

3.5. Healthcare

3.5. Healthcare

The development of Afghan healthcare has been impeded by decades of war,⁹⁴⁵ leaving it heavily dependent on foreign aid to deliver basic health services.⁹⁴⁶ In the absence of quality healthcare, many Afghans have been travelling abroad to seek medical care, for example in Pakistan, India, Türkiye⁹⁴⁷ or Iran.⁹⁴⁸ This option has reportedly become increasingly unattainable in recent years, amid border closures with Pakistan and Pakistan's restricted visa policy.⁹⁴⁹ Afghanistan is experiencing a deepening healthcare crisis, exacerbated by dwindling international aid and the de facto authorities' minimal state budget allocation on health.⁹⁵⁰ Meanwhile, life expectancy has reportedly declined,⁹⁵¹ and mortality rates among children under five⁹⁵² and mothers have reportedly increased.⁹⁵³

Amid the Taliban takeover in August 2021, major donors cut their development funding which severely impacted the healthcare system.⁹⁵⁴ Aid organisations have tried to fill the gap in donor cuts for public health,⁹⁵⁵ but have not been able to replace the former scale of international donor support.⁹⁵⁶ About 33 % of the population (over 14 million people) are underserved in terms of healthcare access,⁹⁵⁷ and rural communities in particular.⁹⁵⁸ The situation has been further exacerbated by subsequent aid cuts, prompting many organisations to shift priorities from *inter alia* healthcare to immediate relief efforts.⁹⁵⁹ According to AAN, the number of operative health facilities had declined to 1 500 by 2024, down from a 'peak' of 3 000 facilities in 2010.⁹⁶⁰ Due to the cuts in US foreign aid, 422 additional health facilities had been suspended by 31 August 2025, impacting over 3 million people in 30 provinces, according to Health Cluster and WHO.⁹⁶¹

Amid the Taliban takeover, many healthcare professionals left the country or quit their jobs.⁹⁶² Already under the previous government, there was a significant shortage of healthcare staff, with the number of doctors, nurses, midwives, dentists, and pharmacists in relation to the population size being well below WHO's thresholds⁹⁶³ for 'critical shortage'.⁹⁶⁴ There were about 10.3 health workers per 10 000 individuals in Afghanistan in 2023 and 2024.⁹⁶⁵ This figure can be put in relation to the WHO's recommended 44.5 key health workers per 10 000 population.⁹⁶⁶ There is a particular shortage of female health staff, exacerbated by the de facto government's restrictive policies on women,⁹⁶⁷ and gender segregation in medical facilities.⁹⁶⁸ The prohibitions on women taking university courses and medical training furthermore blocks new generations female doctors,⁹⁶⁹ nurses and midwives from graduating.⁹⁷⁰ There are also shortages in specialists.⁹⁷¹ Furthermore, many healthcare personnel lack necessary qualifications.⁹⁷² For example, research published in Conflict and Health in 2024, outlined how medical personnel across Afghanistan generally lacked awareness of common noncommunicable diseases (NDCs),⁹⁷³ which includes chronic diseases such as heart attacks, stroke, cancer, chronic respiratory diseases, and diabetes.⁹⁷⁴ Meanwhile, in 2025, WHO estimated that NDCs accounted for 43 % of deaths in Afghanistan.⁹⁷⁵ There are moreover shortages in medicines,⁹⁷⁶ and the provision is highly reliant on NGO support.⁹⁷⁷ However, stocks sometimes run out within days when there are many patients.⁹⁷⁸

As mentioned, rural areas in particular face gaps in accessing quality healthcare⁹⁷⁹ and are disproportionately affected by shortages in clinics, health staff,⁹⁸⁰ and medicine.⁹⁸¹ Provincial hospitals reportedly often only

had supplies of basic medications and referred patients in need of other medication (including for NDCs) to private pharmacies.⁹⁸²

Moreover, health facilities suffer from poor infrastructure and a lack of medical equipment.⁹⁸³ This includes health facilities across Afghanistan⁹⁸⁴ and ‘on all levels’, as reported by Doctors Without Borders (MSF).⁹⁸⁵ For example, according to a 2024 study, a large maternal centre in Kabul City only had one ultrasound machine, and, due to the lack of basic laboratory equipment, hospitals in all of Kabul’s neighbouring provinces referred patients in need of CT scans to the capital.⁹⁸⁶ There are also generally high bed occupancy rates, with up to three patients sharing beds in some facilities.⁹⁸⁷ The 2024 study found that many health facilities were built about 40 years ago and are in need of refurbishment as they were designed for a significantly lower number of patients, as well as a significantly lower number of beds per room.⁹⁸⁸ Some facilities moreover lack reliable electricity supply,⁹⁸⁹ struggle to heat the facilities during winter,⁹⁹⁰ and lack ventilation systems to cool the facilities during summer.⁹⁹¹ According to the 2024 study, some child patients had died due to lack of heating.⁹⁹²

