the current situation in Afghanistan.” He said if there is a need for the commissions in the future, the Taliban government can revive them.

The international community is waiting before extending formal recognition to Afghanistan’s new rulers. They are wary the Taliban could impose a similarly harsh regime as when they were in power 20 years ago — despite their assurances to the contrary.

Both elections commissions were mandated to administer and supervise all types of elections in the country, including presidential, parliamentary and provincial council elections.

Karimi said the Taliban also dissolved the Ministry for Peace and the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs. He said they were unnecessary ministries in the government’s current structure.

The Taliban had previously shut down the former Women’s Affairs Ministry.

Gandhara, [“Judge, Jury, And Executioner: Taliban Brings Afghanistan’s Justice System Under Its Thumb”](#), 1 December 2021

“In a decree issued a day earlier on November 22, the Taliban put the AIBA under the control of its Justice Ministry, stripping the organization of its independence.

Taliban Justice Minister Mullah Abdul Hakim also declared that only Taliban-approved lawyers can work in their Islamic courts, effectively revoking the licenses of some 2,500 lawyers in Afghanistan.

His order has raised deep concerns about the impartiality and fairness of criminal trials under the Taliban, which seized control of the country in August after toppling the internationally recognized government.

Those fears have been exacerbated by the Taliban’s brutal form of justice. Under their tribal interpretation of Shari’a law, Taliban judges have routinely ordered public executions and amputations for convicted criminals.”

Gandhara, [Afghans Complain Of Beatings, Harassment As Taliban Inspects Smartphones](#), 29 November 2021

Afghans across the country have complained that Taliban fighters are prying into the personal photos and videos,

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contacts, and social media accounts on their smartphones. The presence of music or videos that the Taliban deems to be violating its strict moral code has often led to harassment and violence, residents said. In many cases, Taliban fighters have confiscated, broken, or erased data from smartphones.

AVA Press, [Interim cabinet expanded; corps commanders named](#), 23 November 2021

“spokesman for the interim government, said the appointments had been made in compliance with orders from Taliban’s supreme leader Mullah Haibatullah Akhundzada.”

“The residents of Balkh province welcomed security forces’ efforts in maintaining security in their city. Security officials of Balkh province said that at least 200 suspected people who are accused of murder and kidnapping were arrested during the past three months in Mazar-e-Sharif city and districts of Balkh province.

The head of the security department, Abdul Hai Abed, further said that the level of criminal cases has significantly declined in Balkh province.

“During the last three months when the Islamic Emirate took power we have arrested 200 accused of murder, kidnapping and robbery, and they are waiting for the courts,” said Abdul Hai Abed. “Forty of them were arrested during the two weeks,” he said.

Meanwhile, Abdul Hai Abed added that the Islamic Emirate has begun the process of purging the ranks and reforming in the province. [...]

At the same time, residents of Mazar-e-Sharif confirmed that the level of crimes has decreased, but some mysterious killings are often reported in the city of Mazar-e-Sharif.”

AVA Press, [IEA to establish ‘strong, orderly and educated’ army](#), 17 November 2021

“Afghan Voice Agency (AVA)_Qari Fasihuddin, chief of staff of the IEA, said during a visit to a military camp in Kabul, that the IEA is committed to establishing an army.

“Mujahidin of Islamic Emirate are not simple people, for which the world shows contempt, but they are the people that defeated the biggest power in the world with their equipment,” said .

“The Islamic Emirate will be united to establish an army in Afghanistan Inshallah. The army will have some characteristics and will be united, strong and will be an educated army in military and religious sections,” added Faihuiddin.

The high ranking official called on his forces to stand ready to defend Afghanistan and to fight its enemies.

“As we see, the world has disciplined armies and modern equipment. It is compulsory for us (Muslims) to have an equipped, developed, and orderly army to defend the country,” he said.

The exact number of forces is not clear. However, Amir Khan , the IEA’s foreign minister said recently that Afghanistan will establish a much smaller army than the one under the previous government.”

KHAAMA PRESS, [Taliban bans arbitrary operations and courts](#), 13 November 2021

“The Purification Commission of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan ordered a ban on arbitrary military operations and courts and warned that those accountable will be brought to justice or dissolved. [...]

The Purification Commission of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan emphasized good behavior of the Taliban fighters as vital and added that tens of those who ill-treated people were either punished or dissolved.

The members also warned that those who impersonate the Taliban affiliates and annoy people will be identified and punished.

The commission also banned arbitrary courts around the country and ordered the Taliban affiliates to take action against those who do.

The Commission is aimed at purifying the Taliban formation and identifying and dissolving those who mistreat people and do not abide by rules.

The Taliban are willing to create five sub-commissions that will soon be activated in all provinces of Afghanistan.

The members warned that no one is allowed to abuse or beat the former security personnel and that the culprits will be brought to justice.”

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UNITED STATES INSTITUTE OF PEACE, [Winter is coming in Afghanistan. Are the Taliban ready?](#), 11 November 2021

The Taliban announced the composition of its caretaker government in early September, which consisted almost entirely of members of its senior leadership. There are no women, no prominent non-Taliban politicians and 30 of the 33 figures are ethnic Pashtuns. "I think one of the reasons they didn't move for inclusive government was they were too busy trying to sort out their own internal differences," said Brooking.

Members of the group's brutal Haqqani Network wing hold key positions such as the Interior Ministry. "The Haqqanis are way more powerful than the rest," said Lotfullah Najafizada, the director of Tolo News, Afghanistan's top news network. "And it does not necessarily send good signals about a more moderate Taliban governance in the future."

The tension between conservative and reform wings of the movement has yet to be reconciled. Chief among the issues dividing the group is women and girls' rights and roles in society. "Taliban foot soldiers would question their leaders," if they were willing to give women and girls the rights and freedoms they had over the last two decades, said Farid, who also served of Afghanistan's House Standing Committee for Human Rights, Civil Society and Women Affairs. "What was the reason we fought for 20 years?"

This could push Taliban fighters to form splinter groups or even join the Islamic State Khorasan, which has already perpetrated numerous deadly attacks since the Taliban takeover. "I think the Taliban are very concerned about that split in the movement and therefore ... have been cautious in their decisions," said Brooking.

Reuters, [Taliban says failure to recognise their government could have global effects](#), 30 October 2021

"The Taliban called on the United States and other countries on Saturday to recognise their government in Afghanistan, saying that a failure to do so and the continued freezing of Afghan funds abroad would lead to problems not only for the country but for the world.

No country has formally recognised the Taliban government since the insurgents took over the country in August, while billions of dollars in Afghan assets and funds abroad have also been frozen, even as the country faces severe economic and humanitarian crises. "Our message to America is, if unrecognition continues, Afghan problems continue, it is the problem of the region and could turn into a problem for the world," Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid told journalists at a news conference on [30 October]."

Ariana News, [MoD to form a new, independent national army](#), 24 October 2021

"Afghan Ministry of Defense (MoD) officials said Saturday that they will establish a new army that is independent in order to defend Afghanistan's territory and airspace.

Mullah Mohammad Yaqoob, acting minister of defense and son of Mullah Mohammad Omar, founder of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan (IEA), said in a voice clip on Sunday that efforts are being made to safeguard Afghanistan's territory and airspace. [...]

The caretaker minister did not however provide further details about how the IEA will finance the army or whether it will include soldiers from the former government."

Jurist, [Afghanistan dispatches: 'maybe the international community's pressure on the Taliban concerning human rights and women rights is producing results'](#), 21 October 2021

"Law students and lawyers in Afghanistan are filing reports with JURIST on the situation there after the fall of Kabul to the Taliban. Here, a lawyer in Kabul offers his personal observations and perspective on an apparent Taliban reversal of their decision to suspend the Ministry of Women Affairs in Afghanistan. [...]

In a press conference, one of the top leaders of the Taliban has announced that they did not actually remove the Ministry of Women Affairs and they are looking into options to resume its operations based on Islamic rules and under the supervision of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan."

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Thomson Reuters Foundation News, [Taliban pledge to step up security as Shi'ite victims buried in Afghanistan](#), 16 October 2021

"Taliban authorities pledged to step up security at Shi'ite mosques as hundreds of people gathered on Saturday to bury the victims of the second Islamic State suicide attack on worshippers in a week."

Al Jazeera, [UN to appoint special rapporteur to monitor rights in Afghanistan](#), 7 October 2021

"The UN has voted to create a new special rapporteur on Afghanistan to probe violations carried out by the Taliban and other parties to the conflict, amid growing concerns for the erosion of civil rights as the country transitions to an "Islamic emirate".

The UN Human Rights Council on Thursday passed a resolution brought by the European Union to have a special rapporteur working on the ground in March 2022, supported by UN experts in legal analysis, forensics and women's rights."

TOLO NEWS, [Officials: 200 Arrested in Balkh in Past 3 Months](#), 17 November 2021

"Security officials of Balkh province said that at least 200 suspected people who are accused of murder and kidnapping were arrested during the past three months in Mazar-e-Sharif city and districts of Balkh province.

The head of the security department, Abdul Hai Abed, further said that the level of criminal cases has significantly declined in Balkh province.

"During the last three months when the Islamic Emirate took power we have arrested 200 accused of murder, kidnapping and robbery, and they are waiting for the courts," said Abdul Hai Abed. "Forty of them were arrested during the two weeks," he said."

Al Jazeera, [Taliban: From Afghanistan's rugged mountains to policing streets](#), 5 October 2021

"One fighter after another, the Taliban is trading in their characteristic long flowing garb for stiff military uniforms. It is a symbol of the moment of transition its fighters find themselves in: Once warriors embedded in Afghanistan's rugged mountains, now they are an urban police force. [...]

By winning the country – after two decades of war – with the August 15 seizure of Kabul, the Taliban also inherited a city marked by lawlessness.

Immediately, it set to work, making its presence known in daily street patrols. Some fighters have done away with the typical AK-47 rifles replacing them with US-made M16s left behind by Afghan forces.

They halt street fights, summon suspected criminals to police stations and chase those who do not heed their call."

In Kabul's Police District 8, there is a long queue leading to two rooms. In one, there are criminal cases. In another, civilian disputes.

Victims of stabbings, robbery and other misdeeds sit in the same room as alleged perpetrators, staring into the distance until it is their turn to plead their case.

For lesser crimes, Taliban police offer the accused three days to show up at the station. After that, they go after them.

The court system is a work in progress, officials said. Meetings are still under way between Taliban officials – used to tribal justice prevalent in rural Afghanistan – to work out the process in a sprawling city with an active judiciary. Even those who fear them in the embattled city welcome the peace their arrival has brought.

The Taliban has empowered local elders to pass judgement based on their interpretation of Islamic law for minor criminal cases.

In the Sheikh Zayed City residential area of Kabul, a committee of elders ordered the father of a man accused of stabbing a neighbour to pay 35,000 Afghanis, about \$400.

The father counts the banknotes in a rapid shuffle and hands it to the imam, who offers it to the family of the victim. They embrace. Justice served."

Long War Journal, [Testimony: The Biden Administration's Policy on Afghanistan](#), 30 September 2021

"The Taliban's new regime is, in many ways, just its old regime. Many of the Taliban's cabinet ministers are

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veterans of the Taliban's first Islamic Emirate from 1996 through 2001.⁸ More than one dozen of them have already been sanctioned by the United Nations, including for their ties to terrorism. All five of the former Guantanamo detainees who were exchanged for Sgt. Bowe Bergdahl in 2014 now serve the Taliban in senior leadership roles. Four of the five are Taliban cabinet ministers, while the fifth is the governor of Khost province."

Pajhwok Afghan News, [Taliban to temporarily adopt Zahir Shah era constitution](#), 28 September 2021

"KABUL (Pajhwok): The Ministry of Justice on Tuesday said the caretaker government would adopt the constitution of King Mohammad Zahir Shah era without the parts which are in conflict with Islamic Sharia.

The ministry in a statement said that justice minister Abdul Hakim Shar'ee during a meeting with Chinese ambassador, Wang Yu, said that Taliban would temporarily enforce the constitution of Zahir Shah era without the parts which are in violation to Islamic Sharia.

He said that any international documents which were not in conflict with Sharia and Emirate rules, the Taliban respected them.

The source said that the Taliban wanted good relations with all countries and assures the world that the soil of Afghanistan would not be used against them."

United States Institute of Peace, [Taliban Seek Recognition, But Offer Few Concessions to International Concerns](#), 28 September 2021

"Much of the Taliban's overtures to seek or establish international recognition seem to be driven by the group's pressing economic needs, their desire to see funds unfrozen and various forms of assistance delivered.

As part of their announcement of senior figures to formal government posts, the Taliban nominated Suhail Shaheen, a longtime member of and former spokesperson for the group's political office in Qatar, to serve as ambassador to the United Nations. In press statements, they have repeatedly encouraged foreign embassies to return to Kabul, including the United States and European states. And the group has maintained a steady tempo of high-level diplomacy with neighboring and regional states, including Russia, China and even India.

However, the Taliban have repeatedly revealed a clear prioritization of maintaining their own internal cohesion and demonstrating their authority domestically. The current caretaker government is made up entirely of their own leadership, excluding women and other political stakeholders while including a number of internationally sanctioned figures. The group has renamed the Afghan government the Islamic Emirate, in spite of a joint diplomatic statement by the United States, Russia, China and Pakistan lobbying against a revival of the title. The group's rank and file have suppressed demonstrations across the country; protestors and journalists are being detained and beaten. Taliban leadership have effectively banned girls' education, discouraged women from returning to work in a number of sectors and disbanded the Ministry of Women's Affairs (replacing it with its historically notorious Ministry for the Propagation of Virtue and Prevention of Vice). At least some elements of the group have begun enforcing brutal law enforcement policies, including public execution."

AP News, [Taliban official: Strict punishment, executions will return](#), 23 September, 2021

"One of the founders of the Taliban and the chief enforcer of its harsh interpretation of Islamic law when they last ruled Afghanistan said the hard-line movement will once again carry out executions and amputations of hands, though perhaps not in public.

In an interview with The Associated Press, Mullah Nooruddin Turabi dismissed outrage over the Taliban's executions in the past, which sometimes took place in front of crowds at a stadium, and he warned the world against interfering with Afghanistan's new rulers."

"On at least two occasions in the last week, Kabul men have been packed into the back of a pickup truck, their hands tied, and were paraded around to humiliate them. In one case, their faces were painted to identify them as thieves. In the other, stale bread was hung from their necks or stuffed in their mouth. It wasn't immediately clear what their crimes were."

"He said now the Taliban would allow television, mobile phones, photos and video "because this is the necessity of the people, and we are serious about it." He suggested that the Taliban saw the media as a way to spread their

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message. “Now we know instead of reaching just hundreds, we can reach millions,” he said. He added that if punishments are made public, then people may be allowed to video or take photos to spread the deterrent effect.”

AP News, [Taliban name deputy ministers, double down on all-male team](#), 21 September 2021

“The Taliban expanded their interim Cabinet by naming more ministers and deputies on Tuesday [21 September], but failed to appoint any women, doubling down on a hard-line course despite the international outcry that followed their initial presentation of an all-male government lineup earlier this month.”

Al Jazeera, [Rights groups accuse Taliban of rolling back civil liberties](#), 20 September 2021

“Rights groups have accused the Taliban of “steadily dismantling” human rights in Afghanistan since the group captured power last month. In a briefing released on Tuesday, Amnesty International, the International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH) and the World Organisation Against Torture (OMCT) accused the Taliban of a number of rights violations including limits on the freedom of the press, restrictions on women and targeted killing of civilians and former government officials.”

Jurist.org [legal news commentary in collaboration with the University of Pittsburgh], [Afghanistan dispatches: “Now there are no clients for lawyers...”](#) 20 September 2021

“Currently, there is no judicial and prosecution system active and running in the country. All criminal, civil, and commercial cases are stopped. With the limited capacity that the Taliban have, re-start of this system will take a long period of time.”

“Now there are no clients for lawyers – not even local clients – because all the matters they had before the courts are either closed and/or will take at least a year or two for them to be resumed. All law firms face the same situation in Afghanistan right now.”

Afghanistan Analysts Network, [The Focus of the Taleban’s New Government: Internal cohesion, external dominance](#), 12 September 2021

“As the twentieth anniversary of al-Qaeda’s 9/11 attacks that brought the US to Afghanistan to topple the Taleban’s emirate came round, it was the Taleban who were back in power. This week, they announced their new interim administration. It is all-male, almost all-Pashtun, almost all clerical and all-Taleban. Set alongside their sustained military campaign in the Panjshir, the only province that held out against the Taleban takeover, and their violent response to protests across the country, it seems the movement’s priorities have coalesced – internal cohesion, monopolisation of power, silencing of open dissent and dividing the ‘spoils of war’, in terms of government posts, between themselves. Also noticeable, reports AAN’s Martine van Bijlert (with input from Kate Clark and Thomas Ruttig), is the absence, still, of Taleban supreme leader, Mullah Hibatullah Akhundzada.” [...]

The list of ministers and other senior officials is almost exclusively Pashtun, with just two Tajiks and one Uzbek, and no Hazaras, Shia Muslims or members of Afghanistan’s smaller minorities. The list is further all-male and made up mostly of clerics, either mullahs or mawlawis (who have a higher Islamic madrassa education). All are from within the Taleban’s own ranks and many are old-timers – familiar faces from the 1990s.

The one possible exception is the minister of public health. No new acting minister was announced for this post and the Republican-era incumbent, Dr Wahid Majruh, has been pictured in office since the Taleban took power on 15 August. [...]

The most senior position announced, that of prime minister (*rais-e wuzera*), was given to Mullah Muhammad Hassan Akhundzada. [...]

Many of the Taleban government’s newly appointed senior officials are on the United States and/or United Nations sanctions list and two of them have an FBI bounty on their heads. [4] Many have long held leadership positions and have been implicated in terror attacks or atrocities. [...]

Having so many officially appointed leaders who are on international sanctions lists hugely complicates the new

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government's chances of receiving international aid and interacting with other governments."

TOLO News, [Uniformed Police to be Stationed in Kabul](#), 12 September 2021

"The current Taliban forces who are stationed in Kabul will soon be replaced with police forces of the former government and Taliban forces and all will have uniforms, the Taliban said on Sunday.

Anaamullah Samangani, a member of the Taliban's cultural commission, told TOLONews that the current Taliban forces, who do not have uniforms, will be transferred from Kabul to military posts in the provinces.

Samangani, however, did not say how many police and Taliban forces will be deployed in Kabul.

"Police and uniformed forces who have received training and gained skills in their specific fields should soon take charge of maintaining Kabul security and start their jobs. After that, the Mujahideen who are stationed in different police departments and who do not have uniforms will be stationed in police headquarters and army corps (in the provinces)," Samangani said.

A number of Kabul residents, meanwhile, said uniformed forces should be deployed to the city to maintain security and to prevent criminal activity by gunmen identifying as Taliban."

Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty's Gandhara, [Afghan Women At Forefront Of Nonviolent Resistance To Taliban](#), 10 September 2021

"The Taliban formed a new, all-male government on September 7 that is made up exclusively of senior militants. It did not include any women, even in secondary roles. The Taliban said women were not suited to serve in the cabinet.

The militants also abolished the Women's Affairs Ministry and reestablished the feared Ministry for the Promotion of Virtue and Prevention of Vice.

In the 1990s, that ministry was responsible for enforcing the Taliban's morality laws, including its strict dress code and gender segregation in society. The ministry's dreaded police were notorious for publicly beating offenders, including women.

United States Institute of Peace, [Five Questions on the Taliban's Caretaker Government](#), 9 September 2021

"As part of the Taliban's bid to re-establish the "Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan," the militant group announced the line up for its caretaker government on Tuesday. Despite several leading Taliban figures saying the movement would govern in a more moderate and inclusive fashion, the acting appointments made this week were mostly old guard members who played similar roles when the group ruled Afghanistan in the 1990s. USIP's Andrew Watkins discusses who the key players are, what it signals about the Taliban's commitment to inclusivity, the key challenges the government will face and how the West and regional countries should engage."

International Crisis Group, [Who Will Run the Taliban Government?](#), 9 September 2021

"The Taliban announced an "interim" cabinet on 7 September, their first step since taking power on 15 August toward forming a government and signalling how they intend to rule. The cabinet is filled with long-time key Taliban figures from their days as a government and later an insurgency, and it bears a strong resemblance to their former regime of the 1990s. The appointments will reassure the Taliban's rank and file that their leadership remains unified and has not succumbed to pressure to show a more moderate face, but it will not be appreciated by many others. The roster does not reflect Afghan diversity, and it offers no olive branches to a wary international community."

FDD's Long War Journal, [Taliban's government includes designated terrorists, ex-Guantanamo detainees](#), 8 September 2021

"The Taliban has announced the formation of an "interim government" to rule over Afghanistan. The Taliban's regime will be known as the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan. This is entirely unsurprising. The first emirate was

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toppled during the U.S.-led invasion in late 2001. The jihadis, members of both the Taliban and al Qaeda, waged jihad for the next two decades in order to resurrect it. The Taliban was clear about its political goal all along. Many of the newly appointed leaders in the Islamic Emirate are actually old Taliban leaders. More than a dozen of them were first sanctioned by the U.N. Security Council in early 2001. Some new faces have joined them. Brief profiles for 22 of the Taliban men who will govern under the emirate are offered below. This list does not include all of the figures appointed to lead. FDD's Long War Journal will likely add to this list in the future. Many of the Taliban leaders discussed below have either current or historical ties to al Qaeda. Indeed, some of them worked closely with al Qaeda throughout their careers. Some them are U.S.-designated terrorists." Five of the newly-appointed Taliban leaders were once held at the detention facility in Guantánamo, but exchanged for Bowe Bergdahl in 2014. They are discussed at the end of this analysis."

The Guardian, [Taliban name all-male Afghan cabinet including minister wanted by FBI](#), 7 September 2021

"The Taliban have announced an all-male caretaker government including an interior minister wanted by the FBI, on a day when at least two people were killed by violent policing of street protests against the new authorities. The leadership unveiled on Tuesday is drawn entirely from Taliban ranks, despite promises of an inclusive cabinet, and many of its senior figures are on UN sanctions lists, which is likely to complicate the group's search for international recognition."

"Afghanistan will once more be officially known as an Islamic emirate, as it was under Taliban rule in the 1990s, and its chief, Hibatullah Akhundzada, will be supreme leader."

"The prime minister will be Mullah Mohammad Hassan Akhund, one of the founding members of the group who was close to its original leader, one-eyed Mullah Mohammed Omar."

"Mullah Omar's son Mullah Yaqoob will be defence minister, and the acting interior minister is Sirajuddin Haqqani, who is on the FBI wanted list with a \$5m (£3.6m) bounty on his head."

"The new cabinet is also heavily dominated by the Pashtun ethnic group that formed the Taliban's original power base but which makes up only about 40% of Afghanistan's population. Just three appointees appeared to be from other ethnic groups."

How is the media regulated under the Taliban?

Khaama Press, [Taliban systematically censoring Afghan media, journalists lost independency: statement](#), 18 January 2022

"Home of Freedom of Speech in Afghanistan has expressed concern about the situation of media, Afghan journalists, freedom of speech, and freedom of media after the Taliban takeover.

The foundation on Monday, January 17, 2022, in a statement said that media and journalists in Afghanistan have lost their independence and they have systematically been censored by de facto authorities in Kabul.

The statement reads that censorship has different roots and that most of the roots belong to the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan.

"Afghan media and journalists have been pressurized by the intelligence of the IEA unprecedentedly and they want to turn the media into their propaganda platforms. The intelligence has succeeded to do so to a certain extent because they are using different methods as a threat, force, and pressures." Reads the statement.

The Home of Freedom of Speech has claimed that the Taliban go to the Newsrooms of media and tell the journalists to cover stories in their favor as they live under their rule.

It adds that most of the prominent journalists have left jobs because they did not want to be used for propaganda for the Taliban.

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The foundation has asked the IEA to stop censoring media and putting pressure on Afghan journalists and also asked international media advocates so that the lives of journalists are protected and the gain of past two decades be preserved."

Khaama Press, [Lack of access to information may lead to closure of media in Afghanistan: survey](#), 17 January 2022

"National Union of Afghanistan's Journalists said that they do not have a legal document and guideline for media coverage by the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan that has put media and Afghan journalists in great trouble.

The union said that during the past twenty years there was a legal document for the activities of media in Afghanistan that had facilitated media coverage and access to information.

Members of the union said that lack of the document and guidelines has led to a lack of access to information that will definitely lead to the collapse of the Afghan media outlets.

They said that after the Taliban takeover, the life of Afghan journalists is getting worse day by day and more restrictions are being imposed on access to information.

Head of the union Masroor Lutfi said that the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan has promised not to cause troubles for male and female journalists and the situation is also getting better in Kabul but provinces still have the problem of access to information.

"Absence of a legal document and guideline is a serious problem that has made people cover stories by themselves and based on their interests. We cannot address incidents happen to journalists until we have a guideline by IEA." Said Masroor.

It comes as more than 70% of Afghan media have close due to economic woes after the Taliban takeover on August 15 last year."

Khaama Press, [95% Afghan journalists cannot cover stories independently: polling](#), 16 January 2022

"National Union of Afghanistan's Journalists said that 95 percent of Afghan journalists have the problem of access to information and they cannot cover stories independently.

The union has cited its polling that was conducted in all 34 provinces of Afghanistan during which 500 Afghan journalists were questioned.

Statistics of the polling were released in Kabul on Sunday, January 16, 2022, in a press conference.

As per the numbers, 90% of the attendants are facing serious problems in collecting information as there is no specific law of access to the information after the Taliban regained power.

"We asked attendants if the media are censored, 90% said yes and only 10% said no, 90% attendants said yes to the question of access to information while the same percentage said they they have been censored by de facto authorities." Said Masroor Lutfi head of the Union.

The polling has also found that 30% of Afghan journalists found it difficult to interview Taliban authorities while 50% said that they have problems in interviewing common people.

It comes as journalists have been accusing the Taliban of censoring, beating, intimidating, and threatening them while covering stories especially outdoor ones."

Deutsche Welle (Afghanistan), [Afghanistan: How press freedom has crumbled since the Taliban takeover](#), 11 January 2022

"Thousands of journalists have lost their jobs in Afghanistan over the past few months, with many media outlets ceasing operations due to increasing security and financial challenges. Selma (name changed) was a journalist and activist living and working in Panjshir province in northeastern Afghanistan. She, like many others, lost her job following the Taliban takeover of the war-ravaged country in August. After being threatened, she left the region and is now in hiding, selling bolani, a local flat bread, on the streets to survive "I worked as a journalist and human rights activist," said Selma, who asked DW not to reveal her true identity for fear of reprisals. "As you know, women's rights are strongly related to religious ideologies, so we were always in dispute with extremists. This put

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us in danger." Selma is one of the thousands of journalists and media workers who have lost their jobs in Afghanistan since August. According to a report published in December by Reporters Without Borders (RSF), 40% of media outlets have closed over the past five months with an estimated 6,400 journalists losing their jobs. Hundreds have fled the country. The report added that over 80% of female journalists are now out of work. According to a report published in December by Reporters Without Borders (RSF), 40% of media outlets have closed over the past five months with an estimated 6,400 journalists losing their jobs. Hundreds have fled the country. The report added that over 80% of female journalists are now out of work." [...]

RUSI, [The Taliban's Homemade Counterinsurgency](#), 4 January 2022

"The Taliban have also shut down media reporting about counterinsurgency activities. The media are told to describe strikes against insurgents and terrorist cells as raids against kidnappers and other criminals. The Taliban seem to be trying to prevent IS-K and other opposition groups from using media reporting as a tool in their propaganda/recruitment strategy, even if they cannot prevent reports of attacks and counterstrikes from circulating on social media. While this move could be seen as 'brutal' in terms of media freedom, it may well be effective, at least to some degree."

Committee to Protect Journalists, [Afghan TV station owner Aref Noori detained by Taliban-affiliated militia](#), December 27, 2021

"Yesterday, dozens of armed men who identified themselves as members of a militia affiliated with the Taliban-controlled Police District 4 in Kabul stormed and searched Noori's house in the Karte Parwan area of the capital and detained him," [...]

"Noori, owner of the independent broadcaster Noorin Television, has not been seen by his family or a lawyer following his detention, according to his son, who said his whereabouts are unknown." [...]

"Noorin TV often covers security issues in Afghanistan, and frequently airs programming supportive of the opposition Jamiat-e-Islami party. Kashef Noori said that the broadcaster had operated for the last decade but paused programming this week due to technical issues."

Al Jazeera, [Almost half of Afghan media closed since Taliban takeover: Survey](#), 24 December 2021

"Afghanistan's media outlets are on the brink of a meltdown as they face a shortage of funding following the [takeover](#) by the Taliban in August this year. A survey released by Reporters Without Borders (RSF) and the Afghan Independent Journalists Association (AIJA) indicates that about 43 percent of Afghan media outlets have shut down their operations, leaving almost 60 percent of journalists unemployed."

Reporters Without Borders, [Since the Taliban takeover, 40% of Afghan media have closed, 80% of women journalists have lost their jobs](#), December 20, 2021 - Updated on December 21, 2021

"A survey by Reporters Without Borders (RSF) and the Afghan Independent Journalists Association (AIJA) shows a radical change in the Afghan media landscape since the Taliban took power. A total of 231 media outlets have had to close and more than 6,400 journalists have lost their jobs since 15 August. Women journalists have been hit hardest, with four out of five no longer working."

"The environment for journalists in the capital and the rest of the country has become extremely fraught since the Taliban takeover. Media must now comply with the "11 Journalism Rules" issued by the information and culture ministry and with Taliban interpretation of Islamic doctrine on "Enjoining good and forbidding wrong." The dangerous "Journalism Rules" open the way to censorship and persecution, and deprive journalists of their independence, forcing them to tell information and culture ministry officials what they would like to cover, get their permission to go ahead and finally inform them about the results of their reporting in order to be able to publish.

In some provinces, the obligation to replace news and music programmes with programmes whose content is solely religious in nature has also driven some local radio stations to cease broadcasting."

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"Recognising the disappearance of many media outlets, Mujahid noted that many media "executives and managers had fled the country." This had contributed to "collapse" of their media outlets, he said. Hundreds of journalists have left Afghanistan since August for fear of reprisals or because of the impossibility of continuing to practice their profession.

IAJA executive-director Hojatollah Mujadadi said: "Beyond the numbers, the closure of nearly half of the country's media and the loss of more than 6,000 jobs are a disaster for press freedom. If international institutions do not help journalists and media in Afghanistan and if the government does not take urgent action, the other half of the media and journalists, who are still working in really difficult conditions, will suffer the same fate."

Committee to Protect Journalists, [Taliban official and bodyguards beat, detain journalist Sayed Rashed Kashefi](#), 14 December 2021

"The Taliban must immediately and thoroughly investigate the beating and detention of journalist Sayed Rashed Kashefi and ensure that members of the press can operate freely and safely, the Committee to Protect Journalists said today."

Al Jazeera, [Afghan women speak up against new Taliban media guidelines](#), 25 November 2021

"Afghan journalists and activists have expressed concern over a new "religious guideline" issued by Taliban rulers, saying the move is yet another [form of control](#) over women.

The Taliban, which [took over](#) Afghanistan roughly 100 days ago, on Sunday urged female journalists to follow a dress code and called on TV stations to stop showing soap operas featuring women, sparking fears over women's rights and media freedom.

Akif Muhajir, spokesman for the Ministry for the Promotion of Virtue and Prevention of Vice, said "these are not rules but a religious guideline".

However, activists fear it could be misused to harass female journalists, many of whom have already fled the country in the wake of the Taliban's takeover on August 15. (...)

Sonia Ahmadyar, a journalist who lost her job in August, said the Taliban has been moving to slowly "muzzle the media".

TOLO News, [257 Media Outlets Closed in 100 Days Since Takeover](#), 23 November 2021

"We urge that the Law on Access to Information, and Media Law, which are not being used now, be amended based on the current situation and in consultation with the media," said Masroor Lutfi, media officer at Afghanistan National Journalists' Union.

NAI, an organization supporting media in Afghanistan, said that since the Islamic Emirate rule, over 257 media outlets have ceased operating in the country due to financial challenges as well as restrictions. This includes print, radio and TV stations. According to NAI, over 70 percent of media workers have become jobless or left the country. Reports show that during these 100 days, six reporters have lost their lives in various incidents including attacks by unknown armed men, explosions, committing suicide and traffic incidents.

Human Rights Watch, [Afghanistan: Taliban Crackdown on Media Worsens](#), 22 November 2021

"Taliban intelligence officials have made death threats against journalists who have criticized Taliban officials and have required journalists to submit all reports for approval before publication. New guidelines from the Vice and Virtue Ministry dictate the dress of female journalists on television and prohibit soap operas and entertainment programs featuring female actors. [...]

Several journalists said that they have been summoned by local officials immediately after publishing reports on Taliban abuses. One journalist who had reported complaints about Taliban searching houses and beating people said that the deputy governor called him into his office and told him that if he broadcast anything like that again, "He would hang me in the town square."

Other media staff have reported that heavily armed Taliban intelligence officials visited their offices and warned

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journalists not to use the word “Taliban” in their reporting but to refer to the “Islamic Emirate” in all publications. In one province, intelligence officials ordered local media to replace the word for suicide bomber with the word for martyr after a published report mentioned that Interior Minister Sirajuddin Haqqani had honored the families of suicide bombers. [...]

The Taliban have also pressed the media, especially in the provinces, to publish the reports they want and have ordered journalists in some instances to interview them. One journalist said: “After they threatened us with death, we published what they said. Now we broadcast Quranic verses at the beginning of the programs and naat [Islamic songs] because we fear for our safety.” [...]

Many media outlets have closed their offices out of fear and are publishing only online. The chief editor for a women-led media office said that her staff use pseudonyms to hide their identities because the Taliban accuse them “of promoting Western values.” [...]

The atmosphere of fear has left people afraid to share information on incidents, such as forced evictions or violent attacks by the Taliban. Journalists said that the Taliban authorities routinely ignore their requests for information, or simply deny reported incidents.”

Al Jazeera, [Afghan journalists lament ‘bleak’ future for media under Taliban](#), 22 October 2021
“Ahmadi, who was then deputy head of news at TOLO, met the network’s top management and immediately came to two decisions.

“The first thing we did was send all the female staff home,” Ahmadi told Al Jazeera over the phone from Europe.

The other decision they made was controversial but necessary, he said. They immediately stopped broadcasting music and entertainment programmes. The Turkish serials, game shows, singing competitions, talk shows and sketch comedy shows that millions of people tuned into every evening came to a sudden end.

Though the Taliban had made no official declarations on programming at the time, Ahmadi said the decision was a preemptive one.

“If you understood the fear that night, you would see why we came to such a decision,” he told Al Jazeera. Ahmadi said he now regrets that decision, but that at the time, it seemed like a necessary one. “We wanted to be the ones to cut them off, not the Taliban,” he said. [...]

Other journalists Al Jazeera spoke to agreed with Khenjani’s assessment, saying they have faced pushback while trying to report on several issues over the last two months.

Journalists who were beaten and tortured for reporting on protests in Kabul last month told Al Jazeera they have been warned by Taliban officials not to cover such events.

Likewise, journalists also recalled being stopped by the Taliban from reporting from the northern province of Panjshir where an armed resistance against the group started after it took over Kabul.

Abdul Farid Ahmad, the former deputy director for operations at TOLO News, references all of these events when speaking about his efforts to continue working in a Taliban-controlled Afghanistan.

“They have beaten journalists many times. They didn’t let journalists cover the women’s protests. They didn’t let journalists go to Panjshir when it was not under their control. We have so many examples that the Taliban didn’t and still don’t want journalists to work freely,” he told Al Jazeera.”

Human Rights Watch, [Afghanistan: Taliban Severely Restrict Media](#), 1 October 2021

“Taliban authorities in Afghanistan have imposed wide-ranging restrictions on media and free speech that are already stifling criticism and dissent, Human Rights Watch said today.

During a late September meeting with journalists in Kabul, the Taliban Ministry of Information and Culture distributed media regulations whose provisions are so broad and vague as to prohibit virtually any critical reporting about the Taliban.

“Despite the Taliban’s promises to allow media that ‘respected Islamic values’ to function, the new rules are suffocating media freedom in the country,” said Patricia Gossman, associate Asia director at Human Rights Watch.

“The Taliban regulations are so sweeping that journalists are self-censoring and fear ending up in prison.”

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A copy of the regulations seen by Human Rights Watch says that media are prohibited from printing or broadcasting reports that “are contrary to Islam,” “insult national figures,” or “distort news content.” Journalists are required to “ensure that their reporting is balanced” and not report on “matters that have not been confirmed by officials” or issues that “could have a negative impact on the public’s attitude.” Media outlets are required to “prepare detailed reports” with the new governmental regulatory body before publication.

[...]

An editor of a media outlet led by women said that, after the Taliban takeover, they had continued to publish online but stopped after the new regulations were announced. “We have lost the space for free media with the Taliban taking over the country,” she said. “We do not have free media in Afghanistan anymore.”

A journalist in Kabul said that the regulations were “very worrying,” as they would “restrict most of the media’s activities. Those who are still operating no longer publish anything critical. They mostly interview Taliban officials. Previously, they were active in criticizing the government ... but with these regulations, censorship is the immediate result.”

A Kabul-based editor said that the prohibition on “insulting national figures” could be interpreted very broadly and curtail any reporting on corruption or other abuses.”

How is Sharia law interpreted and applied?

Gandhara, [Regional Taliban Officials Ban Beard Trimming, Impose Turbans For Male Employees](#), 17 January 2022

“Taliban officials in Afghanistan’s southern Uruzgan Province have ordered male employees to stop trimming their beards and wear a turban at work. [...]

Mulawi Taib, a senior Taliban official in Uruzgan, told a gathering on January 16 that the hard-line Islamist group wanted people to obey Islamic Shari’a law.

“All employees...should understand that the policy of the Islamic Emirate [of Afghanistan] is based on Shari’a law. All employees are forbidden to shorten their beards and must come to work wearing turbans,” Mulawi Taib said.

In November, the Ministry for the Promotion of Virtue and Prevention of Vice issued a set of “religious guidelines” that imposed new restrictions on life under the Taliban.

Uruzgan is one of the provinces where the group has imposed strict rules after returning to power.

According to reports, Taliban officials have appointed people at mosques to monitor the observance of prayers and religious orders. An attendance book was introduced in mosques, resulting in punishments for those who do not attend prayers.

Such punishments are meted out mainly by employees appointed by the ministry, reports said.

The Ministry of Vice and Virtue, which replaced the Western-backed government’s Women’s Affairs Ministry and took over its building after the militant group seized Kabul, was notorious for its abuses, particularly against women and girls, during the previous Taliban rule, from 1996 to 2001.”

Gandhara, [Afghans Fear for Their Rights As Taliban Resurrects Religious Policing](#), 6 January 2022

When the Taliban seized power in August, the militant group vowed it would not resurrect the violent religious policing it enforced during its first stint in power. The hard-liners claimed they would limit themselves to preaching Islamic values of modesty and dignity. But nearly five months after regaining power, the Taliban’s Ministry for the Promotion of Virtue and Prevention of Vice has reclaimed its role as the enforcer of the group’s radical interpretation of Islamic law. In a spate of decrees issued in recent weeks, the ministry has imposed restrictions on the behavior, movement, and appearances of residents, particularly those of women and girls.

AVA Press, [The Taliban Issued New Instructions to the Residents of Logar](#), 12 December 2021

“The Taliban-led government has asked businessmen and shopkeepers in Pul-e-Alam, Logar, to offer their daily

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prayers in congregations and mosques. The Department of Enjoining the Good and Forbidding the Evil has also instructed the barbershops in the city of -e-Alam that taking money and shaving the beard is forbidden and should be avoided.” [...]

“He pointed out that these are not their orders, but a religious matter and a divine command.” [...]

Meanwhile, Taliban officials are assuring the people of the province that they will not be mistreated in any way. According to them, their duty is not to punish and mistreat people, but social awareness and the implementation of Islamic culture in society.

AVA Press, [Taliban Forces Confiscated 800 Liters of Wine in Parwan](#), 6 December 2021

“Local Taliban officials in province say they have seized more than 800 liters of alcohol from the province.

“The consignment was discovered and confiscated on Monday, December 6, in the seventh security district of , the provincial capital,” said Shamsulhaq Mobashir, governor spokesman of Taliban in Parwan.

According to him, 10 sellers of have also been arrested by Taliban forces.

“Meanwhile, an alcoholic beverage factory belonging to the 17th district of was seized by Taliban forces,” said Malang Jan, the commander of Parwan’s 7th security district.

According to local Taliban officials in the province, the detainees have pleaded guilty and their cases are under investigation.”

AVA Press, [Handle the Prisoners’ Cases Based on Sharia Law, Says Taliban Cabinet](#), 23 November 2021

“The Taliban interim government has ordered that the cases of all prisoners and detainees be handled and their fate must be determined in accordance with Islamic law.

The cabinet of the Taliban on Tuesday, November 23, told all relevant sections not to detain prisoners for more than a certain period of time.

The prisoners’ cases should be referred to the judiciary, the cabinet stressed.

The cabinet meeting of the acting Taliban government said that the needs of the prisoners should be solved and their rights should be fully respected.”

JURIST, [Afghanistan dispatches: Taliban Minister of Propagation of Virtue and Prevention of Vice insists that separating men and women is a fundamental Islamic value](#), 16 November 2021

“JURIST EXCLUSIVE – Law students and lawyers in Afghanistan are filing reports with JURIST on the situation there after the Taliban takeover. Here, a Staff Correspondent for JURIST in Kabul offers his observations on recent activities of the Taliban Ministry for Propagation of Virtue and Prevention of Vice. [...]

The Minister for Propagation of Virtue and Prevention of Vice said in a statement Tuesday that the Taliban are not against girls’ education, but men and women sitting together at a table is in contradiction to Islamic values. He further added that if the international community puts pressure on the Taliban for this reason, they will not leave their beliefs. [...]

In provinces like Nangarhar, Takhar, Kapisa, Nuristan, and Kandahar the ministry’s officials have sent letters to barbers and public baths stating that no barber is allowed to shave anyone’s beard. If caught, the barber will be punished.

There is no official report if they have punished anyone but according to my understanding, they are using most of their time to educate and inform the public of these policies.

The recent statements by the minister indicates one thing on the future education and higher education system in the country, and that is that there may be separate classes for girls and boys. Boys are girls were already separated in schools, but in the universities they attended the same class. This may be one reason behind the closure of public universities in the country.”

NPR via The Associated Press, [The Taliban Order Barbers Not To Shave Beards In Afghan Province Of Helmand](#), 27 September 2021

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"The Taliban on Monday banned barbershops in a southern Afghanistan province from shaving or trimming beards, claiming their edict is in line with Shariah, or Islamic, [law](#).

The order in Helmand province was issued by the provincial Taliban government's vice and virtue department to barbers in Lashkar Gah, the provincial capital.[...]

During their previous rule of Afghanistan, the Taliban adhered to a harsh interpretation of Islam. Since overrunning Kabul on Aug. 15 and again taking control of the country, the world has been watching to see whether they will re-create their strict governance of the late 1990s.

Some indication came on Saturday, when Taliban fighters killed four alleged kidnappers and later hung their bodies in the public squares of the western city of Herat."

Financial Times, [Afghanistan's young Talibs: 'No compromise with the enemy of our martyrs'](#), 18 September 2021

"There is a generation "more radical than the mainstream Taliban", said Graeme Smith at the International Crisis Group. The new Taliban rulers are "going to have their hands full".

The Guardian, [Taliban ban girls from secondary education in Afghanistan](#), 17 September 2021

"In a further sign that the recently announced Taliban government is tightening restrictions on women, the former ministry of women's affairs building in Kabul has been handed over to the newly re-established ministry for the prevention of vice and promotion of virtue.

This was the group's feared enforcer in the 1990s, charged with beating women who violated bars on everything from going out in public without a male guardian to an obsessively prescriptive dress code that even forbade high heels."

TOLO News, [Afghan Education Ministry to Modify Curriculum](#), 13 September 2021

"The Ministry of Higher Education announced on Sunday that some subjects which contrast with Islam's Sharia will be dropped from the higher education curriculum.

It comes as private universities and other higher education institutions reopened about a week ago in which classes were divided by gender.

Acting Minister of Higher Education Shaikh Abdul Baqi Haqqani said on Sunday that mixed classes between girls and boys are not acceptable and some changes will be brought to the curriculum.

He said changes will be based on Islamic Sharia.

[...]

The ministry added that it will launch a program to send students abroad for higher education in the future."

TOLO News, [Private Universities Reopen, Students Separated by Gender](#), 7 September 2021

"The Ministry of Higher Education announced that private universities and higher education institutions that are following the new gender format have reopened.

The acting Minister Abdul Baqi Haqqani told TOLONews that the male and female university students will be taught in separate classrooms, emphasizing that only female lecturers will be allowed to teach girls' classes.

According to Haqqani, joint classes are not acceptable at universities. He said: "Some of the universities are able to use separate buildings for girls, to teach the girls separately. But a number of universities do not have buildings, they can change the time of classes."

Meanwhile, officials from the private universities and institutions said they were willing to implement the new format required by the ministry. The officials are worried about the girls' low attendance at the universities. [...]

The state universities are still closed in Afghanistan. Based on the ministry's announcements, government universities will open as soon as the separation of classes take place."

The Guardian, [Taliban name all-male Afghan cabinet including minister wanted by FBI](#), 7 September

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2021

"The Taliban have also brought back the ministry for promotion of virtue and prevention of vice, a notorious enforcement body that was one of the most hated institutions when they last controlled Afghanistan. Its main function was to police the Taliban's **extreme interpretation** of Islamic law."

"In his first statement since the Taliban seized power last month, [supreme leader] Akhundzada said Afghanistan's new rulers were committed to all international laws, treaties and commitments not in conflict with Islamic law.

"In the future, all matters of governance and life in Afghanistan will be regulated by the laws of the holy Sharia," he said."

What is the Taliban's justice and dispute resolution system?

Khaama, [Taliban to investigate torture of former security personnel](#), 31 December 2021

"Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan said they will investigate cases of former security personnel being kidnapped, tortured, and arrested by rank and file of IEA.

"A spokesperson of the IEA Ahmadullah Wasiq said that they are fully committed to the general amnesty announced by Supreme Leader Hebtullah Akhundzada and will not allow anyone to violate amnesty."

Khaama, [Respect my amnesty, stop extrajudicial punishment: Mullah Hebtullah to Taliban](#), 30 December 2021

"Supreme leader of the Taliban Mullah Hebtullah Akhundzada has directed the Taliban affiliates to respect his announced general amnesty and stop extrajudicial punishment of the employees of the former Afghan government. [...]

"The emphasis on implementing general amnesty and stopping extrajudicial punishment comes after a video of a former security commander being punished and beaten by a Taliban affiliate went viral."

Al Jazeera, [Taliban: From Afghanistan's rugged mountains to policing streets](#), 5 October 2021

"In Kabul's Police District 8, there is a long queue leading to two rooms. In one, there are criminal cases. In another, civilian disputes.

Victims of stabbings, robbery and other misdeeds sit in the same room as alleged perpetrators, staring into the distance until it is their turn to plead their case.

For lesser crimes, Taliban police offer the accused three days to show up at the station. After that, they go after them.

The court system is a work in progress, officials said. Meetings are still under way between Taliban officials – used to tribal justice prevalent in rural Afghanistan – to work out the process in a sprawling city with an active judiciary. Even those who fear them in the embattled city welcome the peace their arrival has brought.

The Taliban has empowered local elders to pass judgement based on their interpretation of Islamic law for minor criminal cases.

In the Sheikh Zayed City residential area of Kabul, a committee of elders ordered the father of a man accused of stabbing a neighbour to pay 35,000 Afghanis, about \$400.

The father counts the banknotes in a rapid shuffle and hands it to the imam, who offers it to the family of the victim. They embrace. Justice served."

Afghan Analyst Network, [Creating a Hierarchy of Victims? ICC may drop investigations into US forces to focus on Taleban and ISKP - Afghanistan Analysts Network - English](#), 1 October 2021

"As to whether allegations of war crimes or crimes against humanity would be dealt with in domestic courts, the Prosecutor is correct to say that the Taleban are unlikely to prosecute their own. Taleban action against the ISKP and former government officials can be expected, but it is debateable whether that would be through their courts,

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which are even further from reaching international fair trial standards than the previous government's, or as summary executions or punishment beatings. Reprisal killings of members of the former Afghan security services have been alleged by UNAMA and of members of ISKP and other Salafists in media reporting, see for example, [here](#) and [here](#)."

AP News, [Taliban official: Strict punishment, executions will return](#), 23 September 2021

"KABUL, Afghanistan (AP) — One of the founders of the Taliban and the chief enforcer of its harsh interpretation of Islamic law when they last ruled Afghanistan [Mullah Nooruddin Turabi] said the hard-line movement will once again carry out executions and amputations of hands, though perhaps not in public.

In an interview with The Associated Press, Mullah Nooruddin Turabi dismissed outrage over the Taliban's executions in the past, which sometimes took place in front of crowds at a stadium, and he warned the world against interfering with Afghanistan's new rulers. [...]

Turabi, now in his early 60s, was justice minister and head of the so-called Ministry of Propagation of Virtue and Prevention of Vice — effectively, the religious police — during the Taliban's previous rule.

At that time, the world denounced the Taliban's punishments, which took place in Kabul's sports stadium or on the grounds of the sprawling Eid Gah mosque, often attended by hundreds of Afghan men.

Executions of convicted murderers were usually by a single shot to the head, carried out by the victim's family, who had the option of accepting "blood money" and allowing the culprit to live. For convicted thieves, the punishment was amputation of a hand. For those convicted of highway robbery, a hand and a foot were amputated.

Trials and convictions were rarely public and the judiciary was weighted in favor of Islamic clerics, whose knowledge of the law was limited to religious injunctions.

Turabi said that this time, judges — including women — would adjudicate cases, but the foundation of Afghanistan's laws will be the Quran. He said the same punishments would be revived.

"Cutting off of hands is very necessary for security," he said, saying it had a deterrent effect. He said the Cabinet was studying whether to do punishments in public and will "develop a policy."

In recent days in Kabul, Taliban fighters have revived a punishment they commonly used in the past — public shaming of men accused of small-time theft.

On at least two occasions in the last week, Kabul men have been packed into the back of a pickup truck, their hands tied, and were paraded around to humiliate them. In one case, their faces were painted to identify them as thieves. In the other, stale bread was hung from their necks or stuffed in their mouth. It wasn't immediately clear what their crimes were."

Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty's Gandhara, [Gandhara Briefing: Return Of The Taliban Emirate](#), 10 September 2021

"The Taliban, as Afghans remember all too well, has its own brand of justice. The militants' shadow courts are set to become Afghanistan's official judicial system based on their strict interpretation of Islamic law. "Soon we will see floggings for adultery and public intoxication, and we will see them executing people for murder," predicted Haroun Rahimi, an exiled Afghan legal scholar."

Livelihood

Can cultural activities take place? What restrictions and guidelines does the Taliban place on them?

Deutsche Welle, [Hundreds of Afghan artists need protection](#), 20 December 2021

"Meanwhile, more and more Afghan artists are receiving death threats, are living underground or hiding their works, or even destroying them. Some of them are attempting to flee the country across national borders on their

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own — only to end up in third countries that are also unsafe.”

NBC, [Afghanistan's only music school completes exit from Kabul fearing Taliban crackdown](#), 18 November 2021

“The last two of more than 270 students, faculty and staff from [Afghanistan's](#) only music school have left the country in the wake of the [Taliban](#) takeover, the institution's founder said on Thursday.”

AAN, [Music Censorship in 2021: The silencing of a nation and its cultural identity](#), 17 November 2021

“Music and musicians once again face serious threats following Afghanistan’s takeover by the Taleban in August this year. Over the past two decades, the theory and practice of traditional Afghan instruments, as well as other musical forms, has seen a remarkable revival after the destruction of the country’s musical heritage during the 1990s, with skills being passed on to a new generation of performers. Now, musicians are once again being forced to relocate abroad. This means they will only be able to keep their musical heritage and identity alive from beyond Afghanistan’s borders, jeopardising an already fragile but important recent shift in how music and musicians are perceived in Afghan society. Fabrizio Foschini looks at the hardships that have befallen Afghan musicians and the risks that music faces once again. [...]

The Taleban never publicised their official position on music during their 20-year war against the Afghan government. Musicians were occasionally targeted but most likely as a means of reasserting the Taleban’s authority in the first years of the insurgency (see for example here). In Taleban-held areas, the treatment of musicians depended largely on local commanders’ relationships with communities or the presence of musicians in areas under their control (See this report in the Telegraph). [...] However, a clearer glimpse of their future attitudes to music emerged once they consolidated their hold on towns which fell during their 2021 spring-summer offensive. In Balkh, for example, which they captured on 21 June, the Taleban implemented a ban on music. Local radio stations were only allowed to play religious chants and men caught listening to music in the bazaar were reportedly subjected to corporal punishments. [...] The days following the fall of the Republic on 15 August were marked by the destruction of musical instruments, either as a political message or acts of vandalism. This not only intimidates, it also takes away the means for people to earn their living, especially given how expensive and beloved instruments are. In the capital, unidentified armed men entered the Afghan National Institute of Music (ANIM), tried to steal the institute’s vehicles and reportedly destroyed a number of instruments (NPR reporting here). On 27 August, several pianos and *tabla* were smashed when a Radio Television Afghanistan (RTA) studio was vandalised (see, for example, this India Today report). In Jalalabad, the Taleban targeted music shops, reportedly as early as 15 August, the day they entered the city. They doused instruments with petrol, set them on fire in the city’s streets and ordered musicians to find other jobs. Music shops across the country were closed down within days and have remained so ever since (see here).

In an event that shocked the nation on 27 August, Taleban fighters took Fawad Andarabi, a player of the *ghichak*, a type of bowed lute, from his home and shot him dead (see here). The fact that the killing happened during the Taleban’s military offensive in Panjshir by way of the Andarab valley did not diminish the significance of this event. Fawad Andarabi had been at home when Taleban fighters, who had already paid him a visit, returned and summarily executed him (see here).

Since then, there have been occasional reports of incidents involving musicians or performances. For example, Kabuli musicians told AAN that a duo of *dhol* (percussion) and *sorna* (woodwind) players were on their way to a wedding when the Taleban stopped them near the old city’s main roundabout and broke their instruments. On 17 September, an Afghan journalist (@TajudenSoroush) reported on Twitter that Taleban militants had overrun a wedding party in Takhar province and beaten up a group of female musicians who were playing for an all-female audience.

More recently, on 29 October, gunmen introducing themselves as Taleban opened fire on a wedding in Surkhrod district in Nangrahar after guests tried to stop them from smashing loudspeakers, killing at least two people and injuring ten others. The couples getting married in the joint ceremony had reportedly received permission from a local Taleban commander to play recorded music in the area reserved for women. The Taleban have sought to

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distance themselves from the incident and later announced they had arrested two of the perpetrators, saying the attack had started because of a personal feud.

Like many of the Taleban's new legal provisions, their ban on music has not been officially announced or explained; it has emerged over time through a series of declarations, prohibitions and measures (see this Gandhara report). Taleban spokesmen, for example, have denounced music as un-Islamic (see Newsweek report here) and Taleban officials have met the owners of hotels, restaurants and wedding halls in Kabul and instructed them to avoid live music. As Zabiullah Mujahed told The New York Times: "Music is forbidden in Islam ... but we're hoping that we can persuade people not to do such things, instead of pressuring them."

However, the forms of 'persuasion' employed have not excluded force: Afghan musicians and DJs have been repeatedly intimidated and subject to violence by Taleban – although individuals were arguably acting beyond their mandate in the case of the worst attacks. They have also seen their instruments and professional paraphernalia destroyed. At this rate, the Taleban may succeed in convincing musicians to give up their profession, without the government having to announce a ban officially (see this AP report). What is certain, is that many musicians are nowadays burying their instruments and trying to leave the country. [...] Their current attitude towards music appears to be the same as the one they adopted then – rejection of most forms of music. Music is seen as something that is 'dangerous', distracting the mind from religion and causing people to have sinful thoughts. [...]

The Taleban's own use of music, which has been the subject of a number of studies over the past decade, has almost exclusively focused on *tarana* – poems in praise of their fighters [1] grounded in melodies and texts deeply rooted in Pashtun folk culture, but unaccompanied by instruments. The absence of instruments is a major criterion for the perceived lawfulness of music by the movement. [2] These *tarana* became a major propaganda tool for the Taleban during their nearly two-decades-long insurgency, possibly one of central importance for winning the fight "for hearts and minds" of Pashtun youths in Afghanistan and Pakistan's Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. They had, however, already been composed and performed by the Taleban in the 1990s. [3] Apart from the *tarana*, the only other forms of musical performance endorsed by the Taleban are compositions in their praise or strictly devotional music (see here) such as the *marsyeh* (requiem) or *na't* (a recitation in praise of the Prophet Muhammad). Yet once again, the distinction seems to be largely between vocal and instrumental performances, rather than devotional versus secular, as the musical gatherings at the Sufi Chishti Khanaqah in Old Kabul, a devotional practice considered as *ghaza-ye ruh* (food for the soul) have all but stopped since the Taleban's takeover. (See the author's piece about the music scene in Old Kabul here.)"

AVA Press, [A Young Boy Killed for Listening to Music in Badakhshan](#), 13 November 2021

"Afghan Voice Agency (AVA)_A 19-year-old young boy was shot for listening to music by the , sources in Badakhshan said.

The incident took place in the Zargaran village, Ashkashum district of on (Tuesday, November 9), sources told Hasht-e Subh.

The young victim was named Wahidullah and had just graduated from school.

was shot by the Taliban while he was listening to music.

According to the sources, the Taliban first checked his cell phone, and when they found out that he was listening to music they beat and shot him.

He died due to severe bleeding while taking to the hospital, sources told Hasht-e Subh.

The Taliban haven't shown any reactions to the incident.

In addition, beard shaving and haircut as "-style" have been banned in some provinces as well by the Taliban."

BBC, [Afghanistan: Gunmen attach wedding to stop music being played](#), 31 October 2021

"Gunmen who identified themselves as Taliban attacked a wedding in eastern Afghanistan to stop music being played, killing at least two people and injuring 10 others, officials say.

A Taliban spokesman said two of the three gunmen had been arrested but denied they had acted on behalf of the Islamist movement.

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Music was banned when the Taliban ruled the country from 1996 to 2001. The new authorities have not yet issued such a decree.”

Al Jazeera, [Afghan National Music Institute strikes a chord in Qatar](#), 23 October 2021
“About 96 members of the Afghanistan National Institute of Music, or ANIM, which includes faculty and musicians have fled their homes in Afghanistan. [...] The school’s doors have been closed since mid-August. The building is now under constant patrol by the Taliban.
Situation on the ground

Since the Taliban’s return to power in Afghanistan there has not been an outright ban on music, but rather restrictions, such as no loud music is to be played in public.

Out of fear of potential consequences, several radio and TV stations in Kabul have ceased the broadcast of music or entertainment they believe might go against the Taliban’s practices and governance, which continue to be moulded and reshaped.”

Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty Gandhara, [‘I Feel Like A Dead Fish’: Silenced By The Taliban, Afghanistan's Musicians Despair](#), 13 October 2021

“Ahmad Gholami, a 25-year-old Afghan musician, had dedicated his life to the art of playing a sitar-like lute called the tanbur.

But after nearly a decade mastering the instrument well enough to earn his living as a professional musician, the Taliban has banned music under its tribal interpretation of Islamic law.

Gholami and other musicians he knows have effectively been silenced by an order from the Taliban-installed police chief in the central province of Bamiyan who has declared that no singing or musical instruments are allowed in his jurisdiction. [...]

the Taliban has beaten musicians in some areas, burned instruments, and banned music. That has led hundreds of musicians to flee the country in fear of their lives. [...]

Now, the Taliban’s Information and Culture Ministry says music is “forbidden” under its strict Hanafi interpretation of Islamic law.

One of the first things Taliban fighters did in August when they seized control of Jalalabad, the capital of Nangarhar Province, was to break into a music studio used by well-known Afghan musicians.

The militants dragged their harmonium, lutes, drums, and other instruments out into the street -- dousing them with petrol and setting them ablaze.

Noman Khan and other musicians who had used the studio promptly fled the country in fear of their lives. [...]

Meanwhile, local Taliban authorities in Afghanistan continue to issue decrees outlawing music in the capital, Kabul, and in major cities like Kandahar, Herat, and Mazar-e Sharif.

Siddiqullah, the Taliban-installed police chief in Bamiyan, justifies the bans and the destruction of instruments by arguing that nobody is allowed to play music.”

Jurist.org, [Afghanistan dispatches: ‘The Taliban have banned live music in hotels’](#), 9 October 2021

“The Taliban have banned live music in hotels. Officials of Ministry of Propagation of Virtue and Prevention of Vice – which was established by the Taliban after the took control of Afghanistan – met with most of hotel owners in Kabul Wednesday.

In this meeting, the Taliban instructed the hotel owners to avoid live music, and segregate places of men and women in the hotels. They already did this in some other provinces as well. In Takhar they even beat up a groom because he brought live music to his wedding ceremony.

In Afghanistan, hotels and restaurants are regulated by the specific laws and regulations under authority of the Ministry of Information and Culture. They obtain licenses from this Ministry and the Government uses this Ministry to communicate with them. The Ministry of Propagation of Virtue and Prevention of Vice – as you understand from its name – will now establish policies for each and every government agency through which they will tell people what is right and what is wrong.

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Previously, women and men were separated but only by a partition made of plastic or other stuff, but they have now made it clear that hotel owners have to separate them by walls. This indicates that they still hold the opinion of prohibiting music in the country. I actually think that this is a starting point for them to slowly ban music. In other statements, one of the Taliban's top leaders has told the media that if singers stop singing he will give them an amount of 40K AFN on a monthly basis. These statements are clearly a sign that there will be no musicians in the country, and those who choose to stay will have to change their profession and seek another source of income."

The Guardian, [‘A friend tells me he is burning his paintings’: Afghan artists in Australia speak on 20 years of war](#), 6 October 2021

"The Afghanistan-born visual artist and poet Elyas Alavi, who gained asylum in Australia as a Hazara refugee in 2007, staged an exhibition of his work in Kabul in 2014 and returned to his home country again in 2016.

He said he now feared he may never be able to return to Afghanistan.

"A friend tells me he is burning his paintings ... and I've heard of people burning their philosophy books and art books," he said.

"Now he and some of his family, most of them are living in hiding because they just don't know what's going to happen. The Taliban are checking people's mobiles ... looking for [content] that is against Sharia law, and they are [targeting] writers, artists, the LGBTQI community."

Alavi said the Afghan-Australian community felt betrayed by the Australian government.

"The prime minister says Afghanistan is a tragic country with a tragic history and Australia cannot do anything, it is the fate of these people and it's always going to be a tragedy," the now Adelaide-based artist said.

"But the government can get more people at risk out, more than the 3,000 extra visas they've announced ... and there are no permanent visas for those who are already here."

Ariana News, [Afghan Film emphasis on making serials based on Afghanistan realities](#), 4 October 2021

"Jawed Afghan, the new director of Afghan Films, was recently appointed by the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan (IEA), and says that he will develop the directorate of Afghan Film and, using its past capabilities, show the true story of Afghanistan to the world.

The director of Afghan Film emphasized the increase in the number of employees of this institution and the production of new films.

Afghan Film is Afghanistan's main government cinema institution, which has been around for decades and has played an important role in supporting and strengthening Afghan cinema. [...]

Although the director of Afghan Film does not say anything about the continued presence of female staff in the film industry, but he emphasized that the employees of this institution will continue their work as in the past and using the past capacities, the current narratives of the country will be shown to the world. [...]

Afghan Film is considered one of the most important directorates in the production of Afghan films; an office whose archive also narrates the history of Afghanistan. But it is not yet clear what type of films and series this directorate will make and whether it will be allowed to reopen cinemas in Afghanistan."

Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty's Gandhara, [Fearing Taliban Crackdown, Afghan Musicians Are Already Falling Silent](#), 10 September 2021

"Habibullah Shabab found his calling as a singer -- but since the Taliban's return to power, he's given up performing and instead makes a living as a shopkeeper. The Taliban has not yet imposed a ban on music as it did in the 1990s, but Shabab and others fear such a policy is imminent, stripping many musicians of their livelihoods."

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How are taxes collected?

Ariana News, [MoF finalizes plan to collect Zakat and Usher](#), 16 January 2022

“The Ministry of Finance (MoF) of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan said on Sunday a plan outlining the collection process of Usher (Islamic tax on certain harvests) and Zakat (Islamic tax on personal income) has been finalized and will be submitted to the council of ministers soon.

Officials said that after the approval of the plan a special board will be established to collect the Usher and Zakat from Afghan citizens.

“Two things are very important to us; first we want to collect it (Usher and Zakat) via a digital system, and second we want to spend it via a regular system based on Sharia laws,” said Ahmad Wali Haqmal, spokesman for the MoF.

Some clerics meanwhile welcomed the IEA’s plan, saying that Zakat and Usher money should be distributed to people who deserve it.

“When the officials collect Zakat from traders, it should reach deserving people, and the process should be transparent. Second, it should be done in coordination with the Ministry of Commerce and Chamber of Commerce, which registers traders’ properties,” said Amanullah Ahmadi, a cleric.”

Pajhwok, [Efforts to recover arrears from Baghlan cooperatives begin](#), 15 December 2021

Agriculture department officials in northern Baghlan province say they have started making efforts to recover money cooperatives owe to the department. [...]

Qari Mohammad Naeem Hamkar, director of the Baghlan Agriculture, Livestock, Ushr and Zakat Commission, told a news conference that he had talked to the governor’s office and police commander about collecting the arrears from the cooperatives as soon as possible and hand them over to the state treasury.

“We are trying to get the money from them. Some people have agreed to pay us and we have talked to the police commander and the governor’s office about it,” he said.

AAN, [Killing the Goose that Laid the Golden Egg: Afghanistan’s economic distress post-15 August](#), 11 November 2021

“In many districts captured by the Taleban in summer 2021, residents reported the new rulers immediately and systematically taxing the population that had fallen under their control (as well as billeting fighters in villages and expecting local people to feed them). Such ‘taxes’ are taken yearly, so unlike customs and taxes on minerals, will not provide steady revenues to the administration.”

Gandhara, [Taliban Imposing ‘Charity’ Taxes on Farmers Who Need Aid](#), 29 October 2021

War, drought, and COVID have devastated farmers across Afghanistan.

Now, Afghan farmers who’ve lost money trying to grow crops over the past year say the Taliban is dealing them another crippling blow.

The cash-strapped regime is making them pay so-called charity taxes on their land and harvests, describing the payments as an obligation under Islamic law.

The charity taxes are being collected despite the fact that farmers themselves are among the 14 million Afghans

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that the World Food Program says are already facing acute hunger.

Jurist.org, [Afghanistan dispatches: 'The Taliban Ministry of Agriculture is setting new rules to collect Islamic taxes.'](#), 22 October 2021

"Law students and lawyers in Afghanistan are filing reports with JURIST on the situation there after the fall of Kabul to the Taliban. Here, a lawyer in Kabul offers his personal observations and perspective on new Islamic taxes being levied on farmers in Afghanistan. [...]

The Taliban Ministry of Agriculture is setting new rules to collect Islamic taxes. The Ministry of Agriculture have announced that farmers are required now to pay zakat and oshr to this Ministry.

In Islamic law zakat refers to a religious obligation which requires Muslims to pay 2.5% of their income to the poor. In the previous government, the Taliban used to force the public to pay this amount because it was one of their revenue generation mechanisms. The Taliban hold the position that the money will go to the poor families but they have never provided any evidence of doing so. However, it was previously used to fund their war against the government.

Oshr also refers to one-tenth of whatever is produced or harvested and made available to the market. This type of Islamic tax can be collected in kind or in cash.

Over the past two decades a wide variety of businesses in Afghanistan have confirmed that the Taliban asked for more than it is said and meant by the terms zakat and oshr. In the former government the application of such rules was voluntary/optional. However, in the areas where the Taliban had more influence than the government it was a must.

If the Ministry's applies its decision to farmers in the country, it means that the farmers are required to add these two on top of other taxes that they are required to comply as per the taxation laws and regulations."

What is the state of the financial industry and civilians' access to money?

Deutsche Welle, [Afghanistan: Taliban PM urges international recognition for government](#), 19 January 2022

Taliban leader and acting prime minister of Afghanistan, Mohammad Hassan Akhund, called on the international community to recognize the Taliban government during a news conference in Kabul on Wednesday.

The broadcast was his first major appearance since assuming the role in September and came as the hardliner conservative administration struggles with a faltering economy and continued violence with other militant groups. [...]

No foreign government has yet recognized the Taliban as the legitimate rulers of Afghanistan, although several have taken steps to normalize relations.

The Taliban blames the current economic crisis on the freezing of billions of dollars' worth of Afghan funds by Western nations led by the United States.

Development aid, which once formed the basis of the central Asian country's economy, has also been cut off.

International aid is still entering the country to help fight the ongoing humanitarian crisis, but governments are wary of propping up the Taliban regime by providing the necessary support.

Avapress, [Displaced Families Sell Children, Organs to Survive](#), 16 January 2022

Displaced families living in a camp in the capital city of Balkh province have sold their children and their kidneys for funds to survive.

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Afghan Voice Agency (AVA)_The displaced families escaped heavy conflict between the Islamic Emirate and former government forces before the fall of the republican government in the northern provinces of, Sar-e-Pul, Faryab.

A charity committee is helping displaced families with food and cash aid in order to dissuade them from selling their children and kidneys.

The price of a child is between 100,000 to 150,000 Afs and the price of one kidney is 150,000 to 220,000 Afs.

The families are living in a camp in Mazar-e-Sharif, the capital of Balkh province.

The families said that they were forced to make such decisions due to poverty, the economic problems in the country as well Covid-19's outbreak.

Khaama Press, [ATM to get operational in Afghanistan, first time after Taliban return](#), 14 January 2022

"Central Bank of Afghanistan- Da Afghanistan Bank- in a statement on Thursday, January 13, 2022, said that ATM services by commercial banks in the country will be resumed.

The services stalled after the IEA regained power on August 15 last year and are now supposed to be operational back from Saturday, January 15 on.

Da Afghanistan Bank in the statement said that the decision was made after a series of talks with commercial banks and the union of banks.

Based on the decision, Automatic Teller Machines (ATMs) of commercial banks in specific areas will be available for customers.

"Da Afghanistan Bank is striving to return banking system and services to normal and reactivating ATMs is a good news for people that will bring further facilities." Reads the statement.

The Central Bank did not disclose the amount of money one can withdraw from the machines as the restriction of withdrawing a specific amount of money from accounts is still in place.

As per the new policy, one can only withdraw \$200 per week or 20,000 Afghani."

Al Jazeera, [UN chief warns millions of Afghans are on 'verge of death'](#), 13 January 2022

"The United Nations chief has warned that millions of Afghans are on the "verge of death", urging the international community to fund the UN's \$5bn humanitarian appeal, release Afghanistan's frozen assets and jump-start its banking system to avert economic and social collapse. [...]

The international community [froze Afghanistan's assets](#) abroad and halted economic support, unwilling to work with the Taliban, given their reputation for brutality during their 1996-2001 rule and refusal to educate girls and allow women to work. The UN has said 8.7 million Afghans are on the brink of starvation and Guterres said it was critical to rapidly inject liquidity into the Afghan economy "and avoid a meltdown that would lead to poverty, hunger and destitution for millions". [...]

Guterres said one reason for the meeting is to try and create "mechanisms that allow for an effective injection of funds into the Afghan economy and, at the same time, create the conditions for the financial system in Afghanistan to be able to operate in the local currency".

The UN chief said international funding should be allowed to pay the salaries of doctors, sanitation workers, electrical engineers and other civil servants, as well as help Afghan institutions deliver healthcare, education and other key services."

Avapress, [50% Factories Have Stop Functioning as Markets Drop](#), 13 January 2022

"Nearly 50 percent of factories have halted operations due to banking problems and the lack of raw materials as well as the drop in market demand, the Chamber of Industry and Mines said on Wednesday.

"Due to less demands in markets, banking problems, and electricity problems, 40-50 percent of activities have been stopped," said Mohammad Karim Azimi, an official at the Chamber of Industry and .

Some owners of the factories also voiced their concerns over the lack of electricity to run their operations.

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Khalid Mohammdd is the owner of a factory that has recently stopped its activity. He said that over 80 people were working at his factory but now all of them are jobless.

“Due to the recent changes in the country, there is a problem with the raw material and also the lack of good markets. We do construction work, but construction has stopped now,” he said.”

OCHA, [Afghanistan: Humanitarian Response Plan \(2022\)](#), 11 January 2022

“Even prior to the August 2021 change in Government challenges stemming from under-investment in basic infrastructure continued to hamper quality of life and access to services throughout Afghanistan. Active conflict, large-scale population movements, recurrent natural disasters and the ongoing impact of COVID-19 on the social and economic fabric of the country have hindered longer-term urban planning, reduced attention on more expensive durable solutions and diminished people’s access to essential services.

