

Other Afghan stakeholders are:

- the Ministry of Women Affairs (MoWA) as the lead agency for promoting women's rights and advancement in Afghanistan. The MoWA provides direction, builds inter-ministerial collaboration and develops the capacity of government agencies to ensure that policy formulation, planning, implementation, reporting and monitoring respond to the differential needs and situations of women;
- the judiciary institutions, especially those in the criminal justice chain such as the Attorney General's Office (AGO) in order to strengthen the linkage between the police and prosecution through an integrated police-justice reform;
- civil society organisations such as the Afghan Women's Network (AWN) in the area of gender equality and empowerment of women to ensure a robust gender focus;
- independent oversight bodies such as the Afghan Independent Human Rights Commission (AIHRC) and the Supreme Audit Office (SAO) to guarantee external oversight.

The MoI, and its police force the ANP, are the direct beneficiaries and the population of Afghanistan are the final beneficiaries of this action.

1.1.3 Priority areas for support/problem analysis

Sustainment of the ANP: The priority for the EU's engagement in the sector is to support the Government of Afghanistan in sustaining and further developing a professional ANP that delivers essential services to the Afghan people for improved public trust, safety and security, eventually achieving a fully self-reliant and rule of law-based civilian police force at the service of its citizens. The by far largest portion of donor contributions remains committed towards the sustainment of the ANP, covering a large part of the currently unsustainable security sector costs throughout the period of transformation to safeguard progress made over the past decade and to provide an enabling environment for the GoA to move out of the current state of fragility. This support includes institutional strengthening of the MoI, its payroll management system and the MoI-led police professionalisation. Increased support is needed to crack down on the "ghost police" issue, i.e. the intentional false reporting of staff numbers for fraudulent financial gains, through reinforced physical verification systems with the utilisation of biometric features.

Civilianisation: Particular attention will be paid to supporting the transformation of the ANP towards a more civilian-oriented policing model to bolster the state's legitimacy and enforce rule of law country-wide, and safeguarding the rights of women and children. In this respect, the EU Police Advisory Team is aiming at providing continuity in supporting the reform process with the provision of sound EU expertise and strong EU visibility, building on the achievements and the lessons learned from the EU's long-term support to police reform in Afghanistan through the EUPOL Afghanistan Mission. Building on EUPOL efforts, i.e. advancing institutional reform of the MoI and professionalising the ANP, the project shall support the MoI and the ANP on the strategic level with the transformation of the ANP into a civilian police force.

Internal and external oversight: Given the high-risk environment for corruption and mismanagement prevalent in the MoI and its police force, transparent and reliable programme management, monitoring and evaluation systems and governance structures need to be in place. Furthermore, increased focus will be put on the MoI's internal audit structure, in particular that of the