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## AN ANALYSIS OF OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES TOWARDS THE AFGHAN IMMIGRANTS IN TURKEY

Türkiye'deki Afgan Göçmenlerin Fırsat ve Zorluklarına Yönelik Bir Analiz

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### Öz

Nüfus hareketlerinin tarihi bireylerin ve toplumun daha iyi yaşam arzusu nedeniyle insanlık tarihi kadar eskiye gider. Göç farklı dönemlerde, çeşitli nedenlere bağlı olarak değişik şekilde gelişmiştir. Kökelik, savaş, demokratik baskı, işgücü ve mekândaki farklı baskı nedenleri ile göç edilen yerlerin cazibe durumları göçün nedenleri oluşturmuştur. Bu çalışmada Afganların Türkiye'ye göç nedenlerini ve göçmenlerin mevcut durumları ortaya konulması amaçlanmıştır. Bu kapsamda Afgan göçünün fırsat ve zorlukları betimsel ve analitik çerçevede incelenmiştir. Makalenin analizi göç teorileri yöntemleri çerçevesinde itici ve cazibe etkisi çerçevesinde yeni bir bakış oluşturulmuştur. Bilgiler ulusal ve uluslararası göç ve göçmen organizasyonlarından, basılı ve dijital veri kaynaklarından faydalanılarak elde edilmiştir. Afganistan'da uzun süredir devam eden savaş binlerce Afgan'ın dünyanın farklı bölgelerine göç ettirmiştir. Türkiye Asya ülkeleri ve Avrupa ülkeleriyle stratejik ve jeostratejik geçiş noktası durumundadır. Bu durum iç-dış göç şeklinde yasal ve yasadışı olarak devam etmektedir. Özellikle Avrupa ülkelerine gitmek isteyen Afganlar için her yıl binlerce mülteci Türkiye'ye göç etmektedir. Türkiye'de yaşayan Afganlar kimlik sahibi olmasına bağlı olarak bazı eğitim, sigortalı çalışma ve sağlık imkânlarından faydalanmaktadır.

**Anahtar Kelime:** Göç, Afganlar, Zorluklar, Fırsatlar, Türkiye

### Abstract

The history of population movements goes back to the history of humanity due to the desire of individuals and society to live better. Migration has been developed in different periods due to various reasons. The originality, war, democratic pressure, labor force and different pressure in space, attractiveness of the places have been the reasons for migration, respectively. The purpose of writing this article is to show the migration of Afghans to Turkey by analyzing the situation for immigrants. Their opportunities and challenges during migration were examined by both descriptive and analytical methods. Its approach analysis is based on the usage of related immigration theories including ravenstein's theory of repulsion and gravity (new security theory), which has been used in immigration data collection from international immigration organizations and library in the field area. Afghanistan has been involved in war for a few decades, and thousands of Afghans have migrated to countries around the world especially European countries. Each year, thousands of refugees migrate to Turkey for spacial purposes. Turkey provides some opportunities and challenges for Afghans such as studying, employment and investment opportunities. However, working permission and health insurance with no kimlik (ID card) is not possible for them.

**Keyword:** Migration, Afghans, Challenges, Opportunity, Turkey

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## INTRODUCTION

Migration has a long history and has existed in various ways from the earliest days of human history until now. Immigration has many major reasons and can change the population due to its nature. In addition to its long-term changes, can cause rapid and short-term effects on the number and structure of the population in the region of origin and destination.

Afghanistan is an entirely landlocked country located in southern Asia. It is settled in the east of Iran and surrounded by north and west of Pakistan. (Özey, 2018) Other countries that have border with Afghanistan are Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, and Tajikistan. (Saray, 1997) On the eastern side of the country, Afghanistan also shares a small section of the border with China. Afghanistan has a total land area of roughly 250,000 square miles (652,000 square kilometers)(Runion, 2007) Even though it is a landlocked country, Afghanistan has been at the crossroads of history (Carlisle, 2001)

The country and people have been associated with the numerous empires and conquering states (Barfield, 2010). Afghanistan has been prioritised for possessing river basins, fertile valleys and its location on the east-west trade routes, especially the Silk Route to China. Therefore, this geographic factor affected and changed the people of Afghanistan (Rahimi, 2012).

Afghanistan is still heavily dependent on international military and economic assistance. Due to the constant political and economic insecurity in the country, accompanied by the trade deficit and environmental factors, the growth rate is declining. Meantime, the reluctance of companies and investors to invest, impeded the process of creating jobs (World Bank, 2018).

The total labor force in Afghanistan turns to 50.931.611. This number of people includes women who are 15 years old and above, which form 52, 19 % of the active labor force in Afghanistan. Agriculture is the largest employment sector in Afghanistan (Monsutti, 2005). Workers in the agricultural sector form 60% of total employment. It means that, three out of five workers make their main source of income from farming. The average income in Afghanistan is approximately 95-140 dollars per month. According to the World Bank reports (2018) GDP per capita has risen steadily since 2002 (\$ 839), reached \$ 806 in 2014, and grew slowly. It has been reached to \$ 1951 in 2018 (Jazayery, 2002). Rising worklessness has led to the unemployment of one-fourth of the work force in Afghanistan (World Bank, 2018). This is due to the limitation of job opportunities and poor security situation. However, the population continues to grow. Meanwhile, those who are even busy with work, have insecure job opportunities or duties that does not last for a long time. This is primarily related to daily work or unpaid personal work. Forty-six percent of youth, aged from 15 to 24 are illiterate and young female labor participation rate is low (World Bank, 2018).

