



## Center for Strategic & Regional Studies

### Kabul

### **Weekly Analysis**-Issue Number 218 (August 12-19, 2017)

Weekly Analysis is one of CSRS' publications, which significantly analyses weekly economic and political events in Afghanistan and the region. The prime motive behind this is to provide strategic insights and policy solutions to decision-making institutions and individuals in order to help them to design best policies. Weekly Analysis is published in local languages (Pashto and Dari) and international languages (English and Arabic).

---

#### **In this issue:**

Preface..... 2

#### **A review of the Afghan refugees' situation in 2017 ..... 3**

Internally displaced people in the country ..... 4

Afghan refugees in the neighboring countries ..... 5

Afghan Migrants in Europe ..... 7

#### **The deteriorated security situation in 2017 and the future scenarios.....8**

The security situation after the formation of the NUG..... 9

The security situation in the country in 2017 .....10

The future of the security situation in the country .....11

#### **The Egyptian Deputy Ambassador to Afghanistan met CSRS's leadership.....14**

## Preface

Besides millions of Afghan refugees in various countries of the world, thousands of Afghans are displaced internally to the urban cities and safe places due to the continued war in the country. The number of internally displaced peoples (IDPs) has reached to a level that now the country has become the second country with the most number of IDPs.

The security situation in the country is deteriorating on a daily basis, and the process of migration to other countries and internal displacement is developing rapidly. However, thousands of other Afghans are also returning from Iran and Pakistan. The situation of Afghan refugees in the neighboring countries and the IDPs in the country are issues that are analyzed in the first part of the Weekly Analysis of the Center for Strategic and Regional Studies.

In the second part of the analysis, you would read about the security situation in the country in the current year. Various statistics and reports show that after the formation of the National Unity Government, the country's security situation is deteriorated. Since the beginning of 2017, the security situation is worsened compared to last year, and there are a lot of concerns about the future. Given the current circumstance, what will be the future situation of Afghanistan is a question that will be answered in the second part of the analysis.

In the last part of the analysis, you would read the report about the Egyptian Deputy Ambassador to Afghanistan Ibrahim Mamdoh Foda's visit to CSRS.

## A review of the Afghan refugees' situation in 2017



Last week, head of UN women Rebecca Tavares said to a meeting in the presidential palace that Afghanistan was the second country in the world that war has forced its citizens to displace and that she was concerned about the situation of the internally displaced people in this country.<sup>1</sup>

On the other hand, between January and August 2017, three hundred thousand unregistered refugees have returned to the country from Pakistan and Iran.

What is the statistics of the internally displaced people (IDP) in the country? What is the statistics of the refugees in the neighboring countries and what is their status? What is the condition of the Afghan refugees in Europe? Here you would read about these and other similar questions.

---

<sup>1</sup> Radio Azadi, «م.م: افغانستان د کورنیو بې ځایه شویو له پلوه نړۍ کې دوهم هېواد دی», [Afghanistan is the second country with the most IDPs in the world], 17 Assad 1396, read it here:

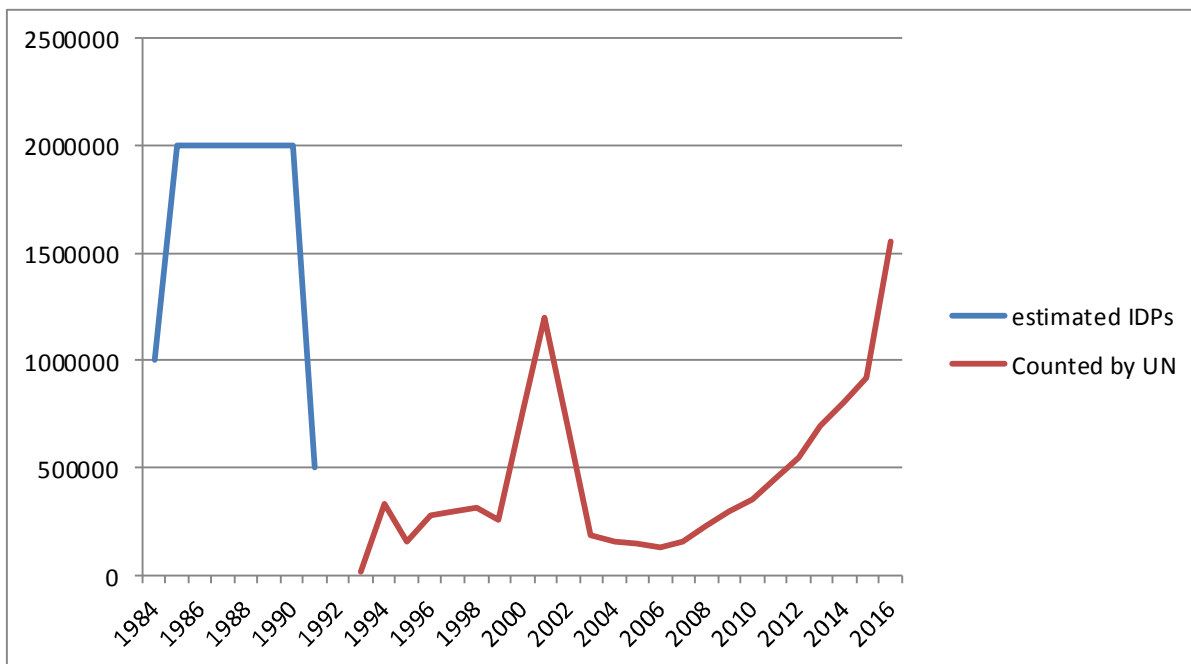
<https://pa.azadiradio.com/a/28665569.html>

