

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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