

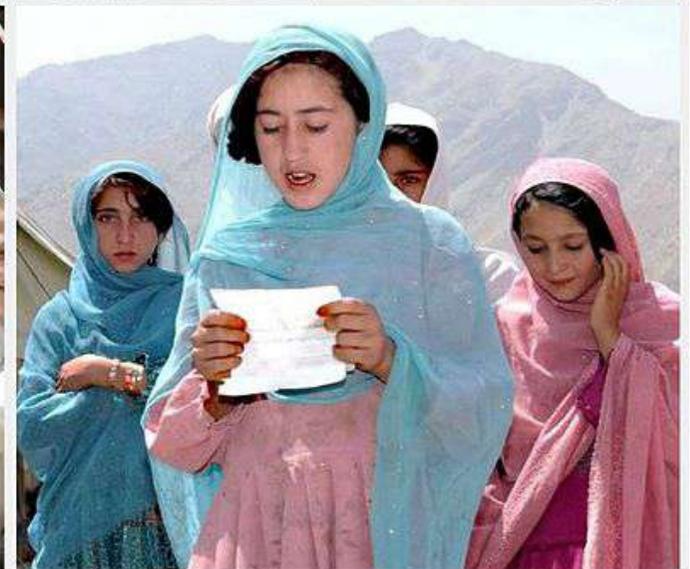
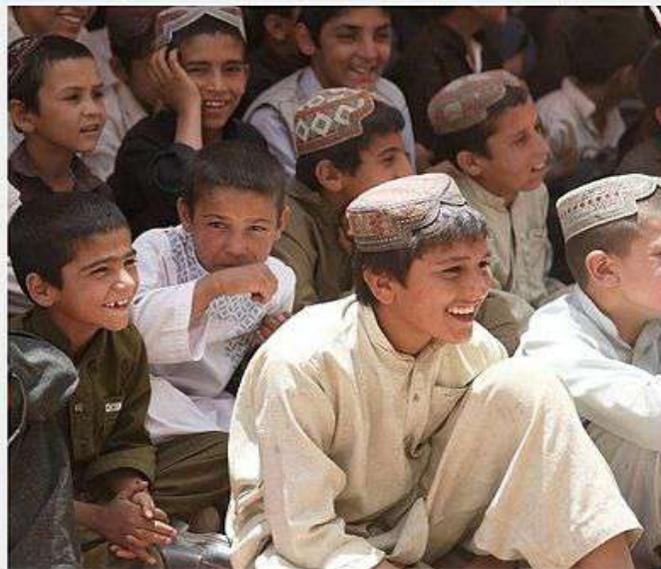
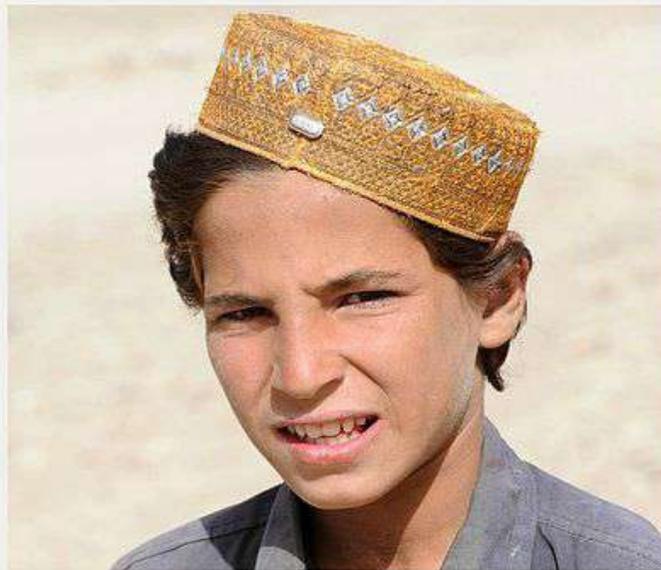


