



Ministry of Higher Education (MoHE)
Higher Education Development Program (HEDP)
Operations and Monitoring Support Team (OMST)

Quarterly Progress Monitoring Report

Reporting Period: May-July

2018

Reporting Date: 14 August 2018

Submitted By: Operation and Monitoring Support Team

Contents

Acronym	iii
A. Executive Summary	1
B) Component One Activities:.....	2
Theme1.1: Increasing Access to Priority Degree Program for Economic Development.....	2
Theme1.2: Modernizing and Enhancing the Quality of Teaching and Learning	2
Theme1.3: Improving the Qualification and Skills of Academic and Technical Staff Members	3
Theme 1.4: Strengthening Governance, Quality Assurance and Accreditation.....	4
Theme 1.5: Stimulating Development Oriented Research (DLI)	6
C) Component Two: Program Operations and Technical Support	6
Social and Environmental Safeguard.....	6
Procurement	7
Finance:.....	8
Human Resource	8
Communication.....	9
Internal Auditors ToT Training.....	9
Monitoring and Evaluation	10
D) Challenges.....	10
E) Recommendations	11
F) Plans for the next reporting period	11
Annex A: Intermediate Outcome Indicators Status for 2018	12

Acronym

ANASTU	Afghanistan National Agriculture Science and Technology University
DLI	Disbursement Linked Indicator
ESMF	Environmental and Social Management Framework
HEDP	Higher Education Development Project
ICT	Information and Communication Technology
IQA	Internal Quality Assurance
IQAU	Internal Quality Assurance Unit
IT	Information Technology
KMU's	Kabul Medical University
QAA	Quality Assurance and Accreditation
KPU	Kabul Polytechnic University
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MoHE	Ministry of Higher Education
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
NEPA	National Environmental Protection Agency
OBE	Outcome Based Education
OMST	Operation Monitoring and Support Team
QAAD	Quality Assurance and Accreditation Directorate
SCL	Student-Centered Learning
SIDP	Strategic Institutional Development Plan
SZU	Shaikh Zayed University (Khost)
WB	World Bank

A. Executive Summary

Higher education development program has had notable progress over the project life cycle. The agreed actions of last WB missions have been cleared. The vacant positions have been filled, except senior educational and technology manager. The ICT centers of Ghazni and Khost universities have been completed. Regular Monitoring and supervision reports of all ongoing projects have been submitted to WB with clear photos. In addition, the environmental training manual and training plan were submitted to World Bank as per agreed date. The HEDP received NoL from the WB and permit from National Environmental Protection Agency (NEPA) for the construction of Badghis university dormitory. By the issuance of NoL and Permit of NEPA, the contractor will soon start the physical work. The program will conduct the three DLIs verification of 2017 through a consultancy hired. The report will be developed and shared in coming reporting period.

During the reporting period, the program facilitated the process of awarding disadvantaged scholarships for female. 100 students were selected for KMU and KPU with the composition of 50 from each university, the list has been shared with MoHE. In addition, seven lavatories for female have been completed and being utilized in the universities of Badakhshan, Jawzjan, Takhar, SZU, Parwan, Al- Bironi and Nangarhar.

In the area of OBE-SCL, the program embarked on conducting OBE-SCL workshops at Kandahar, Paktika and ANASTU universities for 50, 11 and 15 participants respectively. The program as well facilitated the OBE-SCL workshop at Kardan private university for 30 participants. Out of seven ICT projects started in 2017, five projects have been completed so far. Those are the ICTs of Shahid Rabani, Khost, Gazni, Paktia and Konur universities. The program has started on establishing three additional ICT centers in Bamyan, KPU and KU to achieve the target of 2019 for DLI#3. The specification have been made and submitted to procurement directorate of MoHE for further processing.

