

Reconstruction

Security is the basis for economic development, reconstruction and education, but there is no stable security without reconstruction, development and education. The 30 years of war and strife in Afghanistan seriously damaged basic infrastructure and local communities. Afghanistan's achievements in the last ten years have been impressive regarding reconstruction and infrastructure development, however there have been some shortcomings. The coming years will be crucial to build basic infrastructures and strengthening the Afghan institutions. We reaffirm the goals set forth in 2005 EU-Afghanistan Joint Declaration, Afghanistan Compact in 2006 and the London and Kabul Conferences. Support of the Afghanistan National Development Strategy (ANDS 2010) which includes: security, good governance, role of law and human rights, economic growth, poverty reduction and counter corruption will be helpful in order to reach these aims.

1. Bearing in mind that ANDS is an important document for Afghanistan and the European Union, it should be extended beyond 2014 to allocate future funds.
2. We acknowledge that Afghanistan signed the United Nations Convention against Corruption in 2008, finalized a National Anti-Corruption strategy and established a High Office of Oversight and Anti-Corruption. The European Union and Afghanistan agree that the implementation of anti-corruption must be a priority for the Afghan Government. This is crucial, as corruption enables criminals to penetrate governmental institutions and is an obstacle to a successful reconstruction process.
3. We acknowledge the work of Provincial Reconstruction Teams (PRT) and support that Afghan authorities assume more responsibility in longer-term reconstruction aids on the national as well as on the local level in order to ensure for a successful transition in terms of reconstruction process.
4. Focus on a number of national programmes and projects that deliver long term sustainable economic development. The projects include: agriculture, mining, energy, irrigation, dams, industry, telecommunication, basic infrastructure services and private sector.
5. Intensive attention on construction of national road networks, ring roads, bridges and high ways connecting the provinces or zones.
6. As it will be important for the European Union and the International Community to continue engaging in these communities to avoid eroding the trust between the Afghan government and its citizens, improving the livelihood of the neglected communities and groups in rural areas, through generating agricultural programs or construction projects, is crucial.
7. Support the Government of Afghanistan in promoting a private public partnership in the construction sector.
8. We recognize that reconstruction efforts cannot be successful without strengthening the rule of law, democracy and good governance in order to create a stable and democratic state of Afghanistan and ensure that the population supports the authorities. Investments into the legal system should support the judicial system to be independent and incorruptible.
9. The Afghan employment rate and the participation of Afghan companies in public tenders in reconstruction efforts must be raised in order to ensure that the majority of the Afghan population benefits from foreign reconstruction investments and a sustainable economic and social development can take place
10. An essential part of successful reconstruction efforts is a guaranteed access to water for everyone in the civil as well as in the agricultural area. The former stated goal to develop agriculture will not be achieved without a proper irrigation system or network. This will also be helpful for improving hygiene conditions leading to a decrease of the mortality rate, especially the infantile.