The physical environment and lack of transport and communications infrastructure remain a challenge in Afghanistan, with road access impeded by conflict, the potential presence of explosive hazards, poor road conditions as well as natural hazards, including seasonal flooding and heavy snowfall.

Less than half of all of Afghanistan’s districts have phone coverage throughout the district, and disruptions remain common in many areas. The picture regarding access to electricity across Afghanistan is mixed. The United States International Development Agency (USAID) estimates that only 30 per cent of Afghans have access to electricity, while figures from Afghanistan Transparency Watch claim it may be 65 per cent. Regardless of these estimates, sustained and reliable access to electricity is an ongoing issue for many Afghans. Electricity supplies have been especially unreliable since 2020 including in Kabul. The recent financial crisis and drought have further impacted on the reliability and availability of electricity in many areas of the country”

Pajhwok, [NRC stresses cash accessibility inside Afghanistan](#), 11 January 2022

“The UN’s aid appeal for Afghanistan would be meaningless if the world and the caretaker government do not work rapidly to ensure cash accessibility inside the country, the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) warned on Tuesday. Jan Egeland, NRC secretary-general, said Afghanistan’s institutions and banking systems were paralysed at a time when they were desperately needed to reboot the economy and help families support themselves.”

Jurist, [Afghanistan dispatches: ‘neither the central bank nor any other bank for that matter can properly conduct banking activities’](#), 5 January 2022

“The Taliban-led central bank, Da Afghanistan Bank, recently declared that the country’s banking sector will resume normal operations soon. The central bank is making such a claim while the liquidity crisis has forced commercial banks to default on payments to customers even within the central bank’s own limits.

“Whether the banking sector will return to normal depends on a number of factors such as liquidity, consumer confidence, international banking restrictions, interest rate, and the general economic outlook. However, considering the situation on the ground and the current economic crisis, it seems to me that the central bank’s claim is just an empty promise to the public.”

Jurist, [Afghanistan dispatches: long lines and long waiting hours at the only functioning bank in northern Afghanistan becomes routine for cash-strapped citizens](#), 30 December 2021

“Long lines of more than 200 people are waiting at the door of [Azizi Bank](#) in Mazar-e-Sharif desperate to withdraw much-needed cash. The average waiting time is more than three hours while weekly withdrawals are limited to AFN 10,000 (less than US \$100).

“Azizi’s central branch is the only functioning bank open in the northern part of Afghanistan. People from other provinces, including Samangan, Sheberghan, and Faryab, travel there every week withdraw cash.”

Pajhwok, [Cabinet approves Islamic Banking Research Centre](#), 28 December 2021

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"The acting cabinet has directed the Ministry of Interior to create task forces in provinces for prevention of the use of foreign currencies, according to a statement on Tuesday.

"During its 16th meeting, the cabinet formed Disaster Management Commission under the chairmanship of Deputy Prime Minister Abdul GhaniBeradar."

Al Jazeera, [Afghan protesters call for release of frozen assets](#), 21 December 2021

"Hundreds of protesters have marched through the streets of Kabul towards the shuttered United States' embassy, urging the release of [Afghanistan's frozen assets](#).

Holding banners reading, "Let us eat" and "Give us our frozen money", the protesters chanted slogans and marched down a central avenue on Tuesday, with the ruling Taliban providing security."

Al Jazeera, [Afghanistan's tumbling currency compounds economic crisis](#), 17 December 2021

"The value of Afghanistan's currency is tumbling, exacerbating an already severe economic crisis and deepening poverty in a country where more than half the population already does not have enough to eat. The afghani lost more than 11 percent of its value against the United States dollar in the space of a day earlier this week, before recouping somewhat. But the market remains volatile, and the devaluation is already affecting Afghans."

Reuters, [Afghan central bank moves to halt currency slide as crisis deepens](#), 14 December 2021

"Afghanistan's central bank said on Tuesday it was working to ensure the stability of the afghani, a day after the currency lost almost 12% of its value against the dollar in a matter of hours amid a deepening economic crisis and soaring inflation. [...]

The crisis has accelerated sharply in recent days. On Monday the afghani, which traded at around 77 to the dollar before the fall of Kabul and at 97 a week ago, dropped from 112 to the dollar in the morning at Kabul's Sarai Shazada money market to 125 by the afternoon.

On Tuesday it had recovered slightly and was being quoted at around 114-115 following the central bank move. [...]

However the pressure on the afghani has already had a stark impact on the prices of daily necessities in an economy where unemployment is widespread and where even many in work have not been paid in months.

Within the space of a week, wholesalers said the price of a 50 kg (110 lbs) sack of flour had risen by between 20-40% to between 2,800-3,200 afghani, from 2,300 a week ago, with the price of sugar up by a third and rice up by more than 15%. [...]

Starved of dollars that used to be physically shipped into Afghanistan, and cut off from the world financial system by the fear of U.S. sanctions, the banking system is only partially functional and some \$9 billion in central bank reserves remain blocked outside the country."

Ariana News, [IEA bans use of foreign currencies in bid to stabilize Afghan currency](#), 14 December 2021

"Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan (IEA) officials on Tuesday banned the use of foreign currencies for commercial transactions in the country in a bid to stabilize the plummeting national currency, the Afghani (AFN). [...]

This comes as Afghanistan grapples with an economic crisis following the sudden collapse of the previous government, the suspension of foreign donor money and the freezing of foreign assets."

Tolonews, [Counterfeit Afghani Bills Turning Up in Kabul: Merchants](#), 14 December 2021

"Amid the steep decline in value of Afghanistan's currency--the afghani--against the dollar, a number of shopkeepers on Tuesday said counterfeit banknotes are now spreading in the markets.

The shopkeepers called on the central bank to prevent the spread of the counterfeit banknotes. [...]

The spread of fake banknotes and the drop of the afghani's value caused the cabinet to call for the economic commission to take measures to prevent the injection of more counterfeit banknotes into the markets."

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Tolonews, [Value of Afghani Plunges, Price of Goods Spike](#), 13 December 2021

"The alarming drop in value of Afghanistan's currency, the Afghani, against the dollar happens amid an economic and humanitarian crisis that has also led to a sharp increase in the price of goods, including essential items like food and fuel.

The Money Exchanger's Union in Sarai Shahzada, Afghanistan's biggest money exchanging market, said on Monday that one dollar was exchanged for 123 Afghani, while on Sunday it was 110 Afghani, and a month ago it was below 90.

The exchanger's union said some people have played a role in the increase of the dollar price by spreading rumors, and were pushed out of the market on Sunday.

On Monday, the market's "Boli" section, which is the main section for determining the value of currencies and also where big money exchange transactions occur, was closed.

"A number of people who in fact are not money exchangers have come here and are promoting fake rates. I hope the situation gets better in the coming days," said Sayed Ali Sadat, a member of the money exchangers' union."

TOLO News, [Afghan Currency Drops Further Against Dollar](#), 12 December 2021

"The value of Afghan currency continues to drop against the US dollar as the country's economy is on the verge of collapse.

The price of one dollar was over 110 Afs on Sunday.

The union of money exchangers of Surah-e-Shahzad said the lack of sufficient dollars available in the market is the main reason for the rapid fall of the Afs.

"The main reason for the drop in Afs is that the market faces a shortage of dollars and the demand for dollars is high. There are also some negative actors who oppose the Islamic Emirate and make propaganda to cause the drop in value of Afs," said Haji Zirak, a spokesman for the union.

"The private banks provide interest in Afs. For example, if previously a company had an account, the bank would give the company's interest in dollars but now they provide the interest in Afs," said Abdul Wahid Aslami, a money exchanger.

Meanwhile, Da Afghanistan Bank said that the third batch of humanitarian cash aid--\$19.2 million--arrived in Kabul on Sunday."

Pajhwok, [Earnings of beggars down by 55pc in Kabul](#), 12 December 2021

"Based on their data, Pajhwok's calculations show on average a beggar in Kabul used to earn 318 afghanis four months ago, but now the figure has dropped to 144 afghanis."

AVA Press, [Worn-Out Banknotes One More Difficulty in Afghan Economic Crisis](#), 11 December 2021

"There is a lot of worn-out currency in the market, particularly the 100, 50, 20 and 10 Afs bills are very worn," said Samir, a shopkeeper.

"The government should try to issue a good quality currency," said Asadullah a Kabul resident.

Zia is a money exchanger who purchases the worn-out currency and then sells it to the government's central bank.

"The bank doesn't want to take the money from us. The bank says it doesn't have the sufficient budget to buy the worn-out currency," he said.

[...]

"The worn-out currency is one the main challenges in the trade market in the current conditions in Afghanistan. This affects the circle of business," said Sayed Masoud, an economist."

TOLO News, [Afghans Despair as Prices of Food, Essential Goods Spike](#), 10 December 2021

"Business people said the rapid rise in value of the US dollar against the Afghani is one of the main reasons for the expensive prices of essential commodities.

"The reason for the surge in prices is the rise of the dollar. We purchase all the products with dollars and sell them

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in Afs,” said Saifullah, an owner of a store.

“Business has dropped compared to before. Those who previously bought five bags of flour, they now buy only two bags,” said Khan Agha, a store owner.

The price of one bag of flour is 2,400Afs, a 16-liter bottle of oil is about 2,800Afs. The price of one bag of rice is 2,700Afs.

Citizens said that they have been struggling to pay for food and basic cooking goods due to their high prices.”

TOLO News, [Govt Struggles With Plummeting Value of Afghan Currency](#), 9 December 2021

The Central Bank held a meeting with the union of money-exchangers of Sarai Shahzada.

“The Central Bank (Da Afghanistan Bank) attempted to avert the economic crisis,” said Haseebullah Noori, an official at Da Afghanistan Bank.

The union of money-exchangers said the large amount of Afs and scarcity of dollars in the market are reasons for the drop of the Afghan currency value.

“In the meeting of the Central Bank, they pledged to cooperate and drop the price of a dollar by 1.5 Afs,” said Mohammad Tahir Qayoumi, a member of the union.

The drop in value of the Afghan currency is undermining trade. The traders expressed concerns, saying that the merchandise that is imported is purchased by dollars.

“We are a country relying on imports. We import the materials, especially the food products, from foreign countries and the rise of the dollar will have a bad affect,” said Khan Jan Alokozai, a member of the chamber of commerce and investment.

“The rise of the dollar price in return for Afs is having a negative impact on the country’s economy and it unfortunately doubles the economic crisis,” said Mohammad Karim Azimi, head of the chamber of industry and mines.

AVA Press, [Devalued Afghan Currency Adds to the Miseries of Civilian Population](#), 8 December 2021

“For the first time, the value of the against the national currency exceeded 100 afghanis. [...] The decline comes as the central bank has been unable to control the value of the dollar in recent days.

[...] Unfortunately, in such a situation, the people suffer the most from the devaluation of the currency. At present, most of the buying and selling of raw materials and other goods is done in dollars. The higher the value of the dollar against the Afghan currency, the more people become incapable of buying the necessities of life. The prices of gas, flour, oil, rice, and the materials that people need daily have risen to an all-time high. If this trend continues in the current crisis, there is no doubt that the UN forecast for the spread of poverty will happen much sooner, and a large percentage of people may fall below the poverty line in a few months.”

AVA Press, [Afghanistan’s central bank receives second package of humanitarian cash](#), 8 December 2021

“The bank did not close the exact amount of money though, the statement reads that the money was delivered to Afghanistan International Bank (AIB) through the central bank of Afghanistan.

The cash in humanitarian aid by the comes as Afghanistan’s local currency is at its lowest point ever against the US dollar.

It is said that the lack of a [sic] has caused the local currency (Afghani) to lose its value and ultimately made the prices of food ingredients to be double.

De Afghanistan Bank in the statement said that the problem of the banking system and local currency will soon be resolved and banks will deliver their best services to people.

In the meantime, officials in UNAMA said that the money is not given to authorities in but to private banks in Afghanistan so that they pay the bills of humanitarian activities of the .

UNAMA has announced to be given Afghanistan central bank \$16 million in cash.”

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International Crisis Group, [Beyond Emergency Relief: Averting Afghanistan's Humanitarian Catastrophe](#), 6 December 2021

"Further revelations awaited: Taliban officials said they were astounded by the lack of currency reserves in Kabul when they captured state institutions. The previous government had almost emptied the central bank.⁵³ The Taliban may have not understood how the economy worked. The central bank had been dependent on regular shipments of dollars from the U.S. Federal Reserve, which assisted the Afghan central bank's management of foreign assets. The shipments supplied currency auctions in Kabul that traded U.S. dollars for afghanis. These auctions raised as much as \$45 million per week in cash, supporting the afghani's value and injecting liquidity into an economy in which foreign currencies (mostly U.S. dollars) represented 60 per cent of all bank deposits.⁵⁴ Afghans used their own currency to buy bread, for instance, but they imported wheat flour – and most other products – using U.S. dollars.⁵⁵ Taliban officials had known before marching on Kabul that the economy was dependent on foreign aid, and they had discussed options for cutting the state budget to become less reliant on outsiders, but the cash shortages caught them off guard.⁵⁶ [...]

53 Crisis Group interviews, Taliban officials, September 2021.

54 World Bank data.

55 Crisis Group interviews, academics and former Afghan officials, September-October 2021. See also Manuel Bautista-Gonzalez, "Cash during the fall of Kabul", Cash Essentials, 6 September 2021.

56 Crisis Group interviews, Taliban-affiliated figures, Doha and Kabul, 2020-2021."

TOLO News, [UN Seeks \\$4.5B to Assist Vulnerable Afghans](#), 2 December 2021

"The absence of cash in Afghanistan is a major impediment to any delivery of services," he added. "I am hoping that we get it up and running before the end of this month."

With the fall of the former government, the freezing of Afghan assets and the shortage of humanitarian assistance to Afghanistan, the country has recently plunged into a severe economic crisis."

DTM, [DTM: EMERGENCY EVENT TRACKING](#), 29 November 2021

"CFPs were also asked to rank their community's most urgent needs. Cash and food were identified as the first priority needs, which aligns with reported community shocks in the past month. These include reduced income (94%), loss of employment (96%) and food price increase (95%) (see below). Drinking water and immediate healthcare were second and third priority needs, which is reflected in the reported risk of displacement due to water insecurity (55%) and the majority of communities without a health clinic or hospital (69%)."

ATN News, [Afghani falls to record low amid pressing currency shortage](#), 26 November 2021

"Economists are warning of an acute currency shortage in Afghanistan and the subsequent economic predicament as the Afghani has plummeted to its record low in trading. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) issued a report earlier this week urging prompt actions to prevent the Afghan banking system from collapsing, which is now "in disarray" featuring inadequate liquidity and decreased deposits.

The largest currency exchange market in Kabul now has been crowded with people and the Afghani has dropped to its all-time low."

Ariana News, [Afghani falls to record low amid pressing currency shortage](#), 26 November 2021

"Economists are warning of an acute currency shortage in Afghanistan and the subsequent economic predicament as the Afghani has plummeted to its record low in trading. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) issued a report earlier this week urging prompt actions to prevent the Afghan banking system from collapsing, which is now "in disarray" featuring inadequate liquidity and decreased deposits. The largest currency exchange market in Kabul now has been crowded with people and the Afghani has dropped to its all-time low. Before the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan (IEA)'s takeover of Kabul in mid-August, one U.S. dollar was equal to about 70

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Afghanis. But now the exchange rate hovers around 90 Afghanis to the dollar. The continued depreciation of the Afghan currency sparked fears among residents, with many flocking to the exchange market. Unfortunately in these two weeks the Afghan currency has been dropping down against foreign currencies with one dollar costing 95.5 Afghanis last week. Then the Afghanistan Bank released a statement that they will put 10 million U.S. dollars into the market, more than the 2.5 million dollars they actually took out. However, the price [of the U.S. dollar] didn't go down but unfortunately have increased day by day," said Zirak, spokesman from the all money dealers of Afghanistan. Zirak said the country's currency shortage was fueled by the combination of its assets frozen by the United States, the increasing domestic demand for U.S. dollars, as well as banks' restrictions on dollar withdrawal."

Amnesty International, [Afghanistan: Country must have access to funds to avoid humanitarian disaster](#), 23 November 2021

"A combination of a suspension of foreign aid, the freezing of Afghan government assets, and international sanctions on the Taliban, have plunged a country already suffering from high poverty levels into a full-blown economic crisis. According to the United Nations Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA), 22.8 million people (of a population of approximately 39-40 million) are facing acute food insecurity and hunger, while the World Food Programme estimates that at least a million children are already suffering from acute malnutrition. According to the UN, more than \$200 million of humanitarian aid a month is needed to avert disaster." [...] "In just a few months, the situation is already critical. People in the public and private sectors have not been paid their salaries, can't access money, and can't afford even essential items. [...] "The situation has left the country's banking system on the brink of collapse. Long queues have formed outside banks and ATMs, which are not dispensing cash. The price of goods has soared while the country's currency has plummeted in value." [...] "Public sector workers have not been paid for months, while about 1.2 million private sector workers' wages remain pending according to local media, with the government and employers unable to access funds to make payments. According to the UN Development Programme, the country's poverty rate, currently at 72%, is set to reach to 97% by mid-2022."

AVA Press, [UN Report: Afghanistan Faces Major Bank Crisis](#), 23 November 2021

"The UNDP report said that with current trends and withdrawal restrictions, about 40% of Afghanistan's deposit base will be lost by the end of the year."

TOLO News, [UN Warns of "Colossal" Collapse of Afghan Banking System](#), 22 November 2021

In a three-page report on Afghanistan's banking and financial system seen by Reuters, the U.N. Development Programme (UNDP) said the economic cost of a banking system collapse - and consequent negative social impact - "would be colossal." [...]

Afghanistan's banking system was already vulnerable before the Taliban came to power. But since then development aid has dried up, billions of dollars in Afghan assets have been frozen abroad, and the United Nations and aid groups are now struggling to get enough cash into the country. [...]

The United Nations has repeatedly warned since the Taliban took over that Afghanistan's economy is on the brink of a collapse that would likely further fuel a refugee crisis. UNDP said that if the banking system fails, it could take decades to rebuild.

Afghan Voice Agency, [Vulnerable Families Provided With Cash-Aid in Kabul](#), 22 November 2021

"We distribute the aids in two rounds. First, we have provided food materials. Now provide about 76 US dollars to each family,"

Al Jazeera, [Afghanistan 'on the brink of catastrophe': UN envoy](#), 18 November 2021

"The UN envoy for Afghanistan says the country is "on the brink of a humanitarian catastrophe", urging the international community to find ways to provide financial support to the Afghan people, who "feel abandoned".

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Deborah Lyons said an estimated 60 percent of Afghanistan's 38 million people are facing crisis levels of hunger in a food emergency that will likely worsen over the winter."

GANDHARA NEWS, [Afghan Currency Hits Two-Decade Low, Foretelling Higher Food, Fuel Prices](#), 15 November 2021

"Afghanistan's national currency has reached its lowest level in the past two decades against the U.S. dollar as the war-ravaged country's economy struggles to stay afloat following the Taliban takeover.

The November 14 exchange rate on the foreign-exchange market Sarai Shahzada was quoted at 95 afghanis for one dollar.

Two days earlier, the rate was 91.5 afghanis to one U.S. dollar. [...]

With the fall in the currency's value against the dollar, fuel and food prices are sure to rise in the country as costs to import products increase."

JURIST, [Afghanistan dispatches: inflation worries loom as local currency depreciates rapidly](#), 15 November 2021

"The value of Afghanistan's currency, the Afghani, decreased against the US dollar Sunday. As of Monday, the exchange rate was 1 to 95—an increase of AFN 6 per dollar in comparison to yesterday. The commercial banks have complained to the nation's central bank about running out foreign exchange reserves, particularly US dollars. The central bank has resumed US dollar auctions again and the first auction for sale of dollars to commercial banks and other financial institutions will be conducted Tuesday. The central bank is trying to increase the value of the Afghani by infusing US dollars in the market, but this is counterintuitive as the bank does not have sufficient dollars to begin with."

Kabul Now, [Afghanistan's currency hits new low against US dollar](#), 14 November 2021

"Afghanistan's afghani fell to a new low against the US dollar on Sunday, November 14, in currency exchange markets as the country's economy is faltering under the Taliban's government.

The dollar was selling for as much as 94 afghani in Sara-e-Shahzada, the country's largest exchange market in Kabul, on Sunday's afternoon, said Haji Dadgol, deputy head of the market.

[..]

The Afghan currency has continued to fall against the foreign currencies ever since the Taliban overthrew the previous government on August 15 and returned to power."

AAN, [Killing the Goose that Laid the Golden Egg: Afghanistan's economic distress post-15 August](#), 11 November 2021

"The Taleban government has taken some small steps to deal with the crisis. It has started sometimes uneasy working relationships with NGOs and UN agencies. The computerised customs system is back up and running, which should help with collection. It has also banned banks from sending money abroad in a bid to stop capital flight, with exceptions for the purchase of food and other necessities. Banks are now allowing some small withdrawals of dollars and afghanis, although the banking system remains stymied. It has transpired that there is a shortage not only of dollars and other hard currency, but also afghanis, because these were printed abroad. This dual shortage may have helped support the afghani whose value has been surprisingly stable this year, until the end of October."

HRW, [Afghanistan Facing Famine](#), 11 November 2021

"Afghanistan's dire economic situation has been exacerbated by decisions by governments and international banking institutions not to deal directly with the Central Bank of Afghanistan because of UN and bilateral sanctions by the US and other countries. This has increased liquidity problems for all banks and shortages of currency in US dollars and Afghanistan's currency, afghanis.

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Numerous banking officials and humanitarian agency staffers told Human Rights Watch that most Afghan banks cannot cover withdrawals by private actors and aid organizations. Even when funds are transmitted electronically into banks, the lack of cash means that money is not physically available and therefore cannot flow into the country's economy."

Ariana News, [Afghanistan central bank raises limit on bank withdrawals to \\$400 a week](#), 3 November 2021

Afghanistan's central bank has eased restrictions on bank withdrawals, lifting the maximum to \$400 from dollar-denominated accounts or 30,000 Afghanis a week from the previous limit of \$200 or 20,000 Afghanis, the central bank said on Wednesday. The change, which sets a monthly limit on withdrawals of \$1,200 or 100,000 Afghani, came amid growing economic hardship that has left millions in Afghanistan without work and facing hunger. Even those with savings have struggled to pay for food and household necessities because of the strict limits on withdrawals that were brought in to prevent a run on banks. Afghanistan's foreign exchange reserves have been restricted following the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan (IEA) take over in August, severely limiting the new administration's room for financial manoeuvre. Some \$9.5 billion in central bank reserves remain blocked outside the country and international support given to the previous government has dried up. This week, the IEA banned the use of foreign currencies for transactions like buying a car or a house, saying all contracts must be denominated in the Afghani currency.

Al Jazeera, [Taliban bans the use of foreign currency across Afghanistan](#), 2 November 2021

"The Taliban has announced a complete ban on the use of foreign currency in Afghanistan, a move certain to cause further disruption to an economy pushed to the brink of collapse by the abrupt withdrawal of international support in the wake of the group's takeover of the country. "The Islamic Emirate instructs all citizens, shopkeepers, traders, businessmen and the general public to ... conduct all transactions in Afghanis and strictly refrain from using foreign currency," the Taliban said in a statement posted online by spokesperson Zabihullah Mujahid. "Anyone violating this order will face legal action," the statement said. The use of US dollars is widespread in Afghanistan's markets, while border areas use the currency of neighbouring countries such as Pakistan for trade."

Foreign Policy, [Afghan Crime Wave Adds to Taliban Dystopia](#), 29 October 2021

"As economic collapse and humanitarian catastrophe stalk Afghanistan, a spike in serious crime and concerns about civil unrest are adding pressure on a population facing a Himalayan winter and already struggling with rising prices, vanishing cash, and unemployment.

[...] Reports are emerging of families selling baby girls to raise money to buy food as poverty and hunger bite deeper and law and order breaks down further. Sources in the capital, Kabul, said kidnappings and extortion are daily occurrences, with Taliban foot soldiers killing on contract to earn cash as they are not being paid.

"It's \$2,000 to kidnap someone and \$5,000 to kill someone," said a former Afghan security official who is closely monitoring the crime wave."

Al Jazeera, [As US freezes funds, a harsh winter awaits cash-strapped Afghans](#), 29 October 2021

"In its latest report to the United States Congress, the Special Investigator General for Afghanistan Reconstruction (SIGAR) has detailed Washington's decision to cut off the Taliban government's access to billions in funds and assets that has led to devastation across the cash-strapped nation. [...] After the Taliban toppled the Western-led government in the middle of August, the US, along with international bodies including the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF), decided to cut off Afghanistan's access to more than \$9.5bn in assets and

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loans. The decision has had a devastating effect on Afghanistan's healthcare and other sectors, all of which are struggling to continue operations amid cutbacks to international aid. According to the World Bank, approximately 14 million people – one out of three Afghans – were on the brink of starvation due to the aid cuts until the end of the last month."

Reuters, ['Just give us our money': Taliban push to unlock Afghan billions abroad](#), 29 October 2021

"Afghanistan's Taliban government is pressing for the release of billions of dollars of central bank reserves as the drought-stricken nation faces a cash crunch, mass starvation and a new migration crisis. Afghanistan parked billions of dollars in assets overseas with the U.S. Federal Reserve and other central banks in Europe, but that money has been frozen since the Islamist Taliban ousted the Western-backed government in August."

Reuters, [U.N. urgently needs cash in Afghanistan](#), but struggles for solution, 28 October, 2021

"The United Nations cannot get enough cash into Afghanistan to deliver humanitarian aid to millions of people on the brink of starvation and is struggling to develop options to help stabilize the collapsing economy, U.N. officials said. [...] Ultimately political solutions are needed, a senior U.N. official told Reuters on condition of anonymity, an apparent reference to sanctions relief and for governments and institutions to free up billions of dollars of Afghan assets held overseas."

IPC - Integrated Food Security Phase Classification, [Afghanistan: Acute Food Insecurity Situation September - October 2021 and Projection for November 2021 - March 2022](#), 25 October 2021

"Remittance flows have been severely affected: The financial freeze in government assets is affecting international remittance flows, compounding reductions resulting from the lingering economic impact of COVID-19 across the world and greatly impacting those households relying on remittances. According to the World Bank, remittances account for 4% of Afghanistan's GDP or \$800M a year. According to the 2021 SFSA, 7.4% of households receive remittances, and 2.5% are the primary income source. Remittances are a critical buffer during shocks; the suspension of such services has had a detrimental impact on households' coping capacities. As a result, the proportion of urban dwellers in IPC Phase 3 or above increased from 36% last year to 43%. The number of people in high acute food insecurity is expected to increase in the projection period (November 2021 - March 2022) to 4.9 million people (52%) due to the expected increase in prices and the decrease in job opportunities particularly for government workers. Compared to last year's financial access, the overall situation has significantly deteriorated due to a slowdown of business and industry and food prices significantly increasing this year compared to the previous year's."

Jurist, [Afghanistan dispatches: 'the central bank as well as commercial banks are running out of dollar banknotes'](#), 21 October 2021

"Law students and lawyers in Afghanistan are filing reports with JURIST on the situation there after the fall of Kabul to the Taliban. Here, a lawyer in Kabul offers his personal observations and perspective on recent banking and financial developments in Afghanistan. [...]"

Today, I visited a local bank to receive my USD 200 which I can receive from my account on a weekly basis. I went to the nearest branch of this bank but I was told that they do not have USD dollars. I went to the main branch of the bank which is close to the central bank.

I received the above amount but the dollar I received today is from 2006 series.[...]

I also took some time and talked to the guy at the bank on how much they receive on a weekly basis from the central bank. He told me that this week they only received USD 20,000 from the central bank. This means that the central bank as well as commercial banks are running out of dollar banknotes and soon this will adversely affect the banking system.

My friend further added that the state-owned banks as well as the commercial banks are only open provide cash to the people and nothing more than that."

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Jurist, [Afghanistan dispatches: 'The commercial banks are unable to preserve their liquidity and that is leading them to failure.'](#), 27 October 2021

"The banking system had developed a lot during the last two decades in the country. Until 2001 only state-owned banks with limited banking system were active in Afghanistan. Upon the fall of the Taliban regime in 2001 the government – with foreign help – developed a system that attracted many financial institutions as well as investors to invest in the banking system. The central bank licensed up to 10 private banks and some branches of foreign banks to operate in the country.

Currently, 12 banks are active, of which three are state-owned and others private banks. The latest reports from the central bank (July 2021) indicate that the total assets of the commercial banks are 311 billion AFN of which 276 billion AFN includes debts/loans and only 36 billion AFN covers these banks net assets or shareholder shares.

AIB, Azizi, Bank Millie, and Islamic Bank total assets and capital are more than 30 billion AFN. Investments in capital notes, long-term investment, and loans to businesses are the major areas in which commercial banks have invested mostly. The total amount of loans on different businesses is about 32 billion AFN and about 45 billion AFN is invested in capital notes of the central bank. The problem with loans on businesses is that many businesses has collapsed already and/or are collapsing due to the current economic situation. Businesses are unable to pay debts and any interest. Therefore, commercial banks are losing and/or have already lost a big amount of revenue."

AVA Press, [IEA won't be allowed access to Afghan central bank reserves: US](#), 21 October 2021

"Deputy U.S. Treasury Secretary Wally Adeyemo on Tuesday said he sees no situation where the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan (IEA) who regained power in Afghanistan in August, would be allowed access to Afghan central bank reserves, which are largely held in the United States.

Afghan Voice Agency (AVA)_The IEA have called for the United States to lift a block on more than \$9 billion of Afghan reserves held outside the country as the government struggles to contain a deepening ."

United States Institute of Peace, [Afghanistan's Economic and Humanitarian Crises Turn Dire](#), 14 October 2021

"Two months after the Taliban took control of Afghanistan, the country is grappling with twin economic and humanitarian crises the response to which has been complicated by international aid cutoffs, the freezing of Afghanistan's foreign exchange reserves and sanctions on the militants. USIP's William Byrd discusses the implications of these crises and the challenges to alleviating them."

Landinfo, [Afghanistan: En humanitær krise](#), 13 October 2021

"Afghanistan is on the brink of economic collapse. Neither the Taliban, aid organizations nor most people have access to cash (Debre 2021; Bolle & Røst 2021). At the end of September 2021, the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) announced that humanitarian efforts were hampered by a lack of cash; there is no money to pay wages or to buy goods (OCHA 2021b). NRC has no opportunity to transfer salaries to the organization's two thousand local employees (Matre 2021).

Long queues are reported outside the country's banks. Private banks do not have access to cash, which means that even Afghans with money in the bank do not have access to their own funds (UNAMA 2021). It is especially in the cities that Afghans have been dependent on foreign funding, either directly by receiving wages funded by the international community, or indirectly by offering goods and services (Duncan & Clark 2021)."

Original excerpt in Norwegian [translated using Google translate]

"Afghanistan er på randen av økonomisk sammenbrudd. Verken Taliban, bistandsorganisasjoner eller folk flest har tilgang til kontanter (Debre 2021; Bolle & Røst 2021). Ved utgangen av september 2021 meldte FNs kontor for koordinering av humanitær innsats (OCHA) at den humanitære innsatsen hindres av mangel på kontanter; det er ikke penger til å betale lønn eller å kjøpe varer (OCHA 2021b). Flyktninghjelpen har ingen mulighet til å overføre

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lønn til organisasjonens to tusen lokalt ansatte (Matre 2021).

Det meldes om lange køer utenfor landets banker. Private banker har ikke tilgang på kontanter, hvilket betyr at selv afghanere med penger i banken ikke får tilgang til egne midler (UNAMA 2021). Det er særlig i byene at afghanerne har vært avhengig av utenlandsk finansiering, enten direkte ved at de har mottatt lønn finansiert av det internasjonale samfunnet, eller indirekte ved at de har tilbudt varer og tjenester (Duncan & Clark 2021)."

BBC, [Afghanistan crisis: G20 leaders pledge to avert economic catastrophe](#), 13 October 2021

"The takeover of this country has caused a massive shock to an economy that was just about surviving.

Banks were closed for many days after the Taliban seized control, and while many have opened now, accessing cash is still difficult.

Many businesses shut down because their owners fled the country fearing for their lives. Many of those who had jobs haven't received salaries for months.

With no cash in the market, there has been a sharp rise in prices of day to day necessities including food. An already difficult situation created by war and drought has become much worse.

Women who had jobs and supported their families can no longer work and are now entirely dependent on handouts.

In Kabul, hundreds of people are still living in the open in tents with harsher winter months fast approaching.

Development aid given by foreign countries and agencies to Afghanistan, which helped to put cash into the economy, is all but frozen. This, on the ground, means that people who worked on development projects are out of jobs. [...]

Afghans have been describing their difficulties to the BBC.

"Nothing can be found, and even if it is available, it's too expensive and not affordable," one retired man said. "I was paid last year and am still waiting on my salary, I have nothing to eat with my children."

Another, a government employee in the northern town of Takhar, complained that officials were lying about the payment of salaries.

"I've received nothing," he said. "What type government is this? If an employee doesn't go to work, there would be complaints and an investigation. But if he's not being paid, how can he survive?"

Reuters, [Afghanistan on verge of socio-economic collapse, EU's top diplomat says](#), 3 October 2021

"The Afghan banking system is largely paralysed, with people unable to withdraw money, while the country's health system - which was heavily dependent on foreign aid - is close to collapse, according to Borrell."

BBC News, [Taliban: Afghanistan bank boss warns sector near collapse](#), 28 September 2021

"Syed Moosa Kaleem Al-Falahi, the Chief Executive of the Islamic Bank of Afghanistan, said the country's financial industry is in the grip of an "existential crisis" as customers panic.

"There's huge withdrawals happening at the moment", he said, speaking from Dubai, where he is temporarily based because of the chaos in Kabul.

"Only withdrawals are happening, most of the banks are not functioning, and not providing full services," he added.

Afghanistan's economy was already on shaky ground even before the Taliban took control in August."

"Inflation is soaring, the Afghani, the country's currency, is plummeting and people are desperate as many have lost their jobs and are short of cash."

TOLO News, [UNDP Forecast: 97% of Afghans in Poverty by Mid-2022](#), 12 September 2021

"The United Nations Development Program (UNDP) warned that 97 percent of Afghans could fall below the poverty line by mid-2022 unless the country's political and economic challenges are addressed promptly.

Based on a report UNDP released on September 9th, the latest developments and uncertainties have severely affected the lives of Afghans and an economic crisis is emerging in the country."

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Reuters, [EXCLUSIVE Taliban launch charm offensive with Afghan banks amid funding fears](#), 1 September 2021

"Banks have mainly re-opened this week, but are operating with limited services, including \$200 weekly limits on withdrawals and few wire transfers amid liquidity worries and correspondent banks cutting ties, say bankers."

Availability of and access to food

Deutsche Welle, [Is the world doing enough to help Afghans?](#), 18 January 2022

"The international community faces a dilemma on how to deal with the [Afghan Taliban](#), who seized power in August.

The United States, which ended its two-decade presence in the country last year, does not want to legitimize or strengthen the Islamic fundamentalist group. Washington froze Afghanistan's assets after the Taliban captured Kabul, and despite repeated requests by the country's rulers, there is no sign that the sanctions will be lifted.

Meanwhile, Afghanistan is facing [an unprecedented humanitarian crisis](#) and needs immediate financial help. [...]

But aid alone would probably not be enough to help Afghans, who are facing acute hunger combined with a severe drought and the coronavirus pandemic. Millions of Afghans are currently jobless, and their bank accounts are frozen.

Many Afghans are selling possessions to buy food, and urban communities are facing food insecurity on levels similar to rural areas for the first time.

About 8.7 million people are "one step away from starvation," Mary-Ellen McGroarty, head of the World Food Programme in Afghanistan, said in October."

Al Jazeera, [Taliban seeks greater role in distribution of Afghan foreign aid](#), 13 January 2022

"An abrupt withdrawal of foreign aid last year following a hasty exit by the United States and the Taliban's victory in August left Afghanistan's fragile economy on the [brink of collapse](#), with food prices rising rapidly, causing widespread hunger. Western sanctions aimed at the Taliban also prevented the passage of basic supplies of food and medicine, although this has since eased after exemptions were passed by the UN Security Council and the US in December."

United Nations, [UN chief: We are in a race against time to help the Afghan people](#), 13 January 2022

"Currently, more than half the population of Afghanistan depends on life-saving assistance. Without a more concerted effort from the international community, Mr. Guterres argued, "virtually every man, woman and child in Afghanistan could face acute poverty."

World Food Programme, [WFP Afghanistan Situation Report](#), 12 January 2022

"95 percent of the population had insufficient food consumption in December 2021. (...)

More than half of the population face crisis (IPC Phase 3) or emergency (IPC Phase 4) levels of food insecurity, according to the latest Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) report. This is the highest number of acutely food insecure people ever recorded in Afghanistan and is among the highest levels of acute food insecurity globally."

Al Jazeera, [US to give additional \\$308m in humanitarian aid to Afghanistan](#), 11 January 2022

"The United States will donate an extra \$308m in humanitarian aid to Afghanistan, the White House has announced, bringing the total of US aid for Afghanistan and Afghan refugees in the region to nearly \$782m since October. The aid will be channelled through the US Agency for International Development (USAID) to humanitarian organisations providing shelter, healthcare, and emergency food aid, among other services, White House spokesperson Emily Horne said in a statement on Tuesday [11 January 2022]".

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Qantara, [Afghanistan's humanitarian crisis: End the economic blockade](#), 11 January 2022

"Even before the Taliban returned to power last August, Afghanistan topped the global roster of humanitarian emergencies. Successive droughts and escalating conflict had left one-third of the country's population facing acute food insecurity. Aid agencies warned that they were in a race against time as winter approached. Now, the United Kingdom's Disasters Emergency Committee believes that the race is close to being lost.

The numbers are harrowing. Some 23 million people in a country of 39 million are in a state of humanitarian emergency. The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) estimates that over one million Afghan children are at risk of dying from malnutrition and hunger-related disease."

The Week, [Millions in Afghanistan are facing extreme hunger](#), 7 January 2022

"It's been a dire winter in Afghanistan, with 23 million people facing extreme levels of hunger amid the brutal cold. "Shelley Thakral, spokeswoman for the World Food Program in Afghanistan, [told NPR](#) that there are several reasons why so many Afghans don't have enough food to eat. The country is experiencing its worst drought in decades, food prices have gone up, and the Taliban government takeover last August triggered an economic crisis. Many people who are now out of work because of the new government, including teachers and construction workers, are experiencing food insecurity for the first time. "There's a new urban class of hungry people," Thakral said."

The New Yorker, [Afghanistan has become the world's largest humanitarian crisis](#), 5 January 2022

"A month after the Biden Administration pulled U.S. forces out of Afghanistan, only seventeen per cent of the country's more than twenty-three hundred health clinics were functional. Doctors in the hospital in Kabul told me that they hadn't been paid since the Taliban seized power, in August, and that medicine is in short supply. The new government is struggling to feed the country's thirty-nine million people, and the chance that an Afghan baby will go hungry and die is the highest in twenty years. Half of the country's population needs humanitarian assistance to survive, double the number from 2020. More than twenty million people are on the brink of famine. The United Nations Development Programme projects that by the middle of this year Afghanistan could face "universal poverty," with ninety-seven per cent of Afghans living below the World Bank-designated international poverty line of \$1.90 a day."

NPR, [Parents selling children shows desperation in Afghanistan](#), 31 December 2021

"Aziz Gul's husband sold the 10-year-old girl into marriage without telling his wife, taking a down-payment so he could feed his family of five children. Without that money, he told her, they would all starve. He had to sacrifice one to save the rest.

"Many of Afghanistan's growing number of destitute people are making desperate decisions such as these as their nation spirals into a vortex of poverty.

"The aid-dependent country's economy was already teetering when the Taliban seized power in mid-August amid a chaotic withdrawal of U.S. and NATO troops. The international community froze Afghanistan's assets abroad and halted all funding, unwilling to work with a Taliban government given its reputation for brutality during its previous rule 20 years ago."

The Guardian, ['On the brink: drought and politics leave Afghans fighting famine](#), 30 December 2021

"[Hunger is stalking Afghanistan](#), caused by a devastating confluence of political and environmental crises. The UN estimates that only 2% of the population are [getting enough to eat](#).

"The [Taliban](#) victory brought an overnight end to foreign aid that had propped up the economy of the fallen republic for 20 years. In the countryside, where more than two-thirds of Afghans live, the worst drought in 30 years had already left farmers destitute and desperate."

The Gazette, ['2021 has been catastrophic': Food insecurity rising in Afghanistan](#), 24 December 2021

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"Tens of millions of Afghans do not have access to food, and that number is expected to increase during the winter months as the economic situation exacerbates the crisis.

"Roughly 22.8 million Afghans, more than half the country's population, are expected to face "acute food insecurity" from last month through March 2022, according to projections from the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification. That would mark a 35% increase from the same time period a year earlier. It would also be the highest ever for the country, with 8.7 million people facing emergency-level food insecurity."

AP News, [Changing climate parches Afghanistan, exacerbating poverty](#), 23 December 2021

"I remember from my childhood ... there was a lot of snow in the winters, in spring we had a lot of rain," said 53-year-old Abdul Ghani, a local community leader in the village of Sang-e-Atash, in the hard-struck province of Badghis.

"But since a few years ago there has been drought, there is no snow, there is much less rain. It is not even possible to get one bowl of water from drainpipes to use," he said, as he observed the Red Crescent Society handing out emergency winter food supplies to farmers whose crops have completely failed."

OCHA, [Afghanistan Countrywide Weekly Market Price Bulletin](#), Covering Fourth week of December 2021

- In the week 4 of December 2021, the prices of food items were significantly higher than the last week of June (before the recent conflicts and political change).
- The average price of all food items except wheat grain, negligibly decreased in the 4th week, after it peak price in 3rd week of Dec 2021, mainly due to exchange rate fluctuations.
- Average weekly price of diesel negligibly decreased by 0.7% and reached 77.4 AFN/L, due to exchange rate fluctuations. • Work opportunities slightly improved by 2.4% compared to last week.
- Both casual labour/wheat and pastoralist/wheat ToT negligibly improved by 0.3% and 0.9%, respectively due to changes in price of wheat and negligibly increase in price of sheep.
- Exchange rate (USD to AFN) after drastic increase in the 2nd week of December, slightly decreased in the 3rd week and again negligibly increased this week and reached 103.2 AFN/USD and still lack of cash (USD) in markets & Banks and high demand for it exists in the market.

Save the Children, [Hunger and Heartbreak - Why we must act now to support Afghanistan's children](#), 19 December 2021

"Without enough money to feed their children, they gave up one of the newborn twins to a childless couple."

[...]

"The family was displaced from their farm about seven months ago due to prolonged drought, which has devastated crops contributed to pushing millions to the brink of famine. It has been difficult for Mohammad to find work for even a couple of days a week."

[...]

"We need help, we are hungry and poor," said Mohammad. "There are no work opportunities in Afghanistan. We only have bread for the children which is not always available."

[...]

"2021 has been a desperate year for Afghanistan's children. But now, widespread hunger and the onset of freezing winter weather are making things even worse. Over the next three months, 1 million children are at risk of dying from malnutrition."

Ariana News, [Number of Afghan children without enough food rises to 3.3 million](#), 18 December 2021

"According to data from UN World Food Programme (WFP), as of the end of November, 98% of the population do not have enough to eat — an alarming jump from 81% before 15 August. Afghanistan is facing its worst food crisis on record. This winter, 14 million children are expected to face potentially life-threatening levels of hunger, and rates of malnutrition are soaring. With Afghanistan's aid-dependent healthcare system on the brink of collapse,

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Save the Children warned that many severely malnourished children are unable to access the specialist treatment they need to survive.”

OCHA, [Afghanistan Humanitarian Needs and Planned Response 2022](#), 16 December 2021

“In 2022, 24.4 million people in Afghanistan are projected to be in humanitarian need, up by over 30 percent since the start of 2021, and amounting to over 55 percent of the entire population. The main driver of this need is a massive increase in acute food insecurity, with almost 23 million people are projected to be facing acute food insecurity. Food insecurity and the potential collapse of basic health systems services would leave 1.1 million acutely malnourished children under the age of five years without access to treatment services and up to 131,000 children could die in the course of the year if no action is taken.”

Development and Cooperation, [Afghanistan faces the world’s worst humanitarian crisis](#), 16 December 2021

Afghanistan is on the brink of the world’s worst humanitarian catastrophe, the UN’s World Food Programme (WFP) warns. According to the WFP, the country’s food crisis currently looks worse than what is happening in Ethiopia, South Sudan, Syria and Yemen.

This alarming assessment is based on the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) report. It was issued in October in a joint effort of the WFP and the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).

The authors state that in September and October 2021, nearly 19 million people in Afghanistan experienced high levels of acute food insecurity. They expect this number to rise to 22.8 million in the months November 2021 to March 2022. More than half of the country’s people thus face hunger – including 3.2 million children under five, many of whom will suffer acute malnutrition by the end of this year. People all over the country are affected, including in urban areas.

Afghanistan has experienced two severe droughts in four years. The current impact on crops and livestock is significant. Food prices are rising fast. The country’s economy depended heavily on foreign aid before the Taliban seized power in Summer 2021, and things have been deteriorating since. Public services have collapsed, and so has the financial system. Unemployment is getting worse, and Covid-19 has exacerbated all other problems.

One year ago, Afghanistan already had 3.5 million internally displaced persons (IDP). They are a particularly vulnerable group. The UN reckons that at least 660,000 more people were displaced in the months January to September this year. (One of the many Afghans that fled their country is a journalist who currently lives in Cologne, Germany. Read his story on our D+C/E+Z platform)

The WFP has so far provided emergency aid to around four million Afghans in September and plans to feed nine million in December. It needs more funding, however, and is thus calling on the international community to scale up humanitarian assistance and to resume food trade with Afghanistan. WFP’s Executive Director David Beasley: “This winter, millions of Afghans will be forced to choose between migration and starvation unless we can step up our life-saving assistance, and unless the economy can be resuscitated.”

Qantara, [Can the Taliban avert a food crisis without foreign aid?](#), 16 December 2021

“The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) are warning of a surge in the number of starving people in Afghanistan. According to one estimate, 18.8 million people are currently suffering from hunger every day, FAO representative in the Afghan capital Kabul, Richard Trenchard, said on 11 November.

That number could rise to 22.8 million by the end of the year, including more than three million children under the age of five. They urgently need aid: food, drinking water, medical care and decent shelter in winter. The total population of Afghanistan is around 39 million.”

Ariana News, [Price of naan bread in Afghanistan doubles](#), 14 December 2021

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Afghanistan's Chamber of Craftsmen and Shopkeepers said Tuesday that the price of an average naan bread weighing 200 grams has doubled, from 10 Afghanis (AFN) to 20 AFN on the back of rising food prices.

[...]

"When we go to the bazar, they ask for dollars, because the AFG has lost its value. Selling and buying is done in dollars, said Gull Mohammad, a shopkeeper.

"People need flour, rice, oil and other necessary materials, customers are coming, but they can't afford to buy anything," said Obaidullah, another shopkeeper.

Reuters, [Afghans face "avalanche of hunger and destitution" - UN agency](#), 14 December 2021

Almost all Afghans do not have enough to eat and a failing economy could tip Afghanistan's increasingly dire situation under Taliban rule into catastrophe next year, the U.N.'s World Food Programme (WFP) said on Tuesday. WFP surveys showed an estimated 98% of Afghans are not eating enough, with seven in 10 families resorting to borrowing food, which pushes them deeper into poverty, a spokesperson for the agency told reporters.

[...]

"The spiralling economic crisis, the conflict and drought has meant the average family can now barely cope," Tomson Phiri told a Geneva briefing. "We have a huge amount to do to stop this crisis from becoming a catastrophe."

Ariana News, [WFP survey finds about 98% of Afghans not getting enough food](#), 14 December 2021

Almost all Afghans do not have enough to eat and a failing economy could tip Afghanistan's increasingly dire situation under Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan (IEA) rule into catastrophe next year, the UN's World Food Programme (WFP) said on Tuesday.

A WFP survey found an estimated 98% of Afghans are not eating enough food, with seven in 10 families resorting to borrowing food, which pushes them deeper into poverty[.]

TOLO News, [ICG warns of mass starvation in Afghanistan](#), 9 December 2021

"The International Crisis Group (ICG) in a newly published report said that if the international community does not scale up economic support, more Afghans may die of hunger and starvation in the current crisis than from the fighting in the past 20 years.

"Hunger and destitution following the Taliban's takeover of the country seem poised to kill more Afghans than all the bombs and bullets of the past two decades," the report reads."

Khaama Press, ["Kidney for sale", reads a placard stuck on a tree in Kabul](#), 8 December 2021

"From selling houses, home furniture, and equipment to selling daughters and now parts of the body, all tell the world the most bitter and unpleasant story of Afghanistan and its people.

With millions of people laid off, no work and no business, unprecedented prices of food ingredients and fuel, and the cold winter season of Afghanistan have made people do everything to earn money so that they feed families and heat houses.

UN has lately estimated that during the winter this year, over 24 million people of Afghanistan will starve and three million malnourished children will be on the brink of starvation."

UNICEF, [Humanitarian Action for Children 2022 Overview](#), 6 December 2021

"Almost 23 million people will experience acute food insecurity from November 2021 until March 2022 and 1.1 million children are at risk of death due to severe acute malnutrition in 2021."

WFP, [Afghanistan: World Food Programme calls for funds as children face 'hunger and starvation'](#), 3 December 2021

"The World Food Programme (WFP) is in a "race against time" to avert a humanitarian catastrophe in Afghanistan, its executive director David Beasley has warned.

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A total 22.8 million people, more than half the population, face acute hunger as temperatures plummet below zero.

“What’s happening in Afghanistan is just horrific,” said Beasley, who has just visited. “I met families with no jobs, no cash and no food, mothers who sold one child to feed another, and the lucky children who made it to the hospital. The world cannot turn its back as the Afghan people starve.” With more than 682,000 people displaced by drought, the economic crisis and conflict, WFP is calling for US\$2.6 billion in 2022 to provide life-saving support and work towards long-term resilience.

In addition to food assistance, cash grants from WFP empower people to buy food, complementing its efforts to boost the resilience of communities through activities such as providing training in agricultural techniques and irrigation projects.

Humanitarian needs have tripled, according to the organization, whose fleet of 170 trucks criss-cross the country, delivering nutritious food to remote villages and urban areas alike.”

The Tribune, [Pakistan agrees to let India transport wheat, life-saving drugs to Afghanistan on Afghan trucks: Foreign Office](#), 3 December 2021

According to UN figures from early November, almost 24 million people in Afghanistan, around 60 per cent of the population, suffer from acute hunger. That includes 8.7 million living in near-famine. Increasing numbers of malnourished children have filled hospital wards.

Business Standard, [Afghanistan continues to face economic hardships under the Taliban](#), 3 December 2021

“Nine out of ten Afghan families are already unable to obtain sufficient food stocks and over 1 million children could face malnutrition and even death by starvation with further scares of the outbreak of diseases like measles and polio throughout the population, it added.”

OCHA, [Global Humanitarian Overview 2022 \(Part Two\)](#), 2 December 2021

“In Afghanistan, more than 24 million people require life-saving assistance to prevent catastrophe. This represents a dramatic increase in needs, driven by a combination of conflict, COVID-19, political turmoil, recurrent economic shocks and the worst drought in 27 years. [...]

A staggering 22.8 million people, or 55 per cent of the population, are expected to be in crisis or emergency levels of food insecurity (IPC 3+), a nearly 35 per cent increase from the same period last year. Some 9 million people are projected to be in IPC 4 – the highest number in the world. More than half of all children under 5 years of age are now expected to be acutely malnourished in 2022, a 21 per cent increase since the start of 2021. Twenty-seven out of 34 provinces are seeing acute malnutrition rising above emergency thresholds. In rural areas, needs are largely driven by drought – the worst of its kind in 27 years – and the cumulative effects of over four decades of conflict. Even after the harvest, 57 per cent of households did not have food reserves that would last for three months. In urban areas, severe economic shocks and resulting income loss have contributed to the rapid deterioration in people’s food security and livelihoods status. Ten out of 11 most densely populated urban areas are anticipated to be in IPC 4. In 2021, all population groups had a negative net income.”

BBC, [‘It’s like hell in here’: The struggle to save Afghanistan's starving babies](#), 2 December 2021

Afghanistan was already reeling from severe drought and decades of conflict, but the Taliban's takeover hastened the country's descent towards economic collapse. The slowing trickle of international aid, which propped up the economy and its health system for decades, came to a grinding halt in August. Western donors cited serious concerns in moving money through a government which denies basic rights to women and girls, and threatens harsh [Sharia punishments](#). This means Afghanistan is facing its worst hunger crisis since records began, according to the latest UN figures. About 14m children are expected to suffer acute levels of malnutrition this winter.

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CNN, [The rescue of Parwana: 9-year-old child bride is taken to safety in Afghanistan](#), 2 December 2021
 “Afghanistan's economic lifelines have been severed since mid-August [when the Taliban assumed control](#) after American and allied forces departed. Billions of dollars in central bank assets have been frozen, banks are running out of cash and wages have gone unpaid for months.
 Now, aid agencies and rights groups including Human Rights Watch are warning that the country's poorest people [are facing a famine](#) as the brutally cold winter takes hold. More than half of the country's roughly 39 million population will face [emergency levels of acute hunger](#) by March, according to a recent report by IPC, which assesses food insecurity. The report estimates that more than 3 million children under the age of five are already suffering acute malnutrition.
 "The international community is turning its back as the country teeters on the precipice of man-made catastrophe," said Dominik Stillhart, director of operations for the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), who just returned from a six-day visit to Afghanistan.”

US News, [Aid Official: Afghanistan's Crises Get 'Progressively Worse'](#), 2 December 2021
 “According to U.N. figures from early November, almost 24 million people in Afghanistan, around 60% percent of the population, suffer from acute hunger. That includes 8.7 million living in near- famine. Increasing numbers of malnourished children have filled hospital wards. Afghanistan has been suffering from its worst drought in decades since last year, hitting 80% of the country. The drought has reduced crops and wrecked incomes for farming families, driving many to leave their villages. More than 700,000 people were displaced from their homes this year, whether by fighting or drought, adding to the ranks of some 3.5 million displaced from past years of fighting.”

WFP Afghanistan, [Situation Report](#), 2 December 2021
 “In Numbers
 22.8 million people – half of the population -- will face acute food insecurity from November 2021 including 8.7 million at risk of famine-like conditions
 3.2 million children and 700,000 pregnant and lactating women at risk of acute malnutrition
 All 34 provinces are facing crisis or emergency levels of acute food insecurity.
 Situation Update
 Snowfall has been reported in several provinces where families depend on humanitarian assistance to survive the freezing winter months.
 More than half of the population face crisis (IPC Phase 3) or emergency (IPC Phase 4) levels of acute food insecurity from November 2021 to March 2022, according to the latest Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) report. This is the highest number of acutely food insecure people ever recorded in Afghanistan and is among the highest levels of acute food insecurity worldwide.
 An alarming 98 percent of Afghans are facing insufficient food consumption, according to WFP’s latest surveys. This is a substantial increase of 17 percentage points compared to early August.
 The situation is especially alarming for children under five, half of whom are expected to suffer from acute malnutrition (3.2 million). Acute malnutrition is above emergency thresholds in 27 of 34 provinces and is rapidly worsening.
 For the first time, urban residents are suffering from food insecurity at similar rates to rural communities, marking the shifting face of hunger in the country. Rising fuel and food prices are further exacerbating the situation.”

United Nations, [WFP appeals for greater support for Afghanistan as hunger increases](#), 1 December 2021
 “Humanitarian needs in the country have increased, the UN agency said, with all 34 provinces facing crisis or emergency levels of food insecurity. As a result, some 23 million Afghans require urgent food assistance, a figure never seen before. This includes more than three million children who are at risk of severe hunger and the life-threatening consequences of malnutrition.”

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DTM, [DTM: EMERGENCY EVENT TRACKING](#), 29 November 2021

"CFPs were also asked to rank their community's most urgent needs. Cash and food were identified as the first priority needs, which aligns with reported community shocks in the past month. These include reduced income (94%), loss of employment (96%) and food price increase (95%) (see below). Drinking water and immediate healthcare were second and third priority needs, which is reflected in the reported risk of displacement due to water insecurity (55%) and the majority of communities without a health clinic or hospital (69%)."

OCHA, [Afghanistan: Weekly Humanitarian Update \(15-21 November 2021\)](#), 27 November 2021

"A total of 30,989 vulnerable and food insecure people were identified to receive humanitarian aid in Badakhshan, Baghlan, Kunduz and Takhar provinces. Some 35,399 vulnerable families (approximately 247,793 people) received food as part of WFP's seasonal assistance programme in Badakhshan, Baghlan, Kunduz and Takhar provinces. In addition, 11,788 internal returnees received humanitarian assistance across the North-east."

Operational Data portal, UNHCR) (Afghanistan), [Afghanistan situation: Emergency preparedness and response in Iran](#), 25 November 2021

"On 17 November, the World Food Program (WFP) stated that 22.8 million Afghans – half of the population - will face acute food insecurity from November 2021, including 8.7 million at risk of faminelike conditions. This is the highest number of acutely food insecure people ever recorded in Afghanistan and is among the highest levels of acute food insecurity worldwide. WFP also reported that the situation for children is increasingly alarming, with half of all children under five (3.2 million) are expected to suffer from acute malnutrition. The UN Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Afghanistan, Deborah Lyons, has warned that the country "is on the brink of catastrophe".

Care, [Afghan families making horrific choices so they can put food on the table](#), 22 November 2021

"What's it like in Afghanistan for millions of people right now? This is what it's like. They go to bed hungry. They wake up hungry. Everyone in the house wakes up hungry. There's less and less to feed them. The winter is setting in. Growing food is impossible. Buying food is getting harder, as prices have skyrocketed. [...]"

"Almost 23 million people - more than half the population of Afghanistan - are facing acute hunger this winter. That's the equivalent of almost every single person in Australia being hungry almost all the time." [...]"

Many parents in Afghanistan are being forced to make the most horrific choices to keep their family members alive, and it's usually the girls who suffer the consequences. We have seen the reports of baby girls being sold so families have money to buy food. Young girls are being married off so there is one less mouth to feed.

UN News, [Afghanistan's farmers, herders desperate for seed, food and cash](#), 19 November 2021

"The UN agency said that 18.8 million Afghans are unable to feed themselves every day, and that this number is set to rise to nearly 23 million by the end of the year. What started as a drought crisis has spiralled into economic disaster, with nine in 10 major urban centres also expected to face extreme hardship, as debts pile up and savings dwindle. Worryingly, the already widespread drought looks set to worsen in Afghanistan, as farmers and herders brace for a likely second consecutive year of drought in 2022, with La Niña expected to bring drier than normal conditions to Afghanistan in the coming months. This situation will create a very real famine risk in 2022, unless immediate large-scale support to protect these people and their livelihoods arrives very soon, Food and Agricultural Organisation warned."

The Hill, [UN Envoy says Afghanistan on the brink of humanitarian catastrophe](#), 17 November 2021

"The United Nations envoy for Afghanistan on Wednesday said the country is on the brink of "humanitarian catastrophe," pointing to food scarcity and the country's crumbling economy, and warned that extremism could arise due to current conditions. During a press conference, Deborah Lyons said she told the U.N. Security Council that the regional and global

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community must continue helping Afghanistan as it heads into the winter, where pressing issues could lead to "terrible loss of life."

UNITED STATES INSTITUTE OF PEACE, [Key to Afghan Relief Efforts: Financial Engineering for Private Sector, Economy](#), 17 November 2021

The country is already facing a double-digit decline in GDP, rising prices of food and other necessities, and increasing unemployment, poverty, hunger and potential starvation. But if nothing is done the situation will get even worse, especially with the approach of winter.

In the absence of action, major parts of the Afghan economy will remain in free-fall and the urban sector will completely collapse. As a result, hunger and privation will increase further, already large humanitarian aid needs will multiply, and millions of desperate Afghans will be forced to try to leave the country.

GANDHARA NEWS, [‘No Water And Nothing To Eat’: Afghans Suffer Extreme Shocks From Global Climate Change](#), 16 November 2021

"Due to the drought, we had to leave our farm," Qudratullah tells RFE/RL's Radio Azadi. "We had no other income. Our field became barren and the crops we had planted were destroyed. We had no water and nothing to eat."

"There is nothing left of my cattle," he says. "I had to sell them off. Even if we had one or two left, the situation is so bad that we couldn't have kept them." [...]

The former farmer says many people in the area have moved to the district center.

"Hunger and thirst have forced people to leave their homes," he says. "Children are starving. People have nothing to eat."

Underscoring the acute climate conditions in Afghanistan, heavy floods have sometimes struck the same areas that are now grappling with severe drought. [...]

Climatologists predict that life for many of Afghanistan's 38 million people is likely to resemble Qudratullah's in the coming years due to changing weather patterns they link to global warming. [...]

Radio Azadi has documented several cases in which impoverished residents of western Afghanistan have sold one of their kidneys as an organ transplant to help their family survive."

UNICEF, [Afghanistan Humanitarian Situation Report, October 2021](#), 15 November 2021

"Between November 2021 and March 2022, further deterioration in food security is expected, with the number of people in need reaching 22.8 million. This marks a 37% increase in the number of Afghans facing acute hunger since the assessment issued in April 2021. An estimated 30,000 children under-five suffering from severe acute malnutrition (SAM) were provided with lifesaving treatment services through mobile teams and Basic Package of Health Services (BPHS) health facilities across the country."

QANTARA, [Can the Taliban avert a food crisis without foreign aid?](#), 15 November 2021

"In view of the catastrophic supply situation in Afghanistan, UN authorities are sounding the alarm. Inflation and growing poverty are exacerbating the situation. The Taliban reportedly have an emergency programme to combat the crisis. [...]

No money for food

A few days ago, WFP Executive Director David Beasley named some of the reasons for [the humanitarian crisis](#) in Afghanistan: sharply increased costs for fuel, food and fertilizers. At the same time, poverty is growing [...]" "In the industrial area of Herat alone, 70 percent of the companies have gone out of business. There is no demand. Purchasing power has dwindled tremendously. Civil servants and employees in the public sector hardly get paid." There is no chance of survival for smaller companies, such as silk manufactories or brickworks. The unemployment

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rate is rising every day, and with it the number of people who can no longer afford their daily bread.”

KHAAMA PRESS, [One million children suffering from malnutrition in Afghanistan: officials](#), 15 November 2021

“Officials of the Ministry of Public Health of Afghanistan said that there are three million Afghan children suffering from different diseases among them one million who are malnourished.

The officials also said that there are still 700,000 Afghan women who are suffering from malnutrition along with the children.

Deputy Minister of Public Health doctor Abdul Bari Omar who was briefing journalists about the ministry’s three-month achievements said that all the hospitals and clinics have been reopened and female health workers are back to their jobs.

“All big and small clinics have been reactivated and male and female health workers are asked to return to their jobs so that they raise international aids.” Said Omar.

The Deputy Minister further said that they will soon launch capacity-building programs for male and female doctors across the country.”

REUTERS, [A million Afghan children at risk of dying amid acute malnutrition, WHO says](#), 12 November 2021

“Around 3.2 million children are expected to suffer from acute malnutrition in Afghanistan by the end of this year, with 1 million of them at risk of dying as temperatures drop, a World Health Organization spokesperson said on Friday.

Aid agencies have warned of famine as a drought coincides with a failing economy following the withdrawal of Western financial support in the aftermath of a Taliban takeover in August. The health sector has been hit especially hard, with many healthcare workers fleeing due to unpaid salaries. [...]

Measles cases are rising in the country and WHO data shows 24,000 clinical cases had so far been reported.

“For malnourished children, measles is a death sentence. We will see so many more deaths if we don’t move on this quickly”.”

HRW, [Afghanistan Facing Famine](#), 11 November 2021

“The financial crisis has especially affected women and girls, who face disproportionately greater obstacles to obtaining food, health care, and financial resources. The Taliban bans that are keeping women from most paid jobs have hit households in which women were the main earners the hardest. Even in areas in which women are still allowed to work – such as education and health care – they may be unable to comply with Taliban requirements for a male family member to escort women to and from work. The media have increasingly reported of families selling their children – almost always girls – ostensibly for marriage, to obtain food or repay debts. [...]

Afghans in several provinces said that wages have nearly disappeared in most sectors, especially in urban areas, and that food prices are rapidly increasing. Some gave accounts of families selling their property or their children to pay traffickers so that they could flee the country.

“Farid,” a pseudonym, said he recently fled to Iran, but Iranian authorities detained and then deported him. He described seeing hundreds of families, many with small children, trying to leave the country with insufficient money, food, and clothing. He said that he now has no means to support his family or purchase food:

“We don’t have enough food ... we only eat once a day. With the winter approaching, the situation can get even worse than this. The Afghan [Taliban] government doesn’t have any clear plan to fix the hunger issue, and I doubt if the international community has one. What I clearly see is that soon most Afghans will die just for not having food, and as always, no one will care.”

He said that traffickers are taking advantage of the situation by charging US\$500 to \$700 to smuggle people to Iran. “I also saw the bodies of people who have died in the deserts leading to the border,” he said. “I had to sell all I had to pay the traffickers.” [...]

She said that prices were increasing every day and that she expected people to die this winter:

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"The winter is very cold, and people cannot heat their houses. No one works, especially women, and even those who used to work have not been paid yet. One neighbor told me yesterday that she doesn't have anything in the house to feed the kids. Every night, she puts on her burqa and takes all her seven kids with her, and they go door-to-door to see if anyone will share their dinner with them. They only eat once a day if anybody gives them some food. One family offered to buy her one-year-old daughter for US\$600, but she refused the request, as she wanted to keep her daughter."

"This is the worst nightmare anyone in the world has ever imagined," she said.

"Sitara" described people foraging in already-harvested agricultural fields:

"One of the worst cases that I have witnessed in my life was seeing an old man with kids searching the potato fields hoping to find some remaining potatoes, to be able to feed themselves that night, although the crops had been harvested two months ago. If the Taliban and the international community don't pay attention and do not help people, everybody will die."

Kabul Now, [Mother puts teenage daughter up for sale in Ghazni](#), 11 November 2021

"A woman who has four daughters has put her eldest one, a 13 years old girl, up for sale in the southern Ghazni province to provide a living for the rest of her family.

The woman's name is Marzia and is living in Haidarabad neighborhood of Ghazni city, Mohammad Zaman Zaki, a local elder, told Kabul Now today, November 11. He added that the woman has announced this decision for two days now.

According to the local elder, the woman has decided to sell her daughter due to poverty and hunger they are suffering from. "This woman is selling her 13-year old daughter for 100,000 – 150,000 afghani in order to provide food for her other three daughters."

Mr. Zaki added that the local residents are trying to provide food, money, and clothes for the family in a bid to prevent the girl from being sold for money.

In a video taken by Bashir Ahmad Islamzai, a local journalist, and sent to Kabul Now, the woman says she is not able to provide a living for her children. "I'm forced to sell one of my daughters in order to provide the living costs for her three siblings," she says in the video.

While she is speaking to the camera, one of her child is repeatedly heard shouting for bread.

Years back the same girl had been put up for sale by her father – an addicted man to drugs – which caused her mother to divorce him but stopped her daughter to be sold.

The woman is an original resident of Jaghori district but moved along with her children to Ghazni city after divorcing her husband."

UNITED STATES INSTITUTE OF PEACE, [Winter is coming in Afghanistan. Are the Taliban ready?](#), 11 November 2021

"Nearly three months after the Taliban's rapid takeover, Afghanistan is descending toward one of the world's worst humanitarian crises with an economy in free-fall. As the harsh winter season looms, aid agencies have warned that over half the country's population — a staggering 22.8 million people — will face acute food insecurity, including 3.2 million children under five. Now in power, the Taliban's failure to deliver basic services is exacerbating this dire humanitarian situation. But immediate relief is a distant prospect as the Taliban deliberate on how to govern the country and the international community mulls over how to engage and pressure the fledgling government.

With internal divisions leading to jockeying for power and a severe dearth of technical capacity, the Taliban are ill-equipped to address these challenges. [...]

Meanwhile, everyday Afghans are living in increasingly inhumane, squalid conditions and confronting an uncertain future. "The majority of people I know want to flee Afghanistan," said Naheed Farid, an elected member of parliament from Herat Province. "They want to leave because they don't see a future for themselves and their family."

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WFP, [Afghanistan Situation Report](#), 10 November 2021

"In Numbers 22.8 million people – half of the population -- will face acute food insecurity from November 2021 3.2 million children and 700,000 pregnant and lactating women at risk of acute malnutrition All 34 provinces are facing crisis or emergency levels of acute food insecurity.

Situation Update

- More than half of the population will be facing crisis (IPC Phase 3) or emergency (IPC Phase 4) levels of acute food insecurity through the November 2021 to March 2022 lean season, according to the latest Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) report.
- This is the highest number of acutely food insecure people ever recorded in the ten years in which IPC analyses have been conducted in Afghanistan. Afghanistan has one of the highest levels of acute food insecurity worldwide.
- The situation for children is especially alarming, with half of all children under five (3.2 million) expected to suffer from acute malnutrition. Acute malnutrition is above emergency thresholds in 27 of 34 provinces and is rapidly worsening.
- For the first time, urban residents are suffering from food insecurity at similar rates to rural communities, marking the shifting face of hunger in the country.
- The report's findings come as Afghanistan's harsh winter looms, threatening to cut off areas of the country where families desperately depend on humanitarian assistance to survive the freezing winter months. • Poor families' food stocks are expected to run out, and millions will be forced to choose between migration and starvation unless urgent action is taken."

Al Jazeera, [UN food agency: 45 million people on the edge of famine](#), 8 November 2021

"The United Nations food agency has said that the number of people on the edge of famine across 43 countries had risen to 45 million, as acute hunger spikes around the world.

The jump from 42 million people earlier in the year was largely down to a food security assessment that found another three million people facing famine in Afghanistan, the World Food Programme (WFP) said on Monday.

WFP said the cost of averting famine globally now stands at \$7bn, up from \$6.6bn earlier in the year, but warned that traditional funding streams were overstretched.

Families facing acute food insecurity are being "forced to make devastating choices", marrying off children early, pulling them out of school or feeding them locusts, wild leaves, or cactus.

Multiple droughts in Afghanistan were combining with an economic meltdown to push families to the edge, while some 12.4 million people in Syria do not know where their next meal will come from – more than any time during the decade-long conflict, it said."

BBC, [Afghans facing 'hell on earth' as winter looms](#), 8 November 2021

"Ninety-five percent of the people don't have enough food, and now we're looking at 23 million people marching towards starvation," he added. "The next six months are going to be catastrophic. It is going to be hell on Earth."

AVA Press, [Agricultural free fall in Afghanistan is part of U.S. war legacy](#), 27 October 2021

"Promises cannot feed people" were the words of the United Nations Food Program Executive Director David Beasley as he underlined the rapid, unfortunate and alarming decline of Afghanistan's agricultural sector after decades of war. While the byproducts of the 20-year U.S. war include massive poverty, malnutrition, widespread displacement, terrorism and unemployment, the backbone of the Afghan national economy which is the agricultural sector has also taken a massive blow.

Afghan Voice Agency (AVA)_With roughly 80 percent of Afghans relying on it for daily sustenance and livelihood, its rapid decline can be attributed to the prolongation of war in the country and sector's abandonment after the U.S. troops' withdrawal in August.

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As per assessments from the United Nations World and the Food and Agricultural Organization, Afghanistan is facing a starvation crisis, with approximately 45 percent of its population or 19 million people being at risk of high levels of food insecurity.”

Ariana News, [Afghanistan on ‘countdown to catastrophe’ as winter looms](#), 26 October 2021

“This is the highest number of acutely food insecure people ever recorded by the UN, during 10 years of conducting IPC analyses in Afghanistan.

And globally, the country is home to one of the largest number of people facing acute hunger.

“Hunger is rising and children are dying”, said WFP Executive Director David Beasley.

“We can’t feed people on promises – funding commitments must turn into hard cash, and the international community must come together to address this crisis, which is fast spinning out of control”.

Among those at risk are 3.2 million children under five, who are expected to suffer from acute malnutrition by the end of the year.

Last month, WFP and the UN Children’s Fund (UNICEF) warned that without immediate life-saving treatment, one million children risked dying from severe acute malnutrition.

And for the first time, urban residents are suffering from food insecurity at similar rates to rural communities.

“Afghanistan is now among the world’s worst humanitarian crises – if not the worst – and food security has all but collapsed”, said the WFP chief.”

TOLo News, [Afghans Struggle with High Prices of Essential Goods](#), 26 October 2021

“A number of residents speaking to TOLONews complained about the high price of primary items in the markets, saying they are concerned about providing food for their families.

According to the residents, the economic downturn and the high prices have worried them as winter approaches.

“Domestic production is not enough, the prices are high because the goods are imported,” said Abdul Maroof, a shopkeeper.

