



4.8.7. Turkmen

4.8.7. Turkmen

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](#)

- [1854](#)

MRG, Uzbeks and Turkmen in Afghanistan, n.d., [url](#)

- [1855](#)

SCA, The Afghan Population, n.d., [url](#)

- [1856](#)

MRG, Uzbeks and Turkmens in Afghanistan, n.d., [url](#)

- [1857](#)

USCIRF, Afghanistan, April 2022, [url](#), p. 2; MRG, Uzbeks and Turkmens in Afghanistan, n.d., [url](#); SCA, The Afghan Population, n.d., [url](#)

- [1858](#)

Deccan Herald, Dominant ethnic groups in Afghanistan, 18 August 2021, [url](#); MRG, Uzbeks and Turkmens in Afghanistan, n.d., [url](#); SCA, The Afghan Population, n.d., [url](#)

- [1859](#)

Jamestown Foundation, Afghanistan's Ethnic Turkmens: Enemies or Allies for Ashgabat?, 4 October 2015, [url](#)

- [1860](#)

Jamestown Foundation, Afghanistan's Ethnic Turkmens: Enemies or Allies for Ashgabat?, 4 October 2015, [url](#); Obaid, A., and Ruttig, T., Elections 2014 (22): How disenchantment with General Dostum split the Uzbek vote bank, 22 May 2014, [url](#)

- [1861](#)

Obaid, A., and Ruttig, T., Elections 2014 (22): How disenchantment with General Dostum split the Uzbek vote bank, 22 May 2014, [url](#)

- [1862](#)

Jamestown Foundation, Afghanistan's Ethnic Turkmens: Enemies or Allies for Ashgabat?, 4 October 2015, [url](#)

- [1863](#)

Rasekh, M. S., A Study of the Turkmen Dialects of Afghanistan: Phonology – Morphology – Lexicon – Sociolinguistic Aspects, PhD Thesis, 7 October 2016, [url](#), p. 12

- [1864](#)

Rasekh, M. S., A Study of the Turkmen Dialects of Afghanistan: Phonology – Morphology – Lexicon – Sociolinguistic Aspects, PhD Thesis, 7 October 2016, [url](#), p. 33

- [1865](#)

AI, The State of the World's Human Rights; Afghanistan 2023, 24 April 2024, [url](#), p. 71; UN, General Assembly, Situation of human rights in Afghanistan, 1 September 2023, [url](#), para. 50

- [1867](#)

UN Security Council, Thirteenth report of the Analytical Support and Sanctions Monitoring Team, 26 May 2022, [url](#), para. 19

- [1868](#)

UN, General Assembly, Situation of human rights in Afghanistan, 1 September 2023, [url](#), para. 50; UN Human Rights Council, Situation of human rights in Afghanistan, 23 February 2024, [url](#), para. 62

- [1872](#)

UN, General Assembly, Situation of human rights in Afghanistan, 1 September 2023, [url](#), para. 53

- [1873](#)

Afghanistan International, Taliban Appoints Turkmen Cleric As Ambassador To Türkiye, 26 June 2025, [url](#); MEI, Taliban Leadership Tracker: Sheikh Samiullah Farahmand, n.d., [url](#)

- [1874](#)

MEI, Taliban Leadership Tracker: Sheikh Samiullah Farahmand, n.d., [url](#)