

**A strategy for comprehensive Norwegian
civilian and military efforts
in Faryab province, Afghanistan**



Photo: Per Arne Juvang/Norwegian Armed Forces
Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Defence and Ministry of Justice and the Police - May 2009



Photo : Kristin Enstad

Background: Norway's involvement with Afghanistan

The main aim of the Norwegian engagement in Afghanistan is to support the Afghan authorities in their responsibility to ensure stability, security and development. In accordance with the Paris donor conference agreement and NATO's political-military plan, the international society must improve coordination of its efforts in order to strengthen Afghan capacity and ownership. Capacity-building of the Afghan National Army (ANA) and police (ANP) is vital for the Afghan authorities' own ability to consolidate peace and stability, allowing lasting political, social and economic development. We must work towards clearly defined goals to avoid international assistance becoming a substitute for or an obstacle to strengthened **afghanisation**.

At the donor conference in Paris in 2008, Norway pledged NOK 750 million (USD 115 mill / EUR 85 million) in combined humanitarian and development aid for each year during the period 2008 to 2012. Our development aid is primarily concentrated on three important sectors: good governance with special emphasis on strengthening the police and justice sector; education; and rural development. Humanitarian assistance is directed towards improving health; mine and cluster-weapons clearance; refugees; human rights and support to the UN Humanitarian Appeal. In addition Norway will intensify efforts to follow up UNSC resolution 1325 (2000) on women, peace and security in relation to our engagement in Afghanistan.

Norwegian efforts in Faryab

The main thrust of our efforts in Faryab will be based on UNAMAs integrated approach for implementation of the Afghanistan National Development Strategy (ANDS) and the Provincial Development Plan (PDP), as well as the fact that Norwegian military contribution in the province is part of the UN-mandated international security assistance force (ISAF). In this connection, Afghan authorities, NATO and the UN agree that the model for Provincial Reconstruction Teams (PRT) must be reviewed to take into account local needs for security, development, Afghan capacity building and governance. They also agree that we must use the opportunity that lies in a relatively stable security situation to turn northern Afghanistan into an example of strengthened Afghan ownership of security and social and economic development. Norway aims to be a driving force in the development of models for afghanisation and for support to UNAMAs lead role as coordinator of international efforts, also at the provincial level.

Strengthened coordination between civilian and military actors

The respective roles of the Norwegian civilian and military actors shall be clearly distinguished, and the coordination between all actors shall be strengthened and their efforts made coherent. The civilian component shall therefore be drawn out of the PRT and linked more closely to the local authorities and to the UN (UNAMA) as soon as the security situation permits. At the same time, we will begin planning for the establishment of a civilian presence in the post-PRT phase of Norwegian engagement in Faryab. The military efforts will be recalibrated towards increased support to strengthening Afghan national security forces (ANSF), and we will increase the Norwegian police efforts in the province. All Norwegian personnel who serve in Faryab shall receive improved and more coordinated pre-deployment training. The Norwegian civilian coordinator and military commander in Faryab, in cooperation with the UN, ISAF and local authorities, shall review how military planning and resource allocation can best be coordinated with civilian plans.



Photo:Kristin Enstad

Challenges in Ghowrmach district

The security situation in Faryab is for the most part stable. However, the Ghowrmach district, for which administrative responsibility has been temporarily transferred from Badghis to Faryab province, constitutes a particular challenge. Ghowrmach is characterized by conflict and weak governance. It is therefore positive that UNAMA, in collaboration with ISAF and the Afghan authorities, has identified Ghowrmach as a pilot area in the integrated approach for implementing ANDS. Norway will support the pilot work, although the security challenges in the district may result in difficulties in finding partners for the development of the district.

Norwegian military presence in Faryab

A central part of ISAF's concept of operations is the gradual transfer of lead security responsibility (TLSR) to Afghan security forces, as soon as this is feasible. The Norwegian military presence in Faryab will gradually be developed to assume a mentoring-, partnering- and supporting role the better to empower ANSF to take the responsibility for security. The Norwegian contribution to ISAF's Operational Mentoring and Liaison Teams (OMLT) is central to strengthening the capacity of the ANSF. As Afghan capacity grows, the Norwegian OMLT will increasingly focus on mentoring and liaison functions, and the Norwegian-led PRT on support to Afghan army and police units. This will afford an opportunity to consider these efforts in unison and thus to adjust the composition of the Norwegian military contribution.