### Internally displaced people in the country

War, economic and natural disasters in various stages have either displaced Afghans internally or forced them to move to other countries.

During the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan, people were pushed out of their homes to the neighboring countries or from different regions of the country into the capital city of Afghanistan. There are no exact statistics about the number of refugees or IDPs of the time at hand. However, according to the two Afghanologists “Nancy” and Louis Dupree” before the Saur Revolution, the population of Kabul was approximately 750 thousand people, but after the Soviet invasion, some Afghans migrated to Kabul to escape the horrors of war, doubling the population of this city (around 1.5 million peoples). In the meanwhile, in the other provinces of the country, people moved to the urban centers, and thus the number of IDPs in the country reached 2.5 million peoples. (See Chart-1)

**Chart-1: Internally Displaced Peoples (1984-2016)**



**Resource:** United Nations’ Higher Commission for Refugees (UNHCR)

The blue line in the chart above shows the estimated Afghan IDPs during the Afghan Jihad against the Soviets, and the red line indicates the situation of the IDPs between 1992 and 2016, in accordance with the statistics of the UN.

In the 1990s, most of the people lived in the urban cities and far from the battlefield. After the initial attacks of the US in various regions of the country in 2001, the number of IDPs in the country reached to 1.2 million peoples. However, after the maintenance of the relative security in the country, this number shrunk to 650 thousand and was declining until 2006. At that time, to a greater part, security was maintained in the country. Nonetheless, after 2007 and with the beginning of the new phase of insecurities in the country, the number of IDPs began to rise as well. In 2007, there were 153718 IDPs in the country, but at the end of May 2015, there were 916435 IDPs.<sup>2</sup> Nevertheless, the number of displaced people in the country rose to 0.5 million and the statistics of IDPs was a total of 1.5 million peoples.

Between January and June 2017, the current war and insecurities have added 1509000 more people to the number of IDPs while 76000 others are displaced due to natural disasters.

### **Afghan refugees in the neighboring countries**

According to the UN statistics, currently, there are 2.5 million Afghan refugees in all over the world, 1.4 million of which are the registered Afghan refugees in Pakistan. In 2016, nearly 380000 registered Afghan refugees returned from Pakistan, but this process was delayed at the end of 2016. The process of repatriation resumed in April 2017, and until 31 May, approximately 34376 registered Afghan refugees returned to Afghanistan.

On the other hand, a total of 692157 unregistered refugees returned from Pakistan and Iran in 2016. Among them, 248189 had returned from Pakistan and 443968 from Iran. 225630 of the returnees from Pakistan had repatriated

---

<sup>2</sup> UNHCR, Afghanistan, Conflict-induced internal displacement monthly update, May 2015

voluntarily, and 22559 were forcefully deported. In addition, 248653 of the returnees from Iran had returned voluntarily, and 195315 were forced to deport.

Since the beginning of 2017 until 12 August, a total of 81286 people returned from Pakistan, 78586 of them voluntarily and 2700 others were forcefully deported. Moreover, a total of 215084 Afghan refugees repatriated from Iran, among them 79122 were returned voluntarily and 135962 were forced to return to their countries.