AFGHANISTAN

Administrative Divisions



Pashtun



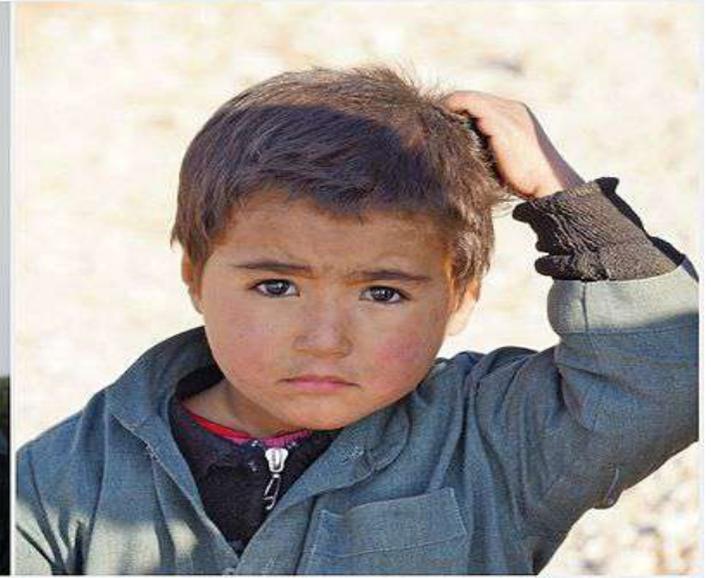
Tajik



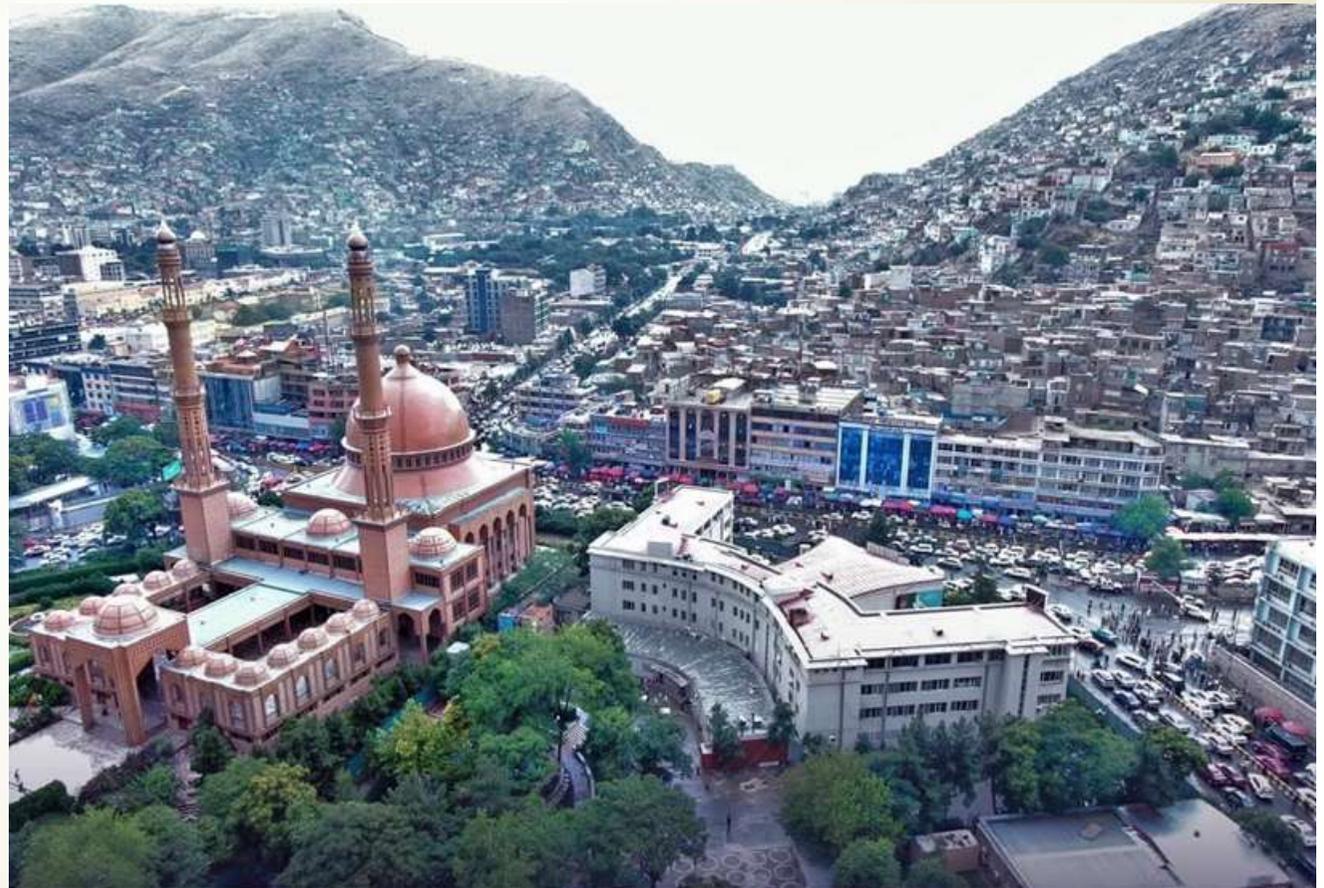
Hazara



Uzbeks



Kabul





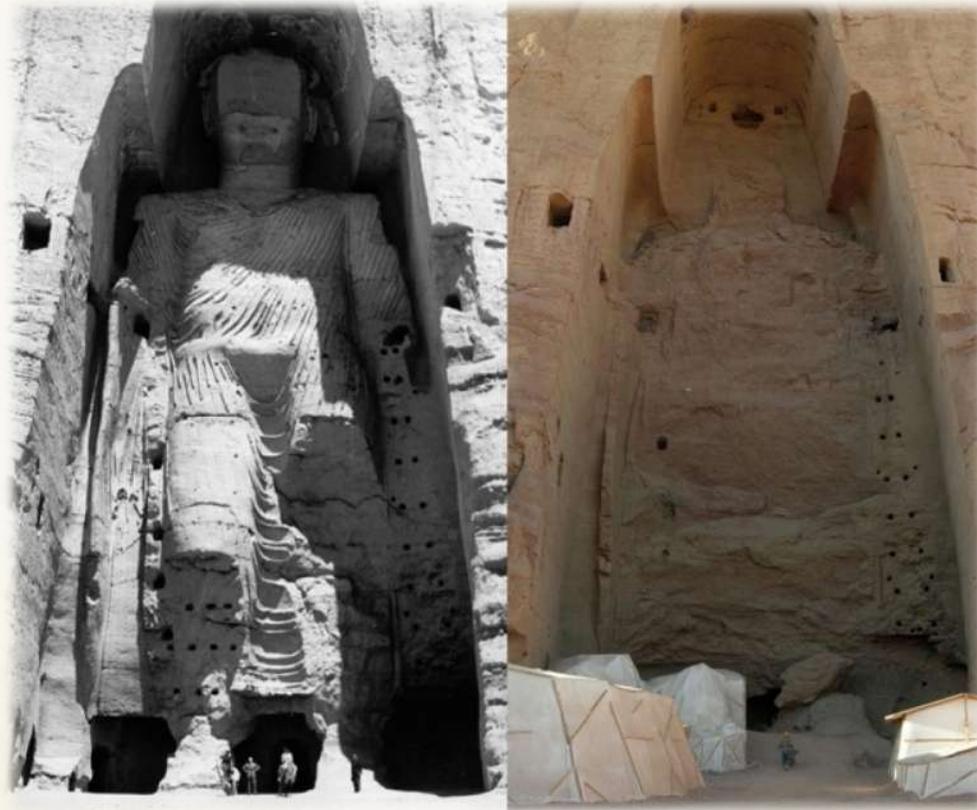
Herat: Arg-e Herat from 330 BC



Mazer-e- Sharif, the blue mosque



Bamyan: Buddha statue from 570 AD and 618 AD to 8th century



A market in Kabul

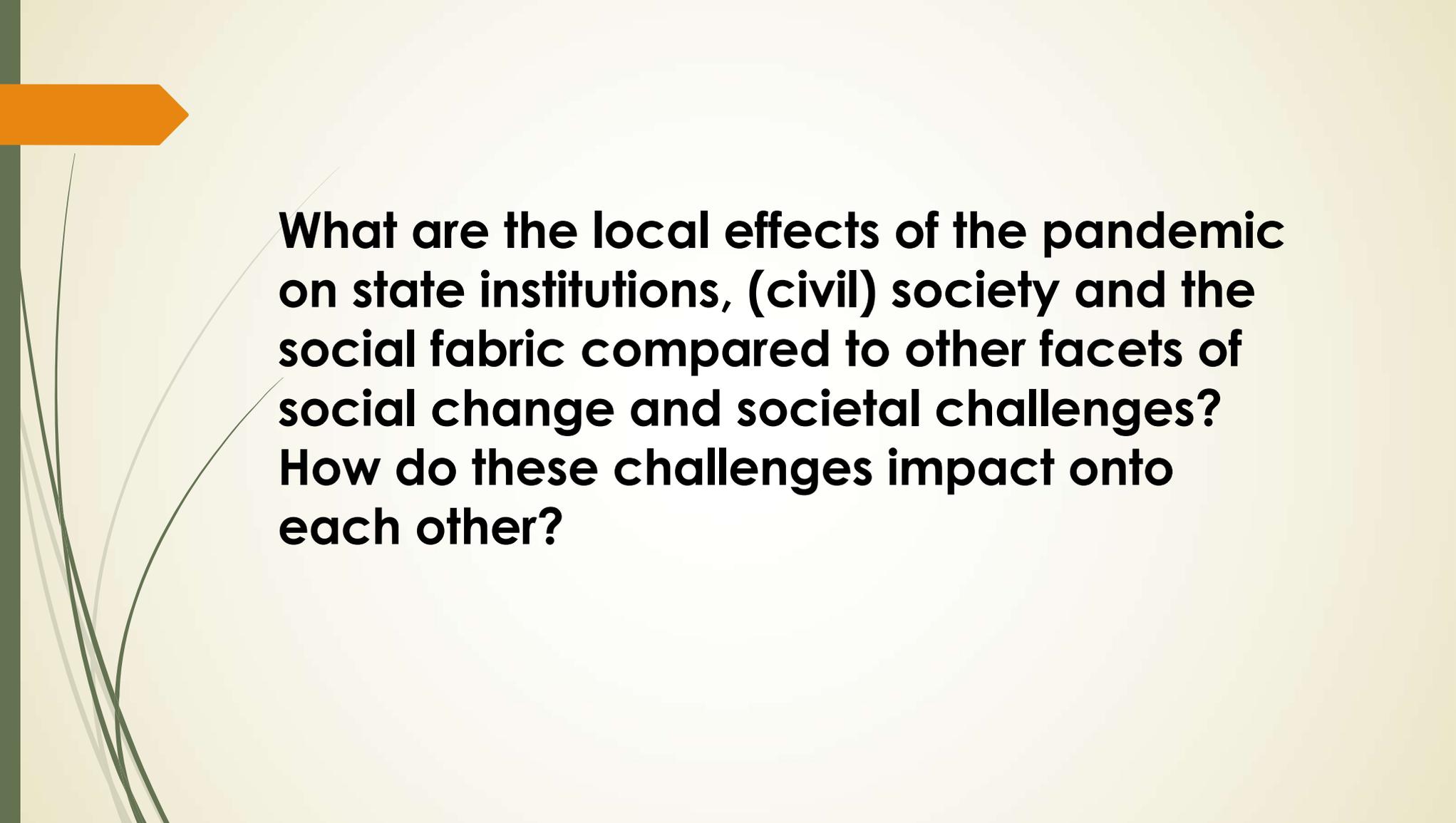


Traditional clothes





Facing the pandemic amongst other challenges: Insights from Afghanistan



What are the local effects of the pandemic on state institutions, (civil) society and the social fabric compared to other facets of social change and societal challenges? How do these challenges impact onto each other?

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- Afghanistan registered its first covid19 case on 24 Feb among a group of returnees from Iran in Herat.
 - As on Nov 28th Afghanistan recorded 45616 cases of covid19 and 1752 deaths were reported. It is relatively low compared to other countries. Presently Afghanistan is experiencing second wave and it is estimated that over 90,000 can get affected. The Covid19 hospital in Kabul is already experiencing shortage of ventilators and the situation can only worsen.
 - The government not only had work to implement measures to avoid the spread of COVID-19. But simultaneously is burdened by many conflicts, like fighting with a deadly insurgency led by the Taliban, the Islamic State of Khurasan, and other armed groups.
 - Even after the United States (US) and the Taliban signed an agreement "for bringing peace to Afghanistan" on February 29, 2020, the level of violence has increased since then.
 - The conflict impedes the ability of the government and private sector to deliver food and services to the population, including access to healthcare facilities and information.
 - The measure undertaken by afghan government were, . For the first time, a 100-bed hospital was built in three weeks in Herat. Another government initiative provides bread rations to the needy.

