



# EU-AFGHANISTAN RELATIONS

The EU's relationship with Afghanistan is guided by the 2017 EU Strategy for Afghanistan, aimed at strengthening the country's institutions and economy. The 2017 Cooperation Agreement provides the basis for developing a mutually beneficial relationship in several areas such as: human rights, the rule of law, health, rural development, education, science and technology, the fight against terrorism, organised crime and narcotics. Most recently, EU27 have given further steer in the May 2020 Conclusions of the EU's Foreign Affairs Council.

## EU SUPPORT FOR A PROSPEROUS AND PEACEFUL AFGHANISTAN



Building capacities of Afghan institutions involved in peace and reconciliation; strengthening the inclusiveness of the peace process by building the capacity of Afghan civil society organisations and promoting their access to decision-makers; as well as fostering a regional consensus on peace.



Enhancing regional and economic cooperation and connectivity; reducing organised crime and drugs trafficking, supporting security reform and police.



Economic and human development of Afghanistan: fight against poverty, job creation, investment promotion, agriculture and rural development, tackling climate change; a rapid COVID-19 response package.



Regional cooperation, including border management, capacity building, as well as strengthening the capacities of trade-related institutions.



Impartial and neutral provision of life-saving humanitarian assistance, focusing on vulnerable groups, notably women and children, internally displaced and conflict/disaster-affected populations. Support promotion and compliance with International Humanitarian Law.

## A STRONG PARTNERSHIP FOR PEACE

The Council Conclusions adopted by the Foreign Affairs Ministers of the European Union in May 2020 laid down the main principles of the EU position in support of peace in Afghanistan:



**SUPPORTING THE INCLUSIVENESS OF THE PEACE PROCESS**



**PRESERVING DEMOCRATIC AND HUMAN RIGHTS GAINS**



**CALLING FOR A PERMANENT AND COMPREHENSIVE CEASEFIRE**



**SUPPORTING REFORMS, INCLUDING OF THE SECURITY SECTOR**



**PROMOTING TRANSPARENT AND ACCOUNTABLE INSTITUTIONS**



**THE PROVISION OF NEEDS BASED HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE**

## DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION

A lasting peace goes hand in hand with **economic growth and social development**, which is why between 2014-2020 the **EUR 1,4 billion of EU cooperation** has focused on **three core sectors** to ensure a better life and opportunities for the Afghan people.



### Peace, stability and democracy

- > more responsive, **efficient and reliable police force**
- > improved government transparency and accountability
- > **functioning judiciary**
- > special focus on **gender mainstreaming**



### Sustainable jobs and growth

- > **creation of economic opportunities** for rural areas and communities of high return
- > sustainable employment opportunities through **rural enterprises**,
- > increasing Afghanistan's revenues for **self-reliance**



### Basic services

- > **the Citizen's Charter** ensures that every rural and urban community has access to water, electricity, roads, health and education services
- > building health facilities and deploying community nurses and nutrition counsellors

## MIGRATION, FORCED DISPLACEMENT AND REINTEGRATION

The EU has spent more than **EUR 225 million** since 2016 to address challenges of migration and forced displacement.

EU assistance includes **access to land and basic services, protection, improving conditions for voluntary return, and reintegration of returnees and IDPs.**

Livelihoods, education, and health support is also provided to **Afghan nationals and host communities in Iran and Pakistan**

## HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE



### TRAUMA CARE

Provision of trauma care and essential medical care to conflict affected populations.



### RAPID RESPONSE

Country-wide emergency response mechanism delivering multipurpose cash assistance to newly displaced populations and victims of natural disasters.



### NUTRITION

Country-wide procurement of therapeutic and supplementary food products and implementation of nutritional services and victims of natural disasters.



### INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW & PROTECTION

Protection programmes for vulnerable populations and IHL dissemination activities to all parties of the conflict.

## DEMOCRACY, RULE OF LAW, HUMAN RIGHTS



The EU works to enable Afghan women's full participation in public life, supporting and advocating for their participation in the peace process.



The EU assists Afghanistan in establishing a functioning rule of law system, revision of the Penal Code and comprehensive justice sector reform.



The EU supports, together with other partners, the capacity of the Afghan police force, including also training and the introduction of reforms for a civilian police force.



EU projects in Afghanistan put a special focus on human rights, including support for their defenders and the role of civil society in promoting human rights and democratic reforms.

## EU SUPPORT LEADS TO CONCRETE RESULTS



**New-born mortality rate** fell from **53%** to **23%** in the past two decades.

The **number of functioning health facilities** increased from **496** in 2002 to **more than 2,800** in 2020.



**5.6 million children** targeted in Polio vaccination campaign in January 2019, focused on border area with Pakistan.



**Over 210,000 displaced persons** receive immediate humanitarian support each year



**Over 37,000 families** supported through Community-based development, reintegration and protection measures in areas of high return.



**Over 7 million** people given access to water supply and sanitation services since 2017.



**27%** of members of the civil service are women.



**Nearly 40,000** student graduates in technical and vocational schools, including returnees, **received training to develop their job skills** and increase their incomes.



**11 354** Community Development Councils elected with **women's participation reaching 49%**.