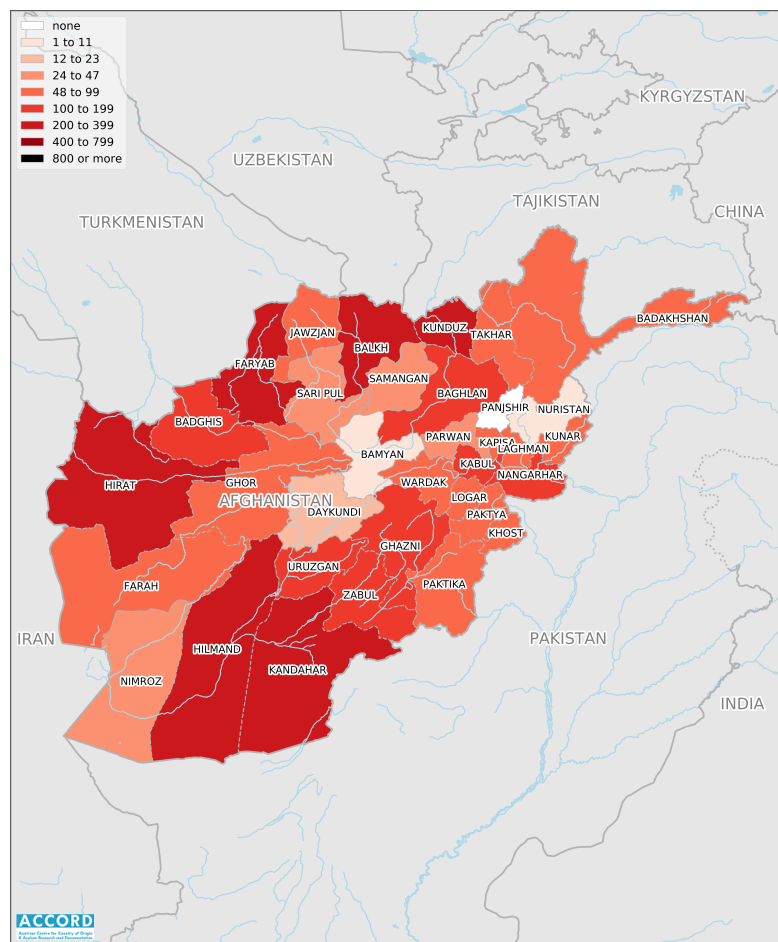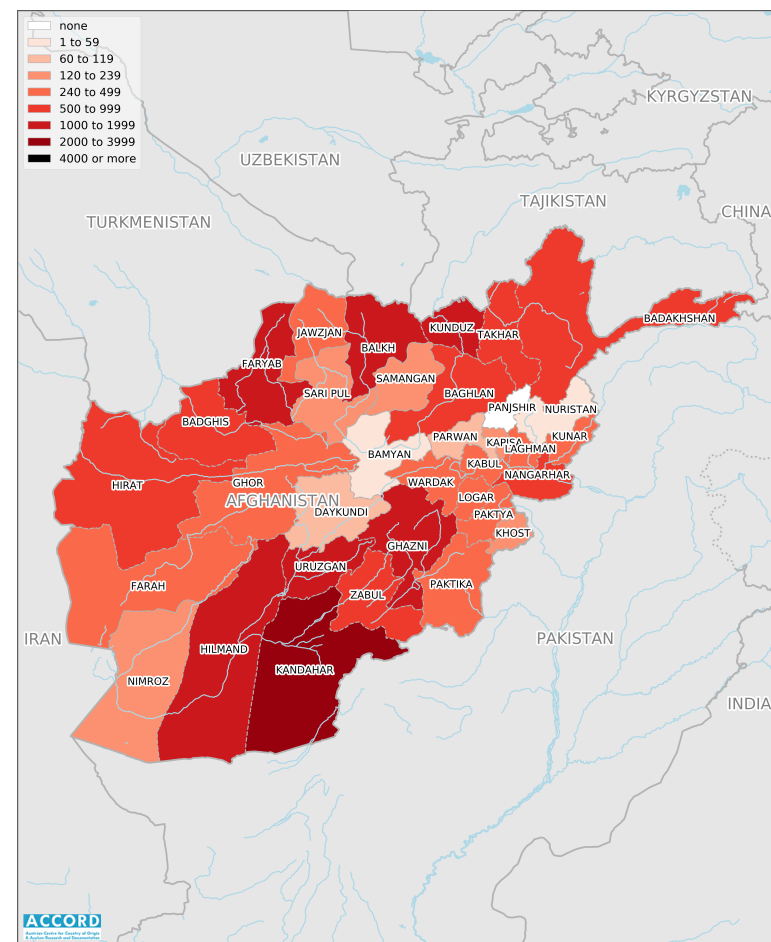# AFGHANISTAN, YEAR 2020:
## Update on incidents according to the Armed Conflict Location & Event Data Project (ACLED)