The health system is also burned by outbreaks of infectious diseases⁹⁹³ such as measles, acute watery diarrhoea, and malaria⁹⁹⁴ as well as natural disasters causing severe injuries.⁹⁹⁵

Many Afghans face economic barriers to access healthcare.⁹⁹⁶ In some provinces, the de facto authorities have introduced fees for public healthcare,⁹⁹⁷ but also in public institutions that are supposed to provide free healthcare, patients may have to pay for basic services, including child delivery, surgeries,⁹⁹⁸ and medicines if supplies are short.⁹⁹⁹ Although the general security situation has improved in recent years which facilitates travel to health centres,¹⁰⁰⁰ distances¹⁰⁰¹ and costs associated with travelling may also impact household decisions whether to seek healthcare.¹⁰⁰² Meanwhile, the general ability to pay for healthcare has worsened since the takeover.¹⁰⁰³ Some incur debts to fund health services¹⁰⁰⁴ or delay care until their condition becomes urgent.¹⁰⁰⁵ Women and children (in particular women in poor and rural areas and with disabilities¹⁰⁰⁶) have been disproportionately affected by the deterioration in healthcare accessibility.¹⁰⁰⁷ Restrictions on women’s travel have furthermore limited women’s mobility,¹⁰⁰⁸ and have hampered the work of mobile health teams.¹⁰⁰⁹ Moreover, the requirement of both female medical staff and female patients to be accompanied by a *mahram* in some areas impact women’s access to healthcare,¹⁰¹⁰ as well as the general shortage in female staff in areas where women are only permitted to be seen by female health personnel.¹⁰¹¹

Mental health needs have increased in Afghanistan in recent years, and have become more noticeable at health clinics amid an increase in people seeking help.¹⁰¹² In 2025, WHO estimated that one in five Afghans live with a mental health condition.¹⁰¹³ The de facto government’s restrictions on women have also reportedly driven up the rates of mental health issues among women.¹⁰¹⁴ Meanwhile, many provincial hospitals and primary healthcare services lack mental health services, as reported by WHO,¹⁰¹⁵ and mental health services have not been prioritised among donors.¹⁰¹⁶ According to a representative of the de facto Ministry of Public Health’s mental health department, cited in local media, Afghanistan would need 3 000 mental health counsellors to meet the national demand, while 1 100 were active in May 2025. Meanwhile, the representative stated that there were about 130–150 mental health specialists across Afghanistan, while the double would be needed.¹⁰¹⁷ These figures could not be corroborated with other sources within the time constraints of drafting this report. According to United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the absence of local mental health services is a primary barrier to seeking help, and there is also a lack of specialised professionals. Travel distances to access services also pose a barrier for many, especially for conditions requiring multiple sessions.¹⁰¹⁸ Another barrier to seeking help is the stigma surrounding mental health issues.¹⁰¹⁹ In some communities, individuals with mental health issues may be ridiculed, humiliated and ostracised,¹⁰²⁰ why many conceal their issues.¹⁰²¹

WHO, Afghanistan, Who's Health Emergency Appeal 2025, 16 January 2025, [url](#), p. 1

[946](#)

HRW, "A Disaster for the Foreseeable Future", Afghanistan's Healthcare Crisis, 12 February 2024, [url](#); New Humanitarian (The), Afghan doctors warn of healthcare crisis as international aid cuts bite, 25 September 2023, [url](#); UN Human Rights Council, Situation of human rights in Afghanistan, 20 February 2025, [url](#), para. 21

[947](#)

Sherzad, A. G. et al., Factors Influencing Decision Making of Afghan Patients to Seek Medical Treatment in Pakistan: A Cross-Sectional Study, Journal of Multidisciplinary Healthcare, April 2025, [url](#)

[948](#)

RFE/RL, Unreliable Medical Tests Force Afghans to Seek Treatment Abroad, 13 June 2025, [url](#)

[949](#)

