

Thematic Section 05

Countries of Origin of Third-Country Nationals





Learning Objectives

Unit 5.1 – Afghanistan

By completing the module on Afghanistan, trainees will be able to:

- To know about the human geography of Afghanistan (population, fertility, labor force, migration), its comparison with the EU and its countries. Geography - Demography
- Learn about Critical Growth Indicators and Growth Indicators of Afghanistan (Gross Domestic Product - GDP, GDP per capita - Per capita income, Corruption - Corruption Perception Index, Poverty, Afghan debt as a percentage of GDP, Export - Import
- Get to know Afghanistan's major World Heritage Sites such as Minaret Jam & Bamyán Valley Archaeological Site and Bamyán Valley Archaeological Site.
- To delve deeper into History, International Relations and the changes of his system in various historical periods.
- Get to know the cultural and social events of Afghanistan and the country's main religious groups
- Learn and delve deeper into contemporary Afghan security issues such as religious violence, Talibanisation, armed conflicts and the displacement that is inflicting on local populations.



Keywords

Fertility Indicators, Labor force as a percentage of total population, Gross Domestic Product - GDP, GDP per capita - Per capita income, Corruption - Corruption Perception Index, Poverty, Afghanistan debt as a percentage of GDP, trade balance.



Educational material

Summary/ Remember:



Bibliography/ Sources/ Useful Links

Training Methodologies

	UNITS				
METHODOLOGY	5.1				
Brainstorming	x				
Roundtable	x				
Lecture (mini lesson)	x				
Work in Pairs					
Case Study					
Debate	x				
Demonstration					
Travelling					
Individual Practice					
Panel Discussion					
Discussion Group					
Dialogue Group	x				
Problem Solving					
Creating Maps / Charts / Matrixes	x				
Project	x				
Quiz / Test	x				
Role Playing	x				
Dramatization	x				
Story	x				
Diary					
Analysis					
Sparing – Partner					
Pyramid					
Reporting	x				
Presentation	x				
Questionnaire					
Overview of the material	x				
Action Plan					
Guided Fantasy					
Associations					
Mentorship					
E-Learning					
Game	x				
Double Grouping					

Section 5.1 - Afghanistan

Geography - Demography

Afghanistan, officially the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, is a country in southern central Asia.

It borders to the north with Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan and Tajikistan, with a total length of 1680 km, northeast to the Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region of the People's Republic of China, with a border of 80 km, and the Jammu Kashmir area, which is claimed by Pakistan at a distance of 320 km, east and south with Pakistan at a total length of 1810 km and west with Iran at a distance of 820 km. The capital of Afghanistan is Kabul.



Image 1 - Afghanistan and neighboring States

The climate in Afghanistan is mainly continental dry, while in the south and east (on the border with Pakistan) it is subtropical, that of the arid steppe with cold winters and very hot summers, but with many climate variations, such as in the NE part where the climate is subarctic. In general, the climate of the country is influenced by the monsoons of the Indian Ocean with humidity and rain (July - September).

It has an area of about 647,500 km² and a population of 37.2 million¹.

¹ <http://hdr.undp.org/en/countries/profiles/AFG>

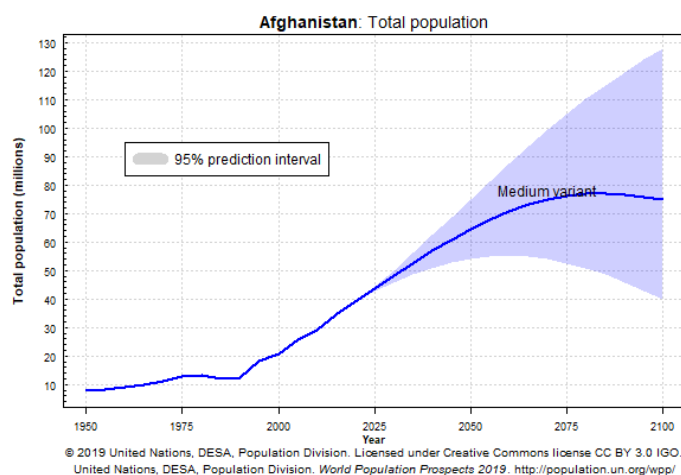


Image 2 - Afghanistan Population & Forecasts

The birth rate by 2025 is expected to increase. This year is expected to see a declining birth rate and an increase in death rates.

