



GANNET INSIGHTS

EDUCATION IN AFGHANISTAN

12 MAY 2025

LEARNING ENVIRONMENT



The education system in Afghanistan is severely strained, with limited public schools and learning spaces, particularly affecting girls' education.



An estimated 3.7 million children are out-of-school in Afghanistan, 60% of them are girls. The ongoing education crisis leaves approximately **2.2 million girls out of school** following the ban on education beyond Grade 6 imposed in March 2022



Teachers are often underqualified and lack access to teaching methods and materials.

FACILITY CONDITIONS

Afghanistan's education system faces significant challenges resulting from years of political instability, including the Taliban's return to power in 2021. The conflict's legacy continues to affect education through policy restrictions, damaged infrastructure, and population displacement.

In 2024, natural hazards caused significant damage to school infrastructure across Afghanistan.

54

public schools and 17 CBE classes affected by windstorms in the Eastern Region in 2024.

43

public schools and 27 CBE classes destroyed or damaged by flooding in the Northern Region.

150

education facilities (81 public schools and 69 CBEs) impacted in the Western Region, which has not fully recovered from the 2023 earthquake.

ACCESS TO EDUCATION AND BARRIERS

- Poverty** is a primary barrier to education, with 11% of households reporting deprioritizing education due to financial constraints
- The **Taliban's ban on education** for girls beyond Grade 6, imposed in March 2022 and now in its third year, has left approximately 2.2 million girls out of school in 2025.
- Children on the move** face particular challenges, with only 20% of nearly 182,000 school-aged returnee children accessing education in 2024 due to documentation issues. Disruption of essential services, financial difficulties, language barriers, and shortages of schools and learning materials in areas of return.
- Natural hazards** have significantly damaged school infrastructure throughout 2024, causing substantial learning loss. According to survey data, 18% of households reported disruption of education due to natural hazards.

BAN OF GIRL'S SECONDARY EDUCATION

→ IMPACT ON GIRL'S ACCESS TO EDUCATION

The de facto Ministry of Education's verbal instruction in June 2023 on transitioning Community-Based Education classes has resulted in **only 1,315 out of 4,332 classes remaining functional**. If this ban persists until 2030, **over four million girls will have been deprived of their right to education** beyond primary school.

The ban extends to higher education, with additional restrictions announced in December 2024 prohibiting women from attending public and private medical institutes, previously one of the few remaining sectors where they could pursue university-level studies.

→ INCREASE OF PROTECTION RISKS

The ban on girls' education beyond Grade 6 has left girls at greater **risk of illiteracy, child labor, early marriage, and exposure to gender-based violence**.

PROTECTION RISKS

→ COPING MECHANISMS

Child Labor: 16% of returnee families report their sons cannot attend school because they need to work to support their families.

Early and Forced Marriage: Child marriages have increased by approximately 25% since the Taliban takeover, with girls being married off due to lack of educational opportunities.

→ MENTAL HEALTH

Self-harm and Suicide: There has been a rise in female suicides, making Afghanistan one of the few countries where more women take their own lives than men, partly attributed to lack of educational and professional prospects.

Psychological Distress: The ban imposes "insurmountable psychological and emotional pressure" on girls, resulting in increased mental health issues among adolescent girls.

SUPPORT NEEDED

- Alternative education solutions: accelerated learning, catch-up programs, radio education
- Ensure appropriate school infrastructure: safe facilities, water access, sanitation, and hygiene/menstrual kits distribution
- Strengthen mental health and psychosocial support integration to help children cope with insecurity
- Maintain rapid response mechanisms for emergency interventions tailored to regional needs

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