The program continued with the process of scholarship award. Thirty four of the candidates have already been placed in their universities and started their semester, eighty more will be placed at the end of August 2018. During the reporting period, the program conducted the external review of 12 universities with the composition of 6 private and 6 public. The IQAUs have been established and fully functioning in four public universities namely Nangarhar, Alberoni, Herat and Khost universities. However the lengthy procurement process is time consuming, the OSMT and MoHE work hardly to meet the deadlines and establish all the targeted IQAUs by 2018.

Based on the latest agreement made with World Bank, the target of researches projects for 2018 has increased into 40 from 30. During the reporting period, the program facilitated the researches award process which in consequence the committee of MoHE reviewed all applications and selected 39 research proposals. However the research should have been awarded earlier to meet the deadline, the program will strictly follow with the researchers to complete their research and publish them in their due time

During the reporting period, HEDP initiated a 12 day ToT training for 130 internal auditors of all government ministries and independent authorities. The post training assessment shows that 99% of the workshop participants have felt the workshop has met their expectation. The program executed 45% of its planned budget allocated for 2018 in the component one, while this rate is 47% for the component two. The program overall budget execution rate till date is 45% which seems satisfactory.

B) Component One Activities:

Theme 1.1: Increasing Access to Priority Degree Program for Economic Development

In the reporting period, OSMT facilitated the disadvantaged female scholarships award process within KMU and KPU. In order to execute the decision of MoHE on female retentions from disadvantaged background, the scholarships will be distributed in two universities as a pilot with the intention of expansion into four more public universities. During the reporting period, an action plan for finalizing the scholarships awarding process was prepared by OSMT and shared with each committee established. The committees were established in each of the above universities and reviewed all the applications, and based on the set criteria, they prepared a list of 100 students. The list has been shared with the MoHE, OSMT will follow on stipend distribution to the targeted students. MoHE leadership has allocated more than six thousand seats for female in kankor examination for 2018 intake, this privilege to female students will exceed the number of female enrolment and goes beyond than the target set for 2018. The net enrolment data will be shared in the next reporting period.

As a measure to promote female enrolment in public universities, the program continued on expanding the child care centers into more public universities. Two child care centers were already established and functioning in Kabul and Kabul medical universities, while the centers will be expanded into Bamyan and Takhar universities. The procurement unit of MoHE conducted the procurement process of establishing child care centers in the mentioned universities and evaluated the bids received, the contracts shall be soon awarded. Furthermore, the program established seven lavatories for female students in Badakhshan, Jawzjan, Takhar, SZU, Parwan, Al- Bironi and Nangarhar universities. The lavatories have been completed and utilized.

The OSMT collected data on the utilization of mini buses distributed to public universities for the purpose of pick and drop of female students from their residence to universities. It was found that almost all the distributed mini buses are being used and functional, except three universities namely Badakhshan, Ghazni and Daikundi. These universities claim that due to lack of operation cost and personal, they can't use the mini buses.

Theme 1.2: Modernizing and Enhancing the Quality of Teaching and Learning

Theme 1.2.1: Outcome Based Education and Student-Centered Learning

The project has a significant progress in outcome based education and student centered learning. The target of 2018 has already been achieved and exceeded into some extent. During the reporting period, the program embarked on conducting OBE-SCL workshops at Kandahar, Paktika and ANASTU universities for 50, 11 and 15 participants respectively. The training reports will be collected in next reporting period and the certificates will be distributed accordingly. The program distributed certificates to the 420 participants of OBE-SCL workshops conducted at 20 universities during the first half of 2018. The process of certificates distribution begins after receiving the workshops reports, attendance sheets, participants profile and the photos of workshop from the respective universities. The process of certificates



Group work, OBE-SCL Workshop, Kandahar University

distribution is mainly delayed by late submission of the above mentioned documents by the universities.