Meanwhile, a number of farmers said that the recent drought has caused a serious decrease in yield compared to past years. They say this year’s drought is more severe than previous years, and the wells which were used to irrigate the farmlands have dried up. [...]

Droughts and political problems in the country are cited as the reason for an unprecedented rise in the price of primary goods, mainly food, in the country.”

TOLo News, [UN Urges World to Support Vulnerable Afghans](#), 26 October 2021

“[...] The World Food Program WFP said on Monday that more than half of Afghanistan’s population will face starvation this winter unless urgent action is taken.

“Afghanistan is fighting a humanitarian crisis, the humanitarian organizations should urgently take steps and deliver their assistance to Afghanistan. The latest reports indicate that more than 22 million people face food insecurity,” said Wahidullah Amani, spokesman of WFP in Kabul.

Save the Children said that an unprecedented food crisis has left at least 14 million Afghan children hungry.

The statistics show a 35% increase in the number of people facing a food crisis compared with the same time last year.”

WFP, [Afghanistan set to be world’s worst humanitarian crisis, report warns](#), 25 October 2021

“Afghanistan is becoming the world’s largest humanitarian crisis, with needs surpassing those in Ethiopia, South Sudan, Syria and Yemen, according to figures released today.

With a harsh winter on its way, the latest IPC assessment (the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification), a global standard for assessing food insecurity, found 22.8 million people could face acute risk, while 8.7 million face emergency levels of hunger – a record in the ten years the UN has been conducting IPC analyses in the country. [...]

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Since the withdrawal of international forces in August, the fall of the Afghan government and the Taliban takeover, the country has been in freefall. Job losses, lack of cash and soaring prices have pushed the humanitarian crisis to a new high, creating a new class of hungry, the report said.

For the first time, urban residents are suffering from food insecurity at similar rates to rural communities, which have been ravaged by drought twice in the past three years. Across cities, towns and villages, virtually no family can afford sufficient food, according to recent WFP surveys. [...]

A crippling drought poses a further challenge to a political transition that has been met with international sanctions, and a financial and banking collapse. With COP26 kicking off in Glasgow on Friday (31 Oct), Bauer highlights the effects of the “double-dip” of the La Niña climate phenomenon, which is causing the worst drought the country has seen in years. [...]

“People who used to be food-secure, people who live in urban areas, people who were part of the Afghan middle class are now facing food insecurity because they're not being paid anymore, and they don't have access to their savings anymore. If they don't have money, and they don't have food assistance, it's going to be a long, dark winter.”

Due to a cash liquidity crisis, people are currently restricted to withdrawing US\$200 a week. However, “in more remote locations the banks still don't have cash, so they can't even withdraw that,” said Hsiao-Wei Lee, WFP deputy country director in charge of operations for Afghanistan.”

WFP, [Integrated Food Security Phase Classification \(IPC\), IPC ACUTE FOOD INSECURITY ANALYSIS September 2021 - March 2022](#), 25 October 2021

AFGHANISTAN


Afghanistan's food crisis reaches unprecedented levels as nearly 19 million people are highly food insecure due to prolonged drought, conflict and economic collapse

CURRENT SEPTEMBER – OCTOBER 2021		
 18.8M 47% of the population People facing high levels of acute food insecurity (IPC Phase 3 or above) IN NEED OF URGENT ACTION	Phase 5	0 People in Catastrophe
	Phase 4	6,856,000 People in Emergency
	Phase 3	11,988,000 People in Crisis
	Phase 2	13,613,000 People in Stressed
	Phase 1	7,954,000 People in food security

IPC ACUTE FOOD INSECURITY ANALYSIS

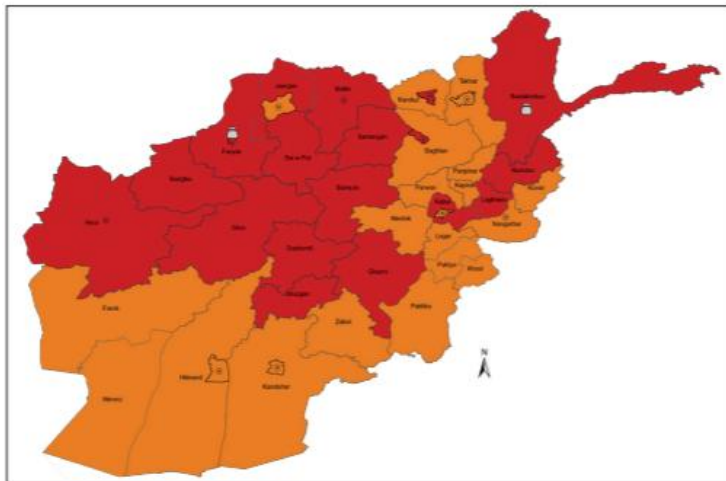
September 2021 - March 2022

Issued in October 2021

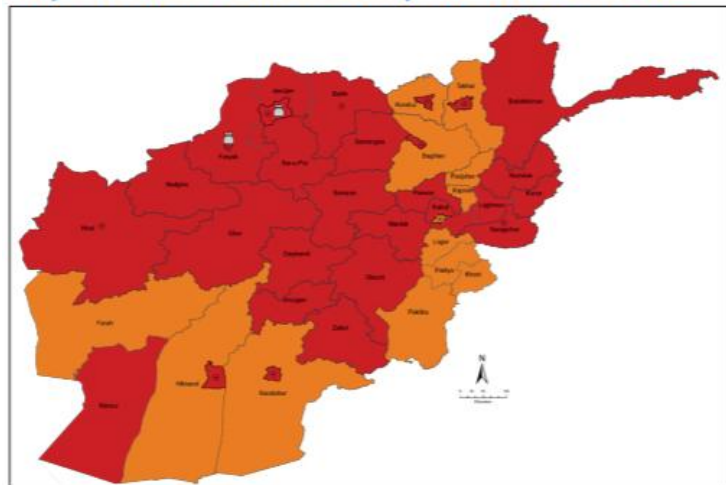
PROJECTED NOVEMBER 2021 – MARCH 2022		
 22.8M 55% of the population People facing high levels of acute food insecurity (IPC Phase 3 or above) IN NEED OF URGENT ACTION	Phase 5	0 People in Catastrophe
	Phase 4	8,740,000 People in Emergency
	Phase 3	14,074,000 People in Crisis
	Phase 2	12,473,000 People in Stressed
	Phase 1	6,441,000 People in food security

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Current Acute Food Insecurity Sept - Oct 2021



Projected Acute food Insecurity Nov 2021 - Mar 2022





Key for the Map

IPC Acute Food Insecurity Phase Classification

 1 - Minimal	 4 - Emergency
 2 - Stressed	 5 - Famine
 3 - Crisis	● Urban settlement classification

Classification takes into account levels humanitarian food assistance provided

 At least 25% of households meet 25-50% of caloric needs from humanitarian food assistance

 At least 25% of households meet over 50% of caloric needs from humanitarian food assistance

Evidence Level: ***High

WFP, [Half of Afghanistan's population face acute hunger as humanitarian needs grow to record levels](#), 25 October 2021

“More than half the population of Afghanistan – a record 22.8 million people - will face acute food insecurity from

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November, according to the latest Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) report issued today by the Food Security and Agriculture Cluster of Afghanistan, co-led by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN and the UN World Food Programme.

The combined impacts of drought, conflict, COVID-19 and the economic crisis, have severely affected lives, livelihoods, and people's access to food. The report's findings come as Afghanistan's harsh winter looms, threatening to cut off areas of the country where families desperately depend on humanitarian assistance to survive the freezing winter months.

The Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) report has found that more than one in two Afghans will be facing crisis (IPC Phase 3) or emergency (IPC Phase 4) levels of acute food insecurity through the November 2021 to March 2022 lean season, requiring urgent humanitarian interventions to meet basic food needs, protect livelihoods and prevent a humanitarian catastrophe.

The report also notes that this is the highest number of acutely food insecure people ever recorded in the ten years the UN has been conducting IPC analyses in Afghanistan. Globally, Afghanistan is home to one of the largest number of people in acute food insecurity in both absolute and relative terms. [...]

"Afghanistan is now among the world's worst humanitarian crises - if not the worst - and food security has all but collapsed. This winter, millions of Afghans will be forced to choose between migration and starvation unless we can step up our life-saving assistance, and unless the economy can be resuscitated. We are on a countdown to catastrophe and if we don't act now, we will have a total disaster on our hands," said David Beasley, WFP Executive Director. [...]

Hunger spreads from rural to urban areas

The IPC report reflects a 37 percent increase in the number of Afghans facing acute hunger since the last assessment issued in April 2021. Among those at risk are 3.2 million children under-five who are expected to suffer from acute malnutrition by the end of the year. In October, WFP and UNICEF warned that one million children were at risk of dying from severe acute malnutrition without immediate life-saving treatment.

For the first time, urban residents are suffering from food insecurity at similar rates to rural communities, marking the shifting face of hunger in the country. Rampant unemployment and the liquidity crisis mean that all major urban centres are projected to face Emergency (IPC Phase 4) levels of food insecurity, including formerly middle-class populations.

In rural areas, the severe impact of the second drought in four years continues to impact the livelihoods of 7.3 million people who rely on agriculture and livestock to survive."

Reuters, ['Children are going to die', U.N. agency warns as Afghanistan verges on collapse](#), 25 October 2021

"Millions of Afghans, including children, could die of starvation unless urgent action is taken to pull Afghanistan back from the brink of collapse, a senior United Nations official warned, calling for frozen funds to be freed for humanitarian efforts.

World Food Programme (WFP) Executive Director David Beasley told Reuters that 22.8 million people - more than half of Afghanistan's 39 million population - were facing acute food insecurity and "marching to starvation" compared to 14 million just two months ago. [...]

Afghanistan was plunged into crisis in August after Taliban fighters drove out a Western-backed government, prompting donors to hold back billions of dollars in assistance for the aid-dependent economy.

The food crisis, exacerbated by climate change, was dire in Afghanistan even before the takeover by the Taliban, whose new administration has been blocked from accessing assets held overseas as nations grapple with how to deal with the hardline Islamists. [...]

The U.N. food agency needs up to \$220 million a month to partially feed the nearly 23 million vulnerable people as winter nears.

Many Afghans are selling possessions to buy food with the Taliban unable to pay wages to civil servants, and urban communities are facing food insecurity on levels similar to rural areas for the first time."

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The Guardian, [‘Countdown to catastrophe’: half of Afghans face hunger this winter – UN](#), 25 October 2021

“More than half of Afghanistan’s population is facing acute hunger as the country has been thrown into one of the world’s largest food crises.

Almost 23 million Afghans will be hungry due to conflict, drought and an economic downturn that is severely affecting livelihoods and people’s access to food as a harsh winter looms, the UN has warned; an increase of nearly 35% compared with last year.

“Afghanistan is now among the world’s worst humanitarian crises – if not the worst – and food security has all but collapsed. This winter, millions of Afghans will be forced to choose between migration and starvation,” the World Food Programme’s executive director David Beasley said, adding that “we are on a countdown to catastrophe”.

The Taliban takeover in August has contributed to the economic upheaval as billions of dollars in foreign aid payments – 40% of the country’s gross domestic product – have ceased and almost \$10bn (£7.3bn) of Afghan central bank assets have been frozen.

Half of all Afghans will be facing crisis or emergency levels of acute food insecurity between this November and March next year, the UN report said.

As desperation grows, the number of beggars throughout Afghanistan’s major cities – including children – has risen as urban residents, for the first time, suffer similar rates of food insecurity to rural communities; a shifting pattern of hunger in the country. [...]

Only 5% of households have enough to eat every day, the UN said. Many families who fled fighting before the Taliban takeover can’t afford to go back home, instead remaining in makeshift camps with no source of income. About 3.5 million people remain displaced within the country. [...]

Cash is largely unavailable, and many government employees are waiting for unpaid salaries.

In Kabul, beggars are visible on almost every street corner. In the city centre, small children chase after shoppers, hoping for a piece of bread.”

IPC - Integrated Food Security Phase Classification, [Afghanistan: Acute Food Insecurity Situation September - October 2021 and Projection for November 2021 - March 2022](#), 25 October 2021

“In September and October 2021 (the post-harvest season), nearly 19 million people in Afghanistan experienced high levels of acute food insecurity (IPC Phase 3 or above), an almost 30% increase from the same season last year (14.5 million people). The main drivers of acute food insecurity include drought and its impacts on crops and livestock, the collapse of public services, a severe economic crisis and increasing food prices. An estimated 6.8 million people in Emergency (IPC Phase 4) and 11.9 million people in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) require urgent action to save their lives, reduce food gaps and protect their livelihoods. [...]

A profound economic crisis is severely restricting household access to food. [...]

Impact on Food Markets and Prices: The period between August to September corresponds to the post-harvest season when wheat and wheat flour prices usually decrease slightly following seasonal trends. However, in 2021, there has been a dramatic and sudden price increase for wheat flour (+28% from June to September) and other food commodities. In addition, cooking oil prices increased by 55% compared to the same period last year and more than 80% above the previous 5-year average, contributing to increasing food and non-food prices. Moreover, the political transition also led to a freeze of US\$ 9.5 billion in government assets, further deteriorating the economy and resulting in a 12.5% currency devaluation, which in turn contributed to increasing prices of food and non-food items, especially for imported ones. These higher food prices are negatively impacting the purchasing power of lower-income groups across the country, reducing their access to food. The impact of high prices is not only limited to poor households, with other household income groups unable to access cash due to banking restrictions on cash withdrawals (currently limited to USD200/household/week). [...]

Food insecurity is growing in urban areas. Eleven major towns of selected provinces were analysed to assess the specific vulnerabilities of urban households. Across the urban areas, around 3.98 million people (43% of the analysed population) were facing high levels of acute food insecurity (IPC Phase 3 or above), of which 1.2 million

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people (13%) were classified in Emergency (IPC Phase 4). Five out of 11 urban areas were classified in Emergency, and another six urban areas were classified in Crisis (IPC Phase 3). The urban area of Faryab (Maimana), with 65% of its total population classified in IPC Phase 3 or above, is the most vulnerable urban center, followed by Balkh (Mazar), Jawzjan, Helmand (Lashkergah), Hirat, Kunduz, Nangarhar, (e) Baghlan (Pul-e-Khumri), Kabul, and Kandahar, each having 40-55% of their respective populations classified in IPC Phase 3 or above. The impact of the transition of power on the functionality of key services (banks, markets, transports, communication) as well as on labour opportunities (e.g. civil servants and functionality of public and private economic comparts) coupled with unseasonable inflation spikes for food products, deeply affected the capacity of most urban households to produce an income and access food."

BBC News, [Afghanistan facing desperate food crisis, UN warns](#), 25 October 2021

"More than half the population - about 22.8 million people - face acute food insecurity, while 3.2 million children under five could suffer acute malnutrition, the WFP said. [...] Many Afghans are now selling their possessions to buy food. The new Taliban administration has been blocked from accessing overseas assets, as nations assess how to deal with the hardline group, meaning wages to civil servants and other workers have been withheld.

"It has been more than five months that I have received my wages," a teacher in Herat told the BBC. "Life is tough. I am selling whatever we have at home. We are selling our animals, cutting our trees to sell the wood."

"People are impoverished here," said a man in Kandahar. "Yesterday I saw a woman who was going through the rubbish bins at the local hotel, collecting the leftover food. I asked her why she was doing so and she said she didn't have any other solution, she was trying to find food for her children." [...] The WFP warned that the looming winter threatened to further isolate Afghans dependent on humanitarian assistance to survive. And for the first time in Afghanistan, urban residents are suffering from food insecurity at similar rates to rural communities, the organisation said.

"It is urgent that we act efficiently and effectively to speed up and scale up our delivery in Afghanistan before winter cuts off a large part of the country, with millions of people - including farmers, women, young children and the elderly - going hungry in the freezing winter," said QU Dongyu, the director of the UN's Food and Agriculture Organisation."

CARE, [CARE warns of increased risks for women and girls as new report reveals almost half of Afghans now face acute hunger](#), 25 October 2021

"A new report reveals Afghanistan has descended deeper into an already alarming hunger crisis, exacerbated by drought, increasing displacement, rising food prices, the COVID-19 pandemic and economic decline, with 18.8 million people, close to half the population, now facing acute hunger - an almost 30% increase from the same time last year.

"People in many parts of Afghanistan are resorting to extreme measures just to put food on the table – they're selling the few assets they have, making tough choices about which family members miss out on meals and some are even marrying their daughters off at a young age just so there is one less mouth to feed. The dramatic rise in the price of wheat between June and September this year by 28% is hugely concerning and puts life-sustaining food out of reach for so many," said Victor Moses, CARE Afghanistan's Country Director."

Kabul Now, [Eight children of a family starve to death in west Kabul](#), 24 October 2021

"Eight children of a family starve to death in west Kabul

As many as eight children of a single family have starved to death in Etifaq Township, a neighborhood in west part of the capital Kabul, according to the local residents and a religious scholar. The children have died from lack of food after the death of their parents who had previously lost their lives to cancer and heart disease.

The incident took place three weeks ago in PD 13 of Kabul city, Mohammad Ali Rahimi Bamiani, the religious scholar who performed the mass funeral ceremony of the children told Kabul Now today, October 24, in Kabul.

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He confirmed that all the children were members of a single family and died of starvation.”

Al Jazeera, [Kabul orphanage struggles to feed its children as cash runs low](#), 19 October 2021

“Ahmad Khalil Mayan, programme director at a large Kabul orphanage, says he is cutting back on the amount of fruit and meat he gives the children each week because the home is running out of money.

For the last two months, since the Taliban seized control of Afghanistan and millions of dollars in aid suddenly dried up, he has been desperately calling and emailing donors, both foreign and local, who supported him before.”

BBC, [Afghanistan crisis: G20 leaders pledge to avert economic catastrophe](#), 13 October 2021

“The takeover of this country has caused a massive shock to an economy that was just about surviving [...]

With no cash in the market, there has been a sharp rise in prices of day to day necessities including food. An already difficult situation created by war and drought has become much worse.”

Landinfo, [Afghanistan: En humanitær krise](#), 13 October 2021

“The prices of absolutely necessary foods such as flour and cooking oil have risen, for example a 50 kilo sack of flour has risen from 21 USD to 24 USD. Other indispensable products such as medicines and electricity have also become more expensive, while those who sell non-essential goods, such as clothing, have declined sales (Duncan & Clark 2021).

The country, which is highly dependent on imports, cannot finance the import of food, medicine, fuel and electricity (UNAMA 2021). The Taliban does not even have the means to pay the import duty to retrieve containers with food reserves from ports in Pakistan (Debre 2021). On the streets, cheap, low-quality fuel is sold, which has been smuggled into the country, probably from Iran (Jahanmal 2021).”

Original excerpt in Norwegian [translated using Google translate]

“Prisene på helt nødvendige matvarer som mel og matolje har steget, eksempelvis har en 50 kilos sekk med mel steget fra 21 USD til 24 USD. Også andre helt uunnværlige produkter som medisiner og elektrisitet har blitt dyrere, mens de som selger varer som ikke er livsnødvendige, som for eksempel klær, har nedgang i salget (Duncan & Clark 2021).

Landet, som er svært importavhengig, kan ikke finansiere import av mat, medisin, drivstoff og elektrisitet (UNAMA 2021). Taliban har ikke engang midler til å betale importavgiften for å hente ut containere med matreserver fra havner i Pakistan (Debre 2021). På gatene selges billig drivstoff av lav kvalitet, som har blitt smuglet inn i landet, antagelig fra Iran (Jahanmal 2021).”

Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty Gandhara, [Death Stalks 1 Million Afghan Children Facing Malnutrition](#), 7 October 2021

“Dozens of malnourished children are now receiving care in the central hospital of Afghanistan's Ghor Province. Malnutrition in Ghor is expected to increase rapidly as poverty in the country grows -- driven by drought and the collapse of the economy following the Taliban takeover in August.”

Ariana News, [Afghan air corridor for cargo to resume next week](#), 7 October 2021

“The Afghanistan Chamber of Commerce and Investment (ACCI) deputy head said Thursday that Afghanistan's international air corridor for cargo will resume next week. Mohammad Younis Mohmand told Ariana News the first flight will carry pine nuts. The ACCI however continues to criticize Pakistan over its treatment of Afghan businessmen and called for issues to be resolved at the Torkham and Spin Boldak land ports.”

The New Humanitarian, [From rural drought to urban shortages: Afghanistan's new hungry](#), 6 October 2021

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"Only five percent of Afghan households reported having enough food to eat, according to recent World Food Programme surveys. For the first time, there are similar levels of food insecurity among urban Afghans as drought-hit rural ones, the UN agency said: "Job losses, lack of cash, and soaring prices are creating a new class of hungry in Afghanistan."

Food worries now stretch from the country's remote rural corners – which often face the brunt of shortfalls caused by drought, conflict, or under-development – to its urban areas."

Tolo News, [WFP: 14 Million Face Food Insecurity in Afghanistan](#), 6 October 2021

"The World Food Programme (WFP) warned of the dire state of food insecurity sweeping across Afghanistan as winter approaches fast.

While visiting a food distribution center in Herat province in the west, WFP officials said that at least 14 million people in Afghanistan will face food insecurity and over 3 million children are suffering from acute malnutrition.

"We have huge concerns about the desperate choices families are being forced to take," said Mary-Ellen McGroarty, WFP Afghanistan's Representative and Country Director. "Unless we intervene now, malnutrition will only become more severe. The international community must release the funds they pledged weeks ago, or the impact could be irreversible."

It is reported that WFP and UNICEF are distributing food to poor Afghan families in several provinces.

A number of families who were benefited by lifesaving food packages talked about their poverty, saying they have not been able to pay for food."

UNICEF, [Half of Afghanistan's children under five expected to suffer from acute malnutrition as hunger takes root for millions](#), 5 October 2021

"KABUL, 5 October 2021 –Wrapping up a two-day visit to Herat, UNICEF Representative in Afghanistan, Hervé Ludovic De Lys, and WFP Afghanistan Representative and Country Director, Mary-Ellen McGroarty, sounded the alarm on the dire state of malnutrition and food insecurity sweeping across the country. Without reliable access to water, food and basic health and nutrition services, Afghan children and their families are bearing the brunt of years of conflict and the current economic crisis.

14 million people in Afghanistan are facing acute food insecurity, and an estimated 3.2 million children under the age of five expected to suffer from acute malnutrition by the end of the year. At least 1 million of these children are at risk of dying due to severe acute malnutrition without immediate treatment.

[...]

According to WFP surveys 95 per cent of households in Afghanistan are not consuming enough food, adults are eating less and skipping meals so their children can eat more."

Reuters, [Afghanistan on verge of socio-economic collapse, EU's top diplomat says](#), 3 October 2021

"Afghanistan is facing a breakdown of its economic and social systems that risks turning into a humanitarian catastrophe, the European Union's foreign policy chief said on Sunday.

Avoiding the worst-case scenario would require the Taliban to comply with conditions that would enable more international assistance, Josep Borrell wrote in a blog post.

"Afghanistan is experiencing a serious humanitarian crisis and a socio-economic collapse is looming, which would be dangerous for Afghans, the region and international security," Borrell wrote.

Food prices in the country have jumped more than 50% since the Taliban took power in August as the freezing of \$9 billion of Afghanistan's assets held in foreign central bank reserves and the withdrawal of foreign income stokes inflation.

The Afghan banking system is largely paralysed, with people unable to withdraw money, while the country's health system - which was heavily dependent on foreign aid - is close to collapse, according to Borrell.

"If the situation continues and with winter approaching, this risks turning into a humanitarian catastrophe," he wrote, adding that this could trigger mass migration into neighbouring states."

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WFP, [WFP Afghanistan Situation Report](#), 30 September 2021

“SITUATION UPDATE

- Winter is fast-approaching and the race is on to get food prepositioned at strategic locations before it's too late.
- Food security is deteriorating sharply: Just 5 percent of households are consuming enough food according to WFP's latest surveys.
 - Urban residents are suffering from food insecurity at similar rates to rural communities, who were ravaged by drought twice in the past three years.
 - While families with lower education levels are hardest hit by food insecurity, more than 90 percent of households with high-school or university educations are unable to afford enough food to feed their families.
- Almost no one has enough money to buy food.
 - Three out of four households now limit portion sizes; adults are eating less so their children can eat more.
 - o Households headed by women are skipping meals, and reducing their portions far more than those headed by men.
 - Three out of four households are also borrowing food (76.7 percent up from 60 percent) or consuming cheaper food (74.5 percent up from 56 percent).
- Cash shortages are hampering commercial transporters, millers and cooperating partners as they face challenges in securing cash to pay staff/drivers and procure raw materials.”

ACTED, September, [DROUGHT EMERGENCY APPEAL Situation analysis and proposed response](#), September 2021 [exact date unknown]

“The 2021 harvest for a range of crops is expected to be below average due to the effects of drought. According to the Food Security and Agriculture Cluster (FSAC), total wheat production in 2021 will be 25% less than in 2020 based on initial estimates, and overall the country is facing a national shortfall of 2.46m MT of wheat due to the poor harvests, and a 62% reduction in area under cultivation compared to 2020. Additionally, decreases in rice and vegetable production are also anticipated to be high, with rice production down 20%, vegetable production down 25-30%, and fruit production expected to be down a staggering 80% in some locations. In addition, livestock mortality will further erode food security and increase risks of malnutrition, with livestock production to be down 30% across the most affected provinces.[...]

The impact of the drought is, and will be, very severe for the poorest and most vulnerable small-holder farmers reliant on rain-fed wheat production, as the area of rain-fed wheat planted in 2021 has decreased by 62% from the 2020 level, with the resulting yield also down 47% against the prior year. In addition, the effects of the drought are depleting many already poor and vulnerable household's financial and asset reserves as they struggle and resort to extremely negative coping strategies, with the poorest and most vulnerable households incurring catastrophic levels of debt.[...]

Unfortunately, long-term forecasts indicate that the drought will continue into 2022, and the next main lean season (late January to late April 2022) is expected to be more intense and arrive earlier, leading to a further deterioration in the food security situation across the country.”

BBC News, [Taliban: Afghanistan bank boss warns sector near collapse](#), 28 September 2021

“The United Nations World Food Programme has warned that only 5% of households in Afghanistan have enough to eat every day.

Half of those surveyed said they have run out of food altogether at least once in the last two weeks.”

NRC, [Afghanistan is on a countdown to economic collapse](#), 27 September 2021

“Statement by Jan Egeland, Secretary General of the Norwegian Refugee Council, who is currently visiting Afghanistan.

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"Afghanistan's economy is spiralling out of control. The formal banking system could collapse any day now because of a lack of cash. I've spoken to families who tell me they are surviving on tea and small scraps of old bread. "If the economy collapses, even the most basic services will no longer function, and humanitarian needs will soar even higher. Dealing with the liquidity crisis is critical as aid organisations seek to scale up to meet urgent humanitarian needs."

WFP, [In the grip of hunger: only 5 percent of Afghan families have enough to eat](#), 23 September 2021

"Due to the combined effects of unemployment, a drop in the value of the local currency and a rise in prices – cooking oil has almost doubled in price since 2020, and wheat is up by 28 percent – only 10 percent of families headed by someone with a secondary or university education can afford sufficient food."

OCHA, Afghanistan, [Weekly Humanitarian Update \(30 August – 5 September 2021\)](#), 13 September 2021

"In the reporting period [...] The prices of food, medicine and other essential supplies in markets across the region reportedly increased by about 30 per cent."

Availability of and access to water

TOLO News, [UNICEF: Afghan children face 'acute malnutrition'](#), 23 December 2021

"The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) highlighted the severe condition of Afghan children and estimated that "one in two children under five will be acutely malnourished in 2022 due to the food crisis and poor access to water, sanitation and hygiene services."

"Children across Afghanistan are increasingly vulnerable to disease and illness due to the deadly combination of rising malnutrition, an unprecedented food crisis, drought, disruptions to vital health and nutrition centers, lack of access to and poor quality of water and sanitation services, and crippling winter weather," UNICEF said in a recent report."

AP News, [An Afghan village shrivels in worst drought in decades](#), 9 December 2021

"Afghanistan's drought, its worst in decades, is now entering its second year, exacerbated by climate change. The dry spell has hit 25 of the country's 34 provinces, and this year's wheat harvest is estimated to be down 20% from the year before.

Along with fighting, the drought has contributed to driving more than 700,000 people from their homes this year, and the onset of winter will only increase the [potential for disaster](#)."

DTM, [DTM: EMERGENCY EVENT TRACKING](#), 29 November 2021

"CFPs were also asked to rank their community's most urgent needs. Cash and food were identified as the first priority needs, which aligns with reported community shocks in the past month. These include reduced income (94%), loss of employment (96%) and food price increase (95%) (see below). Drinking water and immediate healthcare were second and third priority needs, which is reflected in the reported risk of displacement due to water insecurity (55%) and the majority of communities without a health clinic or hospital (69%)."

Afghanistan Analysts Network, [Global Warming and Afghanistan: Drought, hunger and thirst expected to worsen](#), 6 November 2021

"While the nations of the world come together at the COP26 to seek solutions to climate change, Afghanistan is already suffering from global warming. One of the worst droughts in recent years has caused rainfed wheat crops to fail, led to plummeting livestock prices and shortages in drinking water. 19 million people – nearly half of the country's population – are severely food insecure and require urgent assistance. AAN guest author Mohammad Assem Mayar,* a water resource management expert, maps out the severity of the drought and its effect on

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people and agriculture, explains how climate change will make drought in Afghanistan more common and looks at what should be done to mitigate their harm."

ACTED, September, [DROUGHT EMERGENCY APPEAL Situation analysis and proposed response](#), September 2021 [exact date unknown]

"While Afghanistan has sufficient water for its population and production in aggregate terms, access, storage and efficiency of water use are extremely low due to mismanagement, destruction of systems, and lack of infrastructures and investment, with 88% of irrigation done through informal systems. Overall, it is estimated that 90% of Afghanistan's water consumption is for agricultural purposes, of which over 50% is lost due to inefficient systems and management. When faced with drought conditions, these issues result in severe WASH needs and water scarcity, especially in rural areas, leading to a lack of access and availability of water."

Availability of and access to shelter

OCHA, [Afghanistan: Humanitarian Response Plan \(2022\)](#), 11 January 2022

"While conflict and insecurity were the primary drivers of displacement up until August 2021, natural disasters and environmental risks are becoming an increasing driver of underlying need.

"A national drought was officially declared in June 2021, the worst in more than three decades. 80 per cent of the country is now suffering from either severe or serious drought. This historic drought, brought on by exceptionally low precipitation in 2020-2021, has added to a long silent water crisis and put additional pressure on water resources already strained from population growth (for example in the densely populated cities of Kabul, Kandahar and Herat where 66 per cent of country's urban population live). Groundwater levels have progressively lowered across the country – in Kabul going from eight meters below land in 2003 to 45 meters in 2021. Even the aquifers in the central region have been affected by a water scarcity crisis currently impacting two-thirds of the country. Overall, the dwindling of the water levels is resulting in the drying up of hand-dug wells, springs, kariz, boreholes and streams.

"Rural areas, and particularly farming and livestock rearing households, have been hard hit by the 2020-21 drought. The drought is driving food insecurity, and in addition to grain deficits and livestock deaths in both rainfed and irrigated areas.

This is devastating to many households who are still reeling from the crippling effects of the 2018-19 drought and have not had the opportunity to recover, given the cumulative impacts of war and chronic poverty.

"In addition to the drought, more than 29,000 people in 13 provinces were affected by other natural disasters – mostly floods – throughout Afghanistan in 2021.

"Afghanistan has an INFORM Risk Index of 6.8, the fifth highest risk country out of 190 profiled. At the same time, the Notre Dame Global Adaptation Index ranks it as the 11th least prepared country against climatic shocks and the 10th most vulnerable country in the world to climate change. With its placement in a seismically active region, Afghanistan remains highly susceptible to catastrophic damage due to earthquakes – particularly across a number of densely populated urban areas along the Chaman, Hari Rud, Central Badakhshan, and Darvaz faults. Each of these faults is capable of producing 7 or 8 Magnitude earthquakes. In the last 10 years, more than 7,000 people have lost their lives because of earthquakes in Afghanistan, with an average of 560 fatalities per year. A contingency plan developed by the Inter-Cluster Coordination Team (ICCT) in late 2020 estimates that if an earthquake of 7.6 magnitude were to strike the seismically risky area between Kabul and Jalalabad, up to 7 million people would be impacted in the areas of worst shaking, throwing three million of the most vulnerable people in need of humanitarian assistance."

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Humanitarian Response (Afghanistan)(UNOCHA), [Afghanistan Weekly Humanitarian Update \(15-21 November 2021\)](#), 26 November 2021

“Some 7,886 families (approximately 55,200 people) have been identified in need of winterization assistance.”

BBC, [Afghanistan crisis: G20 leaders pledge to avert economic catastrophe](#), 13 October 2021

“The takeover of this country has caused a massive shock to an economy that was just about surviving. [...] In Kabul, hundreds of people are still living in the open in tents with harsher winter months fast approaching.”

Availability of and access to employment

ILO, [ILO Brief - Employment prospects in Afghanistan: A rapid impact assessment](#), 19 January 2022

“More than half a million workers are estimated to have lost their job in the third quarter 2021, relative to a hypothetical scenario with no change in administration, which represents 8 per cent fewer working women and men.

Employment losses are expected to increase to nearly 700,000 by the second quarter 2022, as enterprises struggle to stay viable and work becomes scarce. If the situation of women deteriorates further and outmigration intensifies, employment losses could increase to more than 900,000 jobs by the second quarter 2022. [...]

The impact on female employment is severe

The economic crisis is harming women workers disproportionately. Even before the events of 15 August, women’s labour force participation was extremely low by global standards at 17 per cent nationwide, and 10 per cent in urban Afghanistan in 2020. 13 The majority of women’s employment in 2020 was in agriculture, the manufacturing of textiles and clothes, as well as public administration and social services (table 1). These sectors are now severely affected (see next section). At the same time, women’s economic opportunities are further limited by newly imposed restrictions on women’s economic participation in some areas. As a result, women’s employment is estimated to have decreased by 16 per cent in the third quarter 2021, relative to the hypothetical scenario without the change in administration (figure 2). By comparison, male employment is estimated to have declined by 6 per cent. Assuming a baseline scenario in which women’s labour force participation remains considerably below the rate seen before 15 August, the number of employed women could be 21 per cent lower in the second quarter 2022.”

Al Jazeera, [From teacher to shoe-shier: Afghan economic crisis spares few](#), 10 December 2021

““I turned to polishing shoes when I saw that my kids were hungry,” said Ahmadi, a mother of five who did not want to give her family name.

[...]

After 10 years of teaching, with a husband employed as a cook in a private company and a daughter with a job as a clerk at a government agency, they enjoyed a modest prosperity that was swept away in a matter of weeks.

With girls’ schools closed indefinitely, her job was first to go, and her husband and then her daughter lost theirs soon after. A son studying computer science was forced to give up his course when the family could no longer afford the tuition fees. [...]

“We are spending days in hunger right now, and for the time being, there is no one in our family who could financially support us all,” she said.”

International Crisis Group, [Beyond Emergency Relief: Averting Afghanistan’s Humanitarian Catastrophe](#), 6 December 2021

“The World Bank notes that the collapse of public spending has had a knock-on effect on the private sector, hurting the services and construction sectors that give jobs to 2.5 million people, accounting for 77 per cent of

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urban employment.32
32 Crisis Group interview, World Bank official, September 2021."

[...]

DTM, [DTM: EMERGENCY EVENT TRACKING](#), 29 November 2021

"CFPs were also asked to rank their community's most urgent needs. Cash and food were identified as the first priority needs, which aligns with reported community shocks in the past month. These include reduced income (94%), loss of employment (96%) and food price increase (95%) (see below). Drinking water and immediate healthcare were second and third priority needs, which is reflected in the reported risk of displacement due to water insecurity (55%) and the majority of communities without a health clinic or hospital (69%)."

IPC - Integrated Food Security Phase Classification, [Afghanistan: Acute Food Insecurity Situation September - October 2021 and Projection for November 2021 - March 2022](#), 25 October 2021

"Impacts on Employment: The political transition in August 2021 resulted in significant disruptions to public finances, services and international assistance and had enormous impacts on employment, particularly for women. The political transition also led to over 500,000 Afghan security force members losing their jobs while civil servants, who comprise a significant proportion of the urban population, have been unpaid for over three months. Overall, the economic crisis that followed the political transition has negatively impacted the labour market in both urban and rural areas. The World Food Programme's (WFP) market and price monitoring showed a drastic decline in the number of days work available for casual labour in urban areas: these were two days per week in July, dropping to 1.8 days in August and to only one day of work in September, a level which is 50% lower compared to both July 2021 and September 2020. According to the 2021 SFSA, 95% of the population reported reduced incomes, out of which 76% reported a significant decrease (83% for urban and 72% for rural households) compared to the previous year. The main reasons for decreased income were reduced employment (42%) and conflict (41%)."

BBC, [Afghanistan crisis: G20 leaders pledge to avert economic catastrophe](#), 13 October 2021

"The takeover of this country has caused a massive shock to an economy that was just about surviving. [...] Many businesses shut down because their owners fled the country fearing for their lives. Many of those who had jobs haven't received salaries for months. With no cash in the market, there has been a sharp rise in prices of day to day necessities including food. An already difficult situation created by war and drought has become much worse. Women who had jobs and supported their families can no longer work and are now entirely dependent on handouts. [...] Development aid given by foreign countries and agencies to Afghanistan, which helped to put cash into the economy, is all but frozen. This, on the ground, means that people who worked on development projects are out of jobs."

Afghan Voice Agency (AVA), [Crippling economy closing Afghan media outlets](#), 12 October 2021

"This comes after reports emerged that at least half of all Afghan [sic] have shut down, mainly due to financial problems. In addition, a large percentage of journalists and media workers have not been paid for at least two months. Nai Supporting Open Media in Afghanistan said the lack of financial resources has affected hundreds of journalists. "Following the IEA takeover in Afghanistan, some media closed down while others have complained about (restrictions on) access to information," said Nasir Noori, a member of [sic]. "When we try to continue our journalistic affairs, we have few information sources. We call on the IEA to provide sources for the media," he said. Some media outlets have continued to operate despite facing serious financial constraints. "All journalists in Faryab province are jobless. ' activities are being restricted," said Nabil Niyaish, a journalist.

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“The media has financial problems in [sic]. Some media organizations have remained open but might close down because there are no advertisements,” said another journalist.

Media and freedom of speech has been a major achievement in Afghanistan in the past 20 years, but the future for this sector is uncertain.

IEA officials meanwhile said they will help resolve problems regarding the financial situation in the long term.

“We will try our best to create a market for the media. It will be beneficial for the media,” said , a member of the IEA’s cultural committee.

Recently, Afghanistan’s journalist union said that 70% of media outlets have closed down in Afghanistan in recent weeks and more face closure unless the international community provide help”

Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty Gandhara, [As Afghan Media Struggles Under Taliban, Jobless Journalists Grow Desperate](#), 11 October 2021

“Many media outlets across Afghanistan have shut down in the wake of the Taliban takeover, with some journalists leaving the profession or the country out of fear of reprisals. Gul Ahmad Almas is one former freelance journalist whose life has been upended by the new regime. With no income from reporting, he is dependent on hand-to-mouth work collecting brush to sell as fuel”

Khaama Press, [School graduates of 2000-2020, of no use: Taliban’s higher education minister](#), 4 October 2021

“The acting minister of the higher education of the Taliban Abdul Baqi Haqqani said that those who have graduated from high schools during the past twenty years are of no use.

The acting minister is meant by the graduates who have studied during the non-Taliban era when they were fighting the US-backed governments of Hamid Karzai and Ashraf Ghani. [...]

Earlier, the acting minister of higher education had said that the Master’s and Ph.D. holders of modern studies are less valuable than those who have studied in madrasas and have religious studies in Afghanistan.

The statement of Haqqani comes as the period-2000-2020- is said to be one of the most important and rich eras when it comes to the level of education in Afghanistan.”

BBC News, [Afghanistan, There’s security but no money’: Afghans settle into life under Taliban rule](#), 17 September 2021

“One teacher has already sold everything she can. “I became a shopkeeper in my own house and sold all my belongings..whatever I earned I am using to buy food now. Whenever I come here and see the condition of the people I go home and cry”. Nonetheless, she says she’s still turning up to work every day [...] Across the road is Mazar -i-Sharif’s main hospital. It’s now run by a Taliban official, but his deputy is continuing in the same position he held under the previous government. Staff haven’t been paid since the Taliban takeover, with uncertainty over how the ministry of health will be funded, while the current reserve stock of medicine will only last for another month”

OCHA, Afghanistan, [Weekly Humanitarian Update \(30 August – 5 September 2021\)](#), 13 September 2021

“In the reporting period [...] A rise in unemployment has been observed along with increasing criminality.”

Medical Care

Are there any challenges to accessing medical services?

World Health Organization, [Afghanistan Emergency Situation Report](#), 15 January 2022

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"Afghanistan is currently facing numerous outbreaks including acute watery diarrhoea, measles, dengue fever, COVID-19 and malaria, which have increased the burden on the already fragile health system. Despite all efforts, more than 1,200 health facilities and over 11,000 health workers are not covered through the support provided through UN CERF or ARTF. This includes the majority of hospitals designated for COVID-19 care."

Khaama Press, [Afghanistan's 90% health centers may shut down by the end of 2022: IRC](#), 8 January 2022
"International Rescue Committee in its latest report warned that up to 90 percent of health centers in Afghanistan might shut down by the end of this year, 2022. The reports review that millions of Afghan people will be left without health services and facilities and millions more may lose lives if the current economic and political situation continues. IRC has also warned of the bleak future of the Afghan people as it estimates up to 97 percent of the country's people to face starvation by the end of 2022."

The New Yorker, [Afghanistan has become the world's largest humanitarian crisis](#), 5 January 2022
"A month after the Biden Administration pulled U.S forces out of Afghanistan, only seventeen per cent of the country's more than twenty-three hundred health clinics were functional. Doctors in the hospital in Kabul told me that they hadn't been paid since the Taliban seized power, in August, and that medicine is in short supply. The new government is struggling to feed the country's thirty-nine million people, and the chance that an Afghan baby will go hungry and die is the highest in twenty years. Half of the country's population needs humanitarian assistance to survive, double the number from 2020. More than twenty million people are on the brink of famine. The United Nations Development Programme projects that by the middle of this year Afghanistan could face "universal poverty," with ninety-seven per cent of Afghans living below the World Bank-designated international poverty line of \$1.90 a day."

Pajhwok, [The only Covid-19 hospital in Uruzgan shut down](#), 29 December 2021

"Officials of the Public Health Department in central Uruzgan province say the only Covid-19 hospital has been shut down to financial problems and lack of cooperation from donors.

"The 20-bed coronavirus hospital was inaugurated in Tirinkot, the provincial capital, in January 2021. Covid-19 patients from all districts, including Tirinkot, were treated here.

"The facility was run by the Ministry of Public Health, with assistance from SHDP and MOVE in terms of equipment and staff salaries."

ANI, [Afghanistan: number of cancer patients rises amid deteriorating healthcare services](#), 28 December 2021

"Following the deterioration in healthcare services, after the Taliban took control of Afghanistan, the number of cancer patients is rising in the country.

The Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) said the number of patients diagnosed with cancer, with 60 per cent female patients have been recorded since the beginning of 2021, reported Tolo News.

Findings of the MoPH show that the most frequent cancer among Afghans is breast cancer for women and oesophagus cancer for men."

UNFPA, [Emergency health kits ensure maternal and newborn care in Afghanistan](#), 20 December 2021

"Since Kabul fell to the Taliban in August, more and more women have been seeking maternal health care from the Malalai hospital, many of them internally displaced from the northern provinces of Afghanistan into the capital. Although the number of patients has gradually returned to normal as the displaced moved elsewhere, the hospital's supplies have been left badly depleted.

Ms. Oruzgani fears the situation could get far worse should the health care system fail completely. Preliminary [estimates](#) warn that the current humanitarian emergency and suspension of lifesaving reproductive services for

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women and girls could cause up to 58,000 additional maternal deaths, 5.1 million unintended pregnancies and a near doubling of the unmet need for family planning over the next four years.

In a country where a woman dies every two hours from pregnancy-related complications, Ms. Oruzgani said: “The kits are critical at this time, as hospital resources are running out and the support we were receiving has dwindled. We can’t be sure where our next assistance will come from.”

TOLO News, [1000s of Afghan Children With Heart Problems Await Treatment](#), 19 December 2021

“The treatment of Afghan children with congenital heart defects--either at domestic medical centers or abroad--has been suspended for the last four months because of a lack of funds, officials at the Afghan Red Crescent Society (ARCS) said on Sunday.

Officials said that more than 1,000 children with congenital heart defects have been registered since the beginning of 2021 and are waiting to be treated inside or outside the country, but the process of treatment has been halted. Red Crescent says that as many as 6,000 Afghan children in total are waiting for treatment.”

Medecin Sans Frontieres (MSF), [A hospital of women, for women: Preserving maternity care in Khost](#), 16 December 2021

“Healthcare workers have done their best to keep providing care to pregnant women despite their facilities being deprived of much-needed funds.

“In the public system, we’ve heard of people pooling their money to buy medical items to keep their facilities open,” says Cormack. “If a woman needs a caesarean-section they all chip in to buy enough fuel so the generator can run during the procedure. This is despite the fact that healthcare workers and other civil servants haven’t been paid for months,” she says.”

BBC, [On the front line as Afghan children battle malnutrition and measles](#), 15 December 2021

“There’s no space inside,” shouts a beleaguered hospital worker as he tries to push back a frantic crowd of mothers and babies hoping to receive nutrition packs.

“It’s like this every day,” he yells out to us over their heads, “it’s been like this for the last four or five months... It was bad last year too, but not like this.”

The war in Afghanistan is over, but its economy is collapsing and at this hospital, in the remote, central province of Ghor, they’re struggling to cope with the fallout.

The Guardian, [Afghan health system ‘close to collapse due to sanctions on Taliban’](#), 13 December 2021

“Large parts of Afghanistan’s health system are on the brink of collapse because of western sanctions against the Taliban, international experts have warned, as the country faces outbreaks of disease and an escalating malnutrition crisis.

With the country experiencing a deepening humanitarian crisis since the Taliban’s seizure of power in August amid mounting levels of famine and economic collapse, many medical staff have not been paid for months and health facilities lack even the most basic items to treat patients.

[...]

“There are six simultaneous disease outbreaks: cholera, a massive measles outbreak, polio, malaria and dengue fever, and that is in addition to the coronavirus pandemic.”

Some parts of the primary healthcare system were being funded through a two-decades-old scheme, Spiegel said, but large parts remained largely unsupported, even as health officials, international organisations and NGOs have been required to restart programmes on hold after the Taliban regained control of the country in August.

[...]

UNICEF: “The current humanitarian situation in Afghanistan is dire, especially for children. Winter has already set in and, without additional funding, Unicef and partners will be unable to reach the children and families that need us the most,” said Alice Akunga, Unicef’s Afghanistan representative.”

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Politico, [A great suffering: starvation and the collapse of Afghan healthcare](#), 9 December 2021

“Nearly half of Afghanistan’s 39 million people aren’t getting enough food. One million children are at risk of dying from malnutrition as winter sets in, the WHO [said last month](#). Those on the brink of starvation sometimes make it to the hospital, but even there, resources [are scarce](#).”

Afghanistan’s predicament could undo years of maternal health gains, said Aleksandar Bodiroza, the United Nations Population Fund’s representative in Afghanistan.

“We are risking in just two years to lose the basically 10-years-long progress in maternal health,” he said, adding that 51,000 mothers could die between 2021 and 2025. “We are looking at 4.8 million unintended pregnancies and near doubling of the unmet need for family planning between now and 2025.””

BBC, [‘It’s like hell in here’: The struggle to save Afghanistan’s starving babies](#), 2 December 2021

“Across the country, hospitals treating the starving are on the brink of collapse, with nearly 2,300 health facilities already closed. Doctors in remote areas have reported being unable to provide basic medicines - even something as simple as paracetamol for the gravely ill who have walked 12 hours to seek treatment.

In the capital Kabul, a major children’s hospital is seeing some of the country’s worst cases of starvation. It’s currently running at 150% capacity.

The hospital’s director Dr Siddiqi saw a surge in fatalities in September after funding was cut, when up to four children under the age of 10 died every week from malnutrition or related diseases, such as poisoning from poor food hygiene. He says it’s the youngest who bear the brunt of the crisis, with most under the age of five arriving too late to be saved.”

UNFPA, [“Press Release: Prioritize needs of women and girls in Afghanistan”](#), 1 December 2021

“As the health system teeters on the brink of collapse, UNFPA is also distributing emergency reproductive health kits to health facilities to keep services functioning, including for emergency obstetric care for the estimated 21,500 pregnant women who will likely experience complications or require a Caesarean section in the next three months. Dignity kits that contain items such as sanitary pads and other personal hygiene supplies are being distributed to displaced women and girls to support their psychosocial and physical wellbeing. The kits also free up money for food as hunger knocks at the door of many Afghan households.”

UN News, [UN News: Mobile health teams](#), 25 November 2021

“The doctors were part of a mobile health team supported by the UN Population Fund (UNFPA) that provides medical services to those who would otherwise have no or limited access. In the most remote parts of Afghanistan, the nearest health facility can be over two hours’ walk away, with communities in these areas accounting for most of the country’s maternal and childhood illnesses and deaths.”

International Committee of the Red Cross, [Afghanistan: An infuriating, man-made catastrophe points toward massive suffering for Afghan families](#), 22 November 2021

“Amid a sea of heartache is one small silver lining: The ICRC on Monday began supporting 18 regional and provincial hospitals and the 5,100 staff who work in them to help prevent total collapse of the public health system in Afghanistan. This support, slated to last six months, includes funding for running costs and medical supplies, and will ensure the continuity of nearly half a million medical consultations per month.”

The Guardian, [On Helmand’s bleak wards, dying children pay the price as western aid to Afghanistan is switched off](#), 21 November 2021

“The wards need a cleaner in order to remain as safe as possible for new mothers, even in a hospital starved of cash and slowly grinding to a halt, like this one. Last month the operating theatre had to shut down, because there was no money for fuel for the generator – there is no grid power in this rural corner of Helmand near former Camp Bastion – or any gas to sterilise their equipment.”

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"It is perhaps hard to picture a healthcare system "in collapse", but you can see the human cost of the funding cuts at Boost hospital, in the fragile bodies of children racked with disease and malnutrition, or being wheeled to the morgue."

UNFPA, [Mobile health teams: On the road saving lives in Afghanistan's most remote areas](#), 21 November 2021

While the full ramifications of recent events in Afghanistan will only become clear over time, the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs reports that humanitarian needs in the country have already risen sharply and that the health care system has been brought to its knees.

Since August this year, UNFPA has increased the number of mobile health teams it supports across Afghanistan to respond to the humanitarian health emergency. The teams have defied formidable odds to deliver essential reproductive, maternal, newborn and child health and psychosocial support services to mothers and children in hard-to-reach areas that are otherwise precariously underserved.

The Daily Telegraph, [On the frontline of Afghanistan's humanitarian crisis, where malnourished babies share incubators](#), 20 November 2021

"The listless children in the overcrowded malnutrition ward lie two, or sometimes three, to each bed. Their wasted limbs can be glimpsed beneath layers of blankets and clothes to warm them against the oncoming winter. Before Afghanistan was tipped into near economic collapse following the Taliban takeover, the malnutrition department at Kabul's Indira Gandhi hospital treated on average four or six hungry infants at any one time. It is now home to 20 and there are another 70 registered patients being treated in their own homes, said Raziya, one of the nurses. The hospital is short of beds and staff, who have quit because wages have not been paid for months. "Our patients are very poor people. In the last three months more than 20 malnourished children have lost their lives," she told the Telegraph. The Taliban's takeover has sent the country into spiralling crises which threaten lives and the modest gains of the past two decades of international aid."

ABC News, [Key aid group says Afghanistan's most pressing need is cash](#), 19 November 2021

"Afghanistan is facing a looming humanitarian crisis as aid organizations struggle with ways to pay doctors, nurses and others on the ground because there is currently no way to transfer salaries to bank accounts there, the head of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) said. ICRC President Peter Maurer's comments echo those of the U.N.'s special representative for Afghanistan, who warned this week that the country is "on the brink of a humanitarian catastrophe" and that its collapsing economy is heightening the risk of extremism. The country's economy is estimated to have contracted by 40% since the Taliban took control in August."

MSF, [Malnutrition soars in Herat as healthcare reaches breaking point](#), 10 November 2021

"The Afghan healthcare system has been fragile and plagued by major gaps for years now. The suspension of international aid as a result of the recent political developments has further deteriorated the situation. In Herat, in southwestern Afghanistan, Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) is witnessing a worrying increase in malnutrition, says Mamman Mustapha, former project coordinator in the province.

The healthcare system is at risk of collapse in the whole country, while the needs are huge. This is also reflected in what we observe in Herat. Access to care was a major issue in Afghanistan well before the Taliban takeover, but today the situation has further degraded, as most of the international aid has been suspended. This includes the World Bank funding of the World Health Organization's (WHO) basic and essential care programmes covering Herat province.

Health facilities in the area are either closing or have reduced to providing minimum services with whatever residual resources are available. We have no visibility on what is going to happen to these facilities. People are jobless and are poor; they cannot afford private care, while some of the humanitarian organisations previously working in the area are yet to resume their activities in full.

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There are probably several reasons for the increase of malnutrition in the area, most likely indicative of the broader situation in Afghanistan: a lack of functioning health facilities in the area; the economic downturn (with up to 30 per cent inflation rate for food items); the lack of liquidity and closing of banks; and a drought that is expected to persist throughout 2021."

UNHCR, [Afghanistan Situation Update](#), 8 November 2021

"Health facilities in parts of Afghanistan have shut down and, in the capital, hospitals are functioning without electricity or water supply. More than 2,000 health facilities have been forced to close since the Taliban takeover, according to the Red Cross, and in those hospitals that are still accepting patients, most staff have not been paid their salaries for months and patients are forced to buy their own medication, a difficult prospect during an economic crisis. That said, according to the Taliban's Acting Public Health Minister, Dr Qalandar Ebad, the new government has agreed to launch a four-day polio vaccination programme. Vaccination teams have been unable to work in parts of the country for much of the past three years, meaning that since 2018, an estimated 3.3 million children have missed out on a polio vaccination. It is estimated that 10 million Afghan children aged under five will be targeted by this programme, which appears to be aimed at showing the de facto authorities can cooperate with international agencies."

Reuters, [Dozens killed and wounded as blasts and gunfire hit Kabul hospital](#), 3 November 2021

At least 25 people were killed and more than 50 wounded when gunmen attacked Afghanistan's biggest military hospital after two heavy explosions at the site in central Kabul, officials said. [...]

The United Nations' mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA), along with countries including Pakistan, condemned the attack.

"Attacks targeting medical personnel and civilians seeking treatment are violations of human rights and international humanitarian law. Those responsible need to be held to account," UNAMA said in a tweet.

Gandhara, [Afghanistan's Health-Care System In 'Free Fall' As Punishing Winter Looms](#), 3 November 2021

The main problem affecting Afghanistan's health-care sector is the loss of financial aid, according to Patricia Gossman, associate director for Human Rights Watch's Asia Division. "There is no money to pay health-care workers. There is no money to buy medicines," said Gossman, who added that the system was "already weak" under the previous government. "With former donors blocking aid -- not humanitarian aid, but actual cash to pay salaries -- the health-care situation is in a free fall like the rest of the economy."

Hundreds of health facilities have been shuttered in Afghanistan since the Taliban toppled the internationally recognized government in Kabul.

Abdul Bari Omari, the Taliban's caretaker deputy director of public health, told RFE/RL in October that nearly 90 percent of the sector was dependent on foreign aid, which led to the closure of 2,300 health centers when that aid was cut off.

Urgent appeals for more funds by NGOs and the United Nations have resulted in pledges of more than \$1 billion, and outside states and aid groups have delivered much-needed medical supplies. But there is no clear path for the distribution of the funds and supplies, and billions of dollars held by Afghanistan's previous government remain frozen in the United States.

Reuters, [In Kabul children's hospital, medics struggle with staff shortages](#), 26 October 2021

"In Kabul's main children's hospital, the crumbling of Afghanistan's health system is reflected in the eyes of exhausted staff as they eke out fast-diminishing stocks of medicines.

As crowds of mothers and sick children fill waiting rooms in the Indira Gandhi Children's Hospital, medical staff are squeezing three babies into a single incubator and doubling them up in cot-like infant warmer beds.

Nurses who once took care of three or four babies each are now having to look after 20 or more to make up for

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the absence of staff who fled the country when the Taliban seized power in August. [...]

Although the number of blast victims and war wounded have fallen since the fighting ended, Afghanistan's hospitals are grappling with the fallout of a rapidly spreading economic crisis that has threatened millions with hunger.

U.N. agencies say as much as 95% of the population does not regularly have enough to eat and last month, the head of the World Health Organisation warned the health system was on the brink of collapse as international aid has dried up.

Lack of support for the \$600 million Sehatmandi health service project administered by World Bank, has left thousands of facilities unable to buy supplies and pay salaries, threatening health services at all levels from village clinics to hospitals offering caesarian sections.

STAFF NOT PAID IN MONTHS

For the medical team, it is the acute staff shortage that is causing the heaviest strain. They have not been paid in months and often struggle even to pay their car fare to work."

Al Jazeera, [Afghanistan: Taliban agrees to door-to-door polio vaccine drive](#), 19 October 2021

"Health workers in Afghanistan will begin a house-to-house polio vaccination drive next month after the new Taliban government agreed to support the campaign, the World Health Organization and the United Nations Children's Fund said."

"The campaign, due to start on November 8, will be the first in more than three years aimed at all children in Afghanistan, including more than 3 million in remote and previously inaccessible areas."

The Guardian, [Critically ill Afghans suffer as Taliban tighten Pakistan border](#), 13 October 2021

"Shortage of specialised doctors in Afghanistan means patients seek lifesaving care in Pakistan, but conventions have changed [...]

Doctors and family members of patients say conventions at the border have changed since the Taliban takeover, which has made it more difficult for Afghan patients to seek lifesaving care in [Pakistan](#). [...]

Afghanistan's healthcare system, which already suffered from a shortage of specialised doctors and well-equipped facilities, has been critically wounded. Funding cuts from international donors have led to a dearth of medical supplies and equipment. Some doctors left during the early days of the [Taliban](#) rule, and others lost jobs at hospitals that could no longer afford to pay them. The head of the World Health Organization said late last month that Afghanistan's health system was on the brink of collapse."

Landinfo, [Afghanistan: En humanitær krise](#), 13 October 2021

"The Afghan health service is close to collapse. Hospitals and clinics have no money for food, medicine, oxygen or diesel for power supplies. The crisis in the health care system affects treatment capacity, but also preventive work and vaccination programs. Health workers who still go to work cannot expect to be paid - they have not been paid for several months (Bolle & Røst 2021; Mandavilli 2021)."

Original excerpt in Norwegian [translated using Google translate]

"Den afghanske helsevesenet er nær kollaps. Sykehus og klinikker har verken penger til mat, medisiner, oksygen eller diesel til strømaggregater. Krisen i helsevesenet rammer behandlingskapasitet, men også forebyggende arbeid og vaksineringsprogrammer. Helsearbeidere som fortsatt går på jobb, kan ikke forvente å få lønn – de har ikke fått lønn på flere måneder (Bolle & Røst 2021; Mandavilli 2021)."

Ariana News, [UN agency to pay salaries of Afghan health care workers](#), 7 October 2021

"The World Bank previously gave hundreds of millions of dollars to Afghanistan to cover workers and other health care needs but cut off its support after the government in Kabul was no longer officially recognized by most countries.

The U.N. agency will be taking over the program from the World Bank this week in order to provide money to

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health care workers and the health care system in order to avoid a looming humanitarian crisis in the country, The Washington Post reported. Global Fund, a global health organization, donated \$15 million to the program at the beginning of October."

TOLO News, [Provincial Health Centres Closed, Kabul Hospitals Crowded](#), 04 October 2021

"Officials at the state-owned hospitals said the citizens' access to health care has significantly declined across the country, so people mostly travel to the capital for medical treatment.

According to officials, the number of patients coming to Kabul's hospitals has increased after healthcare centers faced challenges in some provinces.

The shortage of medicine and professional staff are major challenges in Kabul city as well.

"As the healthcare centers were closed in the provinces, the number of patients increased in the capital's hospitals. There will not be sufficient capacity if the situation continues," said Parwiz Noori, head of the Wazir Mohammad Akbar Khan Hospital.

"Kabul's hospitals are affected as well. We face a lack of medicine and doctors," said Dr. Mohammad Ishaq Shirani. [...] Provincial healthcare centers recently closed due to lack of medicine, medical equipment and doctors. [...] Beds are full [...] and there is no medicine or doctors."

At the same time, the World Health Organization (WHO) released an assessment and warned that Afghanistan's healthcare system is facing a crisis.

The assessment says: "Only 17% of health facilities supported by Sehatmandi remain fully functional. Two thirds are experiencing stock-out of essential medicines. Without urgent action, they are at risk of closure."

International organizations have repeatedly announced that Afghanistan's healthcare system is at risk of collapse."

Swedish Committee for Afghanistan, [SCA the only health service provider in Maidan Wardak](#), 4 October 2021

"Currently the health service in the provincial hospital is limited; there is no medicine or food for the patients. This is a problem that our poor people cannot bear," he said. "Despite all these problems, we thank SCA for providing health services to the people of Afghanistan, as we are aware that health services in other provinces have declined. We call on SCA and other international bodies to help us. If they don't help, a humanitarian catastrophe could happen in Afghanistan due to the lack of public health services."

About 650 patients daily receive health services in Maidan Shahr Provincial Hospital, including around 300 children and more than 150 female patients. This hospital with a capacity of 110 beds admits 85 to 90 patients every day, including patients who need maternal and surgical care.

Maidan Shahr Provincial Hospital previously provided wider services under Sehatmandi Health Project. Sehatmandi project supported 77 health centers in Wardak under a health contract funded by the World Bank. The contract was for 30 months beginning from January 2019 to June 2021. However, after the political transition in the country, the project ended up vague without signs of extension. This has affected the supply of health services in the province.

"It would be difficult to run such a big hospital and other clinics without having a project, but we are still providing patients with only essential life-saving services using SCA's funds only. If these insufficient services are stopped, we are afraid of a deadly catastrophe for mothers, children and needy people in the country," explained Dr. Mohammad Nader Rahmani, director of the Maidan Wardak Provincial Hospital.

The World Health Organization (WHO) has warned in a new report that halting the budget for health projects in Afghanistan will close down more than 2,000 health centers in the country. This is while the Red Cross has also warned that more than seven million people in Afghanistan do not have access to basic health care."

WHO, [Dr Maragaret Harris - Emergencies in Lebanon and Afghanistan - Virtual Press conference](#), 23 September 2021

"WHO Director-General, Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus [...]"

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“Those gains are now at severe risk with the country's health system on the brink of collapse. There has been a surge in cases of measles and diarrhoea. Almost 50% of children are at risk of malnutrition. The resurgence of polio is a major risk and 2.1 million doses of COVID-19 vaccine remain unused.”

OCHA, Afghanistan, [Weekly Humanitarian Update \(13-19 September 2021\)](#), 23 September 2021

“Most public health facilities and hospitals are reportedly running low on medicines and other basic supplies due to a shortage of funding [...]

Health services remain limited in hospitals due to funding shortage. A number of medical units in the Nangarhar Regional Hospital and districts' hospitals are reportedly closed.”

The Guardian, [UN frees funds to prevent Afghan health system collapse](#), 22 September 2021

“The UN released emergency funds on Wednesday to help prevent Afghanistan's battered healthcare system from collapsing, with the WHO chief warning of an imminent catastrophe.”

WHO, [Statement by Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Director-General of the World Health Organization, and Dr Ahmed Al-Mandhari, WHO Regional Director for the Eastern Mediterranean on their visit to Kabul](#), 22 September 2021

“Only 17% of all Sehatmandi health facilities are now fully functional. This breakdown in health services is having a rippling effect on the availability of basic and essential health care, as well as on emergency response, polio eradication, and COVID-19 vaccination efforts.

Nine of 37 COVID-19 hospitals have already closed, and all aspects of the COVID-19 response have dropped, including surveillance, testing, and vaccination. Prior to August this year, 2.2 million people had been vaccinated against COVID-19. In recent weeks, vaccination rates have decreased rapidly while 1.8 million COVID-19 vaccine doses in country remain unused. Swift action is needed to use these doses in the coming weeks and work towards reaching the goal of vaccinating at least 20% of the population by the end of the year based on national targets.

Afghanistan is one of two countries in the world where polio remains endemic. With only one case of wild poliovirus reported so far this year, compared to 56 in 2020, there has never been a better time to eradicate polio. However, the polio programme will struggle to respond if the basic immunization infrastructure begins to collapse around it. Measles outbreaks are also spreading. With access to all communities no longer impeded, WHO and partners are ready to begin a country-wide house-to-house polio vaccination campaign and include measles and COVID vaccination in an integrated campaign”

OCHA, Afghanistan, [Weekly Humanitarian Update \(30 August – 5 September 2021\)](#), 13 September 2021

“South: Limited health services in Uruzgan province

Most public health facilities and hospitals are reportedly running short of medication and other basic supplies. The situation in Uruzgan province is reportedly particularly dire with medical staff including doctors who have not been paid for months quitting. Currently, other health facilities supported by NGOs such as the Mirwais hospital in Kandahar province and Bost hospital in Lashkargah city in Hilmand province continue to function but are overstretched and facing an increasing number of patients from rural areas.”

The New Humanitarian, [Healthcare, aid, and the Taliban: A Q&A with Afghanistan's health minister](#), 8 September 2021

“International aid donors must find a way to fund Afghanistan's crumbling health system, or risk an even greater humanitarian catastrophe.

This is the warning from the country's acting health minister, Dr. Wahid Majrooh, who now oversees a sector he says is on the verge of collapse due to donor funding freezes.”

The New Humanitarian, [Afghan healthcare under threat from international aid freeze](#), 6 September

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2021

“International aid suspensions could shutter most of Afghanistan’s public health facilities, essentially leaving the country without a working healthcare system, officials and aid groups say.

Some 2,000 donor-funded clinics and other health facilities could shut their doors within days, stripping access to primary or secondary healthcare from millions of people. The closures, amounting to 90 percent of clinics funded by a World Bank-administered donor pot, would also leave only a fraction of Afghanistan’s COVID-19 isolation beds still operating, the World Health Organization said.”

What effect does COVID-19 have on the health care system?

Avapress, Taliban Awaits Global Assistance to Counter the COVID-19 Threat, 19 January 2022

“Kabul resident Nisar Ahmad Hooshmand says that although the country’s doctors and health staff are professionally trained, the lack of facilities, including the lack of diagnostic kits for omicrons, lack of oxygen, and medicine, is worrying.

Reporters are also concerned that no data has been available on the prevalence of Covid-19 in Afghanistan in the past five months. Merajuddin, a reporter and presenter of Ayna TV, said: “It has been five months since the daily publication of coronavirus statistics was stopped and, no one is aware of the current situation and possible dangers.” [...]

In an interview with Hasht-e Subh, Morteza Samimi, a journalist from Balkh province, said that the lack of access to new statistics on the coronavirus in the country was worrying. According to him, secrecy can lead us to an undelightful fate. [...]

Meanwhile, some doctors and medical staff are also worried about not treating patients due to the lack of facilities. The Taliban Ministry of Public Health is currently unable to determine the type of coronavirus. [...] the means to deal with the virus were limited and that trained medical staff had been laid off since August. Mostamandyar also said that there is no human resources capacity in the country in the fight against Corona. For example, there are no omicron detectors in Kabul and Bamiyan provinces. [...]

Mahboob Ahmadi, a doctor working in the field of coronavirus infection, says that he has left his job due to the lack of facilities to save the lives of medical staff. Ahmadi added that the safety of the medical staff, even though they were at the forefront of the fight against the Coronavirus, was not observed because the facilities were very limited. As a former medical staff, he noted that the problem is not in the specialization of the medical staff, but following the recent developments and the bankruptcy of the country’s health system in terms of facilities, the success possibility against the fourth wave of Corona is lower.”

Ariana News, Afghanistan unable to detect omicron variant: health ministry, 17 January 2022

“Public Health Ministry officials said Monday that Afghanistan’s health sector does not have the medical equipment needed to detect the newly mutated version of the coronavirus and as such, they have no idea how many people are infected with the omicron variant.

While the case number in Afghanistan is lower compared to neighboring countries, the ministry of health says the latest data put the number of cases at 40. However, it’s not known how many have the omicron variant.

“We have problems to identify the new variant of COVID-19. We call on the international community to help us. They vowed that they will continue their help,” said Javid Hazher, spokesman for the ministry of public health.

Meanwhile, staff at the Afghan-Japan Hospital, the main COVID-19 treatment center in Kabul, said that between 15 and 20 patients seek treatment at the hospital daily, however they are not able to detect the variant.

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"So far, the mutated type of COVID-19 has not been identified because we have not received the diagnostic device and we have asked the Ministry of Health to make the device available as soon as possible," said Mohammad Anil, HR director of the hospital."

Al Jazeera, [Afghanistan healthcare 'on brink of collapse' amid Omicron scare](#), 16 December 2021

"Without outside help, "we are not ready for Omicron. A disaster will be here," said Dr Shereen Agha, the 38-year-old head of the hospital's intensive care unit. The hospital was short even of basic supplies like examination gloves, he said, and its two ambulances sit idle for lack of fuel."

TOLO NEWS, [34 COVID-19 Centers Close Across Afghanistan](#), 17 November 2021

"In the meantime, citizens are deeply worried about the closure of COVID-19 centers, and ask other countries to support Afghanistan's health sector. Health officials said that thirty-four hospitals and centers treating COVID-19 patients have been closed after international aid was cut off in Afghanistan. [...]

This comes as the Afghan-Japan Hospital officials and staff announced on November 10 that the center will be closed if the medical staff does not receive five months' worth of unpaid wages within the week.

Officials and medical staff of the Afghan-Japan Hospital began their strike last Tuesday, claiming the hospital faces a lack of medicine and medical equipment."

UK Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCO), [Foreign Travel Advice: Afghanistan - Coronavirus](#), Last updated: 5 November 2021

"There is no guarantee that any local health care will be available in the current security situation.

Healthcare in Afghanistan is very limited. Medical facilities, including those in Kabul, do not have the capacity or capability to effectively deal with the COVID-19 outbreak. The supply of ICU beds and ventilators remains low. There are areas which have no medical facilities with ICU beds and ventilators.

COVID-19 treatment centres in Afghanistan are experiencing severe shortages of commodities and drugs. The vaccination programme only recently resumed and is operating at a very low level."

AVA Press, [Officials warn of possible 4th wave of COVID-19 in Afghanistan](#), 27 October 2021

"Afghanistan's health officials on Tuesday warned of a possible 4th wave of COVID-19 in the country, adding that treatment possibilities have been minimized recently. [...]

"There is no medical equipment such as drugs and other (necessities) to fight the 4th wave of COVID-19 in Afghanistan," said Qayamuddin, a doctor at the hospital.

This comes after the WHO said that 1.6 million doses of the in Afghanistan will expire if it is not used."

Landinfo, [Afghanistan: En humanitær krise](#), 13 October 2021

"Like the rest of the world, Afghanistan is also affected by the Covid-19 pandemic. To what extent we do not know. There is great underreporting and unreliable data on the number of infected and dead as a result of the pandemic. Neither before nor after the Taliban took power has the health service had the capacity to test on a large scale. There are no records of deaths (Essar et al. 2021, p. 1).

At the end of September 2021, Covid-19 was registered as the cause of death in approximately 7,200 cases, while about 155,000 people had been diagnosed with the infection. On nationwide, only 750,000 of a population of about 33 million are tested. About 4 percent of the population is vaccinated. The vaccination rate is particularly low in rural areas (OCHA 2021, p. 5; Reuters 2021).

Afghanistan has had three waves of infection, the third with a peak in June / July 2021. The infectious delta variant dominated the country. The hospitals were full, there was a lack of oxygen and many died (Sarwar 2021; Essar et al. 2021)."

Original excerpt in Norwegian [translated using Google translate]
"I likhet med resten av verden, er også Afghanistan rammet av Covid-19- pandemien. I hvor stor grad vet vi ikke.

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Det er stor underrapportering og upålitelige data om antallet smittede og døde som følge av pandemien. Verken før eller etter Talibans maktovertakelse har helsevesenet hatt kapasitet til å teste i stor skala. Det finnes ikke registre over dødsfall (Essar et al. 2021, s. 1).

Ved utgangen av september 2021 er Covid-19 registrert som dødsårsak i cirka 7200 tilfeller, mens om lag 155 000 personer hadde fått påvist smitte. På landsbasis er kun 750 000 av en befolkning på om lag 33 millioner testet. Rundt 4 prosent av befolkningen er vaksinert. Vaksinasjonsgraden er særlig lav på landsbygda (OCHA 2021, s. 5; Reuters 2021).

