



Investigating The Impact of International Community Aid on Afghanistan's Economic Policies

Uluslararası Toplum Yardımlarının Afganistan'ın Ekonomi Politikalarına Etkisinin Araştırılması

ABSTRACT

Simultaneously with the deployment of the United States of America and NATO member countries' military forces into Afghanistan in 2001, a group of aid for reconstruction also came to this country, and during these years the international community has spent more than 130 billion dollars for the reconstruction of Afghanistan.

In an effort to examine the impact of foreign aid on the economic and social progress of Afghanistan, this research has considered nine economic and social development indicators as dependent variables and has evaluated them in the light of the theories of modernization and dependency schools and secondary data analysis method. The findings of the conducted hypothesis test reveal that there is an association between the independent variable of foreign aid and the variables related to gross domestic product, per capita income, life expectancy, education, population growth and human development was significant and positive, but between foreign aid and the variables of improving security conditions and reducing the production of narcotics, the relationship is insignificant and also, the reported impact of the independent variable on the unemployment rate suggests that foreign aid has not proven effective in enhancing the security situation, addressing unemployment, and reducing narcotics production in Afghanistan; but it has led to the improvement of people's access to education and health services.

Keywords: foreign aid, economic development, social development, Afghanistan

ÖZET

2001 yılında Amerika Birleşik Devletleri ve NATO üyesi ülkelerin askeri kuvvetlerinin Afganistan'a girmesiyle eş zamanlı olarak bu ülkeye yeniden yapılanma için bir grup yardım da gelmiş ve bu yıllarda uluslararası toplum Afganistan'ın yeniden inşası için 130 milyar dolardan fazla yapmıştır.

Afganistan'ın ekonomik ve sosyal gelişiminde dış yardımın rolünü araştırmak amacıyla yapılan bu araştırma, dokuz ekonomik ve sosyal kalkınma göstergesini bağımlı değişken olarak ele almış ve bunları modernleşme ve bağımlılık okulları teorileri ve ikincil veriler ışığında değerlendirmiştir. Analiz edilen hipotez testi sonuçları, dış yardım bağımsız değişkeni ile gayri safi yurtiçi hasıla, kişi başına düşen gelir, yaşam beklentisi, eğitim, nüfus artışı ve insani gelişme değişkenleri arasındaki ilişkinin anlamlı ve pozitif olduğunu, ancak dış yardım ile güvenlik koşullarının iyileştirilmesi ve uyuşturucu üretiminin azaltılması değişkenleri arasında ilişkinin anlamsız olduğu ve ayrıca bağımsız değişkenin işsizlik oranı üzerindeki etkisinin rapor edildiği; bu nedenle dış yardım Afganistan'daki güvenlik durumunu, işsizlik durumunu iyileştirmede ve uyuşturucu üretimini azaltmada etkili olmadı; Ancak insanların eğitim ve sağlık hizmetlerine erişiminin iyileşmesine yol açtı.

Anahtar kelimeler: dış yardım, ekonomik kalkınma, sosyal kalkınma, Afganistan

INTRODUCTION

Over the past two decades, Afghanistan has been among the nations that have received substantial international aid. Foreign assistance serves as a mechanism to fortify a country's economic framework by utilizing the financial resources provided by other nations. The concept of foreign aid actually goes back to the era after World War II; this concept, which is known as the "Marshall Plan", was proposed in the framework of the Truman Doctrine to help the countries damaged by the war. The Marshall Plan, initiated with political-economic objectives and aspirations including enhanced efficiency, justice, poverty alleviation, and promotion of human rights, gained significant importance in the 1960s, attracting the participation of numerous countries, but after that it became a tool for exploiting the world. The third change was that not only did it not eliminate poverty and backwardness; it caused its expansion (Elahi, 2012: 20-22).

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Due to its strategic and geopolitic position, Afghanistan has been the target of major world powers for many years. In this manner, the Afghanistan issue has evolved into one of the most intricate security challenges in the global community, capturing the world's attention for successive years. The pinnacle of international involvement in the Afghanistan matter traces back to the events of September 11, 2001. During that year, the Afghan government epitomized a dire example of a "bankrupt²" administration. "Bankrupt" governments are among the most challenging and the worst examples of government in recent decades; The absence of order, inadequate security measures, and political-economic instability within such administrations generate a conducive environment for the proliferation of extremism, smuggling and organized crime, which disrupts the process of access to natural resources, prevents the country from developing and leads millions of people to poverty; These threats constitute the primary origins of human violence and crises on a global scale (Kaplan, 2:2008).

During the Taliban's rule, Afghanistan became a favorable environment for terrorist groups and drug cartels, simultaneously; this situation was deemed the most significant threat to global peace and security, so that the attacks of September 11 took the world by surprise. After this incident, the United Nations, based on the United Nations Charter, sought to solve the problem and ensure peace and help the development of Afghanistan. According to clauses 2 and 3 of the first article of the first chapter of the United Nations Charter, every country worldwide has the capacity to collaborate either independently or collectively in arbitrating world peace and solving international issues that have an economic, social, cultural or humanitarian aspect (Charter of the United Nations 1945); based on this, after the 11th of September, by invoking the UN Charter, the United States successfully persuaded the Security Council that Afghanistan under Taliban rule posed a threat to global security, and obtained permission to attack Afghanistan with the cooperation of other countries.

Following the ousting of the Taliban, the dismantling of al-Qaeda hideouts, and the establishment of an interim government as per the Bonn Agreement (2001), the United Nations urged its member states to assist Afghanistan in fostering peace, security, and reconstruction. Subsequently, a series of fifteen international conferences transpired between 2001 and 2017, during which approximately seventy countries and international organizations pledged substantial financial support, either as grants or loans, with the overarching aim of fostering democracy, upholding human values, combating terrorism and narcotics, ensuring security, and reconstructing infrastructure in Afghanistan (Arzo, 2010: 190-201).

This research endeavors to scrutinize foreign aid and its impact on Afghanistan's development. The objectives encompass investigating the quantity and nature of aid (comprising both loans and grants), its distribution across various societal sectors, and evaluating the performance and consequences of foreign assistance in Afghanistan.

Background of the research

Mbah and Amasuma³ (2014) conducted a study on the correlation between foreign aid and economic growth in Nigeria. They contend that while Nigeria has received substantial foreign aid, the country still grapples with a low income level, elevated rates of unemployment and poverty, and a limited capacity for industrialization. Notably, their findings suggest a negative and statistically insignificant relationship between foreign aid and Gross Domestic Product (GDP), indicating an adverse impact on Nigeria's economic growth. The authors propose the implementation of political-economic reforms and the resolution of widespread financial corruption as essential measures. They argue that without such reforms, foreign aid may prove futile. In a similar vein, Hossain⁴ (2014) examined the impact of foreign aid on the economic growth of Bangladesh, a country that received over 56 billion dollars in aid from 1971 to 2012. The research findings indicate a generally positive effect of foreign aid on Bangladesh's economic growth, except for the years 1990 and 2000. However, for greater effectiveness, the author recommends instituting institutional policy reforms in the country.

Reci,⁵ 2014, in reviewing the results of foreign aid for Albania, writes: Albania benefits from the fastest rate of progress among the countries in transition; From 1991 to 2014, this country has received about five billion dollars in bilateral and multilateral aid, most of which has been spent in the energy, health and education sectors, which has generally had an influential and positive role on the development process of Albania and on technical capacity building in In addition to raising the level of civil awareness in the society, it has been effective.

