



# AFGHANISTAN

COUNTRY FACT SHEET 2020

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## PUBLISHER

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The information contained in this Country Fact Sheet was researched with best intentions and care. However, IOM Germany assumes no responsibility or liability for any errors or omissions. Furthermore, IOM Germany cannot be held accountable for conclusions or decisions drawn from the information provided in this Country Fact Sheet.

For further information on voluntary return and reintegration, please visit the information portal [www.ReturningfromGermany.de](http://www.ReturningfromGermany.de), or contact your local return and reintegration office.

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## 1 HEALTH CARE

### General information on health care

Although there are a handful of private insurance companies, they charge comparatively high fees which a vast majority of the local people cannot afford. There is no public health insurance in Afghanistan. Previously health services were provided free of charge in governmental hospitals. However, hospitals have been charging service fees. Patients should purchase the medicines from the Bazar except for emergency cases. As a general approximation, the Afghan Ministry of Public Health set out the following price list for medical services:

- Routine tests 10 AFN
- ECG 20 AFN
- Biochemic 30 AFN
- Ultrasound 30 AFN
- EEG 30 AFN
- Simple x-ray 50 AFN
- Echocardiography 50 AFN
- Serologic 70 AFN
- Digital x-ray 100 AFN
- Endoscopy 100 AFN
- Mamography 100 AFN
- Minor surgery 100 AFN
- Hospitalization 200 AFN
- Histopathologic 250 AFN
- CT-Scan 250 AFN
- MRI 500 AFN
- Major surgery 500 AFN

Generally, there is no specific procedure. Physically or mentally disabled persons as well as victims of abuse are advised to build on family and community support. The private Afghan

National Insurance Company will spend up to 50,000 USD for their beneficiaries if certain conditions are met. The annual fee for the Afghan National Insurance Company amounts to 1,000 USD.

### Availability of medical facilities and doctors

Medical assistance is available both in rural provinces and bigger cities, albeit the range of services on offer differs dramatically. Medical facilities in rural areas are not well equipped and far from international standards. At times, it can be difficult to find specialists on a district or local level. In most districts, nurses are responsible for medical treatment instead of doctors. On a local level, predominantly in villages, health workers provide medical assistance to people in need. These health workers refer complicated cases to provincial or zonal hospitals. Surgical operations can almost exclusively be handled in provincial hospitals and above. On a district level, first aid and minor surgeries are available at the most. The quality of medical facilities, and the availability of doctors tend to go hand in hand with a district's security situation. Less service (if any) is provided in insecure areas.

### Admission to medical facilities

The returnee is required to present their national ID (Tazkira) to a hospital where they get registered and referred to the respective doctor. In public hospitals, the doctor fee per visit is

## 1 HEALTH CARE

20 AFN. For more details please refer to the above-mentioned public health system. In private hospitals, there is a fee of 200 to 1,500 AFN, for a doctors visit, and 1,000 to 5,000 AFN, for hospitalization per night. In urgent cases, hospitals try to offer immediate treatment. Patients advised considering their family and community to organize transportation and to purchase necessary medication and food while hospitalized.

### Availability and costs of medication

Returnees should be prepared to be referred to private medical stores to purchase their required drugs. The cost of these drugs may vary depending on location, availability, origin, and quality.

### Access for returnees

**Eligibility and requirements:** Any Afghan holding his or her national ID can get access to public health services.

**Registration procedure:** No public health insurance is available.

**Required documents:** The returnee is required to present the national ID (Tazkira) to a hospital where they get registered and referred to the respective doctor.





## 2 LABOUR MARKET

### General information on labour market

Afghanistan still heavily depends on international economic assistance. Because of the continued political and economic insecurity in the country, combined with a trade deficit and environmental factors, growth rates are stalling. Companies and investors are rather reluctant to invest which hinders the job creation process. According to the World Bank (2019), the total labor force in Afghanistan amounts to 14,450,220 people. This number includes those aged 15 and older who meet the International Labor Organization's definition of an economically active population. 19.52% of Afghanistan's active labor force are female. Agriculture is the largest employment sector in Afghanistan. People

in this sector represent roughly 60% of the total workforce, i.e. three out of five people trace back their main source of income to farm-related activities. This share can be significantly higher in rural areas. The second largest employment sector is dominated by small-scale and oftentimes family-based trade activities. These include retail, petty trade, and shop keeping. The third largest employment sector encompasses services and construction. The public sector is another key source of employment opportunities in urban areas, where it accounts for about 158,000 jobs, 18.80% of which are located in the Kabul province (data from 2014). The manufacturing sector only plays a minor role. It accounts for 5.0% of total employment nationwide (2014). The Afghan government (2019) estimates



## 2 LABOUR MARKET

that a person's average income lies in between 90-130 USD per month. According to the World Bank (2018), the GDP per capita (PPP) has constantly been rising since 2002 (839 USD), passing 1,806 USD in 2014 and ever since growing at a slow rate, most recently reaching 1,951 USD in 2018.

