

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

Bi monthly Progress Monitoring Report

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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 bi-monthly report which covers the months of September and October 2019 presents the latest progress of the program along with the cumulative progress for each thematic area. The social safeguard related agreed actions have been achieved. The social safeguard position is merged with environment specialist under “Social and Environmental Specialist”. The existed environment specialist will lead the social safeguard issues as well. The new list of 12 PAFs of Bamyan have been finalized. The team has found that the old list was a fake and the new one is the reliable and accurate list. The new list has been endorsed by the provincial officials and the 12 families have been provided with deeds as requested by WB. In addition, with respect to the two fatalities, the program has found that fatality reported to be among 12 PAFs is now considered to be from the old list which isn’t considered the project affected family. The police report of one of the death case of HEDP master scholarship holder is shared with WB. A proposal for managing Component 2 up to the end of the project is provided. Based on the proposal, the component 2 is 1.2 million shortages, while the program has around 4 million surpluses in component one. The block fund is still not released and the QuickBooks is being daily updated. The leadership training seems to be delayed into 2020, where the 2019 target value associated with this theme won’t be achieved. The geo-tagging of HEDP infrastructure projects have been collected but some projects are still missing. The TPV firm is selected. AHG will conduct the 2020 DLIs verification. It’s the same firm of the last year. *The agreed actions tracker is attached as annex 1.*

During the period under review the program has had steady forward progress. The 2019 enrollment data has been collected and is analyzed by priority disciplines. The total student’s enrollment in priority disciplines stands at 88,159 (19,928 Females and 68,231Males), exceeding the annual target of 2019 as 80,500. The same, the first year enrollment of female students stand at 5,897exceeding the DLI target of 2019. Various small projects are progressing well as masseurs to promote female students in public universities. With respect to the PDCs Lead Capacity Development, the program has successfully conducted the training program at the Amity University, India from 26th 18th August and will continue till 12th September 2019. The physical work of three ICT projects has been completed, in addition, two IT project is smoothly running and are near to the completion. The program has conducted a short term technical training for the new established ICT and IT centers technical staff to ensure the effective utilization of these centers. The program has worked with MOHE to fill all the vacant position of technicians at ICTs to make sure that at least seven ICT centers are functional by December 2019.

During the period under review, the program continued on implementing the placement plan for master and PhD scholarships holders. In this reporting period, the number of placed students have been increased from 304 in the last report to 366 by now (351 Master degree and 15 PhD). 62 new academic members have been placed with a significant number (20) in the field of medical science placed at Kazakhstan’s public university. The program is still required to place the remaining 98 academic members in the priority programs no later than Feb 2020. From the remaining 98 academics members, around 15-20 might withdraw from HEDP scholarships, which the program has made a plan B to replace them. The list of new 20 academics members which includes 9 females, is yet to be endorsed by the steering committee and WB to be executed.

In the reporting period, the physical work of 9 IQAUs have been completed. The units will be soon inaugurated. The scorecard for assessing IQAUs functionality is revised as agreed in the last WB mission. The scorecard is yet to be finalized by the stakeholders. In addition, the external review of 4 more universities was conducted and by now, 33 universities have been externally reviewed which exceed the 2019 target. The final list of 55 selected proposals (12 group and 43 individual) of 2019 research projects have been prepared and is approved by the H.E minister. The current budget execution rate for the fiscal year 2019 stands at 40 % (61% component II and 35% component I).

B) Component One Activities:

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

During the reporting period, the new enrollment data of 2019 was collected from the planning and policy directorate of MoHE. According to the data, there has been a sharp increase in both first year and total enrollment rates, as compared to the 2018 enrollment data. Based on the original priority list, the total number of students in priority disciplines has been increased from 81,984 in 2018 to 88,159 in 2019, exceeding the 2019 which exceeds the annual target of 2019 (80, 500). In respect to the DLI target, the number of female students enrolled at first year priority degree programs stands at 5,897 by now. this number has been increased from 5,348 in 2018 to 5,897 in 2019.

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)	5,897	19,356	25,235
Total Enrollment in Priority Disciplines (Project Development Indicator)	19,928 and	68,231	81,984

Note: The date presented at this table is based on original PD.

