Ministry of Higher Education (MoHE)

Higher Education Development Program (HEDP)

Operations and Monitoring Support Team (OMST)

Bi monthly Progress Monitoring Report

Reporting Period: March and April 2019

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Submitted by: Operation and Monitoring Support Team (OMST)

Contents

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

This report covers the last progress of the program. The program has almost achieved the 2019 target values of all three PDO level indicators, and from the 10 intermediate outcome indicators, the target values set for 2019 of 5 indicators have been met, while the others have been on track towards the completion. In respect to the agreed actions of the last mission, the program has achieved majority of the agreed actions, while the rest are to be achieved within the agreed timelines. The program organization structure has been updated, considering the last changes in structure; monthly monitoring meetings are being conducted with the WB and the monitoring points are discussed, and the follow up are made on the agreements following the meetings; The program has filled the position of Senior Education and Technology Manager, while the social and environmental positions are in progress to be filled soon; and the TPV has been procured. Afghanistan Holding Group will conduct this round of TPV study. They have started their work, and will share the inception report by end of April 2019. *The agreed actions tracker is attached as annex 1.*

The 2019 DLI target on female enrollment (5,000) has been achieved. The program by now stands at 7,014 on this target value. There has been a great increase in the number of female enrollment in 2018 compared to the target value of this year and actual enrollment of the last years. This big jump in the increase of female enrollment is partly due to the increase of reserve seats for female in Kankor intake in 2018. The Counselling centers have been expanded into six more universities (KEU, Bamyan, Kabul, Balkh, Herat and Jowzjan). With having the 2019 target already achieved in OBE-SCL, the program continued on expanding the number of faculties staff trained in OBE-SCL. During the period under review, the program has initiated the OBE-SCL workshops at 20 public universities. During the trainings conducted in 2019, the 573 academic members have been trained. There have been four agreed actions associated with this theme, agreed upon in last WB mission, which one out of the four has been completed, while the rest of agreed actions are on track to be achieved.

The program has analyzed the detailed data of the scholarships associated with the last three years. The data indicates that the program has awarded 336 scholarships in priority degree programs, while have placed only 300 so far. The data as well shows that 83 academic members have been graduated from the master degree programs of HEDP up to date. Although, the scholarships have been the DLI target for 2021, which states that by 21 December 2020 at least 275 scholarships should have been completed, the data indicates that the program may not be able to meet this target. According to the data provided in the *table number 4*, the program may have 247 completed scholarships by end of 2020. From other hands, it seems that the PhD scholarships won't be completed within the program life cycle. It goes beyond 2022, while the program is getting closed by end of 2022. *The detailed list of 300 scholars who have been placed in Master degree programs since 2016, is attached as annex 3. The list has the enrollment and graduation dates.*

During the reporting period, the program announced the new research grants for 2019. The new research grants include funding for 20 individual research projects and 10 group research projects. The program is currently in the process of collecting research proposals from all universities across Afghanistan. The collection of proposals will continue until April 25, 2019. In terms of IQAUS, external review, SIDPs, technical and leadership trainings, the program is on track to achieve the set targets throughout the year. The program has conducted the DLIs verification survey, which the report findings show that all three DLIs targets of 2019 have been achieved. Six ICTs and eight IQAUs have been reported as functional, and 7,014 female students are enrolled in priority programs.

MoHE's slow progress in establishing the new Directorate for Research has caused delays in most of the research related activities. Although the General Directorate of Academic Programs Coordination has agreed to cooperate until the directorate is established, but their busy schedule and other priorities put the research work in periphery. Based on the findings of the MSI two deviations will require additional costs for rectifications. The minimum cost has been estimated to be 7 million AFS. The MoHE should seek if there are funding sources available from the development budget of the Ministry or seek any other possible alternatives.

B) Component One Activities:

Theme1.1: Increasing Access to Priority Degree Program for Economic Development

The program has had tremendous progress over the last three years on the expansion of student's enrolment in priority programs, especially female enrollment. The program however doesn't have any agreed action on this theme from the last WB mission, the activities and innovations under this theme is normally going ahead and are on track. The DLI target and intermediate level annual target values of 2019 have been achieved. In 2019, the female enrollment rate has been higher than the target values of this year. During the reporting period, the program consolidated the enrollment updated data received from the planning and policy directorate of MoHE. Based on the updated data, the total enrollment of students in priority degree programs stand at 97,939 while the female enrollment is 7,014. This data indicates that the program has exceeded the 2019 intermediate level indicator's annual target (80,500), and DLI target (5,000).

The bellow graph shows female enrollment in priority disciplines at 24 public universities in 2018, which stands at 7,014. It worth's mentioning that the Afghan National Agricultural Sciences and Technology University (ANASTU) doesn't offer bachelor degree programs, that's why there are no students of this university to be considered and counted. The graph indicates strong increase in the number of female enrollment in 2018 compared to the target value of this year and actual enrollment of the last year. In 2017, the number of female enrollment in priority discipline was standing at 4,748, this big jump in the increase of female enrollment in priority disciplines is partly due to the increase of reserve seats for female in Kankor intake in 2018.

