

## Humanitarian crises in Afghanistan after re-emergence of Taliban and its implications for Pakistan

Iqra Jathol \*

Sajida Begum †

Bibi Saira ‡

**Corresponding Author:** Iqra Jathol (Ph.D. Scholar, Department of Political Science, Govt College Women University, Sialkot, Punjab, Pakistan. Email: [iqrajathol.csas@pu.edu.pk](mailto:iqrajathol.csas@pu.edu.pk))

Vol. VI, No. I (Winter 2023)

Pages: 112– 118

DOI: 10.31703/gfpr.2023(VI-I).10

**Citation:** Jathol, I., & Begum, S., & Saira, B. (2023). Humanitarian crises in Afghanistan after re-emergence of Taliban and its implications for Pakistan. *Global Foreign Policies Review*, VI(I), 112-118. [https://doi.org/10.31703/gfpr.2023\(VI-I\).10](https://doi.org/10.31703/gfpr.2023(VI-I).10)

**Abstract:** *This article describes about the humanitarian crises in Afghanistan after Re-emergency of Taliban in Afghanistan. When spending more than 19 years in Afghanistan, US signed an agreement with Taliban to leave Afghanistan and US withdrew its troops slowly. Although the US was present through the three periods of administration in Afghanistan but president trump said that US should not be in Afghanistan in fourth period. After withdrawal of NATO forces Afghanistan is suffering with extreme hunger and poverty. In this way Humanitarian crisis has risen from last year after Taliban power. These crises also created serious security challenges to Pakistan. This paper aims to find the humanitarian crises after NATO withdrawal that indicates critical security concerns to Afghanistan and also for Pakistan and also tries to find some solutions through the lens of qualitative approach from existing literature and qualitative analysis.*

**Key Words:** Humanitarian Crises, Taliban, NATO Withdrawal, Security

### Introduction

Afghanistan's current location has played a significant role as a crossroads between the East and the West for centuries before the contemporary state of Afghanistan even existed. The Greeks, Turks, and Mongols were among the countless invaders who used it as a major trading route and entryway. In between South, Central, and Southwest Asia, Afghanistan serves as a bridge. The "cockpit" of the continent, according to former British Indian viceroy

Lloyd Curzon, It is said the "heart of Asia," according to Afghani poet Muhammad Iqbal. In the past, regional leaders grew their empires by waging invasions into neighboring nations (Rafi, 2017).

### Background of Afghanistan Pre 9/11 Incident

The history of Afghanistan pre-9/11 incident is complex and marked by various political, social, and military developments. In the early 1990s, following the Soviet

\* Ph.D. Scholar, Department of Political Science, Govt College Women University, Sialkot, Punjab, Pakistan.

† Assistant Professor, School of Political Science, Minhaj University Lahore, Punjab, Pakistan.

‡ Assistant Professor, School of Political Science, Minhaj University Lahore, Punjab, Pakistan.

withdrawal, Afghanistan descended into civil war and chaos, with multiple factions vying for control. In the mid-1990s, the Taliban, an Islamist militant group, emerged as a powerful force. With support from Pakistan and tacit approval from Saudi Arabia, they gradually captured large portions of Afghanistan, imposing a strict interpretation of Islamic law. On September 11, 2001, the United States suffered a devastating terrorist attack orchestrated by Al-Qaeda. In response, the U.S. government, under President George W. Bush, held the Taliban regime in Afghanistan responsible for providing sanctuary to Osama bin Laden and Al-Qaeda. The U.S. demanded the Taliban hand over bin Laden and dismantle Al-Qaeda. After the Taliban refused to comply with U.S. demands, the United States, with a coalition of international partners, launched Operation Enduring Freedom in October 2001. This marked the beginning of the U.S.-led military intervention in Afghanistan. The objective was to remove the Taliban from power, disrupt Al-Qaeda, and eliminate terrorist threats (Salem & Harrison, 2019). Afghanistan is a landlocked country located in South Asia and Central Asia, sharing borders with several neighboring countries. Its geography is diverse, with a combination of mountains, plateaus, deserts, and fertile valleys. Afghanistan's geography has been a defining factor in its history and development, and it continues to influence the country's political, economic, and social dynamics. The topographical diversity, combined with its strategic location at the crossroads of Central and South Asia, makes Afghanistan a unique and geopolitically important nation (Barfield, 2020).

