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EU SUPPORT TO THE AFGHAN PEOPLE: ADDRESSING BASIC NEEDS



“We stand by the Afghan people. The women and children, prosecutors, journalists and human rights defenders. We must continue supporting all Afghans in the country and in neighbouring countries.”

*Ursula von der Leyen, President of the European Commission,
Speech on the State of the EU, 15 September 2021*

The European Union is continuing to support the Afghan people under the current difficult circumstances with new projects worth a total of €268.3 million.

In October 2021, EU development ministers agreed on the need to step up the EU’s **direct support to the Afghan people** for their basic needs. The EU’s aim is to save and sustain Afghan lives and livelihoods, and deliver basic services to the population, without channelling aid through the de facto authorities.

HOW



€186 million

for projects on health, education and livelihoods, working through UNICEF, UNDP, WHO, WFP



€79 million

for projects addressing migration and forced displacement with UNICEF, UNHCR, IOM, NRC, focusing on Afghanistan, Iran, Pakistan and Central Asia

The projects focus on **health, nutrition, clean water, sanitation**, and **education**, in particular for women and girls. Funding is also directed toward **income generating activities, food security and local markets**.

The EU also increased support to Afghan human rights defenders and civil society organisations providing €3.3 million.





EDUCATION

PROTECTING TEACHERS

The objective is to maintain teaching and learning conditions by ensuring that teachers remain motivated and sustained, especially female teachers. This aims at allowing all public-school children, girls and boys, to continue accessing education.

- There are around 194,000 public teachers nationwide and more than 15,000 public schools in Afghanistan. The EU wants all the schools to remain open, so that the 8.8 million children, including girls, enrolled in public schools can continue benefiting from primary and secondary education with motivated and sustained teachers

SCHOOL MEALS

The EU will contribute to the provision of food at school and to take home for boys and girls in primary school. For girls in secondary level, the EU will also support cash transfers for their households conditional on girls' enrolment and attendance in school.



800,000 primary school children receiving daily high-energy biscuits



200,000 primary school children receiving daily school meals through vouchers



480,000 primary school girls receiving take-home rations



50,000 secondary school girls receiving cash transfers for buying food



HEALTH

COVID-19

The EU supports the mitigation of health effects of COVID-19 in Afghanistan by helping to prevent new infections, slowing down transmission, and reducing morbidity and mortality associated with COVID-19. Also, the EU supports the mitigation of health and nutrition effects of COVID-19 on **women and children** in Afghanistan.

- Expansion of COVID-19 testing capacity in the country through the support of COVID-19 laboratories and the provision of test kits, supplies and consumables
- Improved surveillance and case investigation will be supported through the provision of personal protective equipment, sample collection kits and COVID-19 rapid diagnostic kits
- Support to four major COVID-19 hospitals including capacity building to improve case management
- Improvement of **access to nutrition, Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH), and Gender-Based Violence (GBV) prevention** and response services for Afghan women, adolescent girls, children, and persons in vulnerable situations, which mitigates the effects of COVID-19

POLIO

Polio vaccination campaigns aim to ensure that every eligible child in every part of the country is vaccinated, which is the only way to eradicate polio, a disease still present in Afghanistan.

- Polio vaccine procurement
- Community engagement and social mobilisation around campaigns
- Mobile health and nutrition outreach to vaccinate mobile children against polio
- Provision of promotional items to increase uptake of polio vaccines and reduce refusal



LIVELIHOODS

- The EU supports food security by boosting food production through improved irrigation systems, supporting small-scale agriculture and food processing and restoring degraded natural environments:
 - Around 450,000 persons will receive food or cash when taking part in work programmes to boost food production
- The EU increases income opportunities, especially for women:
 - Around 23,000 entrepreneurs, mainly women, will receive technical and/or financial support to develop and expand their businesses



FORCED DISPLACEMENT AND MIGRATION

Dignity, resilience and self-reliance are the three key aspects of the EU's support to Afghan refugees and their host communities. The EU works with Iran, Pakistan and Central Asian countries to support their efforts in hosting the Afghan refugees.

The EU will continue supporting access to education, health services, livelihoods and legal assistance for Afghan refugees (especially women and unaccompanied children), undocumented Afghans and their host community members, in Iran, Pakistan and Central Asia, as well as for Afghans who have returned to Afghanistan and Afghans who are internally displaced.

WHO WILL BENEFIT



■ Afghanistan ■ Iran ■ Pakistan
■ Central Asia

Afghanistan

- 15,000 internally displaced persons, returnees and host community members to receive market-based technical education and vocational trainings or small businesses development trainings

Iran

- 90,000 Afghans (refugees, returnees, stateless people, the internally displaced and asylum-seekers) referred to health care, 402 health facilities supported
- 8,000 Afghans enrolled in formal national certified skills trainings, 12 schools constructed

Pakistan

- 100,000 Afghans with access to public health facilities
- 150 health workers supported with salaries for 3 years, 6 health facilities to be constructed/rehabilitated
- 8,400 Afghans enrolled in the national education system, 900 teachers supported with salaries for 3 years, 12 education facilities improved for the inclusion of refugees in the government education systems

Central Asia

- 6,000 Afghans with access to health services and insurance
- 345 Afghans receive vocational training at the Education Centre for Afghan citizens in Termez, Uzbekistan



HUMAN RIGHTS

The EU increased its support to Afghan human rights defenders and civil society organisations with €3.3 million:

- Additional funding for human rights defenders in danger inside and outside of Afghanistan, through protection grants
- Grants for local civil society organisations working with human rights defenders, women activists and journalists