



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

**Bi monthly Progress Monitoring Report**

**Reporting Period: May and June 2019**

**Reporting Date: 6<sup>th</sup> July 2019**

**Submitted by: Operation and Monitoring Support Team (OMST)**

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## 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

The program has had a steady progress since the last bi-monthly report. The updated result framework indicates that all three PDO indicators including the target values of 6 intermediate indicators have been achieved. In respect to the agreed actions of the last mission, the program has achieved almost majority of the agreed actions apart from those which needs continues efforts throughout the course of year 2019. The social safeguard related three agreed actions haven't been met so far. The program has planned to conduct the social safeguard training and hire the social safeguard specialist by July 2019. In respect to the deed preparation for the 11 project affected families in Bamyan, the issue is dependent on the ARAZI and Ministry of Urban and Housing affairs internal process. The letter recently received from the Municipality affairs of Bamyan states that the affected families will be given with the deeds. *The agreed actions tracker is attached as annex I.*

There has been good progress in respect to the initiative on promoting female enrolment since last report, the child care centers of Bamyan university is 90% completed, in addition, the process of designing the renovation of child care center in Albironi and Parwan Universities has been started. The Water and Lavatories projects in 4 universities (Ghazni, Herat, Paktiya and Panjshir) have been completed and are utilized, and the physical work of two others (Kunduz and Balkh) are under Progress. In respect to the PDCs Lead Capacity Development, the program has made necessary arrangements for the Training program which will be conducted at the Amity University, India during 18th August – 5th September 2019. Out of four agreed actions associated to OBE-SCL, three have been achieved. The physical work of two ICT projects, one IT project is smoothly running and are near to the completion. 13 IT equipment projects are in the evaluation process and will be awarded soon. All agreed actions related to ICT theme have been achieved.

During the reporting period, MoHE/HEDP has awarded 86 master degree scholarships in priority degree programs with the composition of 27 to female and 59 to male academic members of public universities. The steering committee has endorsed the list of awarded scholarships and will be shared with WB for NoL in the first week of July. These new academic members are expected to be placed at the universities by September and October 2019. In respect to the PhD scholarships, MoHE/HEDP has awarded 50 scholarships with the composition of 36 to males and 14 scholarships to female academic members of public universities. the list will be shared with WB for NoL during the upcoming two weeks. The placement of the above mentioned academic members will be initiated from September 2019 and will go until February 2020 as per the academic calendar of universities. *The list of master and PhD awarded scholarships have been attached as annex II.* The short term technical and maintenance trainings were pending since 2017. During the last two months, the program facilitated, organized and conducted an 8-day short term libraries technical and maintenance training held at ACKU from 22-30 June 2019. In this training, 166 libraries technicians including 126 Males and 40 females were trained. By having this number of libraries technicians trained, the total number of technicians trained under this theme reached to 262. As 75 technicians were trained in 2017, the same, 21 ICT technician trained in 2018 and 166 libraries technicians trained by now. the program has as well planed the second round of the short term lab technical and maintenance training for 150 lab technicians which will take place in July 2019.

Upon the establishment of the new Research Technical Committee and Taskforce and the establishment of the new research directorate at the MoHE level, the research related work has progressed well. The 2019 research proposals, which are over 210 in number, are distributed to all research committee members based on their area of expertise to review and score. With respect to the agreed actions in the research and SIDP's component, almost all of the agreed actions are achieved apart from the ones that require efforts throughout the year. During the reporting period, the TPV firm completed the DLIs verification and has shared the report. The report indicates that all DLIs due by December 2018 have been achieved. Based on the report, 6,059 first-year female students have been enrolled in the priority programs at the 24 public universities; apart from Khost ICT, four ICTs have been marked as functional, and Six IQAUs reported as functional which are the IQAUs of Balkh, Herat, Kabul, KMU, Kandahar, and Khost universities. The IQAU of Al-bironi university is marked none-functional. The program has facilitated the external review of 29 universities which includes 16 private and 13 publics. The program's budget execution rate stands at 14% for component I, while 31.6% for component II. The physical work of tow infrastructure projects (Logar and Wardak) have been stopped due to the security and technical issues. This needs HEDP and MoHE's attention to resolve the technical issues and seek alternative options for resuming the project work.

