



Asia-Pacific Regional Youth Call to Action 2024



Afghanistan

Reinforcing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Eradicating Poverty in Times of Multiple Crises: The Effective Delivery of Sustainable, Resilient and Innovative Solutions in Asia and the Pacific with Young People at the Forefront

SITUATIONAL ANALYSIS

Afghanistan is a war-torn, poor, insecure country with a mostly young but illiterate population. Currently, Afghanistan is in a state of crisis, especially with regard to insecurity, poverty, illiteracy, climatic changes, lack of gender equality. After the government of the Emarat and the Taliban came to power, the situation of the people of Afghanistan has become critical, especially for girls and women because they are not allowed to study, work, or even go outside without a man with them. Today, girls are being taken from the streets to unknown places and subjected to sexual assault and beatings, after which the girls are forced to commit suicide. Furthermore, the rate of child trafficking has increased a lot. Kabul, the capital of Afghanistan, is the most populated city and dirtiest capital in the world, and its people suffer from the lack of clean water to drink.

The global community, the United Nations, and defenders of women and children should cooperate with the youth of Afghanistan and the people of Afghanistan in sustainable global development. International institutions that work for the rights of youth and girls should not forget the youth and girls of Afghanistan. Trainings, even online, must be provided for youth as they can be very motivating and educational.

Afghanistan is a poor country, and around 90% of Afghan people suffer from hunger, with malnourished children who do not even get dry bread. Governments and countries must cooperate not for the sake of the Afghan government but for the sake of the people of Afghanistan. Violence against women and girls has reached its peak. In terms of gender equality, institutions and governments should cooperate with Afghan girls and they can even put pressure on



the Taliban government to reduce violence against women. In terms of education, other countries and institutions should send scholarships to Afghan girls so that they don't remain illiterate, because we all belong to the same planet and we are all human beings, so we all have to cooperate.

OUR KEY RECOMMENDATIONS:

SDG 1: No Poverty

1. Ensure people's security so that they are motivated to work and investors must provide factories and work fields so that people can work and reduce poverty.
2. Global organisations and the United Nations, especially the WFP, should cooperate with Afghanistan and not leave the Afghan people alone under the rule of the Taliban government.
3. Eradicate child marriage and end the practice of leaving children on the streets for begging.
4. Insecurity is due to poverty, and we call for all countries to cooperate so that Afghanistan can achieve sustainable global development.

SDG 2: Zero Hunger

1. Despite all the problems Afghanistan has, hunger is currently the most important factor and it has reached its peak because since the Taliban came into power, women, girls and minorities have been banned from working in government offices and even from the smallest work spaces.
2. Regional and extra-regional countries should cooperate to reduce hunger in Afghanistan and pressure must be put on the Taliban to reduce hunger and allow women to work and study.
3. Institutions that work to reduce hunger should not forget the people of Afghanistan and cooperate with each other.
4. If security is provided, men, women and minorities will be allowed to work, therefore lessening poverty and hunger.

SDG 5: Gender Equality

1. The current situation in Afghanistan presents a significant challenge to achieving Sustainable Development Goal 5: Gender Equality. To address this, the world and the United Nations should prioritise women and girls' protection in humanitarian assistance efforts, invest in education and skill-building programmes, ensure access to essential healthcare services, promote active participation of Afghan women in decision-making processes, address gender-based violence, support economic opportunities for Afghan women, and safeguard women's rights as fundamental human rights.
2. Improving data collection and monitoring mechanisms is crucial for tracking progress on gender equality in Afghanistan.
3. Mobilising international support and solidarity is also necessary to address gender inequality in Afghanistan. Coordinating efforts among donor countries, international organisations, and NGOs can provide resources and assistance tailored to the needs of Afghan women and girls.
4. Long-term commitment is necessary to build the resilience of Afghan women and girls and empower them to participate fully in society. By implementing these recommendations, the world and the United Nations can contribute to advancing gender equality and improving the lives of women and girls in Afghanistan, even in the face of significant challenges.

SDG 13: Climate Action

1. Afghanistan's vulnerability to climate change impacts necessitates efforts to build climate resilience, transition towards renewable energy sources, protect natural resources, reduce disaster risk reduction, promote sustainable agriculture, enhance water management, raise climate awareness, integrate climate considerations into national development planning, foster international cooperation, and monitor progress. Investing in climate-resilient infrastructure, water management systems, and agricultural practices can help mitigate climate change impacts.

2. Transitioning to renewable energy sources, preserving natural resources, and enhancing water management can help mitigate deforestation and land degradation.
3. Strengthening disaster risk reduction measures, promoting sustainable agriculture, and enhancing water management can help address water scarcity and drought risk. Lastly, fostering international cooperation and monitoring progress can help Afghanistan build a more sustainable future despite climate change challenges.
3. Coordination and collaboration among UN agencies, NGOs, and other stakeholders are also being strengthened to maximise the impact of peacebuilding, justice, and institution-building initiatives. This collaboration aims to contribute to a peaceful, just, and resilient society in Afghanistan.

SDG 16: Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions

1. The United Nations and NGOs must collaborate to achieve Sustainable Development Goal 16 in Afghanistan. The recommendations include prioritising humanitarian assistance to address the needs of vulnerable populations, facilitating conflict resolution and mediation, strengthening the rule of law and access to justice, protecting human rights, disarming and demobilising former combatants, promoting community policing and security sector reform, and strengthening the capacity of Afghan institutions.
2. Transitional justice initiatives are also being supported to address past grievances and facilitate reconciliation. Inclusive governance structures are being promoted, ensuring meaningful participation of women, youth, minorities, and marginalised groups in decision-making processes.
1. Afghanistan's Sustainable Development Goal 17, Partnerships for the Goals is crucial for its development and stability. To achieve this, recommendations include strengthening multilateral cooperation, fostering government-NGO collaboration, encouraging public-private partnerships, promoting civil society engagement, facilitating knowledge sharing and technology transfer, strengthening peacebuilding and reconciliation, integrating humanitarian assistance and development, fostering regional cooperation, prioritising youth empowerment and education, and establishing monitoring and evaluation mechanisms. These measures aim to address the country's pressing challenges, promote long-term resilience, and promote economic growth, trade, and stability.
2. The focus should be on leveraging the potential of Afghanistan's youth for sustainable development, and establishing mechanisms for monitoring progress and ensuring accountability. By implementing these recommendations, Afghanistan can overcome its challenges and advance sustainable development for the benefit of its people.

The APFSD country and sub-regional briefs were developed through collective discussions and engagements between youth advocates at the APFSD Youth Forum in Bangkok on February 15-17, 2024. The Afghanistan drafting team was led by Marzia Gohari and Sakina Bigzad from Y-Peer Afghanistan. Overall supervision was provided by the ARROW Call To Action team.