Taliban recently, increased their terror attack on the civilians, such as

- Médecins Sans Frontières (Doctors without Borders) maternity hospital in Kabul killed 24, including pregnant women and new-born babies.
- Attack in a funeral ceremony in Nangarhar province left 32 dead and at least 100 injured.
- On oct 24, a suicide bomber carried out an attack on the Kawsar-e-Danish educational centre in Kabul, leaving at least 24 students dead and 70 injured.
- On 2 November, three gunmen entered Kabul university in Kabul and killed 32 students and 50 were wounded.
- On 21st November 23 rockets were fired to different parts of Kabul and left eight dead and many were injured.
- On 24th Nov two twin explosions happened in Bamyán left 17 death and 87 injured.
- In the past six months, the Taliban carried out 53 suicide attacks and 1,250 bombings that killed 1,210 civilians and wounded 2,500 others, Arian said this week.



According to the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) “Afghanistan is one of the deadliest places in the world to be a civilian and that 50% of the country lives somewhere highly affected by armed conflict”.

Some of the challenges are as follows:

- **Social protection:** as the country struggles with the socioeconomic impact of COVID-19. According to the UN, approximately 11.3 million Afghans, including 7 million children, are at risk of severe food insecurity.
- **Afghanistan lacks comprehensive social protection systems.** The poverty rate is at 56%, and unemployment may reach as high as 40 % due to COVID-19.
- **Food Prices** Increase in food prices due to the border closures and conflict. Schemes like bread distribution do not provide sufficient nutrition to people in need.
- **Testing capacity** remains low.
- **Corruption:** *led to protest in Ghor province, the people wanted equal distribution of aid and went violent and caused the death of six people.*
- **Physical distancing:** *poverty could not allow the street vendors to remain indoor.*

How do afghan people sustain their lives when there is no social protection system?

- Savings, a daily workers gets 100 Afs to 500 Afs
- Local people who are well off
- Keeping animals to feed on them
- Handi craft
- Carpet weaving
- Domestic work
- Borrow from friends and families
- Work from home

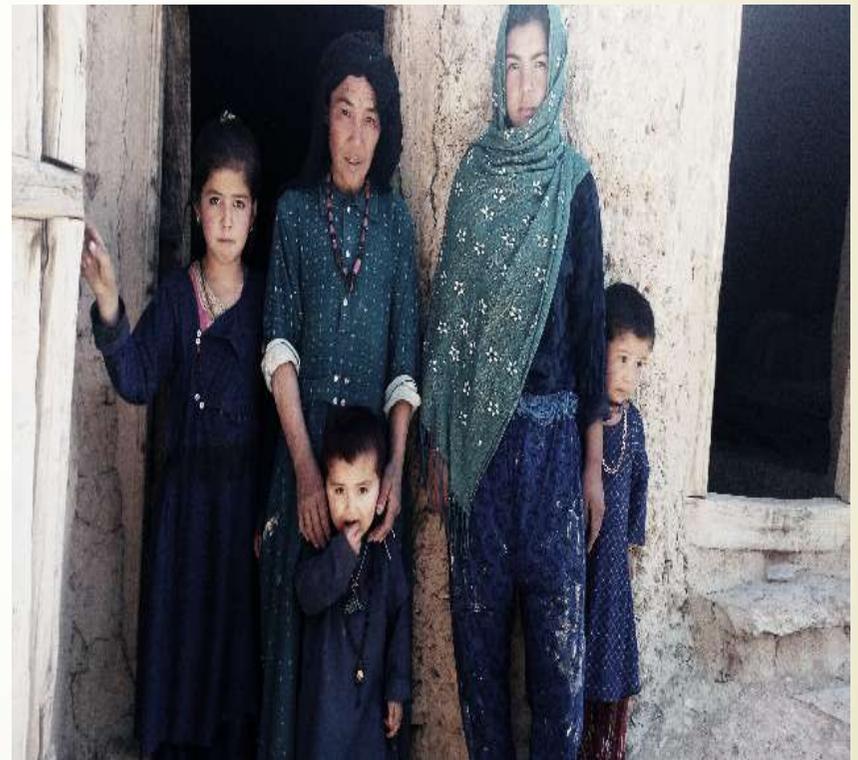
- 
- **MedAir** is an international humanitarian NGO that provided emergency relief like cash assistance to 23248 people, its health and nutrition messages reached to 25965 people and 270847 people received direct assistance in 2019.
 - **ACTED** delivers lifesaving relief to the displaced communities with cash and in-kind assistance, shelters, and water and sanitation infrastructure, whilst contributing to long-term recovery and development by providing education and skills training, investing in agriculture and livelihoods, and strengthening local governance.
 - **Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS)**: provided aid for around 10000 families in collaboration with local NGOs during the lockdown in three provinces (Kabul, Bamyan and Daikundi). They reached out to Disabled, widows, and Displaced families. They distributed food packets to families in need and tried to reach out to some very remote villages of Daikundi province.