compiled by ACCORD, 26 March 2021

## Number of reported incidents with at least one fatality



Legend:
- none
- 1 to 11
- 12 to 23
- 24 to 47
- 48 to 99
- 100 to 199
- 200 to 399
- 400 to 799
- 800 or more

## Number of reported fatalities



Legend:
- none
- 1 to 59
- 60 to 119
- 120 to 239
- 240 to 499
- 500 to 999
- 1000 to 1999
- 2000 to 3999
- 4000 or more

National borders: GADM, 6 May 2018b; administrative divisions: GADM, 6 May 2018a; Kashmir border status: CIA, 2004; geodata of disputed borders: GADM, 6 May 2018b; Natural Earth, nodate; incident data: ACLED, 12 March 2021; coastlines and inland waters: Smith and Wessel, 1 May 2015

## Contents

## Conflict incidents by category

| Category | Number of incidents | Number of incidents with at least one fatality | Number of fatalities |
|---|---|---|---|
| Battles | 4605 | 2427 | 15098 |
| Explosions / Remote violence | 1968 | 1027 | 5174 |
| Violence against civilians | 424 | 237 | 462 |
| Strategic developments | 313 | 52 | 148 |
| Protests | 130 | 1 | 3 |
| Riots | 7 | 3 | 16 |
| Total | 7447 | 3747 | 20901 |

This table is based on data from ACLED (datasets used: ACLED, 12 March 2021).

## Development of conflict incidents from 2017 to 2020

ACLED currently advises against comparisons of 2020 figures with previous yearsfor reasons of possible changes in source reporting. See below.

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## Methodology

The data used in this report was collected by the Armed Conflict Location & Event Data Project (ACLED). ACLED collects data on reported conflict events in selected African and Asian countries, Afghanistan being among them. ACLED researchers collect event data from a variety of sources and code them by date, location, agent, and event type.

Most of the data collected by ACLED is gathered based on publicly available, secondary reports. It may therefore underestimate the volume of events. Fatality data particularly is vulnerable to bias and inaccurate reporting, and ACLED states to use the most conservative estimate available. ACLED uses the reports' context to estimate fatalities for events with reported fatalities for which the exact number is unknown ("10" for plural fatalities, "100" if "hundreds" are mentioned, etc.). For further details on ACLED and for the full data, see www.acleddata.com and Raleigh; Linke; Hegre, and Karlsen, 2010.

Based on this data, the Austrian Centre for Country of Origin & Asylum Research and Documentation (ACCORD) compiles updates on conflict incidents and publishes them on ecoi.net to offer another access point to the ACLED datasets.

It is advised to employ extreme caution when using fatality numbers.

Assessments of the security situation should not be based solely on quantitative analysis of event data.

Please note that as of early 2021, ACLED writes: "ACLED is currently reviewing trends in coverage between 2019 and 2020 in Afghanistan. We believe a shift in reporting by the Afghan Ministry of Defense (MOD) and the Taliban's Voice of Jihad (VOJ) may have contributed to a trend depicting a reduction in violence. The team is currently supplementing coverage by drawing on additional sources. While this review is being undertaken, we would advise against drawing comparisons in violence/fatalities in Afghanistan between 2019 and 2020." (ACLED, undated)

Please see ACLED's additional methodological papers for Afghanistan: ACLED, 16 December 2019a, ACLED, 19 December 2019b

Geographic map data is primarily based on GADM, complemented with other sources if necessary. Incidents are mapped to GADM provinces using the provinces in ACLED data. Province names and borders may differ between ACLED and GADM. Incidents that could not be located are ignored. The numbers included in this overview might therefore differ from the original ACLED data. ACLED uses varying degrees of geographic precision for the individual incidents, depending on what level of detail is reported. Thus, towns may represent the wider region in which an incident occured, or the provincial capital may be used if only the province is known. Erroneous location data, especially due to identical place names, cannot be fully excluded.