Due to the miss management among the leadership of Balkh University, the champions haven't conducted the OBE-SCL workshop so far, this workshop must have been organized in the winter season of 2018. During the reporting period, the program continued negotiations with MoHE leadership to push the University for conducting the workshop, an official memo will be shared with university in this regard. The university leadership has promised that they will deliver the workshop after at the end of August 2018, however this tentative plan is not certain. *The issue will be updated in the next report.*

The program as well facilitated the OBE-SCL workshop at Kardan private university for 30 participants. The workshop started on July 15 and is on track up to date. The workshop is financially supported by Kardan, and the Champions and soft teaching materials have been granted by HEDP. Moreover, the program reviewed and revised the documents of PDC establishment project and the unnoticed issues have been resolved. These documents were shared with Bamyan, Kunduz and Alberoni Universities for further processing. The program took part and regularly attended the National Curriculum Commission at MoHE and provided insight and support to the members.

HEDP has established nine professional development centers (PDCs). The Capacity Development Plan was shared with UTM Malaysia, LPU India, and Chulalongkorn University of Thailand. So far, only UTM shared their proposal for the training program and it is expected that LPU and Chulalongkorn University will also share their proposal soon.

Theme 1.2.2: Information and Communications Technology Enhanced Teaching and Learning

During the reporting period, the ICT centers of Ghazni and Khost universities have been completed, Faryab University ICT is completed, but the suppliers have procured the equipment which are opposing the planned equipment list, HEDP is working with the contractor to provide the needed equipment. However, these centers are not inaugurated by MoHE officials yet. Out of seven ICT projects started in 2017, five projects have been completed so far. Those are the ICTs of Shahid Rabani, Khost, Gazni, Paktia and Konur universities. It's expected that by 2018, the target of DLI#3 (7 ICTs) will be achieved.

The program has started on establishing three additional ICT centers in Bamyan, Kabul Polytechnic and Kabul universities to achieve the target of 2019 for DLI#3. The specification have been made and submitted to procurement directorate of MoHE for further processing. The projects are in announcement phase now. In addition, the program prepared the technical specifications for ICT equipment facilities consisting of IT centers and labs for Ghor, Helmand, Panjshir and Logar Higher education institutes and sent to Procurement directorate of MoHE. Technical Specifications have been made for Baghlan and Alberoni IT Centers and submitted to procurement directorate of MoHE.

Theme 1.3: Improving the Qualification and Skills of Academic and Technical Staff Members

Theme 1.3.1: Scholarships for Masters Degrees in Priority Disciplines

During the reporting period, the program continued working with scholarship awards, for this reason the steering committee decided to offer scholarship to 127 candidates. Thirty four of the candidates have already been placed in their universities and started their semester, eighty more will be placed before the end of this month.

The decision of the placement of the candidates at different universities was based on the ranking of the universities, the presence of MoU and the cooperation and coordination of the university with HEDP. The candidates were informed about their placement and were requested to apply at their respective universities, the universities were contacted simultaneously to confirm their cooperation by issuing acceptance letter well in times so that all of them can be placed before the commencement of the semester.

Theme 1.3.2. Short-term Technical and Maintenance Courses for Technical Staff in Universities

Under this subcomponent, during the reporting period the assessment report has been finalized and shared with the World Bank for their comments, the applicable comments were amended to the final version of the report.

The program shared the assessment report with Lovely Professional University, which was found out after a close observation in the campus during HEDP officials visit from the university. The aforementioned university has one of the most highly equipped technical laboratories and highly trained staff who can contribute to this component at their best. The officials have assured us of their cooperation in this regards and have agreed to send us a technical proposal by end of August 2018.

Theme 1.4: Strengthening Governance, Quality Assurance and Accreditation

Theme 1.4.1: Strategic Institutional Development Plans (SIDPs)

For 2018, HEDP and the MoHE planned to work with 10 universities to prepare their Strategic Institutional Development Plan, and publish them online after MoHE's approval. Out of ten universities, only five universities that include Kandahar, Afghanistan National Agriculture Science and Technology (ANASTU), Sheikh Zaid (SZU), Herat and Balkh Universities successfully completed developing their SIDP. The Strategic Planning Implementation Committee (SPIC) members reviewed these SIDP's and provided necessary comments for improvement. The universities incorporated the suggested comments and feedbacks and returned for final check. After the final check by the SPIC committee, it was finalized that the SIDP's were fine to be presented to the MoHE leadership for approval. Once these SIDP's are presented and approved by the MoHE, work on the remaining five universities will commence. On 27-28 of August 2018 a two day workshop will be conducted to the abovementioned universities so that they present their SIDPs to the MoHE leadership for the final feedback and approval. After the approval of their SIDPs, they will publish their relevant SIDPs and operationalize them accordingly.

