

Ustad Mobile — offline, peer-to-peer literacy app for Afghan women and army recruits

Digital Inclusion · Good practice · Afghanistan

Quality score: 76/100

Evidence strength: Observational / pre–post

Summary

Afghan tech firm Paiwastoon built Ustad Mobile to deliver the national literacy curriculum offline on basic phones via peer-to-peer sharing. A field pilot showed scores rising from 32/100 to 71/100, but the program's continuity since 2021 is unverified given restrictions on Afgha

Key dimensions

Dimension	Score
Innovation level	4/5
Sustainability (ongoing)	0/1
Evaluation evidence	1/1
Demonstrated reach	1/1
Documented learning	1/1

Evaluated by C-NAPSE

Data sources

[C-NAPSE web research](#) — accessed 2026-09-13

[Paiwastoon Networking Services](#) — accessed 2026-09-13

[Phys.org — Afghan women learn literacy through mobile phones](#) — accessed 2026-09-13

[World Bank Blogs — A model for educational technology development from ... Afghanistan?](#) — accessed 2026-09-13

[Engineering for Change — Ustad Mobile](#) — accessed 2026-09-13

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