Incidents comprise the following categories: battles, headquarters or bases established, non-violent strategic activities, riots/protests, violence against civilians, non-violent transfer of territory, remote violence. For details on these categories, please see

- ACLED − Armed Conflict Location & Event Data Project: Armed Conflict Location and Event Data Project (ACLED) Codebook (2019), 10 April 2019a https://www.acleddata.com/wp-content/uploads/dlm_uploads/2017/10/ACLED_Codebook_2019FINAL_pbl.pdf

- ACLED − Armed Conflict Location & Event Data Project: Armed Conflict Location and Event Data Project (ACLED) User Quick Guide, April 2019b https://www.acleddata.com/wp-content/uploads/dlm_uploads/2019/04/General-User-Guide_FINAL.pdf

- ACLED – Armed Conflict Location & Event Data Project: FAQs: ACLED Fatality Methodology, 27 January 2020
  https://www.acleddata.com/download/17979/

## Conflict incidents per province

| Province | Number of incidents | Number of incidents with fatalities | Number of fatalities |
|---|---|---|---|
| Badakhshan | 179 | 96 | 621 |
| Badghis | 224 | 155 | 705 |
| Baghlan | 245 | 122 | 636 |
| Balkh | 543 | 207 | 1186 |
| Bamyan | 8 | 5 | 30 |
| Daykundi | 21 | 13 | 67 |
| Farah | 150 | 80 | 415 |
| Faryab | 315 | 214 | 1001 |
| Ghazni | 376 | 188 | 1009 |
| Ghor | 140 | 93 | 495 |
| Hilmand | 663 | 319 | 1661 |
| Hirat | 326 | 200 | 764 |
| Jawzjan | 134 | 69 | 406 |
| Kabul | 334 | 150 | 464 |
| Kandahar | 637 | 390 | 2947 |
| Kapisa | 145 | 60 | 237 |
| Khost | 168 | 52 | 228 |
| Kunar | 136 | 55 | 286 |
| Kunduz | 401 | 237 | 1562 |
| Laghman | 161 | 56 | 282 |

| Province | Number of incidents | Number of incidents with fatalities | Number of fatalities |
|---|---|---|---|
| Logar | 226 | 74 | 436 |
| Nangarhar | 347 | 155 | 899 |
| Nimroz | 82 | 30 | 150 |
| Nuristan | 22 | 9 | 47 |
| Paktika | 125 | 55 | 446 |
| Paktya | 240 | 87 | 379 |
| Panjshir | 3 | 0 | 0 |
| Parwan | 75 | 29 | 112 |
| Samangan | 44 | 27 | 137 |
| Sari Pul | 90 | 46 | 208 |
| Takhar | 136 | 91 | 565 |
| Uruzgan | 312 | 186 | 1292 |
| Wardak | 225 | 77 | 409 |
| Zabul | 214 | 120 | 819 |

## Localization of conflict incidents

Note:    The following list is an overview of the incident data included in the ACLED dataset. More details are available in the actual dataset (date, location data, event type, involved actors, information sources, etc.). The data's precision varies among the incidents: a town may represent a region, or the provincial capital may be used if the precise location of an incident is unkown. In the following list, the names of event locations are taken from ACLED, while the administrative region names are taken from GADM data which serves as the basis for the maps above.

In **Badakhshan**, **179** incidents killing **621** people were reported. The following locations were among the affected: **Arghanj Khwa, Argo, Baharak, Darayim, Farman Qoli, Fayzabad, Ishkashim, Jamarj-e Bala, Jurm, Keran wa Menjan, Khash, Khwahan, Kohistan, Mashhad, Nusay, Qaleh-ye Kuf, Shahr-e Buzurg, Shuhada, Tishkan, Warduj, Yaftali Sufla, Yamgan, Yawan, Ziraki**.