### **Afghanistan Post 9/11 Incident**

---

US have backed insurgents against the Soviet Union and after withdrawal of soviet occupation Taliban came in power in

Afghanistan. They started repressive rule and established a safe haven from which Al-Qaeda planned to destroy twin tower. So US move forward to Afghanistan as a political gambit with the loss of military and money (MM).

### **Humanitarian Crises**

---

After the Taliban took control of the country in August, the humanitarian rights crisis suddenly intensified due to the long conflict in Afghanistan. The gains in women's rights and media freedom, one of the biggest achievements of post-2001 reconstruction, were immediately reversed by the Taliban. Most girls' secondary schools were closed and women were excluded from most government agencies and from many others. Journalists were beaten and arrested by the Taliban. Media outlets have been closed or significantly reduced their coverage, also because many journalists have fled the country. The new Taliban cabinet did not include women or ministers outside the ranks of the Taliban. Taliban controlled in Afghanistan and a developing humanitarian crisis, disaster, While the banking system is on the verge of collapse, the currency is threatened by hyperinflation and the population faces poverty and even hunger. The United States, which is partly to blame for these developments, must act quickly to shape its policy towards Afghanistan and its relationship with the new administration. If you don't make a clear policy decision, it'd rather stick with the default status quo than a solution, with the risk of US agencies pursuing conflicting goals through separate counterterrorism, aid, diplomatic dialogue and sanctions enforcement missions. (Radin & Miller, 2022)

### **Economic Crises/Collapse**

---

All the accounts from US dollar assets for Afghanistan have been seized After

Taliban's takeover in country. The International Monetary Fund has denied access to funding for Afghanistan, including special drawing rights (word Repot, 2022) the country's economy has been functioning at 1% since August 2021. As a result, Afghan people have been deprived from their jobs and livelihoods, public services have been damaged, poverty and hunger has been worsened, and the humanitarian crisis has worsened in Afghanistan. Thousands of people left the country, the government. Agencies have been cut from management and specialist staff, many Afghan companies have been closed or downsized, and the fund has collapsed due to already low investments (USIP, 2022) Despite these tensions, there have been some efforts in recent years to improve relations between Pakistan and Afghanistan. Both countries have signed agreements focused on enhancing trade and economic cooperation, and there have been high-level diplomatic visits. Nevertheless, these initiatives have been overshadowed by persistent security concerns, and the relationship remains delicate (Jathol, 2023)

### **Educational Crises and Health Crises**

Afghanistan has faced significant educational crises over the years, which have been exacerbated by decades of conflict, political instability, and the ever-changing nature of governance in the country. Already, the war has damaged or destroyed numerous school buildings and educational infrastructure, affecting the learning environment. The recent political developments in Afghanistan, there may be new challenges and opportunities in the education sector. The international community and humanitarian organizations have played an active role in providing educational support and

assistance to Afghanistan, and it is crucial to continue monitoring the situation to understand how the educational crises evolve in the country. (Khwajamir, 2016)

Health is the primary concern for development of country. Afghanistan has already faced covid-19 crises. Afghanistan's healthcare system faces significant challenges, and international assistance has been instrumental in providing medical care, training healthcare workers, and supporting public health initiatives (MSFDWB, 2022) However, the situation is complex, and addressing the health needs of the population requires a comprehensive approach that goes beyond healthcare to include addressing the underlying social, economic, and security issues that affect public health in Afghanistan (Yaseen, Jathol & Muzaffar, 2020).

### **US Humanitarian base Aid**

The United States had a long history of providing humanitarian assistance to Afghanistan. This aid was intended to address the various humanitarian needs in the country, including food security, healthcare, education, shelter, and more. A significant portion of U.S. humanitarian aid is channeled through non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and international organizations operating in Afghanistan. These organizations implement and oversee various assistance programs. Beyond humanitarian aid, the U.S. has also provided support for infrastructure development, governance, and economic development programs in Afghanistan (Dobbins, Radin & Miller, 2022) International organizations and governments provided humanitarian aid to help alleviate the suffering of the Afghan population, especially in areas affected by conflict and natural disasters.

