

# Integrity Watch Afghanistan's June Newsletter



AEITI Multi-stakeholders Group meeting

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## Highlights:

- IWA's participation at 6<sup>th</sup> AEITI Multi-stakeholders Group meeting
- IWA's participation at Globalized Organized Crime and the future of a Democratic World Conference
- Survey of World Bank-funded reconstruction projects in Badakhshan
- Local monitors gather to discuss the Community Trial Monitoring Programme in Bamiyan
- Reforms to Kabul Municipality's work procedures
- *Budget Tracking in Herat*
- IWA's new staff members

## IWA attends 6<sup>th</sup> AEITI Multi-stakeholders Group meeting

The Extractive Industries Monitoring pillar of IWA participated at the 6<sup>th</sup> AEITI Multi-stakeholders Group meeting that was held on June 5, 2011 in the Ministry of Mines.

The Multi-stakeholders Group meeting is held once in every three months attended by civil society organizations, relevant representatives of the government of Afghanistan and representatives of private sector involved in the extractive industry sector to discuss EITI related issues. A number of important documents were put to discussion in this meeting as a result of which ToR for the MSG and AEITI country work-plan were finalized and approved by the MSG members. IWA also conducted one-day training on land compensation to the communities in Aynak, Logar. Some

communities that are going to be affected by mining activities in Aynak could not find common ground with government on land compensation. IWA is actively engaged in providing support to the communities and organizing them in their dealings with government. In this regards, IWA also work with Ministry of Mines and the World Bank to make sure internationally accepted norms in regards to land compensation are observed in dealing with locals in Aynak.

IWA will soon release its research findings in the form of report on Aynak Copper mine. The purpose of this report is to provide recommendations for future mining concessions and draw on lessons learned from this contract.



## IWA participates at "Globalized Organized Crime and the future of a Democratic World" in Berlin

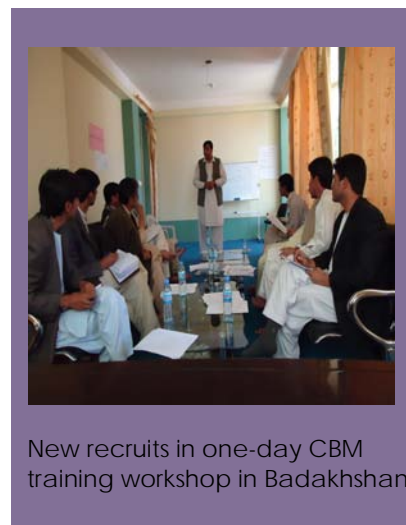
Director of IWA Yama Torabi talked at a conference, entitled "Globalized Organized Crime and the Future of a Democratic World" in Berlin on June 6 to 8, 2011. The conference that was organized by the Heinrich Böll Stiftung was looking into organized crime from different perspectives in contexts as different as Latin American countries, India and Afghanistan. Discussions covered the causes of the organized crimes and how they changed in an evolving global context. In addition, an important part of the debates focused on the impact of this phenomenon on the rule of law, the state and the democratic governance. I was relevant to Afghanistan in many aspects.

The money from Kabul now not only flows to Dubai, but also to remote places such as Kinshasa using global communications and transportations means. Afghanistan is no different than Mexico where state fragility allowed state penetration by criminal networks. The significance of black economy in Afghanistan poses the same challenges as highlighted in India on how we determine the legality and the illegality of our daily actions. Finally, particular attention was paid on how the aid flows and the international military's spending contributes to or is tapped by illicit businesses in Afghanistan.

## IWA conducts baseline survey to assess the impact of its Community-Based Monitoring program

There are 68 projects- 47 roads and 21 bridges- that were surveyed in the provinces of Badakhshan, Parwan, Panjsher, Bamyan, Nangarhar and Herat. Thirty civil engineers and surveyors were temporarily recruited for this purpose. The recruits were sent to the relevant areas for survey on the 14<sup>th</sup> June and the survey was completed on 27<sup>th</sup> of the current month. They were given one-day training by senior officers of Community-Based Monitoring Programme (CBM) and quality control engineer before going to these areas. The projects are funded by World Bank and implemented by Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (MRRD) and Ministry of Public Works (MPW). This is a baseline survey that IWA conducted on behalf of an independent team of researchers called Evidence for Informing Policy-making in Afghanistan (EPMA) and work closely with the World Bank on many other policy-oriented research projects.