Measures to Promote Female Enrolment in Public Universities.

The program has been functioning well in terms of various measures to promote female enrollment in public universities. Following are the progress up to date.

Child Care Centers:

During the reporting period, the child care center of Bamyan University got 100% completed, but not inaugurated yet, while the renovation of Child care center in Takhar University was completed in the last reporting period. The process of renovation of child care center in Albironi and Parwan Universities has been started and now in procurement process. MoHE has approved the renovation of Child care center in Herat and Kandahar Universities from their own budget. It's expected to be renovated in 2020. Cumulatively, the program has established four child care centers (Takhar, Bamyan, and Kabul medical universities), while renovation of child care center in Albironi and Parwan Universities has been in progress.

Counselling Centers: During the reporting period, Counselling center of KU has been completed and inaugurated. Now it is fully utilized with the availability of staff and other necessary logistics. The program has as well planned to inaugurate Counselling Centers of Balkh and Bamyan during November 2019. Cumulatively, the program has established four counseling centers at KEU, Balkh, KU and Bamyan universities. the procurement process of the renovation of counselling center at Herat University is ongoing, and is expected to be awarded by early 2020.

Water and Lavatories Projects: During the period under review, the Water and Lavatories in Kunduz and Balkh universities have been completed and being utilized. Cumulatively, the program has provided water and lavatories facilities at 13 universities so far. In addition, the water and lavatories in three more universities (KU, KMU, and Samangan) are in the procurement process and is expected to be awarded by early 2020.

The Disadvantaged Scholarships: The process of candidates selection for the disadvantaged female scholarship has been completed in all 6 universities (KU, KEU, Herat and Balkh, KMU and KPU). 50 students have been picked from each universities. Students are receiving the stipend since the beginning of the semester (September 2019). 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, while the programs were held in 15 universities as KU, KMU, KPU,

KEU, Helmand, Herat, Balkh, Kandahar, Khost, Kunar, Uruzgan, Nimroz, Sare Pul, and Jawzjan, Ghazni Technical, and Badghis Universities.

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

Theme 1.2.1: Outcome Based Education and Student-Centered Learning

Despite exceeding 2019 target for this thematic area, the program expands the target groups and train academic members in OBE-SCL. Having said this, the program is as well focusing on the implementation and practices aspect of OBE-SCL by faculties to ensure teaching and learning has improved. During the reporting period, the PDCs Lead Capacity Development Training Program at Amity University was successfully completed during 26th August to 12th September 2019. The participants were the PDCs leaderships of 12 universities where the program has established PDCs. However, only 11 of them participated in the training as the Shaikh Zayed University's PDC Lead went for Ph.D. studies to Japan. The PDC Training Program incorporated broadly eight units including strategic planning, curriculum design, teaching, learning and evaluation, research and innovation, students' engagement, outcome-based education, and professional development center management and administration. With each of these units, the need for ensuring quality was emphasized, which is possible by developing quality culture in the University.

The program inaugurated PDCs at 4 Kabul-based universities. As a result, the PDC Leads can start working in the PDCs and plan for capacity building training programs. The program as well conducted the official Ceremony of signing PDCs MoU between MoHE and 12 universities. This MoU was signed between MoHE and Universities' leadership so that MoHE could stress on the importance of the PDCs at each university, the support needed for PDCs by the universities' leadership and clarifying the expected activities, supervision, and responsibilities of MoHE and universities for PDCs. The universities will fully support the PDCs and PDC Leads and monitor the PDCs activities and interfere at any times required, universities will provide service-based Tashkeel for the time being to the PDCs and draft quarterly or annual report of the PDCs activities. We expect the universities to provide full support to the PDC and its staff and take care of the financial issues associated with PDCs.

The OBE-SCL PowerPoint Slides are being translated by the OBE-SCL Champions. As a lesson learned from previous OBE-SCL workshops, we noticed that the majority of the university faculty staff do not have a good command of English and it was frequently requested by both champions and participants for the translated versions of OBE-SCL resources. Hence, the program took this initiative and asked the OBE-SCL champions to translate the OBE-SCL PPT slides and handouts to Dari and Pashto and also to proofread the OBE-SCL workbooks. The translation work by champions is still running. Once all resources are translated accurately to Dari and Pashto, then we will share them with both Champions and participants. This will ensure that the participants with a low level of English proficiency will learn more effectively and concretely.