Figure 1

USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE AFGHANISTAN RESPONSE IN FY 2022 <sup>1</sup>			
IMPLEMENTING PARTNER	ACTIVITY	LOCATION	AMOUNT
<b>USAID/BHA</b>			
Implementing Partners (IPs)	Health; Humanitarian Coordination, Information Management, and Assessments (HCIMA); Nutrition; Protection; Shelter and Settlements; WASH	Kabul, Kandahar, Khost, Loghar, Uruzgan Wardak, Zabul	\$15,000,000
International Organization for Migration (IOM)	Shelter and Settlements	Countrywide	\$8,257,000
UN Children's Fund (UNICEF)	MPCA	Daykundi, Ghazni, Ghor, Kabul, Kunduz, Loghar, Nuristan, Paktia, Paktika, Panjshir, Parwan, Wardak, Zabul	\$15,000,000
WFP	Food Assistance—Cash Transfers, Vouchers, Local, Regional, and International Procurement; Logistics Support; Nutrition	Badakhshan, Badghis, Bamian, Daykundi, Faryab, Ghor, Herat, Jowzjan, Sar-e-Pul, Uruzgan	\$270,000,000
	Program Support		\$143,722
<b>TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING</b>			<b>\$308,400,722</b>
<b>TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE AFGHANISTAN RESPONSE IN FY 2022</b>			<b>\$308,400,722</b>

Source: <https://www.usaid.gov/sites/default/files/documents/2022>

### Extremist Training

Extremist training camps in Afghanistan provided instruction in military tactics, such as weapons handling and explosives. These camps served as training grounds for militants, including those preparing for insurgency and acts of terrorism. Afghanistan's extremist training camps had global implications (Bahiss, 2021). They attracted recruits and foreign fighters from various countries, fostering transnational terrorism and enabling individuals to carry out attacks outside of Afghanistan. It's important to recognize that the situation in Afghanistan has evolved significantly, especially following the U.S. withdrawal in 2021 and the Taliban's return to power (Detsch & Gramer, 2022)

### Implications for Pakistan

Pakistan had been most affected by the Afghan conflict (Akhtar, 2008). Pakistan has faced much in war on terror and also experienced cross-border terrorism from Afghanistan since the victory of Taliban. After Taliban govt. in Afghanistan, hundreds of terrorist attacks in Pakistan

linked by Afghanistan. At this time, Pakistan is suffering from Afghanistan-based terrorism and security threats (Rubin, 1999)

### Refugee Crises (A Historical Implications from 1979 to Onward)

During the Soviet occupation, the humanitarian and development activities of the United Nations became politically polarized. UNHCR has spearheaded efforts to help more than 3 million Afghan refugees in Pakistan, effectively funding the backbone of US, Pakistani and Saudi Arabian efforts to help the mujahideen (Akhtar, 2021) Baloch insurgent groups have accused the Hazaras of aiding the Pakistani government in denying the Baloch people their rig) (Akhtar, 2021) Decades of conflict in Afghanistan have led to a significant refugee population in Pakistan. This has strained local resources and contributed to social and economic challenges in the host communities. The Afghan refugee crisis has also led to cultural and security concerns in Pakistan, exacerbating tensions between the two nations (Verma, 2022). Decades of conflict in

Afghanistan have led to a significant refugee population in Pakistan. This has strained local resources and contributed to social and economic challenges in the host communities. The Afghan refugee crisis has also led to cultural and security concerns in Pakistan, exacerbating tensions between the two nations. Another challenge is the reluctance of some refugees to return to Afghanistan due to concerns about their safety and security. Many refugees have been living in Pakistan for years or even decades and have established homes, businesses, and communities there. The prospect of returning to a country that is still grappling with ongoing conflict and instability can be daunting for many.