Kamal Aburaya⁶ (2014) conducted a study on the impact of foreign aid on the economic development of the Philippines, aiming to discern the nature of aid and its advantages. The findings reveal that the aid has contributed

². Failed States

³. Stella Mbah & Ditimi Amassoma

⁴. Basharat Hossain

⁵. Reci Amarda

⁶. Mahmoud Kamal Abouraya

to enhancing the capabilities of the banking system and small to medium-sized industrial enterprises. It has also played a role in improving government performance in areas such as education and meeting the basic needs of citizens. Consequently, citizen satisfaction has increased. However, despite these positive effects, poverty remains pervasive in the Philippines.

Totakhail⁷(2011) studied the role of German aid in the development of Afghanistan with an analytical-descriptive method, which research findings show, a large part of German aid is spent outside the government system, which leads to the weakening of the government and lack of accountability. Institutions receiving resources have been led. On the other hand, the program of transferring technical skills to Afghan government employees by Germany has not been very successful due to the lack of a monitoring system. Trained employees are not inclined to work in government offices due to low wages, after acquiring the necessary skills, they enter non-government institutions. The author believes that in order to increase the effect of aid, There is a pressing need to shift the current approach or strategy towards one that prioritizes human capital development and ensures security.

Abbasi and Ranjbardar's (2011) inquiry into the effects of Iran's aid to Afghanistan concludes that the assistance dedicated to Afghanistan's reconstruction has been instrumental in shaping the foundational framework of relations between the two nations. Moreover, this aid has facilitated a rise in the level of exchanges and investments between Iran and Afghanistan, along with the transnational expansion of Iranian companies. The engagement in reconstructing a foreign country has also proven to be a valuable learning experience for Iranian entities. Examining the research history shows that there are very few researches about foreign aid to Afghanistan; In the meantime, Totakhil (2011), is the only researcher of Afghan descent who has scientifically addressed the issue, but the differences between the present research and other researches are that the previous researches have investigated the relationship between bilateral aid (aid of a specific country) for Afghanistan but this research has examined all the aid provided. And also, the number of indicators examined in this research is more than others, and in terms of time, it covers the recent years, which naturally, with the increase in the dimensions of the subject, recent results have been obtained, and notably, this research stands out as the pioneering study with a sociological approach. It delves into the social dimensions of the subject and employs inferential statistical techniques to analyze the relationships between variables; while other researches are often carried out by political science or economics researchers, whose methodology and research techniques are usually different from sociological tools.

THEORETICAL FOUNDATIONS

Foreign aid(s) are characterized as "financial, technical, and goods flows that are designed and provided as free aid and subsidized loans with the aim of promoting economic development and welfare" (Radelet, 4:2006); Additionally, it is suggested that "all actual transfers of resources from one country to another should be considered as part of the definition of foreign aid."(Todaro, 1999: 498); to scrutinize this concept and understand the influence and role of these resources in the development process of recipient countries, various related topics and perspectives will be explored.

The modernization theory posits that the development model is synonymous with capitalism. According to this theory, modernization is a protracted and irreversible process, asserting that all modern societies will gradually become similar to each other (Azdanlu; 643: 2005). Emerging in the 1950s, particularly after the United States ascended to superpower status, the modernization approach was introduced in the social sciences as an alternative to the "growth theory." It became a competitive arena between superpowers for influence in the third world (Ezekia and Ghaffari; 2018: 164).

Cyril Black asserts that modernization is a historical process wherein institutions evolve by accepting diverse and changing functions. This transformation is driven by the unprecedented increase in human knowledge and control over the forces of nature, which is a consequence of the scientific revolution (Ezekia and Ghaffari, 2018: 169); here, Rostow presents one of the most influential narratives regarding development issues in the developing world through his "Growth Theory," which is founded on a five-stage process.

The first stage is the traditional society. According to Rostow, science and technology at this stage were pre-Newtonian, economy based on agriculture and hierarchical and inflexible social structure is dominant in the society.

The second stage is "pre-emergence conditions"⁸ in which a series of financial, economic and political institutions need to be established.

⁷. Mohammad Lateef Totakhail

⁸. Preconditions for Take-off

The third stage is "economic growth"⁹ with the characteristics of expanding cities and increasing industrial production.

The fourth stage is "maturity"¹⁰ with new industrial and economic techniques.

And finally, the fifth stage is "mass consumption"¹¹ in this stage, the standard of living in the society is improved, the middle class expands, and at the same time, investment in the fields of welfare, health and social security increases (Haines; 2022: 49 to 53) and (Ezekia and Ghaffari; 2018: 226 and 227).

Modernization theorists advocate for the development path of the third world to mirror that of industrialized countries, emphasizing the progression through distinct "stages of economic growth" According to the "stages of economic growth," the development process involves alternating stages that countries must navigate, the correct amount and combination of savings, investment, and foreign aid are all necessary so that the third world can follow the path of economic growth (Todaro; 74:1999).

But the dependency theory entered the development literature as a critic of modernization; This theory considers the underdevelopment of third world countries (satellites) as a result of mutual relationship with capitalistic countries (metropolis); in contrast to modernization theory, which focused on examining internal obstacles to development in the third world, dependency theory takes a different approach by scrutinizing dependence and external obstacles. This perspective is rooted in the rejection of the possibility of development in the developing world and consequently challenges the perceived superiority of modernization theory.

Frank's keyword "development of underdevelopment"¹² is considered to be the opposite point of Rostow's "Growth" stage. For Frank, the scenario of Rostow's development is a kind of illusion that does not agree with the contemporary historical reality. Frank believes that the peripheral countries can develop only when their links with the center are weak or completely severed; From his point of view, alternative development strategies are necessarily based on self-sufficient and introspective policies that basically reduce central control (Haines; 2022: 55-58) but Baran believes that external factor (colonization) "determining factor" and internal factors, The "aggravating factor" in the creation and deepening of development disparities is often referred to as the international gap (Ezekia and Ghafari; 2018: 270).

Cardozo brought the theory of dependence to a new stage, in research focusing on the development of the third world, dependence is identified as a detrimental factor impeding cognitive development, but contrary to the first studies, other, on the pattern general dependence, external components, economic and one-sidedness of development are not emphasized, the government does not recognize it as dependent on a foreigner; rather, he recognized it as an active factor that cooperates and accompanies local and international capitals (Rafipour; 2013:342).

Cardozo uses the term "dependent development" (commensurate development with dependence¹³); This means that both development and dependence can be found side by side; according to this perspective, with the rise of multinational companies and the establishment of a new international division of labor, a new stage has commenced. In this stage, the interests of certain foreign companies are aligned with the domestic prosperity of affiliated countries. Not only that they themselves help to improve the development of the surrounding country, that three factors authoritarian government, multinational companies and local bourgeoisie "have the most important role in development (Ezekia and Ghafari; 2018: 294 to 297) anyway, based on the views of modernism, the expansion of mass media, the promotion of education, urbanism and social participation, including the contexts of the movement for "renewal" "they are on the condition that the main anti-freedom factors (inequality of opportunities, poverty, lack of tolerance and democratic obstacles) are removed, the free market, as an accelerator of the development process, along with the strengthening of civil liberties, as a matter of urgency.

As per the growth of per capita income, it should be recognized that if not adherence to the assumptions and just imperfect modeling, "modernization" is not only not a basis for development, but can lead to the spread of violence and corruption in the society (Sen, 2012: 331-331); therefore, foreign aid(s) are important in the stage of "rise" and "conditions before the rise" of the development of the third world, because there must be a minimum of income in order for a level of growth to appear, but the school of dependence emphasizes on external factors, the mechanism.