Afghanistan har hatt tre smittebølger, den tredje med topp i juni/juli 2021. Den smittsomme deltavarianten dominerte i landet. Sykehusene var fulle, det var mangel på oksygen og mange døde (Sarwar 2021; Essar et al. 2021)."

What treatment for mental health conditions is available?

AVA Press, [Mental illness a silent threat to Afghanistan](#), 30 September 2021

"A mental health expert, concerned about the increase in psychological problems among people, warns the number of such patients will double if factors behind it are not prevented.

Afghan Voice Agency (AVA)_ involves a wide range of disorders that affect the ability to think, feel and behave properly. The affected individuals cannot handle their daily affairs well.

Misbehavior, aggression, lack of concentration, depression, lack of interest and enjoyment, bullying, irritability, rapid weight change, fear, anxiety, changes in eating habits, extreme exhaustion, inability to cope with daily problems, excessive anger, violence and suicidal tendencies are some the symptoms of mental problems.

In line with the data from the Ministry of Public Health, 46 percent of the country's population, or 35 million people, do not have mental health.

In an exclusive interview with Pajhwok Afghan News, Dr. Azizuddin Himmat, a mental health specialist and head of the Afghan psychologists' union, said: "We have to say that the number of people with mental illness is higher than what was provided by the MoPH because there is conflict, insecurity and economic problems in the past 40 years." Referring to the change of government and problems arising in various areas, he said: "Since the day the country's political system changed, insecurity had decreased.

"Unfortunately, people are not mental calm. There are factors have cause people psychological pain and a surge in their problems." [...]

"You know, the most affected people in this situation are women and girls. After the change in the political system two months ago, they remain at home. [...]

"If such factors are not prevented, believe me, the number of people with mental illness will increase significantly. I can say, mental illness is a catastrophe that threatens Afghanistan silently," said Dr. Himmat. [...]

Stressed the need for the opening of girls' schools and higher education centers as soon as possible and women should be employed, he added: "I believe if the Islamic Emirate do so, not only they will gain popularity, but also national and international community's support." "

How are people with mental health conditions treated by the Taliban?

Al Jazeera, [Now in power, Taliban sets sights on Afghan drug underworld](#), 11 October 2021

"Now the uncontested rulers of Afghanistan, the Taliban has set its sights on stamping out the scourge of narcotics addiction, even if by force.

At nightfall, the battle-hardened fighters-turned-policemen scour the capital's drug-ravaged underworld. Below Kabul's bustling city bridges, amid piles of garbage and streams of filthy water, hundreds of homeless men addicted to heroin and methamphetamines are rounded up, beaten and forcibly taken to treatment centres.

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The Associated Press gained rare access to one such raid last week.

The scene provided a window into the new order under Taliban governance: The men – many with mental illness, according to doctors – sat against stone walls with their hands tied. They were told to sober up or face beatings.

How are people with mental health conditions treated by society?

What are the challenges for persons with disabilities to access health services?

What treatment is available for people with drug-addiction issues?

Ariana News, [IEA turns Kandahar Prison into treatment center for drug addicts](#), 25 December 2021

"Kandahar Central Prison is home to around 800 drug addicts, along with 1,000 inmates."

BBC, [‘It’s like hell in here’: The struggle to save Afghanistan's starving babies](#), 2 December 2021

"(...) another hospital specialising in treating drug addicts is also struggling to adequately care for its patients, whose withdrawal from heroin, opium and crystal meth can no longer be supported with medication.

"There are patients who have to be tied to the bed with chains, or there are patients who need to be handcuffed because they experience severe attacks. It's very difficult for us to take care of them," says Dr Nowruz, the hospital's director, adding that - without proper care - "our hospital is exactly the same as jail for them".

But this hospital too is on the brink of closing in the face of dwindling staff, and if it does shut, Dr Nowruz worries what will become of his patients in the brutal winter ahead.

"There is no shelter for them. They normally go and live in places like under bridges, in ruins, in graveyards, in a situation which is unbearable for a human," he says.

Al Jazeera, [Now in power, Taliban sets sights on Afghan drug underworld](#), 11 October 2021

"Now the uncontested rulers of Afghanistan, the Taliban has set its sights on stamping out the scourge of narcotics addiction, even if by force.

At nightfall, the battle-hardened fighters-turned-policemen scour the capital's drug-ravaged underworld. Below Kabul's bustling city bridges, amid piles of garbage and streams of filthy water, hundreds of homeless men addicted to heroin and methamphetamines are rounded up, beaten and forcibly taken to treatment centres.

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The scene provided a window into the new order under Taliban governance: The men – many with mental illness, according to doctors – sat against stone walls with their hands tied. They were told to sober up or face beatings.

The heavy-handed methods are welcomed by some health workers, who have had no choice but to adapt to Taliban rule. "We are not in a democracy anymore, this is a dictatorship. And the use of force is the only way to treat these people," said Dr Fazalrabi Mayar, working in a treatment facility. He was referring specifically to Afghans addicted to heroin and meth."

Women

For more information about women in governance positions, please refer to the section [Justice, Law and Order in Taliban-controlled Territory](#) in this report. For more information on women and Sharia law please refer to the section [How is Sharia law interpreted and applied?](#)

[List of Taliban Policies Violating Women's Rights in Afghanistan by Heather Barr dated 29 September 2021](#) [Note that these are presented in Tweets]

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Violence Against Women

Human Rights Watch, [Afghanistan: Taliban Deprive Women of Livelihoods, Identity](#), 18 January 2022

"Taliban rule has had a devastating impact on Afghan women and girls, new research shows, Human Rights Watch and the Human Rights Institute at San Jose State University (SJSU) said today. The organizations looked at the conditions for women since the Taliban took control in Ghazni province, in southeastern Afghanistan.

Since taking control of the city of Ghazni on August 12, 2021, days before entering Afghanistan's capital, Kabul, the Taliban have imposed rights-violating policies that have created huge barriers to women's and girls' health and education, curtailed freedom of movement, expression, and association, and deprived many of earned income. Afghanistan's rapidly escalating humanitarian crisis exacerbates these abuses. [...]

They described spiraling prices for food staples, transportation, and schoolbooks, coupled with an abrupt and often total income loss. Many had been the sole or primary wage earner for their family, but most lost their employment due to Taliban policies restricting women's access to work. Only those working in primary education or health care were still able to work, and most were not being paid due to the financial crisis.

The Taliban have banned women and girls from secondary and higher education, and altered curricula to focus more on religious studies. They dictate what women must wear, how they should travel, workplace segregation by sex, and even what kind of cell phones women should have. They enforce these rules through intimidation and inspections. [...]

The women said they had acute feelings of insecurity because the Taliban have dismantled the formal police force and the Women's Affairs Ministry, are extorting money and food from communities, and are targeting for intimidation women they see as enemies, such as those who worked for foreign organizations and the previous Afghan government. Most interviewees cited serious mental health consequences since the Taliban takeover, including fear, anxiety, hopelessness, insomnia, and a deep sense of loss and helplessness. [...]

"We don't leave our home much," a government worker said. "When we leave, we leave with a mahram. Some things like sanitary pads must be purchased by women themselves, but it's hard to do it with a man accompanying us. ...Women can't take transport, they either must go out with a mahram or walk. They should walk with burqa, no heels, no makeup." [...]

A government worker said the Taliban told male shopkeepers and tailors that they may no longer interact with women, and women had been told they should sew their own clothing rather than go to a male tailor. The new rules for dress and conduct – including that woman should not socialize outside their houses – were sent in writing to the mosques, an interviewee said."

OHCHR, [Afghanistan: Taliban attempting to steadily erase women and girls from public life – UN experts](#), 17 January 2022

"Taliban leaders in Afghanistan are institutionalizing large scale and systematic gender-based discrimination and violence against women and girls, a group of UN human rights experts* said today. [...]

The experts also noted the increased risk of exploitation of women and girls including of trafficking for the purposes of child and forced marriage as well as sexual exploitation and forced labor."

VOA, [Former Afghan female soldier: 'I am so afraid' under Taliban](#), 31 December 2021

"Afghan women who served in the country's military are speaking out about how their life has changed under the Taliban.

"I feel like I am in prison," said Jamila, 28, a former Afghan military officer in the western city of Herat. "I have to be at home. I can't work or go out. I am so afraid."

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More than 6,300 women served in the former Afghan National Defense and Security Forces (ANDSF). Now they face not only threats to their life as former members of the military but also the Taliban's imposed restrictions on their gender.

Human Rights Watch and the United Nations [accused the Taliban in November](#) of the summary killing of more than 100 former Afghan security officials despite the group's promise of general amnesty.

Jamila served for 10 years in the 207th Zafar (Victory) Corps of the Afghan National Army, headquartered in Herat province. She says she now hears news every day of someone else who was killed or disappeared.

"I fear that they (the Taliban) might find me and kill me," she said."

Republic World, [Female Journalist Describes Harrowing Details Of Life On The Run In Afghanistan: Report](#), 15 December 2021.

"As Taliban troops seized control of Kabul, women journalists were increasingly instructed to stay at home, harassed, banned from going on reporting assignments, or even beaten, according to Reporters Without Borders (RSF). RSF reported last year that there were 108 media outlets in Kabul, employing 4,940 individuals, including 1,080 women, 700 of whom were journalists."

Refugees International, [Lifesaving Humanitarian Response for Women and Girls in Afghanistan: An Urgent Call for U.S. Action](#), 10 December 2021

"Violent conflict, a devastating drought, and food insecurity affecting over half the population in Afghanistan are driving one of the worst humanitarian crises in the world. Assessments indicate this emergency will exponentially grow as Afghanistan's economy teeters on the edge of total collapse and the country remains almost entirely dependent on external aid. Urgent action is needed to address the looming famine and avert a humanitarian catastrophe that will impact women and girls and other marginalized groups the most."

Amnesty International, [Afghanistan: Survivors of gender-based violence abandoned following Taliban takeover – new research](#), 6 December 2021

"As the Taliban advanced, they also systematically released detainees from prisons, many of whom had been convicted of gender-based violence offenses. Testimony from witnesses and others with first-hand knowledge, as well as credible media reporting, indicate that members of the Taliban were responsible. A Taliban spokesperson denied this to Amnesty International, insisting the previous government had opened prisons.

A legal professional who specializes in gender-based violence said she had been involved in the conviction of more than 3,000 perpetrators of gender-based violence in the year preceding the Taliban's takeover.

She said: "Wherever [the Taliban] went, they freed the prisoners... Can you imagine? More than 3,000 released, in all the provinces of Afghanistan, in one month." [...]

There is nowhere to turn for women and girls who have faced violence since the Taliban's takeover. One psychologist who worked with gender-based violence survivors in Kabul told Amnesty International: "The Taliban doesn't have any procedure of how to deal with these cases."

A prosecutor for cases involving gender-based violence explained: "In the past, women could go to the Ministry of Women's Affairs. They could go alone and report their case. But now that women are not allowed to go anywhere without a mahram [male guardian], this will make it really complicated." "

The Washington Post, [Taliban chief bans forced marriage of women in Afghanistan](#), 3 December 2021

"The Taliban decreed on Friday they were banning forced marriage of women in Afghanistan, a move apparently meant to address criteria the international community consider a precondition to recognizing their government and restoring aid to the war-torn country.

The move was announced by the reclusive Taliban chief, Hibatullah Akhunzada, a cleric chosen as the group's supreme leader who is believed to be in the southern city of Kandahar. It comes as poverty is surging in Afghanistan following the Taliban takeover in August amid the withdrawal of U.S. and NATO troops. Since then,

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foreign governments have halted funds that had been a mainstay of the economy. “Both (women and men) should be equal,” said the decree, adding that “no one can force women to marry by coercion or pressure. [...] The decree did not mention a minimum age for marriage, which previously was set at 16 years old.”

TOLO News, [Taliban’s Supreme Leader Issues Decree on Women’s Rights](#), 3 December 2021

“supreme leader of the Taliban, Mullah Hibatullah Akhundzada, on Friday issued a decree regarding the rights of women in Afghanistan.

The decree, which was released by the spokesperson of the Islamic Emirate, Zabiullah Mujahid, stipulated that the relevant institutions must take steps in its implementation.

The decree is comprised of six elements:

“Adult women’s consent is necessary during Nekah/marriage. (Though, both should be equal with no risk of sedition). No one can force women to marry by coercion or pressure.”

“woman is not a property, but a noble and free human being; no one can give her to anyone in exchange for peace deal and or to end animosity.

“the death of the husband, ‘Sharaie Adat’ (four months and ten nights or pregnancy) passes, no one can marry a widow by force including her relatives. A widow has the right whether to marry and or to determine/ choose her future. (Though, the principle of equality and preventing sedition should be kept into consideration).

“It is the Sharia right a widow, to obtain ‘Mahar’ from her new husband. [Mahar is an amount of money specified by the wife and husband during the Nekah to be paid by the husband to the wife.]

“A widow has heritage rights and fixed share in the property of her husband, children, father and relatives, and no one can deprive a widow of her right.”

“Those with multi marriage (more than one wife) are obliged to give rights to all women in accordance with Sharia law, and maintain justice between them.”

The letter instructed the Ministry of Hajj and Religious Affairs, the Ministry of Information and Culture, the Supreme Court as well as provincial governors and district governors to implement the dictates of the decree and to communicate them to the public.”

TOLO News, [Half of Afghan Women Will Face Violence: UNFPA](#), 2 December 2021

“Even before the recent upheaval, the needs of women and girls were staggering: Over half of Afghan women experience violence during their lifetime, and one Afghan woman dies from a pregnancy-related complication every two hours,” said Dr. Aleksandar Sasha Bodiroza, UNFPA Representative in Afghanistan.

“Their situation will get worse if the international community does not act, and act soon,” he added.

UNAMA, [UN Calls for solidarity and commitment to end violence against women and girls amidst humanitarian crises](#), 25 November 2021

“The message we receive from our partners and women across the country is clear - violence against women that was already at alarming levels, has been exacerbated by both crisis and COVID-19. And yet, lifesaving services for women survivors of violence have closed on account of fear of being targeted,” said Alison Davidian, UN Women Country Representative in Afghanistan [...].”

JURIST, [Afghanistan dispatches: 'Only time will tell if we stay subject when we're hungry.' - JURIST - News - Legal News & Commentary](#), 15 November 2021

“JURIST EXCLUSIVE – Law students and lawyers in Afghanistan are filing reports with JURIST on the situation there after the fall of Kabul to the Taliban. Here, a law student in Kabul offers his perspective on recent Taliban abuses of power amidst a rapidly-deteriorating economic situation. [...]

In a city ruled by rapists and murderers, a knock at the door is heard. A young girl in her twenties—to judge by her appearance—opens the door and sees a number of Taliban carrying weapons. They ask for her brother, who was an officer of the Afghan National Army forces. But he’s not there. In his absence she’s dragged to the police precinct, where she’s asked for sexual intercourse, beaten and lashed. She says a Taliban officer tell the others to

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not let her go as she is a northerner. She later she posts her story in a **video** after barely avoiding being raped by several men; she shows her bruises while covering her face. The girl was lashed heavily, resulting in bloody cloths and bruises in the areas she can show to the camera. In the end she calls angrily for the leaders of the northern provinces and the politicians who fled with millions in cash to resist the Taliban.”

Kabul Now, [Woman who accused Taliban of sexual abuse arrested in Kabul](#), 14 November 2021

“The Taliban security forces have arrested two women, including the one who recently accused a Taliban police officer of sexual abuse and torture, in Kabul, the Ministry of Interior confirmed.

An investigation is underway and the truth whether the claims of torture and abuse is true or not will be revealed today or tomorrow, Saeed Khosti, spokesperson for the Taliban’s ministry of interior told Kabul Now on Saturday, November 13.

In a video started circulating on social media last Thursday, a woman claims that Taliban forces barged into her house only to “touch her [abusively]” and “dishonored” her.

Introducing herself as sister of a former military officer, she said that she started shouting to ask for help when the Taliban forces barged into her house. Afterwards, they took her to the PD11 where a police officer, as she claims, asked her to have sex with him.

“When I refused his demand, they whipped me,” she added. The woman says that another Taliban personnel told the officer “do not let her go, because she is from the north [of Afghanistan].”

She has bruises all over her shoulder and her back. She says that she has bruises on some other parts of her body that she cannot show.

Late last night, November 13, the Taliban released a video showing two women and a man. In the video, the two women admits that they have made the video only to seek asylum in foreign countries.

“We are satisfied with the Emirate and regret for the mistake we committed. I ask for apology from the bottom of my heart from Emirate,” the woman, who is identified as Arezu – previously accused the Taliban for sexual abuse – says in the video.”

AREU, [11 Years of the Elimination of Violence Against Women \(EVAW\) Law](#), 13 November 2021

“Obtaining transparent and comprehensive data on cases of VAW [violence against women] and, in particular, the processing of such cases by the police, the prosecutors and the courts continues to be a challenge due to the lack of a systematic framework and national data collection system. Each actor, the police, the attorney general, the courts, as well as the AIHRC [Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission] and the MoWA [Ministry of Women’s Affairs], keep their own records of the cases they register, which means that data that trace these cases across institutions—and therefore prosecution or conviction rates—have generally not been available. Today, the main sources of statistical information on the implementation of the EVAW law are UNAMA reports,² and reports by MoWA and the AIHRC, as well as a few reports by the Afghan Women’s Network. [...] In sum, there appears to be little statistical data available on prosecution and conviction rates, particularly for recent years. Available studies also do not provide information about the legal aspects of cases, such as whether the EVAW law or the Penal Code were the basis for prosecution or conviction. [...] Several studies highlight how prosecutors have had an inclination towards using mediation in VAW cases, often due to it being the preferred resolution method for prosecutors and families, both of the complainant and of the accused, as mediation is seen by some, particularly by those not supportive of gender equality, as being more in line with traditional norms. [...]

An additional harmful practice highlighted by UNAMA, the Special Rapporteur on Sexual Violence, and the AIHRC is the use of “virginity tests”, which have been frequently imposed on women by police, prosecutors and judges, despite being prohibited unless a court orders it or the person examined consents to it. [...] As in other places where consensual sexual relations are criminalised, victims of rape face particular difficulties in the justice system in Afghanistan. Charges of zina, or sexual intercourse outside marriage, has sometimes been introduced by conservative prosecutors or judges in rape cases.”

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What is the Taliban's position regarding women in the labour force?

Human Rights Watch, [Afghanistan: Taliban Deprive Women of Livelihoods, Identity](#), 18 January 2022

"Nearly all the women interviewed who previously had paid employment had lost their jobs. "In Ghazni [province], only female healthcare workers and teachers can go to work," a nongovernmental organization worker said.

"Women working in other fields are forced to stay home now." [...]

Those still working have largely not been paid because health care and education were almost entirely financed by foreign donors, whose aid has been cut off. The only interviewee being paid regularly was working for an international nongovernmental group. [...] While primary schools for girls are open, the teachers have not received their salaries. [...]

Taliban restrictions have compounded the financial crisis for women. The owner of a business exporting products produced by female farmers said the farmers are no longer allowed to work, the products cannot be exported, and the farmers she sources from cannot afford transportation costs. [...]

Taliban authorities in Ghazni city search for women they see as having engaged in behavior they find unacceptable. [...] Several said they had relatives or friends in hiding who were afraid to be interviewed. "Women who were in the army or worked as police were targets," a government worker said. "Women's rights activists feared for their lives and either left the province or stopped their activities. I fear for my life too: I worked, and I was active in civil society. I don't do those activities anymore." Several cited the Taliban's killing of two female police officers in Ghazni, days before the province fell to the Taliban, as having struck particular fear among women in the community. [...]

The Taliban have imposed new restrictions on women's dress and conduct, which affect every aspect of their lives, including their career options. "Women can only become teachers or nurses, nothing else," the government worker said. [...]

"The Taliban government has affected our daily lives," a student said. "In the past, when I would come to Ghazni, I would wear the same dresses as in Kabul, and I could go around the city on my own. But now we are required to wear a burqa, and our commute to the town is restricted." [...]

When women are allowed to work, their workplaces operate under new Taliban restrictions. A health worker said her boss arranged a meeting with a senior Taliban official. "The hospital assembled all female staff to tell us how we should behave after this," she said. "How we should dress, and how we should work separately from the male personnel. We were advised to talk to male personnel in an insolent manner and angry tone, not in a soft tone, so that we don't evoke sexual desires in them."

There were also new requirements to wear a burqa and a long dress. [...]

Taliban restrictions on women, difficulty discerning what they are, and arbitrary enforcement impair women's access to health care. "Doctors are also scared of treating female patients," a government worker said. "It's also hard to find female doctors." She said there used to be more women healthcare workers in private hospitals and clinics, but they are harder to find now."

Khaama Press, [IEA to resume hiring government employees, women are excluded](#), 11 January 2022

Administrative Reform Commission of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan announced that they are working on a new policy to resume the recruitment process of civil servants. Speaking to journalists in Kabul on Monday, January 10, 2022, officials of the Commission said that they will reactivate the network of Administrative Reforms and will recruit civil servants through open competition. About women, the officials said that decision about female government employees is not yet made and that it will take time to.

VOA, [Former Afghan female soldier: 'I am so afraid' under Taliban](#), 31 December 2021

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"Afghan women who served in the country's military are speaking out about how their life has changed under the Taliban.

"I feel like I am in prison," said Jamila, 28, a former Afghan military officer in the western city of Herat. "I have to be at home. I can't work or go out. I am so afraid."

More than 6,300 women served in the former Afghan National Defense and Security Forces (ANDSF). Now they face not only threats to their life as former members of the military but also the Taliban's imposed restrictions on their gender.

Human Rights Watch and the United Nations [accused the Taliban in November](#) of the summary killing of more than 100 former Afghan security officials despite the group's promise of general amnesty.

Jamila served for 10 years in the 207th Zafar (Victory) Corps of the Afghan National Army, headquartered in Herat province. She says she now hears news every day of someone else who was killed or disappeared.

"I fear that they (the Taliban) might find me and kill me," she said."

AVA Press, [The Ambiguous Fate of Women in Afghanistan's Armed Forces](#), 28 December 2021

"Female soldiers in province say they have become destitute since the Taliban took control of Afghanistan, adding that they are in precarious security and economic situation. They say security threats on the one hand and poverty on the other have made life difficult for them. Meanwhile, the Taliban's interior ministry says they are working on a method to clarify the fate of officers."

Reporters without borders, [Since the Taliban takeover, 40% of Afghan media have closed, 80% of women journalists have lost their jobs](#), December 20, 2021 - Updated on December 21, 2021

"A survey by Reporters Without Borders (RSF) and the Afghan Independent Journalists Association (AIJA) shows a radical change in the Afghan media landscape since the Taliban took power. A total of 231 media outlets have had to close and more than 6,400 journalists have lost their jobs since 15 August. Women journalists have been hit hardest, with four out of five no longer working."

"Six provinces have seen three quarters of their male journalists lose their jobs. But no female journalist at all is still working in 15 of the countries 34 provinces. For example, in the northern province of Jowzjan, which used to have 19 media outlets employing 112 women, none of the 12 media outlets still operating is employing a woman.

The Taliban controlling many localities impose conditions on the local media that include not employing any women journalists at all. The media landscape is now largely devoid of women journalists, even in regions such as Kabul where traditionally there were more of them. Fewer than 100 women journalists dared to return to work in the weeks after the Taliban arrived in Kabul and told women to stay at home. Others have returned to their media outlets in the past two months. But, of the 1,190 women journalists and media workers counted in the capital at the start of August, only 320 are now working – a 73% fall."

AVA Press, [The Taliban Leader's Special Decree on Women Is Disappointing](#), 4 December 2021

"The Taliban leader's decree on women has sparked controversy. It is the first time the Taliban leader has spoken about women and their rights. This decree, however, is extremely conservative and does not comply with established and accepted human rights standards.

This decree reflects the patriarchal view of society towards women. In this view, women are identified as weak beings and are pitied. This view will never give women the right to self-determination. The decree also does not mention women's civil and political rights as their most basic rights. The decree does not mention the right to work, the right to education, and the right to political and civil participation of women.

In this decree, women's rights are reduced only to the right to choose a husband. It does not mention other basic rights based on global human rights values. This decree seeks to ensure justice within the framework of a polygamous legal system; Today, polygamy is a violation of women's human rights. Even this system never meets the same standards as its traditional counterparts in Afghanistan and is more motivated by a decline in male sexual desire and a sense of diversity in a patriarchal society."

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Tolo News, [Women Activists Seek Govt, Society Inclusion](#), 29 November 2021

"Many challenges lay in front of women in the previous government; right now, the women do not have access to their rights either--rights to education or to work. We ask the Islamic Emirate to fulfill their commitments that they promised earlier," said Diana Azizi, a women's activist."

DW, [Afghanistan: What Taliban's new media rules mean for female actors](#), 28 November 2021

"The Ministry for the Promotion of Virtue and Prevention of Vice — which replaced the Ministry of Women's Affairs after the Islamic fundamentalist group seized power in the country in August — also told broadcasters not to screen films or programs that are "against Islamic or Afghan values."

The broadcasting of films that promote foreign cultures or traditions in Afghan society, or which provoke immorality, is also to be prohibited, the directive said.

Women TV journalists, however, are allowed to present their reports if they wear the Islamic hijab.

The Taliban's interpretation of the hijab — which can range from a hair covering to a face veil or full body covering — is unclear, and the majority of Afghan women already wear headscarves."

Variety, [Afghan Actresses Decry Taliban Ban on Women in Entertainment: 'An Artist Without Art is Basically Dead'](#), 26 November 2021

"Women may no longer appear in dramas and soap operas on television and newswomen must wear the hijab, says the first missive of its kind from the Ministry for the Promotion of Virtue and Prevention of Vice. (...)

When broadcast journalist Zahra Nabi heard news of the religious directives, she felt a sense of relief. In her view, they serve to make an impossible situation for Afghan media more visible on a global stage.

"The Taliban we're facing on the street is completely different from the Taliban you see on the media or at Doha," she explains. "They always capture journalists, beat them, arrest them for so many hours. They take cameras, break them and don't allow us to report.

"We're already having very tough times. At least now they announced their intentions, so that the international press and community can see," continues Nabi."

Amnesty International (Afghanistan), ["They are the Revolution": Afghan Women fighting for their future under Taliban rule](#), 25 November 2021

"At a time when Afghans have had a whole spectrum of rights taken away from them almost overnight, these 16 stories serve as a reminder of how much Afghan women have achieved over the last 20 years despite political instability and conflict and the heightened risks that they now face under the present regime."

DW, [Afghanistan: What Taliban's new media rules mean for female actors](#), 24 November 2021

"Afghanistan's Taliban rulers unveiled a new set of restrictions on Afghan media Sunday, banning television channels from showing dramas and soap operas featuring women actors.

The Ministry for the Promotion of Virtue and Prevention of Vice — which replaced the Ministry of Women's Affairs after the Islamic fundamentalist group seized power in the country in August — also told broadcasters not to screen films or programs that are "against Islamic or Afghan values."

The broadcasting of films that promote foreign cultures or traditions in Afghan society, or which provoke immorality, is also to be prohibited, the directive said.

Women television journalists, however, are allowed to present their reports if they wear the Islamic hijab."

The Independent, [Afghan journalists 'facing death threats' and harsh rules, with female reporters hit hardest](#), 23 November 2021

"Journalists in [Afghanistan](#) are facing death threats and harsh new rules, which are particularly impacting women, according to campaigners.

Human Rights Watch warned the [Taliban's](#) clampdown on the press is escalating, with Taliban intelligence officials

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forcing all journalists to enter all of their articles to be authorised before they can be published.

New rules unveiled by the Taliban's Ministry for the Promotion of Virtue and Prevention of Vice on Sunday have blocked soap operas and dramas from including women actors. (...)

"I used to produce reports on virginity testing and violence against women, which no one can cover anymore," a woman, who worked as a journalist in Herat in north-western Afghanistan, said. "No program covers women's issues, especially on TV channels. The educational and entertainment programs have all stopped.

Patricia Gossman, associate Asia director at Human Rights Watch, said: "The Taliban's new media regulations and threats against journalists reflect broader efforts to silence all criticism of Taliban rule. The disappearance of any space for dissent and worsening restrictions for women in the media and arts is devastating.

"Despite the Taliban's promises to allow media that 'respected Islamic values' to function, the reality for Afghanistan is that journalists live in fear of a knock on the door or a summons from the authorities. This is contributing to an information blackout in which Taliban abuses increasingly happen in secret and without accountability."

UNICEF, [Afghanistan Humanitarian Situation Report, October 2021](#), 15 November 2021

"All cluster partners continue to experience challenges with liquidity, affecting salary and contractor payments. Challenges remain across the country with varied permissions on women's right to work, across and within provinces as well as across clusters. This directly impacts education and child protection services and while some programming continues, there is a need to engage with authorities at all levels across the clusters to ensure harmonization."

TOLO NEWS, [Afghan Woman Journalist Working as Street Vendor in Kabul](#), 14 November 2021

"Farzana Ayoubi, a woman journalist, must work as a vendor on a Kabul street due to economic problems in order to support her three-member family.

Mrs. Ayoubi said that she became jobless after the rapid political change in Afghanistan.

"With the closure of some media organizations, journalists became jobless and I was forced to work as a vendor as they don't allow us (women) to work," she said.

She called on the international community and media watchdogs to pay attention to the problems of the media family in Afghanistan. [...]

"When the political changes came to Afghanistan, the media family was severely damaged. The journalists unfortunately engaged in hazardous work, and working as vendors on the streets," said Masrroor Lutfi, head of Afghanistan's National Journalists' Union.

This comes as the UN and other humanitarian organizations expressed concerns over the severe economical crisis ahead of a cold winter in Afghanistan."

The Guardian, ['I loved my job in the police. Then the Taliban came for me'](#), 14 November 2021

"Fatima Ahmadi only stopped screaming when the Taliban held a knife to her child's throat, and told her: "Shut up, or we will kill your son." They had burst into the policewoman's Kabul home one late September morning, demanding she hand over her weapons. She told the Taliban she had no guns at home, but they said she was lying, ransacked the house, then began beating her, pulling out handfuls of hair, and when she would not stop shouting, they grabbed her nine-year-old son.

The knife was pressed so violently into his throat it left a red welt, visible in photographs seen by the *Observer*. Ahmadi's back was covered with bruising from an assault so vicious that she lost control of her bodily functions. The men eventually left, but with an ominous warning. "We will come back."

A divorced single mother of two young children, Ahmadi had no idea who gave the Taliban her address, or what they might do on a return visit, but she knew the family couldn't risk waiting to find out. There have been several murders of female police officers since the hardline group took control of Afghanistan, including a vicious attack on one woman who was eight months pregnant.

So she packed her bags, went into hiding and days later managed to flee with her two boys to Pakistan. But their

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visa is only valid for 60 days and she is terrified about what will come next; Pakistani authorities are deporting Afghans without documents. [...]

She has tried to apply for refugee status in Pakistan through the United Nations, but has had no response yet. Asylum applications to western countries that sponsored police training, and encouraged women to join the force, have met with silence, despite the documented evidence of threats to her and her children's lives.

But there are regular reports of reprisal killings, despite an official amnesty for anyone who worked in the security forces or for the last government. Thousands of people are still in hiding inside **Afghanistan** and thousands more like Ahmadi are clinging to precarious safety in neighbouring countries."

Human Rights Watch, [Afghanistan: Taliban blocking female aid workers](#), 4 November 2021

Taliban rules prohibiting most women from operating as aid workers are worsening the humanitarian crisis in [Afghanistan](#). Countrywide restrictions mean that aid will reach fewer families in need, particularly women-headed households.

The United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) has mapped the agreements between aid agencies and the Taliban in each of Afghanistan's 34 provinces, showing where female staff members will be permitted to function. The document, reviewed by Human Rights Watch, indicates that, as of October 28, 2021, Taliban officials in only three provinces had provided a written agreement unconditionally permitting women aid workers to do their jobs. In over half the country, women aid workers face severe restrictions, such as requirements for a male family member to escort them while they do their jobs, making it difficult or impossible for them to do their job effectively.

In Badghis province, the Taliban are not allowing women aid workers to work at all. In two other provinces – Bamiyan and Daikundi – the Taliban have said women aid workers are only permitted to work during assessments – gathering information about people's needs – but not in other stages, such as delivering aid.

In 16 more provinces, the Taliban have said that women aid workers must be accompanied by a mahram (a male family member chaperone) when they are outside the office. The most crucial work women aid workers do is often outside the office, meeting with people in need including women and girls, assessing their needs, determining risk factors they face, and ensuring that assistance reaches those who need it most. Requiring women aid workers in these roles to be escorted, forces a male family member to essentially become a second unpaid worker or – very often – will prove to be an impossible requirement that forces the woman to leave her job.

The Taliban have also restricted the types of work female aid workers can do. In 11 provinces, women aid workers are permitted to work only in health and education programs, blocking them from other areas of humanitarian assistance, such as distributing food and other necessities, water and sanitation, and livelihoods assistance, in which women's participation is also essential. Another key aspect of aid programming is protecting and assisting people, predominantly women and girls, who may face gender-based violence. Without women workers this task is virtually impossible. The Taliban, since taking over Afghanistan on August 15, have systematically [dismantled](#) systems established in the country to prevent and respond to gender-based violence. [...]

Many women aid workers have been afraid to go to work since the return of the Taliban, fearing harassment on the street and at their workplace and retaliation by Taliban members and sympathizers who oppose women working. Without a written agreement, women workers will feel less secure and able to continue their work.

Aid agencies told Human Rights Watch that the Taliban are increasingly imposing requirements for offices, strictly segregating employees by gender, with no contact between female and male employees. Such restrictions harm both those in need of assistance and women employees, and reduce the effectiveness of agencies women aid workers kept from the room where decisions are being made, won't be able to provide their expertise, with expected harm to potential female recipients. And women workers who are cut out of key discussions and decision-making in their agencies will find that their careers, job retention, and morale suffer.

Human Rights Watch, [From Taliban to Taliban: Cycle of Hope, Despair on Women's Rights](#), 1 November 2021

"Secondary schools have reopened for boys but remain closed to the vast majority of girls. Women are banned

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from most employment; the Taliban government added insult to injury by saying women in their employ could keep their jobs only if they were in a role a man cannot fill—such as being an attendant in a women’s toilet. Women are mostly out of university, and due to new restrictions it is unclear when and how they can return. Many female teachers have been dismissed.

The policy of requiring a mahram, a male family member as chaperone, to accompany any woman leaving her home, is not in place according to a Kabul official but Taliban members on the street are still sometimes enforcing it, as well as harassing women about their clothing. The Taliban have systematically closed down shelters for women and girls fleeing domestic violence. Women’s sports have been banned.

The Taliban have appointed an all-male cabinet. They abolished the Ministry of Women’s Affairs, and handed over the women’s ministry building to the reinstated Ministry of Vice and Virtue, which was responsible for some of the worst abuses against women during the Taliban’s previous period in power from 1996 to 2001.”

Gandhara News, [Afghan women protest in Kabul demanding right to work, education](#) 26 October 2021

“Female activists held a protest in the Afghan capital, Kabul, demanding the right to work and education. During their October 26 march, they called on the international community do more to pressure Taliban leaders to respect their rights. Since taking power in August, the Taliban has prevented older girls from attending school and most women from working.”

BBC News, [Fleeing Afghanistan: 'Women are imprisoned, while the criminals are free'](#), 26 October 2021

“Asked whether women would hold prominent roles, such as judge or minister, in the future, Mr Karimi [secretary to the Taliban spokesman Bilal Karimi] told the BBC he could not comment, because “the working conditions and opportunities for women” were “still being discussed”.”

Al Jazeera, [Anxious wait for Afghan girls as opening of high schools stalled](#), 5 October 2021

“Women employment

Though Hossaini is no longer in the country, the women Al Jazeera spoke to said there are tens of thousands of Afghan women who have had their lives put on hold by the stalling of fully reopening all schools across the country.

Masuda Sultan, an Afghan-American entrepreneur and activist who has also joined in the efforts to restart employment and education for women, said it is not just the girls who are heavily affected by the continued shutdown of secondary education for female students.

“More women are employed in education than any other sector in Afghanistan,” said Sultan.

UNICEF estimated that roughly one-third of Afghan teachers were women, and Momand and Afghani said a further 150,000 are employed in other facets of the education sector.

“For a lot of families, teaching is the only job they’ll let their women have,” said Sultan referring to the decades-long practice of gender-segregating primary and secondary education in the country.

Because of this, Sultan said it is imperative to reopen all schools across the country as quickly as possible, “If you don’t employ these teachers, then we are failing women in Afghanistan.” “

Reuters, [Protests get harder for Afghan women amid risks and red tape](#), 4 October 2021

“Women in Afghanistan who object to what the Taliban have said and done since returning to power are finding it harder to protest, now that impromptu demonstrations have been banned and previous rallies were broken up by gunfire and beatings.

Resistance within families and concerns over sharing information over social media that could identify people involved are also acting as deterrents, according to six female protesters Reuters spoke to across the country.

Sporadic demonstrations by women demanding that the Taliban respect their civil freedoms have been captured on social media, as have the sometimes violent responses, drawing the world’s attention to issues of equality and human rights.

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The last time the Taliban ruled in the 1990s, they banned women from work and girls from school, allowed women to leave their homes only when accompanied by a male relative and insisted that women wore all-enveloping burqas.

Those who broke the rules were sometimes whipped in public by the Islamist militants' "moral police".

This time the Taliban are promising greater freedom for women, including in education and employment, in accordance with their interpretation of Islamic law.

Yet older girls are still not back at school, there are no women in senior positions in the new government, the Women's Ministry in Kabul has been shut and the Taliban have said women will only be allowed to work in a small number of jobs."

The Guardian, [‘I don’t know where to go’: uncertain fate of the women in Kabul’s shelters](#), 1 October 2021

"When a Kabul-based shelter that once housed 80 women closed during the Taliban takeover, its cook lost her income as well as a way to provide for her extended family. "My mother and I were the breadwinners but now we both sit at home, not knowing how we will survive," says the 30-year-old, who spoke on condition of anonymity. Since last year she cooked, twice a day, receiving £190 a month and independence from her abusive husband, who was a crystal meth addict. Her mother, who was the cook at another shelter funded by the same western NGO, also lost her job.

"Now that I am locked up in my house, I suffer a lot, mentally and financially," the daughter says. She fears for her own two daughters, who were meant to enter secondary school next year. "As an illiterate Afghan woman, I was working to help my two daughters go to school but now they can't even get an education."

NY Times, [At Afghan Universities, Increasing Fear that Women will never be allowed back](#), 29 September [updated 5 October]

"The new government has also prohibited most women from returning to the workplace, citing security concerns, though officials have described that as temporary. (The original Taliban movement did that as well in its early days in 1990s, but never followed up.)"

UNHCR, [Afghanistan situation: Emergency preparedness and response in Iran](#), 27 September 2021

"There have been reports that women-owned businesses, especially restaurants and cafes, have remained closed by the Taliban in Kabul. "Women have been progressively excluded from the public sphere, prohibited from appearing without a male guardian and face increasing restrictions on their right to work," the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Michelle Bachelet said at the UN General Assembly on 21 September."

TOLO News, [Kabul restaurants owned, staffed by women now closed](#), 22 September 2021

"In order to feed their families, women are seeking ways to work and earn money, Tabasom said.

"Women are the breadwinners for some families, so these families are facing economic and financial problems," she added. The café's employees said that each of them is leading a family. Opportunities for work must be found for women. Qadira said: "They should consider our demands. When they don't pay attention, how will the Taliban start governance?" Sabrina Sultani said: "I was earning my livelihood by working at the café for two years. I helped my family." Afghan businesswomen lost millions of Afs as the Taliban took Afghanistan in mid-August. Noor-ul-Haq Omari, head of the Union of Kabul Workers, said: "Investments led by women have unfortunately stopped. They lost their jobs and funds. In some cases, the women have sold their company's expensive things at a very low price." Dozens of Afghan businesswomen had begun to invest in various fields across the country over the past few years, and now this has stopped."

Reuters, [Taliban replaces women's ministry with ministry of virtue and vice](#), 17 September 2021

"Female employees said they had been trying to come to work for several weeks only to be told to return to their

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homes, according to videos filmed outside the building seen by Reuters.”

“A senior Taliban leader said earlier this week that women would not be allowed to work in government ministries with men.”

BBC news, [Afghanistan: Life under Taliban rule one month on](#), 16 September 2021

“She’s concerned that the Taliban may not let women work - something the group has denied. For the moment, though, women in Afghanistan are being told to stay at home for their own safety, unless they are teachers or medics.”

TOLO News, [Kabul Airport Employees, Including Women, Return to Work](#), 13 September 2021

“Lida, one of the 100 female security employees at the airport, said she is happy to return to her job after more than two weeks of staying at home.

“We were about to get a salary but then the Taliban came and we did not receive our salaries. Now we are working for free,” she said.

“We are happy that they asked us to resume our work. We want the government to pay us a salary from now on,” said Zahra Amiri, an employee at the airport.”

Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty’s Gandhara, [Not Keeping Its Word: Afghan Woman Quits Job After Pressure From Taliban](#), 11 September 2021

“A young Afghan woman has quit her job at a private foreign-language center in Kabul after what she described as intimidation and harassment by Taliban fighters stationed outside her workplace. [...]

“I put on Islamic clothing and went to work, but the moment I arrived there I faced insults and shouting from Taliban fighters standing at the entrance.”

The teacher said armed Taliban militants were guarding the commercial building that houses several companies and offices in a crowded neighborhood in downtown Kabul.

“When I tried to enter my office, one of them asked me, ‘Where are you going?’ I told them that I work here. He said: ‘Who told you to come? Go back home, fast,’” the woman told RFE/RL on September 10.

The language instructor said she was particularly concerned when the fighters called her an “infidel.” [...]

The teacher said three other women in her circle experienced similar assaults by Taliban fighters when they tried to go to work. They all quit their jobs rather than face the harassment, she said.”

TOLO News, [Afghan Women Seek Right to Return to Govt Jobs](#), 10 September 2021

“Despite their willingness to work, women in government jobs say they have been prevented by the Taliban from returning to work.

Speaking to TOLONews, they urged the Taliban to pave the way for women employees to return to work.

Shugufa Najibi, who has her master's degree in law from India, worked in Afghanistan's parliament for around ten years and said: “When I went to the office, they stopped me. I asked ‘Why? Your officials say women can work?’ When I left, they told me through my colleagues to not come anymore.”

Based on the numbers of the Special Inspector for Afghanistan Reconstruction (SIGAR), more than 5,000 women were working in the military sector in Afghanistan. [...]

The Taliban have only allowed women in the health and education sectors to restart work.”

UNHCR REGIONAL BUREAU FOR ASIA AND PACIFIC (RBAP), [FLASH EXTERNAL UPDATE: AFGHANISTAN SITUATION #5 As of 08 September 2021](#)

“Female humanitarian colleagues, however, have only been permitted to work in specific sectors in some provinces, largely in the areas of health and education. Female humanitarians are reportedly not currently permitted to work in several of Afghanistan's provinces.”

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Human Rights Watch, [How the International Community Can Protect Afghan Women and Girls](#), 2 September 2021

“Access to Employment

“They are going to be working with us, shoulder to shoulder with us,” Zabihullah Mujahid said of women on August 17. But on August 24, he urged women to stay home from work, citing security concerns related to misconduct by the Taliban’s own forces. This followed incidents of the Taliban forcing women out of work in banks and the media.”

What is the Taliban’s position regarding women studying?

For more information about girls in primary and secondary education, please refer to the section [Access to Education](#) in this report. For more information about the interpretation of Sharia law in educational institutions, please refer to the chapter [How is Sharia law interpreted and applied?](#)

Khaama Press, [Public universities to reopen in 10 days: IEA officials - The Khaama Press News Agency](#), 19 January 2022

“Deputy Minister of Higher Education of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan said that all public universities will be reopened in 10 or 15 days.

Speaking at a gathering in Kabul on Tuesday, January 18, 2022, Lutfullah Khaikhwa said that the universities will reopen only in tropical provinces.

Afghanistan’s educational year is divided into tropical provinces and those where it snows and the winter is colder. The educational year in the latter starts in March while in tropical provinces, the year is not ended yet.

Lutfullah Khaikhwa said that universities will reopen only for the students of last semester and those who are going to graduate.

He added that the Ministry is working on a mechanism to reopen universities for the rest of the students as well.

Likewise, other officials of the IEA, Khaikhwa reiterated that the classes of boys and girls will be separated at universities.

It has been nearly six months that 150 public universities in Afghanistan are closed which has affected the educational career of hundreds of thousands of students.”

Human Rights Watch, [Afghanistan: Taliban Deprive Women of Livelihoods, Identity](#), 18 January 2022

“Girls and women in Ghazni face a range of barriers to accessing education, including the current Taliban ban on the operation of girls’ secondary schools in 27 of Afghanistan’s 34 provinces, including Ghazni. [...]

“My younger sister wanted to go to the university but now she must stay home,” one woman said. “All universities in Ghazni are closed.”

Girls’ primary schools are open, but the knowledge that secondary school is closed distracts them. “The girls in 6th grade are worried,” a teacher said. “Their mental health is affected – they worry about their future. Seeing the older girls not going to school, they have lost morale.” [...]

Primary school teachers come to work while secondary school teachers wait at home to see if their schools will reopen and their employment will resume. A teacher said that nonpayment of teacher salaries even for open schools is affecting the quality of education: “Some teachers who come to school don’t have the motivation to teach their class, because there’s no salary.”

Private schools have had more flexibility to stay open, but the financial crisis has also hit them. “There are some private schools, but they are about to go broke,” a former government worker said. “People cannot pay for their children’s private schools because they have lost their jobs.” [...]

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Teachers reported that the Taliban had already made changes to the curriculum. "More religious subjects have been added," a teacher said, and subjects such as physical education and art that were deemed "unnecessary" were removed to make space in the school day. Islamic religious studies were already part of the curriculum, but the Taliban have significantly increased the focus on these studies."

Al Jazeera, [Taliban says all Afghan girls will be back in school by March](#), 17 January 2022

"Girls' schools across Afghanistan will hopefully reopen by late March, a senior Taliban leader has told the Associated Press, offering the first timeline for the resumption of high schools for girls since the group retook power in mid-August.

Speaking to journalists on Saturday, Zabihullah Mujahid, spokesman for Afghanistan's government and deputy minister of culture and information, said the group's education department would open classrooms for all girls and women in the Afghan New Year, which starts on March 21.

Although the Taliban has not officially banned girls' education, the group's fighters have shuttered girls' secondary schools and barred women from public universities in some parts of the country.

Girls in most of Afghanistan have not been allowed back to school beyond grade 7 since the [Taliban takeover](#), and reversing that has been one of the main demands of women's rights activists and the international community for months."

Business Standard, [Co-education reason of closure of Afghan universities](#): Taliban minister, 27 December 2021

"Minister of Higher [Education](#) of Afghanistan, Abdul Baqi Haqqani on Sunday said that the reason behind the closure of universities is co-[education](#) and economic crisis.

"The [Taliban](#) minister said that they have to make separate classes for girls and hire extra lecturers that need more time and extra budget, reported Khaama Press."

TOLO News, [2021 'Hasn't Been a Good Year' for Afghan Women: HRW](#), 21 December 2021

"A prominent Afghan women rights activist, Mahbouba Seraj, voiced concerns over the current status of Afghan women.

"When the right of education is taken from girls and women, and they are incapable of doing their activities, and all kind of access is restricted for women, this is the worst situation for women in the country," she said.

According to her, the main reason for the current crisis in the country is due to women's isolation from society, including governmental affairs. "I remained here (Afghanistan) to be the voice of women and to warn that no government can survive," Seraj said."

WSJ, [After Taliban Return, Afghan Women Face Old Pressures From Fathers, Brothers](#), 15 December 2021

The Taliban, who follow the ultraconservative rural traditions of Afghanistan's Pashtun belt, have gone beyond what Islamic scholars elsewhere in the world consider to be appropriate, including restricting women's education and work. While Afghan men in cities such as Kabul generally consider those views too extreme, many do believe that women are better off at home. Emboldened by the Taliban comeback, these men are telling their daughters, sisters and wives to adapt their lifestyles to the new regime and let go of the liberties they enjoyed until August.

TOLO News, [UN Alarmed by "Rapid Reversal" of Afghan Women's Rights](#), 9 December 2021

"UN Women -- Afghanistan" issued a "Gender Alert" expressing concerns on the Afghan women's situation, saying that since August 15, there have been rapid reversals for women across all aspects of Afghan society.

The report was meant to "document and analyze" the "rapidly evolving Afghan context" on Afghan women rights and gender equality.

"Since 15 August 2021, there have been immediate and dramatic reversals on women's rights and fundamental

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freedom, particularly impacting their right to work, access to education, basic health and protection services and participation of women and girls in the public sphere and decision-making mechanism,” the report said.

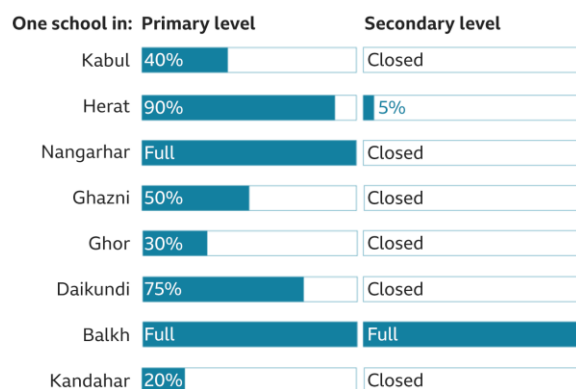
BBC, [Afghanistan: Girls' despair as Taliban confirm secondary school ban](#), 8 December 2021

“Teenage schoolgirls in Afghanistan have told the BBC of their growing desperation as they continue to be excluded from school more than three months after the Taliban takeover.

“Not being able to study feels like a death penalty,” says 15-year-old Meena. She says that she and her friends feel lost and confused since the closure of their school in north-eastern Badakhshan province.”

How has Taliban takeover affected girls' school attendance?

Attendance for girls at primary and secondary level in November by selected provinces



Source: BBC Research

BBC

TOLO News, [Facing Closed Schools, Nangarhar Girls Despair Over Future](#), 29 Nov 2021

“Girls in the eastern province of Nangarhar are concerned about their uncertain future as schools from grade 7 to 12 have remained closed for girls since the Islamic Emirate swept into power in Afghanistan.”

TOLO News, [Women Activists Seek Govt, Society Inclusion](#), 29 Nov 2021

“Many challenges lay in front of women in the previous government; right now, the women do not have access to their rights either--rights to education or to work. We ask the Islamic Emirate to fulfill their commitments that they promised earlier,” said Diana Azizi, a women's activist.”

TOLO NEWS, [Girls' Schools Reopened In Ghor's Capital](#), 17 November 2021

“Herat and Ghor are two provinces in western Afghanistan where girls are allowed to attend secondary and high school. After a long delay, female students from grade 7 to 12 were allowed to attend their schools in Ferozkoh, capital of the western province of Ghor. [...]

The schools were reopened as a result of efforts made by the Ferozkoh council. The council urged the provincial education officials to reopen the girls' schools.

“We reached an agreement that the high schools for girls in the capital and all districts of Ghor should be reopened,” said Sultan Ahmad, head of the Ferozkoh council.

“Fortunately, the schools will be reopened for the girl students. It is very important because if women are deprived of education, the next generation of the society will not have a bright future,” said Habib Wahdat, a civil right activist. Herat and Ghor are two provinces in western Afghanistan where girls are allowed to attend secondary and high

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school.”

UNHCR, [Afghanistan Situation Update](#), 8 November 2021

“On 2 November, Waheedullah Hashimi, the Director of External Programmes and Aid at the Taliban’s Ministry of Education, announced that the de facto Afghan government will “soon” begin allowing older girls back into schools, while also urging the international community to help fund this. He added that “no women teachers had been laid off”, and that this was “a positive message to the world that we are working on a mechanism. We are not working on deleting them from our schools and universities”. On 5 November, the Turkish Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu, announced that 10 out of the 14 girls-only schools run by the Maarif Foundation – a Turkish state-funded organisation which runs 80 schools overall in the country – have been reopened. According to Cavusoglu, he had held talks with the Taliban Interim Minister of Foreign Affairs, Amir Khan Muttaqi”

Human Rights Watch, [Afghan Girls’ Education: ‘I Don’t Think I Have a Future’](#), 31 October 2021

The Taliban have effectively [banned girls](#) from education past primary school by ordering secondary schools, which include grades seven and up, to reopen only for boys. Although Taliban spokesperson [Zabihullah Mujahid claimed on September 21](#) that the Ministry of Education was preparing for “the education of high school girls as soon as possible,” [only a few secondary schools have reopened in some provinces](#). The ban in most of the country and an unclear Taliban policy makes millions of girls understandably fearful for their education. Even if girls’ schools reopened immediately, their studies, including preparation for exams, plans to graduate, and university applications, have already suffered a severe setback. And the harm increases every day.

Women across Afghanistan [continue to protest](#), asking for schools to reopen and for women’s right to work. “If the Taliban have really changed, they should prove it by letting our daughters go to school and us to go work,” said Zainab, a friend in Kabul who participated in one of these protests.

TIME, [Afghanistan's Female Students Were Banned from Studying. Now Some Are Finding New Ways to Learn](#), 27 October 2021

“Remote Opportunities
[...] Banned from in-person classes in Kabul, hundreds of female students have rushed in recent weeks to register for a remote learning program launched by a California-based nonprofit online university, entering a new program that begins November 1, which is geared specifically at women banished from their education by the Taliban.
[...] But University of the People appears to be the sole organization offering large numbers of full scholarships for Afghan women to earn degrees online, without leaving their homes. Although the students can take the courses for free, they are required to pay fees in order to sit exams and formally graduate. The fees are minuscule compared to average tuition at a U.S. university—about \$4,800 for a four-year B.A. degree, and \$3,000 for an MBA. Nonetheless, it is out of reach for the great majority of Afghan women.”

Reuters, [Afghan minister wants good relations, need more time on girls’ education](#), 12 October 2021

“Afghanistan’s [acting] foreign minister acting Foreign Minister [Amir Khan Muttaqi] appealed to the world for good relations on Monday but avoided making firm commitments on girls’ education despite international demands to allow all Afghan children to go back to school.” [...]

But the Taliban have so far refused to give ground on allowing girls to return to high school, one of the key demands of the international community after a decision last month that schools above the sixth grade would only reopen for boys.

“Muttaqi said the Taliban’s Islamic Emirate government was moving carefully but had only been in power for a few weeks and could not be expected to complete reforms the international community had not been able to implement in 20 years.”

NY Times, [At Afghan Universities, Increasing Fear that Women will never be allowed back](#), 29 September 2021 [updated 5 October 2021]

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"While some women have returned to class at private universities, the country's public universities, which had been scheduled to start their academic year this week, remain closed to everyone, not just women. Even if they reopen, it appears that women will be required to attend segregated classes, with only women as instructors. But with so few female teachers available — and many of them still publicly restricted from working — many women will almost certainly have no classes to attend."

BBC News, [Afghanistan life under Taliban rule one month on](#), 16 September 2021

"Private universities like hers are open, but those run by the government remain shut for now. Under the new Taliban rule, male and female students who are studying in the same classroom must be separated by a curtain."

Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty's Gandhara, [Taliban Sets Out Restrictions For Women To Study At Universities In Afghanistan](#), 12 September 2021

"Women in Afghanistan will only be allowed to study in universities in gender-segregated classrooms and Islamic dress will be compulsory, a member of the new Taliban government has said.

Abdul Baqi Haqqani laid out the new policies at a news conference in Kabul on September 12, several days after Afghanistan's new rulers formed an all-male government.

The world has been watching closely to see to what extent the Taliban might act differently from its first time in power, in the late 1990s. During that era, girls and women were denied an education, and were excluded from public life.

The Taliban insurgents have suggested they have changed, including in their attitudes toward women. Haqqani, in charge of education, said the Taliban did not want to turn the clock back 20 years. "We will start building on what exists today," he said.

However, female university students will face restrictions under the Taliban, including a compulsory dress code. Haqqani said hijabs will be mandatory but did not specify if this meant compulsory head scarves or also compulsory face coverings.

Gender segregation will also be enforced, Haqqani said. "We will not allow boys and girls to study together," he said.

Haqqani said that where no women teachers were available, special measures would be adopted to ensure separation.

"When there is really a need, men can also teach [women] but in accordance with Shari'a, they should observe the veil," he said. Classrooms will be curtained off to divide male and female students where necessary, and teaching could also be done through streaming or closed-circuit TV.

Classrooms divided by curtains have already been seen in many places since the Western-backed government collapsed and the Taliban seized Kabul last month. Haqqani told reporters that subjects being taught in universities would also be reviewed but did not elaborate. The Taliban, who subscribe to a harsh interpretation of Islam, have banned music and art during their previous time in power.

Women in Kabul and elsewhere in Afghanistan have protested in large and small groups against Taliban rule and efforts to curtail their rights. In some cases, the Taliban has responded with force, wielding whips, beating women with batons, pointing guns and firing weapons into the air."

BBC News, [Afghanistan: Taliban accused of killing pregnant police officer](#), 5 September 2021

"The Taliban on Sunday gave more details of how segregation of the sexes will be enacted in universities.

In an extensive document, the new authorities said men and women must be separated, if necessary by a curtain.

Ideally, women will be taught by women but if none are available then "old men" of good character can step in, AFP reports. Female students must wear an abaya, or robe, and niqab, or face veil."

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What is the Taliban's position regarding women in public?

Al Jazeera, [UN: Taliban attempting to exclude women, girls from public life](#), 17 January 2022

"Taliban leaders in Afghanistan are institutionalising large-scale and systematic gender-based discrimination and violence against women and girls, a group of 36 UN human rights experts have said.

"We are concerned about the continuous and systematic efforts to exclude women from the social, economic, and political spheres across the country," the experts said in a statement Monday.

"These concerns are exacerbated in the cases of women from ethnic, religious or linguistic minorities such as the Hazara, Tajik, Hindu and other communities whose differences or visibility make them even more vulnerable in Afghanistan."

The Taliban have introduced a series of restrictive measures against women and girls since the [takeover of the country](#) in August. Many women have been barred from returning to their jobs.

Taxi drivers have been directed [not to pick up female passengers](#) who are not wearing a specific hijab.

Women fear repercussions if they leave the house without a male relative.

"These policies have also affected the ability of women to work and to make a living, [pushing them further into poverty](#)," the experts said.

"Women heads of households are especially hard hit, with their suffering compounded by the devastating consequences of the humanitarian crisis in the country."

The Guardian, [Taliban forces pepper-spray women's rights protesters in Kabul](#), 16 January 2022

"Taliban forces have fired pepper spray at a group of women protesting in Afghanistan's capital to demand rights to work and education. [...]

About 20 women gathered in front of Kabul University on Sunday, chanting "equality and justice" and carrying banners that read "women's rights, human rights", an AFP correspondent reported.

The protest was later dispersed by the [Taliban](#) fighters, who arrived at the scene in several vehicles, three of the protesters told AFP. [...]

The hardline Islamist group have banned unsanctioned protests and have frequently intervened to forcefully break up rallies demanding rights for women."

Washington Post, [Portraits of fear and loss - Taliban rule through the eyes of four women in Afghanistan](#), 12 January 2022

"Women who had been active in public life have hunkered down in hiding. With the economy tanking, dreams of running businesses and getting degrees have been replaced with the daily struggle to survive.

Restrictions permeate nearly every aspect of women's lives, despite Taliban promises to protect their rights.

Secondary schools remain closed for girls and women.

Their faces are disappearing from public life. Some didn't even wait for Taliban orders to act. In August, at one hair salon in Kabul, photos of women on window posters were blacked over in advance to avoid attracting the militants' attention. In November, women were banned from appearing in television dramas.

Last month, taxi drivers were told not to accept women wishing to travel more than 45 miles without a male chaperone. But in a time of fear and uncertainty, some have faced problems walking alone even for short distances in their neighborhoods."

Gandhara, [Taliban Religious Police Erect Banners Ordering Women to Wear Islamic Hijab](#), 10 January 2022

"The Taliban's religious police have erected banners in Kabul that order women to wear the Islamic hijab. [...]

However, the installation of the posters has provoked an angry reaction from Afghan women. [...]

One woman who lives in Nangarhar Province told RFE/RL that Afghan women "cover our faces. We do not wear

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chadors and hijabs. This is not our custom." [...]

"By doing this, the Taliban want to instill fear in the hearts of the people," Lina told RFE/RL. "They can rule by force and impose a foreign culture on the people. I am afraid of the day when the Taliban will whip women over their heads.""

The Guardian, [Taliban stop Afghan women from using bathhouses in northern provinces](#), 7 January 2022

"The Taliban sparked outrage this week by announcing that women in northern Afghanistan would no longer be allowed to use communal bathhouses. The use of bathhouses, or hammams, is an ancient tradition that remains for many people the only chance for a warm wash during the country's bitterly cold winters. Women, who regularly use the bathhouses for ritual cleaning and purification required under Islamic law, said this was another example of the Taliban tightening its grip and infringing their basic rights. They fear the ban will be extended to other parts of the country."

Gandhara, [Women protesters injured in stampede after Taliban militants fire in the air](#), 28 December

"A number of Afghan women have been injured in a stampede caused by Taliban guards firing in the air during a protest in Kabul against discriminatory measures including new travel restrictions on women."

"The protest on December 28 came amid rising anger -- both within the country and internationally -- over the Taliban's moves to restrict the rights of women."

DW, [Afghanistan: Taliban clamp down on women's taxi use](#), 26 December

"Taliban authorities in Afghanistan on Sunday gave new guidance to taxi drivers, advising them against taking fares from women who do not follow a strict Islamic dress code by wearing the hijab, or Islamic headscarf."

"The Ministry of Propagation of Virtue and Prevention of Vice also told drivers they should not take women who wish to travel more than 72 kilometers (45 miles) without a male relative as a chaperone."

Al Jazeera, [No long-distance travel for women without male relative: Taliban](#), 26 December

"In Afghanistan, the Taliban authorities say women seeking to travel long distances should not be allowed on road transport unless they are accompanied by a close male relative."

"The guidance issued on Sunday by the Ministry for the Promotion of Virtue and Prevention of Vice, which also called on vehicle owners to refuse rides to women not wearing headscarves, has drawn condemnation from rights activists."

Al Jazeera, ["We're not giving up": A radio station for Afghanistan's women](#), 9 December 2021

"From Taliban-controlled Kabul, Radio Begum is broadcasting the voices of women that have been muted across Afghanistan."

Station staff fill the airwaves with programming for women, by women: educational shows, book readings and call-in counselling. [...]

The Taliban granted permission for the broadcaster to stay on the airwaves in September, albeit with new curbs. [...]

The Taliban is yet to formalise many of its policies, leaving gaps in how they are implemented by the group across the country."

Gandhara, [Taliban Issues New Rules Banning Women In TV Dramas](#), 22 November 2021

The new eight-point set of "religious guidelines" issued on November 21 by the Ministry for the Promotion of Virtue and Prevention of Vice are the latest restrictions on life under the Taliban."

The ministry also ordered channels not to broadcast movies, comedies, or entertainment programs that "insult" or "humiliate" individuals or are against the principles of the group's interpretation of Islamic law and Afghan culture."

UNHCR, [Afghanistan Situation Update](#), 8 November 2021

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"The situation for women in Afghanistan remains worrying. On 6 November, the bodies of four women, including one of a women's rights activist, were discovered in Balkh province in northern Afghanistan; the three other bodies have not yet been identified, the Balkh Information Department Director, Mawlawi Zabihullah Noorani, stated. Since mid-August, women have held regular, nationwide protests against the Taliban, demanding that their rights be restored and protected, and since September, several female activists have been reportedly detained and tortured by Taliban members. On 4 November, Human Rights Watch (HRW) said Taliban rules were prohibiting most women from operating as aid workers in the country."

Kabul Now, [Female civil activists murdered in Balkh; Taliban arrest two suspects](#), 6 November 2021

"The Taliban security forces have arrested two suspects in Mazar-e-Sharif, capital city of the northern Balkh province, in connection to the murder of four women whose dead bodies were found last Thursday, November 04, inside a residence."

Thomson Reuters Foundation news, [IN PICTURES: Four Afghan women tell of lives upturned by Taliban](#), 13 October 2021

"When the Taliban seized Afghanistan on Aug 15, we asked women from various professions to take a photo marking what could be their last day of work, and to share their thoughts.

As the Taliban mark two months in power, we contacted the women to ask how their lives are now. Whether they have fled Afghanistan or stayed, all have seen dramatic changes. [...]

Shabnam Popalzi, former journalist and presenter at Parliament TV

I am at home in Kabul. All my friends are in the United States or Europe these days so I stay up until the early hours so that I can talk to them and try to find a way out of the country.

I have not left my home for weeks because I'm too scared to go out on the streets. The Taliban have taken everything from me, including the job I love.

I don't think there is any future for women like me in Afghanistan. But western countries won't help me leave because I worked for local media rather than the international media.

I've always promoted women's rights and freedom of speech. How can the international community say that they can't help me? Is this how they pay back 20 years of our efforts to build a modern Afghanistan?

It isn't fair to abandon us without a future, or to be killed by the Taliban.

Kabul has drastically changed. The coffee shops and restaurants, which used to be full of young women, are empty - or just have male customers. There are few women on the streets and women's faces have disappeared from advertising hoardings.

Most women wear black hijabs in the street now. It's very sad.

It's a basic right to choose what you wear. I don't feel comfortable in long dresses. I prefer jeans and shirts. The way we dress as Afghan women is part of our fight for our rights."

United Nations, [Afghanistan: 'Palpable' fear of 'brutal and systemic repression' of women grows](#), 21 September 2021

"Michelle Bachelet informed a high-level event on safeguarding 20 years of international engagement in Afghanistan, that women have been "progressively excluded from the public sphere", prohibited from appearing without a male guardian and face increasing restrictions on their right to work."

Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty's Gandhara, [Not Keeping Its Word: Afghan Woman Quits Job After Pressure From Taliban](#), 11 September 2021

"In some provinces, the Taliban has reportedly banned women from leaving home unless accompanied by a male relative.

No such demand was made publicly yet for women in Kabul. But the English teacher [whose name is being withheld for protection] said Taliban fighters shouted at her, "What the hell are you doing walking alone outside

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your home?" "

Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty's Gandhara, [Afghan Women At Forefront Of Nonviolent Resistance To Taliban](#), 10 September 2021

"The Taliban has advised women to largely remain indoors for their own safety. The militants have also ordered tens of thousands of former female government workers not to return to work even as their male colleagues went back."

UNAMA, [Report of the Secretary-General: The situation in Afghanistan and its implications for international peace and security](#), 8 September 2021

"5. In a press conference on 17 August in Kabul, the Taliban, inter alia, emphasized that it had entered Kabul to prevent a security vacuum and "to ensure security of lives and property of the people". [...] It assured women of their rights "within the framework of Sharia law", adding that "no discrimination and violence will be committed against women";

[...]

6. On 17 August, women marching through Kabul called upon the Taliban to respect their rights to education, work and political participation.

[...]

41. The Taliban taking control of districts had been followed by allegations of regression in the enjoyment by Afghan women and girls of their fundamental rights and freedoms, specifically access to education, access to health clinics, the right to work and freedom of movement, owing to the directive that women were to be accompanied by a male family chaperone when leaving the home and the reinstitution of strict dress code. In several locations, the Taliban had reportedly threatened that violation of those rules would result in harsh punishments. There were reports of women having been flogged and beaten in public because they had breached the prescribed rules. In one case in Balkh Province, on 3 August, a women's rights activist was shot and killed for breaching the rules."

Human Rights Watch, [Afghan Women Protest Against Taliban Restrictions](#), 7 September 2021

" "We decided to protest to demand our basic rights: the right to education, to work, and political participation. We want the Taliban to know that they cannot eliminate us from society."

Those were the words of Arezo, a young woman from Kabul who took to the streets after the Taliban's announcement that women would not be allowed to hold senior positions in Afghanistan's new government.

"The Taliban have told women that they have no place in the new order," another protester said. "We told them that we want to continue working, but they say only female nurses and teachers are allowed to work. We are engineers and lawyers and we want to work in our professions, but they say we cannot and should stay at home instead."

Protests by Afghan women against Taliban restrictions that began in Herat on September 2 have spread to Kabul and Mazar-e-Sharif. On September 4, around 100 women gathered in front of the presidential palace – now the Taliban's command center in Kabul – carrying banners and chanting slogans for an equal society.

Taliban security forces reacted violently to these protests. In Kabul they stopped the women and beat at least 10 of them. Nargis was among those beaten. She told me: "When I saw that they are badly beating one of the participants, I went to help but the Taliban soldier hit me with a metal object, and I fainted. All I remember is that there were two other women on the ground, and they were still being beaten." Taliban officials said they detained four of their men who beat the protesters."

BBC News, [Afghanistan: Taliban accused of killing pregnant police officer](#), 5 September 2021

"Taliban militants in Afghanistan have shot dead a policewoman in a provincial city, witnesses have told the BBC. The woman, named in local media as Banu Negar, was killed at the family home in front of relatives in Firozkoh,

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the capital of central Ghor province.

The killing comes amid increasing reports of escalating repression of women in Afghanistan.

The Taliban told the BBC they had no involvement in Negar's death and are investigating the incident"

BBC News, [Life in Kabul under Taliban: Where is your male escort?](#), 4 September 2021

"“Why are you travelling without a mahram?” the Taliban guard asks a young Afghan woman about her missing male escort.

She sits on her own in the back of a beat-up Kabul yellow taxi as it pulls up to the checkpoint marked, like all the others, by the white Taliban flag with black script.

What is allowed now in Kabul, and what is not?

The turbaned Talib, rifle slung over shoulder, tells her to call her husband. When she explains she doesn't have a phone, he instructs another taxi driver to take her home to get her husband and bring them back. Once completed, all is resolved.”

What is the Taliban’s position regarding women participating in sports?

Kake, [Afghan Sportswomen ‘Terrified’ and Fearing for their lives](#), 23 December 2021

“Afghanistan's first female Olympian, [Friba Rezayee](#), says she is "very angry" that her country's plight is "falling off the world agenda" as she continues to help those still trying to escape.

“Rezayee was one of many to oppose the [Taliban takeover](#) of the country in August and says those still left in the country are being forgotten.

The former judoka, who competed at the 2004 Olympic Games, says she is in regular contact with over 100 female Afghan athletes -- including members of the judo and volleyball team -- and says some women are still in hiding over fears they will receive punishment from the new regime after fighting for equality over the last two decades.”

Sky News, [Kim Kardashian and Leeds United help Afghan junior women’s football team arrive in UK after escaping Taliban](#), 18 November 2021

“Kim Kardashian and Leeds United have helped an Afghan junior women's football team arrive in the UK after fleeing the Taliban.

The social media influencer paid for a flight that brought more than 30 teenage girls and their families - about 130 people in all - to Britain.

The players in Afghanistan's women's youth development team were among hundreds of female athletes that have left the country since the Taliban took over and started curbing women's freedoms.

"The Afghan female footballers are well-known figures in the country," said Khalida Popal, a former captain of Afghanistan's national women's team who has led evacuation efforts for female athletes.

"Their lives were in great danger because of people in the country who opposed their activism and wanted to stop their sport and educational activities."

Some of the girls were beaten, had their houses burnt down and had family members "taken" by the Taliban, she and the players said.”

CyclingTips, [Serious allegations arise over Afghan cyclist evacuations](#), 11 November 2021

[...] As the Taliban tightens its grip on the country, persecution faces those that had been symbolic of the “new Afghanistan”. Counted on that list: cyclists, especially female ones, that were public faces of Afghanistan’s progress, and are now in hiding, or in exile, or living in fear. [...]

Shannon Galpin – who established the first Afghan women’s cycling team a decade ago and has travelled to Afghanistan more than 20 times, often working in Bamiyan province – explains that there are two further levels of discrimination to navigate here: ethnic and gender-based. The Hazara – who are Shi’ite Muslims and seen by the

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Sunni Taliban as infidels – are a majority in Bamiyan, so female cyclists in Bamiyan are endangered on three fronts. [...]

And it is the cyclists of Bamiyan – along with the original national team members – that are most identifiable and most at threat, Galpin says, due to media attention, a Nobel Peace Prize nomination for the women's national team, and their role in documentaries prior to the Taliban's return."

BBC, [UK to resettle teenage Afghan women footballers and families](#), 10 October 2021

"Dozens of Afghan girls with promising football careers, who fled the Taliban, have been told they can come to the UK to be resettled, along with their families.

The 35-member squad - aged 13-19 - fled Kabul last month and have been staying for the past few weeks in a hotel in Pakistan, where their temporary visas were due to expire on Monday." [...]

"Most of them are from Herat in western Afghanistan and had made their way to Kabul when the Western airlift started, staying in safe houses.

"Seventy percent of them had received death threats," said Ms Gill. "They were terrified.""

