



**Independent Joint Anti-Corruption
Monitoring & Evaluation Committee**

NEWS RELEASE: MEC Releases VCA on the Work Permit Process for Internationals

Kabul, Afghanistan, May 29, 2016: Today, MEC is releasing its Vulnerability to Corruption Assessment (VCA) covering the process for issuing work permits for foreigners working in Afghanistan. This VCA, conducted at the request of the Minister of the Ministry of Labor, Social Affairs, Martyrs and Disabled (MOLSAMD), shows that despite the existence of rules, laws and regulations covering the process, there remain numerous problems related to enforcing punishment on known violators; the organizational structure of the Ministry and overuse of and dependence on contract employees.

Additionally, this report found that many organizations are not following Afghan laws, by not obtaining work permits, and often hire foreigners in positions and fields where there are many suitable Afghan candidates.

The findings of this assessment indicate that there are foreign citizens working illegally in Afghanistan. This has resulted in the unemployment of Afghan citizens and the loss of Afghan government revenue that could have been realized through work permit fees.

This VCA was conducted by reviewing legal documents, reports, and process documents; interviewing MOLSAMD staff and private companies and NGOs that recruit foreigners; and interviewing other relevant stakeholders such as staff of the Afghanistan Investment Support Agency (AISA), Ministry of Finance, and Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA).

Based on the aforementioned vulnerabilities, the VCA recommends that MOLSAMD establish formal cooperation with the MOI and MOFA for the process of issuing entrance and work visas, and MEC further recommends that there be an addition to the current internationals' employment regulations which would provide penalties for violations. In addition, MOLSAMD on its website should prepare an online application system for work permits to decrease the amount of direct interaction between employees and applicants.

For more information, contact MEC at +93 (0) 797 515 871 or contact@mec.af / www.mec.af. Please also visit our Facebook page at [mec.afghanistan](https://www.facebook.com/mec.afghanistan) and our Twitter account [@MEC_Afghanistan](https://twitter.com/MEC_Afghanistan).