⁹ . Take-off Stage

¹⁰. Maturity

¹¹. Mass Consumption

¹². Development of underdevelopment

¹³. Associated Dependent Development

He takes the cause of the production and aggravation of political instability one step back and proposes "being peripheral" as the cause in the chain leading to political instability and believes in the direct effect of dependence on violence and political instability in such a way that dependence, from increasing economic inequality, it increases political instability, and by slowing down the development process, it causes a decrease in general living standards, thus increasing the capacity of political instability (Taliban, 2010: 117 and 118), while it is acknowledged that donors may have their own interests in providing assistance, there is also a belief that their aid efforts tend to contribute to the improvement of the surrounding society and provide at least a minimum level of development. In order to examine the role of foreign aid in the development of Afghanistan, this research examines nine indicators of economic and social development as foreign aid as an independent variable and indicators. Gross Domestic Product, Per Capita, access to health services (life expectancy), education, social changes, unemployment, drugs, security and human development are also considered as dependent variables.

Research method

This research uses the secondary analysis method. Secondary data, as non-reactive¹⁴ measures, are data that are produced by governmental and non-governmental archives for public consumption, such as records of vital events (Zadovold, Margomir, et al.), political and judicial records and other records produced with limited contacts (Mohammadpour, 2012: 201 to 204) The data reference of this research is "World Bank, United Nations, Afghanistan government and some international institutions". The obtained information is first collected and described and then analyzed and the relationship of the variables is checked.

Research findings

From the time of the American attack to the year 2015, billions of dollars have been spent for the reconstruction of Afghanistan, and in these years, security and development have been part of the main programs of the world community.

Many countries have helped Afghanistan in its reconstruction. Nevertheless, Afghanistan's development indicators have exhibited volatility, and in certain instances, there is a considerable distance to cover to achieve the desired positions. The crucial aspect in this segment of the research lies in the discoveries related to the examined indicators.

Sources and amount of aid

From 2001 to 2016, more than fifteen international sessions (conferences) have been held to examine the situation in Afghanistan; meanwhile, the two meetings in Bonn (2001) and Tokyo (2002) have been the most important. In the Bonn meeting, the structure of the government, the design and the manner of the deployment of NATO forces were also planned, but the Tokyo meeting was the beginning of helping to rebuild Afghanistan by providing monetary and non-monetary aid to Afghanistan. Other conferences are counted as the approvals of these two conferences. Obtaining a precise figure regarding the amount of aid can be highly challenging, especially that according to the government report, only 18 percent of the total aid was spent through the budget and the aid-donor reference, the rest were spent by these donors. The details and information about the cost are not available to the government (Ministry of Finance, 2010: 25-27;) for example, out of the total costs of 13 billion dollars in 2011, the government has 1.4 billion of it and the rest known as overall aid. In certain instances, there have been reports of disparities between the verbally stated amount, the written commitments, and the actual disbursement of funds, for example, in the Rome meeting, 360 million dollars were promised verbally, but in practice 40 million dollars were paid (Ministry of Finance 13:2010).

Table 1: The amount of aid (numbers in billions of dollars)

Conferences accompanied by Financial Aid (Multilateral aid)							Tokyo	Brussels	Bilateral Aid	Total
Tokyo	Berlin	London	Rome	Paris	Chicago					
5/1	5/6	8/7	0/04	14	14	16	15/2	56	134/64	

Source: Ministry of Finance 2012:43, BBC website 2016

Based on the information presented in the table, assistance commitments were made by foreign countries in only eight conferences. The remaining conferences primarily focused on planning, assessing the security situation, and evaluating aid costs. Additionally, around half of the aid was bilateral and fell outside the commitments made during these conferences. This pattern is particularly evident in the case of the United States' aid.

¹⁴ Nonreactive Measures

Regarding financial matters, America is ahead of the countries in Afghanistan. Based on the report of the "Special Inspector for Reconstruction (Cigar¹⁵)", the United States has spent 74.119 billion dollars alone for the reconstruction of Afghanistan until 2017; in the details of this report, it is stated that this amount is in security programs (27.68 billion), infrastructure affairs (0.99), fight against drugs (8.63), commanders' rapid response program ¹⁶(3.69), economic support. (19/41) has been published (Sigar, 2017: 65-67). The table below shows the details of the international community's aid by time.

Table 2: Breakdown of commitments and payments (numbers in billions of dollars)

Year	Written Commitment	Payment	Percentage
2002	3/23	2/61	80/8
2003	3/10	2/62	84/5
2004	4/63	4/17	90
2005	6/51	6/18	94/9
2006	5/83	4/89	83/8
2007	12/20	11/79	96/6
2008	8/47	7/13	84/1
2009	8/26	6/32	76/5
2010	16/79	10/90	64/9
2011	12/93	12/93	100
2012 ¹⁷	14/646	14/646	100
2013	9/631	9/631	100
2014	6/812	6/812	100
2015	6/352	6/352	100
2016	5/658	5/658	100
Total	125/049	112/639	90

Source: Ministry of Finance 2010: 22 to 24, Sigar 2015:213, Sigar 2017: 225

After the United States, the top ten countries and organizations that have contributed the most aid to Afghanistan include Japan, the European Union, the United Kingdom, Germany, the Asian Development Bank, the World Bank, India, Canada, and the Netherlands. Notably, the amount of American aid is approximately twenty times more than that of the second-ranking country. Among the Islamic countries and Afghanistan's neighbors, Iran stands out as the primary donor to the Afghan government, providing 399 million dollars (Ministry of Finance 2012: 43 and 44, and Arzoo, 375 and 376:2010).

Loans and Grants

Most of the aid given to Afghanistan was free and the government borrowed about 1.5 billion dollars in the first ten years; World Banks, Asian Development, Islamic Development, International Monetary Fund and OPEC (Ministry of Finance, 2010, 27 and 111). 2002 to 2012 China, Denmark, Slovakia, Germany, Russia, Arabia, America, Croatia and the World Bank ignored the receipt of 382.12 billion dollars in loans (National Budget, 2017:14).

Classification of aids

The aid provided falls into four categories: monetary, non-monetary, military, and cultural aid. Given that security and counterterrorism efforts are among the top priorities for the government and its international partners, it is unsurprising that a significant portion of the funds has been allocated to these areas. According to the government report, an average of 51 percent of the aid has been spent in security-related fields (Ministry of Finance, 2012:12).

Security costs include "renovating and equipping the army, police and intelligence apparatuses", cash aid encompasses all forms of financial contributions or payments made in the form of cash for project expenses. It includes; providing a part of the government budget, paying the cost of contracts for the construction of clinics, schools, administrative buildings, roads, bridges, drinking water projects, airport reconstruction, paying military forces, etc. are some of these examples. Non-monetary aid includes all instances where assistance to Afghanistan is provided in the form of goods and equipment rather than cash; administrative equipment (computers, printing and copying machines), airport equipment, hospital equipment, medicine, vaccine, agricultural tools and so on are considered; on the other hand, all educational aids include scholarships, reconstruction of historical buildings, equipping libraries, launching new courses in universities and cultural aids (Ministry of Finance, 2010: 57-104).

¹⁵. Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction (SIGAR)

¹⁶. Commander's Emergency Response Program (CERP)

¹⁷ The numbers presented for the years 2011 to 2015 are specific to the United States aid

Examination of economic development indicators

With the relative increase of government power, Afghanistan's economy has also experienced relatively good growth. The income from taxes and the increase in the variety of export goods led to the larger economy of this country and the government's ability to provide an increased budget. Yes, it depends on the fact that 100 percent of the development budget and in excess of 60 percent of the regular budget aids are dependent (Ministry of Finance, 2012:21, and Afghanistan's National Budget, 2017:64).

Gross domestic product

After knowing how the government's expenses and incomes have been in these years, to measure the economy's performance, we examine the "Gross Domestic Product Index of Afghanistan"; this index shows the economic performance of all individuals, companies and institutions operating within a country.

Afghanistan's gross domestic product has increased tenfold in a fifteen-year period, with the service sector constituting an average of 66.52 percent and the agricultural sector constituting for the largest share of 25.06 percent; While the share of mines with an average of 0.65 percent is the lowest possible (World Bank, 2016: 3 and 39), at the same time, the comparison between Table 2 and Figure 1 shows that with the increase in the payment of foreign aid, the level of gross domestic production has also increased.