Theme 1.2.2: Information and Communications Technology Enhanced Teaching and Learning

The program has achieved the 2019 target for ICTs as 7 ICTs have already been established. The program is on track on establishing more ICTs and IT equipment facilities into public universities to achieve the 2020 DLI target. By now, four ICT and IT projects are 90 % completed under this theme. The ICT centers of Bamyan and Kabul Medical universities and IT Centers of Baghlan and Alberoni universities are in the process of final evaluation and financial documents process. Fortunately, the KPU ICT center is approved by NPA, and is extended bid validity check for two additional months. Similarly, the 3 out of 13 IT equipment projects (Panjshir, Logar, and Ghour) universities are completed and in process of financial documents, and 10 out of 13 (Urozgan, Helmand, Saripul, Farah, Badghis, Paktika, Kandahar, Herat, Nangarhar, and Jawzjan) are in implementation process and will be completed soon. In addition, AfgREN-NOC project announcement and evaluation process is completed, the evaluation report to be approved by minister.

The last OMST DLIs verification report indicated that there were some technicians civil servants positions were not filled in Ghazni, Faryab and Konur universities. The program followed with MoHE to get them onboard in order to facilitate the functionality of these ICTs. The process of recruitment for ICT technicians for established and to be established ICT centers are in progress with MoHE. This was discussed in steering committee. The technician posts are announced and will be recruited soon. According to HR department the recruitment process of ICT technicians for Ghazni and Faryab are finalized, and recruitment process for Kunar university ICT technician is in progress.

In addition, during the reporting period, HEDP/MoHe has conducted a 5-day Short-Term E-learning Technical Skills Workshop Training on Graphic Designing and Animation for 9 public universities including 24 delegates from IT and Media staff. The objective of this training workshop was building technical capacity toward e-learning course developments.

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 this reporting period, the program has had good progress with respect to placement Master and PhD scholarships at priority degree programs. In the last report, we had reported that 304 academic members have been placed since 2016 while 160 academic members were not enrolled. By now the program has had a steady progress in this area. 366 academic members have been placed with a significant number (20) in the field of medical science placed at Kazakhstan’s public university. The program is still required to place the remaining 98 academic members in the priority programs no later than Feb 2020. As requested by the WB in the last report to provide an analytical report on scholarships, the last report had detailed information on this thematic area, which we will sustain in this report too, with required updates.

So far 476 master’s and PhD scholarships have been awarded to academic members of different universities from across the country. Out of this total number, 366 applicants have been enrolled in different master’s and PhD programs (351 Master degree and 15 PhD). Hence, out of 366 MA scholarship holders, 120 applicants have completed their programs and returned home, while 6 have dropped (1 death case, 2 escaped to other countries to seek asylum and 3 has returned due to illness without completing the program).

Table 2: Updated Scholarships Aggregated data (2016-2018 actual, 2019-2023 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	32	100	-	-	-	Actual
Master	2017	133	76	209	132	62	194	-	-	-	Actual
Master	2018	217	119	336	209	95	304	65	21	86	Actual
Master	2019	276	148	424	237	110	347	88	39	127	Prediction
Master	2020	-	-	-	279	138	417	173	84	257	Prediction
Master	2021	-	-	-	-	-	-	205	93	298	Prediction
Master	2022	-	-	-	-	-	-	275	136	411	Prediction
Total Master		276	148	424	279	138	417	275	136	411	
PhD	2019	36	17	53	36	17	53	-	-	-	Annual Data
PhD	2023-2024	-	-	-	-	-	-	36	17	53	Annual Data
Total PhD		36	17	53	36	17	53	36	17	53	Annual Data
Grand Total		312	165	477	315	155	470	311	153	464	

Note: The expected graduation figures are valid, if all pending 160 students are placed at least by Feb 2020.

