

Improving Civil Society Awareness and Engagement in the EITI Process in the Kyrgyz Republic

EFCA promotes the engagement of civil society in the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI), which aims to ensure the transparency of the mining sector, prevent social tensions and help build economic and political stability. In December 2011, EFCA held a one-day seminar to identify priority areas for the work of NGOs to increase transparency in the mining sector. In 2012, EFCA started to implement a 9-month World Bank-funded project “Raising awareness and involvement of the civil society in the “Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI)”.

Context

Kyrgyzstan is a country richly endowed with deposits in gold and other mineral resources. In 2011, the share of mining revenue in the country Gross Domestic Product was 14 percent.

However, poor management of resources and pervasive corruption have hindered development, fueled social tensions and caused numerous local conflicts.

A majority of Kyrgyz citizens have a negative attitude to the mining industry due to the lack of objective information and perceived inequalities in the distribution of mining revenue. In 2004, the country became a member of the global Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI), which promotes transparency and dialogue between mining stakeholders.



Goal and main objectives

The project aims to increase awareness and involvement of civil society in implementation of EITI in Kyrgyzstan.

The objectives of the project are the following:

- Increase ownership and strengthen CSO contributions to EITI implementation process in Kyrgyz Republic;
- Broaden the scope of civil society organizations engaged in EITI and increase diversity of CSOs involved in the EITI process;
- Support intensive and thorough use of information generated by EITI.

Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI) was launched by the former British Prime - Minister Tony Blair at the World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg in September 2002. EITI aims to ensure that the mining sector has worked transparently. Currently to the EITI joined 35 countries.

Activities

EFCA trains and supports NGOs at grassroots level which lack knowledge and organizational skills to fully participate in the EITI.

In the second stage, local NGOs will receive small grants for implementation of projects consisting of training seminars and workshops for local population and authorities, as well as information campaigns and other activities aimed at facilitating implementation of EITI in the field.

The project covers the following regions: Toguz-Torousky and Chatkal districts (Jalal-Abad), Chon-Alay district (Osh), Talas district (Talas), Naryn district (Naryn) and Kemin district (Chui).



Results and expencted achievements

- training workshop on EITI conducted, which was attended by more than 30 regional NGO;
- as part of the small grants endorsed and supported by seven project proposals aimed at involving civil society in the EITI process;
- 50 communities in 6 areas of training seminars, which were attended by more than 600 people;
- developed a communication strategy to disseminate information on the EITI;
- strengthened the capacity of local NGO involved in the implementation of the EITI, and expanded the scope of their activities;
- increased awareness of citizens about the legislation in the field of mining activities, on companies operating in their regions, as well as the tasks and principles of the EITI and how it contributes to increasing transparency and accountability in the mining sector;
- mining companies, local authorities and civil society have become increasingly open dialogue.

“As part of the EITI all mining companies must show the information on their activities. In turn the state institutions must provide a report on how much they have collected revenue from these companies. Thus, the civil society is the most important player in this initiative, as the basic principle of the EITI is in the interaction of three parties: companies, government and civil society represented by experts and NGO working in the field of environmental monitoring of income and security”.

Nurlan Zholdoshev, expert on EITI and transparency of the budget.

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