Afghanistan is a multi-ethnic country and contains ethnic groups such as Tajik, Hazara, Pashtun, Uzbek, Aimaq, Turkmen, Baluch Nuristani, Pashai, Qizilbash, Brahui, Pamiri and some other ethnic groups in it (Ansari, 2015). The largest ethnic groups in Afghanistan are Pashtuns, Tajiks, Hazaras and Uzbeks which each one of these ethnic groups experienced migration.

In the 1990s, Afghanistan had more than 5 million refugees. In the following year with no exaggeration, approximately 10 million of the country's population and Afghan nationalities worked abroad have been alternately with the phenomenon of displacement (Giustozzi, 2000). Until the fall of the Taliban in 2001, Afghanistan with 5,3 million refugees in neighboring countries and worldwide, was accounted for approximately 40 percent of the world's displaced people. Due to various reasons, including insecurity, there are still 5 million Afghan refugees in neighboring countries including Iran, Pakistan and other countries. The UN High Commissioner claimed that eight million Afghans have been forced to leave their home and country because of war, poverty, unemployment and drought (World Bank, 2018).

Unfortunately, Afghans migration has been intensified due to social and political crises and successive wars (Harpviken, 2009). With the rise of the Taliban in 1994, the migration process increased. The war and violence in Afghanistan caused an increase in the migration of people (Migration, 2014).

Turkey's unique position in the crossroads of Europe, Africa and Asia has been highlighted the situation for immigrants since the 1980s. Turkey has become not only as the nation of immigrants, but as the host country of immigrants. This point has led to create a strategy on legal reform and the development of international cooperation to deal with irregular migration. Turkey currently hosts more than 4 million migrants from 190 countries (Kaytaz, 2016).

Turkey is not Afghanistan's neighbour, but Turkey has many cultural and social similarities to Afghanistan due to its common historical roots (Özey, 2018). According to Afghanistan's ministry of refugee's announcement, statistics show that, there are more than 7 million Afghan refugees in the world and most them live in Iran and Pakistan. After these two countries, Turkey is hosted 3,5 million of Afghan refugees in 2018. Several immigrants have applied for asylum in other

countries and the large number of them works with investment apartments. Many of these immigrants obtained Turkish citizenship and are residents now, and some are studying as well. Due to the improving conditions in Turkey, the flow of illegal immigrants has been increased. This point has been led to the threats and opportunities that the refugees faced with in Turkey.

## THEORETICAL AND CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK

Geography has a tradition of diverse scholarship and its subfield of migration studies is no exception. This enthusiasm for new conceptualizations and approaches was on display in spring 2009 when scholars convened in Brighton, U.K. to participate in a conference entitled Re-Making of Migration Theory. Most of attendees, but not all of them were population geographers. Some of the papers from the conference formed the core of a special issue of the journal of population geography, population, space, and place. Russell King's paper looked back on geography's contributions to migration theory, examined current trends, and then identified future opportunities for migration research in geography. The subtitle of the special issue for population, space, place, transitions, intersections, and cross-fertilizations, signaled both changing times and Geography's theoretical, methodological, and topical eclecticism. We will accent the aspects of discipline in this chapter. It also indicated that migration itself is particularly suited interdisciplinary study. Indeed, many conferees made exactly this point and the interdisciplinarity of both migration studies and geography matched them well. This chapter expressly builds some of the outcomes of that conference and the associated journal issue, and pays a special attention to Russell King's synopsis of the state of play in migration studies in geography. We use those commentaries as this chapter's foundation and add our own views on migration theory in Geography, identify current trends in the discipline, and show where Geographers can continue to make vital contributions to migration studies in the near future. We frame our remarks using some much older commentary on Geography and migration. Some surveys of migration theory in Geography start with the work of Ernst Georg Ravenstein, in particular two papers that he published in the Journal of the Royal Statistical Society (1885, 1889). For example, few migration scholars in Geography before 1980, considered gender in their analyses or utilized an innovative method of depicting migration flows. However, Ravenstein's work had both. Instead of starting with Ravenstein theory and moving on, we use his laws to structure our chapter. Some scholars can be ungenerous about Ravenstein's "laws" of migration. Social science research rarely mixes with it perfectly and his model of migration is individualistic and a historical (White, 2016).

In the late 19th and early 20th centuries, the most important theory that was considered as the scientific seats, was part of the first theoretical view of human geographical movements, under the heading of gravity and repulsion models. Theorists have considered two categories of factors in these models; factors that caused repulsion, are the regions of origin and the factors that attract people to the area (Hosseini, 2015).

According to this theory, inappropriate economical-physical factors in one place cause people to leave their place of residence and move to another place that is improving economically, socially and physically. The following text mentioned many of these models and the characteristics of each model correspond to explanation of the phenomenon of migration based on gravitational factors and repulsion were considered (Sayed, 2012).

Ravenstein is one of the theorists who introduced the general principles of the functionalist approach in the migration process. He made strive to clarify the behavior of immigrants and how they migrated based on dialectics. He made laws of attraction and repulsion using the information that obtained in the nineteenth century, according to the analysis that proposed idea in the form of immigration laws in the 20th century. Following and designing some factors has been influential on decision of migration (Ravenstein, 1885). In this plan, his unfavorable social, economic, political and physical factors caused him to flee from his place of residence and tend to settle in more favorable and desirable places (Migration, 2020). Ultimately, he observed a rational behavior in the migration of people. Based on the obtained findings, he believed in the rule of law in the immigration movement (Hosseini, 2015). The laws that Ravenstein discussed can be summarized as follows:

Industrial facilities of developed countries, hope for a framed perspective including better future, having access to better opportunities, higher income, profit of productive activities, attractions of modern life, access to job opportunities, political stability, reduction of information gap and globalization, high-level Security, efficiency and higher profitability (Salehi, 2006). Ravenstein's "laws" classified into three groups of reasons, distance and migrant characteristics. The following index was a standard list after Ravenstein's proposals during the period of 1834 to 1913. The laws are as follows (Corbett, 2005);

- Most migrants only go to a short-distance region at one time.
- Long-distance migrations are for those who come from large cities.
- Most migration is from rural areas to urban areas.