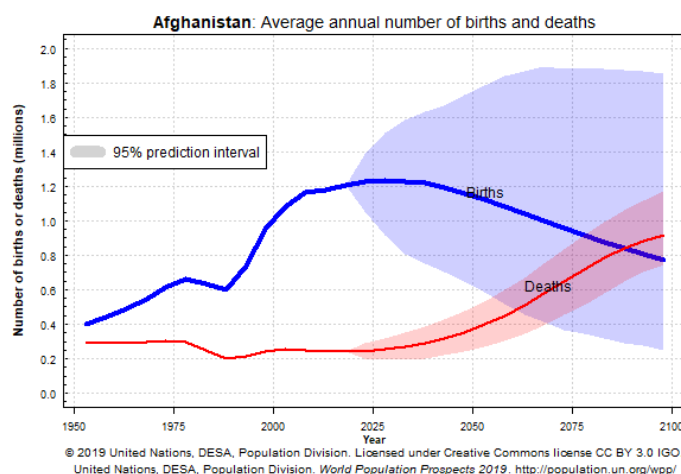
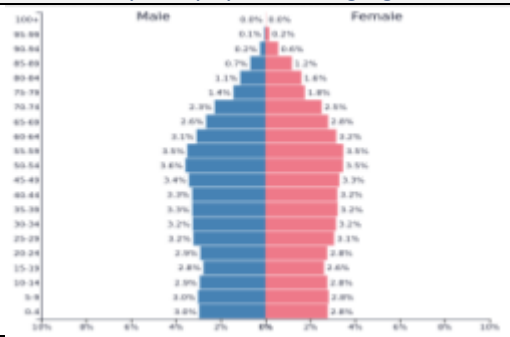
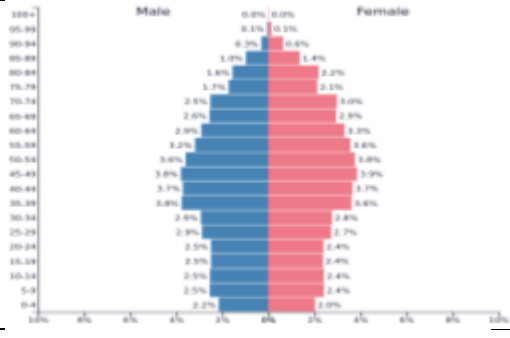
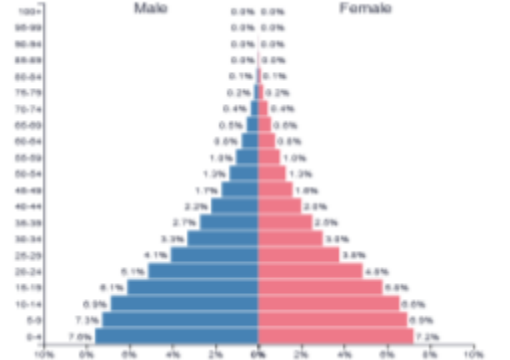
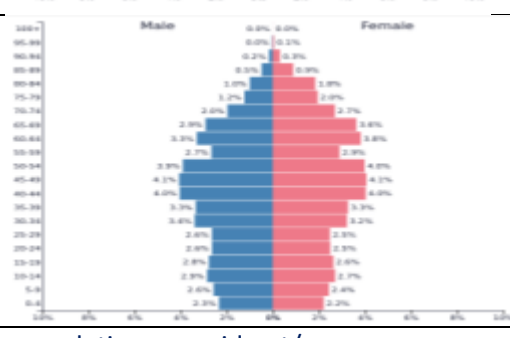


Image 3-Average Annual Number of Births and Deaths

Food for Thought	Observe the pyramids of the Ages of the Countries: Belgium, Greece, Afghanistan, Romania for the year (2013). What differentiates Afghanistan in comparison to the three (3) European Countries? Why is the European population aging?
Belgium	
Greece	
Afghanistan	
Romania	
Source: https://www.populationpyramid.net/	

Answer - Why is Europe's population aging?

During the 1960s net immigration (*) (That is, the difference between the entry of immigrants and the exit into an area in a given period) was balanced. From 1992, and mainly after 2007, the migrant population entering the EU has begun to contribute to the population growth of the Member States.

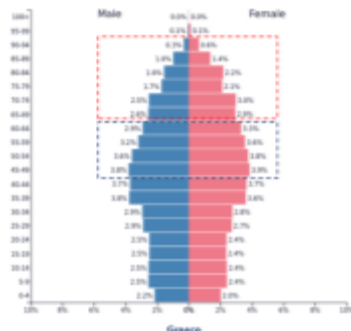
The relative proportion of the European population to the world will decrease from 15% today to 5% in 2050. Why? Because Europe is getting older.²

Economic and social factors as well as scientific achievements that increase life expectancy have led to an aging population.

Indications: low fertility rates, retirement of baby boomers, low birth rate due to rising cost of living, difficulty for working women to find work-life balance, reduced marriages and increased divorce, contraception, pregnancy in old age etc

But mainly the aging of the European population is the result of three (3) demographic trends:

- The low value of the Fertility Index,
- the decline in fertility and
- Increasing life expectancy.

Trends	Rate	Result
Fertility rate (average number of children per woman)	1.57 children per woman (2011)	Minimum indicator value is 2.1 to stabilize population so no immigrants are needed The Minimum Value is called a 'replacement index'
Decline in fertility		The decline in fertility has two implications: (1) increases the participation of adults 45-65 in the age pyramid (2) the retirement of baby boomers (born after WW2) increases the proportion of older people supported by a decreasing number of workers
Life expectancy ³	Greece: 81.59 Belgium: 81.29 Romania: 74.96 Afghanistan: 60.72	Increase in the number of people between 80-90 years (Pensioners for many decades)

What is the Fertility Index of Afghanistan

The fertility rate is about 5.0, which is much higher than the EU counterpart. The fertility rate combined with shorter life expectancy and population growth contributes to increasing the population of Afghanistan in the age range (25-45) capable of employment.

² EU Policies (pg. 222)

³ <https://www.populationpyramid.net/hnp/life-expectancy-at-birth-total-years/2015/>

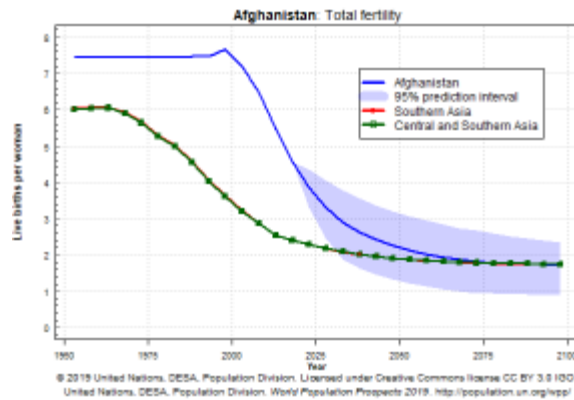
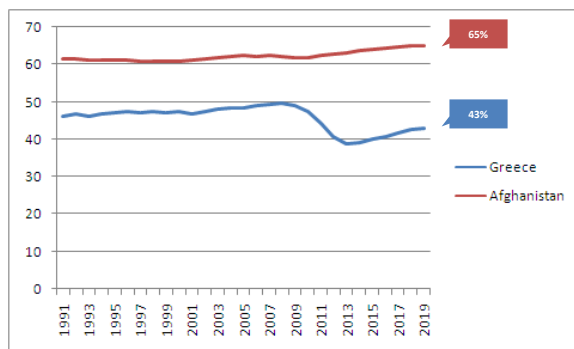