Deutsche Welle, [Fleeing Afghan women footballers seek new home from Pakistan](#), 1 October 2021

"A group of 32 Afghan women football players and their families are seeking safe haven from the Taliban in third countries after fleeing to Pakistan, the former Afghanistan women's team captain said on Friday.

Women's team captain Khalida Popal told DW that some of the players "had their houses burned down and some family members were taken by the Taliban."

Some 135 people — 32 players and coaches as well as their families — "were displaced from their provinces" because of their involvement in women's football, Popal added."

Financial Times, [The Afghan cricketers living in fear of the Taliban](#), 28 September 2021

"Here, women can never go into sports. No and never," said a cricketer on the women's team, who is still in the country but hopes to leave. "The men's cricket team makes a lot of money, so [the Taliban] will promote it." "If they want us to wear long clothes and play, we will accept all that," she added. "It hurts a lot when your dream crashes. I don't want my dream to remain unfulfilled. Not just mine. It's . . . my entire team's dream to play again."

Amnesty International, [Afghanistan: The fate of thousands hanging in the balance](#), 21 September 2021

"In this report, Amnesty International, International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH) and the World Organisation against Torture (OMCT) have documented incidents of human rights violations that have taken place in Afghanistan since the takeover by the Taliban on 15 August". The report references a number of sources, Including: [...]

· The Guardian, Afghan women to be banned from playing sport, Taliban say, 8 September 2021, <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2021/sep/08/afghan-women-to-be-banned-from-playing-sport-taliban-say>

The Guardian, [Dozens more female footballers and family members escape Afghanistan](#), 15 September 2021

"Last week, the Taliban announced that women would be banned from participating in all sports. In an interview with the Australian broadcaster SBS the deputy head of the Taliban's cultural commission, Ahmadullah Wasiq, said it was "not necessary" for women to be involved in sport and that "Islam and the Islamic Emirate [Afghanistan] do not allow women to play cricket or play the kind of sports where they get exposed."

Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty's Gandhara, [Afghan Cricket Board Says Women's Team Could Still Play](#), 11 September 2021

"The head of the Afghanistan Cricket Board (ACB) has told an Australian broadcaster that the Afghan national women's team could still be allowed to play cricket.

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ACB Chairman Azizullah Fazli told SBS Radio Pashto late on September 10 that the governing body would outline "very soon" how women would be allowed to play -- a development that, if true, would mark a reversal of the Taliban's hard-line stance on the issue."

BBC News, [Afghanistan women's cricket team: Players hiding in Kabul fear Taliban rule](#), 1 September 2021

"Asel and many of her international team-mates are in hiding. Asel isn't her real name. In Kabul members of the Taliban have already come looking for Afghanistan's women's cricket team.

"Every woman playing cricket or other sports is not safe right now," she says. "The situation is very bad in Kabul. We have a group on WhatsApp and every night we are talking about our problems and sharing plans about what we should do. We are all hopeless."

Asel has barely stepped outside her home since the Taliban entered Kabul in mid-August and has locked her cricket kit away. She explains how one of her team-mates was targeted in the city. "The village where they play cricket, some people who knew them are working with the Taliban. When the Taliban came here and took Kabul they threatened them, saying, 'We may come and kill you if you try to play cricket again,'" Asel says.

Taqwa, who is also using a pseudonym, was involved in Afghan women's cricket for many years. She managed to flee the country after Kabul fell. In the week before she got out, she moved from house to house to avoid being detected. The Taliban called her father, but he said he had not been in contact with her."

What is the position for lone women (i.e. widows, divorcee) without a male support network?

AlJazeera, [Taliban bans forced marriage of women in Afghanistan](#), 3 December 2021

"The Taliban has issued a decree barring forced marriage in Afghanistan, saying women should not be considered "property" and must consent to marriage, but questions remain about whether the group that returned to power in mid-August would extend women's rights around work and education.

The decree was announced on Friday by the reclusive Taliban chief, Hibatullah Akhunzada – who is believed to be in the southern city of Kandahar. "Both (women and men) should be equal," said the decree, adding that "no one can force women to marry by coercion or pressure".

The decree did not mention a minimum age for marriage, which previously was set at 16 years old.

The group also said a widow will now be allowed to re-marry 17 weeks after her husband's death, choosing her new husband freely.

Widows

Longstanding tribal traditions have held it customary for a widow to marry one of her husband's brothers or relatives in the event of his death.

[...] The development was hailed as a significant step forward by two leading Afghan women, but questions remained about whether the group would extend women's rights around work and education.

[...] Roya Rahmani, the former ambassador for Afghanistan to the United States, echoed her optimism and added that it was likely partly an attempt to smooth over international fears regarding the group's track record on women's rights as the Taliban administration seeks to get funding released.

"An amazing thing if it does get implemented," Rahmani told the Reuters Next panel, adding details such as who would ensure that girls' consent was not coerced by family members would be key.

"It's a very smart move on the part of Taliban at this point because one of the (pieces of) news that is attracting the West's attention is the fact little girls are being sold as property to others in order to feed the rest of the family,"

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What is the position for unmarried/single women without a male support network?

What is the position for single mothers without a male support network?

CNN, [Taliban decree on women's rights, which made no mention of school or work, dismissed by Afghan women and experts](#), 4 December 2021

"The Taliban released a so-called "decree on women's rights" on Friday that failed to mention access to education or work and was immediately panned by Afghan women and experts, who said it was proof that the militant group was uninterested in upholding basic freedoms for millions of Afghan women who have largely been constrained to their homes in recent months.

The decree, which sets out the rules governing marriage and property for women, states that women should not be forced into marriage and that widows have a share in their husbands property. "A woman is not a property, but a noble and free human being; no one can give her to anyone in exchange for peace...or to end animosity," said the Taliban decree, released by spokesman Zabiullah Mujahid."

Human Rights Watch, [Afghanistan: Taliban abuses cause widespread fear](#), 23 September 2021

"Women leaders were eventually able to have some discussions with two Taliban officials, but without significant concessions or assurances on the issues the women were concerned about: their freedom of movement, especially whether they would need to have a mahram with them at all times; whether they would be able to work, in what occupations, and how soon; and whether girls and women would be able to continue their education, at all levels and in all disciplines.

The response from the officials was to lecture them that they should leave their homes only when absolutely necessary and with a male family member. For unmarried women who did not have a male family member, they suggested the solution was to marry. Employment for women, the women were told, would be permitted only in areas in which the Taliban felt it was necessary for women to do jobs, presumably some education and healthcare roles working with girls and women. The officials emphasized that the Taliban had made a concession by allowing girls even primary education and said girls could have basic education by learning to read and write, and that would suffice. They urged the women to support the Taliban and warned of harsh action if they opposed the Taliban or protested."

The Guardian, [‘They came for my daughter’: Afghan single mothers face losing children under Taliban](#), 8 September 2021

"The day after Mazar-i-Sharif, the provincial capital of Balkh province, fell to the Taliban on 14 August, gunmen came for Raihana's* six-year-old daughter.

Widowed when her husband was murdered by Taliban forces in 2020, Raihana had been raising her child as a single mother. After her husband's death she had fought her in-laws for custody of her daughter and won, thanks to the rights she had under Afghan civil law – which state that single women can keep their children if they can provide for them financially.

Now, with her city in Taliban hands, Raihana was alone.

"The day after the fall of Mazar-i-Sharif, my brother in-law showed up at my father's house, where I lived, with Taliban fighters demanding to give them my daughter," Raihana told the Guardian.

Raihana was lucky. She and her daughter were not at home when the armed men arrived. As soon as she heard, she took her child and fled Mazar-i-Sharif for Kabul."

What is the situation of women in women's shelters?

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"Various vital, and sometimes lifesaving, service providers supporting survivors of gender-based violence have shut down for fear of retribution, as have many women's shelters, with potentially fatal consequences for the many victims in need of such services." Other efforts aimed at dismantling systems designed to prevent and respond to gender-based violence have included discontinuing specialized courts and prosecution units responsible for enforcing the 2009 Law on the Elimination of Violence Against Women and preventing many women aid and social workers from being able to fully perform their jobs and assist other women and girls. While these measures have affected women and girls of all spheres of life, the experts highlighted their particular concerns for women human rights defenders, women civil society activists and leaders, women judges and prosecutors, women in the security forces, women that were former government employees, and women journalists, all of whom have been considerably exposed to harassment, threats of violence and sometimes violence, and for whom civic space had been severely eroded. Many have been forced to leave the country as a result."

TOLO News, [Amnesty Intl Calls to Reopen, Support Women's Shelters](#), 6 December 2021

"The "Taliban must allow" the reopening of shelters and other institutions for Afghan women in order to protect the women from "further violence," a human rights watchdog said on Monday.

Amnesty International in a statement expressed concern over the situation of Afghan women. [...]

Before the fall of the former government, at least 27 institutions supportive of women were active in Afghanistan, but all of them are now closed.

"The Islamic Emirate replaced the Ministry of Women's Affairs with the Ministry of Virtue and Vice but pledged to form a department to run women's affairs. The department will be active under the supervision of the Vice and Virtue Ministry.

"We are trying to facilitate girls' and women's activities under the umbrella of the Ministry of Vice and Virtue, so they can work," said Akif Mahajar, a spokesman for the ministry."

Amnesty International, [Afghanistan: Survivors of gender-based violence abandoned following Taliban takeover – new research](#), 6 December 2021

"Essential services for women and girl survivors of gender-based violence in Afghanistan have been decimated following the Taliban's takeover of the country, Amnesty International said today.

In 26 new interviews, survivors and service providers told Amnesty International that the Taliban closed shelters and released detainees from prison, including many convicted of gender-based violence offences.

Many survivors – as well as shelter staff, lawyers, judges, government officials, and others involved in protective services – are now at risk of violence and death. [...]

Amnesty International interviewed survivors and individuals involved in protective services in the provinces of Badghis, Bamiyan, Daikundi, Herat, Kabul, Kunduz, Nangarhar, Paktika, Sar-e Pul, and Takhar. [...]

As the Taliban took control of Afghanistan, the system of protective services collapsed. Shelters were closed, and many were looted and appropriated by members of the Taliban. In some cases, Taliban members harassed or threatened staff. [...]

As shelters closed, staff were forced to send many women and girl survivors back to their families, and other survivors were forcibly removed by family members. Other survivors were forced to live with shelter staff members, on the street, or in other unsustainable situations.

Zeenat* was regularly beaten by her husband and brother before she took refuge in a shelter. When the Taliban arrived, she and several other women fled. They are now in hiding. She said: "We came only with the clothes we were wearing. We don't have a heater, and we go to sleep hungry... My brother is my enemy, and my husband is my enemy. If he sees me and my children, he'll kill us... I am sure they are looking for me because they know the shelter has closed."

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One shelter director, currently in hiding with some survivors from her shelter, told Amnesty International: “We don’t have a proper place. We can’t go out. We are so scared... Please bring us out of here. If not, then you can wait for us to be killed.” [...]

Amnesty International also received credible reports that survivors have also been transferred by the Taliban into the detention system, including to Pul-e-Charkhi prison, near Kabul. [...]

Many working within the system of protective services said that although they faced significant risks before the Taliban’s takeover, their lives are now in greater danger, and they are in desperate need of protection.

One service provider who was based in Badghis explained: “All of these women who worked on this [the support system] – now we need a shelter... We live each day in anxiety and fear.”

A service provider who was based in Nangarhar said: “I am getting threats from the Taliban, ISIS, perpetrators and the family members... on a daily basis.”

Another service provider who was based in Bamiyan said: “I was getting three calls each day from men who had escaped the prison. After I received a call from the Taliban as well, I switched to a new number.” ”

The Guardian, [‘I don’t know where to go’: uncertain fate of the women in Kabul’s shelters](#), 1 October 2021

“Women in refuges have been sent home to their abusers or to prison since the Taliban takeover. Those in the few shelters still open fear what lies ahead [...]

The shelter is one of nearly 30 such facilities in Afghanistan. Built up over the past 20 years, they operated as a discreet and often hidden part of the international community’s commitment to advancing the rights of Afghan women. Most of the women’s cases were resolved within months, but some spent years at the shelter, learning new skills so they could reintegrate into society.

Over the past six weeks, this crucial lifeline has all but disappeared. Most of the shelters have closed their doors at the request of the **Taliban**, meaning women have either been sent home, often back to their abusers, or moved to secret locations. [...]

Of the three shelter directors who spoke to the Guardian, none are taking in new women. [...]

Mahbooba Seraj, a veteran women’s rights activist and manager of a shelter for 30 women in Kabul, says the Taliban are still figuring out what to do about women’s refugees. “They’re afraid that women in the shelters will leave, and end up on the streets and enter prostitution, which is very possible,” she says by phone from Kabul. “And they do not want that.”

Two weeks ago, 15 Taliban police officers, including secret police, visited Seraj’s shelter over several days, noting residents’ names and snooping around. The women wore veils so they could not be identified, Seraj said.

Seraj told the Taliban that their visit was exceptional – a man had never crossed her shelter’s threshold before. “They looked at me as if they didn’t believe me. And one policeman asked, ‘Even the Americans?’ I laughed and said, ‘Neither American nor Afghan. Period.’ Why they thought Americans visited is beyond me.”

Children

Access to Education

For more information about the interpretation of Sharia law in educational institutions, please refer to the chapter [How is Sharia law interpreted and applied?](#)

OHCHR, [OHCHR | Afghanistan: Taliban attempting to steadily erase women and girls from public life – UN experts](#), 17 January 2022

“Taliban leaders in Afghanistan are institutionalizing large scale and systematic gender-based discrimination and violence against women and girls, a group of UN human rights experts* said today. [...]

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Of particular and grave concern is the continued denial of the fundamental right of women and girls to secondary and tertiary education, on the premise that women and men have to be segregated and that female students abide by a specific dress code. As such, the vast majority of girls' secondary schools remain closed and the majority of girls who should be attending grades 7-12 are being denied access to school, based solely on their gender."

Khaama Press, [Schools and universities to reopen in March this year: Mujahid](#), 16 January 2022

"Deputy Minister of Information and Culture and spokesman of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan Zabiullah Mujahid said that schools and universities for girls and boys will reopen in the upcoming new solar year-March 2022.

Speaking with Associated Press on Saturday, January 16, 2022, Zabiullah Mujahid said that the Ministry of Education and Ministry of Higher Education are working hard to reopen higher schools and public universities in two months.

The spokesman said that higher schools in most of the provinces have been reopened and in some provinces, they are still closed due to economic issues.

He reiterated that girls and boys will be separated in classrooms and they are working to build more hostels for girls around Afghanistan.

It has been nearly six months that 150 public universities have been closed across Afghanistan while in 40 private universities boys and girls study.

Girls are only allowed to attend classes up to sixth grade in public schools."

AVA Press, [Female Students in Baghlan Want Access to Education](#), 19 December 2021

"Abdul Raqib, the head of education in Baghlan province, assured that the entrance exams for female students, even though schools are closed, adding that they are trying to make the entrance exam more transparent for students. However, despite the repeated demands and protests of, the doors of girls' schools are still closed. With the rise of the Taliban, the doors of girls' and boys' schools were closed, but after about forty days, the boys' and girls' schools below the sixth grade were reactivated. Since then, however, girls in high school have not been able to go to school."

TOLO News, [UN Calls for More Action, Clarity for Afghan Women's Rights](#), 14 December 2021

Citing UNICEF findings, she said that of 4.2 million Afghan children already out of school, 60% are girls, and nearly 9 million children are at risk of being deprived of an education because teachers' salaries are not being paid and schools are being closed.

BBC News, [Afghanistan: Girls' despair as Taliban confirm secondary school ban](#), 8 December 2021

"BBC interviews with students and headteachers in 13 provinces show girls' frustration at still being barred from secondary school, despite assurances from the Taliban that they would be able to resume their studies "as soon as possible".

Teachers, nearly all of whom had not been paid since June, said the situation was affecting girls' wellbeing, with one blaming the closures for the underage marriage of three of her students.

One headteacher from Kabul, who stays in touch with her students via Whatsapp, said: "The students are really upset, they're suffering mentally. I try to give them hope but it's hard because they are exposed to so much sadness and disappointment."

Teachers also reported a worrying drop in attendance among girls in primary schools, who have been allowed to return. They said that increased poverty and security concerns meant families were reluctant to send younger girls to school."

AVA Press, [Reopening of Girls' Schools Requires a New Procedure, Says Taliban](#), 8 December 2021

"The girls will not be allowed to attend school until a new policy is approved in the New Year," said Ministry of

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Education officials.

"The current situation is a temporary delay," said acting Deputy Education Minister Abdul Hakim in an interview with the BBC today Wednesday, December 8.

According to him, this situation will continue until a new guideline above the sixth grade is created and approved for female students, adding that the Taliban is creating a safe environment for girls to go to school.

Meanwhile, the girls' schools above the sixth grade were still closed since the Taliban came to power. The Taliban have repeatedly reassured people that they will reopen girls' schools, however, now that the school year is over, they have not reopened.

In the meantime, this situation worries the citizens and the families of the . They believe the Taliban have no plans to reopen schools and that girls' schools may be closed in the New Year."

AVA Press, [Malala Yousafzai Calls on US to Support Afghan Girls and Women](#), 7 December 2021

"Malala Yousafzai, a human rights defender and Nobel laureate, called on the United States to support and girls.

According to [sic], Afghan women and girls need support more than ever.

Malala Yousafzai made the remarks during a meeting with US Secretary of State Antony on Monday, December 6.

Afghanistan is the only country where girls do not have access to education and are deprived of this right, she stressed.

The human rights defender delivered a 15-year-old Afghan girl's letter to the US president and read the message of Afghan girls.

"This is the message of Afghan girls now," said. "We want to see a world where all girls can have access to safe and quality education."

In the meantime, reading part of the Afghan girl's letter, she said that the longer schools and remain closed, the less hope they have for the future.

"Educating girls is a powerful tool for building peace and security in Afghanistan," Malala read the letter.

Yousafzai expressed hope that the US, along with the [sic], would take immediate action to ensure that Afghan girls return to their schools as soon as possible.

Meanwhile, Malala emphasized the need to focus on girls' education and the opening of schools, saying that with the fall of the previous government, the Taliban had banned girls from entering the sixth grade to twelfth grade.

Although the interim government of the Taliban has repeatedly promised to reopen girls' schools, this promise has not yet been fulfilled."

TOLO News, [Students, Teachers Call On Govt to Open Girls' Schools](#), 7 December 2021

"After the collapse of former government, schoolgirls from grade 7 to 12 have been allowed to continue their studies in eight provinces of Afghanistan.

Several school-aged girls in the northeastern province of Kunar have called for the reopening of schools for girls grades 7-12 in the province.

They urged the new government to let girls continue their education in Kunar, as they have been allowed in some other provinces. [...]

Along with students, a number of teachers and tribal elders in Kunar province claimed that the Islamic Emirate is behaving inconsistently toward Afghan students across Afghanistan. [...]

Meanwhile, the head of the education department in Kunar province, Mawllawi Muhebullah Haidari, said the department is prepared to reopen schools for girls if they receive permission.

"We ask elders (government leaders) to give permission, we are ready to open the schools," said Haidari.

Based on the reports, nearly 70.000 girls are attending in Kunar's schools.

After the collapse of former government, schoolgirls from grade 7 to 12 have been allowed to continue their studies in eight provinces of Afghanistan. Schools in the remaining provinces are still shut."

UNICEF, [Humanitarian Action for Children 2022 Overview](#), 6 December 2021

"Recent political developments have greatly exacerbated the humanitarian situation in Afghanistan. The volatile

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situation has heightened the underlying vulnerabilities in the country, where 24.4 million, including 12.6 million children are already in need of humanitarian assistance. Child protection risks remain high with continued insecurity and attacks against civilians, and families are resorting to child marriage and child labor to cope with the socioeconomic deterioration. Over 10 million school-aged children need education assistance, in addition to the 4.2 million children already out of school.

OCHA, [Global Humanitarian Overview 2022 \(Part Two\)](#), 2 December 2021

“Conflict and COVID-19 have also interrupted schooling for more than 9.3 million children since 2020.”

AP News, [Unique effort reopens girls’ schools in an Afghan province](#), 1 December 2021

“When the Taliban seized power in August, most schools were closed because of COVID-19. Under heavy international pressure, the Taliban soon reopened schools for girls in grades 1-6, along with boys’ schools at all levels. But they have not allowed girls in grades 7-12 to return, saying they must first ensure classes are held in an “Islamic manner.” The Taliban also barred most women from government jobs, their largest place of employment. [...]

Herat is the only place where girls’ high schools are open across the province, although schools also have reopened in a few individual districts in northern Afghanistan, including the city of Mazar-e Sharif.”

TOLO News, [Facing Closed Schools, Nangarhar Girls Despair Over Future](#), 29 November 2021

“The provincial education department said that it has been attempting to facilitate girls’ access to education beyond grade 6. Girls in the eastern province of Nangarhar are concerned about their uncertain future as schools from grade 7 to 12 have remained closed for girls since the Islamic Emirate swept into power in Afghanistan. The students urged the government to provide them with educational opportunities.”

TOLO News, [50% of Private Education Centers Closed Nationwide Since Takeover](#), 29 November 2021

“Over 50 percent of private education centers have been closed within the past three months across the country, the Union of Private Education Centers said on Sunday. The union said the deteriorated economic status of families is the main reason for the closure of these educational centers.”

AVA, [Some Female Teachers in Afghanistan Teach Students Secretly](#), 27 November 2021

“The newspaper reported on Thursday (November 25th) that the teachers were opposed to the schools being closed. For this reason, some teachers provide education for girls in secret places. In an interview with the Wall Street Journal, some teachers called the plan vital, stressing that they had decided to secretly teach female students after the Taliban did not allow them to go to school.”

Tolo News, [Afghan Students with Scholarships to Pakistan Schools Lack Visas](#), 22 November 2021

“Afghan students who won Pakistani educational scholarships but have not yet been able to obtain visas gathered for a protest in front of the country’s embassy in Kabul on Monday.

The banners carried by the students are painted with the slogans: “The students have nothing to do with politics. We want our visas.” [...]

These students won scholarships for bachelors, masters, and PhD degrees at Allama Iqbal Open University, Islamabad. [...]

According to the students, classes began nearly two months ago.”

UNICEF, [Afghanistan Humanitarian Situation Report, October 2021](#), 15 November 2021

“Education

Female teachers and education administration workers have continued to remain at home with exceptions being reported in some provinces across the country. Most restrictions on the implementation of interventions by

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partners have been removed, except on resuming Accelerated Learning Centres (ALC) and Girls' Access to Teacher Education (GATE) classes. The discussion to re-open GATE classes continues, and in a few provinces, as Teacher Training Centres (TTC) are opening and agreements have been reached to ensure that students who were in their final month(s) of their academic year can sit their exams. This will be a crucial step forward as more female teachers will be required to ensure all girls can return to school."

Ariana News, [High school girls will go to next grade should schools stay shut this year](#), 15 November 2021

"Ministry of Education (MoE) officials said Monday that plans to reopen schools for girls from Grade 7 have not yet been finalized.

Dr Arfan, spokesman for the MoE said that girls above Grade 6 will however be promoted a year should the plan not be finalized this year.

"Girls up to class six are going to participate in exams, and the girls that are not attending schools will be upgraded based on their previous exams," said Arfan.

This comes after Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan (IEA) officials closed senior schools for girls after they took control in mid-August.

However, they have said they are working on a way to reopen schools for high school girls but within Islamic principles."

AVA Press, [With Schools Closed, Kandahar Girls do Art at Home](#), 13 November 2021

"Afghan Voice Agency (AVA)_The girls, who are sisters, turned one of the rooms in their house into a painting and drawing center, and from this room they are promoting the art of painting and drawing.

They said they don't want their last few years' struggles to be forgotten.

The girls urged the Islamic Emirate to reopen for girls.

"I ask the Islamic Emirate to reopen all the educational institutions so that all girls can go and learn their lessons," said Shugofa Amiri, a painter.

"They have given us 10 to 12 rules which are very strict. They told us that you should not come without Mahram," said Masoma Amiri, a painter.

The sisters have learned the art of painting and drawing in one of the art centers in Kandahar's city and are trying to display their products. Now this art center is closed.

Meanwhile, the Department of Information and Culture said that work has begun on providing facilities for the female students.

"There is also a procedure for girls' education. The centers are allowed to teach them based on the Islamic regulations," said Abdul Shukur Spand, the and Culture Director of Kandahar.

On the other hand, painters in Kandahar called on the Islamic Emirate to spare no efforts in providing facilities for them.

"A large number of male and female students were coming here in order to learn drawing and painting skills," said Amanullah , a teacher of fine arts at a center in Kandahar.

In the last three months, most of the girls' training centers were closed in the capital and other provinces, but in recent weeks some provinces have provided [education for girls](#)."

TOLO News, [Girls' Schools for Grades 7-12 Reopen in Herat](#), 8 November 2021

"Teachers said they have not received their salaries for over four months and face economic problems.

After nearly three months, girls' schools have reopened for all female students in the western province of Herat, according to an elected council of Herat teachers.

For the past several months only girls up to grade 6 were allowed; now girls and young women in grades 7-12 are allowed to attend school in Herat.

According to the council, the decision was made after a month of discussions between the council and officials of

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girls' schools with the local officials of the Islamic Emirate in Herat.
The council said this decision allows over 300,000 more girls to continue with their education."

Thomson Reuters Foundation News, [UNICEF to directly fund Afghan teachers, bypassing Taliban authorities](#), 3 November 2021

"The United Nations children's agency said it was planning to set up a system to directly fund Afghan teachers, after the international community placed a freeze on funding to the Taliban-led administration. "UNICEF is setting up a system that will allow direct payments to teachers without the funds being channelled through the de facto authorities," Jeannette Vogelaar, UNICEF Afghanistan's Chief of Education, told Reuters in an email.

In preparation, she said, UNICEF would begin registering all public school teachers. "The best way to support the education of girls in Afghanistan is to continue supporting their schools and teachers. UNICEF is calling upon donors not to let Afghanistan's children down," Vogelaar added. Afghanistan's public services, in particular health and education, have been plunged into crisis since the Islamist Taliban movement took over the country on Aug. 15. Many foreign governments have placed a ban on funding outside of humanitarian aid that is channelled through multilateral agencies.

That has generally been limited to urgent supplies such as wheat and blankets, leaving public service workers including teachers without pay for months. Billions of dollars in Afghan central bank funds held overseas have also been frozen.

The international community has raised alarm that the Taliban might restrict female education, and high schools for girls in many parts of the country have remained closed even while those for boys have been allowed to open. A Taliban official told Reuters this week there would be "good news" soon on older girls being allowed to go back to school, and that they were working with UNICEF and other international organisations on the issue. "We are working especially with UNICEF and some other international organisations ... to come up with a good solution ... we have meetings on a daily basis," said Waheedullah Hashimi, Director of External Programmes and Aid at Afghanistan's Ministry of Education. "We have a problem that economically we are not good ... that is why we are requesting the international community, international organisations, especially those who have funds for emergency situations, to help us in this regard," he added."

Tolo News, [Afghan Girls Call for Reopening of Schools](#), 29 October 2021

"In the last two months, school-age girls and young women from grades 7 to 12 are still deprived of education in many of the provinces.

These students called on the Islamic Emirate to reopen girls' schools across the country. [...]

According to the United Nations Educational Organization, over 4 million students have been deprived of education in Afghanistan.

Meanwhile, a number of Kandahar residents urged the Islamic Emirate to rebuild all those schools that have been destroyed in fighting between the former government and the Islamic military forces in the provinces.

Kandahar residents said that dozens of schools have been destroyed in the city and in other districts and thousands of students have been deprived of learning. The Ghazi Mohammad Akbar Khan school in Arghandab district of Kandahar province is an example of the war's devastation in Kandahar. The school has been destroyed in recent battles between the former government military forces and the Islamic Emirate.

"Anyone who sees this school says 'we ask our leaders to let the children go back to school,' but they said that a large part of the school has been destroyed," said Barialai, the principal of the school. Officials at the Kandahar education department said that plans are underway for the reconstruction of schools in Kandahar."

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KHAAMA PRESS, [Women protest over closed schools for girls in Afghanistan](#), 26 October 2021
“A number of women took to the streets of Kabul on Tuesday, October 26 to protest against the closed school for girls and accused the international community of being silent about what is going on in Afghanistan.
The women who had gathered at the gates of UNAMA in Kabul said that the international community, human rights group, and the United Nations are completely indifferent to the restrictions imposed by the Taliban in particular on the Afghan women.
The protestors said that the silence of the UN against the ongoing situation in Afghanistan is “shameful”.
The women chanted “rights to education, rights to work, are the fundamental rights of women” and “history will be ashamed of the silence of the UN”.

Deutsche Welle, [Afghan girls set up 'secret school' amid Taliban restrictions](#), 22 October 2021

“After coming to power, the Islamist group imposed a ban on girls' education, prompting some Afghans to set up an "underground school." DW spoke to some of the girls who are determined to continue their studies. [...] After the Taliban overthrew Ashraf Ghani's government and captured the capital, Kabul, in late August, they reimposed restrictions on girls' education. In some cities, girls are not allowed to attend schools after sixth grade, and in some areas, older girls are not allowed to sit with male students.
The measures are arbitrary but in stark contrast to the Islamists' initial statements that they would respect fundamental human rights. [...] Running the "secret school" under these circumstances is not an easy task, but many parents are determined to educate their daughters and are ready to take risks.
The students of this school take different routes to join their classes at different times during the day so that they are not noticed by the authorities.
There are no desks and chairs in the classroom; girls sit in a circle on the floor. DW spoke to some of these girls, but for security reasons, their identities have been concealed.”

Thomson Reuters Foundation news, [In northern Afghanistan, girls' schools working despite ban elsewhere](#), 12 October 2021

“While girls across most of Afghanistan remain at home while brothers go to high school, classes in some northern areas have been open for all students, highlighting regional differences starting to emerge two months after the Taliban seized power.
Secondary schools remain closed for girls in much of the country, but in Mazar-i-Sharif, close to the border with Uzbekistan, local authorities have taken a different approach.
Zabihullah Noorani, head of the culture and information directorate in the northern province of Balkh, said lessons in many schools were continuing for both boys and girls.”

Reuters, [Afghan minister wants good relations, need more time on girls' education](#), 12 October 2021

“Afghanistan's [acting] foreign minister acting Foreign Minister [Amir Khan Muttaqi] appealed to the world for good relations on Monday but avoided making firm commitments on girls' education despite international demands to allow all Afghan children to go back to school.” [...] “Muttaqi said the Taliban's Islamic Emirate government was moving carefully but had only been in power for a few weeks and could not be expected to complete reforms the international community had not been able to implement in 20 years.”

Thomson Reuters Foundation news, [Despite promises by the militants to let girls go to school, many Afghans fear girls' opportunities will be severely limited](#), 11 October 2021

“Secondary school girls in Afghanistan have had to remain at home since the Taliban took control of the country on Aug. 15, even though their brothers have returned to class.
The Islamist movement, which barred girls from education when last in power 20 years ago, has promised it will

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allow girls to go to school as it seeks to show the world it has changed.

But when it announced older boys [could resume school](#) in September, along with primary-age children, it gave no indication of when adolescent girls could return to class.

Some secondary schools for girls have recently reopened in the northern province of Kunduz, but there has been no statement by the Taliban.

Head teachers, who are in talks with officials over the conditions for resuming girls' education elsewhere, expect an announcement shortly.

But even if the Taliban keep their word, many people fear girls' education and future opportunities will be restricted under the militant group's rule."

Al Jazeera, [Anxious wait for Afghan girls as opening of high schools stalled](#), 5 October 2021

"Millions of teenage girls across Afghanistan are anxiously waiting to return to the classroom, as high schools continue to remain closed, raising fears about the future of female education under Taliban rule.

The country's new rulers allowed boys in the same age group – seven to 12 – to attend classes last month, but said that "a safe learning environment" was needed before older girls could return to school. At that time, the Taliban's Deputy Minister of Information and Culture Zabihullah Mujahid said the group was working on a "procedure" to allow teenage girls back into the classroom."

Khaama Press, [School graduates of 2000-2020, of no use: Taliban's higher education minister](#), 4 October 2021

"The acting minister of the higher education of the Taliban Abdul Baqi Haqqani said that those who have graduated from high schools during the past twenty years are of no use.

The acting minister is meant by the graduates who have studied during the non-Taliban era when they were fighting the US-backed governments of Hamid Karzai and Ashraf Ghani.

Abdul Baqi Haqqani made the statements in a meeting with the university lecturers in Kabul.

Haqqani said that they must hire teachers who instill the students and incoming generations the values that are of use in the country and Afghanistan can utilize their talents in the future.

Earlier, the acting minister of higher education had said that the Master's and Ph.D. holders of modern studies are less valuable than those who have studied in madrasas and have religious studies in Afghanistan.

The statement of Haqqani comes as the period-2000-2020- is said to be one of the most important and rich eras when it comes to the level of education in Afghanistan.

The writer of this report is one of those who first went to school in 2000, graduated, got his BA degree in journalism, and is now working as a professional Afghan journalist in Kabul."

Swedish Committee for Afghanistan, [SCA brings hope to children of war survivors](#), 4 October 2021

"The construction of a school by the Swedish Committee for Afghanistan (SCA) in a war frontline has built hopes and brought smile to the face of children and residents of Olkhel village in Wardak Province.

The children of Olkhil village, who have long been deprived of their right to education and have always lived in turmoil in search of shelter against the bullets and flames of war, are now happy and excited about the construction of a school in their village. The village that has witnessed years of fighting between the former government's security forces and its armed opposition groups, its residents has bitter memories about their village being used as a war frontline before the recent political transition in the country. [...]

Hazrat Omar Farooq School is an elementary school whose building is designed with six classrooms, four administrative rooms, a computer lab, a laboratory, ten separate toilets for girls and boys, and a 300-meter surrounding wall. The school will going to be equipped with a solar power system. A drinking water well has also been dug in the school and is to be connected to a solar power system. This school is built for both boys and girls students and has 13 teachers. The school is located 7 km from the capital city of Maidan Shahr and about 35 km from the capital province Kabul."

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ABC News, [Taliban official's comments on education, jobs fuel more fears for Afghan women's rights](#), 29 September 2021

"When the Taliban controlled Afghanistan from 1996 to 2001, they largely barred women and girls from public life without a male relative and excluded them from schools and universities entirely. Kabul University chancellor Mohammad Ashraf Ghairat suggested a return to that policy Tuesday, tweeting, " As long as a real Islamic environment is not provided for all, women will not be allowed to come to universities or work. Islam first." After media outlets reported on his comments, he issued a second tweet, criticizing the New York Times in particular for what he called a "bad misunderstanding" of his comments."

Al Jazeera, [Girls to return to secondary schools 'soon as possible': Taliban](#), 21 September 2021

"Girls will have to wait longer to return to secondary school in Afghanistan, according to Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid, as concerns grow over the fate of women's education under the new government. Speaking at a press conference in the capital Kabul on Tuesday, Mujahid said the group was "finalising things" and that secondary school girls will return to the classroom "as soon as possible."

Amnesty International, [Afghanistan: The fate of thousands hanging in the balance](#), 21 September 2021

"In this report, Amnesty International, International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH) and the World Organisation against Torture (OMCT) have documented incidents of human rights violations that have taken place in Afghanistan since the takeover by the Taliban on 15 August". The report references a number of sources, Including: [...]

- Gandhara/RFEL, Taliban Imposes New Dress Code, Segregation of Women at Afghan Universities, 6 September 2021, <https://gandhara.rferl.org/a/taliban-dress-code-segregation-women/31446726.htm>

- The Times of India. 18 September 2021. "Taliban resume boys-only schools, makes no mention of girls". <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/world/south-asia/taliban-resume-boys-only-schools-makes-no-mention-of-girls/articleshow/86311733.cms>.

- Al Jazeera. 17 September 2021. "Taliban says classes resume for Afghan boys, no mention of girls". <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2021/9/17/taliban-saysclasses-resume-afghan-boys-no-mention-girls>. [...]

- France 24. 11 September 2021. "Sports ban, segregated education: Afghanistan women worried by first Taliban measures". <https://www.france24.com/en/asia-pacific/20210911-sports-ban-segregated-education-afghanistan-women-worried-by-first-taliban-measures>.

Reuters, [Some Afghan girls return to school, others face anxious wait](#), 18 September 2021

"Some Afghan girls returned to primary schools with gender-segregated classes on Saturday, but older girls faced an anxious wait with no clarity over if and when they would be able to resume their studies at the secondary school level."

"Taliban officials say they will not return to the fundamentalist policies - including a ban on girls receiving an education - when they last ruled Afghanistan from 1996 to 2001."

The Guardian, [Taliban ban girls from secondary education in Afghanistan](#), 17 September 2021

"The Taliban have effectively banned girls from secondary education in Afghanistan, by ordering high schools to re-open only for boys.

Girls were not mentioned in Friday's announcement, which means boys will be back at their desks next week after a one-month hiatus, while their sisters will still be stuck at home. The Taliban education ministry said secondary school classes for boys in grades seven to 12 would resume on Saturday, the start of the Afghan week. "All male teachers and students should attend their educational institutions," the statement said. The future of girls and female teachers, stuck at home since the Taliban took

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control, was not addressed. The edict makes Afghanistan the only country on earth to bar half its population from getting a secondary education. [...]

The Taliban appeared somewhat more open to women's education when they ordered all primary school students back to class, and said women could study for degrees, albeit in a strictly gender-segregated system that will dramatically lower the range and quality of women's options. But if the high schools do not reopen for girls, the commitments to allow university education would become meaningless once the current cohort of students graduated."

Human Rights Watch, [How the International Community Can Protect Afghan Women and Girls](#), 2 September 2021

"Access to Education

In recent years, in areas under their control, Taliban policies varied but often included permitting girls to attend school only up to the sixth grade. Even when local Taliban policy permitted at least some girls to study, there have sometimes been efforts to discourage girls and women from attending.

Since gaining control of the country, the Taliban have said they support education for girls and women. At the initial news conference, Mujahid said, "They can have activities in different sectors and different areas on the basis of our rules and regulations: educational, health and other areas." Another spokesperson, Suhail Shaheen, on August 23 tweeted a clip of girls entering a school, writing, "Back to School in a New Afghanistan."

The status of girls' access to secondary education, which the Taliban have typically not permitted in recent years in areas under their control, is unclear. On August 29, the acting minister of higher education announced that girls and women may participate in higher education but may not study with boys and men. The Taliban previously issued a similar order to universities in the western city of Herat, adding that female students could only receive instruction from female or "virtuous" elderly male professors.

A lack of female teachers, especially in higher education, is likely to mean that such rules amount to a de facto denial of access to education for many girls and women. Afghan government statistics from 2019 indicate that across the country's 166 universities, 27 percent of students were female, but only 14 percent of professors. Even in government teacher training institutions, only about 13 percent of the teachers were women that year although 57 percent of the students were women."

Violence and Abuse

[ILO, ILO Brief - Employment prospects in Afghanistan: A rapid impact assessment](#), 19 January 2022

"The impact on child labour

The worsening economic and jobs crisis could aggravate the child labour situation. The recent Household Income and Expenditure Survey 2019–20 estimated that approximately 1.06 million children aged 5–17 years, 9 per cent of this age group, were involved in child labour. The overall figure masks important differences by gender and area of residence:

- Child labour has an important gender dimension in Afghanistan. Boys are more likely to be involved in child labour (12.6 per cent) than their female counterparts (5.1 per cent). In absolute numbers, there are more than 770,000 boys and about 300,000 girls in child labour. When the definition of child labour expands to include children carrying out household chores for 21 hours or more per week, the child labour prevalence increases to 13 per cent for both sexes and to almost 12 per cent for girls.

- Child labour is a predominantly rural phenomenon. Children living in rural areas (9.9 per cent or 839,000) are much more likely to be in child labour compared to those living in urban areas (2.9 per cent or 80,000).

- Only 40 per cent of children aged 5–17 years were attending school. A large share of children (41 per cent) were neither attending school nor working. [...]

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There are no current estimates on the impact that the recent political and socio-economic situation will have on the number of children in child labour. Nonetheless, a rise in the number of working children and a decline of children attending school are expected outcomes of the fragile situation in the country.”

Ariana News, [Afghanistan tops list for number of child casualties since 2005](#), 1 January 2021

“The United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) said Friday that Afghanistan has witnessed the highest number of child casualties since 2005.

“In a statement issued on Friday, UNICEF stated that more than 28,500 children have been killed in conflicts since 2005 in Afghanistan.

“UNICEF said that Afghanistan, Yemen, Syria, and northern Ethiopia, are the places where “thousands of children paid a devastating price as armed conflict, inter-communal violence, and insecurity continued.”

“According to the statement, Afghanistan has recorded 27 percent of all verified child casualties globally.”

Global News, [Girl shot dead by Taliban while family was preparing to flee Canada](#), 16 December 2021

“A 10-year-old girl was shot dead in [Afghanistan](#) while her family was preparing to flee to Canada under an immigration program for Afghans who worked for the Canadian Forces, multiple sources said Thursday.

The girl, Nazifa, was killed when gunfire erupted near a [Taliban](#) checkpoint in Kandahar on the night of Dec. 10, her father and the Canadian veterans group Aman Lara told Global News in interviews.

The father had worked for the Canadian military in Kandahar until 2011. The family was approved for resettlement by Canada, but was stuck in Afghanistan due to the lack of evacuation efforts.”

AVA, [Poverty in Afghanistan: Child Labor Increased in Baghlan after Taliban Takeover](#), 28 November 2021

“Residents are worried about children being forced to work hard on the streets of Pul-e-Khumri, saying that hundreds of children are working on the streets due to poverty. Local Taliban officials in Baghlan, however, say their government cannot manage the situation. Ataullah, a resident of Baghlan who has been running a shop in Pul-e-Khumri for ten years, says people’s lives are getting harder. According to him, poverty forced families to send their children to work on the streets. He adds with concern that the number of working children in the market is increasing every day. Hussainullah, an 11-year-old boy, has dropped out of school for a month while working in a wheelbarrow in -e-Khumri. He says that his father also has a wheelbarrow. Due to financial difficulties, he has been forced to take a wheelbarrow and provide alimony for his family often.

Working Child in the streets of Baghlan province. “If my family’s economy were good, my only wish would have been to go to school,” said Hussainullah, a child who drives a wheelbarrow with difficulty. “I would like to go to school and study.””

UNAMA, [UN Calls for solidarity and commitment to end violence against women and girls amidst humanitarian crises](#), 25 November 2021

“Gender-based violence continues to be a serious threat to women and girls and a major obstacle to achieving lasting sustainable development and peace. Referred to as a ‘shadow pandemic’ violence against women has been worsened by the COVID-19 pandemic and the humanitarian crisis.”

UNAMA, [Report of the Secretary-General: The situation in Afghanistan and its implications for international peace and security](#), 8 September 2021

“37. During the second quarter of 2021, the country task force on monitoring and reporting on grave violations against children in armed conflict verified 1,179 grave violations against 1,112 children (673 boys, 420 girls, 19 sex unknown) during the reporting period, including 1,085 children killed or maimed (309 killed and 776 maimed) (647 boys, 419 girls, 19 sex unknown). [...]

38. The country task force verified the recruitment and use of 26 children (all boys) aged between 12 and 17 years

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by the Taliban (16), Afghan National Police (6) and pro-government militias (4)."

Children separated from their families

NBC News, [They managed to escape Afghanistan. But their 2-year-old is still stuck in Kabul](#), 23 December 2021

"An Afghan man and his wife are appealing to the Biden administration to help them reunite with their son, who had to be left behind with a relative in the chaos at Kabul airport."

UNICEF, [Statement by UNICEF Executive Director Henrietta Fore on unaccompanied and separated children evacuated from Afghanistan](#), 7 September 2021

"Since 14 August, hundreds of children have been separated from their families amidst chaotic conditions, including large-scale evacuations, in and around the Hamid Karzai International Airport in Kabul. [...]"

In Afghanistan, more than 550,000 people have been displaced by conflict, the majority in recent weeks, and 10 million children are in urgent need of humanitarian assistance. We are very worried about the safety and wellbeing of unaccompanied and separated children inside the country."

Early and forced marriage

NPR, [Parents selling children shows desperation in Afghanistan](#), 31 December 2021

"Aziz Gul's husband sold the 10-year-old girl into marriage without telling his wife, taking a down-payment so he could feed his family of five children. Without that money, he told her, they would all starve. He had to sacrifice one to save the rest."

UNICEF, [Humanitarian Action for Children 2022 Overview](#), 6 December 2021

"Recent political developments have greatly exacerbated the humanitarian situation in Afghanistan. The volatile situation has heightened the underlying vulnerabilities in the country, where 24.4 million, including 12.6 million children are already in need of humanitarian assistance. Child protection risks remain high with continued insecurity and attacks against civilians, and families are resorting to child marriage and child labor to cope with the socioeconomic deterioration. Over 10 million school-aged children need education assistance, in addition to the 4.2 million children already out of school."

The Washington Post, [Taliban chief bans forced marriage of women in Afghanistan](#), 3 December 2021

"The Taliban decreed on Friday they were banning forced marriage of women in Afghanistan, a move apparently meant to address criteria the international community consider a precondition to recognizing their government and restoring aid to the war-torn country."

The move was announced by the reclusive Taliban chief, Hibatullah Akhunzada, a cleric chosen as the group's supreme leader who is believed to be in the southern city of Kandahar. It comes as poverty is surging in Afghanistan following the Taliban takeover in August amid the withdrawal of U.S. and NATO troops. Since then, foreign governments have halted funds that had been a mainstay of the economy. "Both (women and men) should be equal," said the decree, adding that "no one can force women to marry by coercion or pressure. [...]"

The decree did not mention a minimum age for marriage, which previously was set at 16 years old."

AlJazeera, [Taliban bans forced marriage of women in Afghanistan](#), 3 December 2021

"The Taliban has issued a decree barring forced marriage in Afghanistan, saying women should not be considered "property" and must consent to marriage, but questions remain about whether the group that returned to power in mid-August would extend women's rights around work and education."

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The decree was announced on Friday by the reclusive Taliban chief, Hibatullah Akhunzada – who is believed to be in the southern city of Kandahar. “Both (women and men) should be equal,” said the decree, adding that “no one can force women to marry by coercion or pressure”.

The decree did not mention a minimum age for marriage, which previously was set at 16 years old.

The group also said a widow will now be allowed to re-marry 17 weeks after her husband’s death, choosing her new husband freely.

Widows

Longstanding tribal traditions have held it customary for a widow to marry one of her husband’s brothers or relatives in the event of his death.

[...] The development was hailed as a significant step forward by two leading Afghan women, but questions remained about whether the group would extend women’s rights around work and education.

[...] Roya Rahmani, the former ambassador for Afghanistan to the United States, echoed her optimism and added that it was likely partly an attempt to smooth over international fears regarding the group’s track record on women’s rights as the Taliban administration seeks to get funding released.

“An amazing thing if it does get implemented,” Rahmani told the Reuters Next panel, adding details such as who would ensure that girls’ consent was not coerced by family members would be key.

“It’s a very smart move on the part of Taliban at this point because one of the (pieces of) news that is attracting the West’s attention is the fact little girls are being sold as property to others in order to feed the rest of the family,”

CNN, [The rescue of Parwana: 9-year-old child bride is taken to safety in Afghanistan](#), 2 December 2021

“Even before the Taliban took over, hunger was rife in the impoverished country, and now [young girls](#) are paying the price with their bodies -- and their lives.

“Afghan young girls (are) becoming the price of food,” leading Afghan women’s rights activist Mahbouba Seraj told CNN. “Because otherwise their family will starve.” Even though marriage under the age of 15 is illegal nationwide, it has been commonly practiced for years, especially in more rural parts of Afghanistan. And the situation has deteriorated since August, as families become more desperate.

“Usually there is a lot of misery, there is a lot of mistreatment, there is a lot of abuse involved in these things,” Seraj said, adding that some girls forced into marriage die during childbirth because their bodies are too small to cope. “Some of them can’t take it. They mostly die pretty young.”

Women have long been treated as second-class citizens in Afghanistan, which was ranked as the worst country in the world for women in the 2021 Women, Peace and Security Index.

And since the Taliban took over, many of the basic rights that women had fought for over the past two decades have been stripped away.”

Thomson Reuters, [Afghans “marry off” baby girls for dowries as starvation looms](#), 23 November 2021

“Last month, he received a \$3,000 dowry payment after handing over his 13- and 15-year-old daughters to men more than twice their age. If the money runs out, he may have to marry off his seven-year-old, he said.

“I had no other way to feed my family and pay off my debt. What else could I have done?” [...]

Child marriage has increased in tandem with soaring poverty since the Taliban seized power 100 days ago on Aug. 15, with reports of destitute parents even promising baby girls for future marriage in exchange for dowries, women’s rights activists said. [...]

Parents are also handing over daughters to settle debts. Frogh cited a case in which a landlord had taken a distraught tenant’s nine-year-old girl when he could not pay his rent. [...]

“The number of cases has increased so much because of starvation. People have nothing and cannot feed their children,” said Frogh, founder of the [Women & Peace Studies Organization](#), which works with grassroots women leaders across the country. [...]

“These girls are often treated as servants, as slaves.””

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NBC News, [Desperate for cash, Afghan families are selling young daughters into marriage](#), 17 November 2021

"Her father says he will receive the equivalent of \$2,000 for Benazir, but he hasn't explained the details to her or what's expected of her. She's too young to understand, he says.

Benazir is 8 years old.

[...] "We are 10 people in the family. I'm trying to keep 10 alive by sacrificing one," he said in Pashto.

Khan said the arrangement is for Benazir to be married to a boy from a family in Iran when she reaches puberty. He hasn't received the money yet for her dowry, and he said that as soon as he does, Benazir will be taken away by the man who bought her.

[...] Promising their daughters early for marriage in exchange for cash is seen as a lifeline for families that barely have a scrap of bread to eat.

The U.N. Population Fund has [warned](#) that it is "deeply concerned" by reports that child marriage is on the rise in Afghanistan.

Henrietta Fore, the executive director of UNICEF, said in a statement: "We have received credible reports of families offering daughters as young as 20 days old up for future marriage in return for a dowry."

Deutsche Welle, [Desperate Afghans forced to sell children](#), 17 November 2021

"With an already ailing economy that has been hard hit by a prolonged drought and with the Taliban at the helm, Afghanistan's future is looking bleak. [...]

Mohammad Ibrahim, a resident of Kabul, told DW that he had no other option than to offer his 7-year-old daughter, Jamila, for the debt his family owed. "A person came and told me to either pay the debt or 'I will bring your home to ashes,'" Ibrahim said. But he was offered the chance to "give up his daughter," in order to pay his debt.

"The man was a rich person," he said. "And I had no other option and I accepted to offer my child in return for 65,000 Afghanis (nearly €620/\$700) of debt." "

UN NEWS, [Afghanistan: Girls at increasing risk of child marriage](#), 14 November 2021

"The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) has received credible reports of families in Afghanistan offering daughters as young as 20 days old for future marriage in return for a dowry.

In a [statement](#) released on Friday, the agency's Executive Director, Henrietta Fore, said that she was "deeply concerned" over reports that child marriage is on the rise.

Even before the latest political instability, UNICEF's partners registered 183 child marriages and 10 cases of selling of children in Herat and Baghdis provinces between the ages of six months and 17 years from 2018 to 2019.

The agency estimates that 28 per cent of Afghan women between the ages 15 and 49 were married before they reached their 18th birthday

A growing crisis

The [COVID-19](#) pandemic, the ongoing food crisis and the onset of winter have further exacerbated the situation for families.

In 2020, almost half of Afghanistan's population was so poor that they lacked basic necessities, such as nutrition or clean water.

And the extremely dire economic situation is pushing more families deeper into poverty and forcing them to make desperate choices, such as putting children to work and marrying girls off at a young age.

"As most teenage girls are still not allowed to go back to school, the risk of child marriage is now even higher", Ms. Fore said. "Education is often the best protection against negative coping mechanisms such as child marriage and child labour".-*

Lifetime of suffering

UNICEF is working with partners to raise the awareness of communities on the risks girls face when marrying early, such as a lifetime of suffering.

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Girls who marry before they turn 18 are less likely to remain in school and more likely to experience domestic violence, discrimination, abuse and poor mental health. They are also more vulnerable to complications in pregnancy and childbirth. [...]

UNICEF will also work with religious leaders to ensure that they are not involved in the “Nekah”, or marriage contract, for young girls. [...]

She also urged the de facto authorities to prioritize the reopening of all secondary schools for girls and allow all-female teachers to resume their jobs without any further delays.

“The future of an entire generation is at stake”, she concluded.

‘Dramatic situation’

In parallel coverage, the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) closed its 18th session.

In her concluding remarks, Gladys Acosta Vargas, the Committee Chairperson, said all Members were “deeply concerned about the dramatic situation” of women and girls in Afghanistan.

She argued that it was “crucial” that the Committee decided to request an exceptional report on their situation, at an opportune time.

The Committee also asked for the creation of an informal task force to consider the impact of the evolving political, economic and social situation on the rights of women and girls.”

UNICEF, [Girls increasingly at risk of child marriage in Afghanistan](#), 13 November 2021

“KABUL, 13 November 2021 – “I am deeply concerned by reports that child marriage in Afghanistan is on the rise.

“We have received credible reports of families offering daughters as young as 20 days old up for future marriage in return for a dowry.

“Even before the latest political instability, UNICEF’s partners registered 183 child marriages and 10 cases of selling of children over 2018 and 2019 in Herat and Baghdis provinces alone. The children were between 6 months and 17 years of age.

“UNICEF estimates that 28 per cent of Afghan women aged 15–49 years were married before the age of 18.

“The COVID-19 pandemic, the ongoing food crisis and the onset of winter have further exacerbated the situation for families. In 2020, almost half of Afghanistan’s population was so poor that they lacked necessities such as basic nutrition or clean water.

“The extremely dire economic situation in Afghanistan is pushing more families deeper into poverty and forcing them to make desperate choices, such as putting children to work and marrying girls off at a young age.

“As most teenage girls are still not allowed to go back to school, the risk of child marriage is now even higher. Education is often the best protection against negative coping mechanisms such as child marriage and child labour.

“UNICEF is working with partners to raise communities’ awareness of the risks for girls if they are married early. Child marriage can lead to a lifetime of suffering. Girls who marry before they turn 18 are less likely to remain in school and more likely to experience domestic violence, discrimination, abuse and poor mental health. They are also more vulnerable to complications in pregnancy and childbirth.

“We have started a cash assistance programme to help offset the risk of hunger, child labour and child marriage among the most vulnerable families. We plan to scale up this and other social services programmes in the months to come.

“UNICEF will also work with religious leaders to ensure that they are not involved in the “Nekah” (the marriage contract) for young girls.

“But this is not enough.

“We call on central, provincial and local authorities to take concrete measures to support and safeguard the most vulnerable families and girls. We urge the de facto authorities to prioritize the reopening of schools for all secondary school girls and allow all-female teachers to resume their jobs without any further delays.

“The future of an entire generation is at stake.””

HRW, [Afghanistan Facing Famine](#), 11 November 2021

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"The financial crisis has especially affected women and girls, who face disproportionately greater obstacles to obtaining food, health care, and financial resources. The Taliban bans that are keeping women from most paid jobs have hit households in which women were the main earners the hardest. Even in areas in which women are still allowed to work – such as education and health care – they may be unable to comply with Taliban requirements for a male family member to escort women to and from work. The media have increasingly reported of families selling their children – almost always girls – ostensibly for marriage, to obtain food or repay debts. [...]

CNN, [She was sold to a stranger so her family could eat as Afghanistan crumbles](#), 1 November 2021

Parwana is one of many young Afghan girls sold into marriage as the country's [humanitarian crisis deepens](#). Hunger has pushed some families to make heartbreaking decisions, especially as the brutal winter approaches.

The parents gave CNN full access and permission to speak to the children and show their faces, because they say they cannot change the practice themselves.

"Day by day, the numbers are increasing of families selling their children," said Mohammad Naiem Nazem, a human rights activist in Badghis. "Lack of food, lack of work, the families feel they have to do this." [...]

Though marrying off children under 15 is illegal nationwide, it has been commonly practiced for years, especially in more rural parts of Afghanistan. And it has only spread since August, driven by widespread hunger and desperation.

Persons with disabilities (stigma, discrimination, harassment, violence)

OCHA (Disability Inclusion Working Group – Afghanistan), [Afghanistan: International Day of Persons with Disabilities \(IDPD\)](#), 3 December 2021

"The emergency situation in Afghanistan often disproportionately impacts persons with disabilities and their households and the COVID-19 pandemic, has been no exception. People with disabilities have been disproportionately impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, which continues to intensify the existing inequalities and vulnerabilities as people with disabilities encompass a variety of conditions and impairments and have faced many barriers throughout the pandemic. The collapse of the government and international sanctions have further exacerbated the situation."

Human Rights Watch, [Afghanistan: Taliban blocking female aid workers](#), 4 November 2021

[...] women with disabilities, whether married or single, are often seen as a burden on their families and are at increased risk of violence both inside and outside the home. [...]

The lack of women aid workers also means that women with disabilities have less access to rehabilitative services.

International Disability Alliance (IDA), [IDA Statement on the Situation in Afghanistan](#), September 2021 [exact date unknown]

"Due to communication barriers and security concerns, adequate information on the situation of Afghans with disabilities during the current crisis is not available. It is evident however that due to the unsafe situation, many Afghans have been forced to leave their homes in search of safety and dignity. Persons with disabilities face additional risks during the displacement journey including being left behind in the first place or being forced to withdraw from the journey due to a lack of assistive devices or disruption of support networks. When reaching displacement or refugee camps, or other temporary residence, persons with disabilities face additional barriers accessing the very basic rights such as water, sanitation, hygiene, food or shelter.

Those left behind are at risk of violence and abuse, disruption of support services and isolation. In case the situation turns to internal armed conflict, persons with disabilities are more likely to lose their lives than others, and face risk of being abused as human shields, sexual slaves or trafficking."

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Business Insider, [An advocate for disabled Afghans on her harrowing escape and her concern for disabled Afghans under Taliban rule](#), 6 September 2021

[...] Benasfha Yaqubi, a blind commissioner with the Afghanistan Human Rights Commission (AHRC) [...] Afghanistan has one of the highest rates of disability in the world, according to [Human Rights Watch](#)—including more than a million people with physical injuries from decades of conflict, including the two-decade-long U.S. war. Countless others have mental health conditions, like post-traumatic stress, [depression](#), and anxiety. [...] The proportion of Afghans with severe disabilities increased from 2.7% in 2005 to 13.9% in 2019, the [European Parliament reported](#) last year. [...]

Vulnerable adults and children are often deeply reliant on the assistance of family members, and she worries that desperate families might leave behind more vulnerable, and less able, family members. [...]

Another group she is thinking about is disabled widows as well as widows who do not live with an adult male and therefore, under Taliban rules where women are expected to move around with a male escort, might become "functionally disabled" and unable to earn money.

"The women don't have husbands. They have small children. They don't have a man. They don't have anyone to follow them outside. So what can they do? They are functionally disabled. They can't go to work. They'll miss their income," said Yaqubi.

The Guardian, [Disabled Afghans in special jeopardy, warns exiled campaigner](#), 6 September 2021

"Benasfha Yaqoobi, a commissioner at the Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission (AIHRC), said she fears the Taliban will neglect and discriminate against people with disabilities due to the belief, held by many in the country, that disability is a punishment from God for the sins of parents."

The Nation, [The Taliban Is Targeting Disability Rights Activists](#), 2 September 2021

"With the fall of the Ashraf Ghani-led government, the provision of these services is almost certain to become more difficult. According to the Asia Foundation, Afghanistan has one of the highest rates of disability per capita in the world, with nearly 80 percent of Afghan adults disabled, mostly because of more than 40 years of war. Despite this staggering number, that disabled Afghans are largely left behind is the result of a lack of accessible infrastructure and systemic ableism. This problem especially impacts women and girls; according to a 2020 report by Human Rights Watch, 80 percent of Afghan girls with disabilities aren't enrolled in school. [...]

She and M are also concerned that disabled victims of war will lose their monthly stipend provided by the administration under former President Ghani, which helps them pay for food and other necessities, and that rehabilitation centers will shut down, withdrawing critical medical support for Afghans with disabilities. Small businesses owned by people with disabilities are also shutting down, making them extra vulnerable in an economy already in free fall."

Freedom of Movement

What is the Taliban's position regarding citizens leaving the country?

AVA Press, [Kabul passport office head urges patience as anxious crowds keep gathering](#), 13 December 2021

As winter closes in and the economic crisis deepens in the wake of the abrupt of foreign aid after the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan (IEA) takeover in August, the crowds around the biggest passport issuing centre in the country underline the desperate desire of large numbers of citizens to leave.

"We have done our best to reopen the office but we are still facing some equipment shortages," passport office head Alam Gul Haqqani told Reuters in an interview on Sunday.

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Last month the office was forced to close after equipment used for issuing broke down under the pressure of processing thousands of applications a day but demand has built steadily. Even though the office has been closed for weeks, hundreds of people still gather outside the fortified compound clutching plastic document files.

[...]

A number of provincial passport offices are still open and officials in Kabul are processing around 2,000-3,000 passports from these offices each day, he said, but it was still unclear when the Kabul office would reopen.

Al Jazeera, [Taliban fighters man Afghanistan's urban checkpoints](#), 9 December 2021

Many Taliban foot soldiers now have new jobs: manning checkpoints on the streets and carrying out security patrols in and around Afghan cities and towns.

UNHCR, [Document - Afghanistan Situation External Update - 1 December 2021](#), 8 December 2021

"During the reporting period, UNHCR has highlighted the escalating risks faced by Afghans seeking to flee into neighbouring countries as the situation within Afghanistan continues to deteriorate. Afghanistan's land borders with Pakistan and Iran are open almost solely to those with the required passports and visas, though a small number of medical cases are permitted to exceptionally enter Pakistan without documents. The land borders of Tajikistan and Uzbekistan remain closed to Afghans. While official borders remain closed to the vast majority of Afghans, UNHCR is aware of asylum-seekers crossing into neighbouring countries through unofficial channels. Many entering Iran report having sought the assistance of smugglers to leave Afghanistan. Most Afghans have told UNHCR and partners they were exposed to serious protection risks on the journey – including extortion, beatings, and other violence, particularly against women and girls. In Iran, local media continue to cite the Iranian authorities continue to estimate upwards of 5,000 newly arriving individuals per day into Iran."

Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty Gandhara, ['No Reason To Stay': Taliban Repression, Economic Collapse Accelerate Exodus From Afghanistan](#), 2 December 2021

"He now plans to join the thousands of Afghans who are escaping the country each week. Many of them pay smugglers to take them westward to neighboring Iran, from where some will hope to reach Europe. [...]"

The journey is dangerous. Afghans who have illegally crossed borders in the region have been arrested, beaten, shot at, and even killed by border guards, smugglers, and criminal gangs. Others have drowned or died of illness and exhaustion."

The Diplomat, [No Place for Afghan Refugees in Central Asia](#), 29 November 2021

Central Asian countries remain closed to refugees and asylum seekers from Afghanistan and uninterested in changing their restrictive policies. [...] Meanwhile, the Taliban seem to be honoring the request of bordering Central Asian states and Russia to prevent border crossings.

Pajhwok Afghan News, [Opportunists fleecing Afghans trying to leave country](#), 25 October 2021

"Pajhwok Afghan News findings show some people have demanded tens of thousands of dollars from people wishing to leave the country against a promise of individual and family visas.

However, government officials say those behind of such cases have been identified and will be brought to justice.

Following the fall of Afghanistan's previous regime on August 15 this year, a number of countries, including the United States, Britain, Germany, Canada, France, Ireland, Italy, and Australia, announced that Afghans who worked with them in Afghanistan, would be evacuated to the countries.

According to reports, more than 120,000 Afghans have been evacuated so far, including journalists, civil society activists, translators, former government security personnel and others.

At the same time, many Afghans are trying to take advantage of this opportunity to move to the United States or Europe with their families.

Some people are trying to involve in trafficking persons using the opportunity and take illegal money from people

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who plan to leave the country.

A Facebook page named, (Tourist Company providing European countries visas and free consultation for asylum) in a post said, "US individual visa, there are limited chances, anyone who are matching the conditions should hurry up".

The post says that the US immigrant visa processes for a person is charged \$28,000 and it could be provided in 20 days. Two visas of Canada for a family of two is for \$50,000 and for a three member family it is for \$60,000.

A number of Facebook users who commented to the post said that officials of the company have deceived people; some others said that the company lied while others required more details.

The post has given a telephone number, which a Pajhwok reporter dialed and sought details from the recipient, who identified himself as "Umrah." He said "Right now we have Canadian visas, we have individual visas for the United States, we have many individual visas."

He said a Canadian visa would cost 27000 dollars. He said they had American visas as well and each visa would cost between 29,000 and 27000 and 26000 dollars. The visa process time is 25 to 30 days. "You will be included in this program. Family visas will be announced next week. Our work is 100 percent sure."

The person said they took no money in advance. The money should be kept with a money changer and they would receive the money once the visa was confirmed.

A Facebook page "Afghan Bazaar" also wrote that a Canadian visa was being made available in 45 days.

A phone number on the page was contacted by this scribe. The call recipient refused to give his name. He said a Canadian visa would be provided in 45 days against 22,000 dollars. He also said they do not demand money in advance.

Similarly, Pajhwok has obtained an audio clip in which a person says "There are Afghans who can receive visas from embassies against 10000 dollars. Why don't we do this, we have Wakil Sahib in the embassy, if we introduce five people and each gives 50000 dollars, it is enough money."

In a second audio clip the same person says: "there are Afghans who want to go abroad to the US, Europe and other countries. I am in the embassy and I will introduce someone in the embassy who can obtain visas. You can ask people to give up to 25000 dollars which we will distribute among ourselves."

Similarly, a resident of Kabul, Melad Sahibzada, said he had talked with a human smuggler who lived in Mazar-i-Sharif. The smuggler told him he could evacuate people in flights to foreign countries from Mazar and Kabul.

"A single person is charged 10000 USD and a family is charged 20000 dollars. The flight is confirmed in a week. One should provide ID card, passport, telephone number and email address."

The Human First Coalition, which facilitates the evacuation of American citizens and their Afghan allies from Afghanistan, also says it has received information that someone is trying to deceive Afghans who want to leave Afghanistan safely. [...]

The group insists that these people are deceiving Afghan families and people should know that those who call these numbers are not providing real service because the Human First Coalition never asks for money in return for services and cooperation in evacuating people from Afghanistan.

Zabihullah Mujahid, Deputy Minister of Information and Culture, told Pajhwok Afghan News that they were investigating the claims and in case of any violation, they would act according to the law."

Pajhwok Afghan News, [Hundreds of nomads, passengers denied entry into Pakistan](#), 13 October 2021 [subscription only]

"Hundreds of nomads and passengers are stranded in Agnur Ada area of Barmal district in southeastern Paktika province after being denied entry into . . .[Pakistan]"

Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty Gandhara, [Taliban Uses Force And Fear To Push Hundreds Of Afghans From Tajik Border](#), 8 October 2021

"Thousands of Afghans camped out in Afghanistan's Badakhshan Province on the border with Tajikistan hope to leave their country and Taliban rule. Many had been at the border for weeks but now the Taliban has forced hundreds to flee the area amid reports of death threats from the militants"

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Reuters, [Plane carrying Afghans, U.S. and European citizens from Kabul arrives in Doha](#), 17 September 2021

"The third chartered flight bringing civilians from Afghanistan to Qatar since U.S. forces withdrew last month landed on Friday with around 170 passengers on board, including U.S. and European citizens as well as Afghans, a Qatari official said."

Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty's Gandhara, [Pakistan's PIA To Restart Islamabad-Kabul Commercial Flights](#), 11 September 2021

"A spokesman for Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) says the airline plans to resume special charter flights to and from Kabul next week in order to help evacuate people who want to leave Afghanistan.

PIA spokesman Abdullah Hafeez Khan told the AFP news agency on September 11 that the airline had received "all technical clearances for flight operations" to resume."

Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty's Gandhara, [Gandhara Briefing: Return Of The Taliban Emirate](#), 10 September 2021

"On September 9, the first civilian flight since the Taliban took over Kabul airport, mainly evacuating people with foreign passports to Qatar, raised hopes that the Taliban would allow the evacuation of foreigners and vulnerable Afghans to proceed. Western governments have been pushing for such flights since the Taliban refused to let chartered planes take hundreds stranded in Mazar-e Sharif."

Human Rights Watch, [What's Next for Afghans Fleeing the Taliban?](#), 9 September 2021

"2. Are Afghans entitled to leave the country? [...]"

Taliban authorities have been quoted saying they do not want Afghans to leave the country. They have provided assurances that Afghan citizens with foreign travel authorization will be allowed to depart, however setting this requirement violates the right to freedom of movement.

On August 30 the United Nations Security Council adopted a resolution that expressed the expectation that "the Taliban will adhere to their commitments," and referenced Taliban promises that:

Afghans will be able to travel abroad, may leave Afghanistan anytime they want to, and may exit Afghanistan via any border crossing, both air and ground, including at the reopened and secured Kabul airport, with no one preventing them from traveling, including regarding the safe, secure, and orderly departure from Afghanistan of Afghans and all foreign nationals.

It remains to be seen if the Taliban will adhere to these commitments."

TOLO News, [Taliban Preventing Planes From Leaving: US Rep. McCaul](#), 6 September 2021

"Michael McCaul, a US representative for Texas and the top Republican on the House Foreign Affairs Committee, said the Taliban was preventing six airplanes from taking off from Mazar-e-Sharif airport in the northern province of Balkh.

McCaul says there are six airplanes at the Mazar-e-Sharif airport with American citizens on board, along with their Afghan interpreters, and the Taliban are "holding them hostage," AP reported.

The Taliban, however, rejected the claim, saying anyone holding travel documents is allowed to travel out of the country."

OCHA, Afghanistan, [Weekly Humanitarian Update \(30 August – 5 September 2021\)](#), 13 September 2021

"On 5 September, Kandahar airfield resumed daily flights from Kabul and Hirat provinces. The Spin Boldak border crossing remained open to Pakistani identification card holders, Afghans with Pakistani visas and commercial truck movements."

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What is the Taliban's position regarding unsuccessful asylum applicants returning to Afghanistan?

What happens to individuals who have left Afghanistan and return?

Operational Data Portal, (UNHCR) (Afghanistan), [Afghanistan situation](#), 20 December
"Refugee returnees to Afghanistan in 2021: 1,341"

Khaama Press, [Taliban's provincial governors directed to resolve problems of those seeking asylum abroad](#), 8 December 2021

"In a recent decree, supreme leader of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan Mullah Hebtullah Akhund directed all the provincial governors of Afghanistan to solve the problems of those who are fleeing Afghanistan and seeking asylum elsewhere.

A statement released by the spokesperson's office of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan reads that people who are going abroad are facing various problems both on the way and in refugee camps.

The statement further reads that Afghan refugees confront the problems of security, ethical degeneration, and other humanitarian issues.

"Some inflammatory programs endanger belief, ethics, and spiritual values. Afghans are mostly made to fabricate anti-Islam documents to gain citizenship. People who must utilize their ability and professionalism inside Afghanistan, go abroad and do some inferior jobs." Reads the statement.

Hence, the statement directed all provincial governors and religious scholars to meet these people and resolve their problems.

Heads of the provinces were also asked to escalate efforts for the security of people especially the security of businessmen, investors, and specialists in order to convince them to stay in their country and work.

It comes as hundreds of thousands of Afghans are still finding ways to flee Afghanistan and seek asylum abroad."

UNHCR, [Document - Afghanistan Situation External Update - 1 December 2021](#), 8 December 2021

"Deportations of Afghans have also escalated from Pakistan, Iran and Tajikistan in the recent period, in contravention of UNHCR's non-return advisory. UNHCR estimates that an average of 3,000 Afghans have been deported from Iran to Afghanistan daily between August and November. In Pakistan, deportations of some 1,800 Afghans were reported during September and October. UNHCR is also seriously concerned by the deportation of twenty-three Afghan asylum-seekers, including women and children, from Tajikistan during the past month."

Operational Data Portal, (UNHCR) (Afghanistan), [Afghanistan situation](#), 8 December
"Refugee returnees to Afghanistan in 2021: 1,317"

Operational Data Portal, (UNHCR) (Afghanistan), [Afghanistan situation](#), 28 November 2021
"Refugee returnees to Afghanistan in 2021: 1,304"

Operational Data portal, (UNHCR) (Afghanistan), [Afghanistan situation: Emergency preparedness and response in Iran](#), 25 November 2021

"Afghans who are apprehended while trying to enter Iran continue to be returned to Afghanistan, despite UNHCR's non-return advisory and advocacy to provide asylum to those fleeing conflict. Through its analysis of available data and information, UNHCR estimates that over 1,000 Afghans are being returned daily to their country by Iran. On 16 August 2021, UNHCR issued a non-return advisory for Afghanistan, which remains in place. UNHCR is seeking further clarity and reiterating the principle of nonrefoulement to the Government."

