



Capability Statement

Afghanistan

Tailored Risk Management

Service Provider Breakdown

Air Ambulance	15
Air Charter	11
Security Providers	26
Maritime Security Providers	N/A
Medical Service Providers	18
Medical Escort Providers	12
Repatriation Mortal Remains	6
Specialist Services	147

Kabul – Wazir Akbar Khan Hospital and limited private facilities supported by ICRC or regional NGOs offer emergency surgical services, but with unpredictable power, inconsistent supply chains and limited intensive care capacity.

***Note:** Due to persistent armed conflict, poor infrastructure, and unreliable access to critical medications, all patients requiring significant care should be evacuated as soon as clinically appropriate, typically via Pakistan, Uzbekistan or UAE. No location within Afghanistan is reliably safe or medically sufficient for prolonged inpatient treatment.*

Nearest centre of medical excellence

Use our emergency app to initiate an emergency response and access our worldwide network of medical assistance care.

Afghanistan does not currently host any internationally recognised Centres of Medical Excellence. Medical stabilisation is extremely limited and typically confined to the following:

Medical evacuation options

1 Emergency Extraction to Home Nation Treatment	2 Emergency extraction to Closest Specialist Treatment before Repatriation	3 Ground extraction to stabilisation/treatment (In- country no fly)/ Marine or alternative extraction
<p>Direct repatriation from Afghanistan is not possible due to airspace restrictions and diplomatic constraints. Limited Western air ambulance providers operate in Afghanistan. Fixed-wing evacuation requires staging to Islamabad, Tashkent, or Dubai, depending on patient stability and nationality. Movement must be coordinated with local authorities and armed security escorts.</p>	<p>Most stabilised patients are transferred to Pakistan (Islamabad, Peshawar), UAE, or India. Regional hospitals offer trauma, ICU, and surgical services. Overland transfers to Pakistan are possible via Torkham and Chaman crossings but are subject to delays, security incidents, and checkpoint negotiations.</p>	<p>Ambulance services are almost exclusively operated by NGOs. Ground transfers require security convoy and risk clearance from local Taliban authorities. Fuel shortages, IED threats, and seasonal road closures often delay movement. Helicopter transfer is limited to humanitarian agencies and requires advance coordination.</p>

Vaccination Requirements

Vaccine	Advice
Routine vaccines recommended (up to date)	Chickenpox (Varicella)
	Diphtheria-Tetanus-Pertussis
	Flu (Influenza)
	Measles(CDC Level 1 Alert, widespread outbreaks)-Mumps-Rubella (MMR) - Strongly recommended
	Polio - <i>Strongly recommended</i> due to CDC Level 2 Alert
	Shingles
COVID-19	Strongly recommended for all travellers
Hepatitis A	Strongly recommended for all travellers- widespread water contamination
Hepatitis B	Strongly recommended, particularly for those with exposure to blood or bodily fluids and risk from unsterile equipment
Cholera	Consider for high risk deployments due to intermittent outbreaks reported
Typhoid	Strongly recommended- endemic in urban and rural areas
Meningococcal Meningitis	Recommended- for crowded or camp based deployments
Rabies	Strongly recommended due to the presence of rabid dogs. Immediate medical attention is required in case of a bite or scratch, as post-exposure prophylaxis is available but may be limited.
Yellow Fever	Required if arriving from endemic countries

Special Precautions:

- Polio Global Alert (Level 2):**
 Afghanistan continues to report vaccine-derived *Poliovirus* (cVDPV2) transmission. CDC recommends a one time *Polio* booster (IPV) for adult travellers, even if previously vaccinated. Long term aid workers may require certification for exit documentation.
- Measles Global Alert (Level 1):**
 Widespread outbreaks have been reported across Afghanistan. MMR vaccination is

essential. Infants aged 6–11 months should receive one early dose before travel into camps or rural zones.

- **Airborne and Droplet Diseases:**

Tuberculosis (TB) is endemic, with high rates of MDR-TB, especially in detention and displacement settings. Use respiratory PPE in clinics or shelters. *COVID-19* circulation continues with no consistent testing or reporting. Avoid indoor crowds. *Influenza* risk is seasonal and under monitored.

- **Vector-Borne Diseases:**

Malaria (P. vivax and P. falciparum) is endemic in eastern and southern provinces. *Dengue* and *Chikungunya* have emerged in recent years, particularly in Nangarhar and Laghman. *Leishmaniasis* is endemic across Kabul, Kandahar, and Herat, and frequently underdiagnosed. *CCHF* is present in pastoral areas. Personal protection measures and treated clothing are essential. Use DEET repellents and avoid animal slaughter zones.