The objective of the survey is to measure the impact and effectiveness of our program of Community-Based Monitoring (CBM) of infrastructures. EPMA is using a very innovative method of research that brings a lot of promises in the field of development economics. It consist of EMPA randomly selecting the infrastructure projects and communities for IWA in order to be able to measure the impact by comparing the targeted and left aside projects and communities after the monitoring work has been conducted. The assessment is entirely focused on roads and bridges under the World Bank NERAP (National Emergency Rural Access Project) that is implemented by MRRD and MPW. IWA will monitor up to 75 NERAP projects over the coming year.



New recruits in one-day CBM training workshop in Badakhshan

## Local monitors gather to discuss the Community Trial Monitoring Programme

On June 18, 2011, 20 of IWA's CTM monitors from Bamiyan Centre gathered for a discussion-focused meeting. Of the 20 participants, about half were women.

The purpose of the meeting was to identify issues to be monitored by them and to conduct a needs assessment for their upcoming training.

Monitors identified the following as issues they feel the CTM program must address: public access to trials, the high rate of prosecution of female accused for Zina (fornication and adultery), presentation of witness evidence (or lack of) in trials, reliance by courts on hearsay evidence, the opportunity of parties to present their cases, and the lack of legal presentation for criminally accused persons.

Monitors also discussed what they wanted their future training by CTM to include. They requested training on the following topics: terms of reference for the monitors, a summary of current Afghan law for the issues they will monitor, and monitoring skills and methods. They also requested a standard form for monitors to fill out during each trial they monitored, and some training on any report writing skills that may be required of them.

The CTM program's Provincial Coordinator, Akbar Danish, will coordinate the selection of other additional monitors from Yakawlang, Panjab and Waras districts in Bamiyan in the coming weeks and will hold similar group discussions with the monitors from those areas.

We expect training of all the monitors to take place shortly thereafter.



CTM monitors in Bamiyan Province

## Reforms to Kabul Municipality's work procedures

During the month of June, 2011 the Public Service Monitoring (PSM) pillar of Integrity Watch Afghanistan in consultation with the Kabul Municipality's (KM) Simplification and Reform Group finalized a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) draft that is going to be signed between IWA and KM for the simplification of KM's procedures and the development of the scope of cooperation between KM and IWA.

Furthermore, an operational plan that explains the process of implementation of the PSM with deadlines of activities should be executed. This operational plan is a joint framework regarding the reform of the KM's selected procedures. There exists mutual collaboration between IWA and K.M. IWA will reform the KM's given procedure and transfer its methodology and expertise to the KM's relevant heads of the departments and the reform team.

## Integrity Watch Afghanistan

### Address:

House# 61,  
Commandan Gada  
Street, Opposite to  
Municipality Blocs,  
Kululapushta, Kabul,  
Afghanistan

### Phone:

+93 774 839 305  
+93 785 431 054

### E-Mail:

Anwar.jalalzai@iwaweb.org

### Web Site:

www.iwaweb.org

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## Budget Tracking in Herat

The Budget Tracking (BT) pillar met the heads of Economy Department and four districts in Herat Province. BT pillar's workers also visited women and men shuras in Engil, Gozara, Zendajan and Karokh districts many times to introduce to them their representatives for the position of focal point for budget tracking programme and training. It has employed four women as focal points for budget tracking program in these districts and have met 45 men and women shuras at district level to introduce to it two persons from each shura.

BT is currently training 40 female and 40 male local monitors in addition to 20 government or elected officials. Government departments and elected bodies under the leadership of the Economy Department have shown incredible enthusiasm for the implementation of the project and we are looking forward to a fruitful cooperation with them. The BT program's main focus is to enable citizens to track and monitor the public expenditure in education, health and agriculture sectors.

The Economy Department, Education Department, Public Health Department and Agriculture Department have been officially asked to introduce their representatives for training. The total training program will last for seven days for all local monitors, starting 25 June. After the training program they will officially start the budget tracking activities in the abovementioned sectors.

*Please join us in welcoming Eimal Ghiasi, Mohammad Anwar and Khyber Sapay*



Eimal Ghiasi is a programme management, and monitoring and evaluation expert. He is the Head of Monitoring and Evaluation Unit of IWA. He has previously worked in Afghanistan with different government and non-government organizations in the fields of programme and policy development, monitoring and evaluation, and data analysis.



Mohammad Anwar is Senior Communication Officer in IWA. Anwar has previously worked in Afghanistan and abroad with some NGOs in the field of communications and media management.



Khyber Safy is a journalist and is IWA's Community Outreach Officer. Khyber has previously worked in Afghanistan with different media organizations in the field of broadcasting and media management.