In **Badghis**, **224** incidents killing **705** people were reported. The following locations were among the affected: **Akazai, Chashmah-ye Duzakh, Chashmah-ye Shirin, Gandah Ab, Gharchahghay, Gormach, Jawand, Kokchail, Laman, Langar, Mubarak Shah, Muqur, Murghab, Qadis, Qala i Naw, Sang Atesh, Sanjitak, Tagab-e Ismail, Taraki**.

In **Baghlan**, **245** incidents killing **636** people were reported. The following locations were among the affected: **Andarab, Bagh-e Shamal, Baghlani Jadid, Bala Duri I, Burka, Chaharshambah Tepah, Chashmah-ye Sher, Dahana i Ghuri, Dih Salah, Dushi, Farang Wa Gharu, Gurgurak, Guzargahi Nur, Husain Khel, Jar-e Khushk, Kelagai, Khinjan, Khost Wa Fereng, Khwajah Alwan, Nahrin, Omar Khel, Pansiri, Pul-e Khumri, Puli Hisar, Shah Kush, Tala wa Barfak, Wazirabad**.

In **Balkh**, **543** incidents killing **1186** people were reported. The following locations were among the affected: **Asia ye Gurg, Balkh, Banguliyah, Barmazit, Chak Ab, Charbolak, Charkh Ab, Charkint, Chimtal, Dalan, Dawlat Abad, Dihdadi, Jar Qalah, Kaldar, Khairabad, Kishindih, Mazar-e Sharif, Murghan Tapah, Nahri Shahi, Sabzi Kar, Sholgara, Shortepa, Timurak, Uruzgani, Zari, Zuzan**.

In **Bamyan**, **8** incidents killing **30** people were reported. The following locations were among the affected: **Bamyan, Shibar**.

In **Daykundi**, **21** incidents killing **67** people were reported. The following locations were among the affected: **Bala Dasht, Ishtarlay, Kajran, Kandu-ye Bala, Khadir, Nili**.

In **Farah**, **150** incidents killing **415** people were reported. The following locations were among the affected: **Anar Dara, Bala Buluk, Dastah-ye Gul, Dehyak-e Kalan, Farah, Ganjgin, Gulistan, Kanisk, Karez-e Shaykhha, Khairabad, Khak-e Safid, Khwajah Khizir, Lash wa Juwayn, Pur Chaman, Pusht Koh, Pusht Rod, Qala i Kah, Raj, Shewan, Shib Koh, Suji, Tapah**.

In **Faryab**, **315** incidents killing **1001** people were reported. The following locations were among the affected: **Almar, Andkhoy, Aqsay Arab, Arkalik, Bilchiragh, Bukhari Qalah, Chaghatak, Chashmah-ye Sangin, Chilgazi, Dahan-e Darah, Dawlat Abad, Gurziwan, Imam Sahib, Islim, Katah Qishlaq, Khani Chahar Bagh, Khwaja Sabz Posh, Kosa Qala, Kuhi, Lash, Maymana, Nishar, Now Dari Qalah, Pashtun Kot, Qala, Qaramqol, Qaysar, Qurghan, Shakh, Shirin Tagab, Sufi Qalah, Turt Kul, Yakah Tut**.

In **Ghazni**, **376** incidents killing **1009** people were reported. The following locations were among the affected: **Ab Band, Andar, Chahar Dewar-e Mulla Ali, Charale, Dado, Dehak, Gelan, Ghazni, Jaghuri, Jeghatoo, Khalo Khel-e Ulya, Khar Khashah, Khashik, Khugiani, Khwaja Umari, Laghah Wat, Miray, Muqur, Mushakai, Nani, Nawa, Nazar Khan Kelay, Nughay-e Sufla, Pana, Qalah-ye Jowz, Qarabagh, Qaryah-ye Zabit, Rabat, Ramak, Rashidan, Rowzah, Sar Tasan, Shalez, Sultan Bagh, Waghaz, Wareh**.