## B) Component One Activities:

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

The enrollment data has not been updated in the MoHE. The planning and policy directorate is in the process of collecting semi-annual enrollment data which will be reflected in upcoming report. The last bi-monthly report outlined the most updated data of the time which, the total enrollment of students in priority degree programs was standing at 97,939 while the female enrollment was 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 program will collect the enrollment data from the MoHE once it's updated. Based on the TPV report, 6,059 first-year female students have been enrolled in priority degree programs.

Table 1: Students Enrollment in Higher Education at Public Universities by 2018

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

### **Measures to Promote Female Enrolment in Public Universities.**

The program has had a satisfactory progress on the various initiatives supporting the promotion of female enrollment in higher education, the program however, doesn't have a tangible progress during this reporting period, the ongoing projects have been normally proceeding as per the plan and nearly to completion.

**Child Care Centers:** 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 centers has been completed as 100%, while the child care centers of Bamyani university is 90% 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 four counseling centers at KEU, Balkh, KU and Bamyani universities. During the reporting period, the process of designing the renovation of counselling center at 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, Bamyani, and Jawzjan Universities.

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

### *Theme 1.2.1: Outcome Based Education and Student-Centered Learning*

As it was reported that 573 academic members at 20 public universities were trained during the last reporting period, the program has prepared and designed the Certificate of Participation for the participants of OBE-SCL workshops at 20 public universities. Most universities received the certificates. *The updated final list of trained faculty staff in 2019 is attached as Annex II.* In addition, during the period under review, the program has made necessary arrangements for the PDC Lead Capacity Development Training program which will be conducted at the Amity University, India during 18th August – 5th September 2019. In this training 12 PDC leads will participate and the purpose of the training is to assist the PDC Leads to learn about the strategies and techniques of how a PDC is run and led effectively and moreover to enhance their skills and knowledge on how workshops and training programs are initiated out of a PDC.

The program has already achieved the 2019 target in OBE-SCL, up to date, 1803 public universities academic members have been trained in OBE-SCL, which the last survey administered by the program indicates that 1246 practice the OBE-SC. The program will continue the expansion of training to cover the remaining academic members at 24 public universities. In addition, the program started taking into consideration a plan and coordination with Academic Programs Development & Private Higher Education Institutions Directorate on how to expand OBE-SCL training programs to both public and private higher education institutions in the near future.

There have been four agreed actions associated with this theme, agreed upon in last WB mission, which three out of the four have been completed, while one agreed action (MoHE's bylaws issues) is pending and yet to be achieved. The program will keep the discussion on the revision of the relevant by-laws by the Ministry to further facilitate the practice of OBE and SCL and for this the World Bank Team's support is necessary in this regard. 211 Department heads have been trained, and the training will cover the remaining heads too, three PDCs to be established by 2019.

### Theme 1.2.2: Information and Communications Technology Enhanced Teaching and Learning

The program has achieved and exceeded the DLI target of 2019 associated to this theme. The TPV report indicates that all five ICT centers (Ghazni, Paktia, Takhar, Shaikh Zahid, and Shahid Rabani universities) have been functional, while the 2019 DLI target is having four functional ICTs. In addition, the program has achieved all agreed actions of the last WB mission related to this theme.

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.

The physical work of two ICT centers of Bamyan and Kabul Medical universities and IT Center of Baghlan university are in the implementation progress. In addition, the procurement process of establishing IT Center of Alberoni university has been finalized. This project is awarded to Khalij technology firm, and they will commence the physical work soon. The KPU ICT center is processed through NPA and is under announcement phase by now. regarding the IT equipment projects, 13 IT equipment projects are currently in the final stage of procurement phase. The evaluation process of 4 out of 13 IT equipment projects (Helmand, Panjshir, Logar, and Ghour) universities are completed and 9 out of 13 (Urozgan, Saripul, Farah, Badghis, Paktika, Kandahar, Herat, Nangarhar, and Jawzjan) are in evaluation process.