- Most international migrants are young males between the ages of 20 and 45.
- Most migrations proceed in step-by-step processes.
- Each migration flow produces at least one counter flow.
- Females remain more migratory than the males within their country.
- Migration increases in volume as industries develop and transportation improves.
- Major causes of migration are for economic reasons ([Migration, 2020](#)).

Ravenstein also claimed that migrants have typical characteristics: -Most long-distance migrants are male. Most long-distance migrants are adults rather than families with children. Sources and destinations use Ravenstein's laws to explain the patterns. Why? Where? Who? ([Arslan, 2011](#)). Obstacles for immigration, immigrants - many countries that are recipients of immigrants have quota laws. These laws determine the immigration percentage of people relative to the current size of the population.

Security is essential, and it is impossible to make sense of world politics without referencing to it. Every day, people somewhere in the world are being killed, starved, tortured, raped, impoverished, imprisoned, displaced, or deprived educationally in the name of security. The concept saturates contemporary societies all around the world. It litters the speeches of politicians and pundits. Newspaper columns and radio waves are full of it. The images of security and insecurity almost flash across our television screens and the internet constantly. All these make security a fascinating, often deadly, but always important topic ([White, 2016](#)).

Maslow's needs theory is one of the theories, which is crucial on explanation of the importance of immigration. The idea at the micro-level and narrow scope of the topic shows that, the satisfaction or non-satisfaction of migrants classifies into five categories of different needs within the individuals that include; physiological, safety, social, respect and self-discovery ([Williams, 2008](#)). From this perspective, if people do not meet the five above-mentioned requirements, they see their migration as a mean for supplying different needs ([Chapman, 2011](#)). Chalabi also believes that there are four main types of attachments based on needs. Chalabi categorized these attachments as four rings that are as follows: cognitive attachment, physical attachment, communication attachment and security attachment ([Williams, 1997](#)). In this theory, human beings targeted as the individuals that are potentially anxious to maintain peace and protect the environment relating to social proof, and attempting to achieve their goals. ([Rabab, 2010](#)). These goals are life security, financial security, intellectual security and social security ([Rabab, 2010](#)).

If these securities are unfavorable for the citizens, the theory analysis approach can be a role for the government to provide social security and safety for the citizens ([Chapman, 2011](#)). The lack of security for citizens has led to an individual and collective migration. The migration would last in Afghanistan till the current situation and same problem exist ([Sayed Hadi, 2012](#)).

## STAGES OF AFGHAN MIGRATION IN TURKEY

Patterns of Afghan migration to Turkey have changed since the beginning of the twentieth century. The previous form of Afghan's migration divides into five stages:

**The First Stage of Migration in 1982 to 1990:** During these years, several Afghan students and high-ranking Afghan officials came to Turkey individually and in groups on a temporary basis, by mutual agreement. However, it started with the commencement of the Soviet invasion in Afghanistan ([Castles, 2014:165](#)), and led to emigration and displacement of Afghans to Iran and Pakistan ([Buil, 2014](#)).

Turkish authorities visited Afghan refugee camps in Pakistan and made urgent decisions to relocate Afghan refugees to Turkey. According to the 1934 settlement law, the refugees were Uzbeks, Kyrgyz, Turkmen, Hazara ethnic origin with Turks. Afghans relocated to Tokat, Kırşehir, Sivas, Şanlıurfa, Van, and Hatay. This was due to the providing of housing, farmland, and employment opportunities and formation of small community there. However, some of them moved from their original settlements to large cities such as İstanbul, Ankara and Konya. As a result, during 1982 to 1983, there were 1,006 families with 4,163 members ([Afganistan ve Asya Ülkeleri, 2004](#)).

**The Second Stage of Migration from 1990 to 2000:** Since 1990, uninterrupted accidents began through transportation to Europe, created an elaborate network migration flow. This small unstable movement never led to the adjustment of immigrants. ([Mccauley, 2002](#)).

**Third Stage of Migration from 2000 to 2010:** After 2001, the political, social and economic developments in Afghanistan began. In 2007, humanitarian spaces in Pakistan and Iran became more restricted to Afghan refugees. However, these political pressures on refugees began in the 1970s. It was said that, the reason for these pressures on migrants was the lack of support from the International Organization for Migration. At this point, Afghans were forced to. They went from Pakistan to Iran, from Iran to Turkey, and their goal was to go to European countries and seek asylum (UNHCR, *Global Report, 2007: Challenges & Achievements, 2007*).

With the commencement of Turkey's accession talks with the EU in 2005, border crossings became more restricted due to the Europeanization of immigration policies. However, since 2011, the Syrian refugee movement became a major factor in Turkey's immigration policy when Afghans used Turkey as well as the flexible boundary policy (Yıldırım, 2018).

**The Fourth Stage of Migration From 2010 to 2016:** Turkey historically housed Afghan refugees in the past, for example during Afghanistan's war with the former Soviet Union, thousands of families traveled to Pakistan and then invited to Turkey. Migration intensified as the security situation deteriorated in cities and villages. In addition, foreign institutions became less active and some became unemployed. (Yıldırım, 2018). After the third world war, Afghanistan became extremely limited (Özey and Ünü, 2020: 97).

