

The Danish Afghanistan Strategy 2015-17

FACT SHEET

The Danish government and the political parties behind the Danish Afghanistan engagement have adopted a new comprehensive strategy for Denmark's engagement in Afghanistan covering the period 2015-17. The strategy will replace the current Afghanistan Plan 2013-14.

The relationship between the International Community and Afghanistan will enter into a new phase after 2014. From 2015, the full responsibility for Afghanistan's security and political, economic and social development will lie in Afghan hands. This implies a more equal cooperation between the International Community and Afghanistan based on mutual responsibilities and obligations. However, in the critical years 2015-17 Afghanistan will remain dependent on substantial international support.

Denmark's future engagement in Afghanistan will build upon the foundation of the current Afghanistan Plan 2013-14, but take into account this new phase, where Afghanistan will be the main driver of its own security and development. The overall objective with the Danish engagement in Afghanistan in the coming period will be to provide the Afghans with support and guidance in order for them to be able to independently drive Afghanistan's development forward.

In the coming three years, the Danish engagement in Afghanistan will continue to be based on the **three, strategic principles**;

- Consolidation: The Danish engagement in Afghanistan will focus on consolidating the efforts within a number of central areas, where we have obtained good results and created a foundation for the Afghans to consolidate and build on.
- Afghan ownership: Denmark will support that the Afghan government, both formally and in reality, takes over the responsibility to build upon the results already achieved and delivers concrete results to the Afghan population.
- Normalisation: Denmark will work for a normalisation of the cooperation between Afghanistan and the international community in order for it to develop into a more equal development cooperation thereby contributing to a more sustainable development in Afghanistan. This is also intended to make Afghanistan less dependent on international development aid in the longer run.

Flexibility and robustness will still be necessary for the engagement in Afghanistan. Afghanistan will go through a difficult phase with great challenges and with less international support than what has been the case the previous 13 years. Afghanistan's progress remains fragile. We must be prepared for setbacks and, if necessary, ready to adjust our engagement in Afghanistan. The most vital point will be whether the Afghan State acts in a way, which upholds the country's overall aim of stability and a sustainable future.

The development efforts will be central to Denmark's engagement in Afghanistan in the coming three years. In the period 2013-17 Afghanistan will be the biggest receiver of Danish

development assistance with an average of 530 million DKK per year. In the period 2015-17 the Danish development assistance will be focused on; (1) economic growth and employment with a focus on the agricultural sector, (2) education and (3) good governance, democracy and human rights. In addition to this, we will continue to support (4) capacity building of the Afghan police, (5) returning refugees and internally displaced persons and offer (6) humanitarian aid.

Women's rights and opportunities will continue to be a priority for Denmark's development engagement in Afghanistan. The strong focus on fighting and preventing corruption will also be maintained.

In 2015-17 the Danish development assistance will, to an even larger extent than previously, be channeled through multilateral organizations, particularly the World Bank and the UN.

Denmark's **military efforts** will in the period 2015-17 take place within the framework of NATO's new mission in Afghanistan, Resolute Support, which is not a combat mission. It is a train, advice, assist mission focused on supporting the capacity building of the Afghan security forces and security institutions.

The objective of Denmark's military efforts will be a consolidation and responsible continuation of the previous efforts. As the need for training, advising and assistance is expected to change over the coming three years, the Danish military efforts will be flexibly adjusted accordingly.

At the beginning of 2015, the military contribution is expected to consist of app. 160 people:

- Contributions to training and advising will include app. 50 people divided into contributions to the Afghan military schools and academies in Kabul and to NATO's Army Institutional Advisory Team in the Kabul area and an instructor contribution to the Afghan Air Force.
- Supporting air assets and staff augments will comprise a Danish transport helicopter contribution with up to three helicopters and app. 80 persons, assigned to the German-led regional command in northern Afghanistan and a contribution to NATO's staffs in the Kabul area.
- Logistical, administrative and technical support is expected to include app. 20 people.

Denmark will continue to support the capacity building of the **Afghan National Security Forces (ANSF)** with 100 million DKK annually in the period 2015-17. Continued capacity building of the security forces, including regular payment of wages, ensuring proper conditions and equipment are essential to the sustainability of the security forces and thus for Afghanistan's security and stability.

Denmark will also continue to contribute to the capacity building of the **Afghan police** through training and advising and by sending police officers and advisers to the EU police training mission, EUPOL.

In the coming three years, Denmark's **political efforts** in relation to Afghanistan will, in collaboration with international partners, focus especially on supporting an Afghan peace- and reconciliation process, as well as continued progress on human rights, including not least women's and girls' rights.