Graph 1: Comparison of actual female enrollment in priority disciplines at public Universities, 2018 against last year (2017) and target value (2018)
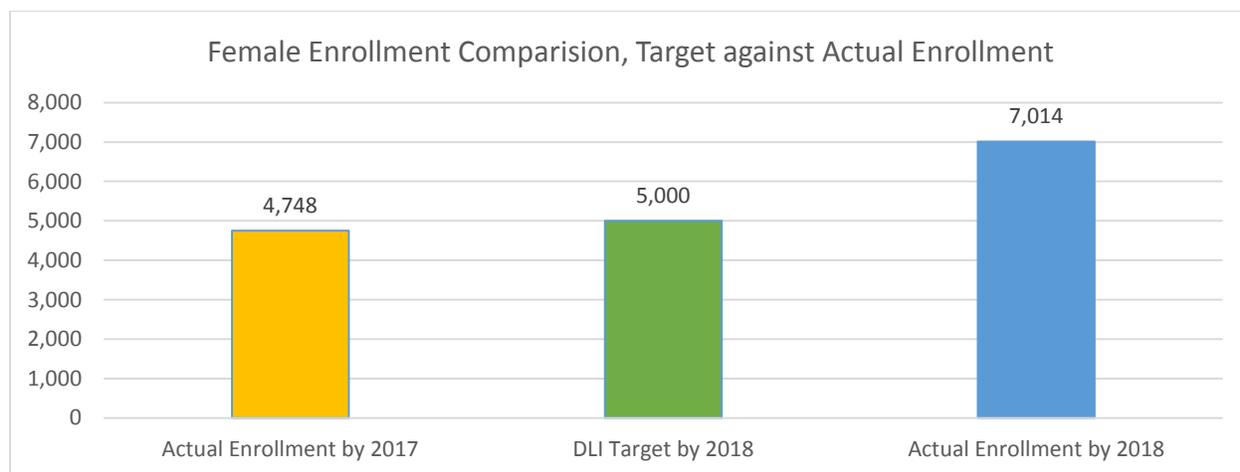
Table 1: Students Enrollment in Higher Education at Public Universities by 2018

Indicators	By 2018		
	Female	**Male**	**Total**
First Year Enrollment in Priority Disciplines (Intermediate Outcome Indicator, DLI I)	**7,014**	**21,951**	**28,965**
Total Enrollment in Priority Disciplines *(Project Development Indicator)*	**22,363**	**75,576**	**97,939**

Measures to Promote Female Enrolment in Public Universities.

The program has made a good progress on the measures to promote female enrolment in public universities. In terms of child care centers and concealing centers, 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 by MohE and HEDP. during the reporting period, the physical work of Takhar child care cents has been completed as 100%, while the child care centers of Bamyan university is 80% completed. The process of designing the renovation of child care center in Albironi and Parwan Universities has been started. The program had suggested to establish two more care centers in Herat and Jawzjan universities from the ordinary budget of MoHE. The Ministry has confirmed and the centers would be established in 2019

On the counselling centers, the program has already established three counseling centers at KEU, Balkh and Bamyan universities. During the reporting period, the Counselling center in KU has been renovated, it would be inaugurated and utilized soon. Moreover, the recruitment of staff for this center is in process, the positions are announced. The process of designing the renovation of counselling center in Herat University has been started. The Water and Lavatories projects in 4 universities (Ghazni, Herat, Paktiya and Panjshir) have been completed and are utilized, while the physical work of two others (Kunduz and Balkh) are under Progress. In addition, the water and lavatories in four more universities (KU, KMU, Farah and Samangan) are planned for 2019, the initial procurement steps have been started.

The disadvantaged scholarships have been expanded to 300 now. KU, KEU, Herat and Balkh Universities have been included to the list of KMU and KPU for awarding these scholarships. The first round of 2,500 AFs stipends were distributed starting from the month of September 2019 in two universities (KMU, KPU) and the stipend distribution of the rest of universities is in process. Through this initiative, MoHE would like to promote female retentions from disadvantaged background. The program has planned 14 universities to conduct orientation programs for first year female students in 2019. They are KU, KMU, KPU, KEU, Nangarhar, Herat, Balkh, Kandahar, Khost, Paktiya, Albironi, Badakhshan, Bamyan, and Jawzjan Universities.

The distributed mini buses are all utilized now. The two universities (Badakhshan and Ghazni) that couldn't use the buses due to operational issues in 2018, Currently use their buses they are for the pick and drop of needy female students. In respect to the access of female students to adequate residential facilities on university campuses, the program should have provided the facilities for 3,750 female students, while this figure currently stands at 4,405.

