

# SECURITY REPORT - AFGHANISTAN

Eigenrac Regional Intelligence Reporting and Analysis



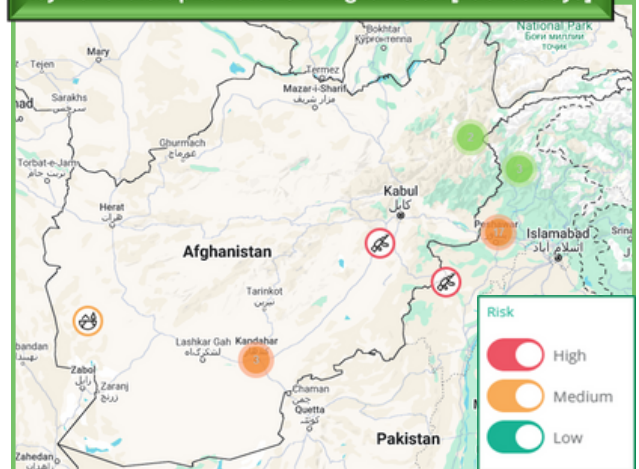
January - April 2025

## KEY FINDINGS

Afghanistan is entering a diplomatically significant yet internally volatile phase. Regional powers are normalizing relations with the Taliban-led regime through high-level engagements and economic outreach, especially Russia, China, Kazakhstan, and Uzbekistan. This regional thaw, however, coexists with intensifying internal security threats. The Islamic State Khorasan Province (ISKP) remains a lethal force, the National Resistance Front (NRF) is escalating attacks in the north, and the Afghanistan-Pakistan border continues to serve as a flashpoint due to TTP infiltration and deportation-driven friction. A worsening humanitarian and rights environment is compounding instability, pushing Afghanistan closer to an inflection point where diplomacy, insurgency, and humanitarian collapse intersect.

- **ISKP and NRF activity escalating:** Both insurgent threats remain operationally active, targeting civilians, regime officials, and border zones.
- **Taliban facing pressure on multiple fronts:** From asymmetric violence and border clashes to internal dissent and economic challenges.
- **International normalization is advancing:** Russia, China, and Central Asian states are deepening engagement with the Taliban-led government.
- **Humanitarian crisis worsening:** Forced deportations, food insecurity, and disasters like earthquakes are straining already fragile systems.
- **Civil liberties in freefall:** Ongoing public floggings, censorship, and arrests are signaling hardline ideological enforcement and selective justice.

## Key travel disruption alerts in Afghanistan [Past 60 days]



Conflict: **CRITICAL**

Crime: **CRITICAL**

Health & Medical: **High**

Kidnap & Ransom: **CRITICAL**

Personal Safety: **CRITICAL**

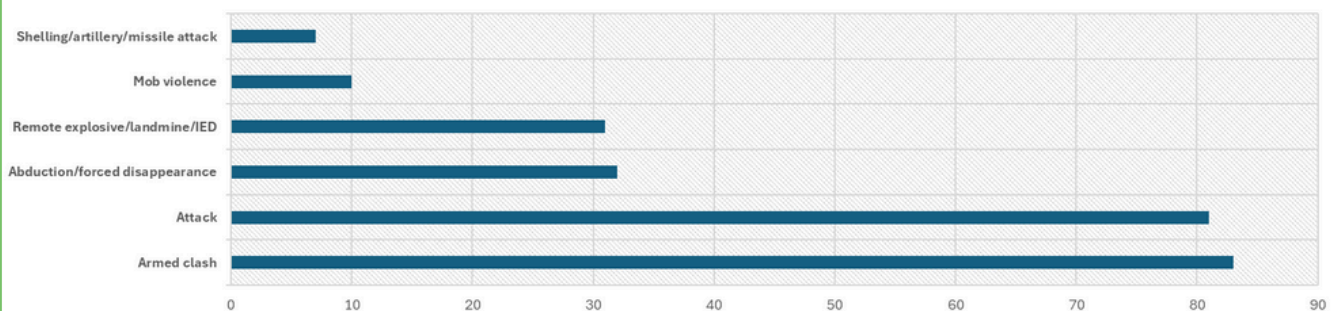
Natural & Environment: **High**

Political Overview: **CRITICAL**

Terrorism: **CRITICAL**

Unrest: **CRITICAL**

## Incidents of political violence: Afghanistan [Jan-Apr 2025]



## Situation Report

The National Resistance Front (NRF) is concentrating operations in Kunduz, where coordinated attacks resulted in De Facto Security force casualties. This likely represents an attempt to reassert NRF presence in the northeast, or to exploit Taliban vulnerabilities under local strain. A separate IED attack in Mazar-e-Sharif, near a Shia mosque, mirrors known ISKP attack patterns targeting religious minorities. No group claimed responsibility, but the method and context point to ISKP's ongoing sectarian campaign.

