



## AFGHAN ALLIES AND VULNERABLE POPULATION ESTIMATE

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As U.S. Armed Forces and U.S. government diplomats work tirelessly to evacuate Afghan allies from Afghanistan, many have asked how many Afghan allies could potentially be evacuated. This question led our team from [The Association of Wartime Allies](#) to collaborate with over a hundred academic researchers to quickly arrive at an estimate for this population that relentlessly stood beside the U.S. throughout Operation Enduring Freedom and other Coalition missions at the risk of their own and families' lives.

It is our understanding that the evacuation priorities at Kabul Hamid Karzai International airport has been American citizens, American green card holders, those who have applied for or would be eligible for [Special Immigrant Visas](#) (SIVs) and [Priority-2 \(P-2\) refugee designation](#). *We estimate the total SIV population, including dependents left to be evacuated to be around 65,000. The broader P-2 left to be evacuated, including dependents, is estimated to be between 198,000 and nearly 1.1 million people, depending on assumptions placed on the available data. In all, we estimate a minimum of 263,000 potential Afghan allies (SIV and P-2) and family members remain on the ground eligible for evacuation.*

In the months and years to come, a larger vulnerable population based on occupation, minority status, and involvement with Coalition partners could lead to an even larger number of eligible population for refugee status. We estimate this population to be between XX and XX.

The estimates below use the best demographic and population estimation techniques available for the publicly-available data. The estimation process is broken into three parts: (1) SIV's, (2) P-2 designation, and (3) vulnerable population.

### **SIV's**

Individuals and their immediate family members who worked at least one year for U.S. Armed Forces during the past twenty years are eligible for this visa. For the purposes of this estimate, the population under consideration here is only translators/interpreters as they represent the group most consistently embedded with U.S. Armed Forces during operations, and expected to be the largest share of SIV recipients.

**The number of potential SIV principal applicants** was calculated by taking the *total* number of [local national](#) employees between 2001 and 2021 hired by the U.S. government, as annually provided by the Department of Defense and multiplying it by the *share* of those who were translators, based on a 2013 to 2021 average provided in the same reports. (There were several data gaps for early years (2001 to 2007) for local national employees. Please see assumptions for these years in the P-2 designation section of this estimate.)

Taking the total number of person-years of translators for the twenty year war and dividing it by an assumed 3 year average tenure per translator, it is estimated that approximately 54,000 translators would be eligible for an SIV, after adjusting for [mortality rates provided by the UN](#). Past dependent to principal applicant ratio for Afghan SIVs is 2.55, leading to a potential total number of 148,000 individuals. With already 79,000 SIVs having entered the U.S. during the past several years and a roughly estimated 5,000 already evacuated, **this leaves an additional 65,000 SIV applicants and family members on the ground in Afghanistan.**

<b>SIV groups</b>	<b>Estimate</b>
Potential principal applicants, after applied mortality	58,000
Dependents (2.55 dependent to principal ratio)	148,000
SIVs already in the U.S.	-79,000
Rough estimate for SIVs and family members already evacuated	-5,000
<b>Remaining SIV applicants to be evacuated</b>	<b>65,000</b>

## **P-2 Refugee Designation Category**

On August 2, 2021, prior to the fall of Afghanistan to the Taliban, the Department of State [issued guidance](#) to U.S.-based media organizations/NGOs for Priority-2 referrals of Afghan nationals for the U.S. Refugee Admissions Program. In it, the groups eligible for processing were described for P-2 refugee designation, which broadly includes those who worked for any length of time for the U.S. government, a U.S.-government funded program, a U.S.-based media company, or a non-governmental organization.