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What are the challenges to moving freely within the country?

How do Taliban checkpoints affect free movement?

Khaama Press, [Girl gunned down in Taliban's check post in Kabul](#), 15 January 2022

"A family in the western Kabul Dasht-e-Barchi claimed that their 25-year-old daughter has been shot dead in a check post of Taliban.

Family members of the slain Zainab said that they or the way home back from a wedding function who were stopped in a check post and were then shot at.

The Father of Zainab asked for justice and the arrest of the culprits.

The motive behind the shooting is not yet clear but the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan pledged to be investigating the case and bring to justice the perpetrators.

It is worth mentioning that, last month a 22-year-old Faisal was shot dead in a check post of the Taliban in Kabul city.

The Taliban affiliate was arrested but the family of the slain Faisal pardoned him."

Gandhara, ['The Only Option Left': My Escape From Afghanistan](#), 2 December 2021

"We left in the middle of the night for the Pakistani border. Right now, that's the best time to go. The Taliban doesn't have the resources yet to fully man its checkpoints, and I was told that their fingerprint readers only work in daylight. There's no traffic or crowds.

Actually, the road was so quiet it was spooky. When the driver stopped to pray in one town, the only noise was some dogs barking in the distance.

We passed several checkpoints on the way. There's no warning or signage. You just see a man on the road with a gun signaling you to stop. In some places, there was just one member of the Taliban on duty. I guess the rest were sleeping. I saw their motorcycles covered with a blanket to keep the engines warm. At other times, the militants were standing wrapped in blankets themselves. Some of them were playing Islamic songs or a recitation of the Koran on their mobile phones.

The driver had made the trip a few times, so he knew some tricks to get through the checkpoints. He told us to act sleepy, even though we were nervous and wide awake, while the Taliban peered through the windows and shined lights in our faces."

Situation of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)

How many IDPs are there in Afghanistan?

TOLO News, [IOM Raises Alarm About Millions of Displaced Afghans](#), 3 January 2022

"The International Organization for Migration (IOM) expressed concerns over the large number of displaced people in Afghanistan and said that there are "664,000 newly displaced by conflict in 2021."

"There are now an estimated 5.5 million Internally Displaced Persons in Afghanistan (IDPs), including those living in protracted situations, and 664,000 newly displaced by conflict in 2021," IOM said. "This is in addition to more than 924,744 undocumented Afghan returnees who returned from Iran and Pakistan between 1 January and the end of September, and the more than 2.2. million refugees and 3.5 million undocumented Afghan nationals already in neighboring countries, primarily Iran and Pakistan." "

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ReliefWeb, [UNHCR Regional Bureau for Asia and Pacific \(RBAP\): Flash External Update: Afghanistan Situation #12, As of 15 December 2021 \(two-week period\)](#), 22 December 2021

"KEY DISPLACEMENT FIGURES

"3.4M: Estimated internally displaced persons (IDPs) by conflict within Afghanistan as of 1 December 2021

"682,031: Estimated total conflict induced IDPs within Afghanistan since 1 January 2021

"72,481: Refugees and asylum-seekers in Afghanistan as of 8 December 2021

"2.2M: Refugees and asylum-seekers from Afghanistan in neighboring countries as of 31 December 2020

"112,520: Reported newly arrived Afghans in need of international protection to neighbouring countries since 1 January 2021"

OCHA, [Afghanistan Humanitarian Needs and Planned Response 2022](#), 16 December 2021

"Following the record displacement of nearly 700,000 people in 2021, some 9.2 million IDPs and returnees remain in some form of displacement and need support for return where possible."

UNHCR, [Document - Afghanistan Situation External Update - 1 December 2021](#), 8 December 2021

KEY DISPLACEMENT FIGURES



"Out of nearly 669,000 people internally displaced (IDPs) in Afghanistan by conflict this year, an estimated 170,000 IDPs have returned to their previous places of origin since September, particularly as the security situation across the country has stabilized."

TOLO News, [1000s of Displaced People Still Live in Kabul: Officials](#), 6 December 2021

"Officials at the Ministry of Refugees and Repatriations (MoRR) said that there are still thousands of internally displaced and homeless people in Kabul which are in need of urgent basic humanitarian assistance.

They added that the ministry has so far relocated 4,000 internally displaced families to their home provinces."

OCHA, [Global Humanitarian Overview 2022 \(Part Two\)](#), 2 December 2021

"Dand, Afghanistan. The 6,000 IDPs in Dand are some of the tens of thousands of people displaced from southern Afghanistan, forced to flee conflict in October last year. Many were farmers who were able to support themselves and their families before. But when they fled, they left behind their homes, land and livestock. Now they are internally displaced and living in tents with no access to their livelihoods."

IFRC, Afghanistan: [Worst drought and hunger crisis in decades](#), 2 December 2021

Nearly 700,000 people have been internally displaced this year, joining some 3.5 million people already forced from their homes throughout the country, who all face a harsh winter, when temperatures can drop as low as -20C in some areas of Afghanistan.

Gandhara, ['No Reason To Stay': Taliban Repression, Economic Collapse Accelerate Exodus From Afghanistan](#), 2 December 2021

Babar Baloch, a spokesman for the United Nations Refugee Agency who recently toured Afghanistan, says that the number of Afghans in need of urgent assistance is soaring.

Baloch says some 5 million Afghans were already internally displaced due to war and severe drought before the Taliban takeover. Since then, he says, the number of Afghans dependent on food aid has risen to 23 million from 18 million.

"The sense of desperation and sense of destitution is increasing by the day," he told RFE/RL.

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UNFPA, Press Release: [Prioritise needs of women and girls in Afghanistan](#), 1 December 2021

“According to UNOCHA, nearly 80 percent of the 670,000 internally displaced people in Afghanistan as of mid-November are women and children who are being disproportionately affected as catastrophe looms in the country.”

Humanitarian Response (Afghanistan)(UNOCHA), [Afghanistan Weekly Humanitarian Update \(15-21 November 2021\)](#), 26 November 2021

“Inter-agency joint assessment teams identified 3,973 vulnerable people including IDPs to receive humanitarian aid in the coming days in Farah and Hirat provinces”

Khaama Press, [Conflicts in Afghanistan leaves over half a million internally displaced in 2021: Report](#), 26 November 2021

“According to a newly released report by the UN IOM, over half a million people in Afghanistan have been internally displaced as a result of conflicts and insecurity in 2021. The report which has been conducted between 11-21 November 2021, has found that only 667,900 people have been internally displaced between January 1 and November 21. The report has also identified the number of refugees who have been returned back to Afghanistan during the current year from Pakistan and Iran. Over 1.146 million undocumented Afghan refugees have been returned from Iran and Pakistan during the year 2021, the majority of whom have returned from Iran. This comes as, on the other hand, hundreds of thousands of Afghans have also emigrated to Iran, Pakistan, Turkey, India, Europe, England, US, and Canada in the last 100 days, since the Taliban took over Afghanistan by force.”

Operational Data portal, UNHCR) (Afghanistan), [Afghanistan situation: Emergency preparedness and response in Iran](#), 25 November 2021

“667,938 people have been internally displaced in Afghanistan in 2021. Of the internally displaced people, 21% are women and 59% are children.”

Pajhwok Afghan News, [10,000 displaced families still living in Kabul](#), 24 November 2021

The Department of Refugees and Repatriation says it has so far repatriated more than 5,000 displaced families, but 10,000 other still remain in Kabul.

Maulvi Abdul Matin Rahimzai, director of refugee affairs in Kabul, told Pajhwok on Tuesday efforts were being made to provide clothing and food to displaced families during the winter.

UN OCHA, [Afghanistan: Weekly Humanitarian Update \(1 – 7 November 2021\)](#), 11 November 2021

“IDPs IN 2021 (AS OF 7 NOVEMBER)

682,891 People displaced by conflict (verified)”

TOLO News, [Displaced Families Transferred From Kabul](#), 28 October 2021

“Thousands of people were displaced as fighting between the forces of the Islamic Emirate and the former government escalated.

More than 2,500 displaced families were transferred from Kabul back to their home-provinces, the Ministry of Refugees and Repatriation said on Thursday.

The head of the Kabul refugee department, Abdul Matin Rahimzai, said that the evacuation process would continue.

“We have evacuated 2,500 displaced families from Kabul. Today we are evacuating 450 families from Kunduz and some of the other provinces,” he added.

The UN said earlier that many of these families were incapable of going back to their home areas due to financial problems.

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“We and around 75 families were displaced from Ghor to Shahar-e-Naw camp. We haven’t received any aid from any organization,” said Ghulam Jailani, a displaced person.

Thousands of displaced families are struggling with severe challenges in the capital city of Kabul.

“We haven’t seen anything good but cold weather, exhaustion and poverty,” said Abdul Samad, a displaced person.

According to the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA), nearly 700,000 people were displaced between January and September 2021.”

UNHCR, [UNHCR Iran: Afghanistan Situation Update](#), 26 October 2021

“677,832 people have been internally displaced in Afghanistan”

IPC, Integrated Food Security Phase Classification, [Afghanistan: Acute Food Insecurity Situation September - October 2021 and Projection for November 2021 - March 2022](#), 25 October 2021

“Displacement continues to drive food insecurity. From January to September 2021, around 664,200 people were displaced due to intensified conflict and livelihood-related factors. Most of the people were displaced to provincial urban centres, regional capitals and Kabul, which has exacerbated the already oversaturated labour market and placed further pressure on limited facilities in those areas. Due to prolonged conflict and droughts, the country already had 3.5 million prolonged IDPs in December 2020. The 2021 SFSA found that 9% of randomly selected respondents were IDPs. This indicates that the actual number of displaced people could be higher than estimated.”

OCHA, [Afghanistan: Snapshot of Population Movements, January - September 2021](#), 22 October 2021

“In 2021, displacement due to ongoing conflict and natural disasters is continuing to drive humanitarian needs in Afghanistan. Almost 677,000 people have left their homes this year due to fighting. Many of these people remain displaced across the country, as conflict and poverty prevent them from returning to their areas of origin [...]

Same period previous years

2020: 308,000 new IDPs

2019: 392,000 new IDPs [...]

20% adult male 21% adult female 59% children under 18”

OCHA, Afghanistan, [ICCT Real-Time Response Overview Situation Report \(21 October 2021\) - Afghanistan](#), 21 October 2021

“KEY	FIGURES	IDPs	IN	2021	(AS	OF	17	OCTOBER)
677,832	People		displaced		by	conflict		(verified)
312,182 Received assistance”								

UNHCR, [UNHCR Iran: Afghanistan Situation Update](#), 18 October 2021

“677,832 people have been internally displaced in Afghanistan in 2021.”

AVA Press, [IDPs appeal for urgent help ahead of winter](#), 30 September 2021

“Meanwhile, Amnesty International stated that over 5 million internally are in dire need of support amidst the escalating crisis in Afghanistan.

“The international community must ensure continues unabated to Afghanistan, the organization tweeted.

The Ministry of Refugees, however, stated that the number of IDPs is lower than what Amnesty International has reported.

The Ministry said around one million Afghans have been displaced, adding that aid would be provided to all displaced people.

, the acting deputy minister of refugees stated: “Consultations have been made with as many as 30 organizations, issues of transportation have been considered for them (IDPs), for where they must go [to live], food and cash and we have also discussed the issue of those who don’t have shelter and whose houses have been destroyed.” “

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ARRIVAL/DEPARTURE FIGURES*

	TOTAL	RURAL	PERI-URBAN	URBAN
# CFPs	6,660	5,3086	986	588
% CFPs who reported an increase in IDP arrivals	53%	49%	65%	72%
# of reported individual IDP arrivals	986,618	584,701	183,377	218,540
# of reported family IDP arrivals	140,378	81,650	27,777	30,951
% CFPs who reported an increase in departures	69%	67%	78%	73%
# of reported individual departures	1,328,179	901,120	275,829	151,200
# of reported family departures	177,226	121,544	36,427	19,255

[CFPs = Community Focal Points]

UNHCR, [Afghanistan situation: Emergency preparedness and response in Iran](#), 27 September 2021

"663,969 people have been internally displaced in Afghanistan since the start of 2021, of which 80% are women and children"

Thomson Reuters Foundation News, [No Afghan refugee exodus yet but 'massive displacement' possible -U.N. refugee agency](#), 10 September 2021

"Half a million people had been displaced within Afghanistan in recent months, U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees Filippo Grandi said, a number which would grow if health services, schools and the economy break down. "In reality we have not seen at this point large movements of Afghan people towards the borders of the country," Grandi told Reuters. "What we continue to see is a very dramatic phenomenon of internal displacement." "

International Organisation for Migration, [Displacement Tracking Matrix Afghanistan — Emergency Event Tracking \(1 - 7 September 2021\)](#), 10 September 2021

"Key Informants in Helmand, Baghlan and Kabul most frequently reported an increase of IDP arrivals in their communities. Communities in Baghlan and Kabul, in addition to Kapisa, also reportedly experienced an increase in departures more frequently than communities assessed in other provinces."

ACAPS, [Afghanistan - Conflict-Driven Displacement](#), 3 September 2021

"Since 16 August, fighting between the Taliban and Afghan National Security Forces (ANSF) in villages of Khanabad district along the Kunduz-Khanabad highway, Imam Sahib district, and Kunduz city, all in Kunduz province (OCHA 27/08/2020), displaced approximately 64,000 people within these areas; approximately 28,000 were identified in assessments as requiring immediate lifesaving assistance. [...] Assessments from mid-August indicated that a high proportion of IDPs did not want to return to their areas of origin, fearing continued fighting (OCHA 25/08/2020). However close to 13,000 of the IDPs have returned to their homes in Khanabad district, where their needs will be assessed. Returnees are exposed to violence, IEDs, and mines on their return journeys"

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International Crisis Group, [Afghanistan's Growing Humanitarian Crisis](#), 2 September 2021

"Violence, Displacement, Food Insecurity and Deteriorating Essential Services

Unprecedented numbers of civilians were killed and injured in the early months of 2021 and at least 560,000 people were displaced, including nearly 120,000 fleeing to Kabul as they sought refuge from Taliban advances. Those numbers represent the worst-ever period in what for some years has been the world's deadliest conflict. The count of displaced people in Afghanistan over the last seven months was twice the monthly average in the last five years, and the figures are expected to grow as aid agencies' accounting catches up with the scale of the crisis. Some 80 per cent of those fleeing violence since the end of May have been women and children. Thousands of displaced people in Kabul have been sleeping in the open air, and only a minuscule portion of them escaped during the international airlift that ended on 30 August."

What is the housing situation for IDPs?

AVA Press, [Unfavourable Situation of 4,000 Displaced Families in Afghanistan's Kapisa](#), 21 December 2021

"More than four months after the end of fighting between the former government and the Taliban, hundreds of displaced families in Kapisa province have not yet returned to their homes. According to the Department of and Repatriations in province, more than 4,000 families have been displaced from their homes five months ago following the breakout of clashes."

TOLO News, [1000s of Displaced People Still Live in Kabul: Officials](#), 6 December 2021

"“This assistance is not enough, people have lots of problems in Afghanistan and full attention must be paid to their challenges. The pledges of the international community have not been sufficiently fulfilled and have not reached Afghanistan,” said Mohammad Arsalah Kharoti, deputy minister of refugees and repatriations. Meanwhile, some internally displaced people complained that their challenges have not been adequately addressed, saying they are in dire need of shelter."

UN News, [Avoid starvation: 'Immediate priority' for 3.5 million Afghans](#), 3 December 2021

"Displaced lack proper shelter

Following his recent return from Kabul, Mr. Baloch [UNHCR Spokesperson] said in Geneva that a lack of insulated shelters, warm clothes, insufficient food, fuel for heating, and medical supplies are just some of the deprivations confronting people who have been forcibly displaced.

With temperatures "expected to drop to -25C, many displaced families lack proper shelter – a primary requirement if they are to survive the bitter cold", he warned."

AVA Press, [IDPs appeal for urgent help ahead of winter](#), 30 September 2021

"Afghan Voice Agency (AVA)_Thousands of internally displaced people (IDPs) are living in very poor conditions in Kabul camps, where they have no access to medical services nor regular food supplies.

Sahar Arsalan, an IDP stated: "Refugees from all provinces are living inside tents in hardship; so far, they have not received any assistance from the or any organizations."

The IDPs have also called on aid agencies to provide them with shelter in Kabul or help them to return home.

Another IDP said: "Many have no home in their provinces and they need aid and help to get back to their province to help them pay rent for houses."

ACAPS,	Afghanistan	-	Conflict-Driven	Displacement ,	3	September	2021
"Sectoral							needs
Shelter			and				NFIs

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IDPs in Kunduz are residing with relatives or friends, sheltering in schools, or have put up makeshift shelters, all of which are inadequate (OCHA 25/08/2020). NGO assessments have identified that IDPs need shelter aid, though warned against establishing camps-style settlements that may encourage the spread of COVID-19 (OCHA 27/08/2020)."

What is the food situation for IDPs?

Al Jazeera, [Afghan women face hardship as Taliban struggles to revive economy](#), 12 January 2022

"For Zaigul, a 32-year-old housewife from Nangarhar province who lives at the Nasaji camp for internally displaced persons (IDPs) near the capital, Kabul, life was already difficult before the [Taliban seized power](#) on August 15 last year. [...]

Zaigul, like millions of other Afghans, has no work as most economic activities have run aground following the collapse of the West-backed government of President Ashraf Ghani and the chaotic withdrawal of the US forces in August.

"The most pressing issue is the financial difficulties," said Zaigul, as she sat on the floor of her one-room home, her children huddled around her.

"You can live without freedom, but you can't live if you have nothing to eat," she told Al Jazeera.

The United Nations on Tuesday said about 22 million people – more than half of Afghanistan's population – face acute hunger. It sought nearly [\\$5bn in aid](#) for the country to avoid a humanitarian "catastrophe". (...)

Like many families in Afghanistan, Zaigul and Nasir's household income has been slashed over recent months.

With most building projects coming to a halt after the Taliban takeover, and many families becoming unable to afford help at home, the couple has been unemployed.

"Neither of us can find work any more. We lack the most basic things – food, warm clothes and a heater to keep the house warm," said Zaigul, as she wrapped a thin black shawl around her shoulders.

Two of her teenage daughters were crouched next to her, while the youngest, a toddler named Sana, sat playing with old rags in the back. Despite the cold, her feet were bare, and her clothes sparsely covered her small limbs.

Zaigul's one-room home was empty except for a few worn-out mattresses that were splayed across a cold stone floor. In the daytime, the family used the mattresses to sit on, before converting them to beds for the night.(...)

Zaigul recounted life before the takeover, saying that despite being poor, her family got by on a meagre income and donations from international NGOs that helped them through the winter season.

"But now, even that [the aid] has stopped," she told Al Jazeera.

"My children go out to collect rubbish which we try to sell, or paper to burn to keep us warm. Sometimes, I think about going on to the street to beg," she told Al Jazeera, as she dropped her head into her palms and tears formed at the corners of her eyes.

Western sanctions have dealt a heavy blow to the aid-dependent country, forcing international NGOs to stop operations in the country."

UN News, [Avoid starvation: 'Immediate priority' for 3.5 million Afghans](#), 3 December 2021

"According to Mr. Baloch [UNHCR Spokesperson], nearly 23 million people, or 55 per cent of the population, are facing extreme levels of hunger – nearly nine million of whom are at risk of famine."

Humanitarian Response (Afghanistan) (UNOCHA), [Afghanistan Weekly Humanitarian Update \(15-21 November 2021\)](#), 26 November 2021

"North: 355,000 people receive food assistance [...]; East: 138,000 people receive humanitarian assistance"

IPC - Integrated Food Security Phase Classification, [Afghanistan: Acute Food Insecurity Situation September - October 2021 and Projection for November 2021 - March 2022](#), 25 October 2021

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"Food security situation for displaced populations: Various assessments conducted on IDPs by Food Security and Agriculture Cluster (FSAC) partners show worse food security scores on indicators than any other population category in Afghanistan. In 2021, REACH conducted an assessment with different vulnerable groups on the move that included new and prolonged IDPs, returnees and refugees; these people on the move are mostly concentrated in 11 urban areas (Nangarhar, Hirat, Kabul, Faryab, Takhar, Kunduz, Kandahar, Hilmand, Balkh, Baghlan and Jawzjan) on which the urban IPC analysis focused. According to the findings of this assessment, 42% of the IDPs have a poor and 36% have a borderline food consumption score; they have a very low level of income, far below the cost of a basic food basket, and 75% of the IDP's reported a high level of debt. With the recent severe economic crisis, the FSAC of Afghanistan aims to target 90% of the newly displaced IDPs with a multisector response, aligning the response with these numbers."

ACAPS, [Afghanistan - Conflict-Driven Displacement](#), 3 September 2021
"Food

IDPs need food aid (OCHA 27/08/2020). People in Kunduz province face Stressed (IPC-2) food security conditions as of August-September, and 14.2% of children under five face some form of malnutrition in the province (Nutrition Cluster 2019). People are projected to face these levels into next year, which will likely make recovery difficult (FEWS Net 08/2020)."

Do IDPs have access to livelihood opportunities?

IPC - Integrated Food Security Phase Classification, [Afghanistan: Acute Food Insecurity Situation September - October 2021 and Projection for November 2021 - March 2022](#), 25 October 2021

"Usually, because of the severity of the conflict and its sudden nature, most of the livelihood assets of IDPs are either looted, sold at very meagre prices and/or killed in the case of livestock or lost. IDPs often migrate without the necessary legal documents of identity and school certificates of their children, which hinders their access to support services. They also pay very high prices for transportation to move their families to a safer location. Therefore, in the absence of agriculture and livestock-based livelihoods and with no urban labour skills, they are left with almost zero livelihood options. Most of the IDPs bring agriculture-based livelihood skills to these urban areas where there is no market for their skills. Their arrival increases the pressure on the local job market, reducing wages and adding strain on infrastructure, ultimately fuelling tensions and conflict with the local population."

Thomson Reuters Foundation news, [Agencies distribute food, blankets, cash as hunger and cold threaten Afghanistan](#), 13 October 2021

"Aid agencies delivered food, blankets and cash to hundreds of displaced families in Kabul on Wednesday as humanitarian assistance begins to trickle into Afghanistan following warnings the country faces potentially catastrophic famine this winter.

The distribution of aid to 324 families represents a tiny fraction of the needs in Afghanistan, which faces a severe drought as well as a near collapse of its economy following the withdrawal of Western support. [...]

But the challenge of providing the aid is massive. As well as farmers and rural people displaced by drought, poverty has extended into the cities where widespread unemployment has forced many to try to sell their household goods to raise money. "Around 50,000 Afghan people from different provinces of the country have been displaced because of recent conflicts and are in Kabul. Our assistance continues to needy people every week," said UNHCR spokesperson Babar Baloch."

AVA Press, [Taliban begins relocating thousands of IDPs from Kabul](#), 3 October 2021

"Officials of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan say that they have begun the relocation process of thousands of Internally Displaced People from Kabul to their respective provinces on Saturday, October 2.

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Afghan Voice Agency (AVA)_Over two thousand families were displaced mainly from the Northern provinces of Afghanistan after conflicts intensified between the Taliban and the security forces of the previous Afghan government.

They were settled in the parks of Kabul along with their children for more than two months.

Head of refugees and returnees of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan, Abdul Matin said that 1,005 displaced families from -e-Naw Park in Kabul have been relocated in collaboration with different aid agencies.

Previously, the UNHCR had warned humanitarian crisis if not addressed the problems of IDPs as winter is approaching.

On the other hand, the also distributed humanitarian aid to the people in Kabul.

According to the statistics of UNHCR, around 300,000 people have been forced to displace due to heavy conflicts in 2020.”

CARE, [CARE Restarts Afghanistan Humanitarian Response - Provides Seeds, Tools, Fertilizer Ahead of Lean Growing Season and Ongoing Food Crisis](#), 30 September 2021

“In the last week, CARE has restarted its emergency humanitarian response, providing a small number of vulnerable displaced families with financial assistance to spend on key needs.

Similarly, CARE resumed some of its crucial food security and livelihoods support to small-scale farmers in several provinces - including, fertilizer, tools, seeds and trainings as part of a programme to encourage women to develop home gardens and household level livelihoods options.”

OCHA, Afghanistan, [Weekly Humanitarian Update \(30 August – 5 September 2021\)](#), 13 September 2021

“KEY FIGURES

IDPs IN 2021 (AS OF 5 SEPTEMBER)

592,531 People displaced by conflict (verified)

280,244 Received assistance”

Documentation

How do people obtain ID, birth registrations and/or passports under the Taliban?

AVA Press, [Taliban collected 1.3 million afghanis from passport distribution in Parwan](#), 3 January 2022

“Local Taliban officials in say they have collected more than 1.3 million afghanis in distribution in the past 43 days.

“This revenue has been collected in the last 43 days,” said Mohammad Kamran , a Taliban spokesman for the Parwan Police Command in an interview with Hasht-e Subh today Monday, January 3rd.

During this period, they have processed the documents of 2,105 passport applicants, according to Kamran.

The process of distributing passports in Parwan province began on November 27th, however, the process of collecting documents from new applicants, with the exception of patients, has been stopped by the end of the year.”

Khaama, [Taliban issue 340,000 national IDs in four months](#), 1 January 2022

“National Statistics and Information Administration of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan said that they have issued up to 340,000 electronic National IDs in the capital Kabul and provinces in the past four months.

“A statement released by the Administration on Saturday, January 1, 2022 reads that, already printed IDs have been issued while the process of printing new IDs is going on in twenty provinces of the country.

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““Kabul, Nangarhar, Paktia, Khost, Logar, Kandahar, Zabul, Balkh, Herat, Jawzjan, Baghlan, Ghazni, Badakhshan, Farah, Nuristan, Samangan, and Takhar are provinces where the process of both printing and issuing IDs are ongoing.” Reads the statement.

“The statement reads that they issue from 13,000 to 15,000 IDs on daily basis in the above-mentioned provinces.

“In the meantime, the administration has assured of resuming issuance of IDs after completing a technical assessment of the centers in provinces where the process is stalled.

“ID applicants in Kabul and Herat provinces are reportedly allowed to apply online while people in other provinces have to apply in person.”

The Guardian, [Hundreds queue for passports in bid to leave Afghanistan](#), 19 December 2021

“The Taliban initially stopped issuing passports shortly after their return to power, which came as the previous, western-backed regime imploded in the final stages of a US military withdrawal. In October, authorities reopened the passport office in Kabul only to suspend work days later as a flood of applications caused the biometric equipment to break down. The office said on Saturday that the issue has been resolved and people whose applications were already being processed could get their documents.”

TOLO News, [‘32 Provinces’ to Offer Passport Services: Officials](#), 5 December 2021

“Speaking at a press conference at the Government Media and Information Center (GMIC), passport department officials said that the passport-issuing process is set to begin tomorrow (Monday) in 14 more provinces of Afghanistan.

Alem Gul Haqqani, director of the passport department, told reporters that with these 14 additional provinces, a total of 32 provinces will be completely capable of issuing passports for applicants.

Based on Haqqani’s remarks, Kabul and Helmand provinces would not start services for now due to technical problems.

“Everyone can go to his or her own province to get a passport based on their identity cards. We will not give them passports in Kabul,” said Alem Gul Haqqani.

After resolving the technical problems within the Kabul passport department, the capital’s office will resume service to the citizens, he said. “We have provided most of the equipment needed for the Kabul department and other provinces; we bought some equipment and the process will start in the coming days in Kabul,” said Haqqani. At the same time, Kabul residents declared they desperately need passports, and they asked for a quick reopening of the passport department in Kabul.

“The Islamic Emirate cannot provide facilities that existed previously in the Kabul passport department-- during the previous government. People are spending days and nights waiting to receive passports,” said Saifullah, a resident. Based on passport department figures, about 125,000 passports have been issued to the people since the reopening of passport offices across the country.”

Tolo News, [Passport Distribution is Still Halted in the Capital](#), 29 November 2021

“Twelve days have passed since the suspension of the passport distribution process in Kabul, even though offices are open in 17 provinces. A number of passport applicants said that even though they are ill and have medical conditions requiring travel, they have not been able to get their passports for days.”

AVA Press, [Processing of passports suspended due to ‘technical problem’](#), 16 November 2021

“Alem Gul Haqqani, head of the General Directorate of Passports, said late Monday in a video message that processing of passports at the office in Kabul has been suspended until further notice.

Afghan Voice Agency (AVA)_He attributed the decision to a technical problem – specifically with the biometric system.

, head of the passport department, said the process would resume in Kabul once the problem was resolved.

He also said that the distribution of passports had started in provinces other than Kabul, and that this would continue.

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The distribution process started last week in , Herat, Kandahar, Kunduz, Nangarhar, Khost and Paktia provinces. Meanwhile, Interior Ministry spokesman Saeed said the ministry had arrested 60 people on charges of forging documents, including passports.

Khosti wrote on Twitter: "The Ministry of Interior (Moi) has arrested 60 fake passport makers, commissioners, and fake notice makers in the name of the Islamic Emirate. Among them are employees of the passport department."

After the fall of the previous government, the distribution of passports was suspended for almost two months.

According to officials from the , about 100,000 passports have been issued in the last 40 days."

Reuters, [Kabul passport office suspends work as demand crashes system](#), 16 November 2021

"The Kabul passport office has been forced to suspend operations after equipment used for issuing biometric documents broke down under the pressure of processing thousands of applications a day, the head of the office said.

[...] Alam Gul Haqqani, director of the passport department, said as many as 15,000-20,000 people a day were camped outside the office in Kabul, five or six times more than the office was able to handle, with many sleeping on the pavement overnight.

Many were forced to come back day after day after failing to file their application and the biometric machines regularly broke down as they processed the documents, causing further delays, he said.

"To stop people suffering this and to avoid disturbance, we have decided to stop the activities of the passport department activities for a few days," he told Tolo News television on Monday night, adding that the office would re-open soon.

On Tuesday, the interior ministry said 60 people, including a number of members of the passport department, had been arrested for using forged or fake documents to obtain a passport. There have also been growing complaints of people being forced to pay bribes to officials to get their applications approved."

KHAAMA PRESS, [Taliban to begin issuing passports in seven other provinces](#), 13 November 2021

"Officials of the Passport Directorate said that they will start the issuance of passports in Balkh, Paktia, Kandahar, Kunduz, Herat, Nangarhar, and Khost provinces on Sunday, November 14. [...]

"The passports will be issued based on the e-ID or the previous IDs that are verified officially. The rumors about lack of passport are not true." Said Haqqani.

Haqqani added that there are 900,000 passports in the directorate, 600,000 passports with the company responsible for their printing, one million passports are in the process of printing, and one and a half million more are going to be printed. [...]

As per statistics, the Taliban have issued one hundred thousand passports since they resumed the process and have made 500 million Afghanis from it."

TOLO News, [Passport Services to Begin in Provinces: Officials](#), 25 October 2021

"A number of passport applicants in Kabul complained about irregularities in the Kabul passport department and demanded the officials to end the problems. The passport issuance process is scheduled to begin in the next two weeks in a number of major provinces, officials from the passport department said.

Alam Gul Haqqani, head of passport department, said that the process in the provinces was stopped due to technical problems and once the problems are resolved, the distribution process will begin again. [...]

The passport distribution process is going well in Kabul and over 50,000 passports have been distributed so far, he said.

On the other hand, a number of passport applicants in Kabul complained about irregularities in the Kabul passport department and demanded the officials to end the problems. [...]

It has been a month that the passport distribution process has been operating in Kabul, but still this process has not started in other provinces.

Statistics of the passport department show that over 5,000 passports are being issued every day in Kabul and since the beginning of this process more than 50,000 passports have been distributed."

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Amnesty International, [Afghanistan: Few routes to safety for Afghans at risk of Taliban reprisals](#), 20 October 2021

““Trying to get out of Afghanistan right now is like an obstacle course. Since the Taliban takeover it has been near-impossible to obtain travel documents, forcing many Afghans to make irregular journeys which result in punitive treatment by other governments. Instead of finding safety and protection, Afghans who fled the Taliban end up trapped in makeshift camps at border zones, or detained while they await deportation to an uncertain fate,” said Francesca Pizzutelli, Head of Amnesty International’s Refugees and Migrants’ Rights Team.”

TOLO News, [30,000 Passports Issued Since Office Reopened](#), 13 October 2021

“The passport department has distributed 30,000 passports since the office reopened ten days ago in Kabul, officials said on Wednesday.

According to officials, the department is able to issue 4,000 passports per day and efforts are underway to increase capacity to 6,000 per day.

Officials further added the department has been paid 110 million Afghanis since the office started its services.

“First, we start the process of issuing passports for those who pay the fees to the banks, and then we work on the issuing of passports for those who filed documents online,” said Alim Gul Haqani, head of the passport department.

Reportedly thousands of Afghans flocked to the passport department to receive travel documents.

Many reasons caused them to come together and file documents for passport.

Some of the applicants said they are fleeing the country to seek work opportunities, while others said they were traveling for school or medical treatment.”

TOLO News, [Officials: Identity Card Centers to Resume Operations Soon](#), 11 October 2021

“Following a recent announcement by the Islamic Emirate over the distribution of national identity cards, the National Statistics and Information Authority said on Monday that electronic National Identity Card (eNIC) centers are going to reopen on Wednesday across Afghanistan.

Officials further said that around 30,000 identity cards that are already printed will be distributed in the first step.

“30,000 identity cards have been printed and are ready to be distributed. The process will begin on Wednesday,” said Yousuf Ahadi, who is in charge of information technology at the NSIA.

Meanwhile, several residents told TOLONews that people require ID cards for various purposes. A resident in Kabul, Shabir Ahmad, said he intends to travel abroad to get medical treatment for his family member.

Shabir Ahmad said: “We seriously need ID cards. Everyone needs to take their patients abroad. Having ID cards is necessary for getting a passport.”

“Before the reopening of the passport department, it was necessary that ID centers be opened. People have many problems that are related to the opening of the ID card center,” said Husamudin, a resident.

Officials at the NSIA added that so far about 6 million Afghan citizens have received their eNIC cards and there are 104 centers in total for the distribution of ID cards in the country, 25 of which are based in Kabul.”

AVA Press, [Taliban to continue issuance previous government’s e-NIDs](#), 10 October 2021

“Afghan Voice Agency (AVA)_The cabinet has directed the National Statistics and Information Administration of the country to resume issuing -NIDs under the name of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, BNA reported.

The process has been stalled for the past nearly two months since the Taliban took over on August, 15.

Earlier, the Taliban had directed to resume issuance of the same passports of the previous government that started on Wednesday.

Taliban officially started the issuance of passports last week and pledged to be issuing up to six thousand each day.

E-NID is a must require card to apply for passports in Afghanistan.”

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Al Jazeera, [Hundreds throng passport office in Afghanistan capital Kabul](#), 6 October 2021

"Hundreds of Afghans have flocked to the passport office in Kabul a day after it was announced it would reopen to issue travel documents.

Taliban soldiers beat back some in the crowd in efforts to maintain order on Wednesday.

Taliban officials said the service will resume on Saturday after being suspended since the armed group's takeover and the fall of Ashraf Ghani's government in August, which stranded many of those desperate to flee the country."

Khaama Press, [We will issue 6,000 passports daily: Taliban officials](#), 5 October 2021

"Officials of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan resumed the issuance of passports on Tuesday, October 5, and promised that the previous government was issuing three thousand passports but they intend to issue six thousand passports per day.

The department of passport opens nearly two months after the Taliban took over the country.

Head of the department Alamgul Haqqani said that they currently have one million notebooks of passport-on which they print passports- and added that there are 25 thousand passports ready to be issued.

Unlike other government bodies-except for education and health sectors- the Taliban asked the female employees of the department to come to their jobs and promised to pay the salaries for the past three months.

The Taliban does not intend to print their own passport having their logo and said that they will continue with the passports and NIDs of the previous government, the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan.

The Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan had promised to resume the issuance of NIDs as well but they did not comment on the issue in Tuesday's press conference.

As per the policy of the previous government, those who apply for passports should have electronic NID thus, there is desperate need for the issuance of NIDs first so that the applicants get eligible to apply for passports."

TOLO News, [Afghan People Call for Govt Offices to Open](#), 12 September 2021

"Even though the Taliban announced a 33-member caretaker cabinet last week, most government offices have not resumed services, residents complained on Sunday.

Speaking to TOLONews, the residents called on the Taliban to immediately provide services so citizens' problems can be addressed.

Noor Agha, who is from Herat province, along with several others is waiting for the passport office to be opened.

He intends to leave for Pakistan to receive medical treatment.

Noor Agha told TOLONews: "The department is closed. They do not distribute passports. I am sick, I want to go Pakistan." [...]

Officials from the passport department said they are waiting to receive directions from the Ministry of Interior.

The problem not only applies to the capital city of Kabul. Kunduz residents are encountering the same challenges.

The residents are waiting for the reopening of the banks in the province."

Taliban's ability to track individuals of interest

What are the Taliban's capabilities to track individuals?

HRW, ["No Forgiveness for People Like You: Executions and Enforced Disappearances in Afghanistan under the Taliban"](#), 30 November 2021

"The Taliban, through their intelligence operations and access to employment records that the former government left behind, have identified new targets for arrest and execution."

"The Taliban leadership has directed members of surrendering ANSF units to register with them to receive a letter guaranteeing their safety. Under this amnesty program, individuals who have registered have been screened for ties to particular military, police, militia, and special forces units, or to commanders or former provincial

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authorities, in addition to being required to surrender weapons. However, the Taliban have used these screenings to detain and summarily execute or forcibly disappear individuals within days of their registration, leaving their bodies for their relatives or communities to find.”

“Many Afghans interviewed expressed fear that if they register with the Taliban to receive the amnesty letter, they might be identified or recognized and face violent retaliation. At the same time, the Taliban have also searched for and detained people who failed to register. Some former government and security force officials have relied on their personal connections to get letters from the Taliban via third persons. Others, including some former civil servants in key government posts, such as the judiciary, have been unaware that they could obtain this “forgiveness” letter and have faced punishments—including beatings and detention—for not having done so. Even if aware of the letters, many have not been sure how to obtain them where the Taliban have not announced specific registration centers.”

France 24, [Four Women Slain in Afghanistan after phone call ‘to join evacuation flight’](#), 6 November 2021

“Two suspects have been arrested after the four bodies were found at a house in the city, interior ministry spokesman Qari Sayed Khosti said.

The arrested people have admitted in initial interrogation that the women were invited to the house by them. Further investigations are under way and the case has been referred to court,” he said.

Khosti did not identify the victims, but sources in Mazar-i-Sharif told AFP that one of the dead was a women’s rights activist and university lecturer, Frozan Safi.

Three sources in Mazar-i-Sharif told AFP that they had heard the women received a call that they thought was an invitation to join an evacuation flight and were picked up by a car, only to be found dead later. [...]

The source said that three weeks ago she had herself received a call from someone pretending to offer assistance in her efforts to get to safety abroad.

“He knew all information about me, asked me to send my documents, wanted me to fill a questionnaire, pretending to be an official of my office in charge of giving info to the US for my evacuation,” she said.”

The Guardian, [Women’s rights activist shot dead in northern Afghanistan](#), 5 November 2021

“A 29-year-old activist and economics lecturer, Frozan Safi, has been shot and killed in northern **Afghanistan**, in what appears to be the first known death of a women’s rights defender since the Taliban swept to power almost three months ago.

Frozan Safi’s body was identified in a morgue in the city of Mazar-i-Sharif after she went missing on 20 October.

[...] Activists say they are being **hunted down** by the Taliban, who have perfected ways to infiltrate and intimidate women’s groups.

Towards the end of last month, Frozan received a call from an anonymous number, telling her to gather proof of her work as a rights defender and leave for a safe house.”

Reuters, [The Taliban vowed no revert. One Afghan family tells a different story](#), 28 September 2021

“When the Taliban won back control of the [eastern Afghan province of Nangarhar](#) last month, they set out to settle a score with an old foe.

As they searched for prominent local politician Ajmal Omar - who had helped drive the militants out of a Nangarhar district a year earlier and tried to dissuade young Afghans from joining them - Taliban members detonated explosives at his ancestral home.”

Foreign Policy, [Afghan Crime Wave Adds to Taliban Dystopia](#), 29 October 2021

“Officials of the former government, intelligence service, and military have been snatched from their homes after applying for passports and providing biometric and other identification information, he said.

The Taliban are also using lists of former officials and civil activists to pinpoint their children. “They took four such

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sons from a prominent school in Kabul. When the police station was asked, they said, ‘We don’t know who entered the school,’” the source said. “Life is broken.”

UNAMA, [Report of the Secretary-General: The situation in Afghanistan and its implications for international peace and security](#), 8 September 2021

“20. After seizing Kabul, Taliban fighters erected checkpoints throughout the capital and increased patrols, without uniforms. Reports also suggested that some people had been shot after having crossed checkpoints without approval. While statements by the Taliban included instructions not to enter anyone’s house without permission and that “life, property and honour” would be protected, numerous reports emerged of the Taliban conducting house-to-house searches for government personnel, weapons and property, and in some cases confiscation of the latter. Some reports indicated that the Taliban were allegedly searching for people who had “worked with foreigners” and at times, beating them.”

Danish Immigration Service, [Afghanistan Recent developments in the security situation, impact on civilians and targeted individuals](#), 8 September 2021

“During the course of the Taliban offensive, as well as after the conquest of Kabul, there have been reports of the Taliban targeting members of the civilian population and the Afghan military as well their families. According to SER [Sune Engel Rasmussen, Danish journalist] members of Taliban have been going door to door and arresting or threatening family members of targeted individuals. He explained how members of the Taliban came to the house in Kabul of a colleague of his knocking on the door. Being a journalist, he was hiding inside his house with his family and the Taliban left. He had been warned over the telephone by his neighbour and he immediately thereafter moved to a hotel, knowing that the Taliban knew his address.”

The Guardian, [The Taliban are showing us the dangers of personal data falling into the wrong hands](#), 7 September 2021

“The [Taliban](#) have openly talked about using US-made digital identity technology to hunt down Afghans who have worked with the international coalition – posing a huge threat to everyone recorded in the system. In addition, the extremists now also have access to – and control over – the digital identification systems and technologies built through international aid support.

These include the e-Tazkira, a biometric identity card used by Afghanistan’s National Statistics and Information Authority, which includes fingerprints, iris scans and a photograph, as well as voter registration databases. It also includes the Afghan personnel and pay system, used by the interior and defence ministries to pay the army and police.

For Afghans, and for the wider community working on digital identification for development, this means that the Taliban have sensitive personal information that they have said will be used to target those they consider enemies or threats. While some Afghans are frantically trying to erase any trace of digital activity, on official databases, user deletion is not an option.”

The New Humanitarian, [Biometric data and the Taliban: What are the risks?](#), 2 September 2021

“Data protection experts warn that aid groups must quickly review and safeguard sensitive information on Afghans who have received emergency relief and other services. Humanitarian agencies are among those that have tracked, stored, and shared data linked to millions of Afghans – including precise biometric data like fingerprints or iris scans. Crucially, some of this data has been collected by the now-deposed Afghan government – raising concern that the Taliban have inherited databases and technology that could be used to identify people linked to previous regimes or international forces, or members of persecuted groups who have received aid.”

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Targeted Groups

Individuals who are critical or in opposition of the Taliban (e.g. peaceful protesters) or those going against Taliban's prescribed way of life

OHCHR, [Afghanistan: Taliban attempting to steadily erase women and girls from public life – UN experts](#), 17 January 2022

"Taliban leaders in Afghanistan are institutionalizing large scale and systematic gender-based discrimination and violence against women and girls, a group of UN human rights experts* said today. [...]"

"We are also deeply troubled by the harsh manner with which the de facto authorities have responded to Afghan women and girls claiming their fundamental rights, with reports of peaceful protesters having been often beaten, ill-treated, threatened, and in confirmed instances detained arbitrarily," the experts said."

BBC News, [Afghanistan: 'Terrified' British Council teachers still in hiding](#), 14 January 2022

"Afghans who were employed to spread British values and teach English in Helmand province have told the BBC they are still in hiding from the Taliban and remain "terrified of reprisals".

Around 100 ex-British Council staff are still in Afghanistan having so far been denied the right to come to the UK.

"We are all sitting inside, like in prison," one said, while another said they were now running out of money. (...)

"Rahimallah", a man in his 20s whose real name we are not using, spent two years working for the British Council in "risky and dangerous" circumstances in Helmand, where British troops were based until 2014. (...)

"A relative of mine posted on Facebook against the Taliban, saying that they could not pay teachers' salaries," he says. "The next day, Taliban intelligence men abducted him, tortured him and killed him, and then threw his body in the Helmand River. Just for a Facebook post." He added: "I'm sure they will do the same with me."

Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty Gandhara, ['Tortured From Head To Toe': Taliban Accused Of Killing Afghan Man Over Critical Facebook Post](#), 3 December 2021

"Taliban fighters detained Naweed Azami after he made a Facebook post criticizing the militant group.

Three days after he was taken into custody, the 30-year-old's body was found along a riverbank on the outskirts of the southern Afghan city of Lashkar Gah.

The Taliban claimed that Azami escaped detention. But his family has accused the militant group of torturing and killing him.

"My brother was tortured from head to toe," Sharifullah Sharafat, Azami's older brother, told RFE/RL's Radio Azadi. "There were torture marks everywhere on his body. The doctors at the local hospital have confirmed this. They took photos of his body and have video evidence."

Azami appears to be the latest victim of the Taliban's campaign of targeted killings in Afghanistan. Despite declaring a general amnesty after it seized power in August, the militant group has been accused of extrajudicially killing civilians and former members of the previous government and armed forces. [...]

Azami was detained in Lashkar Gah on November 25, just days after he criticized the Taliban on Facebook.

In his post, Sharafat said, Azami questioned how the Taliban could keep its promise of paying teachers their salaries when the regime was "surviving on donated food." Azami deleted the post before he was detained, Sharafat added."

AVA Press, [Taliban Must Be Accountable for the Targeted Killings of Civilians](#), 1 December 2021

"Helmand residences also report that a young man has been arrested and killed by Taliban forces for posting critical content on Facebook. The man has allegedly been assassinated after being beaten. The next day, with the help of Kuchis (nomads), they retrieved their son's corpse from a sea in [sic]. Local Taliban officials confirmed the

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incident, promising the victim's family that they would investigate how their son was killed. Gunmen also assassinated a employee in [sic], and no one has claimed responsibility for his death."

AVA Press, [A Young Boy Killed for Listening to Music in Badakhshan](#), 13 November 2021

"According to the sources, the Taliban first checked his cell phone, and when they found out that he was listening to music they beat and shot him."

The Guardian, [They stayed to fight the Taliban. Now the protesters are being hunted down](#), 4 November 2021

"Women's rights activists fear for their lives as Afghanistan's new rulers infiltrate, detain, beat and torture groups of protesters"

Khaama Press, [Taliban creates commission to expel unfavorable members](#), 13 October 2021

"Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan has created a special commission to expel those who misuse the name of the Taliban, do not treat people well, and have nasty backgrounds.

The commission which has been named "filtration commission of forces" is composed of representatives from the defense ministry, interior affairs ministry, and high directorate of intelligence and was officially announced on Wednesday, October 13.

Spokesperson on the ministry of interior affairs Saeed Khostai said that the commission will get functional in all provinces of the country and heads of the intelligence of the provinces will be leading the provincial offices of the commission.

Saeed Khostai though did not disclose details of the unfavorable people, said that these are some people who stand against the government and Islamic system.

The IEA created the commission after gunmen started entering the houses of people pretending to be the Taliban fighters.

Earlier, it was said the IEA will also send back to provinces the Taliban fighters who are not trained enough to deal with people of Kabul especially the women."

BBC News, [Afghanistan: social media users delete profiles over fear of attack](#), 28 September 2021

"Since 15 August, Afghans have been deleting photos and tweets from their past - and many have turned away from social media altogether for fear of being targeted by Taliban forces."

Wall Street Journal, [Killings of Islamic State Militants Highlight Power Struggle With Afghanistan's Taliban](#), 26 September 2021

"While offering an amnesty to security officers of the former Afghan republic, the Taliban have shown no mercy to Islamic State, killing one of the group's main leaders in a Kabul prison hours after seizing the Afghan capital."

Amnesty International, [Afghanistan: The fate of thousands hanging in the balance](#), 21 September 2021

"In this report, Amnesty International, International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH) and the World Organisation against Torture (OMCT) have documented incidents of human rights violations that have taken place in Afghanistan since the takeover by the Taliban on 15 August". The report references a number of sources, including: [...]

- 5 September 2021. 7:04 PM. <https://twitter.com/adityarajkaul/status/1434510349609299971?lang=en>.
22 Alex Horton and Ezzatullah Mehrdad. The Washington Post. 28 July 2021. "After 'comedian' is killed by Taliban, videos of his treatment spark outrage across Afghanistan".
<https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/2021/07/28/nazar-khasha-afghanistan-comedian/>. ANI.
"Popular Afghan comedian killed by gunmen, family blames Taliban".
<https://www.aninews.in/news/world/asia/popular-afghan-comedian-killed-by-gunmen-family->

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- Yogita Limaye. BBC. 1 September 2021. "Amid violent reprisals, Afghans fear the Taliban's 'amnesty' was empty". <https://www.bbc.com/news/worldasia-58395954>
- Zarifa Ghafari. Al Jazeera. 16 September 2021. "The world should not yet engage with the new Taliban government". <https://www.aljazeera.com/opinions/2021/9/16/the-world-should-not-yet-engage-with-the-new-taliban-government> [...]
- France 24. 5 September 2021. "Taliban fire into air, use tear gas to break up Afghan women's protest in Kabul". <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eBep8nD7NCQ>. Tweet. Farhan Amiri Official تازه های خبرهای @
- FarhanAmiree. 4 September 2021. 6:06 PM. <https://twitter.com/FarhanAmiree/status/143413338122596357> [...]
- Reuters. 10 September 2021. 9 September 2021. "Afghanistan commercial flights resume as U.N. accuses Taliban of harassment". <https://www.reuters.com/world/asia-pacific/taliban-interim-government-agrees-let-foreigners-leave-afghanistan-2021-09-09/>. New York Times. "A Qatari jet carries more than 100 foreigners from Kabul". <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/09/09/world/asia/taliban-americans-afghanistan.html>. [...]
- Foreign Policy. 9 September 2021. "In Afghanistan, It's Back to the Future—of Taliban Tyranny". <https://foreignpolicy.com/2021/09/09/talibanafghanistan-government-future-tyranny/> [...]
- UN. 10 September 2021. "Taliban response to protests increasingly violent, warns OHCHR". <https://news.un.org/en/story/2021/09/1099552> [...]

OHCHR, [Press briefing notes on Afghanistan](#), 10 September 2021

"Peaceful protesters across various provinces in Afghanistan over the past four weeks have faced an increasingly violent response by the Taliban, including the use of live ammunition, batons and whips. On Wednesday, 8 September, the Taliban issued an instruction prohibiting unauthorized assemblies. Yesterday, Thursday, they ordered telecommunications companies to switch off internet on mobile phones in specific areas of Kabul. [...] From 15 to 19 August, people gathered in Nangarhar and Kunar provinces to mark national flag-raising ceremonies. According to credible reports, during these three days when protests took place, the Taliban reportedly killed a man and a boy, and injured eight others, when firing in an apparent attempt to disperse the crowds. On Tuesday this week (7 September), during a protest in Herat, the Taliban reportedly shot and killed two men and wounded seven more. That same day in Kabul, credible reports indicate that the Taliban beat and detained protesters, including several women and up to 15 journalists. On Wednesday, 8 September, reports emerged that as a largely female group of demonstrators gathered in the Dashti-Barchi area of Kabul, at least five journalists were arrested and two severely beaten for several hours. There were also reports that during a demonstration in Faizabad city in Badakhshan province held by several women, including activists and human rights defenders, the Taliban fired in the air and allegedly beat several of the protesters. A small group of women who had gathered to protest elsewhere in Kabul were violently dispersed, as the Taliban fired shots into the air over their heads. That same day, women were violently dispersed during protests in Kapisa and Takhar provinces, and several women's rights activists in Kapisa were detained."

Amnesty International, [Afghanistan: Suppression of protests at odds with Taliban's claims on human rights](#), 8 September 2021

"Responding to widespread reports that the Taliban are using unlawful force against peaceful protesters and journalists at gatherings across Afghanistan, including using gunfire to disperse crowds and cables to lash protesters, Samira Hamidi, Amnesty International's South Asia Campaigner said [...]

According to media reports, peaceful protests in Kabul, Badakhshan and Herat over the past two days have been dispersed by Taliban fighters firing rifles into the air, while some female protesters have reportedly been lashed with cables. Amnesty International has independently verified videos of Taliban fighters firing guns into the air to disperse protests in Kabul, and also verified videos of violence against women protesters between 4 and 7 September in Kabul committed by the Taliban.

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Journalists and cameramen from Afghan media outlets Ariana, Tolo and Etilaat-e- Roz have said that they were beaten up and detained by Taliban fighters while trying to cover protests, before having their equipment confiscated or their footage destroyed.”

Individuals (formerly) affiliated with the Afghan government or international governments

Khaama Press, [Sarajudin Haqqani asks Taliban commanders not to seek revenge on previous officers - The Khaama Press News Agency](#), 19 January 2022

“Acting Minister of Interior Affairs of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan Sarajudin Haqqani directed Taliban commanders in Kabul not to seek revenge on security officials of the previous Afghan government and obey the general amnesty announced by supreme leader Mullah Hebtullah Akhundzada.

Speaking at a capacity-building conference of commanders of Police Districts of Kabul Haqqani said that, anyone who seeks revenge spoils the current system which is not acceptable.

He added that he had met with leaders and officials of the previous government and was given assurance that no one will harm them until and unless they commit a crime.

“I direct you to investigate cases of prisoners, release them if they were imprisoned for no crime and felony. Incarcerate those who have put innocent people at jails.” Said Haqqani.

Sarajudin Haqqani- black listed by the US- told the head of the PDs to serve people as they are only hired to do so. He added that their success has come from the homes and streets of the people of Afghanistan, thus they should not be misbehaved with.

Sarajudin Haqqani is not the only high-ranking official of the IEA reiterating the general amnesty to be obeyed.”

Khaama Press, [Taliban commander arrested, hundreds took to street in Faryab province to demand his release](#), 14 January 2022

“Hundreds of people in the northern Faryab province on Thursday, January 13, 2022, took to the streets and asked for the release of a prominent Taliban commander Makhdoom Alam who is arrested by the Ministry of Defense.

Makhdoom Alam was arrested in Balkh province.

Protestors in the provincial capital Maimana city of Faryab said that Makhdoom Alam-an Uzbek commander- is arrested on ethnic bases.

They warned of vas demonstrations in the future in case the commander is not freed by the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan.

IEA has not commented on the issue yet.

Makhdoom Alam was shadow provincial governor and head of the military commission of the IEA during the previous government.”

Khaama, [Taliban to investigate torture of former security personnel](#), 31 December 2021

“Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan said they will investigate cases of former security personnel being kidnapped, tortured, and arrested by rank and file of IEA.

A spokesperson of the IEA Ahmadullah Wasiq said that they are fully committed to the general amnesty announced by Supreme Leader Hebtullah Akhundzada and will not allow anyone to violate amnesty.”

AVA Press, [The Ambiguous Fate of Women in Afghanistan’s Armed Forces](#), 28 December 2021

“Female soldiers in province say they have become destitute since the Taliban took control of Afghanistan, adding that they are in precarious security and economic situation. They say security threats on the one hand and poverty on the other have made life difficult for them. Meanwhile, the Taliban’s interior ministry says they are working on a method to clarify the fate of officers.”

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VOA, [Former Afghan female soldier: 'I am so afraid' under Taliban](#), 31 December 2021

"Afghan women who served in the country's military are speaking out about how their life has changed under the Taliban.

"I feel like I am in prison," said Jamila, 28, a former Afghan military officer in the western city of Herat. "I have to be at home. I can't work or go out. I am so afraid."

More than 6,300 women served in the former Afghan National Defense and Security Forces (ANDSF). Now they face not only threats to their life as former members of the military but also the Taliban's imposed restrictions on their gender.

Human Rights Watch and the United Nations [accused the Taliban in November](#) of the summary killing of more than 100 former Afghan security officials despite the group's promise of general amnesty.

Jamila served for 10 years in the 207th Zafar (Victory) Corps of the Afghan National Army, headquartered in Herat province. She says she now hears news every day of someone else who was killed or disappeared.

"I fear that they (the Taliban) might find me and kill me," she said."

ABC News, [Afghan Air Force pilots trapped in Afghanistan plead for evacuation](#), 18 December 2021

"Around 50 U.S.-trained former Afghan Air Force helicopter pilots are still trapped in [Afghanistan](#) and pleading for the United States government to evacuate them from the country, where they fear they face execution if found by the Taliban.

"The pilots belong mostly to two helicopter squadrons and have been in hiding since the Taliban seized Kabul in August. According to several of the pilots who spoke to ABC News, they are living on the run in safe houses and struggling to feed themselves while frantically trying to find a way out of Afghanistan as the Taliban continue to search for them."

TOLO News, [Violators of 'Amnesty Decree' Will Be Prosecuted: MoFA](#), 6 December 2021

"The reform commission of the Islamic Emirate said that the commission has not registered any cases of killings of former members of the security forces.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs reacted to the report recently issued by Human Rights Watch, saying that any Islamic Emirate member "found breaching the amnesty decree will be prosecuted and penalized."

The HRW in a report last week said that the Islamic Emirate's amnesty has not stopped "local commanders from summarily executing or disappearing former Afghan security force members."

The report was followed with a joint statement by the governments of the United States, European Union, and 20 other countries, expressing their concerns over the findings of the HRW.

"Mujahidin are fully committed to implementing amnesty decree and employees of previous admin are not being persecuted for their former opposition," said Abdul Qahar Balkhi, a spokesman for the Foreign Ministry on Twitter.

The reform commission of the Islamic Emirate said that the commission has not registered any cases of killings of former members of the security forces.

"We haven't received any complaints that the forces of the Islamic Emirate disturb or bother anyone who worked with the former administration," said Lotfullah Hakimi, head of the commission. [...]

TOLOnews tried to obtain comments from the families of the former security forces who have lost their lives, but for various reasons they were not ready to respond."

The Guardian, [West condemns Taliban over 'summary killings' of ex-soldiers and police](#), 5 December 2021

"Human Rights Watch says 47 former members of Afghan national security forces have been killed or forcibly disappeared.

The US has led a group of western nations and allies in condemnation of the **Taliban** over the "summary killings" of former members of the Afghan security forces reported by rights groups, demanding quick investigations.

"We are deeply concerned by reports of summary killings and enforced disappearances of former members of the

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Afghan security forces as documented by Human Rights Watch and others,” read a statement by the US, EU, Australia, Britain, Japan and others, which was released by the state department on Saturday.”

Al Jazeera, [US, EU and 20 nations condemn Taliban over ‘summary killings’](#), 5 December 2021

“The United States, the European Union and 20 other countries have condemned the Taliban over allegations of summary killings of former police and intelligence officers in Afghanistan.

The statement on Saturday came after Human Rights Watch (HRW) published a report documenting the killing or disappearance of at least 47 members of the Afghan National Security Forces.

The countries said they were “deeply concerned” by the allegations and underlined that the “alleged actions constitute serious human rights abuses and contradict the Taliban’s announced amnesty” for former Afghan officials.

They called on the Taliban “to effectively enforce the amnesty for former members of the Afghan security forces and former Government officials to ensure that it is upheld across the country and throughout their ranks,” and urged prompt and transparent investigations into the reported killings..”

AVA Press, [Kunduz Residents Complain of Assassinations and Kidnappings Amid Rising Poverty](#), 5 December 2021

“In the last few weeks, kidnappers have abducted a doctor and a former member of national security, according to local sources. Sources say that about a week ago, the body of a former national security officer was found in the district of the province, but the fate of the is still unknown.”

AVA Press, [More than 20 countries deeply concerned over extra-judicial killings by Taliban](#), 5 December 2021

“The countries in a joint statement said that the summary killings of the former men in uniform are clear abuses of human rights and in contradiction with the general amnesty announced by the [sic].

The countries include the United States of America, Australia, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, , the European Union, Finland, France, Germany, Japan, the Netherlands, New Zealand, North Macedonia, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, and Ukraine.

The world is expressing worry after Human Rights Watchdog released a report alleging the Taliban fighters of retaliatory killings and disappearance of military personnel of the previous Afghan government.

The joint statement called on the Taliban to fully enforce their general amnesty equally on common Afghan and former Afghan security forces and government officials.

“Reported cases must be investigated promptly and in a transparent manner, those responsible must be held accountable, and these steps must be clearly publicized as an immediate deterrent to further killings and disappearances.” Reads the statement. Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan has not commented on the allegations yet.”

AVA Press, [Taliban Must Be Accountable for the Targeted Killings of Civilians](#), 1 December 2021

“In the last week, several assassinations have been reported in different provinces. In the process, former government soldiers and civilian employees have been targeted and killed. For instance, unidentified gunmen attacked and killed Nasir Ahmad Wakilzada, the former regime’s director of criminal investigations in the Ghor’s Shahrak district. The incident took place on November 24. No individual or group claimed responsibility for his assassination.

On November 26, unidentified individuals attacked and killed a village elder in [sic]. The incident took place when he was walking towards the Khanqah of Charikar. He was previously a district representative but had no responsibility at the time of his death. The Taliban confirmed the incident, saying that the perpetrators would be identified and punished soon. [...]

Although the number of criminal incidents in the country has decreased compared to the past, on the contrary, targeted assassinations of former soldiers and civilians continue. Unfortunately, the Taliban have not reacted

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seriously to these events and have not responded to public opinion. In contrast, the Taliban prime minister implicitly legitimized the targeted assassinations of former government employees. He said the Taliban were committed to the principle of amnesty but were punishing those who acted against them.”

HRW, [“No Forgiveness for People Like You: Executions and Enforced Disappearances in Afghanistan under the Taliban”](#), 30 November 2021

“The Taliban, through their intelligence operations and access to employment records that the former government left behind, have identified new targets for arrest and execution.”

“The Taliban leadership has directed members of surrendering ANSF units to register with them to receive a letter guaranteeing their safety. Under this amnesty program, individuals who have registered have been screened for ties to particular military, police, militia, and special forces units, or to commanders or former provincial authorities, in addition to being required to surrender weapons. However, the Taliban have used these screenings to detain and summarily execute or forcibly disappear individuals within days of their registration, leaving their bodies for their relatives or communities to find.”

“Many Afghans interviewed expressed fear that if they register with the Taliban to receive the amnesty letter, they might be identified or recognized and face violent retaliation. At the same time, the Taliban have also searched for and detained people who failed to register. Some former government and security force officials have relied on their personal connections to get letters from the Taliban via third persons. Others, including some former civil servants in key government posts, such as the judiciary, have been unaware that they could obtain this “forgiveness” letter and have faced punishments—including beatings and detention—for not having done so. Even if aware of the letters, many have not been sure how to obtain them where the Taliban have not announced specific registration centers.”

“Human Rights Watch, on November 7, provided its findings on executions and disappearances to Taliban officials and sought information about any investigations into these cases. The Taliban responded to say that all detentions and punishments follow a judicial process, and that no one is punished without a court [ruling]. They said individuals have been detained not for “past deeds, but [because] they are engaged in new criminal activities... [and] create problems and plots against the new administration, [and] keep contacts with notorious individuals who fled the country.... It is not our policy to kill someone without trial, whether he is from ISIS or from another group.” Their full response, including some additional details on the investigation commission, is included as an appendix to this report.”

HRW, [“Afghanistan: Taliban Kill, ‘Disappear’ Ex-Officials”](#), 30 November 2021

“Taliban forces in Afghanistan have summarily executed or forcibly disappeared more than 100 former police and intelligence officers in just four provinces since taking over the country on August 15, 2021, despite a proclaimed amnesty, Human Rights Watch said in a report released today.

The 25-page report, “‘No Forgiveness for People Like You,’ Executions and Enforced Disappearances in Afghanistan under the Taliban,” documents the killing or disappearance of 47 former members of the Afghan National Security Forces (ANSF) – military personnel, police, intelligence service members, and militia – who had surrendered to or were apprehended by Taliban forces between August 15 and October 31. Human Rights Watch gathered credible information on more than 100 killings from Ghazni, Helmand, Kandahar, and Kunduz provinces alone.”

The Guardian, [‘We will start again’: Afghan female MPs fight on from parliament in exile](#), Nov 27, 2021

“Until recently, these women made up more than 40% of Afghanistan’s female MPs. Now they are confronted with an unrecognisable alphabet and an uncertain future. (...)

“[Since August], the Taliban have killed schoolgirls, policewomen and women in government. The family members are too afraid to speak up,” says Fawzia Hamidi, 48, a lawmaker from northern Balkh province. Formerly a prosecutor for cases of violence against women, Hamidi describes [recent murders](#) in the region as the tip of the iceberg.”

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AVA Press, [Numerous Taliban Members Jailed and Dismissed](#), 14 November 2021

"Afghan Voice Agency (AVA)_The Taliban interim government has reported that the Filtration Commission has dismissed more than 400 security forces from their duties and jailed many of them.

"The Filtration Commission has removed more than 400 Taliban members over the past few days," Saeed Khosty, the Interior Ministry spokesman.

According to him, these Taliban members have been dismissed due to accusations of abuse and people by the name of the Taliban.

"Many of them in addition to removal, have been jailed as well," said.

Previously, the Taliban Prime Minister Mullah Hibatullah had said that some agencies and people wanted to disgrace them.

Therefore, the Taliban cabinet decided to establish the in order to identify the among Taliban members."

AVA Press, [Pull Afghanistan Back from the Precipice](#), 14 November 2021

"Afghan Voice Agency (AVA)_In recent days, several cases of assassination of e-soldiers published in the media. Pictures released last week show a Taliban commander shooting a member of the public uprising forces in . It later turned out that the same soldier had killed the son of the Taliban commander during the previous government. The young man had just been deported from Iran and wanted to return to his family.

On November 9, another assassination attempt took place in Takhar. Taliban militants had shot dead two former members of the border guards, Shoaib Aryaei and Sohrab Haqqani. The two men were trying to take advantage of the Taliban's amnesty at the Shing Saqaw village in district when they were ambushed by local Taliban forces and killed.

Another case of harassment of former soldiers took place on Friday. Unidentified assailants assassinated two former female officers in the first district of on Friday night. Furthermore, on Friday evening, an army sergeant named Shayq Sanjani, former police chief of Bagram district was killed in the 1st part of Kapisa's Kohistan district. According to relatives, he served in the 111th Army Brigade. forces shot Sanjani after arresting him from his home. The Taliban's general amnesty has so far been meaningless. Senior Taliban officials have said they have nothing to do with the former military shortly after taking control of Kabul. These soldiers are now being systematically assassinated every day. The Taliban-led government has not commented on why the soldiers were killed. There have been many cases of assassinations that have not been reported in the media. Some sources have sent a list of 43 former soldiers who have been killed or abducted by unknown individuals in recent days in . In the meantime, even children have been mentioned."

JURIST, [Afghanistan dispatches: Taliban justice minister sets strict criteria for eligibility to work at ministry as purge continues](#), 14 November 2021

"The Taliban's acting Minister of Justice Abdul Hakim Ishaqzai in Afghanistan has established criteria for being hired as directors within the ministry—individuals who have a preexisting relationship with the Taliban or whose views are in line with those of the Taliban, individuals who have Jihad experience and individuals who did not work for the former government.

According to local media, Ishaqzai has branded some of the employees who have worked for non-Muslims "not" Muslim and the Taliban is in the process of replacing current employees at the ministry with its own people.

Furthermore, reports about a meeting came to light where Ishaqzai purportedly pressured an audience of 50 existing directors at the ministry to ask for forgiveness for having worked with the US government and a non-Muslim system.

This is a worrisome situation—many employees have now lost their jobs while others left or are leaving due to threats from the Taliban."

Foreign Policy, [Afghan Crime Wave Adds to Taliban Dystopia](#), 29 October 2021

"Officials of the former government, intelligence service, and military have been snatched from their homes after

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applying for passports and providing biometric and other identification information, he said.

The Taliban are also using lists of former officials and civil activists to pinpoint their children. “They took four such sons from a prominent school in Kabul. When the police station was asked, they said, ‘We don’t know who entered the school,’” the source said. “Life is broken.”

AVA Press, [Islamic Emirate Welcomes Possible EU Office Reopening](#), 26 October 2021

“The Islamic Emirate on Monday welcomed the reopening of the European Union’s office in Kabul, saying that the step could be the beginning of engagement with European countries.

Afghan Voice Agency (AVA) “The decision of the [sic] to reopen its office in the near future is a good step and it is in the interest of the people of Afghanistan,” said Ahmadullah Wasiq, deputy spokesman for the . “They will evaluate their work from the vicinity.”

According to a report in the Financial Times, the European Union is considering restarting its political activities in a limited way in Kabul.

The report said that the move is not intended to recognize the current government in Afghanistan. [...]

Abdul Qahar Balkhi, the foreign ministry’s spokesman, said in a tweet on Monday that the Islamic Emirate would guarantee the security of the European Countries’ embassies and personnel.”

JURIST, [Afghanistan dispatches: 'Anyone on the Taliban’s blacklist is in great danger'](#), 26 October 2021

“Law students and lawyers in Afghanistan are filing reports with JURIST on the situation there after the Taliban takeover. Here, a Staff Correspondent for JURIST in Kabul offers observations on the Taliban’s targeting of perceived or potential opponents in Afghanistan who publicly object to their policies, who were associated with the previous government, or who worked with foreign forces prior to the Taliban takeover. [...] It’s mostly social activists, former military and government officials, CSOs, and traders who have been targeted, warned, and even affected by the Taliban. In particular, former government officials in Panjshir, Mazar, and Samangan provinces have been targeted, leading to the death of one in Samangan province. A few weeks ago the Taliban even went farther and stated some specific individuals – especially those who worked with the foreign forces – should give themselves up to be prosecuted or they will prosecute their family members if they find them. Anyone on the Taliban’s blacklist is in great danger.

The Taliban are using different techniques in targeting people. They have issued warning letters to some former government officials stating that if they do not give themselves to them then their families would be arrested. Several officials of the the central bank received warning letters in the last three weeks. They all received written warning letters signed and stamped by the Taliban. One of the warning letters shared with me said “You should have stopped working with a slave government under control of Americans; we shall punish you so others take a lesson.” Fortunately, the target of this letter is already out of the country. In another incident from the central bank, the Taliban went to check the former Chief of Staff of the central bank who was said to have worked with the ex-governor of the bank too closely. However, they could not find him.

The Taliban appear to have monitored government officials closely before they seized power in August. Most of the people who got killed by them were government officials. I myself lost three friends in a car bombing several months ago.”

Ariana News, [IEA pledges to safeguard all UN operations and staff](#), 24 October 2021

“Deputy Prime Minister of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan (IEA), Abdul Salaam Hanafi met with the UN Secretary-General’s special representative to Afghanistan Deborah Lyons on Saturday at ARG (Presidential Palace) to discuss various issues including that of the protection of UN operations and staff.

Hanafi asked for the UN’s cooperation in different sectors and assured Lyons the Islamic Emirate (IE)

would ensure the safety of all UN organizations in Afghanistan, said a spokesperson of the IEA Zabiullah Mujahid in a statement.”

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Ariana News, [MoD to form a new, independent national army](#), 24 October 2021

Some IEA officials meanwhile said that former government soldiers will be brought back into the army.

"We have left the way open for those people who were in security institutions in the former government. Some of them have returned already," said Qari Saeed Khosti, spokesman for the Ministry of Interior Affairs."

Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty, [Afghan Pilots Who Fled To Tajikistan Say Taliban Is Threatening Relatives Back Home](#), 23 October 2021

"Afghan military pilots who fled to Tajikistan when the Taliban seized power in Kabul say the militant group is pressuring them to return to Afghanistan by threatening to kill their relatives.

Trained by the United States, the Afghan pilots say their documents have been completed for traveling and they hope they will soon be able to go to the United States.

But two Afghan pilots who are sheltering at sanatoriums on the outskirts of Dushanbe [told RFE/RL's Tajik Service](#) on October 23 that the Taliban is now trying to force them to return to Afghanistan.

One Afghan pilot, speaking on condition of anonymity, told RFE/RL that his son back in Afghanistan was beaten by the Taliban and that the militants threatened to kill the boy if the pilot did not return.

Another pilot told RFE/RL that Taliban militants have gone to the homes of several of his family members to demand that the pilot return to Afghanistan.

He told RFE/RL that the Taliban has a list of the names of all 143 Afghan pilots now in Tajikistan. He said Taliban authorities are increasing pressure on all of the pilots by threatening their relatives in Afghanistan.

Taliban spokesman Zabiullah Mujahid denied that the Taliban is threatening the relatives of the pilots."