HEDP granted buses utilized for the pick and drop purpose of female students Alberoni University, 2019

Theme1.2: Modernizing and Enhancing the Quality of Teaching and Learning
Theme 1.2.1: Outcome Based Education and Student-Centered Learning
The program has already achieved the 2019 target in OBE-SCL, the program continued on expanding the number of faculties staff trained in OBE-SCL. During the period under review, the program has initiated the OBE-SCL workshops at 20 public universities. During these trainings at 20 universities, 332 academic staff, 210 department heads, 25 deans and deputy deans, 5 VCs and 1 chancellor were trained. The total number of trained people during 2019 is 573. *The detailed information and list of trained academic staff during first quarter of 2019 is attached in annex II.*

The interview for selection of Bamyan, Alberoni and Kunduz Universities' PDC Director (Lead) was held. The most qualified candidates were selected and introduced via a shared report with the General Directorate of Academic Affairs Coordination. The report elaborates the selection process and result and the Academic Board reviewed and then approved it. Later, the universities were officially informed about the winning candidate as the PDC Leads. The program is making arrangement and preparation for the PDC Lead Capacity Development Training at Amity University, India. The issue was presented to the Steering

Committee meeting and H.E. Minister and the committee members approved this training program. The Capacity Development Training is likely to take place during June 2019 after Ramadan. The contact information list of selected Leads for the 12 PDCs is attached in *annex III*.

There have been four agreed actions associated with this theme, agreed upon in last WB mission, which one out of the four has been completed, while the rest of agreed actions are on track to be achieved. 210 department heads have been trained, and the trainings will cover the remaining heads too, three PDCs to be established by 2019 and the program will keep discussion on the revision of the relevant by-laws by the Ministry to further facilitate the practice of OBE and SCL.

Theme 1.2.2: Information and Communications Technology Enhanced Teaching and Learning

The program has achieved the 2019 target for ICTs. The last WB mission's agreed actions have been met. The program is working with ICT directorate of MoHE to meet the agreed actions associated with ICTs of the HEAT project WB mission. Those agreed actions haven't been met yet.

However, the program has achieved the 2019 target for ICTs, the program is on track on establishing more ICTs and IT equipment facilities into public universities to achieve the 2020 DLI target. Currently, a number of ICTs and IT equipment projects are in different phases under this theme. By now, the 4 out of 7 completed ICT centers (Paktia, Takhar, Shaikh Zahid, and Shahid Rabani universities) are entitled to be verified by this round TPV to ensure the achievement of 2019 DLI. According to Aide Memoire, four ICT centers (Ghazni, Faryab, Khost, and SREU) were entitled to be functional to achieve DLI 2019. Based on our recent information, the contract of ICT technicians of Ghazni and Farya ICT centers are terminated, while Konur university already didn't have sufficient number of ICT technician, hence this issue effects the ratio for the PC: Technician and in consequence, with having no sufficient number of technicians, this ratio will not be achieved and the ICTs can't be marked functional. Therefore, to achieve DLI 2019, the program replaced Ghazni and Faryab universities with two other established ICT centers (Paktia and Takhar) and proposed 4 ICT centers (Paktia, Takhar, Shaikh Zahid, and Shahid Rabani) universities for TPV. The coordination and emphasis for the recruitment of ICT technicians for Ghazni and Faryab ICT centers are in progress with MoHE.

The two ICT centers of Bamyan and Kabul Medical universities are in the implementation progress. During this reporting period, the technical evaluation of procurement phases and documents for two IT centers (Baghlan and Alberoni) universities are completed to be approved by NPA. Similarly, KPU ICT project is under process by NPA. The IT equipment project of Laghman university and the solar system project of Paktya ICT center are completed. In addition, the 13 IT equipment projects are currently in the procurement phase. The bid opening for 4 of 13 IT equipment projects (Helmand, Panjshir, Logar, and Ghour) universities was held on Apr 18, 2019, and soon MoHE will commence the evaluation process of these 4 IT equipment projects. In addition, the bid opening for the rest 9 out of 13 ICT equipment projects (Urozgan, Saripul, Farah, Badghis, Paktika, Kandahar, Herat, Nangarhar, and Jawzjan) universities will be held on Apr 29.

Theme1.3: Improving the Qualification and Skills of Academic and Technical Staff Members
Theme 1.3.1: Scholarships for Masters Degrees in Priority Disciplines
During the period under review, the program has collected 160 applications with the composition of 121 males and 39 females for the 80 anticipated master degree scholarships of 2019. The program would place 100 candidates in master degree programs in 2019, having said this, the 75 candidates will be from the new applicants of 2019, while 25 applicants are pending from 2016, 2107 and 2018. During the reporting period, the program has communicated the process of conducting the APTIS English test in British council. It has been expected that the test will be conducted in mid May 2019. The English test result will be announced by end of May 2019.

The program has analyzed the aggregate data of the scholarship associated with the last three years. The data shows that 83 academic members have been graduated from the master degree programs of HEDP up to date. Going deeper into the details, the data further reveals that 43 more academic members will be

graduated by 2019. The program has as well has done a rough calculation on the anticipated graduation data of the upcoming years. The following tables illustrates it further.