These flows caused Afghan refugees to enter Turkey directly and indirectly in two layers of migration and different flows. The number of Afghan refugees in 2010 was over 1,200 people. Then, it grew significantly and enlarged every year. There were more than 16,000 people in 2014. Similarly, 37 percent of the number of illegal immigrants detained in 2010 was less than 3,000 that increased dramatically and reached more than 12,000 people in 2014.

**The Fifth Stage of Migration from 2016 to 2020:** The huge wave of Afghan refugees who came to Turkey was in 2016 and their final destination was European countries such as Turkey, which has a geo-economic, geo-strategic, geo-cultural, geopolitical position. Turkey connects land to water and water to land, so it was the best way for immigrants who wanted to enter Europe. In 2016, 270,000 people approximately went to other countries through Turkey (UNHCR, *Statistical Yearbook, 2016*). In view of the fact that Turkey geographically restricted the 1951 Geneva Convention on Refugees by not providing Refugee Status for those coming from outside Europe, the settlement of Afghans arranged under the heading of "Turkish origin and culture". Nevertheless, the situation of Afghan refugees who wanted to go to other countries faced restrictions. In addition, Turkish Immigration Organization, considering their place restrictions, replaced them. Numerous studies directly or indirectly showed that some people tried to get asylum in Turkey due to their ethnicity. Some people wanted to buy a house and become citizens in Turkey due to their religious issues. Others attempted to go to European countries and ask for asylum. The number of Afghan illegal immigrants evaluated by Turkish police. In 2017 (45.259) and in 2018 (100.841) illegal migrants were arrested. The number of immigrants settled in the cities and private companies that worked for several Turkish border crossings blocked by Turkish police as they tried to cross. (Ahmet, 2018).

Turkey maintained geographical restrictions on the passage of the 1951 UN Convention. This means that only those who can escape the "unexpected events in Europe" can be asylum granted. Therefore, Afghan refugees cannot stay in Turkey or resettle in other countries. Since, mid-2013, UNHCR has stopped accepting applications from Afghans and closed all cases due to growing shortages. As a result, large numbers of asylum seekers are on processing. Naturally, these difficult conditions forced many Afghans who arrived in Turkey to continue in Europe (ICMPD, 2013).

## THE REASON FOR THE ARRIVAL OF AFGHAN IMMIGRANTS IN TURKEY

Ottoman history in the Islamic world and its spiritual influence in Afghanistan, along with majority of the Hanafi, has had a special religion. Afghanistan, with its various ethnic groups, especially Turkish speakers (including Uzbeks and Turkmen), can be an important region. Attention to cultural and religious issues has deep roots between the Turkey and Afghanistan governments. In order to bring Afghanistan-Turkey relations closer, the Afghanistan's government renamed one of the main streets of Kabul New City "Ankara Road" (Saray, 1997). The lasting legacy of Rumi, a mystic who was born in Balkh and died in Konya, has been a strong bridge between the people of ancient Khorasan and Rumi's lovers in Turkey for hundreds of years. The bridge still exists and no one can ignore it in Afghanistan-Turkey relationships (Karadağ, 2018).

Afghanistan and Turkey have an old cultural and historical relationship. In World War I, Afghans rushed to the aid of their Turkish brothers. There are currently 1,840 Turkish troops stationed in Afghanistan under the command of NATO's North Atlantic Treaty Organization, and Turkey has a significant contribution in supporting Afghanistan's reconstruction. (Durmaz, 2019).



The reason why the Afghans migrate to Turkey divides into two parts. Due to having a common religious-cultural aspect and tribal ties in two countries, this land has a positive view toward immigrants. The role of Turkey as the central position is the second reason why immigrants choose Turkey to migrate. This is a critical role for immigrants of Afghans who see Europe as their ultimate destination.

There are three "fragmented" stages as follows:

- The first phase starts with departing from Afghanistan and moving to its neighbors, Pakistan or Iran. Migrants and refugees then move to Turkey from those countries either on foot or by a vehicle or assisted by migrant smugglers. Land routes involve harsh physical conditions and Afghans encounter safety concerns. Afghans after gaining access to the eastern borders of Iran move to the urban areas and the western provinces. (Buz and all, 2020).
- The second stage involves crossing into Bulgaria via land borders or Greece by land or sea borderlines. The final stage involves the movement from Greece or Bulgaria to the next destination in Europe. The entire journey involves a long waiting period to finance the next phase. Sometimes the next phase never occurs and then transit countries become a destination. Turkey provides an interesting case in this regard, as it has served as both a transit and destination country.
- While Turkey has been a migrant-sending country for many decades, its position as a country of transit and destination has become more prevalent since the early 2000s. Different categories of migration movements have contributed to Turkey and in one dimension the migrations were in transit form:

- 1) Irregular arrivals of migrants, especially those who come from neighboring countries and seek for job opportunities in Turkey's economy
- 2) Transit migrants who pass through Turkey on their way to Europe, while some of them stay longer to work and save money for onward journeys
- 3) Asylum seekers and refugees
- 4) Regular migrants who legally reside in Turkey for studying, working and other purposes (Buz and all., 2020).

