



Perspectives of Afghan Women on UNAMA and UN Agencies in Afghanistan

December 2024

Introduction

WPSO-Afghanistan convened a consultation with over 500 women activists and provincial facilitators from Afghan civil society organizations to discuss the UNAMA mandate.

For security reasons, participant names are not disclosed in this report; however, perspectives are categorized by province. Their views have been translated into English from Dari and Pashto, maintaining the integrity of their voices.

Key Issues Identified

1. Women's Rights and Gender Equality

Afghan women face severe restrictions under the Taliban, including:

- **Education bans:** Girls beyond grade six are not allowed to attend school, and universities remain closed to female students.
- **Employment bans:** Women are barred from working, even in international organizations, severely limiting their economic independence.
- **Public space restrictions:** Women require a male guardian (mahram) to travel and are banned from parks, gyms, and public offices in some provinces.
- **Legal and social discrimination:** Women are excluded from governance and lack access to justice.
- **Increase in forced marriages:** Economic hardship is driving a rise in forced and early marriages.
- **Gender-based violence:** Reports indicate rising domestic violence and Taliban-led oppression against women, with no legal protection available.

Recommendations:

- ✓ Stronger international advocacy for women's rights.
- ✓ Increased diplomatic pressure on the Taliban to lift bans on education and employment.
- ✓ Psychosocial support and legal aid for women facing violence and discrimination.

2. Education Crisis for Women and Girls

- Schools remain closed in most provinces.
- Universities shut down, with some provinces strictly enforcing this ban.
- Private institutes blocked, including health and vocational training centers.
- No alternatives: Online education is not widely accessible, and there are no government-approved alternative learning options.

Recommendations:

- ✓ Advocate for reopening of schools and universities.
- ✓ Develop online and distance-learning programs for Afghan girls.
- ✓ Push for community-based education initiatives where formal schooling is banned.

3. Economic Hardship and Job Losses

- Women-owned businesses shut down in several provinces.
- Job losses in NGOs and private sectors, particularly in health, education, and humanitarian sectors.
- Rising poverty and food insecurity, forcing many women into desperate situations.

Recommendations:

- ✓ Launch small-scale employment projects for women.
- ✓ Create alternative economic opportunities through online work and home-based businesses.
- ✓ Ensure fair international aid distribution, including for women.

4. Human Rights Violations and Security Threats

- Arbitrary detentions, arrests, and imprisonment of women defying Taliban rules.
- Poor conditions in women's prisons, including pregnant women and new mothers.
- Extrajudicial killings and disappearances of former security personnel.
- Media suppression and censorship of journalists, especially female reporters.
- Lack of access to justice: Taliban courts do not protect women's rights.

Recommendations:

- ✓ Strengthen human rights monitoring and public reporting on abuses.
- ✓ Provide legal aid for detained women.
- ✓ Ensure the safety of journalists and activists through advocacy and diplomatic pressure.

Overall Conclusion

Afghan women view UNAMA as one of their last remaining hopes, but they believe its efforts have been insufficient and inconsistent. They demand stronger action in women's rights, education, economic opportunities, and human rights protection.

Key Actions for 2025:

- ✓ Stronger advocacy for women's rights at the international level.
- ✓ Pressure Taliban to reopen schools and universities.
- ✓ Support job creation and financial independence for women.
- ✓ Expand UNAMA's presence in neglected provinces.
- ✓ Provide legal aid and protect women from imprisonment and abuse.
- ✓ Monitor human rights violations and press freedom restrictions.
- ✓ Ensure humanitarian aid reaches women and vulnerable populations.

Final Message from Afghan Women:

"UNAMA must be the voice of Afghan women. The world is forgetting us, and our rights are disappearing. We need urgent action before it is too late."

Some of the direct reflections from the participants:

1. Bamian Province

Participant 1:

Bamian's cultural and traditional landscape differs significantly from other Afghan provinces, and while government-imposed restrictions exist nationwide, they are less strictly enforced here. For instance, rules regarding mandatory dress codes, movement in public spaces, hospital visits, and access to government offices are more relaxed compared to other regions. In 2024, UNAMA engaged in various activities in Bamian, particularly supporting NGOs. They collaborated on project implementation, mainly within the Department of Economy and other sectoral departments.

Participant 2:

UNAMA has played an active role in Bamian. For example, when the Taliban's Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs sought to include employees' salaries in work permits—intending to claim a portion—UNAMA successfully advocated for the removal of this requirement, ensuring that only government organizations, not NGOs, were subject to such policies.