In **Ghor**, **140** incidents killing **495** people were reported. The following locations were among the affected: **Ahangaran, Awak, Awlad-e Khayrullah, Badgah, Chaghcharan, Dahan-e Alandar, Delak, Du Layna, Kharistan, Mang, Pasaband, Qazi, Saghar, Shahrak, Shamak, Shinyah, Sumak, Taywara, Tulak**.

In **Hilmand**, **663** incidents killing **1661** people were reported. The following locations were among the affected: **Ab Pashak Mandeh, Alukozai, Amanullah Karez, Babaji, Balochan, Bashran Mandeh, Bolan, Chah Anjir, Deh Adam Khan, Dishu, Garmsir, Girishk, Gorazan, Haidarabad, Hazar Asp, Kajaki,**

**Karez-e Now, Khanashin, Khar Koh, Khushk Awah, Khushrabad, Lashkargah, Lowy Manda, Loy Bagh, Malgir, Marghozar, Marja, Mir Mandaw, Mukhtar Kala, Musa Qala, Nad-e Ali, Nawa-e Barakzayi, Nawzad, Nikehzai, Popalzai, Saidan, Sangilan, Sangin, Shakar Shalla, Sorkh Doz, Torah Shah Ghundey, Washir, Yakhchal, Yaklang, Zamboli, Zarghun Kalay**.

In **Hirat**, **326** incidents killing **764** people were reported. The following locations were among the affected: **Adraskan, Ahmadabad, Azizabad, Chishti Sharif, Darratakht, Deh-e Aman, Deh-e Ghulam, Farsi, Ghoryan, Gulran, Guzara, Herat, Injil, Islam Qalah, Karez-e Ilyas, Karukh, Kohsan, Kushki Kuhna, Mahallah-ye Bazar, Maldar, Nishin, Obe, Pashtun Zarghun, Qudus Abad, Rabat-e Sangi-ye Pain, Salimi, Sherkhaj, Shindand, Toraghundi, Zamanabad, Zinda Jan**.

In **Jawzjan**, **134** incidents killing **406** people were reported. The following locations were among the affected: **Aqcha, Darzab, Fayzabad, Haidarabad, Khamyab, Khaniqa, Khwaja Du Koh, Khwajah Gogirdak, Kukal Dash, Mardyan, Mingajik, Qarqin, Qush Tepa, Shibirghan**.

In **Kabul**, **334** incidents killing **464** people were reported. The following locations were among the affected: **Arghandeh, Arghandih-e Pain, Bagrami, Chahar Asyab, Dar-ul Aman, Dehnawe Farza, Guldara, Istalif, Kabul, Kabul-Darul Aman, Kalakan, Khak-e Jabbar, Kochkin, Kotal-e Khair Khana, Mir Bacha Kot, Mussahi, Paghman, Pul-e Charkhi Kuhnah, Qalah-ye Bahadur Khan, Qalah-ye Dasht, Qalah-ye Mir Abbas, Qalah-ye Now, Qarabagh, Qarghah, Rish Khor-e Bala, Shakardara, Surobi, Tarakhel, Tulat**.

In **Kandahar**, **637** incidents killing **2947** people were reported. The following locations were among the affected: **Arghandab, Arghistan, Arogh, Bagh De Srah, Band Temur, Bazar-e Panjvai, Biabanak, Chashmah, Daman, Darwayshan, Deh-e Khwajah, Duab, Ghanigay, Ghorak, Gulojan, Howz-e Madad, Ibrahim Khalifah Baba Kelay, Kandahar, Karz, Khak Chopan,**

Khakrez, Kogak, Kundelan, Loy Karez, Mandozai, Maruf, Maruf Karez, Maywand, Miyanishin, Mundigak, Naday, Nagahan, Naish, Pasab, Qasimzi, Rang Rayzan, Sar-e Gaw, Shah Joy, Shah Wali Kot, Shalghami, Sherghah, Shorabak, Spin Boldak, Surkh Bayd, Takhta Pul, Talukan, Tanachoy, Tor Kotal, Torah Garah, Yaro Kelay, Zangabad, Zangitan.