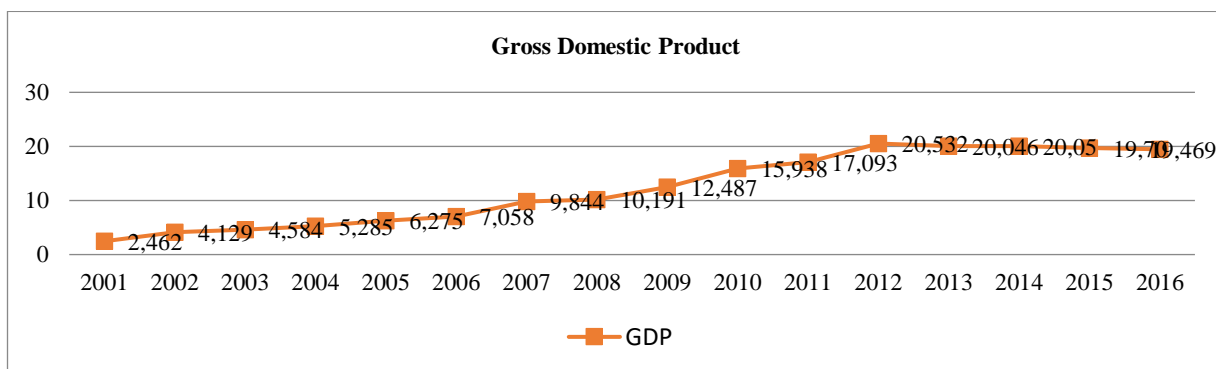


Figure 1: GDP of Afghanistan

(Source: Bank World, 2017, Numbers in billion dollars)

National per capita

Another indicator of economic growth is per capita income; this index is derived by dividing the gross domestic product by the population, during a one-year period, and it shows that if an economy has experienced growth that year, the per capita income will increase.

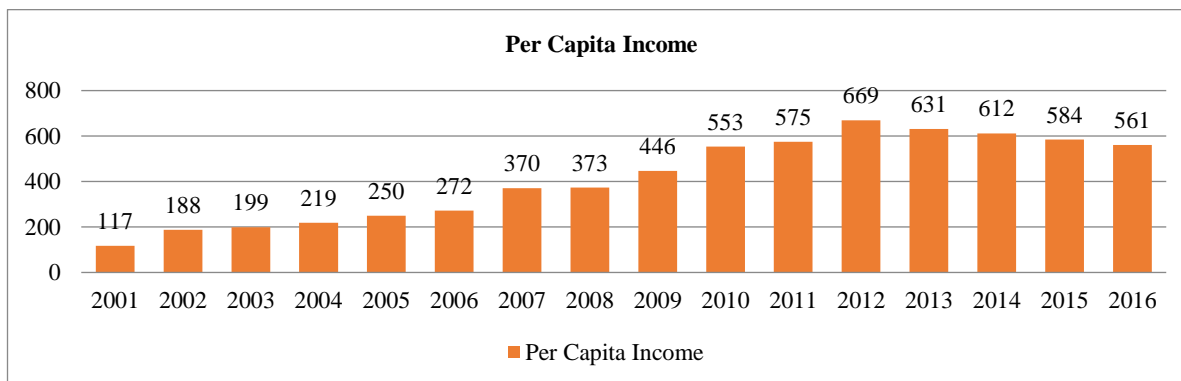


Figure2: National population in Afghanistan

(Source: UNDP, 2017 & UNDP, 2015, Numbers in billion dollars)

Figure 2 reflects the enhancement of the economic conditions of the people, indicating a growth of approximately five times, but it is important not to overlook that the informal economy of Afghanistan (although there is no documented source) was probably of high volume. "Self-provided consumer" also plays a significant role in the country's macro-economy. While the per capita income index lacks the capability to measure and calculate certain aspects, since the country's gross domestic product is affected by foreign aid, then the aid has definitely been effective on the per capita income.

Unemployment rate

Based on the report of the United Nations, Afghanistan is facing uncertain economic prospects. In the last five years, economic growth has decreased significantly and insecurity, hindered investment and reduced international support, has caused a decrease in purchasing power and increased unemployment (UNDP, 2015). The results of field research show that insecurity, unemployment and administrative corruption are the main concerns of the people of Afghanistan (The Asia Foundation, 2015:20-23).

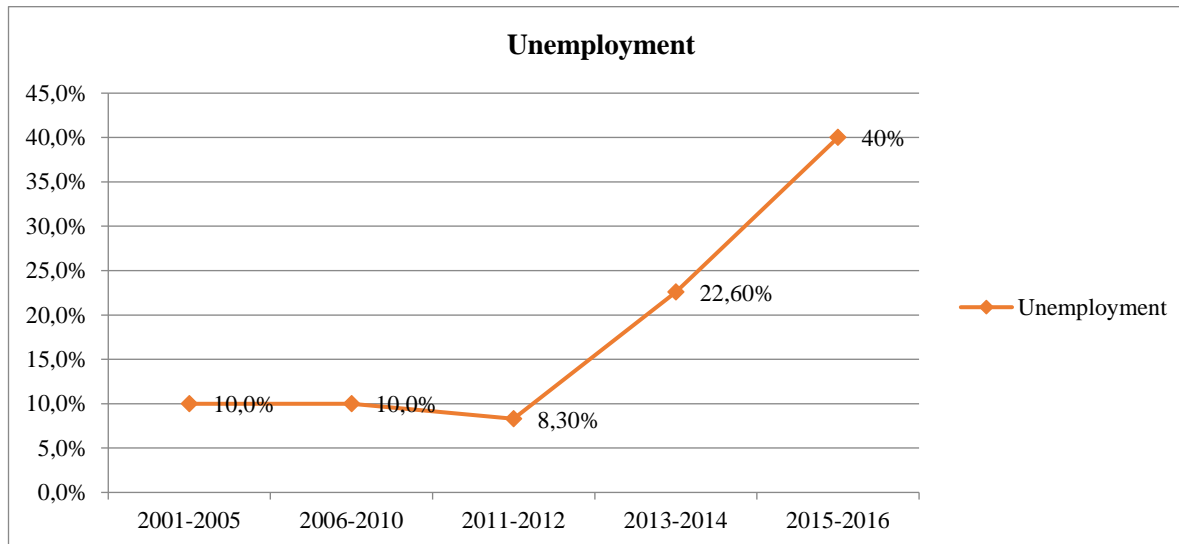


Figure 3: unemployment rate in Afghanistan

(Source: UNDP, 2017 & UNDP, 2015, unemployment rate (percentage))

However, announcing an unemployment rate of 40 percent for 2014 to 2015 was not far from the mind, it can be acceptable; because after the Chicago conference (2012) it was decided to withdraw the NATO forces, the amount of foreign aid gradually decreased, and it was mainly directed to security matters; This reduction led the demand in the market to decrease and the economy of Afghanistan faced stagnation (Sigar, 2015: 162).

Since about 76 percent of people are engaged in freelance jobs, labor and work in the private sector, with the reduction of foreign aid, construction projects, reduction and dozens of monitoring and coordinating international institutions. Plans were suspended or their workforces were adjusted to reduce demand in the labor market.

Demographic changes

Due to the unstable conditions, the last census conducted in Afghanistan will go back forty years ago; Since 2001, the government has put this important matter on the agenda; but the ethnic divisions have caused the population numbers to be turned into areas for political negotiations, such as the issue of the census, one of the main causes political conflicts of the last few years among the power sharing parties in Afghanistan; however, the latest estimate of "Afghanistan Central Bureau of Statistics" (2017) of the country's population, compared to the statistics of the World Bank, has a difference of nearly five million.

