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Mining Watch Afghanistan has been formed


News iwa | 08/09/2015




A network under the title of Mining Watch Afghanistan has been formed as part of IWAs' social monitoring initiative. Mining Watch Afghanistan has 27 members and has a secretariat which is currently managed by IWA. The executive board of the network consists of 7 individuals representing credible organizations and local councils. Mining Watch Afghanistan monitors mines throughout Afghanistan and aims to bring reforms related to mining extraction in Afghanistan. This network will work closely with provincial committees which will be formed in the future and will involve local citizens in monitoring various mining sites. The Network is also aimed at capacity building and mobilization of local organizations in the areas around the mine sites, protection of mine workers, and preventing smuggling, and bringing transparency. The provincial committees will share their information with the secretariat and the secretariat will share it with the policy makers and advocate for specific programs and solutions. Currently, reform in the Mineral Law of Afghanistan is a priority for the Network which will soon be shared with the MoMP. The elected executive board of the Network consists of the following people: Said Haidar Hashemi from AYWCBO, Mujahid, Sangariar from IWA, Zabihullah Wardak from Action Foundation, Nooragha Mirzad from Aja Gak social council, Ihsanullah from L.Y.S.A and Mohammad Nazir Muslimyar from Mis Ainak council. Research on, and monitoring of, the extractive industry by IWA started in 2007 and has been expanding since then. This program started mobilizing communities residing around the mine sites in 2010 and is currently involved in working with the communities around the Ainak mine in Logar, Aje Gak in Bamyán, Qarazaghan in Baghlan and chromite mines in Parwan and Kunar.

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