**The number of applicants funded by the U.S.-government or U.S.-government contractors** was calculated by taking the total number of [local national](#) employees between 2001 and 2021, annually provided by the Department of Defense. This total number was adjusted to allow for an average 10 year work tenure of contractors (for a low estimate) and a 5 year work tenure (for a high estimate). There were several data gaps in the total number of local national employees. For example, the 2008 ratio of U.S. troops to local national employees was applied to 2001 to 2007 troop levels to obtain the number of local national employees for those years. Also, the ratio of U.S. troops to local national employees each year was applied to U.S. contractors and U.S. security contractors to obtain an estimate of local nationals that worked with these organizations. This population ranges between 69,000 and 138,000 individuals, after taking into account potential mortality. Using the principal to dependent ratio for Afghan SIVs thus far in the SIV program (2.55 dependents for each principal) for the low estimate and an average 5 dependents for every principal application for a high estimate (P-2 refugee designation allows for a broader definition of family members than SIV), an additional 175,000 to 688,000 dependents would be added to this population. This group would include translators and their dependents that would also be eligible for a SIV.

**The number of applicants working for a government-funded program or grant** was calculated using estimates for two groups of interest: (1) locally employed embassy staff ([estimated](#) to be 2,600 in July 2021) and the elite portion of Afghan National Security Forces (ANSF), the Afghan National Army Commando Forces ([2017 estimate](#) of 21,000). This is the most likely group of ANSF that may be eligible for evacuation. When adding dependents, an additional 60,000 to 1118,000 people would be added to this population.

**Applicants working for a U.S.-based NGO** was calculated using estimates for the number of Afghan nationals working for foreign NGOs, [estimated at 72,000](#). This 2014 estimate includes both U.S.- and non-U.S.-based NGOs. Our low estimate lowers this by number by 50% for 36,000 Afghan nationals, while the high estimate assumes all NGOs are U.S.-based, so 72,000. An estimated number of 92,000 to 360,000 dependents was added to this population. **Applicants working for a U.S.-based media organization** was calculated using an [estimate of 1,000](#) total staff, including dependents.

To better estimate the number of remaining allies to be evacuated by the U.S., **we subtract the 79,000 SIVs** (including dependents) that have already entered the U.S. since the war began. We also subtract the number of SIVs (65,000), including dependents, estimated earlier as this group could also potentially qualify for P-2 refugee designation. Also, we need to account for double counting for dependent spouses who may have on their own qualified for P-2 refugee designation or individuals who moved between categories (U.S. government funded jobs to NGOs/ANSF and possible back again). We use a rough 25% adjustment rate of principals for this possible double counting in the low estimate and a 10% adjustment rate in the high estimate. Finally, we subtracted an estimated number of Afghan nationals removed since the evacuation began on August 14, roughly estimated around 1,000.

This estimation exercise results in an **estimated 198,000 to 1,115,000 remaining, eligible Afghans that could be removed from Afghanistan in the remaining days of the evacuation operation as P-2 refugee designees.** This high number demonstrates the footprint the U.S. government has had on Afghanistan for the past twenty years as it fought enemies, trained its military, and built national institutions.

<b>P-2 REFUGEE DESIGNATION GROUP</b>	<b>LOW ESTIMATE</b>	<b>HIGH ESTIMATE</b>
Funded by U.S. government - principals	69,000	138,000
Funded by U.S. government - dependents	188,000	688,000
U.S. Embassy locally employed nationals - principals	2,600	2,600
U.S. Embassy locally employed nationals - dependents	6,600	13,000
Afghan National Army Commando Forces - principals	21,000	21,000
Afghan National Army Commando Forces - dependents	54,000	105,000
U.S. NGO national staff - principals	36,000	72,000
U.S. NGO national staff - dependents	92,000	360,000
U.S. media national staff - principals and dependents	1,000	1,000
<b>REDUCTIONS</b>		
SIV principals and dependents already in the U.S.	-79,000	-79,000
SIV estimate	-65,000	-65,000
Double counting of principals and dependents	-114,000	-140,000
Recent evacuees	-1,000	-1,000
<b>TOTAL TO BE EVACUATED</b>	<b>198,000</b>	<b>1,115,000</b>

Since this estimate of eligible evacuees does not include the number of people who worked for all organizations that received U.S. funding or grants, this estimate is assumed to be conservative. However, it does not include the hundreds of thousands to millions of vulnerable individuals, based on their position in the national government or institutions, those fighting human and gender rights issues, religious minorities, among others that would now, or at some point, qualify for refugee status.

### **Vulnerable population**