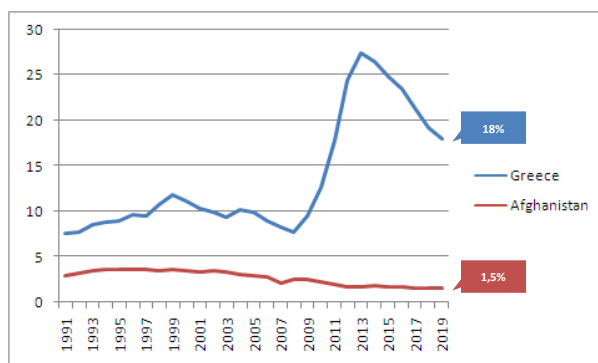
Image 1- Fertility Index Afghanistan (Source: World Bank)

Workforce-Unemployment

The increasing proportion of young people provides the country with the necessary workforce, which is 65% of the total population.



Unemployment in Afghanistan is at a very low level, below 2%, compared to that of Greece, Romania and Belgium.

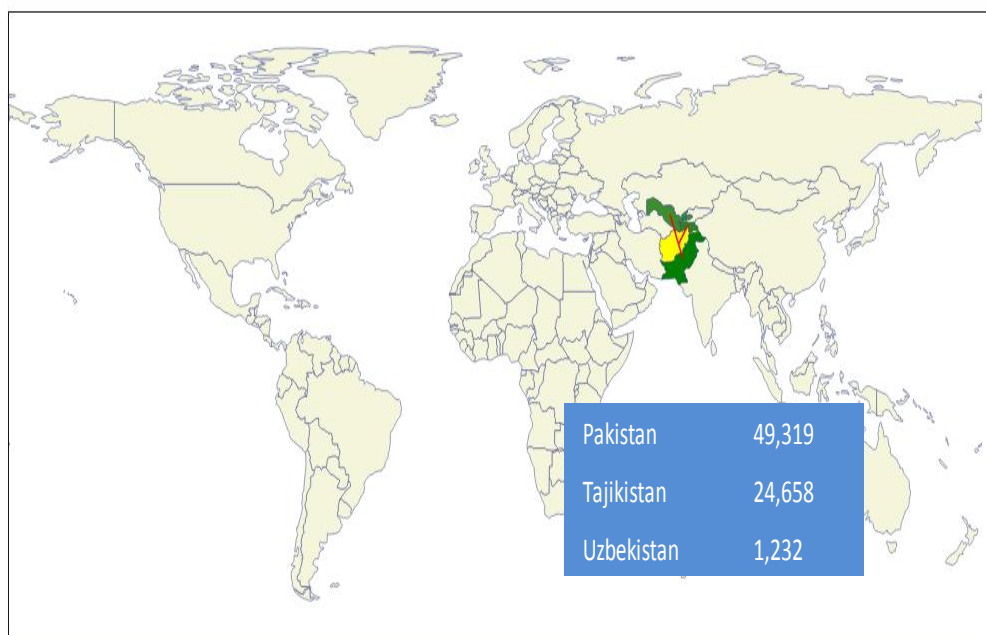


However, 54.5% of the country's population lives below the poverty line, earning \$ 1.90 a day.

Poverty and other reasons (see related section on multidimensional poverty) urge Afghans to emigrate.

Afghanistan as a country of destination

Afghanistan accepts flows of refugee-war refugees, civil strife, environmental factors and persecution from countries such as:

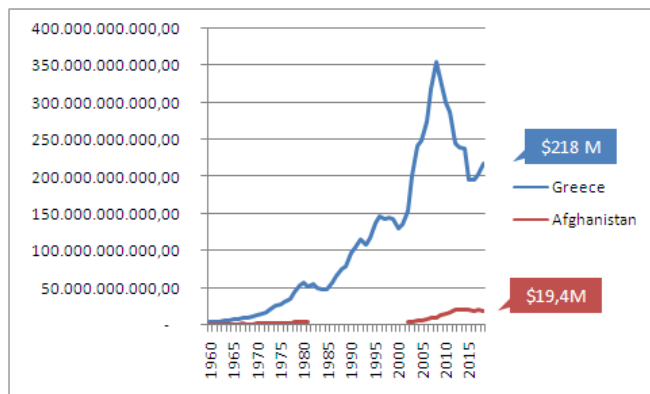


Source: <https://www.populationpyramid.net/migrants-stock-origin/en/afghanistan/2013/>

Gross Domestic Product - GDP

The Afghan economy, according to the World Bank, ranks 115th in terms of nominal Gross Domestic Product. Afghanistan's GDP has grown significantly since 2000 and in 2018 reached \$ 19.36 billion.

Source: <https://countryeconomy.com/countries/afghanistan>



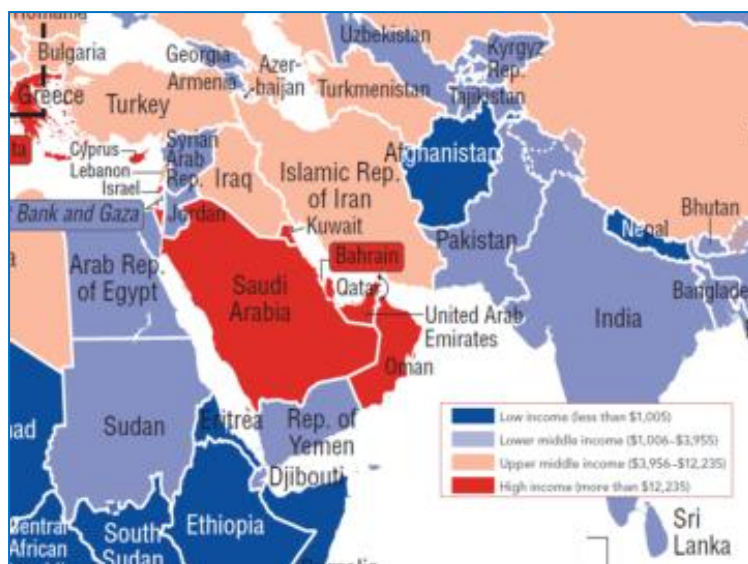
Per capita GDP - Per capita income

The World Bank classifies economies into 4 groups based on income:

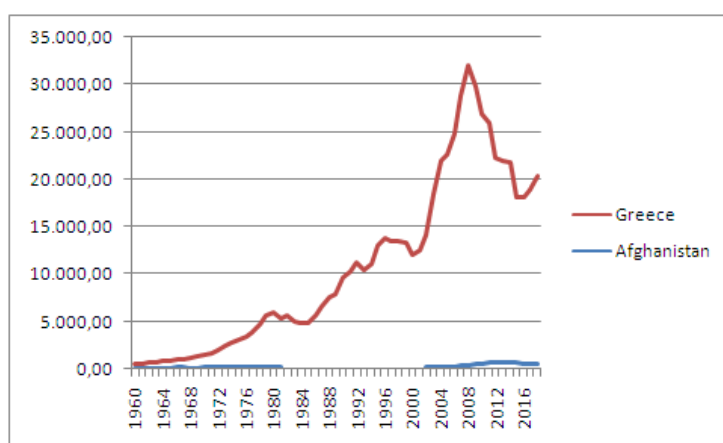
- low,
- lower-middle,
- upper-middle,
- high income

Based on this ranking, Afghanistan belongs to the second group of countries (Low Income) with the annual Gross National Income (GNI) averaging \$ 550.00 in 2018.

(Source: <https://data.worldbank.org/country/afghanistan>)



This is also confirmed by the following charts showing Afghanistan's GDP per capita (\$ 521 per year for 2018) compared to Greece's 2018 per capita of \$ 20.324 per year.



Debt of Afghanistan as a percentage of GDP

The debt-to-GDP ratio stood at 6.89% in 2018.

(Source: <https://countryeconomy.com/national-debt/afghanistan>)

Exports - Imports

According to the Economic Complexity Index, Afghanistan is the 150th largest exporter in the world.

(Source: <https://oec.world/en/profile/country/afg/>)

In particular, Afghanistan's exports in 2017 amounted to \$ 878 million, while imports amounted to \$ 5.07 billion, resulting in a trade deficit of \$ 4.19 billion.

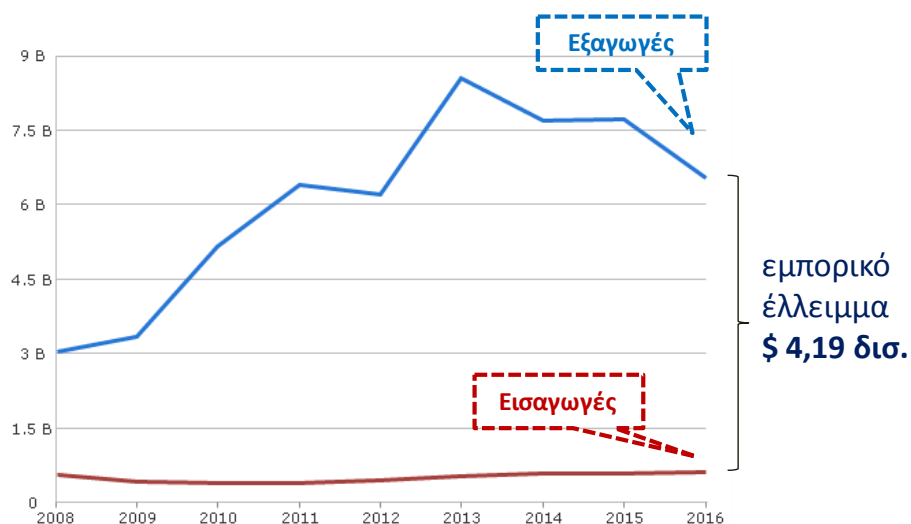


Image 2-Commercial Balance

Source: Worldbank – WITS World Integrated Trading Solution

<https://wits.worldbank.org/CountryProfile/en/Country/AFG/Year/2016/Summary>

Observing the export profile of Afghanistan, it is evident that grapes, tropical fruits and insect resins are the majority (orange tint).

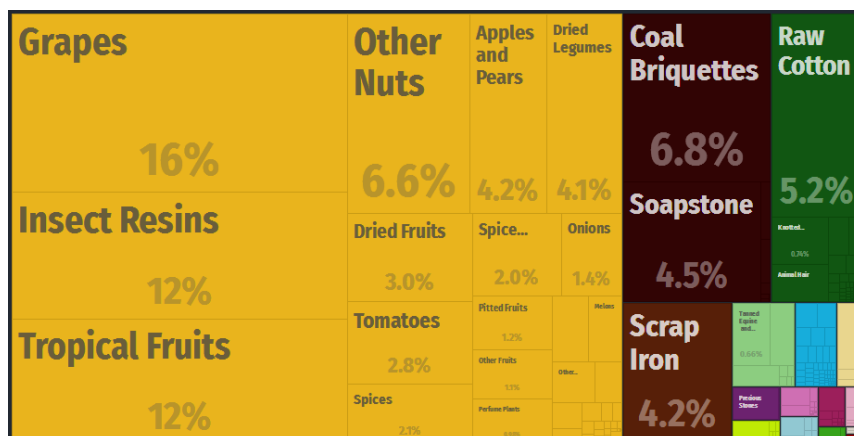
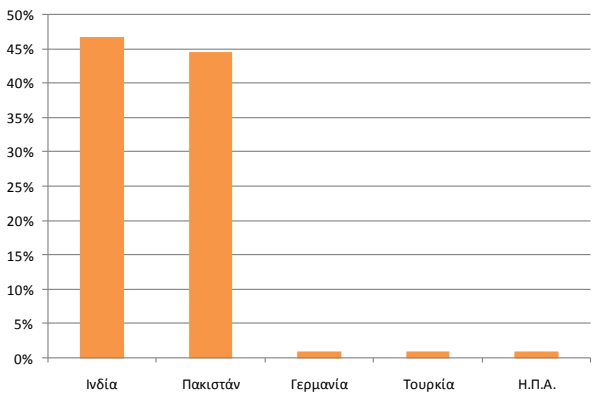
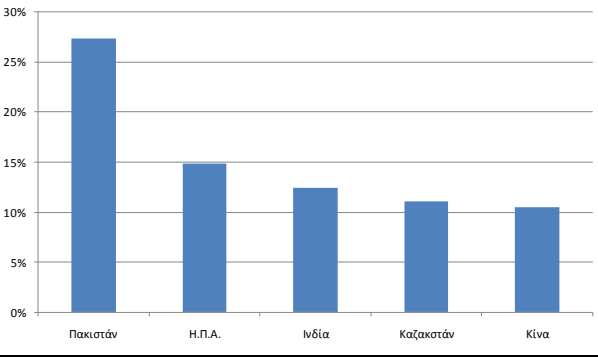