Looking ahead to 2025, we expect UNAMA, as a UN and credible institution, to provide online training opportunities for women. If direct collaboration is not possible, alternative approaches should be explored. Additionally, UNAMA should foster income-generating initiatives to help women escape their current uncertainty and distress. Many women in Bamian are already engaged in employment, trade, and business ownership. Expanding these opportunities would enhance their independence and economic stability.

Participant 3:

Our expectations from UNAMA include:

- Promoting an inclusive government – Advocate for governance that represents all communities.
- Enhancing support for women – Develop small-scale employment opportunities for women.
- Providing psychosocial support – Establish training centers for girls denied access to education.



- Assisting returnees – Offer financial aid and shelter support for migrants returning to Afghanistan.
- Creating online platforms for girls – Develop educational platforms accessible at provincial and district levels.
- Advancing human rights and gender equality – Ensure the implementation of gender equality measures, which are currently overlooked.
- Advocating with Taliban authorities – Engage with authorities to recognize women as full and equal members of society.

2. Kabul Province

Participant 1:

The United Nations' goals include eradicating poverty, ending hunger, ensuring health and well-being, providing quality education, achieving gender equality, fostering economic growth, and reducing inequalities. However, in Kabul, we see little to no progress toward these objectives.

For instance, poverty remains widespread, with many families struggling for survival. I have personally witnessed a woman collecting tree leaves in the freezing winter to burn for warmth, as her children faced life-threatening cold. Hunger is another urgent issue, affecting the majority of the population.

Gender equality is virtually nonexistent women are denied the right to work, study, or even move freely. Moreover, when suggestions for improvement are made, they are ignored, and conditions often deteriorate further. A prime example is education: instead of advancing opportunities, legal actions led to the closure of health institutes that previously served women.

Participant 2:

I urge UNAMA to prioritize two critical areas in 2025:

- **Women's and girls' rights** – Stronger efforts and increased pressure on the Taliban are needed to uphold the fundamental rights of women and girls.
- **Press freedom** – The media must be protected from suppression. In 2024, we witnessed multiple arrests of journalists. UNAMA should take action to safeguard press freedom and prevent further crackdowns.

Participant 3:

My request to UNAMA is to exert international pressure on the current government. Right now, UNAMA is our only hope. We see that the world has forgotten Afghan women, and other nations are no longer paying attention to Afghanistan's issues, especially those affecting Afghan women. Our lives have become incredibly difficult here, yet we are being



ignored by the international community.

UNAMA should be the voice of Afghan women and work to rally international support, ensuring that the world does not forget Afghan women and does not legitimize the current government, thereby preventing the normalization of our situation.

3. Farah Province:

Participant 1:

UNAMA's activities, well-known to all, primarily focus on human rights, political, and administrative matters. Fortunately, in the western zone, UNAMA has been particularly active and cooperative. In the health sector, their advocacy efforts have been especially impactful. The head of the Health Organization office even reached out to me, expressing interest in a meeting. We have a scheduled discussion with UNAMA on Wednesday, and their engagement underscores their commitment to supporting the people.

However, we face an autonomous government that lacks accountability at the regional or global level. Unfortunately, when pressure is applied, it often targets women and the educated segment of society, pushing them to the margins. When professionals are dismissed from their positions, they are frequently replaced by individuals with only religious education.

In my view, UNAMA has the ability to exert pressure—not only on the ruling authorities but also on the countries that indirectly support the Taliban. These nations should be urged to cut off their aid and apply diplomatic pressure. If the Taliban remains unchecked by these powerful backers, by 2025, even girls up to the sixth grade could be denied

education, NGOs may be shut down, and women might lose the right to even visit the market. If these restrictions continue, the people will face extreme economic hardship and severe psychological distress. Protecting human dignity and restoring human rights in Afghanistan must be a priority, and UNAMA must intensify its efforts.

Participant 2:

UNAMA's advocacy in Farah province has been highly effective, particularly in areas such as healthcare, employee salaries, women's prisons, and human rights. Whenever women have raised concerns with UNAMA, they have consistently advocated on their behalf.

One of UNAMA's most significant achievements in Farah has been its ability to influence local authorities, yielding positive outcomes. Moving forward, I suggest that UNAMA establish networks for both women and men, ensuring direct access to support. This would provide reassurance that when we share our concerns, there will be someone genuinely committed to helping us.

