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## Integrity Watch Afghanistan Published the National Integrity System Report



National Integrity System launch

By Ezatullah Adib

Research Manager at Integrity Watch

During the month of February, Integrity Watch Afghanistan and the international organization Transparency International announced the publication of the first National Integrity Context and System Assessment (NICSA) in Afghanistan. The NICSA approach provides a framework to analyze the robustness and effectiveness of a country's institutions in preventing and fighting corruption. The concept has been developed and promoted by Transparency International as part of its holistic approach to countering corruption and has been applied in more than 100 countries around the world. When the institutions and sectors that make up the National Integrity System work together effectively, they allow the anti-corruption system to run smoothly. When one or more of the institutions is particularly weak, cracks appear, allowing corruption to seep into the system.

This report provides a framework to analyze both the vulnerabilities of Afghanistan to corruption as well as the effective-

ness of its national anti-corruption efforts. The framework includes all principal institutions and actors that form the state. These include all branches of government, the public and private sector, the media, and civil society, judiciary, legislative, executive, political parties, the Independent Election Commission, and anti-corruption and law enforcement agencies.

The report indicates that the future of Afghanistan as a viable democratic state, capable of providing security and a foundation for its people to prosper, is increasingly being eroded by the growth of corruption. While substantial financial resources have been showered on Afghanistan by the international community over the past 14 years to assist the country to strengthen its military, executive, judicial, legislative, law enforcement and civil institutions, the effectiveness of such institutions has been significantly eroded by a lack of integrity, accountability, and transparency. A sizeable proportion of the Afghan population has lost confidence in their government's ability

to work in the interest of the broader public, rather than in the interests of a small group of warlords and other political elites. Such a loss of confidence in state institutions is dangerous for the sustainability of the government and for the ultimate survival of the nation. Afghanistan is a country at war and if it loses the confidence and support of its people, it will have no chance to win this battle. The alleviation of corruption is no longer just a desirable objective; it is a strategic imperative.

Considering the history and effectiveness of this strategy in a number of countries such as Pakistan and Bangladesh, this first National Integrity System Assessment of Afghanistan is so critical. It is important for the Afghan government, parliament, civil society and the international community to understand where precisely the institutional weaknesses and failings are and to identify priorities for reform and initiate a systematic and coherent strategy against corruption.

## Land Donated for the Expansion of a school yard in Kapisa resolved a longstanding problem at an elementary School

By Aliahmad Mashal afrooz

Provincial coordinator of Integrity watch Kapisa

Professor Abdul Razaq Primary school was not only established by the community living around the school but was also supported by community benefactors throughout its operation.

The land for the school was donated by Professor Abdul Razaq after whom the school is named, a tribute paid to his generosity by the community. The school building was constructed by the BRAC organization with six classrooms. After the construction, most of the allotted land was occupied by the building. This meant that school children had little space to roam and no ground on which to play. The Integrity Watch CBM-S focal point facilitated, through the local monitor, a community meeting in which this particular problem was discussed. The meeting was also attended by school management shura members who did their bit to find a solution for this acute problem. After the meeting, a group of community elders took the responsibility of meeting Professor Abdul Razaq whose land lay adjacent to the school. Given the convincing efforts of the CBM-S Local Monitor and support of the community elders, the land owner donated an extra piece of land for the school to solve this problem. It has time and again been proven, by similar achievements, that community involvement can result in identifying timely and effective solutions to significant problems in those local com-



*People discussing on Yard of school*

munities.

The Community Based Monitoring of School (CBM-S) Program was initiated in July 2014 in order to bring more coordination between communities and government departments, increase transparency and accountability, enhance the quality of education services through community monitoring, collaborative information sharing and problem solving. The aim of this program is to make officials more responsive, encourage communities to support education sector and advocate for policy change at local and national levels.

The CBM-S Program succeeded Integrity Watch Afghanistan's (IWA) Community Score Card (CSC) Program in which School Management Shuras (SMS) were empowered through training of SMS members to evaluate education services, identify school problems and seeking local

opportunities for solving school problems. Although the pilot phase of the CSC has successfully come to an end in Jabal saraj district of Parwan province, nevertheless, due to lack of effective monitoring system and the reactive nature of SMSs, IWA decided to alter its approach and switch CSC to CBM-S Program. This new approach has enabled community members to regularly monitor schools for an extended period of time and assist school management to resolve school problems.