Placement of Pending Students (Master and PhD)

The program is now dealing with the placement of almost 98 academic members students (4 students of 2018 batch, 33 PhD and 61 Master degree students of 2019). It was predicted that a great portion of the pending students will be placed by 2019, but considering the current progress, it looks impossible. It worth mentioning that 48 more (40 master and 8 PhD) academic members will be placed by the end of 2019.

One of the challenges for the program was the placement of medical students of the last batches and the same for 2019. The program has found a suitable university (Al-Farabi)/Kazakhstan where 20 students were placed at October 2019. The program is yet to place 3 more medical students of 2019 batch.

Table 3. Master and PhD student's placement plan, 2019.

Program	Batch	Identified University	Time Table (Actual till Oct and Prediction till Feb)					Program Duration	Expected Graduation Date
			Aug	Sep	Oct	Jan	Feb		
Master Degree Program	2018 Batch	LPU	2					2.5 Years	1-Feb-22
		Al-Farabi (Medical Students)			15			2.5 Years	1-Apr-22
		KATEB University					3	2.5 Years	1-Aug-22
		LPU		3				2.5 Years	1-Mar-22
		Indoor (Public Uni)		2		2		2.5 Years	1-Mar-22
		Al-Farabi			13			2.5 Years	1-Apr-22
		UTM			8	24		2.5 Years	1-Aug-22
		UPM			12	4		2.5 Years	1-Aug-22
		IiUM				1	6	2.5 Years	1-Aug-22
		UiTM		1		1	1	2.5 Years	1-Aug-22
KMUTT					6	2.5 Years	1-Aug-22		
JMI			2			2.5 Years	1-Aug-22		
PhD Program	2019 Batch	IiUM		5		1		3 - 4 Years	2023
		UTM		3	8			3 - 4 Years	2023
		UiTM		3	1			3 - 4 Years	2023
		UPM		3				3 - 4 Years	2023
		MAHIDOL					4	3 - 4 Years	2023-2024
		IIT-Roorkee					12	3 - 4 Years	2023-2024
		IIT- Bombay					8	3 - 4 Years	2023-2024
		IIT- Kharagpur					6	3 - 4 Years	2023-2024
Total by Month			2	20	59	33	46	Grand Total	160

Scholarships withdrawal:

From the 2018 and 2019 batches, there have been 9 new withdrawal cases (2 in medical, 4 educations, 2 engineering and 1 private law, of which 5 are female and 4 male). To compensate this withdrawal, the program has identified 9 additional female academic members as a plan B. This is yet to be endorsed by the steering committee and needs WB approval. The plan B is made for a total number of 20 new males and female (11 males and 9 female). There is still some likelihood that from the remaining 98 master and PhD students to be placed, some might withdraw. If the plan B is endorsed, they can be a good replacement.

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

In the last reporting period, the program had conducted two trainings (Lab and Libraries) for 319 lab and library technicians. Based on the agreed actions of the recent WB mission, the program is required to conduct an impact assessment of these trainings. The program has planned the study to take place in the month of January 2020. The program by now is working on a methodology and questionnaire to be administer for this assessment. The methodology and questionnaire will be shared with WB for the review during next reporting period.

In addition, during the period under review, the program has conducted another five-day short term technical training “Short-Term E-learning Technical Skills Workshop Training” for 9 public universities including 24 delegates from IT and Media staff. in this training 21 participants were trained. With the inclusion of this training under this theme, the number of technical staff trained in 2019 reaches to 340.

Having said this, the program has achieved the end line target value for this thematic area (400 technical staff to be trained by 2022).

Theme 1.4: Strengthening Governance, Quality Assurance and Accreditation

Theme 1.4.1: Strategic Institutional Development Plans (SIDPs)

As of now, the the MoHE SPIC seems to have significantly progressed in reviewing the universities' SIDP's. The MoHE SPIC is currently working hard to reach the target of 25 universities in plan for 2019 ASAP. So far, the SIDP's from all the 25 universities have been reviewed thoroughly, out of which 15 have been finalized and 5 more will be finalized during the coming week. During the review process all universities were provided with constructive feedbacks.