### **Border Issue between Pakistan and Afghanistan**

---

Due to long border with Afghanistan, Pakistan has deep concerns what is happening there because instability in Afghanistan has long term effects on Pakistan (Mughal & Hussain, 2017). The Durand Line and the issue of Pakhtunistan had long been a source of hostility between Pakistan and Afghanistan (Warikoo, 2007) There is no official recognition of the border and claims some of the territory that is currently part of Pakistan. Meanwhile, the concept of Pakhtunistan, which advocates for a united Pashtun homeland, has been a contentious issue between the two countries. The Pakistani government opposes this concept as a threat to its territorial integrity, while some Pashtun nationalists in Pakistan support it (Neuman, 2007).

### **Re-emergence of Taliban and TTP Linkage**

---

Afghanistan and Pakistan are the two most-affected countries by the Taliban's return to power. The conspiracy, which was initially intended to exclude Pakistan from the

process and hinder its involvement in reconstruction efforts, proved to be a detrimental mistake. In contrast, neighboring Afghanistan was given the opportunity to pursue its own strategic interests at the expense of Pakistan. Consequently, India has found a significant platform in Afghanistan to undermine Pakistan through covert operations involving Baloch insurgents in Baluchistan and Tehrik-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) in the Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA). The opening of more than a dozen Indian consulates along the Afghan border puts Pakistan's security at danger. The goal of these consulates is to undermine Pakistan by prioritizing espionage operations over humanitarian endeavors. Pakistan has expressed alarm in numerous forums over these consulates' anti-Pakistan activities, including as their acquisition of weapons, ammunition, and financial resources in Baluchistan and FATA (Jathol, 2023)

After the September 11 attacks in 2001, a US-led coalition invaded Afghanistan and overthrew the Taliban. However, the group remained active and gradually regained strength, especially in rural areas. Pakistan has faced accusations of supporting the Taliban to counter Indian influence in Afghanistan and maintain a friendly relationship with the country. While Pakistan denies these allegations, evidence suggests they have provided support to the Taliban in terms of weapons and safe havens ( Zahid, Siyech, Cheong, Seng, Basit & Mahmood, 2017)

### **Need of Regional Cooperation in Author's view**

---

In the views of scholar's perception that owing to the security situation of South Asia Afghanistan should recognize the boundary line. This issue has further complicated the already complex relationship between

Pakistan and Afghanistan, which has been marred by various other factors such as cross-border terrorism, refugee influx, and drug trafficking. External actors have also used this issue to influence the Pakistan-Afghanistan relationship, adding to the complexity of the matter. South Asia is home to a significant portion of the world's population. Regional cooperation can unlock the potential for economic growth by promoting trade and investment among South Asian countries. This can lead to increased job opportunities, improved living standards, and poverty reduction. South Asia has a history of regional conflicts and disputes, including the long-standing India-Pakistan conflict and border disputes between other countries. Regional cooperation can provide a platform for diplomatic dialogue and conflict resolution. South Asia has been a hotbed of terrorism and insurgency. Regional cooperation is essential to combat terrorism, share intelligence, and strengthen security mechanisms to ensure the safety and stability of the region. Strengthen border security and intelligence cooperation to effectively address cross-border threats, including sharing actionable intelligence and conducting joint military operations against terrorist networks.

## **Conclusion**

---

The re-emergence of the Taliban in Afghanistan has led to significant humanitarian crises with profound implications for Pakistan, its neighboring country. The Taliban's resurgence has led to internal displacement within Afghanistan, with thousands of Afghans fleeing their homes in search of safety. Many of these

displaced people have sought refuge in Pakistan. Pakistan has historically hosted a large number of Afghan refugees, and the recent influx adds pressure to the existing refugee population. The country faces acute food insecurity, lack of access to healthcare, and challenges in providing education. The Taliban's takeover has further complicated the ability of humanitarian organizations to deliver aid, leading to concerns about the well-being of Afghan civilians because the withdrawal boosted the morale of jihadist groups in South Asia, as they definitely consider it was their great victory in South Asia.

The porous nature of the border allowed insurgents, militants, and smugglers to move freely between the two countries, posing challenges for security forces in controlling violence. The Taliban and other militant organizations utilized the border to launch attacks on Afghan and NATO forces in Afghanistan. Simultaneously, Pakistan claimed that militants used Afghan territory as a base to carry out attacks on Pakistan.