### Finding employment

For employment in the public sector, the Civil Service Commission Management Directorate (CSMD) of the Civil Service Commission and Administrative Reform announces vacant positions online: <http://www.iarcsc.com>

Vacant positions with NGOs, as well as with international and local companies, are gathered on these websites:

- [www.acbar.org](http://www.acbar.org)
- [www.jobs.af](http://www.jobs.af)
- [www.afghanjobs.org](http://www.afghanjobs.org)
- [unjobs.org/duty\\_stations/afghanistan](http://unjobs.org/duty_stations/afghanistan)

### Unemployment assistance

General information on public and/or private unemployment assistance: There is no assistance during the duration of unemployment. However, the returnee can get information on relevant jobs through the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, and through ACBAR ([www.acbar.org](http://www.acbar.org)), an NGO based in Afghanistan. The returnee is advised to send their CV to both organizations and ask for consultation.

### Further education and training

Public schools are owned by the Government and managed under the line management of the Ministry of Education. Additionally, there are several technical and vocational schools which provide professional trainings:

Afghanistan Technical Vocational Institute Karte e Char Next to MOHE (Ministry of Higher Education Kabul City Email: [hr@atvi.edu.af](mailto:hr@atvi.edu.af))

Rifah Afghanistan Institute Hesa e Se, Khair Khana, 3rd Street Kabul City

### Access for returnees

**Eligibility and requirements:** No specific assistance available for the returnees.

**Registration procedure:** Not available.

**Required documents:** National ID plus the individuals educational or vocational training certificates, it depends on the job in case the person found it in the market by himself/ herself.



### 3 HOUSING

#### General information on housing

The rent for an apartment ranges from 200 USD up to 350 USD. The monthly living expenses can go up to 350 USD (2020) for a higher living standard. These numbers apply for a family household, and for the central part of Kabul where facilities like security, water supply, schools, clinics, and electricity are more available. Living in rural areas, both rental costs and living expenses can decrease by more than 50%. Utilities like electricity and water cost no more than 40 USD per month, but depending on the consumption, costs might be higher. There is a high number of apartments and houses for rent in Kabul as well as in other provinces. Usually, the costs in Kabul are higher than in other provinces. There are private property dealers in the cities that can provide information regarding rental premises.

#### Finding accommodation

Returnees can be provided with a two-week accommodation in the IOM reception center at Spinzar Hotel after their return (1,425 AFN per night). The cost should be covered by the sending mission/country.

PD#1, Puli Bagh Omomi  
Kabul city  
Phone: +93 (0) 70 744 3020/  
+93 (0) 799 44 5210

#### Social grants for housing

There is no information available regarding social grants for housing in Afghanistan.

#### Access for returnees

**Requirements:** The German development agency GIZ provides housing assistance for vulnerable returnees in a project funded by Germany and implemented by IOM. The IOM/GIZ cooperation project has three components:

- Individualized reintegration assistance
- Free chat-based online information/helpline
- Community development projects in areas of high return

Reintegration staff offers counselling for returnees at IOM Kabul. If desired, reintegration staff will check the returnees' situation against a set of criteria that need to be met in order to qualify for the IOM/GIZ cooperation project. If the criteria are met, the application is sent to GIZ for approval.

**Registration procedure:** IOM Kabul can provide samples of required supporting documents. All necessary documents will be collected, checked with the returnee, and verified.

### 3 HOUSING





## 4 SOCIAL WELFARE

### Social welfare system

There are no public social welfare services available in Afghanistan except for the free education service provided by the government. Information can be retrieved in the respective sections of this document.