During the period under review, the program has conducted the need assessment of Afghanistan Research and Education Network (AfgREN), the assessment aims to discover the current situation and needs of AfgREN to further plan for their further improvement. The program developed a questionnaires' and collected data from 110 students and 13 IT staff among AfgREN member institutions (KMU, KU, Nangarhar, Balkh and SREU). The report will be shared soon. Moreover, the concept note for Smart

Classroom has been developed and technical specifications are prepared and shared with MoHE. Smart Classroom plays a key role in achieving blended learning goals and establish a conducive environment and assists in better idea arrangement, idea elaboration, improvement in perusing talents and academic accomplishments. *The concept note for Smart Classroom and relevant technical specification is attached in Annex III.*

### 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 reporting period, the program had had a wonderful progress on awarding 2019 master and PhD scholarships. 159 (119 males and 40 females) master scholarship applicants were introduced to APTIS for the English test, who had met the minimum requirements. From 159 applicants, 26 applicants who were 13 males and 13 females couldn't take part in the test. The result of APTIS was declared and the program has identified 86 academic members of faculties for the master degree scholarships in priority programs. From 86 master scholarships, 27 are females and the rest are males. The steering committee has endorsed the decision and will soon be shared for NoL with WB. With the award of this batch, the total number of scholarships awardees will reach to 422, while the actual number of placement will get into 400.

On PhD scholarships, the program has awarded 52 scholarships with the composition of 36 males and 16 females. The placement of the above mentioned academic members will be initiated from September 2019 and will go until February 2020 as per the academic calendar of universities. *The list of master and PhD scholarships awarded, is attached as Annex IV.*

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	277	145	422	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
<b>Total Master</b>		<b>277</b>	<b>145</b>	<b>422</b>	<b>268</b>	<b>132</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>268</b>	<b>132</b>	<b>400</b>	
PhD	2019	36	14	50	36	14	50	-	-	-	Annual Data
PhD	2023	-	-	-	-	-	-	36	14	50	Annual Data
Total PhD		36	14	50	36	14	50	36	14	50	Annual Data
<b>Grand Total</b>		<b>313</b>	<b>159</b>	<b>472</b>	<b>304</b>	<b>146</b>	<b>450</b>	<b>304</b>	<b>146</b>	<b>450</b>	

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

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

The program has conducted an 8-day short term libraries technical and maintenance training held at ACKU from 22-30 June 2019. The purpose of the training is to equip the library technicians with the required skills to have libraries in the universities being managed more professionally in order to ensure better research outputs and the utilization, fixing, and maintenance of resources cost-efficiently and effectively.

In this training, 166 libraries technicians with the composition of 127 Males and 39 females were trained. By having this number of libraries technicians trained, the total number of technicians trained under this theme reached to 262. The intermediate target value of result framework for this theme has been achieved and exceeded into some extent. The program should have trained 250 technicians by 2019, while the program has already met this target after conducting this training. 75 technicians were trained in 2017, while 21 ICT technician trained in 2018 and 166 libraries technicians trained by now. *The list of 166 libraries technicians trained is attached as Annex V.*



*Inauguration of short term librarians technical and maintenance training. ACKU. KU- 22 June 2019.*

In addition, the PBI contracts were awarded to 17 faculty academic members assigned to conduct the lab technicians short term technical and maintenance training. Following the award of contracts, the academic members were asked to develop their training outlines and provide the schedule of the 10-day training. Following consultation with the leadership of MoHE, the program included 5 OBE-SCL champions to review the training outlines and monitor the training sessions to make sure the training outcomes are achieved. The short term lab technical and maintenance training is scheduled to be conducted during 14-24 July 2019. Around 150 lab technicians will be trained. The end target value which has been 400 by 2022 will be achieved in 2019 when 150 lab technicians are trained.