Overall, the situation with Afghan refugees in Pakistan remains complex and challenging. While some progress has been made in repatriating refugees, much work still needs to be done to ensure a safe and sustainable return for all Afghan refugees who wish to go back to their homelands. For Security, Pakistani government and security forces should take immediate steps to address this issue and prevent such attacks from occurring in the future. This may involve increasing security measures along the border, improving intelligence gathering and sharing with Afghan authorities, and taking diplomatic measures to engage with Afghanistan to address the issue

## References

- Akhtar, N. (2008). Pakistan, Afghanistan, And The Taliban. *International Journal on World Peace*, 25(4), 49-73. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/20752859>
- Bahiss, I. (2021). Afghanistan's Taliban Expand Their Interim Government. *International Crisis Group*, September, 28. <https://www.crisisgroup.org/asia/south-asia/afghanistan/afghanistans-taliban-expand-their-interim-government>
- Barfield, T. (2022). *Afghanistan: A cultural and political history*. Princeton University Press. <https://press.princeton.edu/books/paperback/9780691238562/afghanistan>
- Deutsch, J. and Gramer, R. (2022, April 28). 'The U.S. Left Billions Worth of Weapons in Afghanistan. <https://foreignpolicy.com/2022/04/28/the-u-s-left-billions-worth-of-weapons-in-afghanistan/>
- Dobbins, J., Radin, A., & Miller, L. E. (2022). *Engage, isolate, or oppose: American policy toward the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan*. RAND CORP SANTA MONICA CA. <https://doi.org/10.7249/PEA1540-1>
- Jathol, I. (2023). Afghanistan morass: An analysis of Pakistan's security after NATO withdrawal. *Journal of Political Studies*, 30(1), 61-70. [http://pu.edu.pk/images/journal/pols/pdf-files/6-v30\\_1\\_2023.pdf](http://pu.edu.pk/images/journal/pols/pdf-files/6-v30_1_2023.pdf)
- Khwajamir, M. (2016). History and problems of education in Afghanistan. *SHS Web of Conferences*, 26, 01124. <https://doi.org/10.1051/shsconf/20162601124>
- Muzaffar, M., Yaseen, Z., & Afzal, N. (2021). US Exit from Afghanistan: Impacts on Pakistan and India. *Journal of Political Studies*, 28(2), 55-68. [http://pu.edu.pk/images/journal/pols/pdf-files/5-v28\\_2\\_2021.pdf](http://pu.edu.pk/images/journal/pols/pdf-files/5-v28_2_2021.pdf)
- Rubin, B. R. (1999). Afghanistan under the Taliban. *Current History*, 98(625), 79.
- Akhtar, S. (2021, August 18). Thousands of Afghans enter Pakistan via Chaman border crossing. *Taliban News | Al Jazeera*. <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2021/8/17/thousands-of-afghans-enter-pakistan-through-chaman-border-point>
- Salem, P., & Harrison, R. (2019). *Escaping the Conflict Trap: Toward Ending Civil Wars in the Middle East*. Middle East Institute. <https://www.mei.edu/publications/book/escaping-conflict-trap-0>
- Verma, R. (2022). Afghanistan, regional powers and non-traditional security threats and challenges. *Global Policy*, 13(1), 107-113. <https://doi.org/10.1111/1758-5899.13071>
- Warikoo, K. (2007). US Policy towards post-September 11 Afghanistan. *Shrivastava, BK, Afghanistan: Challenges and Opportunities*, 2.
- Yaseen, Z., Jathol, I., & Muzaffar, M. (2020). Covid-19 and its Impact on South Asia: A Case Study of Pakistan. *Global International Relations Review*, III(I), 20-26. [https://doi.org/10.31703/girr.2020\(iii-i\).03](https://doi.org/10.31703/girr.2020(iii-i).03)
- Zahid, F., Siyech, M. S., Cheong, D. D., Seng, N. L., Basit, A., & Mahmood, S. (2017). Counter terrorist trends and analyses.