Theme 1.4.2: Internal Quality Assurance

The establishment of four IQAUs at Nangarhar, Alberoni, Herat and Khost universities are completed, while the IQAU of Balkh university is not completed yet. Considering the target of DLIs for 2018, eight universities should have established their IAQUs by December 2017, but this target is still not achieved after almost a year of closing the deadline. However the project is behind the plan for this indicator, the establishment of nine more IQAUs which are on track will pave the way to achieve the target of 2018 and 2019 simultaneously. The renovation and equipment lists for establishing the new IQAUs have been prepared and will be soon shared with the Procurement Directorate for the procurement process. The consultancy has started verification of four IQAUs established at Kabul University, KMU, KEU and Kandahar University.

Theme 1.4.3: External Quality Assurance

External Review of the universities is one of the main tasks of the QAA sub-component. Pilot phase of the external review has been previously completed and 8 universities were reviewed. In the second phase of the external review which took place in May 2018, 12 universities (6 public and 6 private) have been externally reviewed. In the Third Phase of the External Review which is planned for September 2018, 15 public and private universities will be externally reviewed. Communications has already been started with those universities to have their arrangements for the review.

During the reporting period HEDP delivered three workshops. The first workshop was on Results Evaluation and Decision Making on the results external review of 11 public and private universities which was held on May 14, 2018. The purpose of this one day workshop was to evaluate the reports of the external review of 11 universities. Among these 11 universities, five public universities were nominated for stage 3 and 6 private for stage 2 of the accreditation. Kabul Medical University was fully accredited while RANA, Ibni Sina and Cheragh Medical universities got stage 2 (partial) accreditation.



HE the Minister delivers his speech to the audience of QAA Process workshop, Kabul, July 2018

On July 2-4 HEDP delivered a workshop on Interpretation of Accreditation Criteria and introducing the Process of Academic Program Review. The purpose of this three day workshop was to make rubrics for each criteria in the quality assurance and accreditation framework and scoring mechanism to help the better scoring of each criteria. Through this workshop the participants understood who are the right person to be asked, what they request and how many marks to be given (the EPRs do different scoring for a single criteria while the level of performance is the same). This will help external peer reviewers treat more equally and Board to easily do evaluation of the reports. The participants of the workshop included external peer reviewers, QAA board, and QAAD members.



Results Evaluation workshop, Kabul, May 2018

On July 9-10 the program delivered a workshop on the Quality Assurance and Accreditation Process for 15 Public and Private Universities. The purpose of this two-day workshop was to introduce and explain the quality assurance and accreditation process to the new (Phase III external review) 15



Interpretation of Accreditation Criteria workshop, Kabul, July 2018

public and private universities. Phase III of the external review follows the pilot phase and phase II of the external review and is consist of seven public and eight private universities. These universities are selected in collaboration with the QAAD and are; Bamyan, Alberoni, Jawzjan, Kunar, Paktia, Helmand, Parwan, Salaam, Alfalah, Daawat, Azad Islami, Khurshaid, Ghalib, Ghorjistan and Maulana Jalulladin Mohammad Balkhi universities.

So far Kandahar University, KU, KMU, American University and Kardan univeriy have gotten full accreditation with the professional and technical assistance of HEDP, through the QAAD.