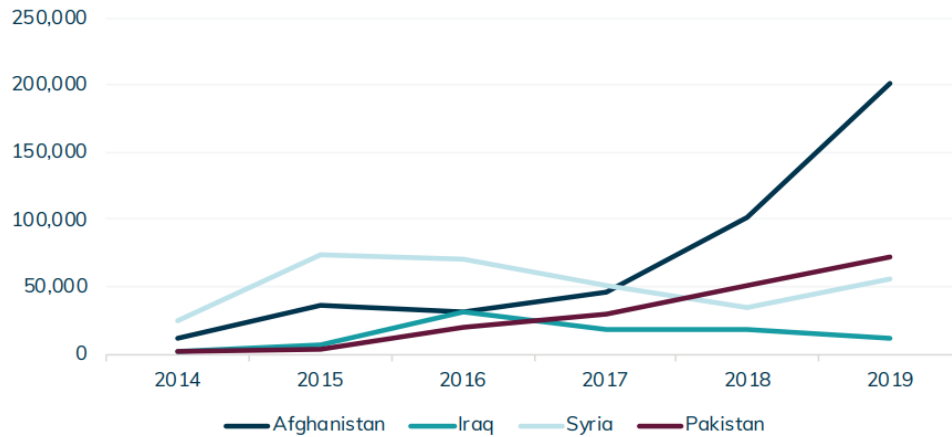
Table 1: Increase of International Migration to Turkey From 2011 to 2019			
2011		2019	
International protection Applicants	17.925	International protection Applicants and Temporary Protection beneficiaries	56.417 (non-Syrians) & 3.576.370 (Syrians)
Irregular arrivals	44.415	Irregular arrivals	454.662
Residency permission	234.268	Residency permission	1.101.030

Source: Buz and all., 2020.

In the last decade, Turkey's foreign population substantially increased from 296.608 in 2011 to around five million in 2019. As shown in Table 1, the numbers of international protection applicants were relatively low in 2011. From 2011 to 2015, Turkey jumped from the 59th position to first place in the UNHCR global ranking of countries hosting the largest refugee populations (UNHCR, 2014, 2018).

Concerning individual asylum seekers (56,417), Afghan nationals (35,042) constituted the largest group of international protection applicants in 2019, and the other groups of applicants were Iraqis (15,532), Iranians (3,558) and other nationalities (2,285) (DGMM, 2020). The regular migration also continues to rise, as the population of foreigners with different types of residence permission increased fivefold within a decade (UNHCR, 2018).

In 2018, Afghans were among the top five nationalities of foreigners with short-term residence (39.283) and student residence permission in 2018 (4.601). Considering limited data on irregular migration movements, indicative estimates on the extent of irregular migration are based on apprehension figures, a method which commonly used for academics and practitioners in this field. As Turkey experienced a tenfold increase in the number of apprehended irregular migrants from 2011 to 2019, Afghans become the largest group of irregular arrivals since 2017 (Figure 1). In 2018, Afghan nationals constituted the largest group of new irregular arrivals with a share of 38%. (100.841 Afghans out of 268.003 total new arrivals). In 2019, the number of Afghan arrivals doubled and 44% remained the largest group of new arrivals (201.437 out of 454.662 total new arrivals). Source: Buz and all., 2020.



**Figure 1:** Four Nations That Immigrated Illegally Entered Turkey In 2014

These dynamics leave Afghan migrants and refugees with limited options for safe and legal migration pathways from Turkey, whereby Turkey's position as a destination country becomes more prevalent in reality (Dimitradi and all., 2018).

As illustrated in the IOM 2018 Flow-Monitoring Survey, migrants and refugees chose Turkey increasingly as their final destination: most of the migrants were Syrian respondents (86%), others were the Iraqi (68%) and Afghan nationals (64%) respectively, that reported Turkey as their intended destination at the time of departure (IOM, 2017). In other words, for most Afghans, Europe was not their intended destination (Buz and all., 2020).

Turkey got popular among Afghans migrants, especially with the individuals who previously lived in Iran and had bad days over there. Afghan participants of this study reported more restrictive policy measurement than in the past (Ahmet, 2018).

While, this chapter has provided background to the Afghans displacement, there are surprisingly limited data about the actual situation of Afghans on the move inside and through Turkey. Some immigrants are active and try to keep themselves hidden at all times. The next chapter presents findings from the primary data collected as a part of this study (Buz and all., 2020).

The migration occurs in two forms: mandatory and optional migrations and it is obvious that forced migration caused by war, famine, insecurity etc. Furthermore, its effects on life and human behavior are also different. (Migration, 2014).

Meantime, the question is whether encountering these issues on the migration process will lead to greater intellectual, behavioral, and resilient development, or not. This major shift led to psychological trauma and family breakdown problems (Houte, 2016).

Afghans look for new immigration opportunities. Immigration has been a critical and insignificant element of the nation's history and the lives of refugees. In this process, Turkey continues to be a destination for migration without changing the way it passes or intended as transit. In many cases, migration has been used as a way to survive. The return of Afghan refugees from Turkey occurs in two ways: (Kartal, 2014)

**Forced Return:** Forced return is families who have been expelled from their home by their host country against their will. There are two types of forced return of immigrants. In some cases, the host country sets a time to remove the immigrants that limits the job opportunities and other citizenship benefits for them. Like Afghans detained by Turkish police in Tuzla, Selimpaşa, Harmandalı prisons. The table below shows the figures for deported immigrants. Voluntary repatriation or self-imposed: in voluntary return, the immigrants return to their home country for any reason (Skribeland, 2018).

Year	Forced Return (Immigrant)	Voluntary Return (Immigrant)
2015	2395	2214
2016	11786	19187
2017	13799	33765
2018	23000	21992
2019	31786	24897

In the first several months of 2018, there was a sharp increase in the arrival of Afghans to Turkey, entering the country through its long border with Iran. According to UNHCR figures, there were 172,000 Afghan refugees and asylum seekers in Turkey in September 2018, while it was 145,000 in 2017 (UNHCR, 2018b).