4. Ghazni Province

Participant 1:

As an Afghan woman, speaking from the heart, there is so much to express. When it comes to UNAMA's activities, we must set realistic expectations, recognizing its role as an organization. At the very least, we expect it to fulfill what is within its capacity.

Based on my experience working in various organizations alongside women, I have not seen UNAMA implement many projects specifically for women in Afghanistan. While it may have collaborated with some NGOs on certain initiatives, it has not directly focused on women's issues. In some meetings, I have heard women mention UNAMA's cooperation in specific areas, but unfortunately, in Ghazni province, there has been no significant activity dedicated to women.

Given that UNAMA is a reputable organization and a source of hope for many, my request is that, even if it cannot change the broader situation, it should at least introduce projects in Ghazni. This province is highly traditional, and women here need opportunities to regain their independence and stability.

Participant 2:

I appreciate UNAMA's efforts, particularly in advocating for women's rights. The reports prepared by this organization are shared with the international community, influencing the actions of the current government. However, in Ghazni, UNAMA's office has not had any recent programs, apart from a UNICEF education project, which is currently suspended due to the closure of educational classes.

Our request for 2025 is that UNAMA continue advocating for human rights and women's rights, while also taking practical steps to support women. In particular, we urge UNAMA to

introduce public-benefit projects in Ghazni that will help women achieve self-sufficiency, whether in the economic sector or other areas. This is critical because the Taliban has imposed some of the harshest restrictions in Ghazni.

For example, when decrees are issued in other provinces, they are often enforced immediately in Ghazni—such as the order to close educational institutes, which was implemented here on the very day it was announced. Additionally, many projects introduced in Ghazni fail to be properly executed. The allocated funds are often misappropriated by staff, preventing the intended beneficiaries from receiving any real support. Therefore, we ask UNAMA to closely oversee project implementation to ensure they genuinely benefit the people.

Previously, UNAMA’s gender section was active in Ghazni, but despite being a gender-focused office, it was staffed symbolically by men and had no meaningful impact on women’s issues.

Participant 3:

In Ghazni province, UNAMA has not undertaken any significant activities. My recommendation for 2025 is that UNAMA either establish a physical office in the province or, if that is not feasible, at least appoint a focal point in Ghazni. This would provide us with a direct channel to UNAMA, allowing us to engage in more effective advocacy and ensure that its objectives are better realized within the province.



5. Daikundi Province

Participant 1:

UNAMA's activities in Daikundi province are managed through its Bamyan office, as there is no dedicated UNAMA office in Daikundi itself. In 2024, UNAMA carried out some activities in the province, with officials from the Bamyan office visiting Daikundi several times. They held meetings with various organizations, including those in education, health, information and culture, and private media. These discussions focused on human rights, workers' rights, transparency in government offices, and the effective use of human resources.

Additionally, UNAMA conducted multiple visits to address human rights issues, including the rights of children, women, and citizens. They also monitored prisons to ensure that human rights were being upheld. Just last week, the head of UNAMA and their team visited Daikundi, meeting with local officials and engaging with private media to discuss their rights and responsibilities.

However, UNAMA's activities in Daikundi remain insufficient. More frequent visits are needed, as the current level of engagement has not led to significant impact. While some progress has been made, the efforts are not as effective as they could be. Given that UNAMA staff must travel from Bamyan—a journey of 18 to 20 hours by road—setting up a dedicated office in Daikundi would greatly improve their presence. If establishing an office is not feasible, UNAMA should at least commit to visiting Daikundi once every two months to strengthen its advocacy and support efforts.

Participant 2:

While UNAMA is making efforts in Afghanistan, these efforts often go unnoticed. In central regions like Bamyan, UNAMA provides considerable attention, but provinces such as Ghor and Daikundi receive far less focus.

For instance, during a recent UNAMA visit to Daikundi, a group of educated women, including those formerly employed in the previous government, gathered in hopes of meeting with the delegation. Despite repeated attempts to contact them, one of the women had to personally arrange transportation for the UNAMA team using her husband's private car. When the delegation finally arrived, they stated that they could only meet with us for five minutes—barely enough time to exchange greetings.

My request to UNAMA is that when there is no dedicated office in a province, visiting delegations should be more attentive and responsive to the needs of the local population. Services must be provided in a fair and equitable manner, ensuring that support reaches not only provincial capitals but also the districts, which often receive little to no assistance.

6. Ghor Province

Participant 1:

Ghor province is often overlooked compared to provinces like Kabul and Herat. Unfortunately, there are no programs or support available for women's activities. For instance, while NGOs in Kabul provided opportunities for women, in Ghor, even these limited options were unavailable.