In Nuristan, TTP militants attempted cross-border infiltration into Pakistan, resulting in mortar fire and casualties in Kunar Province. This underscores the Taliban's inability or unwillingness to control porous border areas. Meanwhile, a targeted ambush in Jawzjan killed two DfSyF officers, suggesting intra-regime violence, criminal actors, or covert rival factions are active in the north.

A 5.8 magnitude earthquake in Badakhshan further weakened conditions across vulnerable communities. Humanitarian agencies have flagged these regions as at high risk due to already fragile infrastructure, limited state services, and restricted access.

In political developments, Russia has suspended its terrorist designation of the Taliban, reflecting a wider trend of normalization. Kazakhstan and China are enhancing trade and diplomatic ties, and the Taliban have been invited to the upcoming Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) summit. Internally, the Taliban continue to roll out banking reforms and seek deeper regional economic integration.

Security cooperation between Afghanistan and Pakistan remains tense. Despite formal commitments to prevent mutual cross-border militant activity, Pakistani airstrikes targeting TTP groups have triggered armed clashes. Afghanistan's trade flows through Pakistan are declining, forcing a pivot toward Iran and Central Asian corridors. Meanwhile, ISKP remains active, infiltrating Taliban ranks and targeting minorities — notably Shia communities — with assassinations and bombings.

Uzbekistan is also re-engaging, motivated by the potential resurgence of the Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan (IMU). Simultaneously, half a million U.S.-supplied weapons are believed to be unaccounted for — with reports of some ending up in the hands of al-Qaeda-linked elements.

## ASSESSMENT

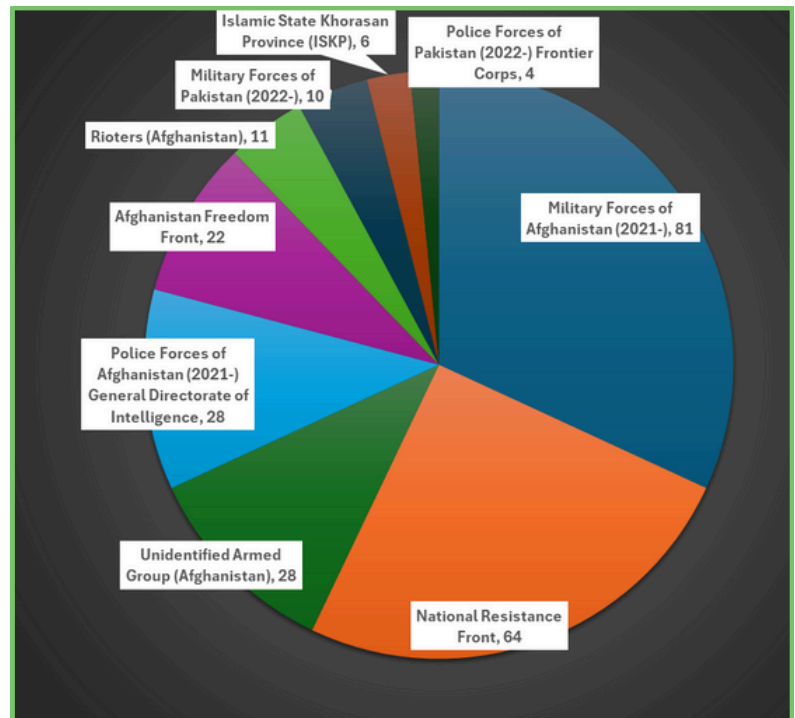
Afghanistan's political and security landscape is marked by contradiction: the Taliban regime is gaining diplomatic legitimacy abroad, even as its internal control remains contested. ISKP has evolved into a hybrid threat — capable of sectarian terrorism, infiltration, and media propaganda. Its persistent campaign against Shia minorities and Taliban-aligned clerics reflects a strategic bid to destabilize both the regime and community cohesion.