Table 2: Scholarships Aggregated data (2016-2018 actual, 2019-223 prediction)

Program	Year	Scholarships Awarded Cumulative Data			Placement/Enrollment Cumulative Data			Expected Graduation Cumulative Data			Remarks
		Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	
Master	2016	68	35	103	68	30	98	-	-	-	Actual
Master	2017	131	78	209	128	62	190	-	-	-	Actual
Master	2018	218	118	336	206	95	301	61	22	83	Actual
Master	2019	269	142	411	268	132	400	96	30	126	Prediction
Master	2020	-	-	-	-	-	-	176	71	247	Prediction
Master	2021	-	-	-	-	-	-	268	125	393	Prediction
Master	2022	-	-	-	-	-	-	268	132	400	Prediction
Total Master		**253**	**158**	**411**	**252**	**148**	**400**	**268**	**148**	**400**	
PhD	2019	48	2	50	48	2	50	-	-	-	-
PhD	2023	-	-	-	-	-	-	48	2	50	-
Total PhD		**48**	**2**	**50**	**48**	**2**	**50**	**48**	**2**	**50**	
Grand Total											

Note: The expected graduation figures are valid, if the 2019 batch of scholarships are placed by September 2019.

The table illustrates that by 2018 almost 336 master degree scholarships have been awarded, while only 301 have been placed. The placement of 25 academic members at their selected universities have been pending due to several reasons, in addition, 11 academic members who have received the scholarships in the past and have declined the scholarships due to their personal problems. Going deeper in the data, it seems that the program needs to place 37 female academic members at mater degree programs to achieve the overall 33% criteria.

Although, the scholarships have been the DLI target for 2021, which states that by 21 December 2020 at least 275 scholarships should have been completed, the table indicates that the program may not be able to meet this target. According to the data provided in the table, the program will have 247 completed scholarships. From other hands, it seems that the PhD scholarships won't be completed within the program life cycle. It goes beyond 2022, while the program is getting closed by end of 2022. *The detailed list of 301 scholars who have been placed in Master degree programs since 2016, is attached as annex III. The list has the enrollment and graduation dates.*

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

During the reporting period, the concept note developed for the short term technical and maintenance courses have been shared with the steering committee and the committee endorsed the concept note. Through this concept note, 154 lab technicians and 150 libraries technicians would be trained at two Kabul based universities (Kabul and Kabul Medical Universities) and ACKU of Kabul university. According to the project documents, HEDP should train 250 technical staff of public universities by 2018. The program by now has trained 96 ICT and libraries technicians. 75 technicians were trained in 2017, while 21 ICT technician trained in 2018. The program is on track to achieving the targets on this theme by 2019. During the last WB mission, it was discussed to cancel the approach of sending 20 master trainers out of the total technicians to the LPU India. We thereby taught to use the indoor capacities for conducting this training. The program has developed a concept note which describes how the program wants to use the lecturers of public universities for the training of respective labs technicians.

Theme 1.4: Strengthening Governance, Quality Assurance and Accreditation

Theme 1.4.1: Strategic Institutional Development Plans (SIDPs)

During the reporting period, the MoHE SPIC was expanded from 4 persons to 14 persons, in which mostly strategic planning experts are enrolled. The new committee started their work almost a month ago and held several successive meetings to plan their 2019 work. They reviewed the Strategic Institutional Development Plans (SIDP) and Annual Progress Reports (APR's) templates to see if there can be improvements before the committee start working with universities on their SIDP's. They made some small changes to these documents.

Consequently, a workshop was held on Tuesday April 9, 2019 to train university leaderships on developing their Strategic Institutional Development Plans. Representatives, which included vice chancellors and university spic members, from 25 universities were invited to participate in the workshop. This included 16 public universities and 9 private universities from across the country. In the opening of the program H.E Abdul Tawab Balakarzai, the Deputy Minister of Higher Education, delivered a brief speech, wherein he emphasized on the importance of strategic plans for higher education and urged universities to take strategic planning as an important and serious priority within their universities. All universities are given two to three months to work on their strategic plans. During this time, the MoHE SPIC members will work closely with these universities to help them during the preparation of their SIDP's. And if needed, they will visit the university in need to attend their SIDP meetings and provide advises and consultation. For universities that are outside Kabul, they can arrange skype calls whenever needed to get their problems solved. In addition, a number of 15 universities have been selected as part of the plan for 2019. These universities will be helped by the MoHE SPIC committee in developing their 5-year rolling strategic plan. A comprehensive work plan is drafted by the OMST responsible manager for the entire 2019 year based on which the MoHE SPIC committee will continue their work.

