



We haven't been able yet to get any Afghan employees evacuated from Afghanistan. The chronological and political backgrounds for this situation are:

1. **02/23/2012** the PAT Taloqan (Provincial Advisory Team) in Takhar province was closed. It was a very small field camp with about 40 Bundeswehr (german troops) soldiers. At that time we had more than 500 Afghan employees in our projects - among others also in Takhar province and we received the information from the German government that our Afghan employees would not be considered as local staff and therefore would not have the possibility to leave for Germany. This would only be offered to Afghan local staff who had a direct contract with the German government (BmVg - Federal Ministry of Defense/Federal Armed Forces; AA - Federal Foreign Office, BMZ - Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development) and worked there, for example, as translators.
2. **19/09/2012**, the Feyzabad field camp in Badakhshan province was handed over to the Afghan security forces. Even then, our Afghan employees were not defined as local forces eligible to apply for evacuation.
3. **10/19/2013**, Kunduz field camp in Kunduz province was handed over to Afghan security forces and our Afghan personnel were still not defined as local forces eligible to apply for evacuation.
4. **12/31/2021**, the ISAF mandate ended and at Camp Marmal, Masar-e-Sharif city was in Balch province and 1,800 Bundeswehr soldiers were withdrawn. There remained 1,000 soldiers who carried out the follow-up mission "Resolute Support" in Camp Marmal. Even during this partial withdrawal, our Afghan cooperation was not defined as local forces eligible to apply for evacuation.
5. **7/7/2021**, Camp Marmal in Balch Province was turned over to Afghan security forces. Our Afghan personnel were not defined as local forces eligible to apply for evacuation.
6. **8/14/2021**, the Afghan security forces surrendered and handed over Camp Marmal to the Taliban without a fight. One day later, the Taliban advanced on Kabul. At that point, we were down to just under 20 Afghan personnel. The population panicked and wanted to flee Afghanistan, as did our former and current staff. However, we had not received any information that they could be evacuated.

7. **8/28/2021**, GIZ announced that it would evacuate former and current national staff and their dependents. Although GIZ implements reconstruction projects, it is a government agency and therefore its Afghan employees have a contract with the German government and are eligible to apply. Evacuation applications are being accepted from former employees retroactive to Jan. 1, 2013.
8. **August 2021**, we receive between 20 - 70 calls and emails daily from former and current KinderBerg employees who want to leave the country for fear of a civil war or the Taliban. Some of them are calling from Kabul airport. We are no longer in a position to answer the inquiries and have not received any information from the government as to whether our Afghan employees are even eligible to apply or whether the years-long application process is still valid and they cannot be evacuated because they worked for a German non-profit aid organization.
9. **8/31/2021**, we receive an email from the BMZ asking if we have local staff at risk, as they have been asked directly by individual Afghan KinderBerg staff. We reply in the affirmative that at this time all staff consider themselves at risk. The BMZ asks us for a list of employees.
10. we decided to make a list of all employees who have worked for us since 1/1/2013. This list includes 627 employees and was given to BMZ on **9/6/2021**. The reason we listed all employees is because we don't see a difference between a doctor and a cleaning lady. At this time, all former and current employees felt at risk.
11. **9/6/2021** BMZ forwarded our list to AA because our former employees were mainly funded by AA. On the same day, the AA wrote to us asking for the business reference number of our projects.
12. a few days later the AA called us and informed us that our employees are not considered as local staff.
13. nevertheless we receive daily inquiries, requests and meanwhile also malicious allegations that we are not cooperative or that we evacuated only certain persons. Furthermore, most assume that all we have to do is issue a confirmation that the person worked for us. **However, this does not correspond to the realities that we were told by the BMZ and the AA.**

Conclusion, as of 30.11.2021: None of our local staff are eligible to apply

Suzana Lipovac