The World Bank has reported the population of Afghanistan to be around 34.6 million people, which shows an increase of around 14 million compared to 2001; This increase is obtained from the calculation of the growth rate of 3 percent, in addition to the population of returning immigrants. Afghanistan is one of the countries that has benefited from a young workforce; young people under the age of 14 have assigned about half of the population to themselves; this is while the statistics of this age group has decreased from 5.48 percent to 8.43 percent; on the other hand, the population in the age group of 15 to 64 years has increased by 5 percent; in addition, the life expectancy of citizens has increased from 56 years to 63.3 and the death rate has decreased from 5.11 to 9.6 per thousand people (World Bank, 2017); This index shows that the demographic changes of Afghanistan have been improving in the last few years.

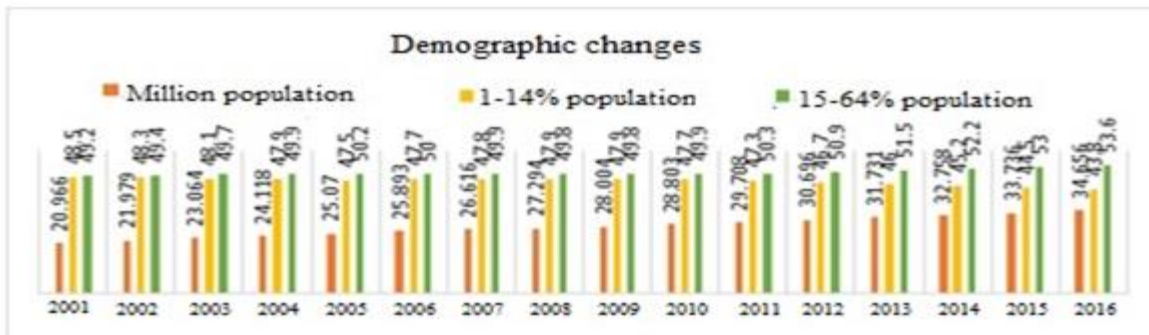


Figure 4: demographic variables of Afghanistan

(Source: World Bank, 2017)

Production of narcotics

About 71 percent of Afghan citizens live in villages (Central Bureau of Statistics, 2016:2) and agriculture and animal husbandry are their most important occupations. Poverty has been a primary challenge for the villagers, the inhabitants of the villages of Helmand and Kandahar are considered among the poorest people in the country. For this reason, 50% of the produced narcotic substances are also planted in these two provinces. 71% of the farmers said that economic problems are the reasons for poppy cultivation. (Unodc, 2015: 43).

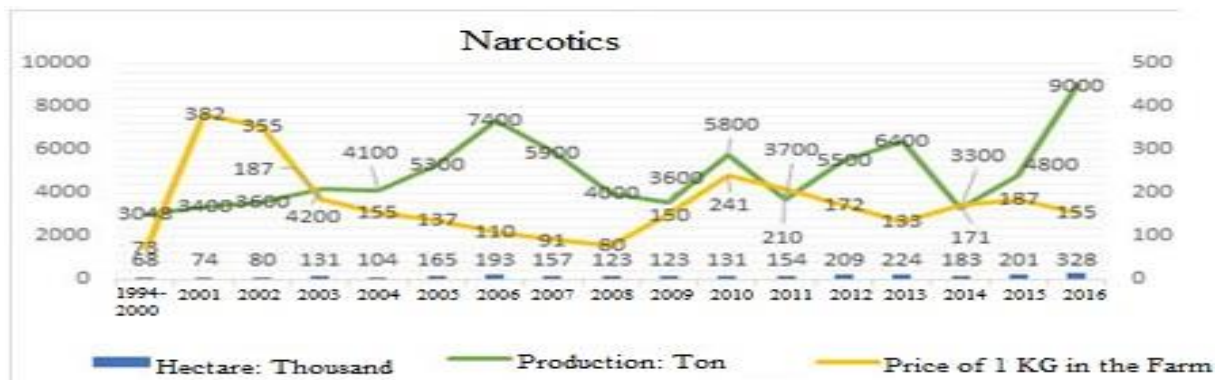


Figure 5: amount of drug production

(Source: 46-13, 2017: UNODC)

But the issue of narcotics in Afghanistan is more complicated from the economic point of view of farmers. Figure 5 examines the three topics "amount of production, amount of cultivated land and price of narcotics" in the two periods of the Taliban and the current regime. In the Taliban government, on average, about 68 thousand hectares of poppy land were cultivated and 3 thousand tons of crops were harvested. The highest amount of harvest in one year was related to 1999 with 4565 tons and the average selling price of each kilo of opium in this period was 75 dollars, but in the new political system, on average, it is 152 hectares of poppy land were cultivated and nearly 5000 tons were harvested. The highest harvest rate was also in 2016 with 9000 tons and the annual average price was 188 dollars per kilogram. With a simple calculation, the total value of opium produced in the last sixteen years was close to 14 billion dollars; while according to the calculations of the United Nations, this number is about 4 percent of the actual value of opium produced and the rest of it went to the pockets of the international drug mafia; this is at a time when one of the reasons for the presence of foreign forces in Afghanistan is the effort to combat poppy cultivation, and until 2017, the United States has spent 8.02 billion dollars to fight against narcotics in Afghanistan (Sigar, 2014: 4-9; Sigar, Special Report, 2014: 2 & Sigar, 2017: 65-77).

Examination of social development indicators

The fragile security and unstable economy caused the social conditions of Afghanistan to be shaky. Most of the focus of the government and its foreign partners has been on the issue of security and they have spent more than half of the aid in this area; however, 49% of the aid is allocated to other sectors (political, social, economic, cultural, rural).

Based on information in the table, 1-2 percent of this aid covers about 55 billion dollars. In the official reports, the details of 33 billion dollars are available and the rest are not available. The areas of governance, health, education, rural development, social security and infrastructure are some of the sectors for which this money has been spent

(Ministry of Finance: 2012, 12-15 and 2010: 32 and 3). In the following, indicators of social development in Afghanistan are examined.

Education

It has been over a century since the establishment of the first modern school in Afghanistan; in these years, the country's education system has traveled a steep path; probably, few people have doubts about this fact that Afghanistan's education experienced its worst days during the Taliban era, by preventing the education of girls and degenerating the education system. With the end of the Taliban era and the establishment of the new system, the education system has grown appropriately due to foreign aid.

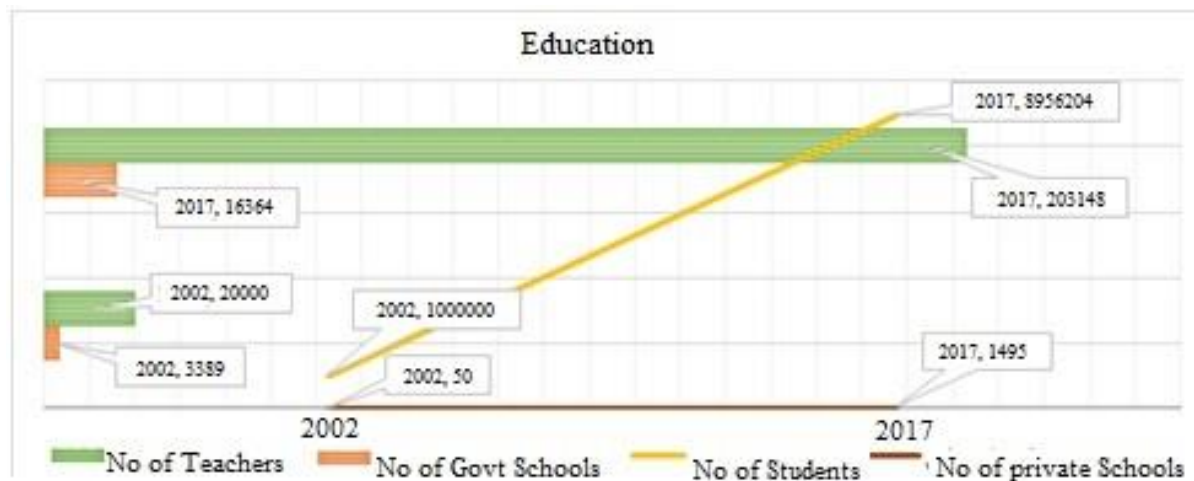


Figure 6: education and upbringing

Source: (UNODC, 2017: 13-46)

At the end of the Taliban government, the education system consisted of 3389 schools, one million students and nearly twenty thousand teachers; A government (system) in which women have no role at all, but today it has about nine million students, more than 203 thousand teachers, and close to 16,500 public schools, which is more than 38 percent students and 31 percent of teachers are women.

