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DENMARK ASKS

# WHAT TOOLS DO WE NEED TO BUILD LASTING PEACE?

**Terrorism, fragile states and human rights violations are important global issues to be faced today - and in an ever smaller world it takes a joint effort to address these challenges.**

Experience shows that in cases where military intervention is deemed necessary, coordination with civilian efforts is crucial. Denmark, therefore, uses all tools necessary in a comprehensive approach for peace and stability.

## **A joint effort**

Regional organisations around the world play an important role in conflict resolution, but to Denmark the NATO, UN and the EU continue to be the most important international organisations through which global security and peace is ensured.

Via its commitment to these organisations and through bilateral assistance, Denmark helps create an international society built on the principles of stability, peace and democracy.

The efforts are long-term and, specifically, cover initiatives from civilian, humanitarian development assistance to international peace-

supporting initiatives, including conflict prevention, peace-keeping and peace-making.

## **A strategy for peace**

A milestone in the Danish effort was the establishment of the Peacebuilding Commission during the Danish membership of the UN Security Council in 2005-2006. It allows for a coordinated country-specific strategy for predictable financing and proposals for integrated strategies for post-conflict recovery.

## **Presence in the hot spots**

Striving for international peace, stability and security Denmark has reorganised its defence in order to enable deployment of forces in international operations quickly and flexibly and maintain deployed capabilities corresponding to approx. 2,000 personnel. Denmark has deployed forces to UN-mandated missions in Afghanistan, Iraq, Kosovo and to a range of UN-led missions in Africa and other conflict areas.

At the same time, the Danish International Humanitarian Service has a mobile corps of more than 300 Danes with a wide range of educational and professional profiles posted around the world. They undertake assignments in the field of humanitarian, conflict

preventive and peace-keeping operations within the framework of Danish and international crisis management and humanitarian assistance.

## **Hard and soft power**

Denmark continues to be a leading advocate of strengthened cooperation between military and civilian assets in order to stabilise and normalise conflict areas more quickly.

The Danish model for a comprehensive approach is based on an underlying realisation that a military operation cannot necessarily create stability and ensure peace-building by itself. Close coordination with civilian rebuilding efforts is necessary, if the initiatives are to be effective.

Long-term results rely on:

- Close dialogue with humanitarian NGOs during planning and pre-deployment preparation
- Active use of civilian advisors
- Systematic contact between local representatives and advisors

An essential feature of the Danish model is that both aspects are well-coordinated in both the planning and operational phases.

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### CASE

# AFGHANISTAN – PRESENT AND FUTURE

**After many years of conflict and war, Afghanistan is focused on achieving stability, peace and progress with assistance from the international community.**

Through a comprehensive approach, Denmark supports the implementation of the Afghanistan Compact – the agreement signed between the international society and Afghanistan - in order to contribute to national, regional, and global peace and security and improve the lives of the Afghan people.

Although the situation in Afghanistan is still fragile and highly complex, more rebuilding and development has taken place in the last five years than at any other time in Afghan history.

#### **The framework for stability**

Stabilisation is furthered through the provision of troops to the NATO-led International Security Assistance Force (ISAF), which - under a mandate from the UN Security Council - is tasked with helping the Afghan government to spread its authority to the entire country. Denmark contributes to ISAF and, furthermore, Danish police officers provide assistance such as training the Afghan police, who are progressively taking over responsibility.

As a part of the British lead Provincial Reconstruction Team (PRT) Helmand, Danish soldiers - with Afghan forces - aim to ensure the security and stability necessary for the Afghan government to extend its authority across the country and for the civilian reconstruction and humanitarian efforts to take place.

In areas where it is impossible for civilians to work, these soldiers do the initial rebuilding.

#### **Danish reconstruction efforts**

By Afghan request, the Danish assistance is targeted at rebuilding the public sector, human rights and democratisation, education and improvement of living conditions for the rural population. Furthermore, Denmark is involved in alleviating humanitarian crises by means of emergency responses and mine clearance and assisting refugees returning to Afghanistan by vocational training and building of new villages.

Per capita Denmark is in the top 5 both regarding the number of troops and the civilian assistance. Some of the results so far achieved with Danish support are:

- 21 schools have been built
- 20,000 teachers have undergone further training
- More than 5,000 Afghan mine clearers have been trained
- Microfinance Investment Support Facility for Afghanistan has more than 200,000 active borrowers of which 85% are women

To sustain the progress set in motion, continued international focus and presence is needed. Great patience and long and laborious work is a prerequisite. Therefore, Denmark will continue its engagement for many years to come.

For further information visit:  
[www.um.dk](http://www.um.dk)



Danish police offers training to the Afghan police. Above, new Afghan police recruits prepare for morning assembly. Photo: Franz-Michael Skjold Mellbin



A Danish reconstruction team visits a girl school in Chagcharan. Photo: PRT Chagcharan