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Sep 22 — Jun 23

So what has happened this (academic) year?

Current Affairs Rewind



Contents



Current Affairs

A brief rewind of what
has happened during
this academic year
2022-2023

Female education

Girls' education in
Afghanistan and impacts of
Covid on education



Climate change

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Project



Economic crisis

Cost of living crises and
the current status of the
economy.



Competition!

A chance to win amazing
prizes and share what
matters to you.





Changes to female education 2022–2023





Education under Taliban rule

Since their takeover in August 2021, the Taliban have made significant alterations to the accessibility of education within Afghanistan, particularly for girls and women. Due to its importance in Islamic teachings and values the Taliban were unable to ban female education under 'Islamic values' and have instead introduced new measures such as opening up primary schools for all, permitting female university students to continue their education, albeit in a strictly gender-segregated system that will dramatically lower the range and quality of women's options, however they have banned girls from going to secondary school. Since 23 March 2022, 1.1 million secondary girls have been prevented from attending secondary school until further notice. This marks a crucial barrier to girls' education as girls can not receive the essential secondary school education, as well as ruling out possibilities of them receiving higher education in the future.

Here are some articles you can read to find out more!

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2021/sep/17/taliban-ban-girls-from-secondary-education-in-afghanistan#:~:text=%E2%80%9CEducation%20and%20literacy%20are%20so,It%20never%20did.>

<https://press.un.org/en/2023/pop1105.doc.htm>

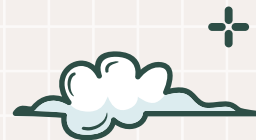
<https://www.unesco.org/en/emergencies/education/afghanistan#:~:text=The%20education%20system%20has%20been,secondary%20school%20until%20further%20notice.>



COVID'S impact on girls education

As a result of the pandemic an estimated 1.6 billion children's education was impacted due to the closure of schools. Girls were especially affected as many had to take on burdens such as caring for family members, collecting water, and caring for younger siblings. The disproportionate expectations placed on girls resulted in the pandemic arguably having a greater impact on them. As schools reopened, many girls were left behind. In March 2021, UNESCO estimated that 11 million girls might not return to class after the reopening of schools.

Location	As of (date)	% of girls who did not return
South Somalia	November 2020	20 per cent (formal education) ⁵
Northern-Central Somalia	June 2021	14 per cent (accelerated classes) ⁶
Afghanistan	December 2020	4 per cent dropout, 8 per cent unable to return due to security issues (formal education) ⁷
Mali	December 2020	5 per cent (formal education) ⁸





COVID'S impact on girls education

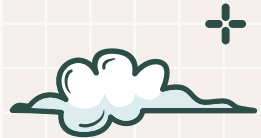
However certain schemes such as 'blended learning' provided greater flexibility for students that had to balance domestic responsibilities and their education. This was crucial in helping to control drop out rates. Particularly in countries which struggled to keep girls in education as it was.

The pandemic brought about girl-led efforts, like in Mali, Somalia and Zimbabwe, which were effective reducing vulnerability among some of the most fragile communities globally. Adolescent girls are also contributing to shift perceptions about traditional gender roles and female capacity. The leadership skills practised through girl-led action also contribute to maximizing their participation in class and reinforcing individual and collective capabilities that enhance girls' engagement in remote learning.

Links to start finding out more!

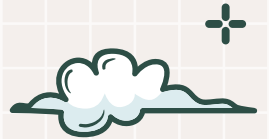
<https://restlessdevelopment.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/Global-4.pdf>

<https://gdc.unicef.org/resource/girls-education-and-covid-19-new-factsheet-shows-increased-inequalities-education>





Environment



Climate—Gradual change, Great impact

Avg Temperature on Earth:

1880

57F

Current

59F

2 F increase in
temperate has
lead to
increase
in sea level by
8-9
inches

CAUSE

Greenhouse gas emission caused by:

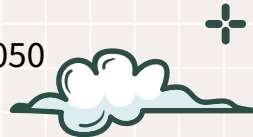
- Power generation
- Manufacturing of goods
- Cutting down forests
- Transportation
- Powering of buildings, and
- Consuming too much

EFFECT

- Hotter temperatures
- More severe storms
- Increased drought
- A warming, rising ocean
- Loss of species
- Not enough food
- More health risks, and
- Poverty and displacement

REMEDY

- Accelerating renewable energy
- Decarbonising, climate friendly transport
- COP (Conference Of the Parties of the UNFFCCC) for resilience and adaptation initiatives
- Net Zero emissions by 2050
- Etc.



COP27, Nov 2022 in Egypt: Highlights

Goals:

- Just and managed transition to a new sustainable economic model
 - Responsibility on developed nations to help developing nations with appropriate finance
 - -Secure \$100m of climate finance a year and double global adaptation finance
- Greater collaboration between nations & start implementing the outcomes of COP26
- Key themes: Mitigation, Adaptation, Finance, and Collaboration
- Headline agreements:
 - Establishment of a **Loss and Damage Fund**, and
 - Finalising the details to implement the Santiago Network
 - Food security recognised for the first time

Note on ‘Loss and Damage Fund: Established to provide financial assistance to nations most vulnerable and impacted by climate change. ‘*Loss and damage*’ refers to the negative consequences from the inevitable risks of climate change (eg rising sea levels, acidification of the sea; bushfires, crop failures). Frequency and severity of these impacts increase over time.

