

Transition to Afghan lead: *Inteqal*



Ashraf Ghani Ahmadzai, head of the Afghan Transition Coordination Commission (TCC), raises the Afghan flag at the transition ceremony in Badghis province.

Since the announcement of the latest set of areas to enter the transition process, the Afghan National Security Forces (ANSF) have been taking the lead for security in areas where 87% of the Afghan population lives. In 2013, it is expected that all areas of the country will have entered the transition process and the ANSF will assume security lead across the whole country, with ISAF operating in a supporting role. The aim is for Afghan security forces to have full responsibility for security across the country by the end of 2014.

Transition process explained

Inteqal - the Dari and Pashtu word for *Transition* - is the process by which security responsibility for Afghanistan is gradually transitioned from NATO/ISAF to Afghan leadership.

Inteqal follows a joint decision-making process under the auspices of the Joint Afghan NATO *Inteqal* Board (JANIB). The decision to start transition in any given area is based on a thorough and regular assessment of the security, governance and development situation on the ground. Formal announcement of individual tranches for transition is made by President Karzai.

The following elements are taken into consideration as part of the decision-making process:

- The capability of the Afghan National Security Forces (ANSF) to shoulder additional security tasks with less assistance from ISAF;
- The level of security allowing the population to pursue routine daily activities;
- The degree of development of local governance, so that security will not be undermined as ISAF assistance is reduced; and
- Whether ISAF is postured properly to thin out as ANSF capabilities increase and threat levels diminish.

Transition Tranche 1

On 22 March 2011, based on the joint decision-making process, President Karzai announced the first set of Afghan provinces, districts and cities to start transition. These first areas accounted for between 20-25% of the Afghan population.



Transition Tranche 2

On 27 November 2011, based on the joint decision-making process, President Karzai announced the second set of Afghan provinces, districts and cities to start transition. With this new step, Afghan security lead expanded to cover more than 50% of the Afghan population.



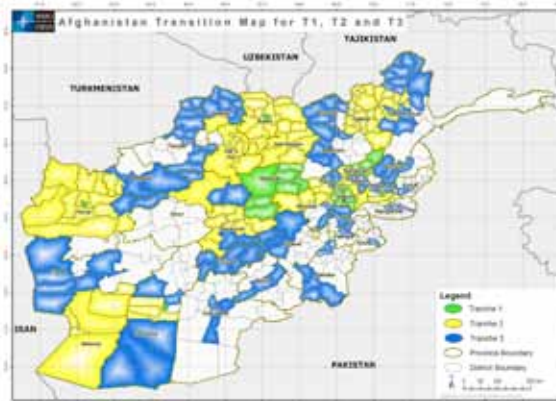
“Afghanistan’s future is clear: a country led by Afghans, defended by Afghans and working for the benefit of Afghans.”

NATO Secretary General Anders Fogh Rasmussen



Transition Tranche 3

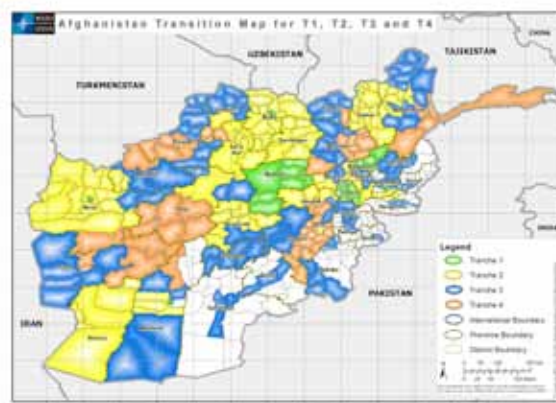
On 13 May 2012, based on the joint decision-making process, President Karzai announced the third set of areas to enter the transition process, covering 75% of the Afghan population. With this decision, transition was launched in districts within all 34 provinces in Afghanistan.



Transition Tranche 4

On 31 December 2012, based on the joint decision-making process, President Karzai announced the fourth group of cities and districts to enter the transition process. Once this decision is implemented, 87 per cent of the population will live in areas where ANSF is responsible for its security.

With this announcement, 23 provinces out of 34 are now fully in transition: Badakhshan (fully entered transition in T4); Baghlan (T4); Balkh (T2); Faryab (T4); Jowzjan (T4); Kunduz (T4); Samangan (T2); Sar-e Pul (T4); Takhar (T2); Bamiyan (T1); Ghazni (T4); Kapisa (T3); Panjshayr (T1); Parwan (T3); Wardak (T4); Kabul (T2); Daykundi (T2); Uruzgan (T3); Nimruz (T2); Badghis (T4); Farah (T4); Ghor (T4); Herat (T4).



ISAF's gradual shift to a supporting role

The transition process sees the Afghan security forces gradually taking on more and more security responsibility from ISAF. As the Afghan security forces move to the fore, the ISAF mission evolves gradually from leading combat operations to providing training, advice and assistance. In 2013, it is expected that all areas of the country will have entered the transition process. The Afghan security forces will then assume security lead across the whole country and ISAF will complete its shift to a supporting role.

Successful transition requires that Afghan security forces are fully capable of tackling security challenges on a sustainable and irreversible basis.

NATO has pledged its continued commitment to Afghanistan beyond 2014. This will include training, advising, assisting and contributing funds to sustain the ANSF.

Provincial Reconstruction Team (PRT) evolution

As part of the transition process, Provincial Reconstruction Teams (PRT) are also evolving towards the ultimate dissolution of all teams by the end of 2014s. Many PRTs have already shifted their focus from direct delivery to enhancing the effectiveness of Afghan national and provincial government structures. By the time transition is complete, all PRTs will have handed over their functions to the Afghan Government, and will have been phased out.

February 2013

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“Afghanistan will one day stand on its own, but it will not be standing alone.”

NATO Secretary General
Anders Fogh Rasmussen