

AFGHANISTAN



A complex and protracted conflict, combined with political uncertainty and mass displacement, Afghanistan continues to suffer from endemic poverty, underdevelopment, and a strained social fabric.

Country Context

In 2001, the United States led a military campaign to overthrow the Taliban government in Kabul, Afghanistan. Compounded by a humanitarian crisis that was present before U.S. involvement, the following 18 years brought Afghanistan political turmoil, endemic corruption, a bustling drug trade, climate-induced shocks, and chronic underdevelopment and poverty. At least 147,000 people—more than 38,000 of them civilians—have been killed in Afghanistan since 2001. There are 2.6 million Afghan refugees, most of whom reside in the region. As of late 2019, 60% of Afghanistan is reported to be under the control of non-state armed groups, such as the Taliban.

How is the U.S. Involved?

The U.S. was involved in controversial negotiations with the Taliban on the withdrawal of U.S. troops until August 2019, when President Trump ended the talks.

On-the-Ground Perspective

- 2018 proved to be the most lethal year for civilians, with over 11,000 recorded civilian casualties and 360,000 internally displaced.
- The deliberate and indiscriminate targeting of NGOs impedes humanitarian access and response efforts, with 319 access incidents recorded between January 2019 and August 2019.
- Donor regulatory and contractual requirements on NGO implementing partners, along with non-state armed groups' attempts to tax humanitarian actors, undermine principled humanitarian action and deteriorate humanitarian and human rights conditions.

Responses and Actions

- USAID's Food for Peace office supports the U.N. World Food Programme (WFP) to provide emergency food assistance to people in Afghanistan. In February 2019, the WFP assisted 1.8 million people across 19 provinces in the country.
- Community-based change is critical to the success of NGO programming in Afghanistan, with one small-scale program enabling a six-fold increase in livestock, income generation, and increased school attendance in one community.

References available at [interaction.org/2020globalsituationreport](https://www.interaction.org/2020globalsituationreport).

Key Figures



9.4 million

in need of humanitarian assistance



3,084

civilians died in 2018 as a result of conflict, the highest recorded death toll



2,598,000

internally displaced people



13 million

are food insecure



\$733 million

requested for humanitarian response for 2020