Maltreatment with the Afghan refugees in Pakistan, and \$400 subsidies of UN to each returnee (however, these subsidies are deceased now) were the main reasons behind the repatriations from Pakistan. (See Table-1)

**Table-1: the Afghan returnees from Iran and Pakistan (Jan-Aug 2017)**

Date	Volunteers				Forced				From Pakistan (all)	From Iran (all)	Total
	Torkham	Speen Boldak	Herat	Nimroz	Torkham	Speen Boldak	Herat	Nimroz			
Jan- Apr 2017	28022	16132	17077	27945	1316	482	7183	58967	45952	111172	<b>157123</b>
May 2017	18111	1889	40	10148	210	0	17	22257	20210	32462	<b>52672</b>
June 2016	1240	1861	34	6909	136	63	7	10680	3300	17630	<b>20672</b>
July 2017	3882	4094	4	10731	276	123	1	24668	8375	35404	<b>43779</b>

30 Jul- 5 Aug	905	1048	2	3121	32	0	0	6527	1985	9650	<b>11635</b>
6 Aug- 12 Aug	706	696	0	3111	46	16	0	5655	1464	8766	<b>10230</b>
<b>Total</b>	52866	25720	17157	61965	2016	684	7208	128754	81286	215084	<b>296370</b>

### Afghan Migrants in Europe

According to the statistics of the Afghan Ministry of Refugees, currently there are 350 thousand Afghan migrants in European countries, Germany hosts most of them.

According to the German Ministry of Interior, 252590 Afghans have reached Germany until 31 December 2016. However, this number is 7368 Afghans until the end of July 2017. In addition, the asylum applications of the 44% of these migrants were also accepted.

The number of Afghan migrants in 2010 was 51305. In 2016, Germany and some other European countries decided to return the Afghan migrants which faced them with many challenges. Hundreds of Afghans were forcefully returned to Afghanistan, and still a vast number of Afghans are in these countries with their fate undecided. According to the reports, in the first half of the current year, the statistics of the repatriation of the migrants has decreased. At the end of June 2017, 12545 people were returned while within the same period last year, 13743 people had been returned to their homelands.

## The deteriorated security situation in 2017 and the future scenarios



Speaking at a meeting in Kandahar province, the acting Afghan Minister of Defense Tariq Shah Bahrami said that war is spread to the 23 provinces of the country and nine other provinces are under high-security threat.<sup>3</sup>

In the past several months, several strategic districts of the country have fallen into the hands of the Taliban, and in some others, the war continues.

It comes at a time that the US Special Inspector General for Afghanistan's Reconstruction (SIGAR) has reported to the US Congress that from 1 January to 8

<sup>3</sup> Kalid Group, «طابق شاه بهرامی: در ۲۳ ولایت کشور جنگ جریان دارد» [Tariqshah Bahrami: war continues in 23 provinces of the country], 23 Assad 1396 solar year:

<http://tkg.af/%D8%B7%D8%A7%D8%B1%D9%82-%D8%B4%D8%A7%D9%87%E2%80%8C%D8%A8%D9%87%D8%B1%D8%A7%D9%85%DB%8C-%D8%AF%D8%B1-23-%D9%88%D9%84%D8%A7%DB%8C%D8%AA-%DA%A9%D8%B4%D9%88%D8%B1-%D8%AC%D9%86%DA%AF-%D8%AC%D8%B1%DB%8C/>



May 2017, 2531 Afghan security forces were killed, and 4238 others were wounded.<sup>4</sup>

All of these on the one hand and the deadly explosions in the capital and major cities and attacks on the Afghan security bases in various regions of the country on the other hand, indicate the intense security situation in the country.

The security situation after the formation of the National Unity Government (NUG), the security situation since the beginning of 2017, and the direction of the security situation in the country are issues that are analyzed here.

### **The security situation after the formation of the NUG**

After the formation of the NUG, besides deterioration of the security situation in the country, the geography of war also shifted from the South of the country to the North, and unlike the past, the war in Northern provinces began to intensify. Besides the collapse of several districts in the Northern provinces of the country (Char Dara and Dasht-e-Archi in Kunduz province, Kohistan in Sar-e-Pol, Yamgan in Badakhshan, Ghurmach in Faryab and Tala Barfak and Dand-e-Ghori in Baghlan) Kunduz city also fell into the hands of the Taliban.