Pajhwok Afghan News, [Govt sets body to remove undesirable figures from military](#), 13 October 2021

"The government has created a commission to identify and remove unwanted people from military ranks, an official said Wednesday"

Financial Times, [Afghanistan's hunters become hunted as Taliban conquer old order](#), 13 October 2021

"Khalid, the former Afghan intelligence service interrogator, said it was impossible for those in his situation to adjust to the new Afghanistan. He is trying to find a way to get his family out of the country and is getting desperate. "There is no place for us here now. We have not even been able to go back to our house since the Taliban came," he said. "Either we escape or we will run out of money and die here.""

The Guardian, [Afghans seeking Australian humanitarian visas say Taliban are 'hunting us like animals'](#), 10 October 2021

"Afghans who have applied for Australian humanitarian visas say they are living in fear as the [Taliban](#) are "hunting us down like animals".

Accounts of their "painful" experiences under the Taliban regime – including testimonies of beatings, interrogations and threats to family members – are set to be provided to a Senate inquiry into Australia's engagement in [Afghanistan](#), which begins public hearings on Monday.

A Hazara man described being interrogated by the Taliban as they demanded to know whether he was a civil activist and had any links to foreigners. The man, whose name cannot be published for safety reasons, said he was taken into a cell where he was blindfolded and gagged.

"I received 26 lashes. I felt the first five lashes and after that I couldn't feel anything anymore, my back became numb."

He recounted later being threatened with execution. "I believed my life would soon be over. I was so frightened," he wrote. He was eventually released from custody and is now in hiding, sleeping in a different place every night.

"The Taliban have been calling me every night," he wrote. "They tell me not to try to run away, that wherever I am, even outside of Afghanistan, they will find me."

It is one of several testimonies compiled by an Australian citizen who has been helping Afghan nationals apply for

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Australian humanitarian visas, with the support of Rural Australians for [Refugees](#).

In another account provided to Guardian Australia, a former Afghan national army soldier said he had come out of hiding briefly to “send the papers and identity documents to friends who are helping me apply for a humanitarian visa to Australia”.

“They [the Taliban] say they forgive everyone who has worked with foreigners, or who worked in government or in the army,” he wrote. “But in reality, they are hunting us down like animals. I fear we will all be killed in the end.”

A worker for a non-government organisation noted the Taliban were going door-to-door, purportedly to assess humanitarian needs.

“They are using this as a way to spot people, in the guise of a humanitarian assessment, which is disgusting basically. They are doing evil things behind ‘good deeds’.”

This person said he was hoping to leave Afghanistan legally and had received an acknowledgement letter from the Australian government for his family’s humanitarian visa application in mid-September.

Meanwhile, a Hazara hospitality worker described the past few weeks as “the darkest of my whole life”. He said many young people were “willing to gamble with their lives to illegally cross the borders into neighbouring countries”.

“Living here is much more suffocating and more painful. It’s a slow, gradual death,” this person wrote.

“I just hope that at least we can get out of here and be somewhere where we will be treated as human.””

The Guardian, [Former British embassy driver badly beaten in Kabul](#), 5 October 2021

“A former employee of the British embassy in Kabul has been badly beaten at his home by five armed men, in an attack linked to his 11 years working with UK diplomats in Afghanistan.

The British embassy driver, one of about 150 employees who applied to be evacuated in May, was at home with his family in a village on the outskirts of Kabul last Thursday when five masked men came to his house and attacked him, hitting him with their Kalashnikovs.

The attackers told him they had information he was still working for an international organisation. [...]

The driver, 44, who has asked for his name not to be printed, said his children, wife and neighbours saw the attack, and are now too afraid to leave their houses.

X-rays showed his hand had been broken in two places and his skull fractured in three places. [...] He did not report the attack to the police, believing that the Taliban-run police would not have helped him.

While he did not know the attackers, he suspected they were affiliated to the Taliban. Five years ago he had been targeted by Taliban militants because of his work with the British embassy, and was told he should leave his job. His son was hit in the head when a gun was fired during that attack, suffering brain damage.

Last month a pregnant Afghan policewoman was reported to have been killed by the Taliban, and there have been many other reports of attacks on people who worked for international organisations and the previous regime. Taliban officials have denied responsibility, citing the amnesty they announced for employees of the previous administration. It is not clear whether these attacks are officially organised and state sanctioned, or the work of fractured groups that know they can act with impunity.

The driver worked for the embassy for 10 years under a contract with G4S and then for 18 months in the same role employed by the Canadian security firm GardaWorld, which took over the embassy contract last year. He and about 150 colleagues applied to be evacuated in May under the UK Ministry of Defence’s Afghan relocations and assistance policy, but his application was refused on the grounds that British embassy employees hired through subcontracted organisations were not eligible for help.”

Amnesty International, [Afghanistan: 13 Hazara killed by Taliban fighters in Daykundi province – new investigation](#), 5 October 2021

“Taliban forces unlawfully killed 13 ethnic Hazaras, including a 17-year-old girl, in Afghanistan’s Daykundi province after members of the security forces of the former government surrendered, a new investigation by Amnesty International has revealed.

The killings happened in Kahor village of Khidir district on 30 August. Eleven of the victims were former members

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of the Afghan National Defence Security Forces (ANDSF), and two were civilians.

According to eyewitness testimony gathered by Amnesty International, the Taliban extrajudicially executed nine of the ANDSF members after they had surrendered, killings that appear to be war crimes. Two civilians were killed as they attempted to flee, including a 17-year-old girl shot when the Taliban opened fire on a crowd of people."

Amnesty International, [Afghanistan: The fate of thousands hanging in the balance](#), 21 September 2021

"In this report, Amnesty International, International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH) and the World Organisation against Torture (OMCT) have documented incidents of human rights violations that have taken place in Afghanistan since the takeover by the Taliban on 15 August". The report references a number of sources, including:

· BBC. 5 September 2021. "Afghanistan: Taliban accused of killing pregnant police officer". <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-58455826>. Relatives have confirmed she was killed by the Taliban. Tweet. Aditya Raj Kaul @AdityaRajKaul. [...]

Crisis Group, [Afghanistan's Taliban expand their interim government](#), 28 September 2021

"Similarly, the Taliban have resisted calls from regional and Western governments to include figures from the previous Western-backed political establishment. Taliban interlocutors claim to Crisis Group that despite an internal push by some members to include figures associated with the former system in the new government, most of the top Taliban leadership has so far opposed such a move due to the perception that former politicians were corrupt and discredited. Perhaps more importantly, there were also concerns among the Taliban that if they moved to bring in either women or former politicians, they could risk backlash from the rank and file, who might view the leadership as betraying their ideals. The resurgence of the Islamic State Khorasan Province, which has sought to portray the Taliban as compromising their Islamist credentials, is likely to further diminish prospects for inclusion."

Thomson Reuters Foundation News, [Afghan pilots start leaving Uzbekistan for UAE, despite Taliban pressure-source](#), 12 September 2021

"Afghanistan's new rulers have said they will invite former military personnel to join the country's revamped security forces and that they will come to no harm.

That offer rings hollow to Afghan pilots who spoke with Reuters. Even before the Taliban takeover, the U.S.-trained, English-speaking pilots had become their prime targets. Taliban fighters tracked them down and assassinated some pilots."

Thomson Reuters Foundation News, [Brother of Afghan opposition figure executed by Taliban, family says](#), 10 September 2021

"The Taliban have executed the brother of Amrullah Saleh, the former Afghan vice president who became one of the leaders of anti-Taliban opposition forces in the Panjshir valley, his nephew said on Friday."

TOLO News, [Taliban Closes Bank Accounts of Officials From Former Govt](#), 10 September 2021

"Bank accounts of some former government officials who fled the country have been closed by the Taliban.

Anaamullah Samangani, a member of the Taliban Cultural Commission, said on Thursday that the Taliban has closed some bank accounts of officials who worked in the previous government, but he did not mention names. [...]

At the same time, a letter posted on social media by the Afghanistan Central Bank (Da Afghanistan Bank) said that accounts of some ministers, deputy ministers, governors, deputy governors, members of parliament, members of provincial councils, mayors and other VIPs should be closed in other internal banks, and be reported to Central Bank.

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Officials from Afghanistan Central Bank have not commented to the media over the issue.”

UNOCHA, [Afghanistan: Humanitarian Access Snapshot \(August 2021\)](#), 9 September 2021
Violence/ Threat Against Humanitarian Personnel/ Assets/ Facilities

In August, the HAG logged 124 incidents of violence/threats against humanitarian workers and their assets and facilities - the highest number of such incidents on HAG record. The majority of incidents related to intimidations, thefts, occupation of facilities or assets, and hijacking of vehicles and were authored by individuals identifying as Taliban. Most incidents were recorded in Kabul, Herat, Bamyan, Balkh and Nangarhar and had a very chilling effect on humanitarian operations. The notable increase in violent incidents can be attributed to the Taliban’s rapid advancement into Kabul and other major cities, where Taliban fighters occupied many humanitarian buildings, in addition to government installations. In the early stages, humanitarian buildings were used as hideouts and as fighting positions against ANDSF. On 4 August 2021, Lashkar Gha City, Taliban members occupied an NGO compound and took position on the rooftop from where they started firing towards the Governor’s compound. Once the cities came under full Taliban control, Taliban members, often identifying as members of the intelligence unit, conducted searches of humanitarian offices, seized humanitarian vehicles and asked NGO staff about project details as well as staff and asset lists. In some cases, provincial Taliban NGO Commissioners were successful in getting previously seized vehicles back and in convincing the occupiers to vacate the humanitarian facilities. However, in many cases, seized items remain missing and facilities remain occupied. In at least 18 incidents, ACG members falsely identified as Taliban to get access to humanitarian compounds and looted assets and vehicles from NGOs offices and private residences. In at least 35 instances Taliban members threatened and intimidated UN and NGO staff through phone calls, letters as well as during house searches and accused them of spying for foreign intelligence entities. The current environment creates a lot of insecurity and concerns among the humanitarian community and highlights the need to have a functioning problem-solving mechanism with Taliban interlocutors at provincial and national level to quickly resolve issues of occupation and seized assets.

UNAMA, [Report of the Secretary-General: The situation in Afghanistan and its implications for international peace and security](#), 8 September 2021

“20. [...] While statements by the Taliban included instructions not to enter anyone’s house without permission and that “life, property and honour” would be protected, numerous reports emerged of the Taliban conducting house-to-house searches for government personnel, weapons and property, and in some cases confiscation of the latter. Some reports indicated that the Taliban were allegedly searching for people who had “worked with foreigners” and at times, beating them.

23. High-profile attacks by anti-Government elements occurred countrywide prior to the Taliban takeover of major cities. Between 16 May and 31 July, 18 suicide attacks were documented, compared with 11 in the prior period, including 16 suicide vehicle-borne improvised explosive devices primarily targeting Afghan National Defence and Security Forces positions. In addition, there were 68 attacks using magnetic improvised explosive devices, including 14 in Kabul. Targeted and usually unclaimed assassinations occurred countrywide, with victims including, among others, the Policy and Planning Director of the Ministry of Urban Development and Land, killed in Kabul on 30 May; the deputy of the Ulema Shura, killed in Herat on 3 June; an appeals court provincial prosecutor and a pro-government religious scholar, killed in Logar on 7 and 12 June, respectively; and the Head of the Government Media and Information Centre, killed on 6 August. On 4 August, the Taliban claimed responsibility for an attack in Kabul on the residence of the acting Minister of Defence.”

BBC, [Life in Kabul under Taliban: Where is your male escort?](#), 4 September 2021

“In some neighbourhoods, Taliban fighters go house-to-house. There's a knock on the door, a demand to hand over government phones and cars, anything of value from their old job. Sometimes even private cars are seized by Taliban who doubt it could have been afforded without some kind of corruption”

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“Westernised” young men

(Former) prosecutors, judges and lawyers

The Guardian, [My nightmares came true’: ex-prosecutor of Afghan women’s abusers](#), 17 January 2022

“I was appointed as a prosecutor to work on cases of domestic violence and abuse more than four years ago. I was promoted this summer to be chief prosecutor in this area, but my new position only lasted seven days. Friends were in my office to congratulate me on the new job when the Taliban entered Kabul. I’ve always been under threat because my job was to investigate men who were abusing women. Those who were convicted blame me for putting them in jail, and because the [Taliban released](#) all prisoners across Afghanistan, they are now free and hunting for me to take revenge. [...]

Threat calls started on the very first night after the fall of Kabul. Criminals started calling me, saying: “Where will you go now? Your system has collapsed. We’ll find you. We’ll behead you.” And other very frightening threats. I don’t go out. I’m so depressed these days that I wish for death.”

Canadian Lawyer, [International Bar Association expresses concern on Taliban takeover of Afghanistan bar association](#), 13 January 2022

“The [International Bar Association](#) (IBA) has urged the United Nations to denounce and intervene in the Taliban takeover of the [Afghanistan Independent Bar Association](#) (AIBA) which took place during a leadership council meeting in November 2021.

As a result of the takeover, the Taliban has gained access to the AIBA’s database that contains the personnel and professional records of 2,500 Afghan lawyers, staff, and committee members. The Taliban has also taken control of the AIBA’s bank account and funds. “There is much concern for the personal safety of all who are on the database,” the IBA wrote. “Now that the Taliban is furnished with details of cases and home addresses, anxieties are further heightened.”

Gandhara, [After Realizing Dream, Disabled Afghan Prosecutor Finds Herself Jobless And In Danger Under Taliban](#), 12 January 2022

“Prosecutors who worked for Afghanistan’s ousted government have said they are being threatened by the criminals they helped convict. The Taliban [emptied many of the country’s jails](#) during their takeover of the country in the summer.

“Prosecutors have had to change residences so that the convicts the Taliban freed could not find us,” said [Mosthari] Danesh. “We are now permanently living in hiding, and even our families cannot move freely.” Several prosecutors, judges, and lawyers have been killed in recent months. Others have been attacked or threatened.

Western nations have evacuated and granted asylum to hundreds of judicial workers from Afghanistan. But for the thousands who remain trapped in Afghanistan, particularly women, the future is bleak. Fatana Mohammadi, a lawyer, was attacked by an unidentified man in broad daylight in her home in Kabul last month.

“He shot at me once, but I was able to dodge the bullet by throwing a blanket over him,” Mohammadi told Radio Azadi. “After that, his gun jammed.”

Mohammadi said the attacker then beat her.”

Jurist, [Taliban proceed with plans to strip independence of Afghanistan lawyers](#), 3 January 2022

“Afghanistan’s Justice Ministry [reiterated](#) Monday that the country’s independent lawyers will need to re-certify under a new qualification process set by the Ministry, signaling the intent of the Taliban authorities to plough ahead with plans to strip the country’s legal profession of its independence.

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“According to the statement, the country’s lawyers will be authorized to continue practicing with their previous licenses until the new certification process has been finalized.

“This was the latest step in a series of efforts by the new regime to crack down on the activities of the [Afghanistan Independent Bar Association](#) (AIBA), an organization established in 2008 to oversee the licensing of new lawyers, and to champion the rule of law and social justice.

“On November 14, the Taliban Cabinet [decreed](#) that the Ministry of Justice (MOJ) would gain jurisdiction over AIBA affairs. On November 23, the AIBA offices in Kabul were [taken over](#) by armed Taliban who [threatened](#) the staff and lawyers who were present with violence before ordering them to leave and installing a new president with questionable professional qualifications. “The person appointed as the new AIBA head is said to be part of the Ministry of Justice but has no relevant experience,” according to a Kabul-based JURIST correspondent. These armed forces had apparently interpreted the Cabinet decree to indicate that the MOJ should have sole authority over licensing, as well as control of the AIBA’s extensive member database and bank account.

“A group of AIBA members hoping to raise awareness of the importance of the profession’s independence organized a press conference for December 5, but their plans were halted when, as they prepared to go live, their plans were thwarted by two carloads of armed Taliban. Many have remained in hiding ever since.”

Jurist, [Afghanistan dispatches: UN says ‘The safety of Afghan judges, prosecutors, and lawyers – particularly women legal professionals – is a matter for particular alarm.’](#), 15 December 2021

“The United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) has documented 59 apparently arbitrary detentions, beatings, and threats of civil society activists, journalists, and staff of the Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission attributed to the de facto authorities. Several women’s rights defenders have been threatened, and there is widespread fear of reprisals since the violent crackdown on women’s peaceful protests in September. In some instances, relatives and family members of civil society actors, and human rights defenders have faced threats and intimidation. Many media outlets have shut down and numerous civil society groups have also closed.

The Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission has been unable to operate since August, and the Afghanistan Independent Bar Association faces a loss of independence following the de facto authorities’ decision to administer its activities under the de facto ministry of justice.

The safety of Afghan judges, prosecutors, and lawyers – particularly women legal professionals – is a matter for particular alarm. Many are currently in hiding for fear of retribution, including from convicted prisoners who were freed by the de facto authorities, notably men convicted of gender-based violence.”

Amnesty International, [Afghanistan: Survivors of gender-based violence abandoned following Taliban takeover – new research](#), 6 December 2021

“Essential services for women and girl survivors of gender-based violence in Afghanistan have been decimated following the Taliban’s takeover of the country, Amnesty International said today.

In 26 new interviews, survivors and service providers told Amnesty International that the Taliban closed shelters and released detainees from prison, including many convicted of gender-based violence offences.

Many survivors – as well as shelter staff, lawyers, judges, government officials, and others involved in protective services – are now at risk of violence and death. [...]

Amnesty International interviewed survivors and individuals involved in protective services in the provinces of Badghis, Bamiyan, Daikundi, Herat, Kabul, Kunduz, Nangarhar, Paktika, Sar-e Pul, and Takhar.”

Jurist.org, [Taliban justice ministry summons protesting lawyers after AIBA press conference dispersed](#), 5 December 2021

“Reliable sources in Afghanistan told JURIST Sunday that the Taliban Ministry of Justice has summoned the lawyers who organized a press conference earlier in the day to protest the recent Taliban takeover of the Afghanistan Independent Bar Association (AIBA) and the removal of lawyer licensing authority from the AIBA to the Ministry of

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Justice. The press conference, orchestrated by a group of young Afghan lawyers comprising both women and men, had been planned for 10 AM AFT but was called off at the last minute when heavily-armed Taliban soldiers arrived at the hotel where it was to have taken place and ordered proceedings to stop even before they had started. The lawyers, several wearing their professional robes, were briefly seen outside the hotel afterwards before they were arrested and held for a brief period.

[...] The exact whereabouts of the lawyers who organized the abortive Sunday press conference are unknown at this time. The International Bar Association (IBA) and other international bar bodies representing lawyers have vigorously protested the Taliban takeover of the AIBA. In a letter to UN Secretary-General António Guterres dated November 30, the IBA said that it “completely compromised the independence of the legal profession in Afghanistan” and called upon the United Nations to denounce the action as contrary to the UN Basic Principles on the Role of Lawyers.”

Jurist.org, [Afghanistan lawyers ask Taliban cabinet to restore independence of national bar association](#), 2 December 2021

“Lawyers from across Afghanistan have sent letters to the Taliban cabinet seeking the restoration of the Afghanistan Independent Bar Association after the Ministry of Justice took over its premises and assumed its lawyer licensing power last week. On November 23, armed Taliban fighters entered the Association’s offices in Kabul, forced objecting lawyers and staff inside to leave, and announced the installation of a new president said to have no professional experience.”

Gandhara, [Judge, Jury, And Executioner: Taliban Brings Afghanistan’s Justice System Under Its Thumb](#), 1 December 2021

“Dozens of Taliban gunmen stormed the offices of Afghanistan’s Independent Bar Association (AIBA) in Kabul last week and ordered its staff to stop their work.

The AIBA president who was ousted by the Taliban, Rohullah Qarizada, said in a November 23 tweet that “50 armed Taliban came in AIBA and forcibly took over” the organization.

Qarizada noted that the AIBA had always operated as an “independent, non-governmental, and non-political” association that never received funding from the Afghan government.

He appealed for international assistance, saying the rights of Afghan lawyers should not be ignored.

Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty Gandhara, [‘No Reason To Stay’: Taliban Repression, Economic Collapse Accelerate Exodus From Afghanistan](#), 2 December 2021

“Murad, a former public prosecutor, has been living in hiding since the Taliban seized control of Afghanistan in August.

Over the years, the attorney helped put some of Afghanistan's most dangerous criminals behind bars, including Taliban fighters. But many of them were freed as the militant group swept the country in the summer.

Murad, who is at risk of reprisals, is desperate to flee his homeland. He has lodged multiple applications for asylum abroad but has yet to hear back from foreign immigration authorities.”

The Independent, [Almost 80 female judges, journalists and activists rescued from Afghanistan to Greece](#), 2 November 2021

Some 79 female judges, journalists and human rights activists have been evacuated from Afghanistan to Greece after fearing for their lives while stranded in the Taliban-seized country. [...]

It comes after *The Independent* revealed more than 200 women judges were stranded in hiding from the Taliban in Afghanistan at the beginning of September, while campaigners warned they are at risk of being killed by the Taliban.

The Taliban has freed thousands of prisoners, including terrorists and senior al Qaeda operatives, with experts saying the judges responsible for sending many of the newly released criminals to jail are terrified for their safety

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now the inmates are free.

Marzia Babakarkhail, who used to work as a family court judge in Afghanistan but now lives in the UK, told *The Independent*: "There are currently around 100 judges still left in Afghanistan facing grave threats from the Taliban. [...]"

Speaking to *The Independent* in a previous interview, the 55-year-old, who is campaigning for the female judges to be rescued from Afghanistan, accused the Taliban of trying to kill her in Afghanistan in 1997 and again in Pakistan in 2007."

Al Jazeera, [Trapped: Afghan women judges fear for their lives](#), 25 October 2021 [podcast]
"After trying to save Afghan women from violence and abuse, Afghan women judges are trying to escape Afghanistan and save themselves. Many Afghans are still trying to escape their country after the Taliban took over in August but few are as threatened as women judges. In 2009, the Elimination of Violence Against women was signed by then-President Hamid Karzai and in the years that followed, courts led by female judges opened in provinces around the country, enforcing laws protecting women from violence and abuse. Since the Taliban opened the prisons, many of those jailed are now free and threatening the lives of the women who locked them up. Now, the chaos that followed the Western exit from Afghanistan has made it that much more difficult for the women to escape. Today on The Take, we hear their stories and the plight of the international legal community trying to get them out."

BBC News, [Fleeing Afghanistan: 'Women are imprisoned, while the criminals are free'](#), 26 October 2021
"When Afghanistan fell to the Taliban, hundreds of female judges went into hiding. The Taliban had opened prisons across the country, freeing the very men the judges once incarcerated. [...] For the past three months, Sana said, she has been hunted by the very men she sent to prison for violent crimes against women. The Taliban opened prisons as they advanced across the country, freeing thousands of criminals to take revenge on those who incarcerated them.
"I worked in a court that dealt with lots of different crimes, including murder, suicide, rape, and other complex crimes. The punishments I delivered were long and serious," Sana said.
"But after they were all released, every one of them told us: 'We will kill you if we find you.'"
A recent BBC investigation found that more than 220 female judges were living in hiding because they feared retribution under Taliban rule. Speaking from secret locations inside Afghanistan, many of those women said they were receiving death threats on a daily basis.
In response to the accusations, secretary to the Taliban spokesman Bilal Karimi told the BBC: "Female judges should live like any other family without fear. No-one should threaten them. Our special military units are obliged to investigate such complaints and act if there is a violation."
Karimi also repeated the Taliban's promise of a "general amnesty" for all former government workers across Afghanistan.
But Sana described the past few months as a "living nightmare".
"We were changing locations every two to three days, moving from the street to safehouses and hotels," she said.
"We couldn't go back. Our own house had already been raided." [...] After their evacuation, the house was commandeered by a high-ranking member of the Taliban, she said. He lives in her home, drives her car, possesses all of her belongings.
For the judges now living as a part of the diaspora, news from back home is rarely positive. In one of their many Whatsapp groups, a montage of 28 profile pictures is being shared. Every face, one judge said, was a former male prosecutor allegedly assassinated in the past 48 hours by criminals released from prison."

Al Jazeera, [Trapped: Afghan women judges fear for their lives](#), 25 October 2021

"Many Afghans are still trying to escape their country after the Taliban took over in August but few are as threatened as women judges. In 2009, the Elimination of Violence Against women was signed by then-President

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Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty Gandhara, [Women Judges In Afghanistan Face Threats And 'Uncertain Future' According To Exiled Female Jurist](#), 13 October 2021

"Marzia Babakarkhil, an Afghan judge, spoke to RFE/RL's Radio Azadi from London about the dangers women judges face in Afghanistan. In a radio program on October 10, she talked about how the Taliban do not acknowledge women in the role of a judge and that her colleagues have faced threats and intimidation. Many have left the country or gone into hiding. Call-in programs focusing on women's rights, produced by Radio Azadi, are continuing to reach listeners in Afghanistan, despite the Taliban takeover of the country"

Tagesschau, ["Diese Männer versuchen sich zu rächen"](#), 9 October 2021

"They pioneered women's rights in Afghanistan and were staunch defenders of the most discriminated group: women. Now almost 300 Afghan women judges have gone into hiding for fear of retaliation from the Taliban.

Afghan women judges charged thousands of men with rape, murder, torture and kidnapping. Among those convicted were terrorists from the so-called Islamic State. Upon coming to power, the Taliban immediately opened the prison doors. Shortly afterwards, they received death threats, reports one of the judges, who is meeting with the ARD studio in New Delhi at a secret location and does not want her name to be published.

"When the Taliban took power in Afghanistan on August 15, 2021, they released all prisoners unconditionally. I have convicted many criminals for crimes against women and put them in prison. Now these men are trying to take revenge and track us down," she says. "They came to my house and brought a letter from the police. They asked for court files to be handed over. They were criminals whom I had sentenced to several years in prison." The judge has been hiding since then. Her children stay with her husband. [...]

But the judge reports that she is not the only one who is terrified of death in her hiding place: "Every day judges, lawyers and lawyers are killed out of revenge. At the beginning of the week it was a judge, yesterday a lawyer." Since they came to power, the Taliban have apparently also used many of their released prisoners as security forces in their newly created units." [Translated using Google Translate and checked over by German native speaker]

Original text:

"Sie waren die Wegbereiterinnen für Frauenrechte in Afghanistan und standhafte Verteidigerinnen der am stärksten diskriminierten Gruppe: der Frauen. Jetzt sind fast 300 afghanische Richterinnen aus Angst vor Vergeltung durch die Taliban untergetaucht.

Afghanische Richterinnen klagten Tausende Männer wegen Vergewaltigung, Mord, Folter, Entführung an. Unter den Verurteilten waren auch Terroristen des sogenannten Islamischen Staates. Mit der Machtübernahme öffneten die Taliban sofort die Türen der Gefängnisse. Kurz darauf habe sie Morddrohungen erhalten, berichtet eine der Richterinnen, die sich mit dem ARD-Studio Neu-Delhi an einem geheimen Ort trifft und ihren Namen nicht veröffentlicht sehen will.

"Als die Taliban am 15. August 2021 die Macht in Afghanistan übernahmen, ließen sie alle Gefangenen ohne jegliche Auflagen frei. Ich habe viele Kriminelle wegen Verbrechen an Frauen verurteilt und sie ins Gefängnis gebracht. Jetzt versuchen sich diese Männer zu rächen und uns ausfindig zu machen", sagt sie. "Sie kamen zu mir nach Hause und brachten ein Schreiben der Polizei mit. In dem wurde die Herausgabe von Gerichtsakten verlangt. Es waren Kriminelle, die ich zu mehreren Jahren Gefängnis verurteilt hatte." Seitdem versteckt sich die Richterin. Ihre Kinder bleiben bei ihrem Mann.

[...] Die Richterin aber berichtet, wie nicht nur sie Todesangst in ihrem Versteck hat: "Jeden Tag werden Richter,

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Anwälte und Juristen aus Rache getötet. Anfang der Woche war es ein Richter, gestern ein Anwalt." Seit der Machtübernahme setzen die Taliban offenbar auch viele von ihnen freigelassene Gefangene als Sicherheitskräfte in ihren neu geschaffenen Einheiten ein."

BBC News, [Female Afghan judges hunted by the murderers they convicted](#), 28 September 2021

Names have been changed for this article:

"For more than three decades, Judge Sanaa investigated cases of violence against women and children.

She says the majority of her cases involved convicting members of the Taliban as well as militant group Isis.

"I have received more than 20 threatening phone calls from former inmates who have now been released."

She is currently in hiding with more than a dozen family members.

Only once has one of her male relatives returned to their former family home. But as he was packing some clothes, the Taliban arrived at the house in several cars full of armed men, led by a commander.

"I opened the door. They asked me whether this was the judge's house," he says. "When I said I didn't know where she was, they threw me on the stairs. One of them hit me with the butt of his gun and started beating me. My nose and mouth were covered in blood."

After the armed men left, Sanaa's relative took himself to hospital.

"I told another relative we must keep changing the house where my sister is staying. There is no other way out now. We can't escape to any other country, even Pakistan."

The Times of India, [Afghanistan: Former female prosecutors in hiding to escape retaliation](#), 22 September 2021

Afghanistan's former female prosecutors are in hiding, fearing retaliation from those who were once jailed after their judgments and have now been released.

Many prisoners in Afghanistan have been freed by the Taliban after they took over the country last month.

The female prosecutors claim that ex-prisoners are searching for them to take revenge. One female judge said that she has been repeatedly called by unknown numbers after the Taliban took over the country, The Khaama Press News Agency reported.

Many female judges who could manage to flee from Afghanistan are now abroad, but hundreds of female judges are still hiding in the country.

The female prosecutors usually handled the cases of women's rights violation, women's torture, rapes, murder, and family harassment.

Along with other female employees in Afghanistan, female prosecutors have also been at their homes and have been told not to go to their jobs, The Khaama Press News Agency reported.

(Former) Journalists

Committee to Protect Journalists, [Afghan journalist Zaki Qais beaten at home in Kabul](#), 19 January 2022

"At about 11 p.m. on January 15, two unidentified men knocked on Qais' home in Kabul, the capital, introduced themselves as members of the local police, and attacked him, according to the journalist, who spoke to CPJ in a phone interview, and posts on Twitter by the local outlet [Payk Media](#) and the independent [Afghanistan Journalists Center](#) press freedom group.

When Qais opened the door, one of the men grabbed him and hit him in the head with an unidentified object, and the other, whose face was covered, tried to stab him in the neck with a knife, he told CPJ. Qais said he resisted and was able to close the door after sustaining cuts to his head.

Qais is the former director of the independent Khawar TV broadcaster, and is a documentarian who has worked on films about human rights in Afghanistan, he told CPJ. [...]

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Qais told CPJ that he did not know the identities of his attackers, but said he had been harassed repeatedly by authorities and Taliban supporters. He told CPJ that he had stopped working at Khawar TV shortly after the Taliban seized power in Kabul in mid-August 2021.

Shortly before the fall of Kabul, an unidentified person called Qais and told him to stop posting anti-Taliban news on his [Facebook page](#), where he posted [news](#) and [commentary](#) on political issues to about 325,000 followers, he said.

On August 17, 2021, a group of armed men who introduced themselves as Taliban members arrived at Qais' home and beat him for two hours, slapping his face and hitting him with a gun while saying that his work was "not journalism," he said.

Separately, on September 26, Taliban members detained Qais while he filmed a women's anti-Taliban protest in Kabul; he said authorities held him for about six hours and whipped him 20 times before releasing him."

The Guardian, [Gunmen were looking for my mum's daughter of Afghan ex-radio boss](#), 18 January 2022

"Farkhunda's* mother has run a feminist radio station in her conservative province for the best part of 20 years, in defiance of [Taliban](#) threats. She has three children with disabilities who were forced to abandon their wheelchairs when gunmen attacked their home about two months after the Taliban takeover. They are in hiding in a city safe house, but don't know how they will survive longer term. [...]

She had faced some discrimination, as an ethnic minority in our region, and also the Taliban used to ask her: "Why are you, a woman, running a radio station. You should stay home and look after your family." When we left our home, we took nothing with us – my sister and brothers are disabled and they can't walk. But eventually our relatives told us that even though the Taliban are in power, everything is normal and we can come back to our home.

So in October, we returned to the house after two months living with different uncles and aunts. That same evening, late at night when we were all sleeping, suddenly we heard gunshots all around the doors. We all gathered in one room in the centre of the house that didn't have windows, so we were able to survive. In the other rooms the windows were shot as well as the doors, there was glass all around, but they didn't try to come in – perhaps they thought they hit us already."

Committee to Protect Journalists, [Three Afghan journalists detained following coverage of anti-Taliban protests](#), 11 January 2022

"On January 6, armed Taliban authorities detained the three journalists [Faisal Modaris, Idris Rahimi, and Milad Azizi], all of whom work at the Kabul Lovers YouTube-based broadcaster, along with Azizi's brother Rashid Azizi, while they were at a restaurant in the Shari Naw area of Kabul's District Four, according to three people with knowledge of the situation who spoke to CPJ on the condition of anonymity, citing fear of retaliation by the Taliban, as well as posts on Twitter by local [journalists](#) and [activists](#). [...]

The three [recently covered](#) protests by residents of Panjshir province after Taliban militias killed a civilian there, and featured protesters harshly criticizing the Taliban; the report was viewed more than 100,000 times, and it was cited by international news outlets [including the BBC](#). The people who spoke to CPJ said they believed that reporting, because it contained criticism of the Taliban and was so widely shared, was likely the reason for the journalists' arrests."

Khaama Press, [Nearly 80% of Afghan journalists changed their profession to survive](#), 11 January 2022

"Journalists' Foundation of Afghanistan said that Afghan Journalists are going through the worst economic situation as 79% of them have lost their jobs and resorted to other professions to make money and survive. The foundation has assessed the lives of Afghan journalists in the past one and a half months and found that they are living the worst life due to the fragile economic situation."

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Deutsche Welle, [Afghanistan: How press freedom has crumbled since the Taliban takeover](#), 7 January 2022

"For most female journalists, [leaving Afghanistan remains the only option](#).

"One of the few remaining in the country is Meena Habib. She has been a reporter for eight years and publishes Roidadha News, a local news website. She also does investigative work for various other news outlets, often focusing on women's issues. She told DW that the situation is dire but that she is continuing to do journalism because she believes in her profession.

"Journalists, especially female journalists, have faced an unclear fate over the last five months since Afghanistan fell to the Taliban," she told DW. She, too, has faced threats by the Taliban and was beaten when covering a women's protest.

"After two decades of being free to pursue an education and a career, women like Habib [must now live in a new reality where they are no longer equal members of society](#). While Taliban officials claim women can continue to work, the reality is that in the field of journalism, this is not the case.

"According to the Reporters Without Borders report, 15 out of Afghanistan's 36 provinces no longer have a single female reporter. In Kabul, only about a quarter of the women who were working at the start of August are still on the job.

"The progress seen in the past 20 years was swept away in a matter of days by the Taliban takeover," said the report. Habib acknowledged that press freedom does not currently exist under the Taliban but that external pressure could help the remaining journalists.

"The international community should work to ensure that the rights of female journalists who want to continue reporting in their own country are protected," she said.

"Unfortunately for Selma, remaining in Afghanistan would mean continuing to live in fear of the Taliban."

Republicworld.com, [Income is low, expenditure is high: Afghan media expresses concern over financial issues, curbs in accessing info from Taliban](#), 5 January 2022

"Expressing concerns over financial problems and restrictions in accessing information from the Taliban, dozens of Afghan media officials gathered in Kabul on Monday, Tolo News reported. Since the Taliban government ousted former President Ashraf Ghani and took charge of the country, the conditions of the media personnel have become grave. They have said that the economic problems, the restrictions in accessing information, and restrictions against women reporters are the main challenges they are facing currently.

[...]

"The Taliban officials, on the other hand, have stated that they will address the media challenges. However, they have also emphasised that the media should consider national and Islamic values while reporting. Abdul Wahid, head of the strategic relations department of the Interior Ministry, said that the media should reflect the voice of the people in a way that positive gains of the government and the people should be preserved."

Reporters Without Borders, [Afghanistan: radio station owners discuss economic problems, self-censorship](#), 5 January 2022

"Reporters Without Borders (RSF) backs the calls voiced by representatives of 85 provincial radio stations in Afghanistan in response to the problems they have encountered since the Taliban took power last August. Above all, they are asking the country's new authorities to give them better access to information and to allow women journalists to work freely."

Committee to Protect Journalists, [Afghan TV station owner Aref Noori detained by Taliban-affiliated militia](#), 27 December 2021

Yesterday, dozens of armed men who identified themselves as members of a militia affiliated with the Taliban-controlled Police District 4 in Kabul stormed and searched Noori's house in the Karte Parwan area of the capital

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and detained him, according to [news reports](#) and his son Kashef Noori, who was present at the scene and spoke to CPJ in a phone interview.

Noori, owner of the independent broadcaster Noorin Television, has not been seen by his family or a lawyer following his detention, according to his son, who said his whereabouts are unknown.

“The detention of media owner Aref Noori by a Taliban-affiliated militia marks a serious attack on the independent media in Afghanistan,” said CPJ Asia Coordinator Steven Butler. “Taliban authorities should immediately release Noori and stop intimidating independent voices in Afghanistan.”

Reporters without Borders, [Number of journalists in arbitrary detention surges 20% to 488, including 60 women](#), 14 December 2021

According to Reporter Without Borders’ (RSF) annual round-up published today, a record number of journalists – 488, including 60 women – are currently detained worldwide, while another 65 are being held hostage. Meanwhile, the number of journalists killed in 2021 – 46 – is at its lowest in 20 years.

Pressenza, 2021, [Afghanistan followed by Mexico, Pakistan, India emerge dangerous for journalists](#), 10 December 2021

“Afghanistan and Mexico are the most dangerous countries for media work this year, the Press Emblem Campaign (PEC) said in its annual report in Geneva on Thursday in view of Human Rights Day. Since 1 January, 76 media workers have been killed in 28 countries around the world. Afghanistan leads with 12 assassinations”

The Independent, [Afghan journalists ‘facing death threats’ and harsh rules, with female reporters hit hardest](#), 23 November 2021

“Journalists in [Afghanistan](#) are facing death threats and harsh new rules, which are particularly impacting women, according to campaigners.

Human Rights Watch warned the [Taliban’s](#) clampdown on the press is escalating, with Taliban intelligence officials forcing all journalists to enter all of their articles to be authorised before they can be published.

New rules unveiled by the Taliban’s Ministry for the Promotion of Virtue and Prevention of Vice on Sunday have blocked soap operas and dramas from including women actors. (...)

“I used to produce reports on virginity testing and violence against women, which no one can cover anymore,” a woman, who worked as a journalist in Herat in north-western Afghanistan, said. “No program covers women’s issues, especially on TV channels. The educational and entertainment programs have all stopped.

Patricia Gossman, associate Asia director at Human Rights Watch, said: “The Taliban’s new media regulations and threats against journalists reflect broader efforts to silence all criticism of Taliban rule. The disappearance of any space for dissent and worsening restrictions for women in the media and arts is devastating.

“Despite the Taliban’s promises to allow media that ‘respected Islamic values’ to function, the reality for Afghanistan is that journalists live in fear of a knock on the door or a summons from the authorities. This is contributing to an information blackout in which Taliban abuses increasingly happen in secret and without accountability.”

Kabul Now, [TV presenter among civilians killed in Kabul blast](#), 24 November 2021

“Hamid Saighani, a television presenter who was working with the Ariana News, was killed in a blast targeted a passenger minivan in west Kabul on Saturday, November 13, his wife, Fawzia Wahdat, who is also a journalist with the same TV network, confirmed.

The incident took place yesterday, around 05:00 PM, in Dasht-e-Barchi, a predominantly Shi’ite ethnic Hazara populated area which has come under deadliest bombings by the Islamic State Khurasan Province in recent years. Confirming the presenter’s death, Afghanistan Journalist Center (AFJC) added that he was the 9th journalist to be killed in Afghanistan in 2021. [...]

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The exact death toll has yet to be confirmed but the Reuters, citing an unnamed Taliban officials, reported that six people were killed and seven others injured in the incident.”

The Guardian, [Afghan journalists decry Taliban rules restricting role of women on TV](#), 23 November 2021
“Afghan journalists and rights activists have condemned “religious guidelines” issued by the Taliban that restrict the role of women in television, as the Islamists move to muzzle the media.

The Ministry for the Promotion of Virtue and Prevention of Vice on Sunday called on broadcasters to stop showing dramas and soap operas featuring female actors.

It also told broadcasters not to screen films or programmes that are “against Islamic or Afghan values” and asked female television journalists to wear a hijab at work.”

AVA Press, [12 Journalists killed last year in Afghanistan](#), 3 November 2021

“Afghanistan’s Journalists Safety Committee in its latest report indicated that 12 journalists have been killed and 230 more have been conducted violence against during the past year in Afghanistan.” [...]

“As per the report, one journalist has been killed and 67 more have been committed violence against only after the Taliban takeover on August 15.”

Committee to Protect Journalists, [Journalists shot, beaten and detained in Afghanistan](#), 2 November 2021

“Washington, D.C., November 2, 2021 - The Taliban must thoroughly and swiftly investigate the attacks on Afghan journalists Abdul Khaliq Hussaini and Alireza Sharifi and the beating and detention of Zahidullah Husainkhil, and do everything in its power to ensure the safety of members of the press, the Committee to Protect Journalists said today.

On October 28 and 29, unidentified gunmen injured Hussaini and Sharifi in separate attacks in Kabul, according to news reports, a statement by the Afghan Journalists Safety Committee, a local press freedom group, and Sharifi, who spoke to CPJ via messaging app.

Also on October 29, Taliban members beat and detained Husainkhil, according to a statement by the Afghan Journalists Safety Committee and a person familiar with the incident, who spoke to CPJ on the condition of anonymity due to fear of reprisal by the Taliban. [...]

At about 10:30am on October 28, two unidentified gunmen attacked Hussaini, a reporter for the privately owned online news service Khaama Press, while he was driving to the office of the U.N. Assistance Mission in Afghanistan, in Kabul, according to a report by his employer and a statement by the Afghan Journalists Safety Committee.

The attackers opened Hussaini’s car, and one punched him in the head and face, while the other hit his head and back with the butt of a rifle, Ahmadi told his employer, saying that the attackers tried to take his car, but he threw the keys away from the vehicle and fled the scene.

Hussaini sustained injuries to his head and shoulder due to a gunshot wound, according to his employer, which did not specify the nature of that wound. He spent one night in a local hospital and then was released, according to that report, which said that the Taliban had detained two suspects in the attack. [...]

Separately, at about 8 p.m. on October 29, two unidentified men riding a motorcycle fired several gunshots at Sharifi, a camera operator and editor for the IRIB, the Iranian state-owned news agency, while he was driving home in Kabul with his wife and son, according to that statement by the safety committee, a report by his employer, and Sharifi.

Sharifi was treated at a local hospital after shards of window glass injured his left eye and a bullet grazed his lip, he said, adding that his wife and son were not injured. Bilal Karimi, deputy spokesperson of the Taliban in Afghanistan, told The Associated Press that the Taliban was investigating that attack. That report said no one has claimed responsibility for the shooting.

Also on October 28, at about 4:30 p.m., Taliban members pulled Husainkhil, director of the privately owned station Radio Mahaal, out of his car when he arrived at his home in Logar, according to the safety committee’s statement and the person who spoke to CPJ.

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The Taliban members beat Husainkhil with assault rifles on his face and back, and continued beating him while they brought him to a local police station, where they held him for about three hours, according to those sources. [...] Previously, on October 25, a Taliban fighter beat freelance journalist Sadaqat Ghorzang while he was reporting at an Afghanistan-Pakistan border crossing, and on October 21 Taliban members beat at least three journalists covering a women's protest, as CPJ documented at the time"

Al Jazeera, [Watchdog: 30 recent cases of violence against Afghan journalists](#), 28 October 2021

More than 30 instances of violence and threats of violence against Afghan journalists were recorded in the last two months, with nearly 90 percent committed by the Taliban, says a media watchdog. More than 40 percent of the cases recorded by the Afghanistan National Journalists Union (ANJU) were physical beatings and another 40 percent were verbal threats of violence, Masorro Lutfi, the group's head, said on Wednesday. The remainder involved cases in which journalists were imprisoned for a day. One journalist was killed.

TOLO News, [30 Cases of Violence Against Afghan Reporters Cited: ANJU](#), 27 October 2021, 27 October 2021

"More than 30 cases of violence against journalists were recorded since the Islamic Emirate swept into power, the Afghanistan National Journalists Union said on Wednesday.

Speaking at a news conference in Kabul, the head of the union, Masroor Lufti, said that 90 percent of the violence was committed by forces related to the Islamic Emirate. The rest of the cases were committed by unidentified individuals. "The Afghanistan's National Journalists' Union conducted a general assessment over the journalists' status for Afghanistan across the country and it shows that over 30 cases of violence against journalists happened," he added. "Nearly 90 percent of these cases belong to the Taliban."

The journalists expressed their deepest concern over the ongoing situation of the media in Afghanistan and called on the Islamic Emirate officials to form a way for journalists to deal with the safety issues as well as to provide access to information.

"One of the main problems that we have is that we don't have proper access to information. When we go to cover a news event, we face problems," said Mohammad Sahibzada.

"My wish is that if we (women) are capable of working, why are women not allowed to work in the government media? They should be allowed," said Farahnaz, a journalist.

The spokesman for the Ministry of Interior, Sayed Khosti, said that efforts were underway to provide security for the journalists.

"The Islamic Emirate in some cases arrested the perpetrators," he said. "Those who humiliated the journalists have been advised."

The union earlier said that based on findings, over 70 percent of media organizations in the country have halted their activities after the collapse of the former government due to restrictions to access to information and economic challenges."

TOLO News, [Reporter Beaten by Soldiers in Torkham](#), 24 October 2021

"A TOLONews freelance reporter for the eastern region, Sadaqat Ghorzang, was beaten by border forces near Torkham gate on Sunday while making a report about the situation at the crossing between Afghanistan and Pakistan.

Ghorzang said although he had coordinated with Torkham crossing officials, the border forces beat him up and threw his camera and other equipment into the river and also broke his mobile phone.

"After having a talk with the Torkham crossing commissioner, I along with a bodyguard of the commissioner went to near the Torkham gate to make a report. There we were warned and beaten up by the border forces without any reason. They threw my camera and other equipment into the river. They kept me for a few minutes at the commissariat and broke my mobile. So far, I do not know what has happened to my camera," Ghorzang said. [...]

Meanwhile, reporters in the eastern region of Afghanistan in reaction to the incident said the future situation will be difficult if this continues. [...]

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So far, no government department has reacted to this incident.

This follows several similar incidents that have been recorded in Kabul and in a number of provinces.”

Al Jazeera, [Afghan journalists lament ‘bleak’ future for media under Taliban](#), 22 October 2021

“In a recent report, the Afghan Journalists Safety Committee (AJSC) described the killing of a journalist by unknown gunmen and seizures of two media outlets in the east and the north as examples of the Islamic Emirate failing to ensure safety of the media. Like CPJ, the AJSC also says the Taliban has failed to provide details of promised investigations into abuses against journalists.

“I don’t know any journalist who is willing to work with the Taliban, but I do know a lot of journalists who left the country and many others who want to leave the country. Journalists don’t feel safe in Afghanistan,” said Ahmad.”

Committee to Protect Journalists, [Taliban fighters assault at least 3 journalists covering women’s protest in Afghanistan](#), 21 October 2021

Today, Taliban fighters assaulted at least three journalists covering a women’s protest opposing the group and demanding “work, bread, and education” in Kabul, the capital, according to multiple news reports and Bülent Kılıç, a photographer with the French news agency Agence France-Presse, who was among those attacked and spoke to CPJ in a phone interview.

Bundesamt für Migration und Flüchtlinge, [Briefing Notes Group 62 – Information Centre for Asylum and Migration](#), 4 October 2021

“On 02.10.21 it was reported that two civilians (including a well-known journalist) and two Taliban had been killed in an attack by unknown armed assailants in Jalalabad/Nangarhar. On 01.10.21 it was reported that the Taliban were forcing interpreters who had worked for the Netherlands to appear in court by threatening their relatives.”

AVA Press, [Former Afghan journalist, journalism lecturer killed in eastern Nangarhar province](#), 3 October 2021

“Unknown gunmen killed four people in Police District three of Jalalabad City of eastern Nangarhar province among them a well-known journalist and journalism lecturer, Sayed Maroof Sadat.

Afghan Voice Agency (AVA)_The incident happened on Saturday, October 2 and local residents say that the two others killed were the Taliban fighters. [...]

Sayed Maroof Sadat was a journalism graduate from and was working as a journalist in radio “Sub Bakhair and Sham”.

He was recently assigned as media in charge of the directorate of urban development in province and was also working for a number of foreign media in the province.”

Human Rights Watch, [Afghanistan: Taliban Severely Restrict Media](#), 1 October 2021

“Taliban security forces have also arbitrarily detained journalists and beaten several. The head of a journalists’ advocacy group told Human Rights Watch that the Taliban have taken at least 32 journalists into custody since they took power in Kabul on August 15. Most were released after warnings about their reporting, but some were beaten. One who was badly beaten was released with the warning not to tell anyone what happened to him. As of October 1, at least one remained in custody without access to his family.

In the city of Herat on September 6, the Taliban detained Murtaza Samadi, 21, a freelance photojournalist, while he was covering a protest. Family members said that after hearing of his arrest, they asked officials at the governor’s office and police station where he had been taken. They were told that the case had been referred to the intelligence department and that Samadi was accused of organizing the protest and having “connections with foreigners.” He remained in custody without access to his family until he was released on September 30.

Beyond the arrests, the Taliban’s intelligence office has summoned journalists and warned them that their reporting constituted “propaganda” and needed to stop. [...]

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Many Afghan journalists have fled the country or have gone into hiding, and scores of media outlets, especially outside major cities, have closed altogether. Taliban commanders and fighters have long engaged in a pattern of threats, intimidation, and violence against members of the media, and have been responsible for targeted killings of journalists.”

AVA Press, [Herat Family Asks Emirate to Release Photojournalist](#), 30 September 2021

“The family of Murteza Samadi, a photojournalist who was detained in Herat province, called on the Taliban to release him from detention.

Afghan Voice Agency(AVA)_Freelance photojournalist Murteza Samadi was detained by the Taliban about three weeks ago in western Herat province while covering a women's protest held in front of the governor's office. [...]

At the same time, officials of the Islamic Emirate in province said that he will be released in the coming days.

“Murtaza is an ordinary person who was taking photos with his private camera. His documents were sent to the directorate of security, and he will be released after some days,” said Deputy Governor of Herat Shir Ahmad Amar.”

Amnesty International, [Afghanistan: The fate of thousands hanging in the balance](#), 21 September 2021

“In this report, Amnesty International, International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH) and the World Organisation against Torture (OMCT) have documented incidents of human rights violations that have taken place in Afghanistan since the takeover by the Taliban on 15 August”. The report references a number of sources, including: [...]

BBC. 9 September 2021. “Afghanistan: Journalists tell of beatings by Taliban”.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-58500579> [...]

TOLO News, [153 Afghan Media Outlets Cease Operating in Less Than 1 Month](#), 13 September 2021

“Organizations supporting free media in Afghanistan said on Monday that since the fall of the former government in mid-August, 153 media outlets have stopped activity in 20 provinces.

According to officials at the organizations, these outlets include radio, print and TV channels, and both economic problems and restrictions are reportedly the main reasons.

The officials said that if the media's financial crisis is not solved and restrictions against them are not addressed, more outlets are likely to cease operating in the country.”

Thomson Reuters Foundation News, [Taliban response to Afghan protests increasingly violent, UN says](#), 10 September 2021

“The U.N. rights office on Friday said that the Taliban response to peaceful marches in Afghanistan has been increasingly violent, with authorities using live ammunition, batons and whips and causing the deaths of at least four protesters. [...]

She added that the United Nations had also received reports of house-to-house searches for those who participated in the protests. Journalists covering the protests have also been intimidated.

"In one case, one journalist was reported to have been told, as he was being kicked in the head, 'You are lucky you haven't been beheaded'," Shamdassani said. "Really there has been lots of intimidation of journalists simply trying to do their job." “

BBC News, [Afghanistan: Journalists tell of beatings by Taliban](#), 10 September 2021

“Journalists in Afghanistan say that they have been beaten, detained and flogged by the Taliban when attempting to cover protests.

Photos circulating online show two journalists from Etilaatroz newspaper with welts and bruises after their arrest in the capital Kabul.

One of them, Taqi Daryabi, told the BBC he had been taken to a district police station where he was kicked and

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beaten.” [...]

“Afghanistan's Tolo news agency reported that its cameraman had been arrested and held by the Taliban for nearly three hours.

The CPJ, an international non-governmental organisation, said at least 14 journalists had been detained and then released over the past two days.”

UNOCHA, [Afghanistan: Humanitarian Access Snapshot \(August 2021\)](#), 9 September 2021

“Interference in the implementation of humanitarian activities

In August, the HAG recorded 32 interferences compared to 11 in July. Taliban members initiated 31 interferences, while ANSF members authored one incident. In at least 19 instances, armed Taliban members visited NGO offices with the aim to search and investigate about the NGO's activities, asking for staff and assets lists. In some instances, NGOs were asked to register their programs, or to stop female staff from attending offices and field work. On 31 August 2021, in Farah, the Provincial NGO Commissioner asked all humanitarian partners to submit their project proposals along with all related documents; further emphasizing that women were not allowed to resume their work until further notice. In five incidents, Taliban members attempted to interfere in health programs by demanding additional services and supplies, suspending health services and trying to replace some of their key staff. The absence of a clear Taliban policy on humanitarian activities, makes it challenging for provincial NGO Commissioners to make decisions which creates a certain limbo with lots of confusion among humanitarian partners which results insignificant delays in resuming humanitarian programs.”

Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty's Gandhara, [Live Rounds, Batons, Whips: Taliban Violence Against Protesters, Journalists Rising](#), 9 September 2021

“Since the Taliban issued an order banning protests "under any circumstances" earlier this week, protesters have also been beaten and detained, according to the UN's human rights spokeswoman Ravina Shamdasani, while Reporters Without Borders (RSF) said “incidents involving media personnel have been on the rise in both Kabul and provincial cities,” with Afghan journalists being “harassed by the Taliban, arrested, and beaten with cables.” “

Danish Immigration Service, [Afghanistan Recent developments in the security situation, impact on civilians and targeted individuals](#), 8 September 2021

“There have also been reports of Taliban fighters going house-to-house searching for journalists. [...]

The private news outlet Tolo News, have been allowed to continue their reporting with female anchors, while the Taliban has barred female anchors at Radio Television Afghanistan from returning to work. [...]

SER advised that Taliban perceive human rights defenders as an extension of the American presence in the country because they find that the idea of human rights undermine the principles of Islam.”

Human Rights Watch, [Afghanistan: Taliban Severely Beat Journalists](#), 8 September 2021

“Taliban authorities in Afghanistan have been detaining and assaulting journalists and imposing new restrictions on media work, Human Rights Watch said today. [...]

On September 7, 2021, Taliban security forces detained Taqi Daryabi and Nemat Naqdi, journalists from the Kabul-based media outlet Etilaat-e Roz. The reporters had been covering protests by women in Kabul demanding an end to Taliban violations of the rights of women and girls. Etilaat-e Roz reported that Taliban authorities took the two men to a police station in Kabul, placed them in separate cells, and severely beat them with cables. Both men were released on September 8 and received medical care at a hospital for injuries to their backs and faces. [...]

The Taliban authorities also detained a Tolonews photojournalist, Wahid Ahmadi, on September 7, and released him the same day. They confiscated his camera and prevented other journalists from filming the protest. [...]

Taliban commanders and fighters have long engaged in a pattern of threats, intimidation, and violence against members of the media, and have been responsible for targeted killings of journalists”

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TOLO News, [Well-Known Journalist Fahim Dashti Killed in Panjshir](#), 6 September 2021

“Fahim Dashti, a well-known journalist and spokesperson for the Resistance Front, was killed during a clash in Panjshir province on Monday night.

The National Resistance Front officials said that he was targeted by Pakistan Air Force drones in Anaba district of the province.

This claim was denied by the Taliban.

Fahim Dashti held various jobs over his career including media adviser, a member of the Afghanistan Journalist Federation, managing director of Subh-e-Kabul weekly magazine, and as head of the Afghanistan National Journalists Union.

He was currently working as spokesperson for the resistance front in Panjshir province.”

OCHCHR, [Afghanistan: Journalists at risk of persecution need urgent protection – UN experts](#), 3 September 2021

“A group of UN human rights experts* today called on all States to provide urgent protection to Afghan journalists and media workers who fear for their lives and are seeking safety abroad.

“Journalists and media workers, in particular women, are facing heightened risks since the Taliban’s political takeover of Afghanistan,” the experts said. [...]

Recalling the various resolutions on the safety of journalists adopted by the Human Rights Council in recent years, the UN experts called on the Council to uphold its own commitment and do more to address the growing threat to the safety of journalists in the country.

“Reports of targeted killings of journalists and their family members, home raids, threats and intimidation in areas controlled by the Taliban have sharply increased in recent months. This is taking place in a context where Afghanistan is already considered one of the most dangerous countries for journalists,” the experts said. [...]

“We are deeply worried about the threats and systematic human rights violations faced by female journalists, as they may be targeted for working in the media or simply being a woman in public life,” the UN experts added. [...]

The experts: Ms. Irene Khan, Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of expression; Fionnuala Ní Aoláin, Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights while countering terrorism; Clément Voule, Special Rapporteur on the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association; and the Working Group on discrimination against women: Ms. Melissa Upreti (Chair), Ms. Dorothy Estrada-Tanck (Vice Chair), Ms. Elizabeth Broderick, Ms. Ivana Radačić, and Ms. Meskerem Geset Techane.

Human rights defenders, NGO representatives

The Guardian, [We are struggling’: two former officials at Afghan women’s affairs ministry](#), 16 January 2022

“Gul Bano* and Karima* are activists who ran provincial branches of the ministry of women’s affairs in two different parts of Afghanistan. Their former offices have been taken over by the Taliban’s feared enforcers, the ministry for the promotion of virtue and prevention of vice. They are now in hiding, afraid of the men they helped put in prison for [domestic violence](#) and other abuses, many of them in the Taliban or with family links to the militants.

Gul Bano:

I’ve been living in fear and shock since the [fall of Kabul](#). We held a women’s protest and they tried to attack and stop us. So now I’m in hiding and always under direct threat due to my job as a women’s rights activist and a [former] government employee.

I’ve been receiving threatening calls on a daily basis, not only from the Taliban but also from relatives and family members of those women I tried to defend. They tell me: “We are following you, we see you but you don’t see us.”

Amnesty International, [Afghanistan: The Taliban must immediately release Professor Faizullah Jalal](#), 10

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January 2022

"Responding to the arrest of Professor Faizullah Jalal, a Kabul University lecturer detained for exercising his right to freedom of expression while criticizing the Taliban on a news channel, Samira Hamidi, Amnesty International's South Asia campaigner, said:

"This arrest marks just the latest effort by the Taliban to stifle dissent. Since the takeover, Afghanistan's leaders have intimidated, harassed and violently attacked individuals who criticize them, with human rights defenders, women activists, journalists and members of academia suffering the greatest number of reprisals.

"Professor Faizullah Jalal, a renowned intellectual with decades of experience working in Afghanistan, was simply exercising his right to freedom of expression by pointing out the Taliban's failure to address the humanitarian catastrophe currently devastating Afghanistan during a televised debate. Instead of respecting his views and heeding his comments, the Taliban arrested him for allegedly provoking people on a fake Twitter account.

"Despite the fact that Faizullah Jalal's family have confirmed that the Twitter account set up in his name is fake, he remains detained in custody. The Taliban authorities must immediately and unconditionally release him."

Faizullah Jalal was arrested on Saturday by the Islamic Emirate's security agents for allegedly posting critical comments on social media against the Taliban. His family has been denied the right to visit since his arrest and received no updates about his wellbeing or any other information beyond confirmation of his arrest and detention."

ABC News, "[In Afghanistan, women's rights activists feared for their lives, now they are disappearing](#)", 21 November 2021

"Some activists have reported receiving phone calls, messages and emails from suspicious people who claimed they could help those wanting to leave Afghanistan.

They are reportedly asked to share personal details and are invited to come to certain locations.

Two suspects have confessed to luring Ms Safi and the three other women to the house where their bodies were found."

Times of India, [Taliban continue crack down on Human Rights defenders](#), 12 November 2021

"Nazir, another human rights defender who spoke with Amnesty International, said that he faced the risk of reprisals from the Taliban because of his work in human rights, his previous work as a journalist, and because of his ethnic and religious identity as a Shia-Hazara.

He emphasized that "journalists, activists and anti-Taliban intellectuals, writers/artists, female journalists, former police, army, and intelligence officers, as well as female athletes, judges, advocates and singers, are all at immediate risk". In another instance, a prominent civil society activist, Abdul Rahmad Mawin was gunned down in Jalalabad city in Afghanistan's eastern Nangarhar province bordering Pakistan in October amid an ongoing targeted assassination spree.

In these months, the Taliban is reportedly on a wild run to hunt down several leading Human Rights activists and eliminate them, reported IFFRAS."

UNHCR, [Afghanistan Situation Update](#), 8 November 2021

"The situation for women in Afghanistan remains worrying. On 6 November, the bodies of four women, including one of a women's rights activist, were discovered in Balkh province in northern Afghanistan; the three other bodies have not yet been identified, the Balkh Information Department Director, Mawlawi Zabihullah Noorani, stated. Since mid-August, women have held regular, nationwide protests against the Taliban, demanding that their rights be restored and protected, and since September, several female activists have been reportedly detained and tortured by Taliban members. On 4 November, Human Rights Watch (HRW) said Taliban rules were prohibiting most women from operating as aid workers in the country."

France 24, [Four Women Slain in Afghanistan after phone call 'to join evacuation flight'](#), 6 November

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2021

"Two suspects have been arrested after the four bodies were found at a house in the city, interior ministry spokesman Qari Sayed Khosti said.

The arrested people have admitted in initial interrogation that the women were invited to the house by them. Further investigations are under way and the case has been referred to court," he said.

Khosti did not identify the victims, but sources in Mazar-i-Sharif told AFP that one of the dead was a women's rights activist and university lecturer, Frozan Safi.

Three sources in Mazar-i-Sharif told AFP that they had heard the women received a call that they thought was an invitation to join an evacuation flight and were picked up by a car, only to be found dead later. [...]

The source said that three weeks ago she had herself received a call from someone pretending to offer assistance in her efforts to get to safety abroad.

"He knew all information about me, asked me to send my documents, wanted me to fill a questionnaire, pretending to be an official of my office in charge of giving info to the US for my evacuation," she said."

Kabul Now, [Female civil activists murdered in Balkh; Taliban arrest two suspects](#), 6 November 2021

"The Taliban security forces have arrested two suspects in Mazar-e-Sharif, capital city of the northern Balkh province, in connection to the murder of four women whose dead bodies were found last Thursday, November 04, inside a residence."

The Guardian, [Women's rights activist shot dead in northern Afghanistan](#), 5 November 2021

"A 29-year-old activist and economics lecturer, Frozan Safi, has been shot and killed in northern **Afghanistan**, in what appears to be the first known death of a women's rights defender since the Taliban swept to power almost three months ago.

Frozan Safi's body was identified in a morgue in the city of Mazar-i-Sharif after she went missing on 20 October.

"We recognised her by her clothes. Bullets had destroyed her face," said Safi's sister, Rita, who is a doctor.

"There were bullet wounds all over, too many to count, on her head, heart, chest, kidneys and legs." Her engagement ring and her bag had both been taken, Rita added.

On Thursday, **Taliban** security forces brought the bodies of two unidentified women who had been shot dead to the Balkh provincial hospital, said Meraj Farooqi, a doctor there. They had been found alongside the bodies of two men in a house in Mazar-i-Sharif, said Zabihullah Noorani, the Taliban's director for information and cultural affairs in Balkh province, who suggested that they could have been victims of a "personal feud". Police were investigating the case, he said."

UK Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCO), [Foreign Travel Advice: Afghanistan - Coronavirus](#), Last updated: 5 November 2021

There have been a number of serious attacks on both western and Afghan NGOs and vehicles belonging to them, in which people have been killed or injured. NGO workers have been kidnapped near their places of work. Most attacks continue to occur in the east and south of Afghanistan with a recent increase in activity in the central areas. The [International NGO Safety Organisation \(INSO\)](#) issues regular security updates for NGOs.

UNHCR, [Afghanistan: Human rights defenders living under "climate of fear"](#) – UN expert, 3 November 2021

"Human rights defenders in Afghanistan describe living under a climate of fear, threats, intense insecurity and growing desperation, a UN expert said today, calling for an urgent coordinated response from the international community.

"Among those most at risk are defenders documenting alleged war crimes, women defenders, in particular criminal lawyers, cultural rights defenders, especially those working in banned sectors such as music, and defenders from minority groups. Defenders tell me that some have erased their online data history to evade

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identification, and that the Taliban are resorting to other ways of finding them - for example that one HRD was identified by an injury to his leg.”

“Many defenders are well known in their local communities, in particular in rural areas, and have left for the anonymity of the cities, but even there they are forced to constantly change locations,” the UN expert said. “Most have also lost their source of income, further limiting their options to find safety.””

TOLO News, [Woman Activist in Kandahar Says Family Members Beaten](#), 12 September 2021

“Fahima Rahmati, a civil society activist and the head of a charity in southern Kandahar province, claimed on Sunday that an “armed group related to the Taliban,” had entered her house and beat some of her family members last night.

Miss Rahmati, who leads a charity naming Heela, (wish) said she has received death threats and her family has also been threatened.

She added that she has never worked with the government before. “Is this their general amnesty--that the Taliban are coming to my house, and beating my family members? Is governance like this?”

A man also claimed that his wife was recently killed in a Taliban shooting in Kabul. Her husband, Abdul Khaleq said: “Is this in Islam? Can someone, in Islam, kill a woman who is outside her house?””

UNAMA, [Report of the Secretary-General: The situation in Afghanistan and its implications for international peace and security](#), 8 September 2021

42. Human rights defenders and media workers continued to be targeted. UNAMA recorded the killing of a civil society activist and his wife by the Taliban in Helmand Province; the killing of a civil society activist in Kabul Province; the killing of an international photojournalist in Kandahar Province; and the killing of a female journalist, claimed by ISIL-K, in Kabul Province. In addition, a private radio worker was injured in an armed attack by unknown perpetrators in Ghazni Province; a journalist, a female non-governmental organization employee and a female civil society activist were threatened by unknown perpetrators in Daikundi and Herat Provinces; and a female journalist reportedly escaped an attack by ISIL-K in Nangarhar Province. In Parwan Province, Radio Bareen stopped broadcasting after one of its female staff was assaulted by unknown perpetrators.

43. Reports emerged during the reporting period of media entities temporarily ceasing their activities in districts in Baghlan, Zabul, Jawzjan, Kunduz, Nuristan and Paktia Provinces after they had been overtaken by the Taliban. On 26 July, in Kandahar, the National Directorate of Security arrested four journalists after their return from a reporting trip in Spin Boldak.

Hazara Shi’a

Al Jazeera, [Taliban arrests fighter who shot dead Hazara woman at checkpoint](#), 19 January 2022

“A Taliban fighter has been arrested for shooting dead a Hazara woman at a checkpoint in the Afghan capital as she returned from a wedding, a spokesman for the group says.

The killing of Zainab Abdullahi, 25, has horrified women, who face increasing restrictions since the Taliban returned to power in August.

The shooting took place in a Kabul neighbourhood inhabited mostly by members of the minority Shia Hazara community, which has been the target of deadly attacks by sectarian armed groups such as ISIL (ISIS).

Abdullahi was “killed by mistake”, Taliban spokesman Mohammad Naeem said on Twitter, adding that the arrested fighter will be punished. [...]

Some women’s rights activists have staged protests in Kabul since Abdullahi’s killing, demanding justice.”

Human Rights Watch, [Afghanistan: Taliban Deprive Women of Livelihoods, Identity](#), 18 January 2022

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"Some women felt heightened risk because of both gender and ethnicity or religion. "It's difficult for us because we are the Hazara minority," a healthcare worker said, referring to her ethnic group, which has long been persecuted in Afghanistan. "When we talk to [Taliban members], they don't even look at us, they don't consider us at all," she said, referring to Hazara staff members at her health facility. [...]

The Taliban's return to power has made members of some ethnic and religious minorities feel more vulnerable to threats even from those not affiliated with the Taliban. The healthcare worker said a colleague who is Shia, a religious minority, was threatened by a patient's family she believed might be connected to the Taliban."

Afghanistan Analysts Network, [A Community Under Attack: How successive governments failed west Kabul and the Hazaras who live there](#), 17 January 2022

"After a brief respite from explosions following the Taleban takeover, attacks against west Kabul's Hazara-dominated areas resumed a little over a month after the Republic's fall. Since then, there have been several explosions in Dasht-e Barchi and three attacks against Hazaras and Shias elsewhere in the country, two of them targeting Shia/Hazara mosques in Kunduz and Kandahar. The Taleban's desire to establish credibility as the provider of security could be the reason for their tepid response to the attacks, most of which have been claimed by ISKP. However, instead of acknowledging and taking steps to address security concerns seriously, the Taleban have been downplaying the strength of ISKP and therefore the incidents claimed by or attributed to it."

Khaama Press, [Shi'ite people ask Taliban to formalize their sect](#), 28 December 2021

"Shi'ite people in Afghanistan in a statement asked the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan to formalize their sect and protect their citizenship rights in the framework of an inclusive government. "In the statement that was titled "Demands and ideas of Shi'ite people in Afghanistan," the people asked that for protection of their all political, economic, societal, cultural, freedom of speech, and political participation. "Writers of the statement welcomed the green signal of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan for the establishment of an inclusive government and added that the Afghan government will not be inclusive without their participation as they form 25 percent of the Afghan population. "The Shi'ite people also asked for the creation of exclusive courts of Shi'ite people where they can implement their own law. "It comes as a number of Shi'ite leaders met with the political deputy of PM Abdul Kabir on Sunday, December 26 and they were given assurance of their security in Afghanistan. "Earlier, the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan had said that they will be making a mechanism based on which the Shi'ite people will be implementing their own sect to solve their conflicts."

La Prensa Latina, [Afghanistan's Hazaras live in the shadow of fear as attacks increase](#), 11 December 2021

"The fear of terror attacks has become a daily reality for Afghanistan's Shia Hazara minority, and as they go about their daily lives, death can strike at the most unexpected times: while coming out of school, praying at the mosque or in an urban transport vehicle.

"In order to protect themselves, the Hazaras live together in closely-knit neighborhoods, such as Kabul's well-known western area of Dashte Barchi, but this has made them easy targets for attacks often claimed by the Islamic State terror group, which considers the community apostates.

"On Friday, a sacred day when streets are full of people and the Taliban were keeping watch, twin bombings targeted two passenger vans within a span of 30 minutes.

"Two people were killed and three injured in the first blast, while a woman was injured in the second."

Gandhara, [Taliban Accused Of Forcibly Evicting Ethnic Uzbeks, Turkmen In Northern Afghanistan](#), 9 December 2021

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Taliban fighters have been accused of helping to forcibly evict more than 1,000 people in northern Afghanistan, with the evictions targeting members of the ethnic Uzbek and Turkmen communities. Ethnic Uzbeks and Turkmen allege that Pashtuns seized their homes and land in the northern province of Jowzjan with the help of the Taliban, a predominately Pashtun group. The evictions came as Taliban fighters have expelled hundreds of Shi'ite Hazara families from their homes and farms in five provinces since the militants seized power in Afghanistan in August. [...] In October, the Taliban forcibly evicted hundreds of Hazara families from southern Helmand Province and the northern province of Balkh. In late September, some 700 Hazara were forcibly evicted by the Taliban in the central province of Daikundi. The Taliban claimed that they were implementing a Taliban court order that required the land to be returned to what it said were its original owners.

Hazara Protest Worldwide (Kabul Press), [An Appeal to the World Concerning the Dire Situation of the Hazara Ethnic Group in Afghanistan](#), 23 November 2021

"Our bloody history goes back to the 1890s when more than 60% of our people were massacred in a genocidal fashion by a Pashtun Amir and his tribe, our land was confiscated and given to the Pashtuns brought in from across the border. Our women and girls were sold to slavery and the surviving individuals were dispersed in the region. The successive governments and regimes continued the discriminatory policies towards us and we were marginalized and kept out of the system.

More recently during the Taliban onslaught in Mazar-e-Sharif in 1998, more than 10,000 Hazaras were massacred and in some cases, people were not allowed to bury their dead and they were left on the street to rot or be eaten by the dogs. We suffered more killings and massacres in other parts of Hazaristan, the central part of the country. Despite the presence of international military forces in Afghanistan for the past 20 years, Hazaras continued to be the victims of extremist violence by Islamic insurgents and systematic discrimination by the Afghan state. In the past six years, Hazaras have been regularly targeted and murdered in the capital city, Kabul, and across Afghanistan. Our places of worship, schools, universities, hospitals, sports clubs, and public gatherings were targeted by suicide bombers. (...)

