



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

NEWS RELEASE

**MEC Identifies Concerning Practices and Procedures that Lead to
Corruption in Important Public Services**

KABUL, Afghanistan, January 27, 2014 – MEC released 5 reports identifying significant vulnerabilities to corruption in various sectors of government, including land distribution to repatriates, pension payments, and appointments to the civil service. The reports highlight questionable practices that affect Afghan's ability to receive services and demonstrate how public servants can receive illicit incentives for providing basic services.

Vulnerability to corruption assessments are developed by analyzing the legal framework for providing government services and the actual practices of those responsible for service delivery. The method includes interviews and focus groups with civil servants, end-users, and technical experts.

MEC conducted assessments of the Ministry of Refugee and Repatriate's administration of land for repatriates; the Civil Service Commission's appointment process; the Ministry of Labour's pension administration; and the Ministry of Higher Education's issuance of certificates and exam administration.

The assessments resulted in recommendations to address observed corruption and to mitigate the potential for further corruption. All relevant institutions have accepted the results of the assessments and formally agreed to implement an action plan to address the issues identified in the reports.

Mr. Drago Kos, MEC's current Chair, stated:

It won't be a surprise to Afghans using these services that MEC's assessments have identified significant vulnerabilities to corruption. However, the vulnerability to corruption assessments have allowed us to pinpoint the areas that need to be fixed to stop corrupt practices. MEC appreciates the cooperation provided by all relevant ministries and welcomes their commitment to change their procedures and practices for the benefit of Afghans.

MEC will continue to engage with responsible institutions to support and monitor the implementation of the action plans. Results will be publicly available in MEC's future six-month reports.

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Photos of the Committee available for download: www.flickr.com/photos/mec123/**