#### Theme 1.4: Strengthening Governance, Quality Assurance and Accreditation

##### *Theme 1.4.1: Strategic Institutional Development Plans (SIDPs)*

After the expansion of the SPIC committee at the MoHE level, the progress seems to be significant. The committee members conducted a one-day intensive workshop for representatives from all 25 universities that are in plan to prepare their SIDP's in 2019. In addition, the committee members worked together to prepare a manual that should be used as a guide by the universities while drafting their SIDP's. The committee members also developed a matrix for the SWOT analysis or the External Factor Evaluation (EFE) or International Factors Evaluations (IFE) and asked all the universities to use the matrix while doing the SWOT analysis for their respective universities.

At the end of the workshop that was conducted for all the 25 universities, they were given a timeline of 3 months to prepare their SIDP's, as a result of which so far over 10 universities have sent their SIDP's for comments from the committee. The SPIC committee members are working closely with all the university focal points to help them prepare and well-rounded and realistic five-year strategic plan.

##### *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*

With having 9 IQAUs established up to now, the program by now, have started the physical work of establishing 8 additional IQAUs, while one IQAU is at procurement process. The recent TPV report indicates that the 2019 DLI target associated to this theme which has been six functional IQAUs, is achieved. The program plans to check with the universities who haven't got scores in some areas based on the scorecard to improve the units and make sure they 100% adhere to the IQUA scorecard. An internal OMST verification of IQAUs at eight universities shows that all of the eight IQAUs were functional. The verification report has been shared back with the universities in order to further improve areas that needed improvements. The program will share the TPV report back with the universities too for further improvements of the IQAUs. The 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

#### *Theme 1.4.3: External Quality Assurance*

The target of external peer review of higher education institutions for 2019 is 30 universities. Till now at different stages the OMST has facilitated review of 29 universities which includes 16 private and 13 publics. Six additional universities are in planned to be reviewed in August. Among the 29 reviewed universities, six universities have got Grade A accreditation and eleven universities got Grade B accreditation. 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	11	Jawzjan	No Accreditation
12	Ghalib Heart	Grade B	12	Helmand	Grade B
13	Salaam	Grade B	13	Parwan	Grade B
14	Alfalah	Grade B			
15	Gharjistan University	Grade B			
16	Maulan Jalaluddin Mohammada Balkhi	Grade B			

Twenty additional university lecturers have been selected for the new batch of EPRs. This batch will be trained in Kabul by our experienced EPRs and will participate in a complete review process as an internship. The training is to be conducted before the upcoming review process.

OMST is in the process of organizing a national accreditation award ceremony, where the accreditation certificates will be officially awarded to the accredited universities. This ceremony is planned to take place at MoHE on 4<sup>th</sup> July 2019.

During this reporting period, UNESCO and MoHE signed the contract for institutional assessment of QAAD. Their official contract start date is July 01<sup>st</sup> 2019 and it's expected that UNESCO will submit an institutional development plan to the MoHE by end of 2019.

#### *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)*

Following the turbulences over the past several months in the research component, the HEDP team has been successful to find an improved path during the past two months to carry on future research related work. The MoHE finally established the new Directorate of Research, Translation and Compilation and the new director has formally started her work. Subsequently, the new Research Technical Committee and Taskforce was successfully established in full coordination with MoHE, and they have also formally started working on the research tasks, and have held three meetings to plan their activities and work.

The new Research Technical Committee and Taskforce was successfully established in full coordination with the MoHE leadership and relevant directorates through a transparent and competitive process. The call for CV's was officially announced by sending out letters signed by H.E minister himself, as a result of which 54 CV's from all central public universities were collected. Through several meetings and in presence of H.E minister, 13 people (9 PhD's and 4 Master's) were shortlisted. The short-listing took place based on these applicants' research experience, priority disciplines to have a diverse pool of experts, and their teaching experience. The Research Technical Committee and Taskforce, then formally got introduced and started working. Currently, they are working on the research work plan, re-defining proposal evaluation policies and scoring rubrics.