Click on this link to find out more! [What you need to know about the COP27 Loss and Damage Fund \(unep.org\)](https://www.unep.org/cop27/loss-and-damage-fund)





The Willow Project

Oil drilling project in the National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska (the largest area of undisturbed public land in the US) approved by US President Joe Biden on March 12, 2023
ConocoPhillips - the oil producing company that proposed the project.

For

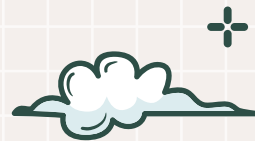
A step in the right direction? In the spirit of COP27?

Against

- \$17 billion (£14 billion) in revenue for the government and local Alaska communities from the estimated 80,000 barrels of oil per day
- Would create approx. 2,000 jobs.
- Economic benefits to the region (supported by Nagruk Harcharek, president of 'Voice of the Arctic Iñupiat' (a non profit organisation established by an indigenous community of Alaska)).
- President Biden put in place a new aim to reduce emissions by 50-52 per cent from 2005 levels by 2030 in April 2021. This project seems to be a step in reverse.
- Would impact the Alaska wilderness and the wildlife.
- The Nuiqsut community, which lives closest to site, have expressed concern about the disturbance and effect of pollution on the health of reindeer that are a source of food for the villagers.
- **Could worsen climate change - the 30 years project will have a long lasting negative impact on the environment ✦**
- **Undermines the responsibilities that the developed nations were expected to adopt, per COP27**



Economic Crisis





Economic Crisis

What is the cost of living crisis?

Well, simply put, the cost of living crisis refers to the struggle many people face to pay for everyday necessities like food and energy. This happens when people's incomes don't rise as prices rise.

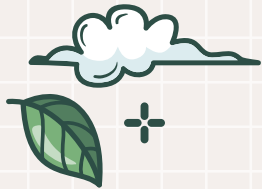
Why are prices rising?

The primary cause is because of the Russian—Ukrainian conflict. The war has meant that many businesses have higher costs, which they cover by putting prices up. The higher costs could be due to the sanctions placed on Russia, the largest exporter of oil and natural gas in 2021 to the EU, which have forced governments to look for alternative sources of energy, which are more expensive.

If prices are rising, why aren't incomes rising too?

This is more complicated, but a simple explanation is that if incomes rise, this means that the costs for a business rise as well. Therefore, they may increase prices, as most businesses try to increase their profits by as much as possible. This is the wage-price spiral.





Economic Crisis

Are there any other causes for the crisis?

Other reasons include:

- The Covid-19 pandemic
- Brexit,
- An energy/supply chain crisis
- Liz Truss's mini budget.

Some causes have had a wider impact on the economy than others but due to the unfortunate timing of all the events, many people are struggling to cope.

What's the future looking like?

As the problem is that incomes aren't keeping up with rising prices, we can expect this to be over when the rise in incomes is equal to, or hopefully even bigger than, the rise in prices. However, this is easier said than done and it may be until 2027 according to some sources that we won't see the end.

Useful links if you'd like to find out more:

[2021-present United Kingdom cost-of-living crisis](#)

[Economic impact of the Russian invasion of Ukraine](#)

[2021-2023 global supply chain crisis - Wikipedia](#)

[Cost of living](#)





Competition!





Kendrick Young Reporter Competition 2023

What is it?

The CCA are hosting our very own Young Reporter Competition!

This is an opportunity for you to share your view/experience about an issue currently happening or has recently happened in the world, to the Kendrick community.

It can be big or small and affecting any group of people, cause all matters, matter!

We suggest that all entries be original and discuss about issues that may not always be given the same importance as others. If you are really passionate about something like environment, it could be a subtopic such as fracking which can be discussed in depth in your entry.

This competition gives you the chance to explore and learn about current affairs and share what YOU are interested in.

Rules:

- ★ You can submit either a short video/ audio clip (both around 2 mins long) or a 300 word essay covering what the issue is and why it is important for young people to be informed about and even small solutions that you want to propose. Submissions over this limit may not be considered.
- ★ It has to be appropriately addressed, keeping in mind that some issues may be sensitive to others.
- ★ Entries can be made by groups of people of no more than 4.
- ★ All entries must be original and in your own words! Don't just list your research or copy off the internet cause this can be clearly identified.





Kendrick Young Reporter Competition 2023

How to enter:

Upload your entry to the competition folder that will be shared to everyone on Google Drive by the deadline. Entries submitted after may not be considered. Please also state in the title of your file your full name/s and form/s so your submission can be identified along with the topic in discussion.

Who:

Anyone and everyone can enter from all year groups.

Deadline:

Monday 18th September 2023 3.15pm

Folder Titled: (has separate year group folders)
Kendrick Young Reporter Competition 2023

Ask any questions to: (Not during holidays!)
17mmadireddi@kendrick.reading.sch.uk

Judging:

The judges will be members of the Curriculum and Current Affairs Committee who will choose the top few entries.

These entries will be passed on to Ms. Kattirtzi to finalize an overall winner!

Prizes:

The top entries will be all given white tokens along with a small prize.

The overall winner will be given a Waterstones Gift Card! :D

Plus to top it all of, these entries will be posted on the Kendrick Website for all to see!

Some Ideas:

- ★ Evolving technology: ChatGPT, AI (short-term trend but not as popular in the long-term?)
- ★ Conflicts - physical, political or even ideological (big or small) such as Ukraine or protests in France etc.
- ★ Space: discovery of a new carbon compound and what new discoveries means to young people in the future.
- ★ Tip: Just look at articles on BBC - there are lots of different topics covering various events





Curriculum & Current Affairs Committee

Thank You!

**We hope you learnt something new
and do take part in our competition!**