Additionally, the people of Ghor live below the poverty line. Although some organizations provide aid, the residents themselves emphasize that they do not simply need assistance—they need employment opportunities, especially for women. Job creation is essential to help women achieve financial independence. Furthermore, greater attention must be given to women's education. While educational courses and institutes remain open in many provinces, they continue to be closed for girls in Ghor, depriving them of basic learning opportunities.

Participant 2:

Ghor province urgently needs UNAMA's support in healthcare, women's rights, and education. In the health sector, there has been little to no attention. The people of Ghor frequently express their frustration over the severe shortage of doctors and medicine. There are no female doctors in Ghor's clinics, and even in the provincial hospital, medical services are extremely limited. As a result, many patients lose their lives due to the lack of adequate healthcare facilities.

Education has also been neglected. While some provinces have managed to keep institutes open, girls in Ghor have been completely deprived of this opportunity. Their demands have been ignored, and there has been no meaningful effort to address their educational needs. In terms of employment, no initiatives have been taken to support women. Women's rights in Ghor have been entirely disregarded. Offices that were previously managed by women have been shut down, and opportunities for female employment have been systematically eliminated. Immediate action is needed to restore these rights and ensure that women in Ghor have access to education, healthcare, and economic opportunities.

7. Kunduz Province:

Participant 1:

In Kunduz province, UNAMA's presence and activities have been severely limited. There has been a notable absence of programs for women, children, and even men. The humanitarian situation here is dire. Specifically, women face significant discrimination in the social sector, yet UNAMA has failed to address these issues effectively. Over the past three years, bans and restrictions have sharply increased, but both UNAMA and other organizations have not taken meaningful action to alleviate these challenges. The situation

for women is particularly critical, and I strongly urge UNAMA to initiate projects aimed at supporting women and children in 2025, as well as to promote political dialogue. Furthermore, UNAMA must advocate for the removal of current restrictions on women.

Participant 2:

In Kunduz province, UNAMA has not engaged in any human rights activities, advocacy, or poverty alleviation programs. There have been no tangible efforts made. For 2025, my recommendation is for UNAMA to focus on addressing the restrictions imposed by the Taliban, especially those affecting women, many of whom are currently imprisoned for various reasons. We call on UNAMA to launch a project that ensures these women receive legal representation, ideally by hiring female lawyers to handle their cases and secure their release as soon as possible. Additionally, UNAMA should focus on providing educational and professional training opportunities for women, defending their rights, creating job opportunities, and ensuring their participation in decision-making processes. We also urge UNAMA to expand its focus to the northern region, as its efforts have mainly concentrated on the western and central zones.

8. Herat Province:

Given that UNAMA's activities differ from those of other organizations and do not involve direct service provision, based on my understanding and the meetings I've had with them, UNAMA has focused on activities such as public monitoring, human rights oversight, and the monitoring of prisoners and their rights. These efforts continue despite previous government restrictions, and through persistent advocacy, UNAMA has managed to carry out its monitoring tasks. In my view, UNAMA's presence is currently a valuable asset for all parties involved, functioning, at the very least, as a media outlet. The ruling authorities also rely on this organization. The continuation of its activities is crucial, and the monitoring work carried out by UNAMA is of great importance. The public should also cooperate with UNAMA in this regard. For 2025, my recommendation is for UNAMA to adopt a more assertive approach. The position it holds in Afghanistan is unique and unmatched by any other organization. If UNAMA takes a more serious stance, it could lead to significant improvements in the situation.

9. Kapisa Province

In Kapisa province, UNAMA has not implemented any specific programs for women or men. My request to UNAMA is to focus on providing educational opportunities for girls and job opportunities for women. I would also like to sincerely thank UNAMA for its consistent advocacy for women. We are in



urgent need of UNAMA's support, and their presence provides us with hope, especially since all other organizations have left. UNAMA is the only entity that remains neutral, and we will continue to rely on their support.

10. Jawzjan Province:

In 2024, UNAMA's office has made significant contributions in the area of human rights assistance, providing substantial aid to flood victims, displaced persons, and those affected by disasters. UNAMA has also advocated for the reopening of schools and universities, as well as the inclusion of women in social activities. In 2024, UNAMA requested humanitarian aid for 23.7 million people, amounting to over 30 billion dollars. So far, more than 900 million dollars in aid has been raised, with over 15 million dollars directed towards Afghanistan through both direct and indirect support. As an Afghan citizen, I urge UNAMA in 2025 to focus more on improving the livelihoods of the Afghan people, particularly by distributing food, providing shelter, and offering cash assistance to displaced individuals. Additionally, UNAMA should intensify its efforts in supporting health and education for women and girls and continue to advocate for the rights of Afghan girls.