The private sector, with 1,495 non-governmental schools and more than 427,000 students, has played a vital role in the education system. The quality of the educational system has changed dramatically and with the printing of millions of book covers, updated curricula and 88 percent of students are using the standard classroom and school (Human Rights Commission of Afghanistan 25:2017); however, insecurities also threaten Afghanistan's education system, so that only in 2016, more than a thousand schools across the country were forced to be closed (Ministry of Education, 2016).

However, the literacy rate is still low. Nearly 40 percent of the population in the society are literate. In order to achieve this strategy, the government trains thousands of people in the country every year. Statistics show that only in 2015, about 417 thousand people participated in literacy courses, 60 percent of them have been women; this program is carried out with the help of UNESCO, has dedicated a part of its focus to holding literacy courses for soldiers and prisoners (Determination of educational literacy, 2015: B 17).

The next point in this context is the educational discussion; the university has also taken an important step in its development in these years. Updating the education system, building physical infrastructures, launching new courses and staffing are part of these developments.

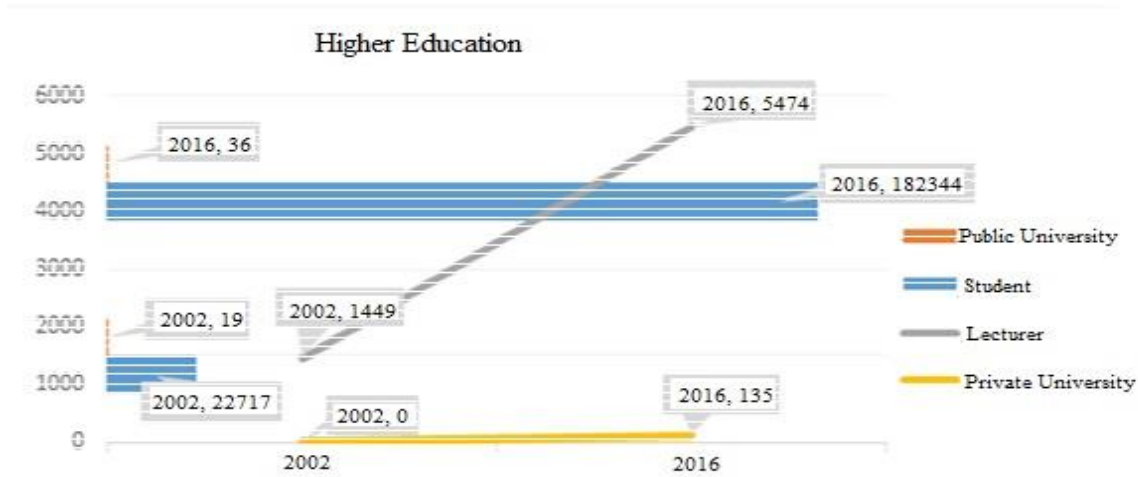


Figure 7: higher education
Source: (UNODC, 2017: 13-46)

Today, the Ministry of Higher Education of the country is responsible for 36 public universities with more than 180 thousand students and 5474 professors, which is about 22 percent of the student capacity and 14 percent of the professors are women. Meanwhile, more than 131 thousand students are studying in 135 non-governmental higher education institutions; with the collapse of the Taliban government, about 22 thousand students and 1400 professors in nineteen state universities (92 faculties) and without the presence of women, were busy with education, there was no non-governmental institution. (Ministry of Higher Education: 2016, 2 to 5; Central Statistics Department 2015, and the Ministry of Higher Education, 2016). The interest in higher education is increasing among the people so much that there were about 15,000 applicants in the national entrance exam in 2002, but this number increased to more than 187,000 in 2016 (Deutsche Welle 2011 website and website BBC, 2016).

Security

The issue of security for Afghanistan has become a confusing problem and its factors are rooted in various parts of the globe. After the presence of NATO forces in Afghanistan, the people's image was that the unpleasant era of war is over and a happy life is ahead, but it will not take long for the perceptions to be reversed, people will pay a heavy price for security.

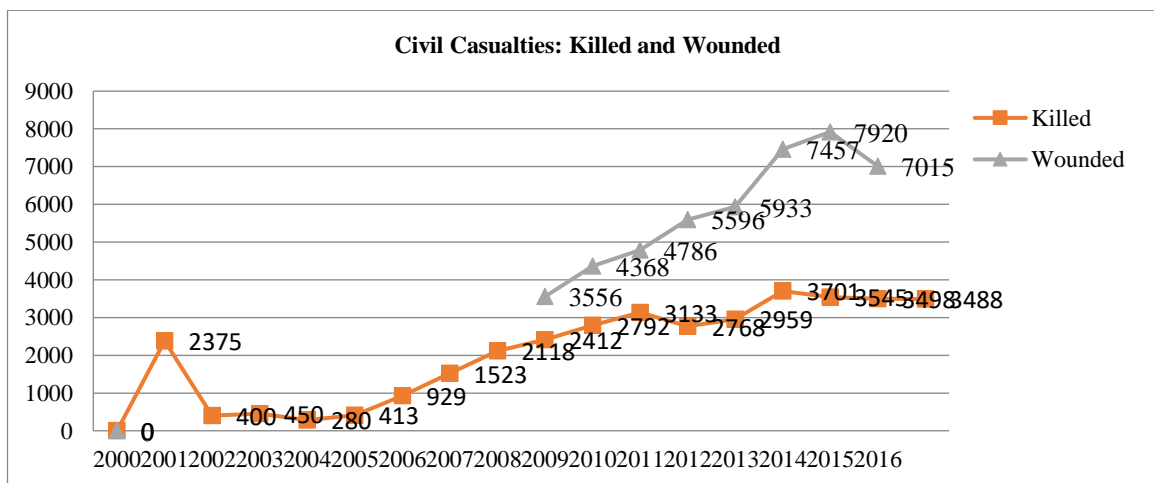


Figure 8: statistics of civilian casualties in Afghanistan
Source :(Crawford, 2016: 3 & UNAMA, 2016: 3-9 & UNAMA, 2017: 3)

According to the statistics of "Watson Institute, Brown University¹⁸" and the delegate of the United Nations in Afghanistan, between 2001 and 2017, about 89 thousand civilians were killed and injured in Afghanistan, of which more than 36 thousand were killed and 52 thousand people were injured; While there are no statistics available regarding the number of injuries in the first eight years. The contribution of women and children from the total

¹⁸ Watson Institute Brown University

statistics of the last nine years is about 25 thousand people, of which more than eight thousand people were killed and others were injured, (2015, 2015: 2015 21 and UNAMA, 2016: & UNAMA16-20, 2017: 13 16) the statistics of the last nine years show that the cause of more than 57,000 casualties were people affiliated with groups opposing the government. Attacks on residential areas, mine laying, suicide attacks and targeted killings are within the array of prevalent approaches of using opponents (UNAMA, 2015:43, & UNAMA, 2017:32 UNAMA, 2016:51) the United Nations, civilian casualty statistics from 2016 unprecedentedly increased and by using suicide attacks, they have led the war to cities and residential areas (UNAMA, 2015); additionally, the United Nations has confirmed the presence of Daesh in Afghanistan since 2015 (UNAMA, 2015:24); responsible for killing 661 non-military people in 2015 by this group (Afghanistan Human Rights Commission, 2016:18). The war in Afghanistan, in addition to ordinary people, has imposed a lot of costs on both sides, and more than 228,000 people have been killed and injured, including non-military people and both sides.