Photo: Norwegian Armed Forces

Allied consultation

As the security situation improves, so can our military contribution be adjusted. Norway will suggest any adjustments of its military contingent in Faryab in close consultation with NATO and with ISAF partners. At the same time, Norway will increase its efforts for Afghan capacity-building through support to ANA colleges. Norway will also consider other possibilities for economic support to ANA, such as economic support for training and running costs.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Defence and Ministry of Justice and the Police - May 2009



Photo:Kristin Enstad

Police and Prison Sectors

The efforts to strengthen the police and justice sectors in Afghanistan have been lagging behind strengthening of the army. A well-functioning police and justice system is crucial to the development of the country. Norway will therefore increase its contribution to capacity-building through the FDD (Focused District Development) programme and EUPOL (European Union Police Mission in Afghanistan). Norway has decided to respond positively to the Afghan request for mentoring of the ANP at the provincial and district level in Faryab (FDD). Initially, we are working to put in place one police mentoring team comprised of both civilian police advisors and military police. The need for, and possibilities of, several such teams will be subject to consideration. Norway also has prison advisors stationed in Faryab, and contributes to construction and improvement of prisons and treatment of prisoners in the province. In 2009, Norway supports the UN-administered Law and Order Trust Fund for Afghanistan (LOTFA) with USD 5 million as well as the disarmament and disbandment of illegal armed groups (DIAG) with USD 1.5 million. We believe that it will be important to continue this support in the coming years. This constitutes an increase of the Norwegian contribution civilian Afghan security forces and thereby to afghanisation.

Stronger local authorities

Norway will contribute to strengthening local authorities in cooperation with the Afghan Independent Directorate for Local Governance (IDLG), as well as strengthening of the UN through UNAMA at Kabul headquarters as well as field office level. Norwegian civilian development projects will be geared towards the local authorities and the UN. Norway will lobby for support to Afghan authorities so that the international support matches the Afghan priorities. A solid data base for planning and policy is an important management tool for local authorities. Norway will therefore take the initiative to establish indicators for security, governance and development in Faryab. Such indicators will be developed in close cooperation with Afghan authorities and UNAMA. We will also use the indicators in the management of our own efforts.



Photo: Sari Kouvo

Nordic cooperation

Norway will seek to further Nordic cooperation in northern Afghanistan as a follow-up to the Nordic action plan for Afghanistan. In the first instance, we shall seek cooperation on mentoring of Afghan security forces and capacity-building efforts for local authorities.

Development with respect for human rights

The civilian efforts will aim to improve social and economic development including awareness of, and respect for, human rights. Norwegian development cooperation in Faryab will focus on the same sectors as Norwegian development cooperation in Afghanistan generally. Adhering to the main principle of Afghan ownership and Afghan prioritisation through national programmes, Norwegian aid to Faryab will constitute a maximum of 20 per cent of the total Norwegian development aid to the country.

In the field of good governance, Norway will seek to strengthen the management functions of the provincial governor and the accountability of the provincial development committee (PDC). We will therefore support IDLG to implement the new policy for local administration. Norway will strive to promote the development of civil society in Faryab.



Photo: Kristin Enstad

Education will remain the main sector for development cooperation for Norway in Faryab, where we support the Afghan authorities' ambition to make Faryab the first province where all the schools benefit from functioning buildings and qualified teachers. Norway will also contribute to support adult education and strengthen the quality of higher education related to agriculture.

For rural development, Norway will emphasise efforts which increase yields and improve the income base. Therefore we shall maintain our aid to agriculture, animal husbandry, irrigation systems, credit facilities and access to markets. Norway will continue support to improving the quality of water for drinking and irrigation purposes, as well as to sources of renewable energy. Rural development presents great infrastructural needs, and Norway will push for resolution of the problems which result in substantial World Bank and the Asian Development Bank development funds remaining unspent.

Norway will provide humanitarian assistance to Faryab i.a. through the Humanitarian Action Plan developed by the UN in cooperation with the Afghan authorities. Norwegian support to rural development shall – where appropriate - also contribute to disaster prevention and preparedness as well as crisis management.



Photo:Kristin Enstad

Norway will seek to parry regional clashes of interest which may arise as a result of our engagement in Faryab in relation to the other northwestern provinces. Norway shall also remain attentive to issues that call for cross-border solutions, in particular water and energy. Norway shall strive to see that Faryab and neighbouring provinces receive fair prioritisation from the Afghan central authorities, and will endeavour to broaden the donor base for the development of Faryab.



Photo: Kristin Enstad

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Defence and Ministry of Justice and the Police - May 2009