In 2015, from 398 districts in the country, 31 were under the control of the Taliban, in 36 other districts the Taliban controlled the suburbs and the government controlled only the centers of the districts, according to the report of the “Long War Journal” released in October 2015. According to SIGAR’s report, in 2016, 33 districts in 16 provinces of the country were under the control or influence of the Taliban, and in many others, the war continued.

SIGAR also reports that the Afghan government holds control of the 63.4% of the Afghan soil, while the US commander in Afghanistan General John Nicolson had said in September 2016 that the Afghan government controlled 68 to 70 percent

---

<sup>4</sup> 8am, «گزارش تکان دهنده سیگار از میزان تلفات نیروهای امنیتی», 11  
Assad 1396 solar year: <http://8am.af/1396/05/11/a-shocking-report-of-cigarettes-on-the-casualties-of-the-security-forces/>

of the country's territory. Hence, in 2016, approximately one-third of Afghanistan was controlled by the government's armed opposition.<sup>5</sup>

On the other hand, besides the attacks of the government's armed oppositions, the airstrikes carried out by the foreign forces has cost the lives of Afghan civilians and sometimes the lives of Afghan forces as well, while the NUG remains silent against such incidents.

On the other hand, UNAMA had reported that between 1 January and 30 December 2015, there were 11002 civilian casualties in Afghanistan which showed an increase compared to 2009 and 2014. However, in 2016, UNAMA's reported that 3498 civilians were killed and 7920 other were injured in 2016, which showed a three percent increase compared to 2015.

Besides the high number of civilian casualties, the casualties of the Afghan security forces are also on the rise after the formation of the NUG. According to the report of SIGAR, 5000 Afghan soldiers are killed, and 15 thousand others are injured in the war against the government's armed opposition in 2015. However, the statistics of 2016 by the same organization shows even worse situation compared to 2015. From 1 January to 19 August 2017, 5523 Afghans forces are killed, and 9665 are injured.

### **The security situation in the country in 2017**

The security situation in 2017 is worsened compared to 2016. With the beginning of this year bloody attacks and explosions occurred in the capital and other major cities of the country such as the assault on 209<sup>th</sup> Shaheen Corps, the Attack on the Sardar Mohammad Daud Khan's Hospital, the powerful explosion in the diplomatic area of Kabul, the attack on the base of the Afghan security forces in Shahwalikot of Kandahar, the attack on a branch of the New-Kabul-Bank in Helmand, etc.

---

<sup>5</sup> CSRS, «افزایش تلفات نیروها چالشی برای حکومت» [The increased casualties of the security forces; a challenge for the government], 15 Aqrab 1395 solar year: <http://csrskabul.com/pa/?p=3131>

Since the beginning of 2017, the Tala Barfak district of Baghlan Province, Zibak in Badakhshan, Kohistan in Faryab, Tiyoora in Ghor, Qala-e-Zal in Kunduz, Shurabak in Kandahar, Sangeen in Helmand, and Janikhail in Paktia fell at the hands of the Taliban and several other were at-risk of falling for several times or were captured by the Taliban for several hours.

The increase in the number of air strikes which has cost many civilian lives is another challenge in this regard. In this year foreign forces repeatedly targeted the Afghan civilians and forces.

The findings of UNAMA indicate that in the first six months of 2017, 1662 Afghan civilians are killed in the armed conflicts or explosions, and 3581 other were injured. However, in the first half of 2016, 1601 civilians were killed, and 3565 other were injured.<sup>6</sup>

According to the reports of SIGAR, from January to 12 November 2016, 6785 Afghan soldiers were killed, and 11777 other were wounded. Nonetheless, in the current year, these statistics have risen, and from 1 January to 8 May 2017, 2531 Afghan soldiers are killed, and 4238 others are injured.

## **The future of the security situation in the country**

The future of the security situation in the country depends on the following few points:

**The US' new military strategy in Afghanistan:** the 16-years-old war in Afghanistan was the longest US war ever. With Trump coming to power in the US, there are both the concerns about the perpetuation of the war and hopes to its termination. The US new strategy towards Afghanistan was to be announced in mid-July 2017, but the division among the US authorities over the issue delayed it. Speaking at a press conference, the US President Donald Trump said last week

---

<sup>6</sup> VOA, «يوناما: در شش ماه گذشته بیش از ۱۶۶۰ غیرنظامی افغان کشته شد», [UNAMA: more than 1660 Afghan civilians are killed in the past six months], 26 Saratan 1396 solar year:

<https://www.darivoa.com/a/more-than-1600-afghan-civilians-were-killed-during-six-past-month/3947071.html>

that Washington had come close to making a final decision regarding Afghanistan and that it was important to him.