Hasht-e Subh, The Prescription Shift: Is India Replacing Pakistan in Afghanistan's Medical Lifeline? , 20 December 2025, [url](#)

[950](#)

Bjelica, J., Rural Women's Access to Health in Afghanistan: "Most of the time we just don't go", AAN, March 2025, [url](#), pp. 16, 51

[951](#)

UN Afghanistan, Annual report 2023, 19 April 2024, [url](#), p. 5; Bjelica, J., Rural Women's Access to Health in Afghanistan: "Most of the time we just don't go", AAN, March 2025, [url](#), p. 51

[952](#)

Bjelica, J., Rural Women's Access to Health in Afghanistan: "Most of the time we just don't go", AAN, March 2025, [url](#), p. 51

[953](#)

Bjelica, J., Rural Women's Access to Health in Afghanistan: "Most of the time we just don't go", AAN, March 2025, [url](#), pp. 16, 51; Nasari, A. et al., Let Afghan women work: maternal health depends on it, The Lancet, 15 October 2025, [url](#)

[954](#)

HRW, "A Disaster for the Foreseeable Future", Afghanistan's Healthcare Crisis, 12 February 2024, [url](#); New Humanitarian (The), Afghan doctors warn of healthcare crisis as international aid cuts bite, 25 September

2023, [url](#); Turkmani, S. and Currie, S., Afghanistan's fragile health system faces catastrophe without immediate international funding, BMJ, 16 April 2025, [url](#)

[955](#)

HRW, "A Disaster for the Foreseeable Future", Afghanistan's Healthcare Crisis, 12 February 2024, [url](#); Bjelica, J., Rural Women's Access to Health in Afghanistan: "Most of the time we just don't go", AAN, March 2025, [url](#), p. 15

[956](#)

HRW, "A Disaster for the Foreseeable Future", Afghanistan's Healthcare Crisis, 12 February 2024, [url](#); BBC News, Afghanistan earthquake: What foreign aid is getting in?, 8 July 2022, [url](#)

[957](#)

Humanitarian Action, Afghanistan, 2025, 19 December 2024, [url](#); WHO, Afghanistan, Who's Health Emergency Appeal 2025, 16 January 2025, [url](#), p. 1

[958](#)

Salem, M. R. et. al, The current situation of health equity in underserved areas of Afghanistan, Frontiers in Public Health, 24 September 2024, [url](#); Humanitarian Action, Afghanistan, 2025, 19 December 2024, [url](#)

[959](#)

HRW, "A Disaster for the Foreseeable Future", Afghanistan's Healthcare Crisis, 12 February 2024, [url](#); Clark, K., The End of US Aid to Afghanistan: What will it mean for families, services and the economy?, AAN, 9 May 2025, [url](#)

[960](#)

Bjelica, J., Rural Women's Access to Health in Afghanistan: "Most of the time we just don't go", AAN, March 2025, [url](#), p. 4

[961](#)

Health Cluster and WHO, Afghanistan: Suspended/Closed Health Facilities due to the U.S. Government Work-Stop Ban (Update as of 31 August 2025), 31 August 2025, [url](#)

[962](#)

HRW, "A Disaster for the Foreseeable Future", Afghanistan's Healthcare Crisis, 12 February 2024, [url](#); Bjelica, J., Rural Women's Access to Health in Afghanistan: "Most of the time we just don't go", AAN, March 2025, [url](#), p. 15

[963](#)

Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, Ministry of Public Health, Policy Brief, Role of Private Sector in Fight Against Covid-19 in Afghanistan, 30 April 2020, [url](#), p. 3

[964](#)

WHO, Working together for health, 2006, [url](#), pp. 11–12

[965](#)

Neyazi, N. et al., Assessing the health workforce in Afghanistan: a situational analysis into the country's capacity for Universal health coverage, April 2025, Conflict and Health, [url](#); Bjelica, J., Rural Women's Access to Health in Afghanistan: "Most of the time we just don't go", AAN, March 2025, [url](#), p. 16

[966](#)

Neyazi, N. et al., Assessing the health workforce in Afghanistan: a situational analysis into the country's capacity for Universal health coverage, April 2025, Conflict and Health, [url](#)

[967](#)

Lamberti-Castronuovo, A. et al., Exploring barriers to access to care following the 2021 socio-political changes in Afghanistan: a qualitative study, Conflict and Health, 24 April 2024, [url](#); Bjelica, J., Rural Women's Access to Health in Afghanistan: "Most of the time we just don't go", AAN, March 2025, [url](#), p. 4

