***Norad together with the Norwegian Afghanistan Committee (NAC), Christian Michelsen Institute (CMI) and Peace Research Institute Oslo (PRIO) invites to:***

**The human face of corruption**

**Impacts and implications of corruption for development aid in Afghanistan - the case of the education sector**

*Invitation to seminar Tuesday March 13 from 11:00 – 12:45.*

*The seminar is a side-event to the Afghanistan Week 2018, and will be held in Norad’s offices, Bygdøy Allé 2.*

*A light lunch will be available.*

*Two recent studies that discuss corruption issues related to service delivery at the local level in Afghanistan will be presented and discussed at the seminar. By using education as a case, general challenges in anti-corruption work are made more specific. This approach also helps make the cost to local communities and children more visible. The first study is the MEC Ministry-wide Vulnerability to Corruption Assessment of the Afghan Ministry of Education. The second study is the external review by Scanteam of the World Bank managed Afghanistan Reconstruction Trust Fund. The education sector is an important part of the work of that trust fund.*

Among the questions that will be addressed in the meeting are;

* What are the implications of widespread corruption in education for Afghanistan’s future?
* How does reform to combat corruption in education fit within a wider process of education reform in Afghanistan and how can development partners support this process?
* Decentralization of education; how can this be achieved without shifting corruption to the school community level?
* Does the Government’s anti-corruption strategy respond to the challenges identified here?

*Programme:*

1. Presentation of the main findings and recommendations in the MEC report on the Ministry of Education, Ian Kaplan (NAC) and Matthew Rodieck ( MEC)
2. Presentation of the integrity and anti-corruption discussion at the local level in the external review by Scanteam of the ARTF by Arne Disch, Scanteam.
3. Comments by Fredrik Eriksson (U4, CMI)
4. Q&A, discussion

Please register for the seminar by e-mail to Marit Strand, marit.strand@norad.no

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**Background for the seminar:**

***Corruption vulnerability in school education in Afghanistan***

In October 2017, the Afghan Independent Joint Anti-Corruption Monitoring and Evaluation Committee (MEC), an independent Afghan agency created by presidential decree, published a ministry-wide corruption assessment report of the Ministry of education. The Norwegian Afghanistan Committee worked as a partner with MEC during the assessment with particular focus on the research with school communities.

The assessment which preceded the report was unique in its scope and coverage as it considered all aspects of the Ministry of Education, but also the perceptions of Afghan students, parents and teachers, as these are the education stakeholders who ultimately have the most to lose from corruption in the education sector.

The high level of corruption described in the MEC report is alarming, as almost no aspect of the Ministry of Education is untouched. The assessment reveals that corruption permeates the entire education sector in Afghanistan, and its negative impacts on individuals and society. The report illustrates how individuals get caught in a system of corruption where, among other corrupted practices, teachers are made to pay for positions, and parents are made to pay for books and examination papers. Ultimately, students learn that bribes and contacts, and not skills, are necessary to achieve a position in Afghanistan.

The report includes a set of specific recommendations for improvements and needed reforms.

<http://www.mec.af/files/2017_23_10_moe_english.pdf>

***Taking Charge:***

***Government Ownership in a Complex Context – the Scanteam report***

The ***Afghanistan Reconstruction Trust Fund*** (ARTF) is a multi-donor trust fund (MDTF) established in 2002 to provide a coordinated financing mechanism for Afghanistan's budget and priority national investment projects. It is the largest single source of on-budget financing for Afghanistan’s development, having mobilized nearly USD 10.5 billion until October 2017, where Norway has contributed more than 3 billion NOK since 2002. The ARTF, in addition to direct budget support, also funds programs in the key sectors of education, health, agriculture, rural development, infrastructure, and governance. The ARTF Administrator is the World Bank. The main partners to the ARTF are thus the Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, the donors to the ARTF, and the World Bank.

The starting point for this review is the contribution that ARTF is to make to the **Afghanistan National Peace and Development Framework (ANPDF**) **2017-2021*,*** the development program for Afghanistan prepared by GIRoA. This in turn builds on its strategy paper **Realizing Self-Reliance: Commitments to Reforms and Renewed Partnership** (“Self-reliance paper). The integrity work in the ARTF is extensive, yet pays more attention to formal compliance rather than addressing structural challenges such as the endemic and embedded corruption identified in the MEC study of the education sector. Among the recommendations in this report is therefore how the ARTF can contribute to a more coherent and comprehensive approach when it comes to understanding and addressing corruption at local levels, taking the education sector as an example, and how more of the follow-up and monitoring of this and other issues can be handled more by local actors, both in the public sector and civil society.

**Contributors:**

**Ian Kaplan**

Ian has over 20 years of experience as a teacher, facilitator, university lecturer, researcher and education resource developer. His focus is on inclusion in education for those most marginalized and he has worked on education with communities, NGOs/IGOs, and Ministries of Education in Africa, Europe, the Middle East, South and Southeast Asia. Ian currently works with the Norwegian Afghanistan Committee (NAC) and is also a director of the Enabling Education Network (EENET), a global inclusion in education information sharing network of practitioners and researchers.

**Matthew Rodieck**

Matthew has held several roles within education, as a credentialed Classroom Teacher, special education Resource Teacher, the Manager of the Bristol Dental School in the UK’s NHS with its University of Bristol Post-Graduate Program in Dental Sciences, and various training programs in Afghanistan from Community Midwifery to Consultant Medical Specialties for the Ministry of Public Health and Ministry of Higher Education. He has also managed health services within both government and non-government systems in the US, UK, Saudi Arabia, and Afghanistan with a focus on realistic development of health and public health systems in conflict and post-conflict settings

**Arne Disch**

Arne is Managing Partner in Scanteam who spent 16 years in Africa and Latin America working for UNDP, Norad, World Bank and as a university professor in economics. He is an experienced team leader for 80 evaluations in 45 countries, covering areas such as policy studies; fragile states and post-conflict issues; governance and anti-corruption; institutional and organisational development; economic policy, public finance management including planning, budgeting, sector programming and risk assessments; project and program appraisal, monitoring, reviews and evaluation; and aid effectiveness. This is the fourth review he has led of the ARTF.

**Fredrik Eriksson**

Mr. Eriksson is a Senior Program Adviser at the U4 centre in Bergen. He is a lawyer with extensive experience from private sector research, policy analysis, evaluations, strategy development, and other consultancy work. Most of his work has related to anti-corruption and governance, while working in the public, private and voluntary sectors. He has worked for a wide range of different national and international institutions, including development agencies, NGOs, INGOs, IGOs, think tanks, private companies, research institutions and governments. He is currently Local Research Correspondent on Corruption for the European Commission.