In **Kapisa**, **145** incidents killing **237** people were reported. The following locations were among the affected: **Afghanyah, Alasay, Hajjikheyl, Kesektan, Kohistan, Mahmud-e-Raqi, Nijrab, Paindakhel, Sherkhel, Tagab**.

In **Khost**, **168** incidents killing **228** people were reported. The following locations were among the affected: **Alisher, Bak, Dadwal, Jaji Maydan, Khost, Khulbisat, Lewan Khel, Musa Khel, Nadir Shah Kot, Qalandar, Sekhamir Kalay, Shamal, Spera, Tani, Yakubi**.

In **Kunar**, **136** incidents killing **286** people were reported. The following locations were among the affected: **Asadabad, Asmar, Badel, Chapa Dara, Chawkay, Dangam, Ghaziabad, Khas Kunar, Kuz Narang, Manogai, Marawara, Nawah, Nurgal, Shaigal Aw Shiltan, Sirkanay, Wata Pur**.

In **Kunduz**, **401** incidents killing **1562** people were reported. The following locations were among the affected: **Ali Abad, Ali Khel, Aqtash, Archi, Chahar Tut, Chardara, Charkab, Dung Qishlag, Gortapa, Imam Sahib, Ismail Qishlaq, Joy-e-Begum, Khan Abad, Khwajah Pistah, Konchak, Kuhnah Qalah, Kunduz, Madrasah, Malarghi, Nahr-e Sufi, Nawabad, Ortablaqi, Qalay i Zal, Qarlugh, Qerghiz, Qurghan Tapah, Sherkhan Bandar, Talowkah, Tut Mazar, Yakah Tut**.

In **Laghman**, **161** incidents killing **282** people were reported. The following locations were among the affected: **Alingar, Alishing, Dawlat Shah, Islamabad, Kotali, Lalkhanabad, Manjan, Mehtar Lam, Sabrabad, Serkundo Baba, Uluk**.

In **Logar**, **226** incidents killing **436** people were reported. The following locations were among the affected: **Abparan, Altamur, Azra, Babus, Baraki Barak, Charkh, Chowney, Deh-e Now, Kharwar, Khoshi, Lashkari Khel, Mohammad Agha, Nasir, Pad Khwab-e Shanah, Paspajak, Porak, Puli Alam, Waghjan**.

In **Nangarhar**, **347** incidents killing **899** people were reported. The following locations were among the affected: **Ahmad Khel, Angurah, Bandar Darah, Barikab, Bati Kot, Behsud, Chaparhar, Cheknowar, Dara i Nur, Dih Bala, Dur Baba, Fatehabad, Ghani Khel, Hakimabad, Hazar Nao, Hisarak, Jalalabad, Kaga, Kama, Khayrabad, Kot, Lal Pur, Lalma, Mama Khel, Marki Khel, Mohmand Dara, Nazyan, Nukur Khel, Pachir Wa Agam, Rodat, Shabi, Sherzad, Shewa, Shinwar, Sra Kala, Sultanpur, Torkham, Wazir, Zawa**.

In **Nimroz**, **82** incidents killing **150** people were reported. The following locations were among the affected: **Chahar Burjak, Chakhansur, Dehmazang, Delaram, Kang, Khash, Khwajah Sar Joy, Kotalak, Makaki, Munar, Pushtah-ye Hasan, Zaranj**.

In **Nuristan**, **22** incidents killing **47** people were reported. The following locations were among the affected: **Barg-e Matal, Du Ab, Kamdesh, Nurgaram, Parun, Wama, Waygal**.

In **Paktika**, **125** incidents killing **446** people were reported. The following locations were among the affected: **Ateh Khune, Baki Khel, Barmal, Dila, Gomal, Hasti, Jani Khel, Khayr Kot, Mamur Khel, Mata Khan, Muhammad Hasan, Omna, Sar Hawza, Sarobi, Sharan, Sultani, Urgun, Waza Khwa, Wor Mamay, Yahya Khel, Yosuf Khel, Zarghun Shahr, Ziruk**.