[968](#)

MSF, Excluding women from medical institutes threatens the future of healthcare in Afghanistan, 6 December 2024, [url](#); HRW, Afghanistan's Taliban Ban Medical Training for Women, 3 December 2024, [url](#)

[969](#)

Health Policy Watch, 'Are We Not Human?' Afghan Women in Despair After Taliban Ban Them from Nursing and Midwifery, 19 December 2024, [url](#); Al Jazeera, Veiled rebellion: Female medical students go underground in Afghanistan, 30 December 2023, [url](#)

[970](#)

Health Policy Watch, 'Are We Not Human?' Afghan Women in Despair After Taliban Ban Them from Nursing and Midwifery, 19 December 2024, [url](#); UN News, Afghanistan: UN condemns Taliban ban on women attending medical classes, 5 December 2024, [url](#)

[971](#)

Lamberti-Castronuovo, A. et al., Exploring barriers to access to care following the 2021 socio-political changes in Afghanistan: a qualitative study, Conflict and Health, 24 April 2024, [url](#); Bjelica, J., Rural Women's Access to Health in Afghanistan: "Most of the time we just don't go", AAN, March 2025, [url](#), pp. 21, 38

[972](#)

RFE/RL, Unreliable Medical Tests Force Afghans to Seek Treatment Abroad, 13 June 2025, [url](#); Lamberti-Castronuovo, A. et al., Exploring barriers to access to care following the 2021 socio-political changes in Afghanistan: a qualitative study, Conflict and Health, 24 April 2024, [url](#)

[973](#)

Lamberti-Castronuovo, A. et al., Exploring barriers to access to care following the 2021 socio-political changes in Afghanistan: a qualitative study, Conflict and Health, 24 April 2024, [url](#)

[974](#)

WHO, Noncommunicable diseases, 25 September 2025, [url](#)

[975](#)

WHO, Afghanistan's hidden epidemic of noncommunicable diseases and mental health conditions, 21 September 2025, [url](#)

[976](#)

Lamberti-Castronuovo, A. et al., Exploring barriers to access to care following the 2021 socio-political changes in Afghanistan: a qualitative study, Conflict and Health, 24 April 2024, [url](#); MSF, Earthquake in Afghanistan: MSF's response, 2 September 2025, [url](#)

[977](#)

Lamberti-Castronuovo, A. et al., Exploring barriers to access to care following the 2021 socio-political changes in Afghanistan: a qualitative study, Conflict and Health, 24 April 2024, [url](#); MSF, Persistent barriers to access healthcare in Afghanistan: An MSF report, 6 February 2023, [url](#), p. 24

[978](#)

Lamberti-Castronuovo, A. et al., Exploring barriers to access to care following the 2021 socio-political changes in Afghanistan: a qualitative study, Conflict and Health, 24 April 2024, [url](#)

[979](#)

Humanitarian Action, Afghanistan, 2025, 19 December 2024, [url](#); Women for Afghan Women, Building Health, 17 January 2025, [url](#); Alavi, L. J., Intersectionality and Human Rights: Ensuring Access to Maternal Health in Afghanistan, RWI, May 2025, [url](#), p. 26

[980](#)

Lamberti-Castronuovo, A. et al., Exploring barriers to access to care following the 2021 socio-political changes in Afghanistan: a qualitative study, Conflict and Health, 24 April 2024, [url](#); Humanitarian Action, Afghanistan, 2025, 19 December 2024, [url](#); BBC Media Action, Understanding how to increase uptake of WASH, nutrition and child health services in Afghanistan, June 2024, [url](#), p. 5

[981](#)

Lamberti-Castronuovo, A. et al., Exploring barriers to access to care following the 2021 socio-political changes in Afghanistan: a qualitative study, *Conflict and Health*, 24 April 2024, [url](#); BBC Media Action, Understanding how to increase uptake of WASH, nutrition and child health services in Afghanistan, June 2024, [url](#), p. 21

[982](#)

Lamberti-Castronuovo, A. et al., Exploring barriers to access to care following the 2021 socio-political changes in Afghanistan: a qualitative study, *Conflict and Health*, 24 April 2024, [url](#); See also: van Gurp, M. et al., The availability of essential medicines in public healthcare facilities in Afghanistan: navigating sociopolitical and geographical challenges, *Health Policy and Planning*, April 2025, [url](#)

[983](#)

