



German Cooperation with Afghanistan

+++ Press Release +++

Anti-Corruption Campaign: Graffiti Art to Address Corruption

Mazar-e Sharif, Balkh, 21st August – Yesterday, the Social Development & Better Future for Afghanistan Organisation (SDBFAO) started another anti-corruption campaign in Balkh: anti-corruption drawings in the form of graffiti art are painted on popular walls in Mazar-e Sharif, the provincial capital. The anti-corruption messages aim at strengthening public awareness of corruption. The Afghan-German Cooperation's project for the promotion of the rule of law (RoL) funds this activity.

Corruption is a crucial problem in Afghanistan that needs to be addressed. It has devastating effects on many levels: political, economic and societal. Quite often, corruptive acts remain unpunished.

Mr Hajji Nasrat, a client of Da Afghanistan Bank commented, "The timing and location for the drawings are very good. I invite the banks' employees to look at the pictures to remember them of not acting corruptly." Mr Amanullah, a shopkeeper in the area, added, "The drawings are an innovative way of fighting corruption and bribes. We appreciate this effort."

To counter this, the non-governmental organisation SDBFAO has started creating the drawings in close cooperation with the High Office of Oversight and Anti-Corruption as well as other relevant public institutions. Graffiti arts in form of writings and drawings painted on walls are yet a new phenomenon to transport anti-corruption messages to the public.

One month ago, the organisation started its anti-corruption campaign with another activity: a zero money bank note. For three months, valueless bank notes that show anti-corruption messages are disseminated in Balkh province. The notes shall be used against corruptive behaviour in protest to bribery in return for services that are supposed to be free.

SDBFAO's campaign aims at sensitising both society as well as public officials and politicians about corruption and encouraging a public debate.

On behalf of the German Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), the Afghan-German Cooperation has been working together with the Afghan government to promote the rule of law in Afghanistan. The civil society component of the programme especially focuses on strengthening the linkage between civil society actors and the Afghan Government as well as on capacity building for civil society actors. Relevant legal topics are addressed through the supported civil society organisations, such as anti-corruption and child rights.