11. Maidan Wardak Province:

UNAMA's performance in Maidan Wardak province has been somewhat satisfactory, as they have worked in collaboration with the local population to the best of their abilities. I personally attended several meetings at the UNAMA office in Kabul, where I raised issues concerning women. After these concerns were addressed, UNAMA communicated with the relevant authorities in Maidan Wardak and provincial officials, working to resolve the issues as effectively as possible. One positive outcome was in response to the issue of forced marriages and wedding expenses. When we raised this matter with UNAMA, they engaged with the relevant organizations in the province. As a result, the Taliban authorities in Maidan Wardak have set a fixed limit for wedding expenses, ensuring that no one is allowed to exceed this amount.

For 2025, my suggestion for UNAMA is to establish a dedicated office in each province. If that is not feasible, at the very least, a focal point should be created so that we can directly address our concerns with UNAMA and have a specific contact person.

12. Badakhshan Province:

Participant 1:

When UNAMA began its operations in Afghanistan, it outlined five primary missions:

1. To create a cooperative and coordinated international framework for stability and security in Afghanistan and its regional impact.

2. To improve coordination among international countries in establishing a clear government for Afghanistan.
3. To provide global support for Afghanistan's security institutions.
4. To support the country's economic and social structures, promoting job security and economic stability.
5. To support human rights, eliminate discrimination against women, and ensure access to healthcare and education.

Although UNAMA has made significant efforts in various parts of Afghanistan, most of these missions have not been fully realized. Therefore, our demands for 2025 are:

1. To focus more on human rights, particularly women's rights, which urgently require attention and action.
2. To pay more attention to children who have graduated from grade six, as they have no hope for the future due to a lack of available courses and schools. UNAMA should focus more on this group in the coming year.
3. To engage in discussions with the Taliban to reopen universities, particularly for women.

Participant 2:

Our requests for 2025 are as follows:

1. To reduce violence against women.
2. To reopen schools and universities.
3. To ensure the right to freedom.
4. To visit female prisoners in Afghanistan's prisons.
5. To monitor the treatment of prisoners.
6. To ensure the safety of women in prisons, as reports from 2024 highlighted that nearly 120 women were pregnant or giving birth in prisons.
7. To prevent arbitrary arrests of men and women, as well as the mysterious killings and executions of military personnel.

Participant 3:

UNAMA has been ineffective and weak in the field of human rights in Badakhshan, with no beneficial programs for women. In Badakhshan, UNAMA has largely aligned with the policies of the Taliban, and the needs and conditions of the people, especially women, have not been prioritized. Across Afghanistan, UNAMA has made no practical achievements, and under three years of Taliban rule, restrictions have worsened daily. Yet, UNAMA has taken no meaningful steps to alleviate these restrictions. In Badakhshan, UNAMA has become a stagnant organization, merely observing the tragic fate of the people without any positive or meaningful outcomes. The only tangible benefit UNAMA has provided is salaries and

dollar benefits for its employees. To maintain their positions and personal privileges, UNAMA employees turn a blind eye to all human rights issues, especially those affecting women.

13. Takhar

Participant 1:

My suggestions for 2025 are:

1. Support for the peace process and political dialogue: UNAMA should increase efforts to facilitate peace negotiations and work towards establishing an inclusive government.
2. Humanitarian assistance: Given the ongoing economic and humanitarian crises in Afghanistan, UNAMA should strengthen its humanitarian aid distribution to ensure that more people have access to food, shelter, and healthcare services.
3. Support for human rights: UNAMA should defend the rights of women, children, and ethnic and religious minorities, and work to prevent human rights violations.
4. Cooperation with the Taliban: If engaging with the Taliban, UNAMA should focus on creating conditions that improve the situation for the Afghan people, ensuring the protection of their basic rights.
5. International community support: UNAMA should work harder to draw international attention to the situation in Afghanistan and secure additional resources for the country.

Participant 4:

Our expectations for 2025 are:

- To give serious attention to the reopening of schools and universities.
- To address the closure of private institutes in the health sector, which is a significant issue.
- To create employment opportunities for women.