Table 3: Statistics of the casualties of those present on the battlefield in the years 2001 to 2016

	Afghan Forces	American Forces	NATO Forces ¹⁹	American Contractors	Contractor	NGO Employees	Journalists	Government Oppositions
Killed	30470	2371	1136	1650	1890	382	24	42100
Wounded	17000	20179	3800	15348	--	299	--	19000

Source: (9:2016, Crawford)

Table 3 shows the losses of soldiers more than 47 thousand people; this is while in Afghanistan, the military system is not compulsory, many of these soldiers join the armed forces due to the conditions of unemployment and poverty in order to get a salary.

All this is in the conditions that more than 51 percent of the total foreign aid is spent in the security field and at the same time, about 113 thousand multinational forces from fifty countries are responsible for the security of Afghanistan; of course, this number of troops has decreased to 13576 people since 2013. The United States of America has brought the most military forces to Afghanistan in both regions; as in the first stage, 74400 and in the second stage 6941 American soldiers were and are in this country (Halon, 2012: 5 & Livingston Web Site: NATO, 2017 &)

Health and safety

Access healthcare services is one of the indicators that international organizations emphasize on in order to achieve social development during the last two decades. Developed societies have the lowest mortality rates and the best health services due to the use of trained human resources and appropriate facilities; a subject that is regarded as a primary concern in the third world. The advancement in the field of healthcare services in Afghanistan with the support of foreign countries in these years has experienced a relatively favorable growth.

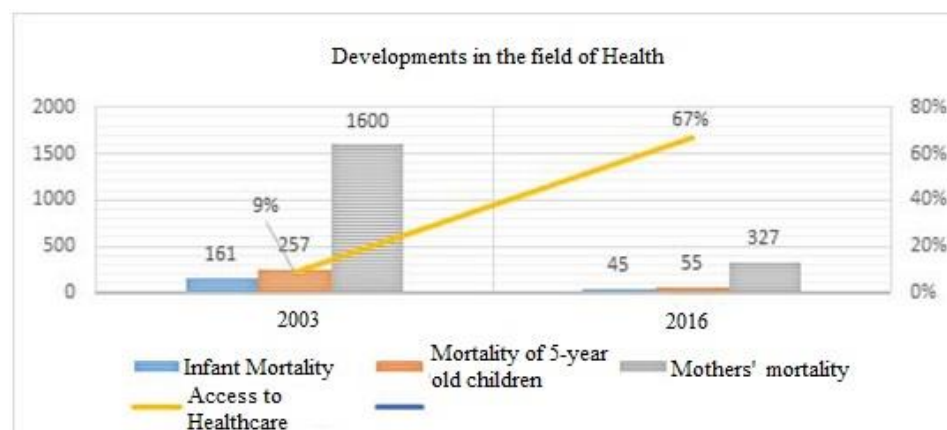


Figure 9: Developments in the field of health and sanitation in Afghanistan

Source: (Tamana 2020: 180, and Sigar, 2017: 186)

¹⁹ It includes only British, Canadian, French and German forces.

Today, 67 percent of people have access to health services, while this number was 9 percent in 2010. According to statistics, in 2015, there are 13,267 beds in 2,147 government hospitals, health centers with 8,700 doctors in Afghanistan; these achievements caused the death of pregnant mothers to decrease from 1600 (per hundred thousand) to 327, the death of children from 257 (per thousand) to 55, and the death of newborns from 161 to 45. The rate of births under the supervision of midwives increased from 3.14 percent in 2003 to 4.56 percent in 2017; And the number of midwives has also increased from 467 to 4,600 people (Central Statistics Department 2017, B 16;; Central Statistics 2016, B 32;; Ministry of Public Health 2012:3, 22; Central Statistics 2:82 011 to 89 and Human Rights Commission Afghanistan 35:2017, and 36) on the other hand, access to safe water has improved the quality of people's lives and reduced infectious diseases. According to the latest information of 7/64, percent of the people of Afghanistan use safe water (Central Statistics of Afghanistan 2016, B: 16); To provide these possibilities, about 3.5 percent of aid has been spent, which is America, the cost of polio vaccine, the construction and reconstruction of 670 health centers, the training of about two thousand nurses and midwives, and the provision of medicines. He has paid the necessary and rare goods worth one billion dollars (Tamana 2020: 180, and Sigar, 2017: 186).

Human development index

This index measures the three conditions of "purchasing power, access to healthcare services and education" such as "per capita income, life expectancy, education expectancy, and average years of education." Every year it is evaluated numerically by the United Nations. They include from zero to one (0 and 1); Even if this number is approaching to one, it signifies the progress of that country. Afghanistan with a score of 0.479 and a rank of 169 (year 2015) is in the third category and among the countries with low human development.

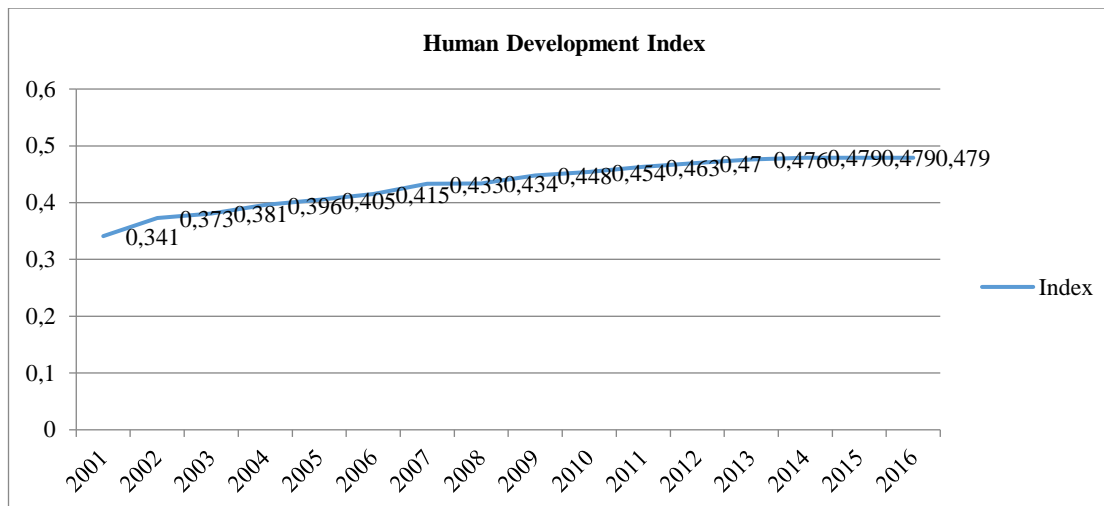


Figure 10: Human development in Afghanistan
Source: (UNDP, 2016)

Afghanistan's score in this index increased by nearly 3 percent from 2010 to 2019; from 2010 to 2016, it was about 1 percent. And its components for the year 2015 are as follows: the life expectancy is 3.63 years, the hope for education at birth is 1.10 years, the average years of education in society is 5.3 years, and the per capita income is 561 dollars. (UNDP, 2016); Therefore, despite the improvement of access to medical services, "poverty and illiteracy" are the primary factors contributing the low score.

