

# Unraveling the Economic Crisis in Afghanistan: Legal, Economic, and Political Insights



The political crisis of 2021 precipitated an economic collapse in Afghanistan. Within a span of one year, the country witnessed a decline in GDP by more than 20 percent. The inflow of foreign funds abruptly ceased, Afghanistan's foreign exchange reserves were frozen, and sanctions imposed. However, in the fiscal year 2021-2022, the ruling Taliban managed to generate approximately US\$2 billion in revenue. As a result, the Afghan economy has reached a fragile state of equilibrium at a significantly lower level.

Despite tentative signs of stabilization, individual Afghans struggle with immense economic pressures. The GDP per capita plummeted from US\$517 in 2020 to US\$369 in 2021. Even before the regime change, half of the population lived in poverty. Presently, more than two-thirds of Afghan households cannot afford essential food and other basic necessities required for survival and well-being. Consequently, international aid has resumed, amounting to approximately US\$3.5 billion in 2022 (compared to US\$9 billion in 2020).

The persistently high price levels, coupled with the absence of employment opportunities and business prospects, deter foreign investors from engaging in a country where women are marginalized from participating in the economy. Moreover, the adverse effects of climate change, such as drought and environmental degradation, further exacerbate the situation.

ILSAF's 2023 Annual Conference aims to foster discussion among economists, legal scholars, academics, and practitioners on these critical issues. From microeconomics to macroeconomics, from international sanctions to Islamic finance, from illicit drug production to mining contracts with neighboring countries, all topics related to Afghanistan's economy are welcome. The conference organizers plan to curate panel discussions that encompass contributions from various disciplines, including economics, law, and beyond.

## Call for Papers:

We cordially invite the submission of thematic proposals, consisting of up to 300 words in the English language, by 31 July 2023. Please email your proposals to [conference@ilsaf.org](mailto:conference@ilsaf.org).

Save the conference date

**29-30** SEPTEMBER

PADERBORN AND  
ONLINE

The event is open to academics from Afghanistan and any other country.

Friday, 29/09/2023

## Panel I — The Afghan Economy: Current Challenges, Possible Responses and Prospects

Chair : Dr. Suhailah Akbari

---

2.00pm - 2.05pm	Welcome Note <i>Prof. Dr. Idris Nassery, ILSAF Co-director</i>
2.05pm - 2.15pm	Introduction and conference procedure <i>Dr. Tilmann Röder, ILSAF Co-director</i>
2.15pm - 2.20pm	Introduction to the panel
2.20pm - 2.50pm	Presentation 1: Economic Sanctions: The Case of the Afghan Central Bank Frozen Asset <i>Dr. Golnoosh Hakimdavar, LL.M, Cornell University</i> Q&A session
2.50pm - 3.05pm	Presentation 2: Water Insecurity in Afghanistan <i>Dr. Susanne Schmeier, LL.M, Associate Professor of Water Law and Diplomacy, IHE Delft Institute for Water Education</i> Q&A session
3.05pm - 3.35pm	Presentation 3: Navigating Transboundary Water Management in Afghanistan: Pathways to Regional Economic Cooperation <i>Dr. Najibullah Sadid, University of Stuttgart</i> Q&A session
3.35pm - 3.50pm	Presentation 4: Political Change and Poverty among Rural Households in Afghanistan: Evidence from Marmul District, Balkh Province <i>Ahmad Walid Barles, PhD candidate in Economics and Law, Greifswald University</i> Q&A session
3.50pm - 4.20pm	Wrap up and end of day 1

Saturday, 30/09/2023

## Panel II — Economic Governance, Finance, and Investment

Chair : Dr. Tilmann Röder

---

9.30 am - 9.35am	Introduction to the panel
9.35am - 10.05am	Presentation 5: Understanding economic indicators better: the case of Taliban's economic governance <i>Dr. Lutfi Rahimi, Biruni Institute</i> Q&A session
10.05am - 10.15am	Presentation 6: International Community's economic engagement in Afghanistan post 2021 <i>Tahir Qadiry, Afghan Ambassador to Poland, PhD Candidate in International Relations, Jindal Global University</i> Q&A session
10.15am - 10.45am	Presentation 7: Impacts of foreign direct investment on economic growth: a case study of Afghanistan <i>Abdul Qayum Shafaq, PhD candidate, Ondokuz Mayıs University</i> Q&A session
10.45am - 11.00am	Presentation 8: Islamic finance in Afghanistan <i>Dr. Nazrul Hazizi Noordin, Professor of Islamic banking and finance, IIUM Institute Islamic Banking and Finance, Malaysia</i> Q&A session
11.00am - 11.30am	Lunch Break
11.30am - 11.45am	
11.45am - 12.15am	
12.15am - 12.30am	
12.30am - 2pm	

## Panel III — Women and Economy in Afghanistan post 2021

Chair : Maria Karimzad

---

2pm - 2.05pm	Introduction to the panel
2.05pm - 2.35pm	Presentation 9: Economic Consequences of Women's Exclusion from Education in the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan <i>Dr. Muhammad Zubair Abbasi, Lecturer, Oxford Brookes University</i> Q&A session
2.35pm - 2.50pm	Presentation 10: Mitigating the effects of restrictions on women in Afghanistan through Women's Economic Empowerment initiatives <i>Zainab Hassanpoor, Dr. Bezhana Ayubi, Hannah Lane, When Women Work Org</i> Q&A session
2.50pm - 3.20pm	Presentation 11: The impact of the current Defacto regime on the level of Afghan women's employment and income <i>Sara Ghaohary, MBA, Kazak American Free University</i> Q&A session
3.20pm - 3.35pm	Wrap up of day 2 and end of the conference
3.35pm - 4.05pm	<i>Prof. Nassery &amp; Akbari</i>
4.05pm - 4.20pm	
4.20pm - 4.30pm	