However, the actual number is higher than it mentioned, because not all entries registered as asylum seekers. Government officials said they would make a firm decision on entry, and explicitly commented on the return of Afghans to Afghanistan, but claimed that the return was voluntary. Nevertheless, an Amnesty International briefing dated on April 24, 2018, based on interviews with detainees and returners, showed the opposite.

According to this briefing, they had to choose between detention and deportation and signed voluntary return papers without knowing what they agreed with. There were multiple media reports on Turkey's deportation of Afghans in the first half of 2018, and according to Afghan sources, 17,000 were deported from Turkey in that period (Skribeland, 2018)

Year	Number of Afghan Immigrants	Immigrants arrested (Total)
2013	5.991	39.890
2014	12.248	58.647
2015	35.921	146.485
2016	31.360	174.466
2017	45.259	175.752
2018	100.841	268.003

*Source: Ahmet, 2018*

**The Relative Peace and Security:** Families and young people miss the opportunities to provide relative security in Afghanistan. Residents can live safely in some immigrant countries with the lowest crime and homicide rates. They can train their children to go to some of the destination countries; immigrants have access to health care, facilities, and food. In these countries, the law is usually enforced by the constitution and no one is harassed. (World Bank, 2018).

**Growth and Cultural Diversity:** Many families after returning home, implement the methods they learned while were in exile to improve life in their homelands and teach others. Today in Kabul, we see that returning migrants from foreign countries pay more attention to the cleanliness of their homes and cities than others and keep their living environment clean. Some foreign Muslim countries have a rich culture. Immigrants and their families play a key role in transmitting these cultures in their own country. Immigrants trained abroad or in major Afghan cities establish a new business in your area and they can even bring them modern trends in family planning, reducing the size of the family and reducing the problems of sponsorship (Koç, 2017).

**Economic Growth Families:** During the devastating civil war, our economic infrastructure was destroyed and Afghans lost their source of income. One in five Afghan families migrated to neighboring countries to work and make a convenient life. The lack of jobs in this country has caused the people of Afghanistan to meet most of their needs through work and effort from Turkey and other countries. They send money to their families inside the country when they get a job. Young immigrants coming to your home and community can learn new approaches to promote agriculture and animal husbandry. (Akseer and Shoaib, 2017).

**Educational Opportunities:** The first Afghan students in Turkey officially began their studies in 1921. Cultural relations between Afghanistan and modern Turkey officially began with the signing of the first cultural agreement between the two countries on May 1, 1921, according to which several male and female students came to Turkey in 1923 for higher education. Good education is another benefit of taking advantage of opportunities and migrating. Unfortunately, Afghanistan still has poor quality of education even in higher education, and many university courses in this country are still not accessible to young people.



Lack of professional teachers, teaching challenges, and lack of educational facilities, insecurity, and war, standard courses and training places make other countries the way for our compatriots. So that their children will not be deprived of education. Providing better education to immigrants in other countries is one of the benefits of immigration. Especially in Turkey where the standards of the education system are higher. While Afghanistan's higher education system is not strengthened, one of the best ways to improve the country's children is migration. (Durmaz, 2019).

**Table 4:**The Data Belong to Afghans Living in Turkey

	Residence Permit with the remaining Afghans in Turkey	Afghans with Short-Term Residence Permit	Afghans Found With Student Residence Permit
2017	30.241	24.211	4.067
2018	39.283	31.664	4.601

**Creating Diplomatic Capacity for The Country:** Considering the high volume of Afghan refugees in Turkey and migrants in destination countries, it could be an opportunity to strengthen diplomatic relations between the two countries in International Politics. In addition, this role can be effective for the Government of Afghanistan and the Government of Turkey for strategic planning (Tepealti, 2020).

**Reinforcement Cultural and Political Relations between The Two Countries:** Many differences between the two countries are due to misunderstandings and misconceptions, and the capacity of the presence of Afghan refugees in the country can solve this problem in two areas:

- Proper communication with elites of Afghan immigrant in the field of propaganda, some Afghan immigrants who return to their country after a short stay in Turkey can introduce Turkish culture and explain the ideology of the Republic of Turkey in the public opinion of Afghanistan.
- Used to resolve misunderstandings and dispute resolution.

**Interaction with International Organizations:** Due to the volume of Afghan refugees in Turkey, this capacity can create a positive and humanitarian face of the Turkish Republic to the world public opinion and international organizations. In addition, Turkey can utilize the funds and international assistance provided to migrants to organize their affairs. Futurology in the economic space of Turkey: Economic and industrial growth in Turkey is on the rise. Turkey during the coming years will face a labor shortage. It can program and use the correct number of Afghan workers to fill labor gaps. On the one hand, it will strengthen the countries of the region, and on the other hand, this growth, considering the political situation and better management of the Turkish government, will increase economic revenues.

**Expansion of Scientific and Technical Cooperation:** Turkey can be called as one of the developing and developed countries that has witnessed profound industrial and technological changes in these two decades. This progress has been made with the intention of a powerful Turkish government. Technical development is increasing year by year and immigrants can play an important role in the technical, industrial, artistic and cultural sectors to transfer what they have learned to their country. (UNCTAD, 2019:12, Akseer, 2018).

## CHALLENGES OF THE PRESENCE OF AFGHAN REFUGEES IN TURKEY

The challenges of Afghan refugees in Turkey classified as follows:

**Employment of Afghans in Low-Level Jobs:** There are various jobs in Turkey that many individuals are reluctant to do for reasons such as low social status and low-income that Afghan immigrants are employed in. Of course, it also leads to threats, by changing the culture, hard working in the production of equipment, construction, cleaning bins, garbage collection, etc

**Saturated Labor Market:** Due to the high number of Syrian and Iraqi refugees, there are more job seekers in Turkey. Afghan workers and their lower expectations of their employers, led to a tendency among employers to make maximum use of Afghan workers. The Kurds are especially upset with the Afghans for taking jobs from them.