Humanitarian Action, Afghanistan, 2025, 19 December 2024, [url](#); RFE/RL, Unreliable Medical Tests Force Afghans to Seek Treatment Abroad, 13 June 2025, [url](#); MSF, Pressure grows on hospitals in Afghanistan, as paediatric patient numbers rise, 3 July 2025, [url](#)

[984](#)

Lamberti-Castronuovo, A. et al., Exploring barriers to access to care following the 2021 socio-political changes in Afghanistan: a qualitative study, *Conflict and Health*, 24 April 2024, [url](#); MSF, Pressure grows on hospitals in Afghanistan, as paediatric patient numbers rise, 3 July 2025, [url](#)

[985](#)

MSF, Pressure grows on hospitals in Afghanistan, as paediatric patient numbers rise, 3 July 2025, [url](#)

[986](#)

Lamberti-Castronuovo, A. et al., Exploring barriers to access to care following the 2021 socio-political changes in Afghanistan: a qualitative study, *Conflict and Health*, 24 April 2024, [url](#)

[987](#)

MSF, Earthquake in Afghanistan: MSF's response, 2 September 2025, [url](#)

[988](#)

Lamberti-Castronuovo, A. et al., Exploring barriers to access to care following the 2021 socio-political changes in Afghanistan: a qualitative study, *Conflict and Health*, 24 April 2024, [url](#)

[989](#)

Lamberti-Castronuovo, A. et al., Exploring barriers to access to care following the 2021 socio-political changes in Afghanistan: a qualitative study, *Conflict and Health*, 24 April 2024, [url](#); ICRC, Afghanistan: A year of responding to numerous humanitarian challenges, 31 December 2024, [url](#)

[990](#)

Lamberti-Castronuovo, A. et al., Exploring barriers to access to care following the 2021 socio-political changes in Afghanistan: a qualitative study, *Conflict and Health*, 24 April 2024, [url](#); New Humanitarian (The), In Afghanistan's battered healthcare system, power cuts can prove fatal, 17 January 2023, [url](#)

[991](#)

Women for Afghan Women, Building Health, 17 January 2025, [url](#); Lamberti-Castronuovo, A. et al., Exploring barriers to access to care following the 2021 socio-political changes in Afghanistan: a qualitative study, *Conflict and Health*, 24 April 2024, [url](#)

[992](#)

Lamberti-Castronuovo, A. et al., Exploring barriers to access to care following the 2021 socio-political changes in Afghanistan: a qualitative study, *Conflict and Health*, 24 April 2024, [urlhttps://conflictandhealth.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/s13031-024-00595-4](https://conflictandhealth.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/s13031-024-00595-4)

[993](#)

Humanitarian Action, Health, [2024], [url](#)

[994](#)

WHO, Afghanistan, Emergency Situation Report, September 2025, [url](#)

[995](#)

Arab News, Doctors warn US aid cuts leave rural Afghanistan without healthcare, 25 March 2025, [url](#); TOLOnews, Doctors Warn of Critical Shortages in Quake-Affected Eastern Afghanistan, 5 September 2025, [url](#)

[996](#)

Lamberti-Castronuovo, A. et al., Exploring barriers to access to care following the 2021 socio-political changes in Afghanistan: a qualitative study, *Conflict and Health*, 24 April 2024, [url](#); HRW, "A Disaster for the Foreseeable Future", Afghanistan's Healthcare Crisis, 12 February 2024, [url](#)

[997](#)

Alavi, L. J., Intersectionality and Human Rights: Ensuring Access to Maternal Health in Afghanistan, RWI, May 2025, [url](#), p. 29

[998](#)

Lamberti-Castronuovo, A. et al., Exploring barriers to access to care following the 2021 socio-political changes in Afghanistan: a qualitative study, *Conflict and Health*, 24 April 2024, [url](#); See also: Emergency, Access to emergency, critical and operative care in Afghanistan: Perspectives from Afghan people in 11 provinces, 26 June 2205, [url](#), p. 15

[999](#)

Lamberti-Castronuovo, A. et al., Exploring barriers to access to care following the 2021 socio-political changes in Afghanistan: a qualitative study, *Conflict and Health*, 24 April 2024, [url](#)

[1000](#)

MSF, Earthquake in Afghanistan: MSF's response, 2 September 2025, [url](#)

[1001](#)

MSF, Dying to reach health care in Afghanistan, 17 June 2024, [url](#); Intersos, Afghanistan: when access to healthcare is just a dream, 21 November 2024, [url](#)