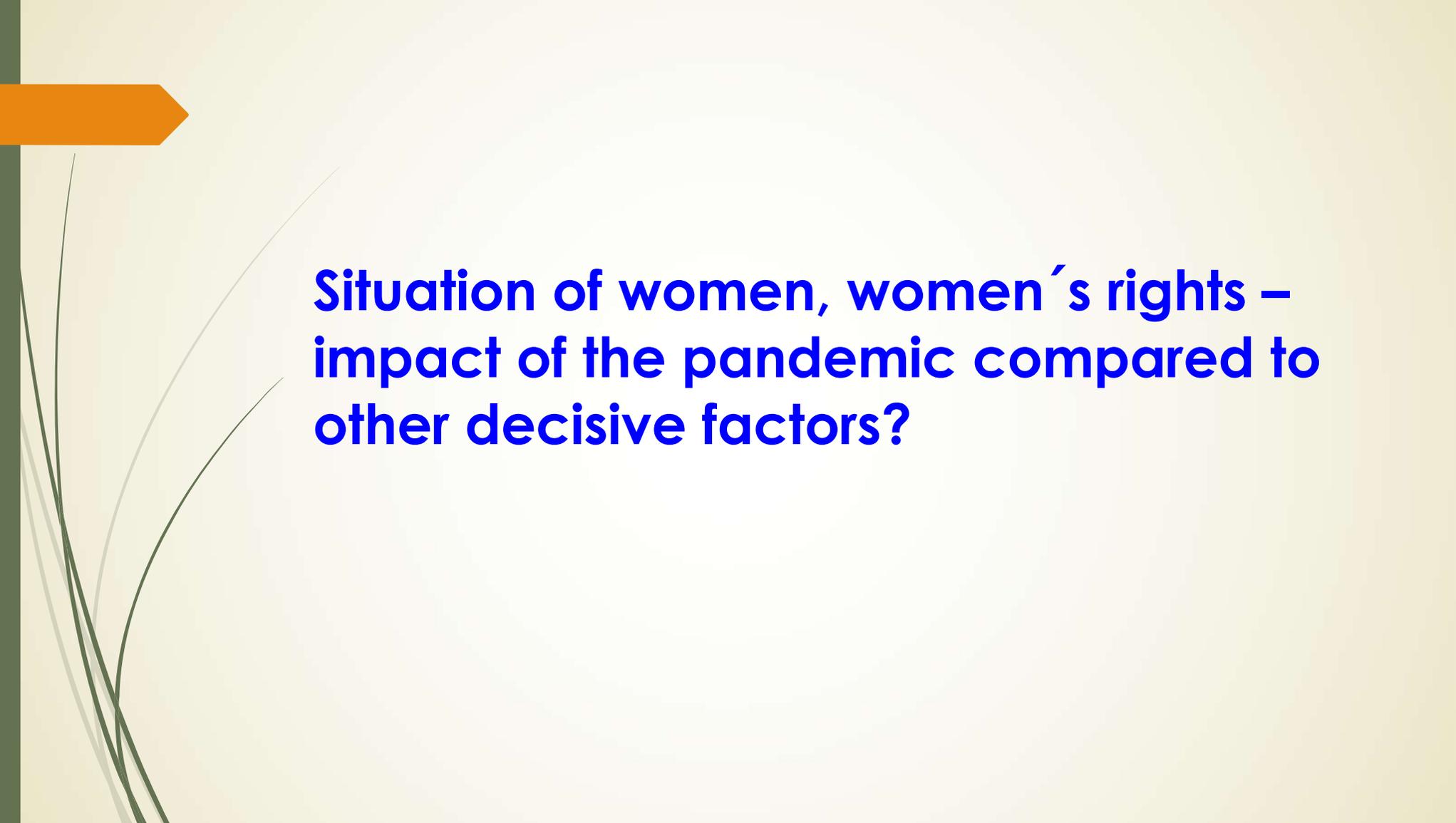
An image from the site of aid distribution by JRS



