

The priority in the coming months is:

- to ensure schools open and stay open from grade 1 to 12, for boys and girls. The longer schools are closed, the less likely it is that children, particularly girls, but also vulnerable boys, do come back when schools reopen
- to address the issue of paying salaries of teachers: while international conditionalities impress on the right for girls to go to school, teachers are absent because they have not been paid.
- to ensure that youth, girls and women have access to quality education and equitable literacy opportunities. This would enable them to contribute actively to the societal and economic life. Conversely, a decrease in literacy skills will lead to a general rolling back in girls' and women's rights, already threatened by a much more restricted access to the public space.

The *de facto* authorities have promised that girls' schools would reopen, explaining the delay due to financial constraints and operational issues on running shifts and separating classes. However, if solutions to the issues concerning the already overstretched and underfunded school system and the lack of enough female teachers at secondary level are not found, problems in the sector will deepen.

Among the anticipated challenges/constraints, the development and humanitarian partners will have to critically assess and consider the unequal access to school by girls across the country (owing to local authorities more conservative/stricter rule). If necessary, support could be adjusted regionally and/or locally to promote equal access to education.

Livelihoods

The withdrawal of donors' agricultural assistance, emergency relief, and livelihood programmes under current conditions is likely to exacerbate further economic hardship, poverty, food insecurity and displacement.

In the medium-term, prolonged loss of livelihoods and skills risk undermining the reemergence of market conditions needed for businesses, including Micro Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), to develop, hire, and thrive. The consequence would be further internal displacement, overloading the weakened social system throughout the country, and potentially followed by an increase in external migration.

The issue is compounded by the major internal forced displacement caused by conflicts and disasters. Both IDPs and returnees have often lost their livelihoods and are facing difficulties re-establishing it. Livelihood opportunities for IDPs, which were already limited prior to August 2021, have been further curtailed. This leads to risk of resorting to negative coping mechanisms.

Identification of main stakeholders and corresponding institutional and/or organisational issues (mandates, potential roles, and capacities) to be covered by the action:

The whole aid architecture in Afghanistan is in the process of being redesigned and the situation at the time of writing this Action Document is **still very fluid. The conditions that underpinned the previous aid architecture do not exist anymore:**

- There is no longer an internationally-recognised government to work with. EU sanctions vis-à-vis the Taliban are strictly UN-based. Any proposed measure shall comply with the existing sanctions applicable in the EU. While the UN (and therefore the EU) has designated 135 individuals and five entities, the US has designated the