In the introductory meeting, the HEDP OMST director Mr. Noor Ahmad Darwish explained the importance of the committee and responsibilities and asked the committee members to take the evaluation of proposals serious and act impartial when evaluating the proposals. 210 research proposals that were collected for 2019 have been distributed to all members of the committee and their evaluation is currently under progress.

In addition, the OMST in-charge manager has held several meetings the with the new Research, Translation and Compilation Director to plan future research related work, and pledged full cooperation and support to the directorate when and if needed. Currently, the research director and the OMST in-charge manager are working on a full work plan for the directorate.

In respect to the National Research Conference, significant progress has been made. The concept note is finalized, call for papers is finalized. After a final meeting with the Research Technical Committee and Taskforce, the call for papers will be sent out to relevant government and national and international agencies. And the conference is tentatively planned to happen in August 2019.

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.

### C) Component Two: Program Operations and Technical Support

#### *Social and Environmental Safeguard*

The environmental section of the program has achieved all its agreed actions of the last mission, while the social safeguards related agreed actions are not achieved so far. In order to achieve the agreed actions of the last WB missions on ESS, the program has planned the following measures.

- Environmental and Safeguard department plans to conduct a three-day capacity building and awareness training on environment, social safeguards, and GRM for 28 universities. the concept note and budget breakdown have been furnished for the mentioned event and shared with the Bank for NOL. (Annex 2). The training will be conducted by an external consultant Since OMST has no social safeguard specialist on board, The ToR has been developed and shared with WB. (Annex 3)
- To hire the social safeguard specialist, the program plans to go through single source approach, if the enough qualified applicants are not found. The current application indicates that only two applicants can meet the minimum requirements. The position will be filled by 20 July 2019.
- Follow up made on the deed preparation for the 11 project affected families in Bamyán, the program has sent and official letter to Independent Directorate of Local Governance (IDLG) and Bamyán Governor Office to accelerate the process of providing legal title deeds for the 11 affected families. According to the official letter issued by Bamyán Municipality, they have stated as, "the whole plan of the city where the lands are given to the PAFs are under process with the Ministry of Urban

Development and Housing and ARAZI, once documentation is processed by the them, the Bamyan Municipality will provide them with the Deeds”. This letter indicates that the issues will be resolved soon after the city plan is processed in ARAZI and the MoUDH. *The official Letters of MoHE and Bamyan Municipality are attached as Annex VI.*

Moreover, the program has done the following actions in respect to the environment and social safeguards:

- According to the ARTF internal control assessment there was lack of coordination between Finance, M&E, Safeguards, and Engineering departments. Thus a departmental communication protocol prepared to manage the mentioned issue.
- The ESMP of the Badghis HEI long with an official letter shared with the MoHE engineering and procurement departments. Furthermore, they are requested to submit the mentioned ESMP with the NPA to be included into the projects bidding document and contract.
- Coordination made with the Planning and Policy Directorate regarding construction projects progress, rectification of the remaining deviations in three projects, and submission of the site visit reports to the OMST.
- Handover of Parwan construction project processed in coordination with the MOHE colleagues.

### 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. There have been 44 projects funded from HEDP. They have been at various stages of procurement, most of the projects have been awarded and the rest of them are under process. *The list of HEDP funded projects are attached as annex VII.*

### Physical Infrastructure Projects

Out of the 14 ongoing infrastructure projects, 6 projects have been completed, while three other projects are very close to the completion standing above 90%. The rest of projects are at various stages of the implementation. The amended dates of the project indicate that majority of the projects need time extensions and amendments to their contracts.

The following are some of the reasons that cause delay to the implementation of infrastructure projects:

1. Those projects which need contracts amendments, get stuck in the MoHE. The contracts amendment process is lengthy and slow.
2. Low coordination among the key stakeholders of the projects (local provincial governance, line Ministries)
3. Security problems in some of the provinces
4. Lack of standard and well qualified companies. The bidders provide low price to win the project, but in the implementation phase, they make procrastinations, and challenge the program with their irrational claim. Most qualified companies don't offer low prices.
5. Lengthy procurement process of the government. Many projects go to the second and third round of announcements.