**The Country of Origin of Migrants as a Mean of Pressure against The Country of Destination:** Using immigrants as representatives of the country of origin in the destination country is one of the challenges of the immigrant country. Although the Republic of Turkey is currently facing the challenge of refugees from Afghanistan, Syria, Iraq, the increase of Afghan refugees in Turkey and their deportation continue. Afghan refugees move from Turkey to Greece and then to

European countries. The entrance to Turkey borders is temporary and it varies according to a time schedule as opened in 2016 and 2020 on immigrants to European countries. As a result, many immigrants crossed the Turkish border and the Greek authorities did not allow immigrants to enter.

**Not Knowing the Turkish Language:** Turkey is the sixth largest touristic country in the world. The level of English knowledge among the public is lower, so it has made the Turkish language important for successful immigrants in Turkey. The Afghan refugees who came to Turkey were from different ethnicities like Hazaras, Pashtuns, Tajiks. However, they were not able to speak Turkish language. There is a great advantage for Uzbeks and Turkmen of Afghanistan who speak Turkish language. Immigrants who are not capable to speak Turkish language face plenty of problems in Turkey.

**Not Having a Work Permit:** Illegal immigrants entering Turkey from Afghanistan or Afghan immigrants entering Turkey from Iran are not allowed to work at all. Due to their illegal immigration, they do not have work permission, and the problems that these immigrants face in getting a job are as follows: They get hard and low-paying work, they do not receive their full monthly salary, they are deprived of labor insurance, the police arrest and deport immigrants, they can claim that they are not illegal immigrants and they can have a residence card. Most illegal immigrants who come to Turkey are lack of work permission. Immigrants who have entered Turkey legally and applied for work permission received it at the end. (Houte, 2016).

**No Kimlik or Residence Card:** Turkey is facing a huge wave of migration. Nearly 4 million refugees are in its territory. Turkey was the largest host country for refugees in October 2018. Turkey will host about 3.5 million Syrians, 170,000 Afghans, 142,000 Iraqis, 39,000 Iranians, 5,700 Somalis and 11,700 refugees and asylum seekers from other countries. About 95% of the refugee's population in Turkey live outside the camps in cities. The second largest numbers of Afghan refugees after the Syrians are young people. Many people who register with the Turkish Immigration Service receive special cards. The rest work and live in labor and industrial workshops without a residence card or "kimlik". Of course, these cases are illegal; being lack of Kimlik is a big challenge for them, especially in the field of health. (Buz and all., 2020).

**Limitation on Obtaining a Turkish Visa for Afghans and Their Problems:** Another problem for Afghan citizens is the limited number of Turkish visas. However, there are more Turkish visa applicants and the need for a Turkish visa is increasing day by day. Nevertheless, there are some limitations as follows: During the complex administrative process run by a private company in Afghanistan, dependence on ethnic and partisan affiliations is seen in the company, which led to the loss of visas for applicants. Overpayments were taken from visa applicants under various pretexts. The majority of visas were rejected for no apparent reason. Applicants obtained a visa with a cost of several thousand dollars.

## RESULT

Migration is a phenomenon that is associated with human creation and human society is inevitable for various political, economic, social, cultural, natural, and other reasons due to its existence and permanence. If we accept that human beings crave diversity and changing the world of the existence and persistence of the phenomenon of migration are inevitable and the phenomenon of opportunities and threats is still not constant. Therefore, it can be concluded that migration cannot be eliminated or prevented merely by effective work. The leadership and management of immigration should be improved as well. The people of Afghanistan want a change in their social and economic life. However, they have been deprived of the facilities and services provided by the government. Unfortunately, most of the countries involved in the war have had the highest number of illegal immigrants, including Afghanistan. The threat of war, instability, and insecurity can become a major challenge that will have a heavy cost to countries. Migration and displacement in Afghanistan Over the past decades, which have been the product of civil and external wars, have raised political, security, poverty, and unemployment tensions. It has also caused social and economic crises. Afghans are currently the largest number of refugees in the world. Millions of Afghans live abroad. This started with the Soviet Union and the United States invaded Afghanistan. Because of these wars, thousands of Afghan families were displaced and forced to emigrate. After 2001; fundamental changes took place in the political and economic structures of Afghanistan. The refugees began to return from the destination countries. However, due to the political and security situation, this migration process intensified again. Turkey is not one of Afghanistan's neighbors, but it has had old good cultural, religious, and tribal relations with Afghanistan. However, the role of Turkey's geographical location as a bridge connecting Asia to Europe has provided visas for immigrants. Turkey has played a significant role in international migration especially for Afghan immigrants, but in the past decade, plenty of illegal immigrants moved into Turkey. Afghan refugees have entered Turkey through Iran, which has created opportunities and challenges for refugees, both legally and illegally. Due to the presence of Afghan refugees in Turkey, the strengths and weaknesses of Afghan refugees for the existing

opportunities and challenges have been carefully assessed. The Afghan government and the Turkish government have also made proposals.

## **SUGGESTION**

### **Suggestions for The Government of Afghanistan**

What can be done to prevent illegal immigration?

To counter the extraordinary pressures of migration expected in the coming years, it is necessary for the Government of Afghanistan to put the preventive and planned measures in the agenda of the relevant departments to open the channels of the legal corridors of Afghan migration to achieve this goal. It is necessary to identify and determine employment opportunities and working conditions in the host countries.

While Turkey and the Persian Gulf countries are good options for creating and facilitating immediate opportunities for formal and legal migration, in the medium term, the Afghan government can pave the way for legal migration for Afghan refugees to open larger corridors.

