

FACT SHEET

Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Migration and Humanitarian Cooperation between Australia, Afghanistan and the UNHCR

Australian Government

In association with the MoU, the Australian Government has agreed to undertake a number of initiatives intended to build capacity in relevant Afghan Government ministries and to assist the repatriation of displaced Afghans.

The largest undertaking will be to fund the upgrade of Afghanistan's passport issuing system to bring Afghan passports into line with international standards. Australia will also fund additional activities at the AliceGhan housing project near Kabul and various initiatives aimed at upgrading Afghanistan's governance abilities.

The arrangement will also provide reintegration support for Afghans who return to Afghanistan. This may include in-kind assistance for provision of accommodation or initiatives such as skills training or small business creation.

Afghanistan Government

The Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan will facilitate and support the implementation of projects in Afghanistan carried out under this MoU by ministries and programs with the required technical competences and capacities.

It will also support organisations that provide youth training programs related to building a more secure and prosperous future for Afghanistan.

The Afghan Government will work to create awareness programs for Afghans, including youth, on the importance of orderly departure and migration, and the dangers of people smuggling and human trafficking.

It will work with the Australian Government to promote the orderly migration of Afghans to Australia and facilitate the return and reintegration of Afghans arriving in Afghanistan under the terms of this MoU.

Finally, the Afghan Government will provide assistance to the UNHCR in gaining access to Afghans returning to Afghanistan under the terms of this MoU, as well as access to relevant information concerning their situations.

UNCHR

Under the terms of this MOU, the UNHCR will continue to provide guidance on issues and conditions in Afghanistan in the context of Australia's refugee status determination process.

It will also refer cases of Afghan refugees abroad to Australia for consideration under Australia's refugee resettlement program.

The UNHCR will engage, as necessary, in ad-hoc monitoring of the return of Afghans from Australia to Afghanistan, with particular attention to people with specific humanitarian needs.