Table 5: the physical progress of infrastructure projects

S/ N	Project Name	Start Date	Amended End Date	Vendor Name	Contract Amount	Paid Amount	Financial Progress (%)	Physical Progress (%)	Remaining Amount	Remarks
1	Dormitories for female Students (Bamyan Province)	31-Aug-16	1-Feb-19	Afghan Bam and Shah Foladi CC	AFA 103,518,114	AFA 101,053,456	98%	100%	AFA 2,464,658	
2	Dormitories for female Students (Konar Province)	20-Dec-16	21-Dec-18	Upgrade CC	AFA 91,230,989	AFA 84,232,491	92.3%	100%	AFA 6,998,498	
3	Lecture Blocks with Large class rooms and small class rooms (Ghazni Provin)	26-Sep-16	26-Sep-18	Faizi Mujadidi CC	AFA 74,587,561	AFA 69,823,738	93.6%	93%	AFA 4,763,823	The contract extension is under process, once the firm receive the extension they will start the physical work
4	Lecture Blocks with Large class rooms and small class rooms (Sare-pul Prov)	17-Dec-16	6-Aug-19	Faizi Mujadidi CC	AFA 61,406,134	AFA 36,782,463	59.9%	65%	AFA 24,623,671	
5	Lecture Blocks with Large class rooms and small class rooms (Logar Province)	29-Dec-16	26-Feb-19	Dora CC	AFA 63,364,220	AFA 53,133,725	83.9%	80%	AFA 10,230,495	Due to the technical issues raised, the physical work is stopped
6	Establishment of Research Center (Kabul University)	18-Dec-16	17-Sep-17	Knowledge CC	AFA 23,645,899	AFA 14,176,236	60.0%	95%	AFA 9,469,663	The work progress is delayed due to the contractor
7	Establishment of Research Center (Kandahar University)	20-Feb-17	19-Nov-18	Lal Mohammad Maihan CC	AFA 22,284,009	AFA 20,205,611	90.7%	90%	AFA 2,078,398	
8	Dormitories for female Students (Helmand Province)	5-Jun-17	10-Jun-19	Hayat Heldmandwall CC	AFA 39,287,297	AFA 33,170,105	48.4%	90%	AFA 6,117,192	
9	Dormitories for female Students (Takhar Province)	26-Jul-17	09- Mar-19	Madian CC	AFA 36,352,667	AFA 24,587,427	67.6%	100%	AFA 11,765,240	
10	Lecture Blocks with Large class rooms and small class rooms (Parwan Prov)	11-Jul-17	11-Oct-18	Zahid Paktin CC	AFA 42,564,425	AFA 40,454,225	95.0%	100%	AFA 2,110,200	
11	Establishment of Research Center (Herat University)	12-Aug-17	30-Sep-18	Ezat Nasiri CC	AFA 21,331,140	AFA 18,967,495	88.9%	100%	AFA 2,363,645	Handover processed
12	Lecture Blocks with Large class rooms and small class rooms (Wardak Prov)	3-Oct-17	31-Dec-18	Best Star CC	AFA 43,995,740	AFA 26,469,125	60.2%	60%	AFA 17,526,615	The physical progress is stopped due to the security concerns in the area
13	Lecture Blocks with Large class rooms and small class rooms (Laghman Prov)	5-Aug-17	4-Nov-18	Nawy Sadat CC	AFA 42,401,201	AFA 41,470,092	97.8%	100%	AFA 931,109	Handover processed
14	Dormitories for female Students (Badghis Province)	31-Aug-16	22-09-18	-	-	-	0	30%	-	

## Financial Management

During the period under review, the FM team of the program was engaged in the process of receiving allotments, executing payments and updating the QuickBooks. Almost 70% of the financial data has been entered to the QuickBooks and it's expected that the data will be completed before the upcoming WB support mission. Following tables and figures outline the budget execution rates at various program themes.