Annual Progress Reports (APR's)

No specific progress has been made in this theme since the last report. There will be the progress by end of year 2019, when the universities issue their Annual Progress report (APR). During the last year (2018), 6 universities have issued their annual progress reports on the SIDPs. These six universities who presented on their APR's were selected based on the target set for 2018 in the PIM. The program has achieved the target set for this theme (6 APRs to be issued). Once the universities get their SIDP's approved by the MoHE, they have to report annually on the progress they have made towards the strategic objectives set in their SIDP's. This report is called Annual Progress Report (APR's). The program is on track to achieve the target of 2019 on this theme.

Theme 1.4.2: Internal Quality Assurance

Establishment and functionality of the IQAUs at public universities is a DLI target. HEDP has already established IQAUs at nine public universities. The recent OMST verification of IQAUs at eight universities shows that all of the eight IQAUs are functional. The verification report has been shared back with the universities in order to improve themselves and practice QA activities according to the scorecard criteria. The universities will have to adhere to the scorecard criteria and make sure they are functional over the time.

The end of 2019 DLI target is to have functional IQAUs at 10 public universities. In order to achieve this target, OMST had recently awarded contracts of establishment of IQAUs at eight additional universities. OMST is in the process of identifying the IQAU Leads for the under establishment IQAUS and arranging

a capacity building program in the country instead of training them abroad. A detailed list of the universities based on the recent OMST verification is available at Table 3.

Table 3: Establishment and functionality status of IQAUs at public universities

S. No	Universities	Establishment	Functionality	S. No	Universities	Establishment	Functionality
1	Kabul	Established	Functional	10	Kunduz	Being Established	Not Verified
2	Kabul Medical	Established	Functional	11	Bamyan	Being Established	Not Verified
3	Kandahar	Established	Functional	12	Paktia	Being Established	Not Verified
4	Kabul Education	Established	Functional	13	Takhar	Being Established	Not Verified
5	Nangarhar	Established	Functional	14	KPU	In procurement	Not Verified
6	Alberoni	Established	Functional	15	Badakhshan	Being Established	Not Verified
7	Balkh	Established	Not Verified	16	Parwan	Being Established	Not Verified
8	Heart	Established	Functional	17	Faryab	Being Established	Not Verified
9	Shaikh Zayed	Established	Functional	18	Jawzjan	Being Established	Not Verified

The OMST has already contracted a Third Party Verification (TPV) agency to verify the end of 2018 IQAU DLI target. OMST has had an orientation meetings and shared the documents and data with the TPV. The TPV is in the process of developing the verification tools and protocols and soon they will start field visits and data collection for IQAU functionality verification.

Theme 1.4.3: External Quality Assurance

OMST has already reviewed 23 public and private universities in different stages. The 2018 target of reviewing a total of 22 public and private universities has been achieved. After multiple focus reviews, six universities have got Grade A accreditation and six universities got Grade B accreditation among the 23 reviewed universities. Details of the universities reviewed is available in the following table.

Table 4 Updated status of 23 externally reviewed universities (13 Private, 10 Public)

Private Universities			Public Universities		
S/N	Universities	Review Result	S/N	Universities	Review Result
1	AUAF	Grade A	1	Kabul	Grade A
2	Kardan	Grade A	2	Balkh	No Accreditation
3	Kateb	Grade A	3	Kabul Polytechnic	No Accreditation
4	Khatam-al-Nabiyeen	No Accreditation	4	Kandahar	Grade A
5	RANA	Grade B	5	Kabul Medical	Grade A
6	Ibne Sina	Grade B	6	Kabul Education	No Accreditation
7	Cheragh Medical	Grade B	7	Sheikh Zayed	No Accreditation
8	Karwan	No Accreditation	8	Herat	No Accreditation
9	Bakhtar	No Accreditation	9	Nangarhar	No Accreditation
10	Maryam	No Accreditation	10	Takhar	No Accreditation

11	Ghalib Kabul	Grade B	
12	Ghalib Heart	Grade B	
13	Salaam University	Grade B	

The OMST has included 20 new universities to the accreditation process and provided them a three-day awareness workshop. By including the 20 additional universities to the process a total of 45 universities are in the plan to be reviewed. This also includes the 12 universities who have not been accredited in the previous reviews and have to be focus reviewed for accreditation. The External Peer Review (EPR) teams will only review the universities who submit a complete self-assessment report with all its attachments.

Among the 45 universities to be reviewed, the EPRs have only focus reviewed Kateb University, which got Grade A accreditation. Review of five additional universities are in the process, which will be completed by the end of May. By completing review of the five new universities the total number of the reviewed universities will reach 28. Considering the progress in this area, OMST is confident that the 2019 target of reviewing 30 universities will be easily achieved during the year.

As agreed in the previous mission, OMST planned to increase the number of EPRs. The universities have been informed to introduce qualified candidates for the EPR selection process. A total of 25 university lecturers have been introduced for EPR selection process but only 17 were eligible to take part in the selection test. OMST and QAAD are in the process of reviewing their responses and soon a batch of new EPRs will be selected, who will be then trained here in Kabul. During this reporting period, the procurement process of hiring UNESCO for institutional assessment of QAAD has been finalized. A draft contract has been shared with UNESCO which is under UNESCO's internal vetting process and the contract will be soon finalized and get signed by both parties.

