620 women die per 100,000 live births due to pregnancy-related causes in Afghanistan.

The maternal mortality ratio in Afghanistan has improved from 1,346 in 2000 to 620 in 2020. Maternal mortality in Afghanistan is higher than its regional average. Maternal mortality ratio is the number of women who die from pregnancy-related causes while pregnant or within 42 days of pregnancy termination per 100,000 live births.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Maternal mortality ratio (deaths per 100,000 live births)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Afghanistan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Asia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Low income</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


84 of every 1,000 girls ages 15-19 gave birth in Afghanistan in 2020.

In Afghanistan, the rate of adolescent fertility has decreased since 2010. The rate in 2020 was lower than the average rate in its income group.

Adult literacy in Afghanistan is lower among women than among men (2021).

The gap in adult literacy between men and women, 29.5, is larger than the gap of the South Asia aggregate, 15.7. Adult literacy rate is the percentage of people ages 15 and above who can both read and write with understanding a short simple statement about their everyday life.

Lower secondary completion rate, by sex (% of relevant age group)

Adult literacy rate, by sex (% of people ages 15 and above)

In Afghanistan, the labor force participation rate among females is 16.5% and among males is 66.7% for 2020.

The labor force participation rate is the proportion of the population ages 15 and older that is economically active. Since 1990, female labor force participation has remained roughly the same. Compared with labor force participation in the low-income group, the gap between men and women is higher in Afghanistan.

Vulnerable employment for females has improved in Afghanistan since 1991.

Workers in vulnerable employment are the least likely to have formal work arrangements, social protection, and safety nets to guard against economic shocks; thus they are more likely to fall into poverty. Vulnerable employment among women is 91.8% and among men is 80.7% in Afghanistan for 2020. The rate of vulnerable employment is higher for men and women in Afghanistan compared to the average rate in South Asia.


Source: World Bank, World Development Indicators database. Estimates are based on data obtained from International Labour Organization, ILOSTAT at https://ilostat.ilo.org/data/.
Data is not available for Afghanistan for Proportion of time spent on unpaid domestic and care work, by sex (% of 24 hour day)

More men than women owned a business in 2018

The share of female business owners for Afghanistan falls in the lowest quintile of all countries for which there are data. Share of business is calculated as the proportion of female or male newly registered limited liability company owners out of the total number of newly registered limited liability company owners in the economy in the calendar year. Data compiled from the most recent data point between 2016 and 2018.

Share of business owners, by sex (% of total business owners)


In 2017, 7.2% of women and 22.5% of men in Afghanistan had an account

The gap in account ownership between men and women in Afghanistan, 15.4, is larger than the gap of the South Asia aggregate, 10.7. Account ownership denotes the percentage of respondents who report having an account (by themselves or together with someone else) at a bank or another type of financial institution or report personally using a mobile money service in the past 12 months.

Account ownership at a financial institution or with a mobile-money-service provider, by sex (% of population ages 15+)

Source: Demirgüç-Kunt et al., 2018, Global Financial Inclusion Database, World Bank.
80.7% of men and 39.3% of women owned a dwelling either alone or jointly in 2015

For women in particular, asset ownership is a source of economic empowerment and provides protection in the case of marital dissolution or abandonment. There is increasing evidence that ownership of property by women has positive consequences for women’s empowerment, nutritional and health outcomes, and children’s schooling.

### House ownership status, by sex (% of population age 15-49)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Male</th>
<th>Female</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>19.3% do not own a house</td>
<td>60.7% do not own a house</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>48.6% own a house alone</td>
<td>16.7% own a house alone</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29.7% own a house jointly</td>
<td>18.7% own a house jointly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.2% own a house both alone and jointly</td>
<td>3.6% own a house both alone and jointly</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Demographic and Health Surveys (DHS)

32.6% of women participated in making major decisions in the household in 2015

Women participating in making major decisions is the percentage of currently married women ages 15-49 who say that they alone or jointly have the final say in (i) making major household purchases, (ii) decisions about own healthcare, and (iii) visits to family, relatives, friends.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentage of women ages 15-49 participating in decisions about:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Visits to family, relatives, friends</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>53.7%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Demographic and Health Surveys (DHS)

In Afghanistan, the share of women who have experienced intimate partner violence is greater than the world average, 27%

Intimate partner violence is by far the most prevalent form of violence against women globally and is defined as the percentage of ever-married women (ages 15-49) who have ever experienced physical or sexual violence committed by their husband or partner, whereas those who have ever experienced any form of sexual violence is the percentage of women (ages 15-49) who ever experienced sexual violence irrespective of marital status and perpetrator.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentage of women ages 15-49 who have ever experienced:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Any form of sexual violence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Demographic and Health Surveys (DHS) Statcompiler (https://www.statcompiler.com/)
27% of seats in national parliament were held by women in 2021 in Afghanistan.

Women in parliaments are the percentage of parliamentary seats in a single or lower chamber held by women. The proportion of seats held by women in Afghanistan has remained roughly the same as 2010. The current rate is similar to the average rate in low-income countries.

Seats held by women in national parliaments, female (%)

Women represented 5.9% of those employed in senior and middle management in 2020.

The female share of employment in senior and middle management for Afghanistan falls in the lowest quintile of all countries for which there are data. Data compiled from the most recent data point available between 2010 and 2022.

Employment in senior and middle management, female (%)

In 2021 women and men used a mobile phone or the internet to pay bills at approximately the same rate.

The female rate in Afghanistan is lower than both South Asia and the low-income group. Internet usage denotes the percentage of respondents who report using a mobile phone or the internet to pay bills in the past 12 months.

Source: Global Findex database

Used a mobile phone or the internet to pay bills in the past year, by sex (% age 15+)

Source: Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) (www.ipu.org). For the year of 1998, the data is as of August 10, 1998.

Data retrieved from World Bank Gender Data Portal
https://genderdata.worldbank.org/countries/afghanistan