### Pension system

Pensions are only available in the public sector. The usual retirement age is between 63 and 65 years in public organizations. However, this may differ from case to case. The retiree receives benefits for the actual time of employment. A

specific number of years in employment is not compulsory. State employees do not need to contribute financially to the pension system. Once retired, the former state employees' pension is paid out in cash by the government.

### Vulnerable groups

People in vulnerable situations can get access to public services, for instance if the person is physically handicapped. For individuals who have neurological or mental problems, adequate assistance is more cumbersome. They can receive treatment at the respective hospitals

## 4 SOCIAL WELFARE

(Ali Abad Mental Hospital) and through the Red Crescent Organization. Social welfare amounts to 60,000 AFN per annum, which does not cover all the living costs.

### Access for returnees

**Pension system:** There is no pension available for people returning to Afghanistan voluntarily or by force. The normal retirement age in Afghanistan is 65. After 40 years of employment, retirement is also possible, regardless of age. Voluntary retirement is also possible after having reached 55 years of age and having worked for 25 years.



## 5 EDUCATION

### General information on education

Two educational systems exist parallel to each other in Afghanistan. Religious education is the responsibility of clerics at mosques, while the government provides free academic education at state schools. From age 6 to age 10, pupils attend primary schools where they learn the basics of reading, writing, arithmetic, and their national culture.

| Educational Level                            | Age     |
|--|---------|
| Child care / nursery school                  | 0,5 – 3 |
| Kindergarten                                 | 3 – 6   |
| Primary Level                                |         |
| Elementary School                            | 6 – 10  |
| Secondary Level                              |         |
| Middle School                                | 10 – 15 |
| High School                                  | 15 – 19 |
| Higher Education                             |         |
| Colleges, Universities, Professional schools | from 19 |

Three years of middle school follow. Students must pass an examination at the end of the phase if they wish to continue their studies. At secondary schools, students have the choice to either continue an academic path for 3 years that could perhaps lead to university or studying subjects such as applied agriculture, aeronautics, arts, commerce, and teacher training instead.

### Cost, loans, and stipends

Tuition in public educational institutions from primary until university level is free of charge, but the transportation and purchasing stationary such as notebooks,

bags and pens should be covered by the students. Private schools and universities will charge tuition fees. As the government cannot provide higher education for all students, access to university is based on academic merit. Those interested must pass entry examinations with a good score. For private institutions, there are no stipends or loans available for returnees.



## 5 EDUCATION



### Approval and verification of foreign diplomas

At the first stage, documents such as diploma or degree certificates need to be sent to the ministry of foreign affairs in Afghanistan. The ministry will accept these documents for verification on the condition that they already had been verified by the ministry of foreign affairs of the issuing country in the first place. Afterwards, the documents will be referred to the ministry of higher education for final recognition, before being ultimately handed to the holder of the degree or diploma.

### Access for returnees

**Registration procedure:** The individual needs to go to the ministry of education (Maarif department).

**Required documents:** National ID plus the persons school certificates that are verified in the foreign country.



## 6 CHILDREN

### General situation of children and infants

Afghanistan has made noticeable progress in the last two decades in creating a better environment for children to survive, develop, thrive, and get protected from various types of violence. There are more children in school now than a decade ago. Positive changes are also apparent in newborn, infant, child and maternal health. Relatively, there is a better child protection system stretching from national to district levels. New child-friendly laws, policies, and programmers are in place to advance the rights of children to education, healthy life, and better protection. Notwithstanding the above, Afghanistan is still characterized by formidable challenges such as a quarter of Afghan children between ages 5

and 14 work for a living or to help their families. Many are employed in jobs that can result in illness, injury, or even death due to hazardous working conditions and poor enforcement of safety and health standards.

- 55% of people live in poverty
- 1 child in 15 dies before their 5th birthday - 10 times that of the United States
- 41% of children suffer from stunting due to malnutrition
- 42% of school-age children are out of school
- 29% of children are engaged in child labor
- 17% of girls age 15-19 are married



## 6 CHILDREN

- 1 in 15 girls between age 15-19 gives birth
- 15% of the population forcibly displaced due to conflict
- 76% of girls age 15 and older struggle to read or write

### (Non-) governmental actors dealing with children's well-being and rights

*Save the Children* works to save Afghanistan's hardest-to-reach children by offering them protection, emotional support, healthcare, nutrition and the opportunity to learn. Working closely with local communities in Afghanistan, *Save the Children* designs Sponsorship programmes to help vulnerable children from early childhood to early adulthood – giving them a healthy start in life, the opportunity to learn and protection from harm along the way. Contact: Mariam Atahi, Mariam.atahi@savethechildren.org, T. +93 728972030, 5th street, Taimani, Kabul city

