



1. UK Armed Forces in Afghanistan (2001–2021)

- Total personnel deployed: ~150,610
- Fatalities: 457 UK service personnel and MOD civilians
- Peak deployment: ~9,500 troops (mainly in Helmand Province)
- Major operations:
 - Operation Veritas (2001–2002): Initial combat deployment
 - Operation Herrick (2002–2014): Largest and longest UK combat mission
 - Operation Toral (2015–2021): Training and support mission
 - Operation Pitting (2021): Evacuation during fall of Kabul

2. Afghan Staff Who Worked for the UK Military

- Locally Employed Civilians (LECs): ~7,000 Afghans worked directly for UK forces
- Roles included:
 - Interpreters
 - Drivers and logistics staff
 - Security guards
 - Administrative and technical support
- Risks faced: Many were targeted by the Taliban due to their work with UK forces

3. UK Resettlement Schemes

- ARAP (Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy)
For Afghans who worked directly with UK forces
Resettled so far: 21,316
- ACRS (Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme)
For broader vulnerable groups (women leaders, human rights defenders, etc.)
Resettled so far: 13,700
- Combined Totals
Total resettled (2021–2025): ~35,700
Pending applications (as of July 2025): ~22,000

4. Year-by-Year Timeline

- 2021 Operation Pitting evacuation 15,000
- 2022 ARAP & ACRS fully operational 8,000
- 2023 Continued arrivals 6,000
- 2024 Ongoing resettlement 6,000
- 2025 (to July) Schemes closed to new applicants 700

5. Biometric Checks

- 2021 evacuation: Evacuees admitted without biometrics due to urgency
- Current policy: Biometric enrolment now mandatory for all pending applicants
- Processing locations: Biometrics collected in third countries (e.g., Pakistan, Qatar) before UK entry
- Government pledge: All 22,000 pending cases will be processed before end of current Parliament

Key Takeaways

- The UK's Afghan campaign was its largest military engagement since WWII.
- Around 7,000 Afghans worked directly for UK forces over 20 years, but resettlement numbers are higher because families and vulnerable groups are included.
- The 22,000 pending figure reflects family-linked applications, not just interpreters.
- Biometric checks are now being enforced to close earlier security gaps but there is no proof this has started.