Theme 1.4.4: Leadership and Management Courses for Senior Managerial and Administrative Staff

Considering the last year achievement of AULIA, the program scope was to identify 30 qualified NRPs through a systematic process and assessment done by the AIT examined from five different requirements. The selection of process of the thirty NRPs has finally come to an end, the selection was done in the presence of deputy minister, and HEDP colleagues while taking into consideration the suggested candidates based on the selection criteria they had set. AIT has agreed to send their proposal before the end of this week, it will be reviewed within a week and re-sent to AIT for amendment. Upon the return of these 30 NRPs, they will conduct the similar trainings in their respective universities as a group or individual in late November 2018. They will train up to 125 academic leaders in different priority disciplines. The technical and cost proposals have been submitted by the AIT and MoHE has reviewed the proposals, submitted the feedback.

Theme 1.5: Stimulating Development Oriented Research (DLI)

According to 2018 grants for research promotion, a total number of 39 research projects were awarded to different public and private universities' professors and faculty members. These research projects include 15 group researches and 24 individual researches. This task was carried out after the MoHE leadership's approval and World Bank's NOL were obtained. Currently, we are working to prepare contracts for the research grants winners.

Indeed the plan was for 40 research projects, but one of the research projects got cancelled because one of the researchers had submitted research proposals for both individual and group research grants, and both proposals were approved by the research commission at MoHE. After meetings and official letters asking for explanations, the research commission's decision was overturned. Thus, only the individual research project got approved and the other one was canceled.

C) Component Two: Program Operations and Technical Support

Social and Environmental Safeguard

During the reporting period, the HEDP followed with NEPA on Badghis university dormitory environmental issue. The program received NoL from the WB and permit from National Environmental Protection Agency (NEPA) for the construction of Badghis university dormitory. This project was pended due to the environmental issues with the location assigned for the project. The contractor has already been hired. By the issuance of NoL and Permit of NEPA, the contractor will soon start the physical work.

The HEDP updated the safeguard monitoring checklists of all 13 ongoing projects and submitted to the WB. This checklist is getting updated and submitted to WB on monthly basis. Furthermore, the social team of HEDP had a follow up on land transfer and deed preparation to Bamyan project's PAFs. A team has been established by the Deputy Ministry for Municipality to resolve the above mentioned issue. The committee will report to HEDP through Bamyan University.

In addition, the environmental safeguard team of HEDP revised the Safeguard monitoring checklists (SMC) as requested by WB safeguard team. The team as well revised the environment and social management plan (ESMP) for Badghis University construction project. Based on the new revision, the comments of NEPA have been included into the ESM plan.

Procurement

During the reporting period, the procurement section of the program worked on various procurement packages. Some of the projects have been awarded, while there are still lots of projects in procurement phase. The brief of procurement tasks completed/under process are as following.

- Projects specifications, BOQ and scope of work for the planned projects of 2018 are collected; the procurement process has been started for some projects.
- Lab Kits (Chemistry is awarded) Physics and biology will be re-announced, the documents have been submitted to NPA.
- IT equipment for Dikondi University has been re-announced.
- Lab for 19 universities: 5 lots are awarded, the rest will be re-announced. The documents have been submitted to NPA.
- Library support: 1 lot has been awarded (24 lots were marked disqualified and sent for re-announcement due to issues found by NPA) the documents have been submitted to NPA.
- Bamyan ICT center is in the procurement process and has been re announced.
- ICT equipment and facilities projects for (Logar, Panjshir, Ghor and Helmand universities) are under procurement process, the projects have been announced.
- Renovation of Kinder Garden for the universities of Bamyan and Takhar are in the evaluation stage.
- Establishing of concealing centers in the universities of Kabul, Jozjan have been announced, while these projects for Bamyan and Balkh universities have been awarded to the contractors.
- Water and lavatories projects for girls in the universities of Konduz, Ghazni, Herat, Paktya, Panjshir and Balkh are in the different stages of procurement.