*UNICEF* provides support to children as nutrition, health, child protection and education, Contact: Omid Fazel, ofazel@unicef.org, T. +93 799987113 Jalalabad Road, Kabul city

### Access for returnees

**Requirements:** There is no need to bring specific documents.

**Immediate steps upon return:** There is no specific steps to be taken upon return.



## 7 CONTACTS

**International Organization for Migration (IOM)**  
*UN Agency for Migration*  
 Address: Street No. 4, House No. 27, Ansari Square, Shahr-e-Naw, Kabul, Afghanistan.  
 Email: iomkabul@iom.int  
 Internet: www.iom.int

**United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO)**  
**Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Food**  
**Mena Kabul, Afghanistan**  
*UN Agency for Agriculture sector*  
 T. +93 20 210 1722/ +93 (0) 70 277 471 (mobile)  
 Email: fao.af@fao.org

**United Nations Assistance in Afghanistan (UNAMA)**  
*UN Agency for Peace and Development*  
 Address: Shah Mahmood Ghazi Wat, PO Box 5, Shar-e-Naw, Kabul

**Agency Coordinating Body for Afghan Relief and Development (ACBAR)**  
*Relief and Development*  
 ACBAR Office Kabul  
 Address: Chahar Rahi Shaheed, Kabul city  
 Tel: +93 (0) 700282090

**UNICEF Kabul Country Office**  
*Children's rights, protection*  
 Address: United Nations Office Complex in Afghanistan (UNOCA) Jalalabad Road Kabul, Afghanistan  
 T. +93 (0) 79050 7000  
 Email: Kabul@unicef.org

**United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)**  
*UN Refugee Agency*  
 Address: 41, Jadi Solh PO Box 3232, Kabul  
 T. +93 (0) 20 200 38 12  
 Email: AFGKA@unhcr.org  
 Email: E03Tel@unhcr.org

**Ahmad Samir Sharifi Property Dealer**  
*Housing agency*  
 Address: Shop # 4, 3rd Line, New Market, 3rd Makrorian, District # 9, Kabul  
 Tel: +93 (0) 700 085 776

**Afghanistan Holding Group**  
*Professional business services*  
 Address: Building 21, Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (MRRD) Street Darulaman, District 6, Kabul, Afghanistan, T. +93 (0) 79 600 0111, Email: info@ahg.af

**Kabul property dealer**  
*Housing agency*  
 Address: Qalay Musa, 10th street, Kabul city  
 T. +93 (0) 7822798055

**Jamhoriat Hospital:**  
 Located in Sidarat Square, Kabul. Specializing in surgery  
*Hospital, medical services*  
 T. +93 (0) 20 220 1375  
 Dr. Mohammad Essa Qanei (Deputy Chief of Surgery)  
 T.+93 (0) 700 237 390

**Maiwand Hospital**  
 Located in Jada-e-Maiwand, Kabul. Specializes in treating skin problems.  
*Hospital, medical services*  
 T. +93 (0) 20 210 0447  
 Dr. Kohdamani, Chief of Maiwand Hospital  
 T. +93 (0) 70 286 994

**Indira Ghandi Children Hospital**  
 Located in Wazir Akbar Khan, Kabul. Spezialised in internal medicine, orthopedic and general surgery.  
*Hospital, medical services*  
 T. +93 (0) 20 230 2281 Dr. Noor-ul-Haq Yusufzai

**Helping Empower the Woman of Afghanistan**  
*Women empowerment*  
 Address: House 319, Street 1, Karte 3, District 6, Kabul  
 T. +93 (0) 786 505505  
 Email: Kabul@weafghanistan.org

**Children in Crisis (CIC)**  
*Children's rights, protection*  
 Address: Hs. 41, Jami Watt, Charahi Shahid Kabul City  
 T. +93 (0) 70 281 401/ +93 (0) 79 337 816  
 Email: cicafg@ceretechns.com  
 Internet: www.childrenincrisis.org.uk

**Afghan Women Resource Centre (AWRC)**  
*Women empowerment*  
 Address: House No. 221, Street 2 Qali-Fathullah, Sector 10  
 T. +93 (0) 70 280 179/ +93 (0) 79 203 056

