

AFGHANISTAN



Aid **Chronology** **Climate** | **Crime** **Defence** **Economics** | **Education** **Environment** **Health** | **Media** **People** **Politics** | **Resources** **Spending** **Tourism** | **Transportation** **World affairs** **World ranking**



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AID

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Recipient

Total aid: \$1.53bn (receipts)

The fall of the taliban opened the way for massive inflows of aid. However, pledges by the US and its allies not to "forget" Afghanistan have been tested greatly as international priorities have shifted. Only a fraction of the promised aid has arrived. Working conditions for aid personnel are extremely hazardous.

CHRONOLOGY

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The foundations of an Afghan state of Pashtun peoples were laid in the mid-18th century, when Durrani Ahmad Shah became paramount chief of the Abdali Pashtun peoples.

- 1838–1842** First Anglo-Afghan war.
- 1878** Second British invasion of Afghan territory.
- 1879** Under Treaty of Gandamak signed with Amir Yaqub Ali Khan, various Afghan areas annexed by Britain. Yaqub Ali Khan later exiled. New treaty signed with Amir Abdul Rahman, establishing the Durand line, a contentious boundary between Afghanistan and Pakistan.
- 1919** Independence declared.
- 1933** Mohammed Zahir Shah ascends throne.
- 1953–1963** Mohammed Daud Khan prime minister; resigns after king rejects proposals for democratic reforms.
- 1965** Elections held, but monarchy retains power. Marxist Party of Afghanistan (PDPA) formed and banned. PDPA splits into the Parcham and Khalq factions.
- 1973** Daud mounts a coup, abolishes monarchy, and declares republic. Mujahideen rebellion begins. Refugees flee into Pakistan.
- 1978** Opposition to Daud from PDPA culminates in Saur revolution. Revolutionary Council under Mohammad Taraki takes power. Daud assassinated.
- 1979** Taraki ousted. Hafizullah Amin takes power. Amin killed in December coup backed by USSR. 80,000 Soviet troops invade Afghanistan. Mujahideen rebellion stepped up into full-scale guerrilla war, with US backing.
- 1980** Babrak Karmal, leader of Parcham PDPA, installed as head of Marxist regime.
- 1986** Mohammad Najibullah takes over from Karmal.
- 1989** Soviet Army withdraws.
- 1992** Najibullah hands over power to mujahideen factions.
- 1993** Mujahideen agree on formation of government.
- 1994** Power struggle between Burhanuddin Rabbani and Gulbuddin Hekmatyar.
- 1996** Taliban take power and impose strict Islamic regime.
- 1998** Earthquake in northern regions kills thousands.
- 1999** Power-sharing agreement between taliban and Northern Alliance breaks down.
- 2000** Worst drought in 30 years. UN imposes sanctions in response to taliban support for al-Qaida.
- 2001** Taliban government falls after intense US-led air strikes from October – first campaign in "war on terrorism." Interim government formed under Hamid Karzai; peacekeepers deployed in Kabul.
- 2002** Earthquakes kill thousands. Ex-king Zahir Shah returns from exile. Loya Jirga convenes, elects Karzai head of state.
- 2004** Approval of constitution. Karzai wins presidential election.

CLIMATE

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Mountain/cold desert

Weather chart

Statistics are given for the national capital. They represent maximum summer and minimum winter averages.

Afghanistan has the world's widest temperature range, with lows of -50°C (-58°F) and highs of 53°C (127°F). Severe drought, an ongoing problem, affected half the population in 2000.