14. Zabul Province

In 2024, UNAMA aimed to achieve several objectives related to improving the humanitarian, political, and economic situation in Afghanistan. Some of the potential successes of UNAMA this year include

- Facilitating peace negotiations: UNAMA may have played a role in facilitating negotiations between different political and social groups, helping to reduce tensions and create space for constructive dialogue.

- Support for human rights: By monitoring the human rights situation and providing detailed reports, UNAMA can raise public awareness and apply pressure on the government and other institutions to uphold human rights.
- Humanitarian assistance: UNAMA has provided humanitarian aid to needy areas, collaborating with NGOs to meet basic needs such as food, water, and healthcare services.
- Strengthening local organizations: UNAMA might have implemented programs aimed at enhancing local institutions, focusing on improving management and implementation skills.
- Support for education: UNAMA's support for educational programs, particularly for girls and women, could help increase literacy rates and promote social empowerment.

To further enhance its efforts, we suggest the following recommendations:

- Strengthen cooperation with local organizations: UNAMA should foster closer collaboration with local institutions and NGOs to better identify and address the real needs of the people.
- Increase transparency and accountability: Establishing transparent mechanisms for reporting and evaluating UNAMA's activities can increase public trust. This should include regular and accessible reports on activities and their outcomes.
- Focus on human rights: UNAMA should place greater emphasis on supporting and improving human rights in Afghanistan, including monitoring violations and providing support to victims.
- Develop educational and empowerment programs: Creating educational programs for youth and women can help empower them, creating more job opportunities and improving their overall socio-economic standing.

15. Paktia Province:

In Paktia province, I am unsure if UNAMA is active, as there are no visible educational sectors, and if any exist, they are very limited and perhaps not widely known. I hope that in 2025, UNAMA will focus more on the provinces and expand its activities, particularly in the areas of education and the empowerment of women and girls.

16. Nuristan Province:

Creating opportunities for education and enhancing women's capacity through vocational and skill-based training is crucial. Empowering women to become less financially dependent would also have a significant impact. If more attention is given to these issues in 2025, it would be highly beneficial.

17. Uruzgan Province:

Our hope for the upcoming year is that UNAMA will focus on the following activities and efforts:

1. Work to ensure the reopening of schools and universities for girls.
2. Create job opportunities for women.
3. Press the current government to form an inclusive government that represents all ethnic groups and segments of society.
4. Focus on increasing projects in Afghanistan, particularly those benefiting women.
5. Prevent government officials from interfering in projects.
6. Work to evacuate and support those who are threatened and in danger.

18. Sare pul Province:

Participant 1:

My suggestion for UNAMA in 2025 is to initiate a variety of projects across different sectors for women, addressing their essential needs. These projects should focus on areas such as health, arts, education, and creating opportunities for training and business. UNAMA should also strengthen its role in facilitating and supporting peace talks between the Afghan government, the Taliban, and other armed groups. As a mediator, UNAMA could play a more active role in negotiations, supporting the establishment of sustainable and inclusive peace agreements. Strengthening efforts to encourage the Taliban to respect human rights and democratic principles, particularly the rights of women and minorities, should also be a key objective.

Participant 2:

UNAMA should reinforce its role in facilitating and supporting peace talks between the Afghan government—however it may take shape—and the Taliban or other armed groups. As a mediator, UNAMA can play a more active role in these negotiations and help establish more sustainable and inclusive peace agreements. Additionally, efforts to encourage the Taliban to uphold human rights and democratic principles, especially regarding women's rights and minority protections, are crucial. In times of crisis, women and children are the most vulnerable groups. UNAMA can support special programs for these groups, monitor their situation, and collaborate with human rights organizations to defend their rights.

Moreover, UNAMA should help strengthen the role of women in political and social processes and protect them from violence and discrimination.

19. Paktika Province:

The Challenges of Women's Rights in Afghanistan in 2024 under UNAMA:

1. **Ban on Education and Employment for Women:** The Taliban continues to impose severe restrictions on girls' education and women's employment, including within international organizations.
2. **Forced Marriage and Gender-Based Violence:** There has been an increase in violence against women, along with the prevalence of early and forced marriages, driven by economic and social pressures.
3. **Restriction of Social Freedoms:** Women are deprived of access to public spaces, are forbidden from traveling without a male companion, and are excluded from participating in social decision-making.

20. Panjshir Province:

In Panjshir province, UNAMA's activities have not been very prominent. The efforts that have been carried out have primarily been advocacy-based, but there has been little practical implementation. While I had hoped for more positive outcomes, the impact has been minimal due to the highly restricted nature of the province.