



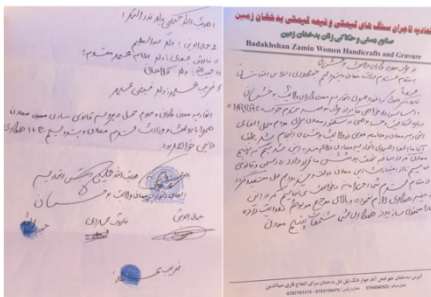
**USAID**  
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

**AFGHANISTAN**

## SUCCESS STORY

# Five Illegal Miners Request to Formalize Their Extractive Activities.

**By understanding the dangers of illegal mining, five miners request to receive legal licenses for extraction.**



[Insert Photo Credit]

Application of miners requesting formalization of mines in Badakhshan Province.

**Mine Watch Committee Members and Community Advocacy Groups received relevant trainings, with enhanced capacity, advocated against illegal mining in their communities.**

As per the Ministry of Mines and Petroleum, there is no active legally contracted mine in Badakhshan province. Yet extraction is happening and the revenue goes to the pockets of illegal extractors. This leads to unjust and nonprudent use of natural resources, and revenue loss to the state and local communities, and significantly damaging to the natural environment.

Considering the importance of the issue, HRRAC with the support of AMANAT, conducted several awareness raising and capacity building activities in Badakhshan province. The advocacy efforts enhanced the understanding of the local communities, and the community based organizations (CBOs) about the harms of illegal mining and the irregularities prevalent in the extractive industry in their province. The CBOs and community advocacy groups further advocated against illegal and irresponsible mining in their communities

“By participating in HRRAC’s awareness raising sessions, funded through USAID’s AMANAT program, we now know how harmful illegal extraction of mines is” said one member of Badakhshan precious and semiprecious stones union. “We request HRRAC to help them process their application for formalizing their extractive activities, as per the Ministry of Mines and Petroleum rules and regulation” he added.

HRRAC forwarded their request, along a proposal and rationale for formalization of illegal mines and the application was shared with the concerned government departments. The application is under process and the provincial government has forwarded the request to provincial mines and petroleum department. After a brief survey, the provincial department would request the

Ministry of Mines and Petroleum to prioritize the requests of Badakhshan miners.

Legalization of extraction can be both a first step to greater rural industrialization as well as a practical answer to rural poverty. Legalization is essential to organize and transform this informal industry, it is a prerequisite for behavioral change and transforms deprived and marginalized people into useful and peaceful citizens. Legalization provides official rights to miners – the right to land, the right to access minerals, and the right to extract the mine. This formal title gives miners an asset with which to gain access to capital against which micro-loans can be financed. With legal title, miners are more likely to capitalize operational improvements, provide a legal basis for support from the donor community, encourage joint ventures with large scale mining projects, enable assistance from government and most importantly, grow into medium sized mining ventures.