



OES IN BRIEF

This quarterly report submitted by the Lead Inspector General for Operation Enduring Sentinel (OES) summarizes this quarter's key events related to the mission, including the status of terrorist organizations, such as ISIS-Khorasan (ISIS-K) and al-Qaeda, as well as U.S. diplomatic and humanitarian efforts related to Afghanistan.

ISIS-K Focused on Small-Scale Attacks Against the Taliban while Rebuilding *pp. 7–8*

- The DoD **did not provide** any **unclassified** information on U.S. counterterrorism activity this quarter.
- ISIS-K worked to reorganize following the **loss of senior leaders** in Taliban raids in March and April.
- ISIS-K's **explosives** remained the leading cause of **civilian deaths** in Afghanistan.
- ISIS-K lacks the capacity to attack the U.S. homeland directly but **seeks to inspire** individuals to commit acts of violence.

The Taliban Demonstrated Improved Ability to Disrupt ISIS-K *pp. 10–11*

- The Taliban's counter-ISIS-K activity **prevented major attacks** and reduced the number of minor attacks.
- A Taliban raid **killed** the ISIS-K plotter responsible for the August 2021 **Abbey Gate attack**.
- The Taliban was **unable to prevent attacks** on **low-security** targets, including an attack that killed an acting Taliban governor.

U.S. Government Continues to Prioritize Afghan SIV, Asylum, and Refugee Applicants *pp. 15–16*

- State and USCIS **streamlined** the document process for SIVs.
- State **issued 6,384 SIVs** this quarter; **12,253** total in 2023.
- **1,713** Afghan **refugees arrived** in the U.S. this quarter, bringing the total to **3,698** in FY 2023 as of June 8.
- **2,300** Afghan refugee applicants **interviewed** in **20** countries, bringing the total to **13,000** interviewed since October 2020.
- USCIS **received 1,793 asylum applications** and **processed 1,278** this quarter as of June 8.

International Community Continued to Press the Taliban on Counterterrorism and Human Rights *pp. 10, 17–20*

- **No country** has **recognized** the Taliban as the government of Afghanistan.
- **Human rights abuses**, especially against **women and girls**, remained a major barrier to international recognition.
- U.S. officials **continued to meet** with Taliban to promote U.S. national interests and call for the Taliban to **respect expectations** of the international community.
- The UN Security Council **unanimously** adopted a resolution **condemning** the Taliban's restrictions on women.

Humanitarian Crisis Worsened with 28.8 Million in Need of Aid *pp. 21–24*

- More than **15M** Afghans were acutely **food insecure** with **2.8M** experiencing **emergency levels** of hunger.
- **Natural disasters**, including drought and locusts, have reduced domestic **food production**.
- USAID provided more than **\$422M** to WFP for **food assistance** in FY 2023, including \$78.5M this quarter.

The Taliban Expanded its Ban on Women Working with NGOs to include the UN *pp. 24–26*

- The enhanced restrictions will limit providers' ability to reach **11.6M women and girls in need of aid**.
- Restrictions on female staff caused several USAID implementers to continue to **suspend operations**.

Oversight and Investigations *pp. 29–33*

The Lead IG agencies published **10 reports** related to OES during the quarter, including reports on DoD **screening** of Afghan evacuees; DoD management of Afghan **security funding**; and State's efforts to resettle **Afghan SIVs**. One individual was sentenced following a **criminal fraud** investigation.