



# OES IN BRIEF

This quarterly report submitted by the Lead Inspector General for Operation Enduring Sentinel (OES) summarizes the events that took place in Afghanistan this quarter, including the status of terrorist organizations, such as ISIS-Khorasan (ISIS-K) and al-Qaeda, as well as U.S. diplomatic and humanitarian efforts related to Afghanistan.

## Security Threat from Afghanistan Continues to Drive Regional Instability

pp. 4–6

- **Central Asian** states asked for U.S. help securing their borders against **Afghanistan-based threats**.
- The Afghanistan-based **ISIS-K moves freely** in the region and maintains a significant network.
- **ISIS-K** is the **most potent terrorist** threat to U.S. interests in the region and aspires to attack the West.

## State Terminates Humanitarian and Development Programs in Afghanistan

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- The U.S. government **terminated** nearly all Afghanistan programs on April 5.
- Implementers of terminated awards continued to face **payment delays**.
- The **Taliban seized** some U.S.-funded foreign aid project vehicles, equipment, and cash.

## State to End “Enduring Welcome” Program

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- The program relocates and resettles eligible **Afghans who supported the U.S. military** and their families to the U.S.
- State issued **1,724 Afghan Special Immigrant Visas (SIV)** between April 1 and May 31—compared to **3,553** the previous quarter.
- The U.S. announced a **travel ban** restricting entry of nationals from **Afghanistan** and 18 other countries; Afghan SIV recipients are exempt.

**\$655 million** in unobligated funds for Enduring Welcome remain as of June 30.

**State intends to close Enduring Welcome by the end of FY 2025.**

**No Afghans were relocated this quarter under Enduring Welcome.**

## Massive Afghan Returnee Population Likely to Worsen Humanitarian Crisis

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- **More than 1.2 million Afghans** have returned or were forced to return from Pakistan and Iran in the first half of 2025.
- DHS terminated **Temporary Protected Status** for Afghans in the U.S., which may result in **11,700 Afghans facing deportation**.
- The **Taliban publicly welcomed Afghans** back to Afghanistan regardless of their past, but the DIA said **reprisals** are likely to increase.

## State Limits Direct Engagement with the Taliban

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- State said it would talk to the Taliban only if it shows results on **counterterrorism** commitments and the release of **unjustly detained Americans**.
- State said that **6 U.S. citizens** have been **released** so far in 2025.

## Global Funding Shortfalls Lead to Reduced Humanitarian Assistance for Afghanistan

pp. 20–21

- Grantees say **maternal and infant deaths** are likely to increase, and **women’s and girls’ rights** will be further limited.
- **366,000 Afghans** are projected to **lose** access to **food and health** assistance.

## Oversight and Investigations

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- A DoD OIG report on **Afghan relocation contracts** highlighted challenges in controlling **funds, organization, and risk assessment**.
- SIGAR determined that State implementing partners’ **agreements with the Taliban** allowed the group **influence over U.S.-funded activities**.
- Lead IG and partner agencies had **28 open investigations** and **referred 1 case** to the Department of Justice.