AFGHANISTAN GENDER LANDSCAPE

This briefing showcases the gender landscape in Afghanistan on key indicators helpful for monitoring gender equality and designing effective policy interventions. Gender equality fosters productivity gains, minimizes losses in wealth, reduces poverty, boosts shared prosperity, and supports green, resilient, and inclusive development. Afghanistan is a Fragile, Conflict, or Violence (FCV) impacted country in high-intensity conflict.

➤ Click the measures below to explore the World Bank Gender Data Portal.

Compared to:	Base Year	Region
>10% Higher Value	↗	
Equal/No Change	→	
>10% Lower Value	↘	
No Data	---	

		Country Performance				Peer Comparison		
		Baseline			**Latest**	**Latest**		
		Value	Year		Value	Year	SAS	LIC	World
HUMAN ENDOWMENTS									
Learning-Adjusted Years of Schooling	Female	NA	NA	---	3.87	2020	NA	NA	NA
	Male	NA	NA	---	5.53	2020	NA	NA	NA
Literacy rate (% 15+)	Female	NA	NA	---	22.6	2021	65.6	NA	83.3
	Male	NA	NA	---	52.1	2021	81.3	NA	90.1
Primary completion rate (% of relevant group)	Female	14.1	1993	↗	65.8	2019	93.1	NA	89.9
	Male	39.9	1993	↗	102	2019	91.5	NA	90.3
Fertility rate, total (births per woman)		5.98	2010	↘	4.18	2020	2.34	NA	2.39
Adolescent fertility rate (births per 1,000 women 15-19)		114	2010	↘	57.5	2020	22.4	NA	41.0
Pregnant women receiving prenatal care of at least four visits (% of pregnant women)		16.1	2010	↗	20.9	2018	49.3	NA	NA
Mortality from chronic vascular disease, cancer, diabetes or cardiorespiratory disease between 30 and 70 (%)	Female	37.4	2010	→	36.2	2019	19.6	NA	14.8
	Male	38.3	2010	↘	34.4	2019	25.0	NA	21.7
Prevalence of HIV (% 15-24)	Female	0.10	2010	→	0.10	2020	NA	NA	0.40
	Male	0.10	2010	→	0.10	2020	NA	NA	0.20
ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY									
Labor force participation rate (% 15+, modeled ILO estimate)	Female	15.1	2010	→	14.8	2021	22.0	NA	46.3
	Male	76.8	2010	↘	66.5	2021	71.8	NA	71.7
Wage and salaried workers (% of employment, modeled ILO estimate)	Female	2.45	2010	↗	8.21	2019	25.7	NA	54.6
	Male	13.0	2010	↗	20.3	2019	29.2	NA	53.0
Employment in agriculture (% of employment, modeled ILO estimate)	Female	72.9	2010	↘	65.0	2019	56.9	NA	25.3
	Male	51.4	2010	↘	36.6	2019	37.5	NA	27.6
Share of youth not in education, employment or training (% of youth population)	Female	NA	NA	---	74.0	2020	45.4	NA	NA
	Male	NA	NA	---	32.2	2020	14.1	NA	NA
Age dependency ratio (% of working-age population)		102	2010	↘	80.1	2020	51.2	NA	54.6
Financial institution account (% 15+)	Female	NA	NA	---	6.64	2017	63.7	20.5	63.7
	Male	NA	NA	---	22.4	2017	72.9	28.7	70.6
Borrowed to start, operate, or expand a farm or business (% 15+)	Female	NA	NA	---	1.37	2017	5.37	10.6	5.26
	Male	NA	NA	---	5.34	2017	7.94	12.8	7.57
Firms with female participation in ownership (% of firms)		2.80	2008	↘	2.20	2014	18.4	NA	33.1
VOICE AND AGENCY									
Firms with female top manager (% of firms)		0.70	2008	↗	4.70	2014	11.0	NA	17.8
Proportion of seats held by women in national parliaments (%)		27.7	2010	→	27.0	2021	19.0	NA	26.1
Women who were first married by 18 (% of women 20-24)		39.0	2008	↘	28.3	2017	NA	NA	NA
Proportion of women subjected to physical and/or sexual violence in the last 12 months (% of ever-partnered women 15-49)		NA	NA	---	46.1	2015	NA	NA	NA