The NRF's activity in Kunduz suggests that pockets of armed opposition retain operational capability. Though not a strategic threat to the Taliban's hold on power, the NRF's ability to inflict casualties and conduct coordinated attacks shows that anti-Taliban resistance is far from extinguished.

Pakistan's simultaneous pressure campaign — through deportations, airstrikes, and tightening trade — is likely to provoke new sources of unrest along border regions. TTP activity also continues to flow both ways, drawing the Taliban into asymmetric clashes that strain its military bandwidth. Taliban attempts to rebrand themselves internationally have not translated into reliable internal governance, especially outside of major urban centers.

The rights environment continues to deteriorate under selective enforcement and ideological domination. While madrasa graduates are elevated and Islamic institutions expanded, secular academic and civil spaces are under systematic assault. The continued use of public punishment and selective justice undermines any claims of domestic reform.

### Primary Conflict Actors: Afghanistan [Jan-Apr 2025]



## IMPACT – STRATEGIC OUTLOOK FOR WESTERN ORGANIZATIONS

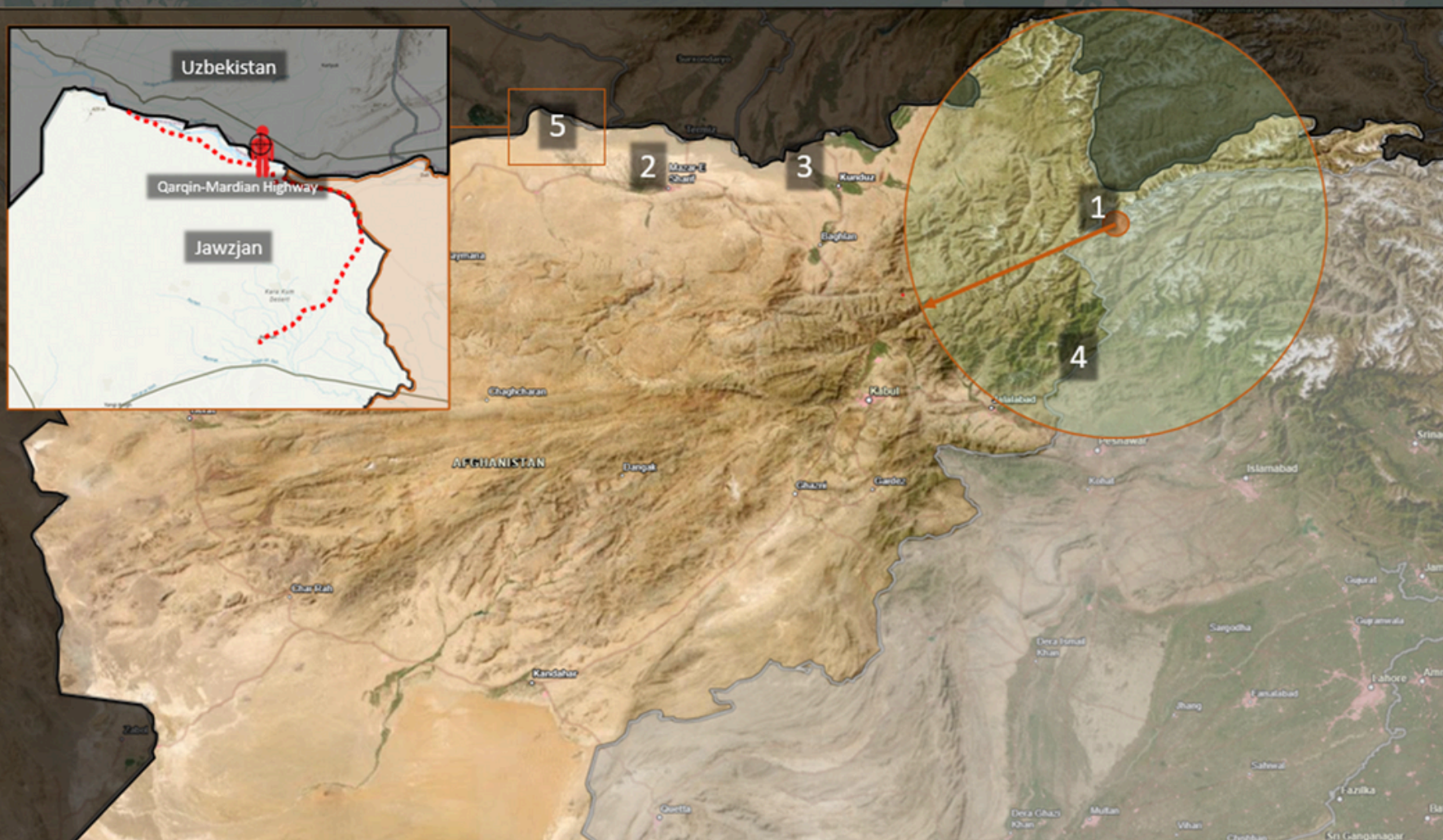
For Western organizations, the operating environment in Afghanistan remains high-risk but strategically relevant. The normalization of Taliban diplomatic status by regional powers — including Russia and China — may prompt pressure for cautious engagement. However, the Taliban's internal repression, fragmented security control, and opaque power structures complicate any immediate re-entry.