G) Table 1: List of physical infrastructure projects with progress:

Project Name	Physical Progress	Contract Duration		Remarks
		Starting Date	End Date	
Kunar Dorm + Dining hall	75%	17/ 09/ 1395	16/ 09/ 1397	Low Progress
Bamyan Dorm + Dining Hall	75%	09/06/ 1395	10/06/ 1397	

Takhar Dorm + dining hall	35%	17/ 04/ 1396	16/ 07/ 1397	Low Progress
Helmand Dorm +dining hall	25%	15/ 03/ 1396	14/ 06/ 1397	Low Progress
Ghazni Lecture Block	85%	29/ 06/ 1395	28/ 06/ 1397	
Logar Lecture Block	65%	09/ 10/ 1395	08/ 04/ 1397	Deadline Missed
Sare Pul Lecture Block	50%	16/12/1395	15/ 06/ 1397	
Parwan Lecture Block	50%	30/ 03/ 1396	29/ 06/ 1397	Low Progress
Kandahar Research Center	75%	12/ 11/ 1396	11/ 08/ 1397	
Wardak Lecture Block	45%	08/ 06/ 1396	07/ 09/ 1397	Low Progress
Laghman Lecture Block	75%	01/ 05/ 1396	30/ 07/ 1397	Low Progress
Herat University Research Center	65%	21/05/1396	20/05/1397	Deadline Missed
KU Research Center	90%	28/ 09/ 1395	28/ 06/ 1396	Deadline Missed
Kunar Dorm + Dining hall	0%	20/06/1395		Suspended

Financial Management:

During the reporting period, the finance section has configured the quick book program. The financial personal of the program has started entering financial data into the system. Moreover, the FM has worked on the key program payments during the reporting period. The program executed 45% of its planned budget allocated for 2018 in the component one, while this rate is 47% for the component two. The program overall budget execution rate is 45%, which seems satisfactory. The following tables outlines budget executions on different program components. *In the next report the program will provide financial figures on scholarship and researches payments to show the budget execution on these two components.*

Table 4: Budget Execution Progress of 2018

Type of Component	Approved Planned Budget	Actual Expenditure	Balance
Component 1	\$ 9,000,000	\$ 4,013,983	45%
Component 2	\$ 2,300,000	\$ 1,082,071	47%
Grand Total	\$ 11,300,000	\$ 5,096,054	45%

Human Resource Management

According to the aid memoire, the program had to recruit the vacant positions. During the reporting period, the program continued on filling the vacant positions. The positions of Senior Strategic Planning Research Manager and Senior M&E Manager has been filled. The recruitment process of Senior Quality Assurance and Accreditation Manger has been conducted and the report is

submitted to WB for obtaining NOL. Despite these positions, the program recruited the bellow positions during the reporting period.

- Scholarship officer
- Procurement Assistant
- Internal Controller
- Financial Liaison Assistant
- Executive Secretary for the Minister's Office
- Technical Officer for the Minister's Office
- Five Interns

The recruitment of Senior Educational and Technology Manage, Social Safeguard Specialist, Environmental Safeguard Specialist and Information Management Officer is in progress

Communication

During the reporting period, the program worked to develop tools and products that communicate internal change and deliver messaging related to program initiatives. HEDP initiated the creation and design of program new brochure, HEDP branding clocks, notebooks, pens, and file folders. The printed and created tools and products will be sent to MoHE staff, Universities personals and beneficiaries to help motivate the program beneficiaries and generate confidence and good will about the program. The program distributed HEDP branding clocks to the MoHE directorates, public universities and some private universities during this reporting period. The HEDP Facebook page and website have been updated with the activities reports and pictures.

In addition, the program reviewed short list of video production vendors and selected Afghan Trust Association. Working with the vendor, the program produced short video clips on HEDP initiatives and achievements. The videos will be shared with publics through social media means. The program will further start to collect success stories of the program and will begin sharing in the next reporting period. In order to increase awareness on Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM) in the universities, special posters have been printed on the subject matter. Moreover, the program have designed and purchased complaint boxes to easily collect the complaints. The boxes have been placed in all targeted universities.