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

There has been no significant progress in this section. We were expecting NEIPA to conduct the NRP masterclass training in the first quarter of 2019. Because of NEIPA's other commitments they were not able to conduct the NRP training on time and has delayed this training. OMST has then contacted UNESCO and Mahidol University for their availability of conducting the NRP masterclass training. Because of a tight deadline UNESCO were not able to conduct the training according to our timeline. We are still negotiating with Mahidol University arrangements of a possible training for the NRP masterclass.

Theme 1.5: Stimulating Development Oriented Research (DLI)

HEDP has awarded 97 research projects to different public and private university's professors since 2016, which out of the total projects awarded, 53 research projects have been completed. In regard to the research grants for 2019, the grants were announced in mid-February, 2019 with a deadline until April 10, 2019. However, to make the process further competitive and receive a larger pool of proposals, the deadline was extended for fifteen more days until April 25, 2019.

Because of the approval of establishing a new directorate under the name of Research and Publications within the MoHE, the Academic Programs Development Directorate backed off from taking any future responsibility of research related activities. Therefore, the Directorate General for Academic Programs Coordination, cooperate with HEDP with respect to research work until the new Research and Publications Directorate is functional. In addition, the previously established research committee, led by Academic Programs Development Directorate, dissolved due to its members' lack of interest and their busy schedules elsewhere.

The OMST worked in close coordination with the General Directorate of Academic Programs Coordination to establish a new research committee for future research work. 54 CV's were collected from 4 central universities. This collection of CV's included 18 PhD's, 35 Masters and 1 BA degree holder. All the while, the General Director for Academic Programs Coordination, proceeded and established a research committee at the MoHE level without any coordination with the HEDP office. The established committee has a broader mandate at its core, which includes preparing policies, procedures, regulations, by-laws and other necessary documents for the new directorate of Research and Publications; hence, tasks related to the research projects and research grants would be on the periphery of their responsibilities. This will cause significant delay in the research work as it did in previous years.

Given this, the OMST has suggested the MoHE leadership to establish a Research Review Task Force, whose primary responsibility would be the review of research proposals and research reports as well as other activities related to research grants. The request is made to H.E minister and his approval is awaiting. On the other hand, as part of the 2019 plan, the national research conference is in its preparatory stages. A concept note was drafted and shared with colleagues to seek their suggestions. Meanwhile, a copy of it was also shared with an Afghan expert, who is currently professor at Brighton University U.K for his insights and suggestions. He has made very effective and strong recommendations for the conference. The OMST is working on the concept note to enrich it and is in close communication with the UK based Afghan professor. Once the concept note is final it will be shared with the MoHE leadership and other relevant authorities for further work.

C) Component Two: Program Operations and Technical Support
Social and Environmental Safeguard
In respect to the agreed actions of the last WB mission, the OMST safeguards had three agreed actions that have already been met.

- A list of all the grievances that OMST furnished and shared with the Bank's safeguards colleagues.
- A training manual containing all the provisions of the ESMF along with the training material shared with the WB.
- Regular monthly and bi-monthly meetings are conducting with the MoHE engineering department.

In addition, during the reporting period, the environment team has done the following activities.

- A completion report furnished for Laghman, Herat, Bamyan, Kunar, Parwan, and Takhar infrastructure projects containing the following information:
  - Main challenges towards implementation of the site specific ESMPs
  - Current status of the projects regarding its full functionality
  - List of the standard safety equipment (fire extinguisher) with its clear photographs
- Coordination made with the MSI (management system International) regarding provision of updated data of OMST infrastructure projects
- Coordination made with the MoHE engineering department and the contracted firm for the Badghis construction project regarding annexation of the sub-project ESMP into the project's contract as a missing item during procurement process
- A training manual developed for the safeguards containing all provisions of the MoHE ESMF
- Training material prepared under each topic of the safeguards training manual
- Coordination made with the MoHE engineering team regarding MSI findings
- Bamyan site visit report submitted to the WB SGs team regarding the information indicated below:

- Proposed measures in order to carry out slope stabilization
- Estimated costs and timeline for each suggested variants

Procurement

During the period under review, the procurement unit of HEDP was engaged with the procurement directorate of MoHE to facilitate the procurement process of several HEDP projects such as ICT, Water and lavatories specially for girls, establishment of IQAUs and PDCs, establishment of concealing centers in universities, renovation of kinder garden in university, procurement of books, and lab equipment for public universities. Following projects are at different stages of procurements.