### Key considerations:

- **Security volatility:** Ongoing ISKP attacks, anti-Taliban insurgency, and border conflict create elevated risks for personnel, logistics, and project continuity.
- **Fragmented governance:** While Taliban central authority is firm in Kabul, regional enforcement remains inconsistent, limiting reliable ground partnerships.
- **Legal ambiguity:** International sanctions regimes, designation history, and unclear legal frameworks remain major hurdles for formal re-engagement.
- **Humanitarian urgency:** Food insecurity, displacement, and deportation crises present critical but politically sensitive entry points for aid programming.
- **Civil society collapse:** Rights suppression and censorship constrain engagement with local actors and limit soft influence capabilities.

In summary, Afghanistan's landscape offers few stable openings for Western actors, but increased activity from regional powers, worsening humanitarian conditions, and the persistence of transnational terrorist threats make calibrated engagement unavoidable. Strategic options will depend on risk appetite, sector focus, and the ability to maintain neutrality amid shifting geopolitical lines.





1.  
**What:** Magnitude 5.8 earthquake at 171 km depth.  
**Where:** Origin - Badakhshan.  
**When:** DTG: 1148hrs, 9 APR 25. Source: EMSC.  
**Who:** Populations affected: Jurm (96km), Fazayabad (129 km), Ashkasham (32km), Ishqoshim (31km), Shkhowr (32km).
2.  
**What:** Explosion, emplaced IED  
**Where:** Mazar-e-Sharif, near She Dokan Mosque (Shia), PD2  
**Who:** 1x civ kld, 6x civ inj. No responsibility claimed
3.  
**What:** Series of clashes  
**Where:** Kunduz. Charar Dara, Khan Abad, Kunduz-Khana highway, Bala Hisar  
**Who:** NRF v IEA De Facto security forces (DfSyF). 7x DfSyF kld, 5x DfSyF inj
4.  
**What:** Cross border clashes  
**Where:** Nuristan, Kamdish district  
**Who:** Pakistani border forces v TTP militants  
**Context:** TTP militants attempted to infiltrate into Pakistan but were pushed back to Gawardesh under heavy mortar fire. Kunar Prov. Hospital received cas.
5.  
**What:** Ambush  
**Where:** Qarqin-Mardian highway to Jawzjan  
**Who:** 2x named IEA DfSyF GDI officers – 1x kld, 1x inj (life threatening)

**Analysis:** The National Resistance Front (NRF) appears to be concentrating its operations in Kunduz, where clear escalation with multiple coordinated attacks resulting in DfSyF casualties have taken place. The timing and clustering of suggest an attempt to reassert NRF presence or exploit vulnerabilities in the northeast, indicating limited operational bandwidth or a deliberate strategy of localised pressure. The bombing near the Shiite Seh Dokan Mosque fits the signature pattern of Islamic State Khorasan Province (ISKP). While no group has claimed responsibility, the method, location, and target indicate likely ISKP involvement, reflecting its ongoing campaign against minority communities and Taliban-aligned structures. Meanwhile, the cross-border clash in Nuristan involving Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) illustrates the persistent problem of militant spillover and the fluidity of safe havens along the Afghanistan-Pakistan border. This incident also underscores the DfSyF's inability or unwillingness to control border areas, exacerbating tensions with Pakistan. Finally, the ambush in Jawzjan targeting DfSyF intelligence officers suggests the presence of internal dissent or rival actors conducting targeted assassinations. The lack of a claim of responsibility hints at either intra-regime violence, criminal actors, or covert operations avoiding open attribution.