Internal Auditors ToT Training

During the reporting period, HEDP conducted a 12 day ToT training for 130 internal auditors of all government ministries and independent authorities. The objectives of this capacity building program was to enhance the capacity of the internal auditors on better understanding their roles, right procedure of reviewing the contracts, inventory management, procurement management, income tax law, risk assessment, audit evidence, audit methodology and the report writing skills of the internal audit departments within the ministries and other relevant public organizations across the country. The post training assessment shows that 99% of the workshop participants have felt



Inauguration of internal auditors training, Kabul, July 2018

the workshop has met their expectation. *The training report will be shared during the next reporting period.*

Monitoring and Evaluation

The monitoring and evaluation team has continued to monitor program activities and measure their progress and provide an insight to the program management for informed decision making. During the reporting period, new M&E Manager joined HEDP. In the next reporting period the M&E team will work on developing a comprehensive M&E Plan and data collection tools for the program.

The program however has had good success stories and achievements over the project life cycle, the M&E team will motivate the program team to collect some great success stories from the beneficiaries. They will be reflected in the next reporting period and shared through social means of the program to motivate the program beneficiaries and generate confidence and good will about the program.

D) Challenges

- Out of 14 physical infrastructure project, the deadline of three projects have already been missed but the projects are not completed. These are the KU Research Center, Herat University Research Center and Logar University Lecture Block, while the remaining projects are as well with a low progress rate. *For details refer to the table 1 of the report.*
- Bulkh University still hasn't conducted the OBE-SCL workshop due to internally conflicts among the university leadership. Based on the plan, they should have conducted the workshop during the winter season of 1397 fiscal year. Now it would be difficult if they can conduct during the academic calendar season, or if they deliver the workshops, the university lecturers can't attend a full day workshop, as being busy.
- Some of the medical students would like to do clinical or coursework which lasts for minimum four years resulting in high expenditure in scholarship component. On the other hand finding relevant medical programs in the universities where we have signed MoU is also another considerable concern.
- Technical training assessment report shows that the university labs lack basic lab equipment used during the training and generally when the lab technician make use of the substances or other chemical materials of the labs such as the gloves, face shields, lab coats etc.
- Slow governmental procedure. The program is lagging behind in its plan in research component, establishing IQAUs and physical infrastructure. The slow progress of key tasks from ministry's side usually causes delays in achieving the targets in its due time.
- No utilization of minibuses in Badakhshan, Ghazni and Daikundi universities for the pickup of female students. These universities claim that due to lack of operation cost and personal, they can't use the mini buses
- The program was as well challenged by the directorate of foreign relations and scholarships of MoHE, still hasn't accepted the full ownership of the scholarship component.

E) Recommendations

- The MoHE procurement directorate should conduct a meeting with all the contractors. The deadline of the projects and their physical progress must be discussed. The contractors should be informed that if not meeting the deadline, they might be given penalties.
- The Environmental and Safeguard team of HEDP must follow with the contractor on application on application of all mitigation measures listed in environment and social management plan (ESMP).
- MoHE should give a deadline to Bulkh University through an official memo for conducting the OBE-SCL workshop. The workshop should be such designed to be easily accessible to all participants.
- To improve the efficiency in scholarship area, the HEDP can discuss with WB and MoHE to replace the medical scholarship quota with other priority disciplines which can result in sending a higher number of candidates as one medical scholarship expenditure is almost equal to two others.
- The aforementioned and other important consumables should be purchased to the universities labs prior to the commencement of the training sessions that will be held in the universities labs.
- HEDP can discuss the issue of slow work progress from the ministry side with the MoHE leadership, so they give priority to HEDP work in the future.
- HEDP to discuss with MoHE leadership to allocate some operational cast for the utilization of mini buses in Badakhshan, Ghazni and Daikundi universities.
- The foreign affairs and scholarship directorate of MoHE should take full ownership of the scholarship component of HEDP, however it was discussed in the last and recent steering committee's meetings.
- The Environmental and Safeguard team of HEDP must follow with the contractor on application of all mitigation measures listed in environment and social management plan (ESMP).
- Safeguard team of HEDP must deliver a training on safeguard and ESMP implementation for HEDP coordinators at provinces, as agreed during the WB mission, April 2018.