Image 3-Afghanistan's Exports

Source: <https://oec.world/en/profile/country/afg/>

Image 4-Afghanistan's Imports



Food for Thought	Who do you think are Afghanistan's most important customers?												
<p>India (46.8%) Pakistan (44.6%) Germany (1.0%) Turkey (1.0%) USA (0.9%)</p>	 <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Country</th> <th>Percentage</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Ελλάδα</td> <td>46.8%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Πακιστάν</td> <td>44.6%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Γερμανία</td> <td>1.0%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Τουρκία</td> <td>1.0%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Η.Π.Α.</td> <td>0.9%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Country	Percentage	Ελλάδα	46.8%	Πακιστάν	44.6%	Γερμανία	1.0%	Τουρκία	1.0%	Η.Π.Α.	0.9%
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Question	Who are Afghanistan's most important suppliers?												
<p>Pakistan (27.4%) USA (14.9%) India (12.4%) Kazakhstan (11.1%) China (10.5%)</p>	 <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Country</th> <th>Percentage</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Πακιστάν</td> <td>27.4%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Η.Π.Α.</td> <td>14.9%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Ελλάδα</td> <td>12.4%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Καζακιστάν</td> <td>11.1%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Κίνα</td> <td>10.5%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Country	Percentage	Πακιστάν	27.4%	Η.Π.Α.	14.9%	Ελλάδα	12.4%	Καζακιστάν	11.1%	Κίνα	10.5%
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Growth Indicators

It is worth noting that despite the economic growth of Afghanistan, as evidenced by the annual growth of Gross Domestic Product, extremely low GDP per capita raises specific and serious development problems such as:

- poverty,
- corruption,
- illiteracy,
- health care
- and terrorism

Corruption Perception Index

This index ranks 180 countries and regions according to the prevailing perception, among market experts and people, of corruption in the public sector.

To achieve this, it uses a scale of 0 to 100, where 0 is the highest corruption and 100 is the country without corruption.

What is noticed in the next map for 2018 is that:

- Afghanistan scores very low on the Corruption Perceptions Index and ranks 172nd out of 180 countries with a score of only 16 out of 100.
- More than two-thirds of countries have an average score of 43/100 in 2018, which is below the 50/100 base.




Source: <https://www.transparency.org/cpi2018>

Food for Thought	Answer
What does the low average (43/100) of the Corruption Perceptions Index reveal to us?	<p>It shows us that:</p> <p>(a) Most states have failed to control corruption in the public sector.</p> <p>(b) corruption in turn contributes to a "crisis of democracy" in these countries.</p> <p>(c) Despite the exceptions around the world, the data show that most countries do not make significant anti-corruption cuts.</p>

Poverty

Poverty is the number one obstacle to a country's development. Indeed, one of the Millennium Development Goals set by the UN is poverty eradication.

Question - Tip	Answer
<p>Do you know Millennium Development Goals –MDGs?</p> 	<p>MDGs consist of eight goals with measurable results and clear deadlines to improve the lives of the world's poorest people. To achieve these goals and the UN mandate to eradicate poverty, leaders of 189 countries signed the historic declaration of the millennium at the UN summit in 2000. In this regard, the United Nations has developed a number of indicator measurements.</p>

But because the phenomenon of poverty is not one-dimensional, that is to say, it is not only defined in terms of income, other ways of measuring it have been developed.

One related method is to measure 'Multidimensional Poverty'.

With regard to Afghanistan, 55.9% of the population (ie 20.8 million) are in a multi-dimensional poverty and 54.5% live below the national poverty line⁴.

Based on previous data, Afghanistan ranks 170th out of 188 countries in terms of Human Development Index (0.496) (UNDP, 2019)⁵.

In addition, the Multidimensional Poverty Index (MDI) has three main dimensions:

Επιπλέον, ο δείκτης πολυδιάστατης φτώχειας (Multidimensional Poverty Index – MDI) έχει τρεις κύριες διαστάσεις:

- Education
- Health
- Standards of living

⁴ UN, Multidimensional Poverty Index: developing countries (Table 6), 2019

⁵ <http://hdr.undp.org/en/countries/profiles/AFG>

The contribution of each to the phenomenon of multidimensional poverty is different. In the case of Afghanistan, education accounts for 45%, Health 10% and Living Level 45%. Therefore, the lack of health services, the low standard of living or the low participation of young people in education are shaping the phenomenon of multi-dimensional poverty together and with different severity.

In the case of Afghanistan, multi-dimensional poverty is much greater in rural areas and significantly lower in urban areas.



Civilization

[UNESCO Heritage Site - Minaret Jam & Bamyán Valley Archaeological Site](#)

The Jam's Minaret as well as the archaeological remains of the area are located in the Ghor area by the river Hari in Afghanistan. Located about 100 kilometers east of the city of Herat, Minaret was built in 1174-5 or 1194-5 by bricks and is 65 meters high [1]. It is located by the river Hari and is surrounded by mountains reaching 2400 meters. Since 2002 the monument has been on the UNESCO list of endangered World Heritage Sites.



