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TOPIC: The Situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina,
The Situation in Afghanistan

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The Situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina; Recent Updates

On November 16, 2022, Bosnia and Herzegovina elected three new members of its tripartite presidency. This election is a significant step for the state because not only is this the first time a woman has been elected to the country's highest point in office, but these members are all ethnonationalists, which hasn't been done in over a decade. Additionally, only a few years ago, 12% of Bosnia and Herzegovina's population was not allowed to run for any government positions due to their religion, ethnicity, and where they lived. Their constitution also bans people who refuse to declare their ethnic identity from running for office.¹ These three new government officials will aid Bosnia and Herzegovina in dealing with their ethnic tensions.

However, voting procedures are still an important issue in and around the country. The Bosniaks and the Croaks have been disputing over the laws of voting. These problems have been built off of secessionist sentiment among Bosnian Serbs, as well as the rise of activism. As a result, Bosnia's international governor, Christian Schmidt, has threatened to make significant changes to the election if the crisis is not resolved. Some of the changes involve voting reforms as to how representatives are elected.²

Recently, Bosnia and Herzegovina have faced economic troubles. Most of these issues result from the COVID-19 uprising; however, the most recent problems are due to the Russia-Ukraine Wars. These wars have greatly impacted Bosnia and Herzegovina as they

¹ "Bosnia's New Presidency Takes Office, Vows to Resolve Mounting Crises." *Euronews*, 16 Nov. 2022, www.euronews.com/2022/11/16/bosnias-new-presidency-takes-office-and-vows-to-resolve-mounting-crises.

² "Bosnia and Herzegovina's Hot Summer." *Crisis Group*, 26 Sept. 2022, www.crisisgroup.org/europe-central-asia/balkans/bosnia-and-herzegovina/b95-bosnia-and-herzegovinas-hot-summer

affected their GDP and much more.³ Finally, Bosnia and Herzegovina is currently a major host country to over 3,000 refugees and is struggling to provide for them. Not only has this affected the migrants coming into the country, but local Bosnians have recently begun to protest these issues, leading to destabilization.⁴

³ World Bank Group. “Bosnia and Herzegovina Faces New Economic Headwinds.” *World Bank*, World Bank Group, 4 May 2022,

www.worldbank.org/en/news/press-release/2022/05/04/bosnia-and-herzegovina-faces-new-economic-headwinds.

⁴ United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. “Bi-Annual Fact Sheet 2022 02 Bosnia and Herzegovina.”

UNHCR, UNHCR, The UN Refugee Agency,

www.unhcr.org/en-us/publications/operations/623469b80/bi-annual-fact-sheet-2022-02-bosnia-herzegovina.html.

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The Situation in Afghanistan; Recent Updates

Currently, about 20 million people living in Afghanistan are on the verge of starvation and need immediate humanitarian aid. Additionally, nearly 1 million Afghan children are suffering from malnutrition and are said to die without the proper treatment. According to the UN, \$600 million is needed to prepare for the upcoming winter and to repair shelters for these refugees. An additional \$150 million is required to organize food and other supplies. However, billions of dollars stored in Afghan central bank reserves have been frozen by foreign governments due to their fear of the Taliban taking control of them.⁵

In addition, the uprising of measles in Afghanistan has also led to the country's destabilization. Currently, measles is endemic in Afghanistan, and cases are rising faster each week. To aid disease spread, Vitamin A supplements are being provided to children ages 1-6, and WHO has provided technical support on vaccination, laboratory testing, and case management.⁶

As of now, there are a total of 2.9 million IDPs in Afghanistan, and thousands have already fled to neighboring countries due to the withdrawal of international troops from their country. However, 670,000 Afghans have already been displaced from their nation due to internal violence and the lack of humanitarian aid. The UNHCR plans to lead an inter-agency refugee response plan in the Islamic Republic of Iran, Tajikistan, and Pakistan. This plan will

⁵ Al Jazeera. "Un Says Six Million Afghans Are at Risk of Famine as Crises Grow." *United Nations News | Al Jazeera*, Al Jazeera, 30 Aug. 2022, www.aljazeera.com/news/2022/8/30/un-warns-6-million-afghans-at-risk-of-famine-as-crises-grow#:~:text=More%20than%20half%20of%20Afghanistan's,without%20proper%20treatment%2C%20he%20said.

⁶ "Measles – Afghanistan." *World Health Organization*, World Health Organization, www.who.int/emergencies/disease-outbreak-news/item/measles-afghanistan.

help prepare more refugees to enter Iran and Pakistan to relieve Afghanistan. This plan also aims to provide these refugees with education, food, supplies, and shelter.⁷

The United States has also offered its support by donating \$1.1 billion to fund humanitarian aid for Afghanistan refugees. This money is said to help over 240,000 refugees due to the economic collapse, COVID-19, displacement, and natural disasters. This money will help provide thousands of refugees with education, food, shelter, supplies, and more.⁸

⁷ “Afghanistan Situation.” *Global Focus*, reporting.unhcr.org/afghansituation.

⁸ “The United States Has Provided More than \$1.1 Billion to Respond to Humanitarian Crisis in Afghanistan since August 2021: Press Release.” *U.S. Agency for International Development*, 23 Sept. 2022, www.usaid.gov/news-information/press-releases/sep-23-2022-united-states-provided-more-11-billion-humanitarian-assistance-afghanistan#:~:text=This%20additional%20funding%20brings%20U.S.,million%20from%20the%20State%20Department.

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