PRESS INFORMATION
THE EUROPEAN UNION DELEGATION TO AFGHANISTAN
THE EUROPEAN UNION SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE IN AFGHANISTAN

EU Supports Civil Society's Role in Governance and Accountability

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In January 2016, three months after the adoption of the *EU Roadmap for Engagement with Civil Society in Afghanistan*, the European Union launched **five new projects to strengthen the role of civil society in governance and accountability**. The new projects aim to strengthen civil society's public oversight of government reforms and their ability to monitor the performance of service delivery.

The projects will support capacity development of civil society actors, establish community based monitoring systems, mobilise local "integrity champions", engage youth groups and associations in governance and accountability and strengthen civil society's participation in policy-making and advocacy. By supporting civil society's role in governance and accountability, the projects will help improve the quality of service delivery and develop constructive engagement between the government and citizens, leading to more responsive and accountable governance.

Project activities will be implemented in **12 provinces** with an EU contribution of **EUR 2,500,000** over a period of **four years**. Below is a brief description of the five projects:

- *Afghanistan Public Policy Research Organization (APPRO), in partnership with Transparent Elections Foundation of Afghanistan (TEFA), will implement activities in Kabul, Mazar, Herat, Kandahar and Nangarhar provinces over a period of 48 months. The project will conduct an assessment and stock-taking of corruption and will produce four thematic publications on corruption and related issues. The project will also establish a Citizens' Forum against Corruption (CFAC) platform and provide legal and technical assistance to victims of corruption. Lastly, the project will strengthen the capacity of CSOs on advocacy related to anti-corruption.*

- *Integrity Watch Afghanistan (IWA), in partnership with Integrity Action, will train 40 Integrity champions (ICs) who will provide cascade trainings and mobilisation to another 320 ICs. The ICs will conduct Community Based Monitoring (CBM) activities, with support of a network of volunteers, and will work with government to include integrity building messages in school curricula. Activities will cover eight provinces, over a period of 24 months. The project plans to monitor 500 projects and achieve a fix rate of 70 % (percentage of social audits that resulted in completed remedial action).*

- *Afghan Civil Society Forum Organisation (ACSFO), in partnership with Afghanaid, will implement activities in Ghor and Samangan provinces over a period of 36 months. The project will develop capacities of 20 CSOs, 25 CDCs, 2 PDCs and local governance structures in participatory planning and monitoring service delivery. The project will build capacity of local target CSOs, CDCs and citizens including youth to engage actively in demanding good governance, transparency and reforms. The project will also establish 2 provincial advocacy fora. Last but not least, the project expects a 30 % improvement over the baseline in service delivery and transparency in the target provinces.*

- *Save the Children, in partnership with Empowerment Centre for Women (ECW), will implement activities in Nangarhar and Saripul provinces over a period of 36 months. The project will enhance awareness and capacity of 80 representatives of district level and 40 representatives of provincial level authorities on the importance of service delivery in line with citizen's needs. The project will also establish four community volunteer programmes (consisting of youth, CSOs, faith based organisations, local authorities, private sector) to support local authorities in the delivery of basic social services in line with citizen's needs.*

- *Care International, in partnership with Afghanistan Women Resource Center (AWRC), will implement activities in Balkh and Parwan provinces over a period of 36 months. The project will target 40 CDCs, 40 Women Groups, 30 School Management Committees and 120 traditional leaders to strengthen their capacity to more effectively participate in planning the local development agenda, monitor service delivery, and hold local authorities to account. The project will establish inclusive systems and processes to enable and encourage local power holders to respond to communities' needs and priorities in local planning and service delivery, particularly those of women and girls.*

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