- ICT Center in Bamyan University => **Contract Signed.**
- ICT Center in Poly Technique University => the documents have been submitted to NPA for procurement process.
- ICT Center in Kabul Medical University => **Contract Signed.**
- ICT Equipment's for (Logar, Panjshir, Ghor and Helmand) Universities => Re-announced.
- IT Centers for (Baghlan and Alberoni) Universities => Evaluation report is finalized.
- Establishment of 3 PDCs in Universities => **Awarded.**
- Establishment of 8 IQAUs in Universities => **Awarded.**
- Lab Equipment's for 14 Universities => to be revised according to steering committee's decision
- Library Books => Rejected by NPC.
- Lab equipment's (Physics and Biology) for Universities => to be revised according to steering committee's decision
- Water and lavatories for Jawzjan University => **Awarded.**
- ICT Equipment's for (Oruzgan, Sarepul, Badghis, Farah, Kandahar, Jawzjan, Nangarhar, Herat and Paktika) Universities => In Announcement.
- Bamyan Solar System => In Announcement.
- Lecture Block (Herat University, Faculty of Computer Science) => under evaluation.

Physical Infrastructure Projects

Table 5: the physical progress of infrastructure projects

#	Project Type	Province	Physical Progress (%)	Signe Date	Physical Start Up	Duration	Completion Date
1	Girl's Dorm	Kunar	100	17/09/1395	30/ 09/ 1395	2 years	01/ 10/ 1397
2	Girl's Dorm	Bamyan	99	10/06/1395	20/ 06/ 1395	2 years	21/ 06/ 1397
3	Girl's Dorm	Takhar	98	17/04/1396	01/ 05/ 1396	15 months	02/ 07/ 1397
4	Girl's Dorm	Helmand	35	15/03/1396	29/ 03/ 1396	15 months	30/ 06/ 1397
5	Girl's Dorm	Badghis	30	10/06/1395		2 years	
6	Lecture Block	Ghazni	90	29/06/1395	05/ 07/ 1396	2 years	06/ 07/ 1398
7	Lecture Block	Wardak	55	08/06/1396	02/ 07/ 1396	15 months	03/ 01/ 1398
8	Lecture Block	Logar	85	09/10/1395	04/ 12/ 1395	18 months	05/ 06/ 1398

9	Lecture Block	Sar-e-Pul	55	25/09/1395	16/ 12/ 1395	18 months	17/ 05/ 1397
10	Lecture Block	Parwan	99	30/03/1396	20/ 04/ 1396	15 months	21/ 06/ 1397
11	Lecture Block	Laghman	100	01/05/1396	14/ 05/ 1396	15 months	15/ 07/ 1397
12	Research Center	Kabul	90	14/09/1395	28/ 09/ 1395	9 months	Deadline Missed
13	Research Center	Kandahar	90	12/11/1395	02/ 12/ 1395	9 months	13/ 08/ 1396
14	Research Center	Herat	100	27/04/1396	21/ 05/ 1396	9 months	22/ 01/ 1397

Human Resource Management

Based on the agreed actions of the last WB mission, the OMST should have filled the positions of Senior Education and Technology Manager, Environmental Specialist and Social Sfegurad Specialist. By now the program has filled the position of Senior Education and Technology, while the two other haven't been filled so far. The human resource management of program continued on filling the vacant position. During the reporting period the HR officer position has been filled. In addition, the following 15 positions are in progress.

- Environmental Specialist => Went for World Bank Clearance.
- Social safeguard specialist => Re Announced based on the newly amended TOR.
- University Operations Coordinator (Parwan) => NoL with the WB
- Data Management Officer => Re Announced
- Senior Academic Manager (for DM Academic Office) => Submitted to World Bank.
- Curriculum Development Advisor => Re announced, applicants shortlisted since the position is based in MoHE and still pending with H. E Minister's response.
- Communication Specialist   => The applicants are in the screening process.
- Scholarship Placement Specialist => announced, applicants shortlisted
- Senior Finance Manager => He is going to join HEDP on April 26, 2019.
- Finance Officer (Scholarships) => it is in negotiation process.
- Executive Assistant (Minster Office) => Applicants Shortlisted and waiting for H.E Minister's response.
- Technical Assistant (Foreigners affairs directorate) => it is in negotiation stage.
- Inventory Assistant => it is in negotiation stage.
- Senior Finance Officer => the applicants are screening process.

Communication

During the reporting period, the program worked to develop tools and products that communicate internal change and deliver messaging related to program initiatives. The HEDP Facebook page and website have been updated with the activities reports and pictures. HEDP website is updated with its recent activities' pictures and reports. Four-minute videos are produced for AULiA and Audit training and they are finalized. In addition, GRM database and emails are checked daily and the received complaints are shared with the relevant departments, at the same time, the GRM annual report is furnished and a list containing the contact details of 16 public universities has been developed.

Monitoring and Evaluation

The M&E team continued to collect data on the progress of program indicators, and provide an insight to the program management for the informed decision making. During the reporting period, the M&E team collected data on enrollment in higher education for the year 2019 based on the revised priority list. The enrollment report has been developed and shared. In addition, the M&E team collected data on scholarships.

All the data from 2016 up to 2018 and the estimated figures of 2019-2023 have been collected and analyzed. The analysis of the data shows that the program may not be able to achieve the 2021 DLI target. The program should have at least 275 completed scholarships by the end of 2020, while the data indicates that the program will be standing at 247 by the time.