Hypothesis testing

Foreign aid is the independent variable in this research, and socio-economic development indicators are also considered as dependent variables, whose relationship with the independent variable is examined and presented

Table: 4 results of Spearman's correlation test

Human Development	Spearman Z test score	0/545 0/036	0/935 0/000	0/915 0/000	0/998 0/000	1	0/938 0/000	0/163 0/562	0/996 0/000	0/979 0/000	0/500 0/098
Civilian Casualties	Spearman Z test score	0/032 0/554	0/000 0/918	0/000 0/907	0/000 0/936	0/000 0/938	1	0/161 0/567	0/929 0/000	0/936 0/000	0/518 0/085
Narcotics	Spearman Z test score	0/382 0/159	0/202 0/470	0/202 0/470	0/177 0/528	0/163 0/562	0/161 0/567	1	0/181 0/520	0/177 0/528	-0/095 0/769
Education (No. of Students)	Spearman Z test score	0/529 0/043	0/929 0/000	0/907 0/000	0/996 0/000	0/996 0/000	0/929 0/000	0/181 0/520	1	0/996 0/000	0/500 0/098
Population	Spearman Z test score	0/539 0/038	0/932 0/000	0/911 0/000	0/989 0/000	0/979 0/000	0/936 0/000	0/177 0/528	0/996 0/000	1	0/500 0/098
Unemployment	Spearman Z test score	- 0/583 0/046	0/179 0/579	0/106 0/744	0/500 0/098	0/500 0/098	0/518 0/085	- 0/095 0/769	0/500 0/098	0/500 0/098	1

Table: 4 results of Spearman's correlation test (continued...)

		Foreign Aid	Gross Domestic Product	Per Capita Income	Hope for Life	Human Development	Civilian Casualties	Narcotics	Education (No. of Students)	Population	Unemployment
Foreign Aid	Spearman Z test score	1	0/696 0/004	0/736 0/002	0/539 0/038	0/545 0/036	0/554 0/032	0/382 0/159	0/529 0/043	0/539 0/038	-0/583 0/046
Gross Domestic Product	Spearman Z test score	0/696 0/004	1	0/993 0/000	0/932 0/000	0/935 0/000	0/918 0/000	0/202 0/470	0/929 0/000	0/932 0/000	0/179 0/579
Per Capita Income	Spearman Z test score	0/736 0/002	0/993 0/000	1	0/911 0/000	0/915 0/000	0/907 0/000	0/202 0/470	0/907 0/000	0/911 0/000	0/106 0/744
Hope for Life	Spearman Z test score	0/539 0/038	0/932 0/000	0/911 0/000	1	0/998 0/000	0/936 0/000	0/177 0/528	0/996 0/000	0/989 0/000	0/500 0/098

In order to test hypotheses and examine the relationship between variables, Spearman's correlation test was used and the sample size is 15 ($n=15$). The test result is presented in Table 4: According to the table, the results of 4 hypothesis tests are presented below:

The first hypothesis: the significance of the test between foreign aid and gross domestic production (0.004), less than 5 percent and the correlation coefficient 0.696 between the variables, shows a relatively high and positive correlation; Therefore, hypothesis 0 (zero) is rejected and the positive impact of foreign aid on gross domestic product is accepted. And this means, as much as foreign aid has increased, Afghanistan's gross domestic product has also increased.

The second hypothesis: the significance of the test between foreign aid and national per capita (0.002), is smaller than 5 percent; And the coefficient of 0.736 shows the positive correlation between the variables; Therefore, hypothesis 0 is rejected, the positive impact of foreign aid on the national per capita is accepted, that even though the foreign aid has increased, the national per capita has also increased.

The third hypothesis: the significance of the test between foreign aid and life expectancy (0.038) is less than 5 percent, and the value of the coefficient 0.539 between the variables indicates a positive correlation; Therefore, hypothesis 0 is rejected and the positive impact of foreign aid on people's hope in life is accepted, that is, as much aid has increased, people's hope in life has also increased.

The fourth hypothesis: the significance of the test between aid and the human development variable (0.036), less than 5 percent and the value of the correlation coefficient 0.545 between the variables, shows a positive correlation; Therefore, the positive impact of foreign aid on human development has been accepted, confirming that as the aid increases, the situation of human development has also improved.

The fifth hypothesis: the significance of the test between foreign aid and the security variable (non-military casualties) (0.032), is smaller than 5 percent; Therefore, the null hypothesis of the positive impact of foreign aid on civilian casualties in Afghanistan is accepted, and the correlation coefficient of 0.554 between foreign aid and civilian casualties shows a positive correlation. will give Therefore, it confirms the hypothesis of the research that emphasizes the ineffectiveness of foreign aid in reducing civilian casualties.

Sixth hypothesis: Although the value of the correlation coefficient (0.382) between foreign aid and drug production shows a positive correlation; But the significance test (0.159) is greater than 5%; Therefore, there is no substantial correlation between foreign aid and the production of narcotics, and the aids were not effective in reducing the production of narcotic drugs, and in this case, the research hypothesis is also confirmed.

The seventh hypothesis: the significance of the test between external aid and the variable of education (number of students) (0.043), is smaller than 5 percent, which means that the positive impact of aid is accepted. The correlation coefficient of 0.529 also shows the positive correlation between foreign aid and the improvement of educational conditions; That is, although the amount of aid has increased, the number of students has also increased.

The eighth hypothesis: the result of the significance test between foreign aid and the population increase variable (0.038), smaller than 5 percent and the correlation coefficient, 0.539, shows a positive correlation, so a positive impact to increase the population are accepted; This means that foreign aid has been effective in increasing the population of Afghanistan.

Ninth hypothesis: The result of the significance test between the aid and the unemployment rate (0.046), less than 5 percent and the correlation coefficient -0.583, shows a negative and inverse correlation, so the positive impact of foreign aid The increase in the unemployment rate is accepted; This means that the aid has been effective in increasing unemployment, as whenever the amount of aid has increased, the unemployment rate has decreased, and when the aid has been decreasing, unemployment has increased.

CONCLUSION

The volume of foreign aid to Afghanistan has been large, but due to "incoordination between the government and donor agencies, lack of necessary infrastructure, administrative corruption and widespread insecurity", some of them have been wasted. The results of his research were in the researches of other researchers and like Mobah and Asuma (2014), Hossein (2014), Ressi (2014), Kamal Aburaya (2014) and Tutakhil (2011) show that in Afghanistan, foreign aid is also effective in improving poverty and unemployment. It has not been and this country still has a low capacity for industrialization, although the role of aid has been effective in improving the educational and health conditions; on the one hand, the consumption of aid outside of the government budget leads to the lack of transparency and accurate accounting, as well as the weakening of the government's position, institutions that receive financial resources, do not have the obligation to answer to the government.

Examining the social-economic development indicators of Afghanistan shows that the presence of foreign soldiers has not led to "improvement of the security situation, reduction of narcotics and stable employment", on the contrary. "Statistics of civilians killed, drug production and unemployment" have increased in an unprecedented way. The lack of the necessary management ability to use financial resources and prioritization has forced the Afghan government to attract foreign consultants and contractors, and about 40 percent of the resources in the form of rights and salaries of consultants are returned to the original source. Ministry of Finance 2010:51, and Oxfam, 2009 (corruption). Administration and weak supervision have made the costs of embezzlement and accepting bribes cheaper and are other factors that contribute to the wastage of resources.

Afghanistan's economy and military power are largely dependent on external sources. And if these sources cut, the government will face serious challenge in sustaining the official budget; in the military field as well, it lacks the capacity to effectively address opposing elements. Relying on external resources and ignoring internal capacities has led to insecurity and corruption, so that the people's trust in the political system is shaken, and social despair increases.

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