In **Paktya**, **240** incidents killing **379** people were reported. The following locations were among the affected: **Ahmadabad, Chamkani, Chowni, Dand Wa Patan, Gardez, Ibrahim Khel, Jaji, Jani Khail, Laja Mangal, Lazha Ahmad Khel, Makawah, Michalghu, Mirzaka, Nayk Nam Kelay, Rabat, Sahak, Sayed**

Karam, Sekandar Khel, Shaykhan, Surkai, Zadran, Zurmat.

In **Panjshir**, **3** incidents killing **0** people were reported. The following locations were among the affected: **Anaba, Darah, Paryan**.

In **Parwan**, **75** incidents killing **112** people were reported. The following locations were among the affected: **Bagram, Charikar, Ghorband, Khalazai, Kohi Safi, Panj Qalah, Salang, Sayed Khel, Shinwari**.

In **Samangan**, **44** incidents killing **137** people were reported. The following locations were among the affected: **Chaharmaghzak, Dara i Sufi Payan, Feroz Nakhchir, Hazrat-e Sultan, Katah Qishlaq, Khuram Wa Sarbagh, Mangtash, Qa'lah, Ruyi Du Ab, Samangan**.

In **Sari Pul**, **90** incidents killing **208** people were reported. The following locations were among the affected: **Aq Gunbaz, Balghali, Balkhab, Darah Band, Gosfandi, Kohistanat, Kotarma, Masjid-e Sabz, Sar-e Pol, Sayyad, Sozma Qala, Tokhmana, Tukzar**.

In **Takhar**, **136** incidents killing **565** people were reported. The following locations were among the affected: **Baharak, Bangi, Chah Ab, Chal, Chin Zai, Darqad, Dashti Qala, Farkhar, Hazar Sumuch, Ishkamish, Kalafgan, Khwaja Baha Wuddin, Khwaja Ghar, Lalah Guzar, Namak Ab, Nowabad, Sagab, Shingan, Taloqan, Yangi Qala**.

In **Uruzgan**, **312** incidents killing **1292** people were reported. The following locations were among the affected: **Chora, Chowtu, Deh Rahwod, Garm Ab, Gizab, Hoshi, Khan Agha, Khas Urozgan, Kotwal, Lublan, Lundiyanah, Naychin, Qalah-ye Ragh, Qizilbash, Sangah Shaykh, Shah Mansur, Shahidi Hassas, Tarinkot, Yak Lingah, Zar Tale Ghar**.

In **Wardak**, **225** incidents killing **409** people were reported. The following

locations were among the affected: **Chaki Wardak, Daymirdad, Deh-e Afghanan, Duranay, Haft Asya, Ismail Khel, Jaghatu, Jalrez, Kan-e Ezzat, Kashmirian, Kotah-ye Ashro, Lorah, Maidan Shar, Mali Khel, Markazi Bihsud, Salar, Saydabad, Shaykhabad, Sultan Khel**.

In **Zabul**, **214** incidents killing **819** people were reported. The following locations were among the affected: **Alam Karez, Arghandab, Atghar, Chinah, Deh Afghanan, Hazar Khel, Khala, Mizan, Naw Bahar, Nowrak, Qalat, Shah Hasan Khel, Shah Joy, Shahr-e Safa, Shamulzayi, Shinkay, Surkh Sang, Takir, Tarnak Wa Jaldak**.

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## Disclaimer

Event data may be revised or complemented in future updates. Updates in ACLED's datasets will not necessarily be reflected in ACCORD's reports if the update occurs close to or after the latter's publication. Changes in the sources used by ACLED to collect incident data might affect the comparability of data over time. For more information on ACLED's methodology, please see www.acleddata.com/resources/methodology/. For more information on ACCORD's products based on the data, please see the ecoi.net blog posts tagged with "ACLED". The lack of information on an event in this report does not permit the inference that it did not take place. The boundaries and names displayed do not imply endorsement or acceptance by the Austrian Red Cross.

### Cite as

- ACCORD – Austrian Centre for Country of Origin & Asylum Research and Documentation: Afghanistan, year 2020: Update on incidents according to the Armed Conflict Location & Event Data Project (ACLED), 10 May 2021