

AABIS and APPS — Afghanistan's US-Built Biometric ID Systems Fall Into Taliban Hands

AI in the Public Sector · Good practice · Afghanistan

Quality score: 13/100

Evidence strength: Cautionary / limited

Summary

Two U.S.-funded biometric databases built to modernise Afghan public administration — a \$38m payroll system and a national ID system that once targeted 80% population coverage — were abandoned intact to the Taliban in August 2021, exposing hundreds of thousands of people.

Key dimensions

Dimension	Score
Evidence of impact / measured public value	1/3
Transparency, fairness & accountability	0/3
Transferability / demonstrated replication	0/3
Scalability beyond pilot	1/3
Governance, capability & sustainability	0/3

Evaluated by C-NAPSE

Data sources

[C-NAPSE web research](#) — accessed 2026-08-28

[Afghanistan Ministry of Interior / Ministry of Defense \(systems\); US Department of Defense \(funder\)](#) — accessed 2026-08-28

[Human Rights Watch: New Evidence that Biometric Data Systems Imperil Afghans](#) — accessed 2026-08-28

[The Intercept: The Taliban Have Seized U.S. Military Biometrics Devices](#) — accessed 2026-08-28

Cite this — Evidoria. *AABIS and APPS — Afghanistan's US-Built Biometric ID Systems Fall Into Taliban Hands*. Persistent ID: 8f288973-af2f-42a0-bea7-34fcab54473d.