The Afghan Post has issued a stamp depicting the Jam's Minaret.

[UNESCO Heritage Site - Bamyán Valley Archaeological Site](#)

The Bamyán Valley is known as an area of expression of Buddhism that characterized the region of Bactria from the 1st to the 13th century.

Bactria, or Bactrian or Toharistan, is a historic area in which Bactria was the capital, today's Balch. It extends north of Hindu Kush and south of the river Ixos. He was home to the religious leader Zoroastrianism. It currently belongs to Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, and Turkmenistan to Afghanistan.

It includes a large number of Buddhist monastic complexes and temples. It has also been an important pilgrimage center for centuries. In March 2011, the Taliban destroyed two huge 1,600-year-old Buddha statues.



The archaeological site of the Bamian Valley has been depicted on a postage stamp by the Afghan Post.

Since 2002, the area has been on the UNESCO list of endangered World Heritage Sites.

Source:

https://el.wikipedia.org/wiki/%CE%9ACE%B1%CF%84%CE%AC%CE%BB%CE%BF%CE%B3%CE%BF%CF%82_%CE%9C%CE%BD%CE%B7%CE%BC%CE%B5%CE%AF%CF%89%CE%BD_%CE%A0%CE%B1%CE%B3%CE%BA%CF%8C%CF%83%CE%BC%CE%B9%CE%B1%CF%82_%CE%9ACE%BB%CE%B7%CF%81%CE%BF%CE%BD%CE%BF%CE%BC%CE%B9%CE%AC%CF%82



History - Politics

Ancient times

The first historical information about the Afghans and Afghanistan is from the 10th - 11th centuries and is provided by the Tajiks, Arabs and Persians. But the earliest historical origins of Afghanistan date back to the 6th century BC. where the Achaemenids, the Greeks, dominated in the region, Alexander the Great passed through his expedition to India, after all, Kandahar, once a capital city, was built by Alexander as Alexandria, in Arachosia, and then the Seleucids, the Parthians, the Kushites or Kusana, the Sassanids and the Phthalates.

Middle Ages

From the 7th to the 18th century the first major Muslim dynasties followed, the Gajnavids or Gaznevids, the Gurians or Gurids, until the Mongol invasion followed by the Tamerlane or Timur who established the Timurid dynasty. It was replaced by the Safavid dynasty and the latter by the Barakzai.

Since the 14th century, Afghanistan has been organized as a state. The Afghans managed, after many wars, to impose on other ethnicities. The first Afghan war with the British began in the 19th century. After they occupied Pakistan, they began to move further north. Eventually, in 1842, the Afghans succeeded in driving the British out of their country to pursue a second war, 1878-1880, during which the British succeeded in bringing Afghanistan under the control of the English Regent of the Indians.

New Era

In the Third Anglo-Afghan War of 1919, the Afghans finally succeeded in defeating the English and forcing them to recognize their independence. During World War II, Afghanistan maintained absolute neutrality in both camps.



Afghanistan, Independence Day Anniversary (1972)

The monarchy was overthrown in 1973, and the Daud regime was overthrown, which was overthrown after a military coup in 1978.



MOHAMMED DAUD KHAN (1909-1978)

Afghan prince and politician. On an Afghan postage stamp, 1974.

Power was taken over by the Taraki regime, which maintained a pro-Soviet attitude. In 1980 this too was overthrown. Then came the installation of a new Soviet regime and the occupation of the country by USSR troops.

Soviet forces met strong resistance from armed mujahideen rebel groups. In the context of the Cold War strategy, the mujahideen were supported by the US, Pakistan, China, Iran and Saudi Arabia. War clashes force thousands of people to flee their homes. The Soviets left in 1989, followed by another period of instability during which the Islamic fundamentalist movement of the Taliban emerged.



Afghanistan 1996, Stamp Islamic Revolution Taliban Era



Afghanistan 2002, Stamps Wardak Issue Taliban Era Cmdr Masood

The Taliban occupy Kabul in 1996 and impose a strict Islamic regime. In 2001, the Taliban detonated two giant rock-carved Buddha statues in the Bamiyan area.



Afghanistan 1951 Withdrawn Stamps Buddha Bamiyan

Following the attacks of September 11, 2001, the United States, Britain and allied forces take military action and overthrow the Taliban regime. The UN Security Council has decided to establish an international military force in the country, led by NATO in 2003. [14] Elections are held in 2004 and Hamid Karzai is elected president. Since then, the Taliban movement has rebuilt and attacked foreign military forces and the government. After decades of political instability and war operations, the humanitarian crisis has taken an uncontrollable dimension.

Millions of Afghan refugees have fled the country, and the UN High Commissioner for Refugees has set up a special operation to manage the crisis.

	<p>Inauguration of Hamid Karzai, the first popularly elected President of Afghanistan (2004)</p>
	<p>The Kingdom of Afghanistan (1956)</p>

	<p>Ahmad Shāh Durrānī (c. 1722 – 1772), the founder of the modern state of Afghanistan (1962)</p>
	<p>Afghanistan, 14th Independence Day from England (1932)</p>

International relations

Government

The Afghan government is an Islamic presidential democracy. The Head of State is the President. Afghanistan is divided into 34 administrative regions (or regions). The regions are further subdivided into provinces.