F) Plans for the next reporting period

During the next reporting period, the program will conduct the three DLIs verification of 2017 through a consultancy hired. The report will be developed and shared in coming reporting period.

The program will continue to conduct the external review of 12 additional universities and complete the establishment of 5 IQAUs by the next reporting period. In terms of researches, the program will award contracts to the researchers and work with finance section to disburse the first installments to 2018 researchers so they can start working on their researches. In addition, the program will also work with the targeted universities to present their SIDPs to MoHE and will facilitate the MoHE's approval. Despite this, the program plans to work with the remaining five universities to finish developing their SIDP's and facilitate their presentation to MoHE for approval.

The National Research Conference concept note will get finalized and make the preparatory work for conducting this conference. The program will conduct technical evaluation of Paktia and Kunar universities ICT Centers to make sure the provided equipment is in accordance with contract. The

program will work on the planning and arrangement of the OBE-SCL Conference to be held during 2018.

The Safeguard team of the program plan to do the following activities during the reporting period.

- A training will be conducted in Kabul for all 13 project's coordinators in provinces in order to raise awareness of stockholder's in regards to implementing safeguards principles.
- Development of an environment and social management plan (ESMP) for Herat university computer science faculty building construction project.
- Follow up on deed preparation and land transfer to Bamyán university girl's dorm construction project affected families (PAFs).

Annex A: Intermediate Outcome Indicators Status for 2018

<i>Indicator</i>	<i>2018 Target</i>	<i>Current Status as July 2018</i>
Female enrollment in priority degree programs in the 1st year of public universities [DLI 1]	4500	4748 as of December 2017 4962 seats reserved for female in 2018 2018 data will be updated in December 2018
Number of female students with access to adequate residential facilities for women on university campuses	3,700	3426 (Official Capacity) Bamiyan and Konar to be inaugurated by end of 2018
Number of full time academic staff trained in, and practicing, outcome-based education and student centered learning [DLI 2]	500 academic staff trained in and practicing outcome-based education and student centered learning	674 have been trained and verified. While another 418 are trained in 2018 winter, but the verification is remained.
Number of public universities with functional ICT centers for ICT based higher education [DLI 3]	4 universities with new and functional ICT centers	Shahid Rabani, Khost, Gazni, Paktia and Konur universities ICT's centers are completed
Number of scholarships awarded to full time faculty staff for Masters Degrees in priority disciplines [DLI 4]	300 scholarships awarded	336 scholarships awarded; 58 scholarships completed and returned
Number of technical staff completing short-term technical and maintenance courses	350 staff trained	Technical Assessment is under process.
Number of universities with Internal Quality Assurance Units (IQAU) (b) functioning to international standards [DLI 5]	8 universities with IQAU functioning to international standards	8 IQAUs are functional. The only remaining IQAU of Balkh university is on track with 50% progress.
Number of public and private universities which complete a new regionally benchmarked quality assurance cycle	External institutional quality assurance reviews completed for 14 public and 14 private universities and reports disseminated by MoHE	A total of 20 Universities have been peer reviewed. We have plan to peer review another 12 during this year.

Number of university senior managerial and administrative staff completing short-term leadership and management courses in the context of greater authority and accountability	250 staff trained	Planning for the second phase.
Development oriented research Projects, mainly in the priority disciplines [DLI # 6]	15 new group research Projects commenced 25 new individual research Projects in progress commenced At least 15 group research Projects completed At least 20 individual research Projects completed	15 group researches awarded. 24 individual researches awarded. 9 Group research projects of 2017 completed 24 Individual research projects of 2017 completed