The program as well collected the updated data on the number of academic members with at least master degree (PDO indicator), The program by 2019, should have 13,00 academic members in priority degree programs with at least master degree. The data shows that the program is standing at 1,606 with the composition of 224 females and 1382 males. The female percentage seems to be very low standing at 13.9%. This analysis has been done based on the revised priority degree lists with inclusion of (Journalism, Social Science and Law) only for female candidates.

During the last reporting period, the M&E team had conducted the DLIs verification survey, while in the period under review, finalized its report. The report findings show that all three DLIs targets of 2019 (5,000 female enrollment, establishment of 6 Quality assurance units and establishment of 4 ICT centers by 2018) have been achieved. Eight IQUAs marked functional, 6 ICTs reported functional, with one none-functional and 7,014 females enrolled in priority degree programs.

D) Challenges and Recommendations

- MoHE's slow progress in establishing the new Directorate for Research has caused delays in most of the research related activities. Although the General Directorate of Academic Programs Coordination has agreed to cooperate until the directorate is established, but their busy schedule and other priorities put the research work in periphery.
- Lack of sufficient number of ICT technicians at Ghazni, Faryab and Konur nuniversities will effect on the functionality of these ICTs. They will not be able to meet the Technicians: PC ration. MoHE should make sure the vacant positions of these universities are filled soon.
- The program will be challenged by the delay happening in the placement of scholarships awarded in the last years, while still not placed. From the other hands, the 2019 scholarships should have been placed earlier this year. The analysis of the aggregated data on scholarships indicates that the program might not be able to achieve the 2021 DLI target value on scholarships. In case the PIM is getting revised for the HEAT project, the target value on this indicator should be revised.
- Based on the findings of the MSI two deviations will require additional costs for rectifications. The minimum cost has been estimated to be 7 million AFS. The MoHE should seek the budget from the development budget of the Ministry or discuss with WB if there are any opportunities from the HEDP budget. The ministry can seek other alternatives too, which can cost lower than this, or rectifying without any budget.

Annex A: Intermediate Outcome Indicators Status for 2018 based on the revised PIM

Indicator	2019 Targets	Current Status as Feb 2019
A. Project Development Indicators		
1. Student enrollment in universities in priority degree programs for economic development	Total: 80,500 Males: 65,000 Females:15,500	Total: 97,939 Males: 75,576 Females: 22,363
2. Number of universities developing, implementing and monitoring strategic five year rolling institutional development plans consistent with the National Higher Education Strategic Plan.	14 universities issue Strategic Institutional Development Plans according to the template	13 universities issued Strategic Institutional Development Plans according to the template. By the end of

		2019, this number will significantly increase.
3. Increased numbers of full time academic staff with at least a Master's degree in priority degree programs	1,300.00	1,606 with 224 females and 1382 males by April 2019
A. Intermediate Outcome Indicators		
Female enrollment in priority degree programs in the 1st year of public universities [DLI 1]	**5,000 by end of December 2018**	7,014 as of April 2019. This indicator is subjected to the TPV_2019
Number of female students with access to adequate residential facilities for women on university campuses	4,250	4,405 by 2018
Number of full time academic staff trained in, and practicing, outcome-based education and student centered learning [DLI 2]	750 academic staff trained in and practicing outcome-based education and student centered learning	1,246 academic staff have been trained and verified. While 1,200 academic staff practice OBE and SCL by the end of 2018.
Number of public universities with functional ICT centers for ICT based higher education [DLI 3]	**4 universities with new and functional ICT centers**	6 universities with fictional ICTs reported functional. Gazni, Faryab, KEU, Takhar, Paktya and Khost universities.
Number of scholarships awarded to full time faculty staff for Masters Degrees in priority disciplines [DLI 4]	450 scholarships awarded	336 scholarships awarded; 83scholarships completed and returned
Number of technical staff completing short-term technical and maintenance courses	250 staff trained	96 technicians trained so far.
Number of universities with Internal Quality Assurance Units (IQAUs) (b) functioning to international standards [DLI 5]	**6 universities with IQAUs functioning to international standards**	8 IQAUs reported as functional. 9 IQAUs have been established. 9 more on progress
Number of public and private universities which complete a new regionally benchmarked quality assurance cycle	External institutional quality assurance reviews completed for 15 public and 15 private universities and reports disseminated by the MoHE	10 publics and 13 private universities externally reviewed.
Number of university senior managerial and administrative staff completing short-term leadership and management courses in the context of greater authority and accountability	275staff trained	Planning for the second phase.

Development oriented research Projects, mainly in the priority disciplines [DLI # 6]	10 new group research Projects commenced	
	20 new individual research Projects commenced	18 Group research projects of 2017completed
	At least 25 group research Projects completed	
	At least 50 individual research Projects completed	35 Individual research projects of 2017 completed