Case study of Zahra from (Khidir, Daikundi)

Zahra is a widow from Khidir, Daidundi. she has six children. Her husband passed away when her children were too young, due to an illness that could not be cured in the village. In order to meet their daily expenses. She sends her two sons to work as a shepherd and all her children had to drop out of school because to attend school. It would incurred additional expenses to the family.





**Situation of women, women's rights –
impact of the pandemic compared to
other decisive factors?**

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- Afghanistan's constitution grants women equal rights with men since 1923.
 - Amanullah publicly campaigned against the veil.
 - against polygamy.
 - Girls can study and choose their partners.
 - the conservative society viewed the reform too western.
 - By 1928, the ethnic tribal leaders grew restless and developed coalitions to protest the freedoms women were experiencing in Kabul. In 1929, king Amanullah was forced to resign and leave the country. The reforms were very short lived

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- The second phase of intense women's reforms occurred in 1960's and 70's
 - In 1964 the third Constitution allowed women to enter elected politics and gave them the right to vote.
 - The 1977 constitution, said that "the entire people of Afghanistan, women and men, without discrimination have equal rights and obligations before the law."
 - Women were encouraged to enrol in universities and to take jobs in government as well as business and the service sector
 - By the early 1990s, women held 70 % of teachers' jobs as well as 50% of government jobs and 40%of medical posts in Afg.
 - The number of girls in primary school increased to 34.1% of the total or 64,116 girls by 1990. it dropped to 10.9% during the civil war, fell to 7.9% in 1999, under the Taliban and continued to fall to zero with the prohibition of women in any level of education in the areas they controlled.

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- In 1996 the civil war came to an end with Taliban taking the power who promised to bring peace and security to the country. It followed several restrictions on the mobility of women thus shrinking the public spaces for women.
 - Women were excluded from governance and public life.
 - The schools were shut down for girls. Girl's schools were called the “gateway to Hell, the first step on the road to prostitution”.
 - Women were not allowed to work outside their four walls.
 - They were prohibited to use any type of cosmetic or wear high heels, and were forbidden to go to bazaar without a male escort.