Αριθμός	Περιφέρεια	Αριθμός	Περιφέρεια	Χάρτης
1	Μπανταχσάν	18	Κουνάρ	
2	Μπανταλίκ	19	Κουντοζ	
3	Μπαγκλάν	20	Λαγκμάν	
4	Μπαλκ	21	Λαγκάρ	
5	Μπαμιν	22	Ναγκαράρ	
6	Μπαζαρόνι	23	Ναρούζ	
7	Φαράχ	24	Ναυαζαβάν	
8	Φαριάμπ	25	Ορούζγκάν	
9	Γκαζνί	26	Πακνά	
10	Γκιορν	27	Πακτικα	
11	Χελάμντ	28	Παυνζάρ	
12	Χεράτ	29	Παργλάν	
13	Τζουζζόλν	30	Σαμπαγκλάν	
14	Καμπούλ	31	Σαρ-ε-Πακ	
15	Κανταχάρ	32	Ταχάρ	
16	Καπίζα	33	Βαργνάνκ	
17	Κεζουτ	34	Ζάμπουλ	

There are about 50 ethnicities living in Afghanistan, each with its own language. Since 1930 Pashto and Persian were established as official languages. Most Afghans (Pashtuns) speak Pashto, while the other major ethnicity, the Tajiks, speak the Persian language, which they consider to be the most advanced language. The main religion in Afghanistan is Islam, but mainly Afghans are Muslim Sunnis, with the exception of some minorities who are Shiite Muslims. The population is very unevenly distributed as a result of the soil morphology of course.

Ethnic groups in Afghanistan		
Ethnic Group	Assessment 2004–2014	Assessment prior to 2004
Pashtuns	42%	38–55%
Tajiks	27%	26%
Khazars	8%	9–10%
Uzbeks	9%	6–8%
Aimacs	4%	500.000 to 800.000
Turks	3%	2,5%
Baluchis	2%	100.000
Others (Kyrgyz, Pasover, Nuristans, Arabs, Brahui, Pamirs, Gurjar, etc.)	4%	6,9%

The Taliban and their rule came from the chaos that followed the Soviet-Afghan war. It began as a political-religious movement of Islamists and Pashtuns comprised of medrese students from southern Afghanistan. With an overwhelming majority of Pashtun ancestry, the Taliban blended the Pashtunwali tribal code with elements of Sunni Islamic teaching to form an anti-Western and anti-modern Islamic ideology with which they ruled. The Taliban have begun to receive support from neighboring Pakistan as well as Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates.

Only Pakistan, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates have recognized the Taliban government. The state was not recognized by the UN, which recognized the Islamic State of Afghanistan as the legitimate government of Afghanistan.

Relations between the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan and Iran deteriorated in 1998, after Taliban forces captured the Iranian consulate in Mazar-e-Sharif and executed Iranian diplomats. Following this incident, Iran threatened to invade Afghanistan by deploying military forces near the Afghan border, but intervention by the UN Security Council and the United States prevented the war.

One reason for the lack of international recognition was the Taliban's indifference to human rights and the rule of law, as evidenced by their acts of power. One of the Taliban's first acts of power was the execution of former Communist President of Afghanistan Mohammad Najibullah. Before the Taliban took control of the Afghan capital, they sent a team to capture Najibullah. As Najibullah stayed at the UN camp in Kabul, this was a violation of international law. Another example was that the Taliban regime was strongly criticized for killing Iranian diplomats in Afghanistan.

In 1998, the Taliban supported Islamist fighters operating in Chechnya, Xinjiang and Jammu and Kashmir, opposing Russia, China and India at the same time. In addition, the Taliban recognized the Chechen Republic of Ischeria as an independent state and established diplomatic relations by 2001.

In 2013, the Taliban set up an office in Qatar to launch talks with the United States and the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan. There has been a clash since the office raised the white flag of the former Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan, with US Secretary of State John Kerry saying the office could be closed if there was no "breakthrough" in the peace negotiations.

Source: https://el.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ισλαμικό_Εμιράτο_του_Αφγανιστάν

Religion

The main religion in Afghanistan is Islam, but mostly Afghans are Muslim Sunnis, with the exception of some minorities who are Shiite Muslims. Sunnis are one of the two main branches of Islam. They emphasize the prophet Muhammad's *sauna* (tradition). Sometimes Sunni Muslims are referred to as "Orthodox". It is, however, the most populous of the two main Islamic doctrines.

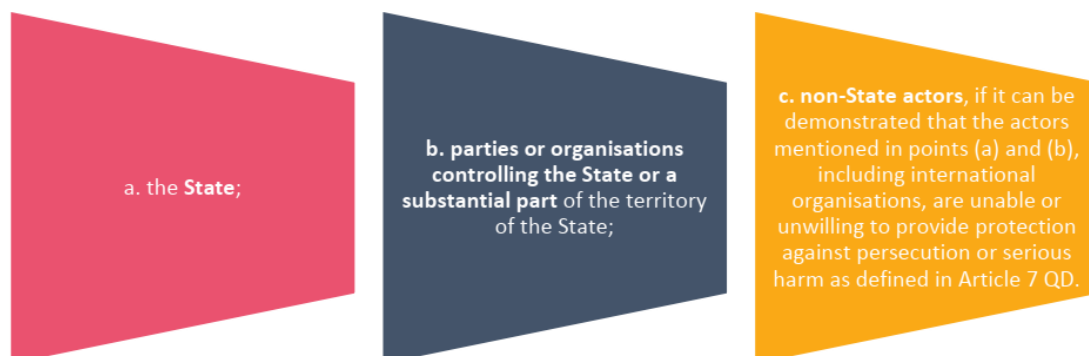
Shiism is one of the two main branches of Islam. The word comes from the Arabic word meaning portion. Si'at Ali (meaning Ali's group) is one of the three oldest divisions of Islam. Its followers, the Shiites, regard Ali, the groom of Prophet Mohammed, as his successor in the leadership of the Muslim community.

Security Status - Violence

Persecution agencies or serious harm

Prosecution or serious harm must always result from the conduct of a third party and may not be merely a consequence of deficiencies due to the general situation in a country of origin.

According to Article 6 of the OA, prosecution or serious harm may be:



In Afghanistan, there is a wide range of different groups and persons who can be considered perpetrators of serious harm, and it is often difficult to distinguish between different types of actors within the meaning of Article 6 of the OA.

Here are some examples of some of the potential players and their actions that may amount to persecution or serious harm. The list is not exhaustive.