## 7 CONTACTS

**AIMS Afghanistan Information Management Service (AIMS)**  
*Information, communication Technology*  
 Address: 3rd street, Qalay e Fatullah, Kabul city  
 T. +93 (0) 70 024 8827

**CHA (Coordination of Humanitarian Assistance)**  
*Emergency Aid*  
 Address: Hs. 1&2, St. 3, West of Baharistan Park, Karte Parwan Kabul City  
 T. +93 (0) 70 291 722

**Agency for Rehabilitation and Energy Conservation in Afghanistan (AREA)**  
*Empowering communities*  
 Address: Hs. 12, st 6, Khwaja Mullah Ln. Darulaman Rd, Karte She Kabul City, Kabul  
 T. +93 (0) 20 250 0268, Email: area@pes.comsats.net.pk

**World Health Organisation (WHO)**  
*Global health*  
 Address: House No. 249, Street 10, Wazir Akbar Khan T. +93 (20) 230 0181/ +93 (0) 70 279 010 011, Email: whoafghanistan@hotmail.com

**Habibi property dealer**  
*Housing agency*  
 Address: Bagrami district, Kabul  
 T. +93 (0) 766666162

**Ataturk Children's Hospital:**  
 Located near Kabul University.  
*Hospital, medical services*  
 T. 020 250 0312  
 Dr. Zmarai Haseen  
 T. +93 (0) 799 034 242  
 Dr. Aminuddin Shefajo (Chief of Hospital) T. +93 (0) 700 151 544

**Noor Eye Hospital**  
 Located in Deh Bori near Kabul University  
*Hospital, medical services*  
 T. +93 (0) 20 210 0446 Dr. Reshad Siddeqyar, Chief of Eye Hospital  
 T. +93 (0) 70 279 445

**Wazir Akbar Khan Hospital**  
*Hospital, medical services*  
 Located opposite the ANA ("400 Bed") Hospital in the Wazir Akbar Khan District of Kabul. Specializing in orthopedic work.  
 T. +93 (0) 20 230 1360

**Malalay Maternity Hospital**  
*Hospital, medical services*  
 Located in Shahrara.  
 T. +93 (0) 20 220 1377

**Save The Children**  
*Children's rights, protection*  
 Address: Darul Aman, Kabul city  
 T. +93 (0) 730 70 70 70

**Rabia-I-Balki Maternity Hospital**  
*Hospital, medical services*  
 Located in downtown Kabul, near the Foroshgha-e-Bozorg Afghan  
 T. +93 (0) 20 210 0439

**International Labour Organisation (ILO)**  
*UN Agency for Labour rights and standards*  
 Address: C/O UNDP, Shah Mahmood Wat. Kabul  
 T. +93 (0) 70 275 811/ +93 (0) 70 277 868, Email: david-ilokabul@hotmail.com

**United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)**  
*Global development network*  
 Address: PO Box 5 GPO, UNDP Country Office  
 Jalalabad Road, UNOCA Complex  
 Kabul, Afghanistan





# AT A GLANCE

## Measures to be undertaken before return

- **Documents:** Request documents from German authorities which may be required for attending school, courses, college, or kindergarten. These documents should be verified by the Afghan embassy in the host country. It is highly recommendable that any vocational training is certified and subsequently verified by the Afghan embassy in the host country as well.
- **Travel:** Obtain information concerning the arrival at the airport and the onward journey. Note that the Salang Pass on the way towards Mazar-e-Sharif and other northern provinces may be impassable due to heavy snowfall.
- **Health:** Check your own and their children's vaccination records. Although there are no specific requirements, it is advisable to be protected against polio, hepatitis B, influenza, and others. These vaccinations are available in the host country.
- **Contacts:** Establish contact with their family to ensure that relatives are present at the airport of arrival to receive them

## Measures to be undertaken upon arrival

- **Documents:** Ensure that travel documents are stamped by the Afghan immigration authority upon crossing the immigration check. This is important for (a) the returnee as well (b) organizations supporting them. The stamp confirms the date the returnee re-enters Afghanistan so that they can be registered with the migration authority. If the stamp is missing, the returnee risks getting social, legal, or financial assistance denied.
- **Registration:** Register with relevant authorities.
- **Employment:** Contact services assisting with the search for jobs and housing.
- **Education:** Apply for childcare, schools, or other educational institutions.