Note: The South Asia (SAS) region includes 8 countries (all income levels), as classified by The World Bank Group. Afghanistan is a low income (LIC) country, which includes 27 countries with a Gross National Income (GNI) per capita from $0 to $1,045 (calculated using the World Bank Atlas method). Data and definitions can be found on the Gender Data Portal.
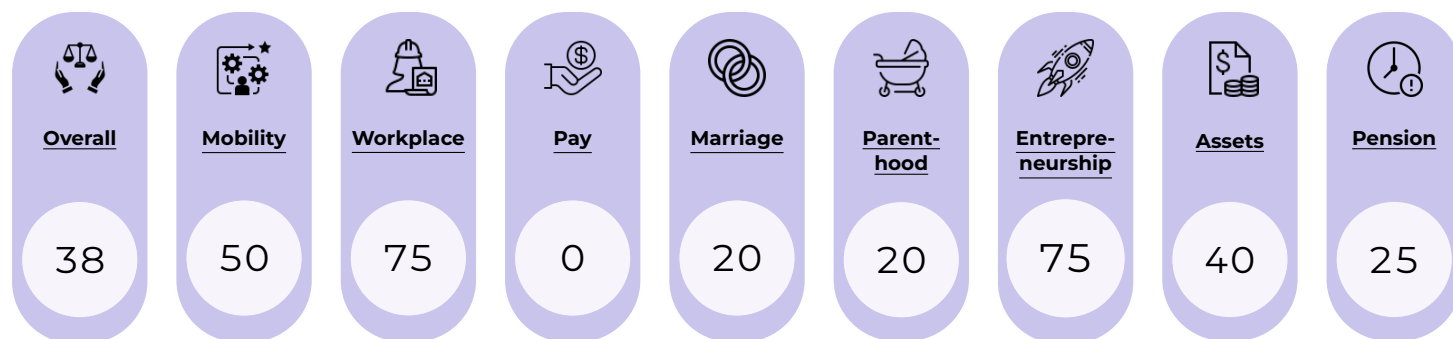
Country Baseline provides a reference from 1990 to 2010. Latest Value shows the latest available comparison from 2011 onwards. The arrow icon represents country increases or decreases over 10 percent relative to the base year. Peer comparisons show how Afghanistan performs relative to the region, income group, and the world. Lighter and darker shades represent values 10 percent above and below regional peer values, respectively.

WORLD BANK GROUP   Gender Data Portal   +10 Accelerate Equality — Gender Equality and Development

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Women, Business and the Law in Afghanistan

Women, Business and the Law (WBL) 2022 presents an index covering 190 economies, structured around the life cycle of a working woman. In total, 35 questions are scored across eight indicators. **Afghanistan scores 38 out of 100,** while the regional average across South Asia is 80.

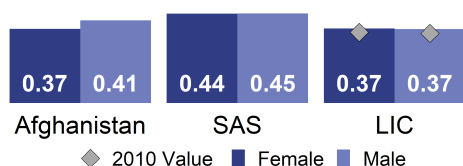| Overall	Mobility	Workplace	Pay	Marriage	Parent-hood	Entrepre-neurship	Assets	Pension
38	50	75	0	20	20	75	40	25

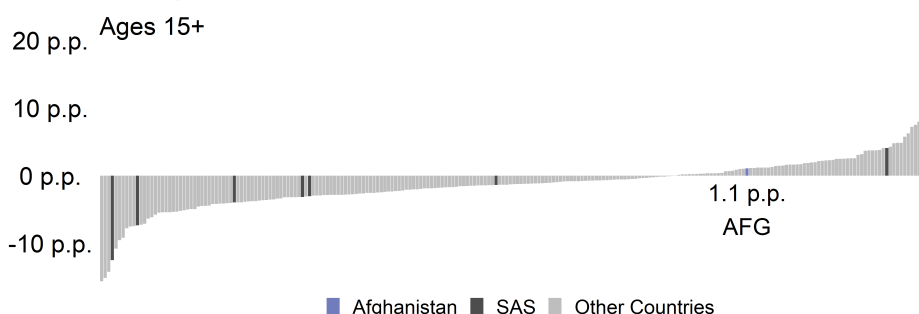## A Closer Look at Gender Equality in Afghanistan

Despite some progress, gender gaps, gender-based violence, and disadvantageous social norms facing women and girls persist, and gains in human capital of women and girls remain untapped. Turning human capital investments into economic gains means addressing multiple barriers to womens economic empowerment, including improving their voice and agency.

Human Capital Index Score (0-1)
Baseline compared to 2020

	Afghanistan	SAS	LIC
Female	0.37	0.44	0.37
Male	0.41	0.45	0.37

◇ 2010 Value ■ Female ■ Male

Change in Female Labor Force Participation 2010-2020 (p.p.)
Ages 15+

20 p.p.
10 p.p.
0 p.p.
-10 p.p.

1.1 p.p. AFG

■ Afghanistan ■ SAS ■ Other Countries

── Unpacking the Numbers in Afghanistan ──

37 percent	**3 in 25**	**7.5 percent**	**23 in 50**	**42 in 43**
A girl born today will be 37 percent as productive as if she enjoyed full education, health, and employment **(2020)**	12 percent of women 15 to 19 years old have had children or already pregnant **(2015)**	7.5 percent of women report having ever experienced any form of sexual violence **(2015)**	46 percent of women are not able to visit family, relatives and friends on her own decision **(2015)**	98 percent of women do not have any land, both solely and jointly, registered under their name **(2015)**

LEARN MORE

The World Bank in Gender: This portal features the latest research, news, and events around gender equality in international development.

Women, Business and the Law: This portal includes reports, data, and news on the laws and regulations that affect women's economic opportunity.

World Bank Group Gender Strategy (FY16-FY23): This 2015 report outlines the World Bank Group's strategy to promote gender equality.

World Bank Gender Data Portal: This open data tool shares the latest statistics and research to improve understanding and inform policy choices.

SAS Gender Innovation Lab: This page features policy research by the GIL, evaluating innovative solutions to close priority gender gaps in the region.