The Afghan State and pro-government elements	
Examples of potential actors of persecution or serious harm	Examples of potential acts of persecution or serious harm associated with these actors
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Afghan National Security Forces (ANSF), mainly the National Directorate of Security (NDS) and some local police forces ■ Pro-government militias (PGMs) ■ powerful individuals (e.g. ministers, governors) ■ etc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ targeting and killing of individuals ■ intimidation and harassment of civilians ■ death penalty ■ illegal detention and torture of individuals suspected to be anti-government elements ■ etc.

Insurgent groups	
Examples of potential actors of persecution or serious harm	Examples of potential acts of persecution or serious harm associated with these actors
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Taliban (currently the only group that may be considered under Article 6(b) QD) ■ Islamic State Khorasan Province (ISKP) ■ Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan (IMU) ■ Islamic Jihad Union ■ Lashkar-e Tayyiba ■ Jaysh Muhammed ■ Fedai Mahaz ■ Mullah Dadullah Front ■ etc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ targeting and killing of individuals ■ intimidation and harassment of civilians ■ abductions ■ illegal parallel justice systems and extrajudicial punishments, including executions ■ etc.

Other non-State actors	
Examples of potential actors of persecution or serious harm	Examples of potential acts of persecution or serious harm associated with these actors
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> clans and tribes (locally) powerful individuals family members criminal groups and individuals etc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> harmful traditional practices (e.g. forced marriage and family violence against women) honour-based violence criminality, including for example kidnapping for ransom and extortions violence related to land disputes and blood feuds due process violations and violations related to punishments imposed by non-State judicial mechanisms (e.g. <i>jirgas</i> and <i>shuras</i>) etc.

In Afghanistan, all those involved in the conflict are engaged in activities that affect civilians. According to UNAMA reports, the majority of casualties among civilians are attributed to anti-government elements (rebel groups). In 2017, they accounted for 65% of all civilian casualties, of which 42% of civilian casualties were attributed to the Taliban and 10% to ISKP. Pro-government forces caused 20% of casualties among civilians in 2017; the majority were attributed to the ANSF (16% of casualties among civilians in 2017). 11% of the casualties were the result of crossfire that was not attributed to any of the warring sides during ground battles.

In the first quarter of 2018, casualties caused by pro-government forces among civilians decreased by 13%, although they still accounted for 18% of all civilian casualties during that period. 67% were attributed to anti-government elements (rebel groups) and 11% were the result of fighting between the warring parties.

In particular, the following types of incidents have been reported as the main causes of casualties among civilians in Afghanistan in 2017 and during the period from January to March 2018. The proportions shown below represent the proportion of casualties among civilians caused by the corresponding type of incident in the first quarter of 2018, according to UNAMA reports:

suicide and
complex attacks
and non-suicide
IEDs



ground
engagements



targeted/
deliberate
killings



explosive remnants
of war (unexploded
ordnances/
landmines)



aerial
operations/
attacks



Diagram: Main causes of casualties among civilians in Afghanistan (January - March 2018)

Assessment of the indiscriminate use of force by province of Afghanistan

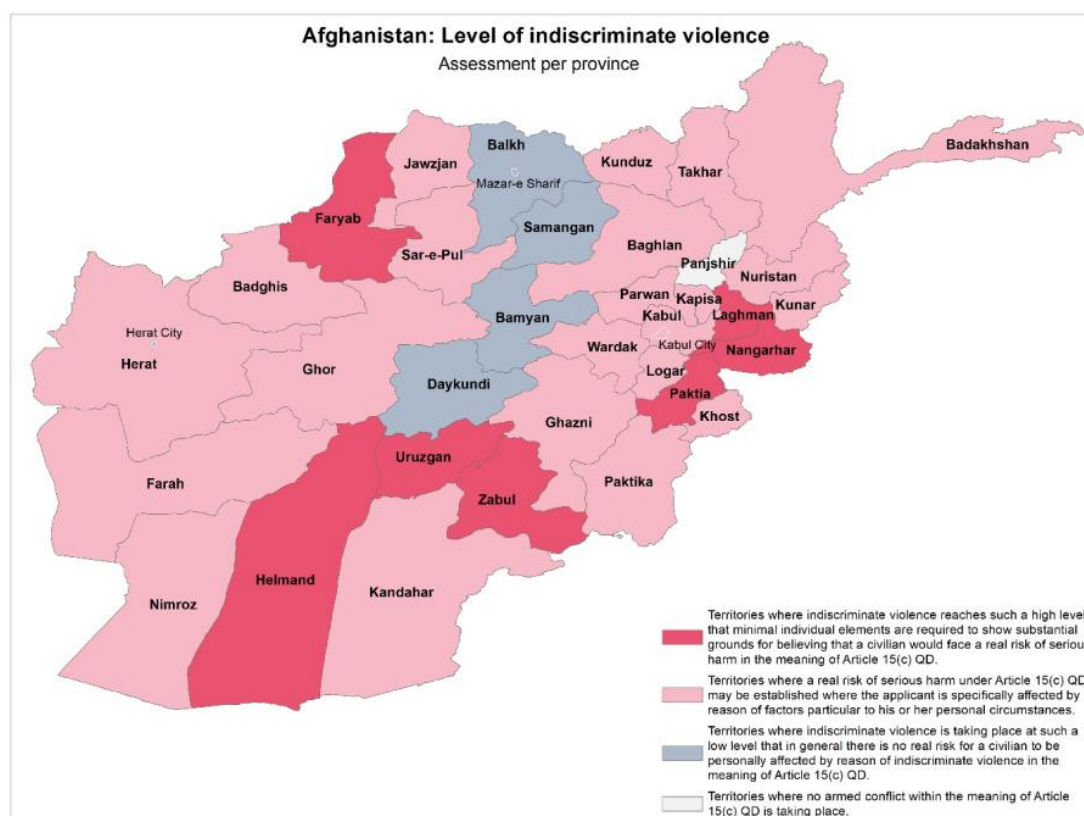


Diagram: Afghanistan: Level of indiscriminate violence

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