### Budget Execution Figures of the Program Fiscal Year 2019

Grant	Budget	Allotment	Expenditure	Expenditure (\$)	% Spent	Balance	Remarks
ARTF- Component 1	AFA 700,000,000	AFA 306,957,068	AFA 98,122,252	\$ 1,061,908.01	14.0%	AFA 601,877,748	
ARTF- Component 2	AFA 153,000,000	AFA 64,789,218	AFA 48,282,358	\$ 619,806.96	31.6%	AFA 104,717,642	
<b>Total</b>	<b>AFA 853,000,000</b>	<b>AFA 371,746,286</b>	<b>AFA 146,404,610</b>	<b>\$ 1,681,714.97</b>	<b>17.2%</b>	<b>AFA 706,595,390</b>	

### Financial Figures of Constriction Projects

Significantly, most of the projects are in the provinces which have three months' slack period or so and have started their physical work in Hamal (March). This was the main factor that budget execution remained low of the program in first two quarters of FY1398. Apart from the winter break, the approval, initiation and entering of the budget in the AFMIS system took more time than usual and have consumed one extra month which have further impact on our budget execution and remained low. Table 5 outlines the total budget and payment values of 14 ongoing infrastructure projects.

### Financial Figures on Scholarships

As per PIM and Grant Agreement, the expenditure of this part has been reported through IUFRR and all the reported have been cleared so far. The program has placed 304 academic members in priority degree programs. *The payment scenario has been shown in the annex VIII.*

### Financial Figures on Research Projects

As per the GA, this theme of the program has been financed from the second or Non-DLI component of the program. The budget has been estimated USD100,000 for the completion of the research projects since the start of the program for each year. The program has awarded 100 researches and their payments have been cleared so far according to their progress report. In 2016 the estimated budget was USD100,000 but 40% of their certified work had been paid and the remaining was carry forwarded to next fiscal, this scenario is applicable in the rest of the years too. The following table indicates the budget execution against the research projects.

Table 7: Research Projects Payment Tracker

S.No	Fiscal Year	Planned Research Projects	Estimated Budget	Paid Amount	Remarks
1	2016	30	\$ 100,000.00	\$ 40,871.41	
2	2017	30	\$ 100,000.00	\$ 110,112.31	
3	2018	40	\$ 100,000.00	\$ 69,407.70	
4	2019	30	\$ 100,000.00	\$ 39,890.00	

## 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 Sfeegurad Specialist. By now the program has filled the position of Senior Education and Technology Manager and Environmental specialist, while the social safeguard specialist has not been filled so far. The human resource management of program continued on filling the vacant position and extension of the contracts of existed employees. During the reporting period 6 positions have been filled and 8 others are in various process of recruitments.

Table 5: The positions in the recruitment processes during the last two months.

S/N	Name of Position	Recruitment Process				Expected date to get onboard
		Announced/Re-announced	Test and Interview Conducted	NoL with WB	On board	
1	Environmental Specialist	√	√	√	√	
2	Senior Academic Manager (for DM Academic Office)	√	√	√	√	
3	Scholarship Placement Specialist	√	√	√	√	
4	Senior Finance Manager	√	√	√	√	
5	Finance Officer (Scholarships)	√	√	√	√	
6	Inventory Assistant	√	√	√	√	
7	Social safeguard specialist	√	√			End of July
8	University Operations Coordinator (Parwan, KEU, Bamyan and Badakhshan)	√				End of August
9	Data Management Officer	√				Mid-August
10	Curriculum Development Advisor	√				TBC soon
11	Communication Specialist	√	√			End of July
12	ToR (Technical Coordination Specialist) for DM Office			√		Mid-September
13	Technical Assistant (Foreigners affairs directorate)	√	√	√		End of July
14	Senior Internal Auditor	√				End of August

## Monitoring and Evaluation

During the reporting period, the M&E team of the program was engaged with DLIs verification survey conducted by an independent external firm. The M&E team provided all the facilitation and official letters to make the verification easy at the universities. The team as well provided invaluable inputs and guidance where they were asked. The verification report shows that all DLIs due by December 2018 have been achieved. The report indicates that 6,059 first-year female students are enrolled in the priority programs at the 24 public universities; apart from Khost ICT, four ICTs have been marked as functional, while Six IQAUs have been reported as functional which are the IQAUs of Balkh, Herat, Kabul, KMU, Kandahar, and Khost universities. The IQAU of Al-bironi university is marked none-functional.

