

4.8.7. Turkmen

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Turkmen originate from Turkic-speaking tribes and adhere to the Sunni Hanafi school of thought. [1854](#) They speak Turkmen and Dari. [1855](#) Although their exact number is ‘uncertain’, [1856](#) some sources have estimated that they make up 1 % to 3 % of the Afghan population. [1857](#) Turkmen predominantly reside in northern Afghanistan, [1858](#) in provinces bordering Turkmenistan. [1859](#) Large numbers of Turkmen were reportedly residing in Jawzjan Province, as well as smaller numbers in the provinces of Faryab, [1860](#) Takhar, Samangan, Sar-e Pul, Balkh, Kunduz, [1861](#) Badghis, [1862](#) and Herat. [1863](#) They live mainly in rural areas. [1864](#)

Since the Taliban takeover, ethnic minorities, including Turkmen, have faced marginalisation, [1865](#) and Turkmen have also reportedly been affected by forced evictions. [1866](#) According to the UN Analytical Support and Sanctions Monitoring Team, there were ‘persistent reports of a deliberate and seemingly organized campaign by Pashtuns to dislodge ethnic Tajik, Turkmen and Uzbek communities from rich agricultural land in the north’. [1867](#) Forced evictions were reported in several provinces across Afghanistan, [1868](#) but particularly in the northern parts of the country, as reported by Maliha Shirzay for RWI. [1869](#) In many cases, forced evictions occurred as a result of land disputes and claims by persons and groups perceived to have Taliban support, [1870](#) such as Kuchis. [1871](#)

A UN report published in September 2023 noted that members of *inter alia* the Turkmen community has continued to allege that the removal of their languages as official curriculum languages constitutes an ‘attack’ on their linguistic heritage. [1872](#)

In June 2025, Sheikh Samiullah Farahmand, a Turkmen cleric, was appointed by the de facto authorities as their ambassador to Türkiye. [1873](#) Before this appointment, he served as the de facto provincial head of the military court in Kunduz Province. [1874](#)

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