- **Water and Soil-Related Diseases:**

Hepatitis A, *Typhoid*, and *Cholera* are

widespread due to poor sanitation.

Leptospirosis may follow exposure to floodwaters in central valleys.

Schistosomiasis has not been confirmed but freshwater exposure should still be avoided. Only consume bottled or properly treated water.

- **Zoonotic Hazards:**

Rabies is prevalent in stray animal populations. PEP is not readily available. Avoid dog and bat contact. *Brucellosis* and *Anthrax* are present in livestock-rearing areas. Do not consume unpasteurised milk or participate in traditional butchering.

- **Environmental Hazards:**

Severe winters, mountain road blockages, droughts and flash floods create seasonal mobility and health risks. Power outages and fuel shortages affect all hospitals. UXO and IEDs are common in rural regions. Air quality in Kabul is poor due to generator use and vehicle emissions. Earthquake risk exists in the Hindu Kush zone.

Political evacuation options

Political evacuations from Afghanistan are logistically difficult and diplomatically constrained. All Western embassies have closed and operate remotely via Qatar or Pakistan. In-country diplomatic support is minimal and cannot be relied upon for emergency extraction. Short-term hibernation is only viable in secure compounds with generator power, satellite communications and internal security. Movement from interior provinces to airports such as Kabul or Mazar-i-Sharif requires pre authorisation from Taliban officials and armed security escort (recommended for all vehicle movement). Air extraction must be arranged via charter aircraft operating under humanitarian or neutral flags. No regular commercial flights operate reliably. Overland evacuation into Pakistan or Uzbekistan is possible but only with high level clearance and close operational tracking. Risks of arbitrary detention, border denial and extortion are significant. All movements must be supported by verified intelligence, encrypted communications, and redundant logistics support.

Passport and Visas

	Visa Required	Passport Required
Other EU	Yes, embassy issued/ e-visa prior to entry.	Yes, (valid 6 months+) +1 page
USA	Yes, no US Embassy support in Kabul. Travel strongly discouraged.	Yes, (valid 6 months+) + 1 page
Canadian	Yes, Afghan consulates in Canada are not currently functioning. Visas issue via regional intermediaries.	Yes, (valid 6 months+) + 1 page
Australian	Yes, diplomatic mission or third party facilitation required.	Yes, (valid 6 months+) + 1 page
British	Yes, apply via neighbouring embassies, The Afghan Embassy in London is closed.	Yes, (valid 6 months+) + 1 page

Political considerations

Local closed sources advisors	Real time political and security intelligence is limited. Open source platforms and field level NGO incident logs provide best indicators
Stable political governance	No , Afghanistan is governed by the Taliban under an unrecognised regime. No international representation or civic institutions are operating in full capacity. Local rules are inconsistently applied.

Kidnap and ransom capability	Yes , flown-in only. Foreigners, journalists and aid workers remain at high risk of abduction. There are no in-country K and R teams. All response must be external and pre staged.
Significant political events imminent	Yes , Cross-border tensions with Pakistan, ISKP attacks, Taliban internal rifts and Western funding suspensions all raise regional volatility.
Borders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Pakistan (Torkham, Chaman): Limited crossing with Taliban approval - Uzbekistan (Hairatan): Crossing only possible with coordination - Iran (Islam Qala): High-risk route due to smuggling activity - China/Tajikistan: Closed to civilian passage - Airports (Kabul, Mazar-i-Sharif): Open intermittently to regional charters only

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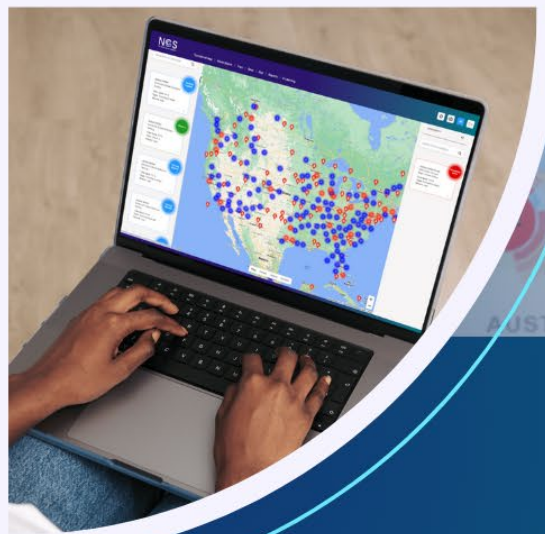
www.northcottglobalsolutions.com



info@northcottglobalsolutions.com



+44 207 183 8910



89 Charterhouse St,
Farringdon, London,
EC1M 6PE, UK