## Integrity Watch CBM-I Team Resolves a Dispute between a Nangarhar Community and a Construction Company

By Haneef Hashimi

Provincial coordinator of Integrity Watch Nangarhar

Integrity Watch local monitors, with the assistance and support received from Integrity Watch staff, were able to resolve a dispute that threatened the future function and sustainability of a construction project in Nangarhar.

The Mohammadi Sahebzadeh School is located in Behsud District in Nangarhar province where Golden Galaxy Construction Company had undertaken to construct the school. The project was funded by the Government of Japan and the construction of the school was jointly monitored by Integrity Watch local monitors and UNOPS.

During the construction of the school, people living in the properties adjoining the construction site realized that the school windows on the second floor overlooked their properties and that this could potentially be quite intrusive. A number of community members, therefore, shared their concern and discussed this problem with both the construction company and with school officials. Their meetings and discussions however were not successful in bringing any necessary changes in project plan. The community members, therefore, threatened that if construction continued as planned, they would destroy the windows. Here, our Nangarhar office staff got involved and discussed the problem with community members. Integrity Watch



Photo: Haneef Hashimi

*Local Monitors during the monitoring of project in Behsud*

staff placed this issue in the agenda of the Provincial Monitoring Board (PMB), the board our organization has formed comprised of community members, Integrity Watch staff and government representatives to discuss issues in the construction sector. Integrity Watch then, together with a representatives from the donor, the construction company and the PMB, visited the construction site and discussed various alternatives with the residents of the neighboring properties. One of the UNOPS engineers suggested to put an iron wall blocking the views of the windows to the adjacent properties. This suggestion however was rejected by community members. Alternatively, one community member recommended to put a wooden wall instead. The second proposal was also turned down by the community members, because the residents of

the neighboring properties did not believe it would be a permanent solution. Finally, all the participants agreed to build a 190 cm wall and on top of the original wall, install transparent glasses to provide both sufficient light and ventilation for the classrooms. This proposal pleased all the participants and addressed the concerns of the community members. Now the community members have put this proposal to the Ministry of Education to be confirmed by the required authorities.



## A dream that changed to fact

By Abdul Hanan

Local Monitor of Integrity Watch at Parwan

Gulbahar number one high school is one of the schools that is being monitored under the IWA community based monitoring of school program. For some time, students at this school complained about not having access to a play ground for playing soccer. In addition, the school struggled with another problem during past few months that seemed impossible to resolve unless enough funding would have been allocated to its resolution. There was a deep ditch in school yard that posed serious danger to the school staff and students who used school yard.

IWA focal point and field coordinator in Jabal Seraj, school authorities and the program local monitors got together to find a solution for this problem. Following this they shared this problem with people of Deh naw, Gulmazar and Panjkhana villages of Gulbahar.

One of elders who attended this meeting suggested to speak to the construction company that constructed a road nearby. He proposed to ask the company to bring the extra soil the company removed from ground



Gulbahar number one high school before and after rehabilitation

(to construct the road) to the school and fill the ditch in school yard.

Other participants agreed and put this suggestion forward to the construction company called Hewad. The company welcome the proposal and in result, carried more than 200 track soil in worth of 400000 Afghani to the school and filled the ditch. This agreement and cooperation in fact led to making the school yard a proper playground for the students as well, so a dream came true!

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Contact us: [info@iwaweb.org](mailto:info@iwaweb.org) | [www.iwaweb.org](http://www.iwaweb.org) | +93(0)780942942

Follow



### Main Office

House 942 , District 4  
Street, Traffic Square  
Kolola Poshta,  
Kabul, Afghanistan  
+93(0)780942942

### Herat Office

Ibnaseena Road,  
Street 18  
Herat City,  
Afghanistan  
+93(0)700285401

### Mazar Office

Moheb Square, Behind  
Merza Hashem mosque,  
Mazar-e-Sharif,  
Afghanistan  
+93(0)790530366

### Bamyan Office

Center of Bamyan, Main  
Bazaar, Opp. Pakiza Hotel,  
Bamyan,  
Afghanistan  
+93(0)799440327

### Jalalabad Office

District 2, Sayed Kaihan  
shops, nearby 39th power  
station , Jalalabad  
Afghanistan  
+93 (0) 782069644