

Taliban Bans on Women's Education and Employment — Afghanistan's Gender-Equality Reversal

Gender Equality · Good practice · Afghanistan

Quality score: 22/100

Evidence strength: Cautionary / limited

Summary

Since August 2021 the Taliban have barred girls from secondary school and most women from paid work. UNDP estimates the employment ban costs Afghanistan \$1bn a year (5% of GDP); female labour-force participation fell from 19% in 2020 toward a quarter lower still by 2022.

Key dimensions

Dimension	Score
Transferability / replicability	0/3
Impact on gender equality	0/1
Effectiveness	0/1
Efficiency	0/1
Evaluated outcomes	1/1
Sustainability	0/1
Achievement / evidence	0/1
Gender-mainstreaming embedding	0/1
Curator validation	1/1

Evaluated by C-NAPSE

Data sources

[C-NAPSE web research](#) — accessed 2026-07-11

[Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan \(Taliban de facto authorities\)](#) — accessed 2026-07-11

[UN Women — FAQs: What it's like to be a woman in Afghanistan today](#) — accessed 2026-07-11

[Devpolicy Blog \(ANU\) — Impacts of the Taliban's ban](#) — accessed 2026-07-11

[UN News — Afghanistan risks losing 25,000 women teachers and health workers](#) — accessed 2026-07-11

[UN Women — Nearly eight out of 10 young Afghan women excluded](#) — accessed 2026-07-11

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