



EU-AFGHANISTAN RELATIONS

The EU continues to support the development of a stable, peaceful and prosperous Afghanistan through its engagement and its humanitarian and basic needs assistance for the benefit of the Afghan people, inside and outside Afghanistan. The EU reiterates that Afghanistan must adhere to the international treaties to which it is a State Party, including by upholding and protecting economic, social, cultural, civil and political rights, and allow for full, equal and meaningful representation and participation of all Afghans in the governing of the country. The EU is particularly concerned by the fate of Afghan women and girls who have seen their freedoms, rights and access to basic services such as education being systematically denied. Afghanistan must also not pose a security threat to any country. These ambitions are widely shared by the international community, as reflected in the UN Security Council Resolution 2593.

A CONTINUED ENGAGEMENT FOR PEACE

The EU's priorities regarding Afghanistan are clearly stated in the Council Conclusions adopted by the Foreign Affairs Ministers of the European Union on 21 September 2021. They emphasise the EU's commitment to peace and stability in Afghanistan and to supporting the Afghan people. They also define a set of benchmarks for policies and actions that would serve as guiding principles for engaging with the de facto authorities:



SAFE, SECURE AND ORDERLY DEPARTURE OF ALL FOREIGN NATIONALS AND AFGHANS WISHING TO LEAVE THE COUNTRY



PROMOTION, PROTECTION AND RESPECT OF ALL HUMAN RIGHTS, IN PARTICULAR THE RIGHTS OF WOMEN AND GIRLS, CHILDREN AND MINORITIES



ALLOWING IMPLEMENTATION OF HUMANITARIAN OPERATIONS IN AFGHANISTAN IN LINE WITH THE PRINCIPLES OF HUMANITY, NEUTRALITY, IMPARTIALITY AND INDEPENDENCE AND FULL RESPECT OF INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW



PREVENTING AFGHANISTAN FROM SERVING AS A BASE FOR HOSTING, FINANCING OR EXPORTING TERRORISM TO OTHER COUNTRIES



ESTABLISHMENT OF AN INCLUSIVE AND REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT THROUGH NEGOTIATIONS

EU SUPPORT FOR A PROSPEROUS AND PEACEFUL AFGHANISTAN

In support of and respecting in the interest of the Afghan people, especially women and girls, the EU has launched a number of initiatives with regard to minimal presence and engagement without recognition, coordination with regional and international partners, promoting an inclusive dialogue, and support to basic needs and services, livelihoods of the population as well as humanitarian assistance.



Minimal presence in Kabul – established to monitor the adequate delivery of assistance to the Afghan people, facilitate operational coordination and promote the interests of the EU. It allows the EU to continue to engage with the Afghan people wherever possible in order to ensure the priorities and voices of the Afghan people are heard and respected despite the absence of an inclusive political system.



Engagement without recognition – The EU has also maintained contacts with the de facto authorities to ensure political dialogue on the commitments and that EU's support to the Afghan people is being implemented, without interference by or benefit to the Taliban.



Strong international coordination – The EU has established coordination mechanisms on Afghanistan within the EU and with international partners, including a structured and regular Europe-US-UN format to address the continued instability in Afghanistan and mitigate the risks for the region and beyond. Bilateral dialogue with all neighbours and key partners of Afghanistan has been stepped up and a regular in-person platform for EU-Central Asia Special Representatives and Envoys has also been established.



Priority for human rights, especially for women and girls – The EU has facilitated the establishment of an Afghan Women Leaders' Forum to ensure Afghan women have the opportunity to voice their concerns in international fora and provide policy advice to the EU and the broader international community. The EU's assistance focuses on the most vulnerable segments of the population, including women and girls.

The EU also supports a number of initiatives aimed at ensuring a continued peaceful inclusive dialogue in Afghanistan and protection for those living under threat for having expressed their opinions or belonging to groups being persecuted. In some instances, this includes support to safe passage to abroad.

BASIC NEEDS

A lasting peace goes hand in hand with **the provision of livelihoods and access to basic services for the Afghan people**, which is why the EU mobilised approximately EUR 330 million in 2021, of which 80% ongoing and the remainder to be launched imminently. The EU's basic needs assistance focuses on the most vulnerable segments of the population, including women and girls minorities, Internally Displaced Persons and refugees. Of the overall basic needs support, EUR 79 million is geared to addressing basic needs of those affected by displacement inside Afghanistan and in the neighbouring countries. United Nations agencies and (international) NGOs are the EU's main partners in providing basic needs support. The EU's basic needs assistance to Afghans is under no circumstances channelled through the de facto authorities.



Strengthening Access to Basic Services

- > **Strengthening education services** by providing emergency cash assistance to teachers, and school snacks and meals, take-home rations and cash for boys and girls.
- > **Strengthening Health, Nutrition, and Water, Sanitation and Health services** to counter the negative impacts of COVID-19, improve physical rehabilitation services, and work towards polio-eradication.



Livelihoods and Access to Food

- > **Support building assets** for Afghans in rural areas via cash-for-work and cash-for-food initiatives, thereby also boosting local food production.
- > **Provide skills training**, business grants and advisory services up to 23,000 small entrepreneurs, most of which women.



Human Rights

- > **Supporting human rights defenders** in danger inside and outside of Afghanistan through protection grants.
- > **Supporting civil society organisations** working with human rights defenders, women activists and journalists through grants.
- > **Strengthening Sexual and Gender-Based Violence services** through 25 women and girls-friendly safe spaces and women-led local NGOs, and other community-based models for the prevention of violence and harmful practices, through the EU-UN Spotlight Initiative.

MIGRATION AND FORCED DISPLACEMENT REINTEGRATION

The EU has mobilised at the end of 2021 EUR 79 million for addressing the basic needs of displaced populations in Afghanistan and in the region, as well as their host communities, especially in Iran and Pakistan.

EU's assistance covers **education, health, WASH and nutrition, livelihoods and access to food**.

HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE



HEALTH AND NUTRITION

Provision of life saving medical care and nutritional services, including procurement of therapeutic and supplementary health and food kits.



FOOD ASSISTANCE

Provision of emergency food assistance to populations facing the most acute levels of food insecurity and protection of their livelihoods.



EDUCATION IN EMERGENCIES

Education delivery through establishment of community based education and temporary learning spaces for children unable to attend formal schooling.



RAPID RESPONSE

Flexible, early, contingent response to natural disasters, conflict and epidemic affected populations.



PROTECTION

Protection prevention and response programmes for vulnerable populations at risk primarily due to gender, age, culture, or affiliation; supported by International Humanitarian Law dissemination activities.

EU SUPPORT LEADS TO CONCRETE RESULTS



Over **8.5 million people** received health care services, including **life-saving trauma care**



Up to **450 000 persons** are receiving food or cash when taking part in work programmes to boost food production



Up to **1.5 million school children** are receiving daily school snacks and meals



The EU provided emergency cash **support to all the 194 000 teachers** in February-March 2022



Over **500,000 people** protected by **mine action** activities



120 000 children will receive **psychosocial support**, access to education services, health and nutrition services



21 EU Humanitarian Air Bridge Flights delivered more than **670 tons of life-saving medical cargo**



Around **23 000 entrepreneurs**, mainly women, will receive technical and/or financial support to develop and expand their businesses



Over **3 million people** provided with **food and nutritional support**, with focus on children and women



Over **3.7 million children** schooled under the **EU's education in emergencies** programme