[1002](#)

Bjelica, J., Rural Women's Access to Health in Afghanistan: "Most of the time we just don't go", *AAN*, March 2025, [url](#), p. 4; Arab News, Doctors warn US aid cuts leave rural Afghanistan without healthcare, 25 March 2025, [url](#); MSF, Bringing health care to Afghanistan's remote Bamyan province, 6 June 2025, [url](#)

[1003](#)

Valente, M. et al., Access to care in Afghanistan after august 2021: a cross-sectional study exploring Afghans' perspectives in 10 provinces, *Conflict and Health*, 22 April 2024, [url](#); HRW, "A Disaster for the Foreseeable Future", *Afghanistan's Healthcare Crisis*, 12 February 2024, [url](#)

[1004](#)

Lamberti-Castronuovo, A. et al., Exploring barriers to access to care following the 2021 socio-political changes in Afghanistan: a qualitative study, *Conflict and Health*, 24 April 2024, [url](#)

[1005](#)

Lamberti-Castronuovo, A. et al., Exploring barriers to access to care following the 2021 socio-political changes in Afghanistan: a qualitative study, *Conflict and Health*, 24 April 2024, [url](#); MSF, Pressure grows on hospitals in Afghanistan, as paediatric patient numbers rise, 3 July 2025, [url](#)

[1006](#)

UN Human Rights Council, Situation of human rights in Afghanistan, 20 February 2025, [url](#), para. 21

[1007](#)

MSF, Pressure grows on hospitals in Afghanistan, as paediatric patient numbers rise, 3 July 2025, [url](#)

[1008](#)

Guardian (The), Millions of Afghans lose access to healthcare services as USAID cuts shut clinics, April 2025, [url](#)

[1009](#)

HRW, “A Disaster for the Foreseeable Future”, Afghanistan’s Healthcare Crisis, 12 February 2024, [url](#)

[1010](#)

Alavi, L. J., Intersectionality and Human Rights: Ensuring Access to Maternal Health in Afghanistan, RWI, May 2025, [url](#), pp. 34–35

[1011](#)

UN Women, FAQs: What it’s like to be a woman in Afghanistan in 2025, 7 August 2025, [url](#); HRW, “A Disaster for the Foreseeable Future”, Afghanistan’s Healthcare Crisis, 12 February 2024, [url](#);

[1012](#)

BBC News, 'No-one comes for us': The women trapped in Afghanistan's mental health system, 19 August 2025, [url](#); Lamberti-Castronuovo, A. et al., Exploring barriers to access to care following the 2021 socio-political changes in Afghanistan: a qualitative study, Conflict and Health, 24 April 2024, [url](#)

[1013](#)

WHO, Afghanistan’s hidden epidemic of noncommunicable diseases and mental health conditions, 21 September 2025, [url](#)

[1014](#)

HRW, “A Disaster for the Foreseeable Future”, Afghanistan’s Healthcare Crisis, 12 February 2024, [url](#); BBC News, 'No-one comes for us': The women trapped in Afghanistan's mental health system, 19 August 2025, [url](#)

[1015](#)

WHO, Afghanistan’s hidden epidemic of noncommunicable diseases and mental health conditions, 21 September 2025, [url](#)

[1016](#)

HRW, “A Disaster for the Foreseeable Future”, Afghanistan’s Healthcare Crisis, 12 February 2024, [url](#)

[1017](#)

Pajhwok News, Global support key to reducing Afghanistan mental health crisis, 27 May 2025, [url](#)

[1018](#)

UNFPA, Mental Health Assessment, 2024, [url](#), p. 87

[1019](#)

HRW, "A Disaster for the Foreseeable Future", Afghanistan's Healthcare Crisis, 12 February 2024, [url](#); BBC News, 'No-one comes for us': The women trapped in Afghanistan's mental health system, 19 August 2025, [url](#)

[1020](#)

IOM, Displacement Trends and Challenges in Afghanistan since August 2021, 2022, [url](#), p. 7; UNFPA, Mental Health Assessment, 2024, [url](#), p. 66

[1021](#)

HRW, "A Disaster for the Foreseeable Future", Afghanistan's Healthcare Crisis, 12 February 2024, [url](#); UNFPA, Mental Health Assessment, 2024, [url](#), pp. 66, 87

© European Union Agency for Asylum 2026 | Email: info@euaa.europa.eu