The US officials have offered various options to deal with the Afghan issue, among them the privatization of the war. While it is not clear whether which option will be selected to deal with Afghanistan, increasing the number of troops and privatization of the war will strengthen the morale of the armed oppositions and will put a negative impact on the peace process. Moreover, giving the security responsibilities to the private security companies will entail worst consequences and will further complicate the situation in the country.

**Terminating the war and maintaining peace:** ending the war and sincere peace efforts for national reconciliation are directly related to the security situation in the country in the future. If the US and the international community want to put an end to the war in Afghanistan, the only way is to allow Afghans themselves to make efforts for reconciliation and resolve their problems. In the meanwhile, the US can play a significant role in responsibly ending the war it had started in 2001.

**Afghanistan's war and peace strategy:** after the formation of the NUG, the Afghan government tried to achieve peace with the Taliban through its foreign policy. First, the Afghan government decided to bring the Taliban to the negotiation table with the mediation of Pakistan and China, but this policy has failed up until now.

The process reached a deadlock when the Afghan government, instead of an effective policy, chose war over peace, after the failure of peace efforts through foreign policy. Therefore, given the past experiences, the only solution for the Afghan issue is peace and reconciliation, and the continuation of the war policy will create even more obstacles on the way of peace and security in the country.

**The role of the regional countries:** the cooperation or lack of collaboration of the regional countries is directly related to the security situation in the country. After the establishment of the US military based and the emergence of ISIL in the country, some regional countries and particularly Russia repeatedly criticized the US strategies against "terrorism". On the other hand, NATO and the US accused

Russia of supporting the Taliban, and the Afghan and American officials are concerned about Russia's relations with the Taliban.

The confrontation of the countries in the region not only faces Afghanistan with challenges but also other countries in the region, and turns Afghanistan into a battleground for prolonged proxy wars.

## The Egyptian Deputy Ambassador to Afghanistan met CSRS's leadership



The Egyptian Deputy Ambassador to Afghanistan Ibrahim Mamdoh Foda visited the Center for Strategic and Regional Studies (CSRS).

In this meeting, on 13 August 2017, Mr. Foda said that by visiting the center he aimed to get informed about the activities of the CSRS.

Mr. Mamdoh pointed out the Egyptian point of view about the situation in Afghanistan. He said that, currently, the maintenance of security in Afghanistan was essential but that it was very complicated. Besides that, he mentioned some of the Egyptian educative and infrastructural activities and said that they are trying to play an active role in areas of education in Afghanistan.

The General Director of CSRS Dr. Abdul Baqi Amin thanked the Egyptian Deputy Ambassador to Afghanistan for his visit to the center and pointing out the important activities of the center said that CSRS's activities were, to a greater part, focused on solving the existing problems in the country.

Head of the academic council of the center Dr. Mesbahullah Abdul Baqi spoke about the Afghan-Egyptian relations and indicated the significance of solving the problems of Afghan students in Egypt. He said that Egypt was one of the important countries of the Islamic world and that the center wanted to be in contact and have cooperation with the strategic centers in this country. Mr. Mamdoh Foda also promised cooperation in this regard.

The end

---

**Contact Us:**

Email: [info@csrskabul.com](mailto:info@csrskabul.com) - [csrskabul@gmail.com](mailto:csrskabul@gmail.com)

Website: [www.csrskabul.com](http://www.csrskabul.com) - [www.csrskabul.net](http://www.csrskabul.net)

Office: (+93) 784089590

**Contact with Officials:**

Dr. AbdulBaqi Amin, General Director of CSRS: (+93) 789316120 [abdulbaqi123@hotmail.com](mailto:abdulbaqi123@hotmail.com)

Hekmatullah Zaland, Senior Manager: (+93) 775454048 [hekmat.zaland@gmail.com](mailto:hekmat.zaland@gmail.com)

**Note:** Please let us know your feedback and suggestions for the improvement of Weekly analysis.

