



# Afghanistan Policy Page

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A one-page brief from the [Afghanistan Congressional Communications Hub](#) on a major issue concerning U.S. policy and engagement in Afghanistan.

## Major International Actors in Afghanistan

### Take Aways

- Afghanistan has many different international actors with differing mandates, resources, and incentives.
- **Coordination of international actors is critically important for successful counterinsurgency, stabilization, and development in Afghanistan.**
- Many international actors have funding cycles that do not align with Afghan requirement cycles.

### Multilateral Organizations

**UN Assistance Mission – Afghanistan (UNAMA)** has the mandate to coordinate the international efforts in Afghanistan with NATO-ISAF.

- **UN Leadership: Ambassador Staffan de Mistura (Sweden) will take over on 1 March 2010 from Ambassador Kai Eide (Norway)**
- Approximately 6,000 UN employees in Afghanistan.

#### UN Agencies in Afghanistan:

- Mine Action Coordination Centre of Afghanistan
- Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights
- UN Children's Fund (UNICEF)
- UN Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
- UN Development Programme
- UN Development Fund for Women
- UN Environment Programme
- UN Food and Agriculture Organization
- UN High Commissioner for Refugees
- UN Human Settlement Programme
- UN Industrial Development Organization
- UN Integrated Regional Information Network
- UN Population Fund
- UN Office for Project Services
- UN Office on Drugs and Crime
- UN World Food Programme
- UN World Health Organization

#### Other Multilateral Organizations in Afghanistan:

- **World Bank** – \$707 million pledged since 2002.
- **International Monetary Fund** – Coordinated \$1.6 billion in debt relief for 2010.
- **Asian Development Bank** – Over \$1.8 billion in assistance since 2002.
- **International Labour Organization** – Several projects with Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs.
- **International Red Crescent** – Gave over 660,000 Afghans healthcare assistance in 2009.

### Major International Actors

#### United States Military: Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF)

- **Separate from the NATO-ISAF operations in Afghanistan**, focused on counterterrorism operations, reports to Central Command (CENTCOM).
- **OEF Leadership on the ground: General Stanley McChrystal**, Commander US Forces, Afghanistan (approximately 22,000 troops)
- **CENTCOM Leadership: General David Petraeus**

#### NATO International Stabilization Assistance Force (ISAF)

- Mandated by the UN in 2001; NATO took command of ISAF in August 2003.
- **ISAF Commander: General Stanley McChrystal**
- 86,000 total NATO-ISAF forces as of 1 February 2010.
- Approximately 46,000 of the 68,000 U.S. forces currently in Afghanistan are under NATO-ISAF command; the remaining forces are under OEF.

**NATO Civilian Representation – Mark Sedwill**, the former UK Ambassador to Afghanistan, coordinates NATO development aid.

- Oversees Provincial Reconstruction Teams operated by NATO units.

#### United States Department of State

- **Ambassador Richard Holbrooke** – Special Envoy for Afghanistan and Pakistan, oversees regional coordination.
- **Ambassador Karl Eikenberry** – Ambassador to Afghanistan.
- **Ambassador Francis Ricciardone** – Deputy Ambassador to Afghanistan.
- **Assistant Ambassador Anthony Wayne** – Coordinating Director for Development and Economic Affairs
- **USAID – Afghanistan Mission Director William Frej** – Over \$7.9 billion in assistance since 2002 from USAID

#### International Diplomatic Community

- **European Union** – Vygaudas Usackas (Lithuania) is the EU Ambassador to Afghanistan. The EU has donated over €1.4 billion since 2002 in humanitarian, development, and reconstruction aid.
- **European Commission** – The EC has worked with reintegration of refugees, as well as agriculture development project with an emphasis on alternative livelihoods for poppy farmers.
- **United Kingdom** – Sherard Cowper-Coles is the acting UK Ambassador to Afghanistan. The UK has committed over £1 billion since 2001, and it is the lead nation for counternarcotics efforts in Afghanistan
- **Italy** – Charged with coordinating justice sector development and reform, has donated €473 million since 2001.
- **Germany** – Donated €144 million since 2001; currently focused on funding infrastructure development projects and governance support.
- **Japan** – Pledged \$5 billion for development assistance, and \$500 million for Taliban reintegration efforts.

### Non-Governmental Organizations

There are hundreds of NGOs in Afghanistan, and **many NGOs do not coordinate their activities** with UNAMA, NATO-ISAF, or the relevant Government of Afghanistan ministry for their development projects.

### Possible Questions

- **Who amongst the international leadership is ultimately in charge of all the international military and development actions in Afghanistan?**
- Are international actors effectively coordinated with each other? Do international actors ever work at cross-purposes?
- With whom does the Afghan government coordinate? Is the development aid fostering good governance?

### Further Reading

[ISAF](#)  
[UNAMA](#)  
[UNICEF](#)

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