

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In 2016, prior to the Brussels Conference on Afghanistan, the five revenue-generating Afghan Ministries were instructed by the President of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan (GIROA) to develop Anti-Corruption Plans to ensure transparency of operations. Echoing this, the concurrent Self-Reliance through the Mutual Accountability Framework (SMAF), too, called on revenue-generating Ministries to put forth Anti-Corruption Plans and report the progress of their implementation to the public. Subsequently, other non-revenue-generating Ministries, including the Ministry of Labor, Social Affairs, Martyrs and the Disabled (MoLSAMD), were similarly compelled to follow suit.

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

General Findings

Though MoLSAMD has only recently developed its Anti-Corruption Plan, the Ministry has been enacting promising anti-corruption initiatives. Much still remains to be done to effectively mitigate risks of corruption.

- The Plan consists of 18 actions across five priority areas. Out of 18 actions, 11 are partly achieved.
- The ACP prioritizes five objectives for mitigating vulnerabilities to corruption in MoLSAMD. However, MEC considers many of the proposed activities to be too general. As such, they would not pass "SMART testing," an approach favored by MEC to ensure objectives (or activities) are *specific, measurable, achievable, results-oriented and time-bound*.
- The ACP was not based upon a standard risk assessment. Instead, an *ad hoc* committee in MoLSAMD compiled a list of vulnerabilities based on publicly articulated complaints and recommendations from outside sources. MEC strongly recommends conducting a formal risk assessment to bolster the accuracy and robustness of the Plan.
- MoLSAMD has launched a promising e-Registration process for state retirees, persons with disability, and dependents of martyrs. The main purpose of the initiative is to determine "ghost" individuals and improve accuracy and transparency of disbursement processes.
- The Monitoring and Evaluation Directorate of MoLSAMD is supposed to oversee the development budget of the Ministry. However, the Directorate has no written oversight procedures.
- After a successful simplification of the International Work permit process, the revenue of this Department increased by 10 percent in 2017.