**When Afghanistan
was under Taliban's
control**



**Women were flogged in public.
They were shot in the head**



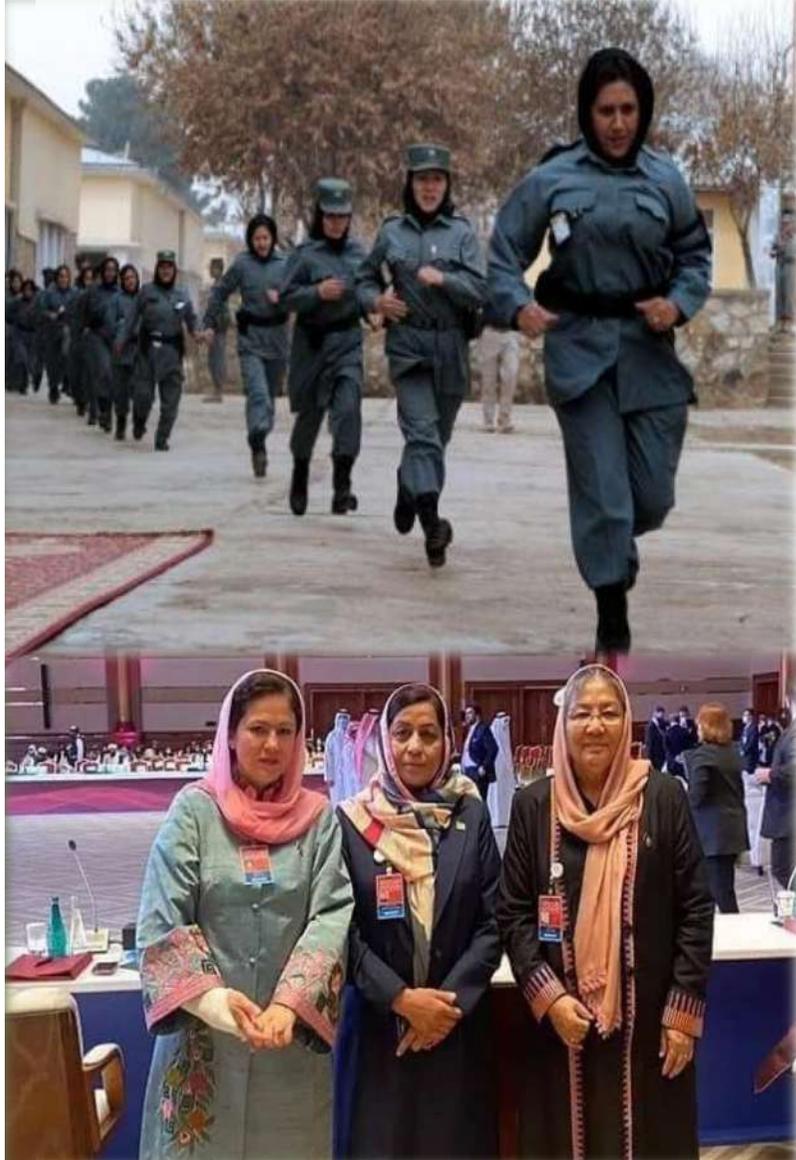
After the fall of Taliban;

- (Article 22), the 2004 constitution extends equality to both men and women.
- (Articles 70 and 71), The Afghan Civil Code (1977) provides rights for women to inherit or own property, sets the minimum age for marriage.
- (Article 80), codifies a woman's right to choose her partner or to initiate marital separation.
- The Afghan Criminal Code (1979) protects eloped couples by creating a distinction between elopement and kidnapping.
- Election legislation protects women's right to vote and sets quotas for women to participate in elected bodies.

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- From 2011–12, nearly 3 m girls were enrolled in school (39%). 270,000 were enrolled in literacy and vocational schools (31 %).
 - From 2001-16, primary school enrolment rose from around 1 million to 9.2 million and the proportion of girls from almost zero to 37%.
 - By 2016, the total number of women in public higher education had grown to more than 45,397 being 28.8% of total student numbers with 202,757 total students.
 - But, the on going conflicts had a negative impact on Afghan's education system. 3.7 million children between the ages of 7 to 17 are out of school across the country, 60 percent of them being girls. Of those enrolled, only 54 percent actually complete elementary school.
 - Women can now run for public office and vote.
 - In the 2009 presidential and provincial council elections, two women ran for president and seven for vice president, 9 percent (312) of all candidates for provincial councils were women, and almost 4000 women were accredited as domestic observers.

What we have accomplished after the collapse of Taliban .





women have joined armed force

Women are involved in politics

Women are running their own businesses





Some of the key barriers that act as an obstacles to the development of women:

1. Cultural beliefs and Patriarchal society
2. Poverty
3. Insecurity in the country
4. Lack of employment opportunities
5. Street harassment



Some of the key barriers that act as an obstacles to the development of women:

6. Forced and child marriages
7. Parents preference towards boys
8. Limited access to justice
9. Violence
10. Limited access to higher education



A woman was lashed for adultery in public in 2015



Woman was stoned to death for adultery in 2015



According to one study domestic violence emerges from three main aspects which show the relationship between **conflict and domestic violence in Afghanistan**:

- violence resulting from the loss of patriarchal support,
- violence resulting from the drug trade as an economic driver of conflict, and
- vulnerability to violence resulting from poverty brought on by conflict.

According to a Global Rights study, 87 % of women experience physical, sexual or psychological violence during their lifetime, with 62 per cent experiencing multiple forms.



What role do you see for international cooperation and solidarity?

Afghanistan continues to remain a fragile state

The international support and cooperation is needed to take Afghanistan forward

Promotion of women entrepreneurs and involve more women to strengthen the state institutes and the peace process

Build on what has been achieved



Thank You...