In addition, it was discussed during the mission that a policy document should be developed to help the MoHE institutionalize the SIDP's and APR's at universities; hence, the committee have started their initial discussions about the policy document, but recently the focus of the entire committee has been shift towards the review and finalization of the SIDP's. The committee will resume working on the policy document once the SIDP's work is completed.

Annual Progress Reports (APR's)

This is a one-time activity, which usually takes place at the end of the year. Therefore, all 10 public universities who completed their SIDP's in previous year have been officially notified through the MoHE to send their APR's by the end of November, 2019. There will be a progress report by end of year 2019, when the universities issue their Annual Progress report (APR). During the last year (2018), 6 universities issued their annual progress reports on their 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 for 2018 (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

Having already established 9 IQAUs, the construction work of establishing 8 additional IQAUs is finalized and will be soon handed over to the universities. These additional IQAUs are being established to meet DLI target, which is 16 functional IQAUs by 2022.

As agreed in the previous mission that the IQAU scorecard should be revised and simplified because in the current scorecard, some of the criteria are ambiguous and sometimes misleading. OMST has invited three experienced IQAU Leads for a working meeting to revise the Scorecard. The scorecard has been revised and is shared with the British Council for their insights and recommendations. The updated scorecard will be then shared with the colleagues at the World Bank for their approval. The OMST will then conduct its own verification of functionality of the IQAUs and the TPV based on the revised scorecard.

Theme 1.4.3: External Quality Assurance

For external quality assurance or the accreditation, the program target is to review 30 universities in 2019. The OMST has achieved the year-end target and has already reviewed 33 universities. The universities reviewed includes 18 private and 15 publics. Details of the universities reviewed is available in the following table.

Table 4 Updated status of 33 externally reviewed universities (18 Private, 15 Public)

Private Universities				Public Universities			
S.#	Universities	Location	Review Result	S.#	Universities	Location	Review Result
1	Kateb University	Kabul	Grade A Accredited	1	Kabul University	Kabul	Grade A Accredited
2	American University of Afghanistan	Kabul	Grade A Accredited	2	Kabul Polytechnic University	Kabul	Not Accredited
3	Kardan University	Kabul	Grade A Accredited	3	Balkh University	Balkh	Not Accredited
4	Khatam-al- Nabiyeen	Kabul	Not Accredited	4	Kandahar University	Kandahar	Grade A Accredited
5	RANA University	Kabul	Grade B Accredited	5	Kabul Medical University	Kabul	Grade A Accredited
6	Ibne Sina University	Kabul	Grade B Accredited	6	Kabul Education University	Kabul	Not Accredited
7	Cheragh Medical Higher Education Institution	Kabul	Grade B Accredited	7	Sheikh Zayed University	Khost	Not Accredited
8	Karwan University	Kabul	Grade B Accredited	8	Herat University	Herat	Not Accredited
9	Bakhtar University	Kabul	Grade B Accredited	9	Nangarhar University	Nangarhar	Not Accredited
10	Maryam University	Kabul	Not Accredited	10	Takhar University	Takhar	Not Accredited
11	Ghalib University	Kabul	Grade B Accredited	11	Alberoni University	Kapisa	Grade B Accredited
12	Ghalib University	Herat	Grade B Accredited	12	Jawzjan University	Jawzjan	Not Accredited
13	Salaam University	Kabul	Grade B Accredited	13	Paktia University	Paktia	Grade B Accredited
14	Alfalah University	Nangarhar	Grade B Accredited	14	Parwan University	Parwan	Grade B Accredited
15	Khurshaid University	Kabul	Not Accredited	15	Helmand University	Halmand	Grade B Accredited
16	Gharjistan University	Kabul	Grade B Accredited				
17	Maulana Jalulladin Mohammad Balkhi University	Balkh	Grade B Accredited				
18	Danish University	Parwan	Grade C Accredited				

OMST facilitated an internship program for the QAA board members at Malaysia. The internship program was organized by the Malaysia Qualifications Agency (MQA). The Board members had meetings with the members of the MQA board, Finance Accreditation Agency, private universities and public universities to understand the higher education quality assurance and accreditation processes in Malaysia. During this visit the Board members and the OMST QAA manager also had a detailed session with UNESCO and their Malaysia partners about the ongoing QAAD institutional assessment. Because of some financial technical constraints UNESCO will not be able to complete the assigned task by end of 2019 and has officially requested MoHE to extend their contract duration. This issue will be discussed in the upcoming steering committee meeting and will be decided on.

