



Independent Joint Anti-Corruption Monitoring and Evaluation Committee

Recommendations and Benchmarks for Enhanced Accountability in Afghanistan's Elections

It is unclear how the IEC intends to regulate and monitor election campaign financing and expenditures in accordance with the law

The abuse of official positions or government resources is a risk in Afghanistan's upcoming elections. An effective regime for registering and verifying all income sources for parties and candidates' electoral campaigns, and to report and monitor expenses will help to mitigate the opportunities for - and enhance the ability to detect - such abuses. Currently, there is a regime for registering income and expenses for political parties, but not individual electoral campaigns. Additionally, there is a lack of monitoring and oversight mechanisms in place to ensure that Presidential campaign expenses do not go beyond the allowable expenditure limits and that they derive from legal sources.

Recommendation 6.2: The IEC should set requirements for Presidential candidates in the 2014 elections to register their campaign assets and expenditures, including the source of campaign funds and assets.

Benchmark 6.2: Requirements set within one month.

Expected Outcome 6.2: Transparency increased in campaign financing.

Recommendation 6.3: The IEC should verify the source of income and assets of Presidential and Provincial Council candidates in close cooperation with the High Office of Oversight (HOO).

Benchmark 6.3: Income and assets of individual candidates and parties verified by April 2014.

Expected Outcome 6.3: Funds and assets from illegal sources will be detected.

Recommendation 6.4: The Ministry of Finance and HOO should develop an oversight and audit program to ensure that income, assets and expenditures of political parties are fully registered in conformity with the law. The program should include the verification of the source of registered assets and monitoring of expenditures.



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Benchmark 6.4: An oversight and audit program developed by January 2014.

Expected outcome 6.4: Transparency will be increased and use of illicit income and assets will be avoided.

There are still concerns that the training program developed by the IEC will not be effective in ensuring that polling station officials are properly trained

The IEC has previously implemented a training program whereby the IEC directly delivers training to provincial elections officials, who then train the district level, who then training the polling station managers, who finally train the polling station staff. An integrity assessment has found that much of this training did not make its way to polling station officials thereby increasing the level of misconduct during the past election. There is also no effective monitoring program in place.

Recommendation 6.5: The IEC shall develop a training plan that trains polling station staff more directly and should implement an effective monitoring program to ensure that polling station staff are aware of their duties.

Benchmark 6.5: Plan developed within 2 months.

Expected outcome 6.5: IEC's staff members and particularly polling station officials are properly trained and the level of malpractice will be decreased.