

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In 2016, prior to the Brussels Conference on Afghanistan, revenue-generating ministries of Afghanistan were instructed by the President of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan (GIROA) to develop their Anti-Corruption Plans to ensure transparency in their operations. In the meantime, the Self-Reliance through Mutual Accountability Framework (SMAF) also requires five revenue-generating ministries to put forward their Anti-Corruption Plans and report the progress of their implementation to the public. Later on, policy-making ministries were also assigned to follow suit, including the Ministry of Economy (MoEc).

The Independent Joint Anti-Corruption Monitoring and Evaluation Committee (MEC) is reviewing all Ministry Anti-Corruption Plans and is releasing here a Progress Monitoring Review of the MoEc's Anti-Corruption Plan (ACP).

The Plan that was shown to MEC consists of 24 actions across four priority areas. To assess the ACP and progress against the Plan, MEC conducted 24 interviews and one focus group discussions, together with an analysis of related documents.

General findings

The Ministry of Economy of Afghanistan has made progress in the fight against corruption. However, a lot of work remains to be done.

The Ministry has developed a more comprehensive approach in its Anti-Corruption Plan than other ministries, covering the units within the Ministry that are highly vulnerable to corruption. The Plan lists SMART-tested objectives and aligns their implementation with well-developed activities. Progress against indicators has already been achieved to a certain degree.

Notwithstanding the progress, the MoEc Plan has not been designed and developed based on a risk assessment. Normally, Anti-Corruption Plans ought to be developed following a thorough risk assessment inside the institution that is entrusted with enforcing the Plan. The absence of a risk assessment has led to a subjectively developed Anti-Corruption Plan. Though the Plan cites some specific corruption vulnerabilities, without a specific risk-assessment there are identifiable technical gaps. For instance, risks related to the recruitment of advisors have not been incorporated into the Plan. The findings of MEC in other Ministries show that the recruitment of advisors has been a significant vulnerability.

Effective communication of the Plan can support its effective implementation, especially as it will inform the workforce and nurture a sense of ownership among the staff. Nevertheless, the Anti-Corruption Plan has not been widely communicated. Most Units of the Ministry had no knowledge about Plan's existence.