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

The planned NRP training at the NITTTR delayed because of the lengthy vocations and the presidential elections. A big number of the NRPs needs presidential approval for travel. The training is now planned for 11th November till 22nd November. OMST was able to receive official invitation letters for the participants and is in the process to get presidential approval of the travel for some of the participants.

As the training has been delayed, the cascade training workshops would not be feasible this year. The local trainings would be planned for 2020, after successful NRP training at NITTTR.

Theme 1.5: Stimulating Development Oriented Research (DLI)

The research work seems to be well ahead of the plan. After the establishment of the new research directorate and a highly qualified technical research committee, there has been significant progress. The Technical Research Committee started developing new policies, procedures and regulations for the review of research proposals before starting the review process for 2019 round of proposals. The committee also revised the scoring rubric and the research proposal selection criteria through a series of meetings before the review process.

For 2019, a total of 210 proposals were received from across the country for research grants, out of which 65 were individual research proposals and 145 were group proposals. With respect to female researchers, we had only 3 female individual proposals and a total of 55 female researchers involved in all group research proposals. The committee completed reviewing all these proposals with very much accuracy and each proposal was reviewed by at least 2 committee members. After the complete review, 55 best research proposals were selected, out of which 43 are individual research proposals and 12 are group. While selecting these proposals, the committee members were instructed to consider a balance by discipline and gender in addition to the proposals' quality.

The final list of 55 selected proposals (12 group and 43 individual) is prepared and is approved by the H.E minister. The program will soon send an email to the World Bank with necessary supporting document for NoL. HEDP has awarded 97 research projects to different public and private university's professors from 2016 up until 2018.

C) Component Two: Program Operations and Technical Support

Social and Environmental Safeguard

During the period under review, the social and environmental team has conducted the following activities;

1. Follow up on two fatal incidents

According to the mission meeting on 26th August, the issue of the fatal incident occurred to one of the Affected Persons on Bamiyan female hostel project stated by one of the MoHE Engineers. So that the WB requested HEDP to further investigate the identity of the deceased, his legal inherent, and main cause behind his death. A committee has been established based on the guidance of the MOHE Minister to conduct a site visit to the Bamiyan. Based on the findings of the committee the person has died due to the natural causes (illness). Furthermore, he was a member of the first list of PAFs that is considered to be fake and inaccurate by the officials of Bamiyan (Based on the clear evidences). As the result the deceased is not member of HEDP project PAFs.

The Police record of a fatal incident that has occurred to a HEDP Master scholar in Malaysia translated into English language and shared with the WB team.

The Malaysia Embassy has shared a police record of the HEDP scholar who has died due to traffic accident in the mentioned country. To further investigate the case, no supporting documents are provided to the program but the police record. The Afghan embassy in Malaysia is requesting that further investigation of the issue requires budget allocation, hiring of a lawyer, and permission of the government authority.

1. Finalization of PAFs list

According to the Bamiyan Governor, Provincial Council, Municipality, and university management the recent list that has been shared with the MoHE/ HEDP is accurate and real. Based

on the consultation that MoHE and HEDP representatives has with them the mentioned official have stated that the initial list was prepared by one of the Community elders in 2017 that was approved by only the municipality and university of Bamiyan. Furthermore, a meeting conducted in the University of Bamiyan in presence of the members of both lists that led the conversation towards wrongness of the initial list and accuracy of the recently received list.

3. Solar panels in Bamiyan

Based on the conducted negotiations only 90 solar panels are to be removed by the Brishna. Since the negotiations took place in the administrative meeting of the mentioned province, so that the Brishna is guided to shift and re-install the required solar panels. The deadline for relocation of the panels will be set by the end of next week.

4. Emergency Exits

According to the MSI report HEDP was to construct two emergency exits for the Takhar female dormitory project. Follow up made on the issue and we have officially requested MOHE to finance the mentioned activity from second component of HEDP. (Annex 2) The mentioned activity will be performed by the admin and infrastructures directorate. They have talked to the previous contracted firm responsible for implementation of this project. The deadline for the mentioned task is end of November 2019.