The M&E team as assigned for the short term technical and maintenance trainings have had a tremendous progress in this regard. The trainings were pending since last three years. During this reporting period, an 8-day short term libraries and maintenance training was conducted at ACKU, Kabul university. 166 participants from 24 public universities and 9 higher education institutes attended the training. the report will be shared soon. The M&E team as well made all necessary arrangements for the second trainings which will be conducted on 14-24 July 2019. This will be the short term lab technical and maintenance training which will cover 150 lab technicians. The training outlines and materials have been ready. OBE-SCL champions have been included to monitor the training sessions. They have been officially asked by the

MoHE to join the sessions. In addition, 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.

#### D) Challenges and Recommendations

- 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.
- The verification of the DLI's are one of the process that usually takes time for first component of the program. The program has submitted the report of QA DLI due by December 2017 almost five months ago but has not received the achievement letter so far and the SA for the said component is running out of fund. The program conducted several meetings with vendors and they need money of their invoices submitted to Finance Department of MoHE and claimed that they can't work on their projects until they are paid. The program must have a close follow up with WB to release the fund against the IQUA DLI due by December 2017.
- Three agreed actions associated to the social safeguard of the program need more attention and strict follow up. Apart from the Bamyan issue, which is dependent on the ARAZI and Ministry of urban and housing internal process; the two other agreed actions can be met achieved soon before the WB mission. The program needs to accelerate the efforts.
- The program is challenged by the delay happened in the implementation of ongoing infrastructure projects. The amended dates of the projects indicate that almost all projects contracts are terminated by now, while there are a significant number of the projects which are not completed yet. The physical work of two projects (Logar and Wardak projects) have been stopped due to security technical reasons. The program must strictly follow with the vendors and in case they can't complete the projects on time, the penalties should be issued.

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

<i>Indicator</i>	<i>2019 Targets</i>	<i>Current Status as Feb 2019</i>
<b>A. Project Development Indicators</b>		
1. Student enrollment in universities in priority degree programs for economic development	Total: 80,500 Males: 65,000 Females: 15,500	Total: <b>97,939</b> Males: <b>75,576</b> Females: <b>22,363</b>
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	<b>13</b> 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	<b>1,606</b> with 224 females and 1382 males by April 2019
<b>A. Intermediate Outcome Indicators</b>		
Female enrollment in priority degree programs in the 1st year of public universities [DLI 1]	<b>5,000 by end of December 2018</b>	Based on the TPV report, <b>6,059</b> first year female students are enrolled.
Number of female students with access to adequate residential facilities for women on university campuses	4,250	<b>4,405</b> 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]	<b>4 universities with new and functional ICT centers</b>	Based on the TPV report <b>four</b> ICTs have been reported functional. Seven ICTs established.
Number of scholarships awarded to full time faculty staff for Masters Degrees in priority disciplines [DLI 4]	450 scholarships awarded	<b>472 scholarships awarded.</b> 422 Master degree scholarships awarded; 50 PhD Scholarships awarded. 83 master scholarships completed and returned
Number of technical staff completing short-term technical and maintenance courses	250 staff trained	<b>262</b> technical staff trained

Number of universities with Internal Quality Assurance Units (IQAUs) (b) functioning to international standards [DLI 5]	<b>6 universities with IQAUs functioning to international standards</b>	Based on the TPV report, <b>6</b> IQAUs reported function. 9 IQAUs established.
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	14 publics and 15 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	275 staff trained	-
Development oriented research Projects, mainly in the priority disciplines [DLI # 6]	10 new group research Projects commenced 20 new individual research Projects commenced At least 25 group research Projects completed At least 50 individual research Projects completed	18 Group research projects of 2017 completed 35 Individual research projects of 2017 completed