Currently, no single place in Afghanistan is safe for Hazaras and given their capture of the country, we feel that the first casualty of the Taliban's ascendance to power will be the Hazaras in general and the intellectuals and elites in particular. During the recent international evacuation, most of our people who are very vulnerable were left behind. Of more than 120,000 people that evacuated, less than %1 of them were from our people."

Daily Sabah, [Desperate Hazara leaders in Afghanistan show support for Taliban](#), 25 November 2021

"Over 1,000 Hazaras have pledged their support for the interim Taliban government, saying that the "dark period" of previous Western-backed governments has ended.

Afghanistan's Hazaras and Shiite Muslims have been persecuted by the Taliban, but on Thursday, community elders gathered in Kabul alongside Taliban leaders in a show of support.

Senior Hazara leader and former lawmaker Jafar Mahdawi, who organized the gathering, said the former President Ashraf Ghani was the "darkest point" in the history of Afghanistan.

"Afghanistan had no independence and (foreign) embassies ruled every aspect of the government," he said.

"Thank God, we have now passed this dark period."

Since the Taliban seized power in August, the new rulers have put an end to the war, ended corruption and increased security, Mahdawi said.

He, however, called for a more inclusive government from the Taliban and urged the new rulers to reopen schools for girls.

"In the coming weeks or months, we hope to witness an inclusive government that has representatives of all people," Mahdawi said.

The interim Taliban government is made up almost entirely of the group's Pashtun stalwarts and includes no women.

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Taliban leader and spokesperson Zabihullah Mujahid told the gathering that rebuilding the country was a priority. He said their struggle against the "foreign invaders" has ended and that the intention is to rebuild the country. The Hazaras, roughly 10% to 20% of Afghanistan's around 38 million population, have been persecuted for centuries in the country.

In the last two decades, they have been targeted in particular by the Taliban and Daesh terrorists, who consider them heretics.

The Taliban has carried out several mass killings of Hazaras, including in the city of Mazar-i-Sharif in 1998, where Human Rights Watch says at least 2,000 mainly Hazara civilians were executed.

Several bomb attacks in recent years have also killed and wounded several Hazaras in Kabul and other cities.

Just days after the Taliban took over, a statue of a prominent Hazara political leader was decapitated in Bamiyan, a city inhabited mainly by the Shiite community.

Nobody claimed responsibility for the act, but the Taliban earned notoriety in 2001 for destroying two giant Buddha statues in Bamiyan after deeming them anti-Islamic."

DW, [Deadly bomb blast in Shiite neighbourhood in Kabul](#), 17 November 2021

"A bomb blast killed at least one person in a neighborhood of Kabul populated largely by people from the Hazara Shiite minority on Wednesday, the Taliban confirmed.

The explosion happened in the Dast-e-Barchi district. One civilian was killed and six were injured, Interior Ministry spokesperson Qari Sayeed Khoshty said on Twitter. Other witnesses reported more casualties. [...]

The so-called Islamic State-Khorasan (IS-K) militant group claimed responsibility for the attack.

A second explosion in another part of the city was also reported, but Taliban officials said they were still gathering information.

Kabul has been rocked by a series of blasts in recent days, with the city's Shiite minority frequently the target of the attacks.

Last week, a bomb destroyed another minibus in the same area, killing a journalist and injuring several others. IS-K claimed responsibility for the attack and boasted of killing "20 Shiite apostates.""

Kabul Now, [Taliban orders school teachers to specify their religious identity](#), 16 November 2021

"Taliban orders school teachers to specify their religious identity

The Taliban intelligence directorate has asked school teachers in the western Herat province to specify their religious identity whether they are "Sunni" or "Shia" Muslim in a detailed form, according to a copy of the form shared with Kabul Now.

School teachers are asked to fill in the form indicating their personal information, duty station, home address, contact number, residence, and their religious identity. Talking to Kabul Now, some teachers strongly opposed the Taliban move for religious identification of school teachers.

[...]

"We were never asked under the former government that which Madhhab (school of Islam) – Sunni or Shia – we followed. We don't know why they ask for specification of our religious identity," said a teacher on condition of anonymity.

Calling on the Taliban to stop it, the school teachers stressed that such move will harm the unity between Sunni and Shia Muslims.

Naeem ul-Haq Haqqani, Taliban's chief of cultural affairs, rejected to provide more clarifications regarding the form. Sher Ahmad Ammar, special representative of Herat's Taliban governor, however, told Kabul Now that they will further investigate on how the forms have been distributed in schools.

This comes as the Taliban's minister for propagation of virtue and prevention of vice, Mohammad Khalid Hanafi, has said in a recent meeting with a group of Iranian scholars that the "enemy" are attempting to disunite Afghans under the Sunni and Shia classifications.

He has stressed on further unity among Sunni and Shia Muslims in Afghanistan."

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Times of India, [Taliban continue crack down on Human Rights defenders](#), 12 November 2021

"Nazir, another human rights defender who spoke with Amnesty International, said that he faced the risk of reprisals from the Taliban because of his work in human rights, his previous work as a journalist, and because of his ethnic and religious identity as a Shia-Hazara.

[...] In these months, the Taliban is reportedly on a wild run to hunt down several leading Human Rights activists and eliminate them, reported IFFRAS. The Taliban have also been indulging in forcefully displacing the members of the Hazara community. Human Rights Watch (HRW) have accused the Taliban of such inhumane displacement of many families across Afghanistan, which the Taliban describes as a form of "collective punishment".

It has ordered Hazaras and other residents in four provinces across Afghanistan to leave their homes and farms, in many cases with only a few days' notice.

Hazaras are a Shia ethnic minority community, who make up about 9 per cent - 10 per cent of the Afghan population. They are basically of Mongolian and Central Asian descent and reside mostly in the mountainous area of central Afghanistan, reported IFFRAS.

Taliban's hatred for the Hazaras is primarily due to their difference in sectarian identity and distinct ethnic origins, and therefore considers them to be 'infidels'.

Videos of forced displacement and ethnic cleansing of Hazaras continues in the Gizab and Patu districts of Daykundi by the Taliban. The brutal torture meted to the Hazaras, including children are beyond condemnation. Several have been killed by the Taliban in Qarabagh district of Ghazni. They have been tortured inhumanly and then shot in their faces. A picture of a Hazara child drenched in clothes wet with blood was tweeted recently, reported IFFRAS""

United States Commission on International Religious Freedom, [Factsheet Afghanistan](#), 28 October 2021

"Hazara Shi'a Persecution

[...] The Hazara Shi'a have faced *attacks* by both the Taliban and the ISIS-K over the last 30 years and now face the prospect of more violence with the Taliban back in power. There has been a recent resurgence of attacks targeting the Hazara community. In the first half of 2021, the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) *documented* 20 attacks targeting Hazaras, which left a total of 143 dead and 357 injured. In early July, after the Taliban took control of Ghazni province in their advance toward Kabul, villagers from Mundarakht left for shelter in the mountains during fighting between the Taliban and government forces. As some of the villagers returned to gather food and supplies, Taliban forces *massacred* nine Hazara Shi'a men over the course of three days; six were shot and three were tortured to death. In September 2021, Hazara activists claimed that at least *1,200 Hazara Shi'a* were evicted from their homes in Daykundi province as the Taliban fighters seized their properties. Shortly after, in *October 2021*, there were confirmed reports that the Taliban killed 13 Hazaras in Daykundi province. On October 8, 2021, ISIS-K *attacked* a Shi'a mosque in Kunduz province that killed at least 46 worshipers and wounded dozens more.

In August 2021, the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum issued a *press release* stating its grave concern about the Shi'a minority, warning that Hazaras face "a risk of crimes against humanity or even genocide." For more information on the threat to the Hazara community, please refer to USCIRF's Spotlight September 2021 episode "*Hazara Community Threatened in Afghanistan*.""

Al Jazeera, [Why the Hazara people fear genocide in Afghanistan](#), 27 October 2021

"In the aftermath of the withdrawal of international troops from Afghanistan, violence against the Hazara population has escalated. With a long history of persecution, including by the Taliban, the Hazaras are right to fear a genocide.

While the Taliban and other armed groups are targeting and committing human rights violations against the people of Afghanistan, the Hazara ethnic and religious population is especially at high risk. The international community must pressure the Taliban to guarantee the protection of the rights of the Hazara people, to ensure a

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genocide against them does not take place. [...]

The return of the Taliban to power in Kabul has meant not only a rollback of the limited social gains the Hazaras had achieved, but also new atrocities against the community.

In August, Amnesty International reported that at least nine Hazara men were massacred by the Taliban when its fighters took over Ghazni province in July. Then earlier this month, the organisation released evidence of another massacre in which 13 Hazaras, including a 17-year-old girl, were killed in late August in Daykundi province.

In late September and early October, reports in Western media emerged of mass “evictions” of Hazara people from their ancestral homes and lands in Daykundi province. Taliban fighters forced over 4,000 Hazaras from their homes, claiming they had no ownership over their land, leaving them stranded without food or shelter as harsh winter approaches. In Mazar-e-Sharif, a local Taliban court decided to expel some 2,000 families, again based on false claims that they do not own their homes.

By now there is a clear pattern of Taliban atrocities being committed across Afghanistan, which could mean that the Hazaras may be facing imminent ethnic cleansing.

The Taliban leadership may have moderated its rhetoric to please the international community, claiming that it will protect all ethnic groups, but it has done nothing to stem the growing number of crimes being committed by its fighters. What is more, the group has also clearly declared that it will only accept Hanafi jurisprudence, which would effectively preclude any accommodation of the Shia Islamic law and values followed by Hazaras. Expectedly, no Hazara representative was included in the Taliban government announced in September.

It is also not surprising that, despite the insistence by the Taliban that it can provide security and peace in Afghanistan, ISKP has continued its deadly attacks against the Hazaras. In October, the bombing of a Hazara mosque in Kunduz resulted in the death of more than 100 people. Another bombing of a Hazara mosque in Kandahar killed at least 47 people and wounded scores of others.”

Human Rights Watch, [Afghanistan: Surge in Islamic State Attacks on Shia](#), 25 October 2021

“The Islamic State of Khorasan Province (ISKP), an armed group affiliated with the Islamic State (ISIS), is carrying out bombings and other targeted attacks against Afghanistan’s Shia religious minority that amount to crimes against humanity, Human Rights Watch said today. The group has also carried out other mass casualty attacks, including the August 29, 2021 suicide bombing at Kabul’s airport that killed 170 Afghans, mostly civilians.

The ISKP has claimed responsibility for many recent unlawful attacks on the Hazara Shia community, including suicide bombings that killed at least 72 people at the Sayed Abad mosque in Kunduz on October 8, and a bombing that killed at least 63 people at the Bibi Fatima mosque in Kandahar on October 15. After the Kandahar attack, ISIS issued a statement saying it would target Shia in their homes and centers “in every way, from slaughtering their necks to scattering their limbs... and the news of [ISIS’s] attacks...in the temples of the [Shia] and their gatherings is not hidden from anyone, from Baghdad to Khorasan.

The ISKP armed group has repeatedly carried out devastating attacks that appear designed to spread terror and inflict maximum suffering particularly on Afghanistan’s Hazara community,” said Patricia Gossman, associate Asia director at Human Rights Watch. “The numerous attacks targeting Hazaras amount to crimes against humanity, and those responsible should be brought to justice.

The ISKP has posed a serious threat to Hazaras and other Afghan civilians since at least 2015, when the Islamist armed group began attacks on mosques, hospitals, schools, and other civilian facilities, especially in predominantly Shia neighborhoods. These attacks have killed at least 1,500 civilians and injured thousands more, mostly religious minorities. [...]

Taliban authorities, who took over Kabul and most of the country in August, have said they would [provide more protection](#) for Shia mosques and other facilities. However, the Taliban also have a history of committing serious abuses against Hazaras, including large-scale killings during fighting in Mazar-e Sharif and Bamiyan in 1998-99. Recently, Taliban officials have singled out Hazara journalists for arbitrary [detention and beatings](#), and Hazara communities for [forced evictions](#). [...]

The ISKP attacks are widespread. The group has killed more than 1,500 civilians and wounded over 3,500, primarily by bombing civilian facilities such as Shia mosques and Shia educational institutions, as well as hospitals, sports

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centers, and other gathering places in Shia neighborhoods and at Shia or Hazara events in Kabul, Jalalabad, Herat, and other cities. The consistent nature of the attacks over a six-year-period indicates a pattern, if not a methodical plan, and supports the conclusion that these attacks are systematic.

Statements from ISKP leaders since 2015 and as recently as October 2021 indicate that the deadly targeting of Shia civilians has been deliberate. In July 2016, for instance, following an attack on Hazara protesters in Kabul, the ISKP stated that Shias “were undisputed infidels and... whoever doubts this or the right to kill them are, in turn, apostates.” “

The Guardian, [Taliban ‘forcibly evicting’ Hazaras and opponents in Afghanistan](#), 23 October 2021

“Thousands of people have been forced from their homes and land by Taliban officials in the north and south of Afghanistan, in what amounted to collective punishment, illegal under international law, Human Rights Watch has warned.

Many of the evictions targeted members of the Shia Hazara community, while others were of people connected to the former Afghan government. Land and homes seized this way have often been redistributed to Taliban supporters, HRW said.

Forced evictions logged by Human Rights Watch took place across five provinces, including Kandahar, Helmand and Uruzgan in the south, Daikundi in the centre, and the northern province of Balkh.

Many of the people were ordered to leave homes and farms with just a few days’ notice, and without any opportunity to prove their legal ownership. Some were reportedly told that if they did not comply with orders to leave, they “had no right to complain about the consequences”, the report said.

“The Taliban are forcibly evicting Hazaras and others on the basis of ethnicity or political opinion to reward Taliban supporters,” said Patricia Gossman, associate Asia director at Human Rights Watch. “These evictions, carried out with threats of force and without any legal process, are serious abuses that amount to collective punishment.”

The Taliban promised an inclusive government, but chose an all-male cabinet dominated largely by Sunni clerics from the Pashtun ethnic group, from which the group has historically drawn its core support.”

Human Rights Watch, [Afghanistan: Taliban Forcibly Evict Minority Shia](#), 22 October 2021

“Taliban officials in several provinces across Afghanistan have forcibly displaced residents partly to distribute land to their own supporters, Human Rights Watch said today. Many of these evictions have targeted Hazara Shia communities, as well as people associated with the former government, as a form of collective punishment.

In early October 2021, the Taliban and associated militias forcibly evicted hundreds of Hazara families from the southern Helmand province and the northern Balkh province. These followed earlier evictions from Daikundi, Uruzgan, and Kandahar provinces. Since the Taliban came to power in August, the Taliban have told many Hazaras and other residents in these five provinces to leave their homes and farms, in many cases with only a few days’ notice and without any opportunity to present their legal claims to the land. A former United Nations political analyst said that he saw eviction notices telling residents that if they did not comply, they “had no right to complain about the consequences.”

“The Taliban are forcibly evicting Hazaras and others on the basis of ethnicity or political opinion to reward Taliban supporters,” said Patricia Gossman, associate Asia director at Human Rights Watch. “These evictions, carried out with threats of force and without any legal process, are serious abuses that amount to collective punishment.””

Reuters, [For Afghan Hazaras, where to pray can be life and death choice](#), 21 October 2021

“The last two Fridays have seen suicide bombings, both attacks claimed by Islamic State (ISIS) and both targeting the minority Shi’ite sect. More than 100 people were killed in total.

In the wake of the violence, some Hazaras are not going to the mosque at all.

Hazaras have long been discriminated against in Afghanistan from a mix of factors, of which religion is just one.

But while thousands died under the last Taliban government from 1996-2001, it was the appearance of Islamic State in Afghanistan from around the start of 2015 that made them and the wider Shi’ite community a systematic target.

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Many hundreds were killed in suicide attacks on mosques and community centres by hardline Sunni militants who do not see them as true Muslims, bringing a form of the sectarian violence that devastated countries like Iraq to Afghanistan.

No up-to-date census data exists, but estimates put the size of the overall Shi'ite community at between 10-20 percent of the population, including Persian-speaking Tajiks and Pashtuns as well as Hazaras.

In addition, Hazaras have often also been victim of the ethnic and economic rivalries endemic to Afghan politics. [...] Although the Taliban have promised that all of Afghanistan's ethnic groups will be protected, the killing has gone on since they seized power in August."

UNHCR, [UNHCR Iran: Afghanistan Situation Update](#), 18 October 2021

"For the Shi'ite minority and many of the Hazaras in Afghanistan, ISKP's regained strength has ushered in yet another era of uncertainty. Earlier this month, Amnesty International said that the Taliban unlawfully killed 13 Hazaras, including a 17-year-old girl, amplifying fears for ethnic and religious minorities. On 16 October, it was reported that large populations of the Hazara ethnic group have been ordered to evict their homes by the Taliban. Most evictions are taking place in remote and rural areas of the country. It is estimated that between 400 to 2,000 families have been displaced from 15 villages in Daikundi province in central Afghanistan. Among the new arrivals in Iran, 40% are Hazaras; UNHCR suspects the number of Hazaras crossing to Iran will likely increase, in light of these recent attacks."

Christian Solidarity Worldwide (CSW), [Suicide attack on Shia mosque in Kandahar after Friday prayers](#), 18 October 2021

"A suicide bombing at a Shia Mosque in the southern Afghan city of Kandahar killed over 50 people and injured more than 80 on 15 October. A series of three explosions took place at the mosque, with one bomb detonated at the door of the mosque, and two more inside the building.

The attack took place during Friday prayers, which is the busiest congregation of the week, and the building was full of worshippers at the time.

Kandahar is the Taliban's heartland, and while this is the first time in recent years that its minority Shia residents have been directly targeted in a terror attack, the incident marks the second attack on Shia worshippers in Afghanistan in a week. On 8 October a suicide attack on a Shia Mosque in the northern city of Kunduz killed at least 50 people and injured over 100, again during Friday prayers.

According to CSW sources, Islamic State – Khorasan Province (IS-K), a local branch of the Islamic State group who claimed responsibility for the attack on 8 October, is also expected to claim responsibility for this attack."

The Khaama Press News Agency, [Shi'ite Muslims to be targeted everywhere: warns ISIS](#), 17 October 2021

"Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) or Daesh in a statement said that Shi'ite Muslims are perilous and they will be targeted by them everywhere."

The Guardian, [Shia mosque bombing in Afghanistan that killed at least 47 claimed by ISKP](#), 15 October 2021

"A suicide bombing at a mosque in the southern Afghan city of Kandahar has killed at least 47 people and injured more than 80, in the second major attack on Shia worshippers in Afghanistan in a week.

The Imam Bargah mosque was particularly crowded when the attackers struck, because the community had been holding memorial prayers for the victims of the previous bombing, in northern Kunduz province.

Friday's attack, like the previous bombing, was claimed by the Islamic State's local affiliate, **Islamic State** Khorasan Province (ISKP), which has a long history of attacking Afghanistan's Shia minority.

Four men arrived around 1.00pm local time (0930 BST) detonating at least one bomb at the mosque gate and two more among two more among worshippers inside, witnesses said."

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Al Jazeera, [Taliban says 'ready for inclusivity, but not selectivity'](#), 9 October 2021

"The Taliban's "Islamic emirate" is "ready for inclusivity but not selectivity", the group's senior leader has told Al Jazeera, in response to the Western pressure for an inclusive Afghan government. The Taliban says members of ethnic minorities have been represented in its Cabinet announced last month and that women would be added later. The Taliban has been cold to US suggestion to include "old guard" in the "inclusive" government, sources told Al Jazeera.

"The international community must respect the wishes of the Afghan people," Suhail Shaheen, ambassador-designate to the UN, told Al Jazeera in an exclusive interview."

The New York Times, [ISIS Bomber Kills Dozens at Shiite Mosque in Northern Afghanistan](#), 8 October 2021

"An Islamic State suicide bomber devastated a Shiite mosque in the northern Afghan city of Kunduz on Friday, killing dozens of worshipers in a deadly continuation of the terrorist group's campaign against the Hazara minority. The massacre, while the mosque was crowded for Friday Prayer, was the group's second attack against a mosque in just a few days. And it was the realization of Afghan Hazaras' fears that the Islamic State's predation would go unchecked under the rule of the Taliban, which itself preyed on the Hazara in the past.

Witness accounts described a powerful explosion with many casualties. Matullah Rohani, a Taliban official in Kunduz, told local media that at least 43 people were killed by the attack and more than 140 were injured.

A local Shiite community leader put the death toll much higher. Sayed Ahmad Shah Hashemi, who represents Kunduz Province's Shiite population, told The New York Times that more than 70 people were killed in the attack."

"Hours after the bombing, it was claimed by the [Islamic State Khorasan](#), also known as ISIS-K. It was the group's deadliest strike since the suicide bombing at the international airport in Kabul on Aug. 26 that [killed about 170 civilians](#) and [13 U.S. troops](#)."

"The Taliban's chief spokesman, Zabihullah Mujahid, condemned the attack on Friday, and vowed retribution."

Amnesty International, [Afghanistan: 13 Hazara killed by Taliban fighters in Daykundi province – new investigation](#), 5 October 2021

"Taliban forces unlawfully killed 13 ethnic Hazaras, including a 17-year-old girl, in Afghanistan's Daykundi province after members of the security forces of the former government surrendered, a new investigation by Amnesty International has revealed.

The killings happened in Kahor village of Khidir district on 30 August. Eleven of the victims were former members of the Afghan National Defence Security Forces (ANDSF), and two were civilians.

According to eyewitness testimony gathered by Amnesty International, the Taliban extrajudicially executed nine of the ANDSF members after they had surrendered, killings that appear to be war crimes. Two civilians were killed as they attempted to flee, including a 17-year-old girl shot when the Taliban opened fire on a crowd of people."

Itv News, [Brits in Afghanistan fear for families' lives as Taliban threaten to 'cut off children's heads'](#), 5 October 2021

"One British national told ITV News he is still stuck in **Kabul**.

The man, who grew up in the UK, is at risk, not just as a former British interpreter but also as a Panjshiri, a minority targeted by **Taliban**.

Trapped in a small space with his wife and seven small children, they live in constant fear having been threatened by Taliban. Three of his relatives, including his 23-year-old cousin who was studying economics at Kabul University, have been killed since the extremists took power. He thinks he will be next.

"Being a British national has its down sides right now in Afghanistan, but being a British national with a Panjshiri heritage and family background has an even better appeal for the Taliban to either kill or kidnap me," he says.

He continues: "As the situation worsens with the failure of the western world to keep a grip on Afghanistan, more

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and more every day the Taliban are coming and sniffing out whatever they feel is rightfully theirs, or reprisals from their previous encounter twenty years ago."

Shortly before ITV News spoke to him, his brother-in-law had been taken away by Taliban in front of his kids and wife.

The extremists threatened his wife as they left. "They said, 'if you say anything to anybody, make sure that your family knows that we've taken your brother. If you speak about this, we will come back, cut off your kids' heads and then your head off'."

Bundesamt für Migration und Flüchtlinge, [Briefing Notes Group 62 – Information Centre for Asylum and Migration](#), 4 October 2021

"On 24.09.21 Hazara politician Mohammad Mohaqeq reported on his Facebook page that the Taliban were forcibly evacuating Hazaras from their homes in Daikundi province and handing over these homes to Pashtuns. He said some 800 families were affected in Zayn, Kandir, Naleh, Tagabdar and Shaguljeh within Kato District, Suf, Kariz, Lakhtoghi and Sulaimanabad Kajran District and Ghamqul in Khadir District."

Danish Immigration Service, [Afghanistan Recent developments in the security situation, impact on civilians and targeted individuals](#), 8 September 2021, p 18

"There have also been [reports](#) of Taliban targeting ethnic and religious minorities during their conquest of Afghanistan, notably Afghanistan's Hazara population. SER [Sune Engel Rasmussen, Danish journalist] assessed that Hazaras in country would face discrimination going forward as the Taliban views them as infidels."

Qantara.de, [Shia minority in a Sunni state: Afghanistan's repressed Hazaras face a hostile Taliban](#), 7 September 2021

"To assuage fears of a return to their brutal rule, the Taliban have put on a show of moderation. Spokesmen have repeatedly vowed to refrain from retributions and to respect the rights of women and minorities.

They even made a point of sending representatives across the country to secure Afghanistan's Ashura processions last month. The annual mourning ritual is undertaken by Shias every year to commemorate the martyrdom of Imam Hussein, the grandson of the Prophet Muhammad. Hard-line Sunni groups view the practice as heresy.

Many Hazaras believe the group's self-professed inclusiveness is little more than propaganda aimed at the international community, whose development aid is a lifeline to prop up an economy teetering on the edge of collapse.

None of the Hazara men and women still in Afghanistan that we spoke to believed the assurances. Mahdi Raskih, a Hazara parliamentarian until the Taliban captured the capital, said that Hazaras face "ethnic and religious persecution" by the militant group. They were, he added, "in mortal danger." Massacres and a harrowing message

Amnesty International's latest findings seem to prove their worst fears. On-the-ground researchers documented brutal killings of nine Hazara men in Ghazni province in central Afghanistan, which took place in early July. Six of the men, according to the report, were shot; three were tortured to death by Taliban fighters. [...]

Habiba Sarabi, a Hazara political leader, admitted she had proof of more atrocities, but could not share the details, as it might endanger surviving eyewitnesses. Sarabi was the first female governor of Afghanistan and one of four women representing Afghanistan in the negotiations with the Taliban in Doha. When we spoke to her, she was still reeling from the Taliban's takeover. She was, she said, "in shock."

Soon after the interview, Sarabi sent a link to a short, grainy video, which showed two Taliban fighters. Speaking into the camera, one of them says they are waiting for permission from their leaders to "eliminate" all Hazaras living in Afghanistan. While we were unable to verify the video, it has nevertheless been shared widely among Hazaras to whom it sends a chilling message.

"I'm numb," said one Hazara after watching it. It had taken her breath away, she said.

The looming resurgence of Islamic State-Khorasan (ISI-K) following the withdrawal of U.S. forces and de facto

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collapse of the Afghan army represents yet another threat. Many fear that once the attention of the international community and media has shifted elsewhere, the Taliban will start a campaign against those who might lead a Hazara resistance. [...]

Many Hazaras are fleeing, among them most of the well-educated, and that exodus would, Ibrahimi said, result in the Hazaras losing their voice in Afghanistan."

BBC News, [Life in Kabul under Taliban: Where is your male escort?](#), 4 September 2021

"In western Kabul, in neighbourhoods like Dasht-e-Barchi, populated largely by members of the minority Hazara community, residents whisper of house searches, of men being taken away."

Other ethnic minorities

Gandhara, [Taliban Accused Of Forcibly Evicting Ethnic Uzbeks, Turkmen In Northern Afghanistan](#), 9 December 2021

Taliban fighters have been accused of helping to forcibly evict more than 1,000 people in northern Afghanistan, with the evictions targeting members of the ethnic Uzbek and Turkmen communities. Ethnic Uzbeks and Turkmen allege that Pashtuns seized their homes and land in the northern province of Jowzjan with the help of the Taliban, a predominately Pashtun group. The evictions came as Taliban fighters have expelled hundreds of Shi'ite Hazara families from their homes and farms in five provinces since the militants seized power in Afghanistan in August.

Other religious minorities (e.g. Sikhs, Hindus, Christians, Jews)

Newsgram, [What about Sikhs and Hindus in Afghanistan?](#), 26 November
"Sikhs and Hindus in Afghanistan face a bleak future in a country dominated by the Taliban. While the Islamic fundamentalist organisation claims that minorities would be secure, many are apprehensive based on previous experiences.

Afghan Sikhs and Hindus have returned to their homes in various regions of the nation after spending weeks at the Gurdwara Dashmesh Pita, a Sikh shrine in Kabul's Karte Parwan neighbourhood. [...]

Minorities held out some hope for equal rights under the deposed civilian administration, despite years of systemic and structural discrimination. However, two large assaults in 2018 and 2020 destroyed this optimism.

In the first suicide explosion, Khalsa's father was slain, and at least 25 Sikh pilgrims were killed in the 2020 Gurdwara shrine assault. Both assaults were claimed by "Islamic State Khorasan" (IS-K), a regional offshoot of the "Islamic State" organisation. The gang was most recently responsible for the suicide assault that killed at least 182 people at Kabul's Hamid Karzai International Airport.

Sikhs and Hindus worry that under the new Taliban administration, they would be forced to wear yellow tags to indicate their non-Muslim identity, as they were in the past."

United States Commission on International Religious Freedom, [Factsheet Afghanistan](#), 28 October 2021

"Religious Minorities in Afghanistan
[...] Despite initial statements from the Taliban that it had reformed some elements of its ideology, Afghans who do not adhere to the Taliban's harsh and strict interpretation of Sunni Islam and adherents of other faiths or beliefs are at grave threat. [...] The Taliban consider conversion from Islam to another religion apostasy, which could be punishable by death according to their interpretation of *Shari'a* or Islamic law. [...] Religious freedom conditions in Afghanistan have deteriorated since the Taliban seized control of the country on August 15, 2021. [...] USCIRF has received credible reports that the Taliban regime and rival militant group Islamic State-Khorasan (ISIS-K) also present in Afghanistan have intimidated, threatened, and targeted members of religious minority

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communities and carried out *violent attacks*. Even before the Taliban took control of the country, in June 2021, *Mawlawi Ayaz Niazi*—a respected Sunni religious leader of the Wazir Mohammed Akbar Khan Mosque who espoused pro-government, anti-Taliban sentiments—was assassinated. [...]

Conclusion

Afghanistan's religious minorities and others who do not share the same religious beliefs as the Taliban are in danger of falling afoul of the Taliban's hardline Islamist beliefs. While religious freedom conditions in the country were poor under the previous government, these conditions have already worsened and have become dire under the Taliban and are likely to continue to deteriorate."

United States Commission on International Religious Freedom, [Factsheet Afghanistan](#), 28 October 2021

"The Targeting and Exodus of Hindus, Sikhs, and Jews [...]"

As the Taliban advanced toward Kabul in August, some Hindus and Sikhs took *refuge* in a Sikh temple in the capital while others tried to flee. As of October 2021, a little under 250 Hindus and Sikhs remain in the country following an evacuation effort by India. Nearly 140 Hindus and Sikhs who attempted to leave were not able to access the airport after the August 26 suicide bomb attack near the front gates. USCIRF received reports that just days after the takeover, armed Taliban representatives went to the Sikh Gurdwara in Karte Parwan in Kabul to urge Sikh and Hindu community members not to leave Afghanistan. Also in October 2021, the Sikh community shared videos of their *Gurdwara in Karte Parwan* being vandalized and ransacked by alleged members of the Taliban. Additionally, the last reported Jewish person in Afghanistan, *Zeblon Simantov*, finally *left* the country in September out of fear of persecution by the Taliban, leaving behind what had been the last operating synagogue in Kabul."

United States Commission on International Religious Freedom, [Factsheet Afghanistan](#), 28 October 2021

"Practicing Faith in Fear: Christians, Ahmadi Muslims, Baha'is, and Nonbelievers [...]"

According to reports received by USCIRF, the Taliban have reportedly gone door-to-door looking for U.S. allies, former government workers, rights activists, and Christian converts. Christians have received threatening *phone calls*, while one leader of a house church network received a *letter* on August 12 from Taliban militants threatening him and his family. Some Christians have turned their *phones off* and moved to undisclosed locations. In Afghanistan, followers of the Baha'i faith have faced persecution both before and after the Taliban were in power. In 2007, the General Directorate of Fatwas and Accounts of the Supreme Court *declared* the Baha'i faith to be blasphemous and their followers to be *infidels*. The Baha'i community has lived in secret since this ruling. Nonbelievers—who *lived* in fear even under the Western-backed government—are worried that their neighbors may turn them in to the Taliban. Atheism and agnosticism are *considered* apostasy and is punishable by death, according to the Taliban's interpretation of Islam. Afghanistan's small Uyghur Muslim community—thought to number around 2,000 to 3,000 and many are second- and third-generation Afghan citizens—has *expressed* fear that the Taliban could deport them to China where they face egregious persecution, which the U.S. government has *designated* as genocide and crimes against humanity. There are concerns that the Chinese government could use its economic and geopolitical leverage to *pressure* the Taliban to deport these Uyghurs. Just prior to the Taliban's military takeover of Afghanistan, a top Taliban delegation traveled to China to meet with Chinese foreign minister Wang Yi in July 2021. The Taliban previously deported Uyghurs at the request of the Chinese government in 2000. "

GANDHARA NEWS, [Taliban Wages Deadly Crackdown On Afghan Salafists As War With IS-K Intensifies](#), 22 October 2021

"Hakimullah, a resident of Afghanistan's eastern province of Nangarhar, says he is routinely subjected to violence and discrimination because of his faith.

As a member of Afghanistan's small Salafist community, an ultraradical sect under Sunni Islam, he says he is frequently targeted by the Taliban, the militant Islamist group that seized control of the war-torn country in August.

Many Taliban fighters are followers of the Hanafi school of Islam, a rival Sunni denomination. The Salafists, also

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known as Wahhabis, see many other branches of the faith as heretical.

Since seizing power, the militant group has waged a deadly crackdown on Salafists, who accuse the Taliban of detaining and killing members of the community. They also allege that the Taliban has raided and closed down dozens of their mosques and madrasahs, or religious seminaries. [...]

"Since the Taliban seized power and hastened war with Daesh, they have forced people who wear knitted caps and long beards out of their cars and abused them for being Salafists," Hakimullah told RFE/RL's Radio Azadi, using the Arabic acronym for IS-K.

Many Salafists wear kufis -- white, knitted skull caps -- and sport long beards.

Hakimullah says that many of his friends who are Salafists have been detained or killed by the Taliban in Nangarhar, the epicenter of clashes between the Taliban and IS-K militants. [...]

In September, a senior Salafist cleric in Afghanistan, Sheikh Abu Obaidullah Mutawakil, was abducted and then found dead days later. The Taliban, which many Salafists blamed for the killing, denied it was responsible. [...]

The Taliban declared a general amnesty when it seized control of the capital, Kabul, on August 15. But human rights group accuse the Taliban of executing, torturing, and detaining its rivals, including members of Afghanistan's former armed forces."

Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty's Gandhara, [Kabul Sikhs Fear For Safety After Armed Men Attack Temple](#), 6 October 2021

"Sikhs in Kabul say more than a dozen armed men attacked and briefly occupied a Sikh temple in the Kart-e Parwan district of the Afghan capital on October 5, tying up the guards and destroying security cameras.

There were no major injuries reported.

The leader of the temple, Gurnam, told RFE/RL that it was unclear who the perpetrators were, but the incident has heightened concerns about the minority Sikh community's safety.

"At around 3:30 p.m. on [October 5], 15 to 20 militants entered the shrine and tied up the guards. They also broke security cameras," Gurnam said. "They were in the gurdwara (temple) for about half an hour. Security officials did not tell us if they were thieves or the Taliban."

Video that appeared on social media showed armed men inside the Sikh temple, with some commentators claiming that "Taliban" attacked the shrine and beat some worshipers.

But that accusation could not be confirmed.

Many religious minorities have suffered discrimination at the hands of Sunni Taliban militants, including during their reign in Kabul and other wide swaths of Afghanistan from 1996-2001.

The community of Afghan Hindus and Sikhs was once estimated to be more than 80,000 strong, but many left after the collapse of the communist regime in 1992.

Many have lost their businesses and properties during the various cycles of war during the past three decades."

Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty's Gandhara, [Last Afghan Jew Leaves Amid Minority Exodus In Fear Of Taliban](#), 10 September 2021

"Zablon Simintov, Afghanistan's last Jew, has left the country after the Taliban takeover. [...]

Simintov is not the only one leaving his homeland, which in the mid-1900s boasted a 40,000-strong Jewish community.

Afghanistan's Hindu and Sikh minorities have also shrunk from more than 200,000 in the 1980s to just a few hundred families today.

Most members of those communities in Afghanistan have already left while others plan to join exiled members of their community in India. Militant attacks have targeted their temples and leaders, killing scores, while criminals kidnap community members for ransom.

There is a risk that some of Afghanistan's non-Muslim minorities, many of whose members fled during the tumultuous decades following the 1978 communist coup, could vanish completely now that the Taliban has returned to power.

For its part, the Taliban has attempted to assuage the fears of non-Muslim Afghans. The militants have visited Sikh

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temples to try and assure the remaining members of the community of their commitment to their safety and well-being.

“The Islamic Emirate will take serious and effective steps to grant human rights, rights of the minorities and the marginalized communities within the framework of the holy religion of Islam,” a September 7 statement by the Taliban government said. But members of minority communities find it difficult to trust such statements.”

LGBTQI+ people, including hijras

San Francisco Bay Times, [LGBTIQ Afghan Refugee: ‘I Feel Like a Human Being for the First Time](#), 13 January 2022

“While same-sex activity was criminalized under Afghan law during the American occupation, life for LGBTIQ Afghans is now far more precarious. A Taliban judge declared last year that “[f]or homosexuals, there can only be two punishments: either stoning, or he must stand behind a wall that will fall down on him,” according to an open letter from several major LGBTIQ rights organizations to President Biden urging him to take bolder actions to protect LGBTIQ and other particularly vulnerable Afghans.”

Radar Online, [LGBT Community Forced Into Sex Work - In Fear For Their Lives - As Taliban Rule Solidifies Across Afghanistan](#), 29 November 2021

“We are gay boys, but we cannot even share our problems with our families. My father or uncle will kill us. Or the Taliban will kill us,” says the young Afghan – who thinks he is about 21 or 22 and refers to his love Zubair as his wife. “We are humans; we have rights, we have a life to live. But how?” [...]

For the most part, members of Afghanistan’s LGBT community have had to keep their sexual orientation deeply hidden given the country’s adherence to Shariah Law, previously as an “Islamic Republic” and now under the umbrella of “Islamic Emirate.”

“Our villagers, all of them are in a Taliban world. If they find me, they will take me to the senior Taliban. Then, without any questions or chance, they will kill us,” Himmat – who hails from the staunchly conservative Wardak province and speaks in halting English – pauses, sobbing into his scarf. “They think we are not humans.” [...]

The Taliban leadership of 2021 is yet to issue any formal decrees regarding same-sex relationships. Yet for the likes of Himmat and Zubair – who were only toddlers when the U.S. first entered their country and usurped the Taliban from power – there is a sense that their fate is a ticking time bomb.

Some NGOs have also pointed out that “kill lists” are floating among the Taliban, explicitly targeting the LGBT+ community. Over the years, gay men have reportedly been baited by various players – conning them to meet for sex work through social media, where they are sometimes raped and slaughtered. There are no laws on Afghanistan’s books protecting the minority group from persecution or harassment.

The couple, who both say they realized they were gay at around age 14, met several years ago while working for an LGBT+ rights group called the Youth Health Development Organization (YHDO). They wed in a small room with just a few gay friends present in 2018.

However, when the COVID-19 pandemic struck last Spring, the men lost their jobs and have been struggling to survive ever since. And now, with a crumbling economy and escalating humanitarian crisis, Himmat says there are no other options for them to survive outside the sex work trade. [...]

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Moreover, the community has been targeted under the guise of fake evacuation schemes informing them to meet at a Kabul park to be escorted to safety. Only those messages have since been exposed as part of more extensive criminal activity to exploit and potentially harm the desperate and beleaguered. [...]

INews, [Gay woman in Afghanistan shunned by her family and struggling to survive says 'death is better than this life'](#), 22 November 2021

Six months before the [Taliban](#) took over [Afghanistan](#), 31-year-old Zahra*, a gay woman in Kabul, was beaten by her brothers and father for refusing to marry a man, forcing her to leave home. Afghans have been subjected to [a regime that promises to kill LGBT people](#) through stoning or a practice known as "wall-toppling" – crushing under rubble.

Thomson Reuters, [LGBT+ Afghans fear being forgotten in 100 days since Taliban takeover](#), 23 November 2021

"The Taliban is actively seeking out LGBTQI persons ... to kill them," said Kimahli Powell, executive director of Canadian human rights organisation Rainbow Railroad. [...]

For LGBT+ people who remain in Afghanistan, the situation has deteriorated markedly since Aug. 15.

One gay man contacted by email said a friend had been killed after gay material was found on his mobile phone during a checkpoint search. "(The) Taliban killed him and (gave) his dead body to his father," he said. [...]

With fears growing of a wider humanitarian crisis as the country heads deeper into winter but runs short on funds to be able to feed its 40 million-strong population, many are worried that LGBT+ people will be forgotten.

Pink News, [Gay Afghan terrified his friends will out him to earn a 'bonus' from the Taliban](#), 8 November

"A gay man from Afghanistan who came out to two of his friends before the Taliban seized power is now living in fear that they will out him to the extremist group, putting his life in danger in the process. [...]

"The situation of living under the Taliban flag as a gay man is very tough," Sulaiman tells *PinkNews*. "I'm really scared of them because I don't know what they will do if they know about my sexual orientation. Because of this, I do not get out of my home often. I always stay home to avoid facing them." [...]

However, two of his friends do know about his sexuality. "I'm really afraid if my friends tell them about my situation because it's a very, very big matter for them. If they share with them, they will receive a bonus from the Taliban."

The situation is made all the more heartbreaking because Sulaiman has gone to great lengths to suppress and hide his sexuality. He says he has never had sex with another man and he has never had a boyfriend. His family is well-respected in his province and he knows that, if his sexuality got out, it would be a "big shame" for them. [...] "The LGBTQ Afghans are the first to be executed, last to be evacuated," [Nemat Sadat] tells *PinkNews*. "They're hiding in basements, closets, rooftops, and secret rooms behind trap doors."

LGBT+ Afghans are "screaming in silence and solitude for the world to help them", Sadat says. "The kind of persecution LGBT+ Afghans are collectively experiencing is unprecedented in our lifetime. [...]"

The outlook for LGBT+ people still stuck in Afghanistan is terrifying, he says. "Everyday people on my list are getting beaten, killed, going missing or [dying by] suicide. I'm under a lot of pressure to save the lives of LGBTQ Afghans who are at risk of imminent death."

France24, [The Taliban has a hit list for the Afghan LGBT community, NGO says](#), 2 November 2021

Since the Taliban took control of Afghanistan at the end of August, the persecution of the country's LGBT+ community has ramped up - forcing many to live in hiding, fearing for their lives. "We have received reports of names of suspected LGBTQI people circulating," said the head of the Rainbow Railroad, a Canadian NGO helping under-threat Afghans to flee into exile. The situation for the LGBT+ community in Afghanistan has never been easy. Same-sex relations have always been taboo in the Muslim-majority country, where – even under the former

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Western-backed government – non-heterosexual relations were illegal and could lead to up to two years in prison. But since the [Taliban](#) came to power after the US [military withdrawal on August 30](#), the situation has deteriorated rapidly. Although the militant group has not yet officially said how it plans to deal with acts of homosexuality, reports are increasingly suggesting that the Taliban is applying a strict interpretation of [Sharia law](#), under which same-sex relations [may be punishable by death](#). [...]

"We have received reports of names of suspected LGBTQI people circulating," he said. In some cases, landing on one of these ad hoc lists could even prove fatal.

"We now know for sure the Taliban has 'kill lists' circulating, identifying LBTQI+ persons." [...]

Powell also said the Taliban seem to have complemented these lists through active persecution, by means of "entrapment" and data leaks.

"[Some] individuals who have reached out to us have told us about how they've received a mystery email from someone claiming to be connected with Rainbow Railroad asking for their information and passport. That's how we know the information has been leaked." [...]

Powell described the current climate in Afghanistan as "lawless", saying the general uncertainty and unpredictability of what Taliban rule entails for the population as a whole has even led to some people turning in family members for suspected LGBT+ activity.

BBC, ['I feel free' - LGBT Afghan refugees arrive in UK](#), 31 October 2021

"The Taliban return sparked a mass exodus of people who believed they would be in danger if they stayed, including people who worked closely with the US and its allies, and a number of high-profile women.

Members of the LGBT community are also trying to leave, unsure of their future under the Taliban. The last time the group were in power - between 1996 and 2001 - gay men were reportedly stoned to death.

The community has not lived openly in the 20 years since - like many, the man the BBC interviewed has a wife and child.

"The LGBTI [lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex] community was a secret underground community, but we knew each other and our network, and if one of us got arrested, they could have found the rest of us," he told the BBC.

"Kabul is not a big city, and with the way the Taliban are ruling the country, it was not that difficult to find high profile LGBTI people. We also heard a couple of people were arrested."

The man's escape was only possible with the help of international LGBT organisations. An initial attempt to leave on evacuation flights out of Kabul airport - past the "terrifying" Taliban guards - failed.

But almost two months on, having made it to a third country to wait for a visa, the man arrived in the UK.

Officials explained that the UK foreign secretary and UK and Canadian organisations Stonewall and Rainbow Railroad intervened to help the first 29 people.

More members of Afghanistan's LGBT community are expected to leave in the coming months.

Their arrival comes as a spokesman for the Afghan finance minister said human rights would be respected within the framework of Islamic law, but not gay rights. "LGBT... That's against our Sharia law," Ahmad Wali Haqmal said."

Deutsche Welle, [Trans in Afghanistan: A mortal danger under the Taliban](#), 2 October 2021

"Attacked in the street"

Khalid [a gay Afghan man] has taken precautions. [As the Taliban advanced on Kabul](#), he swapped his jeans and a hooded jacket for traditional Afghan clothing. He even grew a beard — so as not to attract attention.

But he's really a feminine guy, he says. And he knows that this alone can be dangerous for him.

On August 15, the day the Islamists took Kabul, he left his room to run errands. He thought he was well prepared. But his precautionary measures were not enough.

In the middle of the street, he felt a sudden pain in his right shoulder. "Then there was this Talib. I did not see him. He had a plastic pipe which is used for water. It was really thick and heavy. He hit me on my right shoulder. It hurt a lot, my eyes were full of tears. Then he used some curse words in Pashto, basically, he said: 'Why are you walking so feminine, don't you know how to walk [properly]?'"

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Khalid has stayed at home since then.

Brutal punishment under the Taliban

Under the Taliban, LGBTQ people like Khalid and Danish fear for their lives. For a man who has sex with another man there are only two possible punishments — and both are lethal, according to a Taliban judge who spoke with German tabloid newspaper *Bild* in an exclusive interview a few weeks before the takeover: "Either stoning or he has to be behind a wall that falls on him. The wall must be 2 1/2 to 3 meters [ca. 8 to 9 feet — Editor's note] high." At the end of September, Mullah Nooruddin Turabi, a senior founding member of the Taliban, told The Associated Press news agency that the government would reintroduce executions and hand amputations, just like they did in the 1990s.

Back then, Turabi was the justice minister in the Taliban government. According to an Australian government report, homosexuals in Afghanistan were executed regularly between 1996 and the fall of the Taliban in autumn 2001."

Amnesty International, [Afghanistan: The fate of thousands hanging in the balance](#), 21 September 2021

"In this report, Amnesty International, International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH) and the World Organisation against Torture (OMCT) have documented incidents of human rights violations that have taken place in Afghanistan since the takeover by the Taliban on 15 August". The report references a number of sources, including: [...]

Tracey Shelton. ABC. 2 September 2021. "LGBT Afghans are on the run, afraid they could be stoned to death under Taliban law". <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2021-09-02/afghans-lgbt-community-face-stoning-under-taliban-law/100412330>. [...]

India Today, [We'll be killed: Afghanistan's LGBTQ+ community forced to live in hiding under Taliban regime](#) 18 September 2021

"After the return of the Taliban regime in Afghanistan, members of the LGBTQ+ community are forced to live in hiding in fear of their lives. They urged human rights advocates outside the country to help them escape the Taliban regime."

Disability rights activists

The Nation, [The Taliban Is Targeting Disability Rights Activists](#), 2 September 2021

"The day the Taliban seized control of Kabul, they lobbed a grenade into A's yard, and he promptly left home to seek refuge. A lower-limb amputee and prominent disability rights activist, he's at risk because of his disability rights organization's association with the United States. [...]

As of Monday, the Taliban has shown up at A's house three times. They also visited the office of the organization, where they asked security guards for A's whereabouts. A is moving from house to house to evade capture. At least 50 disability rights activists like A and their families are imperiled, says Isabel Hodge, the executive director of the United States International Council on Disabilities (USICD)."

Treatment of family members of those sought by the Taliban

The Guardian, [The Taliban shot my wife in the head': ex-UK government contractor](#), 16 January 2022

"Asif* has lost almost everything since the Taliban takeover in Afghanistan. His wife was shot dead. He fled to Pakistan but has no legal status there and is living in a mosque while seeking treatment for recurrent cancer. He worked for the United Nations and other international organisations including the former UK Department for International Development (DfID). Until 2016 he also worked for Adam Smith International on British government-funded projects."

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In September, my wife went to the house of one my relatives with another family member to collect some of our belongings – she was three months pregnant with our first child. They went at midnight, so they wouldn't be seen or recognised. But someone must have reported them, because early in the morning the [Taliban](#) came to the house and started shooting. She had been asleep, and when she came out to see what was happening, one of the Taliban just shot her in the head. Three days later, she died in hospital. After she died they detained the other family member for a few days and said: "We won't release you until you say where Asif is."

Jurist, [Afghanistan dispatches: UN says 'The safety of Afghan judges, prosecutors, and lawyers – particularly women legal professionals – is a matter for particular alarm'](#), 15 December 2021

"The United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) has documented 59 apparently arbitrary detentions, beatings, and threats of civil society activists, journalists, and staff of the Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission attributed to the de facto authorities. Several women's rights defenders have been threatened, and there is widespread fear of reprisals since the violent crackdown on women's peaceful protests in September. In some instances, relatives and family members of civil society actors, and human rights defenders have faced threats and intimidation. Many media outlets have shut down and numerous civil society groups have also closed."

Mirror, ['My family went into hiding in Afghanistan after the Taliban came looking for me'](#), 23 November 2021

[...] As today marks 100 days under Taliban control, we hear from Shukoor Sangar and Zahra Joya, who both fled their country in fear of their safety.

Just weeks before the Taliban took control, Shukoor, his heavily pregnant wife and their two young boys were advised to leave for the UK for their safety.

Shukoor worked as a protocol visa officer and executive assistant to the New Zealand ambassador. The 46-year-old and his family have been housed in West London but he left behind his mum, four sisters and one brother.

[...] "My family is currently in hiding, in Afghanistan, because after I left the country, the Taliban came looking for me. The Taliban searched every corner of our house, they took my car, documents and some embassy photos. I've told my family to never go back to our home, to just forget it.

Hull Daily Mail, [Hull City of Sanctuary: Refugee's fears for family back in Afghanistan](#), 16 November 2021

"Naser, 39, had worked with the British armed forces for 16 years and he was aware he may not survive once the Taliban took full control of the country.

[...] While Naser and his family have settled well in Hull, there are still huge worries eating away at him. "Many of my family members are still in Afghanistan and their lives are at great risk because they are related to me.

"I am very frightened for them and their lives are still in danger."

JURIST, [Afghanistan dispatches: 'Only time will tell if we stay subject when we're hungry.' - JURIST - News - Legal News & Commentary](#), 15 November 2021

"JURIST EXCLUSIVE – Law students and lawyers in Afghanistan are filing reports with JURIST on the situation there after the fall of Kabul to the Taliban. Here, a law student in Kabul offers his perspective on recent Taliban abuses of power amidst a rapidly-deteriorating economic situation. [...]

In a city ruled by rapists and murderers, a knock at the door is heard. A young girl in her twenties—to judge by her appearance—opens the door and sees a number of Taliban carrying weapons. They ask for her brother, who was an officer of the Afghan National Army forces. But he's not there. In his absence she's dragged to the police precinct, where she's asked for sexual intercourse, beaten and lashed. She says a Taliban officer tell the others to not let her go as she is a northerner. She later she posts her story in a **video** after barely avoiding being raped by

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several men; she shows her bruises while covering her face. The girl was lashed heavily, resulting in bloody cloths and bruises in the areas she can show to the camera. In the end she calls angrily for the leaders of the northern provinces and the politicians who fled with millions in cash to resist the Taliban.”

Foreign Policy, [Afghan Crime Wave Adds to Taliban Dystopia](#), 29 October 2021

“The Taliban are also using lists of former officials and civil activists to pinpoint their children. “They took four such sons from a prominent school in Kabul. When the police station was asked, they said, ‘We don’t know who entered the school,’” the source said. “Life is broken.”

Another Kabul resident said the father of an associate was kidnapped and a ransom of \$3 million demanded for his release. “But no one has that sort of money; they couldn’t pay, and he was killed,” he said.”

Jurist.org, [Afghanistan dispatches: 'Anyone on the Taliban’s blacklist is in great danger.'](#), 26 October 2021

“JURIST EXCLUSIVE – Law students and lawyers in Afghanistan are filing reports with JURIST on the situation there after the Taliban takeover. Here, a Staff Correspondent for JURIST in Kabul offers observations on the Taliban’s targeting of perceived or potential opponents in Afghanistan who publicly object to their policies, who were associated with the previous government, or who worked with foreign forces prior to the Taliban takeover. [...]

It’s mostly social activists, former military and government officials, CSOs, and traders who have been targeted, warned, and even affected by the Taliban. In particular, former government officials in Panjshir, Mazar, and Samangan provinces have been targeted, leading to the death of one in Samangan province. A few weeks ago the Taliban even went farther and stated some specific individuals – especially those who worked with the foreign forces – should give themselves up to be prosecuted or they will prosecute their family members if they find them. Anyone on the Taliban’s blacklist is in great danger.

The Taliban are using different techniques in targeting people. They have issued warning letters to some former government officials stating that if they do not give themselves to them then their families would be arrested. Several officials of the the central bank received warning letters in the last three weeks. They all received written warning letters signed and stamped by the Taliban. One of the warning letters shared with me said “You should have stopped working with a slave government under control of Americans; we shall punish you so others take a lesson.” Fortunately, the target of this letter is already out of the country. In another incident from the central bank, the Taliban went to check the former Chief of Staff of the central bank who was said to have worked with the ex-governor of the bank too closely. However, they could not find him.

The Taliban appear to have monitored government officials closely before they seized power in August. Most of the people who got killed by them were government officials. I myself lost three friends in a car bombing several months ago.”

Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty, [Afghan Pilots Who Fled To Tajikistan Say Taliban Is Threatening Relatives Back Home](#), 23 October 2021

“Afghan military pilots who fled to Tajikistan when the Taliban seized power in Kabul say the militant group is pressuring them to return to Afghanistan by threatening to kill their relatives.

Trained by the United States, the Afghan pilots say their documents have been completed for traveling and they hope they will soon be able to go to the United States.

But two Afghan pilots who are sheltering at sanatoriums on the outskirts of Dushanbe [told RFE/RL's Tajik Service](#) on October 23 that the Taliban is now trying to force them to return to Afghanistan.

One Afghan pilot, speaking on condition of anonymity, told RFE/RL that his son back in Afghanistan was beaten by the Taliban and that the militants threatened to kill the boy if the pilot did not return.

Another pilot told RFE/RL that Taliban militants have gone to the homes of several of his family members to demand that the pilot return to Afghanistan.

He told RFE/RL that the Taliban has a list of the names of all 143 Afghan pilots now in Tajikistan. He said Taliban authorities are increasing pressure on all of the pilots by threatening their relatives in Afghanistan.

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Taliban spokesman Zabiullah Mujahid denied that the Taliban is threatening the relatives of the pilots."

The Guardian, [Afghans seeking Australian humanitarian visas say Taliban are 'hunting us like animals'](#), 10 October 2021

"Afghans who have applied for Australian humanitarian visas say they are living in fear as the Taliban are "hunting us down like animals".

Accounts of their "painful" experiences under the Taliban regime – including testimonies of beatings, interrogations and threats to family members – are set to be provided to a Senate inquiry into Australia's engagement in [Afghanistan](#), which begins public hearings on Monday.

A Hazara man described being interrogated by the Taliban as they demanded to know whether he was a civil activist and had any links to foreigners. The man, whose name cannot be published for safety reasons, said he was taken into a cell where he was blindfolded and gagged.

"I received 26 lashes. I felt the first five lashes and after that I couldn't feel anything anymore, my back became numb."

He recounted later being threatened with execution. "I believed my life would soon be over. I was so frightened," he wrote. He was eventually released from custody and is now in hiding, sleeping in a different place every night.

"The Taliban have been calling me every night," he wrote. "They tell me not to try to run away, that wherever I am, even outside of Afghanistan, they will find me."

It is one of several testimonies compiled by an Australian citizen who has been helping Afghan nationals apply for Australian humanitarian visas, with the support of Rural Australians for [Refugees](#).

In another account provided to Guardian Australia, a former Afghan national army soldier said he had come out of hiding briefly to "send the papers and identity documents to friends who are helping me apply for a humanitarian visa to Australia".

"They [the Taliban] say they forgive everyone who has worked with foreigners, or who worked in government or in the army," he wrote. "But in reality, they are hunting us down like animals. I fear we will all be killed in the end."

A worker for a non-government organisation noted the Taliban were going door-to-door, purportedly to assess humanitarian needs.

"They are using this as a way to spot people, in the guise of a humanitarian assessment, which is disgusting basically. They are doing evil things behind 'good deeds'."

This person said he was hoping to leave Afghanistan legally and had received an acknowledgement letter from the Australian government for his family's humanitarian visa application in mid-September.

Meanwhile, a Hazara hospitality worker described the past few weeks as "the darkest of my whole life". He said many young people were "willing to gamble with their lives to illegally cross the borders into neighbouring countries".

"Living here is much more suffocating and more painful. It's a slow, gradual death," this person wrote.

"I just hope that at least we can get out of here and be somewhere where we will be treated as human."

Deutsche Welle, [Fleeing Afghan women footballers seek new home from Pakistan](#), 1 October 2021

"A group of 32 Afghan women football players and their families are seeking safe haven from the Taliban in third countries after fleeing to Pakistan, the former Afghanistan women's team captain said on Friday.

Women's team captain Khalida Popal told DW that some of the players "had their houses burned down and some family members were taken by [the Taliban](#)."

Some 135 people — 32 players and coaches as well as their families — "were displaced from their provinces" because of their involvement in women's football, Popal added."

BBC News, [Female Afghan judges hunted by the murderers they convicted](#), 28 September 2021

Names have been changed for this article:

"For more than three decades, Judge Sanaa investigated cases of violence against women and children.

She says the majority of her cases involved convicting members of the Taliban as well as militant group Isis.

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"I have received more than 20 threatening phone calls from former inmates who have now been released."

She is currently in hiding with more than a dozen family members.

Only once has one of her male relatives returned to their former family home. But as he was packing some clothes, the Taliban arrived at the house in several cars full of armed men, led by a commander.

"I opened the door. They asked me whether this was the judge's house," he says. "When I said I didn't know where she was, they threw me on the stairs. One of them hit me with the butt of his gun and started beating me. My nose and mouth were covered in blood."

After the armed men left, Sanaa's relative took himself to hospital.

"I told another relative we must keep changing the house where my sister is staying. There is no other way out now. We can't escape to any other country, even Pakistan."

TOLO News, [Woman Activist in Kandahar Says Family Members Beaten](#), 12 September 2021

"Fahima Rahmati, a civil society activist and the head of a charity in southern Kandahar province, claimed on Sunday that an "armed group related to the Taliban," had entered her house and beat some of her family members last night.

Miss Rahmati, who leads a charity naming Heela, (wish) said she has received death threats and her family has also been threatened.

She added that she has never worked with the government before. "Is this their general amnesty--that the Taliban are coming to my house, and beating my family members? Is governance like this?"

A man also claimed that his wife was recently killed in a Taliban shooting in Kabul. Her husband, Abdul Khaleq said: "Is this in Islam? Can someone, in Islam, kill a woman who is outside her house?"

Thomson Reuters Foundation News, [Brother of Afghan opposition figure executed by Taliban, family says](#), 10 September 2021

"The Taliban have executed the brother of Amrullah Saleh, the former Afghan vice president who became one of the leaders of anti-Taliban opposition forces in the Panjshir valley, his nephew said on Friday."

Danish Immigration Service, [Afghanistan Recent developments in the security situation, impact on civilians and targeted individuals](#), 8 September 2021

"During the course of the Taliban offensive, as well as after the conquest of Kabul, there have been reports of the Taliban targeting members of the civilian population and the Afghan military as well their families. According to SER [Sune Engel Rasmussen, Danish journalist] members of Taliban have been going door to door and arresting or threatening family members of targeted individuals. He explained how members of the Taliban came to the house in Kabul of a colleague of his knocking on the door. Being a journalist, he was hiding inside his house with his family and the Taliban left. He had been warned over the telephone by his neighbour and he immediately thereafter moved to a hotel, knowing that the Taliban knew his address."

OCHCHR, [Afghanistan: Journalists at risk of persecution need urgent protection – UN experts](#), 3 September 2021

"A group of UN human rights experts* today called on all States to provide urgent protection to Afghan journalists and media workers who fear for their lives and are seeking safety abroad.

"Journalists and media workers, in particular women, are facing heightened risks since the Taliban's political takeover of Afghanistan," the experts said. [...]

Recalling the various resolutions on the safety of journalists adopted by the Human Rights Council in recent years, the UN experts called on the Council to uphold its own commitment and do more to address the growing threat to the safety of journalists in the country.

"Reports of targeted killings of journalists and their family members, home raids, threats and intimidation in areas controlled by the Taliban have sharply increased in recent months. This is taking place in a context where

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Afghanistan is already considered one of the most dangerous countries for journalists,” the experts said. [...]

“We are deeply worried about the threats and systematic human rights violations faced by female journalists, as they may be targeted for working in the media or simply being a woman in public life,” the UN experts added. [...]

The experts: Ms. Irene Khan, Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of expression; Fionnuala Ní Aoláin, Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights while countering terrorism; Clément Voule, Special Rapporteur on the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association; and the Working Group on discrimination against women : Ms. Melissa Upreti (Chair), Ms. Dorothy Estrada-Tanck (Vice Chair), Ms. Elizabeth Broderick, Ms. Ivana Radačić, and Ms. Meskerem Geset Techane.

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SECTION 2 - COI SOURCES

This section is a list of potentially relevant COI sources that we scanned systematically for this report. The list is non-exhaustive and will be regularly reviewed and updated. The date in brackets shows the last time a researcher consulted this source.

International Organisations

- [International Labour Organization \(ILO\) \(Afghanistan\)](#) [19.01.2022]
- [International Organization for Migration \(IOM \(Afghanistan\)](#) [19.01.2022]
 - [Displacement Tracking Matrix \(DTM\) \(Afghanistan\)](#) [19.01.2022]
- [IPC - Integrated Food Security Phase Classification](#) [19.01.2022]
- [United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan \(UNAMA\)](#) [19.01.2022]
- [United Nations Children's Fund \(UNICEF\)](#) [19.01.2022]
- [United Nations Human Rights Office of the High Commissioner \(UNOHCHR\) \(Afghanistan news\)](#) [19.01.2022]
- [United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs \(UNOCHA\) \(Afghanistan\)](#) [19.01.2022]
 - [Humanitarian Response \(Afghanistan\)](#) [19.01.2022]
- United Nations Refugee Agency (UNHCR) (Afghanistan)
 - [Afghanistan Situation Page](#) [19.01.2022]
 - [Operational Data Portal](#) [19.01.2022]
- [United Nations Secretary-General reports](#) [18.01.2022]
- [United Nations World Food Programme \(Afghanistan\)](#) [19.01.2022]
- [United Nations World Health Organisation \(Afghanistan\)](#) [19.01.2022]
- [United Nations Population Fund - UNFPA \(Afghanistan\)](#) [19.01.2022]

Intergovernmental Sources

- [European Asylum Support Office \(EASO\) COI Portal](#) [19.01.2022]
Note: EASO published a new [COI report on Afghanistan](#) in January 2022. Next to open-source material, the report features unpublished information obtained from interviews and written correspondence. This information can be found across several sections of the report, including sections on media presence, central control, implementation of Sharia law in daily life, compliance with Taliban moral and religious norms, women and girls, Hazara and Shia Muslims, persons affiliated with the former government, persons seeking asylum and remaining abroad, and returnees, ISKP, and Taliban's ability to secure law and order.

Government sources

- [Danish Immigration Service](#) [19.01.2022]
 - [Country Reports](#) [19.01.2022]
- [Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#) [19.01.2022]
 - [Ambtsbericht](#) [19.01.2022]
- [Dutch Immigration and Naturalisation Service](#) [19.01.2022]
 - [landenrapporten](#), specifically on the [situation in Afghanistan](#) [19.01.2022]
 - Topic: [Afghanistan](#) [19.01.2022]
- [Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada](#) [19.01.2022]

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- [Responses to Information Requests](#) [19.01.2022]
 - [National Documentation Packages](#) [19.01.2022]
- The [Norwegian Country of Origin Information Centre Landinfo](#) [19.01.2022]
 - [Afghan publications page](#) [19.01.2022]
- [French Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#) [19.01.2022]
 - [dossiers pays](#) [19.01.2022]
- [United States Commission on International Religious Freedom](#) [19.01.2022]

NGOS and think tanks

[Note: This list focuses on local and national organisations as well as those international organisations with a local presence]

- [Assessment Capacities Project \(ACAPS\) \(Afghanistan\)](#) [19.01.2022]
- [Afghanistan Analysts Network \(AAN\)](#) [19.01.2022]
- [Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission \(AIHRC\)](#) [19.01.2022]
- [Afghanistan Research and Evaluation Unit \(AREU\)](#) [19.01.2022]
- [Amnesty International \(Afghanistan\)](#) [19.01.2022]
- [The Armed Conflict Location & Event Data Project \(ACLED\) \(Afghanistan\)](#) [19.01.2022]
- [Brookings \(Afghanistan\)](#) [19.01.2022]
 - [Lawfare \(Afghanistan\)](#) [19.01.2022]
- [Care International \(Afghanistan\)](#) [19.01.2022]
- [Carnegie Endowment for International Peace \(Afghanistan\)](#) [19.01.2022]
- [Chatham House \(Afghanistan\)](#) [19.01.2022]
- [Center for Strategic & International Studies \(CSIS\) \(Afghanistan\)](#) [19.01.2022]
- [Committee to Protect Journalists](#) [19.01.2022]
- [Congressional Research Service](#) [19.01.2022]
- [Council on Foreign Relations \(CFR\) \(Afghanistan\)](#) [19.01.2022]
 - [Global Conflict Tracker \(Afghanistan\)](#) [19.01.2022]
- [Danish Refugee Council \(Afghanistan\)](#) [19.01.2022]
- [Global Shelter Cluster \(Afghanistan\)](#) [19.01.2022]
- [Heinrich Boll Stiftung \(Afghanistan\)](#) [19.01.2022]
- [Human Rights Watch \(Afghanistan\)](#) [19.01.2022]
- [International Crisis Group \(ICG\) \(Afghanistan\)](#) [19.01.2022]
 - [CrisisWatch Database](#) [19.01.2022]
- [International Committee of the Red Cross \(ICRC\) \(Afghanistan\)](#) [19.01.2022]
- [International Disability Alliance](#) [19.01.2022]
- [International Federation for Human Rights \(FIDH\) \(Afghanistan\)](#) [19.01.2022]
- [International Institute for Strategic Studies \(Afghanistan\)](#) [19.01.2022]
- [International NGO Safety Organisation \(INSO\) \(Afghanistan\)](#) [19.01.2022]
- [International Rescue Committee \(IRC\) \(Afghanistan\)](#) [19.01.2022]
- [Jamestown Foundation \(Central Asia\)](#) [19.01.2022]
- [Long War Journal](#) [19.01.2022]
- [Medecin Sans Frontieres \(MSF\) \(Afghanistan\)](#) [19.01.2022]
- [Norwegian Refugee Council \(Afghanistan\)](#) [19.01.2022]

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- [Refugees International \(Afghanistan\)](#) [19.01.2022]
- [Royal United Services Institute \(Afghanistan\)](#) [19.01.2022]
- [Samuel Hall \(South and Central Asia\)](#) [19.01.2022]
- [Save the Children \(Afghanistan\)](#) [19.01.2022]
 - [Blog \(Afghanistan\)](#) [19.01.2022]
- [Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction \(SIGAR\)](#) [19.01.2022]
- [Swedish Committee for Afghanistan](#) [19.01.2022]
- [United States Institute of Peace \(Afghanistan\)](#) [19.01.2022]

Media

[Additional media sources may be included in this report but have not been systematically checked on a weekly basis]

- [Afghan Voice Agency \(AVA\)](#) [19.01.2022]
- [Al Jazeera \(Afghanistan\)](#) [19.01.2022]
- [Ariana News](#) [19.01.2022]
- [BBC News](#) [19.01.2022]
- [Deutsche Welle \(Afghanistan\)](#) [19.01.2022]
- [EurAsia.net](#) [19.01.2022]
- [Inter Press Service News Agency](#) [19.01.2022]
- [Jurist.org](#) [19.01.2022]
- [Kabul Now](#) [19.01.2022]
- [Khaama Press \(Afghan News Agency\)](#) [19.01.2022]
- [Pajhwok Afghan News \(Afghan News Agency\)](#) [19.01.2022]
- [Qantara.de](#) [19.01.2022]
- [Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty's Gandhara](#) [19.01.2022]
- [The Guardian \(Afghanistan\)](#) [19.01.2022]
- [The New Humanitarian \(Afghanistan\)](#) [19.01.2022]
- [Thomson Reuters Foundation News \(Afghanistan\)](#) [19.01.2022]
- [ToloNews](#) [19.01.2022]
- [UN News](#) [19.01.2022]

Contacts on the ground

[Listed here are sources that may not report regularly on Afghanistan, but who might be willing to be contacted as they have a presence in Afghanistan]

- [ACTED \(Afghanistan\)](#) [19.01.2022]
- [Afghan Aid](#) [19.01.2022]
- [Afghan Women's Education Centre](#) [19.01.2022]
- [Afghanistan Institute for Civil Society \(AICS\)](#) [19.01.2022]
- [Agha Khan Foundation \(Afghanistan\)](#) [19.01.2022]
- [Aschiana Foundation](#) [19.01.2022]
- [CARE](#) [19.01.2022]
- [Doctors Without Borders/Medecins Sans Frontieres \(MSF\)](#) [19.01.2022]
- [The Liaison Office](#) [19.01.2022]

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- [Mercy Corps \(Afghanistan\)](#) [19.01.2022]
- [Oxfam \(Afghanistan\)](#) [19.01.2022]

Databases

- [Ecoi.net \(Afghanistan\)](#) [19.01.2022]

Additional useful COI databases or sources for case-specific country research (non-exhaustive)

Databases

- [Asylos's research notes](#) [Subscription only]
- [COI Forum](#) [Subscription only]
- [EASO COI Portal](#) [European Asylum Support Office's portal]
- [Electronic Immigration Network](#) [Subscription only]
- [ECOI.net](#) [European Country of Origin Information Network]
- International Refugee Assistance Project (IRAP): [Visa and Refugee Information Reports](#) ["provide information on the refugee protection program, if any, in the countries of flight; the ability of refugees in those countries to work, pursue an education, and live freely; and the penalties, if any, imposed upon individuals living in the countries of flight without lawful immigration status"]
- [Refworld](#) [UNHCR's portal]
- [ReliefWeb](#)

Sources

- [Afghan Islamic Press](#) [Subscription only]

For useful sources arranged by theme consult ARC Foundation's free [Thematic COI Sources toolkit](#).

For any case-specific research requests please get in touch with [Asylos](#).

Additional useful databases and sources to find expert witnesses

Please note that these experts have not been vetted by us and each database/source will have its own vetting process.

- [EIN Experts Directory](#) – The Electronic Immigration Network Directory of Experts gives access to detailed information from a wide variety of experts in a fully searchable database.
- Rights in Exile Programme's "[Country of Origin Information Experts database](#)".
- The Centre for Gender and Refugee Studies' [Expert Witness database](#) [requires registration]
- Country experts cited in relevant [UK country guidance determinations](#)
- Interlocutors cited in [EASO COI products](#)
- Interlocutors cited in fact-finding mission (FFM) reports. These are published by a range of country of asylum/receiving country's governments. You can find them through a Google search or on [ecoi.net](#).
- Academics and/or (I)NGOs who are cited in this COI Repository

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- Ask an expert who you have worked with in the past to suggest other relevant individuals who may be in a position to comment.
- [Global Experts](#) – Global Experts is a UN database of academics, analysts, former officials, faith leaders, civil society activists, private sector/business and media experts around the world. You can search for experts by area of expertise as well as by geographical area.
- [Expertise Finder](#) – Expertise Finder is a directory of experts in a variety of subjects. Search by keywords, for instance country, to find experts and their contact details.
- [SheSource](#) – Same concept as the two sources above, except that this website only lists female experts.
- [CGRS](#) – The Center for Gender and Refugee Studies – California features a webpage with a list of experts providing practice advisories and declarations for US Courts hearings regarding vulnerable groups (LGBTI, Women, Children etc.).
- [Google Scholar](#) / [Microsoft Academic](#) – Google Scholar and Microsoft Academic are search engines for academic publications, although you will find media articles on there as well. On Google Scholar, clicking on an author’s name will typically take you to his / her profile page. Contact details are not provided, but affiliation is; you can then search on his / her institution’s website.

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