5. Bamiyan Slope Stabilization

Engineering plan and cost estimation for the Bamiyan slope stabilization project carried out and shared with the WB for NOL. (Annex 3) Reference to the cost estimation provided by the MOHE team the required estimated budget will be 20,400,000 AFG (261,100 USD).

6. Safeguard monitoring report

Safeguard monitoring reports for the months of September and October have been shared with the WB safeguards team. According to the monthly reports six projects out of 14 are completed, four are ongoing while the physical progress of the remaining projects is stopped.

7. ESMP for Bamiyan slope stabilization project

An Environment and Social Management Plan (ESMP) has prepared for the Bamiyan slope stabilization project and shared with the Bank safeguards team for review and approval. The mentioned document will be part of the contract for the proposed project.

Physical Infrastructure Projects

With respect to the major physical infrastructure projects, there have been 6 projects completed as 100% and handed over for the utilization. They are the Dormitories for female Students (Konar Province), Research Center (Kandahar University), Dormitories for female Students (Takhar Province), Lecture Blocks with Large class rooms and small class rooms (Parwan Province), Research Center (Herat University), Lecture Blocks with Large class rooms and small class rooms (Wardak Prov) and Lecture Blocks with Large class rooms and small class rooms (Laghman Prov).

Despite the progress as mentioned above, there have been four projects of which the physical work is stopped since last two/one year (s). They are the projects of Lecture Blocks with Large class rooms and small class rooms (Ghazni Provin), Lecture Blocks with Large class rooms and small class rooms (Logar Province), Research Center (Kabul University) and Lecture Blocks with Large class rooms and small class rooms (Wardak Prov). The rest four projects' physical work is in progress.

The details are provided in the following table.

Table 5: the physical progress of infrastructure projects, updated by July 2019.

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	Handed Over
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 physical work is stopped since last winter. 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%	90%	AFA 24,623,671	Work in Progress
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%	85%	AFA 9,469,663	The project is stopped since last two years
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	95%	95%	AFA 2,078,398	Handed Over
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%	95%	AFA 6,117,192	Work in Progress
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	Handed Over
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	10%	100%	AFA 2,110,200	Handed Over
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	Handed Over
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 work of the project is stopped since last winter
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	100%	100%	AFA 931,109	Handed Over
14	Dormitories for female Students (Badghis Province)	31-Aug-16	22-09-18	-	-	-	0	30%	-	

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 funded projects. The following four projects needs serious attention of MoHE. They are pending since long ago, with ambiguous destiny.

- Library Books (24 Universities) => Rejected by NPC (National Procurement Committee) - Under Review (MoHE)
- Physics and Biology Kits (All Government Universities) => Under Review (MoHE)
- Lab equipment's (14 Universities) => Under Review (MoHE)
- Establishment of Creativity and Innovation Centers in KEU and KU

The MoHE's senior leadership can discuss with NPA on the technical issue regarding library books. Based on president's decree, NPA suggested establishing a digital library instead of procuring library books. *The list of HEDP funded projects under procurements process are attached as annex II.*

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. Following tables and figures outline the budget execution rates at various program themes.

Table 7: Budget Execution Figures of the Program Fiscal Year 2019 as of October 2019

Grant	Budget	Expenditure	Expendiutre (\$)	% Spent	Balance	Remarks
ARTF- Component 1	\$ 9,408,602.15	AFA 243,412,387	\$ 2,723,233.52	35%	\$ 6,685,368.63	
ARTF- Component 2	\$ 2,056,451.61	AFA 94,062,849	\$ 1,216,599.13	61%	\$ 839,852.48	
Total	\$ 11,465,053.76	AFA 337,475,236	\$ 3,939,832.65	40%	\$ 7,525,221.11	

The program would like to decrease its budget due to some activities which are postponed and stopped. The proposed budget decrease is as follows;

Component One: AFA 22,937,833 (\$308,304)

Component Two: AFA 28,311,353 (\$380,798)

Budget Deficit of Component Two (\$ 1.2 Million)

As the OMST team and WB team discussed this issue in the last mission. In the Infrastructure Plan of the project where each and every activity is detailed and embedded in the separate sheets. In the first component, as per the awarded contracts plus scholarships, the total amount is \$ 36.7 million without two new items (proposed Academic Training plan for FY1399/2020 of amount \$ 616,000, new proposed activities \$ 670,000, and rejected contracts by NPC of amount USD \$866,344.62). The total amount with above three items is \$38.9.