The Government of Afghanistan has identified the process of labor migration in Afghanistan to develop more coherent and coordinated policy to improve the legal migration management system and its implementation, which needs developing efforts in decades to establish a regular framework for legal and managed migration.

In today's world, migration occurs to ensure peace due to the determinism of nature or political, economic, and security factors. In immigrant countries, approximately 16 percent of Afghan households now have a family member living abroad or currently working abroad. The government is responsible for the security needs of its citizens, including security, shelter, work, and the basic needs of people, which are due to meet the immigration needs of citizens.

In the coming years, Afghanistan will see an unprecedented increase in economic migration of workers due to their urgent need for new job opportunities in the domestic market. Afghanistan's population is projected to grow significantly in the coming decades, doubling the country's total population from 28.4 million in 2010 to 56.5 million by 2050. It is estimated that approximately 400,000 new entrants enter the job market each year. It is estimated that out of 400,000 people who enter the labor market each year, only half will be able to work and access employment in Afghanistan. The remaining 200,000 people can receive two options: Efforts to gain employment outside Afghanistan or the ability of the private sector to create enterprises can play an effective role.

Due to the many obstacles and problems in the migration path and the lack of legal corridors, the current migration process in Afghanistan is widely considered irregular. Afghanistan Immigration is generally considered informal, and most illiterate people are generally employed in Iran, Pakistan, and Turkey. Of course, job opportunities in the labor market of these countries are also declining over time. As a result, Afghan migrant workers are routinely transferred to informal jobs in these countries for lower wages. Therefore, they cannot send cash to their families and, most importantly, they do not have enough skills in this profession when they return home. They are abroad due to lack of access to suitable job opportunities. Unmanaged migration has fewer benefits than managed migration. In managed migration, the worker first learns basic job skills inside the country and then goes legally to economically rich countries for a period. They have jobs and guaranteed salaries, and most importantly, the opportunity to learn new skills before returning to the country.

Commitment to the implementation of managed economic migration programs for Afghanistan and the world is very important. Increasing formal employment opportunities for Afghan workers abroad leads to cash transfers that can be three times as much as the GDP over 15 years. Immigrants returning to the country can improve their professional skills. Data should increase financial resources for domestic investment and increase the spirit of entrepreneurship to mobilize domestic growth, and the government should increase the economic growth in the country.

Achieving peace and security is a vital issue for Afghanistan. The role of the Turkish government in achieving peace can be effective. Because, Turkey has played a significant role in economic, humanitarian, social, and cultural assistance. The Ministry of Refugees of Afghanistan should take serious measurements to inform about the dangers of illegal immigration through media, magazines, publications, news, mosques, and web pages. Furthermore, working through the consulate has a beneficial effect.

Immigrants believe that the government has the duty to ensure general security and justice for its citizens. If the government ensures the security of the citizens in the country, the process of reducing migration will be observed. One of the most important issues for immigrants is the lack of support services. The government must provide all services to its citizens to meet the urgent needs of the people. The factors that have caused people to be dissatisfied and have

distanced them from the government have been identified. Necessary and specific action must be taken to solve the problems of the people.

Every citizen has the right to seek for asylum. The government is providing the return of refugees to Afghanistan to take serious measures to meet their social and economic needs. Supportive and incentive agencies provide financial support for immigration. The government must take action to prevent elites from fleeing the country and create an association so that the elites can exchange ideas for their country.

The lack of educational opportunities in the country has led to the migration of young people. The government provides training and employment programs for young people. Young people who demand a high-level education in the government are expanding the support and activities of top talents in the country in various sectors. The government is responsible for the protection of refugees in the neighboring countries

In other countries, the Afghan Ministry of Foreign Affairs should provide scientific research, support to students, and immigrants so that they can take practical action as soon as possible.

The government should release immigrants who have legal problems from prisons in other countries and give them a chance to contact their families. The government must identify Afghan refugees who have been killed in other countries or in border areas and act through Afghan consulates. The Afghan government should stop countries that use refugees as tools (such as the Iranian government) and send them to war in other countries and take practical action through diplomacy. Afghans have set up associations to solve problems, reflect on the facts, and address the refugee situation. Using the social capacities formed in Turkey can help people to participate in the problems of Afghan refugees and solve them.

Most Afghan refugees living with their families in Turkey are not well off but can meet their living needs. However, some Afghan families are in poor financial condition for reasons such as the lack of a head household or the illness of family members. To identify this group of immigrant families, it is necessary to provide their minimum expenses to prevent other anomalies.

The providing should be education for refugees and immigrants. The problems for Afghan refugees are their lack of familiarity with Turkish education laws. There are also rules and restrictions on immigrants in Turkey that need to be planned when they arrive or organize training.

### **Suggestions for the Turkish of Government**

Afghan refugees who have come to Turkey illegally and live in Turkey will increase government revenue if tax conditions and their legal and official residence are met. The majority of immigrants do not have health insurance. If the Turkish government can provide insurance and medical services by paying fees, tax revenues will be increased, and on the other hand, the sale of illegal drugs will be stopped and all services will be provided legally.

If a center (facilitation of immigration administrative work) establishes in every area and region, on the one hand, it will solve the problems of foreign nationals, and on the other hand, the job, creativity, and skills of elite immigrants will be identified, which can be very useful and effective for the Turkish government. In addition, if the government supports small and large investments that immigrants want to make, it will increase job opportunities, and paying taxes on them will increase government revenue. Obtaining Turkish visas for Afghans has some limitations. If the number of visas increases, it will lead to the prevention of illegal immigration, and government revenue will be increased.

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