The figures indicate (\$38.9) that there is around 4 million surplus fund in the first component of the program which can be sufficient for the \$ 1.2 million deficits of second component. The OMST component actual and estimated budget from 2016-2022 is attached along with current bimonthly report.

Human Resource Management

During the last two reporting period, the human resource management of program continued on filling the vacant position and extension of the contracts of existed employees. Following positions have been at various processes of recruitments.

Table 8: 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 and Social Safeguard Specialist			√		Single Source => positions merged
2	University Operations Coordinator (Parwan, KEU, Bamyan and Badakhshan)			√		Mid November
3	Data Management Officer				√	
4	Curriculum Development Advisor	√				TBC soon
5	ToR (Technical Coordination Specialist) for DM Office				√	
6	Technical Assistant (Foreigners affairs directorate)				√	
7	Senior Internal Auditor				√	Mid November
8	OMST Director		√			End November
9	HR Specialist	√				
10	HR Officer		√			End November
11	Logistic Assistant		√			End November
12	Senior Finance Officer	√				Re-announced
13	Finance Assistant		√			End November
14	4 Interns		√			End November

Monitoring and Evaluation

M&E team as unusual, continued on collecting the data on key indicators, and provide insight to the program management for the informed decision making. The team as well followed with procurement team to facilitate the procurement of TPV firm for 2019 DLIs. The firm has been selected. Afghanistan Holding Group, the last year's firm has been selected.

The M&E team as well initiated the DLIs verification survey and will furnish its report during the next reporting period, before the TPV starts their work. In addition, the M&E team as well worked on a methodology to conduct the impact study on short term technical and maintenance trainings as conducted in July 2019. The methodology and questionnaire will be soon shared with WB team for the feedback and review. Moreover, the team provided all necessary reports to the stakeholders including MoF and MoHE as requested.

D) Challenges and Recommendations

- Procurement- There have been four projects pending since long ago. The NPA has put some observations which needs to be discussed in MoHE high leadership level. This problem persists for almost one year.
- With respect to the physical infrastructure projects, the physical work of four projects have been stopped since last winter. There have been the contract extension issues along with others too. The MoHE and the project management to take great care to this issue and resume the physical work of these projects.
- 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.

Annex A: Intermediate Outcome Indicators Status for 2019 based on the revised PIM

<i>Indicator</i>	<i>2019 Targets</i>	<i>Current Status as August 2019</i>
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: 88,159 Males: 68,231 Females: 19,928
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	1700 with 225 females and 1465 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 2019	5,897 first year female students are enrolled.
Number of female students with access to adequate residential facilities for women on university campuses	4,250	3,953 by Aug 2019
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	1,819 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	Based on the TPV report five 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	477 scholarships awarded. 424 Master degree scholarships awarded; 53 PhD Scholarships awarded. 114 master scholarships completed and returned
Number of technical staff completing short-term technical and maintenance courses	250 staff trained	446 technical staff trained
Number of universities with Internal Quality Assurance Units (IQAUs) (b) functioning to international standards [DLI 5]	6 universities with IQAUs functioning to international standards	Based on the TPV report, 6 IQAUs reported functional. 18 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	245 Senior Academic Staff trained,
Development oriented research Projects, mainly in the priority disciplines [DLI # 6]	<p>10 new group research Projects commenced</p> <p>20 new individual research Projects commenced</p> <p>At least 25 group research Projects completed</p> <p>At least 50 individual research Projects completed</p>	<p>12 New Group research projects awarded,</p> <p>42 Individual research projects awarded</p> <p>18 Group research projects of 2017 completed</p> <p>35 Individual research projects of 2017 completed</p>